

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S 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 say a warm welcome to our new Year 7 cohort. We hope you have enjoyed your first week settling in at Notre Dame! We know there is lots to learn but we have been so impressed by the **confidence** and **courage** our Year 7 students have displayed. The year group have taken everything from finding their way around, meeting their form group and even taking their GL Assessments in their stride. Well done!



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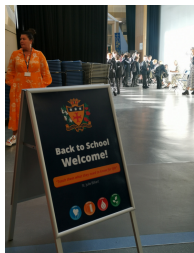
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MRS COSTELLO
ACTING
HEADTEACHER

FRI 8TH SEPT
2023



NOTRE DAME
CATHOLIC
COLLEGE



School Punctuality

School starts at 08:45am

It is parents/carers responsibility to ensure their child is in school on time. If any parent/carer would like school help with any issues affecting attendance or punctuality they should contact their child's head of year or our attendance officer.

Any student who arrives **after 09:15am** will be marked as an unauthorised absence for the morning session.

Detentions will commence on Monday for any student who arrives late. If there is a legitimate reason for a student being late parents need to phone the school to let us know by 09:00am.

We encourage you to speak to your child about:

- ***Free breakfast items in school!** We offer free breakfast items for ALL students at our Breakfast Club. This includes bagels and a selection of cereals. There is no need to go to Costa, Greggs, or the shops before school.
- **Breakfast Club is open from 8.15am.** Students can wait in the lower canteen area for school to start - there is no need for students to be dropped off late.
- **Checking bus timetables.** Ensure that students know what bus they need to get and are ready for a bus which will get them into school on time.

Further details can be found on our [attendance page on our website, here](#).

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.



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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.

Stevie's Grand Garden Design brought to life!

We would like to congratulate our Year 8 student Stevie on his amazing achievement over the summer holidays. It was a very proud moment for our Year 8 student, Stevie, this summer as he saw his 'Grand Garden Design' come to life at the Southport Flower show. Stevie's garden looked fantastic and his design talents were evident for the hundreds of visitors at the Flower Show to see - well done Stevie!



“The team from the LFC foundation said: “It was a wonderful day welcoming Stevie, the designer of the garden, from our Inspires programme, and to see his design in real life. Stevie placed the 1st wish on our tree and was even interviewed by the Soutport Flower show social team!”



Mrs Bate goes for GOLD!

We would also like to congratulate Mrs Bate in our PE Department for her inspirational achievement this summer! Mrs Bate was awarded 2 Gold Medals for Shot and Discus and became British Champion at the British Masters Championships this summer. Mrs Bate was also awarded Silver medals in Hammer, Weight and Javelin! An incredible achievement - well done!



WISHING EVERY NOTRE DAME FAMILY A PEACEFUL WEEKEND.

Yours faithfully
MRS COSTELLO

Ready to learn - basic equipment expectations

ARE THEY READY TO LEARN?

- 2 Black or Blue pens
- Colouring pencils
- Pencils
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Ruler
- School bag big enough to hold A4 size documents / files
- Learning Journals (Y7) or Timetable (provided by school)



A reminder went out to Parents & Carers this week that we expect all students to arrive at school ready to learn. This means that they arrive in full uniform with a basic set of stationery (highlighted above). Ideally, they will be contained in a pencil case. We also expect students to use a bag large enough to fit an A4 document. Year 7 students will be expected to bring their Learning Journals (provided by the school) every day. We will begin to contact parents next week if we are finding students are not bringing in their basic equipment.

Year 7 School Photograph - Monday 11th September

Have those hair bows ready and faces washed! A photographer will be attending school on Monday to capture our Year 7 cohort's school photograph. Students will need to attend school and head straight to form as normal, Form / Class teachers will be taking students down in groups throughout the day. Further details will be sent out regarding school photographs via ParentApp in the coming weeks.



OPENING MINDS

Year 11 Study Skills

Year 11 had a brilliant start to term, taking part in a study skills session on their first day back to help prepare them for their GCSE year! The sessions were held in our Dorothy Stang with our Associate Assistant Headteachers, Mr Cameron and Mrs Kane, with the aim to support our students learn ways to revise and study effectively so they can reach their full potential!



Enrichment Fair

Mrs McCullen will be holding an Enrichment Fair for students over Lunchtime on **Wednesday 13th September 2023**. Students will be able to see a full list of Enrichment activities and clubs they can become part of over the course of the academic year including groups such as 'Games Club', 'Eco Club', our school Choir, school Sports Teams, Duke of Edinburgh Award and many more!

Please remind students to pop along on their lunchtime and explore what's on offer!



Safeguarding Reminders

This week, each year group spent some time in their form groups going through our School Safeguarding reminders and information. This included what students would need to do should the school ever be required to enter a partial/full lockdown.

Should the school ever conduct a 'lockdown drill' students and parents will be informed prior to the event that this will take place.

More information on school Safeguarding, including useful links to supportive resources, can be found on [our Safeguarding page on the school website, here.](#)

Flu Vaccination Consent Forms

Your child's annual flu vaccination will be due in the autumn term. This vaccination is recommended to help protect your child against flu. Flu can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. Vaccinating your child will also help to protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu.

Further details will be sent via ParentApp to year groups this week confirming the date flu vaccinations will be expected to take place. However, in the meantime, you can complete the consent form for your child online. Please ensure you complete this form, even if you **don't want them** to receive their flu spray as this will avoid further communications from the immunisation service. Your child will not receive a vaccination unless consent is given in advance.

You can complete the form here: econsent.merseycare.nhs.uk

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 the 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 to 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 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.

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. The current allowance is £2.40 which is equivalent to a meal deal in our canteen.



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](#)

Term Dates 2023/24

Autumn Term 2023

Starts: Friday 1st September

Half term: Monday 30th October to Friday 3rd November

Ends: Friday 22nd December

Christmas break: Monday 25th December to Friday 5th January

INSET Days: Friday 1st September, Monday 4th September & Friday 29th September

Spring Term 2024

Starts: Monday 8th January

Half term: Monday 12th to Friday 16th February

Ends: Thursday 28th March

Easter break: Friday 29th March (bank holiday) to Friday 12th April

Summer Term 2024

Starts: Monday 15th April

May day: Monday 6th May

Half term: Monday 27th to Friday 31st May

Ends: Monday 22nd July

INSET Days: Friday 28th June & Monday 22nd July

INSET Days 2023/24

Friday 1st September 2023

Monday 4th September 2023

Friday 29th September 2023

Friday 28th June 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

FRI 8TH SEPT
2023



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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.](#)

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 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/