



# ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

## DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

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Ref: Parental Bulletin

16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

Being part of a community is at the heart of what we are about as a school. With this in mind and with two students of my Y12 Physics group away from school due to self-isolation (yes, I do still teach!) I adapted the lesson to invite them into a live lesson – what could possibly go wrong? Seconds later, I heard utter the most overused phrase across the world this year - 'Sir – you're on mute!' Our whole community has been in a different mode of working and to ensure that all staff and students are not left behind we have invested heavily in staff time and resources into our virtual school. For parents who may want to see what this looks like I have asked Mrs Davis and Mrs Crabb to produce a small video for you. [ONLINE LEARNING](#)

I am sure that your sons and daughters, like our staff will be getting tired but with half term in sight we should celebrate the fantastic achievements of our whole community and how everyone has embraced the situation and just 'got on'. From 8-mile sponsored walks, planning Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to showcasing our school on video, it is clear that both students and staff have truly gone above and beyond.

We are currently taking a step back and planning the events for next half term and the rest of the year and I will be conducting staff, student, and parental surveys to help guide our actions.

### Open Evening and Admissions to Y9, 2021

We have had significant interest in our [VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING](#) from students, parents and other schools both locally and nationally. Whether students are currently within our wonderful MAC family or interested in joining, it has been a delight to talk to so many about our values and standards about such things as our Duke of Edinburgh scheme for all, our three-year Key Stage Four, our outstanding Sixth Form but also our ambitions for developing our buildings to meet the needs of the community. Yesterday I met a student for a guided tour of the school, he was from Walkwood one of our named feeder schools based on faith. He was truly an inspirational young man who I am sure, will go far. Based on his and other questions we have had, attached are the **FAQ**.

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### Principal - G T O'Connor BSc (Hons) NPQH

**A Christ centred learning community committed to the development of the whole person.**

St Augustine's Catholic High School actively promotes equality, inclusion and accessibility; please let us know if you require assistance.

**Part of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Company – Company Number: 90644850**



## **Tom Leverage, CSEL**

I had a good meeting with Tom Leverage yesterday; as our new CSEL, he has exciting plans for the future and as a school body embracing students, staff and parents, I look forward to working with him from January when he takes up his new post.

## **Mass**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the Y9 students will be having their Mass in the Sports Hall, as a whole year group with Fr Tony Rohan. I am sorry that we are unable to invite parents into school to have Mass with us, but I can assure you, once we are able, then you will be most welcome.

## **Open Evening and Admissions to Y12, 2021**

Filming is currently underway for launch on our return. We aim to advise and guide students both internal and external for the next steps on their journey.

## **Assessments**

Over the last two weeks, the Y12 and Y13 have been sitting internal assessments and then next week, the Y9s have a week of examinations. As we are all aware, COVID-19 has caused an abrupt pause to exams which, although might have felt like a welcome respite for several year groups, reality is such that we need our students to be prepared for every eventuality next year. We take great care with supporting students in this process as we believe it provides them with the resilience that we all need later in life. Y9 will be sitting their maths and English exam in the Sports Hall next week and we wish them all the best with their revision over the weekend. That said I would ask parents to structure their time to ensure that they get plenty of exercise and take some time out.

**Reports Release:** The Y13 reports will be on Insight in Nov-20 and the Y12 reports will be issued before half-term.

**Y9 Exams:** students have now received their timetables for next week. Students should take note of their place in the Sports Hall or other rooms. They can check their seat on the notice board opposite the Theatre in school.

Kindly ensure that students are equipped with the following for their exams:

- Clear plastic pencil case, black pens x 2, pencil, pencil sharpener, eraser, ruler, protractor, a pair of compasses, a clear plastic water bottle - all labels removed.

Prior to their exam, students should ensure their phones are switched off and placed in their bag or on the floor. Students must also ensure that there is no writing on their hands as it could be construed as cheating.

**Y10 Exams:** will take place from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> November; candidate timetables will be distributed next week. The exam schedule and assessment task sheet is attached. The short report should be released on insight by 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

**Y11 Mock Exams:** will commence on Wed, 11<sup>th</sup> Nov until Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Timetables will be distributed shortly. The exam schedule and assessment task sheet is attached.

## **Saints Speaks**

Our Head Boy, Head Girl and Student Ambassadors have, with Ms Mason arranged to have a live "Saints Speaks" broadcast, next Thursday morning during Tutor Time. They will focus on drawing attention to students of key important aspects of school life including, but not limited to: ClassCharts, Canteen food and items in the bulletin that their parents might have missed! It is planned to be an event that happens every fortnight.

## **PE Kit**

It has come to my attention that students are not always wearing the correct PE kit in school. Attached is a summary of the PE uniform and I should be grateful if you would ensure that it is adhered to.

## **Canteen**

This morning I had discussions with the new Catering and Food Standards Lead to understand the food provision that the school offers to students at lunch and break. It was a very useful and worthwhile discussion which Mr Foley joined together with our Y11 Ambassadors who had received feedback from students. A further meeting is planned after half-term after which I will update you.

## **Y12 & Y13 Key Dates**

Please find attached a summary of important key dates for the academic year for the Sixth Form.

## **Vacancy: [IT Technician](#)**

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



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

### ***Attachments:***

Microsoft Teams access from home  
Y12 & Y13 Key Dates  
PE Kit  
Y10 & Y11 Assessment Tasks and TT  
Q&A for new Y9 students