



Head Teacher's Update 18th June 2021

Please find an update on several aspects of St. Augustine's RC High School.

Monday 21st June – Friday 25th June is Week B.

Please note we finish at 12pm on Friday 25th June for the Summer.

Provisional Grades Update

Please note that you **and** your child will receive provisional grades for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses in the evening of **Wednesday 23rd June**.

The Senior Leadership Team will host a "Provisional Grades Information Event" online on **Thursday 24th June 2021 at 1930**. We appreciate that there may be questions and queries after the provisional grades are shared. As a school we close for the Summer holidays on Friday 25th June and there will not be an opportunity to contact any teaching staff to discuss the provisional grades until 16th August 2021.

There will be a short presentation (10 mins) about the steps the school has undertaken to arrive at the provisional grades. Then there will be the opportunity to ask questions.

The link for the "Provisional Grades Information Event" on **Thursday 24th June 2021 at 1930** is: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Please remember that this is only for parents of learners who are taking National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher courses. If you need support in accessing the online event, please contact the school.

Junior (S1-S3) Awards Ceremony

We realise how resilient the Junior Phase learners have been in coping with this pandemic. Miss Cox has worked hard to produce a virtual awards ceremony where staff have recognised one learner from each class for outstanding attainment and one learner from each class for outstanding effort. There are also awards for wider achievement; when a learner has engaged well with an activity outside of the classroom.

On Monday 21st June we will extend tutor time by 18 mins. Tutor classes for **all learners** will be from 10 18 till 10 50. Then break will be 10 50 till 11 05 and then normal timings for the rest of the day.

The awards ceremony will be available (after Monday) through your child's team channel for their year group.

Merit Competition

Staff award merits to learners who have show "above and beyond" actions. The winner has an additional £5 added to their school account and the runner up has a "priority pass" to skip the queue for lunch.

Congratulations to **Wiktorija Brandeburg 1M2** who was awarded the most merits. Well done to Tendai Nyabadza 4D1 who was runner up and receives the priority pass!

All those awarded merits should be proud. A new week means a new start. Keep up the great work everyone!

Equalities Update – A message from Mrs Evans (Equalities Co-ordinator)

I thought it would be useful for the school community to have an update on what's been happening behind the scenes in Equalities over the last few months! It has been a very busy time and the Equalities Committee members are extremely happy with what we have achieved and are excited for the next phase in August.

We have created an STA-Equalities address:
sta-equalities@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk.

This means that pupils, staff and parents can email the equalities group directly with any ideas, complaints or issues. It gives everyone a recognisable contact point and should hopefully open up channels of communication.

Staff and pupils in the Equalities group created a video that was shared during tutor time. The video outlined our plans for the school, set out what we are currently doing and asked the community to let us know what we could do to improve.

Mr O'Doherty sent out a survey to all staff after the publication of the council report. The responses and comments will be fed into a plan for Equalities work and training for staff in school.

The Equalities group met to discuss what the school priorities were for our work. We used the council report to establish 3 key areas: policies/procedures, ethos/culture and curriculum. We then met with staff and pupil representatives to ensure that we all agreed with these priorities and discussed the ideas we had for taking this forward. We have now created our phase 1 plan which will be shared with all staff and parents at a launch in August.



We are excited to announce that we have adopted The Halo Code, the UK's first Black hair code. We are only the second school in the whole of Scotland to have joined the programme! No Black staff or students should have to change their natural or protective hairstyle in order to thrive at our school. We hope that the Halo Code will move us one step closer to a world free from discrimination, where all

Black members of our community have their identities fully recognised and celebrated. The next step for the school will be to speak to our young people about how the code can be integrated into our uniform policy. More information to follow!

Mrs Reith helped us to organise and chaired a meeting with Deborah Kayembe, Rector of Edinburgh University, Human Rights Lawyer and Activist. We were extremely privileged to have this opportunity to talk to her about our anti-racist work. The amazing news is that she is keen to work with our community and support us in our equalities journey. Restrictions permitted she will be coming into school in the new term – more information to follow!

We have been working with a number of outside agencies to improve the opportunities for the young people in school. From August we will be running a lunchtime True Colours group for students. Intercultural Youth Scotland will also be working with us on supporting staff/pupils, running an anti-racist class for seniors, an ambassadors programme and a lunchtime club. We have also had the Heart Stones Pilot running in our cluster primary schools. P7s have been working on this and will continue to do so as part of transition in English time.

More information by following the links below:

[Halo- School \(halocollective.co.uk\)](https://halocollective.co.uk)

[DRC: Meet Debora Kayembe, new rector at University of Edinburgh \(theafricareport.com\)](https://theafricareport.com)

[Intercultural Youth Scotland - ABOUT US](#)

[True Colours – ELREC](#)

[Heartstone](#)

7 days of Summer Performances

Message from Miss Maxwell

Obviously at the moment, we're unable to have a summer concert so instead, I've decided to do a wee musical countdown over the next week to celebrate some of the great work in the dept this year. I will be posting a performance or

two on our faculty twitter (@stahs_pa) and my own teacher twitter (@miss_maxwell_) each day.

All the performances can be found on the St. Augustine's YouTube channel, which can be found here: [St. Augustine's High School Edinburgh - YouTube](#)

There will be a good mix of instruments and pop/classical stuff. Please see the first two days and look out for more!

The first day and to kick us off we have **Alecia Clarke** in S5 performing 'Someday' on the cello: <https://youtu.be/c-mPXyHqOA4>

The second day's performances are on guitar and are by **Shawna Auguste and Jenni Montgomery** in S3. Shawna is playing a piece called 'Tourdion' and Jenni, 'Love is a losing game'. Here are the links:

Shawna - <https://youtu.be/aIScO5IVydA>

Jenni - <https://youtu.be/Sk66Q89Y0xM>

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI)– S3

Congratulations to **TK Adebayo, Tifney Aheimbisibwe, Grace McWalter and Bryan Ruiz-Mendoza** in David House, who were successful in securing a £3000 grant for their chosen charity.

The Welcoming support migrants and asylum seekers in Edinburgh and will use the grant to provide travel expenses for asylum seekers attending interviews with the Home Office.

Please note this quote from one of our judges:

"Congratulations to all the participants, who spoke with passion and maturity about some very difficult topics, making the judges' work a real challenge. Inspiring!"

Please follow [this link](#) for more information about YPI.

International Research – Parents of S1, S2 and S3 we need your help!!!
(repeat notice)

We have been selected to participate in an international academic research programme. St. Augustine's is one of three schools involved from Scotland with other schools from Sweden and Finland.

Please see the message sent by Mr Dagleish earlier this week:

“Providing high quality teaching and support for all of our pupils is a key priority at St Augustine’s. To this end, we have partnered with the University of Edinburgh to take part in an international research project entitled “Teaching that Matters for Migrant Students”. Through participation in this project we aim to ensure that we learn how to meet the needs of migrant students more effectively, which will also help us better meet the needs of all students.

Part of this project involves online surveys of students from all backgrounds and it would be beneficial if as many students in S1-3 as possible completed the survey. These surveys are short and we would complete these within school. A few pupils may then be asked to take part in an interview at a later date.

The University have asked us to gather consent for your child to participate in the survey and we would be very grateful if you could grant that consent by clicking on this link: [Link to Consent Form](#)

For more information about the project from the University please [click here](#). There are different translations available.

We thank you for your time with this. The more pupils who participate the more effective the research will be, allowing us to provide better support for our school community.”

The DARED (Do A Run Every Day) Challenge (repeat notice)

16 members of staff from St Augustine's RC High School are pounding the pavements, each completing either a mile or 5k every day for the whole month June. This is a gruelling challenge, both physically and mentally so to make the ordeal worthwhile, they are doing it to raise money and awareness for the charity Circle. <https://circle.scot/>

Circle's vision is for all children to be safe, happy and healthy within a stable family environment which supports them to achieve their potential. Circle are based in Edinburgh and work in some of the most deprived areas of Scotland who experience the negative effects of persistent poverty, social injustice and health inequalities.

To help establish nurturing environments for children in these communities Circle works with the whole family to address the various challenges and problems they are experiencing.

By supporting families to develop their parenting skills, improve their financial situation, address any issues with substance misuse and seek help with mental health issues Circle aims to give families, and the children in them, the best possible start to life that will empower them to reach their potential.

If you wish to sponsor the staff (please do not feel obligated to do so) you can find their fund-raising page here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stauggiesdared2021>

For Attention of EU citizens: (repeat notice)

EU Settlement Scheme

To stay in the UK, EU citizens, including children, who were living in the UK by 31 December 2020 and who do not have indefinite leave to remain must apply to the UK Government's EU Settlement Scheme. The deadline for applications is fast approaching, with the scheme closing on 30 June 2021. Non-EU family members can also apply. If they have an EU permanent residence card or an EU residence certificate, they will still need to apply. If they do not apply, they may lose their right to live, work and study in the UK.

A package of support is available for anyone who needs additional help. The Stay in Scotland toolkit includes information on the EU Settlement Scheme, details of the application process, and links to other resources. Full details can be found at www.mygov.scot/stayinscotland.

Citizens Advice Scotland operate a free national helpline as part of their EU Citizen Support Service. People can receive information, advice and support for applying to the EU Settlement Scheme by calling the freephone helpline on 0800 916 9847. The service has qualified advisers who will help them apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Citizens Advice Scotland have two solicitors who can help people with more complex immigration histories.

The legal charity, JustRight Scotland, have published a series of factsheets on EU citizens' rights. These factsheets detail their rights to vote and work, and to access healthcare, education, housing and benefits in Scotland. These factsheets can be found at www.justcitizens.scot/EU/

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing (repeat notice)

LFD testing was the subject of a live Q&A session between senior pupils and Scotland's National Clinical Director, Jason Leitch.

The Q&A session was recorded and the videos, which cover a range of questions relating to LFD testing, can be accessed here:

<http://e-sgoil.com/lateral-flow-device-testing/>

Please can you encourage your child to engage in LFD testing twice a week and to record the results. The more of the community that participate, the more

protected we are. If you have questions or need support, please contact us.
Thank you

Session date change Christmas holidays 2021 (Notice from the Authority)
(repeat notice)

At its March meeting, the Education, Children and Families Committee agreed to change the scheduled Christmas holiday dates from **Friday 24 December 2021 - Monday 10 January 2022** to **Monday 20 December 2021 - Tuesday 4 January 2022.**

The change was based on a similar amendment to the previous year's holiday dates. The reasons for the change are set out in this committee report:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s31995/7.10%20School%20Session%20Dates%20Amendment%202021-22.pdf>

The report did not include consideration of the in-service day after the holidays. This will be Wednesday 5 January 2022. To ensure that pupils are in school for the required 190 days, the summer term will be amended to finish on **Friday 1 July 2022** instead of **Thursday 30 June.**

The agreed changes are now on the Council website, along with dates for dates for 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Standards at St. Augustine's (repeat notice)

I would like to congratulate all the learners that attend class, on time, in uniform, try their best and focus on their learning. You are giving yourself every chance of success and to fulfil your potential! Well done!

Our message is clear that we expect uniform to be worn and outdoor clothing to be removed in class while the weather is warm. We do not expect you to buy any new uniform for the final week of term. When you are preparing the new term in August please remember to purchase clothing that aligns with the school uniform policy, especially all black shoes.

We know that some families can struggle financially, and the pandemic has exacerbated this. There is a clothing grant you can apply for to support in the buying of school uniform. If eligible, £100 will be given directly to you. Please find the online application form here:

[Apply for free school meals, milk and clothing grant – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

If you need support, please contact the Claire Gibson (Pupil Support Officer):
Claire.Gibson@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk

The school uniform is:

School tie <u>must</u> be worn	✓	
A white school shirt <u>must</u> be worn	✓	
A black v neck jumper or black v neck cardigan	✓	Not acceptable: Hoodies/round neck jumpers/cardigans Fashion logos eg Hollister, Jack Wills etc
Smart black trousers	✓	Not acceptable: Jeans, joggers, leggings, jeggings, combats
Black skirt of an <u>appropriate length</u>	✓	Not acceptable: Short/tube skirts unsuitable for active learning in classrooms
Black leggings can <u>only</u> be worn with a skirt	✓	Not acceptable: Leggings on their own
Outdoor coats/jackets must be removed in the school building	✓	
Blue school blazer with school badge (for years S5 & S6)	✓	
Plain black shoes <u>must</u> be worn. Plimsolls, trainers or leather shoes can be worn if fully black	✓	NOT ACCEPTABLE: Coloured trainers/plimsolls Black shoes with white rims/logos/stripes
		

We are aware that this uniform code needs updating, and we will consult with parents/carers and learners in September. We appreciate your support in this.

A moment of reflection -

As we approach the final week before Summer, I am proud to be part of this community. We have “endured much” and achieved great things!

Have a good week and stay safe!

