



16th October 2020

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

We are rapidly approaching half term. I have been asked by many students, some parents and even some staff if we will be having a 2 week half term as they have heard in the news. The truth is that I do not know. I have had no official communication at all on this matter and unless there is a major u turn by the government and an announcement on the matter late next week then we must assume it is only for 1 week as planned.

Increasingly as we go through the term it becomes ever more obvious how important school is to young people. It is where their friends are, it is where they have routines which the vast majority actually like, no matter what they might say. It is also where their future life chances are enhanced. It is therefore essential that every day is seen as an opportunity to learn. The vast majority of our students are in school though we do have a few at home. This will be the case for quite some time as the local situation inevitably means we will have some more confirmed cases of COVID-19. Students at home can now access their lessons. It is important that students' remote access in to lessons whenever they are absent to ensure they do not fall behind with any work. The details for how to do this are on the school website and a summary is in this newsletter.

I do need to raise the issue of masks. The vast majority of students do exactly what is required of them. They bring their own masks and wear them at all appropriate times. There are a small minority of students who do not bring their own masks and are constantly stood at the Pastoral Office looking to be given yet another disposable mask. It is not school's responsibility to continuously provide free masks to the same students. We understand that occasionally a student will lose a mask or have to replace it due to some damage and we will assist with this always. From next week however, students who repeatedly come to school without a mask will be charged for them. The cost will be 50p per mask which will then be used to fund the disposable masks we are issuing. School budgets must be spent on educational matters and not providing the same small number of students with a new mask every day.

I want to bring to your attention an event which will be taking place after half term. Each year group will have their own version of this event. In these Parental Information Evenings, we will share with you everything that the students are learning in all subjects and how you can help them. These events will take place shortly after half term and we will let you know exactly when and where you can see them. We really do believe you will find it of enormous interest and benefit.

I and the staff and governors at St Cuthbert's wish you all the very best at these difficult times. We thank you for how well the vast majority of our students are cooperating with the new rules and ways of working. As I have said before it is a pleasure to be part of this wonderful 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. From next week students will be provided with 1 free mask but then charged 50p for every subsequent mask.
- 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.
- **Mobile Phones** – Students are not allowed to use their phones in class, anyone who does will be given an immediate C3 (30 min detention).
- **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.
- **Year 10 and Year 11 Parents** - On Monday 12th October the government made an announcement about this **summer's GCSE examinations**. They are planned to go ahead from Monday 7th June until Friday

2nd July 2021, (though paper 1 in Maths & English will be 'before the May half term' though no dates have been confirmed for this). GCSE results day is Friday 27th August. There is no current published subject timetable, these will be shared with pupils as soon as they have been set by the examination boards.

- Year 11 students will be sitting GCSEs examinations in all of their core subjects. Year 10 students will be sitting examinations in their 2 chosen Specialism subjects.
- 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 lots of opportunities for students to practice exam papers. For any further information please contact Mrs Hill.
- **Year 7 Parents** - Between Monday 19th September and Friday 23rd September 2020, Year 7 will be sitting the **CAT tests** (Cognitive Abilities Tests). The students have been fully briefed. The tests assess the pupils in the 4 areas of verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning and spatial reasoning. This is not a knowledge test and students are unable to revise and prepare for this test. The results of these tests will be shared with students and parents as they become available over the next few weeks.

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.