



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move further into Advent, and draw towards the end of what has been a particularly long and tiring term for our sixth form students (and staff!), I would like to share with you some thoughts on how things have gone, as well as share some information about next term. Before then, let me draw your attention to edition 3 of 'Notre News' (which accompanies this edition of ND VOICE) the student newspaper written entirely by some of our fantastically talented sixth form students.

Year 12 have settled in very well indeed and are shaping up to be a brilliant year group of bright, capable and talented young people. This was shown recently by both the quantity and quality of the applications submitted in applying for a role in our student leadership team.

With our Y12 now a mix of 50/50 internal/external students, I am particularly impressed by how the students who joined us in September from around 30 other local secondary schools, are now very much a part of our Notre Dame learning community.

I am also impressed with the approach to sixth form and the commitment all students have shown with their learning, and I know they will be well prepared for the upcoming January assessment week.

Although we are only at the end of the first term of Y12, we do need to start thinking about our students' next step. On Thursday 21st March 2024, at 6pm, we will be holding our higher education information evening where you can find out more about the process of applying to higher education, as well as the costs and benefits involved. Details of this event will be circulated nearer the time.

Another notable date for your diary next term is our Y12 parents' evening, this takes place in school on Tuesday 6th February 2024, 5:00pm-7:30pm, again, details will be circulated nearer the time.

Year 13 have settled in well to their A2 studies and have shown themselves to be a highly motivated, committed and focused year group. It's particularly pleasing to hear so much positive news around UCAS applications, successful interviews and offers of university places.

The students were particularly impressive in their approach to the recent assessment week and I know will have found this intense week of assessments useful in their preparations for next summer.

A second assessment week will allow students and teachers to further their preparation for their final exams, this will take place week commencing 11th March 2024.

Thank you for your support in attending the recent Y13 parents' evening, if you didn't manage to attend, and/or didn't manage to complete the questionnaire. Please click on the link on page 8 to share your thoughts with us.

All 6th form

On Friday 22nd December, during period 3, we gathered in St John's Church for our end of term Advent service. This is one of our community milestones and all students were expected to attend unless they had authorised leave of absence. The service was a wonderful community event making for a particularly warm and spiritual end to the term.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to offer you and your family the warmest best wishes for this forthcoming holiday. May peace and love surround you all this Christmas, and the light of Jesus shine always in your hearts.

Mr Birch

Recent Events/Achievements

Student Leadership

We would like to introduce our head students for 2024-2025, many congratulations to Eve, Giancarlo and Rim.



Above Picture: Advent Service in St John's Church, Ranmoor

Volunteering

Since September students in Y12 have been volunteering on a Wednesday morning to support other students. This has involved the following:

- SEND mentoring – Providing 1-1 support for students to overcome personal and academic barriers
- Maths Mentoring – Supporting Y11 students to develop and improve their maths skills in the run up to their summer exams.
- Sports Leaders – Supporting lunchtime activities and practices to enable more students to participate.
- Buddies – Weekly mentoring sessions for targeted students to provide support for their needs.
- Eco Champions – Leading site litter picks with lower school forms
- St Maries Readers – Supporting students at one of our local feeder schools with 1 - 1 reading.
- Paired Reading – Supporting students in Y7 at Notre Dame to improve their reading so that they have a better level of access to the school curriculum

In all areas the students have been committed and are making a real difference to the lives of the students they are working with.



Recent Events/Achievements

RAG Challenge

At our Winter Wonderland market place (18th – 20th December) Y12 students have set up stall to raise funds for a range of local and national charities. They had a great time and engaged over 600 students from school. Counting of the proceeds can now begin.



Advent Challenge

During the final week of form students took part in a series of challenge activities – 2 of which were to create a nativity scene and to dress someone up as a Christmas tree. These activities build a sense of community and are just FUN!





Post 18 progression



UCAS Update

Year 13 UCAS update—144 applications have now been sent off, with over 100 students holding at least one offer and 31 students having heard from all of their choices. The UCAS deadline is 31st January 2024, but we strongly advise all applications are sent off at least a week before this date.

Warwick Pre-University Summer School 2024

We are delighted to announce that applications for our [2024 Warwick Pre-University Summer School \(PRESS\)](#) for students aged 16-17 are now open. The programme runs from 16-26 July 2024.

Our Pre-University Summer School is a 10 night fully-inclusive residential academic enhancement programme combining a stay at Warwick's beautiful campus and day trips to our exciting Capital City London and the dreaming spires of Oxford. Students participating in the Summer School experience quality undergraduate teaching can choose between our '[A Taste of Economics and Finance](#)', '[A Taste of Science and Engineering](#)' or '[A Taste of Social Sciences](#)'.

Students will experience:

- Engaging with like-minded peers from around the world
- A taste of University life and undergraduate teaching from top Warwick faculty
- Outstanding guest speakers
- Personal effectiveness training, including leadership and communication skills
- Preparing for University in the UK
- Living on the beautiful and self-contained Warwick campus
- Visiting some of the most iconic places in the UK, including London and Oxford

University of Sheffield

At the University of Sheffield, on Monday 22 January 2024 at 5.30 - 6.40pm, University of Sheffield is running an online session for students (Y11 - Y13), parents and teachers introducing Linguistics: the study of human language as a biological, computational, cultural and artistic phenomenon. The session will focus on the scientific and mathematical side of Linguistics. It will allow participants to find out about what types of questions are asked in the study of theoretical and experimental linguistics, and how they link to other disciplines like mathematics, biology, psychology, computer science, engineering and speech and language pathology. They'll discuss what types of careers linguists have, and provide an overview of our Linguistics degrees here at Sheffield. This session will be a perfect introduction and particularly useful to those who are either considering a career in Linguistics, or those who are supporting a student with a passion for this area. For informal enquiries, email r.orfitelli@sheffield.ac.uk.

[Book your place for this "Insights into Linguistics" session](#)



Post 18 progression



What is the Emmanuel College Link Area Programme?

The programme will commence on Thursday 25th January and will include one session (5pm – 6.30pm) every Thursday until Thursday 29th February. Sessions will be run on Zoom. This **free** programme aims to provide participants with insight into life as a Cambridge student, equipping them with the tools and knowledge needed to aspire to a university such as Cambridge. The online sessions will be run by the Emmanuel Outreach team and a group of dedicated **undergraduate ambassadors** studying a range of subjects at Cambridge. Participants will be encouraged to develop their subject interests by being assigned to one of four **'subject streams'**, through which they will be able to watch specially recorded lectures by Cambridge academics. Participants will be set **an academic assignment**, and they will receive both written and verbal feedback from one of these academics in a **mock supervision** (a teaching session unique to learning at Oxbridge).

Participants and one Parent/Guardian will then be invited to a **Celebration Day at Emmanuel College, Cambridge on Saturday 9th March 2024**. This year, Emmanuel is delighted to commit to covering the cost of return train tickets for each participant and their Parent/Guardian in order to encourage greener travel and ensure each participant is able to enjoy this special event! Finally, all participants who go on to make an application to either Cambridge, Oxford or other early entry HE courses will be invited to an online **personal statement & interview workshop** in September 2024 (date TBC).

Please scan the QR code to see the Eligibility Criteria and to find out more information.



The poster features a central illustration of Emmanuel College in Cambridge, with its two heraldic crests (a red shield with a white cross and a blue shield with a white lion) positioned above the building. The text is set against a dark blue background with a pink border. A megaphone icon is placed to the right of the eligibility text. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the poster's content area.

Emmanuel College Link Area Programme 2024

Free programme for Year 12 state school students from Sheffield & Essex

- Watch exclusive lectures
- Be taught by Cambridge academics
- Meet current students
- Visit Emmanuel College, Cambridge!

Application Deadline: 12pm Fri 5th January 2024

Questions? Email: outreach@emma.cam.ac.uk

Upcoming events and reminders



Year 12 Assessment Week January 2024

MORNING START TIME: 9:25am	Paper Length	DATE	AFTERNOON START TIME: 1:35pm	Paper Length
Psychology Further Maths	1 hr 15 mins 1 hr 40 mins	Monday 8th January	Sociology Maths French	1hr 1hr 1 hr 40 mins
Physics Business Spanish	1 hr 30 mins 1 hr 30 mins 1 hr 40 mins	Tuesday 9th January	Biology Computer Science Drama	1 hr 30 mins 1 hr 30 mins 50 mins
English Language PE	1 hr 45 mins 1 hr 45 mins	Wednesday 10th January	Chemistry DT H&SC	1 hr 45 mins 2 hr 0 mins 1 hr 30 mins
Government & Politics	1 hrs 45 mins	Thursday 11th January	Economics Philosophy & Ethics	50 mins 1 hr
Geography English Literature	1 hr 1 hr 40 mins	Friday 12th January	History	1 hr 30 mins

Further information

- Morning assessments begin at 9:25am and afternoon ones at 1:35pm.
- This is unless your assessments are in the parlour where yours begin at 9:00am and 1:00pm.
- You do not need to be in school unless you have an assessment-you must swipe in on InVentry when you arrive and swipe out when you leave.
- All assessments take place in Oakbrook classrooms as per your student portal exam timetable.
- Spanish and French assessments will take place in S12



Upcoming events and reminders

Enrichment Day – Wednesday 24th January 2024

We have an Enrichment Day taking place on Wednesday 24th January, details will be circulated nearer the time.

Y12 Parents' Evening– Tuesday 6th February 2024

Y12 Parents Evening, will take place in school on Tuesday 6th February 2024, 5:00pm-7:30pm, details will be circulated nearer the time.

Higher Education Information Evening– Thursday 21st March 2024

We will be holding our Higher Education Information Evening for Y12 students on Thursday 21st March 2024, at 6pm, details of this event will be circulated nearer the time.

Absence Reporting

We understand there are times when you will need to miss lessons due to genuine illness, medical appointments, bereavements or university open days. Any absences that are known in advance **MUST** be discussed with your form tutors and subject teachers, as well as reporting the absence. A conversation is better than an email in this case.

You **MUST** report unplanned or unexpected absence before 8.00am each day to Miss Vessey by:

- Telephoning school on 0114 2302536 and selecting option 2. Leave a voicemail if necessary stating details of absence, name and form.

Parents (or other named carers) can also report absences on your behalf by:

- Sending a text to 0114 3039996. (This is our preferred method to report absence, please include the name and form of your child)
 - Emailing evessey@notredame-high.co.uk
 - Telephoning on 0114 2302536 (press 4).



Sixth Form Attendance Policy



Notre Dame High School Sixth Form Attendance Intervention Policy

Attendance for all students will be reviewed as below.

Attendance Monitoring Review Points			
Cycle	Date	Y12	Y13
M1	October	13.10.23 to picked up w/c 30.10.23	13.10.23 to picked up w/c 30.10.23
Interim 1	November	21.11.23 to be picked up w/c 27.11.23	21.11.23 to be picked up w/c 27.11.23
M2	December	22.12.23 to be picked up w/c 15.01.24	22.12.23 to be picked up w/c 15.01.24
Interim 2	February	09.02.23 to be picked up w/c 19.02.23	09.02.23 to be picked up w/c 19.02.23
M3	March	21.03.23 to be picked up w/c 25.03.23	21.03.23 to be picked up w/c 25.03.23
Interim 3	May	17.05.23 to be picked up w/c 20.05.23	N/A
M4	July	12.07.23 to be picked up w/c 15.07.23	N/A
Stage	Intervention		
0	<p>Stage 0 is ongoing for all students Using Bromcom registers Miss Vessey and Mrs Deeney follow up reasons for absence with students and parents. Miss Vessey and Mrs Deeney contact home via email, text or phone the same day if there is an unreported absence from lessons.</p>		
1	<p>Attendance below 90% Student attends an attendance assembly with one of the sixth form team. Parent/carer receives correspondence home informing them that this meeting has taken place and that the student is on Stage 1. Attendance is reviewed at next monitoring review point If attendance improves and is above 90% the student will return to stage 0. If a student remains on stage 1 for two consecutive monitoring review points they will move to stage 2.</p>		
2	<p>Attendance below 80% or continued poor attendance Student is invited to a meeting with a member of the sixth form team where we will discuss attendance and agree targets and support actions to improve attendance. An Attendance Agreement will be put in place and signed by the student and a member of the sixth form team. Attendance is reviewed at next monitoring review point If attendance improves and is above 90% return to stage 0 If attendance does not improve or declines further we will implement the next stage of the attendance policy.</p>		
3	<p>Attendance below 70% or failure to meet the targets set by the Attendance Agreement. Parent/carer and student will be invited to a meeting with the Head or Assistant Head of Sixth Form. The Attendance Agreement will be re-issued and additional targets will be put in place.</p>		
4	<p>Attendance below 60% or failure to meet the targets set by the Attendance Agreement. Possible request to leave sixth form if the student is persistently absent from school or lessons and refuses to engage with intervention procedures.</p>		

Y13 Parents' Evening Survey

We would be grateful for your feedback from Y13 Parents' Evening that was held on Thursday 30th November. Please click on the below link.

<https://forms.office.com/e/91i1Pd190e>

Pastoral Links

- [YoungMinds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#)
- [Home - Kooth](#)
- [Golddigger Trust](#)
- [Welcome to The Corner - WHO WE ARE \(thecornersheffield.com\)](#)
- [Home - Epic Friends](#)
- [Door 43 | Sheffield Mental Health Guide](#)
- [Sheffield Wellbeing Resources - 2019-11 v1.1.pdf \(learnsheffield.co.uk\)](#)
- [lets talk.pdf \(sheffieldccg.nhs.uk\)](#)
- [On My Mind | Resources for Young People | Anna Freud Centre](#)
- [Parents and Careers | Advice and Guidance | Anna Freud Centre](#)
- [Anxiety - Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

16-19 Bursary

The student bursary fund aims to help and support students enrolled in the school Sixth Form who face barriers to learning, and to ensure that students can fully participate in and benefit from the 16-19 curriculum. A student with a household income of less than £17005 a year or a student currently entitled to Free School Meals can apply for the Bursary. Any more information needed please click on the below link or contact Miss Vessey- evessey@notredame-high.co.uk.

[16 to 19 Bursary – Notre Dame High School \(notredame-high.co.uk\)](https://www.notredame-high.co.uk/16-to-19-bursary)

Merry 
Christmas 