

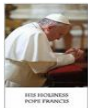
A Catholic School for All

Our Mission Statement

Trinity is a Catholic learning community devoted to the common good.

Parental Bulletin – Friday 5th February 2021

Let Us Pray: The Pope's Prayer Intention for February: Violence Against Women



Let Us Pray

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

Amen

Head of School – MR SHIRES (email: jshires@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

Year 11 Post-16 Interviews

This week I have had the pleasure of meeting Year 11 students to discuss their future pathways. Whilst some are very clear regards their chosen career path, there are others who are still undecided what they would like to do in the future. There will be further communication next week outlining when the next Year 11 Parents Evening will be to discuss mock exam performance and suitability for post-16 courses along with a subject taster day for students to find out more about different post-16 courses that they may choose to study here at Trinity Sixth Form or any other post-16 provider in the area. Although, a long time ago now, I remember not having a clue what career I wanted to pursue when I was 16 and my advice is to talk to staff, former students and relations. Consider keeping choices as open as possible and not to specialise too soon in one particular area unless absolutely certain.

We are working very closely with Saint Augustine's, Redditch and St Benedict's, Alcester Sixth Form to develop a joint pathway and enrichment programme for students from all three providers to benefit from. The vision is that all students will be able to participate in workshops, visits, talks that link with different career pathways. Heads of Departments met with their respective colleagues on Thursday to discuss ideas and future collaborations between all three schools. They have already discussed some exciting opportunities such as Duke of Edinburgh, Young Enterprise, Sport Leadership courses, joint visits abroad, master classes and contacts with local universities to name but a few.

Our Sixth Form is renowned for producing well-rounded, confident students with good communication skills and independence of thought. We believe the Enrichment Curriculum followed by our students contributes greatly to this development. There are also educational, social and cultural activities and regular opportunities to help others in the school community and beyond. In other words, life in our Sixth Form will be fulfilling academically, personally and socially.

Have a good weekend.

Catholic Life - MRS RAYMENT - Lay Chaplain (email: erayment@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

We continued our liturgy series this week with the 4th Beatitude, "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied*". There are times when justice demands that we speak up for those who cannot defend themselves. Across the world there are many persecuted groups of people. Justice as a moral concept is of course the ideal but the reality is that for some, the scales of justice are not evenly balanced. We considered how we can be active in making sure the community we live in is free from prejudice and is fair for all.

After half term, our Chaplaincy team will be meeting (virtually of course!) to discuss our fundraising efforts for our Lenten charity which this year is St. Chad's Sanctuary for refugees in Birmingham. We will be joining our other MAC secondary schools in an effort to raise funds and students will also have the opportunity to take part in a virtual retreat with a short penitential service. During this retreat we will also hear from Fr Benedict about his journey to the Priesthood. Fr Benedict recently joined the clergy in Leamington Spa after his ordination last summer.

Senior Assistant Principal (Inclusion and Pastoral Care) - MR ALTON (email: malton@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

Safeguarding

Warwickshire Family Information Service - In the latest FIS newsletter you will find information on Mental Health awareness initiatives and links to local mental health services, Early Help support services, Safer Internet Day along with a number of links for support services associated with special educational needs in children and young people. You can access the newsletter by following this link: <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=a24b439ef7022ae0d86f9ca6e&id=4326c956dd>

What parents need to know about WeChat - WeChat is an all-in-one communications app for free text messaging, voice and video calls, photo sharing and games. Additionally, through "mini-programs" (apps integrated into the main WeChat platform), it becomes a one-stop shop by allowing users to do things like send payments, make purchases or book taxis, flights and hotels. Headquartered in Shenzhen, China, WeChat is one of the world's most popular social media downloads, with around 980 million active users. In the attached guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as adult content, strangers and drug dealing

Expectations for Live Registration and Live Lessons

We'd like to again express our thanks to all parents who have endeavoured to ensure that all our students are getting the most out of our live registrations and lessons. Now that we have over 93% of our students up and online at 9am each morning, it is now important to outline the next steps.

- Attendance at every online lesson - this is the basic expectation for all students. While parents will receive a phonecall if their child is not on registration, we must outline that this is merely the start of their learning for the day. The vast majority of your child's timetable is covered by live lessons and as such, your child must be attending all of these lessons. Where there is a concern regarding absence from lessons, a C3 will be applied.
- Completion and submission of Assignments - this again is a basic expectation. It is likely that your child has an assignment to complete for every lesson that is on. Time is given during the live lesson to complete this assignment and it should be submitted during the lesson or in some cases the same day. Again, where there is a concern regarding completion of these assignments, a sanction will be applied at C1 or C2 level.
- Rewards for Assignments - our teaching staff are strongly encouraged to award Achievement Points for high quality assignments that are completed. It is of vital importance that your child receives the praise that they deserve.

MRS HAYDEN – Assistant Principal (email: dhayden@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

Feedback

During this period of remote learning staff will continue to follow strategies outlined in the school's feedback guidance. Feedback can take a number of different forms, verbal, whole class (formative written feedback), peer and self-assessment. All teachers will use a combination of these strategies when teaching face to face or remotely. Educational research highlights the impact of instant 'live' feedback on student progress. Despite the current circumstances, staff will continue to provide 'instant feedback' to students through questioning, modelling, self-assessment and self-marking platforms for retrieval activities. For formal assessments completed by students, whole class feedback will continue to be used, as this is a strategy that all students are familiar with.

Word of the Week – Week Beginning: 8th February 2021



Week beginning: 8th February 2021: QUIZ 4 - WORD OF THE WEEK

Key Dates: 4th January to 1st April 2021 (Spring Term)

- **February Half Term: Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2021**

Free School Meals Information

Please note that since academisation our email addresses have changed. To reply to communication and/or for further support, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Marr on smarr@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk.

To check eligibility for Free School Meals:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/apply-free-school-meals>

Further support:

If you urgently need support, please contact Mr Marr via email: smarr@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk.

Please check any emails sent by Mr Marr about Free School Meals and contact reception to update any contact numbers or email addresses.

Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity

At Helen Arkell Dyslexia Charity, we have been granted a sum of money by National Lottery Awards for All so that we can offer free places on our HELP Parents Course. The courses help parents of children with dyslexia to support them at home with reading, spelling, maths and study skills. There are six online 1.5 hour sessions with support

slides and recordings available if the parent cannot attend live. This is especially helpful while lots of children are doing their lessons at home.

Course and details are here: <https://www.helenarkell.org.uk/news/new-dates-help-course-for-parents-online.php>

Head of Year 7 - MR PETTLE (email: mpettle@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

Lockdown is a curious thing.

The concept of time becomes different. I am forever questioning what day/week/month or year is this?! Social interactions change. For years, parents and teachers have bemoaned the amount of time that young people spend in front of screens, but now it has become a way of life.

The way that we demonstrate a caring nature has changed. Historically we would show someone we cared through time spent with them, but now we show that we care by keeping our distance.

The one thing that has not changed throughout this pandemic is the admiration that I have for the young people that are part of the *Trinity Catholic School* community. Remote learning is not the ideal vision that anyone would have for the education system, but for now it is the necessary device through which to keep our community safe. Year 7 have continually impressed me with their approach to this new way of teaching and learning: engaging with live lessons, developing their subject knowledge and understanding, and demonstrating the same level of work ethic that they would if they were in the classroom. On a number of occasions this week, Year 7 as a cohort have achieved 100% attendance; a phenomenal achievement, and testament to the commitment and dedication demonstrated by our Year 7 students, and you their parents and caregivers.

As we settle into this new way of learning, I must remind the students that consistency is the key to success. Consistently accessing their live lessons is not just an expectation, but a requirement to supporting their learning. Consistently submitting the work that has been requested by teachers will ensure that they stay on top of a reasonable workload without falling behind. And consistently upholding high standards will ensure that our students are constantly achieving their full potential (this includes asking for help when help is needed, taking pride in their learning, and not becoming distracted by unrelated "chats" during their live lessons).

As the American politician Brad Henry once said: *"Believe in yourself, and the rest will fall into place. Have faith in your own abilities, work hard, and there is nothing you cannot accomplish."*

Head of Year 8 - MR DEMPSEY (email: pdempsey@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

We are heading towards the half term and what a half term it has been! In all my years at Trinity I have not seen such a transformative seven weeks. Our school prayer has the values of resilience and aspiration at its heart and our Year 8 live these values every day. They have settled into online learning with confidence and commitment. Each day has seen attendance improve and many difficulties overcome. The skills our youngsters have developed will serve them well in coming years.

Last week was the first live Liturgy with Year 8 and it was a delight to welcome the whole Year group to our collective worship. Our Liturgy was focussed on Truth and Justice and I used this opportunity to look at the fights for justice in society with particularly emphasis on the fights for civil rights and equality in the United States highlighted by the challenges faced by Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. This was accompanied by the beautiful and moving song by Sam Cooke 'A Change is Gonna Come'.

With this in mind I would like to share this by Dr King:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
~ **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Take care and stay safe.

Head of Year 9 - MR MUSSON (email: emusson@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

We hope that you are all safe and well. Engagement during home learning is vital for students to continue to improve their subject knowledge across their wide and varied curriculum. Students should be opening the 'calendar' section of MS Teams each morning by 9am to access their usual timetabled form time and lesson work. Some students are accessing lessons via the 'Posts' section instead, often clicking 'Join' on the most recent post, which is often the correct subject, but the incorrect lesson in the timetable. To avoid this problem, please ensure that classes are always accessed via the 'calendar' section only. Trinity staff are currently in the process of rewarding and sanctioning students based on their engagement in class. Teachers require evidence of work. Therefore, please always ensure that assignments are handed in using the 'Assignments' tab within the relevant Team. Without evidence it is assumed that work has not been attempted/completed.

The options process is due to begin shortly after half term (date to be confirmed). The options process was scheduled to be communicated to students during a PSHE&C day. Depending on the length of the lockdown, this options lesson may be delivered via home learning. Usual process includes parents being invited to an options information event

that coincides with the Year 9 Parents' Evening; an alternative to this process will be decided upon over the coming weeks.

Thank you for your patience.

Head of Year 10 - MR WILLIS (email: awillis@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

The author Charles Glassman stated that 'kindness begins with the understanding that we all struggle'. That is difficult to keep in mind as I write this at home with 3 children home schooling, a wife trying to work from home and sub-standard internet connection. This was also evident as I walked my dog this week and witnessed a man berating another man for standing on a path and attempting to take photographs of a Kingfisher as the other was trying to get past. Our current predicament has made kindness difficult at times, but its need has never been more vital. Kindness is something that we try to instil in our students through our teachings of our virtue and values but living and acting how we want our young people to behave is most often the most powerful teaching tool.

Thank you for your kind words regarding our remote education provision. Teachers are doing their utmost to provide the best education possible at this time, and your understanding and support is valued. We are now down to the last few technical issues in the year group. If your child's lessons do not show on their calendar, please ask them to check their Assignments for their timetabled lesson and any Edulink correspondence. In some instances, students have had to click on the ellipses (3 dots) of the relevant team and 'upload to calendar' to see their full quota of scheduled meetings/lessons. Your child should have work for every lesson, regardless of whether this is 'live' or not. Your resilience in working through any barriers and ensuring that your child has access to everything available to them is very much appreciated.

Head of Year 11 - MR MARR (email: smarr@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

Year 11

I sent the liturgy to Year 11 students this morning and it formed part of the liturgy last week, Gospel values, Truth and Justice. Last week we looked at the Beatitudes with a focus on humility and gentleness. This week we are looking at the values of justice and truth, with our focus being on those who cannot defend themselves or who are persecuted for their faith or way of life. The 4th Beatitude of truth and justice, "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied*". There are times when justice demands that we speak up for those who cannot defend themselves.

Across the world there are many persecuted groups of people. These may include people who are from:

- Different social or economic backgrounds
- Different ethnicity, religions or cultures
- Different sexuality or gender
- Different political beliefs

The key point here is that 'different' is often seen as a negative thing. If we were all the same, then the world would be a boring place, thankfully it isn't and we should be able to treat people equally. At the end of the liturgy, I asked students to reflect on a number of questions, but one in particular, "Why do you think some people are afraid of being, or being seen as, different?"

Post-16 Information

I know that some Year 11 students have already had their 1:1 Careers Guidance Meeting and post-16 interviews, but the rest of you will start to see these events in your MS Teams calendar. The Senior Leadership Team are part way through their meetings and this will all have taken place before Friday 12th February 2021. Please remind your child, as we have done so, that this is a discussion and not an interview. Your child will receive notification of the meeting time via MS Teams. Please note, to comply with safeguarding, your child must not have their camera on for the meeting.

Trinity Sixth Form

Students have asked about extending the application process for the sixth form and I am pleased to say that we have. Whilst we make changes to the website, application forms are available from the contacts below:

Mr Marr – smarr@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk; Mrs La Spisa – mlaspisa@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

MS Teams Registration and Engagement

Thank you for your support with live registration and live lessons. On Thursday 28th January 2021, we had 89% of Year 11 students registering with their tutor. We have seen a marked improvement in attendance and engagement, so I would like to thank you for your hard work in supporting us.

Year 11 IT Information

If you are having issues with your email and password, please remember to raise this with IT Lourdes.

Lourdes IT help desk contact details:

Help Desk: 01527 359 999
<https://help.lourdesit.org.uk>
help@lourdesit.org.uk

7.30am to 5pm Monday to Friday All resources, assignments, live and pre-recorded lessons will no longer be available via the welearn365 platform that students currently use.

Foundation Programme Co-ordinator - MR LIGNIER (email: jlignier@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

It has been great to see increasing numbers of Year 12 students attend school this week to access teacher support for their learning. We have seen over 70% of the Year 12 pupils in school this week. The students coming in have made great use of their time in school; working very hard.

If you are continuing to study at home, please be aware that you can come and study at school, it is particularly important if online learning is difficult for you. Thank you to those who are working at home and sending their work through.

As always, if there are any issues or questions, please contact me via Edulink or email: jlignier@tcs.lourdes.org.uk.

Our School Motto
Equal by means of God's image