

Newsletter

Friday 18th June 2021

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID Vigilance

As parents and carers will be aware, the emergence of the Delta variant has resulted in a sharp increase in the number of local cases. Disappointingly, this led to the college having to cancel all end of year trips and events due to the reintroduction of travel restriction guidelines and further continuation of other COVID restrictions. Many parents will be aware that the college has been directly affected by this increase, leading to some students having to self-isolate this week; something we have not had to do since March.

Further to this, Public Health England have now asked schools to reintroduce the wearing of face coverings in communal areas and in classrooms where social distancing is not possible **from Monday 21st June**. Please support our efforts in doing this by ensuring your son or daughter brings a face covering to school every day until further notice. All previous medical exemption rules still apply. A letter from Public Health England confirming this can be read in this week's newsletter.

Y8 Virtual Parents Evening

Last night saw our second attempt at a virtual parents' evening using the SchoolCloud portal. We are pleased to confirm that the technical issues encountered in our first attempt have been fixed and the event was delivered successfully. This allowed parents to have a one-to-one consultation with each subject teacher via video link. Initial feedback from teachers today has been really positive. We would also love to hear the views of Year 8 parents, who we ask to provide feedback by completing this questionnaire [[click here](#)]. We will now look to reschedule the Year 7 evening which was abandoned last month. Thank you again for your patience and understanding during the roll out of this new way of working and communicating.

Y6 Transition and Summer School

Last night, we also held our virtual Year 6 Parents' Information Evening. This included a presentation from Miss Wishart and I explaining the Notre Dame ethos and the arrangements for Year 6 in September. If any parents of Year 6 students were unable to attend the event, the presentations can still be viewed [here](#) on the college website. It is also worth noting that no further guidance or information has been sent by the Department for Education regarding Year 6 summer school arrangements in light of the prolonged COVID restrictions. As this is due to begin on 19th July (which is when restrictions are expected to be lifted), we continue to plan for the Summer School to go ahead.

Wishing every Notre Dame family a peaceful and safe weekend.

Mr Duffy
Headteacher



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Dear Parents / Carers,

In recent weeks, we have seen a rapid rise in Covid-19 cases in Liverpool. Currently Liverpool has rates of 158/100,000 and is on an upward trajectory. The dominant strain of virus in the UK is called the Delta variant and we have seen a steep rise in COVID-19 cases locally. Evidence suggests the Delta variant spreads more easily than previous strains.

As a result, we are requesting that additional measures are brought into schools to slow down the spread of the virus. These controls may cause some disruption to end of year plans that normally take place. Activities such as transition, assemblies, proms and performances may need to be modified and alternative arrangements made. Educational visits may also be impacted by these additional measures. Schools will communicate with parents directly if any of their plans are impacted.

Face Coverings

On the 21st June 2021, we are requesting staff and pupils in Year 7 and above to wear face coverings indoors whilst in school, including in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained, with the exception of certain lessons such as PE. This is an additional measure to support schools to manage the increased risk of school-based transmission due to increasing cases and is fully supported by central government.

The purpose of wearing a face covering is to minimise the risk of transmitting the virus to other people if you are infectious but don't have symptoms. We know that up to 30% of people with COVID-19 don't experience symptoms, and everyone who has the virus will be infectious in the two days before their symptoms start, so wearing face coverings is one of a range of infection prevention and control measures that have been introduced in schools to protect pupils and staff.

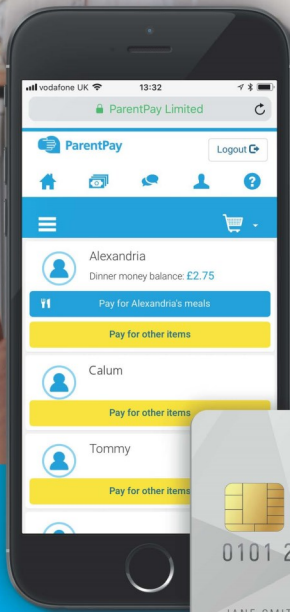
Exemptions for wearing face coverings are still in place and further information about exemptions can be found [here](#).

Any pupil who has one of the conditions on the exemption list will not be expected to wear a face covering whilst in school. Anyone communicating to someone who relies on lip reading will also be exempt from wearing a face covering.

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can easily pay online for school
dinners, trips and clubs.

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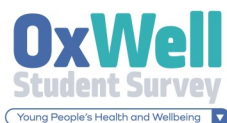
VISA

VISA Checkout





Liverpool
City Council



OxWell School Survey
University of Oxford Department of Psychiatry
E-Mail: Pathfinder@psych.ox.ac.uk
<https://www.psych.ox.ac.uk/research/schoolmentalhealth>

OxWell School Survey 2021 INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS / GUARDIANS Ethics Approval Reference: R62366/RE0011

In partnership with researchers at the University of Oxford, your child's school has agreed to take part in a study investigating school pupils' health and wellbeing by asking pupils to log in to an online survey. We very much hope you would like your child to take part in this study, but before you decide, it is important that you understand why the study is being done and what it will involve.

What are we trying to find out?

Adolescence is a critical period for mental health and brain development. By asking school pupils to tell us how they experience school life and health-related issues, we hope to better understand what is happening to the mental health of young people, and to inform schools, the local council and their partners, how to provide pupils with the best support and guidance to keep them safe and happy. We also aim to gain insight into how adolescents view surveys like this, and how the school lockdowns impacted their wellbeing. More information about this study and the larger project can be obtained on the research team's [webpage](#), or by contacting the research team at: Pathfinder@psych.ox.ac.uk.

Why has my child been invited to take part?

We are inviting your child to take part because they are aged 8 years or older, currently in school year 5-13, and attending one of the participating schools or FE Colleges in one of the participating counties in England. We are inviting up to 150,000 young people to take part.

Does my child have to take part?

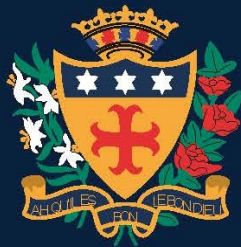
No. You can ask questions about the study before deciding whether or not to allow your child to participate, and you can change your mind without giving a reason. If you do not want your child to take part in the research, you can notify your child's school in the days before they give survey login details to pupils.

What will happen if my child takes part?

During a designated school period of around 30 minutes, pupils will be invited to log in to the OxWell School Survey, to answer around 200 questions on life-style and health-related issues. Some of the questions address sensitive areas (e.g. safety, bullying, mental wellbeing), and there are different versions of the survey to ensure that the content is age-matched. Pupils in years 8-13 are also asked some questions related to risk factors like self-harm, drugs, abuse, depression/anxiety/paranoia. At the end of the survey, appropriate advice and guidance is provided with links (e.g. <http://www.childline.org.uk>). We do not wish to identify pupils and therefore do not ask for names, addresses, date of birth, ethnicity or use unique logins. The survey data is collected as part of a service provided by Foster and Brown Research Ltd. (<http://www.fabresearch.com>).

What are the advantages / disadvantages of taking part?

One potential risk of this study is that your child will be asked questions about a topic that they know nothing or very little about, such as the risky behaviours associated with adolescence (years 8-13 only). To mitigate the risks, different versions of the survey have been designed to ensure that the questions are age-



Notre Dame Catholic College

Established 1869

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www.notredameliverpool.com

EB/Admin/67

18th June 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

Our school has signed up to take part in the 'OxWell Student Survey', which aims to help schools to support their pupils' mental wellbeing.

Please read through the attached [information letter for parents](#), and for more information about the OxWell project see the research team's webpage (<https://www.psych.ox.ac.uk/research/schoolmentalhealth>) and answers to [frequently asked questions](#).

All students will be invited to complete the survey unless you contact the school to opt-out your child. If for any reason you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please notify the school ao@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk by Friday 2nd July 2021.

Kind regards,

Mrs E Brennan



Re: Sacrament of Confirmation

Dear parent/guardian,

The archdiocese of Liverpool is inviting young people in year 8 (and above) to the sacrament of confirmation.

Confirmation is a sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to make us stronger and more perfect Christians and true witnesses of Jesus Christ.

The preparation for the sacrament will be started through a series of video introductions to the sacrament from Animate, the archdiocesan youth ministry team (if your child has not seen these in school please direct them to <https://www.youtube.com/user/AnimateYouth> and find the four 'Called ... videos').

Year 8 pupils will then study the subject of confirmation in their RE classes.

There will also be preparation sessions at a local level in your town/local area. Following these local preparation times young people will be invited to be confirmed.

If your child would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation this year it is **essential** they register online at:

<https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk/>

Registration must take place before the **28th June**.

Please complete the form that can be accessed through clicking the button at the top right-hand side of the webpage ('Register for Confirmation'). If you are unable to do this at home please inform the school chaplain who will be able to help.

When a young person has registered they will be contacted by your local confirmation co-ordinator who will take you through the next steps of the preparation process.

If you have any questions, please contact Fr Simon Gore on 01744 740467 or s.gore@animateyouth.co.uk Or your parish priest.



L I V E R P O O L A R C H D I O C E S A N O F F I C E

Croxteth Drive | Liverpool | L17 1AA | www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING REMINDERS



Important Contacts

If you currently need support for your mental health or well being these are some of the organisations who are happy to listen and help

Anxiety UK

03444775774 (Helpline)

075374160905 (Text)

Childline

0800 1111 (Free 24 hr helpline)

Papyrus Hotline

(Under 35s at risk of suicide or concerned for another)

0800 068 4141

07786209697 (text)

The Mix

(Support & Advice for under 25s)

0808 068 4994

85258 (Text THEMIX)

Young Minds

0808 803 5544 (Parent helpline)

85258 (Free 24hr crisis messenger, text YM)

Young Stonewall

Information & support for young people who identify as LGBTQ

0800 050 2020

Samaritans

Support for anyone who needs to talk

116 123 (Call)

Bullybusters

0800 169 6928

Please refer to the school website for further contact details/ websites

If you feel a child is at risk

(suffering harm, neglect or abuse)

Any member of the public can contact

Careline on 0151 233 3700 or

Merseyside Police on 0151 709 6010

CAMHS Crisis Care Team

Supporting children and young people in crisis regarding self-harm, suicidal ideation and acute mental health difficulties. Speak to a mental health practitioner 24hrs/day

CONTACT US

Email: sg@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk

Emails are answered within 24 hrs Mon—Fri 9-3

Phone: 0151 330 5122

Safeguarding Team:

Mrs Brennan - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Littleboy—Deputy DSL / Year 8

Mr McVerry—Deputy DSL

Mr D McKeon - Deputy DSL

Mrs Costello - Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Sweeney , Mrs Kildare, Mrs Doran, Miss Lee,
Mrs Garvey & Ms Glorman

Domestic Abuse/Violence

Please remember, in an emergency dial 999 for immediate assistance.

You can call 999 without speaking then pressing 55, or tapping or coughing into the phone.

This will enable police to respond

Women's Aid

0808 2000 247 (24 hr helpline)

Men's Advice Line

0808 801 0327

Worst Kept Secret Helpline Merseyside

0800 028 3398

Childline - www.childline.org.uk

• Childline is available to you if you have any concerns about:

- Bullying
- Abuse (physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, neglect)
- Your body and self esteem
- Your feelings
- Friendships
- Sexual advice
- Home life and families
- School

• You can ring them on 0800 1111 or message them online here <https://www.childline.org.uk/registration/>

• There are loads of resources available for you to download and read as well <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/>



General Covid-19 advice

If you have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), get a PCR test as soon as possible. Stay at home until you get the result.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you can't smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

People who are sick with coronavirus may have other flu like symptoms such as:

body aches

persistent headaches

sore throat

tiredness

shortness of breath

nausea or

diarrhoea

If you don't have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus, you don't need to isolate until you get your result, however you do need to continue to take the usual measures to protect yourself and others from illness.

General Testing (not part of returning to England)

People with symptoms can get a test here:

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/communities-and-safety/emergency-planning/coronavirus/how-to-get-tested/tests-for-people-with-symptoms/>

People without symptoms can access our community testing sites here: <https://liverpool.gov.uk/smarttesting>

Testing after travel from overseas: www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-people-travelling-to-england?step-by-step-nav=8c0c7b83-5e0b-4bed-9121-1c394e2f96f3

Mental wellbeing

Don't forget about your own self-care. Discover our supportive online mental wellbeing space for adults: **qwell.io**

"THE PANTRY" @ NOTRE DAME



Notre Dame
Catholic College

Established 1869

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Headteacher: Mr Peter Duffy BA(Hons) NPQH

Our Ref: RW/Admin/4

20th October 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

The Pantry at Notre Dame

We realise in these difficulty and very different times that there may be some families who need that little extra support. As a community, Notre Dame would like to offer the service of "The Pantry" to all of our families as we support each other.

The Pantry is a confidential service (foodbank) run by Notre Dame, whereby you can contact Rebecca Wall, our Chaplain, and ask for help with items of shopping, food and toiletries, that you are unable to afford at the moment during these unprecedented times. It may be that you are unable to access benefits, have been made redundant, are working less hours – all making it difficult to feed/support your family as you would normally do.

You may only need to use The Pantry once, or you may need to use it on a more regular basis. Please feel free to call Rebecca and speak to her directly in confidence. You don't even need to share information with your child.

If you would like to discuss this further or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me either by telephone or email (rwall18.341@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk).

Remember you are not on your own in this – we are all in it together !

Kind regards

Miss R Wall
School Chaplain