



Head Teacher's Update 26th February 2021

Please find a packed update on several aspects of St. Augustine's. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or issues. We are here to help.

Equalities Agenda

You will be aware that an investigation was undertaken by The City of Edinburgh Council into racist incidents across the authority. The draft report will be discussed at the Education, Children and Families Committee and can be found [here](#).

There has been some local press coverage on this, and I wanted to assure the community that we are committed to undertake the action steps given in this report.

We will seek to engage members from across the community: learners, parents/carers, partners, and staff as we collaborate on how to ensure every individual feels safe, supported and proud to be part of St. Augustine's.

In school, we have formed an Equalities Committee (thank you to those learners who have already volunteered) and welcome any other student who is interested. This group will work to implement and embed council policies relating to equalities as well as shape our improvement journey in this area.

At the next Parent Council meeting, I will give an update on all the work St. Augustine's is currently undertaking in relation to equalities and speak to the report in more detail. Please note the following has already been undertaken this session and will continue to develop at pace:

- Student Representative Council worked with staff on the revised Equalities and Anti-Bullying Policy, published in Dec 2020 and can be found [here](#) on our website.
- Pupil Equalities Committee/ Equalities Ambassadors group set up.
- Staff training:
 - All staff have completed the authority Equalities Training Modules
 - All staff have attended a session on 'Racial Literacy' led by Edinburgh Caribbean Association in January 21
 - Member of Senior Leadership Team has attended training for:
 - "De-colonising the curriculum"

- “Towards an anti-racist classroom”
- “So, you want to make a difference”
- We gained the Rights Respecting School Bronze Award and are now working towards the Silver Award.
- Collaborative work with Intercultural Youth Scotland (IYS). Please [click here](#) for their website.

The next Parent Council Meeting is online: **Thursday 4th March at 6pm**. If you wish to attend please contact Jill Jackson (Chair) through the Parent Council’s Facebook page, which can be found [here](#). If you need any support in attending, then please contact the school and we will help.

Seniors in for Practical Subjects next week

Please note that the timetable for seniors in practical subjects next week has changed based on feedback received. This has already been communicated with parents, **please check this**. We are in the process of liaising with the authority regarding transport and will pass on any information we receive.

Seniors in June

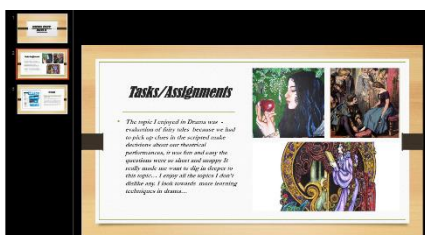
Due to the current disruption of the academic year, the exam awarding body – SQA, have extended the deadline for entering your child’s estimated grades. Please note we currently expect all seniors to be in school for the month of June. We cannot exactly state what this will look like but will give more details closer to the time. Our plan, at the moment, is to complete formal assessments in subject areas by **Friday 11th June**. We will then undertake quality assurance activities before entering the estimated grades.

Examples of S1 Work in Performing Arts

A message from Mrs Reith:



“We have set our S1-3 pupils a learning review task this week and I just wanted to share with you a couple of examples of excellent work the pupils have done. These are all S1 pupils – Anjola, Moira and Maryangel.”



Well done! The creativity and passion of our young people is always impressive.

Learners' Wellbeing



Mrs Macdonald, our Health and Wellbeing Development Officer, has set up a daily “check-in” for all learners! Every morning from 0845 – 0915.

There will be something posted for learners every day to encourage them to engage with work and support their wellbeing. For example, today we have a short video of Andy from Dalry Karate Club being our Karate Champion with a demonstration and workout for them to try!

Please access the “**STA Auggies Wellbeing 2020**” team which has all these activities and resources to support learners across a variety of different themes. In addition, you can follow **@StahsWellbeing** on Twitter.

If you have any concerns/issues or would like to talk to someone about your wellbeing, please contact Mrs. Macdonald:

Julie.Macdonald@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk

Senior Phase Course Choice Interviews

A message from Pupil Support Leaders:

“We will be involved in interviewing S4 and S5 over Teams, one to one, for all pupils in our house. Parents/carers will also be invited to take part in the discussion. Interviews will be arranged over Teams in 15 min slots for all, and we are avoiding times when pupils may be in practical classes.

S4 Course Choice Starts Monday 1st March 2021

S5 Course Choice starts Monday 15th March 2021

We aim to have all interviews completed by Friday 26th March 2021.”

We encourage you to participate fully in these discussions as you plan your pathway through St. Augustine’s and onto your next steps.

Junior Phase Communication

Thank you to all the parents/carers of S1-S3 learners who participated in the short survey to inform us of your preferred communication style. There were 78 entries with “written reports” receiving 53 votes and “parent consultation event (a telephone conversation)” receiving 28 votes. We took this feedback into account when finalising our calendar.

S4 Parent Consultation

We completed our first parent consultation of the year last Thursday! Initial feedback seems positive and we will undertake a review to gather your thoughts.

Dates for your diary

Please find below key dates from this week until the last day of the Summer term. We will keep to these dates and may add to the calendar depending on what the Scottish Government dictates in response to the pandemic. For example, we know two more inset days are planned for staff, we just don't know when.

Parent Council Meeting	Thurs 4 th March 6pm on "Teams"
S5/6 Report	Mon 8 th March
S5/6 Parent Consultation	Thurs 11 th March
S3 Reports to Parents/Carers	Tues 30 th March
Easter Holidays	2 nd – 19 th April (inclusive)
Bank Holiday	Mon 3 rd May
Inset day – Staff only	Tues 4 th May
S2 Report to Parents/Carers	Fri 14 th May
Bank Holiday	Mon 3 rd May
Parent Council Meeting	Thurs 3 rd June 6pm (tbc)
S1 Report to Parents/Carers	Fri 18 th June
End of Term	Fri 25 th June

S5/6 Parent Consultation

Please note that we will communicate a guide to S5/6 parents and the booking system will be available from **12 noon Tuesday 2nd – 10pm Tuesday 9th March**.

Senior Engagement Reports

The second set of senior engagement reports will be sent out today. Please note that these grades will be based on how your child has engaged over the last two weeks. We have taken into account that some seniors have been in the building to support the learning of practical subjects. If you have any specific queries about a subject, please contact the relevant Curricular Leader. If there are wider issues you wish to discuss, please contact your child's Pupil Support Leader.

Remote Learning

We continue to deliver remote learning for all our learners following the guidelines from the authority, which can be found [here](#). We encourage our young people to engage with the material as much as possible and seek support if they need it. Please find support in using "Teams" [here](#). Next week, Monday 1st March – Friday 5th March is **Week B**.

Scottish Apprenticeship Week

A message from **Mr Mohammed**, our School Co-ordinator for Developing the Young Workforce.

During Scottish Apprenticeship Week, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) will be running Apprenticeships Roadshow 2021, a series of four live webinars over **1st-4th March 2021**.

The webinars are targeted at parents, carers and young people and will be profiling the Apprenticeship Family and three sectors where we know there is an interest from pupils and where (post-COVID) it is anticipated the sector will recover and be offering apprenticeships and opportunities.

Each webinar will be broadcast live on our YouTube channel, we will then launch the recording of the sessions for those that cannot attend live. We ask that parents, carers and young people register in advance of the live sessions so DYW can send you the link to the webinar.

Click on the title of the event title below to register your space.

[What Is An Apprenticeship?](#) - 1st March 2021 (6:30pm-7:20pm)

[Retail & Hospitality](#) - 2nd March 2021 (1pm-1:50pm)

[Sport & Leisure](#) - 3rd March 2021 (9:30am-10:20am)

[Construction](#) - 4th March 2021 (11:50am-12:40pm)

If you have any questions please email dyw@edinburghchamber.co.uk

A message from St. Margaret's Parent Council (one of our Cluster Primary Schools):

A moment of reflection –
(courtesy of the RE faculty)

“Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!”

Pope Francis, 26th April 2013 on Twitter

May God keep you and your loved ones healthy and safe.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO
ON A SATURDAY NIGHT?

St Margaret's Parent Council

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 27 March 8pm

Join us for a lockdown Quiz Night. It's free to join (although any donations are welcome) and The Little Parlour have donated a delicious prize of a tub of ice-cream and toppings delivered to the winner's door. To enter just email your team name to

events@stmargaretparentcouncil.co.uk

Scottish Charity Number : SC046403