



St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College



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Head Teacher: Mr D Juric
Chair of Governors: Miss A Nichols

Pastoral Update & Information for September 2023

19th July 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Houses and Awards

I would like to congratulate St Cuthbert Durham House, our winning House for this academic year. The pupils led by their Head of House Mr Hurst (Mrs Mulhatton) and the Assistant Head of House Mrs Williams gained the most achievement points in the school and have won by a clear margin. I am sure the other Heads of House and their pupils will show a renewed determination to ensure that their House can take this title next year.

This year more students than ever before, from all the Houses, will have their efforts and achievements recognised with bronze, silver, gold and platinum certificates, along with values and tutor awards in our end of term assemblies. These certificates celebrate the achievement points and all the other positive contributions the students make to life at St Robert's, and we are extremely proud that we will be awarding so many this year.

From September, we will be moving to a new system (Arbor) for monitoring achievements and behaviour in school and this will allow parents and carers to monitor their child's progress more closely.

We have also introduced a **Gold Standard for Behaviour** (see attached sheet) so all students fully understand the basic expectations of all children at St Robert's. We will monitor these Gold Standard Behaviours and those students that show them persistently in class and around the school will be rewarded and those students who do not will be sanctioned.

September 2023

There will be INSET days Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September. All students, years 7 -13 return to school **Wednesday 6th September**. School begins at 8.45 am. Year 7 students will be directed to the Drama Hall on arrival, organised into their tutor groups and will be collected from there by their Form Tutor. On Wednesday morning, all students will be with their form tutor and are issued their new school planner and timetable. Students will attend normal lessons from 12.20 (period 4).

Expectations, Uniform and Equipment

The school has very clear rules and expectations regarding Uniform and equipment, and we expect all students to adhere to these rules when we return in September. We would much rather the year starts in a positive manner and all students will be expected to be in full school uniform every day. We ask for the support of parents and carers with the issues mentioned below and we would ask that you read the



attached rules and expectations on uniform to ensure that you are fully aware of our expectations for your child in this area. Students who do not meet our high expectations will be given sanctions.

Ties

If your child wears a school shirt, they **must** wear a tie. We acknowledge that there were some issues purchasing a tie this year, but this has been remedied and replacement ties can now be purchased from school or the usual supplier. If your child has been attending school without a tie this term, they must remedy this for September.

Skirts

If your child chooses to wear the School Skirt, **it must be knee length**. Please ensure your child has an appropriate length skirt for their return in September. The two options are either a knee length skirt, or Black school trousers.

Shoes

Students must wear black formal leather shoes to school and although most students have adhered to this rule a small number have begun to wear trainers which is not acceptable. We expect all students to return to school in September. Footwear should not have any visible branding. As an example, we do not allow girls to wear 'Vivienne Westwood' shoes.

Jewellery & Piercings

During the summer term we have seen an increase in the number of students coming to school wearing jewellery, especially earrings. This is not permitted, and students are very aware of this rule. If a student attends school wearing jewellery, they will have the item confiscated and they will be given a sanction. The easiest solution to this issue is for students not to come to school wearing jewellery in the first place. Jewellery and piercings of any kind are not permitted for school, regardless of the time period of 'new' piercings. Your child will be instructed to remove piercings, please ensure that any recent piercings are removed before your child returns to school.

Hair styles

It was also noted during this final term that several students had their hair cut to an extremely short length and some had lines or patterns shaved into their hair. It is very clear in our uniform policy that the shortest length hair should be cut, is a grade 2 and patterns or lines are not allowed. If students return to school with a haircut that contravenes the rules and expectations, they will face sanctions. We need support from parents and carers to ensure this does not happen.

Please use the link below to see St Robert's expectations about equipment and uniform for all students.

[Equipment & Uniform - St Robert of Newminster](#)

As a school St. Robert's is extremely proud of our uniform and we expect all pupils to always adhere to our uniform expectations, but this can only happen with the support of parents and carers.



Mobile Phones

All students should have their mobile phones switched off and, in their bags, when in school and this includes earpods/earphones etc. If a child's mobile is seen in school, then it will be confiscated, and they will be given a sanction.

Attendance & Punctuality

We are extremely proud that St Robert's student attendance is the best in Sunderland, but this is an area we always want to keep improving so please can parents and carers ensure that students come to school every day. Punctuality to school is also very good, we will be focusing strongly on punctuality to lessons from September so we would ask parents and carers to stress the importance being on time for all lessons to your children. Students who are deliberately late which means they disrupt the learning of others as well as showing a lack of respect for their teacher will face sanctions that will escalate unless they improve.

Transport

If your child can walk or cycle to school, then we would ask that they do this when they return in September. If there is an opportunity to drop your child close to school, but not on the premises, please do this as it will greatly ease the flow of traffic, which can be very congested at times.

Parents must drop off students by 8.35am at the latest and students must be in school by 8.45am

Timetables for the scholars' bus services for the next academic year are available to view on the school website.

If parents and carers have any issues with the service provided by the school buses, please report these issues directly to Nexus as well as informing school, by contacting Mr Green.

The Pastoral team would like to thank all parents and carers for your support this year. Working together is vitally important to ensure your child reaches their potential at St Robert's to enable all of them to "let their light shine".

We hope you have a good summer break, and we look forward to welcoming the students back when they return in September.

Yours Faithfully



Mr A McHale
Senior Assistant Headteacher: Pastoral



GOLD STANDARD BEHAVIOUR

1

Speak with politeness and respect to all staff.

Follow instructions from staff without answering back or argument. Use Miss or Sir.



2

Treat each other with kindness and respect in our words and actions.

Speak and act towards each other in a kind manner both in person and online.



3 Wear the correct uniform and bring the correct equipment to school every day.

Uniform includes hairstyles, jewellery, beauty products, and footwear.



4

Work hard in class and at home.

Class and homework must be completed on time to the best of our ability. Behave in a way which aids learning.



5

Get there and on time.

Attend school and every lesson and be there on time. Behave with consideration in corridors and on the yard.



6

Respect the school environment.

Do not drop litter, cause damage or graffiti to the school building or property.



7

Celebrate diversity and difference.

We do not use racist, sexist, homophobic or any derogatory language.



8

Keep mobile phones in our bag and switched off while in school.

Mobile phones should be switched off and kept out of sight while in school.



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