

Newsletter

Friday 29th April 2022

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

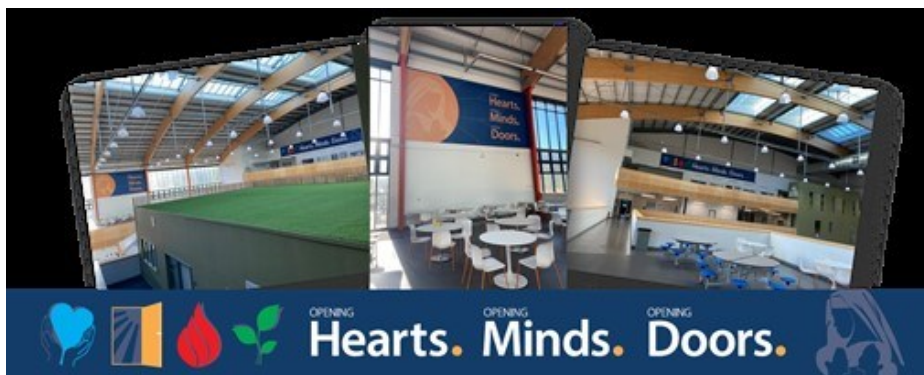
Welcome back

We would like to begin by welcoming all Notre Dame students and families back from what we hope was a restful, holy and re-energising Easter holiday. We've had a fantastic first week back filled with truly enriching experiences both inside and outside of the classroom.

Easter Holiday Revision Programme

'Thank you' to all colleagues who came into school over the Easter holiday to provide additional exam preparation for Years 11 and 13. 'Well done' to all students who took full advantage of this offer by attending and working so hard throughout the fortnight. We're sure this commitment will pay dividends come May/June.

New Installations



Also over the Easter holiday, we had two fantastic visual displays installed in prominent locations in our amazing school building. These installations bare our vision statement of **'Opening Hearts, Minds and Doors'**, serving as a constant reminder our daily commitment to this vision, for both staff and students. They also bare images of St Julie, the sunflower imagery and the icons that represent our four core values of **Charity**, **Courtesy**, **Courage** and **Confidence**. Thanks to those who supported with their design and creation.

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Liverpool Community Spirit

'True virtue shows community spirit'

St Julie, Letter 145

As Catholics, we are committed to understanding and respecting the views and beliefs of others in the spirit of togetherness and unity. This is one of the ways we live out St Julie's mission to *'have hearts as wide as the world'*.



On Tuesday, Year 7 and 8 students took part in a fantastic '**Liverpool Community Spirit**' series of workshops that explored the life and beliefs of people of other faiths in our community. Over the course of the day pupils engaged with representatives of 3 faiths Judaism, Islam, and Ethiopian Christianity. Each representative used personal artefacts to bring their faith to life. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hear about the different faiths and ask questions to believers.

- Year 7 pupil, Fizza, said "I thought the community spirit event was really fascinating and it was really nice to see how other religions do things differently but also what is similar."

Another pupil, Natalie, said "I thought that it was nice to learn about different religions that we belong to."

The visit was an enormous success and we look forward to working with community spirit in the future, giving more of our pupils the opportunity to work with this amazing group.

Thank you to our Chaplain, Miss Wall and PSHCE co-ordinator Ms Robinson-Powell, for organizing this. Following on from this, we would like to wish all of our Muslim students a happy and holy Eid Mubarak this weekend.



Careers Fair



On Thursday, we held our Careers Fair for Years 7 to 10. This followed on from the Year 11, 12 and 13 event we held in September. Yesterday's fair provided fantastic careers information, advice, guidance and inspiration for our younger students as they form their own career plans and aspirations. The fair was brilliantly attended by a wide range of training and education providers including the armed and uniformed services, HSBC, the Insurance Institute and LMA to name but a few. Given the amount of merchandise that was handed out, no students should be attending school without equipment next week! Thanks to our Careers lead, Mrs Hall, for organizing and delivering such a fantastic experience for our students.

Geography Trip



Yesterday, our sixth form geographers took part in a fantastic field trip to the River Alt Restoration Project in Croxteth Park. Students were given a tour around the Wetland Project and then had the opportunity to check pollution levels in the River Alt. The highlight was collecting and sorting species from the river and students are now experts in bugs and shrimp! Thank you to Mrs McNulty's fantastic geography team and the Wetland Project staff for providing such an enriching experience for our students.

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'Super Saturdays' and Transition



Tomorrow, we host our third 'Super Saturday' transition morning in which we will welcome some Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. Invited students have received a letter in the post and will join us from several primary schools. These mornings will run for invited students until the end of May. We look forward meeting our third group tomorrow.

Notre Dame Reads



This week, college leaders conducted a review of our form time reading programme which was launched back in September. It has been fantastic to speak to students about their enjoyment of the books they have read so far, to witness their engagement with this reading programme and to find out what they would like to read next! Below is a list of the books that your child is currently reading with their form tutor, along with an amazon link to the text, should parents and carers wish to read the book at the same time. This can often prove to be a effective way to support children in their engagement with and enjoyment of the text.

Year 7 are currently reading [C.G. Drew's *The Boy Who Steals Houses*](#)

Year 8 are currently reading [Patrick Ness' *The Knife of Never Letting Go*](#)

Year 9 are currently reading [Lauren James' *The Quiet at the End of the World*](#)

Year 10 are currently reading [Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library*](#)

If parents/carers would like any more information or support with our reading programme, you can find lots of information and guidance on the [Reading Strategy page of our website](#).

Wishing every Notre Dame family a peaceful and safe weekend.

Mr Duffy



New Age Kurling

Students from Year 7 took part in a New Age Kurling tournament recently, against four Liverpool schools. New Age Kurling is an emerging sport based on the sport of Curling, a popular game which is played during the Winter Olympics. The games were highly competitive and one of the teams made it through to the School Games final.

Congratulations!



Many thanks to the Year 9 leaders who helped to run the tournament. They demonstrated excellent leadership skills and were a credit to the school

Year 10 PE Group and Year 12 Enrichment Arete Outdoor Residential.

Students had an amazing experience in Arete. Students got to challenge themselves in a wide range of activities from gorge walking, zip lining, rock climbing, boat sailing, abseiling and mountaineering.

During the trip students got to experience team work, resilience, courage, confidence. They helped around the building by preparing the dining tables, sweeping floors and making their own pack lunches for the day.





Extra Curricular

Extra Curricular Timetable Summer Term 2022

DAY	TIME	CLUB	TARGET	ROOM	TAKEN BY
MONDAY	8.45 -9.15am	Lego Therapy/Social Skills	Year 7	Therapy Rm	SEN Dept
	12.30-1PM	Faith in Action	Year 7	Chaplaincy	RW
	3pm – 3:30pm	Year 7 Choir	Year 7	Music Room M1	JH
TUESDAY	8.45-9.15am	Lego Therapy/Social Skills	Year 7	Therapy Rm	
	8.00- 8.35am	Early Morning Music	All Years	Music Room	JH/JMcK
	8.15 – 9.10am	Youth Mental Health	Key stage 3	Thrive Room	Assistant Year Heads
	12.30-1PM	Faith in Action	Year 8	Chaplaincy	RW
	12.30 – 1pm	Ideas Club	7,8 and 9	Computer room	LH
	12.30 -1pm	Career drop in	7,8 & 9	Career Office	GH
	1.30 – 2pm	1804	Year 13	Chaplaincy	RW
	3.00pm-4pm	Badminton	Staff and students	Sports Hall	HMCC
	3.00pm-4pm	Gym	Year 7 & 8	Sports Hall	PMcG/DMcK
	3.00pm-4pm	Science revision	Yr 11	Science Room	Science Dept
	3.00pm-4pm	Computing	Yr 11	Computer Rm	EC
WEDNESDAY	9.45 – 9.15am	Lego Therapt/Social Skills	Year 7	Therapy Room	SEN Dept
	8.00 – 8.35am	Early Morning Music	All Years	Music Room	JH/JMcK
	8.15am – 9.10am	Diversity	All year groups	Thrive Room	JL/SD
	12.30-1pm	Marvel	Year 7/8/9	Rm 43	AK
	12.30-1pm	Faith in Action	Year 11	Chaplaincy	RW
	1.30-2pm	Faith in Action	Year 9	Chaplaincy	RW
	3pm-4pm	Boys Basketball	7/8/9	Court	PM
	3pm -4pm	Gym	Year 9 & 10	Astro	DMcK
	3pm-4pm	Chamber Choir	Year 8 - 13	Music Room	Music Dept
	3pm -4pm	Sociology	Year 13	Rm 90	VP
	3pm-4pm	H & S Care coursework		Rm 45	AC
THURSDAY	8.45am – 9.15am	Lego Therapy/Social Skills	Year 7	Therapy Room	SEN Dept
	8.00 – 8.35am	Early Morning Club	All Years	Music Rm	JH/JMcK
	8.15 -9.10am	Youth Mental Health	Key stage 3	Thrive Room	Assistant Year Heads
	8.30-845am	Meditation	Year 7	Geography Rm	CW
	12.30pm 1pm	Philosophy Film Club	Year 7,8 & 9	RE Room	BD
	12.30pm-1pm	Games Club	Year 7,8 & 9	Chaplaincy	RW & 6 Formers
	1.30pm - 2pm	Games Club	Year 10, 11	Chaplaincy	RW & 6 Formers
	3pm – 4pm	Trampolining	Year 7-11	Sports hall	JB
	3.15pm -4pm	STEM	Year 7 & 8	Science 86	Science Dept
	3pm – 4pm	Eco Projects	Year 10	DT	IC/RW
	3pm -4pm	Criminology	Year 12 and 13	90	VP
FRIDAY	8.45am – 9.15am	Lego Therapy/Social Skills	Year 7	Therapy Room	Sen TA
	12..30 – 1PM	Eco Club	Year 7/8/9	Chaplaincy	IC & RW

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



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

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

CRISIS DROP-IN'S

Across 3 Community Hubs

YPAS North Hub
Croxtale Road West,
L14 8YA

YPAS Central Hub
36 Bolton Street,
L3 5LX

YPAS South Hub
Lyndene Road,
L25 1NG

See website and social media for times

We can support you through times of crisis

- STRUGGLING WITH YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?
- YOU OR YOUR CHILD ARE IN A CRISIS?
- FEELING LONELY & ISOLATED?
- NEED A LISTENING EAR?
- NEED A SAFE SPACE?

YPAS
Young Person's Advisory Service

<https://ypas.org.uk/services/whats-on-calendar/>

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

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Occurring through messaging apps, on social media and in online games, group chats are among the most popular ways that young people engage with their peers online. Involving, by definition, three or more individuals, these groups allow users to send messages, images and videos to everyone in one place. While they are useful for helping friends, people with shared interests or members of a club to communicate and coordinate activities, they can also leave young people feeling excluded and bullied – as well as providing opportunities for inappropriate content to be shared and viewed.

BULLYING

Unkind comments or images which are purposely aimed at an individual can be shared freely in a group chat – allowing and often encouraging others to join in the bullying behaviour. If this content is shared in a group of their peers (especially a larger group), it serves to amplify the hurt, embarrassment, anxiety and isolation that the victim feels.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

This common issue with group chats can happen in several ways: starting a new group, for instance, but deliberately excluding a certain child. Likewise, the chat may take place on an app which one child doesn't have access to, meaning they can't be involved. A child can also feel isolated when a group chat is used to discuss or share images from an event that everyone else but them attended.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some discussions in group chats may include inappropriate words, swearing and unsuitable images or videos. These could be viewed by your child if they are part of that group, whether they actively engage in it or not. Some chat apps have a disappearing message function, so your child may be unable to report something they've seen because it can only be viewed once or for a short time.

SHARING GROUP CONTENT

It's important to remember that – while the content of the chat is private between those in the group – individual users can easily share a message, photo or video with others outside of the group or screenshot what's been posted. The risk of something your child intended as private becoming public (and potentially going viral) is higher if there are people they don't know well in the group.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Within larger group chats, it's more likely your child will be communicating with people they don't really know. These strangers may be friends of the host, but not necessarily friendly toward your child. It's wise for young people not to share personal details and stay aware that they have no control over the messages and images they share after they've put them online.

NOTIFICATIONS AND FOMO

A drawback of large group chats is the sheer number of notifications. Every time someone in the group messages, your child's device will be 'pinged' with an alert: potentially, this could mean hundreds of notifications a day. Not only is this highly distracting, but young people's fear of missing out on the latest conversation results in increased screen time as they try to keep up with the chat.

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Advice for Parents & Carers

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CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats are often an arena for young people to gain social status. This could cause them to do or say things on impulse, which could upset others in the group. Encourage your child to consider how other people might feel if they engaged in this behaviour. If your child does upset a member of their group chat, support them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

In any online communication, it's vital for young people to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Discuss the importance of not revealing identifiable details like their address, their school or photos that they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they lose control of where it may end up and how it might be used.

GIVE SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Remind your child that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded in a group chat, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their hurt feelings and help to put them back in control by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. On a related note, you could also empower your child to speak up if they're in a chat where others are being picked on.

AVOID INVITING STRANGERS

Sadly, many individuals online hide their true identity to gain a child's trust – for example, to gather information on them, to exchange inappropriate content or to coax them into doing things they aren't comfortable with. Ensure your child understands why they shouldn't add people they don't know to a group chat – and, especially, to never accept a group chat invitation from a stranger.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If your child is in a chat where inappropriate content is being shared, advise them to block the users sending the material, report them to the host app or platform and exit the group. If any of this content could be putting a minor at risk, contact the police. Emphasise to your child that it's OK for them to simply leave any group chat that they don't feel comfortable being a part of.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Having a phone or tablet bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be a massive irritation and distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to your child that they can still be part of the group chat, but that it would be healthier for them to turn off or mute the notifications and catch up with the conversation at a time which better suits them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



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OPEERATION ENCOMPASS

OPERATION
ENCOMPASS

Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

“ Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience. ”

“ Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right¹. ”

“ We have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained about Operation Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care. ”

“ Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident. ”

“ This information means that we can understand a child's behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want. ”

“ We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this. ”

¹ Domestic Abuse Act 2021

www.operationencompass.org