

# St Robert of Newminster

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



### Do you need to speak to someone for support?

For those who are seeking a Priest with whom they can speak at this time, could you please contact the Parish Priest at your local Church. You can find your local Church telephone number by visiting our [Church directory](#) and selecting the link for your church. This link will display the Church contact details.

Dedicated counsellors and listeners are also available at the Cathedral Listening Service on 0191 232 6953 and on the Northumberland Listening Service on 07732 980740.

### Diocesan Spiritual Support

These resources have been created to support you and your loved ones in this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### [Resources for times of grieving](#)

### [Prayers for the sick](#)

Contains a collection of Catholic prayers to comfort you and your loved ones during difficult times of sickness.

Dear Parents and Carers

As I said in my letter to you earlier in the week, I send huge congratulations to students on how well they have coped with their work this half term. It has been an immense change for students, but they have engaged incredibly well with their learning and are to be commended for the efforts they have made. I also thank you for all you have done to ensure your children have been accessing their work. Thank you too for the many positive comments we have received from you.

I would like to wish all students a restful half term holiday next week. I hope they manage to have a break and enjoy their week. We wish you all the best for next week and look forward to working with you again next half term.

Yours faithfully  
Mr D Juric  
Head Teacher

Dear Parents/Carers, Students and Friends of the School,

We are delighted to be able to welcome you to our Sixth Form Online Open Event, and hope that through the course of your visit you will see why you should choose St Robert's for your A Level studies. Please watch our Introduction to Sixth form video, where you will hear from our Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form and Heads of Year. [Sixth Form Open Event](#)

Each subject area has a short video to outline the highlights of their courses and the skills you will gain. You can also view our online [prospectus](#) which provides detailed information about each subject, along with the entry requirements for the Sixth Form, and individual subjects.

Applications are now open for this September. You can complete the online application form [here](#). We hope that you get a sense of the welcoming environment our Sixth Form provides, and we look forward to meeting you in the future.

Mr Bayne  
Head of Sixth Form

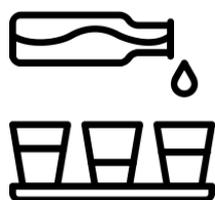


## Walk for Water

6th Form students and staff are taking up the CAFOD challenge to Walk for Water. By walking 10,000 steps every day for 40 days during Lent, the 6th Form hope to help transform the lives of others that do not have access to clean drinking water.

They aim to raise £1,000 which will bring water to schools and communities. Donations can be made on their Just Giving page at

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-roberts-6th-form-walk-for-water>



## Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February we celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Pope Francis encouraged the Catholic community throughout the world to offer our prayers for the sick and to those who provide them with assistance in hospitals, nursing homes and within families and communities. We think, in particular of, those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, the effects of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

**'To Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Infirm, I entrust the sick, healthcare workers and all those who generously assist our suffering brothers and sisters. From the Grotto of Lourdes and her many other shrines throughout the world, may she sustain our faith and hope, and help us care for one another with fraternal love. To each and all, I cordially impart my blessing.'**  
(Pope Francis)

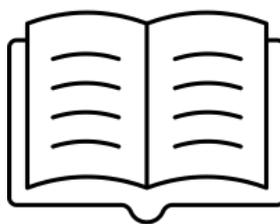
## World Book Day

Calling all English Students! World Book Day 2021 takes place on Thursday March 4th and the English Department need your help!

We're looking for book reviews and recommendations from our student body to post on our @strobertsenglish Instagram account throughout that week - this can be a favourite book or something that has kept you entertained during lockdown - old or new, fiction or non-fiction, we want to hear from you!

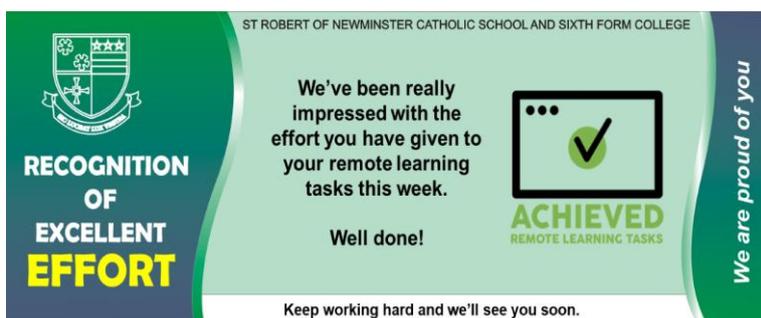
Your reviews should be no more than 100 words long and you are welcome to make them look as decorative and exciting as you like.

Please email completed reviews to your English teacher or directly to Mrs Slater on [jslater@str.bwcet.com](mailto:jslater@str.bwcet.com) by February 28th - we look forward to hearing from you 😊



## Rewarding Engagement & Effort

All teachers at St Robert's are keen to reward the excellent engagement and effort that our young people are demonstrating during these challenging times. From next week different pupils will be nominated across departments and will receive this postcard as recognition of their excellent effort.



## Remote Learning Update

Dear Families,

We are approaching half term and I wanted to write to everyone to say how grateful I am to all of our families for supporting our approach to remote learning. You have done a superb job keeping our students on track. Many thanks for the kind messages we have received from you about our remote learning provision. These have been shared with staff regularly and have been very well received. We have had very high levels of attendance and engagement from our students. I would like to congratulate them on how well behaved, polite and hardworking they have been.

Students must continue to work hard next term. This will put students in the best possible position for when they return to school, whenever that may be. In a very small number of cases engagement may have not been quite as we would have wanted to see it. I do urge all students to ensure that next half term they make sure they are full participants in all lessons and complete all work necessary. As we have said previously, if there are issues making online learning difficult for you, be they technological or otherwise, please do let the school know by contacting us.

As part of our ongoing evaluation of our remote learning provision I will be sending students and parents a questionnaire that will enable us to get your views about our remote learning offer. This will take place after the half term break. Students will complete the questionnaire during their morning registration session. I will send parents/carers a questionnaire to complete via a text message. I hope you have an enjoyable half term break.

Yours faithfully Mr S Clark

## HPV Injections

All year 8 pupils are required to have their HPV vaccinations this academic year. This will take place on our school site after half term.

Please contact the immunisation team by Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February on 0191 402 8179 to arrange an appointment for your year 8 child's HPV immunisation.

The immunisations will take place in the school's sport hall which will have clearly identified Entry and Exit points. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of key worker children and staff on site, we must insist on the following procedures:

- Pupils MUST arrive on site with their parent/carer just before their allocated appointment.
- Parents/carers MUST remain in their cars whilst the vaccination is administered, or wait at the front of school at the normal collection / pickup point.
- Pupils and their parent/carer MUST leave the school site immediately after their vaccination.
- Pupils must NOT use the school scholar's service.
- Parking will be provided in the visitor parking area at the front of school – pupils will then walk following the route shown below to the sport hall.

Please ensure your child has a face mask and is accompanied at all times when not receiving their vaccination. These procedures are in place to ensure all members of our school and wider community are kept safe during this immunisation programme.

If your child is currently in school, please also book an appointment using the telephone number above. These pupils will be escorted by a member of staff to receive their vaccination.

Mr Green

Assistant Head Teacher

## World Challenge Update

Follow a link for an update on the 'World Challenge':

<https://www.strobertofnewminster.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/11.02.21-Update-for-parents-re-World-Challenge.pdf>

# Family Guide to Remote Learning

We are very aware of how difficult remote learning can be for some of our pupils and their families. Lockdown has meant that we all, teachers, pupils and parents, have had to adapt to a new way of working and a new way of learning. As a school we are committed to ensuring that all our young can fulfil their potential. This guide is just another layer of support in which we can work together to ensure their success:

The link below will take you to the guide:

[Family Guide to Remote Learning](#)

**Before the lesson starts:**

- ✓ Find a quiet space to work.
- ✓ Your mobile phone should be with a parent/carer or switched off and put away.
- ✓ Get your exercise books ready including any booklets you may need.
- ✓ Get your equipment ready. Pens, pencil ruler and calculator.
- ✓ Any work you do on additional paper please look after it. Keep everything organised.

**Preparing your devices ready for live lessons:**

- ✓ Log on to Teams via your school 0365 account.
- ✓ Use Google Chrome as your web browser.
- ✓ Close other open tabs on your internet browser.

**If you encounter a technical issue during the lesson:**

- ✓ Restart the device and sign out and back into Teams/Office 365.
- ✓ Sometimes leaving the lesson and re-joining helps if you have a connectivity problem.
- ✓ Having lots of separate tabs open slows devices down.
- ✓ If you are using the Teams desktop APP- Install/reinstall Teams App - available for PC, Mac and mobile.
- ✓ Check quality of your wireless network connection, move closer to your router, try not to "hide" the router behind furniture, in the corners of the rooms or the floor as this will affect signal strength.
- ✓ Sometimes shutting the device down and starting again works.

**The start of the lesson:**

- ✓ Ensure you are on time for the lesson. You have plenty of time to join before the lessons formally start.
- ✓ Be polite. Say good morning to your teacher via the chat.
- ✓ Write the date and title and underline your work.

**During the lesson:**

- ✓ Participate when asked by your teacher.
- ✓ Do ask questions politely if you are stuck. Be specific, don't just say "I'm stuck" or "Don't get it"
- ✓ Get involved in the lesson by asking and answering questions.
- ✓ Submit work on time.
- ✓ Make sure your work is well presented in your books and online.
- ✓ If you are unmuted during the lesson be polite and talk clearly.

**Submitting Work:**

- ✓ Your teacher will explain how, when and where to submit work.
- ✓ This may be via an Assignment, a Form or an upload.
- ✓ Make sure work is submitted on time.
- ✓ Your teacher will explain how to access feedback on your work.

**Behaviour:**

- ✓ Click [here](#) to read the code of conduct.
- ✓ If the code of conduct is not followed you may be removed from the live lesson, your parent/carers will be contacted and school sanctions applied.
- ✓ You will not be admitted to the lesson unless you are using your school account.
- ✓ When you are unmuted be polite.
- ✓ You must only use the conversation when the teacher tells you
- ✓ You must not post anything inappropriate in the conversation.

## A Family Guide to Remote Learning

- Plan your day. Know which lessons you have and resources you need before you start.
- Create and follow a daily routine. Be on time for your online lessons.
- Lock away any distractions. Or put mobile devices on Aeroplane mode.
- Create your own workspace or area. Keep it organised and functional.
- Take notes in your lessons, use mind maps, sketch notes to help remember information.
- Make time for yourself to have a break. Reward yourself with some down time.
- Practice mindfulness for 10 minutes a day
- Chat with Friends and Family when you can during the day
- Ask for Help if you are stuck on a task or question

**Just as Important Tips to Check Out.**

**Parents:**

Q: How do I know my child is working well?  
A: Check to see the volume of work completed in their books each day. Ask to see to their assignments set in each subject Teams. Are they up to date?  
A: Check that they only have Teams open. No other internet tabs should be open, unless directed by the teacher.

Q: How can I help my child at home?  
A: Set up a work space for your child. A desk, chair if possible.  
A: Get books/booklets organised for the day ahead.  
A: Check their work is "Gold Standard" is it neat, titles underlined work well organised. Page 16 of the pupils planner has the criteria.  
A: Make sure they have some time away from screens during break time and lunchtime.  
A: Talk to them about their day.

## Digital Detox



# GCSE POD Weekly Winners

## Who used it most?

Well done to all of the Years 9, 10 and 11 students who have continually used GCSE pod to support their online learning and to complete homework tasks throughout the half term. Over the 6 week period over 2,060 pods have been watched by our students. A particular well done goes to year 10 who have had the highest usage of the three year groups with 961 streams. The usage of each group can be seen below.

Year 9 = 112 streams

Year 10 = 961 streams

Year 11 = 902 streams

## **Excellent use of GCSE pod throughout the half term goes to**

**Year 9** – Orlando Corsi and Zach Larson

**Year 10** – Grace Reid and Oscar Crawford-West

**Year 11** – Kate Mulvaney and Aston Stobbs

## **Last week's top user of GCSE pod goes to**

**Year 9** – Zach Larson and Oliver Clark

**Year 10** – Alice North

**Year 11** – Aston Stobbs and Charlie Wooton

## How to support your child during the final week of term

As we embark upon the final week of this half term it is inevitable that our young people will be tiring considering the huge change to their way of engaging with school work. We ask all our parents and carers to support their child in the following two areas to ensure they end the term on a high:

### **1. Punctuality**

Ensuring pupils are logged in and joining lessons promptly. Lots of crucial information can be lost if they miss the opening sequence of a lesson.

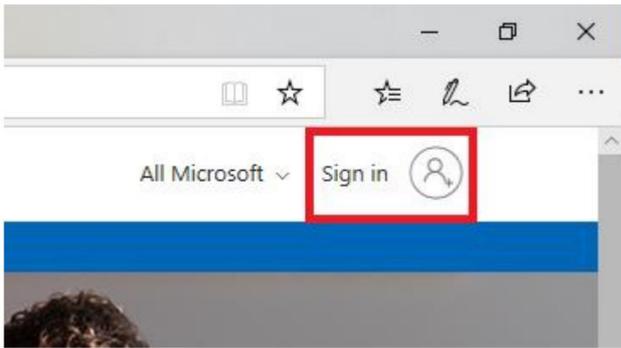
### **2. Engagement & Effort**

Encourage your child to actively engage in their learning. Ask and answer questions, complete all assessment work so that teachers can offer clear and supportive feedback.

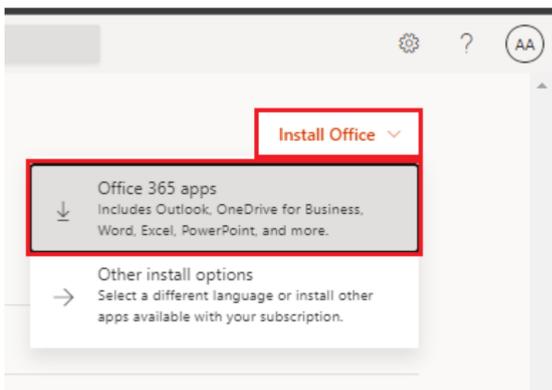


## Install Microsoft Office 365 using St Robert of Newminster Account

1. Go to [www.office.com](http://www.office.com)
2. Click the Sign In button in the top-right corner of the page:



3. Sign in with your school email address (e.g. [jbloggs@str.bwcet.com](mailto:jbloggs@str.bwcet.com)) and password.
4. Click the Install Office button in the top-right corner of the page and then select Office 365 apps:



5. You might see an option to Run or Save at the bottom of the screen - Click Run



6. You may see a message asking for Office to make changes to your computer, you can say **Yes** to this.
7. Microsoft Office will now begin the installation – this can take a while so please be patient.
8. When installation is complete, you must run one of the Microsoft Office applications, e.g. Word and you will be prompted to sign in. Sign in with your school email address and password as you did on the website above and Microsoft Office will be activated on your computer. The license for Microsoft Office is associated with your school email account and will be deactivated when you are no longer a member of staff at the school.

Also, link is on the website here <https://www.strobertofnewminster.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Install-Microsoft-Office-365-using-St-Robert-of-Newminster-Student-Account.pdf>

## Mental Health Support

It's understandable that some of us may be feeling a bit overwhelmed and scared by everything that we are hearing about coronavirus disease (COVID-19) right now.

Children and young people react, in part, on what they see from the adults around them. When parents and caregivers deal with COVID-19 calmly and confidently, they can provide the best assurance possible for their loved one. In order to reassure other's, it is helpful if we, ourselves, understand what is happening.

### **Not all children and young people respond to stress in the same way.**

Some common changes to watch for include;

- Excessive crying or irritation in younger children
- Returning to behaviours they have outgrown (for example, requiring more reassurance than normal)
- Excessive worry or sadness
- Unhealthy eating or sleeping habits
- Irritability and "acting out" behaviours in teens
- Poor school performance or avoiding school
- Difficulty with attention and concentration
- Avoidance of activities enjoyed in the past
- Unexplained headaches or body pain
- Use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs



### **There are many things you can do to support your child.**

Don't avoid the 'scary topic' but engage in a way that is appropriate for them. Take time to talk with your child or teen about the COVID-19 outbreak.

Reassure your child or teen that they are safe. Let them know it is ok if they feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress so that they can learn how to cope from you.

Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand. We need to minimise this negative impact it has on our children and explain the facts to them. Discuss the news with them but try and avoid over-exposure to coverage of the virus. Be as truthful as possible.

Try to keep up with regular routines. If schools are closed, create a schedule for learning activities and relaxing or fun activities.

Be a role model. Take breaks, get plenty of sleep, exercise, and eat well. Connect with your friends and family members.

Involving our family and children in our plans for good health is essential. We need be alert to and ask children what they have heard about the outbreak and support them, without causing them alarm.

### Support Available

If you are concerned about your child's mental health and you feel like your child needs further support please contact your child's Head of House. They will call to discuss the most appropriate help for them.

**Remember that Kooth is always available if young people are feeling overwhelmed and needs counselling support during this time.**

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>