



# ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

## DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

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ReF: Parental Bulletin

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

We have launched ourselves back into school at full speed. This week we have had Y13 Parents' Consultation afternoon, school photographer taking headshots of our Y9 and new Y12 students and last but not least, a videographer taking film footage in readiness for our virtual Y9 Open Evening for prospective Y8 students – we aren't resting on our laurels. The week has also marked the first time since 18<sup>th</sup> March that the school has been complete with all year groups on site – it really is great to be back! The students are settling in well; Y9s are finding their feet around school and behaviour has been outstanding.

We must be mindful however, that with the infection rate on the increase, we will retain our absolute focus on students and staff wearing masks in communal areas. I am aware of Birmingham schools already having to collapse year groups due to infection and to this end, we maintain a consistent approach to all homework being undertaken on Teams so if this impacts St Augustine's, there will be a straightforward transfer to academic teaching onto our online learning platform. We succeeded in this regard during the recent lockdown and so I am confident that we can entertain this again with minimal disruption.

The most significant thing that both staff and students can do to reduce the chance of a Covid case within the school is to stay at home if there are any symptoms of lack of smell/taste, dry cough or a high temperature. Indeed, current advice is that daily temperature checks should be carried out for all students.

### Public Examinations 2021

Ofqual has now confirmed the changes that are being made to GCSEs and A Levels next summer. Changes are larger in some subjects particularly the practical and content heavy ones. Parents and students can find details using this [link](#).

### Year 13 Consultation Afternoon and Evening

Yesterday afternoon we had the Y13 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. Should there be teachers who you were unable to talk to, please contact Mrs Paddock at [paddockc@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk](mailto:paddockc@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk) who will be able to support accordingly.

### Year 9 and Year 12 Curriculum Evenings

Our normal introduction to these important years in the school will be replaced by a short film giving details of the year ahead, this will be sent out on the calendared days.

### Open Evening for September 2021 Start

I can now confirm that this will take place virtually with details to follow. Both staff and students have a sense of excitement for what we have planned....

### Student Movement within School

I have been closely monitoring this week, the student movement around the school during the day. The students have complied accordingly and as a consequence the speed of their walking around the one-way system between classes has increased. We are therefore at a stage when we can reduce the movement gap between lessons whilst still remaining socially distanced and safe. Please find attached a proposed plan of

how movement will take place from Monday. Should you have any comments to make in this regard, please email Anne Eggins at [egginsa@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk](mailto:egginsa@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk)

### **Year 10 Consultation Afternoon and Evening**

This will commence on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Head of Year, Mr Murphy. The booking system is now open on Insight.

### **Encouraging Students to Walk/Cycle**

Congestion of cars at the gate each morning and evening is at a level that concerns me. We have been distributing 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 thereby blocking driveways, and students dropping face masks on the pavements. Our behaviour policy focuses on respecting the environment and other people – I should be grateful if you would enforce this. Attached is the map highlighting relevant drop off points.

### **Canteen**

This week our Canteen has been up and running with providing lunches for the students. Should you have any queries in this regard, please forward to Becky Hopkins-Edge, [rhopkins-edge@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk](mailto:rhopkins-edge@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk)

### **Dates for the Diary**

Y9 Curriculum Evening	16 <sup>th</sup> September - virtual
Y10 Parents' Evening *	17 <sup>th</sup> September, 1.15PM – 6PM
Y12 Curriculum Evening	24 <sup>th</sup> September, 6PM – 7PM
Y13 Curriculum Evening	24 <sup>th</sup> September, 7PM – 8PM
New Y9 Open Evening	1 <sup>st</sup> October
Y12 Assessment Week	w/c 5 <sup>th</sup> October
Y13 Assessment Week	w/c 12 <sup>th</sup> October
Half Term	22 <sup>nd</sup> October, 3.50PM

\* Please note that this will be a half day and buses will collect at 12.30PM.

### **Vacancies**

We currently have vacancies for a Cover Supervisor. The MAC is recruiting for Cleaners and a Clerk. Click here to find out more: [Vacancies](#)

### **Year 11 Year Book**

Our Student Council are in pre-production mode for the Y11 Year Book that will be published at the end of the academic year. Ever keen, they are on the look out for any parents who might be involved in printing who could support them with their project. If you can, please contact Mr Mill at [mi@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk](mailto:mi@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk)

Yours faithfully,



**G T O'Connor BSc (Hons) NPQH**  
**Principal**

### **Attachments:**

Student Movement within School  
Drop-off Point Map