



Notre Dame Plymouth

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Headteacher: Mrs Katherine White

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

September 2017

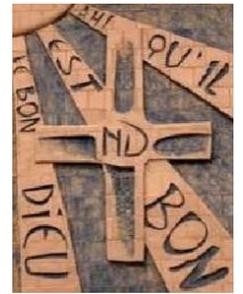
Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and an official warm welcome to Notre Dame to our new Y7 and Y12 students and parents/carers. We're so pleased to see that our new students have settled in well so far and we hope they continue to enjoy their time at Notre Dame.

On Wednesday 20th September we held our whole school 'Opening of Year Mass' and were joined by Father Jon from St Peter's who said Mass for us and lead us in spiritual prayer and song for an hour. The Mass was an opportunity for us to set the tone and to properly introduce our theme for this year of "Celebrating God's Goodness". During the course of the year we will look at different ways to celebrate and make known God's goodness, just as St Julie Billiart, our foundress did in her village home of Cuvilly, France.



Ah! Qu'il est bon, le bon Dieu!
How Good is the Good God!



We also had the great pleasure of officially opening the new extension to our dining facilities, the Sunflower Café! Dignitaries from CAST and members of the Notre Dame community gathered together to cut the ribbon and celebrate the use of this fantastic new space for students to socialise and eat during break and lunch times.

We have added an extra three words to our Mission Statement, highlighted in blue below.

Notre Dame Plymouth
is
an optimistic school promoting Christian attitudes
a school where every person belongs
a school which values learning **and high aspiration**
a school which rises to challenges and celebrates achievement

Notre Dame educates the whole person;
head, heart and hands

We talk a lot at Notre Dame about educating the whole person; head, heart and hands and we would like to highlight some examples of how we think this works.

HEAD

Love of learning, memory tests,
successful exams, fascination with
subjects, intellectual curiosity

WHOLE PERSON

Great results, well prepared,
well balanced, confident young
men and women

HANDS

Practical skills, skills for life, use of
internet, safety awareness, charity
fundraising, caring for others, helping
each other, holding doors open

HEART

Passion, drive, care, love,
faith, spirituality, prayer,
family values

We have teamed up with Tally Ho! Coaches to offer our students a great new private bus service. It will mean no more worrying about arriving late or buses not turning up. It will arrive at Notre Dame at 08.23am each morning. The bus service is a student-only bus and your daughter is guaranteed a seat. The bus will leave ND at 3.30pm to take you home and there are various pick-up and drop-off points around the city of Plymouth, close to the Catholic primary schools (see table below for exact timings and bus stop locations). Students need to sign up to the service for a year, at a cost of £85 per ½ term, paid in advance; one payment in full or 3/6 instalment options available, paid via ParentPay. For students who receive free school meals who achieve 100% attendance and good Attitude to Learning (ATL) in a full term, a subsidy of £100 will be made towards the cost of the bus for the following term's payment. For more information about the discount, please contact our Finance Team. For students who are Catholic parish attenders, you can apply for funding through your Parish Priest.



Bus STOP Locations	AM Pick-up	Bus STOP Locations	PM Drop-off
Holy Cross Primary School, Beaumont Road (outside Tesco)	07.40	Holy Cross Primary School, Beaumont Road (Winners Casino)	16.18
The Cathedral School of St Mary, Union Street (outside Ali Babas)	07.48	The Cathedral School of St Mary, Union Street (Palace Theatre bus stop)	16.10
St Joseph's Primary School, Chapel Street (opposite Esso Garage)	07.53	St Joseph's Primary School, Chapel Street (end of Chapel Street)	16.04
Keyham Barton Primary School, Saltash Road (opposite Fleet Street bus stop)	08.01	Keyham Barton Primary School, Saltash Road (at the Fleet Street bus stop)	15.56
St Paul's Primary School, Victoria Road (Butterflies and Roses shop)	08.07	St Paul's Primary School, Victoria Road (Victoria Road Library)	15.50
Arrive at Notre Dame School	08.23	Depart Notre Dame School	15.30

The bus is now up and running and there are a few seats left this year. If you'd like further information or would like to book your daughter a space, please ring the main school number and ask to speak to our Finance Team.

Results – still in Top 5 in Plymouth!

We have had success all-round with our GCSE, A Level and Vocational results this Summer. Congratulations to all of our students who worked so hard to achieve their very best. The lunch time, after-school and holiday revision sessions along with class work and study time at home have all paid off and you have reaped the benefits, securing A Level places and employment opportunities. All of our students who applied to study at University have been allocated places and will now go on to study their chosen courses of Medicine and Surgery, Law, Criminology, Drama and Theatre Studies, Biomedical Science, Nursing, Acting school, Computer Science, Exercise and Sports Sciences, to name but a few. Congratulations to our vocational pathway students who won awards for outstanding achievement with double and triple distinction stars! We wish all of our students the very best on their forward journey, keep in touch and let us know about your next success story. Our GCSE results maintain our position in the top five secondary schools in Plymouth. ND students should be proud of this.

The beginning of a new school year is the perfect opportunity for us to introduce new parents and students and remind others of our policies, practices and expectations for every student to ensure they have a positive attitude to learning and make the most of their school career.

All students should attend school regularly, ideally every day, with a minimum attendance of 96%. Good attendance at school is so important and all evidence shows that this makes a great difference to the grades that your child will be able to achieve in their final exams. Medical and dental appointments should be made outside of school times where at all possible. If your child does have an appointment during school time, please write a note in her planner or ring us to inform us of the details including the time she needs to leave school. Your child should show the note to their teacher and will then be released to Student Services to sign out. If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please ring us on each day of her absence to inform us of this. Our telephone number is: 01752 775101, please press 1 to leave a message for or speak to the Attendance team. Students who have suffered from a sickness bug should remain off school for 48hours after the last symptoms have subsided. If you have any concerns or queries about attendance, please contact Miss Darragh, our Attendance Manager.

Remember that your daughter/son's tutor is your main and first port of call for any queries or concerns. They know your child well as they spend 25 minutes with them (if not more!) every day and will be able to answer or solve the majority of your questions. They will involve other or more senior members of staff as and when they see appropriate, using their professional judgement and experience. We would like to advise parent/carers that teaching staff have teaching timetables therefore it is usual that when trying to make contact with the tutor by telephone, you will need to leave a message. All of our support staff understand and appreciate the importance of such messages and will ensure that these get to tutors in a timely manner. Tutors will make calls at their earliest convenience but this may not be until the end of the day unless a safeguarding concern is identified. If email is your preferred method of contact, please note that our info@ndonline.org email address is monitored but usually only once a day so please do not send urgent messages or queries to this inbox.

Punctuality is so important in school and is a great skill to learn early on as future employers will look for an applicant who can demonstrate this. Punctuality means arriving to tutorial and lessons on time, with the equipment needed for that lesson. This ensures a prompt start to the lesson, so all learners can benefit from an hour of well-planned teaching.

Please do look at your daughter's planner and school books regularly. The planner is a method of communication between tutors/subject teachers and parents/carers. Both parties are expected to sign the planner weekly to acknowledge homework entries and comments from staff, rewards received during lesson times are also documented in the planner. The 'Home-School Agreement' should be read and signed by you and your child. To ensure your child is taking pride in their work and is demonstrating a good, positive attitude to learning, please work with us to encourage them to follow these guidelines in every lesson, every day:

- Completely clean and neat front covers – no graffiti
- Write in black or blue pen, except for DIT (Dedicated Improvement Time) which is in purple pen
- Write the date on all new pieces of work
- Write the long form of the date in the top right corner e.g. 25th September 2017
- Write the learning objective on the line below the date
- Underline all dates, titles and sub-headings with a ruler
- Miss one line when changing paragraphs or when starting work underneath the title
- Cross out mistakes with a single line through them
- Draw pictures and diagrams in pencil and label them in pen
- No graffitiing, drawings in the margin, or missing out pages

We have introduced 'Phone Zones' to easily identify to students where they can use their phones. The places they are able to use their phones are in Sister J's, Culture Café and the Sunflower Café during break and lunch times. Phones are forbidden at all times elsewhere around the school. This will create a safer environment for our staff and students to roam around as people will not be looking down at their phones instead of what is ahead of them in the corridor. It will also create a more focused learner, ready for the next task and instruction in lesson times. Very occasionally a teacher may require a class to use phones for learning purposes.

During tutor time, key 'non-negotiables' for every student at Notre Dame have been introduced which your child will be able to speak with you about. These will all help to focus students on their lesson and learning to get the best possible outcomes. We've included them in this letter so you can be sure of what we expect from every student.

OUR 'NON-NEGOTIABLES' FOR EVERY STUDENT

1. **Arrive on time**, usually within three minutes of the bell, ensuring an orderly entry and exit.
2. **Be ready to learn**. Enter the room and have the correct equipment for every lesson e.g. books, pens, ruler, calculators, PE kit. Use the toilet and water fountains at break and lunch time. Start work as soon as instructed by the member of staff. This could/should be immediately on arrival at the classroom. Be prepared for that.
3. **Always try your best and be positive**. Learning takes time and effort and you should be challenged in every lesson. Remember if you can do all the work set straight away it isn't hard enough for you. Challenge yourself. You should struggle with the work at times and then seek solutions to overcome those struggles.
This is learning.
4. **Take pride in your learning**. Books, folders etc. need to be looked after and presented to the highest of standards.
5. **Bring your manners to school**. Speak to all staff and other students with respect. Hold the door open for others, knock on the door if late, remember to say 'please' and 'thank you'. Listen respectfully when others are talking – there should be no calling out or interrupting the teaching and learning of others.
6. **Only use your phone in the 'phone zones'**. Do not use your phone in lessons and keep 'off-task' conversations for social times only. Focus on your own work and do not distract the learning of others.
7. **Follow all seating arrangements and seating plans without question**. These will be planned based on your learning needs and the needs of others for that lesson.
8. **Stay in your seat** unless instructed otherwise by a member of staff.
9. **Don't eat or drink (with the exception of water) in lessons. Chewing gum is not permitted** and put all litter in the bin.

The majority of our students look exceptionally smart wearing the correct school uniform and are representing Notre Dame really well. We check uniform every day and highlight and correct any discrepancies but please assist us in a zero tolerance approach against transgressions by ensuring your daughter wears the correct uniform to school every day. Our expectations are laid out clearly below and have been lifted from our Behaviour Policy. Chewing gum is not allowed under any circumstances and blazer sleeves should not be rolled up. Students should respect the policy and staff members by obliging quickly when asked to remove make-up, piercings and non-uniform items of clothing.

UNIFORM

Notre Dame students are expected to maintain good standards of appearance and dress and to attend in correct school uniform.

1. Mid-black, knife-pleated, knee-length skirt or black trousers, trutex style JWT 446
2. A short-sleeved, open-necked uniform blouse of the appropriate colour
3. Black blazer and badge; compulsory for all students
4. White or black socks, or black tights (no trainer socks)
5. Plain, flat, black shoes. No trainers, boots or backless styles
6. Plain, black cardigan or V neck jumper. Optional
7. If an outdoor coat or jacket is worn, it should be plain

PE UNIFORM (*Compulsory*)

1. Royal blue polo shirt with school crest
2. Black shadow shorts – no logos
3. Royal blue football socks
4. A pair of training shoes suitable for physical education

PE UNIFORM (*Optional items*)

1. Black school tracksuit or plain black tracksuit bottoms
2. Black school sweatshirt or hoodie

Jewellery

Students may **only** wear;

- A watch, a House band and/or religious band
- A single plain stud in the lower lobe of each ear (less than 5mm in diameter)

No other piercings are allowed

No jewellery is to be worn for PE

Make-up

Make-up is not allowed in Years 7-11; this includes nail varnish

Hair

Hair should not be dyed in unnatural colours or patterns, or decorated.

Long hair must be tied back.

Hair bands, clips etc., must be plain.

Annie – Summer Show

Here are some pictures from the Drama department's fabulous production of 'Annie The Musical', performed over three evenings in the Summer Term. Well done and congratulations to all involved, you showcased your musical, acting and dancing talents. We're looking forward to next year's performance already!



Annie

A date for your diary: The South West Celebrate Weekend offering a family friendly, faith-building experience for young and old in a non-residential setting has now moved to Plymouth and Notre Dame is hosting it! It is organised with full support from the diocese, and Bishop Mark will be attending once again this year. If you're interested in attending, please see booking details below.



SOUTH WEST CELEBRATE WEEKEND
(We have moved to Plymouth!)
A joyful and faith-filled event for young and old,
where all are welcome.
(Children & young people follow their own programme)
14th/15th October
Notre Dame School, Looseleigh Lane, Plymouth PL6 5HN
Main Speakers: Rev. Olly Ryder, Pippa Baker, David Wells
Lively worship, drama, a variety of workshops, family Mass
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Online booking available (Prior booking essential)
More details: www.celebrateconference.org
Email: southwest@celebrateconference.org
Susanne 01803 606256

Due to the traffic disruption that occurred during the afternoon of our Open Evening on 20th September we are aware that many prospective parents and students were not able to make that event. As a result, we will hold a further **Open Morning on Wednesday 11th October from 10.15am – 11.40am.** To secure a place for this morning please complete the form on the home page of our website. Numbers are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. The school will welcome parents and students to hear the Headteacher's presentation, see the new school uniform, find out about our new private school bus and tour the school. Parent Packs containing Supplementary Information Forms, uniform information, private bus information and timetable, exam results and the latest edition of NDNews will be provided on arrival. Please invite your family and friends with daughters considering Notre Dame as their secondary school to book on our website. We look forward to seeing you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K White
Headteacher

Prayer said in Mass

Ah, Qu'il est bon, le bon Dieu!

Lord,

*We pray for opportunities to recognise and be examples of
your goodness in our school and wider community so that
we can 'make known your goodness' this year.*

Amen.

Important Dates for your diary



SEPTEMBER 2017

Thursday 28 Parents Evening: Year 11 (3.45 – 6.15pm)

OCTOBER 2017

Mon-Fri 16-20 Y11 Work Experience Week
 Thursday 19 Dimension Day 1 and Last Day of Term for Y7-13 (3.25pm Finish)
 Thursday 19 Y7-14 Meet the Tutor (4 – 5pm)
 Friday 20 Non-Pupil Day (INSET Day for Staff Only)
 Mon-Fri 23-27 October Half-Term Holiday
 Monday 30 Autumn Term 2 (Term 2) Begins for all students

NOVEMBER 2017

Tuesday 07 Curie House Day
 Thursday 09 Y11 Essentials Evening (4.30 – 6.30pm)
 Thursday 16 Parents Evening: Year 7 (3.45 – 6.15pm)
 Thursday 23 Parents Evening: Year 9 (3.45 – 6.15pm)
 Thursday 30 ND Sixth Open Evening (4.30 – 6.30pm)

DECEMBER 2017

Friday 01 Hepburn House Day
 Wednesday 13 Awards Celebration (4 – 7pm)
 Thursday 14 Christmas Concert (6.30 – 8.30pm)
 Friday 15 Last Day of Term for Y7-13 (3.25pm Finish)
 Mon-Mon 18 Dec-01 Jan Christmas Holidays

JANUARY 2017

Tuesday 02 Spring Term 1 (Term 3) Begins for all students

2017-18 Academic Year Term Dates - CONFIRMED

Autumn Term 2017

Term 1	4 th September 2017	–	INSET Day for staff only (non-pupil day)
	5 th September 2017	–	Y7 and Y12 only
	6 th September 2017	–	School starts for remaining year groups
	20 th September 2017	–	Early close for all students (1.40pm) for Open Evening prep
	19 th October 2017	–	Last day of term for students
	20 th October 2017	–	INSET Day for staff only (non-pupil day)
	21 st – 29 th October 2017	–	Half-term holiday
Term 2	30 th October 2017	–	School re-starts for all
	15th December 2017	–	Last day of term
	16th December – 1st 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