



9th October 2020

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

We are now six full weeks into the school year. The time has absolutely flown past. This is a reminder to us all that the time spent at secondary school is fleeting and it is essential to make the most of every day. Whilst school is not at all the same presently, it is no less important now to make the most of every day and the learning opportunities provided. If anything, at this moment in our lives and history, a typical school day has perhaps never been more important for young people and parents.

The vast majority of our students are still in school and we look forward very much to welcoming back Year 9 next week. When the occasion has arisen that we have to send home a group of students, we have been both delighted and saddened by their response. Delighted because they have not wanted to leave and in most cases they have subsequently engaged in the remote learning we are providing. Saddened because we know it is another blow to them in a year where they have already had so much disruption and challenge. Sending home students really is the last thing we want to do and we only do so when faced with no option in order to comply with current health legislation and guidance.

Based upon what we have experienced so far here at St Cuthbert's and generally across most schools in the North West, there will inevitably continue to be further disruptions to students attendance at school. At some stage we will probably all be affected individually, some more than once. We have now made sure that in that eventuality we can still provide a proper education for all students. The details in this document and the attachment are a reminder of what is in place and how to access it from home. By engaging with the remote learning, students are in effect in the lesson live at their usual timetabled time. Their teachers, will continue to teach them, answer any questions and check their work. I cannot stress the importance of knowing how to access this and then doing so in the event of a student having to work from home. It will ensure education continues in spite of any partial closures or lockdowns.

I and the staff and governors at St Cuthbert's wish you all the very best at these most difficult of times. Our students and staff have responded amazingly well to every challenge thrown at them and I could not be more proud than I am to be associated with this wonderful community. I know that whatever challenges come our way, we will meet them head on and overcome them. For six weeks we have truly been the best that we can be and I have no doubts that will continue with the wonderful members of this community.

REMOTE LEARNING

Our staff are working very hard in ensuring that our remote education aligns as closely as possible to in school provision. Our curriculum remains broad and ambitious and will follow student's individual timetables. It is, therefore, essential that students engage in their remote learning and complete and submit work as requested by their class teachers.

On the website there is information for all students which outlines our [expectations for remote learning](#) and instructions on how to access this, should students need to. **If your child needs IT support or has a technical**

issue whilst learning from home please email our helpdesk on helpdesk@scrchs.com or call 01706 396068 as soon as possible. Our IT team will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

NOTICES

- Please ensure that in the event of a partial school closure that your son / daughter knows how to get home as there have been a few students who have said they have no idea how to. Unfortunately with the COVID situation as it is, there is an absolute need for everyone to be prepared to respond to having to go home at any point.
- Please ensure that if your child has symptoms or anyone in your household does, they are kept off school until a test result is obtained. Under no circumstances should anyone be sent to school if they or anyone in the household has symptoms of COVID-19.
- Students must bring their own masks. We have given out a significant number of disposable masks this year and many are to the same small number of students who repeatedly need one.
- It is essential that all students are in **correct PE kit**. Details of this can be found on the school website and on the school Facebook page. Some students have taken to wearing items which are clearly not acceptable items of clothing and this must stop. Details of where the correct kit can be purchased are on the website.
- Whilst in form there will be both **equipment** (including bags) and uniform checks. Students must also have a reading book with them
- **Parent Pay** - Please ensure your child's parent pay accounts are checked regularly to ensure they have sufficient funds at the start of the week to be able to purchase food. Students are not allowed to go overdrawn.
- **Dropping off & collecting your child** – Please try to drop off and collect children away from the school gates. This is to ensure everyone is safe and buses can have clear access. The cones outside the school gates are used to ensure the safety of children at key times in the day. It is essential that everyone cooperates with this system to ensure we do not have any accidents or blocked school buses.
- **Punctuality** – Please ensure your child is in school **by 8.20am**. Our gates are closed at this time so that we can ensure all additional safety measures that are in place are followed. We do, however, appreciate there may sometimes be exceptional circumstances why your child may be late.
- **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 should be worn at all times on their journey to & from school, failure to comply with the TfGM transport rules may result in a bus ban.
- **Social distancing** - We would like to thank all students and parents who are adhering to the social distancing restrictions at this time. Can we kindly ask parents to remind your child of social distancing out of school hours and on their journey home especially if they are collecting siblings from other local primary schools or if they are in and around any recreational areas, in particular the Balderstone Park area.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- October 23rd is the last day of this half term.
- November: Virtual Information Evenings for all parents in all year groups. Exact dates to be confirmed.