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9th February 2024

*"Let all that you do be done in love." 1 Corinthians 16:14*

### Dear Parents and Carers,

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

### Founders Day

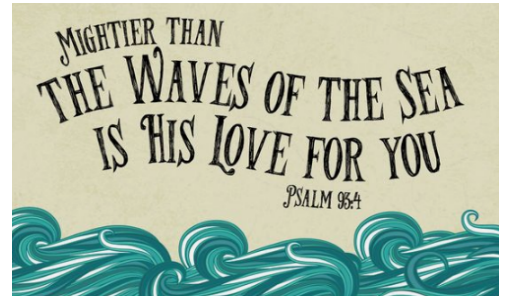


On February 2nd we celebrated together as a whole school the Founding Day of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

Our year 12 students led us in a thoughtful reflection and celebration, helping us to remember that "We are here to make known God's goodness" and to celebrate all that we have because of St Julie's mission.

We prayed for the worldwide Notre Dame community and joined our voices for a lively rendition of the school song "Ah Qu'il Est Bon Le Bon Dieu"

Both staff and students were given a sweet treat to celebrate our day and challenged to carry out an act of kindness in honour of St Julie.



**Volcano! Volcano!** This term Year 8 Geography students have learnt about plate tectonics and the hazards caused by this movement. The group has produced some great volcanoes which have included a case study of an eruption. Students used various products to make their volcanoes erupt! Great work!



### Indoor Cricket Team

St Boniface's entered the under 15 Devon indoor cricket championships and competed superbly well from start to finish and narrowly finished 4th which was 1 place out of qualifying for the south west next stage. All played well but standout performance goes to Travis who finished one game with 8 Balls and 6 Wickets for 2 runs. Amazing work!



## Year 12 visit The University of Plymouth

Year 12 Biology students visited the University of Plymouth to visit the Electron Microscope Laboratory and had a wonderful tour of the campus, learning all about University life.



## Athletics U13's

Earlier this term students attended Marjon University for the Under 13's Athletic event. The girls showed sheer determination across running, jumping and throwing events. The courtesy they showed to the volunteers and their competitors demonstrated true Notre Dame spirit, and without question they were the loudest cheerleaders within the whole event! It was spectacular to see these girls thriving within this event so early on in the year! Bring on the next one! Well done.



## Young Carers & Military Kids Club Visit the Panto

At the start of the term students visited Theatre Royal Plymouth to watch the pantomime. Students from Military Kids Club and our Young Carers group were invited to attend. It was a great afternoon full of laughs with friends.

Further information on both our Young Carers and Military Kids Club can be found on the school website.



## Star of Stage & Screen

Olivia has previously starred as Matilda in RSC's 'Matilda the musical' on the West End and on the UK and Ireland tour, as well as singing a solo live in 'Magic at the musicals' at the Royal Albert Hall, to reprise her role. She went on to play Anne Frank in Exeter Northcott's run of 'Fantastically Great Women who changed the world', a show which highlights the importance of women's history!

Olivia has since then played a speaking role in Ridley Scott's 'Napoleon' which came out in November 2023, and is still in cinemas! She is set to star in a feature film directed by Guillem Morales, due for release soon. She will also be playing Miss Honey in our Notre Dame performance of 'Matilda' after performing as Mary Poppins in our last school show. She is also soon to play Cosette in DHSBs 'Les miserables' in the beginning of February! Olivia trains in Ballet, pointe, musical theatre, contemporary, commercial, heels, classical technique, aerial, acro, singing, and LAMDA.



## Geography Students - Coastal Erosion

Year 9 Geography students have been looking at coastal erosional landforms and have created a model cave, arch and stack out of cake while explaining their formation.



This delicious model was created out of Angel cake!



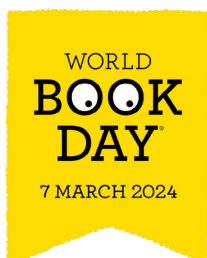
## Hat-Trick Heroics



Year 8 and 9 students had the privilege of hosting a South Korean football side called Matts FC. St Boniface students gave the visitors a great game, and went ahead twice in the match. Unfortunately, the quality of Matts FC was evident in the second half and they put on a brilliant display of football.

St Boniface's own Dennis Landricombe, who was playing for the travelling side, scored a wonderful hat-trick which helped Matts FC on their way to victory. Good luck in the future to Matts, and well done to the students for representing the school so well!

We will be celebrating World Book Day this year on **Thursday 7th March** with some exciting book themed events and competitions.



**Year 7** students at both schools can come in on Thursday 7th March, dressed as their favourite book character, with a copy of the relevant book. This is fancy dress only, not a mufti day.

At Notre Dame, there will also be a book themed cake competition and bake sale in the library for all years with prizes for the best themed cake/buns. Please bring entries to the library to be judged at lunch time on World Book Day.

If you're feeling creative, there will be a 'design a book jacket' competition and a Where's Wally themed activity.

## Premier League

Recently we were fortunate to take a mix of Notre Dame and St. Boniface's students to London to watch the Tottenham Vs Brentford goal fest which Spurs won 3-2. All students were a pleasure to have on the trip they continued in high spirits even at 4am. We hope they had a great time and enjoyed the opportunity to watch such a high level of sport.



## Important Notice

**We have updated our Privacy Notice telling you how we handle personal data. Please visit our school websites to view the updated document.**



## Paperless School Office

We are moving towards a paperless school office. Please ensure you are registered with the systems listed below to stay up to date with information on your child's education and extracurricular activities. Should you have any concerns, please email or contact the reception team at your child's school;

- **ClassCharts** - Communications between Parents, Students and Tutors including behaviour monitoring.
- **ParentMail** - School letters and communications including online trip consent forms.



## Parking Reminder - Notre Dame

To ensure the safety of our students and ease for our school bus services, parents, carers and relatives should not park in the bus bays, wait in Notre Dame Close or park on the double yellow lines on the surrounding residential streets. This is putting our students at risk, particularly those with visual impairments. **Parking spaces in our top car park are reserved at all times (including before and after school) for teaching staff with permit passes only.** Please do not park or wait in these spaces. Please can we ask those collecting students to not drive in through the electronic gates unless they have had agreement from the school to do so and only at the times agreed. Thank you for your cooperation and working with us to keep our community safe.

## **Mr Antram - Executive Headteacher**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Staff and students have worked hard this half term, and we are seeing many positive changes in the everyday culture of our schools. There is a lot more to do, and this in the context of so many demands being placed on schools in our country at this time. Catholic education positions itself to emphasise the importance of both academic and character excellence through formation of the person. With so many contrasting values and influences in contemporary society we seek to build an educational environment in which right and wrong are clearly understood, and encouragement is given to the making of good choices. In the months ahead we will be reviewing our behaviour policy to increase further our focus on students who are getting it right day in and day out. Parenting has never been more challenging, and we are continuing to seek ways in which we as schools can collaborate more closely with parents and carers in the upbringing and education of our young. We hold out the vision of a kinder, safer, more inclusive society of the future.

This newsletter celebrates so much positivity and creativity in our schools. We are privileged to have so many wonderful students, and fortunate to have staff willing to invest so much in creating fantastic educational opportunities.

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

It has been great to read our latest newsletter and to see the continued developments and opportunities that are available and it has been great to see our students fully embracing these opportunities. Thank you to all of our staff who have made these opportunities available to our students.

As we approach the final run in for GCSE exams, I wanted to make a special mention to our Year 11 students who have been working incredibly hard and utilising all of the additional opportunities available to them for their upcoming exams. I have been immensely impressed with their resilience, attitude and effort that they have been showing throughout this term.

I am wishing you a restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 19th February 2024.

## **Mrs Morgan - Head of School, Notre Dame**

It is difficult to believe that this newsletter marks the halfway point in the school year. Our year 7 and year 12 students are now well established as Notre Dame students and fully embracing all that we have to offer whilst our year 11 and year 13 students are entering the final stretch in terms of exam preparation in order to achieve the results they need for the next steps in their education.

I am very grateful to the staff who have given their time freely and will continue to do so in supporting our students by hosting additional revision sessions before school, after school and during the holidays; organising and accompanying foreign trips including to Paris and Norway; providing a range of sporting clubs and activities for all to be involved in and all of the enrichment activities that you will have read about in our newsletter.

May you have an enjoyable and safe half term break and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.