



Notre Dame Plymouth

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Headteacher: Mrs Katherine White

Notre Dame educates the whole person: Head, Heart and Hands

13th December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the end of another school term and the close of year for 2017. It has been a tough year for us but we can see teachers and students 'rising to challenges' and we have plenty of reasons to 'celebrate achievements'. Thank you for supporting us on our journey to return to 'Good'. We feel confident that the changes we have implemented and continue to develop will ensure we receive the outcome we desire. Students have made fabulous progress in ensuring that their exercise books are well presented, neat and include the best content to ensure they are able to use their books as revision tools and secure or exceed their targets. DIT (Dedicated Improvement Time) is also improving and is an important communication tool between students and teachers to encourage improvements and progress in their work and knowledge. We hope students will return from the Christmas break with a renewed enthusiasm to continue on this journey and make further progress and that they will maintain the pride they take in their work.

We successfully held our first lockdown drill at the beginning of November and are pleased to report that students acted sensibly and maturely throughout the drill. It is so important to practice these routines to ensure that we are all familiar with the process in the very rare case that a real-life issue should arise and we need to implement the policy.

We are able to celebrate the achievements of former student Lagi Tuima on her rugby success as she made her Senior England Rugby debut in November. She was selected as a replacement for the International Test against Canada. She manages to do this all whilst studying at University and playing in the Women's Super league for Bristol. Congratulations to her, a fantastic success story!

This time of year is busy for everyone and it is no exception for the school. Tonight we are holding our Awards Celebration where we will celebrate our 2016 Y11 and Y13 students and their results and we also honour current students with a wide array of awards which they have been nominated to receive by their teachers. It is set to be a fabulous evening full of smiles, applause and praise. We will hold our annual Christmas Carol Service on Thursday 14th December this year with Christmas craft stalls open from 5pm with the carol service beginning at 6.30pm. If you haven't already, please purchase your tickets at £2 each by asking your daughter/son to take any payments to the school bank where tickets will be issued. We hope you are able to join us to begin the Christmas celebrations.

National Citizenship Award again! Congratulations to Miss Byng who helped our students to become an NCS Champion School for the second year running.

Miss Lowry, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Champion has been working really hard with her colleagues within these departments to encourage students across all year groups to explore careers within the STEM field by leading and involving students in exciting projects such as the First Lego League, Green power car and lunch time and after school clubs amongst many other projects in the pipeline. It is important for us to ensure our girls know the many different career paths available to them, even if they are not stereotypically roles fulfilled by a female workforce. If your daughter would be interested in exploring a career or hobby within STEM, please encourage her to speak to Miss Lowry.

Each year we invite Year 5 primary school students to join Notre Dame on one or more occasion for the following events: Maths Challenge (Wed 10th Jan), Science Day (Fri 26th Jan), Creative Day (Wed 7th Feb), Languages Day (Friday 23rd Feb), Humanities Day (Wed 25th Apr) and a Performing Arts Day (Mon 11th Jun). These are great opportunities for prospective students to have a taste of what life is like at Notre Dame whilst exploring new subjects and gaining knowledge with both practical and written challenges throughout the day. We have a limited

number of spaces remaining on these events so if you have a daughter in Year 5, or know somebody who does who would be interested in attending one of these events, please ask them to contact Mrs L Davies to book a place on their chosen day/days.

A huge thank you and well done to Rebekah Thompson, Year 11 and Miss Glover, Subject Leader – Art who designed our Christmas card this year, it is a beautiful design incorporating our theme for this year all about celebrating God’s goodness. The card has been sent to our Notre Dame community in and around Plymouth but also across the U.K to other ND schools and an electronic version of it is below.

Last Day of Term – Friday 15th December 2017

Our Last Day of Term is Friday 15th December 2017 and school will finish for all students at 3.25pm. This is also Save the Children’s national Christmas Jumper Day. To support the charity we invite our students to wear **their normal school uniform with an optional Christmas Jumper** and bring along a donation of £1 each to help the charity provide children across the world with healthcare, food, education and protection, something they are currently missing out on. Periods 1 – 4 will continue as normal and during Period 5 we will come together as a whole school for a Christmas Liturgy, before releasing students for the Christmas Holidays.

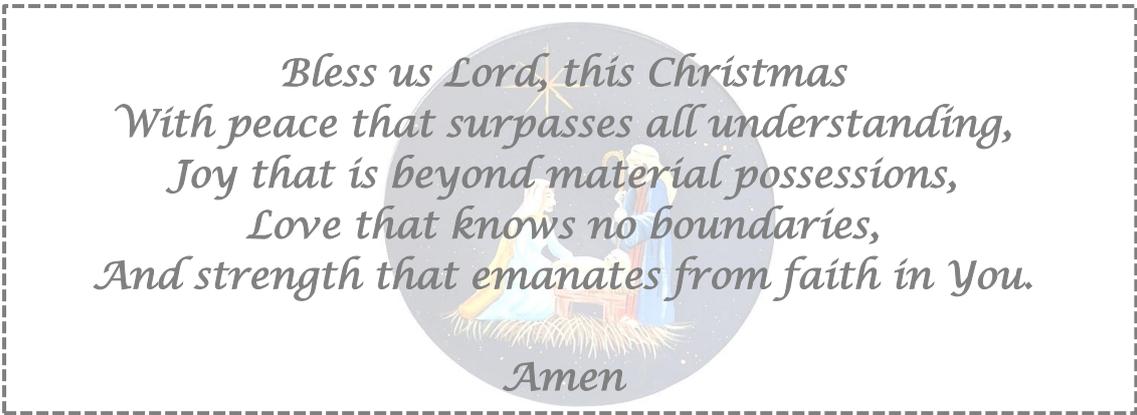
Please take a look at some ‘Important Dates for your Diary’ which are detailed on Page 3 of this letter. Miss Ley, Assistant Headteacher – Student Wellbeing has included details on a helpline for parents on Page 4.

We wish our Notre Dame community a peaceful, joyful and holy Christmas and a happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming students and staff back to school on Tuesday 2nd January 2018.

Yours sincerely,

K M White

Mrs K White
Headteacher



Notre Dame Christmas Card 2017
Designed by Rebekah Thompson, Y11 and Miss Glover, Subject Leader - Art



Important Dates for your diary



DECEMBER 2017

Wednesday	13	Awards Celebration (3.45 – 6.30pm)
Thursday	14	Christmas Concert (5 – 7.45pm)
Friday	15	Last Day of Term for Y7-13 (3.25pm Finish)
Mon-Mon	18 Dec-01 Jan	Christmas Holidays

JANUARY 2018

Tuesday	02	Spring Term 1 (Term 3) Begins for all students
Thursday	18	Parents Evening: Year 8 (3.45 – 6.15pm)
Thursday	25	Year 8 Options Evening (4.30 – 6.30pm)

FEBRUARY 2018

Thursday	01	Parents Evening: KS5 (3.45 – 6.15pm)
Friday	02	Dimension Day 2
Monday	05	Parks House Day
Friday	09	Last Day of Term for Y7-13 (3.25pm Finish)
Mon-Fri	12-16	February Half-Term Holiday
Tuesday	13	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday	14	Ash Wednesday
Monday	19	Spring Term 2 (Term 4) Begins for all students

MARCH 2018

Thursday	01	World Book Day
Thursday	08	Parents Evening: Year 10 (3.45 – 6.15pm)
Wednesday	28	Last Day of Term for Y7-13 (3.25pm Finish)
Thu-Fri	29 Mar-13 Apr	Easter Holidays
Friday	30	Good Friday

APRIL 2018

Sunday	01	Easter Sunday
Monday	02	Easter Monday
Monday	16	Summer Term 1 (Term 5) Begins for all students

2017-18 Academic Year Term Dates

Autumn Term 2017

Term 2	15 th December 2017	–	Last day of term
	16 th December – 1 st January 2018	–	Christmas holiday

Spring Term 2018

Term 3	2nd January 2018	–	School re-starts for all
	9 th February 2018	–	Last day of term
	10 th – 18 th February 2018	–	Half-term holiday
Term 4	19 th February 2018	–	School re-starts for all
	28 th March 2018	–	Last day of term for students
	29 th March 2018	–	INSET Day for staff only (non-pupil day)
	30 th March – 15 th April 2018	–	Easter holiday

Summer Term 2018

Term 5	16 th April 2018	–	School re-starts for all
	7 th May 2018	–	School closed – May Bank Holiday
	8 th May 2018	–	School re-starts for all
	25 th May 2018	–	Last day of term for all
	26 th May – 3 rd June 2018	–	Half-term holiday
Term 6	4th June 2018	–	School re-starts for all
	20 th July 2018	–	Last day of term for all

