



Friday 4th December 2020 - First Week of Advent

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

We have now entered the season of Advent. This is a time for preparation and for thinking of others. Here at St Cuthbert's we are trying to prepare for quite a few things and also really trying to think of others too.

Firstly, we are preparing for Christmas. We are having virtual whole school assemblies and lighting the candles on the Advent wreath. This is all in preparation for the coming of our saviour on Christmas Day. We have reopened our Nativity Scene, started to play the Christmas songs on the corridors and put up the decorations. As much as is possible we are trying to have a typical St Cuthbert's Christmas.

On Wednesday December 9th we are having a non-uniform day. Students can wear their own clothes. What we ask is that they either wear a Christmas jumper or a Christmas accessory with their own clothes. Students are also being asked if they could donate at least a single can or 50p for our charity collections (see below) on this day in return for wearing their own clothes. This date is also when we will be serving Christmas dinner.

Our charity collections are going amazingly well. We are receiving vast amounts of food for the food banks. This will make a huge difference to the Christmas experience of so many in our community here at St Cuthbert's and beyond that in Rochdale. We have also received some toys for the donations of Christmas presents for those children who may not otherwise receive any gifts on Christmas Day. It would be great if we could do a little more on this one to really help those less fortunate than ourselves. As always however the community response to these appeals has been nothing short of remarkable, so thank you very much for that.

I would like to make a special thank you to one of our parents who every year provides the school with beautiful flower arrangements as gifts including during Advent. Mrs King, from Lola Ashleigh florists who does this all the time with no expectation or reward and is just typical of the wonderful community we have. This time however I feel I need to mention her as it matters even more that she has done this during the current situation.

At this festive time of the year we always find time to remember those in our community who may not be able to celebrate due to difficult circumstances. This year more than ever that is the case. We know of several people in our community who have lost loved ones recently and our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time and always.

Something else we are preparing our students for is exams. The Government have announced plans which mean students in Years 10 and 11 will be sitting exams in June. It is essential these students engage with all of their lessons whether in person or remote. We have fantastic online resources available to assist on our website and run support sessions after school every day. It is not the cleverest students who succeed, it is the ones who work the hardest. This is a simple fact. The more our Year 10 and 11 students put into this the more they will get out. Everyone is in the same boat and COVID will not be an excuse so we need to be focused and working as hard as possible on achieving

those results over the next 8 months. If you have sons or daughters in year 10 or 11 please check our website to see how you can help them and ensure they are working hard at home as well as at school.

Have a great weekend and please do read the remainder of these important notices

Mr Shields

NOTICES

GCSE Examinations

- Year 11 students will be sitting GCSEs examinations in all of their core subjects. Year 10 students will be sitting examinations in their two chosen Specialism subjects. An assembly has been delivered to these students today and a letter sent home to parents and carers.
- Supporting the preparations for these GCSE examinations, will be assessments in school. In November 2020, there will be some in class assessments, the grades that students achieve in these will be shared with you via their school report. In February/March 2021, the students will sit their Mock Examinations in the hall and again the student results will be shared with you via their school report. From April 2021, there will be many opportunities for students to practice exam papers. For any further information, please contact Mrs Hill.

Physical Education

- It is essential that all students are in **correct PE kit** on the day that they have PE. Details of this can be found on the school website and on the school Facebook page.

COVID Reminders

- Please do not send your child to school if they display any of the following symptoms or anyone in your household has had a test and is awaiting results:
 - **A high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
 - **A new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
 - **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- **Students must bring their own face masks.** A charge of 50p is made for students who need to purchase a mask.
- **Buses** – The Department of Education have updated school guidance regarding the wearing of face coverings on 1/10/20 stating: Children aged 11 and over are legally required to wear a face covering on public transport in England, unless exempt for health, age or disability reasons. Please remind your child that masks are worn at all times on their journey to and from school. Failure to comply with the TfGM transport rules may result in a bus ban.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

- December 9th: Non-uniform, Christmas jumper and accessory day.
- December 9th: School Christmas Dinner

- December 9th: Attainment Reports for Year 11 Core and Year 10 Specialism subject areas.
- December 18th: School closes at 12pm.

LOLA ASHLEIGH FLOWERS



TELEPHONE: 0785 2497 299

CONTACTLESS DELIVERIES

413, OLDHAM ROAD, ROCKDALE, OL16 4SZ