

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Theme of the Week: Values



The theme for this week's collective worship and assemblies has been 'Values'. As parents, carers and students will be aware, our Catholic Core Values are an incredibly important part of our Notre Dame charism and culture. This week's theme gave us an opportunity to reflect on why that is. It also coincided with the launch of Christian Aid Week, which gives us all an opportunity to live out our core values by fundraising within our local community to help those suffering from extreme poverty and injustice, obeying Christ's command **'to love one another'** (John, 15:12-17).

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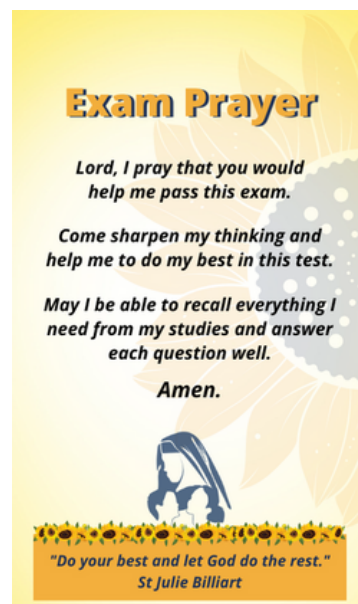


MR DUFFY
HEADTEACHER

Well Done and Good Luck!

We would like to congratulate all Year 11 students who took part in their MFL speaking exams this week and wish all students in Years 11 and 13 the very best of luck as their GCSE and A Level examinations begin next week. As always, we take inspiration and confidence from St Julie, who said, **“when the good God asks something of us, he gives us the means of doing it.”**

You will all be in our prayers in the coming weeks.



Forthcoming Assessments

As well as the commencement of Year 11 and 13 national examinations, as mentioned in last week's newsletter, next week sees a round of assessments for Years 7, 8 and 9 and the following week sees mock examinations for Years 10 and 12.

Year 7, 8 and 9 will complete baseline tests called **'GL Assessments' in English, Maths and Science between Wednesday 17th and Friday 19th May.** These assess your child's general application in these subjects rather than specific assessment against our Notre Dame curriculum. They will generate a parent report that identifies your child's strengths and areas for development in each subject which we will send out to you once received.

Year 10 and 12 mock examinations will be in all subjects studied by your child and will take place throughout the week beginning **Monday 22nd May.** Please note that Year 10 will finish at 1.15pm on Friday 26th May as they will be dismissed directly from their final mock exam and will depart from the Everton Park Sports Hall. Thank you to all Year 10 parents and carers for your support with this.

All subjects provided students with revision lists and materials last term in hard copy or via Class Charts. Please support your sons and daughters to find some opportunities for final preparation and revision over the weekend.



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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](#).

Eurovision Highlights



Finally, we would like to thank and congratulate our Resonate colleagues who have delivered the most amazing range of Eurovision-inspired experiences for our students. In the past two weeks, Resonate's '100 Voices United' choir and 'EuroBrass' band have performed for Their Majesties The King and The Queen Consort, on Blue Peter, in the world-famous Strawberry Fields Park and in front of thousands at the amazing Eurovision Village at the Pier Head. Thank you and well done to all involved in creating these life-long memories for our students.

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

Mr Duffy

External Examinations Update

External Examinations for students in Year 11 and Year 13 have begun, with the majority taking place from Monday 15th May.

Our website will be updated with exam reminders. Please view the following 2 areas for updates regarding examinations, including tips and advice for preparing for exams, as well as details of when exams will be taking place.

Examination Preparation and Support

Examination Procedures

Please note the following important dates from our Examinations Officer, Miss Munro:

All exam students have to be available up to and including
Wednesday 28th June 2023

A Level results day **Thursday 17th August 2023**

GCSE results day **Thursday 24th August 2023**



When collecting your A Level / GCSE Results, please note that if you are unable to collect your results in person, you will need to write a letter of permission for the person collecting them on your behalf. This must be given to the school's exams officer. The person you have asked to collect your results will also need to show photographic identification (driving license / passport) to the exams officer along with the letter of permission before we can release them. Please see example of how this should be worded below:

Letter of permission
I (print name), give (print name of person collecting results)
permission to collect my Summer 2023 exam results.
Sign and date your letter.

Further details of times to collect your results will be shared on the school website and via our Parent App / Class Charts Apps closer to the time.



SAVE THE DATE:

Our Year 13 Students' Leavers Mass will take place on **Friday 23rd June 2023 at 11.30am**. Further details will be issued in due course from our Sixth Form Team.

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Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 GL Assessments

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students will be taking their GL Assessments week commencing Monday 15th May. GL Assessments are national examinations that assess your child's current knowledge base in English, Maths and Science, against national average scores to help us to gauge their strengths and highlight any areas for development and support within these 3 key subject areas. Their results from your child's GL Assessments will form part of their end of year report but will not impact any future examination grades. They take place twice a year for students in Year 7, 8 and 9.



Please see timetables below or visit our [Examination Preparation and Support web page here](#).

Date	Registration	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
Wednesday 17th May	Form time as normal	YEAR 9 English		YEAR 8 Science	YEAR 8 English	
Thursday 18th May	Form time as normal	YEAR 7 English		YEAR 9 Science	YEAR 8 Maths	
Friday 19th May	Form Time as normal	YEAR 7 Maths		YEAR 9 Maths		PHSCE as normal

- YEAR 7** (Please note, Year 7 students complete GL Assessments in 2 subjects - English and Maths)
- YEAR 8** (Please note, Year 8 students complete GL Assessments in 3 subjects - English, Maths and Science)
- YEAR 9** (Please note, Year 8 students complete GL Assessments in 3 subjects - English, Maths and Science)

Year 10 and Year 12 Mock Examinations

Mock Examinations will take place for Year 10 and Year 12 students week commencing Monday 22nd May. The mock examinations are to help support our Year 10 and Year 12 students prepare for their examinations taking place in Year 11 and Year 13.

Please see mock exam timetables for Year 10 and Year 12 on our website here:

[Examination Preparation and Support web page here](#).

Year 10 Mock Exam Timetable

Date	Registration	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4
Monday 22nd May	Science - Trilogy only 1 for 15 mins	Option 2: Lesson as normal	Option 1: Lesson as normal	Art Fund	All other students Opt 3 Lesson as normal
Tuesday 23rd May	Form time as normal	Computer Science 1 for 30 DT 2 hrs	Geography 1 for 30 mins	English 1 for	
Wednesday 24th May	Music 1 for 15 mins Spanish Writing 1 for 15 mins	RE 1 for	Science Trilogy 1 for 15 mins Separates 1 for 45 mins	History 1 for 15 mins	Business 1 for
Thursday 25th May	Science - Trilogy only 1 for 15 mins	Spanish Reading 1 for 15 mins	English 1 for	Lesson as normal	PHSCE
Friday 26th May	Form Time as normal	Health & Social Care 1 for Opt 1 as normal	Lesson as normal	Maths 1 for 30 mins	



Year 12 Mock Exam Timetable

Date	Registration	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
Monday 22nd May	Form time as normal	Option 3 Further Maths (Separate) 1 for 40 mins	Option 4 Physics 2 hrs	Option 5 Spanish 1 for 40 mins	Option 6 Biology 1 for	Lesson as normal
Tuesday 23rd May	Option 2 History 2 for 30 mins RE 1 for 30 mins	Option 3 Further Maths (Core Pure) 1 for 40 mins	Option 1 English 1 for 15 mins Maths (Separate) 1 for 15 mins	Option 4 Physics 2 hrs	Option 5 Spanish 1 for 40 mins	Lesson as normal
Wednesday 24th May	Form Time as normal	Option 2 History 2 for 30 mins RE 1 for 30 mins	Option 3 Further Maths (Core Pure) 1 for 40 mins	Option 1 English 1 for 15 mins Maths (Separate) 1 for 15 mins	Option 4 Physics 2 hrs	Lesson as normal
Thursday 25th May	Form Time as normal	Option 2 History 2 for 30 mins RE 1 for 30 mins	Option 3 Further Maths (Core Pure) 1 for 40 mins	Option 1 English 1 for 15 mins Maths (Separate) 1 for 15 mins	Option 4 Physics 2 hrs	Lesson as normal
Friday 26th May	Form Time as normal	Option 2 History 2 for 30 mins RE 1 for 30 mins	Option 3 Further Maths (Core Pure) 1 for 40 mins	Option 1 English 1 for 15 mins Maths (Separate) 1 for 15 mins	Option 4 Physics 2 hrs	PHSCE

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Euro Brass

Students involved in our Resonate Music Hub's EuroBrass Band took to the main stage in the Eurovision Village last weekend to perform to thousands as part of the city-wide celebrations! An incredible opportunity for all involved - well done!

RESONATE

The Music
Education Hub
for Liverpool



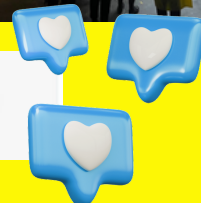
100 Voices United Tour

Another of our Resonate Music Hub's Eurovision projects also took on an exciting performance this week as their 100 Voices Choir, toured the city on Wednesday 10th May to perform at iconic Liverpool landmarks!

Students from secondary schools across the city, including our own Notre Dame Choir as well as students from a Ukrainian Children's choir have formed the 100 Voice Choir to celebrate the Eurovision and spread the message 'United by Music'. Their first performance took place at the iconic Liverpool landmark, Strawberry Fields, where they performed for crowds in front of the newly unveiled peace statue. Students were also invited to perform at The University of Liverpool's new state-of-the-art concert hall, the Tung Auditorium and sang to thousands at the Pier Head on the stage within the Eurovision Village! What an incredible experience for all involved!



That choir were sensational, astounding vocals -please let them know they silenced the crowd on a few occasions (that's the measure of how good they were). @Eurovision @lpoolcouncil



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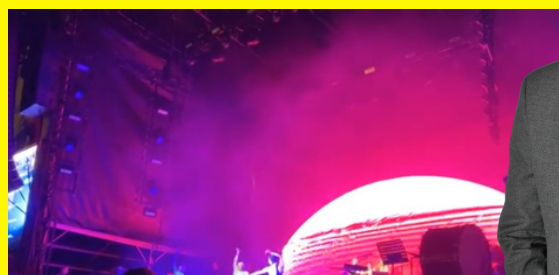


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Mr McHugh Invited to support at the Eurovision Village Opening Concert!

The Eurovision celebrations have not just opened up opportunities for our students this week, but also for our staff! Our Director of Performing Arts, John McHugh was invited to support the Eurotopia Concert which took place last Friday, 5th May. This was the opening concert for the Eurovision Festival.


The Eurotopia concert included artists Natalie McCool, Stealing Sheep, Ukrainian artists, strings from the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Liverpool Brass, Jennifer John's choir and guest appearances from Andy McCluskey OMD, Fran from Red Rum Club and other well known artists. Our very own, Mr McHugh arranged the music for the orchestra, created new arrangements of Enola Gay by OMD and The Killing Moon by Echo and The Bunnymen as well as conducting the performance on the main stage throughout the evening to an audience of 14,000 people! Well done to Mr McHugh - what an incredible experience!



United by Music – Virtual 'Euro' Concert

Schools Connect

United by Music:
Don't judge a book



United by Music; Don't judge a book
Join the School's Euroconcert
12 May, 13:30 - 14:30 BST

The Eurovision collaborations don't stop there! Our Resonate Music Hub has also been working in partnership with the British Council to organise a special 'Virtual Concert' for students to join online.

The virtual concert is being hosted by Resonate on behalf of the British council for over 40,000 children world wide on and featuring musicians from In Harmony and Live Music Now plus a live performance from a Ukrainian school. We can't wait to hear more on this next week after the concert has taken place!

BRITISH COUNCIL

In collaboration with



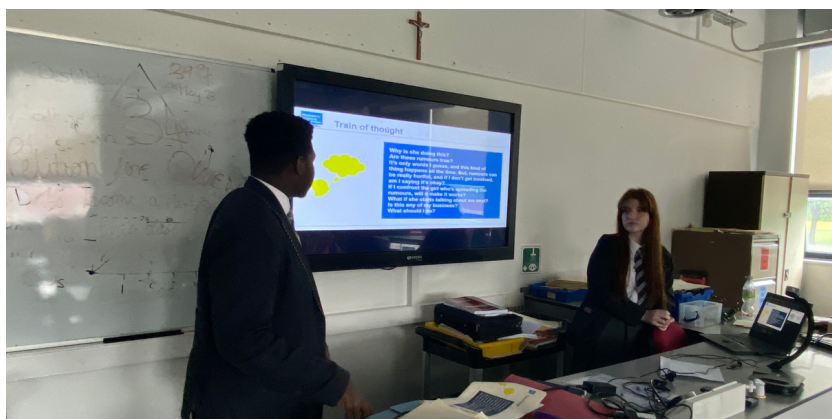
RESONATE
The Music Education Hub for Liverpool

Year 10 deliver MPV Presentations to Year 7

This week, our Year 10 students who are training to become Mentors for Violence Prevention delivered another session to our Year 7 groups. The sessions focused on 'Rumours' and the part they can play in relation to bullying and potential for violence. Our Year 10 students explained the difference between being a bystander and an advocate and asked our Year 7 students to consider the impact rumors can have on others.

Our Year 10 student and Mentor, Gabriella, said, "I really enjoyed working with my Year 7 group today, they were really engaging!"

Our MPV Mentors are there to support our students as peer mentors and offer to be a listening ear or to signpost younger students and peers to the correct channels of support when needed - keep up the good work!



Opening Doors and building confidence!

18 students in year 7 and 8 have finished their 12 week sports leaders programme with LFC this week.



The programme has given our students the opportunity to develop teamwork, communication, leadership and build their confidence. All students have passed the programme and have received a level 2 sports leaders qualification! **Well done all of you for your hard work!**

Developing PHSCE



We shared in last week's newsletter how delighted we were to welcome staff from Four Oaks Primary school and Holy Cross Primary school, as well as representatives from Schol Improvement Liverpool last week to discuss our PHSCE programme.

This was a fantastic opportunity to work with colleagues from our local primary school and School Improvement Liverpool. Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) is a vital part of pupil's personal development throughout their educational journey, this opportunity was a great way to support and collaborate with colleagues and gain a realistic overview of PSHCE provision across our schools.



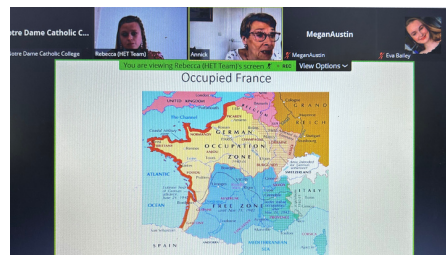
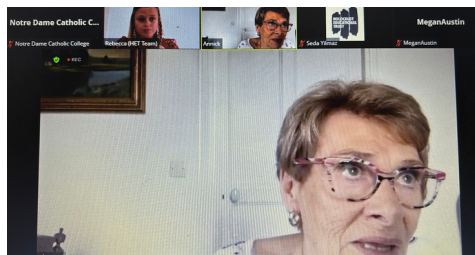
During the two days we had the opportunity to observe lessons, explore the individual school facilities, share pupils work and speak to pupils and staff in all 3 schools. This enabled us to celebrate the fantastic contribution PSHCE has made to pupils' personal development in both primary and secondary school, as well as identifying next steps to further develop our curriculum.

The experience was invaluable and we look forward to further collaborations in the future!



Opening Hearts in History

This week, our Year 9 students had the opportunity to hear from a Holocaust Survivor, Annick, in a live online presentation delivered by the Holocaust Educational Trust. This was an invaluable experience for our students to hear Annick's experiences and to ask questions that will support their studies on the Holocaust and the history that led to this taking place.



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Thank you to our Sixth Form!

A huge thank you to our Sixth Form students who kindly gave up their free period to deliver tea, coffee and treats to staff around the building this week! A wonderful act of kindness and an excellent display of **courtesy** - it was very much appreciated!



Year 11 Prom – Payments now being accepted!

Our Year 11 Prom will take place on Thursday 13th July 2023 at the Isla Gladstone Conservatory, 7pm - 11pm. The cost of the event will be £40 per student and will include an arrival drink (non-alcoholic cocktail), Buffet, LED Dance floor and DJ and a Magic Mirror Photobooth. Dress code is smart-casual. Suits and prom dresses are not required.

If you are happy for your child to attend the prom, please make a non-refundable deposit of **£20 via Parent Pay by Monday 5th June 2023**. The remaining balance will be due no later than **Monday 26th June 2023 via Parent Pay**. Please contact the school office or Mr Bond for further details.



Course for Parents

The Solihull Parenting Course is offering a free 'Understanding your child' course which is the core parenting course for parents with children aged 6 months to 19 years. It is also available in a version for parents with children with additional needs. Visit here for full details:

<https://solihullapproachparenting.com/online-course-for-parents-0-19/>

Online course for

PARENTS 0-19

- Online course which covers from 0 to 19 years
- The same content as a face to face group
- 108 languages*. Voiceovers in English, Arabic, Welsh and Urdu
- Digital parenting offer available
- Take anytime. Any place.

* Available using Google Translate widget



15 to 21 May 2023

Mental Health Awareness Week



#ToHelpMyAnxiety

National Mental Health Awareness Week – Anxiety

This year for Mental Health Awareness Week the focus is on anxiety. We all feel anxious from time to time. Anxiety is a natural response to the uncertain world around us. The aim of this week's activities is to join the nationwide conversation to encourage people to share their experiences and ideas on how they manage anxiety. We will be sharing resources online next week to support this and share coping strategies for students and parents.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Trained on vast datasets of text (such as books, articles and websites) in order to learn patterns and relationships, AI solutions can generate text, images, audio, video, code or synthetic data, and can be used for things such as crafting poems or books, creating digital imagery or delivering video content. Recently there's been significant discussion in relation to the benefits and risks of AI solutions, with many undecided on whether it will be a force for good or potentially reduce the need for some job roles.

ROOM FOR INACCURACY

AI solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the internet. Whilst questions will often elicit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

REINFORCING BIAS

AI solutions, such as those generating content or images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those around gender, race or disability.

IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

AI solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the AI relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries.

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fundamentally, AI solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could lead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain cases if the answers are taken as given. For instance, image-generative AIs can lead to output clearly derived from other peoples' content but without any attribution to the original source artist's work.

STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continuously using AI solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an AI tool.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of AI solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriate subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back – all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

DISCUSS BIAS

Talk to your child about the potential biases that may be present in the data that AI solutions are trained on, and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that AI generates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented fairly.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like AI with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and often invaluable aspect of learning – it's an essential part of life, too.

CHECK SCHOOL RULES

Make yourself aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of AI solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it's essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/> | <https://generativeai.net/> | <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-explainers/what-is-generative-ai>

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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

REPORTING AN ISSUE ON SOCIAL MEDIA - A GUIDE

[Visit this guide here.](#)

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<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 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/