

Newsletter

Friday 28th May 2021

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Goodbye to Year 11 and 13

As many of you will be aware, we said 'goodbye' and 'good luck' to Year 11 and 13 this week. Year 11 were treated with a Leavers' Service on Thursday morning and we celebrated a Year 13 Leavers' Mass earlier today. Both were wonderful, celebratory and poignant occasions with laughter and tears in equal measure! A transcript of my final speech to 'the Class of 2021' can be seen overleaf.

Successful Reintroduction of Assemblies

We are delighted to report the safe reintroduction of Year group assemblies following a successful trial this week. All Year groups attended a short assembly with their Year team and I to re-establish assembly routines in preparation for next term which includes a fantastic list of presentations and performances from visitors including OddArts, PREVENT, Merseyside Police and a fantastic play from 'Terriers' that explores the dangers of child exploitation and the risks of grooming. Assemblies provide us with an invaluable opportunity to share important messages such as these and also, as families do, come together to share and celebrate our successes and achievements; we're delighted to see them return.

Free School Meals Vouchers

Following last month's government announcement on Free School Meals support over the May half term, we can confirm that vouchers were sent in yesterday's post to the homes of all eligible children.

Continued.....



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Assessment Point 3

On return after half term, students will be undertaking their summer term assessments. Years 7, 8 and 9 will sit progress tests in maths, English and science, and these will be taken over the three days 7th, 14th and 15th June. The progress tests do not require specific revision or preparation as they benchmark student's current skills and academic competency in comparison to their peers nationally and are for internal school use only, not published.

In addition to this, all year groups will also have assessments in all their other subjects, with Year 9, 10 and 12 having their examinations in the hall. These will begin later on in the term during the week beginning 14th June and then continue into the week of the 24th June.

Teachers will be providing revision materials to support the students with these exams.

Oracy Fortnight

Finally, when students return from half term, we are holding our first 'Oracy Fortnight' in which we celebrate the spoken word. In lessons throughout the fortnight beginning Monday 7th June, students will take part in a variety of talking tasks and experiences including debates, group discussions, poetry recitals and formal presentations. James Britton said "*Reading and writing float on a sea of talk*". We hope all students get involved and enjoy the event.

Wishing every Notre Dame family a peaceful weekend and a restful May half term.

Mr Duffy

HEADTEACHER'S SPEECH TO SIXTH FORM LEAVERS

Dear 'Class of 2021',

'The more difficult the times are, the more we must expect and hope everything from the goodness of the good God.'

St Julie Billiart, Letter 260

I speak to you conscious of what little time we've had together and how disrupted that time has been. In considering what to write, I revisited my 'welcome back' speech to you back in September 2020. In that speech, I asked you to quickly learn to trust me and trust the decisions I would have to make this year on your behalf. I appreciated that trust often takes time to build; time we did not have.

In the spirit of honesty, I said I could not guarantee that your final year would not be disrupted further due to the pandemic; how right I was. I said that given that uncertainty, you had to take control of what you could, by making every lesson count and by making every piece of work submitted the best it could be, as it may one day be used as evidence of your ability in support of your final grade; again, how right I was. I know many of you took heed of that advice, for which I congratulate you.

During your years at Notre Dame, there have been three general elections, one referendum to leave the EU, one global pandemic which included two national lockdowns. It would be easy to dwell on the past two years in terms of opportunities and experiences missed; please don't. You are part of a truly unique generation of young people; now blessed with unique levels of adaptability, resilience, positivity and creativity. Whilst these superpowers cannot be measured or graded, they provide you with an amazing springboard into the next phase of your lives and education.

I wish you the very best of luck in the future, I pray that you take St. Julie's mission and teachings with you on your journey and I look forward to hearing and reading of your successes and achievements in the years to come.

Peter Duffy

Headteacher

Notre Dame Catholic College



25 May 2021

Over this last challenging year of the coronavirus pandemic, there has been a significant increase in notifications from parents and carers wanting to home educate their children. The most common reason cited by parents for this decision in this period was due to health reasons directly related to Covid-19. Of course, we sympathise with these anxieties, particularly those who have been shielding due to being clinically extremely vulnerable. However, now that infection rates have fallen substantially, and against the background of the success of the vaccination programme, we are confident that these concerns can be addressed and mitigated so that your child/children can continue to attend – or re-attend – school.

If you are home educating primarily for health and/or safety reasons, we would suggest you discuss these with your local authority and school, to see what measures have been, or could be, put in place.

We support the right of parents to educate children at home when they wish to do so and can provide a suitable education. The Government's aim is to ensure all young people receive world-class education to allow them to reach their potential. There is no reason why a child cannot receive a high-quality education at home and it works well when it is a positive choice and carried out with proper regard for the needs of the child. But there is no doubt that it is a very demanding commitment for parents to undertake.

We are both writing to you to help you ensure that your child gets the best education possible and to make sure that your recent decision to electively home educate, or any potential future decision, is one that can achieve the best educational outcome for your child. If your child's educational needs is not the primary reason for you choosing to electively home educate, then we would encourage you to consider sending your child back into school as we think this is the best place for them.

If your child is not currently enrolled at a school, to have them (re)admitted, please [contact your local authority](#) for advice on the admissions process in your area including information on vacancies in schools, whether there are local re-admission agreements and where to get an application form.

Parents can apply for a place at any mainstream school, at any time, outside the normal admissions round. Where a school, who manages their own in-year admissions, receives an in-year application, they should process the application in accordance with their usual in-year admission procedures. Parents must not be refused the opportunity to make an application, or be told they can only be placed on a waiting list rather than make an application.

Where a school receives multiple in-year applications, and does not have sufficient places for every child who has applied for one, they must allocate places in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set out in their determined admission arrangements. With the exception of designated grammar schools, all schools that have places available must offer a place to every child who has applied for one, unless admitting the child would prejudice the efficient provision of education or use of resources. If a parent is refused a school place, they must be offered the right to appeal that decision. Schools should also ask parents to contact the local authority, who will be able to advise them of other schools in the area with places available. Again, your local authority should be able to guide you through this process.

As mentioned, Elective Home Education (EHE) can produce impressive results for some children, but it can be a challenging undertaking for parents. The vast majority of EHE parents do not need to be told this! However, some parents may go into home education with a view that they will receive a form of support – particularly if they are thinking in terms of the home tutoring that parents did while schools were closed during the pandemic, where parents' role was to assist schools with delivering their curriculum remotely. There is a world of difference between this and EHE where there is no relationship with any school and no assistance from a school with the education that parents offer. It is for parents to be certain that home education is right for their child. Local authorities can provide support and guidance to families who elect to home educate but this is discretionary.

This discretionary support from local authorities also applies should your child have special educational needs (SEN). If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), it is the local authority's responsibility to ensure that the special educational provision specified in the EHCP is made available to your child. If the home education arrangements are deemed suitable, then the local authority is under no duty to arrange any provision for your child. However, discretionary support may still be available and so we would suggest opening discussions with your local authority. If you are educating a child at home and feel he or she may have SEN, you can still request an (re)assessment from a local authority as if your child were attending a mainstream setting.

Guidance on EHE, including for parents, can be found on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) and a short '[what you need to know](#)' blog for parents and carers is also available.

If you are continuing with EHE, we would encourage you to familiarise yourself with these, if you have not done so already. If you do have any concerns that the education you provide at home may not be the best and fullest for your child, then we would strongly encourage you to talk to your local authority and school about a return to school education, and the arrangements that are now in place to keep everyone safe from the coronavirus.



**BARONESS BERRIDGE OF THE VALE
OF CATMOSE**
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY



VICKY FORD MP
**PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY
OF STATE**
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



25th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach half term It is important that everyone is aware that although Liverpool is opening up, we still need to be very cautious about the risk of Covid-19, especially in light of the new variant. There are things you still need to do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth & nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Vaccinations

Public Health are strongly urging everybody eligible for the vaccine in Liverpool who hasn't had their vaccine yet to book ASAP!

Booking is easy, please go to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> or phone 119 free of charge.

Foreign travel

We are still being advised against all non-essential international travel to most countries and territories. You should check [the country page](#) for your destination if you do have to travel: www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Return to school

Testing

Please continue to get tested twice per week using your home testing kits which are available for anyone without symptoms. **In particular could you please ensure that secondary age pupils get tested before returning to school after the half term break.**

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/smarttesting>

Face coverings

We are still asking that you continue to wear face coverings when dropping off and picking up your children at school due to concerns about the inability to socially distance at some locations.

Please stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Matt Ashton

Director of Public Health, Liverpool

Steve Reddy

Director of Children's Services, Liverpool



This guidance is available in a range of alternate languages: [shorturl.at/zHJK6](https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/how-to-get-tested/)

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a PCR test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result. The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

People who are sick with coronavirus may have other flu like symptoms such as:

body aches; persistent headaches; sore throat; tiredness; shortness of breath; nausea or diarrhoea

If you don't have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus, you don't need to isolate until you get your result, however you do need to continue to take the usual measures to protect yourself and others from illness.

People with symptoms can get a test here or call 119:

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/how-to-get-tested/>
[tests-for-people-with-symptoms/](https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/how-to-get-tested/)

People without symptoms can access our community testing sites here:

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/smarttesting>

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD

Free Parenting Guide for people living in Liverpool – free access if you have a purple bin!

Award winning **online courses** - Find out more about:

- How your child develops • your child's feelings • Different styles of Parenting
- Why sleep is important • Communication with your child

These online parenting guides are offered free to parents and carers in Liverpool. Go to www.inourplace.co.uk click 'start now' and Enter the ACCESS CODE: **PURPLE BIN**



Re: Sacrament of Confirmation

Dear parent/guardian,

The archdiocese of Liverpool is inviting young people in year 8 (and above) to the sacrament of confirmation.

Confirmation is a sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to make us stronger and more perfect Christians and true witnesses of Jesus Christ.

The preparation for the sacrament will be started through a series of video introductions to the sacrament from Animate, the archdiocesan youth ministry team (if your child has not seen these in school please direct them to <https://www.youtube.com/user/AnimateYouth> and find the four 'Called ... videos').

Year 8 pupils will then study the subject of confirmation in their RE classes.

There will also be preparation sessions at a local level in your town/local area. Following these local preparation times young people will be invited to be confirmed.

If your child would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation this year it is **essential** they register online at:

<https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk/>

Registration must take place before the **28th June.**

Please complete the form that can be accessed through clicking the button at the top right-hand side of the webpage ('Register for Confirmation'). If you are unable to do this at home please inform the school chaplain who will be able to help.

When a young person has registered they will be contacted by your local confirmation co-ordinator who will take you through the next steps of the preparation process.

If you have any questions, please contact Fr Simon Gore on 01744 740467 or s.gore@animateyouth.co.uk Or your parish priest.



L I V E R P O O L A R C H D I O C E S A N O F F I C E

Croxteth Drive | Liverpool | L17 1AA | www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk



Oracy Fortnight

From Monday 7th June to Friday 18th June, the whole school will be participating in an 'oracy fortnight'.

Oracy is a concept promoted by 'Voice 21' which predominantly focuses on developing effective speaking and listening skills. Equal to reading and writing, oracy is a discipline which strives to give students a voice so that they might become effective communicators beyond their academic careers.

With this in mind, students will be participating in a range of interactive speaking and listening activities across the curriculum during this two-week period.

For further information, please feel free to visit the 'Voice 21' website:

www.voice21.org

ANTI-RADICALISATION PERFORMANCE

Years 7 to 10 will each be involved in an Anti-Radicalisation performance/workshop in the Dorothy Stang on the first 2 days back after the half term, Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th June 2021. The workshop is entitled 'Blame & Belonging – Radicalisation' and will be performed by OddArts theatre productions. Blame & Belonging is an interactive forum theatre performance and workshop using professional actors and specialist facilitators to explore key issues around radicalisation. This particular performance focuses on the adult influencer, female radicalisation and Islamophobia. It explores people inspired by the extreme 'far right' and also Daesh or I.S.

The key aims of the production is to:

- Increased understanding of the process and meaning of radicalisation;
- Increased understanding of the vulnerabilities, triggers and warning signs associated with radicalisation;
- Improved critical thinking skills;
- Improved communication skills including how to hold challenging conversations around hate and extremism;
- Safe space to explore hate and radicalisation and the impact on individuals and society, and;

Reduce hate and risk of radicalisation, and increase community cohesion.

At Notre Dame Catholic College, we understand the importance of giving our students the opportunity to explore difficult and hard-hitting issues relating to hate and radicalisation which can have devastating impacts on individuals, families and our local community.

DISCOVER

kooth

EVENTBRITE FOR
PARENTS AND CARERS



Kooth.com is commissioned for young people across Merseyside between the ages of 10-25*. Kooth.com provides anonymous and personalised mental health support through self-help resources, peer forums and one to one text based counselling chats.

This Eventbrite session delivered by the Kooth Engagement Leads will include a presentation on all key points about the service, a live tour of the Kooth.com site and an opportunity ask any questions you have about the service.

Kooth is a FREE, anonymous, confidential, safe, online Wellbeing service, offering professional support, information, and forums for children and young people.

Access 365 days a year to counsellors who are available from:

12 noon-10pm Monday- Friday
6pm-10pm Saturday and Sunday

Log on through **mobile, laptop and tablet.**

*Kooth is commissioned for young people in:

- Wirral 11-25
- Liverpool 10-25
- Sefton 10-25
- Knowsley 11-25
- Halton 11-25
- St Helens 11-25

To book on to the FREE session or to find out more, please follow the below links for your preferred date:

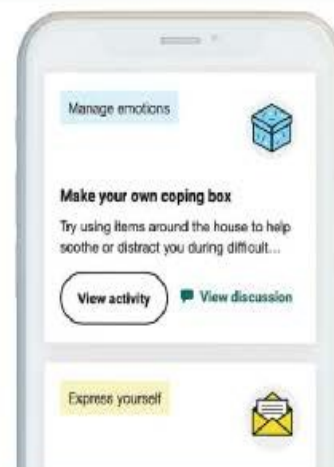
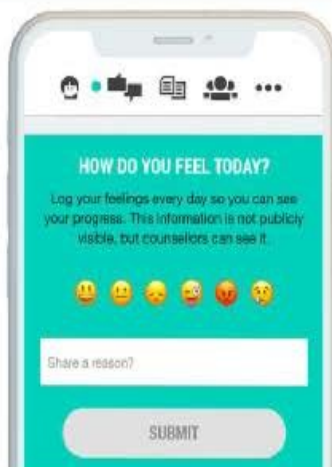
Tuesday 8th June - 11am-12pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/151615515087>

Wednesday 23rd June - 4:30pm-5:30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/152660326145>

Or contact ehawley@kooth.com for more information



PURPLEBIN

Free, locally sponsored, online course for parents.

Launched by : The Solihull Approach (NHS)

How do I access?

www.inourplace.co.uk



What's the code?

- If you haven't used it already here is the access code for all the [online](#) courses (funded for residents of Liverpool): **PURPLEBIN**
- If, like many parents, you have already used this code, log into your account [here](#) and this course will be ready in your dashboard to start whenever you are ready.

Can I tell my family and friends?

Absolutely! Share the news with other families in the area so that they too can take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

How long is it?

There are 7 modules which each take about 5 minutes to complete and will benefit from time to digest in between.

If you like this...

...you might like the bigger '[Understanding your child](#)' or '[Understanding your child with additional needs](#)', or other courses in the series. www.inourplace.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING REMINDERS



Important Contacts

If you currently need support for your mental health or well being these are some of the organisations who are happy to listen and help

Anxiety UK

03444775774 (Helpline)

075374160905 (Text)

Childline

0800 1111 (Free 24 hr helpline)

Papyrus Hotline

(Under 35s at risk of suicide or concerned for another)

0800 068 4141

07786209697 (text)

The Mix

(Support & Advice for under 25s)

0808 068 4994

85258 (Text THEMIX)

Young Minds

0808 803 5544 (Parent helpline)

85258 (Free 24hr crisis messenger, text YM)

Young Stonewall

Information & support for young people who identify as LGBTQ

0800 050 2020

Samaritans

Support for anyone who needs to talk

116 123 (Call)

Bullybusters

0800 169 6928

Please refer to the school website for further contact details/ websites

If you feel a child is at risk

(suffering harm, neglect or abuse)

Any member of the public can contact

Careline on 0151 233 3700 or

Merseyside Police on 0151 709 6010

CAMHS Crisis Care Team

Supporting children and young people in crisis regarding self-harm, suicidal ideation and acute mental health difficulties. Speak to a mental health practitioner 24hrs/day

CONTACT US

Email: sg@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk

Emails are answered within 24 hrs Mon—Fri 9-3

Phone: 0151 330 5122

Safeguarding Team:

Mrs Brennan - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Littleboy—Deputy DSL / Year 8

Mr McVerry—Deputy DSL

Mr D McKeon - Deputy DSL

Mrs Costello - Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Sweeney , Mrs Kildare, Mrs Doran, Miss Lee,
Mrs Garvey & Ms Glorman

Domestic Abuse/Violence

Please remember, in an emergency dial 999 for immediate assistance.

You can call 999 without speaking then pressing 55, or tapping or coughing into the phone.

This will enable police to respond

Women's Aid

0808 2000 247 (24 hr helpline)

Men's Advice Line

0808 801 0327

Worst Kept Secret Helpline Merseyside

0800 028 3398

Childline - www.childline.org.uk

• Childline is available to you if you have any concerns about:

- Bullying
- Abuse (physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, neglect)
- Your body and self esteem
- Your feelings
- Friendships
- Sexual advice
- Home life and families
- School

• You can ring them on 0800 1111 or message them online here <https://www.childline.org.uk/registration/>

• There are loads of resources available for you to download and read as well <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/>



ATTENDANCE

**ATTENDANCE
2020-2021**



**Winning Form
Classes**

Year 7: **7J**

Year 8: **8E**

**YEAR
7
WINNERS!!**

Year 9: **9J**

Year 10: **10F**

Year 11: **11MA**

Week commencing 24th May 2021



General Covid-19 advice

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a PCR test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you can't smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

People who are sick with coronavirus may have other flu like symptoms such as:

body aches

persistent headaches

sore throat

tiredness

shortness of breath

nausea or

diarrhoea

If you don't have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus, you don't need to isolate until you get your result, however you do need to continue to take the usual measures to protect yourself and others from illness.

General Testing (not part of returning to England)

People with symptoms can get a test here:

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/how-to-get-tested/tests-for-people-with-symptoms/>

People without symptoms can access our community testing sites here: <https://liverpool.gov.uk/smarttesting>

Testing after travel from overseas: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-people-travelling-to-england?step-by-step-nav=8c0c7b83-5e0b-4bed-9121-1c394e2f96f3

Mental wellbeing

Don't forget about your own self-care. Discover our supportive online mental wellbeing space for adults: **qwell.io**

"THE PANTRY" @ NOTRE DAME



Notre Dame
Catholic College

Established 1869

180 Great Homer Street, Liverpool L5 5AF
Tel: 0151 330 5122 Fax: 0151 207 0904
Email: ao@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk
www.notredameliverpool.com

Headteacher: Mr Peter Duffy BA(Hons) NPQH

Our Ref: RW/Admin/4

20th October 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

The Pantry at Notre Dame

We realise in these difficulty and very different times that there may be some families who need that little extra support. As a community, Notre Dame would like to offer the service of "The Pantry" to all of our families as we support each other.

The Pantry is a confidential service (foodbank) run by Notre Dame, whereby you can contact Rebecca Wall, our Chaplain, and ask for help with items of shopping, food and toiletries, that you are unable to afford at the moment during these unprecedented times. It may be that you are unable to access benefits, have been made redundant, are working less hours – all making it difficult to feed/support your family as you would normally do.

You may only need to use The Pantry once, or you may need to use it on a more regular basis. Please feel free to call Rebecca and speak to her directly in confidence. You don't even need to share information with your child.

If you would like to discuss this further or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me either by telephone or email (rwall18.341@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk).

Remember you are not on your own in this – we are all in it together !

Kind regards

Miss R Wall
School Chaplain