

ST CUTHBERT'S ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



PARENTAL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 3/Autumn 2024



Headteacher's Update

This week marks the beginning of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, all students were offered the opportunity to receive ashes and many of us have made a Lenten vow to either give something up or do something extra during this period. The purpose of this of course is to remind ourselves of the sacrifices Jesus made for us but it is also an opportunity for us to be better ourselves and even to do something which helps others. Indeed, Pope Francis in his message invites the faithful 'to pause for prayer and assist our brothers and sisters in need, in order to change our own lives and the lives of our communities.'

As always here at St Cuthbert's it has been a very busy Half Term. In late January we had the Catholic Schools Inspection. This is a formal process in the mould of Ofsted and is an extra inspection process experienced by all faith schools. The full and final report has not been confirmed yet and we will publish it as soon as it is. The report will highlight the many outstanding opportunities and behaviours of our students and wider community.

There are many other exciting events and opportunities which have taken place during the Half Term and which you can read about in this newsletter. There will be many more next Half term also. Most of these will revolve around our Lenten charity work. We strongly encourage all our students to become involved in these as charity work is fundamental to our beliefs about Catholic Social Teaching and also a key part of our mission statement – 'to help others whenever we can.' Please ask your son / daughter what they are doing for our Lenten charities and make it something we can do at home as well as in school.

Have a great Half Term break with your loved ones

Warm regards
Mr Shields (Headteacher)



Headteacher Awards

Students who were the recipients of our Headteacher Award this half term.

From Left to right:

Amiee (Year 10) Henry (Year 7) Mr Shields Evelyn (Year 8)
Jubilee (Year 11) Daniel (Year 11)

Catholic Life Of the School



This half term the GIFT team have created posters on Christian unity. We prayed that all people will be united together and experience peace.

On the 13th of February we held a Charity pancake flip to mark Shrove Tuesday! All proceeds will go towards our Lenten charities.

All students to take part in.

Entry is £1, first place will win two cinema tickets to REEL cinema and 2nd and 3rd place will win Easter Eggs. Please encourage your child to get involved. This will take place during lunch.

C Catholic	Pancake flip competition: Shrove Tuesday 13th February – at lunch – get sponsorship money £1 to enter the competition.	 <p>Support our Lenten Charities: St Joseph's penny and Springhill Hospice</p>   
A Aspiration	1 st prize for the most flips an Easter Egg and TWO Cinema tickets to watch a FILM at REEL cinema Rochdale.	
R Respect	2 nd and 3 rd prizes of Easter Eggs!	
E Excellence	Entries- name to be emailed to Mrs Battaglia STRB02@SCRCHS.COM	

Catholic Life Of the School

Lenten Charities:

Our Lenten charities this year are Caritas, St Joseph's penny and SpringHill Hospice. There will be many more opportunities to raise money as we enter the season of Lent.



Ash Wednesday Service 14th of February

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. All year groups will be taking part in the Ash Wednesday services in school. This is an opportunity for self-reflection and a time to consider how we can be better. Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.

Dates we will be celebrating Mass in school:

- Year 11 Mass - Tuesday 27th February 10am
- Year 9 Mass- Tuesday 30th April 10am
- Year 8 Mass- Tuesday 14th May 10am
- Year 10 Mass- Tuesday 4th June 10am
- Year 7 Mass- Tuesday 9th July 10am

Year 9 News & Events

Photography Workshop

Year 9 students have been attending a photography workshop at St John's Church in Rochdale. This has been an exciting opportunity for pupils to develop work related skills in Photography and Editing. Students still have 3 more workshops to attend and at the end of the course they should develop and learn a number of skills not just photography skills but also soft skills e.g. confidence building, self-esteem and communication.



Year 10 News & Events

Skills for Life Project with The Talent Foundry



In Year 10 some students have been attending a Skills for Life Project with The Talent Foundry. This is a company that helps develop valuable new employment skills to young people. Lots of volunteers have come to school to talk about their careers in construction, Business, Engineering, Care etc. Pupils who have attended the workshop have gained some great skills and learned about different Industries and Career paths.

We still have 3 more workshops to attend however, all are based around building confidence and self-esteem. Students so far have been doing some great drama activities and different tasks based around communication.

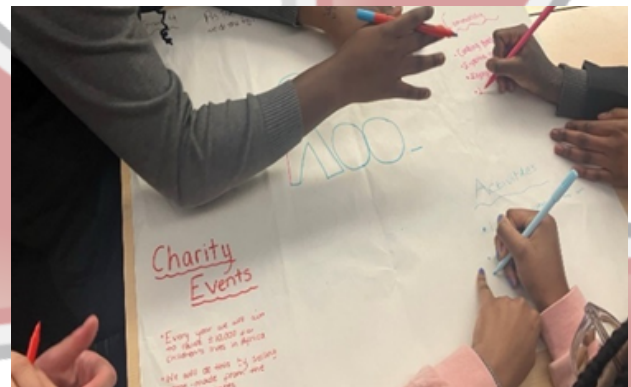


Year 10 News & Events

Manchester University Tour



A number of Year 10 students have been on a trip to Manchester University. Pupils have had a campus tour, they have been given a talk on Life after year 11 and been given lots of information, advice and guidance on the different courses and options they have available to them in Higher Education. Students really enjoyed the different activities and tasks the University had for them to do.



Attendance

A large number of our students have made an exceptional start to 2024, demonstrating a commitment to attend School with an attendance above 96% and these students are punctual to School every day. It is noticeable that a number of students have struggled to return to school this year and there is a significant increase in the number of students who require additional support whilst they are in school. If you need any further advice please contact school via the contact us (<https://scrchs.net/contact>) section of our website.

Although we remain committed to supporting students and their families with their attendance, it is vital that we work together to remove any barriers. Research shows the negative impact poor attendance can have on a child's well-being, progress and future outcomes and we believe that all students have a right to 'Best that they can be'. Persistent Absence is when a child's attendance falls below 90%. The research demonstrates that students that have an attendance below 90% do not perform as well academically as those with an attendance of above 90%. School understands that there may be genuine medical evidence to support absence. When this is not the case it may be that School can support you to improve attendance. If you would like to know your child's School attendance please contact School or alternatively you can find this information on Class Charts if you would prefer. Below is a useful link from the Department for Education that may help with any queries that you may have about how to improve your child's attendance.

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2022/12/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance.pdf>

Attendance Rewards

This week in all Year Groups there was an Attendance Breakfast for form winners of the Big Breakfast Attendance League Challenge. The Forms celebrated with their form groups and tutor in the cuisine area.

In addition, there will be daily prize draws this week for all students that are in School on time. There will also be a bigger prize draw on Friday for students with 100% Attendance. There will be draws for both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

You have to be in.....to win!



Across the Curriculum

English

Celebrating the success of our in-school Reading and Literacy provision

As a school, our vision is to equip our students with the knowledge, skills and personal characteristics they need to flourish as literate, articulate, global citizens. A crucial way to promote this is through developing their literacy and reading skills. Having a confidence in, and a love of Reading for Pleasure is more important for children's cognitive development than their parents' levels of education and is a more powerful factor than socio-economic background. In English, we have been focusing on various initiatives to give our students to best experiences of reading in school.

At the start of the spring half term, we offered all Key Stage 3 students an opportunity to complete their New Group Reading test. This is an assessment that measures reading skills of students aged 5-15 against the national average. We were amazed to see reading stores increase by up to 5 years for some students since their initial reading assessment in September.

Reading intervention

We also have an outstanding team of reading mentors who are working to build up our students' reading skills. Selected students work in small groups of three or four and receive a tailored and personalised reading intervention session to promote a confidence with reading aloud, as well as a love of reading itself. These reading intervention sessions will ultimately improve the reading and writing skills of students in their groups.



Rapid Reading

As part of our Department, and School's, commitment to long term improvement in reading, we now offer a Rapid Reading initiative which is designed to help our students catch up with reading. The scheme is designed to improve students' confidence with reading and encourage success; master core skills which enable them to access the curriculum and most importantly, encourage a love of reading.

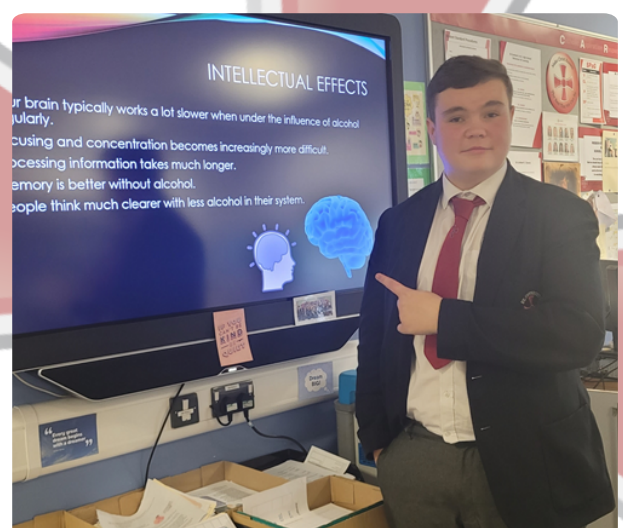
The Rapid Reading sessions take place in class and are delivered by the class teacher and other trained support staff. Students work in small groups reading a new book each session and answer comprehension questions immediately after. The rapidity and low stakes assessment promotes excellent engagement from students and the students in these sessions have grown not only in their reading ability, but in confidence.

Across the Curriculum

Health & Social Care



As part of their Cambridge Nationals assessment, the Year 11 Health and Social Care students had to plan and deliver a Health Promotion Campaign focusing on either alcohol consumption or physical activity. The students produced a range of very impressive campaigns, there are clearly some excellent educators of the future among them.



Across the Curriculum

Music

It's been a very busy period for the music department this half term with lots of extra-curricular activity taking place. The school choir has continued to grow in numbers this half term and we have had a real focus on singing various pop songs. The school choir are also preparing numerous hymns at the minute so that they are ready to sing at mass on the first day back after half term. Mrs Morris has also created a brand-new keyboard club that takes places after school on Thursday from 3-4pm. We have had lots of interest so far in this group and we would love as many people as possible to join this group.

Year 11 have been completing their mock exams this half term as well as having a real focus on completing their composition coursework. Year 11 have also been hard at work preparing for their final performance assessment, which will be taking place just before the Easter Holidays. Mr Havercroft has been very impressed with your hard work and dedication to your studies, so a massive well done to you all.

Year 10 have also been hard at work learning about their first study piece, The Badinerie, and have also began their first official composition, which will go towards to their final grade. Mr Havercroft is already impressed with the start of your first official compositions and can't wait to hear the finished product.

Year 9 have been working hard on Stand By Me, which has a mixture of bass lines, chords and melody lines. Students have been working hard on putting all the notes together in order to create a full piece. Year 8 have also focussed on performance this term but they have looked at performing African pieces of music on the djembes. Students have worked on heavily on rhythm during their performances and have also had a go at creating their own African rhythms. Finally, Year 7 have had a real focus on performing pieces of salsa and samba music this year, and it's been great to hear some of the ostinatos and polyrhythms that have been performed throughout the various lessons. Well done to all the KS3 students for their fantastic hard work.

Across the Curriculum

Science

On Thursday 8th February Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in a STEM roadshow run by BAE Systems in partnership with The Royal Navy and RAF.

The roadshow was all about electricity – what it is and how it is generated.

Some of the activities involved:

- pupils making a giant circuit to light up a huge light bulb
- Identifying the advantages and disadvantages of different ways of generating electricity
- Mr Close generating as much electricity as possible using a pedal powered turbine.
- Discovering the different applications of electricity and engineering in different jobs and careers.



Drama & Dance

Students in Yrs 7 and 8 have been enjoying expressing themselves in Drama Club



DANCE CLUB
FOR ALL YEAR GROUPS HAS BEGUN THIS TERM. STUDENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH A PROFESSIONAL DANCE COACH TO INSPIRE THEM



Students in yr 9 have been working on mask this term. They have been exploring the theme of peer pressure in a play called, 'Face' by Benjamin Zephaniah



Across the Curriculum

ART

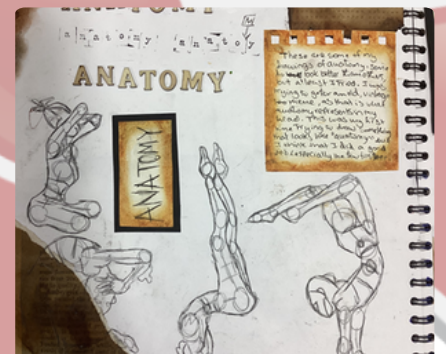
Year 11 The exam is underway and you are preparing for the 10 hour exam where you will produce your final pieces. The dates are: 16th & 17th April. Please remember I run catch up every Monday at lunch and after school in 101.

Year 10 Art students are working incredibly well and are all now working on a project with the theme of power. Students are now having more freedom with the topics and artwork that interest them most.

Year 9 Have finalised the architecture project and have created some stunning sculptures celebrating culture.

Year 8 Are now underway with their printing project, so far they have produced some amazing monoprints and next they are going to be designing and cutting their own stencils.

Year 7 Have now mastered the pencil, we are now going to master colour! We are exploring the 70's era, optical illusion art and psychedelic art



Careers & Events

National Apprenticeship week has taken place on the 5th – 11th February.

During this week all students have completed booklets in form. Pupils learned all about Apprenticeships and how they go about applying for them. They were also given information on what apprenticeships are available in different subject areas. HODs were given posters to pass onto staff to put up in classrooms.

We had past pupils come into school to do assemblies and to talk to students about their education and career path after leaving school. This has been good for students to see the different journeys people take.

Oldham College came into school to do a presentation in Assembly for Year 9 and 10. They have given lots of information, guidance and advice to students on the different apprenticeships available to them.

Rochdale 6th Form College attended Year 11 Parents Evening. This gave students an opportunity to have a chat with them about starting college and any concerns they may have about leaving school.

GM Higher have been into school to talk to us about more exciting events and workshops for students along with many other Education Providers. There are going to be some really exciting opportunities for all students next term.

Enrichment Activities



Year 8 Dodge ball Club



Year 7 and 8 Dance Club



There have been lots of enrichment clubs taking place this half term. These have included Vocal group, keyboard club, Drama club, Dance clubs, Kaleidoscope club, dodge ball club, girls football club. Here is a snapshot of students enjoying the clubs on offer. Take a look at the timetable and pop along to any of the clubs listed for this term!



KS3 Drama Club



Year 9 and 10 Dance Club

After School / Lunch Time Enrichment

St Cuthbert's RC High School – Enrichment Programme – Spring Term 2023

	Pre School:	Lunchtime:	After School
Monday		Year 10 and 11 Football (3g – DAA)	Year 10 and 11 Boys Football matches Year 7 and 8 Dance club (AHS - 405) Year 10 GCSE Art catch up (SAN – 101)
Tuesday		Year 10 and 11 Football (3g – DAA) Years 9 and 10 Netball (MMS/HWD – SH) Eco Team (NHD – 313) Vocal group – 406 – AHT	KS3 Drama Club (LMY – Hall) Year 7 and 9 Football practices and games (3G – DAA) Year 10 Health and Social Care coursework support (DEE) All Year groups Girls Football (JHT - 3g/Sports hall)
Wednesday	Basketball (Gym DAA)	Year 10 and 11 Football (3g – DAA) Year 7 and 8 Dodgeball club (HWD – SH) Kaleidoscope club (ALY/KFR – 310)	
Thursday		Year 10 and 11 Football (3g – DAA) KS3 Badminton (JRN – SH) GIFT TEAM (NHD – 313)	KS3 Keyboard club (JMS – 408) Year 10 Health and Social Care coursework support (DEE)
Friday		Years 10 and 11 Football (3g – DAA) Years 7 and 8 Dodgeball (HWD - Gym)	Year 10 – Bronze Duke of Edinburgh meetings (last Friday of each month – JHT/HWD - 409) Year 9, 10 and 11 Dance Club (AHS – 405)

Blue = sports clubs

Purple = Performing Arts clubs

Green = other extra-curricular clubs

Key Dates



- ✓ 26.02.24 – School Closed for Students (Staff training day)
- ✓ 27.02.24 – School reopens for all students
- ✓ 06.03.24 – Year 10 Parents Evening (4-7pm)
- ✓ 13.03.24 – Year 9 Parents Evening and Options Evening (4-7pm)
- ✓ 28.03.24 (Maundy Thursday) – School Closes for Easter
- ✓ 15.04.24 - School Closed for Students (Staff training day)
- ✓ 16.04.24 – School reopens for students
- ✓ 17.04.24 – Year 7 Parents’ Evening (4-7pm)
- ✓ 24.04.24 – Year 8 Parents’ Evening (4-7pm)
- ✓ 06.05.24- Bank Holiday (School Closed)