

Newsletter

Friday 22nd October 2021

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sixth Form Open Evening



Firstly, a huge 'thank you' to all students and parents of Year 10 and 11 who attended our sixth form open evening last night. It was wonderful to host parents and students in person and provide that much-needed individual advice and guidance face-to-face at this pivotal time in students' educational journey. Visitors heard a key note presentation from the Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form and our Head Students Amy and Ebony (who completely stole the show!!!). Students then visited subject stalls for course-specific conversations and advice. 'Thank you' to all staff involved in the planning and preparation of the event.

Students wishing to attend our sixth form need to complete and return their application form no later than **Tuesday 2nd November**. All Year 11 students have been given paper application forms today and all course information and details of our application process can be found in [the sixth form section of the college website](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact the college if you or your son/daughter require any further information or guidance about next year.



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Notre Dame UK Climate Change Conference

In preparation for the COP 26 United Nations climate summit in Glasgow next month, a group of Year 9 students took part in a virtual Notre Dame UK Climate Change Conference with representatives from the eight Notre Dame schools across Great Britain. The conference included key note presentations from guest speakers Natalie Finnigan and Fr Stephen Reilly and a range of workshops culminating in the drafting of a Notre Dame Pledge to halt climate change in our localities across the UK. It was fabulous to see our wider Notre Dame family coming together to make such a positive impact on our respective communities.



Pink Party

As many parents and carers will be aware, October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. As a school community, today we raised awareness of breast cancer with a Pink Party in which staff wore something pink and made donations by purchasing merchandise that was graciously donated by the Linda McCartney Centre. 'Thank you' to every member of staff who contributed to this fantastic fundraising event.



Renewal of COVID Restrictions

Finally, we would like to draw parents', carers' and students' attention to the letter from Liverpool City Council enclosed in this week's letter. Due to the current increase in local COVID infection rates, **face coverings are once again recommended** for pupils, staff and parents/carers in communal areas in school from next term, but not in classrooms. They also ask that face coverings are worn at pick up and drop off from school, exemptions apply. When you cannot socially distance indoors or in a crowded place wearing a face covering is the most effective way to reduce your risk of infection or spreading the virus. Thank you, as always, for your support in this.

We wish every Notre Dame family a peaceful and safe half term break.

Mr Duffy

22nd October 2021



Dear Parent / Carer,

We are once again seeing worryingly high levels of COVID infections in Liverpool, with highest numbers in school children. The impact of COVID is a risk to everyone. Rising infections will mean more children becoming ill, needing to isolate from their friends, disruption to learning and more strict measures being re-introduced next term in schools.

We wanted to thank you for your support but also urge you to act now. Help us keep your child safe, in school with their friends next term and reduce the future impact of COVID on their lives by taking a few simple steps now.

No measure is perfect and we are recommending a few carefully selected measures, which we feel will have minimal impact on education and are effective at reducing risk of transmission – but for these to work everyone has to play their part now.

Face coverings are recommended for pupils, staff and parents/carers in communal areas in school from next term, but not in classrooms. We also ask that face coverings are worn at pick up and drop off from school, exemptions apply. As we enter winter, the rising levels of cases means this step has become necessary. When you cannot socially distance indoors or in a crowded place wearing a face covering is the most effective way to reduce your risk of infection or spreading the virus.

Even for young people, vaccination is our first line of defence against COVID. By vaccinating 12 to 15 year olds, we hope to limit transmission of COVID, but this will only happen if enough children in each school and class are vaccinated. Consented vaccinations for this age group are scheduled at schools now and until December – you're school will let you know when.

Even if you haven't been testing before, now is the time to start. It is essential that you and your child still use twice-weekly lateral flow tests and report the results (<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>) and when positive let your school know. Continued regular testing over half term will help reduce the risk of infections when returning to school.

Stay COVID safe. A few additional steps will help reduce your risk of infection, keep washing your hands or using alcohol gel, socialise outdoors and when inside ventilate the room. If you develop COVID symptoms, it is essential to isolate immediately, get a PCR test as soon as possible and let the school know.

We wish you all a COVID safe and enjoyable half term.

Yours Sincerely

Matt Ashton

Director of Public Health

Steve Reddy

Director of Children's Services

RE NEWSLETTER



Religious Education

Welcome to all our new Year 7's who have settled into Notre Dame really well. Year 7 are currently studying, "What is a community". We are looking at the story of St Julie, features of the Church and the hierarchy of the Catholic Church.

Year 8 have made an excellent start to the new term and are studying "Can one person change the world". We are currently studying key people like Malala, Martin Luther King and Mother Teresa.

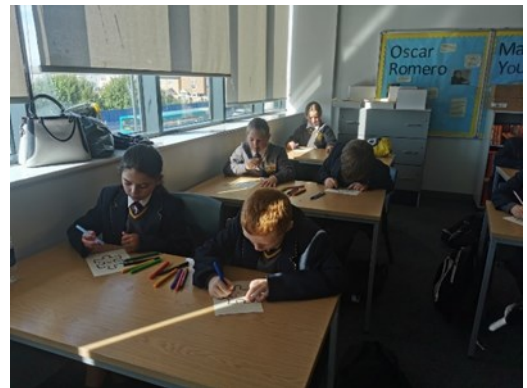
Year 9 have made a very encouraging start to the new academic year and are studying "How do we live as people of God?"

They are looking at different places of pilgrimage like Lourdes, Rome and the Western Wall.

Year 10 and 11

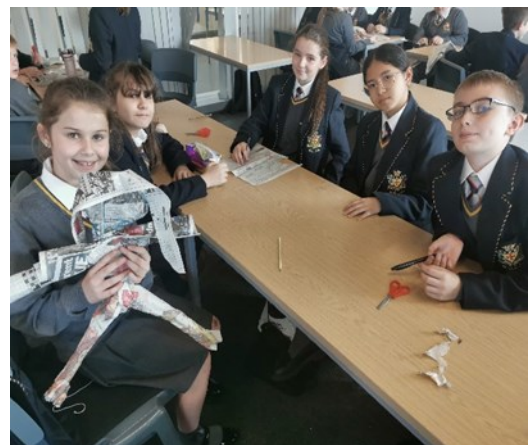
Year 10 and 11 are currently studying the Edu-qas Catholic Christianity and Judaism. Students are currently busy practicing exam technique to prepare them for AP1 in November.

Some pictures from our Year 7 in class retreats. Miss Wall lead the retreats on the theme Community.



Things still to happen:

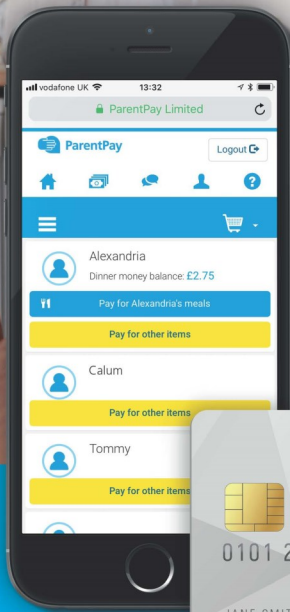
John Pridmore will be visiting Notre Dame on Tuesday 2nd November to give a talk about his life as an "ex gangster" and how a near death experience made him turn it all around!



THE EASY WAY TO PAY

We're using ParentPay so parents
can easily pay online for school
dinners, trips and clubs.

No stress, hassle free.



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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

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/>



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



SAFEGUARDING

CONTACT US

Email: sg@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk

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

Phone: 0151 330 5122

PC P Wood Schools Safer Police Officer

The Safeguarding Team

Headteacher – Mr P Duffy
Deputy Headteacher - Mrs AM Costello

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs E Brennan – Senior Assistant Headteacher

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs J Littleboy – Assistant Head of Year
Mr D McKeon – Leadership - Director of Behaviour
Mr A McVerry – Leadership - SENCO

PC P Wood – school's safer police officer
Leadership/ Alternative Provision – Miss H McCullen
Attendance Officer – Mrs P Shrimpton
Special Educational Needs – Mrs K Sweeney
Pastoral Assistant Heads of Year – Ms R Glorman Y7, Mrs Doran Y8, Mrs E Garvey Y10, Miss C Lee Y11



Free Online Safety Guide

What parents and carers need to know about social bots

Around one in every three people has been fooled (even if only briefly) into thinking a social media bot was a real person. Evidence suggests that bots are increasingly being used on social platforms to artificially amplify the popularity of a person or movement, to influence political outcomes and as accessories in phishing scams – so their ability to deceive us is becoming more of a concern.

Twisting public debate, disrupting online courtesy and – in some cases – jeopardising human wellbeing are among the more worrying threats that bots can pose. In our #WakeUpWednesday guide this week, you'll find useful tips on how to identify bots on social media – including giveaways like odd usernames, unusual patterns of posting and dubious profile pictures.

Read on to access your free guide ...



According to cyber security company Imperva, bots account for almost a quarter of all internet traffic. Social media organisations in particular are grappling with this growing issue: Instagram is implementing measures to reduce the number of bots on its platform, while tech industry site TheNextWeb reports that Facebook deactivates more than a billion fake accounts every year.

With these automated accounts implicated in spreading dangerous conspiracy theories and attempting to influence political opinion, our #WakeUpWednesday guide this week examines social media bots in more detail. It will help parents and carers learn how to recognise bots, how to deal with them and how to educate children about the potential hazards that bots can cause.

WHISPER



whisper@ndcc

Who can use whisper@ndcc? *parents/carers/students*



- Do you need to inform the safeguarding team about a safeguarding issue?
- Would you like to do it anonymously?
 - *Neglect * Abuse * **Bullying** *Sexual harassment *Peer on Peer abuse *Threats
 - ***Criminal exploitation** *Drugs/Alcohol ***Worried about a friend**
- Use the QR code to access the online form or <https://forms.office.com/r/WfTPCfWANz>
- You can either fill in your name on the form or you can fill out the information anonymously – it is up to you! If you fill out your name and leave a contact number we will contact you.
- We **all** have a responsibility to help our young people before they come to harm
- The online reports will be monitored during term time and will be checked on a daily basis Monday to Friday
- **Remember – if someone is at risk you should phone Careline 0151 2333700 , if it is an emergency phone 999**

COVID ADVICE

Schools have been communicating directly with families and carers and keeping their individual websites updated and should always be the first place to go for advice about plans for getting back into the classroom.

However, we have put together the following frequently asked questions to answer some of the general questions about going back to school...

How do the [self-isolation changes of 16 August](#) affect school attendance?

If children and young people (aged 18 years & 6 months and under) have not tested positive for Covid, and they are not otherwise ill they are expected to be in school.

Anyone aged under 18 and 6 months who has been a close contact of someone who has tested positive is no longer required to self-isolate unless the child also has symptoms. They are advised to take a PCR test but they do not have to isolate whilst they wait for the results.

Students who are aged 18 years & 6 months and over will be treated as adults under the guidance and will not be expected to self-isolate if they have had a close contact provided they have received both Covid vaccinations and 14 days have passed since the second dose.

You can find out where drop-in Covid vaccination clinics are on [Liverpool CCG's website](#).

I think my child has Covid, what should I do?

If your child has symptoms, [please book a PCR test](#) and isolate until you have the results. If you receive a positive test result the child should self-isolate following the national guidance. If you need support whilst your family is self-isolating there is information on the [council's website](#).

Will children still be expected to take lateral flow tests (LFTs)?

Testing is voluntary, but it is encouraged as it is still one of the best ways to break the chain of infection.

We're encouraging secondary school pupils to take an LFT **before** they return to school.

When schools return, government guidance will be followed:

Nursery and primary school children – Do not need to take LFTs.

Secondary school pupils and college students – In the first week of term, two LFTs will be taken at school three to five days apart. In following weeks, two LFTs to be taken at home each week until the end of September.

Will testing continue after the end of September?

There will be a national review of all testing in September 2021 and this will inform the role of testing in school and other settings

What should I do if my child has a positive result on a lateral flow test?

They should self-isolate immediately and you should arrange a PCR test as soon as possible. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Other members of the household do not need to self-isolate whilst you await the PCR test result if they do not have symptoms and are aged under 18 years or are fully vaccinated.

Will pupils still be part of bubbles?

Bubbles were introduced to limit contact between groups. Schools are no longer required to do this, but they may be considered if there is an outbreak at the school.

What happens if there are positive cases in schools?

All schools and colleges are required to have outbreak management plans. Action may need to be taken if certain thresholds are met. If risks change significantly the Director of Public Health is able to implement further or different measures to protect population health.

Will school continue to inform us if there are positive cases in school?

Public Health England are currently advising schools that it is not necessary to send *warn and inform* letters for each pupil case. Parents will be informed if additional controls from the outbreak management plan need to be put in place.

Meanwhile schools will continue to maintain COVID prevention measures. This includes maximising ventilation, encouraging good hygiene, thorough cleaning and ensuring that anyone with COVID symptoms or positive test results do not come in to school.

Will children be made to have a vaccination?

No-one will be made to have a vaccination, but having both doses of the vaccination is still the best way of preventing people from becoming very ill with Covid-19.

The national vaccination programme is now open to anyone aged 16 and over. Sixteen and 17-year-olds will be contacted by their GPs and are not able to book vaccinations online.

I would like my child to have a vaccination as there is someone in my household who is vulnerable but my child is younger than 16.

Vaccinations are being offered to 12-15-year-olds if they have an underlying health condition or if someone they live with is immunosuppressed. You should speak to your child's GP.

Will my child have to wear a face covering in the classroom?

Guidance states that face coverings do not need to be worn in the classroom. But if your child travels to school or college on public transport that is crowded and they can't socially distance it is a good idea to wear a face covering if they are able.

Parents are encouraged to wear face coverings at the school gates particularly if social distancing isn't possible.

Will normal school activities now be taking place?

Yes, activities such as sports, singing, playing wind or brass instruments, and going on trips and excursions are now allowed to take place.

My child is anxious about returning to school is there any support?

The last year and a half has been especially tough for our children and young people. If your child is worried about returning to the classroom please speak to the school in the first instance. They can also get help and advice online such as at www.kooth.com

ATTENDANCE & UNIFORM

Attendance and Punctuality

The school's attendance officer is Mrs P Shrimpton

From 3rd September 2021 all students are expected to attend school.

All students should arrive at school before 8:40 a.m. to ensure they have enough time to be at their form classes for 8:45 a.m. Parents/carers must ensure that students leave home in plenty of time to get to school on time.

Breakfast - Students are able to have breakfast in school after 8 a.m. in the lower canteen

Appointments - Please do not make medical / dental appointments for students during school hours. Any appointments during school time will only be authorised with a letter or appointment card.

Holidays - Term Dates are included in this newsletter - please do not book holidays during term times. Any holidays booked during term time will be unauthorised unless with the prior agreement of the headteacher.

Pastoral Team

If you need to speak to a member of the pastoral team you can contact them via class charts messages.

Mrs Brennan - Senior Assistant Headteacher

Mr McKeon - Leadership Team / Director of Behaviour

Mr Campbell - Leadership Team / Director of Behaviour

Year 7 - Head of Year - Miss Wishart Assistant Head of Year - Ms Glorman

Year 8 - Head of Year - Mr Appleton Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Doran

Year 9 - Head of Year - Mrs Crosslind Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Littleboy

Year 10 - Head of Year - Mr Bond Assistant Head of Year - Mrs Garvey

Year 11 - Head of Year - Mrs Smith Assistant Head of Year - Ms Lee

Uniform standards

Please find attached the appropriate shoe guidance which is part of our school uniform. Parents/carers were provided with a letter regarding uniform and the details of appropriate shoes in the summer term. The information is also available on the school website. If pupils come into school with the wrong footwear from Monday 6th September 2021 they will be given an alternative pair of shoes provided by school. Any queries please speak to your son/daughter's Head of Year.

ACCEPTABLE AND NON-ACCEPTABLE SHOES



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



Plain Black Patent



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



**Polishable Shoe
Black**



**Non-Polishable Shoe
Trainer**



**Embellishment not same colour as shoe
Embellishment not flat to shoe
Open toe**



Embellishment not same colour as shoe