



**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Headteacher's Update**

This week I was interviewed by the student journalists who produce our internal newsletter. The focus of the questions was on how as a school we had coped during COVID. The questions they asked were extremely perceptive and probing. Answering them also reminded me of just what a journey and a learning experience St Cuthbert's has had in the past 2 years since the first lockdown began (almost exactly 2 years ago today). It was also a great insight into one of the many enrichment groups which now exists at school. There are a plethora of enrichment groups and extra-curricular opportunities available now for all students and to cater for all interests. If your son or daughter isn't involved in one it would be worth you checking these out on the website and encouraging them to join. They are a fantastic part of our St Cuthbert's community and everyone is welcome and ideally would be involved in something.

This week we have continued with our relentless charity drives to help those less fortunate than ourselves. As always the staff and students have been commendable and lived up to our mission of 'helping others whenever we can'. We have a vast array of competitions, things for sale and work going on which is all helping us to raise significant amounts of money for very worthy causes. I myself convincingly won the staff pancake flipping competition by a huge margin with Mrs Cleminson the Head of RE in a distant second place and many other staff even further behind.

All students in year 7-10 are still undertaking assessments. These assessments are a vital part of our improvement strategy. The assessments clearly indicate what pupils have and have not learnt and therefore are a crucial indicator to teachers on what to do next for all pupils. It is essential that all pupils achieve as well as they can in these assessments and part of that is of course to revise. All pupils have revision to do at the moment and should really be doing it most if not every day after school. Please ask your son / daughter what they have to revise and ensure they do it.

Our focus on punctuality is still in place. Can I please ask for your support in making sure your sons and daughters set off on time and that if we contact you to inform you of a punctuality issue that you speak to them about this and the importance of being at school and in lessons on time.

All the best and have a wonderful week

D. Shields

**NOTICES**

**CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

Ukraine Fund- Thank you for your support and generosity, it has been overwhelming to see such kindness from parents, staff, and pupils.- there is now also a link on twitter if you wish to make a monetary donation- via Caritas / Cafod for Ukraine.

Lenten Charities- we are now in the season of Lent, and we are currently fundraising for three very important causes and charities, Ukraine, Cafod 'walk for Hunger' and St Joseph's penny. To reach our target of £1000 we need your support! 'For it is in giving that we receive' St Francis of Assisi

Our next event is a 'waste not want not sale' which will take place during lunch in the hall on Tuesday 29th March (KS3/4 lunch).

There will be items on sale, the prices range from £1 to a maximum of £5 and there are some great items. So, please remind your child to bring in money on these days as everything raised will go to our Lenten charities and it is first come first served. (If you would like to donate any items, please bring them to reception labelled waste not want not- we just ask that items are either -new or washed / clean).

Thank you so much for your continued support for the Catholic life of the school.

Mrs Battaglia

### **Curriculum Notices**

Year 11 Parents - Please see the end of the newsletter for important information on all matters relating to our Year 11 students over the next 5 months.

### **Y9 Options Evening**

Y9 students, along with their parents / carers are invited to attend St. Cuthbert's GCSE Options Evening on **Wednesday 30th March 2022**. The event will take place between **5.30pm** and **7pm** at school.

There will be two talks: the first at **5.40pm**, which will then be repeated at **6.20pm**. This will be followed by an opportunity to speak to teachers from the different subjects from which you will choose your options.

The letter for parents / carers of Y9 students and the KS4 Options booklet are available [here](#) on the school website and are also attached to this bulletin.

### **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>

### **Homework**

Thank you for continuing to support our homework policy.

## Pastoral Notices

### **Buses**

Thank you to all those parents who have been in touch with school to notify us of issues with the buses; in particular in the morning. We have been collating these calls & sharing both yours and our concerns with TfGM and directly with operational managers.

This matter did improve but has become an issue again on our return from the half term break.

With regards to the **894/890/891 services** – can we kindly ask that your child catches the service nearest your home address.

*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**.*

We have some students who are currently unable to catch the 894 because of this issue who are unable to catch another bus. This has meant that some students have been unable to get to school and is having an impact on some of senior students who are, at present, sitting GCSE mock examinations.

Thank you to everyone who has done this.

### **Attendance and punctuality**

After a disrupted period since the start of this academic year, there will now be an increased focus on the expectations associated with attendance and punctuality. This will mean increased communication home to parents/carers, but also an increase in sanctions for those who are repeatedly late to school and/or lesson.

From Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March, any student who is late to school will receive a whole school C3 detention which will be scheduled for the Key Stage detention day. We will also be adding Wednesday each week as a scheduled day for punctuality detentions and this may be used in addition to Key Stage detention days. Any student who is repeatedly late will have to complete multiple detentions.

Please could we ask all parents/carers to support the highest standards in attendance and punctuality for your child/ren.

### **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.



# Year 11 Information

## Year 11 Parents Evening: Wednesday 06.04.22

There will be a Year 11 parents evening which will take place on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022**, from **6-7pm** in the sports hall.

This evening intends to provide practical support and guidance to parents and carers in how they can support their child as they prepare for the GCSE examinations in RE, English, Maths, Science, MFL, History and Geography.

To ensure that all Year 11 families can attend this important evening, places are restricted to two attendees per family. This may be your Year 11 son/daughter and 1 adult or 2 adults.

## 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.