

FRI 16TH DECEMBER
2022



NOTRE DAME
CATHOLIC
COLLEGE

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHERS MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Carols by Candlelight



We would like to begin this final newsletter of 2022 by thanking everyone who attended last night's Carols by Candlelight. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate this event in person for the first time in 3 years. The audience was treated to an uplifting service of prayer, reflection and music. We would like to thank our amazing Music Department, who have worked so hard to re-establish this long tradition here at Notre Dame. 'Well done' to all of our student, staff and alumni performers who all sang and played beautifully. What a wonderful way to kick off our festivities!

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MR DUFFY
HEADTEACHER

Year 11 Work Experience



We would like to congratulate Year 11 on the successful completion of their work experience week. Huge thanks to our careers lead, Mrs Hall and to our partners at Elevate EBP, for planning and providing such a fantastic experience for our students. Feedback from many of the providers and students has been incredibly positive - see more of this featured in this week's newsletter on **page 5!** We hope all students found the week formative and enriching. We look forward to hearing more about your experiences on Monday.

Theme for the Week: Gaudete Sunday - Joy!



This week, we celebrated the third Sunday of Advent, which is known as Gaudete (or Joyful) Sunday. Together, we reflected on what brings us joy: Is it predominantly material gains or 'things' that bring joy into our lives, or is it experiences, relationships, connections and love? We reflected on the words of His Holiness Pope Francis, who said, *Young people do not solely need material things. They need to have values which are the heart of people... spirituality, generosity, solidarity, perseverance, brotherhood and joy.* We prayed that we may all continue to find joy in generosity, in charity and in togetherness and we even sang Isaac Watt's 'Joy to the World'!

Are there trainers on Christmas lists?

We are conscious that some children may have asked for **new trainers** on their Christmas lists. If parents and carers are intending that these new trainers second as school shoes (which is perfectly understandable given the price of some of them!), please take a few minutes to double-check that they meet the clear guidance set out in our uniform policy, which can be viewed by [clicking here](#). Any trainers needs to be entirely black, with no colour logos, black full soles and 'polishable'.



Christmas Jumper Day 2022



Today, our sixth form students and staff took part in a charity Christmas jumper day and coffee morning. All monies raised will be used to help fundraise for 6 of our Year 12 students who are going on pilgrimage to Lourdes with the HCPT Pilgrimage Trust at Easter. There they will be helping and serving vulnerable and disabled children. Thank you to everyone who took part and donated.

Year 10 and 12 Assessment Week – W/B 9th January

The first full week, beginning Monday 9th January, is a formal assessment week for Years 10 and 12. All subjects have provided students with revision lists and materials this week either in hard copy or via Class Charts. Please support your sons and daughters to find some opportunities to revise for these assessments over the two-week holiday.



Students and parents can still visit the [BBC Bitesize Top Revision Tips](#) website page, which can be accessed by scanning or clicking on the QR code above. Students are encouraged to bring any flash cards, mind maps or revision posters into school to show us what has worked – prizes continue to be given to the best examples!

Sixth Form Parents Evening – 12th January

Thursday 12th January sees our face-to-face Sixth Form Parents' Evening. On this evening, we welcome parents of Year 12 and 13 to come and meet with your child's subject teachers to discuss their progress through the year so far. Appointments are available from 3.15pm. Please book your appointment slots with subject teachers.



End of term arrangements

As parents and carers will be aware, our Autumn term ends on **Tuesday 20th December**. As in previous years, students will finish early on this final teaching day of the term. **All Years will finish at noon**. Year groups will leave via their normal exit points.



**WISHING ALL NOTRE DAME FAMILIES
AND FRIENDS A SAFE, PEACEFUL AND
HOLY CHRISTMAS, FILLED WITH THE
JOY OF THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST.**

Mr Duffy

Year 11 Work Experience

Joe S has been having a fantastic week working at Liverpool Football Club! His manager, Stephen said:

"Whilst it has been fairly quiet around Anfield and the Axa Training Facilities owing to the world cup and the first team being out in Dubai, Joe has been getting involved with writing scripts and filming videos for LFC TV output. His extensive football knowledge has also come to the fore as he has assisted the LFC TV Team with their research for upcoming content on the channel."

A fantastic experience for this budding sports journalist!



Six of our Year 11 students attended a work experience placement with MerseyCare, working from The Life Rooms in Bootle and gaining an insight into their work within community Healthcare. Students were invited to attend a special lunch to review their work placement on Friday 16th December, where they discussed forming a Youth Forum with staff within MerseyCare to help shape the service and provide a voice for young people and they had an opportunity to meet with one of MerseyCare's Chief Executive's via Zoom. Students spoke highly of how valuable and interesting they found their placement week! A big thank you to our Partners at Elevate for helping to secure such a valuable placement for our students!

A number of our students have been on placements within local Primary Schools this week and we've received some fantastic feedback from their staff throughout the week.

Mr Cotton, Senior Teacher from Our Lady Immaculate Primary School, said:

"We had 7 year 11 pupils attending this week and they have been an absolute credit to the school as well as an asset to us. It has been great having many of our former pupils supporting the different year groups with their Christmas preparations and nativity plays."

**OPENING
DOORS**

Spreading Christmas Cheer

Our ASPIRE students have been busy making Christmas cards for the residents at the homeless shelter at Ann Fowler's House. Students visited this week and took a card for every resident. Each card was slid underneath their dorm rooms. Each card had a nice message of **hope** and also of thanks for making us feel so **welcome and proud** to be helping out at the shelter.

One of the older residents came down to say "Thank you, I haven't had a Christmas card from anyone." It was very emotional!

Well done to Ruby Doyle, Lexie Gray and Daniel Coakley in particular for their hard work!

Our Faith in Action children have also been busy creating Christmas greeting cards to send to the different churches, schools, agencies and volunteers working with and for our community.

They have also created goody bags, containing homemade bracelets and treats which were delivered to Alder Hey Children's Hospital earlier this week.

Thank you to all students involved!



Advent Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Advent Appeal. Miss Wall and some of our Year 11 work experience students helped to deliver the parcels to Yewtree Centre to be delivered to young mothers under the age of 19 to support them through pregnancy up until the child is 2.

As ever, we are blown away by our Notre Dame Community and your generosity - Thank you!



Notre Dame Sporting Successes!

The Year 7 girls football team played a match against North Liverpool Academy on what was a cold, crisp evening. The two teams battled it out, playing 'end to end' football resulting in a 2-2 draw. The girls played exceptionally well with standout performances from Olivia G and Kittie F. The player of the match, however, went to Lola J who made several outstanding saves. **Well done!**



New Age Kurling

Students in our Flourish Classes participated in a New Age Kurling competition last week. There were 4 teams in total from Notre Dame Catholic College and all 4 made it through to the quarter final stage! Two of the four then progressed to the semi-final and, fantastically, both have made it to the final which will now be an all Notre Dame Catholic College finale!

Well done to Frankie O, James D, Josh C and Jamie H who were all on the winning teams and will take part in the next stage of the competition in Merseyside in the summer term!



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Attendance Challenges

Congratulations to our winning forms!

Well done to all the form groups who have won our Autumn Term Attendance Challenge! We hope you all enjoy your trip to the cinema on Monday!



7Dorothy



WINNERS BOARD

7DOROTHY

8FRANCOISE

9DOROTHY

10THOMAS

11THOMAS

WELL DONE!

We will be stepping it up in **Spring with another Attendance Challenge**. This time for all students who achieve **100% attendance** throughout the Spring Term which runs from 4th January - 31st March! More to follow in the New Year!

Attendance & Behaviour Rewards

Our Heads of Year took the opportunity to celebrate and congratulate students who have received the most positive points this term and had fantastic attendance! Well done to all students who have worked so hard to do their best and reflect our core values!



Friday Feeling

Well done to all students who have been entered into the draw for our Friday Feeling Attendance Competition! All students who have achieved 100% attendance up to and including the last 3 Fridays have now been entered into the prize draw. **This will take place and a winner announced on Monday 19th December 2022 - GOOD LUCK!**



Year 11 – Spring Term Challenge

Points = PROM!

After Christmas we will be launching a challenge for ALL YEAR 11 students to be in with a chance of winning their Prom Ticket. This will work on a points based system with students given the opportunity to earn points from the first day back after Christmas and run up until the final day of the Spring Term.

- **1 point = 1 week 100% attendance (including form time, every lesson and PHSCE)**
- **1 point = Attendance to ANY Afterschool Revision Session - the more sessions you attend the more points you can earn!**



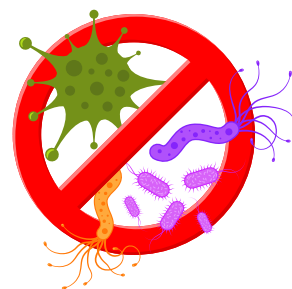
Any student who earns 50 points within the Spring Term will have their prom ticket paid for by the school (approximate value of £40). Details of our Year 11 prom are being finalised and will be shared with you shortly.

Message from Liverpool School Immunisation Service

The Liverpool School Immunisation Service will be attending Notre Dame Catholic College on Friday 13th January 2023 to offer pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 their annual flu vaccination.

The vaccination is free and is a quick and simple spray up their nose to help protect them against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child also helps to protect vulnerable family members and friends by preventing the spread of flu.

Year 9 students will also be offered the HPV Vaccination on the same day as the Flu vaccination. Parents of students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 can complete their child's consent form and access more information via the link below:



[HTTPS://ECONSENT.MERSECARE.NHS.UK/](https://econsent.mersecare.nhs.uk/)

(Please be aware that this form works best when opened in Google Chrome)

If you would prefer a porcine free injectable flu vaccination you can also choose this option by declining the flu spray and then consent for the porcine free vaccination. If you don't want your child to receive any flu vaccination please complete the form declining this offer, as this will avoid further communications from the service.

If you are unable to complete the online form, please contact the Immunisation Team team who will be happy to help. If after completing this form, you attend the GP or wish to amend the form you must contact the immunisation team directly and not your child's school.

Liverpool School Immunisation Service 0151 295 3833

Safety message: Icy Lakes

Following local reports of young people walking on lakes, we'd like to send out the following safety message to all Parents, Carers and Students on the dangers of icy water.

Fire and Rescue Services have issued messages asking Parents to please speak to children to warn them of the potential consequences if someone goes through into the frozen water. Please also keep pets on leads when near frozen water and don't throw objects onto the ice for them to retrieve. **If you see anyone in difficulty please call 999 immediately. Reassure them but don't attempt to rescue them as you could become the next casualty.**

Please please keep away from frozen ponds. It's never cold enough in this country to provide ice thick enough to be walked upon. There will always be weak areas.



Message from Liverpool City Council – The Winter HAF programme

The Winter HAF programme starts on the 23rd December 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 winter break including specific provision available for children with SEND. There's a great range of activities across the city including music tuition, puppet making, circus workshops, football, podcasting, dance, Christmas parties and grottos, cooking, climbing, films, bowling, arts and crafts, drama, trips out, mindfulness and much more! Every day there will be a meal available for every child that attends. To find out where your nearest scheme is please click on this link - <https://merseyplay.com/haf-holiday-activities-and-food-fund/> or visit www.Merseyplay.com and click on the HAF link.



Liverpool
City Council

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 and is targeted at children and young people, aged from reception to 16 years old who are eligible for benefits related free school meals. The Early Help Directory also provides a wealth of useful information and support for families - Early Help Directory - things to do
Regards

Sally Dobbing - HAF Project Manager

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing these risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoards/games.

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CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register, entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

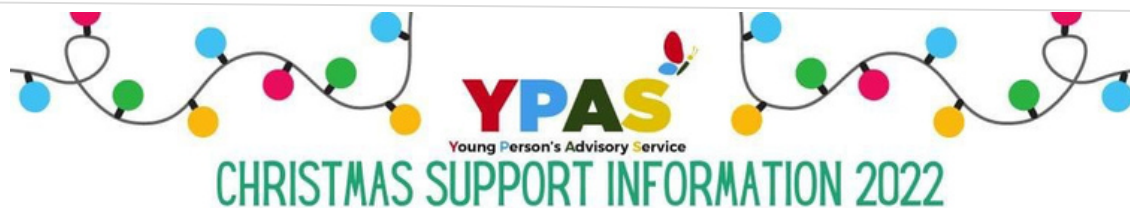
Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about Internet safety issues.

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www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.12.2022



Alternative to Crisis- DROP-IN will be open 24th December 12noon -4pm
28th and 29th 9am-8pm, 30th 9am-6pm and 31st 12noon-4pm

YPAS is closed for staff training Thursday 23rd December 2022 (pm) Re-open Tuesday 3rd
January 2023 (am)

Additional support information that might be helpful for over the festive period.

LISTENING EAR

A confidential listening service for anyone over the age of 16. Tel: 0151 281 9716
or email: htl@bridgechapel.com to make an appointment.

Last day for appointments is Friday 16th Dec sessions will resume 3rd January

CITIZENS ADVICE

Closes 24th December-reopens January 4th.

For a range of support inc Benefit Advice Call: Tel: 0808 278 7840

QWELL

Online emotional wellbeing and mental health support for adults: www.qwell.io

NHS 111

Where trained health professionals can give you health advice and information
24 hours a day. This is a medical and dental service Calling 111 will support you
to access nearest walk in centres. Tel: 111

NSPCC

If you have any concerns at all about a child's safety or wellbeing, don't hesitate to
contact us.- Contact our Helpline on help@nspcc.org.uk or 0808 800 5000.

ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY: YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16+

Young people aged 16+ showing signs of distress or becoming a risk to
themselves or others should be taken to A&E at the Royal Liverpool University
Hospital Trust or University Hospital Aintree.

This is a 24-hour service. Tel: 0151 706 2000

SHOUT

24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime,
anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate
help. Text 85258.



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NOTRE DAME
CATHOLIC
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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/