



Head Teacher's Update 3rd December 2021

Please find an update on different aspects of school life below. There are a few repeat notices, as always they 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. [Advent](#)

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In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of preparation extending over the four Sundays before Christmas. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to," and refers to the coming of Christ.

And the term *the coming* includes three references: first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to his second coming at the end of time.



Our preparations, therefore, should have all three comings in mind. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily.

2. Message from the Authority

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Please [click here](#) for messages from the new Executive Director of Education and Children's Services and Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning.

3. "TEAMS" Research Project

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We currently have a University of Edinburgh research project taking place in the school. The project is called Teaching that Matters for Migrant Students (TEAMS) and focuses on migrant integration, students' feelings of belonging to the school community (both migrant and non-migrant students are invited to take part), and how staff's relationships with others help build inclusive school communities to support migrant integration.

Our school is one of three schools in Edinburgh taking part in the work and we are supporting the researchers as they work with our students and staff. If you want to read more about the project you can visit TEAMS' project [website](#), watch their short [project video](#), and read the [project information sheet](#).

If you agree to your child taking part in the project, they will be asked to give their own consent, complete a short questionnaire, and possibly be asked to take part in an interview with a researcher. If you are happy for your child to participate in the project you can [read the information sheet here](#) and [give consent here](#). You can email the project team with any questions: migrant-education@ed.ac.uk.

4. Scottish Youth Parliament

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The results for Scottish Youth Parliament were announced on Monday 22nd November. Eleven new Members of the SYP will now represent young people in Edinburgh. Ten of those elected are from state schools in the city, seven are young women and three are people of colour.

One remaining seat, in Northern and Leith, will be contested in the new year. Edinburgh registered the highest number of expressions of interest from potential candidates and fielded the most candidates (26) of any local authority.

We also achieved the highest voter turnout in Edinburgh since 2015 with 2,500 young people voting, despite many of the usual campaigning activities being curtailed because of the pandemic.

Feedback from staff was positive, pupils were very excited about having the opportunity to vote, some, for the very first time, and this encouraged some great discussions!

Here at St Augustine's RC HS we have 3 newly elected MSYP's;
Katie Hardie, Oluwatokepe Adebayo (TK) and Sophie Callaghan.



A huge congratulations to the girls and as a school we look forward to following their journey as members of the our newly elected Scottish Youth Parliament!

5. Active Schools Update
message from Fiona Damen (Active Schools Co-ordinator)

How amazing the numbers have been at the clubs. Over 45 pupils consistently attending most clubs, most weeks! The PE staff Mrs Haskett, Ms Cox, Mr Murray and Mr Higgins have done an AMAZING job dealing with the huge numbers - double the number of pupils taking part than before Covid!

The Sports Ambassadors have also shown such commitment and enthusiasm and have done an amazing job and the clubs simply could not run without their help.

All clubs will finish next week by 10th December for the Christmas break.

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Active Schools Edinburgh aims to get more children, more active, more often by providing all Edinburgh pupils with the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular sport and physical activity. Pupils who face the greatest barriers to participation will benefit from a targeted approach.

The activities we provide are; extra-curricular clubs (morning, lunch time and after school), sports festivals and events, Bikeability training and holiday programmes.

Active Schools Edinburgh focus on the following areas; Girls Participation, Equalities and Inclusion, Children who are Inactive, Events.

What is our volunteer aim?

For all volunteers to feel welcome and to achieve both personal and professional goals in Sport and Physical Activity. We offer an inclusive volunteer programme featuring extra-curricular school placements along with excellent training and mentoring. We provide many opportunities to meet the wide and varied needs of our volunteer team. We strive to ensure every volunteer's journey is purposeful, exciting and above all fun.

What are the benefits of working with us?

- ✓ Opportunities to gain experience working with children
- ✓ Make a difference to children/communities you volunteer with
- ✓ Develop communication skills with different groups
- ✓ Funded training opportunities – Fit 2 coach
- ✓ Career development

Are you interested in joining our workforce?

Contact your local Active Schools Coordinator on the details below and visit our website for further information;

Name: FIONA DAMEN
Number: 07769922742
Email: Fiona.damen@ea.edin.sch.uk

@ActiveSchoolsED

If anyone would like to volunteer - please see the flyer pictured.

6. Class Charts

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It has long been recognised in education that the partnership that has the biggest impact on a pupil's progress is the partnership between parents and the school.

We are looking to improve communication related to participation in school in order that we may be able work together to praise our young people for their positive interaction and address any concerns that impact on their learning and enjoyment of school.

To support with this, we have started using a system called "Class Charts" that allows us to track actions closely. Mr Dagleish is working with the Student Representative Council in order that pupils have an input on what exactly is reported on.

Over the next week pupils will be given access to their accounts and after the Christmas holidays we will issue information to parents with how you can log on and monitor your child's participation in school.

7. Covid – Home testing Kits

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A key factor to keep us and the community safe from Covid is using the home testing kits. Please ensure that your child has enough test kits to use following the festive period **and before** they return to school on 6th January.

Staff undertake these tests also; the more that we use these kits the more we can isolate and disrupt the spread of the virus. We appreciate your support in this.

8. Star of the week- Miss Alessandra Giovannelli *message from Ms Kelly*

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As well as being selected for Nuffield, Alessandra also took part in Your Ed+ (Started in S4 during lockdown and just completed), attending Edinburgh University for a virtual week in early July and completed Phase 3 by completing a research project supervised by a mentor at the University.

Please see an extract from a supporting letter written by the mentor at University.

Miss Giovanelli has the talents to become an outstanding professional, and I do not have any doubt that she will achieve all her ambitions. I am delighted to give my strong recommendation for her applications to further university studies.

Congratulations to Alessandra for her achievements and for being such an amazing ambassador for the school and our community!

9. School website survey

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As a school we are trying to establish how to improve on our school website. We would like parents and careers to use the following link or QR code to complete this short survey.

[STA Digital Literacy Parent Survey \(office.com\)](#)



10. Guidelines for Self-Isolation

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Please find an extract overleaf from the official guidance when deciding if you or your child need to self-isolate or not. The full guidance can be found [here](#).

Self-isolation for people with symptoms or testing positive

There have been no changes to the rules on self-isolation for those with symptoms or who test positive.

Any adult or child who develops symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) must self-isolate immediately in line with [NHS Inform Guidance](#). NB: People living in the same household, for example any siblings, must also isolate while awaiting the outcome of the PCR test result for the household member who has symptoms. Any adult or child who tests positive using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) must self-isolate immediately and [book a PCR test](#) within 48 hours to confirm the result. As above, people living in the same household, for example any siblings, must also isolate while awaiting the outcome of the PCR test result. If the PCR test is positive:

- *household members under 18 years and 4 months should isolate book a PCR test and;*

- o if returned negative, may leave isolation; or*

- o if returned positive, should isolate for 10 days.*

- *household members over 18 years and 4 months should isolate and book a PCR test and continue to isolate for 10 days unless fully vaccinated and the PCR test is negative.*

• household member under 5 years do not need to isolate and are not required to take a PCR test. If they do take a PCR test and it is positive they do need to isolate for 10 days

Any adult or child who tests positive using PCR tests (including following a positive LFD test) must isolate for 10 days in line with [NHS Guidance](#).

There are no changes to self-isolation rules if you have had a positive test or if you have symptoms of COVID-19.

11. S3 Rugby Match Report message from Mr. Milne

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Our boys played Falkirk HS in a friendly last Friday afternoon – 26th November.

Overall, they played well but took a while to wake up. Falkirk dominated the first ten minutes and came close to scoring on a few occasions. Fortunately, the boys were able to defend and put in some strong tackles. Oliweir, Blue and Antoni put in a few try saving tackles!

The boys linked up passes and were able to exploit their gaps in defence to score. Joseph made a break of 50m to score the first try. He successfully converted the 30m kick.

The rugby that followed was not great due to knock on after knock on from both teams. The cold playing its part. They were not able to string passes together. However, their tackling and rucking progressed.

The team took chances when they could and scored 5 times. Blue, Oliweir, Joseph, Fraser and Antoni scoring. Joseph converting two of the five scores.

Unfortunately, injuries started to creep in that meant we played with two less for the last ten minutes. This resulted in them scoring twice.

The final score from the referee was 31-21. The boys remain unbeaten for the last three years, home and away! Well done.



12. ChristMaths Advent Calendar
message from Mr Seywright

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We hope that you and our students enjoy exploring the activities in the NRICH Secondary Advent calendar. There are twenty-four activities, one for each day in December in the run-up to Christmas:

- Secondary: <https://nrich.maths.org/advent-secondary?s=09>
- Primary: <https://nrich.maths.org/advent-primary>

Please send answers to puzzles by email or via our St. Augustine's Maths [Twitter account](#).

We hope you enjoy them.

13. Message from St. Augustine's Charity Committee

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Please [click here](#) for a message from the pupil led Charity Committee at St. Augustine's RC High School.

14. A musical 12 (working) days till Christmas
message from Ms Maxwell

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Instead of a Christmas Concert (virtual or otherwise) we are doing a 12 Days of Christmas countdown to the end of term with performances coming out each day.

We have lots of Christmas pieces to spread the festive cheer as well as some pop/classical performances! Thanks go to our brilliant IMS tutors too who have been working hard with our pupils to produce some performances.

On the first day: some of our S5 girls – Katie, Grace, Rowan, Holly and Teagan – singing 'Winter Song' with Miss Barry, our voice tutor.

<https://youtu.be/B2bcWgsMVQ8>

On the second day: Thea Nicolas S4 and Miss Murray playing a piano duet of 'Carol of the Bells'.

<https://youtu.be/a0i1GOmy6HM>

To keep up to date with the performances please follow:

[@stahs_pa](#)

and

[@miss_maxwell](#)

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

As our formal assessments reach half way, 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 \(staugustinesrchs.uk\)](#)

Please note that we have agreed that the results to the formal assessments will not be shared until **Wednesday 12th January 2022**. As a school we will include these results in the Senior Engagement Reports for that week.

16. Support for families across Edinburgh (repeat notice)
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

*If you need help finding support for you or your child, email supportingparentsandcarers@edinburgh.gov.uk
#EdinSupportingFamilies*

A moment of reflection

Finally, as we enter Advent, I thought this quote from Mother Teresa appropriate.

At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern.

— Mother Teresa —

-Mother Teresa

Only two weeks till the Christmas holidays, stay safe!