

# Newsletter

Friday 14th January 2022

## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Year 9 Parents' Events

We would like to begin this week's newsletter by thanking all parents and carers who attended our virtual Year 9 Parents' Evening on Thursday night. This coming Thursday (20<sup>th</sup> January) we invite all Year 9 parents to our **Virtual Options Evening** in which parents can meet virtually with **up to 4** subject leaders between 4.30pm and 5.50pm should you have any questions about the courses on offer. In preparation for the evening, all students have been given an options booklet and a letter to explain the options process. Both Mrs Thomas and I have recorded introductory presentations that students watched on Friday and each subject leader has recorded a video presentation to take students through the content and structure of their courses. We ask that parents watch these videos via the [Year 9 Options page of our website](#) before booking your virtual appointments on [this online booking form](#). Each appointment will last no longer to 20-minutes, starting at 4.30, 4.50, 5.10 and 5.30pm.

### Medical appointments

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the College's procedure for students who have medical appointments.



1. On the day of the appointment, students must show either an appointment letter or a parent note (on paper or in their planner) to our Student Services desk during Form Time.
2. Our Student Services Team will issue your child with a pink slip that looks like the image below.
3. When your child needs to leave school, they show their pink slip to their classroom teacher and report to main reception where they will be signed out of school.

The College's Tannoy system is intended to be used for emergencies only, not to call students down for routine medical appointments, as Tannoy announcements can unnecessarily interrupt learning in classrooms.



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Date	Pupil's / Student's Name	Year / Form	Reason for Absence	Time Out	Person Authorising Absence
<b>AUTHORISED ABSENCE PASS</b> The above pupil / student is authorised to be out of school on the date and time specified above					
 <b>NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC COLLEGE</b> Great Homer Street, Liverpool L5 5AF Tel: 0151 235 1600					
					
No. 027725		This pass must be returned to the school office		Expected return time:	

## **Face Coverings**

As parents and carers are aware, on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, the government asked all students of secondary school age to again wear face coverings both in communal areas of school and in classrooms, unless exempt. This guidance will be reviewed on 26<sup>th</sup> January but in the meantime, we are asking all students for a **renewed effort to wear a face covering whilst in school** until the guidance has changed.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, College leaders and staff are wholeheartedly committed to maintaining face-to-face provision. Face coverings are one way of reducing the likelihood of an outbreak in school and protecting face-to-face provision for all year groups. Please support the College in this by sending your child to school with a face covering and explaining how wearing them will contribute to a safe environment for everyone.

## **Merseyside Police Youth Provision Survey**

Merseyside Police are currently seeking the views and opinions of young people in our local community about youth provision and clubs in our area. Please encourage your child to take 2-minutes to complete this very short survey. The survey is open now and will stay open for a number of weeks. It can be accessed via this link <https://forms.office.com/r/siZakfmQAz> or this QR code.



## **Parent Governor Vacancy**

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, we are inviting nominations from parents and carers who are interested in serving the College as our next Parent Governor. Parents can find full details of the role and download our candidate pack from the vacancies page of our website <https://www.notredameliverpool.com/vacancies/>. The Parent Governor candidate pack includes information about the role of a parent governor, the timeline for the process and instructions on how to apply. Nominations can be submitted on paper using the agreed Nomination Form or by completing this online Nomination Form [[click here to access the online Nomination Form](#)]. The deadline for nominations is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you in advance for your interest.

## **Feast Day – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

Finally, we would like to draw students' and parents' attention to our fast-approaching Feast Day, which this year, will take place on **Wednesday 2nd February**. As you will be aware, this date marks the day in 1804 when St Julie Billiart, Françoise Blin de Bourdon and Catherine Duchâtel committed themselves to God by a vow of chastity and the care and education of young girls. This was the founding day of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Amiens, France! This is a hugely significant day in our calendar and has traditionally been a day of celebration, prayer and reflection.

Last year, we celebrated our Feast Day remotely during a national lockdown and so cannot wait to celebrate this year's in person. College staff are in the process of planning the morning's activities and liturgies. As in previous years, **students will finish at 12 noon on this day.**

Wishing every Notre Dame family a peaceful and safe weekend.

Mr Duffy



14<sup>th</sup> January 2022



Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome back to school after what we hope was an enjoyable festive break. Our COVID-19 infection rates have been the highest they have ever been at 2,399 per 100,000. To help manage this challenge additional controls have been applied in schools for a limited period of time to reduce the spread of the virus. We will continue to work with schools individually to respond to any outbreaks and manage any staff absences due to COVID-19. We ask that you please appreciate these challenges and work with your child's school through this period.

Control measures being put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 include increased ventilation and enhanced cleaning. Everyone in secondary schools are now expected to wear face coverings in classrooms and communal areas unless exempt.

You can support the COVID-19 response too by doing the following:

**Wear a face covering at drop off and pick up.**

**All eligible residents should [test at home](#) twice a week.**

**Get [vaccinated](#).**

### **Testing**

From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for COVID-19 are required to self-isolate immediately and not required to take a confirmatory PCR test (unless required to claim Test & Trace support payment or if requested by the NHS or research programme). It is essential that LFD results are [registered](#) to support the test and trace process.

Anyone who develops any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. The isolation period is for 10 days. But you may be able to end isolation earlier – please follow the rules and see further information on the national website [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

**Matt Ashton**

Director of Public Health

**Steve Reddy**

Director of Children's Services

## WHEN TO SELF-ISOLATE

Self-isolate straight away and get a [PCR test \(a test that is sent to the lab\) on GOV.UK](#) as soon as possible if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You should also self-isolate straight away if:

- you've tested positive for COVID-19 – this means you have the virus
- someone you live with has symptoms or tested positive (unless you are not required to self-isolate – check below if this applies to you)

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[YOU'VE BEEN TOLD TO SELF-ISOLATE FOLLOWING CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO TESTED POSITIVE – FIND OUT WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE TOLD TO SELF-ISOLATE BY NHS TEST AND TRACE OR THE NHS COVID-19 APP](#)

## WHEN YOU DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE

If you live with or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, you will not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine
- you're under 18 years and 6 months old
- you're taking part or have taken part in an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons



# ENRICHMENT

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January some of our students who have a particular aptitude for Science attended a STEM day at Liverpool University. Three schools from across Merseyside attended. Our students studied programming robots which they found very interesting. They made their own hydrogel sensor to detect different metals. They also studied the electromagnetic spectrum. A good day was had by all.



# 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](http://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](mailto: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