

Half-Term Updates

February 2025




Headteacher's message

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I hope you found it useful to read all about what has been happening at our school in our Christmas newsletter that was posted to your home. After a bumpy start with the snow, there is so much to celebrate from this half term. Although this is not a termly newsletter (the next one will be Easter), I wanted to take the opportunity to share some of the highlights from the last 6 weeks with you. I am keeping my message to you brief because I've included more updates throughout this letter.

Thank you for all of your support over the past half term. Like you, we only want the best for your child. Thank you for working with us to achieve this. We look forward to welcoming your child back, in the correct uniform and ready to learn no later than 8.30am on Monday 24th February.

Best wishes,
Mr Holland.



*Live life in
all its fullness*

John 10:10

School Prayer

Dear God,

We ask for the compassion
to care for each other,
the commitment to strive
for excellence, and the courage
to do the right thing. Help us
to build a community where
everyone can live life to the full.

Amen.

St. Cuthbert, pray for us.



Celebrating this Half Term



Three of our Year 11 students won the first round of the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition against tough competition, gaining them a place in the semi-finals... this is a first for St. Cuthbert's and we are rightly proud!



85 of our Year 8 students had a wonderful residential retreat at Savio House.



More than 80 students have received an R5 Award since Christmas, we are so proud of you.



Our Y11s have prepared well for their last round of mock examinations.



Our Y10 students competed for the Mond Trophy at Cronton College and took part in a brilliant STEM event.

We have started working with Mr. Delaney who has helped improve our hymn singing and poetry.



We had an amazing Musical Winter Showcase – what amazing talent Cuthies has!



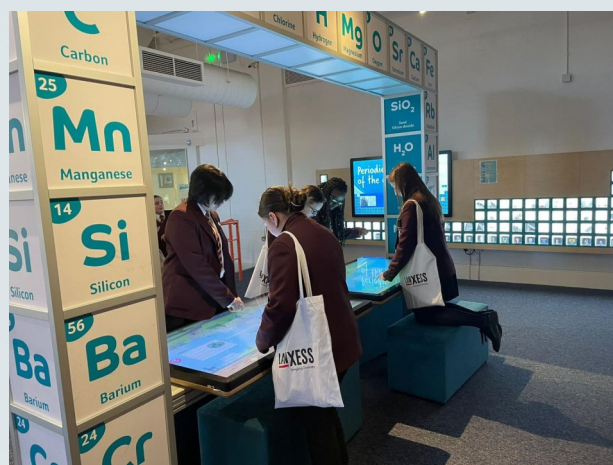
We have had lots of sporting successes, particularly our Year 7s who have made an outstanding start to their rugby journey and our Year 9 team who have also been exceptional, showing great skill and teamwork throughout the group stages. Well done.



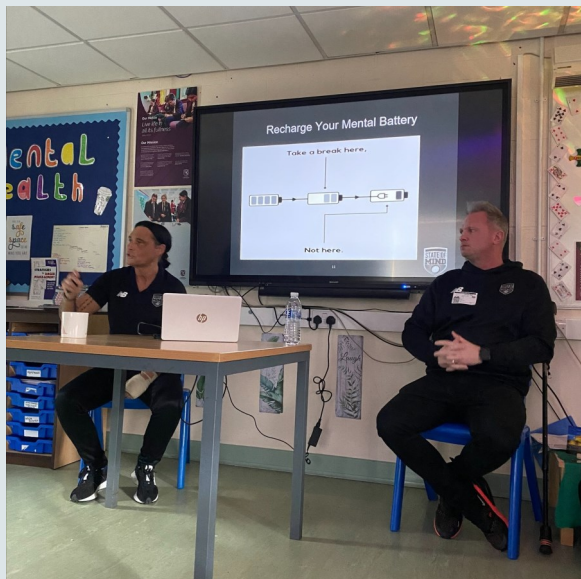
Our Y10 students competed for the Mond Trophy at Cronton College and took part in a brilliant STEM event.



Y8&9 had a wonderful trip to the Catalyst Museum in Widnes.



Our Appropriate Provision offer continues to grow in strength with a visit from State of Mind Sport .



Year 9 participated in fantastic workshops to prepare for the Young Green Briton Challenge.



Ruby C in Year 9 has raised £1200 for Willowbrook Hospice, we are so proud!



Some of our Year 11 Spanish students enjoyed some authentic Spanish Tapas at El Gato Negro!



We had a packed and exciting Employers Marketplace for Y7-10 which was a great opportunity for our students to discuss careers and future pathways.

Year 7 have officially chosen their **Year 7 Saint** as **St. Maximilian Kolbe**.

He was a truly inspirational Priest during World War 2.

You can read more about him here: [St. Maximilian Kolbe - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#)



Updates

Student overdrafts – please read

We have a number of students who are in high amounts of debt through buying food/drink from The Canteen/Café. Please could you check your child's ParentPay and pay off any debts as soon as is possible?

Moving forward, all students will only be allowed to go to a maximum of £5 debt. After this they will not be able to buy food/drinks until their account is topped up. We never want to see a child go without food which is why we offer free bagels in the morning and will support with any [applications for Free School Meals](#).

However, I am getting more parental feedback disagreeing with an endless overdraft. School does not have the funds to pay student overdrafts, and it is unfair on students who keep their account up to date. Please talk to your child about staying within their account balance and support us in explaining that if they reach their £5 overdraft limit, they will not be able to buy food or drink.

Also, after half term, Free School Meal allowances will only be able to be used at lunchtime (not breaktime). Again, if a student is hungry in the morning, they can have a free bagel. We are experiencing an increase in students spending all of their Free School Meal allowance at break, and then having no money for lunch.



Lockdown practice



Like all schools, we have plans in place for emergencies on site including fire or if an intruder was to gain access. If you have visited school, you will know that we have perimeter gates which are locked during the school day, along with two layers of locked doors before entry can be gained onto site. However, we still need to practice a lockdown from time to time so our students and staff know exactly what to do in an emergency. Our next lockdown practice will be during the week beginning the 3rd March. We will

meet with students beforehand to explain the procedure and to alleviate any anxieties they may have. Thank you for your support.

Parent(s)/Carer(s) voice

We have currently just finished a round of Student and Staff Voice. We had responses from 548 students, and 62 staff. Whilst there are some areas for improvement that have been identified, **we are particularly proud of the following highlights:**

- ♦ **83% of students believe that St. Cuthbert's is a supportive community and works as hard as possible to give them the best opportunities.**
- ♦ **79% of students are happy at St. Cuthbert's**
- ♦ **81% of students know who to speak to for support with their mental health**
- ♦ **98% of staff believe that their wellbeing is taken seriously by leaders**
- ♦ **100% of staff believe our safeguarding culture is strong**
- ♦ **100% of staff are proud to work at St. Cuthbert's**

Some of the key areas addressed are already being worked on. An example is our toilets that we are busy working on funding for to improve. Unfortunately, even though the vast majority of our students would like the rules around mobile phones relaxing, this won't be happening! Thank you for your support with this.



Can I ask you to complete your feedback form which is available via the link the MYED message you've received by 3pm on Friday 14th February? Please be honest in being positive in what we are doing well, and in giving us feedback on the areas we need to work on.

Standards

We continue to work on behaviour and standards and are delighted with improvements over the past 6 months. I am very grateful for our parent(s)/carer(s) support in us drastically reducing

“High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation.”

CHARLES KETTERING

www.stcuthberts.com

incidents of verbal abuse towards staff, in the banning of mobile phones on staff and for the vast majority of our students being in the correct footwear. After Half Term we are having a focus on reducing students being late to lessons. I am speaking to students about this on Friday in assembly. Going forward, they will have to make up the weekly total minutes late to lesson after school. Teachers will be reasonable in not marking a student late if they are a couple of minutes after the bell and they have had to walk from the other side of the building. We are hoping to heavily reduce the small minority who disrupt learning by being up to

15-minutes late because they've been for a wander around the building! Thank you for your support. A reminder that mobile phones are totally banned on site. I have [hyperlinked](#) my previous letter about mobiles to remind you of our expectations around mobile phones.

Trips

We have lots of trips planned for next term. I would particularly like to draw your attention to our Skiing trip at Easter and our Rome Pilgrimage in May. Both are international trips and we wish our students and staff well. Can I take this opportunity to thank our staff in advance who are giving up their holiday time to give students this opportunity. Thank you to our parent(s)/carer(s) who I know will have made sacrifices to enable your child to go on the trips. We hope they will have experiences and make memories to last a life time.



Options

We have worked hard this year to increase our Key Stage 4 curriculum offer. It is very important that if your child is in Year 9 that you attend their Options Evening on Thursday 27th February. New subjects on offer for next year are: Film Studies, Dance, Construction, Photography, Child Care and Triple Science.

Parking

We continue to experience a minority of parent(s)/carer(s) totally ignoring the yellow lines and parking dangerously in front of school at the end of the day. If this applies to you, please can I appeal to your better nature not to do this? You are endangering other people's children. If there is a genuine need for your child not to walk to a safer place to be collected, please let me know and we can make arrangements for them.



Extra-Curricular Timetable 2024-2025

A Week and B Week (unless stated otherwise)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school 8:05-8:30am			Breakfast with God - drop-in prayer - Chapel		
Lunchtime	Youth SVP - RE	BSL Club - E3 - LCR & KMY	Drama Club - DS - EPN Girls Fitness (Y10 + Y11) - Sports Hall Chapel open	Quiet reading - RE Boys Fitness (Y10 + Y11) - Sports Hall Chapel open	Equality & Diversity Group - RE Sustainability Club - H5
After School 3:00-4:00pm	Brass Band with Mr Chadwick - MU Mindfulness Group - Wellbeing Rm Cheerleading - Sports Hall (3:15-4:15pm)	Drama Intervention - DS Basketball - Sports Hall Girls Football - Astro Rugby - All Yrs - Field	Cuthles Singers/ Show Rehearsal - Mu Netball - all years - Sports Hall Boys Football - Y7 + Y8 - Astro Entrepreneurs Challenge - Y9 - H6 Art Club - A2 - LAD Board Game and Chess Club - R3 - JPN	Chaplaincy Leaders - RE Pop/Rock Band - MU Music Intervention - MU Boys Football - Y9 + Y10 - Astro	Philosophy Club - Y8-11 - RE Art Club - A1 - MKN (B Week only)



Music Practice can take place when rooms booked with Mrs. Dixon

stcuthberts.com

COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMPASSION | COMMUNITY



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

stcuthberts.com

COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMPASSION | COMMUNITY

Key Dates - Spring Term 2025



Monday, 24th February 2025	School reopens at 8:30am after the half-term holiday
24th February 2025	Y11 Mock exams continue (until Friday, 28th February)
27th February 2025	Year 9 Options Evening
3rd March 2025 (11.30am)	SEND Parent/Carer drop in
W/B 3rd March 2025	Y10 Mock examinations begin
5th March 2025	Ash Wednesday
6th March 2025	Y11 Cronton and Riverside Interviews
11th and 12th March 2025	Y9 vaccinations
20th March 2025	St. Cuthbert's Feast Day and Y11 trip to watch Blood Brothers
4th April 2025	School closes at 3pm for the Easter holiday
5th April 2025	Ski trip departs
Tuesday, 22nd April 2025	School reopens at 8:30am after the Easter holiday

Our full term dates are also available on our school website here:

<https://www.stcuthberts.com/media/10597/school-term-dates-2024-2025-st-cuthberts.pdf>



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

stcuthberts.com

COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMPASSION | COMMUNITY