



St Cuthbert Mayne School

Joint Catholic and Church of England 11-18 Comprehensive School Dioceses of Plymouth and Exeter

Headteacher
Mr James Down

Trumlands Road
Torquay
Devon
TQ14RN
Tel: (01803) 328725
Email: admin@stcm.torbay.sch.uk
www.st-cuthbertmayne.co.uk

JD/JW

18 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of a very long and wet Autumn term, our attention over the last three weeks during this season of Advent has returned once again to our preparations to celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas. This term has been exceptionally busy and I hope that you and your family will enjoy a restful holiday and have time to enter into the joy of this Christmas season.

At the end of term we will be saying goodbye to colleagues and looking forward to new staff joining us in January:

At the end of term we will be saying goodbye to:

- **Mr Harmer** - Acting Head of Maths, who is taking up a Senior Leadership post in Plymouth
- **Miss Kuhl** - Head of Year 7, who will be taking up an English Leadership post in Plymouth
- **Mrs Collings** - Teacher of Maths, who will be taking up a teaching post in the South-Hams.
- **Mrs Witchell** - Teaching Assistant, who is retiring
- **Mrs Crozier** - Admin support for Sixth Form and Cover Teacher, who will be taking up a teaching post in Exeter
- **Mrs Dunn**, Teacher of Science, who is taking some time out from teaching
- **Miss George** - Teacher of D&T, Art, Photography and History, who is taking some time out from teaching

In January we will be welcoming:

- **Mr Harvey** - Head of Mathematics, joining us from one of the top performing Maths departments in Devon
- **Ms Strnkova** - Teacher of Mathematics, joining us from a local secondary school
- **Mrs Willets** - joining us as a Cover Supervisor.
- **Mr Cutler** - joining our Learning Support Team
- **Miss Hill** - joining our Pastoral Admin Team
- **Miss Gale** - New Head of Year 7, currently our Drama and Dance teacher
- **Mr Woods** - Design and Technology Technician
- **Miss Rust Ashford** - Science Technician
- **Miss Leverton & Ms Muir** - who will be re-joining us as Teachers of English

At the end of January we will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Al-Sheikly who will be starting maternity leave. Dr Penwill will be taking over as Head Science and Mr Stewart will be taking over as Deputy Head of Science while Mrs Al-Sheikly is on maternity leave.



International Cross
of Nails Schools



CHRIST IS OUR CORNERSTONE. LEARNING IS OUR FOCUS.

This term we have welcomed a number of new Governors to our Governing Body. Fr Paul Jones is our new Chair of Governors, ably supported by our new Vice Chair, Mrs Deborah Brewer. You will be able to read more about our Governors on our school website from January, where all of our Governors have written a pen portrait for you. Next term the Governing Body will be hoping to appoint a permanent Headteacher for St Cuthbert Mayne School. Please remember our Governors in your prayers as they make this important decision for our school.

The Autumn term is always a time when coughs and colds do the rounds and this term we have seen an exceptionally high level of absence due to illness for both students and staff. When teachers have been absent from school our Curriculum Leaders have worked hard to try and minimise the disruption to student learning and where possible we have employed subject specialist supply teachers. Regrettably, the quality of supply teachers available from the supply agencies this term has been variable. Ensuring our students have the highest quality teaching when their regular teacher is absent remains our first priority, which is why we have employed an additional Cover Supervisor from January 2020.

On Monday 6th January (First school day back) we will be taking the opportunity to remind all students of the expected standards of behaviour at St Cuthbert Mayne. Our revised Behaviour Policy is now live on our school website and it is important that all parents and students are clear about our expectations. Our first attention will always be towards positive behaviour but we will be introducing stronger consequences for a small minority of students who aren't working hard enough or being kind to each other in school.

Last September, we shared our expectations in relation to school uniform with parents and students. We expect all our students to attend school in full school uniform each day. We often receive comments from members of the public about how smart our students look and this is a credit to you as parents. In the New Year we will be ensuring that all students are compliant with our uniform expectations so please familiarise yourself with these again. Our expectations in relation to school uniform can be found on our school website. Where a student might have lost or damaged an item of their school uniform a pass will be issued for a fixed number of days by their Tutor on receipt of a letter or email from parents explaining the situation. To pick up on a few items of school uniform that students regularly get wrong can we please ask all parents to ensure that in January their child has a pair of school shoes and not trainers, a black V-neck jumper if the weather is cold and all the equipment they need for learning. If your child is missing an item of school uniform then I have been reliably informed that Father Christmas can resolve this! Father Christmas is often very generous to our students but expensive items of non-school uniform should not be worn to school. Can I also remind parents and students that facial piercings are not permitted at St Cuthbert Mayne School. We would always encourage parents to check our uniform expectations before spending large amounts of money on items of clothing for school to avoid disappointment.

In 2020, improving school attendance will continue to be a focus for us as a school. I would like to thank the majority of parents who ensure that their child is in school every day and on time. We know that students who are in school every day and engage with their learning make great progress at St Cuthbert Mayne School.

As a Christian community it is important that we are good neighbours. This includes good neighbours to local residents. We have received an increasing number of complaints from neighbours particularly about parking at the end of the school day. This distracts us from the important work we have to do to teach our students. Please can I ask all drivers to be respectful of the local parking regulations around school. These are in place for the safety of all our students.

Next term we'll be launching our Parent Forums to get feedback and help us shape the way we approach emerging issues in school. Parent Forums will discuss issues such as: Timings of the school day, how the school responds to bullying, barriers to good attendance, how we communicate with parents, the curriculum, Special Educational Needs, raising aspiration, student behaviour and attitudes and how we as a school respond to the climate emergency. I will write to parents in January with the dates and times for our Parent Forums.

Finally, I have enclosed with this letter a summary of all the things we have achieved as a school this term. I am amazed at how much we have achieved and all the great work that has gone on this term. I would like to thank all parents for their continued support as we aim to provide the best possible education for the children at St Cuthbert Mayne School.

I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas.



Mr J. Down
Headteacher