

30/04/21



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

When Notre Dame is at its best, it is truly an incredible place to work at. However, it is fair to say that there have been times across the last year when it has felt like we have had our wings clipped, and although we have done our very best to maintain and deliver the breadth of curriculum, subject areas and no doubt students have felt frustrated with the restrictions.

With the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions and the fall in cases locally and nationally, we now need to make tentative steps towards getting back to our very best. Much of this happens through enrichment of the curriculum through Music, Sport, Drama and Art. This week I have really enjoyed hearing the laughter of and seeing the participation within after school sports clubs. I have enjoyed witnessing y9 practising chords on guitars and hearing that some music clubs will be re-started, where it is deemed safe. This includes a group of Y10s that will represent the school at the 'Bishop's Garden' event. Life is slowly getting back to its fullest. We pray that this continues for all of our young people.

I was filled with pride this week in finding out that three of our students supported a significant police investigation. Although I can't give more details, their actions were brave and showed speed and clarity of thought. This was very much an example of leadership and service from our young people. The police are seeking to officially award their bravery.

Y11 and Y13 continue to work hard towards their assessment opportunities, at this midway point their resilience and perseverance continues to serve them well. Thank you to all staff supporting the ongoing assessments, for the time you are giving to our young people and the attention required on marking and moderating these pieces of work.

Finally, we keep the people of India in our thoughts. As restrictions ease in the UK, the people of India are suffering a great tragedy. Our prayers are with the entire Indian community of NDHS.

- [EU Settled Status – all EU Nationals must apply](#)
- [Mezzanine Build](#)
- [Daily Contact Testing Trial](#)
- [Y11/Y13 Leavers Plans](#)
- [The Big Ask](#)
- [Clubs and Activities](#)
- [Twice Weekly Testing](#)

Best Wishes,

Tom Pinnington – Head of School

"God loves a simple heart which does its best".

Saint Julie Billiart – Founder of the Notre Dame Order

EU Settled Status – all EU Nationals must apply

Please read this message from the Local Authority carefully:

EU citizens and their families (including non-EU citizens) who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue to live, work and study in the UK beyond 30 June 2021. **Each child** must have their own application.

Some EU Nationals may not think EU Settled Status applies to them due to the length of time they have lived here and paperwork they already have. However, **even if** they have lived in the UK for many years or have a permanent residence document, **they still need to apply**.

It is essential that **all** EU Nationals apply for Settled Status, regardless of previous paperwork received. It is also essential that parents apply for each child as, in addition to other rights, EU Settled Status protects their child's right to access higher education. The deadline to apply for EU Settled Status is **Wednesday 30 June**.

Please help us get this message across by reminding EU National families who attend your school that applications for EU Settled Status should be submitted for everyone in the family, including children and babies.

It is free to apply, and can be done quickly and easily online: [Apply to the EU Settlement Scheme \(settled and pre-settled status\)](#).

If EU Nationals have not yet applied, or are under the impression this system does not apply to them, please encourage them to start their application immediately. Local support services are available for questions and queries, please direct parents to: [EU Settlement Scheme \(Norfolk County Council\)](#) for contact details.

Mezzanine Build

The finalised plans are in place, and the building company arrive on site on Monday 24th May. There will be disruption. We will lose the use of some classrooms, and recreational space. There will also be noise once the work begins. However, the result will be a fantastic new study space, a new full size classroom and Disabled access to all floors for our young people. The short term difficulties will be forgotten, and the new spaces become part of Notre Dame's next chapter.

From the 24th May, please can parents be very considerate of picking up and dropping off on Surrey Street. The residents will face disruption and the less traffic on the road, the better.

Daily Contact Testing Trial

Several weeks ago I explained that NDHS had volunteered to be part of a trial seeking to determine the feasibility of daily contact testing within schools, i.e. staff and students taking lateral flow tests each day, rather than self-isolating. For logistical reasons, we have had to withdraw from the trial, therefore no further consent is being sought from families. We look forward to hearing of the trial's success.

Y11/Y13 Leavers Plans

Please refer to the separate letters that have been sent out to relevant families.

The Big Ask

Our students are being invited to participate in the largest ever survey of young people in England. The Children's Commissioner wishes to find out what are our concerns and aspirations about the future.

The results from the survey will help put children and young people at the heart of the country's plans to rebuild for the future.

Please encourage your child to visit <http://thebigask.uk/> and complete the online survey.



Clubs & Activities

A number of our extracurricular clubs and activities are now back up and running.

To find out what is currently on offer, visit our [Clubs & Activities](#) page in the News & Events section of our website.



Twice Weekly Testing

A message from the DfE...

To help in communicating the importance of testing and reporting, we have produced a blog on [why reporting your test result is as important as taking a test](#), featuring further guidance and common questions. This also includes details on financial support available to parents whose children are asked to self-isolate after contact with a positive case.

Let's take this next step safely

GET YOUR TESTS

From School

REPORT ONLINE

Go to Covid Updates
on our website

