



Deus Fortitudo Mea

# Saint Augustine's

## CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM CENTRE

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL: A F QUINN BA (HONS) NPOH HEAD OF SCHOOL: G T O'CONNOR BSc (HONS) NPOH  
Saint Augustine's Catholic High School, Stonepits Lane, Hunt End, Redditch, B97 5LX 01527 550400 www.st-augustines.worcs.sch.uk  
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Company

National Teaching School  
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Teaching & Leadership



### PARENTAL BULLETIN – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019

#### LET US PRAY

**Prayer for May:** Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy; Hail, our life, our sweetness, our hope.

To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; To thee do we sigh, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.

Turn then, most gracious Advocate, Thine eyes of mercy towards us and, after this our exile,

Show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen.

#### THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Revision Club, Y11 &amp; Y13</b>	Monday – Thursday: 4.00 – 6.00. Students MUST attend Interventions until 5pm if they are allocated to them before going to Revision Club.
<b>Y11 &amp; Y13</b>	External exams.
<b>Y9</b>	Soli House Retreat from Wed – Fri. Those students attending have been informed.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Y9 Parents Evening</b>	Thu 20 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Y9 Assessment Week</b>	w/c 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
<b>Half Term</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> May at 3.50pm, returning at 9.15am on 3 <sup>rd</sup> June.	<b>Y10 Assessment Week</b>	w/c 10 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Y10 &amp; Y12 Work Experience Week</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>Y12 Assessment Week</b>	w/c 17 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Y11 Book Return Day</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Y11 Prom</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> June
		<b>Y13 Final Day at School</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> May
		<b>Y13 Prom</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> June

#### MR G O'CONNOR, HEAD OF SCHOOL

**Exams:** The Y11 exams started in earnest this week and I have been impressed with the mature and calm manner in which the students have handled them. There have also been some Y13 external papers although the majority start on Monday. Today marks the final day at school for most of our Y13 students – the very best of luck to them with their revision and exams.

Please see the attachments for parental support to students during this pressurised time.

#### Further Top Tips for Exam Success:

- Stop and reset: if your mind goes blank during the exam, do a simple breathing exercise to focus yourself, then have a calm read through the exam paper to find something you know well. Start by answering questions that will bolster your confidence and then move onto the trickier questions.
- Focus on you: don't focus on what other people are doing in the exam hall. You can't judge how well you are doing by how other people are behaving.
- Move on: don't keep reliving the exam when it's over. You've done what you can and you can't change anything now. Move onto the next one.
- Positivity: if you have a positive attitude towards your exams, you increase your chances of performing well. Keep the message in your mind, "I can pass my exams, I'm going to pass these exams".

**PGL Success:** 16 x Y9 and Y10 students returned home last Sunday with a clutch of medals following a busy weekend playing netball at Boreatton Park near Shrewsbury. The sun shone and the girls played magnificently; my thanks to Ms Thomas and Ms Mason for supporting them. See Ms Thomas' update below.

**Our Inspirational Staff:** I have added a section over page highlighting our sporting and charitable achievements of our dedicated staff population.

**Art Work at The Alexandra Hospital:** many congratulations to the Y10 girls – Ellie D, Ella J, Charlotte L and Nikita G-M who have had their artwork displayed at the Alexandra Hospital. As part of the hospital's community engagement project, they contacted the school to identify if we could provide a selection of work around the theme of, "Energy, Environment and Sustainability" to present uplifting imagery to support patients, staff, family and friends. The Redditch Standard heard about the project and the girls featured in the newspaper this week. My thanks to Ms Jack for organising this.

<https://redditchstandard.co.uk/news/uplifting-artwork-designed-by-redditch-school-goes-on-display-at-the-alex/>

Our prayers and thoughts are with Phil Taylor's family at this time, as it is a year since he passed away. He was a great supporter both of our school and of the MAC and played a large part in the Catholic education of our school population. Please keep his wife and children in your thoughts.

## CATHOLIC LIFE – MR P FOLEY

Students from forms 9TG, 9SR and 9RS have continued to pray the rosary during morning registration this week led by Ms Mason. They were all offered a rosary to take home; they were reverent and respectful, asking many questions. Obviously, a main focus of prayer has been for the students who are sitting their exams.

The chaplaincy team will be working on a project shortly to help the soup kitchen of St Vincent De Paul Societies by making a treat bag with healthy snacks and prayers written by the pupils.

9WK had their form Mass earlier in the week and Fr Tony talked to them about war and conflict both in the sense of international war but also closer to home when conflict happens within their own friends and family. Thank you to the students who read so well and for the reverence and respect shown by the form. My thanks to Mr Cooney for preparing them so well.

## PE FIXTURES

### GIRLS

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> May: Y9 & Y10 rounders club, 3:45; pick up from St Augustine's at 4:45.

Tue 21<sup>st</sup> May: Y9 rounders match; pick up from St Augustine's at 5:30. Venue – to be confirmed.

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> May: County combined athletics at the Ryland Centre from 10.00; pick up from St Augustine's at 4:30.

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> May: Y10 rounders match at Tudor Grange. Pick up from St Augustine's at 5:30pm.

Thu 23<sup>rd</sup> May: GCSE PE Intervention, 3:45-4:30; pick up from St Augustine's at 4:30.

**PGL:** both Y9 and Y10 netball teams represented St Augustine's at the Netball PGL tournament at Boreatton Park (near Shrewsbury) last weekend. Both teams played six matches against other secondary schools and netball clubs. The Y9's won all 6 matches, a great achievement, earning a well-deserved coveted place in the semi-finals. This then went to knock out stages and the girls lost, meaning they achieved an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The girls played really well, demonstrating great commitment and perseverance. The Y10 girls won 4 matches, lost 1 and drew 1; again they reached the semi-finals which they won – an excellent achievement. They played with outstanding skill level and execution. The final was intense – they drew at full-time and so 2 further minutes of extra time were added and they sadly lost by 2 shots but they achieved a magnificent 2<sup>nd</sup> place! There were some fantastic performances across both teams and all girls were fully supportive of each other which kept spirits high. The player of the tournament for Y9 was given to Catherine H for her hard work, motivation and determination throughout the games. Chloe B was made player of the tournament for Y10 – she demonstrated great confidence levels and shooting ability throughout. All students were a great credit to our school; Ms Mason and I received several comments from other members of staff, PGL leaders and umpires stating how polite and friendly the girls were. They also took part in a range of activities including the giant swing, rock climbing, zip wire and quad bikes. A member of the England Netball team was also spectating over the weekend and proved a great inspiration to the students.

**District Athletic Trials:** A huge well done to those students who competed at District Athletics. St Augustine's seemed to dominate the medals! Congratulations to all who took part.

## YEAR 9 – MR E MILL, HEAD OF YEAR – [mi@saintsa.co.uk](mailto:mi@saintsa.co.uk)

On Monday, 9KB and Mrs Kilbey led Y9's Collective Worship. Due to external exams taking place in the gym and sports hall this was our last Collective Worship until after half-term, although students will continue to receive a daily act of worship during form time.

Students should now be preparing for their internal examinations, which will take place w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> June. These will be sat in classrooms so students should listen to their subject teachers for specific dates for their assessments. As always if there are any questions on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me. Following these assessments, reports will be sent out and then a Y9 Parents Evening is scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> June to ensure that all students are ready for the start of Y10.

Congratulations to the girls' netball squad who achieved third place at the PGL tournament and were awarded their bronze medals during Monday's Collective Worship.

Well done to this week's star students: Jayden H, Erin W and Edward C all achieving +11 and Ehtesham H with +12 class-charts points.

## YEAR 10 – MISS S DAVIES, HEAD OF YEAR – [daviess@saintsa.co.uk](mailto:daviess@saintsa.co.uk)

This week, Y10 have been focusing on work experience. This is a great opportunity for our pupils to experience the working world. Pupils will need to organise their own placements and bring details of these to school in a letter. The letter has a designated place for some key information such as the name and contact details of the person who will be responsible for the pupil at the placement together with insurance details. The deadline for all information is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June. If pupils do not have a letter they must collect one from the Pastoral Office. Any pupil or parent struggling to organise a placement should contact myself so we can try to help.

A big well done to those pupils in Y10 taking exams this week.

Well done to Briana D and Natalia P on achieving the highest class-charts points last week.

## YEAR 11 – MR N MURPHY, HEAD OF YEAR – [murphyn@saintsa.co.uk](mailto:murphyn@saintsa.co.uk)

Well done to all Y11 students for taking their exams this week. They have handled the pressure well and are maintaining a positive attitude. They need to retain their focus over the weekend but also have some down-time so that they are re-energised for next week. The alternative curriculum continues next week with revision sessions, as do after school interventions so it is important that students attend these. There will also be revision sessions timetabled for half-term; details about these will be released next week.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM – MRS C PADDOCK, HEAD OF KS5 – [paddockc@saintsa.co.uk](mailto:paddockc@saintsa.co.uk)

**Year 12:** Board of Officers – the sixth form team were extremely impressed with all those that applied and were interviewed for the Board of Officers roles. Those who have been successful will receive a letter shortly, through the post. Well done future Officers - we look forward to working alongside you and seeing all of your ideas, brought to life!

**Year 13:** study leave officially starts from Monday; some students have been asked to remain in school to attend small revision style lessons. These students have been informed and letters sent home.

**Work Experience Week, 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July:** both our Y10 and Y12 year groups have a great opportunity to obtain work experience in the “real world”. The deadline to advise school about their placement details is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

Any students who are struggling to find a placement or need further support, should contact Mrs Threadgold, Mrs Beach, Miss Coley or Miss Klatt. Attached is a document detailing the value that future employers place on work experience.

**Please note that if any parents have links to local businesses who might be able to offer our students a placement, please contact Mrs Threadgold with details. Thank you.**

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

### Attachments:

- Y9 Assessment Tasks
- Y11 Exam and Revision Timetable
- Y12 & Y13 Exam and Revision Timetable
- Dealing with pressure, PiXL
- Handling pressure of external exams, PiXL
- Work Experience, PiXL

## VACANCIES

- Teacher of Business/ICT  
<https://www.lourdesmac.org.uk/vacancies/>

## OUR INSPIRATIONAL STAFF

### ***Mrs Wright, Lead Teacher for Performing Arts***

On 29<sup>th</sup> June, I will be taking part in a 100K Ultra Challenge through the beautiful Cotswolds, starting in Bath and finishing in Cheltenham. I am raising money and awareness for the Royal Osteoporosis Society - a charity very close to my heart. With so many worthwhile charities it was hard to choose, but I decided to dedicate this challenge to my lovely Mum who has suffered from Osteoporosis since 2000. Life since diagnosis has become an everyday challenge for her. She is a truly inspirational lady – from instilling in me a sense of never giving up when the going gets tough, to having the courage to face my fears and most of all, how to bring up my daughter – she is the best Gran! Training for this event has proved both time-consuming and painful; the gruelling schedule begins with a 5:30am run before school and then at weekends, I push myself further. Last weekend it was my first 40k – a killer! Although tough, I am determined to complete this challenge and raise as much sponsorship as possible. With over 3 million sufferers in the UK alone, any donation no matter how small, will be most gratefully received. Donations can be made by following the link below which will take you to my Just Giving Page. Thank you for your support.

[http://www.justgiving.com/Sarah-Wright369?utm\\_id=25](http://www.justgiving.com/Sarah-Wright369?utm_id=25)

### ***Mrs Mason, Transition Leader/Liturgy & Chaplaincy Co-ordinator***

I am taking part in a fitness class tonight to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK and Midlands Air Ambulance. As a participant of Mr J's Fun Workouts, we will be twisting and jiving to songs from the musicals in a special charity workout called The Greatest Show! It will be a trip along a musical journey to the beats of Hairspray, Grease, Mamma Mia, Footloose, Dirty Dancing and The Greatest Showman. The event takes place at Woodfield Academy, Studley Road, Lodge Park from 7.15 tonight and in previous years, over 100 people have taken part. Please come and join us and raise money for these worthy causes. Thank you for your support.

### ***Vicci Wells, Director of OLOC MAC and Chair of Academy Reps at St Peter's First School***

Last month, I achieved something on my bucket list - I ran the London Marathon! Having entered the past few years and not been successful, 2019 was my year when I secured a place through the ballot. I can honestly say I loved every moment (well to be fair miles 20-23 felt like they would never end) and the support from across the MAC has been wonderful. I am delighted to say I achieved a time of 4 hours 18 minutes with no blisters, or lost toe nails in the process! For my thoughts on training for a Marathon whilst being a Director you can take a look at my #youngishschoolgovernor blog which is found here: <https://t.co/OadDL0YCcA>