



ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Ref: Parental Bulletin

10th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

We have launched ourselves back into school at full speed. Tuesday saw the return of the Y9 and Y12 cohort; the Y9 looked smart in their new school uniform, eagerly finding their way around school with an apprehensive and engaging look on their faces. Y12 arrived to sign up to their new A Level subjects, looking dapper in their smart business wear attire. I took all Assemblies this week and so was able to communicate directly with all students highlighting the importance of standards, setting high expectations for themselves and always knowing that staff are behind them, giving them roots to prop them up and support for them to excel.

Covid-19 Risk Assessment

The risk assessment is on the [website](#). We now require all students to come into school in their uniform each morning. PE kit needs to be brought in and changed into, for the relevant core PE or Sports lesson. Students will change in the changing rooms – numbers will be restricted to half a class to be sure that there is sufficient space for them to change safely.

Encouraging Students to Walk/Cycle

I am focused on reducing the congestion of cars at the gate each morning and evening; we have distributed maps at collection this week encouraging parents to allow their children to walk or cycle into school. Being in a residential area, I am mindful at maintaining positive relationships with our neighbours and we have had complaints about indiscriminate parking which blocks driveways. Our Behaviour Policy focuses on respecting the environment and other people – I should be grateful if you would enforce this. Please use the [map](#) for relevant drop off points.

Bromcom

Our new communication system with parents is Bromcom and all parents/carers with first and second parental contacts, will be sent an email to enable them to download an app. This will then enable all communication to be sent via the app and so the current use of texts and emails will cease. This is scheduled to occur over the next few days and so please look out for the email that allows you to set this up on your mobile phone. Please enable push notifications so that you are constantly up to date with bulletins, notices etc. This communication method will also be used for publicising evening events such as Curriculum Evenings, Parents' Evenings, the Y11 Prom etc.

Dates for the Diary – Sep-21

Date	Event	Location
Wed 15.09.21	Y12 Curriculum Evening	Sports Hall – 6PM
Wed 15.09.21	Y13 Curriculum Evening	Sports Hall – 7PM
Thu 16.09.21	Y9 Curriculum Evening	Sports Hall – 6PM
Thu 16.09.21	Y11 Curriculum Evening	Sports Hall – 7PM
w/c 20.09.21	Y11 Assessments	In Class and Sports Hall
Mon 20.09.21	School Photographer – Y9 & Y12 (new)	
Wed 22.09.21	Y9 – The Challenge Day	In School
Wed 22.09.21	Y9 – Y13 Pop Icons	Theatre, 6.30PM

Curriculum Evenings

The Curriculum Evenings will be held on Wednesday (Y12 & Y13) and Thursday (Y9 & Y11) next week. Year group communications will be sent out to parents – it is an important event in the calendar and so please do attend.

Enrichment Clubs

Sport: attached is a summary of the many sports clubs that operate across the week.

Choir: new Y9 students – please see Mr Long in the Music room if you would like to join the choir. We run many performances across the year including the Christmas Choir Concert at Our Lady of Mount Carmel church in Redditch, musicals, showcase evening plus the all important Music Trip to Barcelona in July where the students perform in the Cathedral, in churches as well as impromptu events in the market squares.

Canteen

We are currently setting up Parent Pay and biometrics for the Y9 students and this should be operational by the middle of next week. A letter was sent out to parents yesterday with their individual activation code for the ParentPay account setup; once this is activated then you will be able to top up your child's account. If you have not been able to do this by Monday, then please send in cash with your child for payment of food. For all other year groups, biometrics and ParentPay is working normally and so we are operating a cashless Canteen for these students. The lunchtime meal deal is £2.30 (main + drink or pudding) and breakfast items start from 25p.

A Message from Mrs Wright, Head of Year 9

A massive welcome and well done to our Y9 students who have all made such an impressive start to their journey at St. Augustine's. I have taught both my Y9 groups this week and they have been fantastic! I have been inundated with compliments from teaching staff about how polite, friendly and enthusiastic they are – please congratulate your child on their excellent start. I am getting several emails about option subjects and timetabling issues and I would like to reassure all students, parents/carers that these are in the process of being dealt with - it is my aim that the majority of these issues will be sorted out within the next two weeks. Can I please take this opportunity to remind you all of our uniform policy - in particular the wearing of earrings. One stud is permitted in the lobe of each ear. Multiple earrings and/or top studs are against our uniform policy and not permitted. Students who are not adhering to our policy will lose their social time; I appreciate your support in ensuring your child is wearing their uniform appropriately. I wish you all a lovely weekend and look forward to welcoming Year 9 back into school on Monday.

Your Future Life Consortium

On Wednesday, we held the first MAC Consortium Conference which involved 250, Y12 students across St Augustine's, St Benedict's and Trinity Catholic School. The focus was about employer and Higher Education engagement opportunities as well as students being able to meet one another and take part in various enrichment activities. The conference began with a keynote address from Tom Leverage (CSEL) who outlined a vision of high expectations and resilience as illustrated by references to his own education journeys and that of others. The morning event included talks from various employers about law, the NHS and local business. Making the most of the beautiful weather, the afternoon comprised a heavily contested Duke of Edinburgh cook-off - budget friendly meals were unveiled amidst a bag of basic ingredients, smoke and Trangia stoves! The final sessions of the afternoon were a focus on enrichment – an energetic law debate, a body balance session, STEM club and inter school team sports. In summary, it was a great day with a focus on preparing students for higher education and the world beyond the school gates. Please keep updated with our programme via Instagram at [yourfuturelife2](#).

Supporting Refugees

Thank you for the collections that we have received this week from parents/carers – we are very grateful for your support. We are collecting toiletries for refugees who have arrived from Afghanistan on behalf of the charity – People in Motion. If you are able to support in purchasing some of the following items, please bring them in to school and leave at Reception:

- Shampoo
- Shower gel
- Soap

- Baby wipes
- Nappies
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Packs of tissues
- Hand sanitiser
- Sanitary towels (not tampons)

Students off to College and University

As schools return for the Autumn term, so do Universities and Colleges. I would like to wish all students well as they start their onward journey to higher education; Freshers week is ahead of them, making friends and trying out new ventures at clubs and societies – an exciting time for all.

Education Sunday

It is Education Sunday on 12th September; this year the focus is to thank all those who work in Catholic schools for their hard work and dedication over what has been a very challenging 18 months. A modern Buddhist saying offers this advice:

‘Water the flowers you want to see grow rather than feeding the weeds’. Gardeners will water those flowers they want to see grow and they will avoid feeding the weeds - they will try and get rid of them. This is true in our relationships with each other. Instead of finding fault with other people, try and applaud or compliment them on what they do right. What you encourage will grow! Think back to the conversations you had yesterday...did you say something encouraging to someone? Did you say something negative? What effect did it have on other people? What effect did it have on you?

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of education, and for all who support us in our learning: our teachers, our families and our friends. Thank you for giving us the ability to use kind words to encourage others and to reflect your love for us. Amen

Yours faithfully,



G T O'Connor BSc (Hons) NPQH
Principal