



ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Ref: Parental Bulletin

5th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

We have returned to school and hit the ground running so to speak! Half-term seems a distant past now but I hope you and your families had time to switch off and take time out to rest. Last night we had the Y12 Open Evening where we hosted over 400 students, parents and carers. It was a fantastic evening – we opened with Mr Long's choir singing uplifting songs in the Sports Hall to all parents, followed by talks by myself and Mr Madden, and then the most important part – parents and students, walking around the school, challenging the teachers to ask why they should study their subject and having short talks by the Heads of Department to understand the subject in greater detail. The feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive:-

“Speaking with the subject teachers - they were all very inspiring.”

“Going to see the teachers, the teachers were so passionate!”

“All the presentations for each subject, were very good.”

Attendance

Attendance, attendance, attendance – put simply, this is absolutely crucial to all students in school. Students cannot learn unless they are in the classroom and so it is integral to their positive progress throughout their school career, that they attend school. We now request, that any child who is feeling unwell with Covid symptoms, is brought into school so that we can undertake a Lateral Flow Test on them in a safe and secure environment. In brief, our absence procedure in school is clearly focused and directed so that a clear process is followed to ensure that all children are in school wherever possible. With immediate effect, if a student is away due to sickness absence, they will be required to stay in school on their first day back until 5PM in order to catch up work that they have missed. Please be assured, that this is not a negative sanction but a focus on ensuring that they do not fall behind with work; squash and biscuits will be provided. Our Attendance Officer and Receptionists will also be sending regular texts to parents of absent children to understand the barriers that we need to remove in order to ensure the student returns to school the following day. Any longer term absences will have phone calls and face to face meetings with myself to ensure we understand fully any reasons as to why students are away from school.

Winter Resilience

Please find attached a [letter](#) from Worcestershire County Council about the various winter bugs that we are likely to see around this time of year, and top tips to prevent them.

Assessments and Mocks

This week has seen the Y9s carrying out their first assessments at St Augustine's. They have worked hard and understand the gravity that we place on ongoing exams, tests and assessments throughout the school. Next week we have the Y13 mocks and attached is the [timetable](#) – alterations in red relate to small changes that have been made. The Y11 mocks start on Monday 22nd November and students have already received their timetables. The overall mock timetable is [attached](#).

Winter Foodbank

Mrs Waite is our custodian and manager of the Foodbank campaign and she is starting it in earnest from Monday. We will have two collections before the end of term, on 21st November and again on 3rd December.

This year there is a focus on tinned vegetables, tinned meat (meatballs, curry, chilli-con-carne), tinned vegetarian and vegan meals together with tinned fruit, UHT milk, jam and spreads, fruit juice and Christmas sweets/selection boxes (baked beans and pasta are not required). Mrs Waite will be once again running the competition between the Form Tutor groups to identify the overall winner next month, based on the numbers of items collected!

In School Covid Vaccinations

We have had confirmation that the vaccinators will be in school on Thursday 11th November, to undertake Covid vaccinations for the 12-15 students. Please see the attachment to find out more. I would urge you to read the documentation on the links enclosed within the letter and then [click](#) on the link as appropriate, to consent for the vaccine. Please note that the school is only acting as a resource centre to enable the vaccines to be carried out. Should you require any further information, please contact your GP.

Remembrance Service, 11th November 2021

We will be holding the annual service next Thursday where representatives from each of the Magnificat MAC schools in Redditch will be joining us to sing hymns and carry out readings. Unfortunately we are unable to invite parents this year, but it will be an enriching service giving full deference and respect to honour the fallen.

Yours faithfully



G T O'Connor BSc (Hons) NPOH
Principal