

# St Augustine's RC High School

Newsletter  
March 2022

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## Easter Approaches

As we approach the school holidays and take the opportunity for rest and relaxation after a busy term, we also reflect on the lives of millions of people in Ukraine and other war-torn parts of the world whose lives have been turned upside down. The response from our pupils has been humbling with so many offering prayers for those caught up in the crisis, as well as an overwhelming response to the charity collections that have been organised locally to provide practical support for families fleeing the violence.



Pupils collected a trailer full of provisions for Ukraine.



Ukraine Prayer Station

## Events—Key Dates

School closes for the holiday on Friday 25th March at the usual time of 2.25pm.

We return on Monday 11th April to a **Week 2 timetable**—please ensure pupils bring the correct books

**Bank Holidays:** Good Friday 15th April; Easter Monday 18th April; May Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May.

**Year 8 Parents' Evening** will be online and takes place on Wednesday 13th April—a link to book online appointments will be sent via email, or you can follow the link in the school website.

### Early Closure - Friday 27th May

School will close early on **Friday 27th May** to allow the Year 11 Leavers' Mass to be celebrated in school. Year 7-10 pupils will finish at lunchtime and buses will be booked early on that day. More details will follow for Year 11 and their families.

## Uniform

Please ensure that pupils return with the [correct uniform](#) after the holiday. School jumpers are no longer compulsory from 11th April. A reminder that hair should be no shorter than a "number 2" haircut and this and other uniform violations may result in pupils spending time in seclusion.

## Free School Meals

Eligible families will receive supermarket food vouchers for the holiday period through the post.

## Consultation (From Lancashire County Council)

We are seeking your views about a proposal to create a special educational needs (SEN) unit at St Augustine's RC High School, Elker Lane, Billington, Clitheroe, BB7 9JA. We want to assure you that we will give careful consideration to all your comments and opinions.

We have used the feedback that was given during the informal consultation, carried out between October 2021 and November 2021, to develop our plans about the SEN unit at St Augustine's RC High School. This formal consultation is a legal requirement that we need to do in order to make a change like this to the school.

### What are we planning to do?

The proposal is to create an SEN unit for between eight and sixteen children and young people with Cognition and Learning (with associated Speech and Language Difficulties) needs in St Augustine's RC High School.

There is a proposal for larger expansion of the school which is to be considered by Cabinet in April 2022. The proposed SEN unit is only part of the proposed school expansion.

All of these children and young people will have education, health and care plans. Some of these children and young people will transfer from another school to St Augustine's RC High School so that they can attend the SEN unit.

Children and young people attending the SEN unit will be taught in the unit for some of the time and at other times they will be taught with other children and young people in existing classes.

All children and young people already on roll at St Augustine's RC High School will still be able to attend the school and this change should not affect current admission criteria.

Details of the consultation and how you can have your say can be found on the school website.

## Romero Catholic Academy Trust

The consultation period for views on the proposal for St Augustine's to join the diocesan Catholic Trust has been extended to Monday 25th April. To comment on whether the school's conversion to academy status should take place, representations can be made in writing to: Academy Consultation, St Augustine's RC High School, Elker Lane, Billington, BB7 9JA Or by email to: [info@sarchs.com](mailto:info@sarchs.com) with Academy Consultation in the subject line.

## Year 10 Summer Assessments

Year 10 examinations will be sat in the school sports gym from May 5 to May 25. These examinations will provide an opportunity for teachers to assess the content that pupils have been taught this year and to experience the exam formats and exam regulations that pupils will face in their GCSE examinations in summer 2023.

## Living with COVID

Like many schools, we are seeing a rise in the number of cases for pupils and staff and have had significant staff absence over recent weeks, with associated difficulties trying to secure supply staff from agencies. We hope that attendance levels will improve after the holidays although the loss of testing in schools and in wider society may lead to higher rates of transmission. We continue to recommend that those with symptom and/or testing positive follow the recommended self isolation period to reduce the risk to others.

## Useful Resources and Support

### Useful Online Safety Websites

National Online Safety – safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use  
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on-line.  
<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

### Useful contacts to report a concern

If you are worried and need help, then please contact one of the following:

Tel: 0800 1111

[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

**Lancashire Children's Services**

0300 123 6720

Web:

[www.childline.co.uk](http://www.childline.co.uk)



Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online mental wellbeing community which includes a live chat with the team feature, discussion boards, magazines and helpful articles and a daily journal.



Papyrus provide confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person. Call 0800 068 4141 or text 07860 039967 (opening hours: 9.00am – 12.00am, 365 days a year)



Samaritans are here to listen 24/7, 365 days a year. Call 116 123 for support

### Online Resources

There are apps available, such as 'Calm Harm' and 'Clear Fear' that you can download to your mobile, or if you have a tablet. These can provide useful distraction techniques for managing anxiety and thoughts of self-harm.

Additionally, on the internet there are websites such as 'Young Minds' that you could access for self-help and information in regards to supporting your mental health at home.

### Useful Contact Numbers

- The Mental Health Crisis Line in Lancashire are available 24/7 over the phone and can be contacted on 0800 953 0110
- The Well-Being Helpline is available Monday – Friday, 7.00pm – 11.00pm plus Saturday & Sunday 12.00pm – 12.00am, it is staffed by volunteers who can offer emotional support or if you would like to chat about your mental health. This helpline can be reached on 0800 915 4640 or by texting the word 'Hello@' to 07860 022846
- Hopeline UK is a young person's suicide prevention charity. They can be called on 0800 068 4141 or text 07860 039967



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