



ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Ref: Parental Bulletin

20th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

This week has marked the first of a year group temporary lockdown which has seen Y13 students studying from home since 17th November being due to return on 27th November. I have been most impressed with the calm and assuring nature that the students took this news and by Wednesday morning, they were calmly logging onto their device remotely in readiness for Tutor Time. The staff have risen to the challenge too, and have taught using a variety of media, be it laptop, visualiser or voiceover powerpoint. I am absolutely committed in ensuring that our Home Learning policy is robust and embedded within all areas of teaching and learning so that if more year groups are required to be at home, then we ensure that the transfer to electronic home learning is seamless. The Home Learning policy has been updated, and is available to read by clicking [HERE](#). I will be evaluating the effectiveness of the policy next week and to this end I should be grateful if you and your child will complete the link to the questionnaire - [Parental Survey](#), so that we can evaluate your views effectively. Should you wish to see live teaching in action, please click [HERE](#) where there are some short videos depicting this.

Pupil Bulletin

Our Head Girl, Lauren Court has compiled a student bulletin which she will publish on a regular basis across the year, highlighting important events and information which impact our school community. Thank you to Lauren for taking on this challenge – the first edition is outstanding! Click here, [Student Bulletin](#) to read more.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Netball Club: there will be no club running on Monday 23.11.20.

Computer Science Club: Y9 club will continue after school on Monday, 4PM-5PM.

Physics Presentation: I am delighted to announce that we have Professor Cristina Lazzeroni coming to talk to our Y11 and Y12 students next month. The virtual presentation will focus upon Particle Physics Research and how she became a professor of Physics at the University of Birmingham. Thank you to Miss Syvret for organising this.

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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



Music, Drama and Performing Arts: provide our musical heartbeat to the school and as with academic subjects, are a very important part of our curriculum. For over 10 years we have run the successful European Music tour with students travelling abroad to sing at prestigious venues such as St Mark's Square in Venice, St Eupemia in Croatia and Montserrat Cathedral in Barcelona, to name but a few. Past students have gone on to pursue careers in the media and on stage and so to whet the appetite of Y11 students, I am delighted to announce that Jack Montgomery is coming in to school next week to talk about his journey from St Augustine's to the West End stage. Appearing in London in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, The Sound of Music and Mary Poppins, Jack has established himself as a mainstay in musical theatre; he will be talking to our Music, Drama and Performing Arts Y9 and Y11 students about how St Augustine's was pivotal in his decision to pursue his acting career.

Pop Icons and Buggy Malone

Due to the current situation, our Y9 students have been unable to perform in the Autumn term Music Showcase which normally runs in November. However, we will not allow a pandemic to halt all of our stage productions so next week, Mr Long and Mrs Wright will be running auditions for Pop Icons during lunchtime on 25th and 26th November. The event is scheduled to run in the Spring term. Buggy Malone will be our major school production in the summer term after the exam period, and so auditions for these will commence w/c 30th November. Students should contact Mr Long and Mrs Wright for further details.

Parents' Day – 26th November 2020

Parents' Day is next Thursday and all students except for Y11 will be working from home on this day. Thank you to parents who have booked their appointment with tutors. This is a crucial moment to talk through how students are progressing both academically and socially but also a moment to discuss really important issues like mental wellbeing, anxiety and ambitions for the future. If you have not yet booked an appointment, please do so at this [LINK](#). Appointments are via Teams, however if there are any barriers to using Teams for your appointment then please do let us know and we can find another way. The important thing is that we work together for the children.

Y11 will be in school on Thursday and will follow an altered timetable which will involve an introduction to Unifrog – a post-16 tool, that brings together all information about future destinations, into a single, impartial and user-friendly platform. There will also be focused support on resilience, strategies for coping with exam anxiety, mental wellbeing and revision tips.

Canteen

Having evaluated feedback from student surveys and parents, I am delighted to advise that from Monday 30th September, we will be re-opening the Canteen at lunchtime for Y9, Y10 & Y11 students, with Sixth Form to follow at a later date. Students will be able to come into the Canteen, select and then purchase food via the fingerprint machine. There will be two main dishes, pasta, jacket potatoes, baguettes and a desert each day that students can select. Menus will be available next week. Please see the attachment for more information about ParentPay balance and food options that have been previously been selected for w/c 30th November.

Procedure for Covid-19 out of School Hours

As part of our robust track and trace system in school we want to make sure parent/carers are informed as soon as we have information shared with us. To enable us to do this outside of school hours, we will communicate with you as outlined below

- If your child is awaiting results from a Covid 19 test and these are received outside of school hours (evening or weekends) please can you email the outcome to Mrs Such, Attendance Officer - suchs@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk
- If we have identified your child as being a close contact and we receive information outside of school hours advising us of a positive test, we will notify you that your child needs to begin a period of self-isolation via text and email.
- A letter will be sent with relevant information including end of isolation date the following working day.

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. Our Lady of Mount Carmel are currently organising the following times of private individual prayer during these days when public worship has been suspended once again.

- Saturday and Sunday at 11am there is Eucharistic Adoration and silent prayer before Our Lord Jesus in the Monstrance displayed on the Altar in church.
- On Sunday at 4.30pm each week, Father Tony is live streaming Mass at this time.

For further details about these prayer opportunities please do check the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Website for more information. Additionally, your local Catholic Parish may be offering similar services and prayer times. Please review their websites too for further details.

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:

Home Learning Policy (updated 20.11.20)

Canteen Update