



## Head Teacher's Update 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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1. [Catholic Education Week](#)

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We celebrate Catholic Education Week (CEW) this week. The theme for this year is "Celebrating and Worshipping". A poignant thought since we have not been able to have whole school celebrations this year in school.

We will host a number of smaller, short assemblies during the last week of term, so every learner can share in the celebration of Christmas and come together as a community.

Please find a 1 minute message from Archbishop Cusley to open Catholic Education Week [here](#).

The Catholic Education Week always begins on the Feast of St. Margaret – 16<sup>th</sup> November, one of our House Saints.

St Margaret is the Patroness of **Mothers, large families, learning** and was able to elevate those around her to greater faith and reform. She thought of others and was especially generous to the poor.

You will notice your parish will celebrate CEW as well and will distribute leaflets regarding the Catholic schools in your area, including us. You can view these leaflets [here](#).

For more information about Catholic Education Week in general, please [click here](#).

2. Senior Formal Assessments      29<sup>th</sup> Nov – 10<sup>th</sup> Dec      [Back to top](#)

The timetable for the formal assessments can be found [here](#).

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.

We appreciate that this can be an anxious/stressful time for some young people and would like to signpost support in this area:

<https://staugustinesrchs.uk/our-school/mental-health/>

Also, there is support for how to work at home and prepare for these assessments:

[Learn at Home Resources – St Augustine's RC High School \(staugustinesrchs.uk\)](#)

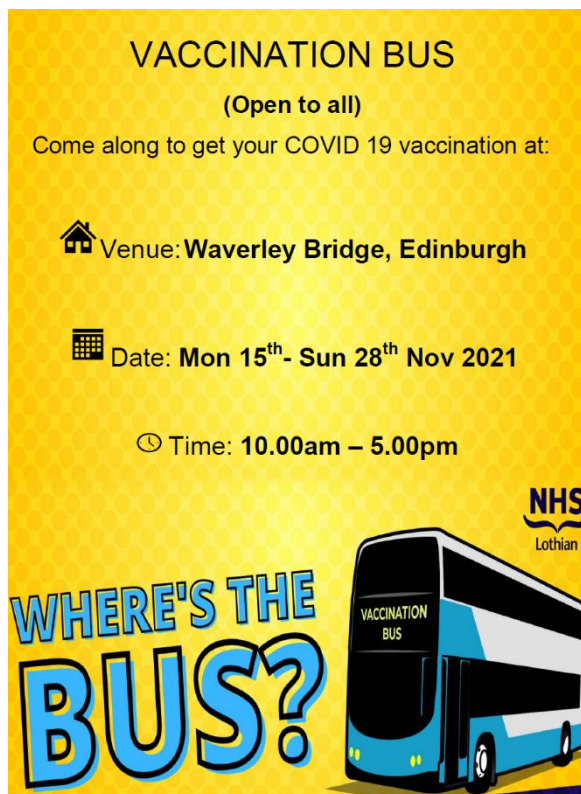
3. Support for families across Edinburgh      [Back to top](#)  
*message from the authority:*

*Find up to date information on the support and activities available for families across Edinburgh at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/supportforfamilies](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/supportforfamilies)*

*If you need help finding support for you or your child, email [supportingparentsandcarers@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:supportingparentsandcarers@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
#EdinSupportingFamilies*

#### 4. Vaccination Bus

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VACCINATION BUS  
(Open to all)  
Come along to get your COVID 19 vaccination at:

🏠 Venue: **Waverley Bridge, Edinburgh**

📅 Date: **Mon 15<sup>th</sup> - Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021**

🕒 Time: **10.00am – 5.00pm**

**WHERE'S THE BUS?**

**NHS Lothian**

VACCINATION BUS

The poster features a yellow background with a blue and white double-decker bus. The bus has 'VACCINATION BUS' written on its side. The NHS Lothian logo is in the top right corner. The text 'WHERE'S THE BUS?' is written in large, blue, bubbly letters on the left side. The event details are listed in the center.

No appointment necessary and you do not need to be registered with a GP.

**All 12-15 year olds are welcome.**

Everyone who needs a first or second dose are welcome.

Anyone who requires a third dose who present with an official invite letter are also welcome (third doses cannot be given without an official invite letter).

**No boosters or flu jabs are available.**

#### 5. Equalities Update

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*message from Mrs Evans (Equalities Co-ordinator)*

##### **Equalities Update for October:**

##### **Incidents**

6 racist incidents reported and dealt with

1 religious/belief incident reported and dealt with

##### **Intercultural Youth Scotland**

Rianna Andrews and Omowale Koukpaki from IYS are in school weekly.

Omo every Monday and Wednesday. Rianna every Thursday.

Rianna is working on anti-racist education and student/staff support.

Omo is working to support DYW and 16+ students.

##### **In-House Training**

Videos sent and staff drop ins have been held on:

1. Alex Wheatle's life, work, and anti-racist campaigning
2. New selection of books by authors of colour available in the library

##### **Events**

Black History Month

Lots of amazing things were happening around the school to support and promote Black History Month. We also had two visitors:

- Alex Wheatle ([Author | Alex Wheatle](#)), who spoke to S2s. 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](#)). Thanks to Mrs Croome who went out of her way to get some sugar cane for the visit!
- Debora Kayembe virtually visited our school. Debora is the first Black woman to be appointed Rector of Edinburgh University. She is also a human rights lawyer and activist, refugee, and survivor of racism. She shared her inspirational story with our students and took questions from them. The students were a credit to the school - they listened intently and asked some great questions. Debora was really impressed and even tweeted about us.

### New Books

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. This amazing collection of books will be a wonderful resource in our ongoing focus on improving equity, equalities and inclusion in the curriculum. Special thanks to Ms Balfour who entered the competition on our behalf.

### Wear Red Day

For our dress down day we made the special effort to wear red and donate to the anti-racist charity: Show Racism the Red Card. We raised a total of £322.62. Well done to everyone that took part.

### Upcoming Events

Armistice Day 11/11

Staff Training - 19/11

St Andrew's Day 30/11

### Pupils

Committee meeting to be held in November.

## 6. Armistice Day 11<sup>th</sup> November

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A huge thank you to Mrs Cochrane who co-ordinated our fantastic young people and their involvement in this year's Armistice Day.

Armistice Commemorations: Caritas pupils

Wreath - Peace Oriabure, Fatoumata Ndure and Raphael Villamizar





Poppies –

Amy Thompson, Mary Odutona, Maria McAnumel, Peace Oriabure, Fatoumata Ndure, Kiara Robinson, Dawid Kowlaski and Wiktor Kolodsiejczyk

*message from organiser of commemoration:*

*“I wanted to tell you how proud you would have been of the three pupils from St Augustine’s at today’s Armistice commemoration. They were in good time, smartly dressed, incredibly polite and friendly and very helpful and cooperative, and the poem they read chimed in perfectly with what I had been saying. They were a real credit to St Augustine’s, and a pleasure to meet.”*

*message from Poppy Scotland:*

*“Just a short note to say that there was a total of £167.08p in your Poppy Scotland collection cans, this is a fantastic amount and will go a long way to help the Poppy Scotland fund.*

*Please pass on our thanks to all the pupils & staff from St Augustine’s School that donated.”*



Well done to all those who took part and continued to give the best example of our community.

## 7. Cardinal Winning Lecture

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*Message from Dr Roisín Coll*

*Director of the St Andrew’s Foundation for Catholic Teacher Education*

I am delighted to announce that the Cardinal Winning Lecture 2021 will be given by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow OBE of Mary’s Meals on Saturday 27 November. Given the ongoing restrictions, this year we will host a ‘hybrid’ event. Attendees can choose to attend in person or

online. We look forward to welcoming you to this event. Please find details below and attached.

**The St Andrew's Foundation for Catholic Teacher Education Presents**

**Cardinal Winning Lecture 2021**

*Generation Hope. Hungry to Learn. A simple thing that works.*

**Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow OBE**  
**Founder and Global CEO of international charity Mary's Meals**

Saturday 27 November 2021

11.15am -12.30pm

**Sir Charles Wilson Building and Online\***  
**University of Glasgow**

**To register for the in-person event, click here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cardinal-winning-lecture-2021-registration-205200629607>

**To register for the online\* event, click here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cardinal-winning-lecture-2021-online-registration-205191211437>

(Preceded with Mass in the University Chapel 9.30am)

The Saint Andrew's Foundation for  
Catholic Teacher Education Presents

**CARDINAL WINNING  
LECTURE 2021**

**Generation Hope. Hungry to Learn.**  
**A simple thing that works.**

**MAGNUS MACFARLANE-BARROW OBE**  
**Founder and Global CEO of International**  
**charity Mary's Meals.**



Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow OBE is founder and CEO of Mary's Meals, a global hunger charity that provides a daily meal in a place of education for more than 2 million of the world's poorest children. The nutritious meals bring children to the classroom, where they can gain a basic education that provides an escape route from poverty.

In 2010, Magnus was praised as a CNN hero for his role in founding and leading Mary's Meals and, in April 2015, he was named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. Magnus' first book, *The Shed That Fed A Million Children*, reached the UK's prestigious Sunday Times bestseller list immediately after its release. His second book, *GIVE: Charity and the Art of Living Generously*, is also published by HarperCollins and currently available in hardback and audiobook formats.

Support for Mary's Meals is global, with affiliate organisations registered in Australia, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as international fundraising groups in Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Slovakia.

## 8. Young Carers Week

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A huge thank you to Mr McGough for organising the Young Carers Week. There were numerous activities with several different outside providers to engage our young people on this important topic. All the visitors stated how fantastic the pupils were and what a nice school St. Augustine's is. Well done to all those involved!

## 9. Magic Breakfast

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For over 3 years now, St. Augustine's provides a breakfast every morning to any pupil who wishes it. Ms Cox has overseen this and has been the driving force behind its success. Even in the current pandemic there is always an offer of bagels and fruit for our young learners before they start their day.

Ms Cox is taking a well-earned rest with the thanks of many a learner – a S6 pupil told me that the best thing about St. Augustine's was the morning bagels! We welcome Mr Fey to the magic breakfast as he seeks to continue the great work.

## 10. Caritas Award

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As part of the Caritas award several of our S6 learners are completing 20 hours of service at the Central Mosque. They have volunteered for gardening and to support the homework club there. During one of their visits there was a question and answer session with Jeremy Corbyn, former leader of the Labour Party.



Congratulations to Aliyah Kilani, Sana Rezig, Justin Callaghan, Wacka Ceesay and Samath Thiam for representing our community so well!

11. Disability Sport and Physical Activity opportunities  
*message from Fiona Damen (Active Schools Co-ordinator)*

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Please find a document on **Disability Sport and Physical Activity Opportunities** [here](#), which is a partnership document created by Lothian Disability Sport LDS and Scottish Disability Sport SDS and Active Schools.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.joininedinburgh.org/sports/active-schools/inclusion/>

12. Scottish Youth Parliament  
*message from Mrs McKillop*

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A big well done to our 4 senior pupils; Sophie Callaghan, Oluwatokepe Adebayo, Amy Thompson and Katie Hardie, who have all stood as candidates in the Scottish Youth Parliament elections which have been running across Scotland over the last two weeks.

We have tried to ensure that all of our pupils have had the opportunity to vote this week in their Social Subjects, Business or PSE classes.

We look forward to the results being announced from the election over the coming days and weeks; Good luck! No matter what the outcome, you have done St Augustine's RC HS proud during your campaign over the last six months and we hope that you have enjoyed the experience!

Please vote (12 – 25 yr olds) in the Scottish Youth Parliament:





### 13. Health & Safety Reminders (repeat notice)

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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.

### 14. S1 Lunchtime (repeat notice)

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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 always continue to show respect.

#### A moment of reflection

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As we enter the Winter season we are aware of those less fortunate than ourselves.

"God does not create poverty; we do because we do not share."

-Mother Teresa

Have a great fortnight and stay safe.