



# Notre Dame Plymouth

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Headteacher: Mrs Katherine White

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

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Dear Parents/Carers,

27<sup>th</sup> March 2018

We write to you to round up what a successful start to the New Year we have had here at Notre Dame and to share news stories with you which you may have missed.

Thank you for your cooperation during the adverse weather we experienced on 28<sup>th</sup> February which meant we had to initiate an early closure. We were able to enjoy a fun break time in the snow before making the decision to close the school to ensure that we did not compromise the safety of our students and staff and that all were able to get home before the weather worsened.



Thank you to all students and parents for your positive response to our uniform drive. So many girls have responded immediately to correct errors in their uniform helping them to look smart and adhere to our policy. A polite reminder that our policy states students are only allowed a single plain stud in the lower lobe of each ear (less than 5mm in diameter) and that no other piercings are allowed. We acknowledge that daughters put pressure on parents to allow them to have extra piercings but please say no. Once girls are in the sixth form there is no longer a uniform requirement – so they are able to have extra piercings at that point.



Following the letter you received on 14<sup>th</sup> March, you will know it is our **Mission Week** this week where students and staff will have the opportunity to come together and celebrate our school identity, community, Christian ethos and focus on our theme for this year '**Ah! Qu'il est bon, le bon Dieu**' which when translated means '**How Great is God!**'. Thank you to Mrs Casey and Mrs Bonard who have arranged for RISE Theatre to join and lead us in a wide variety of activities across the week. We will celebrate a whole school Mass with Bishop Mark and the Sacrament of Reconciliation from Fr. Jon and Fr. Oscar. If you haven't got your tickets for RISE Theatre's performance of their original play 'Romero – Heartbeat of El Salvador' just yet, ring

01752 775101 or visit [www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/risetheatre) to secure a seat. The performance takes place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Notre Dame, 7pm. We look forward to being able to share pictures and thoughts from students about the week in our next letter.

## Founders' Day and Dimension Day

Our Founder's Day was held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February this year and we celebrated St Julie in a whole school Mass said by Fr. Jon. St Julie founded a Religious Congregation dedicated to the education of girls and Sisters of Notre Dame have since worked to keep alive the educational ideals of St Julie across the world.

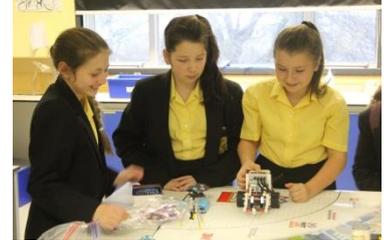
Dimension Day coincided with Founder's Day and students participated in a wide range of activities. Year 7 focused on Ubuntu and MFL for the day, Year 8 visited the Eden Project as part of their Geography curriculum, Year 9 looked at active leisure whilst Year 10 and 11 had specific intervention in preparation for their exams in English Spoken Language and Science respectively. Year 12 and 13 took part in a 'You're Hired' business challenge which saw them use strategic and creative methods to solve commercial problems. Well done to the winning group of students who will progress to the final in the Summer term where they will work with students from other schools across Plymouth to compete for the title of 'Plymouth's Most Employable 17 Year Old' along with many other awards. Good luck to them!

## Celebrating Achievements, Raising Aspirations and Rising to Challenges

Hopefully your daughter has shared with you our new system for rewarding good presentation of work. The new interactive and engaging scheme means teachers can reward students for having pride in their work by issuing them with a 'coin' to be placed into their respective House tube at Student Services. The House with the most coins deposited into their tube at the end of a full term will earn a reward for every student in the House. We hope this will continue the momentum of students taking pride in their work, completing class and homework to an excellent standard with fantastic presentation. Well done to all students who have received a coin so far, keep it up!

Lots of STEM events have taken place including a visit from the RAF who put on a STEM Education Roadshow for our Y8 and Y9 students and congratulations to our First Lego League team who won the Robot Programme and Design trophy at the Plymouth Regional Tournament held at City College. Our STEM Greenpower Car after-school club is all go - students have hands-on involvement in an engineering project to build an electronic car kit.

Year 9 and 10 students visited the Skills South West Show this month to find out more about the career pathway options available to them, speak with potential employers, receive advice and guidance from professionals and to take part in practical demonstrations.



Left: Skills Southwest Show  
Above: First Lego League

At the end of March, students attended the Higher Education Fair to help them to begin their decision making process about higher education; where they might study, which courses they are interested in and they were able to listen to informative seminars about student finance, the application process including applications to Oxbridge and specific subject seminars. The fair is organised by UCAS and professional advice from over 100 universities and colleges is on offer to students.

## Senior Student Leadership Team

Student Leadership is very important to us at Notre Dame as we feel it gives students the experience and skills they need to go on and be future leaders of the world! There are plenty of opportunities for students to put themselves forward for such roles throughout their school career. Thank you to Izzy, Joseph and Elise (top right) for their commitment to their roles in the SSLT over the last year. They have been fabulous role models and engaged so well with our younger students. Well done to their successors, Jess, Toby and Erin (bottom right), who were voted for by staff and students in January and will lead the Spiritual, Study and Social committee respectively. They will also help to lead school events such as Open Evening and Awards Evening and will communicate with their peers and students in all year groups to further enhance the school experience for all.



## International School

To help us maintain our International School award status into the next academic year, a group of Y8 students have been selected to enrol in the 'Language Leader' Award due to their high attainment levels in MFL for which they will receive a certificate upon completion. They will undertake a 6 week Chinese language and culture course and also have the opportunity to take part in other activities and events such as helping to run taster days for primary school students to encourage them to study languages.



## Parking

Please be considerate of our neighbours when dropping off/collecting your child and ensure you are parking safely and legally whilst you wait for them. We understand that Notre Dame Close and the surrounding residential roads can become very busy at peak times and would appreciate your help in making these areas as safe as possible by parking a little further afield which would involve just a short walk to the car. We are most grateful for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of our students and local residents.

## Uniform

Please see Page 4 of this letter which details important changes to our uniform policy as of September 2018.

## Easter

Good luck to our Gold DofE team who set off from Princetown, Dartmoor for their practice expedition over the Easter weekend. They have planned their route for the four days and will be camping each evening. We ask that our community please keep them in their thoughts and prayers and hope for good weather!

Another trip departing over the Easter break is our annual American Exchange programme with Notre Dame Academy, Hingham, Boston, MA, USA. 13 students will be accompanied by Miss Hunns and Miss McCulloch and each student will be hosted by a ND family. They will have the opportunity to attend American high school, take part in daily school activities and extra-curricular clubs and visit Plymouth where the Pilgrim Fathers first settled. We hope they have a fantastic time experiencing what life is like for a young person in America.

## Revision

Revision session programmes for GCSE students have been published detailing lunchtime and after-school sessions and we know students have been working hard and attending these to help best prepare them for their upcoming exams. Please ensure your child uses the Easter Holidays wisely and encourage them to plan sufficient time for revision across the two weeks. We hope your daughter has signed up to attend the Easter holiday revision sessions run by our teachers; they will be extremely valuable to your daughter. The last day to book and pay for a place on a revision session is Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

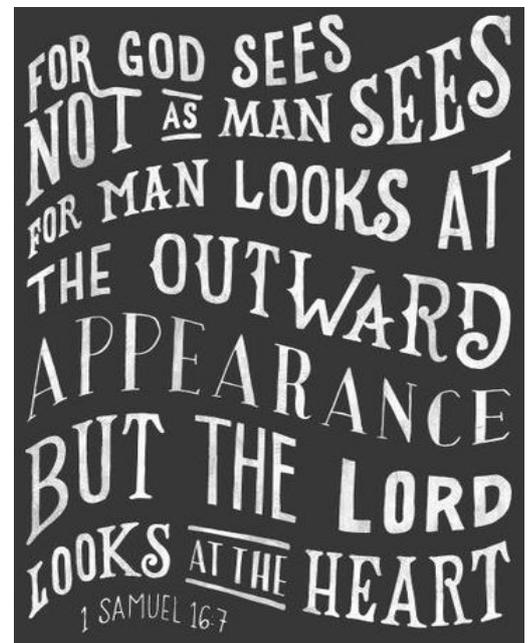
Our last day of term is tomorrow, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 with a 3.25pm finish. We all return to school on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018. More important dates for your diary are listed on Page 5.

We hope you have a happy and holy Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

*K M White*

Mrs K White  
Headteacher



## Uniform

You may be aware that the school uniform will be changing **for the new Year 7 students joining us in September 2018 only. This means that all current students** (Year 7-11) wearing our black blazer, black pleated skirt or black trousers with a coloured shirt dependant on their year group (Y7 – Gold, Y8 – Blue, Y9 – Green, Y10+11 – White) **will be able to wear this uniform for the rest of their time with us at ND.** We understand that it would be too expensive to expect parents to change their daughter's uniform mid-way through their schooling. Please remember that once your daughter reaches the end of Year 9 she will switch to wear a white revere collar blouse for Years 10 and 11. The local uniform shops currently stock the black blazers embroidered with the ND badge, once these stocks have been depleted they advise that they will send blazers away for embroidery at the time of order which means in future you will need to order blazers allowing for additional time for this to happen.

We are going to phase the new uniform in, year by year for each new Year 7 cohort so that eventually, in five years' time, the whole school will be wearing our new uniform. We're so excited to be able to identify with other Notre Dame schools in the U.K and America by using the 'Holyrood' tartan for our new skirts which their students wear.

If you have a daughter who will be joining us in Year 7 in September 2018, please note that the Notre Dame school's kilt is made bespoke for the pupils of our school and is manufactured in prescribed lengths that the school would like all pupils to wear. The uniform's retailers have been instructed accordingly. If you feel that your child may require a special waist size or length please speak to the school and request permission to order special sizes. Orders for specified sizes need to be received by 31<sup>st</sup> March to guarantee delivery for the start of the new term in September.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY 2018-19**

ALL students are expected to wear the correct uniform and for it to be kept neat and clean. The items are part of your daughter's school equipment and should be clearly labelled with her name. All items are available at the The Schoolwear Shop and Trutex.

### **For Year 7 joining in September 2018**

#### **Main Uniform:**

##### **Available from The Schoolwear Shop and Trutex only;**

- Banner Signature blazer in Navy with school badge
- Banner Kelso Skirt in Holyrood Fabric, sitting on or just below the knee. Or;
- Banner Signature Girls Contemporary trouser in Navy.

##### **Available from other retailers**

- A short-sleeved open necked White uniform blouse (plain style, no pocket)
- Navy or Black tights, or white ankle socks (trainer socks are not permitted)
- Plain flat black shoes (not boots or backless styles)

##### Optional:

- TBC

If an outdoor coat or jacket is worn it should be plain.



### **For Years 8 – 11**

#### **Main Uniform:**

- Mid-black, knife-pleated, knee length skirt or black trousers (trutex style JWT 446)
- A short-sleeved open necked uniform blouse. (Colour by Year group)
- Black blazer and badge: compulsory for all students
- White or black socks or black tights (trainer socks may not be worn)
- Plain flat black shoes (not boots or backless styles)

##### Optional:

- Black cardigan or Black V-neck jumper

If an outdoor coat or jacket is worn it should be plain.

### **For all year groups**

#### **PE Uniform:**

- ND Sports Top with badge: compulsory for all students
- ND Sports Hoodie with badge: compulsory for all students
- Black sports bottoms (leggings, shorts or tracksuit)
- A pair of training shoes, suitable for Physical Education

Students' own equipment is encouraged for use during P.E. but must be named clearly and looked after by the student.

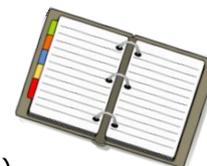
**Jewellery** – students may only wear a watch, one house band or charity band and a single plain stud in the lower lobe of each ear (less than 5 mm in diameter). No other piercings are allowed.

Make-up is not allowed in Year 7 to 11: this includes nail varnish.

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

*NO jewellery is to be worn for P.E. All valuables are to be kept in the student's locker and are the student's responsibility.*

## Important Dates for your diary



### **MARCH 2018**

Mon-Wed	26-28	Mission Week
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
Wednesday	25	Y5 Primary Links Humanities Day

### **MAY 2018**

Monday	07	School Closed – May Bank Holiday
Tuesday	08	School re-starts for all
Friday	11	Nightingale House Day
Friday	25	Last Day of Term for Y7-13 (3.25pm Finish)
Mon-Fri	28 May-01 Jun	May Half-term

### **JUNE 2018**

Monday	04	Summer Term 1 (Term 6) Begins for all students
Monday	11	Y5 Primary Links Performing Arts Day
Thursday	28	Summer Open Afternoon
Thursday	28	Y11 Prom

### **JULY 2018**

Wednesday	04	New Y7 Induction Day (8.45am – 3.25pm)
Wednesday	04	New Y7 Induction Evening (for parents) (4.00 – 6.00pm)
Thursday	05	Sports Day
Friday	06	Stang House Day
Friday	13	Dimension Day 3
Tue-Thu	17-19	Summer Concert (Timings TBC)
Friday	20	Last Day of Term for Y7-13 (3.25pm Finish)

## 2017-18 Academic Year Term Dates

### Spring Term 2018

28 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	–	Last day of term for students
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	–	INSET Day for staff only (non-pupil day)
30 <sup>th</sup> March – 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	–	Easter holiday

### Summer Term 2018

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

## 2018-19 Academic Year Term Dates

Term 1	4 September 2018	–	19 October 2018
Term 2	29 October 2018	–	21 December 2018
Term 3	7 January 2019	–	15 February 2019
Term 4	25 February 2019	–	5 April 2019
Term 5	23 April 2019	–	24 May 2019
Term 6	3 June 2019	–	19 July 2019