



# ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

## DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

Ref: Parental Bulletin

4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we reach the final fortnight of the Autumn Term, I write to urge you to remain vigilant and aware of the Covid-19 social distancing measures. Redditch is now in Tier 2 since the second lockdown which in brief terms means:

- You may only meet socially with friends and family indoors who you either a) live with or b) have formed a support bubble with. Please note that indoors includes private homes and other indoor venues such as pubs and restaurants
- You may see friends and family you do not live with (or do not have a support bubble with) outdoors, in a group of no more than 6. This limit of 6 includes children of any age. Outdoors means in a private garden or other outdoor space.

The reason for my heightened and continued caution, is due to students returning from college and university over the next 10 days and the move towards the holidays. We are focused on keeping children safe so that they can enjoy the Christmas holidays with their families without fear of becoming ill. Within school, we continue to review and evaluate seating arrangements and social distancing; it is easy to become lax with regards to distancing but it is imperative that we adhere to it, enforce it and keep safe. This week we have welcomed back our Y13 students and then on Tuesday, our Y12 students will return to school.

### Summer Exams 2021

Yesterday the government released its latest [guidance](#) for the summer exams. Briefly, Ofqual and the Department for Education is committed to ensuring that the summer exams continue as: 'It has been clear that exams are the fairest way to judge a student's performance and has made keeping schools and colleges open a national priority throughout the pandemic in order to minimise disruption to education'. There are a number of support measures in place to reassure students including

- Generous grading
- Advanced notice of topics likely to come up
- Aids to help in the exams eg formula sheets
- Additional exams later in the year for resits
- Special consideration

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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.



I would like to reassure all parents that students in Y11 and Y13 are well ahead in their studies and will be finishing courses soon. I attach the summer exam timetable to discuss with your child, my advice as always is to put it somewhere visible and frequently visited, usually on the fridge door!

### **Calendared Events and Trips**

Next week I shall be reviewing all calendared events for the spring and summer term in light of the confirmed examination series. I am keen to ensure a sense of normality exists within a safe environment. We fully appreciate that students only have one chance in education and are committed to giving them the best experience possible. I would draw attention to our attached enrichment calendar to highlight all that we are currently doing.

### **Year 11 Mock Results Day**

On Tuesday, Y11 will receive their mock 1 grades. These will give them an indication of where they are and what they need to do to secure good results in the summer. I have been very impressed with the general attitude to learning I have seen around the school and their attendance to our extensive after school enrichment sessions. I am very grateful to the staff for all their hard work.

### **Saints Radio**

Next week we formally launch 'Saints Radio', our very own radio station organised and hosted by our student body. It will be available to all at break and lunch as they move around the school; a big thank you to Mr Foley for organising the student body.

### **Oxbridge Interviews**

Many congratulations to the following students who have received interviews in the following weeks to study at Cambridge:

- Lauren Court - English Literature
- Haroon Ali – Computer Science
- Adam Suszczewicz – Computer Science

We will be conducting mock interviews next week as part of their final preparation and wish them all the very best of luck.

### **Acceptable Use Procedure**

The link below is the Acceptable Use Procedure that we have recently strengthened in light of students working from home. The main addition is the use of video for students to allow robust interaction.

**Y9, Y10 & Y11: I would ask parents to complete the form so that we have your acceptance on file for your child. I would respectfully urge you to return this form urgently. Please click below.**

[Acceptable Use - Y9, Y10 & Y11 Parents](#)

### **Canteen**

This week the canteen re-opened to allow students to buy food without the need to pre-order. It has worked well – there are very clear sanitisation units located around the canteen and full cleaning occurs on the biometric payment system. The verdict from the students on the menu is positive and we have been posting out on social media each day, the various savoury and sweet dishes on offer.

### **Foodbank 2020**

A big thank you for the huge volume of food and Christmas treats that students, parents and staff have brought in for the appeal - we are truly very grateful. Mrs Waite will report back next week on the final amounts and will announce which class has won the competition. Also, a well done to Poppie Cox-Dawkins in Y9, who has organised a collection for the foodbank from her generous neighbours which amounted to 93kg!

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully



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