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20th October 2023

'Be a light for all to see' Matthew 5:16



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of an enjoyable and successful first half term, we wanted to thank you all for your continued support and share with you our news and achievements across Notre Dame and St. Boniface's College this term. This year our theme is taken from Pope Francis' homily delivered at the World Youth Day mass in Lisbon this summer. His message to over one million young people was "**Carry on; I want to tell you, keep riding the waves of love.**"

Our students have embraced the theme in their tutorials, lessons and in collective worship. On their recent residential retreat to Buckfast Abbey, our St. Boniface's College year 7 students certainly surfed those waves of love by praying for our community and the world, and by enjoying some wonderful opportunities to bond in their newly

founded brotherhood. Our Notre Dame year 7 students can look forward to their retreat in the summer term.

Spirit of God, give to each member of the Notre Dame and St Boniface's community the gifts of courage, justice, wisdom and self-control, so that we may ride the waves of love, and instil in us a sense of awe and wonder as we live our lives filled with faith, hope and charity.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.



Year 7 Residential Retreat - Buckfast Abbey

As part of our St Boniface's year 7 welcome programme we hold a residential retreat in the first term.

This retreat is designed to bring the young people closer together, enhancing community spirit between them and aiding them in their own spiritual development.

This shared experience will help to develop a long lasting relationship that will be carried through their lives at our College and beyond.

Many of the St. Boniface's College old boys still talk about the retreats and the happy times at Buckfast creating great memories. Students enjoyed a variety of crafts including stained glass jar painting, meditation, story telling, team building games and challenges and a beautiful walk of the gardens and grounds of the Abbey and prayers. This was followed by pizza and hot chocolates. What wonderful memories.



Talent for Writing

Congratulations to year 9 students who entered the Young Writer's competition and have received awards for crafting a piece of creative writing inspired by the theme 'Unsolved'. Well done, especially, to those students whose work was selected for publication. Be inspired to keep writing by attending the 'Creative Writing' workshop every Tuesday lunch week A for KS3, and week B for KS4, in S1.

Summer Writing Challenge

A huge congratulations to the Yr 7 students that took part in the summer challenge. This year's response was fantastic and the quality of work and effort superb. All students that took part have been rewarded with a bounty of house points, prizes and either a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate commending their achievement. Outstanding entries came from Ellie-Louise Smethurst, Alexa Parks, Chloe Heartly, Susannah Ingram and Skyler-Morgan Kavanagh. Well done - what a fabulous start to your ND journey!



European Week of Languages



European Week of Languages at Notre Dame & St. Boniface's College was celebrated on 25th-29th September. This week started off with a European themed bake-off, with lots of participation and amazing recipes.

Assemblies for all year groups on the importance of celebrating the many nationalities and different languages that are spoken in our schools, tutor time activities, a photo competition, a screening of two short films

and a Treasure Hunt.

We would like to thank all the students, the staff, and the Language Leaders for letting us celebrate cultural diversity and learn from others' experiences.



U14 Netball Tournament

The Year 8 team played in the U14 preseason netball tournament where they were faced with some tough opponents that were mostly Yr9. The students put up a great fight and developed some brilliant game play throughout the tournament. This tournament gave them good practice for the upcoming fixtures for the rest of the season. Well done to Katy and Holly for being awarded players of the tournament.



Best Friends Forever



In September, we were privileged enough to act as hosts to award winning young adult novelist author, Lisa Williamson, who shared her brand new title, Best Friends Forever. Lisa led the students through some fun-filled activities and shared the inspiration behind her books to get their creative minds flowing.

Students were also treated to an animated book reading from Best Friends Forever, after which students had the chance to purchase a signed copy ahead of the release date. If you want a giggle and to find out how ordinary kids create extraordinary stories, this is one for you!

Ready Steady Cook

The year 10 GCSE Food students had the opportunity to learn about potential career opportunities within the Royal Navy.

The Royal Navy Catering Services Branch ran a 'Ready Steady Cook' session where the students worked in teams to produce Chicken & Vegetable Risotto and Sticky Toffee Puddings. Well done for all your hard work.



Careers Fun

Year 10 St. Boniface's College students attended the Launchpad Skills and Careers Show which featured a variety of exhibitors including top Employers, Universities, Colleges, Apprenticeship opportunities and Training Providers.

Year 11 careers and post 16 assemblies have welcomed so far this term:

Sharron Robbie from ASK Awareness talking about Apprenticeships



The British Army, Next Steps South West - talking about Level 3 options and various routes to University, Discovery College, Access Creative College, Careers South West, Access Creative College, Devon and Cornwall Police.

Sky Up

Years 8, 9 and 10 joined the Sky Zero team to produce media campaigns to encourage people to #GoZero.

Students created a new media campaign using Sky's cutting edge technology to encourage people to make a small environmentally friendly change.



Work Experience

Year 11 Notre Dame students had work experience during the last week of term with a wide range of placements including construction, hospitality, education and engineering. The feedback we have received so far from employers has been fabulous. The students have conducted themselves with enthusiasm and maturity and found the placements to be a worthwhile experience. The students concluded this week with a reflection on their placements.

Geography Field Trip - Dawlish Warren

As part of the GCSE Geography course the Year 11 Geographers went to Dawlish Warren for the day. They were looking at the effectiveness of groynes and

evaluating the coastal management techniques that are used there. The data collected will help to support them in their GCSE exam in the summer.



Space For Everyone



A 72ft replica rocket landed at Plymouth's Piazza earlier this month to help inspire the next generation to help Britain take part in the rejuvenated Space Race. The UK Space Agency's "Space for Everyone" rocket is part of a STEAM Outreach Programme which has a mission to encourage people to pursue careers in the UK space industry and they are keen to welcome those from under-represented groups.



15 Year 7 students visited the replica LauncherOne rocket in Plymouth City Centre. The trip included a tour of the colossal 72 ft. replica of the LauncherOne rocket, virtual reality experiences, access to careers advice from local space professionals and a variety of fun and educational space-related activities.

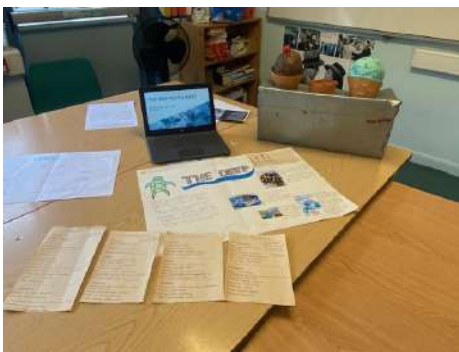
Dimension Day

The last day of term was a Dimension Day in both schools where the normal curriculum is collapsed and students undertake a series of enrichment activities. Year 7 looked at culture with 'Day of the Dead' a Mexican tradition, this involved art, geography, cooking, languages and dance.



Year 8 explored the continent of Asia, creating Top Trumps cards, escape room challenges, sports, art and creativity.

Year 9 at Notre Dame worked with the RS department to explore a range of moral issues, including is one human life worth more than another. Students at St. Boniface's College worked with the Science department for the day undertaking a range of experiments and activities to enrich their science knowledge



Year 10 students at both schools had an enterprise day where they were tasked to work in small groups to create a concept for a new restaurant in Plymouth.

Year 11 came together at Notre Dame to explore steps to success over the coming academic year, this included time management, interview

techniques and reflection on employability.

Year 12 had a simulation of a disaster scenario unfolding in Plymouth, they were required to apply skills such as critical thinking, teamwork, observation skills and working to deadlines.



Year 13 worked on their personal statements to support them in their next steps.

Notre Dame Awards Evening

This term started off with our annual Awards Evening at Notre Dame.

It was a wonderful evening filled with positive energy and praise.

It was great to bring students, families and teachers together, and welcome back familiar faces of past students to learn about their next steps after leaving Notre Dame, as well as congratulating your current students on their outstanding achievements. Well done!



We look forward to St. Boniface's College Awards Celebration taking place on **Wednesday 15th November 2023**. Students who have won an award and their families have been contacted with an invitation to attend.

School Uniform Donations

We would like to ask for your support in an initiative we are launching to support families who may be experiencing a degree

of financial difficulty. The cost of school uniform is continually rising and replacing lost, old, or outgrown school clothing can be a considerable financial burden for many families.

We are inviting families to donate any outgrown/unused school blazers, jumpers, skirts, trousers and school branded PE kit so that we can redistribute to families who may need them. If you would like to kindly donate Notre Dame or St. Boniface's school uniform please deliver items to the school reception. We would like to thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.



Sporting Success



Earlier this term, Notre Dame student Ewa Glod participated in the ITF Invitational Tournament and she got two medals, gold and silver. What an achievement!

On Friday 29 September, our new school Sport Leaders had their first conference.

The day included year 9 students from across Plymouth. The day was filled with events including, festivals (game playing), leadership skills (umpiring games), presentation skills and teamwork. The conference started with a speech from Mr Turner about what it takes to become a Sports Leader and essential qualities. The Sport Leader job

can last from year 9 to year 11. It is a fun, exciting and very active role. If students are interested in becoming a Sports Leader please see the PE Department.



Senior Student Leadership Team

At the start of the new school year we welcomed a new Senior Student Leadership Team. Welcome to Darcie, Amelia and Simon. Well done to our Senior Student Leadership Team who have displayed one of our school virtues, fortitude, stepping up to the role already supporting in events this term.

Review by our Senior Leadership Team

Mr Antram - Executive Headteacher

It has been good to meet many of you at various events so far this term. Your children are a credit to you, and I have been impressed to see how they are growing in their learning and as young adults through the support of our brilliant staff team.

The views of various external improvement advisors who have visited this term have also confirmed the significant advances already being made on multiple aspects of our provision as we strive to create the very best centres for learning possible.

Thank you to the many parents who have contributed to evolving parent-voice processes. We will shortly be in contact to let you know what we are doing about what you have told us you would like to see developing. Thank you also for the many many affirmations of our schools - we deeply appreciate the support that you give us in our work. .

Mr Clift - Head of School, St. Boniface's College

As we come to the end of a busy and successful half term, I wanted to thank you all for your continued support. It has been a pleasure to welcome the students back this term and in particular, the new Year 7's, who have made a fantastic start to secondary school. At the start of the term I wrote to you asking for your support with 3 key areas, Attendance and Punctuality, Uniform and Equipment and Behaviour and Conduct.

I have been immensely impressed with how the students have responded to our new behaviour policy this term and it has been great to see such engagement with learning across the year groups. It has been a pleasure to see so many students embracing the lotus of new opportunities throughout the term, ranging from the Sailing club, Sky up initiative, Year 7 Retreats, PE clubs and fixtures and many more which are covered within this newsletter.

I am wishing you a restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 30th October.

Mrs Morgan - Head of School, Notre Dame

I hope that you enjoy our end of term newsletter. As you read through the pages and see a lot of what has been happening at our school, I am sure you will be impressed with how many opportunities are available to our young people to support and extend the curriculum. What you see is just a snapshot of a busy but exciting start to the new academic year.

We were delighted to be able to welcome back our Year 11 and Year 13 leavers for Awards Evening where we celebrated their exam successes alongside the effort and achievements of our younger students.

Thank you for your support with the new behaviour system and with our raised expectations of uniform. As the colder months approach, please remember that students may wear a navy blue or grey v neck jumper; the ND hoody may only be worn for PE lessons.

We wish you a safe and restful half term break and look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Monday 30th October which will be week B.





Notre Dame Plymouth and St Boniface's Catholic College



Christmas Card Competition 2023



Theme: Waves of Love

Quotes to inspire you:

Christmas is the feast of love incarnate and born for us in Jesus Christ. He is the light of mankind shining in the darkness, giving meaning to human existence and to the whole of history

- Pope Francis

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Please hand entries in to Mr Branca by 13 November 2023

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

The winner also has their card printed and sent out as the schools' official Christmas Card!

Extra Curricular Clubs Autumn Term

Notre Dame

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school		Book and Brioche-Library			
Break 1		Language Leaders - S7 (Week B)			Friday Foundation - Year 11 Maths
Break 2	Language Leaders - S7 (Week A) ND Play	ND Play KS3 Creative writing (S1 RP) Week A KS4 Week B	Y7 Drama Club L11/L12 Wednesday Top UP - Year 11 Maths Higher Bootcamp/circuits CNAT Coursework support	Leadership Academy	Year 7 netball club
After school	Homework/Fitness Club-Library HSC/CD Catch Up Sewing Club - all years G13 (SF & TF)	Homework/Fitness Club-Library Year 10/11 Netball	Homework/Fitness Club-Library Year 8&9 Netball	Plymouth Argyle football club Trampolining club	Y11 C1 Creative Log Support



Extra Curricular Clubs Autumn Term

St. Boniface's College

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school		Fitness RCO	Fitness RCO	Fitness RCO	
Break 1		MKC Heroes A24			Art Club ICA G163
Break 2	Art Club ICA G163 Chess Club JQU E114	Spanish Club JNM A26	Careers Club - Library RLH		Computer Club JQU E114
After school	Table Tennis RCO+KFC Main hall Homework Club-LFLC	Year 8+9 Rugby RCO Homework Club-LFLC	Year 8+9 Football AB Year 7 Rugby RCO Homework Club-LFLC	Year 7 Football AB Year 10 + 11 Football TLD Homework Club-LFLC	Inclusion Sport AB

