



Notre Dame Plymouth

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Headteacher: Mrs Katherine White

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

13th December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we near the end of a busy Autumn Term, I wanted to write to share all of our good news stories with you.

Thank you all for responding so positively to our new procedures for visitors to the school site, implemented from 5th November. We know that the changes will improve our ability to safeguard the students further and we appreciate your cooperation. Below is an excerpt of the letter sent on 1st November; a quick reference guide to the new changes. If you require further information, please visit our website to see the full version of the letter, posted under the 'Information' then 'Letters' tab, or your email inbox dated 1st November.

Excerpt from letter dated 1st November 2018

Quick Reference Guide to new procedure for parent/carer and visitor admission to school site

- For admission to the school site parents, carers and visitors should have a pre-booked appointment to see a named member of staff
- To drop-off items parents and carers will be met at the drop-off/collection point by a member of staff
- Students with needs that require them to have special arrangements will be managed by the SEND team.
- To collect an unwell child following a call from a staff member, students will be accompanied to the drop off/collection point by a member of student services staff.
- First Aiders will identify students with emergency health episodes. First Aiders will contact parents/carers and direct site and reception staff, as appropriate.

Parent View – Another plea!

Thank you to those who have already given their positive feedback of our school. As you'll be aware, we are due to be re-inspected by Ofsted this academic year and they will ask us to gather views of parents on the day of their inspection but we would be grateful if you could complete the very brief Parent View survey of 12 multiple choice questions online at this point to ensure we receive a high response rate. We do really hope that you are pleased with us and that you will support us by responding positively, but whatever your view is, it is important to gather it! If you have any concerns or queries, we would like for you to contact us so we can help to resolve any issues in a timely manner prior to you completing the survey.

To complete the Parent View survey:

- Visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk
- Register or Log In
- If you are registering for the first time, they will send a link to your email address to create a new password
- They will ask you to enter your child's school name
- Follow instructions on the screen to complete the survey



Promoting Christian Attitudes

World Kindness Day

This took place on 13th November, during Anti-bullying week which was well-supported at Notre Dame. Activities took place each day during tutor time to highlight issues surrounding bullying and encouraging all of our students to 'Choose Respect'.

On World Kindness Day all of our teachers were armed with stickers to give out during the school day when they witnessed an act of kindness by a student. We hope your daughter will have returned home from school that day with at least one sticker – but hopefully more. It was a real celebration of the kind and caring community we have at school.



Advent

Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the arrival of Jesus on Christmas Day. Thank you to Mrs Casey who has shared CAFOD's online advent calendar with us which reminds us that 'no one is beyond the reach of God's love'. You can find it here: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-Calendar>. Tutors will use this resource throughout December with our students to encourage them to discover how they can reach out in love and bring the gift of hope to our world. Each door opened offers a prayer and reflection for the day. Here is today's:

"I will make rivers well up on barren heights, and fountains in the midst of valleys; turn the wilderness into a lake and dry ground into waterspring."
Isaiah 41:13-20

Advent prayer

God of life, quench my thirst for love, for mercy, for justice.
Lead me to share with others, so no one goes thirsty.
Amen.

Christmas Celebrations

Our annual carol service takes place this year on Thursday 20th December at 6.30pm with an approx. finish time of 7.45pm. If you'd like to join us, please phone Reception to express your interest so we can manage the number of attendees. In the case of Y7 parents, please return the reply slip on the letter which was issued and emailed in November. Please note that no tickets will be issued and seats will not be numbered. Christmas stalls, refreshments and a raffle sale will begin from 5pm – 6.15pm. We look forward to sharing our celebration with you as we begin our spiritual journey towards Christmas.



Rises to Challenges

Green power Car

Well done to our Greenpower car team and Miss Lowry who have now completed the construction of the car and tested it on the field! The test was mostly a success; with a few issues to work on to make sure the car is as efficient as possible. The team will be racing the car in the summer term with the aim to do as many loops of a circuit in an hour and a half as possible. Before then they will be training up their drivers and pit team, testing and tweaking the design and practicing race tactics. Students have shown great enthusiasm and resilience throughout the project and have made the frame, fitted the steering and electrics, completed the body work and decided on aesthetics such as paint colours.

Y11 Essentials Evening

Thank you to all the parents and students who supported this event. It was a very informative session for all on the next step of your child's school journey. Students were given materials on top revision techniques, important exam preparation and how to look after themselves during this busy time. If you were unable to attend this event, please contact your daughter's tutor to ensure you don't miss out on this vital information. All of the power points used during this event were emailed out to parents and students so check your mail boxes!

Dimension Day

Once every big term we collapse normal lessons for students to partake in Dimension Day – an opportunity to engage in practical activities surrounding curriculum related subjects. Our Year 7s spent the day at Dartmoor Zoo to learn about conservation, wildlife protection methods and animal adaptations – part of the KS3 Science curriculum. Year 8 students' day was based around technology and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) whilst Year 9 looked at R.S. Year 10 had a day focused on sex and relationships, learning about a variety of associated topics with tips on how to stay safe online. Year 11 were on Work Experience - details below. Year 12 students looked at leadership and employability skills such as effective communication and organisation in a course run by Mr Turner. Students have now been asked to help run activities during tutor time. Last but not least, a group of Year 12 and 13 students visited Plymouth University for a Health Careers taster day.

Got a flair for writing? Enter the 2018 Notre Dame Poetry Competition! Entries are open to all year groups and poems should be a maximum of 400 characters. Poets are limited to one entry but all forms and types of poetry are welcome. Send in your masterpieces via the link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOJTf28_-dMkZb3CeL8FXyIxSv8XfC2NiZQ5F2nC7YxhtGA/viewform?usp=sf_link by 23:59 on Friday 14th December. Winners will be announced in the end of term celebration assembly. Good luck!

Where Every Person Belongs

Gen Verde

Congratulations to all of our students and staff who participated in the Gen Verde 'Start Now' project. A group of 12 international artists and performers visited Notre Dame in November and spent less than a week with Notre Dame and St Boniface students hosting workshops and rehearsals for a final performance piece which was held in our Sports Hall on Friday 9th November. Gen Verde's purpose is to offer our students the opportunity to break down barriers of prejudice and celebrate diversity, peace, collaboration and self-esteem. Students participated in

drumming, singing, dancing, acts alongside members of Gen Verde and performed to a large audience from our school and local community, including Father's from close-by Parishes.

We have received an abundance of messages of praise and thanks for providing our students with a once in a lifetime opportunity and for the professional nature of the performance. Well done to all of the students involved and thank you to the Gen Verde team and ND staff for organising such a successful show.



Values Learning and High Aspirations

Bar Mock Trial

Thank you to Jess, Year 10 for this write-up on the competition:

On the 10th November a group of 15 willing students ditched their standard Saturday plans to spend their day in the Plymouth Combined Court after months of preparation for the Bar Mock Trial. The group consisting of a jury, barristers, witnesses, ushers and clerks worked hard to perfect their role thus gaining valuable experience and unique skills. All the students came back feeling accomplished and inspired despite the prior lack of knowledge. The team did incredibly well for Notre Dame's first attempt, although they didn't get through to the final they won two out of three rounds and intend to win the national finals next year.

Mrs Morgan and Mrs Slade emphasised, "They rose to the occasion and adopted the role of legal professional in a very daunting setting in front of real judges. They were amazing ambassadors for Notre Dame in what is a very prestigious and highly competitive competition." Congratulations to all the students involved.



Work Experience

As part of our work related learning offering, Year 11 students all spent one week in October in a work placement to experience first-hand what the world of work entails. Students chose their placements and were located across Plymouth and further afield with a wide variety of employers including The National Trust, Plymouth Community Homes, local schools, shops and care homes. Work experience is an important aspect of the curriculum as it prepares students for life beyond school, encourages them to build good working relationships with others whilst growing their knowledge and practical skills. On many occasions students have left a work experience placement with the offer of a job! Well done to all our Year 11s.

Celebrates Achievement

Congratulations to Lola, Year 9 who received a certificate from Young Writers celebrating her 'Talent for Writing'. Her poem named 'If I were a unicorn' is going to be published in a Young Writers' Anthology book.



Lola, Year 9

Young Carers

Miss Rogers, our SENDCO, two of our LSA's, Mrs Brady and Miss Badesha and three of our past and present Young Carers, Chloe, Katie and Quiana were thrilled to take part in the Young Carers' Conference on 8th November 2018 in Plymouth that raised awareness as well as money for our own Young Carers.

They manned an eye-catching stand which featured a large display created by Miss Badesha and a poster that demonstrated a day in the life of a Young Carer. Visitors to the stand were also able to enjoy Mrs Brady's homemade and beautifully packaged sweet treats. They

raised £45 which will be used to provide trips and treats for our Young Carers group.

The event was enjoyed by all, especially our Young Carers who relished in the opportunity to talk to others with similar life experiences while our staff members networked with professionals and took notes on the latest thinking on how best to support the group. Miss Rogers said 'it was an honour to be able to demonstrate our commitment to these amazing young people in front of the Lord Mayor of Plymouth and Lisa Cornish, the passionate and inspiring organiser of the event'.



International School Award

Well done and thank you to Mrs Hanks who has worked extremely hard to renew our status as an 'International School' awarded by the British Council. Mrs Hanks travelled to London on 5th December to be presented with the 'International School Award' for 2018-19 by the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, Secretary of State for Education who gave a speech about the importance of international work in education. Mrs Hanks had a tour of the House of Commons by Luke Pollard MP and had the opportunity to see Brexit being debated.



The award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in International Education. To achieve it, Mrs Hanks has organised many events, collaborations with schools in different countries, exchange opportunities and has led the Language Leader Award scheme. In the Summer Term (July 2018) we welcomed 33 students from Beijing 171 High School, China who spent time with our students learning about each other's culture and enjoying an English cream tea in the sunshine! A fantastic week was had by all.



Staffing Update

We say goodbye to Mrs Hird, Cleaner, Mrs Thomson, Maths teacher and Mrs Morgan-Hosey, Subject Leader for MFL who are leaving us at the end of this term to begin new ventures. We thank them for their many years of service at Notre Dame (Mrs Morgan-Hosey has worked here for nearly 20 years!) and wish them all the best of luck.

Mrs Hanks will take over from Mrs Morgan-Hosey as Subject Leader for MFL and Miss Hart will take on responsibility for Nightingale House. Congratulations to both on their new appointments. We hope they enjoy the challenge these new roles will bring. We will welcome Miss Martinez, MFL teacher and Ms Lardelli, Faculty Leader – Science (maternity cover) to Notre Dame in January.

Important Notices

A reminder to all students and parents that **aerosols are not permitted** in school under any circumstances. We have recently had further cases of staff requiring a 999 response as a result of students using spray deodorants – even by non-asthma sufferers. Please remember that aerosols can be very dangerous and consider others' health before choosing to bring an aerosol into school. If you feel you need to bring deodorant to school, it should be of a roll-on nature to prevent this happening again and to adhere to school rules. We all need to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of our school community.

To help ensure the safety of our students when they are arriving or departing school please can we remind all parents/carers that they should not park in the turning bays or wait in Notre Dame Close during peak times (8.15-9.30am and 3-4pm). These are specifically for school buses and we have had many occasions recently when buses have been unable to enter our school site due to the number of parked cars here. Alternative drop off and collection points should be arranged with your daughter. Many parents choose to drop off or collect their child from nearby residential streets or the B&Q car park, all just a short walk away. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of our students.

Our last day of term is on Friday 21st December 2018 and all students will finish at 3.25pm. We will be holding a 'Christmas Mufti' on this day. This year it will be pre-arranged so as to be able to come to school in Christmas mufti, students must have obtained a note of permission in their planner from a parent/carer and donated their £1 prior to the day. Charity Ambassadors will be at Student Services every tutor time to tick students off the list to confirm that a note has been seen and donation paid. 'Save the Children' charity will be the recipients of all donations. A Christmas Jumper competition will be held at lunch time!

Please note that our school is completely closed to all students and staff over the Christmas period (Saturday 22nd December 2018 – Sunday 6th January 2019). Our info@ndonline.org email inbox is not monitored during periods of school closures and any messages received during this time will be actioned when the school re-opens on Monday 7th January 2019. Likewise, we respect the need for and encourage a healthy work-life balance and therefore, our staff are not required to check or respond to emails during periods of school closure.

Some 'Important Dates for your Diary' are posted overleaf, including details of upcoming Parents' Evenings.

Wishing all of the Notre Dame community a holy, peaceful and joy-filled Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you are able to share special moments with your family and friends whilst remembering the true meaning of this special time of year.



We will look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Monday 7th January 2019.

Yours sincerely,

K M White
Mrs K White
Headteacher

Advent Wreath Prayer

*Emmanuel, God-with-us,
In anticipation and hope this Advent season,
We look forward to Christmas Day
As we prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts.*

*As we reflect on the past year,
We ask Your forgiveness
For those times we failed to live according to your will.
Forgive us for failing to welcome the stranger,
For walking past a person in need,
For remaining complacent in the face of injustice,
For praying to You only in times of trouble,
For doubting Your word,
For acting out of self-interest,
And for closing our hearts.*

*Illuminate for us the path of righteousness
As we light these candles in Your name.
Set our hearts aflame,
So that we too may go forth and set the world on fire.
Call us to serve the common good,
Ground us in your presence,
And renew our spirits.*

*On this Advent journey,
We are reminded of your love and mercy,
We give you thanks for bringing Light into the world,
And we rejoice in the promise of everlasting life.*

Amen



Important Dates for your diary

DECEMBER 2018

Wednesday	19	Awards Celebration (4 – 7pm)
Thursday	20	Christmas Celebrations – Carol Service (6.30 – 7.45pm approx.)
Friday	21	Last Day of Term for Y7-13 (3.25pm Finish), Christmas Mufti
Mon-Fri	24 Dec-04 Jan	Christmas Holidays

JANUARY 2019

Monday	07	Spring Term 1 (Term 3) Begins for all students
Wednesday	09	Y5 Primary Links: Maths Challenge Day
Monday	21	Y5 Primary Links: Science Day
Thursday	24	Y8 Options Evening (4.30 – 6.30pm)

FEBRUARY 2019

Monday	04	Parks House Day
Tuesday	05	Y5 Primary Links: Creative Day
Thursday	07	Parents' Evening: Year 8 (3.45 – 6.15pm)
Thursday	14	Dimension Day 2
Thursday	14	Last Day of Term for Y7-13 (3.25pm Finish)
Friday	15	Non-pupil Day (Spirituality Day for Staff)
Mon-Fri	18-22	February Half-Term Holiday
Monday	25	Spring Term 2 (Term 4) Begins for all students
Tuesday	26	Y5 Primary Links: Languages Day

MARCH 2019

Tuesday	05	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday	06	Ash Wednesday
Thursday	14	Parents' Evening: KS5 (3.45 – 6.15pm)
Monday	18	Y5 Primary Links: Retreat Day
Thursday	21	Parents' Evening: Year 10 (3.45 – 6.15pm)

APRIL 2019

Friday	05	Last Day of Term for Y7-13 (3.25pm Finish)
Mon – Fri	08-19	Easter Holidays
Friday	19	Bank Holiday – Good Friday
Sunday	21	Easter Sunday
Monday	22	Bank Holiday – Easter Monday
Tuesday	23	Summer Term 1 (Term 5) Begins

Term Dates 2018/2019 Academic Year

Autumn Term 2	21 Dec 2018	Last day of term for all (3.25pm Finish)
	Holiday: 22 December – 6 January 2019	
Spring Term 3	7 Jan 2019	School starts for all
	14 Feb 2019	Last day of term for students (3.25pm Finish)
	15 Feb 2019	Non-pupil day
	Holiday: 16 – 24 February 2019	
Spring Term 4	25 Feb 2019	School starts for all
	5 Apr 2019	Last day of term for all (3.25pm Finish)
	Holiday: 6 – 22 April 2019	
Summer Term 5	23 Apr 2019	School starts for all
	6 May 2019	School closed - Bank Holiday Monday
	24 May 2019	Last day of term for all (3.25pm Finish)
	Holiday: 25 May – 2 June 2019	
Summer Term 6	3 Jun 2019	School starts for all
	19 Jul 2019	Last day of term for all (3.25pm Finish)
	22/23 & 24 Jul 2019	Non-pupil days