



# ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM

## DEVELOPING THE WHOLE PERSON

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### The Weekly Parental Bulletin

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

This week we have welcomed Mr N Deakin to our school community; he has taken over from Miss Bird and brings a wealth of knowledge to the Pastoral Team having previously worked within Social Services with a focus on young people. He has hit the ground running particularly with Mental Health Awareness week being at the forefront of our minds. Mr Deakin and Miss Cavendish suggested crafting the week around hope and support and hit upon Sunflower seeds – a tall and vibrant plant that grows rapidly, but needs consistent support and structure so that it does not topple over. They have encouraged students to grow sunflowers in their classrooms ensuring that they are carefully nurtured to facilitate their growth and development, in the same way that all people, both young and old, need the same. As we move out of lockdown, I would urge you to keep checking in on friends, family and neighbours – we all need that bolster from time to time. Please watch the video that staff have compiled to show how they look after their [mental health](#).

#### Roadmap out of Lockdown

It is positive to hear that the number of cases and Covid deaths are reducing steadily on a downward curve, however I am mindful of Worcestershire County Council's release yesterday about the South African variant. Please refer to the [website](#) and follow their instruction.

Following the latest DfE [guidance](#), schools are now allowed to review their risk assessments in light of specific changes, specifically

- On a national level there is a relaxation of the rule for **face coverings** in classrooms and communal areas however given that the South African variant has been detected within the Redditch area we will continue the use of face coverings within the classroom and in communal areas until Half Term when we will review the local situation. I would remind students that face coverings must still be in place on public transport.
- Day visits and domestic residential **visits** are now permitted.
- Indoor and outdoor live **public events** are permitted with specific control measures.

With the compact site that we have, our strategy will be to retain the year group bubbles with no crossing of year groups on the corridors. We will be reviewing our risk assessment with the governing body over the next week which I will forward to you.

#### Y11 Assessments and their last day

The Assessments are slowly drawing to a close with one final week to go before core subjects conclude next Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May – there are a number of subjects on the following Monday. The students have remained focused and energised, a very well done to them. The final assessment is Mathematics and there will be a graduated release from school as all students will convene to understand the importance of our expectations from them over the next few weeks. Mr Payton will be speaking to students who are moving on to College whilst Ms Paddock will talk through transition work that is expected of students moving into Y12. On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, we welcome the students back into school so that they can return their school text books and attend the Leavers' Service and Celebration, timings will be released next week. A reminder that the Y11 Prom is set for Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Y13 Assessments

The Y13's will also complete their Assessments next week with the final exam taking place on Friday. They too deserve a well earned rest before returning to school on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May for their Leavers' Service and Celebration and then their prom on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

For both Y11 and Y13 students, any assessments that have not been completed on the original date will be rearranged within the final week and students will be expected to be in full school uniform to complete them. Please find attached the breakdown by subject for the types of assessment and evidence that will be included in the TAG process split into Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Should you have any queries, please contact:

**Mr Mill** for Y11 Assessments: [mi@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk](mailto:mi@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk)

**Mrs Passalacqua** for Y13 Assessments: [passalacqua@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk](mailto:passalacqua@sta.lourdesmac.org.uk)

### **Duke of Edinburgh Scheme**

Our students have absolutely stepped up to the challenge of the DofE scheme! Mr Morris and Mr Murphy are constantly stopping me to inform me about the new and varied skills that the students are exploring and carrying out. It has been very positive to see the enthusiasm that the scheme has given the students across all year groups; as we emerge from our semi-confinement over the last 15 months it has been very welcoming to see the excitement and drive from students eager to become involved in this outstanding programme. Please take a look at the accompanying Enrichment Calendar which shows what our Y9 students have been excelling at.

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

**Principal**