Notre Dame News

Educating Girls for Success Autumn 19

Welcome back to a new academic year. It feels nice to be back in some sense of normality. Although there are changes, such as staggered opening times and closing times, different lunch venues and bubbles of pupil remaining in classrooms, we are getting used to them.

Pupils have returned with motivation to learn. Teachers are busy planning their lessons to account for the education missed but also to provide remote learning. Though certain things cannot go ahead, such as services at the cathedral, assemblies and social events, we are all still keeping very busy. London Citizens continue to work hard to improve different aspects of life, the Charity Committee have been planning for Breast Cancer Awareness Wear Pink Day, the library is going from strength to strength to appeal to all of our pupils, and other committees that the pupils are members of are diligently working away in the background to enhance our school community.

Enjoy this edition whilst the leaves turn gold.

Miss Johnson

IMPORTANT DATES

Half term: Monday 23rd October to Friday 30th October.

School resumes at the usual staggered times on Monday 2nd November.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Staff and pupils are becoming more proficient with Google Classroom. It was decided that in this academic year all homework would be set on Google Classroom. This provides an efficient and effective way for teachers to monitor learning and provide consolidation, whilst enabling immediate feedback. All pupils have been given their codes from all subjects and materials are posted weekly in accordance with the pupils' assigned homework day. Please encourage your daughter to check Google Classroom regularly.

The school is complying with the DFE policy of providing an effective remote education programme for those affected by Covid 19 and who cannot come into school. There will be more about this in the next edition of Notre Dame News.

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LONDON CITIZENS

Southwark Youth for Change

We met with Borough Commander Colin Wingrove on the 14th October to talk about improving trust and confidence in the police; we were accompanied by our Police Liaison Officer PC David Campbell.

Mr Wingrove was impressed by the students from Notre Dame School, Jane Mills and Emmanuella Otukpe, who represented the group. We spoke about forming a relationship with Colin (as he prefers to be called!), the previous commander Simon Messenger's pledge to stop tweeting pictures of confiscated knives, and our thoughts around youth safety.

Jane co-chaired the meeting and Emmanuella highlighted the questions young people have around the use of the Territorial Support Group in London.

Mr Wingrove agreed to meet with the group at least twice a year. He also informed us of activities the police hold that we would be invited to, career opportunities in the police and that he would bring Superintendent Karen Findley (who is in charge of the TSG)to the next meeting.

We were happy with the outcome of the first meeting and look forward to working together with the police around this campaign.

T Crowley

YEAR 10 LESSONS

In Sociology we are learning about cultural transmission and have been exploring the different ways we learn about society's expectations. We have looked at different points of view, including the Marxists who believe that society is divided into two classes and feminists who believe that society is divided by gender. We have also debated nature and nurture, discussing whether our behaviour is predetermined and caused by genetic features or if behaviour is learned and influenced by environmental factors.

In English we studied 'An Inspector Calls', a play that explores social responsibility. The author J. B. Priestley, through the character of the Inspector, tells us that if we do not start taking responsibility for our actions the world will end in "fire, blood and anguish." He encourages us to be "one body" and be responsible for one another. A good lesson for us all today!

Niniola Somefun 10C

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YEAR 10 ACHIEVEMENTS

Year 10 pupils have been working very hard this half term to gain achievement points. In the lead at the end of this half term are **10L.**

The pupils with the most achievement points are:

1. *Demi Pearson 10C*
2. *Jessica Mateus 0F*
3. *Lindsay Mangle 10F*
4. *Kiera McClymont 10L*
5. *Afiopefunoluwa Coker 10C, Laura Hack 10L and Keisha McClymont 10J.*

In assembly time this week, year 10s explored love for God as well as one another. Mother Teresa said "Faith in action is love and love in action is service." By transforming that faith into living acts of love we put ourselves in contact with God himself, with Jesus our Lord.

As Black History Month comes to an end, we have been privileged to learn about some amazing black individuals including:

Madame C J Walker, an American entrepreneur, philanthropist, and political and social activist and the first woman to make natural cosmetic and hair products for black women.

In PSHE we are learning about well-being and mental health and learning how to support those going through troubled times.

We are also doing well in terms of wearing our masks and sanitising our hands! A few pupils told us that the current situation right now makes them feel really anxious as they have GCSEs next year and some pupils have RE GCSE this year.

However we are all enjoying being around our friends again and having the chance to be educated in our school community. We are ready to study hard for the end of half term assessments.

Aishat Jokomba 10M

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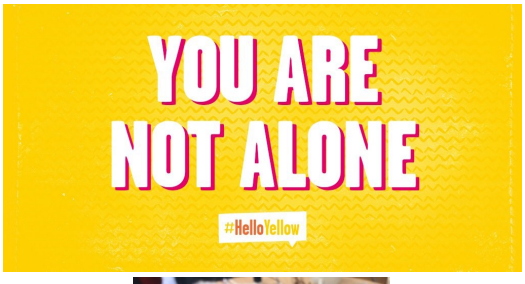
WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

On Friday 10th October, we came together to celebrate #HelloYellow for World Mental Health Day. Notre Dame staff wore yellow as a way of showing solidarity with young people and helping them know they are not alone with their mental health.

During tutor time, we spoke about the importance of removing the stigma behind mental health. We were reminded that nobody has to suffer in silence. The students took some time out of their day to make themselves or someone else an origami heart.

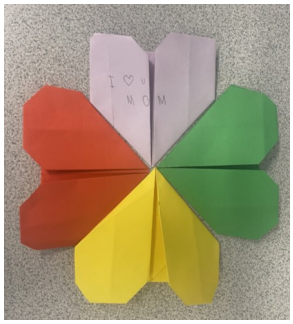
The RE department implemented mindful and meditative techniques such as body scans and intentional prayers. Year 7 RE classes created prayer petals, where each student wrote a prayer for their own or others' continued mental health. These petals have all been put together to make beautiful, bright sunflowers for display.



Miss Hine's lavender bag-making session was such a hit last October that she decided to once again invite the staff for a relaxing afternoon of crafts and cake! The fabric, sewing equipment, and lavender—that left the staff room smelling sensational - were all provided by the lovely Miss Hine. She also decided this was the perfect opportunity for her to bake us some lemon cake- following the yellow theme! Many teachers brought in some fun yellow refreshments to keep us fuelled for the activities.

A massive thank you to everyone who showed their support. Whether it was through a piece of yellow clothing, an origami heart or simply showing a friendly face. At a time when it's needed the most, thank you for making #HelloYellow memorable. We are looking forward to a year of exciting fundraiser activities with the new charity committee.

Miss Mahendran



CHARITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020/21

I am extremely delighted to announce that this year's Charity Committee will consist of the following girls.

Year 7

Deborah Porter 7M

Omotoyosi Olusheyi 7M

Kalima Aderemi 7L

Cristabel Okello 7J

Year 8

Aaliyah Wallace 8L

Rianne Mercurius 8L

Sarina Kamara 8L

Lexie Neale 8M

Aalimah Gamu 8F

Year 9

Queeneth Osondu 9F

Saida Estee Conteh 9J

Divine Akudinobi 9J

Mamudah Latipha Kan 9J

Year 10

Akua Amo-Hoyte 10M

Laura Sophia Hack 10L

Esosa Nadia Momoh 10L

Aderonke Oseni 10L

Year 11

Maria Montano- Garcia 11L

Aminata Kamara 11L

Jennifer Mampuya 11C

Congratulations to the girls. It was an extremely difficult decision as I received 46 applications and was only able to offer a limited number of spaces! I will be awarding everyone who applied with an achievement point as I am so pleased with our pupils' enthusiasm to serve others.

We will update any charity work we have done in each edition of Notre Dame News as well as on the school website.

Miss Mahendran

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Our school is celebrating Black History Month with our annual poster competition and displays around the school. We also have displayed the letter from the Archdiocese urging people to stand against racism.

Poster adverts have been placed in the school:

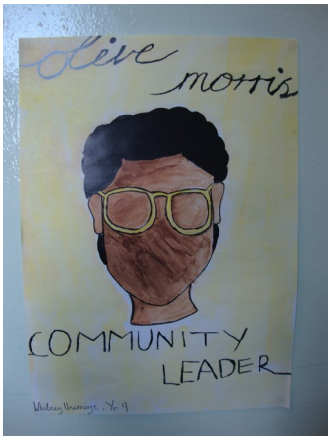
·*Quiz sheets will be available on Mondays from the library. Completed sheets must be put in the box provided, by Friday of the same week.*

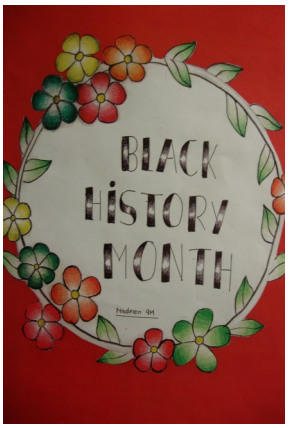
·*Illustrated pieces should be handed in the week before half term. There will be a box for this too, closer to the deadline.*

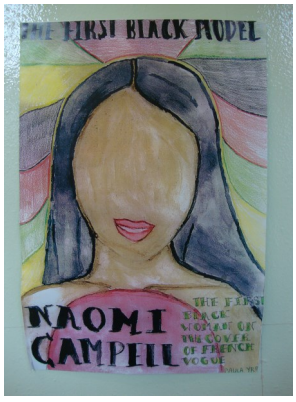
·*A reminder for any modern day inventors you find, leave in suggestions box in the library.*

Good luck

Ms Shasanya







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Dear Members of the PTA

Due to the current situation with the Corona virus, there will be no meetings for the foreseeable future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for commitment in the last few years and I hope that we will still see some of you. As discussed in our last meeting, it was agreed that a rebranding of the PTA would be a positive move.

Many of our pupils are experiencing difficult circumstances and we would like to concentrate on raising money for the school that can be used to help pupils in need as well as contributing to requests from the school community as we have always done. But we would like to run some other initiatives. For example, second hand uniform sale.

We would continue with the three PTA events of the year, Covid 19 permitting: a Christmas event, International Evening and a summer event.

We are calling the new association 'Friends of Notre Dame' and we want to include a small group of pupils who will dedicate themselves to our cause.

In the meantime we have updated our web page and designed a logo. A big thank you to Peter Chodel for his wonderfully modern design.

Any ideas you have would be gratefully received. You can email us on:

sjohnson@notredame.southwark.sch.uk and tcrowley@notredame.southwark.sch.uk or call the school on 0207 261 1121.

Thank you once again for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely

Miss S Johnson

Mrs T. Crowley

friends OF NOTRE DAME

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ND BALLET

ND Ballet is back this term and we have a Year 7 bubble Tuesdays and a Year 8 bubble on Wednesdays after school.

Over forty Year 7 students signed up for ballet which was brilliant interest, though unfortunately due to limited numbers only sixteen students could be chosen. Their names were drawn out of the hat and the following lucky year 7 students were chosen:

Daniela, Nyenesieh, Alison and Omotoyosi from 7M

Sophie, Moriah and Mary from 7C

Hero and Fatima from 7F

Pearl, Desiree, Leyre and Rashanti from 7J

Deborah, Alice and Alisha from 7L

Our Year 8 students from last year have stayed committed: Chloe and Dennicia from 8C with new students Jada 8C, Favour and Michelle from 8J. It is lovely to see new students challenging themselves and learning a new style of dance!

Miss. Amy from 'Step into Dance' has returned to teach ND Ballet in the Studio and Ms. Tyson-Banks, Miss. Hine and Ms. Wright have all been supporting the classes.

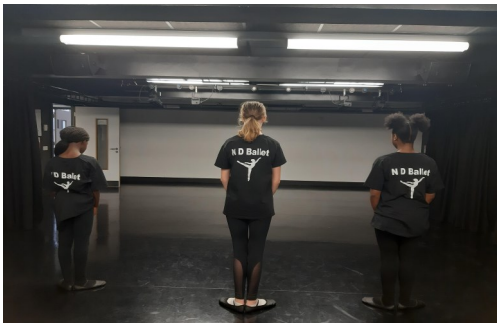
All of the students have now been given their own pair of black leather ballet shoes.

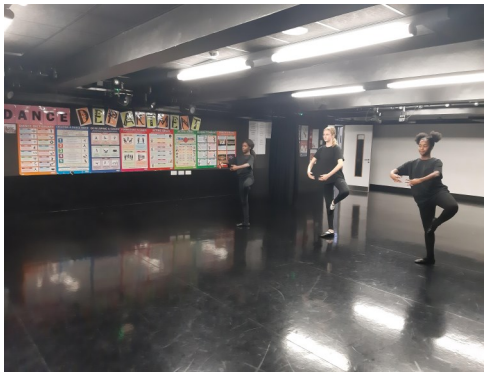
"*Ballet for me is a way of expressing how I really feel*" Dennicia 8C

"*I am so happy I got picked to do ballet!*" Hero 7F

"*Dancing is the best, I love it*" Chloe 8C

Ms Tyson Banks





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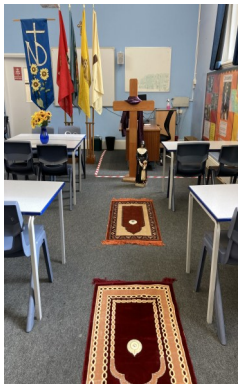
OPEN SESSIONS

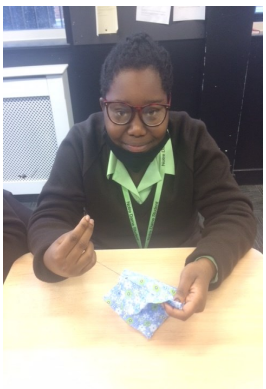
We were excited to invite prospective parents and pupils into our school for four Saturdays. Many parents appreciated being able to visit the school in real life rather than just virtually. Thank you to all who came and the staff too. And as always a special thank you to our year 11 who were perfect ambassadors for the school, telling the parents all the information they asked for and probably more!

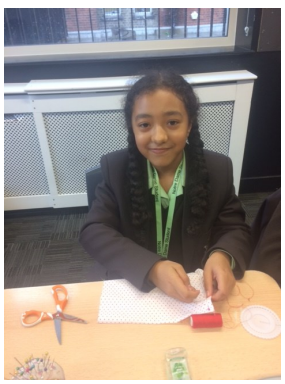


AFTER SCHOOL CRAFTING

Year 7 Craft Club have been busy making masks for ourselves and family, and accessories for Pink Day! We have been learning or developing our sewing skills, and will be trying lots of other crafts in future weeks.

Ms Hine





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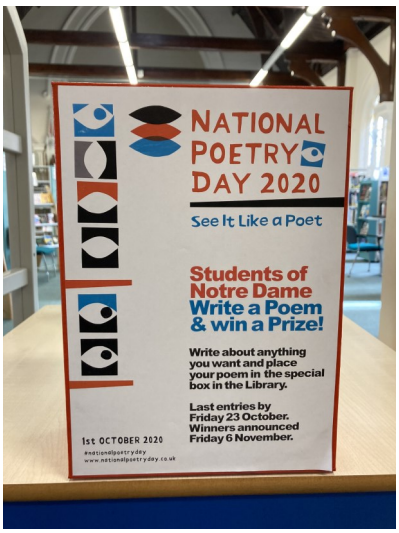
LIBRARY

One of the most special places in our school is the library. It used to be the school's chapel and was refurbished in 2012. It is a calming, peaceful space that is conducive to independent study. There are laptops here that students who do not have access to computers at home can use, as well as a plentiful supply of books including:

- The new library collection of the latest fiction and books that promote diversity with titles on black identity, Korean culture, Spanish writing and immigration.
- The new Gender Library, a separate section and collection that focuses on celebrating Feminism and women.

Our commitment to oral literacy continues with the library set to host the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. In the last three years we have placed in the Regional Finals consecutively. winning in 2019.

Mr Ghany and Mr Chodel



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GDPR

An important reminder for parents: the Privacy Notice for Pupils and Parents can be found on our school website under the Home tab – GDPR Hub.

Educating girls for success

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Nothing Gold Can Stay

Robert Frost, 1874 - 1963

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

One of Miss Johnson's favourite poems