



Headteacher
Mr James Down

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Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents,

End of the Autumn Term

We have finally reached the end of another challenging, but rewarding term in school. I want to thank you all for your continued support. This term we saw a return to school operating in a way that resembled something similar to normal! It has been great to see students working hard in lessons and also engaging in all the enrichment and extracurricular activities on offer. It has also been great to meet nominated students for 'Hot Chocolate Friday' and hear about their achievements both in and out of school. We have really missed all these activities over the last 18 months. This week it was a privilege to enrol students into our new student leadership roles in school and I am looking forward to seeing how these roles develop over the coming months.

Feedback from Parent Survey

We want to thank parents for their feedback in the recent parent survey. There were lots of very positive comments from parents about the work the school does and clear areas for us to work on next term. Attached to this letter is a summary of the survey feedback.

Covid-19

Unfortunately, Covid-19 hasn't gone away this term, and we have still had to operate with a number of mitigations in place at the request of our local public health team. Staff and student attendance has been hit hard by illness and we are mindful of the disruption this has caused to learning. This situation has been made even more challenging due to the lack of agency staff available, as agencies have also been hit hard by absence and demand for supply staff is high. Leaders have been working hard to try and minimise the impact on learning but it is fair to say this has been really difficult.

Start of Spring term arrangements

All secondary schools in England have been asked to test students on-site for Covid-19 before they return to school in January. This means we are having to adjust our plans for the start of term. We will therefore stagger the return to school for students in a similar way to when students returned to school last September. I wrote to all parents on Monday 13th December outlining the arrangements for the

start of the Spring Term. Our Mass Testing Team emailed all parents on Wednesday 15th December with details of time slots for students to be tested. This information is also available on our website.

Uniform & Equipment

When students return to school in January it is really important that all students return in full school uniform and with the correct equipment. Please visit the 'Uniform' page on the school website for full details about school uniform:

Uniform Page - <https://www.st-cuthbertmayne.co.uk/uniform/>

From January we are changing the rules around wearing PE kit to school on days where students have PE. Students will no longer be permitted to come to school in their PE kit because the areas of activity students will be studying in PE are now outdoors, which could result in the students getting wet and muddy. The last thing we want is students sitting in wet and muddy clothing for the rest of the day. All students must therefore come to school in full school uniform and change into PE kit at the start of their lesson, as was previously the case. They will change back into school uniforms at the end of the lesson.

Ready to Learn

In most places of work and professions, certain tools or equipment are needed. Without the right tools or equipment the job doesn't get done! This is the same with learning and we want to ensure students learn this important life skill. Please can you ensure your child comes to school every day with the following equipment:

STCM Super 7 Equipment:

1. Black Pen
2. Spare black pen!
3. Pencil
4. Rubber
5. Ruler
6. Calculator
7. Knowledge Organiser Booklet and exercise book(Given by school on first day)

*KS4 and KS5 students are also expected to bring their ChromeBook to school each day and this must be fully charged.

Building Project Update

This term our building project has continued to progress and our students have been able to enjoy the use of some new facilities including the brand new canteen. The following new and improved facilities will shortly be available to students to use. Students will have access to:

- Fully refurbished D&T suites of classrooms with state of the art technology
- New KS5 Science Lab
- Fully refurbished KS4 toilet facilities and indoor street.
- New Sacred space
- Outdoor seating area next to the canteen

There has been some significant disruption to the programme due to industry wide challenges in the supply chain caused by Brexit and Covid-19. Next term the contractors will be working to:

- Re-tarmac the school drive
- Complete the new Reception atrium and office accommodation
- Install the new lift in the Plymouth block
- Complete the new SEND extension
- Complete the new SEND teaching area
- Complete refurbishment to identified areas of the Exeter block

The current project is due to be completed by the end of March 2022. We are currently working on shaping the brief for our next project which will start in the summer term. This will include a major refurbishment of the rest of the school. We will share more details when the brief has been finalised.

Privacy Notice

Our full privacy policies covering staff students and governors are located on the school website.

The link is : <https://www.st-cuthbertmayne.co.uk/gdpr/>

Staffing from January 2022

At the end of this term we say goodbye to the following members of staff:

- Mrs Hughes - Catering Assistant
- Mrs Bristow - Head of Year 8
- Miss Brady - Teacher of English
- Mrs Deakin - Pastoral Support Officer

We wish these members of staff all the very best in their future endeavours.

Finally, I would like to wish all students and their families a very happy and holy Christmas.

'May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas.'

Amen

Yours sincerely,



Mr Down
Headteacher