



**St Cuthbert's
Catholic High School**
Live life in all its fullness

Berrys Lane
Sutton, St. Helens
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Headteacher:
Mrs Catherine Twist B. Ed
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22 October 2020

Dear parents/carers

As we approach the end of a very unusual half term I thought I would write to you all to say how proud I am of our school community in facing the challenges over the last weeks and months in order to get our students back into school safely, meeting up with friends and learning as they should be.

In such unusual times, it has been phenomenal to see how every part of our school community has worked together and I want to thank you for your part in this. The very high standards of uniform, behaviour, respect and determination from the majority of our young people has been noticeable from the start of term and has continued throughout the half term.

Being in a 'bubble' has its advantages and disadvantages however to observe the learning taking place and the relationships being built is amazing. This current situation will continue after half term until there are any changes in the local and National restrictions.

School continues to work as a school and preparation for Y11 GCSEs, assessments and reporting will continue next term. I thank you for your support in our Blended Learning programme for students who need to self-isolate and for students and staff who cannot be in front of a class. You can view this page here: <https://www.stcuthberts.com/school-life/student-resources/students-work-during-isolation/>

On site we have just completed the rebuild of the multi-use games area and the new canopy is underway which will create an additional covered area for students to eat and socialise at break and lunch. The new fitness suite – The Bamburgh has been completed but unfortunately cannot be used whilst we are in Tier 3. Work will continue over the next few months on areas of the school roof and as usual the whole site is cared for by our amazing site staff and cleaning team.

We have celebrated successes throughout the half term with certificates and rewards, an acknowledgement of the hard work of our students. We will be celebrating our Annual Awards event (although slightly differently) as we did our Open Evening. We are all having to learn a new normal but this will not be at the expense of our young people.

I have always been tremendously proud of all the staff at St Cuthbert's but being part of such a dedicated team of people has been an honour both during lockdown and since our return and I am sure you will join me in thanking them and wishing them a restful half term as they thoroughly deserve it.

We have received an important letter from St Helens Borough Council regarding safety during half term; all parents and carers should take the time to read - please [click here](#) to view.

In preparation for next half term, a few reminders please:

Tier 3

As you will be well aware, the wider Liverpool City region has been placed into Tier 3 and is under tighter restrictions in an attempt to help reduce the spread of the virus. For school, it doesn't result in any significant changes but we would emphasise the following and ask you to also discuss these points with your child:





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- Students **should have a mask with them at all times**, and in school these must be worn at all times when moving around the building indoors (exemptions should wear the pin badge that has been supplied).
- Social distancing is essential at all possible times.
- Students getting the buses or going into local shops must wear masks.
- Students should make a note of who they travel to and from school with (including who they sit with on a bus) and spend break/lunchtime with (this helps us with our tracing system).
- All classes have detailed seating plans (should we be required to trace students in lessons).

Symptoms

Can I remind all parents and students to be vigilant for symptoms which include at least one of:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste

Please do not send students in to school if you or they are awaiting a test or have symptoms.

Here's a link to our COVID-19 page on the school website:

<https://www.stcuthberts.com/school-life/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Around this time of year, it is common for people to start to get coughs and colds. The following link to the BBC website provides a useful explanation of the differences between cold symptoms and COVID symptoms. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-54145299>

Other reminders

Attendance and punctuality is extremely important, as always.

Uniform and standards: As the cold weather approaches, can I remind students and families of the need to have a black top coat that can fit into their school bag. We have advised students to wear base layers under their uniforms if needed.

As part of the ongoing Moss Nook development, we have received advance notice of road closure on Watery Lane during half term with diversions in place - [please check out full details on our website](#).

Just leaves me to say I hope you and your family have a restful half term and stay safe. The changes and restrictions won't last forever. Until then, we will all do our best for our students and for each other.

We re-open on **Monday, 2nd November 2020 at 8:30am.**

Yours faithfully

C.A. Twist

Mrs C Twist
Headteacher

