



Friday 19 November

Headteacher's Update

In school's November is often one of the least popular times of the year. It is cold, it is wet, it is dark when we arrive and long since dark by the time we leave. Christmas still seems a long way off and everyone can get a little bit more sensitive than they may usually be. Here at St Cuthbert's we are trying to combat that feeling as best as we can. This is made a little more difficult by the restrictions we have in place due to COVID.

To combat the early winter negativity, we have a full programme of activities during Advent which starts very soon. Many students are already in preparation for this with their form tutors. We will be looking to raise money to support local charities at this key time of the year. We have ever increasing numbers of students involved in our vast range of extra-curricular activities after school. There are hundreds of students now staying behind until 4pm or even later each week to be involved in these. This of course includes rehearsals for our school show which will be on in December. Please keep a look out for that and how to get tickets.

The main focus at school however, as always, remains learning and progress. This includes assessments. For many students assessments have already begun. From Monday everyone will be doing them in all subjects. Whilst we of course prepare students in class for these assessments, revising at home is a crucial part of the preparation. Everyone should be revising daily. In Key Stage 3 at least 1.5 hours per day and in Key Stage 4 at least 2.5 hours per day. The assessments only last for a few weeks and the revision time invested in them is crucial. We will report home the results of these assessments later. These assessments are crucial in identifying what our students have and haven't learnt. This helps identify the next steps in everyone's learning journey.

Whilst school is back as close to normal as we can make it, there are still major concerns over COVID. We see it in the press every day. It is true that any COVID infection is likely to have minimal affect on young people but there are other consequences. We do have some students who are considered to be clinically vulnerable and also some staff. Testing positive for COVID also results in time off school. With all of that in mind, please remember to continue to take regular lateral flow tests and be aware of any symptoms. It is essential we all do this so as to reduce the risk of spreading COVID. At school we are asking that students wear masks in social areas e.g. classrooms. At the moment this is a voluntary exercise but if cases continue to rise it will have to become compulsory.

I wish all of our students the very best with their assessments and ask that you ensure they are revising at home – they all need to and have plenty to be revising.

All the best

Mr Shields

Notices

Catholic Life of the School

- Next week's Collective Worship is led by Mrs Knight on our core value 'love' and will also mark Anti-Bullying Week through assemblies.

Curriculum Notices

Year 11 Study Hub

Study hub is now up and running and in full flow. This allows students a quiet space for independent study. Teaching staff are timetabled into this room to support students with their learning. This is a great opportunity for our Year 11 students to start to get into good habits in preparation for their GCSE exams. After school homework clubs for other year groups are coming soon!

Reading Assessments

All students in Key Stage 3 will undertake a reading assessment during this next fortnight. We will share the reading age of your son/daughter in due course with strategies of how this can be improved at home. Students with reading ages below their chronological age will be given support and/or intervention.

All students in Year 10 will undertake a reading & writing assessment during this next fortnight. As well as giving us an up to date reading age, the assessments will allow us to determine what support needs to be offered to students to enable them to maximise their potential in their GCSE Examinations – these are called access arrangements. Reading ages and Access arrangements will be shared with you in due course.

Homework

Students have completed a huge amount of homework this school year and we are starting to see the impact of this in school where many teachers have commented that students know and remember much more than ever before. Thank you so much for supporting your child and helping them to make sure their homework is done. Students are really benefitting from the partnership we are trying to cultivate between home and school. There are lots of areas of school where homework can be completed if students can't do this at home. They can go to study hall, the Dome or 410 to use computers and get support to complete homework.

If your child is having trouble accessing their homework please ask them to talk to their class teacher or their form tutor if it is a problem with logging in to the various systems. Parents are notified of their child's detentions through ClassCharts, so please make sure that you have checked your notifications. After discussion with parents, the detention for homework has been delayed for 24 hours, so that families have a little more time to make the arrangements they need to.

Please remember that their teachers don't issue the detentions, they issue a positive and negative points for complete/incomplete homework and the fourth negative point will automatically trigger a catch-up detention.

Year 11 Careers update:

A separate newsletter for Year 11 parents/carers relating to post 16 pathways is attached to this email containing all of the upcoming college open days and information regarding the application process. Please read this information carefully and discuss it with your child if they are in Year 11.

At the end of the newsletter, there are some dates for your diary regarding Assessments and Examinations that Year 11 students will have this year.

Pastoral Notices

Peer on Peer Abuse Survey

Over the next few weeks in school, a key focus of our work will be 'Peer on Peer Abuse'. This is in response to the Ofsted review & findings in July 2021 [Review of sexual abuse in schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges) and the experiences of young people.

To ensure that this is covered sensitively; our staff have received training on how to recognise such behaviours around school and how to deal with any disclosures students may have. Our Skills for Life teachers will deliver a session to all our students in Years 7 – 11 covering areas in the review and adopting guidance given to schools.

As part of this work, we will be asking our students to complete an anonymous survey to find out about their experiences and to what extent this has impacted upon their lives. This survey will be sent to students via class charts & a copy will be sent via the parent bulletin so that as parents you can make an informed decision as to whether you wish for your child to take part. This survey has been created by the school following research and guidance from the Everyone's Invited movement [Welcome - Everyone's Invited \(everyonesinvited.uk\)](https://www.everyonesinvited.uk), the local authority and The Key (a professional school leaders association).

A copy of the presentation was in last week's parent bulletin. The survey will be sent to students on Wednesday 24th November and will be available until Wednesday 1st December.

The findings from the survey will then form a significant part of our work this year in relation to our curriculum, behaviour and safeguarding policies. We will also have this as an agenda item in our parents' forum.

Should you have any questions regarding this, please contact Mrs Logan (DSL) directly. Thank you for your support with this.

Does your child have what it takes to be a member of the UK Youth Parliament for Rochdale?

Applications for Members of UK Youth Parliament (MYP) for the borough of Rochdale are now open! After a year off the elections with Covid-19, Rochdale borough now qualifies for 2 MYPs, with one to be elected for Heywood and Middleton and one to be elected for Rochdale and Pennines. Each will also have a deputy to support them and a youth cabinet for their areas. There are so many opportunities here and being MYP is a wonderful and powerful point to add to their CV. Any young person aged between 11 and 17 who lives or attends education in Heywood and Middleton can apply for MYP for those areas and those who live or attend education in Rochdale and Pennines can apply to cover those Townships.

There are 2 ways to apply – firstly with the application form attached and secondly by video! If they apply by video on TikTok or Instagram they MUST tag @rochdaleyouthie and #RdaleMYP22. Please also ask them to send the video to this e-mail address just to ensure we receive it. The deadline for the applications is 30th November, with selection dates on 6th and 7th December to decide which applicants will go through to the democratic elections in January! The voting will take place for 4 weeks from 17th January, so please keep time in assemblies or form time to allow all students to vote as they have every right to do so, just like us adults. The results will be announced at an event at Middleton Arena on Monday 14th February.

We are also recruiting for the youth cabinet, so if any young people want to get involved but not as MYP, there are plenty of other opportunities and fun to be had getting involved in this and anyone can join! They will meet fortnightly, one group in Rochdale/Pennines and one in Heywood/Middleton and they can still get involved locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

If your child is interested in applying for this opportunity, please ask them to see Miss Holt asap.

Tik Tok Trend

Please be aware that there is currently a national trend that has seen an increase in Tik Toks created linked to schools and the staff who were in them by using videos from school websites.

This is a serious offence as students creating the Tik Toks do not have the permission from schools or the staff to use them.

Please speak with your child about this, as any account created in St Cuthbert's name has been reported and will be followed up accordingly.

Detentions after school:

We currently run a whole school detention each evening from 2.50pm – 3.50pm. Please ensure your child attends, the following evening, when they have been issued with a C3 or C4. We appreciate students may have other activities after school and we are aware that the dark nights have drawn in, however, the expectation is that they attend the detention.

If they don't it will be upscaled to an hour the following evening and if they still do not attend they will be the school's Reflect centre.

Thank you to all families who are supporting us with this.

School Buses

It has been reported that there are some issues with the 862 bus and students travelling on this route who can use alternative bus routes. This, again, has resulted in students having to find alternative ways to get to and from school. Please can families use the dedicated routes so that everyone can travel to & from school safely.

The School Day – Attendance

- St. Cuthbert's aims to achieve the national average (94%) & above for attendance to school.
- It is important that your child arrives on time to school 8.20am & receives their registration mark. Any student who is not marked present will receive a text home asking about their absence.
- If your child is unable to attend school or is going to be late please notify school no later than 8.15am.
- Students who are late to school or lessons without a reason will receive a negative P, 5 negative Ps for punctuality will lead to a 30 minute after school detention, which they will be expected to attend. This can be viewed by logging into class charts.
- Please ensure your son/daughter is in school for **8.20am** as lessons start at **8.25am**. We have had a number of students arriving after this time in the last week.
- Students should not be catching the 409 bus any later than 8.10am and those who live close to the school should ensure they set off with sufficient time.
- Thank you for your understanding with this as students who are late will be losing learning time that may form part of any assessments that take place.
- The guide below shows the negative impact **absence** has on lessons over a school year.

ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE	LESSONS & DAYS MISSED
100%	0 DAYS 0 LESSONS
5 MINS LATE EVERY DAY	3 DAYS LEARNING LOST
98%	4 DAYS 20 LESSONS

10 MINS LATE EVERY DAY	6 DAYS LEARNING LOST
95%	10 DAYS/2 WEEKS 50 LESSONS
15 MINS LATE EVERY DAY	10 DAYS LEARNING LOST
92%	15 DAYS/3 WEEKS 75 LESSONS
20 MINS LATE EVERY DAY	13 DAYS LEARNING LOST
90%	20 DAYS/4 WEEKS 100 LESSONS HALF A DAY PER WEEK
30 MINS LATE EVERY DAY	19 DAYS LEARNING LOST
85 % BELOW	30 DAYS/6 WEEKS 150 LESSONS

Planners/Bar Codes

Please ensure your child has their planner with their timetable written in it so they are fully prepared for the day. Students need the planner with their log in details for lessons & bar code to be able to purchase items from cuisine.

Please ensure Parent Pay accounts are topped up.

Wellbeing

- Please see the wellbeing area on our website (<https://www.scrchs.net/wellbeing>) which contains information on how to support you and your child's wellbeing.

Twitter

- Please follow us on @RcCuthberts to keep up to date on all that is going on at St Cuthbert's.

