



17/11/23

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



One of the privileges of my role is to be able to observe teachers and pupils in action in the classroom. This week I have visited the lessons of three of our newest teachers and I was taken aback by how quickly they have settled into life at Notre Dame. They are helped by young people that want to learn and have been brought up to respect the staff in front of them. The quality of work our young people produce is exceptional. I have included an example of this below. Summer Geitner's emotive poem was published in the annual Young Writers book of Poems – 'The Power of Poetry'. Please do take the time to read it, Summer shows a wisdom and maturity that are perhaps beyond her years!

It was lovely to see so many you attend the 6th form open evening. The 6th form pupils that supported the evening were, as ever, the single most important selling point of the school and 6th form. We thank them all.

I wish you all a restful and peaceful weekend,

Best wishes,

Tom Pinnington - Headteacher

Anti-Bullying Week

We are an inclusive community that ensures that everyone feels safe and welcome.

We have marked Anti-Bullying week with a special video played in registration time. It emphasises the importance of being a positive bystander and speaking out against any forms of bullying.

In Y7-8 PSHEE we have learnt about the importance of talking to an adult if we feel anxious or upset. In all Years students have been shown how to get in contact with our Safeguarding Team. Each year group have

got their own page on our website which includes information on who they can contact for difference forms of advice. [Y7](#) | [Y8](#) | [Y9](#) | [Y10](#) | [Y11](#) | [Y12/13](#)

We discussed why young people are sometimes hesitant talking to adults about what concerns them. Students have fed back that they would like adults to follow this advice:

- **BE CALM:** Help the young person to feel comfortable and supported
- **BE FOCUSED:** Do not be distracted by something else
- **SLOW DOWN:** Give them time to tell their story
- **REFLECT BACK:** show that you understand how the child is feeling



Making Connections

Would you like to assist our students by enriching them with your career and pathway experiences?

We aim to engage with businesses and employers to help us inform and educate our pupils about the world of work and prepare them for the path ahead.



Throughout the year, we have several careers events and activities in which employers can engage with pupils. We would also like to welcome past pupils into our alumni and appreciate their participation and involvement into our school events and activities. If you would be interested in supporting our work, please get in contact with our Careers Coordinator Rachel Holden rholden@ndhs.org.uk. Alternatively, you can sign-up to join our community via this [online google form](#).

Year 7 Cake Bake Success for CAFOD – THANK YOU

In RE lessons, Year 7 pupils have been learning about our special nature as human beings and the importance of recognising that we are 'a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons' as described by St John Henry Newman.

The pupils have made such a great effort with their work and have fully engaged with the importance of faith in action and using our gifts to make a difference to the global community, whether this be through caring for the environment or serving others in need.

In response to learning about Catholic Social Teaching and loving our global neighbours, pupils decided to hold a cake sale in support of the CAFOD Appeal for all those suffering in the Palestinian-Israeli crisis, recognising the human dignity of every human being and reaching out to all.

We could not have anticipated the number of cakes that came into school on November 20th nor the variety of recipes, shapes, sizes and flavours – truly wonderful. Year 7 pupils gave so generously to baking and consuming, and we would like to acknowledge publicly the kindness shown. We also recognise that parents/carers were very much behind the scenes, sharing in the workload and encouraging participation. Thank you all so much.

The grand total raised was £263.31 which is an amazing amount. If you would like to know more about the work of CAFOD, please see the website link below. <https://cafod.org.uk>

The RE Department

SHADOWS

The son:

Pride drove his walk
His powerful stride
He puffed out his chest at the world open wide

His jacket was buttoned
Smartly, proudly
His shirt tucked neatly
A gleaming medal in his hand
Forged in a rich dreamland

He wraps his arms around his mother, and says that he will 'always love her'
Soon, he was in the back of the lorry
Ruining his appearance his only worry

Muddy hands try to pull him under
His soul and life treasures to plunder but still, he stumbles to his target Shaking hands grasping his rifle

Fear drove his walk
A bloody limp.
A broken voice burns in his chest
Showing his long-lost innocence

His jacket slug carelessly over his should
Shirt torn, mud-covered.
A boy turned soldier
He sits in the lorry, medal in hand
Earned for his crimes in no-man's-land

The mother:
I see the shadows of you
Running about the house
If you fell, I would help you
And you would laugh with a joyful bounce

The I see you...
Rife-shouldered
At the door...

That some bounce
A grin on your face
I wake every day
Wishing I could take your place

The letters came every day
Then every week
Then the silence came
It kept me from sleep

The you're back home, on leave but you had changed
Though your face smiled, I no longer saw that joyful child

A second time, your grin now gone, the time away was not meant to be long

But a stray shot found its way to you
I could not believe that it was true

I see the shadows of you:
Body bleeding, bandaged,
Pain

I see you every single day
Your life once more war had gained

But you were mine, mine to keep
I see your bright eyes week after week and if – if I could turn back time,
I would have traded your life with mine.

Summer Geitner Y11



Heritage and Cultural Diversity Awards

Show-case your rich cultural heritage ,

There are two categories:

- Using Art, a short story, song/ music
- Textile, design a cultural attire, play,
- (no more than **1000** words)

- **Winners in each category get £50 prize each, (vouchers).**
- **Deadline- 20/02/24**



DOODLE CLUB

Enter National Art competitions to win cash and prizes!

RUN BY Y12 STUDENTS
RM 40
FRIDAY LUNCHTIMES



Starts Fri 10th Nov
Come along and get making!

Sketch * Paint * Create

Starts
Friday
10th
Nov

Rm 40

**£150 cash
prize for the
winner!**



MED CLUB

MEETINGS EVERY TUESDAY
LUNCHTIME FROM 12:40 M35
WELCOME TO ALL FUTURE
HEALTHCARE WORKERS - NOT JUST
DOCTORS!!



WEEK A Friday

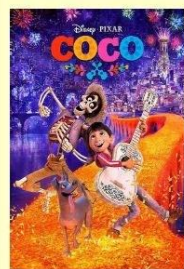
- Y7-9 rm27
(collect sets from M22)
- Y10-11 M22

WEEK B Friday

- Y7-11 M22

Sets available,
or bring your own.

Chess Club

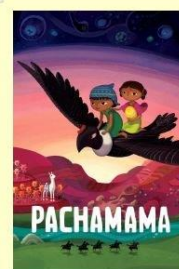


Year 7 Spanish film club

Every Tuesday lunchtime

M34

Bring your lunch



PHILOSOPHY THROUGH FILM CLUB

Week B Thursday
Lunch time in C10
Year 10 – 13

Watch and
discuss
Philosophical
films

Speak to Mr
Newton for
more
information

Debate Club

- Thursday Week B
- 12.30-1pm
- R38
- Years 7-11

'It is better to debate a question without settling it than to settle a question without debating it.'
Joseph Joubert

Games Club

Games Club is on Wed lunchtime in rm35.

Bring your lunch!

**Years 7-13
all welcome!**



MUSIC LUNCHTIME GROUPS



Day	Group	Teacher	Room
MONDAY	Jazz group	Mr Hodges /Ms Curtis	14
TUESDAY	Rock groups	Mr Poynton	14/15
WEDNESDAY	Choir Brass group	Mrs Selwood/ Mrs Ball /Ms Curtis Mr Dockray	14 15
THURSDAY	Strings group	Ms Curtis	15
FRIDAY	Wind Band	Mrs Selwood / Mrs Evans /Ms Curtis	14



Turn up at 12:30pm and bring your lunch and instruments. Rehearsals start at 12:45 until 1:15pm. We will be rehearsing towards various concerts and special events which will take place throughout the year. This term is for the Christmas Concert on Friday 15th December, Prize Evening Tuesday 19th December and the Christmas Celebration at the end of term on Wednesday 20th December.

