

St Augustine's RC High School

End of Year Newsletter
July 2020



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Dear Families,

As we approach the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you have done to support the education of the children this year. The guidance from the government that we received last week provides a way forward that will allow us to open safely to all pupils in September and much of this last newsletter of the year looks ahead to the new rules and routines that will be in place to allow the school to operate safely and effectively next term. This will require a great deal of effort, adjustment and patience from all parties and I would encourage families to go through these details with your child(ren) and check the website for updates.

However, it is also a time to reflect on the year that has passed and in particular take time to remember those who are leaving us at the end of the year. We were not able to hold our usual Leavers' Ball for Year 11 but hope to have some form of party or celebration as soon as we are able to do so. I know there are prom dresses in boxes and shiny new shoes that are desperate to be worn! We also say farewell to a number of staff who leave at the end of the year. Miss Sutton Webb and Miss Irvine have been supporting the school in the PE department while Mrs Ashley was on maternity leave and we wish both well as they look forward to the next steps in their careers. We also say goodbye to Mrs Tyrer who joined the Science department in 2011 and leaves us to emigrate to the Republic of Ireland. We wish her "ádh mór". We welcome new staff to the team in September including Mrs Clapp (Lead Teacher in English), Mr Day (Science) and Mrs Hutchinson (Geography). I am sure they will soon feel part of the St Augustine's family.

With Best Wishes, Mr. Wright

Arrangements for Re-Opening

Thursday 3rd September

8.45 Arrival at school for **Years 7, 10 and 11**. Year 7 will assemble on the top yard (directed by staff) with Year 10 at the far end of the top yard and Year 11 on the yellow steps at the back of the kitchens.

Year 7; Periods 1, 2 and 3 will be spent with the Form Teacher and will include a tour of the school, logging on to the IT system and other activities. Early lunch. Periods 4 and 5 will be with the teaching class bubble and checking the class timetable with the opportunity to plan Friday's route around school. At the end of the day all Year 7 pupils will assemble on the yard for end of day routines including bus practice.

Year 10 and 11; Periods 1 and 2 with Form Teacher then normal timetable* for the rest of the day.

Friday 4th September

8.45 Arrival at school for **all year groups**. Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 will go to their allocated spaces on the yards while Year 11 will go to the yellow steps.

Periods 1 and 2 with Form Teacher (90 minutes), Periods 3, 4, and 5 will be normal timetable*.

*lesson times adjusted - see page 3.

“Bubbles” and the Impact on Class Organisation

The latest guidance proposes that schools are split into “bubbles”; groups of children that will be in contact for sustained periods of time. Reducing contact with other pupils by maintaining limited bubbles means that any positive tests for COVID19 will only require a smaller number of children to self isolate for 14 days under the Test and Trace system. The guidance recommends class bubbles wherever possible for Years 7, 8 and 9 but accepts that for the Key Stage 4 curriculum to operate, whole year bubbles will be needed for Years 10 and 11. This does mean that positive tests for Year 10 or year 11 pupils would result in the whole year group having to self-isolate for 14 days.

All **Key Stage 3** pupils have therefore been re-organised into smaller teaching groups than in previous years, creating class bubbles in which they will be taught nearly all of their subjects. The only exceptions to this will be for Technology and PE in Years 7-9 and French or Spanish in Year 9. Class sizes will become more uniform and will include a greater range of abilities. By creating teaching groups that are taught together for nearly all subjects, we reduce the number of interactions that pupils have with others throughout the school day whilst maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum delivered by subject specialists.

The new curriculum structure and organisation will continue to reflect the current guidance and is therefore subject to change and restructuring throughout the year. Unfortunately the current guidance requires us to suspend most practical activities (e.g. science experiments, food / technology projects) in the majority of curriculum areas. It is expected that peripatetic music lessons and PE practical activities will be able to continue but with additional routines and safeguards in place. PE is likely to be with smaller groups, therefore fewer practical lessons per fortnight.

Due to the nature of the **Key Stage 4** curriculum all classes will operate as usual in their core and option classes. Timings and movement around the school building have been adjusted to reduce the incidence of pupils having extended interactions with pupils from other year groups or teaching groups inside the building.

Full details of school routines including movement around zones, access to hand washing and hygiene facilities (including toilets) and rules within classrooms will be explained in detail on the first day back for all pupils.

Contingency

In the event of individual class bubbles or whole year group bubbles having to self isolate, we would move to “live” Teams lessons for these groups. This will require pupils to log on to Teams at the start of their usual lesson time for instruction by their class teacher. Effectively, pupils will need to be online for 4 or 5 sessions per day in normal school time. Classes will be recorded for pupils unable to access the sessions in real time. In the event of full school closure, and recognising the demands on families, we would revert to the current system of work being set on Teams but without the demands of live lessons (although there may be some opportunity for certain groups).

Non-class Time

Before school and at break and lunchtimes, pupils will be required to stay in year groups to socialise and have their lunch (see information later about canteen provision). Outdoor areas will be sectioned off for each year group and movement will be directed by staff on duty. Due to the limits on indoor interactions between pupils our arrangements for wet weather are also changing; a number of outdoor shelters will be erected over the summer to provide for inclement weather, again with dedicated spaces for certain year groups.

Modern Languages at Key Stage 3

Pupils may have made option choices for certain language classes next year (Spanish / French). In light of the need for classes to remain in bubbles, these options may not be possible to implement in all cases. For some pupils this will mean that instead of specialising in their chosen language, they will continue to study both languages. In some cases pupils will start a new language from September in order to maintain the integrity of the class bubbles. We hope to offer the option of specialising in one language again for those who will be studying both French and Spanish next year.



Information for Year 11

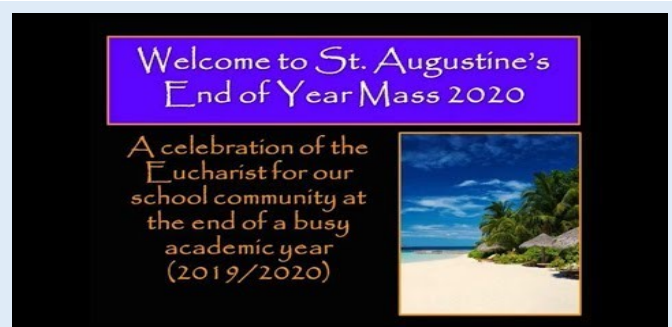
GCSE Results Day is Thursday 20th August. Due to the demands of social distancing that are currently in place and to minimise risk for pupils, families and staff we have taken the decision to issue GCSE results online, and not distribute paper documents at school. We know that Year 11 pupils may be disappointed at not being able to collect their results in school as in previous years, but the experience would be very different this year and the logistics of distribution would mean that some pupils were only receiving their results a long time after others. We did not think this was fair. If our plans change we will let you know by email and put a message on the school website. We are using Insight to distribute Year 11 results. Pupils can log in to the site using their school username e.g. 15HendersonJo (for Jordan Henderson) and the usual school password—the same password is used for email accounts. Year 11 pupils can [access the site directly](#) to check they can log in and are strongly advised to do so. To access results pupils will need to log into their account, then click *Assessments* then *Examination Results*. If pupils are not able to access the results this way by 11am on 20th August they should email k.munro@sarchs.com (Examinations Officer) and request an email copy of their results. Pupils can check accounts now but no results will be visible until 20th August. A paper copy will be posted on Thursday 20th August—the earliest we are allowed to post.

Celebrating Success Please help us celebrate your successes with GCSEs this year by sending photographs via email to info@sarchs.com, or on Twitter or Facebook, @sarchsofficial, with the usual poses (smiling, holding results slip, jumping for joy etc!).

Book Returns Many thanks to all those who have already returned text books. It is essential that we receive these back into school to allow our Year 10 pupils to get off to the best possible start. Please place all text books into a plastic carrier bag along with a note clearly stating the pupil's name and form and leave at school reception. If not able to return books by the end of term school will be open from 24th August for returns.

End of Term Mass

While we have not been able to celebrate Mass in the usual manner at the end of the school year we are grateful to Father David who has recorded a special Mass for us to watch via Youtube. Click the image to play the video.



School Attendance

All pupils are expected to return to school in September.

The Department For Education advises that students who were previously advised to shield should return to school in September, providing there is no evidence of locally rising infection rates for which there will be local guidance. There may be a small group of students who are still advised by health professionals to remain at home due to their health condition. Please inform school if you think this relates to your child; you will be asked to provide evidence from a health professional. Only in such cases will school continue to provide a full offer of remote education, probably via the Oak Academy platform. Pupils with family members who are shielding should also return to school in September unless advised otherwise by health professionals.

Unlike the situation pre-lockdown in March, when anyone with symptoms undertook a 14-day self-isolation period, the process is now informed via the Test and Trace system. At the point a pupil has symptoms, then they must remain at home but they should be tested. If the results are negative, they should return to school. If they test positive, they remain at home for 7 days from the first day of symptoms. As long as the temperature has fallen back to normal by day 7, they should return to school at this point. It is acceptable to return to school with a cough. We will ask for evidence of test results (e.g. screenshot of confirmation text).

If a family member tests positive, pupils in that household will be required to undertake 14 days of household isolation. If they consequently contract Covid 19, they will be required to isolate for 7 days from the first day of symptoms. Families will be asked to provide evidence of a positive test.

School Trip Updates

France : Year 8, Chateau du Molay Families will be refunded for the trip as the travel company is unable to provide a suitable alternative for next year.

France : Year 7, Le Touquet A new date is being arranged with the travel company for next year. The proposed dates are Thursday 17th June - Sunday 20th June 2021. More details to follow.

France : Year 9, Paris The travel company (NST) are proposing a deferral of the trip until June 2021, carrying the deposit through to next year's trip.

Rwanda : Year 10, Kigali Postponed until 2021

Costa Rica : Various This trip has now been cancelled and we are awaiting information from the travel company about the dates for refunds.

London : Year 7/8 The trip has been postponed until next year. Deposits can be refunded or held over to 2021.

Equipment List

Equipment for September should include: 2 black pens, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener, dry wipe pen (for use on whiteboard), coloured pencils, glue stick, small safety scissors, scientific calculator and mathematical equipment, preferably in a pencil case. There can be **no sharing** of equipment during the current situation.

INSIGHT—Keeping up to date

Please ensure that your personal details are up to date using Insight. Increasingly we rely on accurate email addresses and mobile phone numbers for communications. This will be vital where a pupil displays COVID19 symptoms in school from September so please make sure we have the correct details.



Uniform Matters

Our suppliers' shops are now open with social distancing rules to protect staff and customers. School uniform can be ordered online and details of how the stores are dealing with the current situation can be found on their websites.

Gray's (Blackburn, Clitheroe) <https://graysschoolwear.co.uk/>

Ribble Valley Supplies (Clitheroe) <https://rvsschoolwear.co.uk/>

Whittaker's (Blackburn) <https://www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk/contact/>

Shirts: During the autumn term the standard long-sleeved blue shirt worn tucked in and with the school tie fastened to the neck and worn full length is compulsory for all pupils.

Skirts / Trousers: Medium grey Trutex stitch down pleated skirts or box pleated in polyester/viscose. This should be worn on or just above the knee. Skirts are available in different lengths so please do ensure the correct length is bought for September. Black school trousers (only bought from our stockists) can be worn.

Coats: Any coat worn must be plain in colour. **Coats with designer labels are unacceptable.** We do not allow denim or leather (real or "effect" jackets) or sweatshirts/hoodies of any kind.

Shoes: These must be black, plain, leather-style, well-supported and low heeled (no more than 5cm in height). They can be worn with laces, buckles or velcro. All stitching and laces must be black and laces tied at all times. Boots, trainers or canvas style shoes are not allowed, neither are reflective strips and designer labels. Please be aware that some stores are marketing black trainers as school shoes, these are not acceptable. Flimsy slipper and ballet style shoes are particularly unsuitable and dangerous to the health and safety of children in a school environment because they provide no support and can easily slip off.

Socks: These must be at least ankle length. Trainer socks, worn below the ankle, are not allowed. If tights are worn they must be plain black (no pattern), minimum 60 denier.

Hair: We consider dyed hair to be inappropriate for children and we want to avoid peer pressure on pupils to change their natural hair colour. Pupils must not come to school with streaked, highlighted or dyed hair, or with hair extensions. Hair must be a single, natural colour. Nor should pupils have sections of their eyebrows shaven. Designs and wedges cut into the hair or anything shorter than a Number 3 cut are all unacceptable styles. Hair which covers the eyes is not permitted as it restricts vision and is potentially a safety risk. Pupils must keep their hair well groomed and tidy. Braids and hair beads are unacceptable for safety reasons. Hair accessories should be simple.

Make-up, fake tans and false nails: These are inappropriate when used by children within a school context. Pupils may be placed into seclusion if they are not able to fix such issues immediately.

Jewellery: Please do not allow your child to come to school wearing any kind of jewellery other than the ear studs/sleepers permitted for girls which should be worn singly on each ear lobe. Any other kind of jewellery will be confiscated and kept in a safe place for parents to collect. If a pupil refuses to take off their jewellery it may be necessary for school to contact parents to come and collect the pupil.

Mobiles and Smart Watches: Pupils must not wear a Smart Watch at any time in school. Mobile phones are permitted in school but must at all times be kept in a pupil's bag and switched off until pupils physically leave the school site. Pupils may not text or phone during the school day without staff permission and we would ask parents/carers to support this rule by not texting/calling their children during the school day. The office will happily forward any message on to your child and pupils can call parents through the school office if they need to. Pupils misusing their mobiles will have them confiscated (see behaviour section).

Behaviour Policy

The Government guidelines mean we are unable to continue using our normal behaviour system of green slips and lunchtime detentions. However, it is important to ensure that there is a system in place to support staff and pupils in maintaining the high standards of behaviour that we have at St Augustine's. We are therefore changing our current behaviour system to reflect this and for the time being replace our GREENs and AMBERs with a CONSEQUENCE system until a time we can revert back to the existing system.

Whilst we need to be mindful of the fact that some of our pupils have struggled during the enforced school closures and as supportive staff, we will work with them to overcome any emotional issues they may have, we also need to ensure that we have good behaviour and compliance with the new procedures across the school. Early intervention will be key and contacting families regularly to keep them informed will be critical to maintaining positive behaviour in class and around school that will keep everybody safe.

The new system will require a **greater use of after school detentions** so please reinforce the importance of following staff instructions to your child to avoid inconvenience for all. We will continue to give 24 hours notice of detentions wherever possible. Pupils who deliberately risk the safety of others through their actions will face serious and swift consequences (including exclusion). Families will be able to keep track of rewards and sanctions via Insight.

Time out – we have a number of pupils who use a “time out” card as a strategy to reduce problems – use of these cards will be limited and pupils will have to stand outside the classroom for the allowed time rather than accessing other areas of school.

Mobile phone (and other items) confiscation – confiscated items will have to be placed into an envelope by the pupil and this will be sealed by the teacher. The pupil's name will be written on envelope and then be delivered immediately to reception for families to be informed. Mobile phones will be kept until the end of the week and returned to pupils. If families request the immediate return of a mobile phone the sanction will be an after school detention.

Transport—Buses

We have been asked to provide the Department for Transport (via Lancashire County Council) with estimated numbers for all modes of transport, including bus routes. At present we have had a 90% return on the questionnaire that was sent out so thank you for completing this. However the remaining 10% could have a significant impact on whether bus routes are economically viable or overcrowded so please do respond if you have not yet done so. [Transport Questionnaire](#)

To date, we have not had information to suggest any changes to the existing bus routes from September.

From September

Pupils will have to wear face coverings on all buses. These will need to be safely removed on arrival at school and placed into a bin for single use coverings, or into a plastic bag and into a school bag for use on the return journey.

To encourage social distancing when lining up for buses, markings will be painted on the yard for each bus. Deliberate failure to line up correctly will lead to a sanction (after-school detention). Pupils will have to don their masks prior to embarkation. They may do this once they are on the yard and must do it by the time they reach the bus.

Curriculum for 2021

In light of the variation in pupil experiences since March, much of the first term will concentrate on review and consolidation of work from the last term and a half. Our initial assessment of Year 10 pupils who have returned to school is that those who have kept up with the online work that has been set are in a good position to move forward with their GCSE courses. However, we appreciate that this is not the case for all pupils. A national scheme to support those pupils whose education has been most adversely affected will be in place from September.

For Year 10 pupils going into Year 11, we await the results of the national consultation on the **changes that are proposed to GCSE examinations** but expect that in many subjects there will be a reduction in the demands of the assessments at the end of the course. For example, in Geography it is proposed to remove the requirement to undertake fieldwork and to answer questions in the exam relating to fieldwork; in History the proposals suggest removing one area of study, such as Superpowers. The full consultation proposals can be found [here](#). A review of the situation with regard to option subjects for all Year 10 pupils will take place once the changes to the exams are confirmed

There is also discussion about moving the **GCSE exam dates for 2021** from May/June to June/July to provide additional teaching time. Again we await details of this change but families should be aware that these dates are set by the exam regulator and cannot be adjusted. This may have implications for family plans for Summer 2021.

Reports and Parents Evenings

Year 10 pupils have received an end of year report with an update on their progress towards their GCSE courses. Year 7, 8 and 9 will not receive an end of year report but will receive an update on their progress early next term. We are introducing a new assessment system for Key Stage 3 in September which will report on progress and attitude to learning with the first report due around October. We feel this will be more meaningful than attempting to judge progress remotely. You can view the information held on Insight about your child's performance up to March which includes attendance data, as well as rewards and sanctions.

We are also scheduling parents' evenings for next year in the hope that we are able to have some face-to-face discussions about the children's progress but will have to wait for the guidance to change to allow this. We are keeping the plans for parental consultation (including remote meetings) under review.

New sinks being installed for hand washing from September



Food

Our usual food service presents difficulties with regard to social distancing and hygiene with multiple touch points. Therefore we are initially going to begin the term with a single lunch time service of cold food only with a “grab bag” approach.

Families will have to pre-order the food and pupils will collect their “grab bag” from the canteen and take the food outside to eat. We hope to have a number of outdoor shelters installed by September.

The ordering system will be via an online form on the school website with families able to order a week in advance. Once orders have been fulfilled and collected, payment will be taken from your online account ([Tucasi / Scopay](#)). There will not be an option to pay via cash in school and there will be no vending machines.

Breakfast service before school - we hope to reintroduce a breakfast service once lunches are operating effectively.

Breaktime service – we hope to reintroduce a breaktime service once lunches are operating effectively.

Pupils bringing packed lunches will have to eat outside with shelters available in wet weather.

Nut Free School

A reminder that we are a nut free school to ensure the safety of our students. Although we recognise that we cannot guarantee an environment that is completely free from any allergen, we believe that a nut free policy minimises the risk for pupils with nut allergies. Food allergies can be fatal. Reactions can range from an irritating rash to life-threatening anaphylaxis, and it only requires a small amount of the allergen to set off symptoms.

First aid staff in the school are trained to use Epi-pens (an injection of adrenalin) which are required immediately if there is a serious reaction. However, to minimise the risk of an allergic reaction **we cannot have nuts in school in any form.**

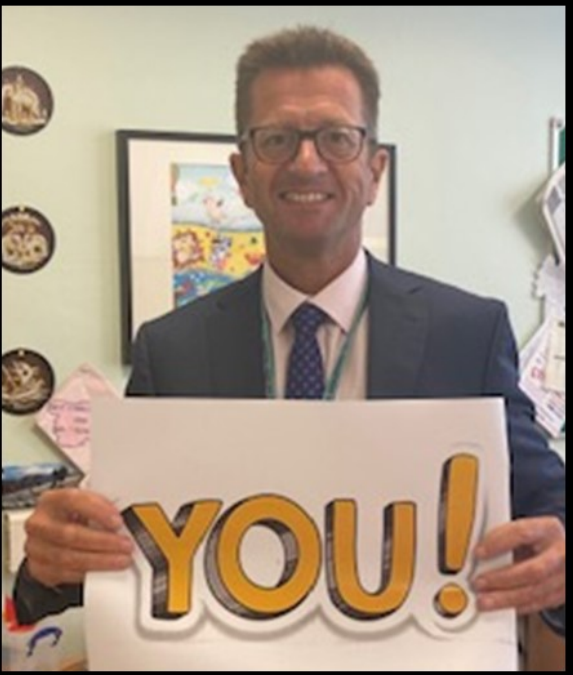
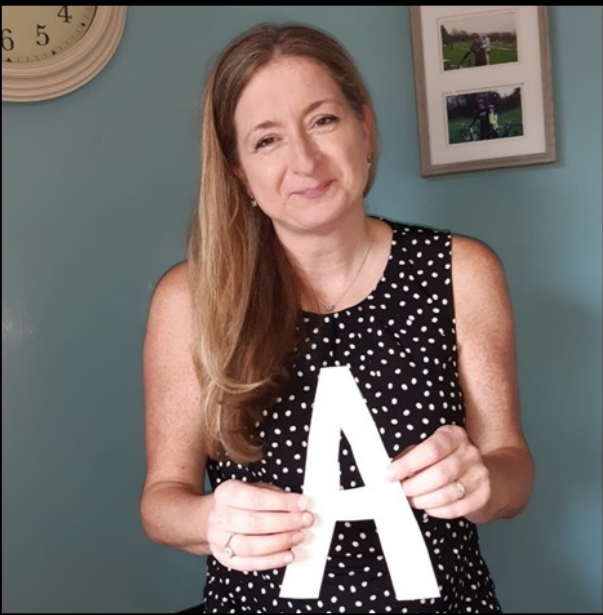


We need every student, teacher and parent to help us make St Augustine’s a safer place for students who have food allergies. So please do not put any nut products in your child’s lunch box.

Single Use Plastics Bottles

As part of the school’s aim to reduce our environmental impact, we are phasing out the sale of single use plastic bottles in school and would encourage you to purchase a **re-usable drinks bottle** for next year, preferably a clear plastic one as these are the only type allowed in examinations. Please do not send glass bottles into school.





And finally, from the Leadership Team at school, Mr Holden and Mrs Juriansz (Deputy Headteachers); Mrs Rutter, Mrs Bury and Mrs Bleazard (Assistant Headteachers); and Mr Wright (Headteacher); a big thank you for supporting the children's education during lockdown. We wish you a restful summer and a safe return in September. God bless.