

# St. Leonard's: Family Update: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Families

Where do the weeks go? Hope everyone is well. Well done as ever to all pupils who are working very hard. In particular we wanted to say thank you to pupils for all the efforts when self-isolation is needed. We have virtually 100% attendance with online learning. This attitude will no doubt pay off in the future.

We are busy continuing our normal work and are very much looking forward to the season of Advent in a few weeks. There is lots planned here to celebrate this important liturgical season. Finally, we came across the booklet a few weeks ago and thought families would like to see it. It is a booklet celebrating the official opening of St Leonard's as a Comprehensive school in 1971. Here is a copy of the [programme](#).

## Year Groups

### Year 7

#### Message from the Childhood Immunisation Team:

Due to the risk of both flu and COVID-19 this winter, the national flu immunisation programme will be essential to protecting vulnerable people and our communities and health and care system against the flu.

For further information regarding the vaccine please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

Parents who have refused 'Fluenz' nasal spray flu vaccine due to porcine gelatine content, are this year being offered an injectable vaccine which does not contain porcine gelatine.

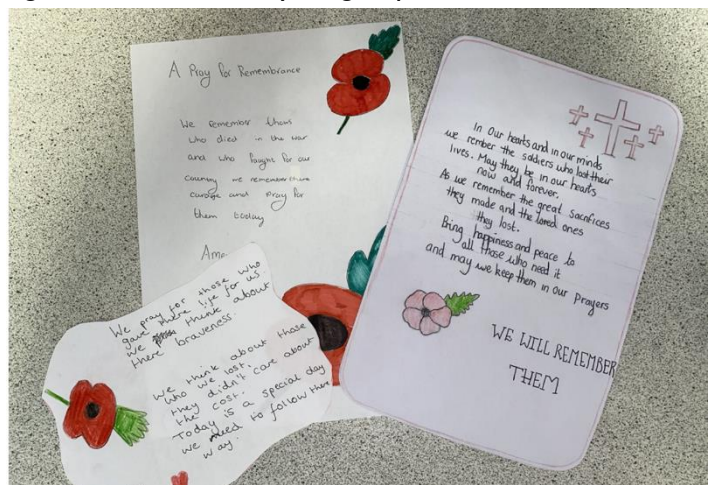
If you wish your child to receive this vaccine when stock becomes available, please contact the school immunisation team prior to **30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**:

- **Email (preferred option):** [hdft.immunisationcatchupclinic@nhs.net](mailto:hdft.immunisationcatchupclinic@nhs.net) – please tell us your child's name, date of birth, school they attend and which clinic you would like to attend and we will email you back with an appointment
- **Tel:** 0300 003 2554

### Year 9 Update

#### Welcome from Mr Coon and Mrs Ward

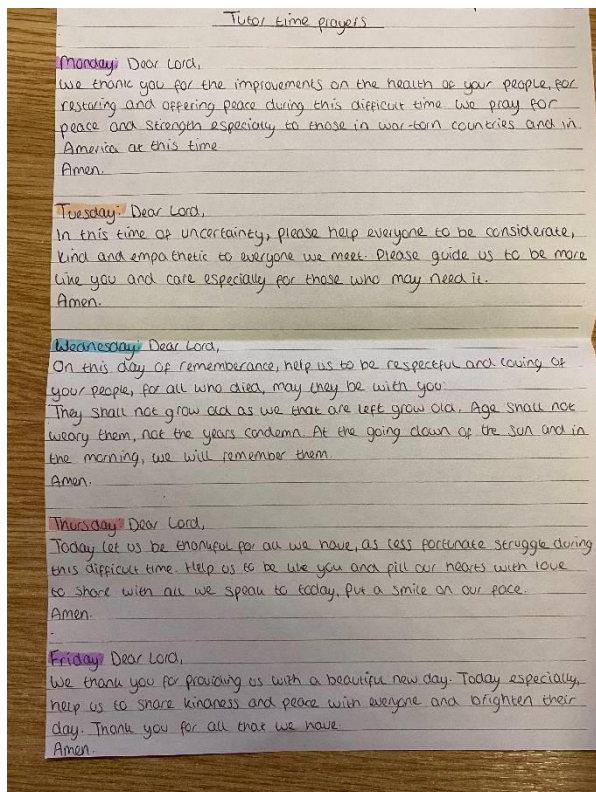
We hope you and your child have been safe and well this academic year. We are extremely pleased to be taking over as your child's Head's of Year and look forward to building on the success the year group had in Year 7 and 8. We have been really impressed with how our Year 9 students have conducted themselves since returning to school and their positive attitude, work rate in lessons and determination to do well has been admirable. I trust that by now your child has settled into their new sets and are comfortable and confident with how the day operates and the expectations that are placed on them. This year is an extremely important one as we start to build momentum towards GCSE options choices. GCSE studies and Year 11 can seem a very long way off, however it is crucial that your child makes the most of every opportunity in lessons to develop understanding and accelerate their progress. The knowledge and skills



that they acquire at this stage underpin everything they will learn for their GCSEs and it is true that excellent GCSE results are forged in Key Stage 3.

## Remembrance Day

On Wednesday 11th November Year 9 took time to remember the many who lost their lives. They wrote prayers and poems to commemorate their sacrifice. It was amazing to see the thought and effort that went into their work. They also observed a very respectful 2-minute silence.



## Spiritual Time

Every day there are many opportunities for both staff and students to gather together in prayer. Each day, meetings and school activity begins in prayer. In raising our hearts and minds to God, we endeavour to ensure that Christ is at the centre of all that we do. In Year 9 pupils are expected to create and share their own prayers during tutor time. Some tutees even partnered up and planned the full week! As you can see, the results have been inspiring.

## Anti-Bullying Week 2020: United Against Bullying Monday 16th -Friday 20th November

Anti-Bullying Week is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on bullying and consider the steps we can take together to stop it. During our tutor time activities, we have looked at how we can all help and support each other.

Parents and carers have a unique role to play in guiding and supporting their child through their school years and there are lots

of positive steps you can take to help keep your child safe from bullying and harm. It can be difficult to talk to your child about such a sensitive topic but the resource below may help. <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/field/attachment/Anti-Bullying%20Week%202020%20-%20pack%20for%20parents.pdf>

Once again, thank you for your continued support. If you have any queries or wish to speak to us about anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Mr Coon and Mrs Ward.

**Advent:** As we are approaching the joyous season of Advent, our period of preparation for the coming of Jesus, we are currently working on our plans for this celebration in school. This year we would like to work together as a whole school community supporting Durham Food Bank as our charity appeal. If families are able to make donations, collections will take place in tutor groups from 1st December. Christmas cards and prayers may be more poignant this year and therefore pupils will have opportunities to make these in school. As we prepare our Nativity scenes, would your child like to design our crib? Heads of Year will share more details. If any family can help us by providing half a bale of hay for our Advent displays please get in touch with Mrs Simpson at Reception.

**Christmas: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** Advance notice, as we did last year we will be finishing slightly earlier around lunchtime.

## Catering

**Break Service:** I'm pleased to announce that we will start offering food and drinks at break time from Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November just as we start Advent. All the details and timings will be shared with you next week. Our new break menu, is being designed to give an ample selection of fresh food to satisfy all, whether a pupil fancies one of our

popular breakfast muffins or just a simple slice of toast! I hope to see many happy faces coming through our dinner hall.

**Cashless System:** We are thrilled of the success of the new cashless system and we are confident that from a parent/carer's perspective this is a much more hassle-free task! Within the school this has speeded up queues at the tills so now the pupils can spend more time eating and socializing rather than stand in what it felt like an endless queue! We have had a few enquiries asking why when a card is topped up it wasn't showing on the pupils account; there has been some issue with our internet connection lately that had an impact on the system. The issue is now resolved and it's all back up and running. Also keep in mind that depending on the method used to top up the card, time can vary from the funds being moved from a bank or building society to the pupil account. I would just like to reassure everyone that we have the ability to override the system so they will never leave the dining hall hungry!

**Reminder:** We thought it would be good to remind families about how to go about setting up this payment method:

**Making Life Easier! Introduction of Lunch Cards and removal of cash payments:** All pupils have an online account on School Comms (<https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>). Pupils will be issued with a card linked to this account. This card will be used 'to pay' for all food purchases. The card can be topped up via the online account. Parents/carers are asked to ensure that there is 'credit' on this card as required. Families are able to top up cards now.

### Log in to top up.




#### The fastest way to pay online

You can now make payments online to the school for things like dinner money and school trips. Paying for school items online is quicker and easier for you, safer for children and more efficient for the school.



#### Bank Transfer

Introducing Bank Transfer - the fastest way to make payments to your school. No more entering card details.

Creating an account is simple and will take no more than a couple of minutes:

 <b>1. Register</b> Register using the same email address and mobile number held by the school	 <b>2. Four digit PIN</b> School Gateway will send you a text with your PIN	 <b>3. Login</b> Login, you are ready to go
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Download the FREE app to your phone – messages are free for school via the app saving us some money.

	
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## Sixth Form

### Oxford University Outreach

Students from Years, 10, 11 and 12 enjoyed the opportunity to listen to Richard Petty talking about 'Making an Application to Competitive Universities' on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November via Teams. The sessions, which were differentiated for each year group, explored the university application process and encouraged students to find opportunities to develop their 'super-curricular' engagement with subjects they particularly enjoy. There was very positive feedback from students about the suggestions and free resources that Richard flagged up and here is a link for anybody who would like to look:

<https://www.trinity.ox.ac.uk/super-curricular-resources-for-applicants/>

### Sixth Form Societies

Following on from discussion of 'super-curricular' engagement, it was good to see again this week students attending the different Societies running at lunchtime in the Sixth Form. Next week will be the first meeting for the Psychology society on... The 'Common Roomers' Sixth Form magazine team are looking for any Sixth Form students who would like to write an article or contribute in any way to the Christmas edition. Anyone interested should speak to Mr Q Hughes for more information. Please see the table below for further details and keep encouraging students to find something that they are interested in.

Lunchtime	Society	Room
Monday	Engineering	S8
	Law	S3
Tuesday	Fantasy Football Fanatics	S3
	Common Roomers (Sixth Form magazine) – Week A	S8
	Sixth Form Working Party – Week B	S8
Wednesday	Science	S8
	<b>Psychology</b>	<b>S3</b>
Thursday	Medical	S8
	Economics	S3
Friday	Green	S3
	Mental Wellbeing	S8

### Unifrog Webinars

Another excellent free resource Sixth Form and Year 11 (or any other) students might like to take advantage of are the Webinars which students can access via Unifrog. All webinars are free to join and will give you excellent insight into a variety of University courses; next week the sessions running Monday to Friday at 4pm include: Liberal Arts and Science, Law, Business and Management, Creative Arts and Hospitality. More information and instructions for signing up can be found at: <https://www.unifrog.org/webinars>

### Road Safety Week

As part of Road Safety Week, a national campaign, Glen Stewart from Durham Fire Safety and Rescue presented to students on Wednesday about staying safe on the roads. It was a very hard-hitting and powerful session which delivered a very important message to young drivers and passengers about taking responsibility and thinking about others.

## **Durham Foodbank**

Each year in Sixth Form, we have a Reverse Advent Calendar appeal asking students for donations for Durham Foodbank. In the build up to this, and given the difficult circumstances many families are facing currently, the Sixth Form Working Party set up a 'Foodbank Friday' asking for contributions from students each Friday in November. Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far and to the JPII Award students who are delivering the donations to the foodbank.

## **Year 13**

More than 40 forms have now been sent to UCAS with applications sent this week ranging from Aeronautical Engineering to Adult Nursing and Filmmaking to Business Management. Thank you to all Sixth Form teachers and tutors for the excellent references and well done to students for creating such excellent applications. Good luck to all students applying. Mrs Bell and Mrs Mole, our Careers' Adviser, met with a group of students who are applying for apprenticeships to explore the different opportunities available and to register with <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/> and other apprenticeship sites.

## **Year 12**

An invitation has been sent to all Year 12 students for the 'Life Beyond St Leonard's' meeting that is taking place on Teams next Thursday between 7pm and 8pm. The meeting will focus on explaining the university application process through UCAS, outlining opportunities that are on offer through Apprenticeships and also on detailing the study skills discussed with Year 12 at the start of Sixth Form. If there are any questions about this evening or problems joining the meeting, please email: [sixthform@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk).

Year 12 teachers have been making appointments with students for the forthcoming Parents' Evening and this is the information that was in last week's message:

Parents' Evening for Year 12 is due to take place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. This year the evening will take place via Teams. Next week students will be asked to make appointments with their teachers with appointment slots running between 3:30 and 7pm. Then on the evening the teachers will contact the students using the student account on Teams. Students are well versed at using Teams, the only additional point to think about in advance of these meetings is availability of sound and microphone at home so that parents and students can be involved in the conversation. If any support is needed in anticipation of these meetings please contact the Sixth Form team on [sixthform@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk).

## **Departments**

As the end of term approaches a lot of the focus from departments is currently on assessments / mock exams and reporting to parents. There are plans for every year group, and whilst there is understandably a lot of focus on Year 11 at present, there is careful consideration around every year group in terms of assessment, reporting and communication with parents. We were delighted with how successful the remote Parents' Evening was for Year 13 and we are looking forward to Year 12 Parents' Evening on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. These evenings have been conducted on MS Teams. Year 11 Parents' Evening will also be conducted on Teams and in January parents and carers will be able to book slots using the Insight App.

## Year 11 Mock Examination Preparation

Year 11 continue to make calm and secure preparations for their mock exams. Attendance at revision remains very high. The final week of after school classes is next week and the details are below. From Thursday this week a number of Year 11 have had to self-isolate, and as normal, all lessons have been broadcast to Year 11 so that they do not fall behind in their preparation for mock examinations.

### Year 11 Revision: 3:20-4:20

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week Beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	Science	English	French & German  BTEC: *Creative Media *Travel and Tourism *Digital IT *Health and Social Care	Music  PE	History

### Year 11: Morning Drop in Sessions

These sessions are for more individual help from teachers and are not taught sessions. If your son / daughter would like specific individual help staff are available to assist. Staff will, as has become standard practice, remain 2 meters apart whilst giving individual help to students.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
D&T	Geography	PE*	RE	English

\*PE starts at 8:15, all other sessions are open from 8am

### Reports & Parents' Evening

**Sixth Form:** Progress Reports for Year 12 and 13 will be sent home in the final week of term. These reports will indicate current working grade and effort grade for each subject.

**Year 11:** Year 11 receive a Progress Report and a very detailed Question Level Analysis at the end of their mock examinations. Last year this was posted to parents in the last week of term. However, this year we have to observe a 48-hour rule around marking papers and consequently it is not possible to give reports by the end of term. These reports will be sent to Year 11 parents the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January. Year 11 parents' evening is planned for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, allowing parents time to read the reports in anticipation of meeting teachers. Parents' Evening will be delivered remotely as we have successfully conducted Year 13 Parents' Evening remotely on Teams already this year. There are more logistical challenges with Year 11 Parents' Evening as there are larger numbers of Year 11 pupils, and

full details about booking slots will be made available to parents in January. Booking of slots will take place via the Insight App.

**Year 10:** Progress Reports for Year 10 will be sent home in the final week of term. These reports will indicate current working grade and effort grade for each subject. Parents' Evening for Year 10 is due to take place in February. The evening will be conducted remotely, and we will establish exact details after we have seen how Year 11 Parents' Evening has run in January.

**Key Stage 3:** Progress Reports for KS3 will be sent home at the end of January. These reports will indicate, for each subject, if pupils are working 'At' the standard, 'Working Towards' the standard or 'Above' the standard expected for a pupil at that stage of education. There will also be an effort grade for each subject. At the end of year pupils will receive a fuller report that gives detailed updates on progress in each subject. Parents' Evenings for KS3 will run later in the year. Again, these will probably be conducted remotely and we full details will follow once we have reviewed the success of Year 11 and Year 10 Parents' Evening.

**Maths Department** [news](#)

**Design and Technology** [news](#)

**From the Library**



There are **only 7 days left to order** from our latest **Scholastic Book Club**. (Deadline is midnight on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020). Just go to <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/st-leonards-rc-comp/digital-book-club> to browse the latest books and place your order.

**Every £1 you spend** on this month's Book Club will earn **20p for our school** in Scholastic Rewards.

### **Prayer**

O Christ Jesus,  
when all is darkness  
and I feel my weakness and helplessness,  
give me a sense of Your presence,  
Your love, and Your strength.  
Help me to have perfect trust  
in Your protecting love  
and strengthening power,  
so that nothing may frighten or worry me,  
for, living close to You,  
I shall see Your hand,  
Your purpose, Your will through all things.  
Amen.

*By Saint Ignatius of Loyola*