

# S<sup>+</sup> Augustine's RC High School



DECEMBER 2020 - NEWSLETTER



## NEWS FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parent/Guardian

As well as the last newsletter for the year, this is my last newsletter as Head Teacher in St Augustine's. I would like to thank everyone in our school community for your hard work this term as our newsletter demonstrates. The work of our pupils, families and staff has ensured that we have been able to keep ourselves safe as far as possible which has been our main priority.

St Augustine's is a school that you should all be proud of because the school is only representative of all of the work of our pupils, staff and families do every day. I certainly leave St Augustine's with very special memories and I would like to thank you all for allowing me the privilege of being your Head Teacher.

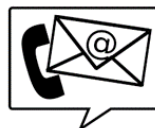
Our thanks to Ms Ritchie Pupil Support Assistant who is moving on to a new adventure, we wish her all the best.

I wish everyone at St Augustine's a happy and Holy Christmas and a successful New Year.

Michael McGee  
Head Teacher



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



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 30 Nov — Fri 11 Dec  
Formal Assessments

Tuesday 22 Dec  
Non-uniform  
End of Term Service

Wed 23 Dec—Mon 4 Jan  
HOLIDAY

Tuesday 5 Jan  
In-Service—Staff only

Wednesday 6 Jan  
Pupils resume

Mon 8—Mon 15 Feb  
HOLIDAY

Tuesday 16 Feb  
All resume

Fri 2—Mon 19 April  
HOLIDAY

Tuesday 20 April  
All resume

Monday 3 May  
HOLIDAY

Tuesday 4 May  
In-Service—Staff Only

Wednesday 5 May  
Pupils resume

Monday 24 May  
HOLIDAY

Tuesday 25 May  
All resume

Mon 28 Jun — Fri 13 Aug  
HOLIDAY

Mon 15—Tues 16 Aug  
In-Service—Staff only

Wed 18 Aug  
Pupils resume



# Wishing you Peace and Happiness



St Augustine's RC High School

Christmas Charity Card

December 2020





## News from the RE Department

### *Nativity*

While current restrictions mean that our usual Christmas services are not possible, S6 pupils who are undertaking the Caritas Award have made sure that we can still celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Their performance of the Nativity, which has been filmed and will be shown to pupils on the last day of term, brings a 2020 twist to the traditional story of Jesus' birth. We are very grateful to our Caritas pupils who made this celebration possible!



Keep an eye out for a link which will be sent by text before the end of term.

We hope you enjoy it, too!

### *Fresh Start*



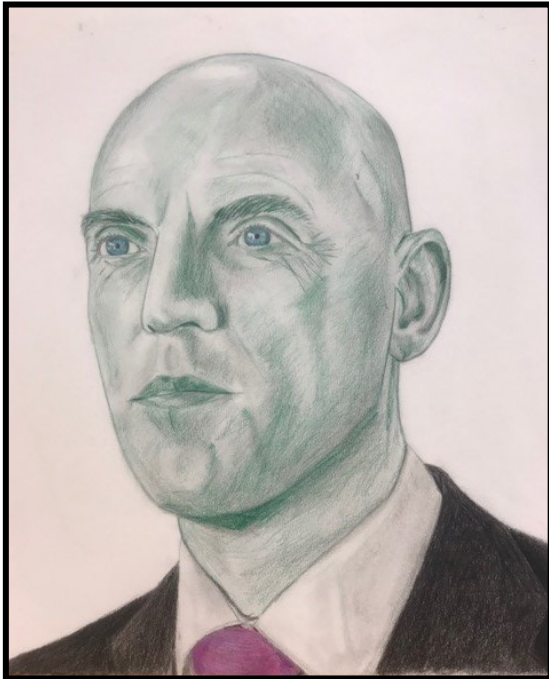
An appeal for donations to Fresh Start saw an incredible response from across the school community here at St Augustine's! The collection, coordinated by S6 pupils participating in the Caritas Award, resulted in two car-loads of food being delivered to the charity last month.

The efforts of our Caritas pupils, and everyone who brought their donations into school, has certainly made a massive difference and a significant number of families will benefit from this amazing act of generosity.



## SLT Portraits

An idea sprung one evening, to showcase the talents of my Higher pupils to a wider audience, tasked with this challenge, skill, confidence, and maturity overflowed from the artists. The outcomes are superb.



*Tina Yu .. artist of Mr McGee / Maja Terlecka ..artist of Mrs Chrystal*



*Oliwia Predotka ..artist of Mrs Baird / Jude Malone ..artist of Mr Carter*

Each portrait captures the likeness and personality of each of our SLT, captures a moment, (Photographs were taken by S5 pupil Allen Gryzbeck.

In each portrait the artists injected a personal element, (spot the stilettos on Mrs C famous hoops) and yes Mr McGee is green, a super hero, ah yes & his love of Celtic of course. Medias are varied, pencil, watercolour and acrylics. Mr Carter has a very healthy glow, based on an Artist he likes, Hockney. Mrs Baird has her signature look , thoughtful & caring , captured beautifully with a strength in a raw painting technique showing the detail.

The portraits were presented to the SLT and are now displayed in the school foyer. An extremely talented group of young adults .... I am very proud of their achievement.

Watch this space we have one more portrait to be revealed in a later school newsletter.

Mrs C ☺





***Tina Yu .. artist of Mr McGee***

***Oliwia Predotka ..artist of Mrs Baird***

***Maja Terlecka ..artist of Mrs Chrystal***

***Jude Malone ..artist of Mr Carter***

## Free Schools Meal & Help with School Uniform

Some funding allocated to schools is based on pupils receiving Free School Meal entitlement. This allows us to provide extra support to our pupils. We do think a number of families who should be receiving this benefit are not currently claiming this support. This means they do not receive the help with meals but also means we do not receive all the additional funding we could.

**We would encourage you all to apply if you are entitled to do so (see below). 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.**

Assistance is also provided to children from low income families in the form of clothing vouchers which go towards buying school uniform. You can claim for free school meals and assistance with school wear for your children if you are receiving:

- Income Support (IS)
- 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

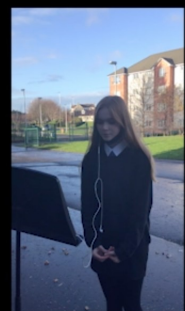
If you are between 16 and 18 years old and receive any of these benefits in your own right, you can claim free school lunches for yourself. If you match these conditions and do not receive any element of Working Tax Credit you can also claim school wear vouchers. The form for applying can be collected from the school office and you can send the completed form and supporting evidence by post (address on the form) or by email to: [school.grants@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:school.grants@edinburgh.gov.uk)



## Christmas Celebration

The St Augustine's Christmas celebration took place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. It featured performances from S1 to S6 and although a little smaller this year and online we hope it still brought families some well needed Festive cheer. To view please follow the private YouTube link to watch the concert. We hope you enjoy the staff and pupils contributions as much as we enjoyed creating them.....

<https://youtu.be/OOXW1MLP3fE>







## Performing Arts Celebrating Success

The Performing Arts Faculty are now awarding pupils from all year groups monthly Performing Arts + certificates which recognise achievement in Drama and/or Music. Pupils names will be displayed on the Performing arts corridor as well as their photo being placed on the faculties twitter page. This has proven popular with students and is having a positive affect on the work of our young people across the faculty.



Follow St Augustine's HS on

twitter



@stahsnews

UNCRC (Article 13)





## Employability and Learning - Rural and Urban Training Scheme (RUTS)

We were happy to receive an outreach programme from RUTS. Eight of our pupils undertook a short course in Motorbike Mechanics. This comprised of servicing a full bike and developing knowledge of road Laws. All our young people gained three extra qualifications and celebrated with a day of Motorbiking at RUTS in Midlothian.

Mr K Milne



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.





## **Duke of Edinburgh**

### **Skills for Work and Life**

The Duke of Edinburgh award allows our pupils to develop a multitude of skills for work and life.

But recently it has also enhanced the skills of our staff. Some staff members took part in canoe training (CPLP) on the canal. The skills our staff have picked up during this training can then be transferred to our young people.

### **So, what is the Duke of Edinburgh Award?**

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a voluntary, non-competitive and flexible programme of cultural and adventurous activities for all young people aged between 14 and 25 years old, whatever their background or ability.

Through a DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university and job applications.

More specifically our young people are developing in the following areas as they work through their DofE programme:

- Self-belief and self-confidence***
- A sense of identity***
- Initiative and a sense of responsibility***
- A real awareness of their strengths***
- New talents and abilities***
- The ability to plan and use time effectively***
- Learning from and giving to others in the community***
- Forming new friendships***
- Problem solving, presentation and communication skills***
- Leadership and teamworking skills.***

Thank you to Clare Ellis, Home Economics, for the above contribution to our newsletter.







## Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

Twenty-four of our young people gained their Expedition module this term. This was despite Covid -19 restrictions limiting our overnight stay. However, our young people persevered a 18 km circular route that developed their teamwork and navigation skills, that took in the local area and Water of Leith. Some of our young people were inspired and have enrolled in the Silver Award.

Mr K Milne







## Gold Duke of Edinburgh- Canoeing

This year sees our young people undertaking the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. We have a strong group of eight participants who have started planning for their Canoe expedition. Traditionally the school has offered walking as a mode of transportation. However, we have opted to offer Canoeing in Partnership with Forth Canoe Club at Silver and Gold level. The young people will embark on a Paddle sports Qualification to develop their skills before expedition. They have started their qualification despite the cold weather. We look forward to seeing them on the water!

Mr K Milne





# Employability Express

December Edition

St Augustine's RC High School



## Career Ready Update

Our Career Ready pupils were unable to complete their 6 weeks paid internship over the summer holidays, but this has not stopped them in achieving great things during their virtual workplace experiences. Our pupils and mentors are:

Louise McCartney @ **Blackrock** with Sadiya Ali (Sadiya has left school but has still be able to continue with the 2-year programme)

Katrina Stoddart @ **Business Stream** with Nikita Panwar

Sophia Goring @ **Business Stream** with Victoria Rumenova

Phil Young @ **Sopra Steria** with Bishal Roy

Sarah Nodwell @ **Scottish Water** with Francisca Nwachukwu

Jen Swan @ **The Scottish Government** with Adama Krubally

Although it has been a difficult year for getting our pupils into the workplace Career Ready have been able to offer our pupils several virtual experiences that they have all benefited from.

Our Year 2 cohort have so far completed the following masterclasses held here at St Augustine's via TEAMS:

Preparing for work

Career Pathways

We also had a number of our Year 2 mentees take part in virtual work experience. The feedback from this experience was very positive with most pupils having developed or improved several skills for work.

We would also like to congratulate our Year 2 mentee Viki Rumenova who, along with her mentor, has been invited to share good practice at the mentor briefing meeting in December about their experience on the Career Ready programme.

## Congratulations to our new Year One Cohort!

Well done and welcome to our new Career Ready cohort. We had a lot of interest in the programme this year. The pupils had to write a statement to apply and the submissions were very impressive. From these submissions we managed to select the 6 successful candidates:

**Tai Alli**

**Siploma Diya**

**Victor Manhando**

**Jack Buckley**

**Shannon Stewart**

**Peace Oriabure**



preparing young  
people for the  
world of work

We look forward to hearing about your progress in the Career Ready programme. Good luck!





## Employability Express

St Augustine's RC High School

### S3 Money Sense programme

On Thursday 12 December 2020, S3 Business Management took part in the Career Sense Programme. This programme encouraged our students to unlock their potential and discover more about critical skills needed in the financial sector. Virtual ambassadors supported an hour long programme, students tried to complete five fast passed challenges to crack a code to discover more about job opportunities and skills needed. Students engaged in real life experiences which challenged their perceptions and raised their awareness of the skills needed for careers across the financial sector. Students found this a worthwhile experience and are now more able to link current learning to future opportunities.



### New Students, Staff and Parents/Carers

#### Career Education Resources – at your finger tips!

We are delighted to have so many resources for career planning available to use through many different platforms. Here are just some of the resources and materials available to you to assist you with **your** career education or in helping our pupils develop their knowledge on the which career path is best for them!

#### Edinburgh Guarantee

The aspiration of the [Edinburgh Guarantee](#) is that the public, private, voluntary and education sectors will work in partnership to ensure that every young person in Edinburgh will leave school with the choice of a job, Modern Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship, training programme or further education place available to them.

#### Developing the Young Workforce

To help young people become informed, inspired and ultimately hired! [DYW](#)

#### My World of Work

The web service [My World of Work](#) provides trustworthy, expert information and advice – free to access at any time, for people at any stage in their career.

The site is designed to support people of all ages and stages, with activities and tools to help you identify the opportunities open to you.





# Teams Video Meetings



Schools in Edinburgh are using Microsoft Teams to keep in touch with students who are isolating or unable to attend school. In addition, in the event of school closure, we expect to use Teams to deliver “blended learning” just like we did during lockdown last session. Previously some teachers were delivering lessons using online video meetings. However the system was set up so that pupils could see and hear a teacher, but the teacher could only hear but not see the pupil. In future pupils will be able to switch on their camera so that the teacher can both hear and see them. We hope that this two way communication will improve the quality of blended learning. It is not our intention to stream whole class lessons as this is impractical. The intention is to provide extra support to individuals or small groups if necessary. It can also be used for assessment purposes if pupils are unable to attend school.

There is no pressure on pupils or staff to use this facility. If someone does not want to switch on their camera then they do not have to. This is an added extra that we hope will enhance the existing ability where possible.

More information and guidance can be found in the Responsible Use Policy and Quick Start Guide that can be downloaded from this webpage on the school website.....

<https://wp.me/P8xfMR-JZ>

## 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, helps avoid discrimination and reduces peer pressure to wear expensive designer clothing. Our uniform comprises:-

- **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 is acceptable over a white school shirt and school tie

Ties can be purchased from the school via ParentPay

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