



## JUNE 2019—NEWSLETTER

### NEWS FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

**Thank you.** At this time of year I have the opportunity to say thank you to all of the staff who work so hard on behalf of the students in St Augustine's High School. Every day I see staff, teaching and non-teaching, going that extra mile in supporting and caring for the students. I am very grateful to them all and I know from the number of conversations with parents and letters I receive, that you agree with me. So a special thank you to them all.

I would also like to thank all our parents for their support throughout an extremely busy and successful year.

Our thanks to Sheila Divine who is retiring after 13 years of dedicated service—we'll miss you Sheila and wish you all the best for the future.

We would like to welcome the following new staff:-

- Lynne Doig - Religious Education
- Elizabeth Simpson - Music
- Anastasia Raftopoulou - Computing
- Parastu Khosrowpour - Business Education
- Aaron Dudgeon - Biology with Science

The recent few weeks have been very busy with the Awards and Leavers' Ceremonies, the S6 Prom, P7 Induction days and our end of term activities.

Inevitably, during the holidays, your thoughts will turn to purchasing new school uniform. Please bear in mind the school uniform policy outlined on page 11. I know young people can try to persuade parents to buy trainers, hoodies, designer clothing etc but please resist the pressure put upon you and stick rigidly to the school uniform policy. This will help us enormously with security and in matters of health and safety.

I wish everyone, pupils, parents and staff a relaxing and enjoyable holiday—however you choose to spend it.

Michael McGee  
Head Teacher

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 28 June	
Non-Uniform Day	
End of Term Service	
Mon 12 & Tues 13 August	
In-service staff only	
Wed 14 August	
Pupils resume	
Thurs 5 September	
UCAS Parents' Evening 7pm	
Thurs 12 September	
Senior Awards Ceremony 2.15pm	
Mon 16 September	
HOLIDAY	
Tues 17 September	
All resume	
Wed 25 September	
S4 Mock Interviews	
Mon 7—Fri 11 October	
S4 Work Experience	
Thurs 11 October	
Parent Council Meeting 6pm	
Fri 11 October	
Feast Day Mass 11am	
End of Term	
Mon 14—Fri 18 October	
HOLIDAY	
Mon 21 & Tues 22 October	
In-service staff only	
Wed 23 October	
Pupils resume	

Keep up to date with all our news and events by  
following our twitter feed @stahsnews

## Junior Awards Ceremony: Thursday 31 May 2019

The school hosted its Junior Awards Ceremony on Thursday 23 May and again, it proved to be a fantastic evening. Over 450 pupils, parents and staff were in attendance to congratulate all Junior Award winners who had worked very hard throughout the year. It was a fabulous occasion to showcase the talents of all of our young people and it was wonderful to see the support from all their parents, guardians and extended family. We were lucky to have an outstanding speaker, ex Support for Learning Leader, Mr Michael O Donnell who spoke to all our young people about how school can have a lasting positive effect on all our young people and hopefully pupils can build upon their fantastic successes this year.

Well done to all award winners and a special thanks to the musical staff and pupils for providing wonderful entertainment on the night. A final special thanks to Anna & Ben for their superb hosting of the evening!

A wonderful night was had by all !



## My World of Work Ambassadors

On June 13<sup>th</sup> 2019, the St Augustine's Ambassadors, Aodán, Sarah and Joseph attended a reception at City Chambers in order to receive a certificate of recognition. Ambassadors from schools all over Edinburgh reflected on the skills they have developed, such as leadership, communication, working with others and improved confidence. City Councillor Alison Dickie gave them high praise and emphasised the difference they are making to younger pupils' lives by helping them to identify strengths needed for future careers.



## Royal Scottish Academy



Despite a very rainy day, S4 enjoyed a great day out at Royal Scottish Academy exhibition and Edinburgh College of Art Degree Show.

They found inspiration for their National 5 expressive folios in the painting departments as well on location, landscape sketching in Princes Street Gardens.



The  
Royal  
Scottish  
Academy



S2 have been making the most of the sunny days with some landscape sketching from the Art Department terrace.



### S3 Geography Fieldtrip to Dynamic Earth and the Museum of Scotland



**The Gathering Youth Talk** 8 pupils from the Student Representative Council along with Mrs Carson and Mr Spells attended The Gathering Youth Talk to help make decisions, share ideas, and be a part of the community. It was very educational and inspiring. We learnt that 'young people are not just the future, but are the now'. We contributed to many discussions to help improve our community. It was a fantastic event.

## St Augustine's Rugby

Our boys' and girls' team have been competing recently. Our girls have played against Currie RFC and took part in a festival at Falkirk RFC. The girls played really well, winning against Currie RFC 65-35. The girls managed to reach the semi-final in the Falkirk Festival. They have improved greatly over the last six months.

Our boys have played against Leith Academy. The boys worked as a team and won 85-30. The game was conditioned throughout to ensure the score was competitive. This gave them a chance to develop passing, catching, rucking and attacking.



### Kaimes Capital Placement

Seamus and Shannon, two S3 pupils have secured a three day placement at Kaimes Capital from the 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> June this term. Both pupils have shown an interest in Business and so were selected to experience working in this type of environment for three days. The pupils will be put through their paces, taking part in a 3 day interactive learning session covering the following:

- Introductions and ice breaker activities
- A “Dragon’s Den” product/idea pitch
- An investment game – stock picking and tracking stock performance
- Marketing event
- Work shadowing
- Visit and overview from an investment service provider
- Video Conference (with Kaimes office in The Hague)

# Our S6 leavers at Prom in all their finery



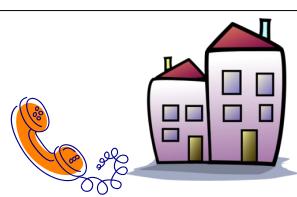
## Congratulations to former pupil Anna Meredith

The school was delighted to hear that former pupil Anna Meredith has been awarded an M.B.E in the Queen's Birthdays honours list for her services to music. Anna is a composer, producer and performer of both acoustic and electronic music. At St Augustine's in the early 1990s, Anna was a central figure in the Music Department. Another former pupil has described her as being all "Music, Music, Music!"

Her music has been performed everywhere from the BBC Last Night of the Proms to flashmob body-percussion performances in the M6 Services, Apple adverts, films, installations and documentaries, pop festivals, clubs and classical concert halls worldwide and is regularly broadcast on BBC Radio 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6. Her piece, Five Telegrams, was performed last year by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Proms Youth Ensemble and the National Youth Choir of Great Britain both inside and outside the Royal Albert Hall at the First Night of the Proms. The recording of that was played outside the Usher Hall as part of an audio-visual spectacular projected onto the Usher Hall on the opening night of the Edinburgh Festival in front of 15,000 people in Festival Square. It was streamed online across the world. Congratulations Anna.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE SCHOOL HAS UP TO DATE  
ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, EMAIL AND EMERGENCY  
CONTACT DETAILS FOR YOUR CHILD.

THANK YOU.



## S2 - IDL

At the end of May all S2 pupils came off timetable for 3 days for the second year of the school's Interdisciplinary Learning project. Pupils had the choice of three projects and threw their heart and soul into their learning.

One group were researching past land-speed record attempts and car safety. They explored aerodynamics and their learning heated up in the fuel lab. After programming their own data-loggers, they designed, built and launched rocket cars of their own, which they timed to calculate speed.



Another group engaged with the Edinburgh 2050 project, researching Edinburgh's past and current demographics before spending a day exploring the city centre. They even had an unexpected audience with the First Minister outside Dynamic Earth. Following their research, they devised their own proposals for how Edinburgh could develop over the coming 30 years, which they modelled before presenting to a city planner.



New to this year's project was the Sustainability workshop. Environmental sustainability is a hot topic in the media and this group were exploring the issues in depth. They developed debating skills before running their own debates on issues surrounding sustainability. They followed this with workshops on animation, set design and story-boarding before filming their own short outstanding animations.

Evaluations from this year's project were extremely positive, with pupils demonstrating significant growth in knowledge and skills, whilst enjoying themselves immensely.

# Caritas Award

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May saw the annual Caritas Award Ceremony, and pupils from St Augustine's who had completed the award travelled to Glasgow to attend this event. 17 pupils from St Augustine's received their Caritas Award at this celebration which saw schools from across Scotland come together to celebrate putting our faith into action.

Well done to all of our award winners, who have put a tremendous amount of work into serving their school and faith communities over the past year!



## Charities Committee

Our school's Charities Committee are continuing to work hard to raise funds for our chosen charities. Following their successful campaigns raising funds for SCIAF and participating in the Mary's Meals Backpack Project, they are now planning their next steps.

Representatives from the Charities Committee attended the Beyond the Walls Conference organised by the Bishops' Conference of Scotland. This was a great day where they learned about the work being done by a range of Catholic organisations.



S3 pupil Owen has been recognised by Heriot Watt University for the leadership skills that he has shown through his work with the Charities Committee. As a founding member of the committee, he has been instrumental in the work that has been done to support our chosen charities over the past year.



## Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)

Each year S3 pupils participate in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June saw the school's final, where four groups of pupils who have now moved into S4 presented about their chosen charities, aiming to win a £3,000 grant for their work.

It was a very difficult decision for the judges after four excellent presentations, however the group representing Waverley Care showed great creativity and secured the grant for their charity. Well done to Tai, Oliwia, Khanyi and Remi for their winning presentation!



## 2050 Edinburgh City Vision

Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupils Harris and Ciera were invited by the Lord Provost to attend a Focus Group to discuss the formulation of the 2050 Edinburgh City Vision. They discussed their ideas for Edinburgh's future, helping to ensure the views of young people across the city are represented.

Advanced Higher Modern Studies pupil T-Jay spent three days shadowing an MSP in the Scottish Parliament, which included attending committees, meeting leaders and learning about all aspects of parliamentary work.



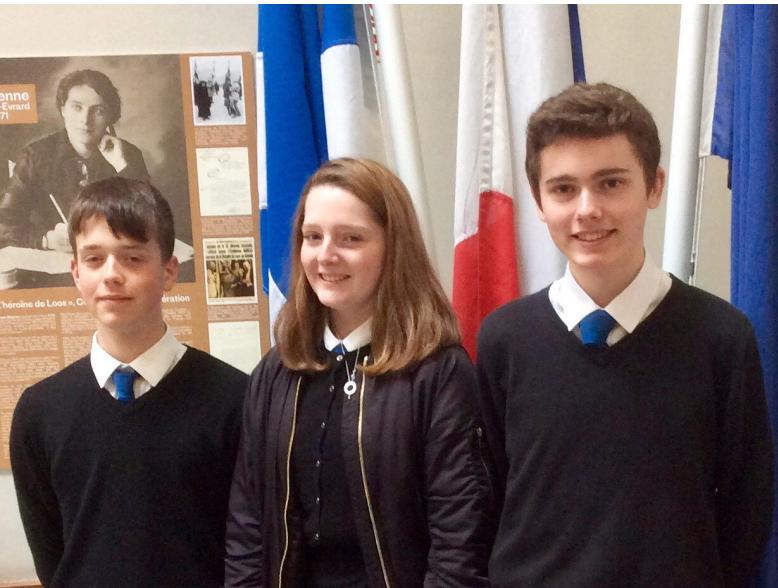
**The Scottish Parliament**



Parent Council Facebook page— St Augustine's RC Parent Council, Edinburgh. To get updates from the Parent Council we invite you to like the page.

**French Institute visit—** On June 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 some of our Advanced Higher French students visited the French Institute which is located in a historic building in the old town. They got a tour of the impressive library and attended a screening of “Le collier rouge”.

The movie is based on the 2014 Jean-Christophe Rufin novel which is set during WW1. Although it clearly shows the horrors of war it also deals with themes of love, friendship and a dog's faithfulness to his master. The students really enjoyed it and thought “it was a nice twist on the war genre film” and “it was very emotional and thought-provoking.”



### **Senior Boys Football team Success**

2018-19 proved to be a successful season for the St Augustine's RC boys senior football team. The team who played in the Lothian league and League cup on Friday afternoons got off to a shaky start at the beginning of the season, however once they started to work effectively together and play to their full potential they soon began to convert the draws into wins.

The team then went undefeated in the league from January to May and this culminated in them being crowned Lothian league plate winners and also narrowly losing in the semi-final of the Lothian Cup.

The team which consisted of S6/5/4 players represented the school impeccably at all times and will be a hard act to follow next season!



## ParentPay - our online payment service

The online payment system is now up and running in all schools in Edinburgh. We can accept payments online for items such as dinner money, school trips and school ties. Using the secure website ParentPay you can pay online using your credit or debit card. ParentPay is our preferred method of receiving payments to school. Currently 41% of our pupils parent/guardians have activated their ParentPay accounts and are using the system. If you require an activation code or any further assistance please contact the school office.

### What are the benefits to parents and pupils?

- ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7
- The technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely – offering you peace of mind
- Payments can be made by credit/debit card or also through PayPoint
- Full payment histories and statements are available to you securely online at anytime
- Your children will not have to worry about losing money at school
- Parents can choose to be alerted when their balances are low via email and/or SMS text

For more information go to: [www.parentpay.com/Parents](http://www.parentpay.com/Parents)

### Exam results help—from Tuesday 06 August 2019

Skills Development Scotland will be offering a range of support for learners receiving exam results on 7 August, who need help with what to do next. Find out more at Scotland's online careers service, My World of Work [myworldofwork.co.uk/examresults](http://myworldofwork.co.uk/examresults)

Whether your #examresults are better than expected or not, help is available from @skillsdevscot. Call the Exam Results Helpline on 0808 100 8000 or head to @myworldofwork <https://bit.ly/2bcSY0l>



## HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising a free donation for St Augustine's? There are nearly 3000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to St Augustine's to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple and doesn't cost you anything.

### All you have to do is:

- Go to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)
- Search for St Augustine's RC High School, Edinburgh as the cause you are supporting
- Sign up for free
- Get shopping – your donations will be collected by easy fundraising and automatically sent to St Augustine's. It couldn't be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges and St Augustine's will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

St Augustine's Parent Council

## School Uniform Policy

Parents are asked to co-operate with the school in encouraging the wearing of the school uniform. Wearing school uniform contributes to a positive school ethos and helps avoid discrimination and reduces peer pressure to wear expensive designer clothing.

- **Black tailored trousers or skirts of a suitable length**
- **White school shirt**
- **School Tie**
- **Sensible black school shoes**
- **Blue School Blazer with school badge (for years S5 & S6)**

A plain black v-neck cardigan or v-neck jumper will be acceptable over a white school shirt and school tie

Ties can be purchased from the School Office

**Jeans, joggers, leggings, jeggings, tracksuit bottoms, trainers and designer tops, caps and boots  
are not appropriate school wear  
(including ankle boots)**

## Free Schools Meal & Clothing Grant—FAQs

A parent/guardian will qualify for FSM and CG if they meet any of the following conditions;

- Income support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC), **but not** Working Tax Credit, and your income is less than £16,105
- Both maximum Child Tax Credit and maximum Working Tax Credit and your income is under £6,420
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit where take home pay is less than £610 per month

**What is the Clothing Grant Rate?** - £100.00 for primary and secondary children

**How will clothing grants be paid?** – The payment will be paid direct into your nominated bank account. The payment will show in the bank statement as 'CEC-EXPEN1'.

**Where can I apply for FSM/CG?** Instructions are on website; [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants)

**Will the school be told that a child has been awarded a free school meal?** Yes, the school system (SEEMiS) will be updated to show that your child has been assessed as eligible for a free school meal.

**Will I get my FSM / CG automatically renewed?** All of the following conditions must be met for automatic renewal;

- You were awarded a Clothing Grant / Free School Meal for the 17/18 school year by City of Edinburgh Council, **and**;
- You are in receipt of Housing Benefit and /or Council Tax Reduction, **and**;
- You are in receipt any of the following;
  - Income Support
  - Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based)
  - Any income related element of Employment Support Allowance

We would encourage you all to apply if you are entitled to do so. Money for free meals is put automatically on to pupils Young Scot cards. The cards can be used to purchase food at lunchtime and a variety of hot and cold food is available. If your child does not have a Young Scot card, or has lost their card, the school office can issue a pin number and give details of how to get a new card. If you think you are entitled please do apply! Help with the form is available through your child's pupil support teacher.

## School Calendar 2019 –2020

Date	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Aug 12	Inset Staff only	Inset Staff only	Pupils resume	Holiday of Obligation Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary	
19			School Photos		
26					
Sept 2			Primary Information Evening St Margaret's 6.30pm	Parent Council Meeting 6pm UCAS Parents' Evening 7pm	
Sept 9	Primary Information Evening St Joseph's 6.30pm	Primary Information Evening St David's 6.30pm	Primary Information Evening St Cuthbert's 6.30pm	Senior Awards Ceremony 2.15pm Primary Information Evening St Andrew's 6.30pm	
Sept 16	Holiday	All resume UCAS Higher Convention 9.30-11.30am	S4 Report 1 - Home		
Sept 23			S4 Mock Interviews	Community Mass 7pm	
Sept 30	Work Experience	Open Evening	S2 Report 1 - Home		
Oct 7				Parent Council Meeting 6pm	Feast Day Mass 11am
Oct 14 - 18	Holiday				
Oct 21	Inset Staff only	Inset Staff only	Pupils resume S5/6 Report 1 - Home		
28				S5/6 Parents' Evening	Holiday of Obligation – Solemnity of All Saints
Nov 4					
11	S3 Report 1 - Home			Skills Scotland Event 9.30-11.30am Mass of Remembrance Oratory 7pm	
18				S3 Parents' Evening	
25					
Dec 2	S4-S6 PRELIMS BEGIN S1 Report 1 - Home	PRELIMS	PRELIMS	PRELIMS	PRELIMS
9	PRELIMS	PRELIMS	PRELIMS	PRELIMS	S4-S6 PRELIMS END
16			Christmas Celebration 7pm		End of term Service Non-uniform

## School Calendar 2019 –2020

Date	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dec 23- Jan 3	<b>Holiday</b>				
Jan 6	<b>Holiday</b>	<b>Inset Staff only</b>	<b>Inset Staff only</b>	<b>Pupils resume</b> <b>S1 Parents' Evening</b>	
13	College Applications Live			Parent Council Meeting 6pm <b>S2 Parents' Information Evening 7pm</b>	
20				<b>S2 Parents' Evening</b>	
27				Senior Phase Information Evening 7pm	
Feb 3	Dip, Tet, Polio, Men ACWY Immunisations		<b>S4 Report 2 - Home</b> Transition Mass	<b>S4 Parents' Evening</b>	
Feb 10 - 14	<b>Holiday</b>				
17	All resume				
24			Ash Wednesday	S1 STEM Event Edinburgh College	
Mar 2				Immunisations	
9			<b>S5/6 Report 2 - Home</b>	S1 STEM Event Edinburgh College <b>Parent Council Meeting 6pm</b>	
16					
23				S1 STEM Event Edinburgh College	
30			<b>S1 Retreat</b>	<b>S1 Retreat</b>	End of term Service Non-uniform
Apr 6 - 17	<b>Holiday</b>				
20	<b>Holiday</b>	All resume		Higher PE Exam	SCP College Deadline
27	SQA Exams Study Leave begins				
May 4	<b>Inset Staff only</b>	Pupils resume			<b>Holiday</b>
11			<b>S2 Report 2 - Home</b>		
18	<b>Holiday</b>	All resume		Holiday of Obligation – Ascension of the Lord	
25				<b>Junior Awards Ceremony 7pm</b>	Study Leave ends Leavers Ceremony 1.15pm

## School Calendar 2019 –2020

Date	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
June 1	NEW Timetable begins	S6 Induction all day		Parent Council Meeting 6pm	S5 Reflection
	S3 Report 2 - Home				S6 Prom
8			S1 Report 2 - Home		
15		P7 Induction	P7 Induction Parents' Evening 7pm	P7 Induction (Sports Day)	
22	Activities Week				End of term Service Non-uniform