



ST. AIDAN'S

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

17th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

IT Update

I hope you have all had a very well-deserved rest over this Easter break.

I wanted to write again to apologise for the disruption we had to learning on the final day of term, and to update you on the positive news around our system updates. Over the past two weeks our IT team, along with many external providers, have been working tirelessly to ensure the terrible problems we experienced in the last week of term are rectified and the school is set up to run as normal when we return on Tuesday.

Unfortunately, we could not have foreseen the problems that would occur with the new installation. However, the work we have had done now allows for faster internet across our MAT with St Aidan's having an increase of speed up to 650% faster than before. We now have 2Gbps assigned to our nine school rather than the 2000Mbps previously. We also have a new high end enterprise Firewall protection and web filter which increases the security for all students and users, and internet lines which should always allow for 100% internet availability.

There were many reasons why we needed to make the switch: We had been experiencing much disruption to learning and internet slowdowns at St Aidan's, often on a Thursday and Friday, which we believe was due to the Art/DT/Music timetable with students accessing large files (OneDrive/Teams) at the same time. We have looked to timetable slightly differently next year but with such a wide range of subjects on offer at both GCSE and A level, we do not want to compromise this offer for students and so taking these out of the timetable was not an option we were willing to consider. Because we now have a 1Gbps dedicated line just for Aidan's (curriculum devices) the school's needs will be better met, and teaching and learning will no longer be interrupted or compromised. St Aidan's now has its own dedicated bandwidth which gives us much improved scalability as our reliance on the internet/Cloud has increased massively over the past few years. The new switch over also brings with it greater value for money providing higher quality for St Aidan's at a lower cost than previously.

Whilst we regret the disruption during the final week of term it is hoped that all will see that these improvements are another sign of the commitment we have to investing in the future of St Aidan's, making sure that we can provide the best possible learning environment for all our students and give our staff the high-quality resources they need and deserve ,to deliver first class care, support, and education. There may still be a few teething problems over the next couple of weeks but hopefully everyone will benefit from this new investment.

Thank you again for your understanding and patience and please accept my apology again for the disruption to learning at the end of last term.

As we enter this Easter weekend, I wish each of you a joyful and blessed Easter.

Easter is a time of renewal, hope, and great celebration—remembering the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the incredible gift of grace and new life that it represents. May your hearts be filled with peace, gratitude, and the joy of knowing that through Christ, we are made new. I hope you enjoy a restful weekend surrounded by loved ones, and that your hearts are lifted by the true meaning of Easter.

He is risen! He is risen indeed.

We look forward to welcoming all our students back on Tuesday the 22nd of April.

With best wishes,

Siân Dover

Headteacher

St. Aidan's Church of England High School