

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHERS MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we welcome all students, staff and parents back from what we hope was a relaxing, refreshing and re-energizing summer break. Students have made a fantastic start to the new year and we're all delighted to see them back.

We would also like to apologise for the length of this first newsletter of the year.

We begin by, on behalf of staff, students and governors, expressing our great sorrow on the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. We thank her for dedicated service to country and Commonwealth. Our thoughts and prayers are with the royal family and all those affected by the sad loss.



*Eternal rest grant unto
her O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine
upon her.
May the souls of the
faithful departed,
through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.
Amen.*



Notre Dame
Catholic College

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MR DUFFY
HEADTEACHER

School attendance

After the pandemic, returning to outstanding school attendance for all students is a significant priority for us this year at Notre Dame. With this in mind, may I draw parents' and carers' attention to announcements made in last year's newsletters regarding term time holidays and medical appointments.



Term Time Holidays

During the pandemic, college governors and leaders fully appreciated the challenges families were facing and so took the decision to continue to not approve term time holidays but to temporarily suspend parental fines. This year (from September 2022), Notre Dame will be returning to its pre-pandemic stance and will recommence submission of parent fines for term time holidays unless they are in truly exceptional circumstances. Please be aware, weddings are not classed as exceptional circumstances.


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.

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



Mobile phones

As we start a new academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to respectfully remind all parents of Notre Dame's policy on the use of mobile phones during the school day. During my time as headteacher, I have repeatedly spoken and written to Notre Dame parents declaring the school's stance on mobile phones, outlining the undeniable link between mobile phone use in schools and deterioration in children's mental health.

I also shared details of the research on which these links are based and the views of Ofsted who support schools who ban mobile phones on their premises.

[\[newsletter 2nd October 2020\]](#)[\[newsletter 19th November 2021\]](#)[\[newsletter 1st April 2022\]](#)

So to reiterate, at Notre Dame Catholic College, we ask that students refrain from using mobile phones from 8.40am through to 3.00pm and strongly encourage that mobile phones are not brought to school. Mobile phones seen or heard during the school day can and will be confiscated as per the guidelines below, which were recently re-sent to parents and shared with students.

We ask parents and carers to continue to provide for their full support in adhering to this policy. To clarify, we have a fully staffed and trained reception team who can get important messages to your son or daughter in minutes, just like when we were at school ourselves.



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 school 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

Keep your phone 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.



Free 'Pre-loved' Uniform

Firstly, we would like to thank all Notre Dame parents and carers for the presentation and appearance of your children on their return to school – they look fantastic!

We fully appreciate that this is not easily achieved and we cannot thank enough for your support in achieving such high standards of student presentation. This gives our entire school community a sense of pride and togetherness that often leaves any visitors to the college rightly impressed.

In true Notre Dame community spirit, over the summer holiday, we have been inundated with donations of 'pre-loved', washed and ironed items of Notre Dame uniform. If, for any reason, your child has lost or damaged an item of uniform that you are finding difficult to replace quickly, please do not hesitate to confidentially and discreetly contact our College Chaplain at rwall18.341@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk



For the very latest uniform and equipment guidance, please click on [this section of the website](#).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

01

WELCOME TO KEY STAGE 4 & YEAR 11 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

On the evening of Thursday 22nd September from 5.30pm until 6.30pm, we welcome parents and carers of Years 10 and 11 to attend in person an information evening outlining key examination and coursework details, dates and tips on how best to support your sons and daughters through Key Stage 4. Revision resources and equipment will also be on sale (at cost) at this event.



02 YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING



**Opening
hearts, minds
and doors**

Notre Dame Catholic College
and Sixth Form

**Year 6
Open Evening**

Enrolling Year 7 for September 2023

Thursday 29 September 2022 6pm - 8pm
Headteachers Presentation @ 6pm and 7pm

On Thursday 29th September, we welcome parents of children in Years 5 and 6 to join us for a face-to-face open evening from 6.00pm until 8.00pm. There will be a presentation from the headteacher and other college leaders (delivered at 6.00pm and repeated at 7.00pm), an opportunity to view our first-class facilities, meet staff and to visit individual departments.

We look forward to seeing you all.

**WISHING EVERY NOTRE DAME FAMILY
A PEACEFUL AND SAFE WEEKEND.**



OPENING DOORS

NOTICES

Work Experience

Can we remind all Year 11 students arranging work experience for December to have their self-placement (pink) form completed and returned by Friday 16th September.

This must be fully completed by the employer, with details of their Employer's Liability Insurance. We are unable to authorise placements without this information. All forms need to be returned to Mrs Galbraith on student services or emailed to our Careers Advisor, Mrs Hall at hallg@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk.

Contact Mrs Hall if you have any queries.

Our Apps explained

For any new parents who have joined our Notre Dame family this week, see the information below regarding the three apps school uses to communicate to parents and students and they ways in which they are used.

Parent App

ParentApp is the school's main source of communication to Parents and is used to inform you of key updates, news and events at the school. You will receive ParentApp updates via the app as a notification, as an email and in certain instances as SMS text messages to your phone.

To access ParentApp and create your account, you will need to respond to the invitation email/text message you receive from us. To enable us to invite you **we must have your current and accurate email address and/or telephone number** to send you the link.

Class Charts

Class Charts is used to record your child's behaviour at school. Your child will receive points from their teachers to record positive behaviour and address any negative behaviour, including detention details. It is also used by your child's teachers inform you and your child of any important announcements throughout their school day/week. If your child is new, they will have received their code to set up their own Class Charts account and should have received a Parents code for you to be able to access the account and track their progress.



Parent Pay

Parent Pay allows you to place money on to your child's account to allow them to pay for school dinners and trips. For all new students, we will be sending out a letter directly to parents/guardians this week to allow you to create your child's Parent Pay account. In the meantime, your child will be able to add money manually to enable them to purchase any items from the school canteen.

If you have an Android device and had issues logging in / using Parent App this week, we've received the following advice: We would recommend updating to the latest version through the Google Play Store, by searching for the Parentapps Connect and tapping on the Update.

If you are a new parent and have not yet received an invitation to join Parent App, please ensure you've supplied your correct email address and / or telephone number. We will be sending out invites again next week.

Breakfast Club

All students can access our Breakfast Club in the Lower Canteen between 8am and 8.40am.

Free bagels and breakfast cereal are available to all who attend.

Other breakfast items are available to purchase in the usual way.

Notre Dame Catholic College

**FREE BREAKFAST ITEMS
IN LOWER CANTEEN**

- Bagels
- Breakfast Cereal

08:00 a.m. to 08:40 a.m.



Free school meal - reminder to students

Students in receipt of Free School Meals will have their allowance automatically added to their Parent Pay account after break time. Can we ask Parents to remind students that this allowance must be used at lunchtime as the allowance can not be rolled over to the next day. We also advise that this is not used to purchase items at break time as this may not leave students enough allowance during their lunchtime period.



Advice to Parents / Carers when choosing afterschool / engagement clubs not organised by school

Many parents or carers enable their child/children to attend clubs and activities that aren't organised by the school. Parents and carers may find the following useful to support them to assess the suitability of the arrangements:

[Guidance for parents and carers on safeguarding children in out-of-school settings](#)

[Information for parents choosing an after school club, community activity or tuition](#)

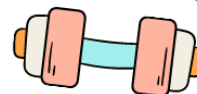
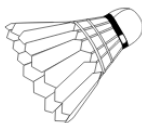


SPORTS CLUBS

Day	Time	Year Group	Activity	Teacher
Tuesday	3.05 - 4pm 3.05 - 4pm	All years Y10 & Y11	Dodgeball Football	Mrs Bate Mr Townson
Wednesday	3.05 - 4pm 3.05 - 4pm	Year 7 & 8 Year 8 & 9	Girls Football Boys Football	Mrs Morrin Mr McKeown
Thursday	3.05 - 4pm 3.05 - 4pm	All Years Year 7	Badminton Football	Miss McCullen Mr Mulgrew



**Speak to Miss McCullen
for more details!**



FRI 9TH SEPTEMBER
2022



NOTRE DAME
CATHOLIC
COLLEGE



SAFEGUARDING UPDATES

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

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

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



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



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

The Safeguarding Team

Headteacher – Mr P Duffy
Deputy Headteacher – Mrs AM Costello
Designated Safeguarding Lead – Mrs E Brennan

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 Safer Police Officer
Miss H McCullen – Leadership/Alternative Provision
Mrs P Shrimpton – Attendance Officer
Mrs K Sweeney – Special Educational Needs
Miss C Lee Y7, Ms R Glorman Y8, Mrs S Doran Y9, Mrs J Littleboy Y10, Mrs E Garvey Y11 – Pastoral Assistant Heads of Year

www.notredameliverpool.com/safeguarding/