



Charities at NDHS

This week I was pleased to write thank you cards to numerous tutor groups in which every member had contributed to the Sponsored Walk. Upon reading this newsletter, we will have handed out cheques for significant sums of money to the local, national and international charities that I listed in my last letter to you. This year, we have raised over £15,000 from the Sponsored Walk alone – a tremendous team effort!



On December 7th, Mrs Rhodes and Mr McKay arranged for 25 of our 6th form students and 10 of our staff to take part in the 'Big Sleep Out' on the Notre Dame site. The initiative is designed to raise awareness of the plight that homeless people suffer every single day, and our team raised £1,750 towards charities for the homeless. It also, and perhaps most importantly, provides those involved with a small amount of empathy for the homeless. It turned out to be a wet and windy night but an incredibly positive experience for all involved.

On Friday 13th December, the Notre Dame SVP (Saint Vincent De Paul Society) spent time at a local care home, Corton House. Everybody got into the Christmas spirit with both students and residents singing carols and old time Christmas classics, accompanied by one of our talented 6th formers on piano.

Following the singing, the students served afternoon tea and cake and sat with the residents, chatting about their busy lives, studying and socialising, and listening to the residents' interesting life stories and shared wisdom.

It's so important for us to come together and celebrate good times and this is certainly an event in the calendar that makes all involved feel good. A huge thanks to the SVP students and residents and staff at Corton House for making this get-together happen.



Finally on charities, a thank you from the staff, to you as parents and carers. Our charity work is facilitated by your generosity, support and encouragement. The Hampers, provided by each form, are testament to this.

Road Safety

We are very much 'in the deep midwinter' and the light levels before and after school are very poor. Although I am pleased that many of our young people are able to sensibly cycle to and from school, I am also concerned that some of our students are not visible enough. Please can I ask parents and carers to check that your children and young people have adequate lights, high visibility clothing and a cycle helmet if they are riding to school.

Separately, I am very aware of the acutely busy nature of Surrey Street. The building work continues and the closure of roads in the city centre has increased the traffic flow. Please think carefully about the best place to drop off and pick up your children. All roads are busy but Surrey Street is particularly hazardous. If you do have to use Surrey Street, please consider picking up after 3.40pm, once the flow of students has passed. This will allow you to pull in more safely.

Going for Gold in the Arts

We recently received the wonderful news that we have achieved 'Gold' Arts Award status. This is a prestigious, nationally recognised award acknowledging the vital role of the Arts in education. The judges commended the diversity of opportunities for so many of our students to be creative, and perform.

They were particularly impressed by our students taking a leading role in organising concerts, performances and exhibitions to showcase their talents. Congratulations to all the staff and students who have worked so hard over the last two years to achieve this status and to celebrate the importance of the Arts in our community.

Your next opportunity to experience the arts at Notre Dame is on the horizon. Join us for **Gizmo**, it promises to be an excellent night of entertainment.



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



A near future play about
gadgets and gangs.

Performance Dates: 27th, 28th and 29th February

Time: 7pm

Venue: St John's Hall,

Tickets: £6 Adult, £4 Student/Concessions

Tickets on sale from 27th Jan, @ Drama Studio, lunchtimes



Sporting Success

The PE department continue to create opportunities for all of our students to participate in physical activity. Notre Dame's recent success includes five out of its six football teams getting into the County Cup quarterfinals. The 6th form tennis team is, for the first time, in the knock-out stages of the National Cup. Hockey at Notre Dame is booming! The Under 15 Hockey teams gained 1st and 7th place in the Emerging Schools Tournament.

The years 7, 8 and 9 Rugby teams, recently inspired by the World Cup, were placed 3rd in the Emerging Schools Rugby Tournament.



Success is fantastic, but ultimately sport should be enjoyed, no matter the level of competition. The PE department run a host of clubs and Mr Clitheroe or any of the PE department will be able to point your child in the direction of clubs at the school or out of school.

Prize Evening

This week we celebrated our annual Prize Evening. It was an honour to have Father Sean and Bishop Alan with us at such a busy time of the year for them. We also warmly welcomed the Director of the School's Service from the Diocese – Julie O'Connor, NDHS Governors, Directors of the Multi Academy Trust and the PTFA, all of whom support the staff at NDHS in their daily work with the students. Ultimately, the evening is about celebrating the gifts and success of our young people. It was wonderful to see former students from last year's year 11 and year 13 receiving their prizes and exam certificates with such joy. We take this final opportunity to wish them good luck in their future endeavours.

Finally for 2019...Thank you!

It has been a real pleasure to meet with so many of you over the course of this term. Notre Dame High School is built on the foundations of strong relationships and our Christian ethos. I have really enjoyed my first term as Head of School and I look forward to leading the school and working with your children and young people in 2020. Their smiles, warmth and dedication make Notre Dame a very special place in which to work. I hope each of you has a restful and peaceful Christmas when it arrives.

Tom Pinnington
Head of School

Dates for Parents' Evenings and Parent Surgery Meetings (Half term 3)

16th January Y11 Parent Evening from 4.30. Parent surgery between 6pm and 7pm in M24

13th February Y12 Parent Evening from 4.30. Parent surgery between 6pm and 7pm in M24

For the details of further dates, please visit the website using the following link: [Notre Dame Calendar](#)

The following is an invitation to celebrate a Candlelight Mass from the East Anglian Diocesan Youth Service. You are warmly invited to attend.

Epiphany Candlelight Mass

Followed by hotdogs, a bonfire and fireworks
For all young people from across the Diocese

5pm - 7pm Sunday 5th January 2020
at The White House, 21 Ugate,
Poringland. NR14 7SH

We are collecting gifts for children who are refugees.
Please bring a wrapped gift, indicating on the outside whether it is for a boy or girl
or either, and the approximate age it is suitable for.

Organised by East Anglia Diocesan Youth Service. Tel: 01508 486236 Email: dys@rcoeda.org.uk