

STUART BATHURST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

17 November 2020

#36



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to this week's newsletter. and apologies for the late publication. It has been a rather busy week followed by a busy weekend dealing with the issues arising from the increase in the number of positive cases of COVID in the local area. Within the body of the school we are thankful that the number of cases remains low, but what is apparent is that the rate of contact and therefore the need to self-isolate has increased. Please be assured that we are not alone, I understand that almost two-thirds of Secondary Schools are experiencing disruptions at present and the number of students self-isolating nationally has doubled. Can I thank you for your understanding and cooperation on this.

The image to the right, of Pope Francis and his words of wisdom, strikes a huge chord with me at this time. In difficult moments I feel our Lord walking beside me and indeed sometimes carrying me through. Pope Francis uses the imagery of shepherds a lot in his preaching. This imagery is peppered throughout the bible and we as Catholics think of our Lord very much as a shepherd and we as His sheep. In his preaching, Pope Francis says that the Shepherd should smell of his flock. In other words, a Shepherd should live so closely with his flock and know them so well that he becomes one with them. To this end, Francis when he was a Bishop used to check the soles of his priests' shoes to ensure that they had the dirt from the streets of their parishioners on them. So what should we take from this?

I think that our community knows each other well, and supports one another well because of this.

I would like to share some very positive news with you. Last week we were reviewed on our safeguarding practice by Jayne Lowe a national figure in safeguarding. This was the fourth time that Jayne has visited us and I just want to share with you an excerpt from her report.

"The practice demonstrated by the designated staff at the school is exemplary. The school could and should act as a beacon within the MAC to model and share best practice."

Throughout lockdown the team have worked tirelessly to provide the very best to all of their families."

I cannot tell you how gladly I accepted this accolade because it recognises the work of the wonderful team of staff I am blessed to be working with. I know from my interaction with many of you that you will join me in applauding them too.

Next weeks Newsletter will focus on how you as parents can support your children in their remote learning.

God bless,
Mrs Morris



"We have a Lord who is capable of crying with us, capable of walking with us in the most difficult moments of life."

Pope Francis
Philippines, 2015

GCSEPOD

We are delighted to announce that Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School has continued its investment in GCSEPod, the award-winning digital content and revision provider used by over 1,250 schools worldwide.

Last academic year, the school won the regional competition, The Pod Games, for its engagement and usage with the software with over 20,000 pods streamed by students across the school. Student feedback was positive and the software contributed heavily to the improved progress of students across a range of subject areas.

As a subscriber, your child now has access to GCSEPod's library of over 6,000 'Pods,' 3-5 minute videos designed to deliver knowledge in short bursts.

GCSEPod makes learning and revision much more manageable: every Pod is mapped to an exam board, and contains all the right facts, quotes, keywords, dates and annotated diagrams that your child needs for GCSE success – all neatly organised into topics and exam playlists.

One of the best things about GCSEPod is that you can download any Pod to your child's mobile device, and then they can watch them at any time, in any place, without internet. It's like they're carrying a whole set of textbooks in their pocket!

Make sure you download the GCSEPod app from the App Store (Apple and Android are supported) to access this feature. GCSEPod also has the ability to identify knowledge gaps and automatically send playlists to help fill them. After completing any homework set on GCSEPod, your child will get a personalised "Boost Playlist" of Pods relevant to their identified areas of weakness. We strongly suggest you encourage your child to review these playlists regularly as this will speed up their progress.

We recommend that you talk about GCSEPod with your son or daughter – check that they've successfully activated their account and encourage them to make use of this amazing resource throughout their GCSEs. Once they've activated their account, they can browse the GCSEPod library and create their own playlists – just as they would when they're listening to music.

For more ways to support your child using GCSEPod, please visit www.gcsepod.com/parents where you'll find lots more information and resources.

Your child has already been registered with GCSEPod, so all they need to do is activate their account by following the instructions below. If your child has already activated but can't remember their username and password, please ask them to contact their Head of Year or Student Welfare Officer.

Alternatively you can email us on parentportal@stuart-bathurst.org.uk.

5 STEPS TO GET YOU PODDING

1. Go to www.gcsepod.com and click "Login" in the top right-hand corner.
2. Click "New to GCSEPod? Get started."
3. Select "Student"
4. Enter your child's name, date of birth and the school name.
5. Create a username, password, and a password hint to help them remember the password.

Watch this space for Year and House specific competitions linked to GCSEPod in the near future!

Miss G Raindi

Senior Assistant Headteacher-
Quality of Education

THE TOP-PODDER COMPETITION RETURNS!

From next week, we will start to tally students' access to GCSEPod. This will create the GCSEPod league, with chances for students to win prizes in recognition of their efforts.



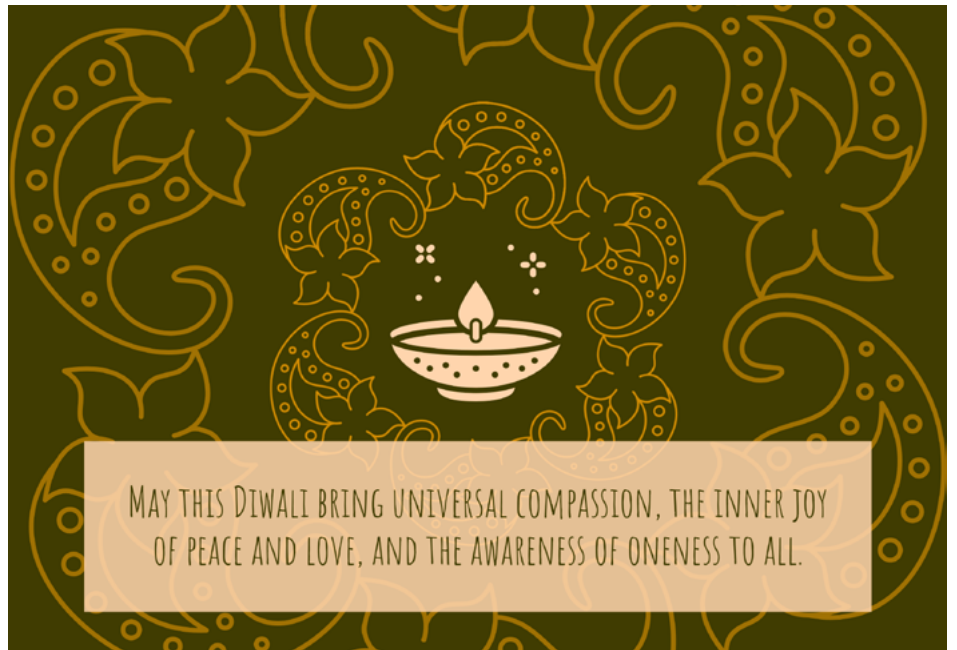
CELEBRATING DIWALI

Diwali – What’s it all about?

The weekend saw many of our friends and family celebrate Diwali and we are happy to share a little bit about a festival that is so special for many in our community.

Diwali is an important religious festival originating in India. People often think of Diwali as a Hindu festival, but it is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains. Diwali takes place annually and lasts for five days, marking the start of the Hindu New Year. The exact dates change each year and are determined by the position of the moon– but it usually falls between October and November.

The word Diwali (or Deepavali as it’s sometimes called) means “row of lights” in an Ancient language of India, called Sanskrit. During this festival, people decorate their homes with lights and oil lamps, called diyas. But it’s not just about lights and legends — Diwali is a time to have fun with friends and family! People exchange gifts and sweets, enjoy delicious feasts, watch firework displays and wear new clothes. It’s a time to clean and decorate your home, too.



Rangoli is a popular Diwali tradition — beautiful patterns made using colourful powders and flowers. People draw rangoli on the floor by the entrance of their homes to bring good luck!

Today, this fascinating festival is celebrated by thousands of people in countries all around the world. During Diwali, Hindus living outside India gather at places of worship called mandirs to leave offerings, watch firework displays and eat yummy food together!

The city of Leicester, holds the largest Diwali celebrations outside of India. Every year, tens of thousands of people gather in the streets to enjoy vibrant shows of light, music and dancing!

This year saw a quieter celebration but the importance of this special time of year has not changed. As a Catholic school we share the themes of love, peace and joy and we wish all our families a Happy Diwali.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS - HAMPER APPEAL

Please give your items to your form tutor, Head of Year, or Student Welfare Officer at line-up

DAY 1:
Mince Pies

DAY 2:
Christmas Pudding

DAY 3:
Christmas Crackers

DAY 4:
Selection Boxes

DAY 5:
Chocolate/Sweets

DAY 6:
Rice/Pasta

DAY 7:
Savoury Biscuits/Crackers

DAY 8:
Soft Drinks

DAY 9:
Tinned Fruit/Veg

DAY 10:
Crisps

DAY 11:
Long-Life Milk

DAY 12:
Cakes



ICT, BUSINESS & MEDIA

Year 8 and 9 IT:

Both years have made an excellent start to this half-term within IT with the work of Computational Thinking. This is a very complex topic however all students have started on the best foot! Well done and keep it up!

Year 10 Business and Computer Science:

A big congratulations to all Year 10 Business and Computer Science students who achieved amazing results in their recent assessment week. It is a pleasure to see the enthusiasm and passion shining through so early on. What a brilliant start to GCSEs - we're all very proud!

Year 11 Business, Computer Science and Interactive Media:

It's a busy time for all Year 11 students; however you've got this! Remember, your continuous hard work and efforts will pay off. If students require any additional support or resources then please do let us know – we have plenty spare copies!

Also Year 11 interactive media students are preparing for their exam which starts on 25th January until 5th March – please remember revision of your KOs and examples we have been working on, and identify it > explain it > relate it!

Sixth Form:

Year 12 are continuing to focus on their up and coming examinations in January 2021 for Business, IT and Digital Media. Whereas, A-level computer scientists are working through their content very well. Keep it up and it will be worth it!

Year 13 business and IT are working so hard on their coursework units – remember the depth and detail will be the key to meeting the assessment criteria. Intervention is also still running on Mondays for IT and Tuesdays for Business for those who need extra time, use of the facilities and subject specific teacher support.

Miss J Brookes

Head of Department of Business, Computing, IT & Media

MUSIC

YEAR 7 & 8 MUSIC:

Year group bubbles have given us a great opportunity to refresh our music theory knowledge and develop our listening skills. Year 7 & 8 have been analysing all sorts, from Mancini to Saint-Saëns.

YEAR 9 MUSIC:

Year 9 have been studying the many roles of music in film. This has taken us from the 'silent cinema' of the 1920s to modern practices. We've even considered the influence of Wagnerian opera on modern film composers.

YEAR 10 & 11:

While the Year 11 BTEC students have been reporting on the skills required to be successful in the music industry, the Year 10 GCSE students have been gearing up to begin their first composition.

YEAR 12 & 13:

Year 12 are recreating sound effects in the spirit of Hollywood Foley artists. Year 13 are researching and preparing for external assessment in January.

Mr A Pepper

Head of Music

PE & SPORT

This half term pupils are studying a breadth of sports and physical activities in their PE lessons. Activities include handball, badminton, basketball, outdoor and adventurous activities, fitness and table tennis. I would like to thank pupils and staff for their continued support of cleaning their equipment after each use to ensure everyone is safe.

Teaching a practical subject online has its challenges, but hopefully we have got the balance between physical challenges and the theory of Physical Education, which can help pupils understand the benefits of exercise. In the coming weeks, we will be asking pupils to fill in a questionnaire about their PE lessons to see where we can improve but I'm sure most pupils will agree the logo quiz is definitely one of their favourite parts of the lesson.

A reminder about the standard of PE kit. Leggings are only allowed if shorts or skorts are worn over the top, tracksuit bottoms must be plain, without, big white stripes on them, plus school PE socks MUST be worn not trainer socks. I thank you in advance for your support with the correct uniform for students.

It is essential we all stay active during lockdown so again this half term we have been showing pupils The Body Coach clips are on You Tube that you can follow to complete a workout at home.

On Friday, the PE department supported The Body Coach (Joe Wicks) in his 24 hour exercise challenge for Children in Need. Year 7 pupils had the pleasure of exercising with their PE teacher in their Pudsey or Blush ears to raise awareness of this very worthy charity. We hope many of them are able to donate online to help disadvantaged children.

Mrs R Wright

Head of PE & Sport





**STUART
BATHURST**
Catholic High School



Are you a former student?

Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School are looking for former students who can inspire and advise our current pupils. If you are a former student, please sign up to our alumni community by following the simple steps below:

1. Go to **www.futurefirst.org.uk**
2. Go to the '**Sign Up**' tab
3. Click '**Leaving or Former Student**'
4. Type in **<Stuart Bathurst>**





Why sign up to Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School's community?

Sign up to support Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School and open student's eyes to the range of possibilities available in their future.

Whether you're a CEO or an Apprentice, at college or university, 18 or 80 you'll be amazed at how much advice and experience you have to offer!

All you need to do is fill in a few contact details online and say how you'd like to support. We'll then be in touch with updates and opportunities to get involved in school life.

Your commitment can be as much, or as little, as you can offer:

- Take 20 minutes to complete a "day in the life" profile
- Spend an hour talking about your pathway since school
- Pass an afternoon sharing your skills in lessons
- Provide mock interview support
- Volunteer at annual school events
- Explore the commitment of becoming a governor

Whatever involvement you decide on, you'll be making a real difference to pupils at Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School while also developing your own skills and knowledge.

"THE LIMIT OF MY LANGUAGE IS THE LIMIT OF MY WORLD"
— LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN



VOCABULARY FOCUS **Sanctimonious**

Adjective: Making a show of being morally superior to others.

SYNONYMS

Self-righteous
Holier-than thou
Pious
Superior



ANTONYMS

Honest
Sincere
Humble
Meek
Modest



MORPHOLOGY (WORD PARTS) ETYMOLOGY (WORD ROOTS)

LATIN

sanctus
holy

LATIN

sanctimonia
sanctity

ENGLISH

-ous

sanctimonious
holy in character
early 17th century

Suffix 'ous' –
having the
qualities of...

WORD FAMILIES: SIMILAR WORDS TO HELP WITH MEANING

Sanctity- holiness
Sanctify- make holy
Sanctuary- place of holiness and safety. The
sanctuary is the holiest, most sacred area of a
church.

MATHS CIPHER CHALLENGE

In the lead up to WWII, the British intelligence services were flooded with reports of Nazi spies. With war fast approaching, checking these reports fell to a security team known as BOSS. As a new recruit, you must decode the secret messages that will expose the enemy agents. It is a race against time and your country needs you...

Visit <http://cipherchallenge.org> and during registration, search for our team name, which is **Sierra Bravo Mike 20**. Once registered, I will confirm your place, and you will receive an exclusive Microsoft Teams link to our team. Also, email me (j.glover@stuart-bathurst.org.uk) confirming your username.

Each Tuesday, between 5 and 5:30pm, I will be available to talk through any tips, tricks or hints you may need in solving the next part of the mystery.

Thank you all, and good luck!
Agent Glover

TOP FIVE FORM GROUPS FOR ATTENDANCE



With bubble closures this week, a top 5 wouldn't be quite right. However, a huge well done to the following form groups on achieving 99-100% for w/c 09/11.

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| 10S | 100% |
| 9M | 100% |
| 10W | 99% |



Pope Francis ✓
@Pontifex

...

Generosity that supports the weak, consoles the afflicted, relieves suffering and restores dignity to those stripped of it, is a condition for a fully human life.
[#WorldDayOfThePoor](#)

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