

# St Augustine's RC High School

Newsletter  
October 2020



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## Dear families,

As we approach half term I wanted to write to congratulate the pupils on the manner in which they have adapted to the changes that have been required in school since September. Adjustments to lesson times, one-way systems and the requirement to wear face coverings in all communal spaces have been introduced and our pupils have taken all of this in their stride, while continuing to make excellent progress in their lessons.

Since September we have had eleven pupils who have received **positive COVID19 test results**. Once we receive a confirmed positive result, we undertake an internal “track and trace” procedure identifying close and proximity contacts, according to the government guidelines. This identifies pupils who have been seated near to the identified person in classes for the 48 hours prior to symptoms / positive test, proximity contacts from school buses and any social contacts that reach the threshold. Families are contacted for immediate collection. All pupils identified in this process are then required to self-isolate at home for 14 days (this does not extend to the family of the self-isolating pupil). To reduce the numbers of pupils sent home due to proximity contact, the children are continually reminded about the need for social distancing in and around school. We are grateful to the LCC Covid Response team and Public Health England for their ongoing advice and support with this process. We do anticipate an increasing number of positive tests, with the potential for significant numbers of pupils having to self-isolate on our return after half term as test results are reported to school.

For pupils who are self-isolating, the **remote access** to school work is available via Microsoft Teams. Most classes now have a self-isolating “channel” within the Team with the relevant work set via these channels. For pupils who find they get through this work quickly, there is free access to [Oak National Academy](https://www.oak-academy.com/) which delivers a sequenced curriculum and can be used to complement the work set by the class teacher. With many classes now having a blend of pupils; most in class, some self-isolating due to family symptoms and some self-isolating due to in-school contact, I am very appreciative of the efforts of the teaching staff who are managing this situation so well. Feedback from returning pupils has been overwhelmingly positive with some guidance on accessing Teams channels included in this newsletter to support families.

The “Grab Bag” approach to **lunches** is working well and the kitchen is trialing an extension of the menu to include some hot items. This will be reflected on the orders page on the school website. *Mr Wright*

## Testing and Attendance

NHS guidance states that you should only get an NHS test if at least one of the following applies: a high temperature, a new, continuous cough; loss or change of sense of smell or taste. If this is the case then a family member is deemed to be symptomatic and family members should also be self isolating. **You must not send children into school if any household member is displaying symptoms or awaiting a test result** as this increases the risk to other families if a positive test is confirmed.

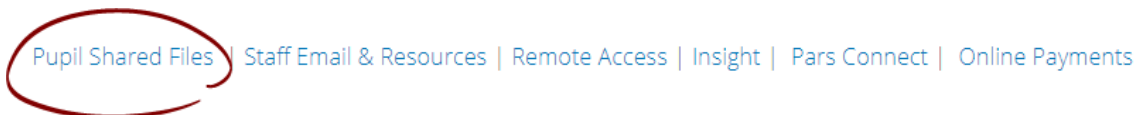
## MICROSOFT TEAMS—AN OVERVIEW

All pupils have been given guidance by their teachers on where to find work and it would be advisable to ask your child to show you how they access their class Teams at home to ensure there are no issues. We recommend that pupils download the **Teams app** to their device and turn on notifications so they can easily keep up to date with tasks; this works especially well on phones. Pupils login using their school e-mail and password. When accessing via a desktop device, Google Chrome is the recommended web browser. The Class Notebook, which is a feature within Teams that is increasingly being used, also has an app that can download. This guide provided by Microsoft gives an overview of how Teams works and although it does not totally mirror our set up, may be useful in supporting children at home:



<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/distance-learning-with-microsoft-365-guidance-for-parents-and-guardians-89d514f9-bf5e-4374-a731-a75d38ddd588>

We have created a SharePoint site for pupils with links to Teams, E-mail, Subject and Well-Being resources that can be accessed in school and at home via the 'Pupil shared Files' link at the bottom of the school website:

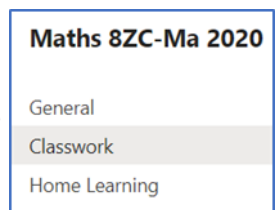


### Home Learning

We are continuing to set nearly all Home Learning via the Teams platform in 'Assignments', so tasks can be submitted and marked electronically. This is being done in the same way that it was during lockdown. Pupils are being given sufficient time to complete their Home Learning and are encouraged to access tasks as soon as they are set, so that if they do have any issues they have the opportunity to speak to their teacher BEFORE the deadline. We have chosen not to activate the parent e-mail notifications for assignments while most children are in school, but would reconsider should any extended lockdown periods be imposed.

### Remote Learning

Teams is also being used to direct pupils who are isolating at home to classwork. Channels have been created within Teams so pupils can easily distinguish between 'Classwork' and 'Home Learning'. Not only will accessing these resources enable your child to keep up to date with the curriculum, they offer much-needed structure and routine to your child's day, proven to support health and wellbeing.



### Reward Points

Since September we have issued 16,799 reward points which reflects the huge efforts that pupils have made in their work this half term. We are always pleased to recognise the high standards that so many of our pupils set for themselves and would like to congratulate the following pupils for achieving the top net reward points for their year. You can track your child's performance via [Insight](#).

Year 7 Rocco Fardella (7W) Sophia Burton (7F) Charlotte Hindle (7S)  
Year 8 Samuel Latham (8S) Rokšana Jaron (8F) Olivia Huyton (8F)  
Year 9 Kitty Isherwood (9O) Ella Carrington (9O) Rachel Rogers (9O)  
Year 10 Nell Johnson (10S) Courtney Sheridan (10W) Francesco Fardella (10M)  
Year 11 Ebony Harrison (11M) Emily Murrell (11C) Phoebe Young (11F)



## KS4 Examinations and Assessment Changes for 2020-21 (from Mr Holden—Deputy Headteacher)

The latest announcement from the government is that pupils in Year 11 are still expected to sit GCSE examinations in Summer 2021, with some adjustments to the content and style of assessment in certain subject areas. Due to these changes and the impact of school closure we have amended our plans for Year 11 mock examinations. We have also made significant changes to the way that we will assess and report progress and pupil performance this year at Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9). Further details will be available on the school website when the first report is sent to parents after half term.

### Key points

The first assessment point for all years will be focused on the start made since returning in September – this will be available by Friday 6th November.

- Year 11 will have in-class assessments as “mini-mocks” from Nov 9th – Nov 20th. The results will be reported to parents in December. In light of the allocation of Centre Assessed Grades for GCSEs in 2020, we would highlight the importance of these assessments for current Year 11 pupils, as they provide the first benchmark of performance this academic year, and may provide important evidence for grading if the exams ultimately do not go ahead as planned.
- Year 11 full mocks will be held one week before and one week after February half term.
- The Year 11 summer exam series will run from 26th May until the 2nd July 2021—please be aware of these dates when considering holidays.
- Year 10 summer assessments will be held in early May.
- All Year 7-10 pupils will receive a second progress report before Parents’ Consultation Evenings in the Spring Term. These are likely to be virtual events with an online appointment system—more information will be available closer to the time.
- A final progress report for KS3 and a full written report for Year 10 will be completed in July 2021.

### Uniform and Face Coverings

Masks must be worn in all communal areas in school as well as on buses. Pupils are requested to bring a **spare mask** in case of loss or damage.

As we move to colder, wetter days, pupils will have access to indoor eating areas; Year 7 - RE corridor rooms, Year 8 - half gym, Year 9 - half gym, Year 10 - hall, Year 11 - canteen / al fresco. Face coverings must be worn as soon as lunches are finished and pupils will be encouraged to be outdoors as much as possible to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, with a number of canopies available for shelter for different year groups.

A reminder that **school jumpers** are compulsory after the half term and **coats are recommended** for all pupils next half term.

Please ensure that pupils are fit for return to school with respect to hair / nails etc. to avoid having to spend time in seclusion.

### Election of Parent Governor

There is currently one vacancy for a Parent Governor on the Governing Board of the school. A separate email will be sent with details of the vacancy, including the nature of the role and the associated responsibilities of Governors as well as the relevant application / nomination forms. Please consider this position if you feel you have the time to support the valuable work undertaken by School Governors.