



Headteacher  
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Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been fantastic to welcome all students back to school this week and for life in school to feel a bit more normal. I want to thank all parents for their support and patience at the start of term as we tackled the logistical challenges of the mass testing programme and the delays to our building project. We have an exciting year ahead and look forward to building on the progress we have made as a school.

## **Educating for Life in All its Fullness**

This term we are launching our new vision for learning - 'Educating for life in all its fullness'. As a school we want to deliver excellence in education and want the very best outcomes for all our students so that they can achieve their fullest potential. While some schools feel the pressure to make artificial choices between academic rigour and the personal development of their students, at St Cuthbert Mayne we are unequivocal in our belief that there is no such distinction. A good education must promote life in all its fullness.

## **Start of term expectations**

This week we have been inducting students back into the 'Cuthbert Way', which is how we do things at St Cuthbert Mayne School. We have been very clear about the academic aspiration and expectations we have for all students. We are raising the bar this year in terms of academic rigour, home learning, personal conduct and school uniform. It is really important that all students are in school every day, they arrive on time at 8:40am and are ready to learn. As always our first attention will be towards hard work and positive behaviour, and we will be looking at ways to celebrate our amazing students more widely this year.

## **Curriculum**

Over the last 18 months our teaching staff have been working hard on developing a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum for students. To support parents in having conversations about their learning we have published our curriculum online. You can visit our curriculum pages on the school website to find out more. [www.st-cuthbertmayne.co.uk](http://www.st-cuthbertmayne.co.uk) Next week we will be publishing full details of our extra curricular or 'Life to the full' curriculum. We would like to encourage as many students as possible to get involved in these opportunities.

## **Mayne Reads**

Mayne Reads, our tutor-based reading programme, is now up and running from Y7 all the way through to Y13. Every morning for 20 minutes, tutors read to tutees from exciting and challenging books in our canon that have been carefully selected to:

- Encourage critical thinking through opening up world views and other perspectives
- Increase vocabulary and improve comprehension
- Educate students about historical, social and cultural contexts to give them 'cultural capital'
- Explore, tackle and discuss real-world, moral and sometimes sensitive issues in a safe and supportive environment
- Develop reading for pleasure

As literacy development is crucial to wellbeing, curriculum access, future earnings and even life expectancy, we truly believe in our investment of time and resources into Mayne Reads and know from both research and experience that reading changes lives.

## **Consent**

Under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) schools are required to obtain consent for any data or personal information held by the school. Please can all parents complete the online parent/carer consent form by clicking on the link below:

[Parent Consent Form](#)

As a school we are also required to gain consent for administering medicines. Please can all parents complete the Parent/Carer Consent Form by clicking on the link below:

[Administering of Medication Consent Form](#)

## **Stronger Together**

This term we start an exciting 3-year partnership with Education South West. Education South West is a multi academy trust that has a number of schools as part of its family. We will be working with leaders and teachers across the trust to develop a world class education for all our students. As part of this partnership we are particularly excited to be working with the Kingsbridge Education Research School, which is a centre of excellence in educational research and development. We will also continue to work with our diocesan partners and the South West Institute for Teaching.

## **Building Project Update**

Our contractors MIDAS are making good progress with our £3.6 million building project. There have been some delays to this phase of the programme, which means that some areas of the school are still

out of bounds to students. We hope these areas will be completed by the end of September. Our brand new canteen is close to completion and we will soon be able to offer a full hot and cold menu to all students.

## **New Staff**

This term we welcome new members of staff to our school community. We welcome:

- Mrs O'Shaughnessy-Relf - Teacher of English and Media
- Miss Smith - Teacher of Maths
- Miss Iddon - Teacher of Drama
- Ms Rowbury - Head of MFL
- Mr De Couto - Teacher of Science
- Mr Whitehead - Teacher of Maths
- Ms Francesca Partridge - Teacher of Geography
- Ms Brady - Teacher of English
- Mr Morris - Pastoral Support Officer
- Mr Lofthouse - Learning Mentor
- Miss Curley - Catering Assistant
- Miss Pinggera - Behaviour Mentor
- Miss Wybrow - English Learning Coach

## **Covid-19 Home Testing & Vaccinations**

Thank you to all families who are continuing to support their child to test twice weekly at home. We would strongly encourage all students to complete a lateral flow test at home on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

As you will have seen, the government has announced plans to offer 1 dose of the Covid-19 vaccination to all children aged 12-15. The key word here is offer! Should the NHS offer the vaccine to students at St Cuthbert Mayne at some point in the future, I want to reassure parents that no-one will be forced to get vaccinated. I will write to parents as and when information comes through to schools.

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding of our students continues to remain at the top of our priorities and we know that by working with parents and carers we can achieve the best outcomes for our young people.

We are excited to share with you that we have recently started working with National Online Safety, who are a multi-award winning company who help schools to meet their statutory requirements in safeguarding by providing online resources to help students, parents and staff. We will be delivering training throughout the year for our staff and students will be receiving updated information through

their Ready 2 Learn presentations. For parents there is an excellent resource #Wake Up Wednesdays - these are free guides for parents on a variety of online safety issues and will be shared with parents via our website and social media platforms.

Please check our website for more information - [www.st-cuthbertmayne.co.uk](http://www.st-cuthbertmayne.co.uk)

### Autumn Term - Key Dates

Thursday 30th September - Induction Evenings  
Tuesday 5th October - Year 6 Open Morning  
Friday 8th October - Year 6 Open Morning  
Tuesday 12th October - Year 6 Open Morning  
Friday 15th October - Year 6 Open Morning  
Tuesday 19th October - Year 6 Open Morning  
Tuesday 19th October - Year 11 Parents' Evening  
Friday 22nd October - School Closed (Platinum Jubilee)  
Monday 25th October - 29th October - Half Term  
Wednesday 10th - Friday 12th November - Year 11 Mock Interviews  
Wednesday 17th November - Sixth Form Open Evening/Year 11 Options Evening  
Friday 26th November - Feast of St Cuthbert Mayne  
Monday 29th November - School Closed (INSET Day)  
Tuesday 30th November - Friday 3rd December - Year 11 English/Maths Mock Exams  
Monday 6th December - Friday 10th December - School Production  
Thursday 16th December - Christmas Concert  
Friday 17th December - Last day of the Autumn Term

I would like to wish all students and their families a great Autumn term.

Yours sincerely,



Mr James Down  
Headteacher