



Friday 7th January 2022

Headteacher's Update

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year. As we return to school there are of course several changes since we were last in. Some of these are COVID related and some are school improvement related.

With regards to COVID we have tested all students who consented this week and have implemented the wearing of masks at all times in public spaces and classrooms. All of this is in line with government guidance and will be reviewed as soon as government policy permits it. We are told this will be January 26th at the earliest.

Please ensure your son/daughter has a face mask with them when they are coming to school. They will also need to wear one on public transport. We would not necessarily expect teachers to wear a face mask in the classroom if they are teaching and communicating from the front in order to assist them in their delivery. Some may however choose to wear one.

We strongly encourage everyone to continue testing twice weekly to help prevent any spreading of COVID. The fewer staff and students who are affected, the more face to face contact and normal school experiences we can provide.

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period following a positive test result has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

You may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of your self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

We always aim to keep students in school and in lessons wherever possible but please be aware that if anyone in our school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, we are instructed to send them home immediately and public health advice regarding getting tested and isolating should be followed. We appreciate your support in arranging the collection of your child if this unfortunate situation occurs.

We fully intend to continue face-to-face education for all students but I recognise that the high rates of COVID-19 may cause difficulties with the availability of staff. If it were to become difficult to maintain the safety of all students in school, due to lack of available staff and adequate supervision, we may have to move to remote learning for some students for short periods of time. This will only ever be implemented as a very last resort and will only be for short periods of time until staffing numbers return to safe operational levels.

As a community we will continue to work together to ensure the students, your children get the best and safest possible education. Working together I am sure we can ensure everyone has a successful term and year.

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 3:15-16,21-22**

Curriculum Notices

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>

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.

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 3 rd 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.

Pastoral Notices

- 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.

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.

