



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

Berrys Lane  
Sutton, St. Helens  
WA9 3HE

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**Headteacher:**  
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16 December 2020

Dear parents and carers

It has been a busy and challenging few months and it seems a long time since we welcomed students back to school in September. We have managed to achieve a huge amount both within and beyond the classroom and we are all looking forward to our Christmas holiday and the opportunities of the coming New Year.

Even in this really difficult situation, our students have been receptive to the bubble arrangements and the changes in school. They have worked hard and settled back in after such a long time at home during lockdown. The extremely high level of safety measures in place have, I am sure, enabled us to stay in school even when the occasional positive case of Covid 19 has been reported. I sincerely hope that this continues into the new term.

Year 7 have settled in well and have produced some exceptional work as well as making new friends. Being in 'bubbles' has not stopped us from doing the 'normal' things that makes St Cuthbert's special. We have had virtual Open and Awards evenings, there have been fundraising events within bubbles to help food banks and hampers for care homes.

Every bubble has had the opportunity to take part in Christmas jumper day and, of course, Christmas lunches have been enjoyed by each year group.

I would like to remind our Year 11 students that, whilst we expect them to enjoy the Christmas holiday, it is essential they also make time to study and revise as they prepare for exams in the New Year, which start on 19<sup>th</sup> January. We know that many have been applying for 6<sup>th</sup> form places and their hard work now will help them be successful and secure the places they deserve. I would like to congratulate these students on the efforts so far and remind them to remain focused on study for the final few months ahead.

#### **A few other reminders:**

Regular attendance at school is vital to help children achieve and get the best possible start in life. Children who frequently miss school fall behind and there is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving good results. Attendance this term has been good on the whole, especially with some students having to self-isolate. We expect good attendance to continue next term.

School starts at 8:30am every day. Being late does not only impact on a child's learning but in this current situation is extremely disruptive to the office and bubble staff to ensure that students have had their temperatures checked, marked in and safely delivered to the correct bubble.

The standard of uniform has been amazing this term. Please make sure that this continues next year. As we have previously discussed, students have been advised to 'layer up' under their uniform, wear a school jumper and when the weather is very cold we, of course are allowing the students to wear their black top coats in some lessons. The school heating is on maximum but the windows must stay open in order to ventilate the rooms and keep everyone safe.

Blended learning is another new phrase which is common language now. Our school website is all set up to allow students who have to remain at home to continue to work alongside their peers in the classroom.





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External partners who have looked at our Blended learning have been extremely complimentary about how much has been done to help students at home. Work will continue on this in the New Year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students for their co-operation and hard work and of course to you, our parents and families for your support at this time. It has not always been easy but we do what we always do which is to work together with one goal - doing the best for our children and it has been heart-warming to see this even more so this term.

I could not end the term without thanking all the staff for their amazing hard work. The challenges that have presented themselves during 2020 have been unprecedented for the school community and the staff at St Cuthbert's have been second to none in facing these challenges with grit and determination. I wish them all a safe, restful and Happy Christmas.

**Everyone returns to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and the current arrangements will remain in place.** Once we have settled back in and we know what effect Christmas may have had on the infection rate, we intend to make some changes to the staff within bubbles. The children will be staying in their year groups and in their current location. I will give you more details when we return.

Please stay safe and well throughout the Christmas period and continue to follow the Government guidelines to ensure our continued safety in 2021.

I will be on call until 22<sup>nd</sup> December to deal with any communication with parents regarding students who present with symptoms or test positive which may impact on others having to self-isolate. I truly hope that I am not needed but please email [hello@stcuthberts.com](mailto:hello@stcuthberts.com) if you need to contact me about the above.

Please make sure that ALL students (unless exempted) have a black mask for the start of term.

I look forward to seeing all students back refreshed in school in January ready for the term ahead. I hope that you and your loved ones have a very peaceful, restful and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God bless.

Yours faithfully

[Click here to view important NHS Schools Information](#)  
[Click here to view the St Helens Council Schools Christmas Newsletter](#)

C.A. Twist

Mrs C Twist  
Headteacher

