

3/4/20

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff and Friends of the School.

As we draw near to the end of the Spring Term, I hope and pray that each of you that is reading this letter is in good health and that your spirits remain strong. Although the term has been cut short in terms of actual school attendance, I am aware that many of us are now ready to have a break from education and attempt to have some 'down time'. Under the current circumstances, this in itself will present its own challenges.

Walking the school site today I began to really miss the lively chatter, giggling and more blusterous noises that echo in our corridors and from our playgrounds. Whilst in the school chapel I attempted to fill the void left by missing students and began to read the year 9 prayer cards that I had not managed to read in previous weeks. Below is a snapshot of written response in reply to the prompt 'What I give thanks for...'

- *"A home, food and water."*
- *"My amazing parents and what they do for me and the great gifts they have given me..."*
- *"Having a healthy family, everyone around me, and those who keep me happy and comfort me when I feel down."*
- *"That I have a great family and friends and a safe home."*
- *"My family, friends, education and the beautiful planet Earth."*

Now is very much the time to be thankful for all of these things and I am once again inspired by the wisdom of our students who had recorded these sentiments before the current pandemic.

Updates

This letter contains many updates. Please click straight to what is relevant to you or your family:

- [Awarding GCSE and A level Grades to Y11 and Y13 Students](#)
- [Free School Meals \(FSM\)](#)
- [NDHS Curriculum Support Materials](#)
- [Online Safety for Students](#)
- [Advice for Parents/Carers to Support Online Learning](#)
- [General Safeguarding Concerns – Contact](#)
- [Spiritual Nourishment](#)
- [Online Latin course](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment for Critical workers](#)
- [Letter from Norfolk County Council](#)

Finally, I would like to re-state the importance of the community attempting to compartmentalise the term and the holidays. Although the 12 week term has been reduced to 10, students and staff have continued to work hard and it is time that we all rested. There will be new challenges to face next term and being motivated and ready to re-start remote learning will be vital. Staff will begin to re-post work on Monday the 20th April.

I wish you all peace and good health over the coming weeks,

Best Wishes,

Tom Pinnington and the Leadership Team

Awarding GCSE and A level Grades to Y11 and Y13 Students

We continue to wait on definitive news from Ofqual. Please be reassured that once the finalised guidance has been issued we will communicate more specifically with year 11 and year 13 students and work within the guidance to ensure that students get the grades they have worked so hard for. For the latest updates from Ofqual, click [here](#). In the meantime it is essential that subject teachers and heads of department are confident that each student has completed their programme of study. This includes all of the work that has been set on the google classroom and any outstanding Non Examined Assessment

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Free School Meals

I am pleased to announce that the Government have now finalised a National approach to providing support for those families that are eligible to claim free school meals. We will continue to issue e-vouchers, but the new strategy means that the vouchers can be redeemed against your choice of food retailers. These currently include: Morrisons, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Waitrose and M&S food. The school will be in touch with eligible families.

In these challenging and ever-changing days, we are conscious that some families may now be eligible to claim for free school meals when you have not been eligible before. Please see the document 'Free School Meals application' on our Coronavirus Information page by clicking [here](#) or, alternatively, visit the Norfolk County Council website for more information using the link [here](#).

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NDHS Curriculum Support Materials

Please note that we are unable to supply curriculum materials, for example revision guides, that would ordinarily be available through Wisepay. Once we are back at school, any that have been purchased will be issued. All of the titles we usually offer are available through online retailers.

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Online Safety for Students

Students, you have taken on the challenge of remote learning incredibly well. We understand that there may be times when you may not feel safe when you are 'online'. Your parents and carers may also have moments when they worry about your online safety. Please try to reassure your parents and carers by showing them what you're working on and understanding their concerns if they simply ask 'what you're up to?'

The following links allow you to get support or report something that you feel might put you or other students in an unsafe or vulnerable position.

- [Childline](#) – Will support you with your general happiness, wellbeing but also discuss any difficult issues you may encounter online.
- [The UK Safer Internet Centre](#) – Allows anyone to report harmful online content
- [CEOP](#) – For advice on making a report about online abuse.

Advice for Parents/Carers to Support Online Learning

Over the coming days we will release further advice on this issue. If you are using additional online services/tutoring with your child, please ensure they are appropriately accredited and or from a reputable organisation/individual. The following links may reassure you regarding how to keep your children safe on the internet.

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

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General Safeguarding Concerns – Contact

As a reminder... if parents/carers or students have any concerns about the safety and wellbeing of a Notre Dame student the safeguarding number contact method remains the same:

Parents/carers with any safeguarding concerns can contact David Butters DSL or Shirley Stevenson ADSL on 07771812227 or email dbutters@ndhs.org.uk or sstevenson@ndhs.org.uk - Please note this mobile phone number is for **SAFEGUARDING concerns only**. Parents/Carers can also contact the Children's Advice and Duty Service (CADS) on 0344 800 8020

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Spiritual Nourishment

Holy Week and Easter are normally a time for us to spend time together as friends, family and community. Although we have been asked not to leave our homes, we can still come together in our thoughts and prayers. Mr Savage has made a simple presentation to help you and your family to reflect on the meaning of each of the special days in Holy Week leading up to Easter Sunday. We have also included links to Fr Sean Connelly's podcast and Live Stream Masses that you can join in too.

To view the presentation, [click here](#).

Father Sean has agreed to put together a podcast for Notre Dame students or any other young people that may be interested. Once compiled it will be placed on the St Georges Parish website that can be accessed [here](#).

After the Easter Holidays we will continue to share a weekly 'Pebble' message with prayers, reflections and fun activities via Google Classroom (code 2kz7xe5) and twitter @NDHSNorwich.

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Latin

'Latin Course - The Cambridge Schools Classics Project have made their popular and respected Latin course free to access. Mr Everett has created a google classroom with the necessary links - the code is s7tgeux. Students in any year group are welcome to sign up and have a go'.

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PPE and Technology

The Design and Technology Department in the school is working with other schools' D and T departments to help with the manufacture of Personal Protective Equipment for Critical workers. You may have seen in local news that some D and T teachers have been using machines and materials in their schools to make visors. The D and T department at NDHS is prototyping and donating any useful materials, such as clear plastic, that can be used to make screens to local schools that are making this protection. We are also ready to help out with the manufacturing by using our laser cutting machines to help make the parts required. The D and T department is also donating PPE, such as gloves, goggles and masks to frontline workers in the area.

In addition, Rachel Holden, one of our D and T teachers, is being lead by the UEA to use the department's 3D printers to manufacture vital components for personal protective equipment which is in short supply. The UEA who are working closely with NNUH to identify the parts urgently needed at this time. This could include components for visors, masks or ventilators.

We would encourage any students taking Product Design to look for stories in the news where D and T departments are helping to make equipment so that they can see how the skills and knowledge they learn in the classroom can be directly applied to helping our key workers.

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Letter from Norfolk County Council

Please read the attached letter from Norfolk County Council that contains information on help for families during this time; volunteering; financial support and help for businesses.

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