



Dear Parents & Carers,

As we approach the end of this half term, we are able to share with you some of the highlights from the last few weeks as well as some school news.

A particular highlight for me every year is the poignant SHOAH Service that our Y9 participate in on Holocaust Memorial Day, which was on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January. They were deeply moved by the powerful reflections shared by Mr. Scriven and Mr. Pickup as they led a service to; remember, reflect, pray, and bear witness to the atrocities of genocide. The service featured two poignant video presentations: one documenting the England football team's visit to Auschwitz and another moving excerpt from Schindler's List. They listened to an emotional reading of an extract from Anne Frank's diary by Mr. O'Farrell, and a student's heartfelt reading of The Butterfly, a poem written by Pavel Friedman, aged 11, during his time in Theresienstadt Camp on 4th June 1942.

As part of the service, candles were lit to symbolise remembrance and hope. The first six candles represented the six million Jewish lives lost during the Holocaust. The seventh and eighth candles honoured the Gentiles who courageously risked their lives to protect their Jewish neighbours. Finally, the ninth candle symbolised hope, the hope that the devastation of the Holocaust will never again be repeated.

The most moving part for me happened towards the end when Mrs Shields (Head of Y9), held up a candle 6 times and said '**Never Again**', which we then repeated. It felt like we were all making a very powerful statement of commitment and hope.

The students also focused on the Holocaust as preparation for their service, in RE, History and English lessons. Following an English lesson, one of our students wrote a very moving and inspirational poem which I would like to share with you. Well done to Silivana.

### **Gone**

*In shadows deep, the voices cry  
Lost to hate, yet asking why  
Smoke rose high, the skies turned grey,  
millions stolen, swept away*

*Names erased, yet whispers stay,  
echoes of a world's dismay,  
walks of silence, scars remain.  
History's wound, a lasting pain,*

*Remember them their stories keep,  
Lest we let the darkness keep,  
Never let the truth be lost,  
Never forgotten the human cost.*



By Silivana, Y9

### **School Production -Sweeny Todd**

Our latest school production took place over 4 days in January at Sheffield University Drama Studio. It was the most challenging production that we have ever taken on and the students rose to it magnificently. We had 52 students involved from Year 8 - 14 and over 600 people came along to watch.

Visitors to the show were extremely complimentary with one former Head of a School in Sheffield contacting us to say that she had seen, or been involved with, school productions for more than 35 years but that Sweeney Todd was the best she had ever seen. The theatre similarly, were very impressed with the students commenting on how polite and respectful they were and are looking forward to working with the school again.



We were all so proud of those involved and none more so than the staff who worked with them, Ms Carrigan, Mr O'Farrell, Mrs Corbett, Miss Wildes and Ms Francis.

### Y8 History Trip to Manchester

90 of our Y8s enjoyed a trip to the People's History Museum and the Science and History Museum in January. Students were a real credit to the school and Museum staff commented on their excellent behaviour and manners.



## Visit from Judge Robinson

Many thanks go to the English Department who organised for a retired Judge to visit us.

Judge Robinson is a retired Circuit Judge who met with interested Y8/9 and Y13 students over lunch. Students asked him questions about his work, about the different types of court which lawyers and judges work in, and about the attire which judges wear in court.

A huge thank you to Judge Robinson for giving up his time and giving our students such a valuable experience.



## Y11 Mock Interviews

We are very grateful to all the volunteers from various companies and sectors who gave their time so that our Y11 students had an experience of a 15-minute mock interview with one of them. They were asked about their aspirations, strengths, skills and experience. All the volunteers were extremely complimentary about the students; their maturity and the quality of their answers.

Students received verbal feedback during the interview followed by a feedback sheet in form time the next day with praise for what they did well and tips on how to improve for the real thing.

**The company volunteers were from:** Bloomsbury, Wilmott Dixon, Department of Work & Pensions, NHS Teaching Hospitals, Aviva, The Web World, Past Lives Research, Volker Rail, Wates, The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply and Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Sheffield Vulcan.

**Sectors included were:** Publishing, Construction, Civil Service, Healthcare, Insurance, Procurement and Supply Chain



## Curriculum Information for Parents

We save and publish our links to the Half Termly Curriculum Updates (Y7-11) for you to access at your leisure here;

### [Curriculum – Notre Dame High School](#)

These are written by our Heads of Department and they give descriptions of the different topics that are being covered, alongside any upcoming assessments, tips on how to revise, homework information as well as questions you may like to ask your child about that will give them a chance to talk about what they're learning at school. We hope you find these a useful, informative and helpful source of information to understand more about exactly what your child is learning each half term and how you could support them further at home.

We thank you for your ongoing support and engagement in your child's learning with us at NDHS

### **Changes to the entrance to School for 6<sup>th</sup> Form – planned half term works**



Last summer we had some planned works on reception to limit access to via lanyard only, with visitors being buzzed in. Currently, our 6<sup>th</sup> Form students are still entering and exiting school via reception as well as staff. This has always been a short-term plan, as we have been given planning permission to put a fence and turnstiles on the main drive.

the weather is kind to us. 6<sup>th</sup> Form students will need to use their lanyards to gain access through the turnstiles. If they have forgotten their lanyard, they will need to go to reception.

As well as reducing footfall in main reception so that we can welcome visitors to the school more easily, it allows us to hire out some of our buildings and the grounds to outside organisations (out of school hours), providing easy but secure access for them.



This work will begin during half term week and hopefully will be finished soon after, if

### **Staff news**

Sadly, we are saying good bye at the end of this half term to Ms Francis (Science and Music teacher) I am sure you will want to join in with me in thanking her for her service to the school. We wish her every success for the future.

### **Improved communication**

After half term we plan to share more frequently with you, all the great things that happen in school every day through social media, namely Facebook and Instagram. So please keep an eye out for more information coming soon . . . . .

### **And finally . . . . .**

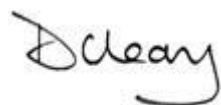
In the last couple of weeks, the All Saints community and the family of Harvey have never been far from our thoughts and prayers. We have continued to remember them in school during form time prayers, and assemblies and we will not forget them in the weeks and months to come.

I remain so proud of our staff and students who have supported each other so well, including the family and friends of Harvey that are part of our school. It is at times like this we truly realise the importance of community, our Catholic Ethos and how it underpins everything we do.

We have been thankful for outside agencies that have been in touch since the tragedy, offering us support and resources for young people and their families focusing specifically on knife crime and violence. You will have received some of this information by letter but we will be putting all these resources together in one place on the website for you to refer to as well.

Wishing you all a good half term holiday,

With warm wishes,



#### Dates for your diary

<b>Last Day of Spring Term 1</b>	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	
<b>First Day of Spring Term 2</b>	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	
<b>Y8 Parents evening</b>	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	4:30pm – 7:00pm
<b>Y10 Parents evening</b>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	4:30pm – 7:00pm
<b>Higher Education Information Evening</b>	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	
<b>Last day of Spring Term 2</b>	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	
<b>First Day of Summer Term 1</b>	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	
<b>Easter Weekend Holiday (School shut)</b>	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April -Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	

#### Events happening in School over the coming weeks

<b>Y11 &amp; Y10 Mid size1 Assessment week 2</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Y9 Geography Field Trip - Rivers</b>	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February
<b>Y10 Geography Field Trip - Rivers</b>	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Ash Wednesday Services -all year groups</b>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Y11 &amp; Y13 Photos</b>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Y13 Assessment Week 2</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>Y10 Geography Field Trip - Rivers</b>	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March
<b>UKMAT Team Maths Challenge</b>	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March