



ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

ReF: Parental Bulletin

4th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back to school! It has been fantastic to have all the students back in (we will meet Y13 on Monday) and at last the school is back with the energy and buzz that it has lacked since March. I have been immensely impressed with the students – the media has whipped up a storm about the myriad of problems that we are likely to face but our St Augustine community has flourished. There has been a real sense of calm, good behaviour and manners and a positive acceptance of the new norm which we have created in school. We have spoken to a selection of students across the year groups to get their feedback on how they have found this week:

Y9: *"I'm really enjoying it – I wasn't sure what to expect but so far, the teachers are really nice. The bell goes a lot but I think that's more than usual because of Covid. I was quite stressed out about starting but I'm fine now."*

Y12: *"It's been great! Today has been excellent, cooked up some amazing bacon butties. The school is really hot on social distancing and wearing masks in the corridors etc but that's only right. I'm even looking forward to starting lessons next week."*

Y11: *"The planning for Covid has been really well thought out and planned. I thought it would be good but it's better than I expected. It's a bit inconvenient eating food outside but it's the right thing to do as we can't social distance in the Canteen. Mr O'Connor's message this morning was very clear about thinking of others but at the same time wanting us all to get back to normal".*

Reflections from staff

"As a Type 1 diabetic I was anxious about returning to school. However, I have been so impressed by the policies and procedures put in place that I really do feel very safe in the classroom and moving around school. Every member of staff is doing their part and the real focus has been on the health of the whole school community!"

"I have found the staff to be really friendly and welcoming and are only too happy to guide and assist. The students are smart and engaging and have accepted the new safety measures in place, with good grace and without fuss. The combination of student behaviour and attitude and the warm welcome from staff, have made my first few days thoroughly enjoyable." – a new member of staff

As a school we will be evaluating our plans on a weekly basis. We have started the year with a very strong steer on safety and getting into good routines. As things settle down, staff and students get used to the 'new normal' and with feedback from all parties I am expecting amendments to the plan which I will communicate to you.

Year 11 Consultation evening

Yesterday afternoon we had the Y11 Parents' Consultation Evening, undertaken by Teams remotely. It went very well and we have had excellent parental feedback so thank you for taking the time to respond. I am aware that some parents had timing issues with calls – we will seek to address this with our Consultation Evening next week. Should there be teachers who you were unable to talk to, please contact Mr Mill at mi@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk who will be able to support accordingly.

"I just wanted to pass on our thanks to all of the staff for an extremely positive and reassuring Parents' Evening tonight. Each conversation was filled with positivity and 'can do' language which is just what ***** needed to hear. She was given very clear guidance on how the year would look in each of her subjects and, as a result, is feeling enthused and excited about the year ahead." Y11 Mother

Year 13 Consultation Evening

This will commence on Thursday 10th September online via TEAMS. Parents are invited to be with their child to discuss subject specific progress and steps going forwards; you will be contacted early next week if we feel a more detailed conversation is necessary with the Sixth Form Team however if you are concerned please feel free to contact Mrs Paddock. The booking system is now open on Insight. Details concerning applications for UCAS or other destinations will be sent out prior to the Consultation Evening; this support is ongoing across the Autumn term as all applications to UCAS need to be submitted by the end of this term.

Encouraging Students to Walk/Cycle

We are beginning a big push to encourage students to walk/cycle to school as a part of a healthy living campaign and in support of their mental health. Parents can help us by using the attached map for relevant drop off points.

Canteen

Our ParentPay system for the pre-order of food at lunch time is now up and running. During the course of next week, parents/carers can order up to 8AM each morning. Please note that for orders week beginning 14th and 21st September orders will need to be in for Friday 11th September.

New students have been sent their ParentPay details through the post, so that parents/carers can logon and add funds to the account. If any parents have misplaced their details then please contact Mrs Baker at sta-finance@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk

Dates for the Diary

Y13 Parents' Evening *	10 th September, 1.15PM – 6PM
School photographer in school for Y9 photos	11 th September
Y10 Parents' Evening *	17 th September, 1.15PM – 6PM
Y12 Curriculum Evening	24 th September
New Y9 Open Evening *	1 st October
Y12 Assessment Week	w/c 5 th October
Y13 Assessment Week	w/c 12 th October
Half Term	22 nd October, 3.50PM

* Please note that these will be half days and buses will collect at 12.30PM.

Details about the Y12 Curriculum Evening will be sent out next week.

Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for a Cover Supervisor and Maths Teacher in school.

Click here to find out more: [STA Vacancies](#)

Back to School Support

Please see the attached documents from Kooth regarding Back to School support for students.

Yours faithfully,



G T O'Connor BSc (Hons) NPQH
Principal