



**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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13 December 2019

Dear parents/carers

The school year started well with a full complement of staff and the highest number of students for several years. Students, staff and families have worked very hard to ensure that our young people come to school ready to learn. Uniform standards have never been as high, attendance continues to improve and our AtL system is showing that the majority of our students are eager to learn and make a positive contribution to school life.

I am sure you are aware of the 'big' events last half term including Open and Awards Evenings and last night our second annual St Cuthbert's Sports Personality of the Year Awards Evening, which was a great success celebrating the sporting achievements of our students. Andy Turner the Olympic and Commonwealth medalist was guest of honour. He told us about his journey from hopeful schoolboy to world class athlete and his journey truly underlined the importance of the right mind-set, resilience and the 'can do' attitude that we are so passionate about at St Cuthbert's.

Other extra-curricular events this term have included:

- Y7 First Aid day
- Y8 World Space Week – Jodrell Bank workshops
- Student Council trip to the Houses of Parliament
- Y8 Work Experience
- Y11 Carmel College Taster workshops
- Sports activities - various
- Y11 Post-16 evening to look at options with the borough and outside
- Make Your Mark - UK Youth Parliament vote
- Chris Daw QC speaking to our Y11 students
- Christmas Jumper Day combined with Christmas lunch
- Year 7 Pantomime trip

Last month, we were absolutely delighted to receive the Skills for the Future award at the annual Invest in St Helens Business Awards. Invest St Helens Business awards celebrates the role of St Helens Businesses, Social Enterprises and Schools' investment in raising the profile of St Helens as a place to invest, live, learn, work and visit. The Skills for the Future Award "recognises the work of schools, businesses or organisations who are supporting our students and residents with the skills needed to ensure they benefit from quality jobs created by St Helens economy. Other finalist included Carmel College and St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary School".

Student voice continues to be heard and shared throughout the school. The student council has taken part in various events including 'interviewing' school prefects, senior team and Y7 student council members. Some of our Student Council members were lucky enough to visit the Houses of Parliament in London. Our kind-hearted students continue to fundraise and donate, including items for St Helens Foodbank and Advent Calendar donations.

The fundamental purpose of St Cuthbert's is to prepare our young people for a life after school, academically, morally and spiritually and we continue to strive to ensure that all students make the best progress possible. Standards of behavior, attendance and uniform go hand-in-hand with high expectations and our shared aspiration for all our students to succeed. These students will continue in the new term and I thank you for your support in all of these matters.

Year 11 have had mock exams this week and will continue into next week and will be preparing for the final push towards their GCSEs. There have been several assemblies and a wellbeing evening to advise and encourage Y11 students to prepare for their exams in a sensible way and to ensure a good diet and sleep pattern to keep them focussed. All students will have exams next term and more details will follow in the New Year and parents should be receiving information about your child's current progress via MyEd.

As previously announced, St Cuthbert's will be a totally cash-free school from January with the removal of the Reval machines. Please make sure you've made arrangements to top up your child's dinner money via [ParentPay](#). Please contact us if you have any log-in queries.





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We have come to the end of a long term and the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. The prospect of Christmas cheers us and lifts our spirits away from the cold, dark and weather of winter and that our minds start, albeit briefly, to drift away from the hard work of our day-to-day school business, to the festive period itself.

To remind ourselves of the true meaning of the Christmas we have been preparing the students throughout Advent with prayers and reflections which have been used by teachers in Sacred Time and collective worship and we celebrated year group Christmas Masses last Friday.

Because of this hard work, the Governors have agreed that the school closes at the earlier time of
12:30pm on Friday 20th December 2019.

Unfortunately Mersey Travel are no longer able to provide any school buses at that time of the day so we would therefore ask that you make arrangements for your child to be collected by you or a representative if they usually use any of the buses.

**Although no lunch will be provided that day appropriate food will be available at break time.
Please contact us if you have any issues with this arrangement.**

The school will re-open on **Monday, 6th January 2020 at 8:30am.**

I am sure that you would like to join with me in thanking all of the staff at St Cuthbert's for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the students of the school during the year.

On behalf of everybody I would like to wish you, your family and the students a holy and peaceful Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Twist
Headteacher

