



ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Ref: Parental Bulletin

13th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

This week we had a very moving Remembrance Service that Mr Hutchison delivered by way of a video. He filmed at each of the MAC schools with students from the First Schools and St Bede's carrying out readings, whilst students from St Augustine's read out the Roll of Honour. Ex-servicemen and women from the Royal British Legion, Astwood Bank joined us in school too, whilst Harrison Mayne played the Last Post. My thanks to Mr Hutchison and Ms Mason for the work that they put into this. Should you wish to watch it, it can be found [HERE](#). Harrison joined the school in 2016 from St Bede's and has played the trumpet at every Remembrance Service in school since he was 10 years old. He leaves next year after his A Levels – we shall miss his contribution.

On Wednesday, the Y11 students started their mock exams. The students walked into the exam hall with an air of confidence which was well deserved following all their hard work during lockdown. We do not feel that they have lost any time, in fact as a group they are ahead of schedule!! The mocks will continue into next week and we wish them well with their revision over the weekend. I would ask parents to ensure that they have quiet space to work but equally take time to exercise and rest. Following the mocks students will be given significant Information, Advise and Guidance for future pathways.

Extra-Curricular Activities

There has been some debate nationally about extra-curricular activities so it was good to see that the very latest updated DfE guidelines include the following section:

Co-curricular Activities - Schools should consider the provision of pastoral and extra-curricular activities to all pupils designed to:

- support the rebuilding of friendships and social engagement
- address and equip pupils to respond to issues linked to coronavirus (COVID-19)
- support pupils with approaches to improving their physical and mental wellbeing

Netball Club: it is pleasing to see that on Monday, Mrs Humphries is re-starting Netball Club for Y9 students; a maximum of 30 students can attend, so please inform your Form Tutor if your daughter would like to play. The club runs from 4PM-5PM. It will run on Week A only.

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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



Computer Science Club: this will also start on Monday for Y10 students. Please contact Ms Walkley to find out more details surrounding this.

These clubs will switch around from Week B when Netball will welcome Y10 students and Computer Science, Y9 students.

Debating Club: this starts for Y12 students on Thursday lunchtime.

Football Club: Mr Murphy and Mr Ross are looking into re-starting this club as soon as they can.

Y13 Physics Challenge: we are also entering our Y13 Physics students into the British Physics Olympiad annual Astronomy and Astrophysics competition. The Y12 challenge takes place in March – although it may only be targeted towards a relatively small cohort of students, these are great fun to take part in.

Duke of Edinburgh: next term, Y9 students will start their DofE Bronze award whilst the Y13 will be continuing their Silver award at the end of this term.

Blood Donation: next month the Y13 students who wish to, will be going into Birmingham to donate blood.

Parents' Day – 26th November 2020

Children from all year groups, except Y11 will be working from home during Parents' Day – 26th November. Parents are asked to visit the parental portal in order to book an appointment with their child's Form Tutor.

<https://secure.st-augustines.worcs.sch.uk>

Pastoral Support

As a school, we are looking for new ways to support our families. We are now able to refer families in need to receive a foodbank voucher for either Redditch or Studley Foodbank. Please contact the Pastoral Department should you need any further information about this.

Covid-19

I would like to let you know of the process that we take at school, if a child or staff member tests positive. Those staff and students who have been identified as having been in direct close contact with the positive person (less than 1 metre for more than 1 minutes and/or upto 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) are collected and isolated immediately within school. Parents are contacted and the children sent home. Staff equally are sent home. These individuals then self-isolate for 14 days. The 14 days start from the last day of direct close contact with the positive case. At this stage these self-isolating individuals are not required to have a test unless they are symptomatic. Equally those living with the person who has tested positive do not need to have a test, but they do need to self-isolate.

As soon as we have a positive case or a suspected case, our Attendance Officer contacts LORT - Local Outbreak Response Team who are part of Public Health England. They will go through a detailed checklist with the Attendance officer which involves identifying seating arrangements and contacts outside of school. In addition, direct contacts during social times, how they travel to and from school, family details are taken and discussed. For the individual who is positive, Track and Trace contact the family directly. They will confirm the end of isolation date. The school then confirms this date with LORT to ensure the dates match. LORT will also confirm the date that those who have been self-isolating can come out of isolation. The school writes a letter to the parent of the contacts as prescribed by the LORT. I also enclose a summary from the DfE.

Clinically extremely vulnerable - All pupils, including those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, can continue to attend school at all Local COVID Alert Levels unless they are one of the very small number of pupils or students under paediatric care (such as recent transplant or very immunosuppressed children) and have been advised specifically by their GP or clinician not to attend school.

University student movement plans for the end of term – the government is committed to ensure that university students are able to return home at the end of term, this will occur from 3rd December to 9th

December [LINK](#). Seeing older brothers and sisters return home will be a joyous occasion especially before Christmas, we would obviously ask for caution and a measure of social distancing from students in the school.

We have been advised by the LORT that early symptoms of Covid have been include fatigue and suffering headaches. As a consequence, students suffering with these symptoms must **NOT** be in school. As you are aware, our Home Learning programme is in place for those students who are self-isolating at home and so they may continue to work remotely. The home learning programme has been celebrated by local councillors, DfE inspectors and other professionals, we have invested heavily in the staffing of this to ensure that those students who have to isolate to not miss out.

Canteen

As the weather closes in, we are exploring ways to deliver a wider menu to the students. I have met with our canteen services together with members of the student council and would appreciate any views from parents.

Live Mass

Fr Tony will be celebrating Mass at 4.30PM every Sunday which will be live-streamed (no congregation). The link for this Mass is : www.eventcast.uk/live.

VOXI

VOXI is part of Vodafone and they have launched a monthly plan to support low income families. For £10/month for 6 months, the plan gives unlimited data, calls and texts for £10/month. Please click on the link to find out more: [VOXI](#)

Foodbank 2020

A reminder that Mrs Waite is collecting food and Christmas treats for the Foodbank appeal. We would be grateful if you are able to support with the following items (with long shelf life dates if possible):

Tins of soup, vegetables and meat (no baked beans), Jars of sauces all types
Pasta, noodles and rice
Squash, Juices, long-life milk
Tea, coffee, sugar
Special treats for Christmas - chocolates, biscuits, mince pies
Cereals
Other sauces, salt, pepper

MAC Vacancies: [Click Here](#)

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



G T O'Connor BSc (Hons) NPQH
Principal

Attachment: PHE – Managing Covid-19 Symptoms

NOTICES

Operation Christmas Child 2020 - Christmas Shoe Box Appeal for Children Overseas

The collection date for boxes this year has been extended to **5th – 14th December**. They can be taken to Christ Church, Matchborough and The Entertainer, 55 Evesham Walk, Kingfisher Centre B97 4ET. During this pandemic, an idea could be to do a box online using the following website: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ - simply choose which age and gender to pack for, select from a range of gifts, add a personalised note or photo, make your donation and this will be packed and sent for you.