

9/10/20



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

*'By his actions, the Good Samaritan showed that the existence of each and every individual is deeply tied to that of others: life is not simply time that passes; life is a time for interactions'.*

*Pope Francis – Fratelli Tutti*

This week, and as per the letter that went out to all families, the school experienced its first confirmed student case of Covid 19. I would like to thank all parents, students and staff for their calm response to the news. Although this was the first case, unfortunately, it will not be the last, and support for each other is essential. We pray for the swift recovery of anyone suffering with the illness at this time.

In this instance, we were able to quickly identify the timeline of events, liaise with the Local Authority Covid Response Team and the Department for Education Response Team/Public Health England. As a result we were reassured that there was no infection risk to other students and that there was no necessity to contact other families regarding self-isolation.

The Health and Safety Team at the Local Authority were satisfied that all sensible precautions and safety measures are in place at the school. As the R number continues to rise locally and nationally, we expect more cases to be confirmed. The school will continue to seek expert advice and act accordingly.

Some of you may have spotted that there was no newsletter last week. In a bid to reduce information overload, I am going to write to families on a fortnightly basis unless there is urgent news.

- [Black History Month](#)
- [New Website Features](#)
- [Online Learning](#)
- [Year 11 Futures Event](#)
- [Founder's Day Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October](#)
- [Remote Teaching Contingency Plans](#)

Best Wishes

Tom Pinnington – Head of School

## Black History Month

In October each year, the UK has a special focus on the achievements of Black People in our country, to recognise their place in our history. Due to recent events around the world, this theme has become more significant than ever.

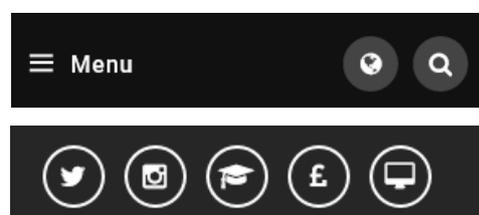


We are going to mark Black History month in a wide variety of ways through assemblies, Form Time and subject specific activities.

Notre Dame is proud of its inclusivity and diversity, we will ensure we do our very best for the entire community in and beyond the month of October. Moving forwards, the school will be looking at the curriculum and internal staff training. Changes require thought, planning and thorough implementation to make them sustainable and effective. This is something to which the school is committed, reflecting that each one of us is equally valued in the eyes of God.

## New Website Features

Our [new site](#) responds to what size of screen you view it on. If you are using a mobile phone and looking for the quicklink icons for WisePay, MCAS and RM Unify, click on the three lines menu icon and they are at the bottom.



If you click on the globe icon, you can select a different language. This automatically translates the links and the contents of any page into your chosen language.

## Online Learning

We have created a special page on our website for [Online Learning](#) which is accessible from the 'Curriculum' and 'Students' menus. This gives our students links to RM Unify, Student Portal and Google Classroom. If your child is absent for any reason, they can access learning remotely via their subject's Google Classroom. The codes to each room are accessible from the table on the [Online Learning](#) page.



## Year 11 Futures Event

Our Y11 students need to begin thinking about their future education.

To help guide and support them through this process we have put all our careers guidance onto our website.



We have launched **Y11 Futures** with a video presentation accessible on the [Careers page](#) of our website.

Please can Y11 families watch the video and email any questions that you have to [careers@ndhs.org.uk](mailto:careers@ndhs.org.uk). We will compile the answers into a FAQ section on the Careers page. If you have a question which is unique to you, our Careers Team will reply directly to you.

### Founder's Day Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

On the last day of this half term each year, we celebrate the opening of our school in 1864 by the Sisters of Notre Dame. We have postponed our traditional Sponsored Walk until the Summer. Instead, we will celebrate by having a non-school uniform day and a special liturgy during Period 1 led by Fr Sean Connelly via Zoom.

We are inviting students and staff to make a donation to two charities providing relief during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

St Martin's Trust need funds to provide local homeless people with masks and sanitiser. CAFOD are supporting communities abroad that do not have clean water to wash their hands in order to reduce the spread of the virus. Form Tutors will collect your donations on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>.



### Remote Teaching Contingency Plans

Thanks to all parents who were able to complete the survey on our [Remote Teaching contingency plans](#). You can view a summary of parent responses [here](#). Based on your feedback and feedback from our teaching staff, we are now proceeding with preparations for being able to activate this plan if / when required.

There were some useful questions from parents and here is a short Q&A in response:

<p>What do you mean by '25 total guided learning hours per week for KS4 pupils'?</p>	<p>This time would include all schoolwork: i.e. live sessions, work set via google classroom. The concept of 'homework' disappears when pupils are based at home for all learning.</p>
<p>How will pupils and parents know when any 'live sessions' are scheduled for?</p>	<p>We would update your child's timetable via MCAS (My Child at School) so that it shows the timetable for live sessions. We would do this the day before live sessions commence and then let parents know to check on MCAS.</p>
<p>How will pupils know where to access the links to each 'live session'?</p>	<p>Links would be shared via each teaching group's google classroom for each subject, on the morning of a given session. Please ensure your child has joined all their teacher's google classrooms if they have not done already.</p>
<p>How will you manage behaviour in any 'live sessions', and also avoid members of the public from joining?</p> <p>Additionally, are parents allowed to join the live sessions?</p>	<p>We developed a protocol when delivering live sessions to Year 12 last term. We have adapted that protocol so it is ready for use with all pupils. Click <a href="#">here</a> to read it.</p>