



St Cuthbert Mayne School

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

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Dear Parent(s),

We have finally reached the end of the most challenging Autumn terms I can remember. It has certainly been a term like no other! I want to thank you for all your support this term, particularly the lovely messages staff have received this week. They were very much appreciated. As you will have seen in the media, this week has been a week of big announcements for the world of education and in true DfE style these announcements come with little detail for school leaders! Schools, parents and students deserve better!

Mass testing from early January

This week the government announced that all secondary schools have the option of delivering mass testing for staff and students from early January. While we welcome this announcement, it is clear that more information needs to be shared with schools so that we can run this programme safely and effectively. As soon as we have more detail from the government, I will write to confirm how this will work at STCM. What has been agreed by the government is that schools can take an additional INSET day to plan how they will deliver the mass testing programme. At STCM we will be taking an additional INSET day on Tuesday 5th January. This means the first day of the Spring term for students will now be Wednesday 6th January.

Staggered start

Yesterday afternoon the government announced that secondary schools should welcome students back in January using a staggered start. An outline of how this will work at STCM is as follows:

Wednesday 6th January - A return to school for students in Year 11 & 13 and those children who are vulnerable or the children of critical workers. All other students are expected to work remotely from home. Classwork will be set for your child using Google Classroom and they should follow their normal school timetable. Students in school today who do not have access to a digital device or the internet have been issued with their Spring term Knowledge Organiser and exercise book. They should work through their Knowledge Organiser following their normal timetable. Copies will be posted out on Monday 4th January to all students who were not in school today.

Monday 11th January - A full return to school for children in all year groups.

It is important that we identify all vulnerable and critical worker children who will be attending school from Wednesday 6th January. Please can you click on the link below and complete the form if you intend to send your child back to school on Wednesday 6th January.

[Critical Worker/Vulnerable Children Form](#)

School Uniform - An exciting new partnership with Pro Direct Soccer/Torre Sports

We are delighted to confirm that we will continue to work in partnership with Pro Direct/Torre Sports, our school uniform supplier. All school uniform can now be purchased online, please visit the new online uniform store by clicking on the link below or visit our school website.

<https://www.prodirectsoccer.com/c/cuthbert-mayne-store/>

Parents are now entitled to free delivery and returns on all school uniform items. Please add the code **STCM** at the checkout.

We also look forward to developing our partnership with Pro Direct/Torre Sports, developing sporting opportunities for students through their networks with elite athletes and professional sporting clubs across the world.

STCM 2021 Building Project

We are now in a position to be able to share some initial drawings for the school building project that will begin at Easter 2021. Please see the accompanying letter for further details. 2021 is due to be an exciting year for STCM as we take the next step in our journey to become an outstanding school.

Test Track and Trace over Christmas

To ensure that we continue to prevent the spread of coronavirus over the Christmas holidays, a team of staff will be on-call to respond to any confirmed cases of Covid-19 up to 23rd December. If your child tests positive for Covid-19 before the 23rd December, you will be required to report this to the school by 6pm on the day your child receives their positive test result. You should report this by emailing - confirmedcase@stcm.torbay.sch.uk. School staff will then alert the Local Authority and Public Health England, and it may be necessary for some students to self-isolate over the Christmas holiday if they have been in close contact with the confirmed case. Further details can be found on our school website.

Winter Food Fund

This week, food vouchers for ASDA have been posted home to all families who have children eligible for Free School Meals. The voucher which will be received by families early next week, and can be redeemed either in store or online. For more information please contact Mr Farrell on Tim.farrell@stcm.torbay.sch.uk

Preparing for GCSEs

If you are the parent of a Year 10 or 11 student you will receive a letter in the post shortly from Mr Statham, detailing how you can help to support your child with their GCSE studies. This letter should contain a parental GCSE guide with practical suggestions.



Learner Score

As you know all students in Years 7 to 11 receive a Learner Score as part of their report. Here is link to a video giving further clarity as to how it is calculated and how we use them to support students:

[Learner Scores](#)

Keeping Safe @ STCM

We wish all students and their families a safe, happy and healthy Christmas this year. However, we recognise that, for some, Christmas may remind us of losses we have experienced, changes in relationships and may add more stress to family life.

We have put together a Keeping Safe Guide for all students to refer to over the holiday period which offers advice and support to those that may need it. You will find the guide attached to this letter.

Staff updates

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mr Banks, who has been our Lead Practitioner for Special Educational Needs and Modern Foreign Languages. Mr Banks is moving to take up the post of Assistant Principal at Dawlish Community College. We would like to wish Mr Banks all the very best in his new post.

In January we will be welcoming Mrs Stephane Schmidt, who will be our new Head of MFL. Mrs Schmidt is an experienced and highly qualified teacher and leader, who has worked in partnership with the DfE to develop the Languages Hub across the south west. The work that she has done has been at the forefront of languages teaching, and we are excited to be welcoming her to our school.

Finally...

This year we have all faced so many challenges both personally and professionally as we have responded to the global pandemic. Can I thank you once again for your continued support for St Cuthbert Mayne School. I hope that you and your family can enjoy a relaxing Christmas, and here's to a brighter, exciting and more normal 2021!

I would like to wish you all a very safe, happy and holy Christmas.

Your sincerely,



James Down
Headteacher