



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 6 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 almost 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 20th March 2025, 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 Thursday 6th February 2025, 4:30pm-7pm, 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 10th March 2025.

All 6th form

On Friday 20th 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.

Recent Events/Achievements

Y12 Form Challenge Leaderboard

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Score</u>
1	12POF	7
2	12EW	6
3	12DHO	4
4	12GT	3
5	12KR	3
6	12TSQ	2
7	12AWI	2
8	12CSN	0
9	12GP	0

Y13 Form Challenge Leaderboard

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Score</u>
1	13RAB	6
2	13LHW	5
3	13DCR	4
4	13BG	3
5	13SPI	3
6	13PLE	2
7	13MPI	1
8	13BL	0
9	13SDR	0

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 Marie's 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

Advent Service in St John's Church, Ranmoor



RAG Challenge

At our Winter Wonderland market place (16th – 19th 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 wear as many items of clothing. These activities build a sense of community and are just FUN!





Form Time Activity this term



All Of Sixth Form

Assemblies
Spiritual development day activities

Y12

- Ten steps induction to A Level study
 1. NOTE-TAKING CORNELL STYLE
 2. MAKING NOTES FROM A LECTURE, PODCAST OR VIDEO
 3. A GOAL THAT DRIVES YOU
 4. INDEPENDENT LEARNING
 5. PUTTING IN THE HOURS
 6. ORGANISATION
 7. THE LEAP FROM GCSE
 8. PROCRASTINATION
 9. A LEVEL MINDSET
 10. EXTRA-CURRICULAR
- Rag Challenge fundraising
- Drugs alcohol and tobacco

Y13

- Bullying abuse and discrimination
 - Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Reliable sources of health information
- Registering for health services wherever you live
- Recognising health issues in younger people
 - Student life 1 - Accommodation
 - Student life 2 - Cooking
 - Student life 3 - Finance



Post 18 progression



UCAS Update

134 applications have now been sent off, with over 100 students holding at least one offer and 34 students having heard from all of their choices. 18 students have applied for Dentistry, Medicine or Veterinary, with a further 16 applying to Oxbridge. The UCAS deadline is 29th January 2025, but we strongly advise all applications are sent off at least a week before this date.

Year 13 Jobs Fair:

This will take place on Wednesday 12th March 2025. Booking will open soon. [Sheffield Jobs Fair - Wednesday 12th March 2025](#)

NHS Work Experience

Clinical work experience applications open on 1st January 2025 and close 21st January 2025.

Non-Clinical work experience is also available in the following areas:

- Finance
- IT
- Supplies (Stores/Procurement)
- Administration

Students apply via [NHS - Sheffield Teaching Hospitals](#)

Subject Tasters at Oxford University

Keble hosts annual Subject Taster Days for prospective students currently in Year 12 (or equivalent) at UK state schools and colleges.

Tuesday 11th February: Human Sciences

Wednesday 12th February: Geography

Tuesday 18th February: Biology

Wednesday 19th February: Ancient History

Applications are open until 12 noon on Monday 27th January 2025. You can find out more, and make an application, on the application form.

[Keble College Taster Days 2025: application form](#)

Upcoming events and reminders



Year 12 Assessment Week January 2025-FINAL

MORNING START TIME: 9:00am	Paper Length	DATE	AFTERNOON START TIME: 1:00pm	Paper Length
Psychology French	1 hr 15 mins 1 hr 40 mins	Monday 13th January	Maths	1 hr
Biology Computer Science Product Design	1 hr 30 mins 1 hr 30 mins 2 hr	Tuesday 14th January	Sociology Physics	1 hr 1 hr 30 mins
Business Studies Chemistry	1 hr 1 hr 45 mins	Wednesday 15th January	Economics English Language Music (in MU1 & 2)	50 mins 1 hr 45 mins 2hrs 30mins (1pm to 2:35pm in MU1 2:37pm to 3:32pm in MU2)
Politics PE Drama	2 hours 2 x 1 hour 50 mins	Thursday 16th January	Philosophy & Ethics Spanish	1 hr 1 hr 40 mins
History Further Maths	1 hr 30 mins 1 hr 40 mins	Friday 17th January	Geography English Literature	1 hr 1 hr 40 mins

Further information

- Morning assessments begin at **9:00am** and afternoon ones at **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.
- Unless your timetable states otherwise, all assessments take place in the Salle.
- Spanish and French assessments will take place in **CLC 1**



Upcoming events and reminders

Y12 Parents' Evening– Thursday 6th February 2025

Y12 Parents Evening, will take place in school on Tuesday 6th February 2025, 4:30pm-7:00pm, details will be circulated nearer the time.

Higher Education Information Evening– Thursday 20th March 2025

We will be holding our Higher Education Information Evening for Y12 students on Thursday 20th March 2025, at 6pm, details of this event will be circulated nearer the time.

Trip to Magdalen College, Oxford University:

We will be running a trip to the University of Oxford on Monday 3rd March 2025. Students will be emailed in the new Year with instructions of how to sign up for this.

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.



Notre Dame High School Sixth Form Attendance Intervention Agreement

Attendance for all students will be reviewed as below.

Attendance Monitoring Review Points			
Cycle	Date	Y12	Y13
M1	October	✓	✓
M2	December	✓	✓
Interim 2	February	✓	✓
M3	March	✓	✓
Interim 3	May	✓	
M4	June/July	✓	
Stage	Intervention		
0	<p>Stage 0 is ongoing for all students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		
1	<p>Attendance below 90%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Attendance is reviewed at next monitoring review point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		
2	<p>Attendance below 80% or continued poor attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Attendance is reviewed at next monitoring review point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		
3	<p>Attendance below 70% or failure to meet the targets set by the Attendance Agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		
4	<p>Attendance below 60% or failure to meet the targets set by the Attendance Agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible request to leave sixth form if the student is persistently absent from school or lessons and refuses to engage with intervention procedures. 		

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 \(notredame-high.co.uk\)](#)

Merry 
 *Christmas*