

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Carols by Candlelight

We would like to begin this final newsletter of 2023 by thanking everyone who attended this week's Carols by Candlelight Concert. The audience was treated to an uplifting service of prayer, reflection and music. We would like to thank our amazing Music Department, who worked so hard to prepare our students for their performances. We would also like to extend a thank you to All Saints Catholic Primary Choir who also treated us to two spectacular performances! Well done to all involved.



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MRS COSTELLO
ACTING
HEADTEACHER

FRI 22ND DEC
2023



NOTRE DAME
CATHOLIC
COLLEGE

Christmas Fayre raises over £1000!

Our Christmas festivities this week, also included our student's Christmas Fayre. This was the first Fayre we've held at Notre Dame for many years and was planned by our students and Pastoral Teams (with the help of our School Chaplain, Miss Wall and Head of Sixth Form, Miss Nicol!)



A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Fayre. It was a wonderful event and everyone was very generous and in the festive spirit. Every year group pulled out all the stops with their stalls, which included a Bring and Buy stall (Year 7), Santa Keys (Year 8), Wax Melt Gift Sets (Year 9), Lazer Cut Decorations (Year 10), Glitter Tattoos (Sixth Form) and many more! One particularly popular activity was the 'Beat the Santa Goalie'!

The fayre was held as part of our Advent Fundraising activity and raised an incredible total of £1177.40 for Asylum Link, Merseyside. Asylum Link Merseyside supports Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Liverpool and raises public awareness around Refugee issues. It provides advice, food, clothes and support.

Once again, we'd like to say a huge thank you to all for your support and incredible generosity at this event!



Merry Christmas, Sisters!

We were honoured to have the opportunity to visit the Sisters' of Notre Dame de Namur in Woolton this week. Our students have been working hard over the last couple of weeks to create handmade tokens to gift to the Sisters. It was wonderful that our students had the opportunity to deliver these to the Sisters in person and have a chance to connect, chat and wish the Sisters a very Merry Christmas.



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Student Liturgies

On Thursday 21st December, our Sixth Form students delivered a series of powerful Advent Liturgies to our students in Years 7-11. The liturgies were a time for our students to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.



This year, coinciding with our Advent Fundraising for Asylum Link Merseyside, our liturgies focussed on the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Our students reflected on how they sought shelter and refuge in a stable to allow Christ to enter our world.

We'd like to say well done to our Sixth Form students for delivering a powerful and thought-provoking service and to our choir for supporting with their performance of 'O' Holy Night'. A big thank you also to Joel for sharing his fantastic musical talent on the piano and to Miss Wall for co-ordinating the services.

Back to School Reminder

Finally, we'd like to remind all Parents and Carers of the update to our College Calendar. As you will be aware Notre Dame Catholic College is in the process of joining St. Joseph's Catholic Multi Academy Trust in the near future. Since the beginning of this term the Senior Leadership Team have been working closely with the CEO and the Director of School Improvement for St. Joseph's CMAT and in order to continue this work, with the teaching and support staff, the governors have agreed to additional Inset days on **Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th January**.

This means that all students will return to school on Wednesday 10th January 2024. Students will return at the usual time of 8.45am.

WISHING EVERY NOTRE DAME FAMILY A HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Yours faithfully

MRS COSTELLO

Congratulations to our Values Stars!

This week, we have continued to share our Year Group Values Stars!
Congratulations to all.



Year 7
Cairo S

Year 8
Amelia S

Year 9
Narcisse M

Year 10
Michael W
John-Paul M

Year 11
Emily B
Harley W



Year 7
Mosunmola

Year 8
Oliwier D

Year 9
David O

Year 10
Marcus W

Year 11
Harley W
Zyann c



Year 7
Laura K
Amelia S

Year 8
Maya C
Lola J

Year 9
Caitleen C

Year 10
Conrad A

Year 11
Tom W
Jessica I
Ruby S
Violet P
Sophia I
Ruben
Walter C



Year 7
Florence O
Jenson D
Riley O

Year 8
Issabelle M
Cadence M
Riley D

Year 9
Ellie MM

Year 10
Luke D
Aiden T
Tyesha L

Values Star Prize Draw - Congratulations!

Congratulations to the 5 students who won the Values Stars prize draw! Well done for contributing positively to our school environment. We hope you enjoy your well deserved prize!

Year 7 – Nemash P
Year 8 – Daniel E
Year 9 – Caitleen C
Year 10 – Konnie M
Year 11 – Violet P

They each received a £30 Lifestyle Voucher! Happy spending!



End of Term Rewards!

Mrs Serrells, our Director of Behaviour, worked with each Head of Year to organise a reward afternoon for students who consistently uphold our high standards of good behaviour.

OPENING HEARTS



Mrs Serrells, our Director of Behaviour, worked with each Head of Year to organise a reward afternoon for students who consistently uphold our high standards of good behaviour.

Heads of Year nominated 15 students within their Year Group to attend the reward afternoon where they were able to attend an early lunch and watch a movie on our Dorothy Stang Theatre.

Students enjoyed Elf with snacks and popcorn. Congratulations to all who were selected! Very well deserved.

Attendance Challenge Winners!

Congratulations to the 5 students who won our 15 days of Christmas, Attendance Challenge! Each student who achieved 100% attendance over the last 3 weeks were entered into a prize draw. This was drawn during our festive sing-a-long today. Well done to the winners!

They each received a £100 Asda Voucher! Happy spending!



Year 11 Tassomai Challenge Winner

Congratulations also to **Sandra F in year 11** who has won the Tassomai challenge this half term. Year 11 students were set a challenge to answer as many Tassomai questions as they could throughout the half term to support their revision and learning. Sandra aimed to answer over 100 and ended up doing over 3000!! Sandra said, "It has been really helpful remembering key points for my exams." Well done! We hope you enjoy your £20 Amazon Gift Card.



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Don't forget - We're on The National Lottery's New Years Eve Big Bash!

We'd like to remind Parents and Carers to tune in to ITV (6pm - 8pm) on New Years Eve to see our students perform alongside the likes of Take That, Becky Hill and Paloma Faith.

Our Resonate music hub have been working on an exciting project this term with the 100 Voices Choir and ITV. The 100 Voices Choir project began during the Eurovision Contest Celebrations in Liverpool this summer which saw 100 students from over 15 different local schools, including 16 of our students at Notre Dame Catholic College and a Ukrainian children's choir, come together to perform.

They have had fantastic experiences including singing on the main stage at the Eurovision Festival in the Albert Dock and singing for HRH King Charles III, and most recently, being invited to London to sing on The National Lottery's New Years' Eve production for ITV.

The National Lottery's Big Bash is a spectacular music and entertainment show set to air on ITV1 and ITVX that brings together some of the UK's most celebrated stars for a party like no other. Hosted by Jason Manford and Aleisha Dixon, the students involved had the chance to perform on a huge television production. Please tune in to support our students wonderful performance!

OPENING HEARTS



Well done - ABRSM Examinations!

We are very proud of our students Shriya, Neve and Loshan for taking their ABRSM examinations this term. Shriya, Year 10, achieved her Grade 4 in the Clarinet and Loshan, also Year 10, achieved Grade 2 in Flute. Neve, Year 9, achieved her grade 1 in Flute. Well done to you all!



Philharmonic Open Day

On Saturday, December 9th, in partnership with the Liverpool Philharmonic. Resonate Youth Philharmonic orchestrated a successful open day, drawing more than 50 children and young people from across the city region. The event, held at Notre Dame Catholic College, provided a unique opportunity for aspiring musicians to engage in a day filled with workshops, rehearsals, and a dynamic beatboxing session.

The day kicked off with workshops led by professional musicians from the renowned Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Participants were treated to invaluable insights and guidance, gaining first-hand experience from accomplished artists in the field. These workshops aimed not only to refine the technical skills of the young musicians but also to inspire a passion for orchestral music.

Following the workshops, the atmosphere crescendoed into full orchestral rehearsals where the talented youth had the chance to showcase their newfound skills in a collaborative setting. The resonance of strings, wind instruments, and percussion filled the air as the young musicians harmonised their efforts under the guidance of experienced conductors.



One of the highlights of the day was a team-building beatboxing workshop, led by none other than the acclaimed writer, rapper, and Guinness World Record-breaking beatboxer Testament. This unique session added a contemporary twist to the traditional orchestral experience, showcasing the diverse musical talents of the participants.

The Resonate Youth Philharmonic aims to provide a platform for young musicians who are Grade 2 and above on an orchestral instrument. The open day not only served as a musical extravaganza but also as an invitation for those interested in becoming a part of this vibrant and dynamic orchestra. Prospective members can register now by visiting [Resonate Youth Philharmonic's registration page](#)



Spreading Christmas Cheer...

Year 7 Faith in Action have created handmade cards for local agencies working for and in our community, such as Father Richard, Volunteers at SFX Church, L6 Community Centre and NSPCC.



Finally, our Sixth Form students also encouraged students to leave messages for teachers and friends at the Christmas Fayre with their 'A note to say' stall. They then took the time to hand deliver the notes around the school to ensure the messages were passed along! A wonderful gesture showing great **courtesy** and care for others! Well done all.

Christmas Dinner Day

Thank you to the catering team for putting on a delicious Christmas Dinner for students this week as part of our end of term festivities! The dinner included Turkey, Roast Potatoes and all the trimmings. There was also a selection of handmade cakes and cookies for afters!

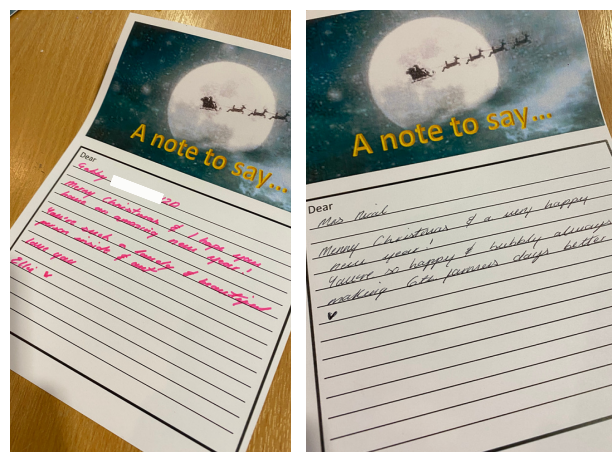


Christmas Sing-a-long

We concluded our term with our annual Christmas Sing-a-Long today! Well done to all and we hope you enjoyed! Merry Christmas to all our students – we look forward to seeing you again in the New Year!

OPENING HEARTS

Our students also took time over the last few weeks to write messages during form time in the official Notre Dame Christmas Card, designed by Year 7 student Layla. Students took the time to deliver these cards to our Support Staff members in school including our Site Staff, IT and Reprographics Teams, Student Service and Office staff.



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Admissions Consultation

As you are aware the school will be joining St Joseph Catholic Multi Academy Trust (SJC MAT) early in 2024. As part of that transition SJC MAT will assume the responsibility for admissions. The Trust have reviewed our current policy and propose minor amendments from 2025-2026. Further information on the proposed changes can be found on our [website Admissions page](#).

As per the [DfE School Admissions Code \(September 2021\)](#) the Trust are required to consult for a period of no less than six weeks and our consultation will be open from **14th December 2023 until 31st January 2024**.



Year 9 - Options Reminder



We'd like to remind all Year 9 students, parents and carers that our Options Information is live over the festive break. A series of online presentations are available to explain the process and subject presentations from curriculum leaders to support you to make your choices for Key Stage 4 study and beyond.

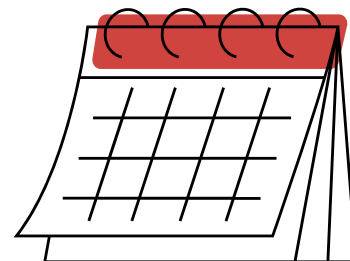
They are all available to view here on the [Year 9 Guided Choices page of our college website](#).

We strongly encourage parents/carers to take the time over the next 2-3 weeks to view this content, read the Guided Choices booklet we provided and have conversations with your child about their plans for the future and what subjects might be best to support them in achieving their goal.

The deadline for their options form to be returned to Mrs Thomas is Friday 12th January 2024.

Dates for your diary - Parents Evenings

- **Year 7** Parents Evening will be on **Thursday 7th March 2024**
- **Year 8** Parents Evening will be on **Thursday 9th May 2024**
- **Year 9** Parents Evening **took place** on **Thursday 7th December 2023**
- **Year 10** Parents Evening will be on **Thursday 21st March 2024**
- **Year 11** Parents Evening will be on **Thursday 18th January 2024**
- **Sixth Form** Parents Evening **took place** on **Thursday 14th December 2023**



Further information including times will be shared nearer to the date.

Please be advised any changes to the above dates scheduled will be shared via ParentApp, Class Charts, our Newsletter and the school website.

Liverpool City Council Parent Newsletter



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

The Newsletter includes information on services that can support parents during the month of December and into the New Year.

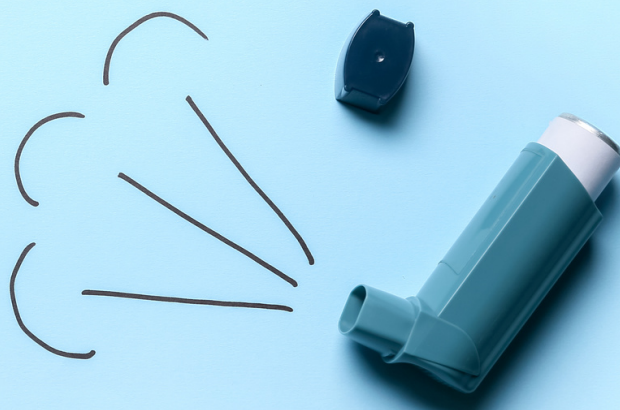
- Family Hub and Children Centres
- December Events Across The City for Families
- Winter health support
- Childcare
- Debt Advice
- Domestic Abuse
- Education Wonderhub Activities
- Employment Support and Adult Learning opportunities
- Foodbanks
- Mental Health
- Money Management and Financial help
- Parenting Programmes
- Parental Mental Health
- Support for Fathers

Winter Half Term Club 2nd – 5th January – During half term Liverpool Lighthouse will be offering creative activities for children and young people aged 7-13. The week will be a load of fun games, exercises and drama scenes. The young people will develop confidence, skills and meet lots of new people and share the work they have created on the last day. A hot meal and snacks throughout the day will be provided for children participating to help families over the Christmas period. Food, drink and snacks will be provided for all children with a hot lunch served at 12:30pm every day. Time: 9-1pm each day To register, email: matt.rutter@liverpoolighthouse.com

Medical Procedure Reminder - Inhalers

A reminder to all Parents and Carers – If you have a child who suffers from asthma, please ensure when they return to school in January that they **carry an inhaler on their person** when in school **at all times**.

They are also required to keep a second, spare inhaler at the school. If you have not completed an asthma card form for your child, please contact the school main office to arrange this or if you have any other queries. Thank you.



Additional online safety, webinars to empower parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to be an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which are before trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.notsafely.com/for-parents-guides for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YUBO

AGE LIMIT 13+
This app contains content that may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Yubo is a social networking platform where users can chat and livestream with up to 10 friends at once. People can connect with others based on location, with a Tinder-style 'swiping' mechanism to accept or reject someone based on profile pictures. The app has more than 20 million users worldwide – but despite its popularity, Yubo has not been free from controversy. While the app claims to monitor inappropriate content, a newspaper investigation in early 2022 found young users being exposed to sexual harassment, racism, bullying and conversations with adult themes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FLimsy AGE GATES

Yubo states it is only for over 13s, but there is no credible attempt to prevent a younger child joining the platform. An undercover journalist investigating dangerous content reported spending 10 days posing as a 10-year-old on the app without any age verification. This flaw, and the fact that it's not essential for users to verify their identity during the sign up process, raises concerns over potential grooming.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Yubo has experienced problems with inappropriate content being displayed to children and teens. Although the app's developers claim to monitor profiles and messages for adult-themed or inappropriate material, a Sunday Times and an independent investigation found young users being exposed to sexual harassment, racism and bullying, with some chats referencing self-harm, suicide and drug use.

LIVESTREAM RISKS

Users are able to launch live video streams which strangers can then view and interact with via real-time text chat. Not only is the thought of strangers watching children's livestreams extremely worrying (they could also use these as a means to establish the child's location by recognising their surroundings) but text chats might result in a young person disclosing personal information.

BULLYING POTENTIAL

Yubo uses 'swipe' to accept or decline the chance to talk with each other. These decisions are entirely based on someone's profile picture, raising the potential for children to be left with low self-esteem if declined repeatedly. Negative feedback about their appearance can seriously damage a child's emotional wellbeing, causing a loss of confidence in how they look or how interesting they are.

EXTENSIVE ACCESS

Users of Yubo, no matter what their age, are given the option to grant access to their device's microphone if live streaming, and GPS during sign up. This means they are potentially giving up sensitive information, including their exact location. In addition, new users of the app are asked to provide personal details such as their name, date of birth and phone number, which – in the case of young people – represents a risk in the event of a hack or data breach.

'GATEWAY' EFFECT

Yubo's swiping system (right for 'yes', left for 'no') works much like Tinder and various other dating apps. This could lead to children exploring similarly designed apps that aren't intended for a young audience. Users can also link their Yubo account to social media such as Snapchat and Instagram, making it easier for a stranger – or a predator – to track them down on various platforms.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EXPLORE THE APP

We encourage parents and carers to explore any app before allowing their children to download and use it in order to fully understand how the app is used, and what types of content and communication your child will be exposed to. We advise that you do the same with Yubo, allowing you to make a fully informed decision on whether you allow your child to use the app.

DISCUSS IN ADVANCE

If your child is absolutely determined to join Yubo (perhaps their friends all use the platform, for instance), then it's essential to talk to them about the dangers of this type of app before they install it. It's vital they understand not to disclose personal information to people they don't know, for example, and that they're warned about the type of mature content they may be exposed to.

STAY AWARE

It's important to stay attuned to how your child is using social media. If they only discuss Yubo in private, for example, you might question what they're potentially using it for. It's also important to watch for warning signs that they may be overusing the app: prioritising it over everyday routines like meals and homework, for instance, or showing signs of irritability and a lack of concentration.

ALTER THE SETTINGS

After the recent controversies surrounding the app, Yubo's developers have increased its security controls. Users can now choose to block profiles, screen out nudity in live streams and keep their location private. There's also an option to report inappropriate content, so make sure your child knows that they can now flag up anything they find disturbing via the app's safety centre.

Meet Our Expert

Gail Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Gail is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.

LOCATIONS **NOS** **National Online Safety** **#WakeUpWednesday**

[Click here to access further guidance on YUBO.](#)

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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

Acting Headteacher - Mrs AM Costello

Acting Deputy Headteacher / Designated
Safeguarding Lead - Mrs E Brennan

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
Mrs J Littleboy - Director of Safeguarding Services
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
Mrs E Garvey Y7, Miss C Lee Y8, Ms R Glorman Y9, Mrs S Doran
Y10, Mrs S Styles Y11, - Pastoral Assistant Heads of Year