



## Head Teacher's Update 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Please find a contents list with links to the relevant paragraphs in this last edition of the HT Update before the Summer holidays. We look forward to seeing all our learners back at school, in full school uniform on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August** in time for an 0840 start.

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## Moment of Reflection

1. [Welcome Fr. Francis Ututo](#)

We welcome Fr Francis as our new School Chaplain. Fr Francis C Ututo, is a member of the Religious Congregation of the Sons of Mary, Mother of Mercy (SMMM).



The SMMM was founded on 25 October 1970 by Bishop Anthony Gogo Nwedo, C.S.Sp. in Umuahia, Abia State of Nigeria. Today,

the members of this Congregation serve in different archdioceses around the world.

Fr Francis serves the Parishes of St Cuthbert's, Our Lady's and St Patrick's. Fr Francis is also School Chaplain to St Cuthbert's Primary School and has already made an impression.

He met junior pupils when he joined us to present certificates at the Junior Award ceremony. He also joined us to celebrate Mass with the new S5 and S6 to mark the end of their induction. He welcomed and prayed with the P7 pupils during their 3-day transition visit.

We look forward to working with Fr Francis in the coming years!

## 2. New Timings for School Week

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	Tutor time	Period 1	Period 2	Break	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Lunch	Period 6	Period 7
<b>Monday</b>	8.40-8.53	8.53-9.41	9.41-10.29	10.29 – 10.44	10.44 – 11.32	11.32-12.20	12.20 – 1.08	1.08 – 1.48	1.48 – 2.36	2.36 – 3.24
<b>Tuesday</b>	8.40-8.53	8.53-9.41	9.41-10.29	10.29 – 10.44	10.44 – 11.32	11.32-12.20	12.20 – 1.08	1.08 – 1.48	1.48 – 2.36	2.36 – 3.24
<b>Wednesday</b>	8.40-8.53	8.53-9.41	9.41-10.29	10.29 – 10.44	10.44 – 11.32	11.32-12.20	12.20 – 1.08	1.08 – 1.48	1.48 – 2.36	2.36 – 3.24
<b>Thursday</b>	8.40-8.53	8.53-9.41	9.41-10.29	10.29 – 10.44	10.44 – 11.32	11.32-12.20	12.20 – 1.08	1.08 – 1.48	1.48 – 2.36	2.36 – 3.24
<b>Friday</b>	8.40-8.53	8.53-9.41	9.41-10.29	10.29 – 10.44	10.44 – 11.32	11.32-12.20	12.20 – 1.09			

Please note that timings of the school buses have been amended accordingly.

## 3. Back to Basics

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With the return of our seniors after their examinations, we as a whole school will have a focus on “the basics”:

1. Uniform
2. Timekeeping
3. Out of class
4. Inappropriate use of mobile phone
5. Pupil co-operation



## Uniform

As you will be aware we have been working across our school community to implement changes to help support parents/pupils to reduce the cost of the school day. This year we have focused on:

- Supporting families with referrals to the foodbank and Edinburgh school uniform bank
- Materials such as pencils, rulers etc... in all classrooms for pupils to use
- Magic Breakfast every morning from 8am in school dining room for any pupil
- Magic breakfast home food deliveries during school holidays
- Period products available in all toilets and from welfare base in school. Home packs available for pupils and this is shared with pupils via PSE
- In-school Uniform bank available on request through your child's Pupil Support Leader
- Christmas Food Hamper deliveries In December

As we approach the end of the term, our stocks of blazers are now running low. We know that many of our S5 and S6 leavers may have blazers and ties that they no longer need and if so, we would accept any donations of these items into school at this time. Please hand these in to the school office.

If you require uniform from the inhouse supply, please email your Pupil Support Leader and they will assist you.

[Dawn.mckillop@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Dawn.mckillop@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk) – MARGARET HOUSE

[Geraldine.kelly@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Geraldine.kelly@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk) – ANDREW HOUSE

[Gillian.kelly@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Gillian.kelly@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk) – DAVID HOUSE

Claire Gibson, Pupil Support Officer, can refer families to all supports listed above and support with all applications for FSM, EMA, free bus pass, completion of benefits applications, housing support and support families/young people to attend meetings/appointments during school day.

Claire can be contacted on: [Claire.gibson@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Claire.gibson@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk)

We thank you so much in your support with this.

We believe that uniform is an important part of ensuring our young people come to school ready to engage in their learning. It also is equitable with everyone wearing the same attire as well as an added security precaution.

**Seniors: we are expecting seniors to wear St. Augustine's RC High School blazers. Information on attaining a blazer was distributed several weeks ago.**

If you have any concerns or issues with this, please contact your child's Pupil Support Leader or Ms Gibson. There is also support from the authority and we can help access this on your behalf. Please follow this link for more info:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/food-clothing>

Our school uniform focus is on having pupils wear completely black trousers, or skirt, white shirt, school tie, and **completely black shoes**. Learners can also wear a plain black jumper/cardigan. All jackets, hoodies and hats should be removed when entering the school building. If leggings are worn, there must be a skirt over them. Please note that denims are not allowed.

If any learner has any issue with sourcing appropriate uniform, then we can help – please contact Ms. Gibson: [Claire.Gibson@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Claire.Gibson@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk)

### Timekeeping

We understand that learners can be caught out by one-off situations. There is an increasing trend that learners regularly show up to lessons late. If learners are on the astro-pitch for break/lunch, then it is their responsibility to ensure they return to class on time.

As a staff we will action this in the form of a consequence to emphasise the importance of being punctual. If a learner does not complete this then it will be escalated to a Friday after school detention.

### Out of class

Any learner who is out of class **without** written permission from the class teacher will be issued a consequence by that class teacher. The main vehicle for learning are lessons and these must be fully attended to maximise the impact. Please note that this only applies to learners who do not have a valid reason or their teacher's permission to be out of class.

### Inappropriate use of mobile phones

As a staff we have decided that no mobile phones should be in lessons whatsoever. Please note that all learners have a school iPad that will cater for any device needs within lessons.

If a learner is seen with a mobile phone and/or ear buds in a lesson, then the staff member will request the items to be put away and remind them that if out again they will be confiscated. If the items are seen again, then the staff member will ask for the item to be handed over. If this is done without any issue, then the item(s) will be returned at the end of the lesson.



If this must be escalated due to a lack of co-operation from the learner, then the item(s) will be confiscated till the end of the day and an appropriate consequence will be actioned.

### Pupil Co-operation

We welcome open dialogue and seek to build better engagement through understanding and discussion. As learning remains our priority, we welcome these discussions at times where it does not interfere in the learning of a class.



Thus, we respectfully expect learners follow reasonable instructions asked of them promptly. Further discussions will always be accommodated at a more appropriate time.

Staff will give one warning and then set a consequence if any learner refuses to follow a reasonable instruction. Again, if this must be escalated due to a lack of co-operation from the learner, then an appropriate consequence will be actioned.

**Please emphasise the importance of these basic expectations with your child.**

Our learning environment is much more encouraging when the focus is on the learning!

#### 4. Christmas Fayre – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022

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I could not resist advertising a Christmas event in June!

The Parent Council are very keen to have a Christmas Fayre this year at the school. It is planned for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and more information will follow in the new academic year.



#### 5. Caritas Awards this year

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Congratulations to all our young people who successfully gained a Caritas Award this year. To celebrate this achievement, the Archbishop created a video message to all young people engaged in the award, which can be seen here:

<https://archedinburgh.org/watch-archbishops-message-to-caritas-award-recipients/>



The picture is of Archbishop Cushley with some of our students at St. Augustine's RC High School.

#### 6. Equalities Update (March to May) (message from Mrs Evans)

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Incidents:

6 racist incidents reported and dealt with

4 homophobic incidents reported and dealt with

1 ASN incident reported and dealt with

Reporting:

We've listened to our young people and are introducing two new ways to report equalities incidents!

1. Anonymous QR code. This will be on the website and available around the school. It will also have the ability to change the language.
2. Staff allies group. We asked for staff volunteers who felt comfortable discussing equalities incidents with young people to come forward. We now have a group of people who can be contacted by young people to discuss anything equalities related.

Events:

10<sup>th</sup> of March – S4 Pupils delivered assemblies on the N Word to the whole school community. The young people were incredible, and the assemblies were very well received.

28<sup>th</sup> of March – Some of our young people who are neurodivergent created a PP explaining autism and neurodivergence which was shown to the whole school community to mark the beginning of autism awareness week.

7<sup>th</sup> of April – Culture Day

We celebrated the amazing diversity of our community with Culture Day. Pupils were invited to wear traditional dress and there was a dance/fashion show for S4-6. This will be recreated for our P7s and then a larger event on the last week of term – info to follow.



Upcoming Events in June:  
Gypsy/Roma Traveller Month  
20<sup>th</sup> – World Refugee Day

Pupil Work:

Equality Committee to meet and plan for next session.

We had 4 of our young people virtually attending a city wide equalities event on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. Active Sports Update

*(message from Mrs Damen, Active Sports Co-ordinator)*

*Just wanted to share a positive pic of Olivia Clarke volunteering at Edinburgh EPPSA primary Interscholastic on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. She worked so hard and the feedback and comments from all the Active Schools staff and coaches and schools was so positive about her attitude, enthusiasm and knowledge. Olivia is on the right of the picture!*

*One week later from this event:*

*Olivia Clark was selected to compete in the **Scottish Schools Athletics Championships**, in Grangemouth. She managed to make the finals in 1500m race and came 3<sup>rd</sup> place winning Bronze and an incredible Gold and 1<sup>st</sup> for 1500 steeplechase event for the school!*

*Just a reminder I am running a **cluster Primary sports camp before school returns during 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August! 10-3pm**. If you wish your child to attend please contact me: [fiona.damen@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:fiona.damen@ea.edin.sch.uk)*

*Thanks everyone and have best summer!*

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## 8. Junior Awards Ceremony – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

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We celebrated all the excellent achievements and efforts of our S1, S2 and S3 learners on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June.





We had musical pieces played by a number of our young people. Well done for stealing the show!!!

Congratulations to all our award winners!

Please see below for those who achieved an award in the UK Mathematical Challenge.

Forename	Surname	Award
Christopher	Barclay	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Bronze Award
Jakub	Bielnik	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Bronze Award
Lily	Cardownie	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Silver Award
Sophie	Connelly	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Silver Award
Natan	Karbownik	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Bronze Award
Rachel	Man	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Bronze Award
Rodrigo	Meireles	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Bronze Award
Faithful	Nwandu Eze Ekwuruke	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Bronze Award
Wiktor	Socha	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Silver Award
Igor	Ujazdowski	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Bronze Award
Moira Agatha	Veenboer	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Bronze Award
Alia	Visentin	UKMT Mathematical Challenge Bronze Award

## 9. S5/6 Induction Day

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On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June Mrs McKillop organised induction sessions for our new Senior Students. The two days were a roaring success and our young people engaged in the programme.



The programme included their personal goals, leadership, equalities, Rights Respecting Schools, mental health, and a serious game of softball!



Although there is still some debate, St. Margaret House were victorious!

#### 10. S6 Prom 2022

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I have never been so honoured or proud as a professional as I was on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June at the Bruntsfield Hotel. Our leaving S6 students met to celebrate their time at St. Augustine's RC High School.



A huge thank you to Ms Clark for organising this wonderful event and Mrs Haskett who assumed “control” for the night itself. A thank you for all the staff who attended to join the celebration and wish this wonderful group of people all the best. Good luck!

#### 11. Heriot Watt Trip

*(message from Mr Pullen)*

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Ten pupils won an in-school competition to get to experience a day at a Chemistry festival at Heriot-Watt University.

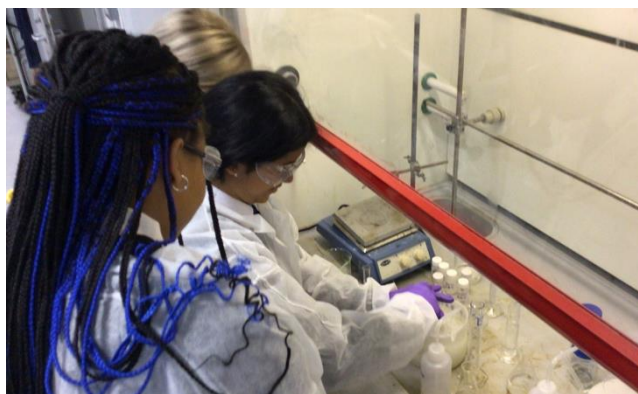
The day included inspiring speakers, a hands-on practical activity where the pupils made and identified a sample of pure aspirin, a careers panel and the opportunity to network with other pupils from other schools.

They were a credit to themselves, the school and their families – the event organisers commented on how keen they were to get stuck in, and their behaviour and attitude was excellent throughout.



The pupils involved were:

Arthur Machon  
Charlie McGinley  
Ashanti Arumugam  
Cerys Chambers  
Daniel Kalinski  
Jakub Serafin  
Valeria Lopez  
Venivici Onwughalu  
Julian Ziomkowski  
Lucie Brooks



## 12. P7 – 3 Day Transition Visit

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We welcomed over 150 new S1 students to St Augustine's for three days this month. A huge thank you to the Pupil Support Team for providing such a great experience for all these new S1 learners.

Please find all materials used for transition [here](#). Any and all questions you may have should be answered when you follow the link. If not, please contact the school we are happy to support.





### 13. Career Ready Summer Programme

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The following pupils will be embarking on their Career Ready internship from:

**Monday 27 June to Friday 22 July**

Tawana Mubaiwa – *Edinburgh University*

Fortune Egbule – *HSBC*

Julia Mitrosz – *Cruse Scotland*

Tamanna Begum – *Heriot Watt University*

Zainab Ali – *HSBC*

Tawana Mubaiwa – *Edinburgh University*



We wish them all the success possible for this opportunity!

### 14. Rugby Team Update

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*(message from Mr Milne – Inclusion Development Officer)*

*Our boys were playing against Leith Academy this week. There was some great individual performances when attacking and they worked together when defending.*

*The team proved too strong for Leith and we ended up putting conditions (must pass 10 times before scoring, can only pass/catch with one hand etc) on our players to encourage more team work instead of scoring after two passes from kick off. The end score: **St Augustine's 55 – Leith 20***



### 15. Youth Philanthropy Initiative

*(message from Mrs Doig)*

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*This year our winning charity was Shakti Womens Aid – represented by (4M2), Dylan, Finn, Daniel and Artjoms. The charity will now receive £3000 to support the amazing work they do in our local community.*

## 16. Black belt in Karate!

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Louisa Bridget Duffy in 2A1/2P1 has just had a grading for karate and has now achieved the rank of black belt 🏆.

Louisa previously had a grading before Christmas but didn't quite pass so it's fantastic to see her achieve this in such a short turn around.  
Congratulations!

## 17. Summer Provision – Emotional Wellbeing Supports for Young People

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Please visit [this post](#) on the school website to find a comprehensive guide to provision over the Summer for activities which are aimed to benefit young people experiencing mental health issues or who have Autism or social communication difficulties.

## 18. Athletics – International Selections

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We are delighted to announce the international selection by Scottish Athletics and UK Athletics of two of our senior pupils: Olivia Clarke (S5) and Tendai Nyabadza (S6). Olivia has been selected by Scottish Athletics to represent Scotland in the 1500m Steeplechase and Tendai has been chosen by British Athletics to represent Team GB in the 1500m. We are thrilled for them both; this is an amazing opportunity and we wish them every success in the international competitions they will be competing at next month!



### **OLIVIA CLARKE (5D2) – CORSTORPHINE AC:**

Olivia has been selected to represent Scotland at the SIAB (Scottish International Athletics Board) International Track and Field Championships in Belfast on July 16th. This is against England, Ireland and Wales. Olivia will be competing in the 1500m steeplechase and her current PB for this event is 5:06.36. Olivia is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Scotland and 7<sup>th</sup> in the UK for this distance in the U17 age group for the steeplechase.

Photo credit: Mike Taylor @mike3legs

## TENDAI NYABADZA (6D1) – HARMENY AC:

Tendai has been selected to represent Team GB at the U18 European Athletics Championships in Jerusalem on July 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a full international competition where every nation in European Athletics will be represented. Tendai will be competing in the 1500m and his current PB for this event is 3:47.86. Tendai is ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Scotland and 1<sup>st</sup> in the UK in the U18 age group for the 1500m.

Photo credit: Harmeny Athletics Club  
@HarmenyAC



## 19. Global Citizens in S1



We collected the heritage countries for all the new S1s during the transition event. When you see the spread of countries you get a sense of just how special an opportunity exists at St. Augustine's RC High School.

All this untapped potential to learn about other people and places. Please [click here](#) to explore!

## 20. Staffing Update

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There are a number of teaching vacancies we are hoping to fill. There will be more information after the Summer when we know who our new colleagues are.

For now, we say goodbye to the following staff and wish them the best of luck in their new endeavours:

Name	Destination	Start Date
David Dalglish	Portobello HS	Aug-06
Lisa Evans	Broughton HS	2012
Callum Timms	St Columba HS, Dunfermline	Jul-18
Clare Ellis	Selkirk HS	Mar-19
Ashlie Mearns	Leaving education	Aug-20



Tim Noakes	Newbattle HS	Sep-20
Liam McMulkin	St Roch's School, Glasgow	Aug-21
Andrew Milne	tbc	Aug-21
Katy Smillie (BSL Interpreter)	tbc	Aug-21
Tom Malone (BSL Interpreter)	Edinburgh Uni	Aug-21

In addition to staff moving on there is also a slight re-configuration to the Pupil Support Leader staff:

Name / Email	House	Working Days
Ms. Kelly <a href="mailto:Geraldine.Kelly@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk">Geraldine.Kelly@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk</a>	St. Andrew's House	Monday - Friday
Mr. Fey <a href="mailto:Kieran.Fey@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk">Kieran.Fey@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk</a>	St. David's House	Monday
Mrs. Kelly <a href="mailto:Gillian.Kelly@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk">Gillian.Kelly@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk</a>	St. David's House	Tuesday - Friday
Mrs. McKillop <a href="mailto:Dawn.McKillop@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk">Dawn.McKillop@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk</a>	St. Margaret's House	Monday - Thursday
Ms. Greenhorn <a href="mailto:Jessica.Greenhorn@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk">Jessica.Greenhorn@st-augustines.edin.sch.uk</a>	St. Margaret's House	Friday

We welcome Mrs Gillian Kelly to the Pupil Support Team on a permanent basis, while we also welcome Mr Kieran Fey and Ms Jess Greenhorn for the next year.

## 21. Staff v Pupils Netball Match – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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Massive well done to our staff netball team who beat the pupils 8-7 in a tense and competitive game today at lunch time!

It was end-to-end play, with Mr Murray, Mr Seywright and Mr Fey showing excellent linking play to get the ball into Mrs Croome and Mr Higgins in the shooting circle. The pupils also showed excellent play in the mid-court with Rana Kabashi (6D1) linking up well with Stephanie Imaghodor (6A); and Humphrey Scott (5D1) was excellent as Goal Defence. MVPs overall however were Mr Higgins and Paris Aina Babs (6A) with particular mention to Paris who brought the pupils back into the game.

Everyone, teachers, pupils and spectators had a blast with a massive turn out of spectators too. Thanks to all who played and came to watch!



Staff Team: (Backrow) Mr Fey (Biology), Mrs Croome (SfL), Mr Higgins (PE), Miss Dove (Maths), Miss Flemming (Art) and Mrs Haskett (PE), (Front row) Mrs McKillop (PSL), Mr Seywright (Maths), Mr Murray (PE), Mr Fletcher (Maths) and Miss Cox (PE)

Pupil Team: Megan Gallagher (6A), Stephanie Imaghodor (6A), Edward Makota (5D1), Rana Kabshi (6D1), Teagan Mukaro (6D2), Humphrey Scott (5D1), Freyja Murphy (6A), TK Adebayo (5D1), Erin Angod (6D2), Paris Aina Babs (6A), Nadia Lyons (6A), Katie Hardie (6D1), Nel Malczuk (6M2)

## 22. Thank you from Active Schools [back to top](#) (message from Jude Salmon – Active Schools Manager)

*I just wanted to say a huge thank you for agreeing to host Games @ the Hub event at your school and also to the many senior pupils who were an integral part of the day, supporting the Active Schools team, delivering to the young pupils and in some cases organising the sessions.*



*The feedback from the Active Schools team was that they were a brilliant support, very engaging with the young pupils and showed strong leadership skills. I know that the event would not have been the success it was without them. Please can you pass on our thanks to them all.*

Adrian Chiweshe	Oskar Zarzyka
Connor Ritchie	Owen Ogilvie
Ellie Smith	Peter Lisiak
Erin Angod	Raysa de La Paz Volquez
Fabian Machala	Rowan Wallace
Freddie Owens	Sam Henderson
Horhe Zilite-Haimess	Scott Paget
Jacinta Okoro	Seweryn Lochowski
Katie Hardie	Shallum Augusta-Lancaster
Lauren Gavin	Sierra Fulton
Marisa Watson	Stephan Fernandez Velarde
Megan Gallagher	Szymon Rolka
Mia Vilamizar	Taylor Wilson
Michael Bianco	Tifney Aheimbisibwe
Olivia Clarke	



### 23. Netball Awards

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*(message from Ms Cox – Netball Coach)*

Well done to our netball team who have had another fantastic year of games and training! On Wednesday we hosted our final training session of the academic year alongside some awards. Well done to all our award winners below!

Coach's Player: Tifney Aheimbisibwe  
(Runners Up: Mia Villamizar)

Players' Player: Stephanie Imaghodor  
(Runners Up: Aleksandra Fedorowska)



Most Committed: Megan Gallagher

Most Improved: Rohey Njie

Team Spirit: Freyja Murphy  
(Runners Up: Marta O)

Best Newcomer: Rana Kabashi  
(Runners Up: Raysa De La Paz Volquez)



## 24. S6 Leadership

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Congratulations to the successful applicants who now form our new S6 Leadership Team:

Head Pupil: **Lisa Adaikalasamy & Ronan Arumugam**

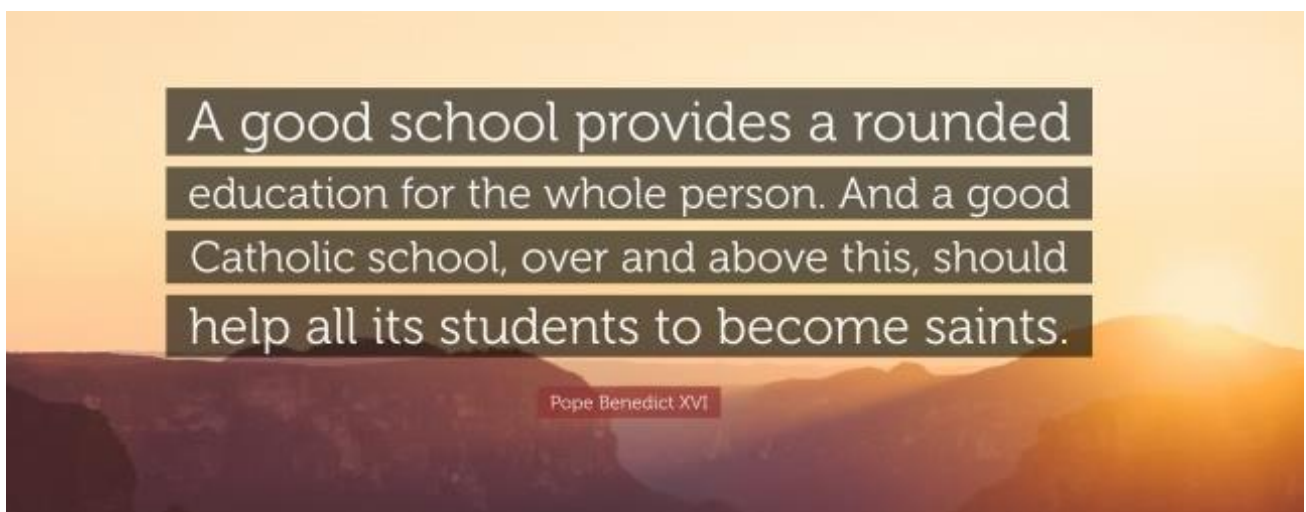
Depute Head Pupil: **Fortune Egbule & Marta Ostrycharz & Rowan Wallace**

## Moment of Reflection

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Dear all, a huge thank you for all your support this year. As a community we have overcome some of the most testing circumstances in known memory.

I am sure you will join me in thanking the wonderful staff of St. Augustine's for their unending professionalism, commitment and care regarding your child(ren).



Have a fun, exciting, safe Summer and we look forward to seeing our “saints” back in August!