# Newsletter

Friday 8th July 2022

### **Headteacher's Message**

Dear Parents and Carers,

#### **Ofsted Inspection Report**

It is with pride that, in this final newsletter of the academic year, we can share with you the report from May's Ofsted inspection. We are pleased that the report reflects the culture, ethos and spirit of our wonderful college and the sharp improvements we have achieved together despite the many significant challenges and tragedies we have faced in the last two years.

We hope that in reading the report, you recognise <u>your school</u>, its many strengths and areas of improvement. In the very first line, the report reaffirms that 'Notre Dame Catholic College is a warm, welcoming school at the heart of the community.'

The report celebrates the part played by <u>your children</u> in creating this 'warm, welcoming' atmosphere. 'Pupils embrace the school's mission to open hearts, minds and doors to every member of the Notre Dame family...Pupils say that their school is a safe, happy place...[and] Pupils treat each other and adults with respect and recognise each other's differences.'.

We would like to thank all parents and carers, as always, for your continued support in achieving our shared mission to providing your sons and daughters with a quality of education that opens hearts, minds and doors. Parents and carers can be confident that college leaders and staff are already well on the way to addressing the areas for development with the same rigour, commitment and speed with which we have addressed previous areas for improvement.

Parents and carers can <u>read the full inspection by clicking here</u> or visiting the 'inspection reports' page of our website.





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#### **Issues with College emails this week**

We would like to apologise for any issues or delays in sending or receiving college emails this week. In recent weeks, schools across the city have experienced an increase in the number and frequency of emails from untrustworthy sources containing malware attachments. In response to this, we have enhanced our firewalls to further protect everyone's data which had caused for some legitimate emails to be delayed. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and have made subsequent adjustments to our firewalls to resolve this problem. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have not received a response to an email in the past week.

### Arrangements for the final day of term - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July

As in previous years, all year groups will finish at 12.00(noon) on the final day of term next Friday.

### 'Back to School'

As this is a final newsletter of the year, we would like to take this opportunity to confirm arrangements for students' return to school at the start of year. All students return on **Monday 5**<sup>th</sup> **September**. Starting times are as follows:

- Year 7 start at 8.45
- Year 12 start at 9.30
- Years 10 and 11 start at 10.15
- Years 8 and 9 start at 11.30
- Year 13 start at 12.30



We would also like to draw your attention to a letter that will be sent out with your child's report and via parent app that clarifies the college's uniform code and expectations for next year. Please read this carefully and do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns regarding its contents.



### Year 10 Parents' Evening

We thank all parents, carers and staff who attended Thursday's Year 10 parents' evening: attendance was fantastic. We hope you found the evening informative and of use.

### Safeguarding Concerns during the Summer Holiday

As in previous years, any safeguarding concerns you may have during the summer holiday can still be reported to the college via our safeguarding padlet, which you can access via this link <a href="https://padlet.com/ebrennan39/gij84gdob9f2q824">https://padlet.com/ebrennan39/gij84gdob9f2q824</a> or by scanning the QR code below.



Finally, thank you all for your unwavering support throughout the academic year, particularly during the months of pandemic management and personal tragedies. Your understanding, kindness and messages of support meant a lot to us all.

We wish every Notre Dame family a restful, safe and enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully, Mr Duffy



# **YEAR 6 TRANSITION DAY**

It was wonderful to welcome our next cohort of students who will be joining us in September this week for their Transition Day on Friday 8th July.

Year 6 students enjoyed a full day of activities, tours and subjects including Art, Music and DT, a transition play around joining 'big school' and had opportunities to take part in team building exercises with their form groups. Students also enjoyed activities such as making cookies and pupils were even treated to a live performances from a string quartet from Liverpool Philharmonic orchestra.







We were also delighted to hold a transition session earlier in the week on Wednesday 6th July for our next intake of students joining our SEND Flourish group. It was lovely to welcome the students and their parents to show them the full range of support their child will receive through the Flourish programme.

We look forward to welcoming all our students after the summer break!

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING EVENT**

We were delighted to have the opportunity to take part in the Archdiocese of Liverpool Public Speaking Event on Wednesday 6th July 2022, hosted at Arch Bishop Beck Catholic College.



The overall aim of the contest was to foster presentation and communication skills in young students, as all walks of life, especially the business world, are increasing reliant on these abilities.

Students from Notre Dame Catholic College, the Academy of St Francis of Assisi, Academy of St Nicholas, All Saints Catholic High School, Archbishop Beck Catholic College, Bellerive FCJ Catholic College, Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School, St Edward's College, St Francis Xavier's College, St John Bosco Arts College and St Mary's College came together to take part in the annual public speaking event.

Our year 8 student, Nicole, presented her argument for why 'Schools should do more to support young people's mental health' eloquently and confidently. Our second student to speak, Kacper also year 8, featured later in the event and presented his speech on 'Should it be compulsory to be vaccinated?', again, displaying great courage and confidence addressing the judges and the room. We were also joined by year 8 student Alfie, as a stand in speaker. Although Alfie did not get the opportunity to speak on this occasion, he commented on how much he enjoyed the event and seeing his peers speeches.

The standard of the competition was very high, making the final decision a difficult choice for the judges. However, after some deliberation Evie Clark was crowned the winner with her speech on 'Schools should do more to support young people's mental health', making St Mary's College the Liverpool Archdiocese Public Speaking Competition Champions of 2022.





Judge, Mike Shankland, praised the students adding "It's fantastic to see Liverpool Catholic schools coming together for an event such as this and the judging panel have been amused, moved and informed by today's speeches. I urge you all to use your power of speech to change things in your world.'

Congratulations to the winning students and a huge thank you to all involved in organising the event. We are extremely proud of our students for the courage and confidence they displayed and we look forward to taking part again in 2023!

### Well done!

Full story on this event can be found here:



# **NOTRE DAME STARS**



This week we were thrilled to celebrate our students who've received the top positive points since the beginning of the school year in each year group by awarding them a £10 voucher to spend at the Scholastic book fair in our library!

Positive points are awarded by teachers and pastoral staff via Class Charts for displaying good behaviour and manners in all subjects and areas of the college.

Year 10 student Jake was really pleased to come away with a new book to enjoy over the summer break and some stationary ready for the new September term!

Congratulations to each of you, very well deserved!



### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

OUR 🧡



PUPILS!

Year 10

Anais J.M Jake R.

Year 8

Libby B. Szymon R.

Year 9

Anthony L. Katie G.

Year 7

Anton M. Neve G.

### **AVA'S DAY - HONOURING AVA**

# Ava's Day

# A day to celebrate and honour Ava White e accessory Thursday 14th July

Wear a blue accessory e.g. headband, ribbon, tie, bobble or socks and donate 50p

> White badges will be sold for £1

Angel decorations will be sold for £.150



Cake and crisps sale at break time by the Spanish Steps.

Lolly ices will be sold at lunch time by the Spanish Steps

## All monies raised will be donated to Liverpool Bereavement Service



As a way to honour and celebrate Ava White's life we are arranging 'Ava's day' on Thursday 14th July 2022.

On this day, we are asking staff and students to wear a blue (Ava's favourite colour) accessory e.g., hairband, bobble, tie, socks etc and in doing so are asked to donate 50p towards the fundraising.

We will also be selling white ribbons and badges for £1. The colour white has been chosen to mark Ava's surname as well as it being the colour to raise awareness of violence against women.

On this day there will also be a cake and crisps sale - we would be grateful for any contributions towards the cake and crisps sale. Students should leave cakes or crisps at Student Services on either Wednesday 13th or Thursday 14th morning. Staff can leave their donations in the staff room or bring them to the Chaplaincy room.

Angel decorations with Ava's name on and lolly ices will also be sold.

All monies raised will be donated to Liverpool Bereavement Service.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support with Ava's Day!!

# **COLLEGE BOOK FAIR**

### The Scholastic Book Fair is in the library from

### Wednesday 6th July — Wednesday 13th July.

There are hundreds of books available as well as stationary and bags to browse and buy, in the library. The fair has been extremely popular with students and surpassed it's target for number of books sold on day one! It's fantastic to see so many of our students getting excited about reading.







## **IN OTHER NEWS...**





#### **Bully Busters**

A big thank you to the Bully Busters Team for returning to school to host sessions with our Year 7 students! The sessions looked at different forms of bullying and students debated different scenarios of when and how bullying can place and looked at effective ways of dealing with them.

We look forward to continuing to work with the team next year as our student Bully Buster Champions support their peers!



#### St John's Catholic Primary School Visit

A big thank you to the students who joined us at St John's Catholic Primary School this week for a transition session for their Year 6 pupils.

Our students—all former St John's Primary students themselves - chatted with the Year 6 pupils joining us from September to help put them at ease about life at 'big school'. Well done!

### **Dialect Study with Liverpool University**



The Notre Dame English Department were asked by the University of Liverpool to assist them with a research project. They want to find out if explicitly teaching regional accents and dialect can help to differentiate between 'regionality' and standard English. A group of Year 8s completed a series of lessons exploring the scouse accent and dialect. As well as being a real celebration of this unique accent, the students really established an understanding of how accent and dialect is studied at university level. The students' work has been sent to the university and a teacher is going to be interviewed as part of the study.

The University of Liverpool are grateful for the staff and student participation!

#### **GenderSpace Assemblies**

An opportunity has arisen for our Year 7, Year 8 and Year 12 students to attend an assembly facilitated by Christian Owens, a motivational speaker from GenderSpace, on Tuesday 12th July.

Christian is a motivational transgender speaker who uses his own personal journey to enlighten and inspire individuals and organisations, including law enforcement agencies and educational establishments. Having enjoyed a successful 27 year career in the police service, Christian recently retired from his role as Detective Sergeant but continues to work with Merseyside Police alongside his business role as "GenderSpace" delivering trans awareness and education nationwide.



All students will attend the assemblies but should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

#### Resonate iSing

Resonate Music Hub held their first iSing event at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall since before the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic. The event saw hundreds of children from primary schools across Liverpool come together to perform and sing! Well done to all involved!!



## **LOST PROPERTY & UNIFORM DONATIONS**

### **Lost property notice:**

There are a number of items awaiting collection at lost property including (but not limited to):

- PE Bags
- Trainers
- Coats
- Shoes
- Scarves

If you think your child may be missing any items that could be held in lost property, please ask them to check with student services before the end of term.







### **Uniform Donations**

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have donated items of pre-loved uniform back to the school.

We are still accepting donations of pre-loved, good-quality uniform items that you wish to donate.

We would be very grateful if you or your child could pass these into the main school office before the end of term.



Thank you once again for your support!

Pre loved uniform item donations

### **ROAD SAFETY REMINDERS**

Ahead of the end of term we wanted to send out safety reminders to all students and parents on the importance of road safety.



When out near roads you have to keep your wits about you and not become distracted. Many people use mobile devices when they are walking and these can seriously distract your attention from the road. Even just looking at other people can distract your attention from the road. Ball games, such as football and tennis, should be kept for sports fields. Never play them on the road, even if there is very little traffic.

#### **STEPS TO TAKE**

Although you can't be responsible for the way people drive, you can take a number of steps to make yourself safer as a pedestrian:

- stop, look and listen
- don't try to cross the road between parked cars
- if possible, cross at a pedestrian crossing or traffic lights
- never cross at a bend
- if there is a footpath, use it
- if there is no footpath, walk/run/jog on the right hand side of the road, facing oncoming traffic and keep as close as possible to the side of the road
- wear fluorescent clothing during the day and reflective clothing at night

### **Use the crossings**

Safer places to cross include zebra crossings, traffic islands, footbridges, subways and traffic lights. When using any type of crossing you should always check that the traffic has stopped before you start to cross. Always cross between the studs or over the zebra markings. Do not cross at the side of the crossing or on the zigzag lines, as it can be dangerous. You must not loiter on zebra, pelican, toucan or puffin crossings.

There are more tips and advice on Road Safety within School zones available here on the <u>Liverpool City Council</u> <u>website</u>.

# STUDENT TRAVEL 2022 –23

### **Message from Arriva:**



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The next school year is fast approaching! If you're child doesn't already travel to school by bus, have you thought about this as an option for the next academic year?

Arriva monthly direct debit passes allow travel for as little as £1 per day, depending on your child's age. Your child will get unlimited access to travel on any Arriva bus across all of our routes within your chosen travel zone.

The pass will not only cover their travel to and from school/college, it can also be used to travel in leisure time too.

Arriva's Direct Debit scheme allows you to spread the cost of your child's ticket over affordable monthly payments. It's an easy way to pay for travel and there's no contract involved.

It's a simple process to arrange your Direct Debit, please visit:

### www.arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets

To ensure delivery of tickets in time for the start of the new school year, we recommend registering as soon as possible.

Once registered, you can choose to either receive your monthly pass by post, or it can be sent to your child's mobile phone. This ticket will rollover every month for as long as the direct debit remains active.

### **SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME**

See below a message from Liverpool City Council for families eligible for benefits related Free School Meals:



Dear Parent or Guardian

The Summer HAF programme starts on the 20<sup>th</sup> July and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. Children and young people will be able to access hundreds of activities throughout the summer holidays including specific provision available for children with SEND or additional needs, at no cost to you. There's a great range of activities across the city including boxing, trampolining, football, music, dance, cycling, cooking, climbing, films, bowling, arts and crafts, drama, a make up course, trips out and much more! Every day there will be a meal available for every child that attends.

To find out where your nearest scheme and all the details of what is on click on this link <a href="http://www.merseyplay.com/haf-holiday-activities-and-food-fund/">http://www.merseyplay.com/haf-holiday-activities-and-food-fund/</a> - or visit <a href="http://www.Merseyplay.com">www.Merseyplay.com</a> and click on the HAF link.

When you have chosen an activity, you will need to contact that organisation to book a place. Each organisation will have either a telephone number, email address or online booking system. If your child has any additional needs or dietary requirements then please discuss this with the organisation when you book. There is no central booking system so please read the details of the programmes on the website and ring the providers directly. Liverpool City Council is working with the local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to provide the HAF programme. The programme is funded by the Department for Education.

The Early Help Directory also provides a wealth of useful information and support for families - <u>Early Help</u> <u>Directory</u>

Regards,

Sally Dobbing - HAF Project Manager

## **WATERSPORT DISCOUNT**

Local Solutions Liverpool Watersports Centre, based on Queens Dock, would like to offer your pupils over the age of 8 10% discount on their Aqua Park facilities during the summer holidays. See details below:







### **Liverpool Watersports Centre**

Liverpool Watersports Centre is open for the summer season and you are invited to our new Aqua Park!

From 20th July - 28th August you can receive 10% off admissions midweek using code LWCSUMMER2022

The Aqua Park is suitable for children over the age of 8 who can swim 50m

Book online at: www.liverpoolwatersports.org.uk

Queens Dock, 110 Mariners Wharf, Liverpool L3 4DG

Promotion codes are only valid for bookings placed online.

Promotional code LWCSUMMER2022 can only be used during 20th July 2022 - 28th August 2022 from Monday - Friday.



## **SUPPORT WORKSHOPS**

There are a number of workshops during the month of July offering support for parents across the city, all to be held on line every Tuesday and Thursday evening 6pm-8pm.



12/07/22 - RASA Merseyside - Understanding Child Sexual Abuse - BOOK HERE

14/07/22 - BullyBusters - A parents awareness session; What can we do. - BOOK HERE

19/07/22 - Liverpool YPAS - Incredible years - Effective Limit Setting - BOOK HERE







## FREE ONLINE SAFETY GUIDE

### What parents need to know about Steam

A free online safety guide on Steam.

Steam is a computer gaming digital distribution platform and storefront. It is the biggest platform for desktop- or laptop-based gaming, with a range of more than 30,000 games available. The platform has become a lively social environment for many gamers, and allows people to trade, sell and buy gaming items for real money. Valve, the developers behind Steam, have also released different hardware that works with the platform, including the Steam Deck — a hand-held console that lets users play their favourite games while away from their computer.

As part of the National Online Safety #WakeupWednesday campaign, they have provided a guide where parents can find tips on a number of potential risks such as potential scams, contact with strangers and in-app purchases.



Click here to view and download the guide



## **BEHAVIOUR REMINDERS**



# **REMEMBER!**OUR BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

### Fizzy drinks and chewing gum are not permitted in school

If a member of staff sees students with a fizzy drink it will be confiscated and placed in the bin.

If a member of staff sees students chewing they will be asked to remove the gum and place it in the bin





### WHY?

Fizzy drinks have a negative impact on health and are detrimental to a students ability to learn. They directly effect concentration and motivation levels and make it difficult for students to manage their behaviour.

Chewing gum creates a health risk as some students do not dispose of it correctly.

It also has a negative effect on the school environment.



# **REMEMBER!**OUR BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

# Mobile phones are not to be seen or heard in the college grounds during the college day

If a member of staff sees or hears a mobile phone it will be confiscated and kept until the end of the day. If a mobile phone is confiscated more than twice a parent/carer will have to come to school to collect it. Students should not wear Bluetooth earphones in school, these may be confiscated by staff.

Students are asked to keep phones switched off and out of sight (in a bag or blazer)



#### WHY?

Mobile phones have been proven to have a negative impact on student progress and attainment Mobile phones are associated with poor mental health

Mobile phones can be used for anti social purposes, online bullying, harassment, etc.

# **STUDENT UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT**



# **REMEMBER!**EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

### **ARE THEY READY TO LEARN?**

Black / Blue pens Colouring pencils Pencils

Eraser

Sharpener

Ruler

School bag big enough to hold A4 size documents / files School planner / Timetable (will be provided by school)







# **REMEMBER!**UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

### Notre Dame Full Uniform includes tie, blazer, jumper, black shoes

#### If students arrive to school without full uniform;

- They will be provided with the item of uniform they are missing, from the school uniform store.
- They will be asked to sign for the item
- If they are picked up without full uniform through the day, they will be given the missing item from the school store.
- If they refuse to borrow uniform they will be taken to referral for the remainder of the day
- Coats are not allowed to be worn in the school building and will be confiscated if students are seen
  wearing them.

#### WHY?

- Everyone wearing the same uniform helps us create a community and helps students feel like they belong to that community.
- Research shows us that students who wear full uniform improve academic achievement, because uniform reduces the amount of distractions in the classroom and symbolises a students attitude to learning.
- Wearing uniform reduces peer pressure/Bullying
- Easier for parents! No pressure to have the latest clothing and a different outfit every day, which can become expensive.





# 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

Deputy Headteacher - Mrs AM Costello

Designated Safeguarding Lead

#### **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads**

Mrs J Littleboy – Assistant Head of Year 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**



- FEELING LONELY & ISOLATED?
- NEED A LISTENING EAR?
- NEED A SAFE SPACE?



https://vpas.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**