



St Robert of Newminster

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

29th June 2020

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Cardinal Vincent Nichols statement on Resumption of Collective Acts of Worship

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has issued a [statement](#) in response to the Prime Minister's statement allowing places of worship to resume collective acts of worship from 4 July.

[Read the full statement](#) on the Bishops' Conference website.

Important Notice about Church reopening

Please [click here](#) to view a statement about the next twenty churches that are planned to reopen.

Please [click here](#) to download our handbook for the reopening of churches.

Please [click here](#) to read our frequently asked questions (FAQs) guide.

A diocesan Day of Scripture

On Friday 19 June we held a diocesan Day of Scripture, as part of our 2020 Year of the Word celebrations.

All the sessions are still available to watch through our [YouTube Playlist](#)

Dear Parents/Carers, Students and Friends of the School

We hope you are all well. This week sees the return of our Year 10 pupils for their second teaching week (see the website for more details). We are also now into our second week of Teams teaching for the Year 12 pupils. Year 7, 8 and 9 have a new format of work to engage with and we look forward to seeing the great work we know they can produce. The school will continue to update parents with information as and when it arrives.

A Reflection: Even saints can argue

Today, the 29th of June, is the feast of St Peter & St Paul, two pillars of the Church who have a rich history in the Christian faith. However, it wasn't all plain sailing for the pair. As non-Jewish people began to convert to Christianity, a dispute arose as to whether or not these non-Jewish Christians needed to observe all the laws of Moses. Paul writes: "When Peter came to Antioch I opposed him face to face".

Thankfully, this initial dispute and disagreement did not deter them. After their reconciliation, Peter and Paul taught together in Rome and helped to establish the Church. These two figures are a clear example that we might not always agree with others and we might in fact really dislike the views that people hold. However, there should always be room for dialogue, for criticism and for challenge. Only when we are willing to truly listen might we be able to make the changes that are needed.



Let us pray...

Dear God of light,

May we be surrounded by people who bring out the light within us, and who inspire us to make that light shine.

We pray that, in sharing our gifts, others will witness our light and recognise its brilliance as being rooted in Jesus.

May our works, actions, and contributions help others come to know the power of Jesus' love and lead all into a deeper relationship with him.

Amen

'Where the Hell is God?'

In these trying times, many people are led to ask the big questions of life. Where is God in the midst of Covid-19? Seeking God, questioning God are very natural responses to times of trial and grief and they are not new questions to the Catholic Church.

In this [Irish Jesuit's podcast](#), Fr. Richard Leonard shares his journey in asking 'Where the Hell is God' in the face of tragedy and he provides some solid advice on how to support others facing



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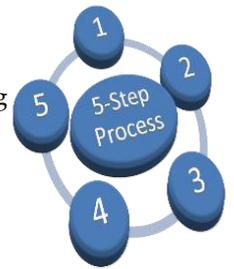
Mental Health and Well-Being

NHS England have identified 5 steps that both young people and their parents can do to support their mental health and well-being. Trying these things could help you feel more positive and able to get the most out of the time when you are at home rather than school. It is really important that you pay attention to your well-being and the well-being of those around you. There are also a number of useful websites which provide support in this area:

www.kooth.com this is a free, confidential, online mental health service for children and young people

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>

This site was created for young people, carers and professionals to pool together lots of helpful resources from across the internet that are available to help support your mental health and well-being.



Let's Get Active

I realise that many people have used their hour of daily exercise during lock down to go to the shop for more snacks. For us, whilst we have been working from home we've quite enjoyed that we have had an hour designated per day (and the weather) to do things we don't usually get the time to do, or haven't done since we were children. Getting out on the bike, going for a run, or a long walk and to challenge ourselves to be fitter. Mrs Mulhatton's even had the old roller blades on, tried aerobics in the garden and have mastered the art of hoola hooping on the drive. Not sure what the neighbours will think.

Our challenge to you this week and over the summer holidays is to find out from your parents or even grandparents which games and sports they used to play as kids. Then get yourselves outside as a family and play them. Kirby, Hopscotch, Hide and Seek, Skateboarding, jump the rope, Marbles, Tag, Red Rover, Netball, and Rounder's.

Remember to take a pic or a video of you and your family for us. You're only young once. Enjoy it and **GET ACTIVE**.

Hoping to see you all soon, Stay safe.

Mrs Mulhatton, Mr Thompson, Mrs Duncan, Mrs McHale

Keeping Safe over the summer

With the warmer weather, easing of lockdown and schools unlikely to open fully prior to September we want to remind all our young people about keeping safe. The points below are a guide to help keep our young people safe over the summer:

1. Go swimming at properly-supervised sites

We understand the temptation to want to go swimming at open water sites, especially during the hot weather. Things to consider when open water swimming, even on a hot day, are that the water might be a lot colder or deeper than you were expecting and there may be strong currents and underwater debris that you cannot see from the bank. Consider how you are going to get out of the water before you get in, and be honest about your swimming ability. Avoid swimming near weirs, both upstream and downstream, there may be strong underwater currents and hazards that you may not be aware of.

2. Stay alert

We can all help control the virus if we all stay alert. This means you must stay at home as much as possible, limit contact with other people (avoid congregating in large groups until the evidence suggests it is safe), keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible) and wash your hands regularly.



NHS

Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

[Check the NHS website if you have symptoms](#)

Phone Calls

Over the next two weeks pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be receiving a well-being phone call from their tutor or Head of House. As Year 10 and Year 12 pupils have had the opportunity to be in school there will not be phone calls to all pupils in those groups.

The phone calls are a great opportunity to speak to your teacher, celebrate the hard work that you have been doing during the school closure and also seek help and support if you are finding the home learning difficult.

Parents of pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 be aware that you may well receive a phone call from a withheld number in the coming weeks. Please answer the phone as it is likely to be from us.



Thank You & Welcome back!

A huge thank you to all the year 12 pupils that attended school last week. Your conduct across the week was fantastic and it was a real pleasure to be able to teach you all once again. Students worked extremely hard across the week and dealt admirably with the social distancing measures that had been put in place. Any pupils that were unable to attend last week, don't worry. The subjects will be uploading the resources so you too can complete this at home.

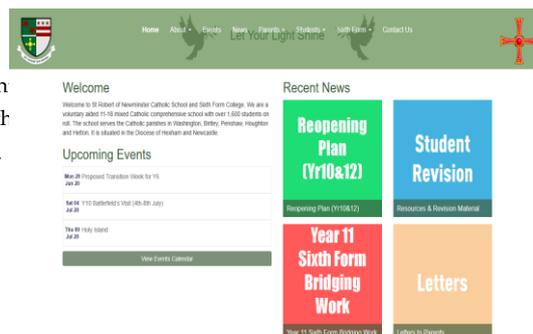
We would also like to extend a word of welcome to our Year 10 who return to school for their second week this week. Please remember to bring your exercise book from week 1 and bring a pen. Students will be led by their Science and Mathematics teachers this week which will help them in preparation for September.



Accessing Home Learning & Microsoft Forms

Step 1:

Click on the student revision panel on the School Homepage.



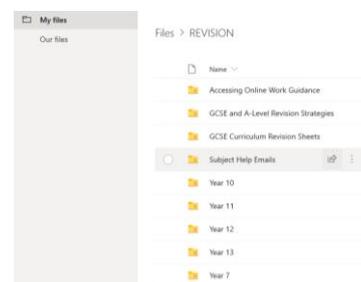
Step 2:

Follow the link to pupil resources.



Step 3

Click on the folder of the Year group you are in. Follow the dated links to your work. These folders contain lesson plans with direct links to Microsoft Forms where you can complete tasks and receive feedback.



Year 12 Team's Teaching

A big thank you to all our Year 12 pupils that have taken part in the Microsoft Teams Teaching opportunities over the last two weeks. The uptake has been excellent and teachers have been able to support their pupils more directly. Team's lessons will continue and we encourage all pupils to check and respond to their email invitations. Check out the 6th Form Newsletter for more details.

In addition to the live Team's lessons your teachers will continue to upload work remotely and provide feedback on the work you submit. The various quizzes, written tasks and activities are designed to help you keep up to date with your A Level courses.



Message from Mr Clark

Thank you again for the fantastic work we have been receiving lately and a big well done on adapting to our new way of working. It has been fantastic to see so many students engaging with the work and producing high quality responses across a range of different subjects. Parents/carers please continue to encourage your child to access the work regularly and complete the tasks set by their teachers.



Jewish Festivals...

(Including: Passover, Rosh Hanukah & Sukkot)



Passover

Passover, sometimes called **Passover**, is one of the most important Jewish festivals.

Jews remember how the Israelites left slavery behind them when Moses led them out of Egypt more than 3000 years ago.

Moses went to see the Pharaoh many times, but each time he refused to release the Israelites. Moses warned the Pharaoh that God would send ten plagues on Egypt if the Pharaoh did not let them go.

The ten plagues were: water turned into blood, frogs, gnats, flies, and blight of the livestock, boils, hail, locusts, darkness and the death of each first-born child.

Symbolism and features of worship for Passover

Matzah - the Pharaoh gave in and told Moses and the Israelites to go at once. They left in such a rush that their bread did not have time to rise. This is why, before Passover, Jewish people eat unleavened bread called **Matzah**. In many Jewish homes, children enjoy taking part in a ritual search for any specks of leaven left behind.

Seder plate - on the first night of Passover, a special service called a Seder takes place over a family meal in the home. The Seder plate consists of:

- a lamb bone
- a roasted egg
- a green vegetable - usually parsley to dip in salt water
- bitter herbs - usually horseradish
- charoset - a paste of chopped apples, walnuts and wine
- romaine lettuce (the second portion of bitter herbs)



On the table, there are several Matzot (plural of Matzah) on top of each other. At the start of the Seder, the middle Matzah is broken and the largest piece is hidden. During the Seder, the children hunt for it. The one who finds it receives a small prize.

Wine - four small glasses of wine represent the **four expressions of freedom**, symbolising the Israelites being brought out of slavery. The wine symbolises joy and happiness. An extra cup of wine is placed on the table and the door is left open for the prophet Elijah. Jews believe that Elijah will reappear to announce the coming of the Messiah and will do so at Passover.

We have received some fantastic work in the RE Department. Pupils have been finding out about Jewish festivals and testing their skills of analysis and explanation:

c) Explain Catholic attitudes to the role of men and women (8 marks)

Catholics believe that men and women are equal but have different roles and responsibilities in life because in the eyes of God, he made both genders equal. In the Catholic Church environment however, many differences are found between the genders. An example of this would be that Apostle Paul would only ordain or appoint male people and entrusted the leadership of the church to men plus all of the apostles were men. In the book of Genesis, God made Adam first and Eve later for the purpose of serving him. Eve was equal to Adam however her purpose to fulfil was to submit herself to Adam. The word 'helper' could gather a positive notion it still means in a relationship, someone must serve the other. The responsibility of wives to serve their husbands was the plan from creation, this clearly shows that men and women are not equal. In the modern day, women constitute many members of the church. Women have played many different roles in a place where religious institutes give them a space to do so. The Pope believes that "women should be included in decision making" and that they are equal to men just with different roles and responsibilities but women are still not allowed to perform some of the jobs in the catholic church that men are free to do. The Pope's opinion could heavily influence the opinion of Catholics today so more Catholics may start to stray from believing that wives are slightly inferior to their husbands even though they believe it to be "different roles or responsibilities". Catholics believe that Mary is the Theotokos because her son Jesus is both God and man, one person with two divine natures. Theotokos translates to "God bearer" Mary is certainly a God bearer because her son was born to a God. Catholics do not pray to Mary the same way we would with God, so instead they invite her to pray alongside them. Mary has been referred to as the Mother as God, this name solidifies the fact she is the mother of Jesus. Christ can be referred to as the 'Head of the church' when the followers are labelled as the 'Body of the church'. Mary is the mother of Christ so that in theory makes her 'Mother of the church'. Catholics agree that Mary is the mother of Christ and does play a large role in the Catholic Church and should be a role model for women in the modern-day church.



Some great work from our Year 9 pupils in Languages.

Combining their culinary skills with their Spanish vocabulary to create these mouth-watering omelettes.

