



Head Teacher's Update 28th January 2022

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

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1. [Senior Examinations in May 2022](#)

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The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) have produced a [blog post for parents and carers](#) to provide an update for the examinations in May. The preferred plan is still for the examinations to take place, but this post explains other possibilities too.

We would like to highlight one paragraph from the blog which offers current support to learners in their study – please access this:

There is revision support currently available for learners. Education Scotland, in partnership with e-Sgoil, is running a series of Study Support Webinars for learners working towards National Qualifications in 2022. Details can be found on the [e-Sgoil website](#) and you should speak to your child's teacher or lecturer if you require further information.

2. [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster](#)
message from Scottish Government

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Make sure you book your COVID-19 booster to maximise protection

People aged 18 and over can book boosters online.

All adults aged 18 and over can book their appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine booster through the online portal on NHS inform: www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccinebooster If you are unable to access the online portal you can book an appointment through the National Helpline on 0800 030 8013.

Even if you've been double-vaccinated, your immunity against COVID-19 wanes over time. That's why boosters are necessary. The booster vaccine gives you the protection you need against serious COVID-19 illness. Local Health Boards are offering additional drop-in facilities - you can find information on local health board websites and social media.

Appointments must be booked at least 12 weeks after a second dose however adults with a confirmed case of the virus since receiving a vaccine should wait four weeks from testing positive to receive their booster. Even if you have had COVID-19 it is still important you come forward and complete your vaccination course to maximise your protection. You can view a short video on how to use the booking portal at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiEd6-r_dKU

Anyone in earlier groups who missed their vaccination can book an appointment by calling the National Helpline on **0800 030 8013** which is open from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week.

3. Offer at Drumbrae Leisure Centre

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Open all hours

**EVERY FRIDAY 7PM - 9PM .
SPORTS , GYM AND LOTS MORE...**

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING SECONDARY SCHOOL

**DRUMBRAE LEISURE CENTRE
30 DRUM BRAE TERRACE,
EDINBURGH EH4 7SF
0131 458 2100**

**ONLINE BOOKING ONLY . LIMITED SPACES
WWW.JOININEDINBURGH.ORG/HOLIDAYPROGRAMME/**

4. S4 Coursing – closes 4th February 2022

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Our current S4 cohort are thinking about their next steps for what happens after Summer. Please [click here](#) to access materials regarding course choices for 2022/23. All S4 will have an interview with their Pupil Support Leader to discuss their next steps. This is an important step and we pray that God will watch over them as they engage in this process.

A key support on offer is our school's career advisor:

Des Foley, Skills Development Scotland, Desmond.Foley@sds.co.uk

We also have support in the form of:

- Careers Library
- Tuesday lunchtime drop-in clinic
- www.myworldofwork.co.uk

Please note that if you intend to leave at Summer 2022 you must contact Mr Foley.

Other websites and resources to support career planning are:

www.myworldofwork.co.uk

www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk

www.ucas.com

www.apprenticeship.scot

www.theedinburghguarantee.co.uk

All support materials can be found on your child's House Team page. Please contact the school if you need support.

5. After School Clubs

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message from Mrs Damen (Active Schools Co-ordinator)

Please note that all clubs are back up and running, including: Girls' Swimming after school on Monday, Dance and Basketball.

To attend you must sign up online and then show up, please follow this link:

[Activity detail \(joininedinburgh.org\)](http://joininedinburgh.org)

Water Polo: we are delighted to offer water polo to our young people. The details are:

Wednesdays for S1-S6 at 4.00-4.45pm from 19 January-30 March at St Augustine's RC HS Pool. Please see Mrs Damen for further information.

6. Useful Flowcharts on Positive Cases and Close Contacts [Back to top](#)

Please follow this [link](#) to find two flowcharts to support you in next steps if you have symptoms or are a positive case and if you are a high-risk close contact.

7. Parent Council Meeting – 27th January 2022

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Thank you to all the parents who attended the Parent Council Meeting on Thursday 27th January. We will publish the minutes and share with the wider Parent Body in the coming weeks.

Please note that there will be two more Parent Council meetings this academic year. Please save the dates:

Thursday 10th March 2022 6pm – 7pm

Thursday 19th May 2022 6pm – 7pm

8. Empowerment Project Update (new iPads)

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This week has seen the roll out of iPads to all our learning community. Those who were absent will have a chance to catch up with this in the coming weeks.



Now that every pupil is set up with an iPad, there are a few procedures that everybody should be aware of:

- iPads should be brought into school every day and fully charged.
- Unless a teacher instructs you to use your iPad, it should be flat on your desk with the cover over the screen or in your bag. Nobody should be on an iPad in class without being instructed to do so.
- When instructed to use your iPad you should only use your iPad for the task given. There is software to support teaching staff in monitoring this.
- iPads should not be used when walking around the corridors. This is to avoid accidents.
- If you have a problem with your iPad please email Mr Boothroyd and let him know exactly what the problem is. He will contact you or find you during school when he can. Please do not turn up at his desk looking for him unless instructed to do so and be patient. It may take a few days.

Remember that your iPad belongs to the school. Any iPads being missed could be removed by a member of staff and may not be returned, even if needed in class. Look after your iPad as any damage to the iPad or your charger may have to be paid for.

We look forward to using this versatile and powerful piece of equipment to support the learning at St. Augustine's RC High School. The Maths faculty has already procured a subscription to Complete Maths by La Salle Education.

Every learner in the school now has a Complete Maths account, [Home \(completemaths.com\)](#). We will be sharing all usernames and account details with pupils, so all will have access to this platform. Please see their mission statement here: [About \(completemaths.com\)](#)

9. EU Citizens living in Scotland
message from the Scottish Government

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We have launched a new **EU Citizens in Scotland campaign** which aims to ensure all EU Citizens know how to prove their immigration status, and to outline further support to EU Citizens living in Scotland following the EU Settlement Scheme **deadline of 30 June 2021**.

The EU Citizens in Scotland campaigns aims to **help EU citizens understand how to use the ‘view and prove’ service, and to direct vulnerable citizens to our support services.**

For more information please [click here](#).

10. St Andrew’s Foundation’s online seminar series
message from Dr Roisín Coll;
Director of the St Andrew’s Foundation for Catholic Teacher Education

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I am delighted to give details of the first in the St Andrew’s Foundation’s online seminar series, ‘*Educating for Justice: Enacting Catholic Social Teaching in our schools*’, led by Anna Blackman and beginning on **Monday 31st January, 5-6pm**.

Registration is straightforward – simply [click here](#). **Please note, registration will be required for each seminar.**

11. Class Charts



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We have started using a system called “Class Charts” that allows us to track actions closely. 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 from the Christmas break. 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

12. Chinese New Year 2022

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Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, is just around the corner. Chinese New Year or Lunar New Year 2022 will fall on **Tuesday, February 1st, 2022**, starting a **year of the Tiger**.

The date of Chinese New Year changes every year, but it always falls between January 21st and February 20th. The date is decided by the Chinese Lunar Calendar, which is based on cycles of the moon and sun and is generally 21–51 days behind the internationally used calendar.



Celebrations of Chinese New Year traditionally last for 16 days, starting from Chinese New Year's Eve to the Lantern Festival. In 2022, that is from January 31st to February 15th.

Our canteen will be serving Chinese meals on Tuesday to celebrate this great occasion.

13. Free Training Courses on offer for Parents/Carers

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Please note these two free offers of training below. These take place in the local area. For further information please contact Hazel on 07821 640515 or email Hazel.Lyons@spacescot.org

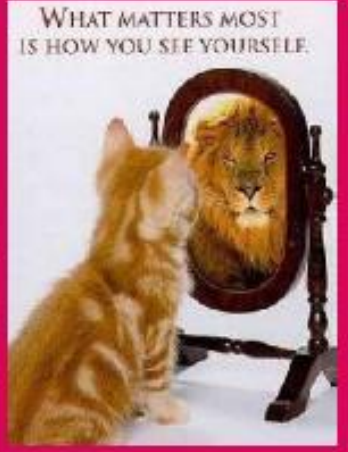
Please ensure that if you are interested in attending, register first, as we have limited spaces.

Registrations for both courses will be on 31st January and 1st February at Space and Broomhouse Training Academy.

PLANNING FUTURES FOR PARENTS

Unemployed and trying to get back on track?
Need a confidence boost?
Want to start working towards a better future?
Want to develop job seeking skills?

If YES, and you are a parent of working age living in Edinburgh, then this course is for you!



Week	Date	Time	Session Details
1	Mon 31 st January	9.30am-12.30pm	1-1 course registrations
	Tues 1 st February	9.30am-12.30pm	1-1 course registrations
2	Mon 7 th February	9.30am-12.30pm	Confidence Building
	Tues 8 th February	9.30am-12.30pm	Stress Busting Techniques and Communication Skills
3	Mon 14 th February	9.30am-12.30pm	Decision Making and Change
	Tues 15 th February	9.30am-12.30pm	Action Planning and Goal Setting
4	Mon 21 st February	9.30am-12.30pm	Introduction To Employment Skills
	Tues 22 nd February	9.30am-12.30pm	CV and Letter Writing
5	Mon 28 th February	9.30am-12.30pm	Interview Skills
	Tues 1 st March	9.30am-12.30pm	Mock Interviews

Travel costs covered where required
To sign up for this course or send a referral
please contact Hazel Lyons on 07821 640515
Hazel.Lyons@spacescot.org

7th February – 1st March

Mondays – 9.30am-12.30pm
Tuesdays – 9.30am-12.30pm

FREE

CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING

What is customer service?

How to deal with difficult customers

How to offer excellent customer service

Skills needed to offer good customer service

Engage effectively with customers and Colleagues

Our training will include the above. We also offer help to get retail experience or a job



Would you like to get ready for retail jobs?

We're here to help!

Monday 7th and 14th March

9.30am – 12.30pm

To book a space email Hazel Lyons on Hazel.Lyons@spacescot.org or call 07821 640515

Travel costs covered where required

To sign up for this course or send a referral
please contact Hazel Lyons on 07821 640515
Hazel.Lyons@spacescot.org

7th February – 1st March

Mondays – 9.30am-12.30pm
Tuesdays – 9.30am-12.30pm

14. Free Bus Travel (repeat notice)

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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.

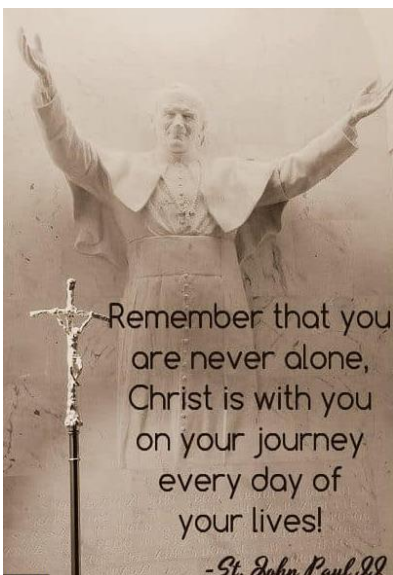
The following links take you to videos with step-by-step instructions on how to apply for a NEC and free bus travel through getyournec.scot

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>

Moment of reflection

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