



ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

The Weekly Parental Bulletin

19th March 2021

This week has been focused on settling the students back into the normal school routine and so far, this has been progressing well. Mrs Humphries has started up netball and badminton clubs, Mr Morris has been imparting the wonders of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme to our students and Ms Mason is walking a metaphorical pilgrimage with our students for our Lenten charities; it is fair to say that the students have hit the ground running.

Lenten Charities

Mr Foley and Ms Mason are busy supporting the year groups with our Lenten charity appeal where we are raising money for St Chad's Sanctuary in Birmingham. In a moment of weakness, I succumbed to Ms Mason's charming request of having my head shaved for charity. Somewhat worryingly, my wife whole heartedly supported this, suggesting that she might have become a little frazzled by my constructive criticism when she has taken shears to my head during the months of lockdown. So, on the last day of term, I will be shaving my head for charity, live on Teams so that students can have a chuckle. However, I am no pushover and so the level will depend on the amount raised.

- Number 8 = £100; Number 6 = £300; Number 4 = £500; Number 3 = £600; Number 2 = £800;
Number 1 (yikes) = £1000

Students can bring in money or pledge on ParentPay. Suffice to say, I will be keeping a very close eye on the amount raised!

As part of our charity mission, St Augustine's together with other schools in the Holy Family Catholic MAC are walking a virtual pilgrimage from Spain to Jerusalem, a journey of 7,500km. Students, staff and parents can log their daily exercise and then we can daily view the progress that we have made. Please see the links here so that you can add your progress. Every Wednesday and Thursday, Ms Mason is walking with students around the field in Mason's Mile. All students are welcome to take part; so far just this week, she and students from across all year groups have walked 136km – an excellent achievement.

Registration details below:

[LINK](#)

[TRACKER WEBSITE](#)

Y11 and Y13 Revision Evening

On Tuesday 23rd March, we are holding a revision evening for the exam year groups, for both students and their parents. We will be discussing the Teacher Assessed Grading process, detailing how it will be structured and the manner in which assessments and gradings will take place. Separately, parents have been sent a Form to complete to ask if they have any questions that they would like answered. I envisage the meeting lasting about 30 minutes. Please note that Heads of Departments will not be available but students can contact them directly should they have any queries about their course. The timing of the evening will be as follows:

- **Y11 Revision Evening: 5PM**
- **Y13 Revision Evening: 5.30PM**

There has been some feedback received from parents/carers about how their children can focus on obtaining high marks. I understand that such questions are meant in a positive manner, as we are all keen on ensuring that

children give off their best during assessments and obtain a mark that truly reflects their ability but it is important that I keep you aware that if teachers feel that students and/or parents/carers apply pressure to influence teachers' judgements on their Teacher Assessed Grades, then we are required to inform the relevant awarding body.

Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

Mr Morris is now writing a weekly update on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme in the Enrichment Calendar, however I am very pleased to advise that 4 of our Y13 students have now been awarded their Silver award: many congratulations to Hannah B, Fran B, Helen V and Tania L in their achievements. It is very positive that they have been able to reference their new found skills and volunteering activities on their UCAS applications. Mr Morris has now signed up all 237 of our Y9 students into the Bronze scheme and so the focus fall to the students to devise what skills, activities and volunteering efforts that are going to give time to, so that they can begin their DofE ventures after Easter. Y10, Y11 and Y13 are currently submitting their reports online.

Y12 Parents' Evening

The Y12 Parents' Evening is scheduled for Thursday 25th March, hosted remotely on the successful SchoolCloud platform. Bookings are open and will close on Monday 22nd March.

National Day of Reflection, 23rd March 2021

The anniversary of the first Covid lockdown is set to be marked with a national day of reflection which will include a minute's silence and a doorstep vigil to remember those who have died from the virus. Landmarks across the UK will also be lit up at night. More than 146,000 people have died from Covid-19 in the UK since the start of the pandemic - on 23rd March 2020, the figure stood at 335. At midday on 23rd March, we will be holding a minute's silence; people are also being encouraged to light candles from 8PM and leave them on their doorsteps.

Y11 Groups, English

This week, some Y11 students have moved groups in English. This is to ensure that students are all taught by English staff for the remainder of their year and can continue their studies with the same rigour and focus. Please be reassured that moves have not been made due to academic performance. Any concerns, please direct to Mr Mill.

NCS

Please see the attached letter from NCS – National Citizens Service, a great opportunity focusing on our Y11 students. [LINK](#)

Y13 Home Study

A small number of students in year 13 will be permitted to study from home for days when they have no timetabled lessons. Students will need to meet the following criteria:

- 96% attendance
- Secure in all subject areas
- Home study approved by head of sixth form
- Attend morning collective worship and PM registration via teams

Students and parents of these students will be contacted directly by myself. This process will be reviewed after Easter.

LFT Home Testing

The in-school lateral flow tests are now complete, and so students have all been given kits to test themselves twice weekly at home. Could I ask you to ensure that one of the tests (they need to be carried out twice a week, between 3 and 5 days apart) is performed on either Saturday or Sunday to minimise mixing with the school population. Further details about the LFT Home Testing can be found [HERE](#).

Have a lovely weekend.

G T O'Connor BSc (Hons) NPQH
Principal