



Friday 26 November

Headteacher's Update

Here at St Cuthbert's we are about to start our Advent preparations for Christmas. Some of the charity work has indeed already begun. There will be a range of events and celebrations during this period and they are intended to serve two purposes. Firstly and most importantly they are intended to help us prepare for Christmas and to remind us of this important time in the Church year. Secondly they are a means of us celebrating together as a community and to share something special.

I am hoping it isn't true but we are being warned that snow may be on the way. We did have some snow last year and there was a day when we had to close and send students home. For the vast majority this was a very easy process as their parents had signed to say they had permission to leave automatically in that situation. For some students we didn't have permission and this did create a problem for them and often a frustration too.

When we spoke to most parents on the phone they were simply informed that their child was making their way home and this was very simple. However, if that is the case then I would ask that permission be granted automatically as we will be contacting everyone anyway in the event of a closure.

Where it became difficult was for the students who did not have the automatic permission from home and nobody was answering the phone either. It is absolutely essential that everyone is contactable and especially if there is a possibility of school closure. Further details on this will be sent by school to ensure we have up to date information about automatically allowing students to leave in the event of a school closure or accurate contact details.

Assessments are currently being done by all students. Please ensure they continue to revise at home until this process is completed. Once we have marked the assessments we will of course share the outcomes.

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 effect 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 will be led by Mrs. Ward and is based on International Anti Modern Slavery Day which is on the 2nd December.

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!

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.

Excellent visiting opportunity for your family:

You may be aware that the GAIA exhibition has opened at the council Riverside offices [Climate action: see the whole Earth in Rochdale](#)

On **Tuesday 30th November from 4-6PM** colleagues from Hopwood Hall College, Rochdale Training, Rochdale Boroughwide Housing, Premier KIA and Positive Steps will be present to showcase their offers and provide information around Green and Future technologies. **The event will be of particular interest to any of your students who are interested in further study in future, green or sustainable technology.**

The event will be held underneath the illuminated 7 metre sculpture of the Earth (which looks amazing in the dark!)

The event is free to attend and no booking is required on the following link <http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/events-and-activities/events/Pages/green-careers.aspx>

Year 11 – College application deadlines:

Below is a reminder of the upcoming deadlines for Year 11 college applications. The ones highlighted in Yellow are within the coming weeks/days. Please make sure your child has made the applications that they would like to.

College or Sixth Form	Application Method	Closing Date
Access Creative College Manchester	Apply online at https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/apply/further-education/	No deadline date but earlier the application, earlier the course interview
Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar Sixth Form	Apply online at www.brgs.org.uk	Tbc Friday 14 th January 2022
British and Irish Modern Music Institute (BIMM - Manchester)	Apply online at www.bimm.ac.uk/manchester/	No deadline date but earlier the application, earlier the course interview.
Burnley College	Apply online at www.burnley.ac.uk	No deadline date but earlier the application, earlier the course interview
Bury College	Apply online at www.burycollege.ac.uk	Priority deadline date is Friday 26 th November 2021
Calderdale College (Halifax)	Apply online at www.calderdale.ac.uk	The deadline date is February 2022 but the earlier the application, earlier the course interview
Cardinal Langley Sixth Form	Apply online at www.clrchs.co.uk	January 2022. No closing date at the moment.
Crompton House Sixth Form	Apply online at www.chs-sixthform.org	Friday 19 th November 2021
Holy Cross Sixth Form College (Bury)	Apply online at www.holycross.ac.uk	Applications open Monday 4 th Oct 2021- close - Friday 3 rd December 2021
Hopwood Hall College (Middleton and Rochdale)	Apply online at www.hopwood.ac.uk	No deadline date but earlier the application, earlier the course interview
Loreto Sixth Form College (Manchester)	Paper application download at www.loreto.ac.uk	Friday 7 th January 2022
The Manchester College	Apply at www.tmc.ac.uk	Applications accepted throughout the academic year but advised to submit by December 2021
Myerscough College (Preston, Blackburn and Liverpool) Agricultural courses etc.	Apply online at www.myerscough.ac.uk	Applications accepted throughout the academic year but advised to submit by March 2022

Oldham College	Apply online at www.oldham.ac.uk	Applications accepted throughout the academic year but advised to submit by December 2021
Oldham Sixth Form College	Apply online at www.osfc.ac.uk	Friday 3rd December 2021
Rochdale Sixth Form College	Apply online at www.rochdalesfc.ac.uk	12pm Thursday 9 th December 2021
Salford City College	Apply online at www.salfordcc.ac.uk	Applications accepted throughout the academic year but advised to submit by December 2021
Tameside College	Apply online at www.tameside.ac.uk	Applications accepted throughout the academic year but advised to submit by December 2021.
University Technical College Media City (Salford)	Apply online at www.utcmcity.org.uk	No deadline date but earlier the application, earlier the course interview.
Xaverian College	Paper application download at www.xaverian.ac.uk	Friday 14 th January 2022

The above information was correct at the time of completion. However due to the Covid 19 situation you are advised to check the college/sixth form websites for any changes/updates prior to any open day attendance and applications.

Supporting our Advent Charities:

‘Feed the hungry and give water to the thirsty!’ Jesus, Matthew 25

Over the past couple of days we have seen an increase of students donating food and living out our Catholic mission with 337 donations. Please remember you can drop off your tins every morning prior to school at the office next door to Miss Holt’s office (near 403) to support Rochdale’s foodbank this Christmas.

The form classes who have made the most donations so far are:

- 7.8
- 7.3
- 9.1
- 11.5

Special mention for the following students who have made amazing individual contributions:

Kaiden (Y7), Lily (Y7), William (Y9) Adrian (Y10), Gaea (Y10) and Aaron (Y11)

Also a mention to Mobeen for starting off our fundraising efforts for Springhill Hospice

Well done to everyone. Let’s see if we can beat our donations from last year which allowed us to donate almost 5000 food items to the foodbank.

Pastoral Notices

Snow Closure/Emergency closure of school site

Please ensure that all contact details are up to date for your child and that you have notified school of how you wish for your child to get home should there be the need for an early closure.

We kindly ask that our Year 7 parents/carers have spoken to their children on how they make alternative arrangements to get home as they will not have experienced any early closure/finish since joining St Cuthbert's.

Uniform/Prep

Please ensure your child is in full uniform each day; a small number of students have come to school recently in trainers/without ties.

Students should attend with everything they need for their lessons including a bag, equipment and the school planner. Should there be an issue please contact your child's Head of Year/Form tutor.

Thank you for supporting the pastoral team with maintaining their high expectations.

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.

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.

