



Headteacher
Mr James Down

Trumlands Road
Torquay
Devon
TQ1 4RN

Tel: (01803) 328725
Email: admin@stcm.torbay.sch.uk
www.st-cuthbertmayne.co.uk

Friday 8th April 2022

Dear Parents,

As we approach the Easter holidays, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for the school and for the staff, who have been working hard this term. It has been another difficult and challenging term as we try to get back to a 'normal' school experience for students and staff, but high levels of Covid related absence continue to have an impact on the high quality education we want to provide for all students. Sadly, this is not a situation that is exclusive to St Cuthbert Mayne or Torbay. This week professional associations wrote to the Secretary of State for Education on behalf of school leaders outlining the challenges that schools are facing. You can click on the link below to see this open letter:

<https://www.ascl.org.uk/ASCL/media/ASCL/News/Press%20releases/Joint-letter-to-Secretary-of-State-Lack-of-support-for-pupils-and-staff-4-April-2022.pdf>

Living with Covid-19

The government has stated that the population now has much stronger protection against Covid-19 than at any other point in the pandemic. This means we can begin to manage the virus like other respiratory infections, thanks to the success of the vaccination programme and access to antivirals, alongside natural immunity and increased scientific and public understanding about how to manage risk.

As part of their plan for removing the remaining legal restrictions whilst protecting people most vulnerable to Covid-19, the government has released two important documents. These are:

- [Living with COVID-19](#) - released on 21/02/2022
- [Next steps for living with COVID-19](#) - released on 29/03/2022

Key points to note:

- Regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting. The free universal testing offer ended on 1st April 2022. St Cuthbert Mayne School will no longer issue LFD test kits to students or staff.
- Staff with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home for 5 days and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- Students who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home for 3 days and avoid contact with other people. They can return to school when they no longer have a high

temperature, and they are well enough to attend

It is important that everyone continues to do all they can to reduce the risk of catching and passing on COVID-19.

Easter Revision

Timetables for Easter revision sessions have been published to parents and students in Year 11 and Year 13. It is really important that students taking examinations this summer engage with the support their teachers are offering this holiday. Please follow the instructions in the letter to secure your child's place at these revision sessions.

Building Project Update

It was very obvious to school leaders when we returned to school last September that our building project was not progressing as quickly as was promised. Initially this was put down to challenges in the construction industry as a result of Covid-19, but we continued to raise concerns about the performance of the contract and the impact this was having on the school. As you will have seen in the media, MIDAS, the contractor delivering our building programme, went into administration and unfortunately all works stopped and have not progressed for some time now. We were encouraged to hear this week from the TDA, who is managing this building project on behalf of the school, that a completion contractor is being appointed. Initial works will begin shortly after Easter, and all works will start again after the May Bank holiday. This is really great news for the school and we look forward to enjoying the new facilities in September. Plans continue to progress for the further £1 million project, which will start once the first project has been completed. This second project will see major refurbishment across the older parts of the school.

Electric Scooters

The law around electric scooters is not as clear as some would like it to be and we have had a few electric scooters turn up in the bike shed at school. The law does not permit students to ride their own electric scooters in public and therefore students should not ride them to school. They can only be used on private land, unless they are rented as part of a government backed rental programme in a nominated area. Further information can be found on the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-48106617>

Breakfast Club Is Back!

After Easter our Breakfast Club will be back serving breakfast once again for all students. Breakfast will be served from 8:15am to 8:35am. There is no need to book a place and students can purchase breakfast via their ParentPay account. The Trumlands Road gate will open at 8:15am and students will be able to head into the canteen. All other gates will remain closed until 8:30am.

STCM Scoops Pioneering Mental Health Award

Supporting students' mental health post Covid has been a priority for us and we were delighted to receive news this week that we have achieved the Leeds Beckett University Carnegie Mental Health Bronze Award in recognition for the excellent work we have been doing! Our work towards this award has complimented the work we have been doing with the NHS Mental Health Support Project to support both students and staff. There will be lots of opportunities in the summer term for students and parents to get involved in further positive mental health initiatives in our community.

Finally...

I want to wish all families a very happy and restful holiday. We look forward to welcoming all students back to school after a good rest. School starts again at 8:40am on Monday 25th April.

May the peace of Jesus our risen Lord be with you all this Easter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Down
Headteacher