

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

*We would like to begin this week's newsletter with reminders of two special dates for your diary in the next two weeks.*

### Year 11

Focus on **YOUR FUTURE**

*Year 11 Parents and Carers are requested to attend:*

**'Your Child's Path to Success'**

**Wednesday 20th September 2023, 5.30pm  
at Notre Dame Catholic College**

On Wednesday 20th September, we welcome parents of children in Year 11 to join us from 5.30pm to attend a key event to support you to prepare your child for success in their upcoming GCSE examinations this summer. You will have the opportunity to meet with our Core Subject leads in English, Maths and Science and will gain insight into how best to support your child with Revision and Exam technique.

**We strongly recommend attendance at this event to give your child the best start to their GCSE exam year. We look forward to seeing you there.**

## IN THIS ISSUE

- HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE (P 1-3)
- SCHOOL LIFE NEWS & NOTICES (P4-8)
- SAFEGUARDING (P9 -11)

MRS COSTELLO  
ACTING  
HEADTEACHER

FRI 15TH SEPT  
2023



NOTRE DAME  
CATHOLIC  
COLLEGE

## Year 6 Open Evening

On Thursday 28th September, we welcome parents of children in Year 6 to join us for a face-to-face open evening from 6.00pm until 8.00pm. There will be a presentation from the acting headteacher and other college leaders (delivered at 6.15pm, an opportunity to view our first-class facilities, meet staff and to visit individual departments.

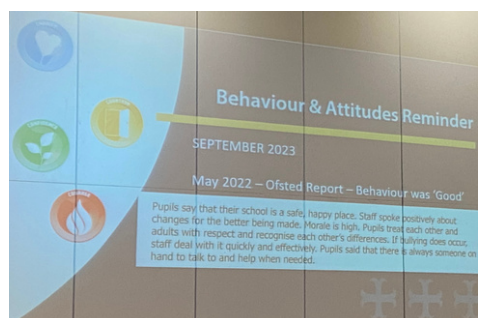
**If your child has a sibling in Year 6 and are interested in joining us from September 2024, we would love to see you there!**



**Year 6  
Open Evening**  
Enrolling Year 7 for September 2024

Thursday 28 September 2023 6pm - 8pm

## Maintaining our High Expectations



A big thank you to Mrs Brennan and Mrs Serrels, our Director for Behaviour, who delivered a series of Behaviour Assemblies for students in all Year Groups this week. The assemblies were to remind students of our high expectations for behaviour in the school and the importance of displaying our core values of **courtesy** towards others and **courage** to always do the right thing.

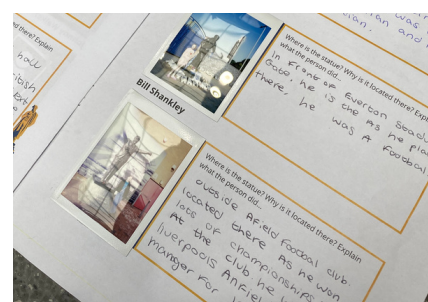
Parents can view our Behaviour Policy on [our website here](#) and can also access the Behaviour messages shared with students during these assemblies via the message **sent on ParentApp** earlier this week.

## Superstar, Amelia's Statue Selfies!

We'd like to say a big well done to Year 8 student, Amelia, who was announced as the winner of Mr Bond's 'Summer Statue Selfie' Challenge! Mr Bond set students a challenge to find several famous statues located across the city of Liverpool and to take a selfie with each one and research why it is a significant landmark. Amelia found every statue and did a fantastic write-up for each one!



**Amelia said, "It took me most of the summer to complete the challenge but it was fun finding them. I liked the John Lennon one best because I love the Beatles."**



It was my pleasure to award Amelia with her prize of £20 Love to Shop Voucher. Very well deserved, well done!

## Bringing water to school

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage students to bring re-fillable water bottles to school. Students have access to fresh water fountains before and after school and during breaks and lunchtime. This means they do not need to buy bottles of water at the canteen, save money, they save the planet and resist the temptation to bring energy drinks into school. **To clarify, students are not allowed to bring energy drinks in to school.**



## Home School Communications

Here at Notre Catholic College, we fully appreciate that the education of your child is a true team effort between home, school and child. As in any team effort, communication is key. College staff and leaders make every effort to communicate effectively with parents and carers throughout the school year. To routinely receive this communication, please download Class Charts and ParentApp onto your smart phones. ParentApp provides regular news announcements and whole school updates and also provides easy access to the content on our school website. Class Charts provides details of homework, daily behaviour reports and a messaging service which enables you to contact your child's teachers directly. **Please see inside this week's newsletter for details on how to download these apps.**



## Behaviour Focus this week: Punctuality

We'd like to thank all Parents and Carers in their support ensuring their child arrives to school ready to learn with the correct uniform and equipment this week. Please can you continue to encourage your child to maintain these standards.

This week, we will be focussing on students **punctuality to school and lessons** as it is becoming an area for concern. We recorded 232 incidents of late arrival to school this week which is simply unacceptable. **Can we remind all parents that the school day starts at 8.45am.** Arrival after this time will result in your child being late which results in an automatic 30 minute detention. Please remind students if they're late to lesson each results in a 5 minute detention up to 25 minutes. If a student has a reasonable excuse for being late please contact our school office. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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

Yours faithfully  
**MRS COSTELLO**



FRI 15TH SEPT  
2023



NOTRE DAME  
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## Year 7 School Photographs - Going home on Friday 15th September

Our Year 7 students looked impeccable at the start of the week as they each had their official Notre Dame student photo taken. Year 7 Form Teachers will be handing out the proof photographs to students today. Can Parents please ensure they read the instructions provided in full to order these. Photos will be ordered directly through Tempest and delivered to your home - not to school. If you have any queries, please contact us next week.



## Year 7 Retreats

Miss Wall is looking forward to taking our Year 7 students on their Form Group Retreats week commencing Monday 25th September to St Joseph's, Formby. **Can Parents please be reminded that places must be confirmed and payments made for this trip by Monday 18th September. Payments are to be made via Parent Pay.** Please contact Miss Wall via Class Charts if you have any queries.

- Monday 25th September – **7 Julie** (Miss Hollis)
- Tuesday 26th September – **7 MaryAnn** (Miss Hewitt) and **7 Thomas** (Miss Hobson)
- Wednesday 27th September - **7 Dorothy** (Mrs McDonnell) and **7 Françoise** (Mr Farnell)
- Thursday 28th September - **7 Eileen** (Miss Simpson) and **7 Patricia** (Miss Cummings)

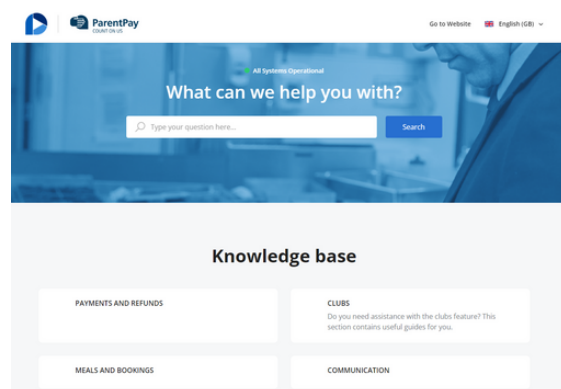


## Parent Pay Support

Notre Dame Catholic College operates a cashless system so all lunches and trips should be paid through the Parent Pay. **Parent Pay is a website and you can access this through google or your default web browser. Please note, Parent Pay is not accessed via an app.**

Students can check their allowance via the machines located opposite student services. The machines are simple to use and students simply place their finger on the scanner to see their balance. Please note, students in receipt of Free School Meals will not receive their lunchtime allowance until after breaktime.

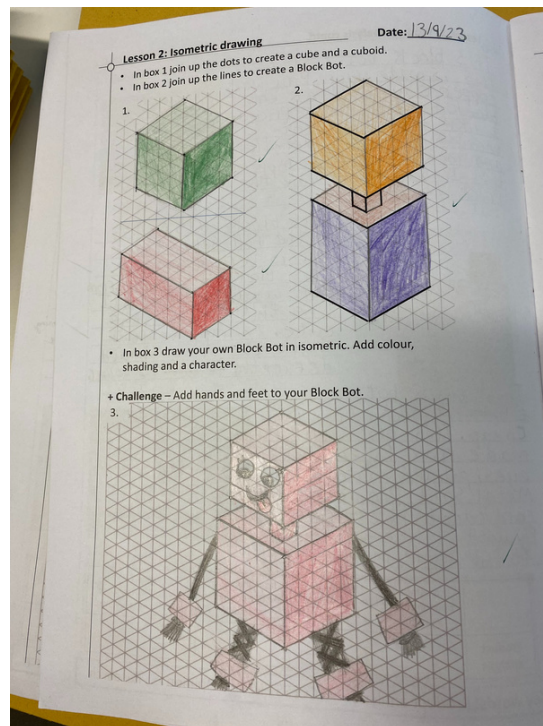
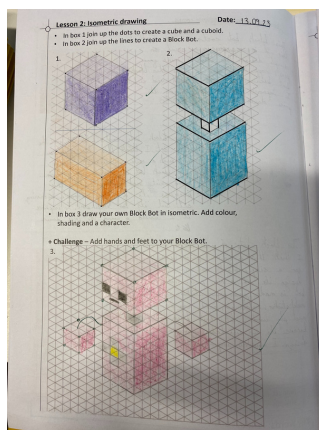
If you require your Parent Pay account details, please contact the School Office. Parent Pay also have a 'Knowledge Centre' dedicated to Parents which can be found [here](#).



## Getting Creative in Design Technology!

Year 7 have been learning to draw in isometric (3D) so they are able to design their own 'Block bots' next week. Pupils will then be making their own 'Block bots' from pine wood whilst learning to use the tools and equipment safely in the Product Design workshop.

Keep up the good work!



## Student Council Plan Exciting Projects

Our student council are stepping up this year to raise awareness of key issues that affect our student body. They will be meeting regularly to discuss how to improve school life – talking everything from lunch queues to school policies and coming up with solutions that work for everyone. They are developing an Awareness Calendar for the academic Year and will be working on mini projects for topics that they are passionate about. These topics will be discussed during form time in every year group weekly using our students research and resources.

Our student council, alongside Mrs Robinson-Powell will also be delivering assemblies to every year group next week to share more about the Student Council and the work they are planning to do this year. **If you / your child has an interest in being part of the council, please speak to Mrs Robinson-Powell (based in the RE department) for more details on how to become a member.**





## Enrichment Fair



Mrs McCullen held an Enrichment Fair for students over Lunchtime on **Wednesday 13th September 2023**. Students were able to explore 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.

A huge thank you to our Sixth Form students for supporting this event and guiding our lower school students through the various options!

We were delighted to see so many students signing up for the activities. Groups will begin next week (Miss Wall's Chaplaincy groups will begin on the first week of October).



## OPENING MINDS

### What is Enrichment?

Enrichment is any activity, club/group or hobby you do that 'enriches' your school experience. Our Enrichment offer covers a broad range of activities and clubs so that everyone has a chance to take part in something that they can enjoy, from IT clubs, to games groups to football or dance!

### Why is Enrichment important?

Enrichment is something that should help you develop a new skill, find friends with common interests, improve your physical or mental wellbeing, learn something and - most importantly - something you enjoy!

### What are the benefits?

Short-term benefits include - having fun! The Enrichment activity should be a space where you enjoy attending and it can help you make new friends. For new students' this is especially important.

Extracurricular activities can offer you opportunities you may not otherwise experience! For example, our Choir members were able to take part in the city-wide Eurovision celebrations last year, performing on stage at various locations across Liverpool including the Pierhead and even performing for the King! Our Football clubs get to meet with students in other schools during tournaments and our Drama club experienced taking part in our School production of Hairspray. All these experiences and opportunities can help you develop your **confidence** and **courage**.

Longer term benefits as you come towards the end of your school life and start looking ahead to University / your career, you will need to complete applications. The extracurricular activities and the opportunities these lead to can be the thing that makes you stand out in a crowded market.





# Enrichment Timetable 2023-2024

## In school hours (Form or Lunchtimes)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Vocal Group (Form time in Music Department) <i>See Miss Hart.</i>  'Chill and Chat' (both lunchtimes for all) in Chaplaincy room. <i>See Miss Wall</i>  Rock Band (both lunchtimes in Music department) <i>See Miss Hart</i>	Faith in Action (Year 8) - Lunchtime (12.30-1pm) in Chaplaincy Room <i>See Miss Wall</i>	Brass Club for all - Form Time in the Music Department <i>See Miss Hart</i>  Diversity Club - Form Time in the Music Department <i>See Mrs Doran / Mrs Littleboy</i>  Games Club for all - both lunchtimes in the Chaplaincy room <i>See Miss Wall</i>	Orchestra for all - Form Time in the Music Department <i>See Miss Hart</i>  Faith in Action (Year 7) - Lunchtime (12.30-1pm) in Chaplaincy Room <i>See Miss Wall</i>  iDEA Club (Digital Skills) for all - both lunchtimes in room 91 <i>See Miss Hobson</i>  Charity Club - 1.30-2pm in the Chaplaincy room <i>See Miss Wall</i>	'Chill and Chat' (both lunchtimes for all) in Chaplaincy room. <i>See Miss Wall</i>  CHESS Club - both lunchtimes for all in Aspire <i>See Mr Brennan</i>

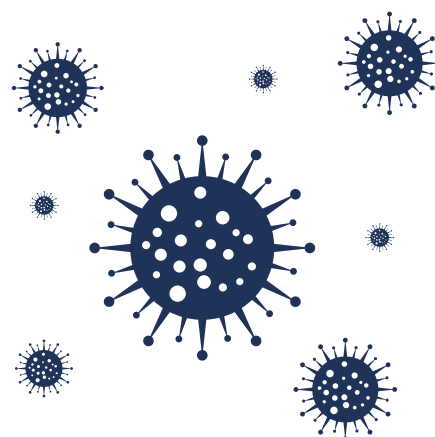
## Afterschool 3pm-4pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
No groups	Dance for all <i>See Miss Gabbitts</i>  Kickboxing for all <i>See Mr Flynn</i>  Girls Football for Y7, Y8, Y9 <i>See Miss Sheard</i>  Boys Football for Y7, Y8 <i>See Mr Delahunty</i>  Hospitality and Catering Club for Y10, Y11 <i>See Miss Williams</i>	Eco Club for all (Room 25) <i>See Miss Wall / Mrs Collings</i>  Boys Football for Y9, Y10 <i>See Mr Mulgrew</i>  Gymnastics/Dodgeball for all <i>See Mrs Bate</i>  Volleyball for all <i>See Mrs Morrin</i>  Chamber Choir for Y8+ <i>See Miss Hart</i>	Badminton for all <i>See Miss McCullen</i>  Drama for all <i>See Mrs Larkin</i>  DT Club <i>See Miss Williams</i>	No groups

## Flu Vaccination Consent Forms

The Liverpool Immunisation Team will be in school on Tuesday 3rd October to deliver Flu Vaccinations to students in Year 7-Year 11. 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.

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](https://econsent.merseycare.nhs.uk)



## Sixth Form Pathway Assembly

We're delighted that the University of Liverpool will be hosting our Sixth Form Assembly next week (Monday 18th September) to inform students about pathways into **Law, Engineering and Banking & Finance**.



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## 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 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 is a website and accessed via your web browser (e.g. Google)** and 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.



## ***Safeguarding Message: Operation Encompass***

Notre Dame Catholic College works with the police in Operation Encompass. Further information can be found [here](#). This means that when there is an incident of domestic abuse in the family home the police share the information with a key adult in school.

This information allows school staff to offer immediate support to any pupils who have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse.

Children are negatively impacted by experiencing domestic abuse and without early intervention and support this negative impact can last through a child's life course.

Domestic abuse can impact upon social, psychological, physical, emotional and behavioural outcomes with an often negative impact upon a child's academic success. Experiencing domestic abuse has been identified as an Adverse Childhood Experience. More information can be found on our [Safeguarding Padlet here](#).

### Statutory definition of domestic abuse



There is now a statutory definition of domestic abuse covered in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Behaviour of a person towards another person is "domestic abuse" in the following circumstance:

The two people are each aged 16 or over and are **personally connected** to each other, and the behaviour is abusive.

Behaviour is "abusive" if it consists of any of the following:

- a) physical or sexual abuse;
- b) violent or threatening behaviour;
- c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
- d) economic abuse;
- e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;



### Domestic abuse and children

In the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, children are now recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. A child is regarded as a victim of domestic abuse in the following circumstances:

- Where a child sees or hears the abuse.
- Experiences the effects of domestic abuse.
- Is related to the person being abused or the perpetrator.

This is a tremendous move forward in the safeguarding of children who experience domestic abuse but also has implications for all professionals who work with children.

### Domestic Abuse Act 2021 definitions

In detail, any reference in the Act to a victim of domestic abuse, includes a reference to a child in any of the following situations:

- a) sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse, and
- b) is related to either the adult victim or the perpetrator.

A child is related to the adult victim or the perpetrator if:

- a) the person is a parent of, or has parental responsibility for, the child, or
- b) the child and the person are relatives.

In this section:

"child" means a person under the age of 18 years;

"parental responsibility" has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989.

"relative" has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996.



Dear Parent/Carer,

Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse.

As a school we have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Signed

Mrs. A M Costello  
Acting Head Teacher



FRI 15TH 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/](http://www.notredameliverpool.com/safeguarding/)