



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

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3rd April 2020

Dear parents/carers

As the strangest and most challenging spring term draws to a close, I have spent some time in my 'office' reflecting on the past 4 months.

It started so well back in January. The National School Census showed that the school is at its fullest for years, and from September 2020 we will be completely full. This is clear evidence that parents want to bring their children to us. Why? Because we are a good school providing an all-round experience for our young people. An academic education is of course extremely important, but so is being a good citizen, resilient, confident and skilled-up morally, socially and in faith.

We were externally acknowledged for our work with SEND students and the work we continually do to ensure our young people feel safe in and out of school.

Our staff produced resources to enable our students to excel in their lessons; Knowledge Organisers and workbooks, Growth mind-set activities and a common language in all lessons to ensure that our young people can transfer their skills and knowledge across all their subjects and take them with them when they leave.

Everyone Reading in Class was introduced with staff and children reading together.

We visited Universities and other Post-16 provisions to give our young people a taste of what is to come when they leave St Cuthbert's, and we have had speakers in to talk to our youngsters about positivity and resilience.

Work in lessons has been celebrated, as has the behaviour and attitudes of those children who take being a part of our community very seriously.

And then this current situation started to impact on our school life and, although the 'building' is temporarily closed, the 'school' is still very much open and working with our families. The staff have worked tirelessly, ensuring that the children who are safely at home have work to do, not just to keep up their learning but to help to distract them from uncertainty. I would like to take this opportunity to firstly, thank all the staff for their determination and hard work this term and secondly, to thank you, our families, for your continued support. I know that there have been a small number of issues regarding log in details but on the whole it has been very smooth and for those without the electronic resources there is reading to be done and Knowledge Organisers to be followed.

I hope our continued communication with you has been useful. I know that we cannot always get you the answers that you require but we will continue to work with you during this time.

For our Year 11 students this has been a particularly frustrating and anxious time for them and for you as parents. I wish to assure you that we continue to support all our Year 11 students and are working with exam boards and DfE to ensure the best possible outcomes.

Our daily staff briefing was quite strange today, not just because we are normally all together in the staff room but because we said farewell to some staff.

Mrs Dawber leaves us, temporarily, today to prepare for the birth of her first baby and we wish her and her





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family every happiness. Looking after Year7 alongside Mr Heywood is Miss Lomax who you will know from the Humanities department. Mr Roberts will be taking care of the work we do in our Primary schools. Also leaving today is Mrs Winstanley from the Maths department. She has been a valued member of the Maths team and we wish her success and happiness in her new job. We have Mrs Weir and Miss Gwyther already with us who will be taking Mrs Winstanley's classes.

Last but definitely not least we say goodbye to Mr Gibbins, who, after 36 years of teaching English has decided to retire to spend more time with his family. We wish him good health and happiness as he starts his new adventure. Mrs Sharples will take Mr Gibbins' lessons.

And so I will finish by saying how exceptionally proud I am to lead and be part of the St Cuthbert's community - the staff, governors, parents and carers but most of all our young people. When this situation is a memory we will look back and realise that it has made us stronger, more resilient, closer to our loved ones and more focused on what is important.

I wish you and your families a happy and Holy Easter (in whatever form that may be). Use this time to stay busy. Spend time with each other. Share moments, memories and humour together and above all keep each other safe.

God Bless.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Twist
Headteacher

