



Friday 15th January 2021 Headteacher's Update

My best wishes to you all during the current lockdown. I hope everyone is finding their own way of coping with the current situation. It's different to the Summer lockdown for obvious reasons. Simple things like exercise for example, have to be done differently and with less options this time. One of the positive side effects of lockdown once again however is that it has afforded us a chance to spend more time with our families. The reality of course is we haven't really got much choice I suppose.

One of the things we have started doing as a family in my house is ensuring we play a game each day. There are four of us and we each get to choose which game in turns. We end up with a mix of computer games and board games depending upon who's choice is. I can only assume my kids are cheating at the computer games as nothing else would explain the gravity of my defeats. We have always had a movie night on a Saturday but seem to be having several per week at the moment. Again it works on a rota basis and we end up with a mix of good movies (about 1 in 4) and really bad ones (about 3 in 4) depending upon who is choosing them.

We also do our exercise together. We have even started running although we began this during lockdown 2 (which I think was also the name of one of the really bad movies we watched recently). I have personally never been a runner and without first hand knowledge, I assumed those who were out there in the middle of winter running up and down hills even in the snow and rain were crazy. I now have first hand knowledge and no longer assume they are crazy. I can state it for a fact, they are crazy.

Since I last wrote to you there have been around 300 government u-turns and about the same number of new rules and laws introduced which I am sure we have all been able to keep track of. At St Cuthbert's however since I last wrote to you, we have had no u-turns and over 90% of students attending their remote lessons. This is a yet another fantastic testament to our staff and students and their parents for ensuring they are doing this. The lessons are live, with a teacher and basically the same thing which would have been done if everyone was in school. We know you will be reading stories and hearing news about students who are not being given appropriate work and students who are just left to their own devices for a week or where their parents are expected to be a substitute teacher. This is absolutely not the case here at St Cuthbert's. Well done to everyone who has remote accessed their lessons and please ensure this happens for all 3 lessons every day. It is a proper lesson with real teachers and no gimmicks.

We are working very hard to ensure we have everything in place for our Year 10 and 11 students who were undertaking formal examinations this year. If students join their remote learning lessons and do what their teachers ask of them they will absolutely get the results they deserve this year. If they don't do this however it will of course have a negative affect on their results. This is exactly the same as if students were in school and sitting exams. Those who attend and do the work to the best of their abilities get good results and those who don't do that get poor results.

Please look at our website and Facebook page to get a flavour of what still goes on at school and remotely in the St Cuthbert's community. I wish all the very best until we can meet again

NOTICES

Remote Learning

Lesson times for remote learning are as follows:

Session 1: 09.15 – 10.45

Break: 10.45 – 11.00

Session 2: 11.00 – 13.00

Lunch: 13.00 – 13.40

Session 3: 13.40 – 14.40

- Link for remote learning questions and support [remote learning lessons](#)
- Link for lap top support [lap top](#)
- Free School Meal vouchers are emailed weekly to those who are eligible
- If your child needs help in logging on or needs any technical support please contact ICT Support on [01706 396068](#)
- Please ensure your child takes regular breaks whilst working from home.

Remote Learning Expectations

Please ensure your child is aware of the expectations of them whilst attending remote lessons below:

It is expected that students follow what is outlined in the Student Teams Acceptable Usage Policy, Section 4 of the parent guide, which can be found on the school's website <https://www.scrchs.net/parents/policies>

Students must:

- Be contactable during school hours although we do acknowledge that student may not always be in front of a device the entire time.
- Students must accept class invites on Teams to remote into their live lessons.
- Students must attend all remote sessions (times outlined above).
- If a student does not attend a session, this will be highlighted to the pastoral team via class charts. Our normal attendance procedures will be adopted if we have not been informed that your child is ill.
- Students must complete work to the deadline set by teachers and to the usual classroom standard.
- Use proper online conduct, such as using appropriate language in messages & behaviour when in a live lesson. Students who disrupt the live lesson, in line with our normal classroom rules:
 - 1) Do not talk whilst another person is. Microphone on mute whilst the teacher gives instructions.
 - 2) Stay on task.
 - 3) Not to distract another student.
 - 4) To be polite & respectful at all times.

Students will receive a warning by the class teacher, if this behaviour continues, the teacher can remove the student from the live lesson. This will be followed up with the Head of Year/pastoral team who will contact home.

➤ Seek help if they need it, from teachers or teaching assistants via email

➤ Alert teachers if they're not able to complete work, via email

Parents can also contact their child's teacher via email/Teams should they wish to ask anything about the work. Using class charts, parents also have the facility to award their child reward points for good work/effort.

If there are any problems with students adhering to rules around remote learning, including if they don't engage with the remote learning set for them, the school will aim to contact with families to see how it can best support the student.

Non engagement with remote learning is being followed up each morning with texts being sent to families where students have not remoted into the lesson within 15 minutes of the lesson starting. Any student who has not engaged with remote learning and school have struggled to make contact with families will lead to a home visit to check in on students.

We will continue to review this process and have taken on board parental feedback that we have received this week in preparation for next week.

Lateral Flow COVID Tests

This week we have conducted our first set of onsite COVID tests for Critical Worker students and some staff.

A letter has been sent to all families asking them to either give or decline consent for their child to access a lateral flow test when in school. Please return this form as soon as possible.

Please see the frequently asked questions and information video on the school website which will give an overview of how testing will be conducted at St Cuthberts.