



Head Teacher's Update 5th November 2021

Please find an update on different aspects of school life below. There are a few repeat notices, as always there are identified and placed at the end of the update. If there are any questions or support we can provide, please let us know.

Here is a content list with links to the relevant paragraphs:

1. [Formal Assessments 29th November – 12th December](#)
2. [S1 Lunchtime](#)
3. [S5/6 Parent/Carer Consultation](#)
4. [Vaccination Bus](#)
5. [Career Ready Update \(message from Ms Kelly\)](#)
6. [Young Carers Week](#)
7. [Health & Safety Reminders](#)
8. [Equalities Update \(message from Mrs Balfour\)](#)
9. [Parent/Carer support for children who are anxious about school \(repeat notice\)](#)
10. [Queen's Platinum Jubilee \(repeat notice\)](#)
11. [Extra-Curricular Activities \(repeat notice\)](#)
12. [Music Extracurricular Clubs 2021-22 \(repeat notice\)](#)

[A moment of reflection](#)

1. [Formal Assessments 29th November – 12th December](#)

[Back to top](#)

As our formal assessments approach, we encourage all seniors to engage in revision. To support, staff have offered additional sessions. Please [click here](#) to see the full timetable available.

2. [S1 Lunchtime](#)

[Back to top](#)

Now that we have returned from the October holidays and our new S1 understand more about what it means to be part of the St. Augustine's community; they can leave the school grounds for lunch if you so wish.

As part of our community when they engage with our local public, they are ambassadors and will continue to show respect at all times.

3. [S5/6 Parent/Carer Consultation](#)

[Back to top](#)

Please note that the S5/6 Parent/Carer Consultation will be on **Tuesday 9th November 2021** between 4 and 7pm. This will be completed using telephone. Please make appointments before *Monday 8th November at 12 noon*.

4. Vaccination Bus

[Back to top](#)



5. Career Ready Update (message from Ms Kelly)

[Back to top](#)

Congratulations to the following students for successfully applying for the Career Ready Programme. They have already been matched with their mentors and will start in the next few weeks. We wish them well!

- Zainab Ali 5D1
- Tamanna Begum 5A1
- Fortune Egbule 5M2
- Julia Mitrosz 5A1
- Tawana Mubaiwa

6. Young Carers Week

[Back to top](#)

This week beginning 1st November was YOUNG CARERS Focus Week at St Augustine's RC HS. Young Carer staff from Broomhouse Young Carer groups were in our school and led classes in PSE throughout the week. Pupils had the opportunity to chat 1:1 with leaders if they so wished.

If any parents/carers want more information about Edinburgh Young Carers, please follow this link: www.youngcarers.org.uk/about/what-is-a-young-carer/

Please contact Mr McGough or your child's Pupil Support Leader for further information.

7. Health & Safety Reminders

[Back to top](#)

As we move towards the winter season, we continue to be vigilant with mitigations for Covid. Thank you for supporting us in reminding your child to:

- Wear a face covering
- Sanitise hands on entry and exit of building and every class
- Follow the one-way system

On another health and safety note, please remind your child that they should not walk through the car park on their way to school. There are specific pedestrian routes that must be used. Thank you.

8. Equalities Update (message from Mrs Balfour)

[Back to top](#)

We have had some amazing opportunities for thinking and learning about equality and anti-racism in school, so please accept my apologies that they're not the usual short 5-minute videos...

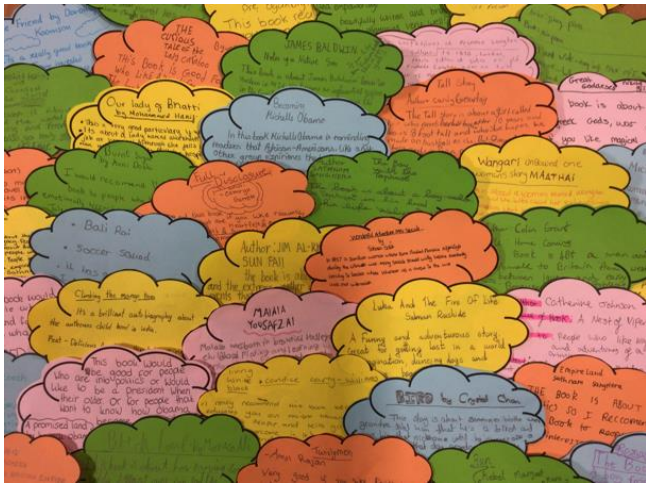
- Last week we were very lucky to be hosting Alex Wheatle ([Author | Alex Wheatle](#)), who spoke to learners. The learners were enthralled as he discussed a number of points from his life.

He is the author of a number of books including *Cane Warriors*, which is a young adult historical novel focussing on the events of 'Tacky's War', the 1760 campaign for freedom led by enslaved people in Jamaica ([Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatle](#)) There were free copies of the book donated to the school!

As well as a brilliant author, Alex Wheatle is also the subject of one of Steve McQueen's *Small Axe* series, depicting his horrifying experiences in the care system in the 1960s and 1970s, and participation in the Brixton uprising of 1981. If you haven't already seen it (or the rest of the series) it is available on iPlayer [BBC iPlayer - Small Axe - Series 1: Alex Wheatle](#) .

- Lots of new exciting resources this week, as we were lucky enough to have been selected by the *Lit in Colour* campaign to receive over 100 brand-new books by authors of colour for the school library!

If you'd like to virtually explore the collection (which Sean, our Librarian, is currently organising) there are some great links on the *Lit in Colour* website: [Teaching resources \(penguin.co.uk\)](#).



If you're interested, please ask members of S2 for recommendations, as my S2 Modern Studies classes did a wonderful job of unpacking and reviewing each and every one of the new books. A small random selection of their recommendations are below...

Becoming (Michelle Obama) – “I would recommend this book to anyone who is doubtful about their career. The first chapter talks about Michelle’s feelings about publishing her book and how she ‘woke up in panic’ on the day it was getting published”

Wake (Rebecca Hall) – “Get this book if you like warriors. It is about women leading revolts on slave ships”

Living While Black (Candice Carty-Williams) – “I really recommend this book because it educates you on racism towards black people and tells you how to overcome it. It’s a very neat book and it gets to your heart”

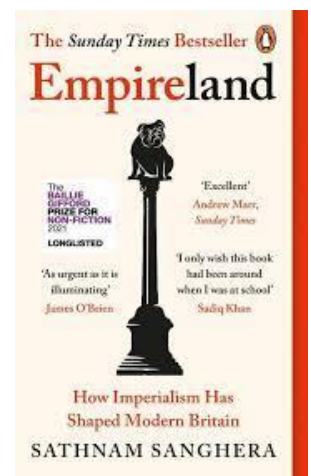
Book of the Moon (Dr Maggie Adern-Pocock) – “This book is kind of like a science-y book. It has some stuff about moon landings. Read it yourself!”

Fragile Monsters (Catherine Menon) – “I really like the wording in the book and the creativity. I like the book’s front and blurb design, it’s very attractive”

Sun Fail (Jim Al’Khalili) – “This book is about our planet’s future and the extreme weather”

Soccer Squad (Bali Rai) – “It has good description. I only read 1 page and I am already liking it!”

We also received a class set of Sathnam Sanghera’s *Empireland*, a brilliant discussion of the effects of empire on society and identity in the UK today. To get a flavour of it, I really recommend this episode of Start the Week, which includes Sathnam Sanghera discussing the legacy of empire and inequality in the UK today: [Start the Week - Empire and class, shaping Britain - BBC Sounds](#)



This amazing collection of books will be a wonderful resource in our ongoing focus on improving equity, equalities and inclusion in the curriculum. If you have any questions, please ask any of the Equalities Committee: sta-equalities@ea.edin.sch.uk

- Last Saturday there was an online symposium organised by the Scottish Catholic Historical Association, exploring connections between slavery, Scotland and the Catholic Church.

For more information:

Scottish Catholic Historical Association website: www.scha.scot

Or follow on social media:

www.twitter.com/scha1950

www.facebook.com/scottishcatholichistory

- Some of our young people are celebrating **Diwali** at the moment! Please click [here](#) for more info.

9. Parent/Carer support for children who are anxious about school [Back to top](#)

Please find different supports if your child is anxious about school:

How to help if your child is anxious about school

[School Anxiety & Refusal | Parents Guide To Support | YoungMinds](#)

[Newsletter \(nhslothian.scot\)](#) managing school anxiety from the NHS

[Define Fine – Parent Peer Support for ^{\[P\]}_{\[SEP\]}School Attendance Difficulties](#): **Parent Peer Support for School Attendance Difficulties** we support our members who are struggling with school attendance difficulties and parent carers from our wider SEND and mental health networks.

[My child is refusing to go to school - Enquire](#)

[School refusal | HandsOn \(handsonscotland.co.uk\)](#)

10. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

[Back to top](#)

Please find a letter [here](#) from the Acting Chief Education Officer explaining the changes in the school calendar. These changes are:

Monday 23rd May is no longer a bank holiday and learners WILL be in school.

Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June are now holidays and learners WILL NOT be in school.

To join any of the following extra-curricular activities please sign up online using this link: [Activity detail \(joininedinburgh.org\)](http://joininedinburgh.org)



St Augustine's RC High School Physical Education Department



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2021-2022

MONDAY			
Junior Netball (S1-S3)	3.35 - 4.30pm	Miss Cox	Games Hall
Dance (S1-S3)	3.35 - 4.15pm	Mrs Damen	Gym
Girls' Swimming	3.35 - 4.30pm	Mrs Damen	Swimming Pool
TUESDAY			
Recreational Basketball (S4-S6)	3.30 - 4.30	Mrs Haskett	Games Hall
Recreational Volleyball (S4-S6)	3.30 - 4.30	Mrs Haskett	Gym
Football (S1 - S3)	3.30 - 4.30	Mr Higgins	3G Astro Pitch
WEDNESDAY			
Senior Netball (S4 - S6)	3.35 - 4.45pm	Miss Cox	Games Hall
Water Polo (P6-S6)	4 - 4.45pm	Stingrays Club	Swimming Pool
Club Water Polo (P6-S6)	4.45 - 5.45pm	Stingrays Club	Swimming Pool
Rugby (S1-3)	3.30-4.30pm	Mr Milne	PE then Grass Pitch
THURSDAY			
Boys' Swimming	3.30 - 4.30pm	Mrs Damen	Swimming Pool
Junior Basketball (S1 - S3)	3.30 - 4.30pm	Mr Murray	Games Hall



Music extracurricular clubs have started up again. Please see the table below for details. All pupils are welcome to join - see Miss Maxwell or Miss Murray if you would like more information.

Music Extracurricular Clubs 2021-22

Day	Club	Time	Location	Staff
Monday	Ukulele Club S1/2	Junior Lunch	Music 1	Miss Murray
Tuesday	Senior Choir S3-6	Senior Lunch	Music 2	Miss Maxwell & Miss Barry
Wednesday	Junior Wind Band S1/2	Junior Lunch	Music 1	Mrs McQue
	Senior Wind Band S3-6	Senior Lunch	Music 2	Mrs McQue
Thursday	Junior Choir S1/2	Junior Lunch	Music 2	Miss Maxwell
	Baroque Group S3-6	Senior Lunch	Music 2	Mr Ferries
Friday	Cello Group (All year groups)	Before school (8.15am)	Music 2	Ms Crichton

A moment of reflection

[Back to top](#)

As our seniors prepare for their formal assessments and nerves may start to build, it is important to take it one step at a time.

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."

-Mother Teresa

Have a great fortnight and stay safe.