



Friday 21st January 2022

Headteacher's Update

This week the government has announced some significant changes to the COVID regulations. From Thursday 20th January masks are no longer compulsory in classrooms and from Thursday 27th January they are no longer compulsory in communal areas of school either. The government has also announced that at some point in the future the rules around having to self-isolate and test for COVID will also change. Can I please stress that these rule have not yet changed nor do we have an exact date for them. Can I please ask that everyone still follows the current guidance on these matters and tests twice per week and does not come back to school until 2 consecutive days negative LFTs from day 6 onwards or from no longer than day 10 regardless of negative LFTs.

As these regulations are still in place it is still possible we will have to introduce some remote learning if staff absence levels fall below a certain point. If students are isolating but feel well enough, they can and should remote into their lessons on a daily basis.

We will be discussing what changes we can make in school after the 27th and will of course take advice on the matter before implementing anything.

Please be aware of the details regarding Progress Review Day in February. This is an important development in our school improvement agenda. This is the start of a process which over time will make a significant difference to our students. To enable the day to be conducted properly students will work from home. Please check the details in this bulletin.

As a school we are beginning to get back into exam preparation. It has been a long time since anyone did any external exams. Our Year 11 students will be doing exams in only a few months. In fact there are now only 64 school days until the first exam! I know you will all share with us in wishing them the best of luck for what is to come between now and June. I wish you all a restful and enjoyable weekend.

All the best

D. Shields

Notices

Catholic Life of the School

Next week's Collective Worship will be led by Heads of Year and will reflect on the Gospel passage **Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21**

Curriculum Notices

Year 11 Mock Examinations

- Year 11 students have now received a copy of their mock examination timetable. A copy has been sent to you via class charts from Mrs Hill.
- The mock examinations will run from Monday 28th February to Wednesday 16th March.
- Students should be preparing for these assessments in their lessons, with homework's, revision clubs and independently at home.

Progress Review Day

- Wednesday 2nd February is our Progress Review Day, this is running from 8.30 am and 7.30 pm.
- The purpose of the day is for parents & students to review and discuss academic progress, attitude to learning in lessons and general behaviour in school with their child's form tutors.
- Appointments will be 15 minutes long and the event will run virtually due to Covid guidance for schools.
- **Students will be remote learning from home on this day.**
- A letter to explain the details of Progress Review Day has been emailed to parents today and a paper copy sent home with students.
- You will receive an email to book your appointment with your child's form tutor in due course.
- **If your email address is not up to date please contact school to update this.**

Remote Learning

- If there is a need for remote learning, we will use Microsoft Teams.
- All students in Years 8-11 will have a remote learning "how to" refresh with their form tutors on the use of Microsoft Teams.
- Year 7 students will have the opportunity to use MS Teams in school to ensure they are confident in using this should they need to access remote learning.
- Our remote learning parent guide and policy is available on our website <https://scrchs.net/staff-students/Remote-Learning>

Development of a whole school reading strategy.

- In September, our English department launched a Reading for Pleasure with KS3 to try and enhance students' interest in reading for pleasure. Alongside this, our literacy coordinator Mrs Barton launched reading strategies in form time. Once per week, form tutors have led students through a topical article and a series of activities designed to develop students' vocabulary, inference skills and their ability to discuss topical issues.
- To build upon this, in January 2022, we launched our very own St Cuthbert's Reading Canon. The main purposes were: to further develop students' reading skills, to encourage the pleasure of reading, to expose students to some pertinent topical issues and to develop their cultural capital. The books were chosen after careful consideration following a combination of student, staff and PiXL recommendations... many were pre-read by fellow St Cuthbert's students to ensure that they were suitably stimulating. Also, our reading canon utilises high quality texts with a range of themes, writing styles and settings.
- The books will be read with form tutors; each form will read a minimum of twice per week.
- The books which we have chosen are:

Year 7	Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone – JK Rowling Ghost Boys – Jewell Parker Rhodes Wonder – R.J. Palacio
Year 8	SMART – Kim Slater When the Sky Falls – Phil Earle Cirque Du Freak – Darren Shan
Year 9	Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman A Monster Calls – Patrick Ness When the Gun Falls Silent - James Riorden
Year 10	13 Days of Midnight – Leo Hunt The Dark Lady - Akala Nowhere on Earth – Nick Lake
Year 11	Saint Death – Marcus Sedgwick The Cost of Knowing – Britney Morris Tamar – Mal Peet

- You can support this initiative as parents by discussing the book with your child (ask them which book they are reading first; what they enjoy about their book; what their favourite characters, plots, or events are) or you could even read the book yourselves.

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!

Homework

Thank you for continuing to support our homework policy. There have been over 11,700 pieces of homework completed this term and this is helping our students to know and remember much more.

Pastoral Notices

Bus strike: Monday 24th January & Wednesday 26th January

We have been advised of planned strike action affecting First Manchester's Oldham Depot.

TfGM has arranged alternative school bus services on all routes provided by First Manchester;

- 887 Lane Head
- 890 Birch Hill
- 891 Shore
- 894 Littleborough

Coaches will follow their normal route and timetable and be provided by Olympic Travel or Viking Coaches. Fares will not be charged on strike days.

Please speak to your son/daughter if they travel on the 890 as it was reported by Olympic Travel about the conduct of some of our students which may lead to this service being terminated on the days of planned strike action.

Buses provided by Rosso's will run as normal:

- **880**
- **867**
- **862**

Disruption is expected to the general bus network as services such as the **6 and 409** are unlikely to operate.

Please ensure your child is wearing a mask if they are travelling to and from school on dedicated school buses or public transport. The drivers do have the right to refuse travel.

With regards to the **894/890/891 services** – can we kindly ask that your child catches the service nearest your home address as some students have been unable to travel on their dedicated bus this week. Thank you to everyone who does this.

*Children from Featherstall Road and New Road to use the **891** while those on Kingsway (south of Sir Isaac Newton Way) and Albert Royds Street to use the **890**.*

Thank you to all parents/carers who ensure their children are fully prepared for the school day & are on site by 8.20am.

Can we kindly ask that parents check that your son/daughter has their planner & all the necessary equipment for the school day. Should they require a planner, these can be purchased for £1.50.

All uniform issues should have been addressed from the Christmas break; can we ask that any female student with false nails rectifies this over the weekend.

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.

