

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020

Notre Dame High School

Dear Parent/Carer

2020 will not be a year many of us will remember with great fondness. Coronavirus has had terrible and far-reaching implications for our young people, their families and the staff. Indeed, the loss of our beloved Modern Languages teacher, Suzanne Salt is a tragic reminder of how precious life is. Unfortunately, as a school community, we have been faced with an even greater challenge in recent weeks, in dealing with the death of Sophie Geddes, a fifth year pupil. Sophie was killed in a car accident in early December, and on Wednesday of this week, I will join friends and family at her funeral service. This takes place at 2.30 p.m. in the Immaculate Conception church in Maryhill. The service will be recorded and streamed, allowing others to participate. During this time of grieving, our young people have demonstrated love and care for each other as well as great dignity. I know that you join me in praying for Sophie's family and friends who are never far from our thoughts.

Our Senior Phase pupils endured so much uncertainty and worry with the cancellation of the SQA exam diet in May 2020 and whilst we have only recently heard that next year's exam will follow a similar pattern, the work is already underway to ensure our approach is designed to support, and not hinder, pupils' progress.

As we approach the Christmas holiday, we are again faced with the reality of further restrictions and at least one week of remote learning for our pupils in early January. Preparing for further remote learning has been a focus of our staff since August and we are therefore in a much better position now to fulfil this role.

I am delighted to be able to provide this Newsletter which demonstrates that, despite the difficulties faced, our pupils and staff have continued to overcome adversity through the contribution they make to their school and the local community.

For the next two weeks, staff and pupils will enjoy a well-earned rest. I wish you and your family a very happy and Holy Christmas with very **best wishes for the New Year!**

Rosie Martin, Headteacher



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Inspired by the delivery of grocery bags during lockdown, pupils have been busy bringing in non-perishable groceries to be distributed to some of the families hardest hit by the current pandemic. Staff will be delivering these on Monday and Tuesday of this week on behalf of the pupils and their families. Thank you for supporting this appeal.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Winners!

Like most of this year's events, the DofE Awards ceremony in Glasgow was held remotely on 19 November. This year, we were able to add to the large number of our young people achieving Bronze awards by presenting pupils for the Silver award for this first time. This commitment saw the school named as "Centre of the Year" with our coordinator, Brian Henry, recognised as "Leader of the Year". We are so proud of the girls and so grateful to Mr Henry for being our school Champion.



Brian Henry

Welcome to the Team!

Following the retiral of three popular staff members (Ms McMahon, RE, Ms McMahon, Modern Languages and Ms McGinley, English), we have appointed three new members of Senior Staff to the school.

Mr Gibney has joined us as Principal Teacher of Modern Languages as well as Ms O'Neill, Principal Teacher of Religious Education. In addition, our very own Mr McCarthy has been promoted to the role of Principal Teacher English and Literacy. Congratulations and Good Luck to all!



Ms O'Neill



Mr Gibney



Mr McCarthy

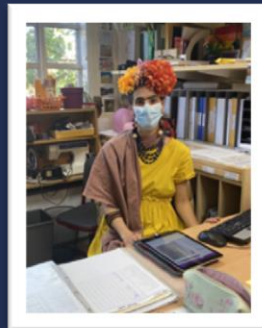
Uniform Consultation

Earlier this term, we embarked upon a uniform consultation, a planned feature of our Planning for Change to coeducation document. With pupils and parents from Notre Dame High and our three associated primary schools taking part, the decision was in favour of maintaining the brown blazer. Our next step is to decide which colour of uniform suits the blazer best - brown, navy blue, black or grey? The link to this questionnaire has been distributed to all stakeholders and results will be available in early January.



Hallowe'en Fun

Despite the Covid restrictions, our sixth year pupils still managed to provide an afternoon of fun activities for first year - even the teachers took part this time around! The winner of the Best Teacher Costume was Mrs Lota from the Maths Department who looked good enough to eat!



The Winner!

Senior Awards Ceremony

October would normally see the school formally recognise the achievements and attainment of young people from S4 - S6 in their SQA examinations. Whilst we couldn't reward the pupils in the usual manner, the staff were keen to ensure their achievements were recognised. Departments nominated two young people for each subject and there were a range of wider achievements celebrated including Duke of Edinburgh and Nuffield Bursary.

And finally,.....

On behalf of all the Staff, I wish you and the family a very Holy and Happy Christmas with special blessings for the new year. May 2021 be a time of peace and good health for all.

Rosie Martin

