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19th December 2023

***"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.
Yes, it is Christmas everytime you smile at your brother and offer him your hand."
Mother Teresa***



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of an enjoyable and successful 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.

RISE Theatre - 'The Masterpiece'

The inspirational RISE Theatre visited our Sixth Form students to deliver a retreat day 'The Masterpiece' filled with interactive presentations, drama and workshops. It was a positive, faith filled and reflective experience for both staff and students.



**"For we are God's masterpiece.
He has created us anew in Christ Jesus. So we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."
Ephesians 2:10**

St. Boniface's College Awards Evening 2023

It was great to be able to host our prestigious awards evening at St. Boniface's College and celebrate the successes of many of our students from the last academic year.

Well done to Mr Brailey and our Food Technology students who catered the event.



ND Sewing Club

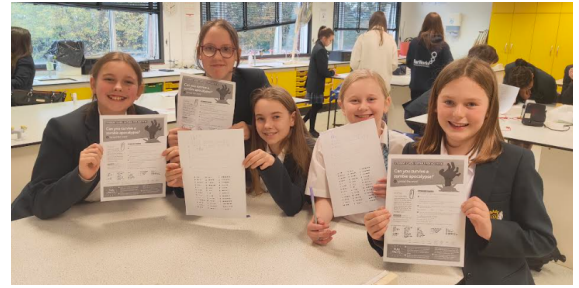
Earlier this year Mrs Finnie launched the ND Sewing Club taking place on Monday's after School. Students have started a range of projects, all things crafty. Anyone wishing to come along can do so on a Monday after school finishing at 4.30pm.

KS3 Science Club

Year 7 and year 8 pupils that attend KS3 science club are completing a long term STEM project with the intention of finding out whether they have the skills to survive a zombie apocalypse.



Over the past few weeks students have used their knowledge of circuits to build "pressure pads" that will alert the camp to any approaching zombies. The students used ideas about conductors and insulators to build a pressure pad that would only make noise when pressure is applied by an approaching zombie's foot.



Red Wednesday

A day when we remember the Church in need.

Year 7 students from St Boniface's were joined by a small group of representatives from years 7 and 12 from Notre Dame to celebrate Mass for Red Wednesday, which is a day when Aid to the Church in Need highlights the plight of persecuted Christians around the globe.



We prayed especially for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, a country which is very close to our hearts. May God have mercy on all persecuted people of faith

We Will Remember Them



On Remembrance Day, we observed the two minute silence of remembrance to pay respect and reflect on all those who lost their lives in the war.

Staff and students gathered and prayed for all those who gave their lives to serve the country and for victims of war. We also prayed for an end to all war and for peace across the world. Students created their own poppies and wrote private prayers and reflections that were added to our cross of Remembrance. We were also privileged to have some of our students in the military cadets with us, dressed in full uniform.



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. We will remember them

A Voice For Change

Students from Notre Dame and St. Boniface's College attended an event at Royal William Yard to give their voice on how we can prevent violence against women (VAWG) in all of its forms. The students were amazing in sharing their voices and opinions on this matter.



Jesus Christ Superstar

Thank you to Miss Hutchings who arranged the reward trip for our Youth Chaplains to visit the Theatre Royal today to see the amazing production of Jesus Christ Superstar.



Well done boys, you represented the college with exceptional conduct.



The Hope Collective

On Tuesday 28th November, a group of students from Notre Dame and SBC attended the Hope Hack Event at Club Argyle Lounge. The Hope Collective is a powerful partnership of leading cross-sector organisations with aligned values and a shared vision; to work together in a spirit of unity to create real change for young people and communities across the UK.

Over the last 2 years, the Hope Collective have been running a series of 'HopeHack' events across the UK. The 'Hope Hack' events are all about giving young people a voice and reimagining what a fairer society looks like and allowing them to explore and develop innovative solutions to societal challenges. Students were split into breakout sessions, each covering a different theme, before coming back together and presenting solutions to the wider group including councillors and the Lord Mayor. Students were fortunate to be joined by three guest speakers throughout the day including Plymouth City Patriots Basketball Players, Exim Dance Company, Plymouth and Parker Words, Spoken Word Artist

Sporting Stars

Congratulations to Notre Dame student Ewa, who won the prestigious gold medal in Sparring and silver in Patterns (age 12-17 years) at the Taekwondo Invitational Tournament. The event took place on Sunday, October 15th at the Devonshire Nuffield Health at Derriford. What an amazing achievement!



Year 8 Rugby Champions

The Year 8 St. Boniface's College rugby team were undefeated on their way to victory in the Plymouth Schools Cup that took place earlier this term.



with 2 tries of their own. In the final moments of the game St Boniface capitalised on a handling error from DHSB to score their 3rd try and seal the victory. Congratulations to Mr Coles and the Year 8 rugby team!

Year 7 Netball Team

Our Year 7 Netball team has represented ND across two Central Venue Tournaments this term. The girls have gone with great enthusiasm, singing the lungs out there and back in the minibus (including christmas songs!). The improvement has been greatly recognised by our PE Department and Sixth Form Coaches. These girls have worked hard and that was seen in their last game, against Coombe Deane, which they won 2-1! Keep this enthusiasm and commitment up girls!





Year 7 Bikeability

During November, 131 Year 7 students took part in level 1 & 2 Bikeability training. The week saw students progress from learning new skills to knowing how to safely ride on the roads.

Congratulations to all our students who took part. Level 3 Bikeability will be available in spring next Year for anyone wishing to take part.

School Christmas Card Competition 2023

Earlier this term we advertised the annual joint school Christmas card competition. Students were tasked with designing a card that fitted into the theme.

We received some fabulous artwork well done to all those who submitted a Christmas card, it was a very tough decision.

This year's winning Christmas card (*pictured right*) was created by student Helayna Radmore at Notre Dame School. Well done Helayna!

“Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11



Christmas Jumper Day 2023



At the end of the term, Staff and students across both schools wore a festive/Christmas jumper and mufti with funds raised donated to the charity Save the Children.

The funds raised go towards a wonderful cause, helping families in Kenya receive food and medicine. Further details on the charity Save the Children, and the work that they do can be found on the following website

www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/about/faq

Thank you for your support.

School Christmas Lunch

Students at Notre and St Boniface's College enjoyed a wonderful traditional Christmas lunch in the school canteen.



It was lovely to see students pulling crackers and laughing with friends.

Thank you to the catering staff across both schools for the fantastic festive lunch, a tradition we look forward to all year!



Notre Dame & St Boniface's College Christmas Carol Service

We were thrilled to be able to open our school doors earlier this month for our school Christmas Carol Service. Students from both schools had been practising carols in their school music lessons in the run up to the Carol Service. They performed beautifully on the night in front of an audience of parents and guests.

Thank you to all that sang, performed and attended, what an excellent start to the festive season.



F24 Greenpower



The Design & Technology Department is pleased to announce that they are running two F24 Greenpower teams this year! One at Notre Dame and one at St Boniface's College.

The Royal Navy have kindly funded both cars. AIS Manuplas are supporting the teams with the bodywork fabrication. The project involves designing, building and racing an F24 car. The teams are busy building and designing at the moment. Watch this space for updates and F1 style launch events in 2024.

We are also looking for parent helpers and support with getting to races (a van or trailer would be helpful). Please contact Mr Branca at lbranca@ndonline.org if you are interested. Pictured above is Notre Dame's car so far, named *ND Lightning*. More information about this exciting project can be found at www.greenpower.co.uk.

NDSBC Sixth Open Evening

Thank you to all that attended our NDSBC Sixth Form Open Evening earlier this term. It was great to welcome families back onto the school site and show you what our sixth form has to offer. We work in partnership with other Link Partnership schools in the area offering a range of courses, shared resources and support between the schools. ND Sixth has an impressive track record in supporting the further education of students from a wide range of backgrounds with a wide range of aspirations.

The evening featured a presentation from our Head of ND Sixth, Mrs. Carole Slade, along with contributions from our Senior Student Team. Following the presentation, guests participated in a tour of the school, met with subject teachers and current students to learn more about Sixth Form life.

Seaweed & Surf

In October, Y13 Biology students accompanied Mr Rebhan and Miss Crook to St George's House Christian Outdoor Centre in Braunton, North Devon.



Students practised their field work techniques and learned about ecological sampling using quadrats and transect belts. Students also learned how to identify a range of seaweed, topshell, and freshwater invertebrate species.

On the final day of our trip, pupils also had the opportunity to partake in a surfing lesson!



Reverse Advent Calendar

This term Notre Dame & St. Boniface's College ran a reverse advent calendar, collecting items for those in need across Plymouth. Items included dry goods, tinned foods and personal items.

Thank you for all your generous donations. This week students delivered the items to Shekinah Mission in Plymouth, who were overwhelmed by the generosity.

As the cold weather moves in please ensure students come to school with suitable warm weather clothing. Coats and hats/scarves/gloves. Please can parents also be mindful of our school opening times below.



St. Boniface's College open to students from 08.00am
Notre Dame school open to students from 08.00am

Mr Antram - Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers, at the end of the Autumn Term I'd like to thank you for the fantastic support that you give our schools. It has been such a delight to meet your sons and daughters in recent weeks since my arrival in September. They have been welcoming and highly appreciative of all that the schools are doing to give them a strong and supportive educational provision. They are a credit to you. We will continue to drive up standards in our schools so that over time all students will receive an outstanding education, preparing them for successful adult lives.

We read so much in the media about all that is wrong with the world at the moment, and we have to work hard sometimes to find good news. The young are our hope for a better future, and we must invest as much goodness as we can into them for that reason. At the coldest and darkest time of the year we yearn for the light. Amidst the darkness, one of the best things we can do for the young is to train them to look for the light. It is in this way that they will spot positive opportunities, and become people of optimism, people of hope. The birth of Christ brought light into the world, but people had to look hard for him. He wasn't born in the glare of spotlights, but in the gloom of a stable. It is here that we must look for him. I wish you and your families a peaceful and happy Christmas, and look forward to working together in the best interests of our young people in 2024.

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

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I am writing to express my thanks for your continued support in all we do at school. I would like to start by saying how incredibly proud I am of our whole school community for the continued energy, resilience and passion with which students, staff, Governors and our wider school community have approached this term. It has been fantastic to bring back so many events this term, which are reflected in this newsletter, which really help bring our community together to celebrate our wonderful students.

I would like to wish you all a lovely Christmas and Happy New year. I hope you all have a relaxing time over the festive season. We are looking forward to returning on January 4th January to a New Year and new term with refreshed enthusiasm and hope for the future.

Mrs Morgan - Head of School, Notre Dame

I wish to extend my thanks for all of the support and good wishes that I have received during my first term as Head of School at Notre Dame and what a term it has been! I have been delighted to be able to greet so many of you as you have attended the range of events which we have hosted from the 6th form Open Evening to the year 7 Carol Service and everything in between. I hope that your Christmas is peaceful and that you are able to enjoy some time with loved ones. We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Thursday 4th January (B week).

