



ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Ref: Parental Bulletin

2nd October 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Over the last two weeks, the whole school has been involved with creating a series of videos to shine the light on St Augustine's for students who are currently considering their Y9 High School choices. It has brought a welcome distraction to the current news and all I can say, is that the students have absolutely thrown themselves into it! It is so uplifting to see their commitment and enthusiasm to getting involved and wanting to show their best and promote the school in its best possible light. Last night we premiered the videos on the website and the response has been fantastic. So, a big thank-you to all of your children for making the videos fun, informative and showing off the vibe and vitality of our school. I would also like to thank all parents/carers who have commented on the video – I have read all of your messages on Facebook and am truly grateful for your support.

Ms Mason has been visiting St Bede's and Walkwood Middle School this week to enable their Y8 students to put questions to our teachers. These short snippet videos will be released over the next fortnight via social media so look out for them and please pass on the message to your friends. Any burning questions, then head over to the website and send them in, and we will do our best to answer them. If you have friends/relatives who are considering Y9 school options, please direct them to our webpage where they will be treated to a flurry of song, dance and informative videos about our offering. Please note that the admission window closes on 31st October 2020.

[Y9 OPEN EVENING WEB PAGE](#)

Form for Questions

[ASK A QUESTION HERE!](#)

Trainee Teachers

St Augustine's is a Teaching School which, put simply means that we are recognised across the country as employing outstanding teaching practitioners and as a consequence, they provide support to other schools. We also attract trainee teachers who carry out short placements with us for part of their training practice. The trainees shadow our staff, so that they can learn and understand best practice and so it is likely that your children will get to know them over the next few months. This week has seen the start of a cohort of trainees and they have forwarded to me, their first impressions which I detail below:

'St Augustine's is an incredible place with an ethos that permeates every aspect of school life. As a former pupil who loved the school, I am so proud to be returning as a trainee teacher of English and I am amazed at how the school has only improved since I left. Pupils are receiving a broad, well-rounded education in English thanks to the department's excellent curriculum and teaching. All pupils and staff are lovely to work alongside, and I feel it is hard to find another school that values its community so highly.'

"We've been made to feel so welcome by the friendly and supportive staff at the school; there's a real sense of community here!"

"The students understand the high expectations of them, especially with regards to behaviour, and this leads to a really positive learning environment."

"St Augustine's is my first placement school, I can't even describe the atmosphere the school, pupils and staff have! Everyone is so friendly and helpful this has really eased me into the school environment! I am really looking forward to getting started here!"

Covid-19

It is essential that we retain thorough and high standards with regard to social distancing, wearing a face mask in communal areas and sanitising hands and desks regularly throughout the day. It is also important that students do not share stationery – pens, pencils, calculators etc. Attached is an Essential Equipment List that all students need – please note that we will be providing students with a glue stick and highlighter pen over the next week and I would ask that you replace these when necessary. I attach a flowchart which provides clarity as to when children should be kept at home and also a letter from Public Health England outlining when children may require Covid tests.

Track and Trace NHS App - AS ABOVE

You will be aware that the NHS have just launched their track and trace app which can be downloaded to both Apple and Android devices. The app alerts you to the proximity of other app users who have tested positive to coronavirus. It also advises you as to the level of coronavirus risk in your postcode district. If you are worried about having Covid-19 type symptoms, the app will help you book a test and keep track of your self-isolation countdown. I would urge students of 16 years of age or older, to download the app in order to help prevent the spread of the virus. Please note that we are going to continue to keep rooms well ventilated this autumn so I would suggest that students consider wearing thermals to ensure they stay warm.

[DOWNLOAD THE NHS APP](#)

Y13 Mock Examinations

Y13s will sit formal mock examinations week commencing Monday, 12th October 2020. They should be in school for their assessment, otherwise they can study at home if required. If students have two assessments in one day they will need to stay on site due to Covid restrictions. For the majority of students, these assessments will be sat in the Sports Hall. Please see attached the schedule for the week and the Y13 Assessment Task Sheet; students will be issued with their individual candidate timetables next week.

Y12 Assessments

Classroom based Y12 assessments will begin week commencing 16th October 2020. Please find attached the Y12 Assessment Task Sheet to assist students with their revision programme. The results of these will inform discussions on suitability of courses with both students and parents.

UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair

All Y12 students are encouraged to sign up to access the above in their free periods and at home. Y13 students will have the afternoon webinars played in the background in their social spaces.

[VIRTUAL FAIR](#)

Sponsored Mile Event

Y9,10 & 11 have been taking part in our Alternative Sponsored Walk. During CORE PE students could run, walk or jog along a track laid out by the PE department, students have set targets for themselves and have been gathering sponsors for their year groups charity. 6th formers will have the opportunity to complete the walk next week during their General RE lesson. The charity focus is on helping those who are worst affected by the pandemic from an international, national and regional perspective.

- Y9 are raising money for the Saint Vincent De Paul Society who help UK families facing hardship.
- Y10 are raising money for Mary's Meals who provide meals in local schools in the poorest countries for children who would otherwise miss out on education in order to beg for food.

- Y11, Y12 & Y13 are raising money for the Mike Dean charitable Trust - Many will remember Mike who was our Chair of Governors for many years who sadly passed away last year. His family have set up a charitable trust in his name to support disadvantaged young people from our own local community.

There are a number of methods to donate - primarily ParentPay can be used to donate sponsor money but also form reps have been setting up JustGiving pages for their charities. Please donate what you can, if you can.

Y11 Mass

Next week, the Y11s are having their Mass in the Sports Hall on Thursday as a year group with Fr Tony Rohan.

MAC Vacancy

Please see the link [HERE](#) referring to an IT vacancy in the MAC.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



G T O'Connor BSc (Hons) NPQH
Principal

Attachments:

Flowchart of illness
Letter from Public Health England
Y13 Mock Timetable
Y13 Assessments, Task Sheet
Y12 Assessments, Task Sheet
Sponsored Mile Event