



Notre Dame Catholic College

Established 1869

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Dear Parent/Carer

Re: End of Term Letter

As a very busy Spring Term draws to a close, I am writing to keep you updated on a range of issues across the school that you may be interested in.

Firstly, can I take this opportunity to welcome our new Year 6 into 7 families to the Notre Dame Community. This year saw another year where we received considerably more applications (over 400) than we have places (150) and it is pleasing that our school community remains a popular choice for families in the area.

Mobile Phones

The trial ban on mobile phones has been a huge success and, as such, we would like to extend it until May half term. The number of social media incidents has fallen considerably and rather than sitting in groups looking at phones, the students have actually started to talk to each other! So thank you for your continued support of the rule that students are not permitted to use mobile phones whilst on the premises (though they may have them turned off in their bag or inner blazer pocket).

Attendance

Our target for attendance is 96% but unfortunately, as a school our actual attendance is currently 92%. This may seem good but in reality Ofsted, other external agencies and ourselves would judge it as unacceptable. We work very hard and employ considerable resources to try to raise attendance but the evidence suggests that biggest influence on student attendance is parental attitude. With that in mind can I urge you to follow the advice below and avoid these unacceptable absences:-

- Family holidays
- To stay off as a 'treat' for going to a medical/dental appointment;
- For minor illnesses e.g. coughs, sneezes, slight temperature;
- Recovering from injuries (we are able to accommodate most students whether in wheelchairs, on crutches or wearing casts). In these cases we have dedicated staff, working with the school nurse, to assess students and facilitate distribution of medicines e.g. painkillers;
- Birthdays or most other family events;
- Shopping days;
- To look after younger siblings;
- Part time working (sixth form);
- Sleeping in – better late than never.

When children attend, they do better – it really is that simple.



Spring Term Events

The Spring Term is always the busiest for key events and this last term has been no exception, below are just a few examples:-

- Mock exams;
- Parents' Evenings for Years 8, 9 and 10;
- Sixth Form Open Evening;
- Year 12 Careers Day at Lloyd Bank;
- Year 9 Careers Day;
- Prizegiving;
- Our students got to the finals of the National Science Awards;
- Dance Showcase;
- Spring Concert;
- Year 9 Options Evening.

Can I remind you that details of all events past and future are on the school website; www.notredameliverpool.com

School App and Twitter

We now have our own school app which can be downloaded for free from the App Store (iPhone/iPad) or Android App Store by searching Notre Dame Catholic College. Our intention is to use the app to communicate with parents much more effectively and efficiently.

You may also be interested in following the school on Twitter @NDEvertonValley where we post updates and links to events involving the school.

GCSE and A Levels

The summer term sees the start of the formal exam season. Again I would urge good attendance to ensure students receive all the support their teachers can provide. Students should also make use of the extra classes being run after school and during the holidays. For Year 13 the students have been informed directly by the teachers. For Year 11 there is an Easter holiday timetable attached to this letter.

And Finally ...

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the school as only by working together can we be truly successful. May I also wish you a happy and holy Easter holiday and I look forward to welcoming all of our students (Years 7-13) on Monday 24th April at 8.40am.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Rannard
Acting Headteacher