



Head Teacher's Update 14th January 2022

A warm welcome back to our young learners!

Please find below an update regarding different aspects of the community at St. Augustine's RC High School.

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Moment of reflection

1. [Final goodbye to Christmas 2021](#)

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There was so much celebration and fun in the last week of term, here are some more examples of how our young people engaged in the festive season:

End of term service

Our senior Caritas learners produced a fantastic end of term service for all of us to enjoy on the last day. Please [click here](#) to access the 8 mins of prayer and reflection.

A musical 12 (working) days till Christmas - *message from Ms Maxwell*

For the last day of term, we have 3 great performances for you:

Alecia McKinley playing Santa Claus is Coming to Town on cello:

https://youtu.be/h3AnVGWJ_rU

The Baroque Group playing Drink to Me Only: https://youtu.be/KtS_NJhumnU

Alessandra Giovanelli playing Troika on flute: <https://youtu.be/7PsNwRVlrHo>

Food donations – message from Ms Hind

Huge thank you to everyone who supported the Advent Appeal. Owen Sime did an amazing job of organising everything!

Today we delivered our food and money donations to The Edinburgh Food Project. As you can see this was an outstanding amount and we thank all students and parents who donated to help with our Advent appeal this year! [@EdinFoodProject](#)



 EdinburghFoodProject

A Christmas Carol – message from Mrs Reith

Our young learners showed their “star” qualities in a performance of “A Christmas Carol”. This was the culmination of a number of months rehearsing and hard work from all involved, including a few cameos from staff!

Please [click here](#) to access the full performance. We look forward to the time where we can have full audiences and invite parents and carers back into school to watch live.

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.

3. S4 Parent Consultation Evening

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Thursday 20th January 2022, 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm

You are invited to attend an Online Parent Consultation Evening on Thursday 20th January - this will be done via telephone. The core times are between 4.00pm and 6.30pm but some teachers may have opted for later start and finish times. You will be able to see the teachers' appointment times when you book a slot.

Booking an appointment

Appointments have gone live on Tuesday 11th January at 10.00am and will **close on Wednesday 19th January at 6.00pm**. To book your appointments please go to:

www.parents-booking.co.uk/staugustines

4. Testing

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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.

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

Please see below information from the Scottish Government:

LFD tests should only be used if you don't have symptoms.

You must not use a LFD test if you:

- have symptoms - you must self-isolate immediately and [book a PCR test](#)
- have been asked to self-isolate because you are a close contact of a positive case. You must self-isolate and [book a PCR test](#)

All LFD test results should be recorded via the [online digital reporting portal](#)

If you receive a positive LFD test result, you must [self-isolate](#) immediately.

If parents or pupils haven't already been provided with LFD kits by their schools, they can be accessed in a range of different ways. [Information on accessing test kits](#)

Drop-in vaccination sessions will be available for 12-15-year-olds from January 3 2022. Those who have already received a scheduled appointment can bring it forward by calling 0800 030 8013. [NHS Inform](#) and local health board websites will provide further details of where drop-in sessions are available in each area.

Following JCVI advice, this age group can get their second vaccination from 12 weeks after their first dose.

Anyone under the age of 18 who has previously tested positive for COVID must wait 12 weeks from infection to be given their second dose

5. [Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review](#) *message from the authority*

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What is the Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review?

Following the Black Lives Matter protests of summer 2020, City of Edinburgh Council agreed a set of actions to address historic racial injustice and stem modern day discrimination.

Its report stated: "Committee recognises... that cities, including Edinburgh, should acknowledge and address their roles in perpetuating racism and oppression in the past as part of the process of challenging it in the present."

One of the actions agreed was the establishment of an independent Review to consider and make recommendations on Edinburgh's slavery and colonialism legacy in the civic realm. Human rights activist Sir Geoff Palmer was appointed as Chair, and a Review Group was set up of people living and working in Edinburgh and from a range of different backgrounds to support this work.

Why participate in the public consultation?

The Review Group wants to hear from Edinburgh residents about the most constructive ways that their city could address issues of historic racial injustice and make Edinburgh a fair and welcoming place for everyone.

It is also seeking views about a selection of prominent public features including monuments, street names and buildings, which it considers illustrative of the many aspects of Edinburgh life and society shaped by the city's legacy of slavery and colonialism.

The findings from the consultation will inform the Review Group's recommendations and will feature in a report to be brought to Council

committee for consideration in 2022. This will help the Council decide which actions it will progress, and what the priorities for change might be.

How to get involved

The online consultation is hosted on the Council's website at:

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/slaverycolonialism. It is open until 19 January 2022.

Background information about the Review can be found at:

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/edinburghslaverycolonialism

6. Parent Council Meeting – 27th January 2022 *date correction* [Back to top](#)

The date for the next Parent Council meeting is **Thursday 27th January from 6pm – 7pm**. Please note this is a change of date from previous communications.

The new Chair of the Parent Council - **Samm Hamilton** would welcome potential agenda items to be sent to sampparks141414@gmail.com by 9am on Monday 24th January.

To access the meeting please follow this link on Thursday 27th January at 6pm.

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTRmN2RjYTgtNjEzMS00NzNhLThjY2UtODhjNTQ5NzEwMGFi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2248acfe69-376a-42b5-9f69-c9e47bbfb9c4%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2248e940b1-259e-46df-90fd-dfa4a6145fc0%22%7d

If any parent or carer would like a translator to support in participating in the meeting please email the school admin account before 10 am on Friday 21st January 2022 and we will try our best to accommodate:

Admin@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk

7. Empowerment Project Update (new iPads)

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We have been given our 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 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. Could all S3 -S6 learners please ensure they have completed the survey by Mr Boothroyd. If this is not completed, then they might not receive a new iPad and their old one will be disabled. 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.

There will be an online parental information evening regarding both Class Charts and Empowered Learning on **Wednesday 19th January at 7pm**. The link for this information meeting is:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDdmYTNjODMtZjJhMC00ZDU0LWlzMWUtMDhlOGZkNjQ4MTNI%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2248acfe69-376a-42b5-9f69-c9e47bbfb9c4%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22627c5cac-9f85-4470-a8c5-92b9504411d6%22%7d

8. Senior Learners – Formal Assessment results

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The results of all the hard work that our seniors undertook to prepare for their formal assessments before the Christmas break is being shared with learners. We will send out the engagement reports on **Wednesday 19th January 22** and include the results of the formal assessments.

Congratulations to those who have done well and been rewarded for all their hard work.

We appreciate that some learners may not have gained the results they hoped for or deserved. Please support your child to engage with their subject teacher in how to move forward and learn from this experience.

The main diet of examinations begins at the end of April and we are here to support learners in their preparation for these.

9. 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. We have been working with the Student Representative Council in order that pupils have an input on what exactly is reported on.

To enable you to log onto your child’s account you should visit

<https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>

There is also a free app available on the Apple App store or the Google Play store, called ClassCharts Parents.

When you log in you will see information regarding your child’s interactions since we returned to school last week. If the account says that there is no data, it will simply be because no interaction has been recorded in that time.

You have been emailed with your unique access code. If you have any technical difficulties accessing the system please contact David Dalglish through the school office or at:

David.Dalglish@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk

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10. Free Bus Travel

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From 31 January, 5–21 year olds living in Scotland will be eligible for free bus travel across Scotland with a valid **National Entitlement Card (NEC)**. You can apply from **10 January 2022**.

However, in light of high levels of COVID-19 transmission, the Scottish Government is asking that you only apply for the scheme at this point if it is essential* that you, or your child, travel while restrictions are in place. All other eligible applicants will be proactively encouraged to apply at a later date.

*There is no prescribed list of what constitutes essential travel – it will differ for different children, young people and families. But it might include travel for education, training, work, care or health reasons.

Even if your child already has a National Entitlement Card or Young Scot National Entitlement Card, they must apply for a new or replacement card to travel by bus for free.

You can visit the [Transport Scotland website](#) to find out how to apply and more.

The following links take you to videos with step-by-step instructions on how to apply for a NEC and free bus travel through getyournec.scot

These first video looks at the process for a parent/carer applying for a new card for their child aged 5-15. The second link is a video explaining how to request a replacement card with travel for a child who already has a NEC.

- How to apply for a card for your child:
https://youtu.be/Ev_sEjprEDE
- How to request a replacement card with free bus travel:
<https://youtu.be/M7OgYZ3Fh5s>

11. Transport Survey – Free Bus Travel for under 22s (repeat notice)
message from the Scottish Government [Back to top](#)

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.

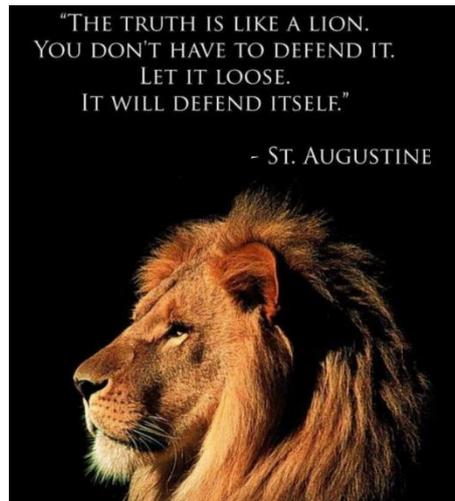
The Scottish Government will soon be launching the Free Bus Travel Scheme for young people between the ages of 5 and 21. This aims to encourage greener travel patterns, and increase opportunities for young people to engage in employment, education and social activities and not be excluded due to travel 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.

Moment of reflection

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Stay safe, please remember to test twice weekly and have a great fortnight!