



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 15 January 2021

The theme for next week is Called. (JOHN 1: 35 – 42)

'We have found the Messiah' John 1:35-42

We are all called by God, but how do we recognise His voice? All of us have come to know Jesus or will come to know him through other people. We don't often find God alone. In this week's Gospel, we see how John and Andrew introduce others to Christ. Think about the person or people who have enabled you to get to know him. Perhaps you have been given the role of making that introduction to someone else. Often a quiet witness is all that is required. We point to Christ through the way we live our lives, by showing love and compassion and occasionally through our words.

Dear Lord

I am humbled that You consider me worthy to be used—in ways big and small—to accomplish Your will here on earth. Help me respond without hesitation whenever I perceive Your voice calling me into action.

Amen

Dear Parents and Carers

At the end of our second week of lockdown I am very pleased to be able to report on what has been a very successful week. The contrast between this period and the one that began in March of last year is marked. The feedback from parents about our online provision has been overwhelmingly positive and you have recognised just how much better it is to have the teacher present through Teams. We too are delighted to be able to do this and the time spent last term preparing for such an eventuality as we now face has paid off. We are still learning and sharing ideas and discoveries among staff. One of our mathematics teachers, Miss Hampson spent some time with me explaining certain subtleties about the use of Teams, which I have tried to implement this week with my Year 10 Physics class and these types of discussions are being replicated across school.

Last Friday, we were pleased to be able to replicate our mock examination results day for our Year 11 pupils. Mr Charnock and Mrs Morris spoke to the year group and their mock results were then sent through to them electronically. Today the Year 11 Form Tutors have been conducting individual interviews with pupils to help them reflect on where they are up to with their studies and what needs to be done between now and June if they are to achieve their potential in their GCSEs.

This coming week we will make some amendments to routines which will apply ONLY to those pupils who currently attend school from our Key Worker or vulnerable list. The changes concern the use of the Restaurant at lunchtime and our corridor circulation system. We have of course conducted a risk assessment prior to having made these changes and all of the details will be explained fully to pupils prior to implementation.

We are starting to provide pastoral contact with Form Tutors each week as we know that the Form Group is a very important 'family' within school and provides a great sense of identity and belonging. We are not teaching anything in these sessions; rather it is an opportunity to gather and share thoughts and to pray together too. Sarah, our school Lay Chaplain has begun sending prayers and messages to help inspire pupils and I do commend them to you. She sent one today explaining how Robbie Williams discovered happiness was not to be found from buying more and more expensive cars. Perhaps ask your child about these as they could be a good prompt to opening an easy conversation.

It is very important that in these closed down times that we do not allow our children to retreat from us into their bedrooms. Working and learning at home can feel lonely and their bedroom may be the only place where they

physically can work. However, it is very important that children have time with their family just chatting and being together. Please forgive me but there is no more important time for families to sit together and eat together than now. Should your children express reluctance in doing this, then you really do know that eating together is needed and is very important!

I wish for you a lovely weekend.

Nigel Ranson

MENTAL HEALTH FAMILY HOUR

Next Thursday, 21 January at 10.00 am there will be an episode of the Mental Health Family Hour to address the concerns pupils may have about feeling anxious, struggling to motivate themselves or feeling scared about losing family or friends to COVID-19. This will be beneficial for all pupils, staff and parents. There will also be the opportunity to ask any questions at the end of the session. Pupils will not be on camera, as it is via Twitch.

The link for next Thursday is - <https://www.twitch.tv/mindsetbydave>

Dates to remember

Wednesday, 20 January – Year 9 Careers/Options Day

Friday, 12 February 2021 – School closes for half-term

Monday, 22 February INSET day School closed for all pupils

Tuesday, 23 February – School opens

Wednesday, 24 February Year 7 Careers Day

Friday, 26 March - School closes for Easter at 12.45 pm

Monday, 12 April - School opens for the Summer term