

Newsletter

Friday 5th February 2021

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well this week has felt like cleaning the house in preparation for Christmas! As a Notre Dame family of staff, we simply cannot wait to see our students back in school next week. In the words of St. Julie, "All will go well if we allow the good God to act."

Next week's return to face-to-face education

Further to our letter on 25th February and our reminder via Parent App and the website yesterday, students will return to school on a phased schedule, starting with Year 7 on Monday 8th March.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, live lessons will be suspended from 8th March until further notice to allow College staff to effectively and safely administer the testing process and re-induction of students. During next week, remote learning will be set via Class Charts until your child's year group return to school.

Parents' response to our online consent form has been amazing. If you have not yet submitted your consent, please do so before your child returns to school next week, using this link [[click here for the COVID testing consent form](#)]. If you or your child have any concerns around the self-testing process, please watch [this video](#) to see how easy and unintrusive it really is.

It is worth clarifying that our current face-to-face offer for vulnerable students and children of key workers continues to run throughout next week.

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National COVID schools infection survey tests

As parents and teachers of our sixth form students will recall, last term, Notre Dame were one of 150 schools across the country who were asked to support a national survey into COVID infection amongst school-aged children and school staff. This only involved students in Year 12 & 13 and staff who regularly work with them. The next round of testing for this survey will take place on **Monday 15th March** and will follow the same process. If you have already registered for this survey, you do not need to re-register. To watch a short explanation of the survey and its importance to the ongoing fight against COVID, please click [here](#).

Parent Governor Election

Further to last week's newsletter, may we remind parents and carers that the deadline for nominations for our next Parent Governor is **Monday 15th March**. We are pleased to confirm that one nomination has been already been received this week. Full information on the role of parent governor, the timeline for the process and instructions on how to apply can be found on our website <https://www.notredameliverpool.com/parent-governor-election>. Nominations can be submitted on paper using the agreed Nomination Form or by completing this online Nomination Form [[click here to access the online Nomination Form](#)]. Thank you in advance for your interest.

Wishing every Notre Dame family a peaceful and safe weekend.

Mr Duffy



RE-START - PUBLIC TRANSPORT



**LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

Our Ref: SF/HB*

Your Ref:

Contact: Shane Fitzpatrick

Email: shane.fitzpatrick@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

Date: 25 February 2021

Local Authority Directors of Education

Dear Sir or Madam

Public Transport Information regarding the schools re start in March

As schools prepare to welcome back all pupils from Monday 8 March, I thought I would take the opportunity to update you in terms of the latest information regarding public transport services and highlight how we are looking to support this restart.

We continue to work with transport partners and schools to provide the best level of services in what remain challenging times. Those schools that work with us directly on dedicated bus services will also receive this information from my teams.

You will recall that we faced a similar education restart in September 2020, when we saw a demand on our services at a time when social distancing has, in some cases, restricted capacity. Intelligence from that restart has helped us enormously in planning for 8 March and I am pleased to inform you that, in the main, the bus services that we saw operate in the Autumn term will operate again with effect from 8 March.

At the same time, whilst we will not see rail services recover fully until April/May, additional services are also planned on our rail network to support the school return on those routes where we see traditional demand from school children, specifically in the Maghull and Wirral areas.

Cont'd...

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
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Telephone +44 (0)151 330 1467
Email info@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

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There is some other useful information that I would like to share with you. It would be really helpful if you could help to share these messages with your staff and pupils to help support the collective effort: -

- Walk or Cycle to school if possible.
- Remember that children aged 11 and over must wear a face covering on public transport, although exemptions do apply*.
- Plan ahead and check timetables for latest information.
- Leave more time for your journey in case services are busy.
- Pay by contactless or buy pre-paid tickets if you can – our young people's bus Solo and Term Time Tickets are now available on MetroSmart cards (www.metro-smart.org.uk/solo-term-time)
- If paying by cash, try to have the exact fare as drivers are not always giving change.
- Be mindful of social distancing where possible.
- Allow passengers to get off before boarding.
- Some seats on the bus are not in use, please respect this. They will be clearly marked out.
- Try to travel with the same group of friends each day and where possible sit in the same seats.
- Be respectful to other passengers and staff.
- Do not travel if you have any symptoms of Covid-19, or family members are showing symptoms.

Please be reassured that Police Community Support Officers are deployed on the transport network offering advice and can respond to any issues or complaints. This is backed up by stats from an enforcement day held in February 2021 which revealed over 97% of people were adhering to the rules and wearing face coverings on our bus services.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our children and young people who have done a sterling job by planning their journeys and wearing face coverings. As with the September re start, we will be monitoring demand across the transport network so we can address any concerns and provide additional capacity if necessary. Whilst we face additional challenges this time around, most notably being a large number of transport staff still shielding, we remain confident we are well placed to support this restart and your efforts in school provision.

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As you are aware, Merseytravel has been running the Re Think Travel campaign during the pandemic which provides people with important information about public transport services and key advice about how to travel safely.

In order to support our key messages and re-assure pupils, parents and staff, we will be running a schools focused campaign from 1 March to support pupils, parents and schools ahead of the full re-opening.

The Re Think Travel campaign can be found online www.merseytravel.gov.uk/Coronavirus and on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/Merseytravel>

Digital assets for schools including an animation will be shared with your communications teams for publication and wider circulation with relevant colleagues and across your school networks.

I hope this helps re-assure you that plans are well advanced from a transport perspective to support the wider education restart on 8 March.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane Fitzpatrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shane Fitzpatrick
Interim Director of Integrated Transport
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

*For exemptions please visit the [Government website](https://www.gov.uk/government)

RETURN TO SCHOOL TESTING



Liverpool
City Council

4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued support in the fight against Coronavirus. Schools are working hard to welcome back children from 8th March 2021. Arrangements will vary slightly from school to school. Your school will be in touch with you through their normal methods of communication, for example by letter or the school website.

It is still important that we continue to keep ourselves and others safe. Please continue to follow all Coronavirus prevention guidelines, maintain social distancing and wear face coverings wherever possible.

School Testing

Upon return, secondary school aged children will be offered a series of three tests at their school under the supervision of a trained operator. Testing is voluntary, and consent must be provided for your child directly to the school.

Following on site testing, children may then continue taking twice-weekly tests using a home test kit provided by their school. You will receive further information about how to participate directly from your school.

Household testing

If you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of a member of school staff or a pupil you can now access testing twice weekly. Further details can be found here:-

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>

Testing is voluntary, but we strongly encourage people to access testing available to them.

For a reminder about Coronavirus symptoms and how to get tested please see page 2.

Please stay safe and thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Reddy

Director of Children's Services, Liverpool City Council

Matt Ashton

Director of Public Health, Liverpool

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 cannot 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.

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>

Mental wellbeing

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

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

It is 'International Women's Day' on Monday. The theme this year is

'Choose to Challenge' and the students will learn more about this theme in their English lessons. They will also have an opportunity to write a letter expressing gratitude or encouragement to a girl/woman who inspires them. All departments will give information about an influential woman in their subject.

As a school community, we hope the girls at Notre Dame realise their potential and power and we hope the boys know that supporting and advocating equality will make the world a better place.



BOOST YOUR READING !

Subtitles Boost Reading Skills

Did you know that turning on subtitles while children are watching TV can greatly improve their reading skills? In fact, turning on subtitles can **double** the chances of your child becoming good at reading!

A quick, simple, free way to make TV time, reading time.

To find out more, visit <https://turnonthesubtitles.org/>



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 con-

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

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/>



REMOTE LEARNING AWARDS

All of our students are working incredibly hard under the current lockdown and we want to those who deserve a special mention!

Each week there will be award winners for different categories in each year group.

There will be one £10 voucher winner per year group in Years 7—11

This page will announce the award winners and it will be in the Headteacher's newsletter every Friday

BIG PRIZE DRAW

Every student who is mentioned in the newsletter this half term will be entered into a big prize-draw—more information to follow ! The draw will take place on the last day of term.

The draw will take place every Monday morning. Good luck !

Voucher Winner	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
	Matthew H	Francesco ZL	Skye S	Harry McN	Aaron H

"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