



Friday 28th January 2022

Headteacher's Update

It seems as though every week we are entering a 'new phase' in terms of our ability to return to fully normal as a school. As of January 27th the wearing in masks in certain parts of school is no longer compulsory. Many students this week received their second vaccination and tests are no longer being provided to schools as they once were. There are of course many positives to this and we all want to return to normal as soon as we can. Our young people have missed a lot of their childhood and we need to make sure they don't miss any more than they have to from now.

At present however, can I please ask that everyone still follows the current guidance on the matters surrounding testing twice per week and staying at home if symptoms develop. Whilst we still have isolation periods in place we need to make sure as few people as possible are affected. Students who are isolating can of course access their lessons remotely.

Please be aware of the details regarding Progress Review Day next week. 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.

I hope everyone has 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 Mrs Logan and will reflect on the Gospel passage **Luke 4:21-30**

Curriculum Notices

Year 11 Mock Examinations

- Year 11 students are now on a countdown until their mock examinations.
- 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 1st Progress Review Day, this will run from 8.30 am to 7.30 pm.
- The event will run virtually due to Covid guidance for schools.
- You will be allocated 15 minutes with your child's form tutor. The purpose of each appointment is for parents and students to have the opportunity to discuss and review their academic attainment and progress across all subjects, their attitude to learning in lessons and general behaviour in and around school. You will also set and agree some targets for improvement for the rest of the year.
- If your child has special education needs, or you think that they may have, there is also an opportunity to make an appointment with our SENDCo to discuss any questions that you may have.
- Following the Progress Review Day, before our half term holiday, you will receive a copy of your child's report, this will contain all of the data discussed in the appointment plus the targets set.
- You will have received an email to book your appointment with your child's form tutor. Please ensure that you have booked your appointment by Monday 31st January to allow the form tutor to prepare for the appointment.
- **Students will be remote learning from home on this day.**
- Students will receive their attendance mark for the day, having attended the Progress Review Day appointment.
- Students will receive the work that they should complete on the Wednesday 2nd February via class charts. Paper copies (and instructions) for this work will also be given out during form period on Tuesday 1st February.
- **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 31st January, Tuesday 1st February & Friday 4th February

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 890/891 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.

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.

