



# Notre Dame School & St Boniface's College

## *Easter Newsletter*



**April 2026**

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter for Notre Dame School and St Boniface's College. The Spring Term is always especially demanding, as students in years 11 and 13 prepare for final examinations ahead, and teachers push to get to the end of courses, leaving time for revision. In a few more school weeks, as we begin the Summer term, Years 10 and 12 will prepare to become our senior students, and we will start to get to know those who are joining us in September, and their families. Education continues to face many challenges in terms of teacher recruitment for specialist subjects, finances to meet growing expectations placed upon schools, and the demands made upon external services reducing their capacity to support the important work that schools undertake. We are proud of our staff for their resilience, and their commitment to do the best that they can with what we have available to us, so that our students can thrive in their school journeys. This Newsletter details the many ways that our students and staff have worked together to enjoy enriching experiences of learning both in and beyond the school campuses.

As Easter approaches, we wish you the hope and joy of Easter – the promise of God's love, and new life.

*Mr M Antrobus*  
Executive Headteacher



Welcome to our latest newsletter. This term has been a profound journey for our students – one that has stretched from the sombre lessons of history to the cutting edge of modern industry and the awe-inspiring power of the natural world.

The pages that follow demonstrate the wide range of opportunities available to our students. You will read of experiences ranging from deep, empathetic reflection to the high-energy excitement of international travel. Our young people are offered many experiences carefully planned by our dedicated staff, for which I am very grateful.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you, our parents and carers, for your unwavering support throughout this busy term. Education is most effective when it is a shared endeavor; by working in close partnership, we ensure that our students have the stable foundation they need to take risks and grow.

Thank you for trusting us with the privilege of raising and inspiring the next generation together. I wish you all a restful and rejuvenating Easter break.

*Mrs A Morgan*  
Head of School, Notre Dame



As we welcome the joy and renewal of the Easter season, we are delighted to share with you the latest news, achievements, and upcoming events from our school community. This term has already been filled with enthusiasm, hard work, and wonderful accomplishments from our students, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, pupils, and families for their continued support and commitment. Your encouragement and involvement make our school a vibrant and inspiring place to learn and grow.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and sharing in the many highlights of school life. Wishing you all a happy, peaceful, and enjoyable Easter break.

*Mr D Clift*  
Head of School, St. Boniface's College



# Up and Away

Our students are proud to be the first cohort of the Your Future Story programme, delivered in partnership with the Colyton Foundation. On Thursday 29 January, they visited Spaceport Cornwall, discovering how satellites are launched into orbit from a Boeing 747. From exploring the dark side of Mars to designing and testing paper rockets capable of carrying a plum tomato, students put their aerodynamics knowledge into action. A fantastic day of learning, collaboration, and inspiration – plus the chance to work alongside students from other schools in the cohort!



# Class of '84

Notre Dame's Class of 1984 had a happy reunion on Sunday, in the Year that they all turn 60!



They visited the school and had a tour, looked at archived booklets from when they were at school along with two of their teachers. The celebration continued with a fabulous cream tea and social at The Ker Street Social Club!



# History

This term year 9 have been studying the Holocaust and for their homework project they have been reflecting on how and why we remember the Holocaust. As part of this they considered how they might commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January. They came up with some creative and thoughtful ideas, including this poem by Abigale, which shows how the persecution of the Jews escalated from Hitler's rise to power in 1933, ending in the genocide in World War Two.



**1933, the start of it all,  
Laws and restrictions beginning to fall,  
Citizens without their rights,  
Marriages losing sight,  
The isolation begging to feel tight,**

**November 1938,  
Violence beginning to illuminate  
Broken glass is never small,  
Places of worship surrounded in brawl,  
Now the Jewish Are losing it all,**

**1 month later near the date,  
Transportation opening a gate,  
Children leaving on a path not so straight,  
Families fostered those who needed a place,  
But many were left alone and in dismay,**

**The next year many were taken,  
Held away with those who were shaken,  
Shots fired by the day,  
Whole communities got thrown away,  
Up to two million died this way,**

**1941 to 1945 cries were now sung,  
Places of death were built and even housed the young,  
Mass murder grew like a lung,  
People were taken away,  
Many did not live to see another day,**

**In the year up to 1945,  
Death marches took them away from their eyes,  
Allies could no longer reach them,  
But soon the war would be beneath them,  
Along with the war the Holocaust ended in the year after 1944.**

## Disneyland Trip

Students from ND & SBC recently enjoyed an unforgettable Media Studies and Computer Science trip to Disneyland Paris, packed with learning, creativity and fun. Our journey began bright and early on 21st February, when we departed by coach at 5:30am. After a long but exciting day of travel, we finally arrived at Disneyland at 8:30pm, feeling very tired but happy to settle into our rooms and prepare for the days ahead. On 22nd February, students spent the day exploring the parks, taking in the incredible sights and experiencing many of the famous rides. Even though rain arrived later in the evening, spirits stayed high as everyone continued to enjoy the magical atmosphere.

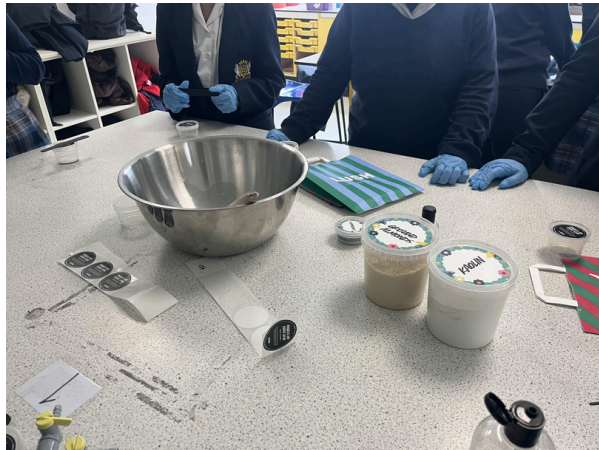
The following day, 23rd February, combined fun with valuable learning. Students attended the Media LIVE! Conference, where they heard inspiring talks from industry professionals including Tony Jopia, Afua Hagan and Arnaud Gayet. The sessions encouraged students to analyse Disneyland from a critical perspective, exploring what makes the Disney brand so successful. Later, students enjoyed more time in the parks—meeting characters, exploring attractions, and ending the evening with the spectacular fireworks and drone show.

After travelling home on 24th February, we arrived back 13 hours later, tired but with memories that will last a lifetime. We were overwhelmed at how fantastic our students were throughout the trip. It was very intense and tiring for all, but boys and girls alike, from Year 9 to Year 12, coped exceptionally well and represented our schools beautifully.



# Life is LUSH

Our year 10's lesson transformed into a live scientific experience as LUSH joined us for an immersive deep-dive into the fascinating world of the human microbiome. We explored the complex ecosystem of microorganisms that live on our skin, factors that influence our skin health, and how to look after our individual skin in a way that is environmentally friendly and specific to our skin type. Through this hands-on, research-inspired session, we tried different products, and created our very own facial cleansers, carefully designed with skin biology in mind.



# Konichiwa from SBC

The Saint Boniface Japanese Club hosted Friday the 6th of March a traditional chanoyu - Tea Ceremony. Students displayed the principles of harmony, purity, respect and tranquility and had great fun making tea and tasting it. They learned the ancestral gestures and dived into Japanese culture.



# World Book Day

A well done to all staff and students who participated in this years World Book Day celebrations.



# Iceland Trip

At the end of February, a group of Year 10 and 11 students from Notre Dame and St Boniface's braved the cold for an unforgettable trip to Iceland. Following a slightly bumpy landing in Reykjavík, a packed and exciting itinerary quickly got underway.

During our stay in southern Iceland, students explored a range of breathtaking natural landmarks. Highlights included Gullfoss, one of Iceland's most spectacular waterfalls; Geysir, where we witnessed the dramatic eruptions of Strokkur; and Þingvellir National Park, where students saw the remarkable rift valley formed by the separation of the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates. We also visited the stunning black sand beach at Vík.

Amidst the adventure, there was also time to unwind. A visit to the Secret Lagoon, a natural geothermal pool near Flúðir, provided a perfect opportunity to relax and warm up.



# ND in STEM

Students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit Babcock, gaining a valuable insight into careers within engineering and the maritime industry.

After arriving at St Levan's Gate, students were warmly welcomed by a team of volunteers and provided with high-visibility bibs before being escorted to their meeting point. The day began with a briefing outlining the activities ahead, building anticipation for what was to come. A highlight of the visit was a boat trip out to the Breakwater. Students explored both the upper and lower decks and were even given access to the wheelhouse, where they could see how the vessel is navigated. The journey also took them as far as the Tamar bridges before returning to dock.

Following lunch, the three schools in attendance were divided into two groups. One group visited the viewing platform at 10 Dock, where they observed the large-scale construction work underway to meet the demands of new submarines. The second group took part in an interactive workshop, developing their understanding of the industry.

Throughout the day, students benefited from the expertise of Babcock employees, who shared their knowledge and experiences, as well as outlining the wide range of career pathways available. A key message emphasised was that there are no limits to what students can achieve with the right skills and determination.

Students found the experience both engaging and inspiring, and a follow-up visit from Babcock is hoped to take place in the near future.



# Easter Prayer

Lord Jesus, as we move towards the end of another school term we look forward to the joy of your resurrection. Help us to always see the light at the end of a tunnel.

Grant us the guidance to receive your reassurance, love and nurture.

As Easter is near, let our community hear your peace and forgiveness to ease our minds even in the darkest of times.

Thank you Lord for the mercy you have shown us through your death and resurrection.

Amen.

Written by Amelia E Year 8 ND



# **School governors are people like YOU!**

**Could you volunteer to become a school governor and make a difference by using your skills to make a positive contribution to your local community?**

Notre Dame School (for girls) and St Boniface's College (for boys) are Catholic comprehensive secondary schools that provide supportive, caring, and aspirational learning environments rooted in the traditions of the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Edmund Rice Community.

Both schools are located in the city of Plymouth and are jointly governed by an 'Executive' local board of governors.

The schools are part of Plymouth CAST Multi Academy Trust - a Catholic multi-academy trust consisting of 1 nursery, 32 primary schools and 2 secondary schools that span the counties of Cornwall, Devon, and Dorset. Our mission is to be a community of outstanding schools in which our pupils flourish in safe, happy, and stimulating environments, leaving with the knowledge, skills, personal qualities and aspirations to make the world a better place.

Plymouth CAST is run by a Board of Directors with support from governing bodies known as Local CAST Boards (LCBs). Each LCB is made up of local people that are best placed to know their school such as parents, members of the community and the local parish priest.

The role of LCB member is an interesting and varied one; to not only provide support to the Headteacher but also challenge and to drive school improvement. The LCB focuses on five areas; RE and Catholic Life, Curriculum and Standards, Safeguarding, Inclusion and Health, Safety & Data Protection.

All Governors receive an induction and ongoing training to fulfil their role with supporting paperwork provided by Plymouth CAST. You would need to be able to attend, on average, six meetings per year and to carry out visits to the school.

We are looking for enthusiastic and committed people to carry out this rewarding role and to see first-hand the impact you can make in improving education for children in your community.

## **What is the role of the Local CAST Board?**

LCBs are sub-committees of the Trust Board and provide an important layer of governance in the Trust. Based in the community of the school, their role is to promote the school in the locality and support and challenge senior leaders to check that the best possible provision is being made for the students - spiritually, academically, and pastorally.

The Scheme of Delegated Authority (SoDA) defines roles and responsibilities at every level in the organisation. All the responsibilities of the LCB are reproduced in the Schedule of Accountability to make it easier for governors to follow. Each governor is expected to participate in one of the five focused areas of governance.

## **What is the time commitment for the role?**

For secondary school governors, a realistic time allocation would be approximately five hours per half-term. This is inclusive of the scheduled LCB meetings.

## **What training would I receive?**

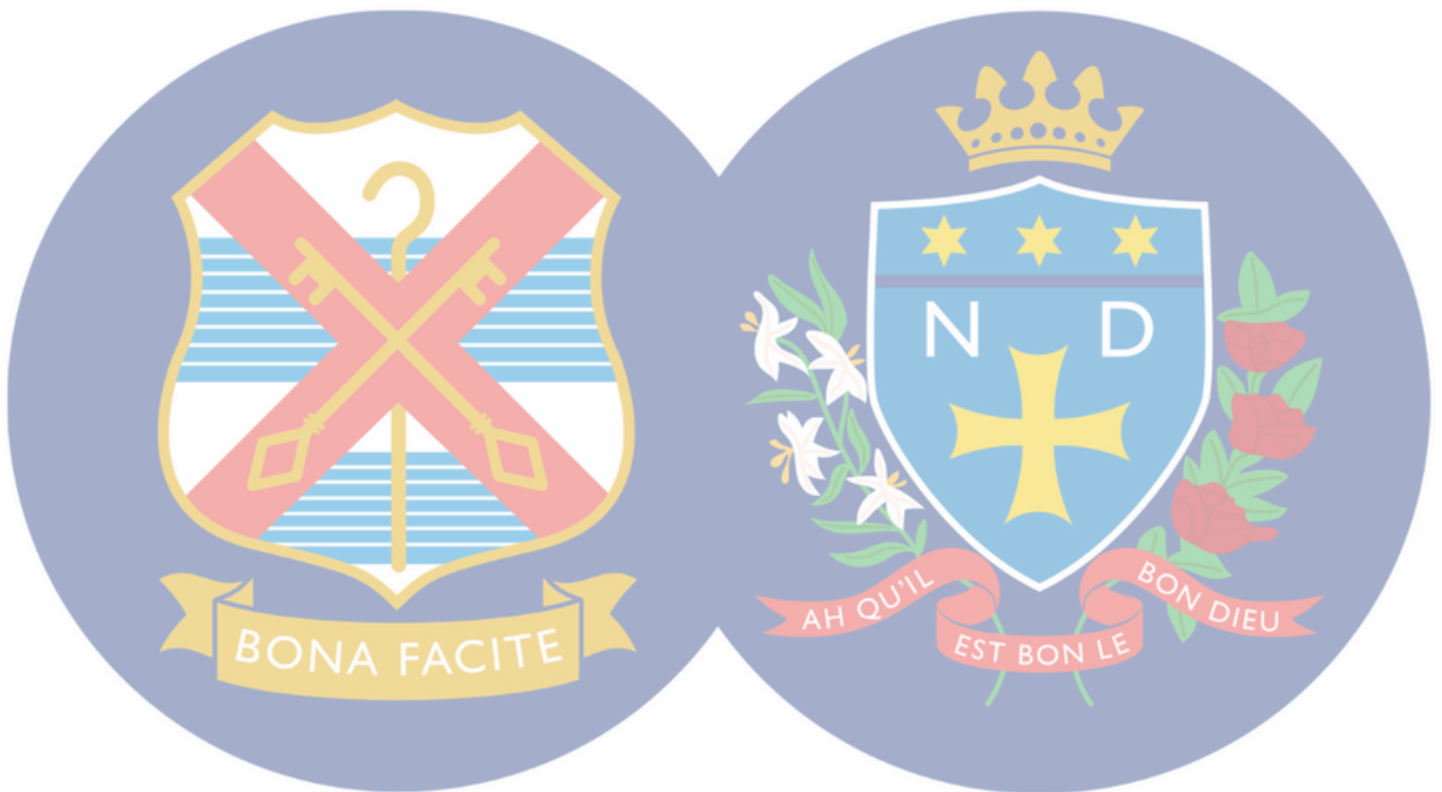
Training is provided by the Trust & the Diocese Education Service. All new Governors are asked to attend a training session of about 1 hour to make sure they understand the role. All Governors are required to undertake annual Safeguarding and Data Protection training, We also recommend that each new Governor has a mentor in the LCB to help them through the first term or so. Further training is facilitated throughout the school year, and we encourage Governors to attend sessions whenever possible to increase understanding and support effective governance.

## **Eligibility**

To be eligible to serve as a governor you will be required to sign a declaration to confirm that you are not disqualified by law from appointment as a Governor. You will also need to agree to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check together with any subsequent safeguarding checks, including references.

**If you think you could make a valuable contribution to our school please make contact by email today!**

[governors@ndonline.org](mailto:governors@ndonline.org)



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