



# Notre Dame Plymouth

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**Headteacher:** Mrs Katherine White

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## Notre Dame educates the whole person: Head, Heart and Hands

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Dear Parents/Carers,

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

### COVID-19 – An Update

As we reach the end of our first half-term, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your support of the school in getting students back to school safely and to enable a successful re-opening. It has been wonderful to see our classrooms full and students enjoying their learning. We are so glad to have our community back together, albeit a little differently than we are used to.

As we begin to feel more comfortable with being back in school, we must all remember not to become complacent, and to always adhere to government and public health guidelines and to follow the measures we have put in place in school very strictly. Students must remember to observe the one-way systems, wear a face covering in communal areas and corridors (unless medically exempt), to wash and sanitise their hands regularly and to remain within their year group bubbles, including at break and lunch times. All of these measures have helped us to be and remain a Covid-19 safe school so far, but we must continue to follow this guidance to ensure our community are kept as safe as possible.

### Future Remote Learning

I would like to remind you of the plans we have in place should we have to close to a year group bubble or if local lockdown restrictions are put into place:

- Lessons will be live streamed to all students via Google Classroom at the timetabled time so that they can access remotely from home, even if they are self-isolating.
- If some students are in school and some at home, then lessons will take place live in the classroom and will be streamed live to the home at the same time.
- Students will be expected to log in to their lesson at the correct time.
- In the event of a return to full lockdown, teachers plan to continue to come to school to deliver remote lessons professionally from their classrooms at the correct times on their timetables.

### What if my child is unwell or in isolation?

If your child is off school because they are **unwell**, they will not be expected to complete any school work and work will not be set. Before COVID-19, work would not have been sent home if a student was unwell. They are too ill to be at school and therefore could not be expected to work at home.

If, however, your child is in **isolation**, they may feel perfectly well and should use Google Classroom to access their lessons, at the usual lesson times, which will be live streamed by their teachers. Please ensure your child knows how to access all of the Google Classroom pages for each of their subjects.

### Covid-19 Reminders

Current guidance states that a person should only have a COVID-19 test if they are experiencing symptoms themselves. The current routes to get a COVID-19 test is to either:

- Call 119 or;
- Book online by reading the guidance and following the links to the Government website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

The full government guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If your child is displaying any of the recognised COVID-19 symptoms (high temperature, a new, continuous cough or loss or change to sense of smell or taste) they must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when their symptoms started and you should arrange for them to have a test. Anyone that they live with must also isolate for 14 days from the day the child developed symptoms. Please keep the school abreast of any information relating to the need

for your child to self-isolate and subsequent test results. Please contact Mrs Cunningham, Attendance Officer via telephone or email: [attendance@ndonline.org](mailto:attendance@ndonline.org).

## Period 6

Thank you to all teachers who have delivered extra teaching to Year 11 students every week on Mondays – Thursdays for an hour after school. These sessions have and will continue to enable vital exam preparation for students and to support them to catch up on missed curriculum during the months of lockdown.

Thank you for your support of Period 6 and for ensuring that your child attends every evening. Feedback so far has been really positive, with students citing that it has been so valuable to them and that they are grateful for the extra time and effort that is being made to ensure they are as prepared as possible for their exams and the next steps of their life.

## Year 11 and 13 Examinations 2021

You may be aware of the government announcement made last week that GCSE and A Level Exams due to take place in 2021 will be pushed back by 3 weeks. This means that they will now begin on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and end on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. Students will have an extra three weeks to spend with their teachers, to prepare and revise. Results days are Tuesday 24 August for A and AS levels and Friday 27 August for GCSEs so students will start the following academic year as normal.

Mock exams are held annually for Year 11 students and provide an essential opportunity for students to familiarise themselves with the format and content of GCSE and BTEC papers and give both them and their teachers a clear indicator of current and future academic performance. Performance in these mock examinations is a vital indicator of actual GCSE and BTEC outcomes. The results are used by the school to further identify those who require additional help and support and are also important for offers of places for post 16 courses. A letter with further information from Mrs Clancy has been sent to parents.

**Year 11 Mock Exam Dates: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

## Survey

Shortly you will receive a Form via ParentMail inviting you to complete a survey. We would like to gather your feedback on how, as a school, we have handled various aspects of the pandemic so that we can consider and take action on any areas identified as needing improvement. We hope that you have felt well supported and communicated with by the school. We really value your feedback and thank you in advance for taking the time to support us to improve.

## Other Notices

Please remember that Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 are non-pupil days and so we will expect to see students return to school following half-term on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 which will be a Week B.

Please remember to park safely when dropping off or picking up your child on residential roads near the school. We have received reports of dangerous parking and cars parked on double yellow lines. It is important that we are respectful of our neighbours. Thank you.

At Notre Dame we recognise and hear the cry of the poor. It is our mission to support our brothers and sisters living in poverty across our planet. May our work with CAFOD be a reflection of how we hold the virtues of kindness and charity close to our hearts. We would encourage you to look at our Just Giving page and make a voluntary donation of £2 as part of this term's fundraising for CAFOD.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/notre-dame-school-plymouth1>

If the government guidelines re: Covid-19 change or there is a change in any of our plans, I will write to you again to keep you updated.

If you have any queries, please contact your child's tutor by telephone or email in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

*K M White*

Mrs K White  
Headteacher

God, you call us out of darkness.  
May we hear your voice  
in the cry of our brothers and sisters in  
crisis.

As you walk alongside us always,  
may we walk beside one another  
listening and responding in love.

Shine the light of your compassion through  
us,  
dispelling chaos, fear and despair.

Breathe hope and courage into all our  
hearts  
as we work together to rebuild once more.

Strengthen us, Lord, and keep us steadfast.

Bring healing and comfort to all  
and lead us renewed into your marvellous  
light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen