

A Catholic School for All

Our Mission Statement

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

Parental Bulletin – Friday 19th March 2021

Let Us Pray: The Pope's Prayer Intention for March: Sacrament of Reconciliation



Let Us Pray

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth,
to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Amen

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

Home Testing

This week the school completed testing students as per Government guidelines. Students have now been given their home testing kits to take home. If your child hasn't received one, please contact the school office so that we can ensure they take one home. Just a reminder that the test should be completed 3 to 5 days apart. Within the kit you should find instructions detailing how to record void, positive and negative results. If the test does show positive, we recommend that you inform the school and book a PCR test at your nearest test centre, as soon as possible.

Teacher Assessed Grading

The school is acutely aware that Year 11 students and parents are keen to find out how their grades will be awarded this summer. A parent information outlining the school's approach to awarding grades for Year 11 students will be held by Mr Alton next Thursday at 4.30pm via MS Teams. Further details can be found in Mr Alton's section of the bulletin.

Headteacher Vacancy

The Senior Leadership Team has valued the support provided by the addition of the Executive Headteacher role since September 2018 which will continue to August this year. The school is now in a secure position to appoint a substantive Headteacher from September 2021. Further details are attached to this Parent Bulletin and can be found on the TES jobs website.

Retreat Day

Today, some of our Year 11 students supported Mrs Rayment, Lay Chaplin in delivering a retreat day with Ours Lady and St Theresa Primary School. It's really pleasing to see students putting their faith into action and supporting younger students with the formation of their faith and promoting our Catholic method to the wider community.

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

This week has seen us settle back into our routines here at school. What strikes me as I walk around the building is the resilience of our staff and pupils. Today is the Feast of St Joseph, the foster Father of our Lord Jesus. Joseph is steadfast and quietly strong. His part in our salvation story is often overlooked but without him, Mary would have been alone. He protected her during their flight to Egypt to evade Herod. He nurtured Jesus in his early years, taught him how to walk, talk and most likely passed on his carpentry skills! Like Joseph, our staff and pupils have quietly gone about their days, picking themselves up after a difficult year and caring for one another as we return to some sort of normality.

Today, I had the privilege of meeting with children at Our Lady & St Theresa's Primary School. Our time together focussed on preparation for their first Reconciliation. We looked at the penitential season of Lent and the concept of sin and forgiveness as well as how we can make good choices. We concluded with the reason for confession and the practical side of how the Priest forgives us with the authority of Christ. A huge thank you to our Year 11 Chaplaincy team leaders, Honor and Joanna, who helped me to share these messages with the primary school children.

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to work on our prayer garden, there is much weeding to be done! We would love to put a statue of Mary in our garden, if anyone would like to donate one that would be amazing. Perhaps your local church might have one they no longer use? If you have any gardening tools or equipment like birdfeeders or plant pots you might not use, please consider donating them for us to use on this project. Likewise, any donations of plants would be most welcome. My family will attest that I am not the most green fingered of people so any help offered is gratefully received. Contact me on the above email and I can collect.

**St Joseph protect us,
St Joseph guide us,
St Joseph nurture us,
St Joseph pray for us!**

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

Teacher Assessed Grades - Year 11 2020/21

We have been working to provide guidance, clarity and a set of procedures to be followed in order to provide exam boards with accurate teacher assessed grades that fairly reflect the achievement of Trinity Catholic School Year 11 students as a result of the cancellation of exams brought about by the pandemic.

The OFQUAL guidance document containing information is provided below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965005/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf.

In determining students' grades, the following key principles must be adhered to:

- Teachers must only assess students' performance on content that has been delivered to them.
- Teachers can use evidence from across the whole taught course, but every effort must be made to ensure that the work is not plagiarised or that they have had additional support or input to achieve a grade that they would otherwise not have been able to produce independently.
- Teachers should provide assessed grades as late in the course as possible so that teaching can continue for as long as possible.
- Grades must be based on a broad range of evidence and Heads of Centres will be required to provide confirmation that students have covered sufficient breadth to enable progression to further study.
- Teachers are NOT being asked to predict students' grades; instead, teacher assessed grades should be supported by clear evidence that demonstrates the level a student is performing in order to justify the grade awarded.

In deciding upon a fair grade that accurately rewards students for their current level of performance, a broad range of evidence should be used that could include:

- Mock exams
- External tests provided by exam boards
- Teacher tests & in-class work
- Performance during remote learning
- Coursework or NEA where appropriate

Year 11 Final Assessments

In order to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their performance and capabilities and collate some high-quality evidence which will be used to form part of the holistic judgement, we will hold a final assessment period for Year 11.

This assessment period will be part of a collapsed timetable and will take place between Tuesday 4th May - Friday 21st May.

Year 11 Parents Information Session - Teacher Assessed Grades

We will be holding a parents information event to discuss the Teacher Assessed Grade process on Thursday 25th March at 4.30pm.

If you would like to join the event, please access via this link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MzEyYzZmZTMtZGZhYS00ODJhLWJlMDMtZmNiZjlzZWUyYjFi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e41da730-796d-446f-86f3-914d61322f38%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2271bef0b9-14e6-4b7d-acee-0831f27dd6b2%22%7d

Attendance Matters! – MR MARR (email: smarr@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

Our students have made an excellent return school and I am so pleased that they are back learning with their peers. I do have concerns with how the media are emphasising how behind young people are behind and this will no doubt create anxiety and stress amongst students, parents and teachers. Every tutor group in the school was given this message “*you are starting back in exactly the same position as every young person in the country and across the world*”. Therefore, we are all at the same starting point.

The government is, quite rightly, pushing on attendance and whilst we are continuing to report all our absence to the local authority and Department for Education (DfE) there is going to be more scrutiny around improving attendance in schools. There is often a misconception with attendance especially if a student is attending 90% of the time, then that is okay. The government classes 90% as persistent absence and schools must have a plan to address any student who is below 90% or is in danger of falling into that category. The national average for schools currently is 94.5%, but most schools will expect attendance to be no lower than 96%.

The rationale behind having high attendance is that students have more opportunity to experience high quality teaching in the classroom and to achieve their goals. The DfE report that attendance is intrinsically linked to achievement and wellbeing. If students achieve, from an achievement and social and emotional wellbeing point of view they will ultimately have more opportunities open to them when they leave school. One of the main reasons we become teachers is to see children grow, be happy, achieve and have more opportunities later in life.

Each child is important to us and we want to ensure they are happy and enjoying school. If your child has any concerns or questions the school must be informed, as soon as possible. Your child’s Form Tutor should be the first point of call, then their Head of Year and then the lead for pastoral care. Our attendance team are well equipped to support students and parents whenever help is needed.

Whilst we must drive attendance forward, we do appreciate that exceptional circumstances will play a part at some point through a child's life. If your child is absent, please report any absence to our Attendance Manager each morning.

Attendance Percentage		Days missed over a school year
100%		0 days
95%		10 days
90%		20 days
85%		30 days
80%		40 days

Word of the Week – Week Beginning: 22nd March 2021



Week beginning 22nd March 2021: QUIZ 5 - WORD OF THE WEEK

Free School Meals Information

To check eligibility for Free School Meals:

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

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

COVID-19 LFT - MR MARR (email: smarr@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

Your child would have now completed three tests at school and would have been given a test at home kit. There are detailed instructions inside the box to guide you through the process. Students should now be proficient with the testing process, but If you would like further guidance, please follow the links below:

[Your step-by-step guide for COVID-19 self-testing \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Main Heading \(may go over several lines\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)



All further lateral flow tests will be distributed to students by the school. If you would prefer to collect the testing kit yourself, please contact school office.

I would personally like to thank all members of staff involved with setting up and organising the testing stations. Mrs La Spisa, Ms Bingham, Mrs Kite and Mrs Barrero for all their hard work and care to ensure all students felt comfortable and safe throughout the process.

I would also like to thank our army of parent/carers volunteers, who gave up their time to offer us support, without which we would not have been able to test all students in time. It was rather surreal to see the Gym turned into a pristine testing site, and with parents and staff working side by side, it did have a real community feel. An additional thanks to you as parent/carers for accommodating and preparing students in advance of the testing process, they were fantastic!

Mr Marr

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

- **PSHE&C Day:** Tuesday 23rd March 2021
- **Year 9 Option Choices Deadline:** Friday 26th March
- **End of Term of Spring Term:** Thursday 1st April 2021

Attendance Reporting - Attendance Manager – MRS LYTWYNIW (email: plytwyniw@tcs.lourdesmac.org.uk)

Reporting Student Absence (Illness/Medical and Other)

A reminder to all parents/carers you are required to notify the school of all student absences (Year 7 to Year 12). This should be done by either:

- using your Edulink account or
- leaving a telephone message on the Student Absence Line - **01926 462929** stating:
 - your name
 - child's name
 - form group
 - reason for absence

If your child is absent for several days, it is important to report the absence every day that they are off school. Medical evidence may be requested for absences.

In the event that we need to contact you, please check that your Edulink account contact details are correct and up to date.

Job Vacancies at Our Lady of Lourdes Multi-Academy Company (LOL)

Catering Assistant – Trinity Catholic School

Please see attached vacancy and application form for a Catering Assistant position.

For current job vacancies within Our Lady of Lourdes MAC, please click on the following link:

[Vacancies – Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy \(lourdesmac.org.uk\)](http://lourdesmac.org.uk)

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

This week, Catholics around the world – particularly those of Irish heritage - celebrated the feast day of St Patrick. No feast day is necessarily more important than another, though some are more widely celebrated and acknowledged; videos from President Biden and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have highlighted the importance, and wide-reaching celebrations, that the feast of St Patrick elicits.

When spreading his story of Christianity the image of the shamrock was one that became synonymous with St Patrick's teachings. In the rainy climes of the emerald isles, fields were filled with shamrocks, and St Patrick used the sprigs as a metaphor in his teachings of the Holy Trinity, the namesake of our school; the Trinity being God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. St Patrick, though now widely celebrated, was not necessarily viewed in the same light during his lifetime. Taking his teachings through the length and breadth of Ireland, St Patrick greatly risked his life in an environment that then met its spiritual needs through Druid and Pagan worship.

Reflecting on the story of St Patrick this week, I have thought a great deal about the situation that COVID has left us in. One of the most widely known stories that is attributed to St Patrick is driving the snakes out of Ireland. Legend has it that during a 40 day fast, St Patrick was attacked by a group of snakes, and in retaliation he banished them into the sea; it is said that as a result of St Patrick's actions, to this day, there are no snakes found in Ireland. But even in this age old tale, the snakes had to go somewhere; they didn't simply disappear! Much like our anxieties and difficulties stemming from lockdown, they may still exist, they're just elsewhere or present in a different way. Many of us will try to "banish" these feelings, but we don't have to do it alone. Please remember that there is a wide pastoral team here at Trinity, and we encourage the students to reach out to us whenever they need to.

This week, I have encountered several stand-out moments within the year group, representative of individuals' feelings having returned from another lockdown. Some of these moments have demonstrated behaviour that falls

below the values expected by our community; but these have been countered by individuals who, through the maturity of their actions, have perfectly showcased the virtue and values that we hold at the heart of everything that we, as a school, aim to do. With that in mind, I would like to leave you with this quote: ***"It's not always easy to do the right thing, it can be tough, painful and sometimes costly. But never swap your core values for cheap wins as doing the right thing is ALWAYS the right thing."***

Wishing you and your family a happy and restful weekend.

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

We are coming to the end of our first full week and the year group have had their second set of testing. They have now been allocated their own testing sets and we will be able to see the benefits of this over the next weeks and months.

I have been delighted with the return to a form of normality and the way the vast majority of Year 8 have settled down to lessons. The number of students bringing in reading books is a bonus but there are still a few who have yet to engage with this requirement.

Now that there is a sense of routine, I would like to request your help in two key areas: Uniform and PE kit. Unfortunately, we still have a small minority of students arriving in school with hooded tops. I understand that it is often chilly in the morning, but these are not allowed. I also see a small number who were trainers instead of school shoes or are not in Trinity PE kit. Challenging and dealing with this takes up time that could be better spent in other ways. Your support is appreciated on this and will help the smooth running of your child's school week.

Tuesday is PSHE Day, and we will be covering amongst other things Online safety, self-esteem, well-being, and British values.

I would like to thank 8 Green for their lovely form liturgy and enjoyed the Lenten theme and lovely choice of prayers. As we head towards Easter, I would like to thank you for your support and hope that you have a wonderful weekend. With Spring and its beauty ever more evident I leave you with this:

"To walk into nature is to witness a thousand miracles." Mary Davis

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

We hope that you are all safe and well.

The third PSHE&C Day is Tuesday 23rd March. Topics include the following: 'Resilience', 'Sexually Transmitted Infections', 'Consent', 'Online Safety' and 'Knowing My Rights and Responsibilities'. Feedback via student voice was very positive following a previous PSHE&C Day. As before, we again use Ten Ten resources to provide at least one of the five lessons. Ten Ten Resources help school communities grow in faith, love, understanding and compassion. Ten Ten state that they do this by creating a wide-range of unique media-rich programmes and resources, inspired by our Catholic faith. The resilience lessons were added to the PSHE&C curriculum following student voice feedback, where students requested one mental health lesson each half term. The Online Safety lesson was added to the curriculum following the increased usage of online forums during the recent lockdowns.

The online options process is live until Friday 26th March. Please discuss the option choices with your child, prior to your child selecting their options via the link sent to their EduLink below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MKcd5G15b0SG85FNYTivOPvuiKGyQ1pKqPI_UAamjF5_UQIhBOFFQMzJIT0pQM05JQVlaTk9DSVIBUS4u

The link is now updated so that students can resubmit their option choices by 26th March, if they have changed their mind.

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

Tuesday of next week is our PSHE&C day. As you will be aware, students do not follow their normal timetable of these days and follow our PSHE&C curriculum. I publicised the topic content of our curriculum at the start of the year, but we have 'tweaked' this somewhat given our change in context and the circumstances that have been dealt to us. We felt it important to reflect the environment we find ourselves in and try to help students respond and understand in our contemporary world. Therefore, the themes for this PSHE&C day are 'coping with emotions', 'e-safety', 'self-image' and 'emotional well-being'. We will also cover 'fertility and contraception' as per our SRE curriculum. All lesson resources are provided by Ten:Ten resources and the NSPCC. I am happy to expand on any of these topics, should you wish to contact me to discuss.

Please do encourage your child to take responsibility to speak to their relative teachers, should they wish to. They should now be comfortable in expressing thoughts and opinions with members of staff and should communicate with teachers if they feel the need to express that they are struggling with any subject and/or topic. GCSE study is not meant to be easy after all, and students will experience many difficulties. It is our role as parents, carers, and teachers to support children in being able to negotiate any barriers and overcome difficulties with resilience and determination.

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

The liturgy this week was delivered by 11 Orange to the whole of Year 11. I would like to thank Miss Hanson and 11 Orange for the excellent liturgy about perseverance. The themes of our form liturgies discuss how we can act out what Jesus tells us and how this helps us in times of extreme difficulty. In Corinthians 11:23-33, Paul recounts how he has persevered through difficult times. "on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness".

Everybody has weaknesses, but it is how we address these weaknesses which is important.

"It always seems impossible until it is done" - Nelson Mandela.

Year 11 IT Information

If you are having issues with your email, password or Edulink the LourdesIT 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 previously used.

Stay safe and take care.

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

Year 12 had a superb week in Food Technology this week. All the pupils produced some amazing pasta dishes. Thank you once again to Miss Triassi and Mrs Haven for helping the engineer the culinary delights.



As well as honing the students' culinary skills, we have begun getting ready for the Functional Skills exams after Easter with mock tests taking place. The results have been very pleasing, showing excellent progress and we are now clear what levels the students will be striving to achieve come exam time.

Our School Motto
Equal by means of God's image