



Merry Christmas!



Head Teacher's Update 15th December 2021

We finish school this **Friday 17th December at 12 noon**. There are a lot of fun activities planned for this last day.

If your child requires a packed lunch, then they must see a member of the Senior Leadership Team by lunch on Thursday 16th December. Please note there will be no other food available at the end of the school day on Friday.

As is customary we will have a dress down day on Friday; please remember that crop tops, football colours are not appropriate. Please dress respectfully and be mindful of the weather.

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1. [Advent](#)

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Gaudete Sunday

It is called the “Shepherd's Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus.



The Seniors who are participating in Caritas produced and delivered an Advent Assemblies this week. All our learners were able to listen to Sana, Daniel, Justin, Bervely, Sophie, Khanyi and Tai as they explained some of the meaning about Advent. Please [click here](#) to view their presentation which included a reflection of Monsignor Duffy and his time with us.

2. Health and Safety Notice

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As the new variant of Covid, Omicron, starts to spread we are re-focussing on our Health & Safety measures. We really appreciate you supporting your child to:

- Wear a face covering (unless exempt)
- Wash / sanitise hands regularly
- Not gather in large groups
- Use LFD testing twice a week (more info in point 4 of this update)

In school we will continue to wipe our work stations and keep classrooms well ventilated. Learners should attend school wearing uniform and have appropriate clothing for the cold. All hats should be removed, and hoods taken down while learners are in the building.

One of the main changes to dealing with the spread of the virus is that if there is a case in your household, then the **whole household** (all children included of any age) must isolate for the full 10 days regardless of age, vaccination status or a negative PCR test.

We will keep you informed of any future/further developments.

3. Netball Update

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message from Miss Cox

A big well done to all our senior pupils who have been selected to represent their school in this year's Netball Scottish Cup. We have two teams entered this year who have both risen beautifully to the challenging matches we have been faced with so far.

The pupils have represented the school incredibly well and have shown determination, respect and some very skilful play throughout each of their matches so far. I have been very proud of them. Our final fixtures will be played in January and February.

Training Times

Junior Netball Team - Mondays after school

Senior Netball Team - Wednesdays after school



Rohey N, TK A, Nadia L, Megan G, Freyja M, Priya R, Aleksandra F, Erin A, Katie H, Rowan W, and Teagan M

Tifney A, Sana R, Paris A, Tawanna M, Raysa D, Shallum A, Stephanie I, Mia V, Shamagne G. Not pictured: Chanel A, Rana K



4. Testing

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We sent out an update this week about regular testing and how vital a part it plays in curbing the spread of the virus. Please [click here](#) to access these materials.

LFD home test kits are readily available from the school office and all members of our community (students and staff alike) are encouraged to collect enough kits to use over the holidays – especially the week before we return to school.

We appreciate your support and participation in regular testing to keep our community safe and minimise the impact on our learners.

5. 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.

To keep up to date with the performances please follow:
[@stahs_pa](#) and [@miss_maxwell](#)

In case you missed it, here are some of the performances we have shared:

On the third day: we have a classical guitar piece called 'September Song', performed by Julia Dorozynska in S6 and accompanied by Mr Ferries, our guitar tutor. <https://youtu.be/Lc-SGhdDyyg>

On the fourth day: we have our Senior Wind Band along with Miss Murray on piano, Mrs McQue on clarinet, Mrs Arthur on trumpet and Mr Lang on percussion. They are performing 'Winter Wonderland'.

<https://youtu.be/yIDXY6QUyyw>

On the fifth day: we have a piano solo from Ariuna Walker in S6. She is playing Andante in A. <https://youtu.be/B16caWVGD-Y>

On the sixth day: we have the senior choir singing "Bleak Midwinter".

<https://youtu.be/B16caWVGD-Y>

On the seventh day: we have a lovely acoustic version of 'Baby Please Come Home' performed by Julia in S6 and Katie & Grace in S5. They are accompanied by Mr Ferries our guitar tutor. <https://youtu.be/hGkKuoE5PX4>

On the eighth day: we have our S1-6 Cello group performing 'Joy to the World' with Ms Crichton our cello tutor. <https://youtu.be/i3R7J74NPQk>

On the ninth day: we have Sophie Callaghan in S6 performing 'Snow Globe' on guitar, accompanied by Mr Ferries. <https://youtu.be/LJZFr5ZB9gg>

6. Parent Council Meeting – 20th January 2022

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At the AGM, Samm Hamilton was appointed as Chair of St. Augustine's Parent Council. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 20th January 2022 from 6pm – 7pm**. More information on the agenda and how to join virtually will be distributed in the New Year but for now please save the date.

7. Empowerment Project Update (new iPads)

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We have been given our provisional date for the deployment of the new iPads to all our learners. I know that the S1 and S2 students are keen to receive their 1:1 device. This will (hopefully) happen on the week beginning **Monday 24th January 2022**.

Please note that at the same time, we will be replacing some older iPads with newer ones for other students. All the iPads across the school will be managed under a new system overseen by the authority.

As a school that has used 1:1 devices for a number of years now, we are well placed in our digital learning to fully engage in the Empowerment Project. The

iPads are a tool to support our learners in developing necessary skills to succeed.

8. Equalities Update

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message from Mrs Evans

Equalities Update for November:

Incidents

8 racist incidents reported and dealt with

4 homophobic incidents reported and dealt with

1 ASN incident reported and dealt with

In-House Training

Whole staff training conducted 19th November. Focus was on the damage that discrimination causes and how to deal with, report and support young people that have experienced discrimination.

Events

Dyslexia Awareness Week presentation in tutor time: [See dyslexia differently | Dyslexia Unwrapped \(dyslexiascotland.org.uk\)](#)

Anti-Bullying week presentation in tutor time. Video here: [Anti-Bullying Week 2021: One Kind Word - official Secondary School film - YouTube](#)

Upcoming Events

WB 06/12 - Pupil training – what to do if you are a victim of discrimination/what you can expect to happen in school

Pupils

Equalities Committee meeting – focus on what the students feel we need to work on in school.

Prayer – some pupils have requested to pray in school. We have made a space available but are looking to formalise the arrangements. Mrs Chbira and Mrs Evans will work on this with pupils in the New Year.

IYS

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 working to support DYW and 16+ students.

9. Transport Survey – Free Bus Travel for under 22s
message from the Scottish Government

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Scottish Government Transport Analytical Services Division would be grateful for your support in completing **the following survey** by parents/carers and/or children aged 12+:

online1.snapsurveys.com/under22travelsurvey

The closing date for all responses is **24th January 2022**.

About the Survey

Do you have a child aged 5-16, or are you a young person aged 12-21? If so, please complete our short travel survey for a chance to win up to £250 in Love2Shop vouchers.

The Scottish Government will soon be launching the Free Bus Travel Scheme for young people between the ages of 5 and 21. This aims to encourage greener travel patterns, and increase opportunities for young people to engage in employment, education and social activities and not be excluded due to travel costs. Transport Scotland will monitor the scheme as it progresses to check on use and impact. The first step is to try and understand current travel patterns so that any changes after the scheme is introduced can be identified.

We would be grateful if parents/carers of younger children (i.e. those aged 5-16), or young people aged 12-21 themselves, could complete this short travel survey. The questionnaire asks about current travel behaviour, and your thoughts about bus travel generally and the free bus travel. This should take no more than 10 minutes to do.

Contact Us: If you have any questions about the work or problems completing the questionnaire, please contact our Project Manager, Elaine Wilson-Smith, at elaine@wellsideresearch.co.uk or on 0131 677 5522.

10. English to Speakers Of Languages (ESOL) classes for parents

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Clases de ingles para padres

Aulas de ingles para pais

পিতামাতার জন্য ইংরেজি পাঠ

دروس اللغة الإنجليزية للآباء

Lekcje angielskiego dla rodziców

Casharrada Ingiriisiga ee waalidiinta

Dersên Îngilîzî ji bo dêûbavan

If you are interested in attending English classes, please [click here](#) for more information.

11. UKMT Maths Challenge
message from Mr. Seywright

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The following seven students took part in this year's Senior UKMT Maths Challenge.

Billy-Jack	Gerrard	Bronze Award
Alessandra	Giovannelli	
Abba	Haruna	Bronze Award
Victor	Manhando	
Alexis	Munlawin Caringal	
Divine	Ofosuhene	Bronze Award
Maksymilian	Orski	



Congratulations to them on their fantastic achievement!



12. S4 Vision of Christmas
Message from Mrs Doig

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When we think of the real meaning of Christmas, we usually think of the birth of Jesus Christ in a manger long ago. It is important that we view Christmas as a celebration of God's love for each person in the whole world.



I have been working with some S4 students on a project as part of their SQA in Problem Solving. I set them the challenge of designing, making, displaying and evaluating the Christmas decorations in the RE department.



The remit was to look beyond Rudolph, Frosty, Elf on the shelf and even Santa, but create their vision of Christmas.



They have worked very hard on their ideas and I hope you enjoy how they have made their vision/plan a reality.





He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.

– St. Augustine

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

We look forward to seeing all our young people again, rested, on time, in uniform, ready to learn on **Thursday 6th January 2022**.

Stay safe and have a fantastic festive season!

