

# St Robert of Newminster

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



### Do you need to speak to someone for support?

For those who are seeking a Priest with whom they can speak at this time, could you please contact the Parish Priest at your local Church. You can find your local Church telephone number by visiting our [Church directory](#) and selecting the link for your church. This link will display the Church contact details.

Dedicated counsellors and listeners are also available at the Cathedral Listening Service on 0191 232 6953 and on the Northumberland Listening Service on 07732 980740.

### Diocesan Spiritual Support

These resources have been created to support you and your loved ones in this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### [Resources for times of grieving](#)

### [Prayers for the sick](#)

Contains a collection of Catholic prayers to comfort you and your loved ones during difficult times of sickness.

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Once again, I hope you are all well, and students are continuing to manage their online learning successfully.

This week the government made certain announcements regarding the possible way forward for the re-opening of schools. Two weeks of this half term remain, and we continue to encourage all students to engage fully with their online work during this time. The school is then closed to all students for a week for half term. There will be no online lessons during half term, and we hope students will manage to have a rest and a break. We will re-open to children of critical workers and vulnerable children only from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. All other students will re-commence their learning from home. The government's current position is that there may be scope to begin the process of re-opening schools from 8<sup>th</sup> March. This is not yet a confirmed re-start date, and is dependent on a number of factors. The exact details of any potential re-opening are as yet not known. Once we receive more concrete news, we shall of course communicate the information to you.

We know that students will be missing school and longing for their return. Likewise, staff are missing having students in lessons with them. In the meantime, we continue with the current arrangement, and we pray that before too long it proves safe for things to start to re-adjust to normal.

Elsewhere this week, the government consultation on the awarding of GCSE, A Level and Vocational Qualifications this summer concludes this week. We do not know how long it will now take for the final plans to be published, but again I assure you that once we are in a position to provide you with further detail, we shall do so.

With my best wishes

Mr D Juric

---

Dear Parents/Carers, Students and Friends of the School,

We are delighted to be able to welcome you to our Sixth Form Online Open Event, and hope that through the course of your visit you will see why you should choose St Robert's for your A Level studies. Please watch our Introduction to Sixth form video, where you will hear from our Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form and Heads of Year.

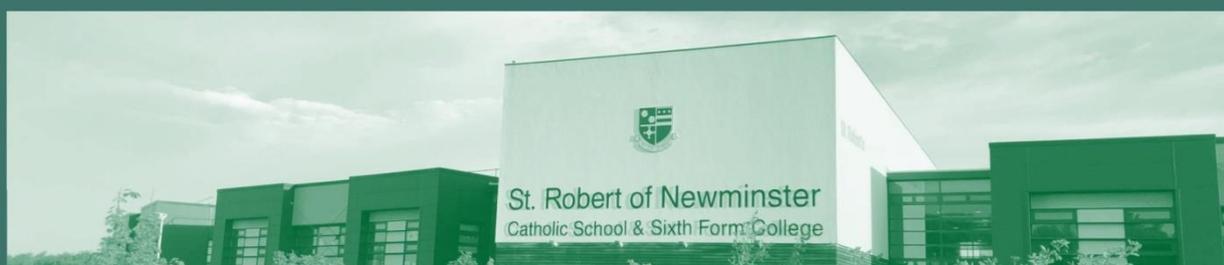
### [Sixth Form Open Event](#)

Each subject area has a short video to outline the highlights of their courses and the skills you will gain. You can also view our online [prospectus](#) which provides detailed information about each subject, along with the entry requirements for the Sixth Form, and individual subjects.

Applications are now open for this September. You can complete the online application form [here](#). We hope that you get a sense of the welcoming environment our Sixth Form provides, and we look forward to meeting you in the future.

Mr Bayne

Head of Sixth Form



## Bishop Wilkinson Trust Mass

Fr Mark Millward, BWCET Board Member and Parish Priest of the Parish of St John XIII, Washington and Peshaw, will be celebrating Mass for all Trust staff and schools in our Trust on Friday 5 February at 10am.

All staff and pupils are invited to join him and Mass can be accessed using the following link:

[www.churchservices.tv/peshaw](http://www.churchservices.tv/peshaw)

Whilst Mass will be simple, it will hopefully be a lovely chance for all members of our Trust to come together. The children of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School will lead us in our prayer.

Further details will be given to parents in the form of a letter next week.

## Wellbeing Calls

To further enhance our pastoral care during this time, our tutor team and Heads of House will be making wellbeing calls to our pupils throughout the final two weeks of term.

This call is to ensure that all pupils have fair access to the remote learning and a way of checking that our pupils are managing under the current restrictions.

The calls will last not longer than five minutes and they give an opportunity for pupils to ask any questions related to their online learning.

Please be aware that if you receive a call from a blocked number over the next two weeks this is likely to be from school as staff may be making these calls from their own homes.

Further information about the calls will be sent out to parents.



Dear God

We thank you for the gift of self-expression. Let us always use our words to help those without a voice and immortalise the memory of those who lost theirs.

We pray, that on this day, we use our voice for the power of good to spread your message of love and compassion throughout our community.

Let us remember that the words said about us, do not define us; the words we say, do.

Amen



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST

## Rewarding Engagement & Effort

All teachers at St Robert's are keen to reward the excellent engagement and effort that our young people are demonstrating during these challenging times. From next week different pupils will be nominated across departments and will receive this postcard as recognition of their excellent effort.



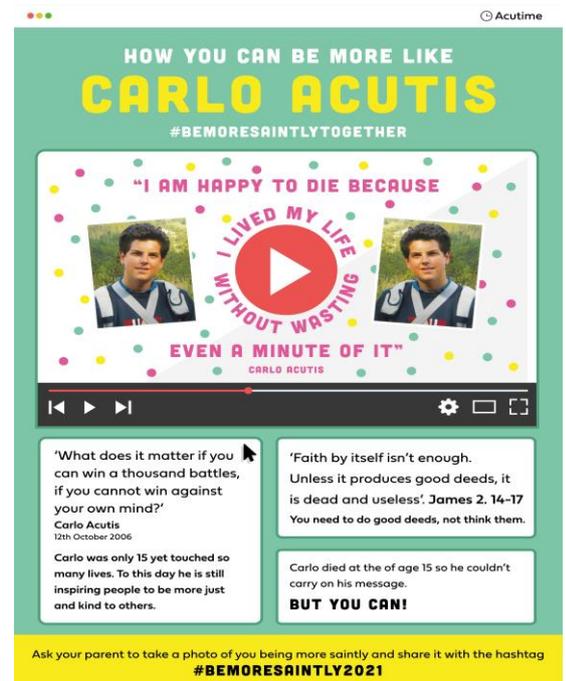
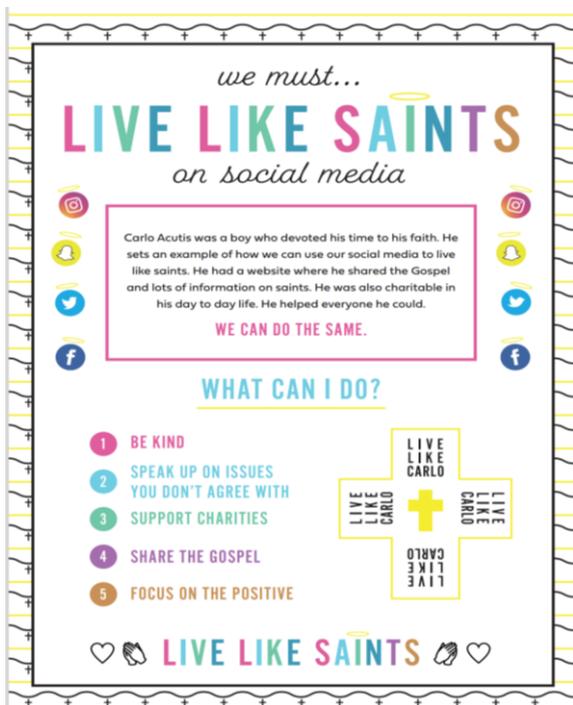
## Youth Sunday: Feast of Christ the King

National Youth Sunday took place on Sunday 22nd November 2020. The celebration was a unique opportunity to celebrate the role and significance of young people in the Catholic Church in England and Wales today.

Celebrated on the Feast of Christ the King, National Youth Sunday was an opportunity to recognise young people as a gift in the Church, enable the youth ministry and parish community to celebrate young people and affirm the contribution of young people in the Church and those who work with them.

Inspired by the words of Pope Francis the St Robert's RE Department alongside our chaplain, set about a week's worth of work, prayer and reflection based on the theme of 'Together' and the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis. All pupils from Year 7-13 had the opportunity to find out about the life of this extraordinary young man who was made 'Blessed' by Pope Francis in October.

Below are the winning entries for our 'Live like Saints' competition. The pupil's designs were professionally collated:



# GCSE POD Weekly Winners

## Who used it most?

Well done to all of the Years 9, 10 and 11 students who continue to use GCSE pod to support their online learning and to complete homework tasks set. Remember you can use GCSE pod to watch a summary pod on a chosen topic, making notes or flashcards on the pod watched, completing a quick quiz or a check and challenge task.

## **Well done to our top GCSE pod users last week**

**Year 9 – Kaitlyn Wallace**

**Year 10 – Alexander Wilkinson and Kate Navin**

**Year 11 – Kate Mulvaney**

## Still not logged in or activated your account?

If a student has not yet activated their GCSE pod account or cannot remember how to log in, they should follow the steps below:

1. Go to [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) and click “**Login**” in the top right-hand corner
2. If they have an account enter username or email address and password
3. If they have not registered an account, click on ‘**New here? Get started**’ select ‘**student**’ and enter their **name, date of birth and the school name**. This is linked to the school registers so the student must enter their name as it appears on the register.

If a student has forgotten their username or password or are struggling to activate their account, please email the school email address and we will be able to assist you with this.

## How to support your child during lockdown

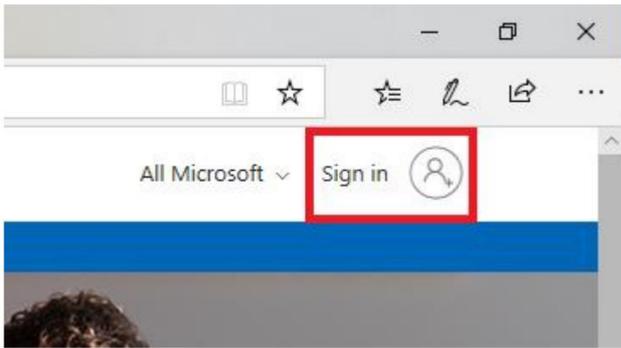
Five key factors that make a big contribution to the success of pupils in our school:

1. Punctuality
2. Attendance
3. Uniform
4. Gold Standard
5. Engagement & Effort

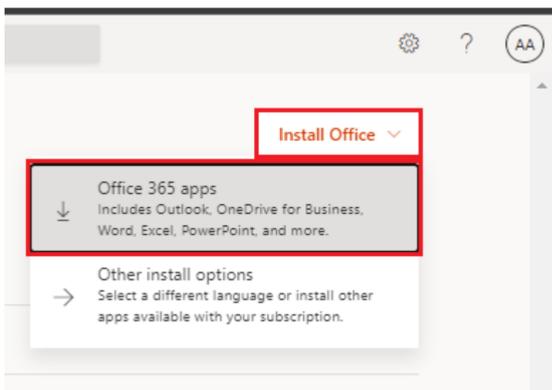


## Install Microsoft Office 365 using St Robert of Newminster Account

1. Go to [www.office.com](http://www.office.com)
2. Click the Sign In button in the top-right corner of the page:



3. Sign in with your school email address (e.g. jbloggs@str.bwcet.com) and password.
4. Click the Install Office button in the top-right corner of the page and then select Office 365 apps:



5. You might see an option to Run or Save at the bottom of the screen - Click Run



6. You may see a message asking for Office to make changes to your computer, you can say Yes to this.
7. Microsoft Office will now begin the installation – this can take a while so please be patient.
8. When installation is complete, you must run one of the Microsoft Office applications, e.g. Word and you will be prompted to sign in. Sign in with your school email address and password as you did on the website above and Microsoft Office will be activated on your computer. The license for Microsoft Office is associated with your school email account and will be deactivated when you are no longer a member of staff at the school.

Also, link is on the website here <https://www.strobertofnewminster.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Install-Microsoft-Office-365-using-St-Robert-of-Newminster-Student-Account.pdf>

## Mental Health Support

It's understandable that some of us may be feeling a bit overwhelmed and scared by everything that we are hearing about coronavirus disease (COVID-19) right now.

Children and young people react, in part, on what they see from the adults around them. When parents and caregivers deal with COVID-19 calmly and confidently, they can provide the best assurance possible for their loved one. In order to reassure other's, it is helpful if we, ourselves, understand what is happening.

### **Not all children and young people respond to stress in the same way.**

Some common changes to watch for include;

- Excessive crying or irritation in younger children
- Returning to behaviours they have outgrown (for example, requiring more reassurance than normal)
- Excessive worry or sadness
- Unhealthy eating or sleeping habits
- Irritability and "acting out" behaviours in teens
- Poor school performance or avoiding school
- Difficulty with attention and concentration
- Avoidance of activities enjoyed in the past
- Unexplained headaches or body pain
- Use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs



### **There are many things you can do to support your child.**

Don't avoid the 'scary topic' but engage in a way that is appropriate for them. Take time to talk with your child or teen about the COVID-19 outbreak.

Reassure your child or teen that they are safe. Let them know it is ok if they feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress so that they can learn how to cope from you.

Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand. We need to minimise this negative impact it has on our children and explain the facts to them. Discuss the news with them but try and avoid over-exposure to coverage of the virus. Be as truthful as possible.

Try to keep up with regular routines. If schools are closed, create a schedule for learning activities and relaxing or fun activities.

Be a role model. Take breaks, get plenty of sleep, exercise, and eat well. Connect with your friends and family members.

Involving our family and children in our plans for good health is essential. We need be alert to and ask children what they have heard about the outbreak and support them, without causing them alarm.

### Support Available

If you are concerned about your child's mental health and you feel like your child needs further support please contact your child's Head of House. They will call to discuss the most appropriate help for them.

**Remember that Kooth is always available if young people are feeling overwhelmed and needs counselling support during this time.**

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

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