



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Thursday, 16 December 2021



Message to parents, carers and families from Mr Ranson

Christmas provides a time for us to consider the needs of others. Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* considers our stewardship of the world entrusted to us by God. He says whether believers or not, we are agreed today that the earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. For believers, this becomes a question of fidelity to the Creator, since God created the world for everyone. Hence every ecological approach needs to incorporate a social perspective which takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged.

With Cop 26 now over and Christmas approaching, we have opportunity to ask of ourselves important questions in terms of our priorities and what really matters to us.

On a separate note, I shall be retiring at the end of this academic year. By that time, it will have been 19 years since governors first entrusted the leadership of our wonderful school into my hands. We have worked together to try to make our school both a happy and productive place where children can grow and feel safe. The support that I have received from our families and from our staff throughout this journey of faith has been immense. However, we still have two more terms together and plenty to still accomplish.

With my prayers and very best wishes for Christmas

LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTS

Schools have been advised as part of Plan B, to request that parents and carers take a LFD test if they are coming into school for a meeting. This is not necessary if you are simply visiting Reception for a couple of minutes but it is expected for a visit that takes you into another part of school or requires you to be in school for more than a couple of minutes.

The DfE have also made it clear that families should continue with LFD tests at home at least twice a week. We have a full stock of LFD test kits at school which will be given to your child upon request. If you have been pinged or been in contact with someone who has had a positive test, you and your child should do a LFD test every day for a week.

The DfE have also mandated that schools again arrange for an LFD test to be done on all children whose parents/carers give consent. Thank you for those who have responded with the consent, a separate email has been sent with times.

Your support in helping us to make school a safe environment is appreciated as always.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Please find attached with this Newsletter an important information document from the Director of Public Health which provides information and guidelines for parents and families.

PANTO TRIP

We were delighted that the rewards trips for Years 7 and 8 were able to take place and both Year Groups enjoyed an original performance of *Beauty and the Beast* "in the round" at Duke's Theatre in Lancaster. They were an absolute credit to themselves during the show and fully participated in all the antics from the stage. It was a lovely way to celebrate the festive period and all of the pupil's successes from this term.

REMINDER

Please would all parents and carers be reminded that pupils wearing make-up or fake tan are not wearing our uniform. Only pupils in the correct uniform are allowed to attend lessons.

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

If you can tell your science teacher the answers to the questions you can earn a point.

Wetlands are an important habitat for many of the world's species. The loss of marshes, bogs and swamps are driving a rapid decline in dragonflies and damselflies. Read the article and find the answer to the following question

Question 1: How many times faster are wetland ecosystems disappearing than forests?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-59585677>

Podcast

There are around 14,000 different uses for paper from fine tissue paper, cardboard, writing paper, newspaper, Christmas cards etc. But where does it come from and how is it made? Listen to the podcast and then answer the following question.

Question 2: Where does the name paper come from?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0359l7k>

Videos

Nuclear fusion would provide unlimited amounts of clean energy if scientists can make it work. Watch the video of a private company in the UK attempting to produce a nuclear fusion reactor and then answer the following question.

Question 3: What element is created when hydrogen atoms are fused together?

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-59601560?ns_mchannel=social&ns_source=twitter&ns_campaign=bbc_live&ns_linkname=59601560%26Didcot%3A%20The%20hottest%20place%20in%20the%20Solar%20System%3F%262021-12-13T06%3A15%3A41.000Z&ns_fee=0&pinned_post_locator=urn:bbc:cps:curie:asset:3da4d949-7a5e-41c4-a8a0-d16aa3e420f5&pinned_post_asset_id=59601560&pinned_post_type=share

Home Research

Who was Jagadish Chandra Bose? Look him up on the internet and find out what he invented which is useful in the scientific field of botany (the study of plants).

Question 4: What did he invent and what is it used for?

Dates to remember

Wednesday, 5 January – School opens for the Spring Term

Friday, 11 February – School closes for half-term

Tuesday, 22 February – School opens

Thursday, 28 April – Year 7 Normandy Trip

Monday, 2 May – School closed for May Day