



# ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

## DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

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### The Weekly Parental Bulletin

26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

The sun has shone this week and the whole school has been instilled with a positive and uplifting feel. The Y11's have been playing football on the field, raising money for Lenten charity week. The students have been sat on the banks watching and cheering them on – it's been fantastic! As we move into the final week of the Spring Term and with the roadmap depicting the route out of Covid ahead, I am cautiously optimistic that we are beginning to return to a semblance of normality. I am proud of the way in which students have conducted themselves since they have returned to school: well-behaved and well-mannered, respectful of the restrictions in place and eager to remain in school with their friends – excellent.

#### Y11 and Y13 Assessments

On Tuesday, Mr Gariff reached out to students and parents regarding the summer assessments. It was a useful evening for all and thank you for the positive feedback we received. Summary information about the Teacher Assessed Grades has been communicated to our students and parents; any further questions should be directed to Mrs Passalacqua (Y13) or Mr Mill (Y11).

The latest [guidance](#) from Ofqual was released on Wednesday with another [release](#) from JCQ today (I aim to digest this over the weekend!). This morning I spoke to both year groups to ensure that they understood our rationale – we want students to be able to produce work that reflects their true ability so that we can defend the high grades we expect from them to the exam boards. As such:

- Final assessments have been delayed until WB 26<sup>th</sup> April
- Students have had, and will continue to have significant supportive contact with teachers
- The assessment window is 4 weeks long allowing us to spread out tests as much as possible
- Intensive revision sessions precede tests for each subject

I thank Mr Gariff and his team for all the effort that has gone into this process spoke. Students received their individual timetables to check as well as our traditional task assessment sheets detailing the topics that they will be assessed upon, on their return to school. Whilst it is important for the students to have a break over Easter, it is crucial that they focus on their revision so that they are able to give off their best in the assessments after Easter. I would advise they start work at 9AM, finish at 5PM and take short regular breaks throughout the day so that they can remain focused. Equally, it is important to take regular exercise and keep in touch with friends, whilst adhering to lockdown regulations. Mr Gariff has also provided the students with Revision Tips so that they can plan their holiday revision schedule accordingly.

#### Y12 Parents' Evening

Thank you to all staff and parents for a superbly attended Y12 evening last night. It was useful to talk to parents about the progress of their children over the last two terms and their plans for Y13 and beyond. Please email Mr Foley if you have any concerns.

#### Starting Well Worcestershire

The Starting Well partnership is run from the Hereford and Worcester Health and Care NHS Trust, and they offer free support to parents, carers and young people. They offer free online parenting courses to support the emotional health and wellbeing in children, families and adults. Please see the links below.

<https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/parenting-courses>.

- Understanding Your Child
- Understanding Your Childs Feelings
- Understanding Your Child with Additional Needs
- Understanding Your Teenagers Brain

### **Covid Testing throughout Easter Holidays**

Following the success of the asymptomatic testing programme on the return to school, it is vital to keep testing continuing at home throughout the Easter holidays and into the summer term. Throughout Easter, please continue to follow the procedure below:

- test twice a week at home during the Easter holidays
- report results [online](#) as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping the NHS to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- test before returning to school on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April
- should you have a positive test, DO NOT return to school but contact Mrs Such at: [suchs@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk](mailto:suchs@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk)
- test kits have been distributed to students

### **Lenten Charities**

The competition is hotting up between both the year groups and the form tutor groups. I cannot move for cake, raffle tickets, and 'have you got any money Sir, it's all for a good cause' in every direction I turn, which is excellent. Well done to all students for throwing themselves into raising money for those who need it the most. My wife asks me daily about the amount raised for my head-shaving escapade. Through gritted teeth, I dutifully smile and agree to remind everyone to pledge to see me scalped – Ms Baker has even kindly added me to ParentPay!

<https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/#/login>

Ms Mason and her army of diligent walkers, continue to circle the field during lunch breaks; very well done to all students who are taking part; some brisk exercise at lunchtime blows the cobwebs away in preparation for afternoon lessons!

### **Monty the Lamb**

As we come into the beautiful spring sunshine, with lambs frolicking in the fields, Hannah T in Y12 brought Monty the Lamb into school this afternoon. Born last Saturday, Monty was the runt of the litter and being much smaller and weaker than the other lambs, Mum rejected him. Hannah and her family came to the rescue and have adopted him. Monty is now recognising other animals, following the family dog around and being bottle fed by both Hannah and her Father. Somewhat unfamiliar with having cattle attending their lesson, the students all eagerly embraced Monty (metaphorically speaking) as he settled down in Hannah's arms and sagely nodded in agreement to Mrs Larkin's Psychology lesson which focused upon Attachment Theory.

### **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

We break up on Wednesday for the Easter holidays. The students will leave in a staggered manner:

Y9 & Y10: 12.20

Y11: 12.25

Y12 & Y13: 12.30

Have a lovely weekend.

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