

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Friday we welcomed future Year 12 students to The New Sixth to enjoy a great day finding out more about A levels and Alternatives to A levels. Teachers and the Careers team prepared some really interesting lessons and the enthusiasm from students was tangible. May we say thank you to all the Year 11 students for the maturity with which they approached the day and for their positive engagement and conduct.

Our Year 12 and Year 13 students are now well into the pattern of A level study, and may be starting to feel the pressure of workload. If any student begins to feel overwhelmed I would encourage them to speak to their subject staff, tutor, Miss Butler or me so we can support them towards good practices over the half-term break.

Mr Boutland-Smith organised a virtual workshop for students interested in medical professions which was well attended last week. Leading on from that our Medicine, Dentistry, Vet and Oxbridge students have been really busy preparing for the October 15 UCAS deadline. May we wish them all the very best of luck with their applications.

We are delighted to announce that Miss Butler is getting married on Saturday to Mr. Staves. We had a really happy celebration with students and Sixth Form staff on Wednesday to mark the occasion. Students made bunting, cakes and a beautiful card; their talents never cease to impress. On behalf of everyone we wish them both a long and lovely future together.

With half term starting tomorrow, to all our students, staff, parents and supporters, thank you for all the enthusiasm and commitment you give to The New Sixth. It is a privilege to be part of such a fantastic sixth form.

Mr Ackland, Head of Year 12 and Year 13

Dates for your Diary

October

Fri 23	End of Term 1
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November

Mon 2 Nov	Start of Term 2— WEEK A
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Let's Celebrate

Miss Butler is getting married!

On

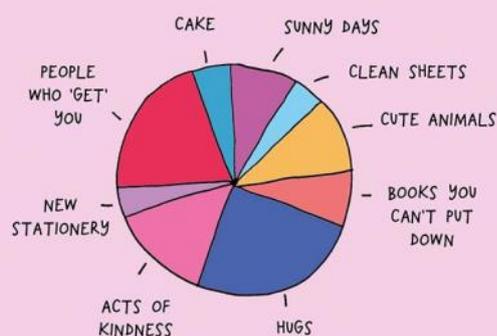


Wednesday, the Sixth Form students surprised Miss Butler with a supper snazzy office, a delicious chocolate cake made by Oliver H and a beautiful card crammed with warm wishes and made by Joni B. What a lovely way to mark this very special occasion.

On behalf of everyone at Saint Gregory's may we wish Miss Butler and Mr Staves a really gorgeous wedding this weekend and a marriage full of love, companionship and kindness for decades to come.



REASONS to SMILE.



Chaplaincy Thoughts

For any Netflix addicts out there, you'll understand both the urge to binge watch a new series available on the streaming service but also the temptations of their documentaries in recent times. They truly are 'wowing' audiences with some fascinating, hard hitting and thought-provoking material. One of these has been *The Social Dilemma* which explores the inner workings of social media from the very people who know it best - creators and developers. On the popular Catholic evangelism website founded by Bishop Robert Barron wordonfire.org here is an extract and link to the full article—it's well worth a read.

"The new Netflix documentary *The Social Dilemma*—a film about the dark side of social media explained by the Silicon Valley innovators behind it—is a kind of public service for the digital age. Most of us talk about how addictive our smartphones are. We are concerned about the role social media is playing in the rise of [outrage and polarization in adults](#), and isolation and depression in kids. Some might even already be aware of the mechanics behind all of this. But this documentary offers a full look behind the curtain to anyone who wants to see it—and it's not pretty. One particularly impressive figure is Tristan Harris, a former Google design ethicist and the co-founder of the Center for Humane Technology. Harris has coined the phrase "human downgrading." Technology, [he argues](#), is "downgrading our attention span, our relationships, civility, community, habits"—and all very much by design. The result is that we are less and less in control of ourselves than we think. "People really haven't realized that technology is holding the pen of history right now."

This dilemma hasn't escaped the attention of Pope Francis. In his latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, the pope references "texting" (49), "mobile devices" (44), and "social networks" (200)—the first papal encyclical to directly reference these three things—and dedicates a whole section to "the illusion of communication" online. Those familiar with *Laudato Si'* know that the pope can be [highly critical of modern technology](#), and his assessment of the digital world is no different. Pope Francis argues that it is contributing to a lack of privacy and laying bare of people's lives "anonymously" (43); "campaigns of hatred and destruction" (43); "social aggression" (44); ideological influence and "fake news" (45); "fanaticism" even among Christians, and "defamation and slander" even in Catholic media (46); enclosed virtual circles (47); and the spread of "information without wisdom" (47-50). He later writes that the internet affords us "immense possibilities for encounter and solidarity" (205), but it's safe to say his assessment of the current state of digital communication is largely negative. So what do we do?

We certainly can (and should) make our voices heard, and join Harris and others in demanding more humane, ethical, and regulated digital technology... (<https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/the-social-dilemma-and-the-silent-carthusians/28749/>)

Matt Robinson, Chaplain

National Events



This week marked the tenth Anti-Slavery Day in the U.K

Anti-Slavery day provides an opportunity to raise awareness of modern slavery. Slavery today includes human trafficking, forced labour, slavery of children, forced early marriage, bonded labour and domestic slavery. Modern slavery is thought to be one of the most lucrative forms of organised crime.

Heavenly Father,

*who sees the unseen and notices the unnoticed,
help each of us to hear the Hidden Voices of those
who pray for release from slavery and exploitation,
so that we may give ourselves more fully to the service of
your saving love,
and be strengthened together as agents of your healing and
hope,
through Jesus Christ,
who himself came to serve as a slave,
so as to bring freedom and grace to all.*

Amen

Stay cool

WAYS TO STOP OVERTHINKING

- Go for a walk
- Listen to music
- Journal and do a brain dump
- Dance
- Keep a gratitude diary
- Paint
- Spend time amongst nature
- Spend time being creative
- Talk it out
- Play with animals
- Focus on your breathing
- Think of times when it worked out
- Practice going with the flow
- Meditate to calm your thoughts

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PROGRESSION



N
NORLAND
Your big career with little people starts at Norland

Explore all aspects of our award-winning early years degree and diploma at our virtual open event, 24-30 October 2020.

Visit [norland.ac.uk/virtual](https://www.norland.ac.uk/virtual) to book your place today!

Open event 24-30 October 2020

Free online babysitting course – an Introduction to Babysitting <https://onlinecourses.norland.ac.uk/>

Virtual careers adviser event Monday 23 November



The Only Free LIVE Virtual Work Experience in the UK Run by Doctors!

Work Experience through the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham - it looks amazing! You would follow patients through from diagnosis to treatment and get the opportunity to ask working doctors questions.

It looks like a valuable addition to any CV or personal statement, but there are limited places, so consider your application carefully:

<https://medicmentor.co.uk/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

Global Summit

A global summit, where students from 30+ countries come together and virtually meet with international figures from Science, Technology, Business, Politics and Sport. Even Tim Peake will be there!

There is a cost involved of £595, but there are bursaries you can apply for.

The link to register is:

https://investin.org/collections/all/products/the-young-leaders-global-summit?mc_cid=20ec0e7dfe&mc_eid=b70aa27f75

Get On Track to Bath and stand out from the UCAS Crowd



A free 1 year curriculum enhancement programme to develop independent learning, academic research and employability skills and helps you make an informed choice about your future university course. Spend time on campus and get an introduction to university life, explore a subject you are interested in, receive an alternative offer and more. Sessions are Wednesday afternoons and dovetail perfectly with our Enrichment Programme. Register your interest now. **Apply from November. Deadline: Jan 2021.**

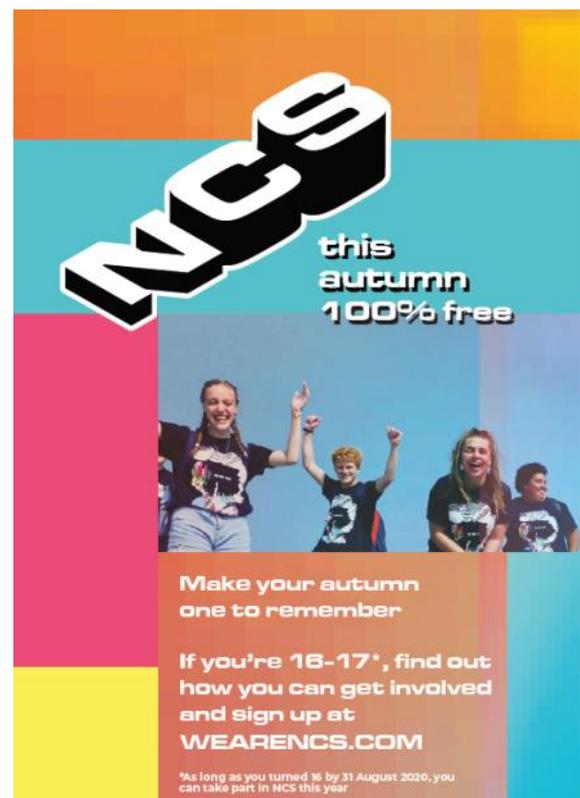
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/guides/on-track-to-bath/>

InvestIN Global Summit

We have been given the details of a global summit, where students from 30+ countries come together and virtually meet with international figures from Science, Technology, Business, Politics and Sport. Even Tim Peake will be there!

There is a cost involved of £595, but there are bursaries you can apply for. The link to register is:

https://investin.org/collections/all/products/the-young-leaders-global-summit?mc_cid=20ec0e7dfe&mc_eid=b70aa27f75



NCS this autumn 100% free

Make your autumn one to remember

If you're 16-17*, find out how you can get involved and sign up at [WEARENCS.COM](https://www.weencs.com)

*As long as you turned 16 by 31 August 2020, you can take part in NCS this year

UCAS

UCAS

15 JANUARY 2021 (18:00 UK time)

Deadline for the majority of undergraduate courses. The reference needs to be completed before the application can be sent.

30 JUNE 2021 (18:00 UK time)

Last date for the receipt of all other applications for immediate consideration by the chosen universities and colleges. Those received after this date will automatically be entered into Clearing.



On this UCAS Facebook page where you can access advice from UCAS. It's well worth a look if you are applying to university soon. https://fb.watch/1e_7cURFYP/

Don't forget to message Mrs Ruck or Mrs Parker if you need any help.

Apprenticeships



Two fantastic entry opportunities are available as part of Smith and Williamson's Trainee Chartered Accountant programmes beginning in September 2021:

Level 4 Apprenticeship in Accountancy – Business Outsourcing Services

Level 7 Apprenticeship in Auditing – Assurance and Business Services

Both roles include further training, development, and qualifications as part of the Association of Chartered Accountants and have the following academic requirements:

112 UCAS Points at A-Level or Equivalent (Predicted and/or Achieved) plus GCSE English and Maths – Grade 5

For more information and the online application forms please see [here](#) (for the BOS role) and [here](#) (for the ABS role)

Bursary Fund

16—19 Bursary Fund, FSM, Pupil Premium

In Sixth Form Free School Meals continue. There is no Pupil Premium but there is a Bursary Fund to help students to pay for text books, stationery and IT, trips, transport, uniform and course equipment. The fund is limited and is discretionary and means-tested for eligibility. Bursaries do **not** affect the calculation of any other benefits you may be receiving such as universal credit. If you think you might qualify, and have to buy bus fares, clothing or books, **retain your receipts**. If your application is approved by the School Governors these costs can be reimbursed.

Forms, further information and help can be obtained confidentially from Mrs. Nokes, LRC.

“Everybody’s doing it”

In Hawaii they Hula
They tango in Argentina
They Reggae in Jamaica
And the Rumba down in Cuba,
In Trinidad and Tobago
They do the Calypso
And in Spain the Spanish
They really do Flamenco

In the Punjab they Bhangra
How they dance Kathak in India
Over in Guatemala
They dance the sweet Marimba
Even foxes dance a lot
They invented the Fox Trot,
In Australia it's true
They dance to the Didgeridoo.

In Kenya they Benga
They Highlife in Ghana
They dance Ballet all over
And Rai dance in Algeria,
They Jali in Mali
In Brazil they Samba
And the girls do Belly Dancing
In the northern parts of Africa.

Everybody does the Disco
From Baghdad to San Francisco
Many folk with razzmatazz
Cannot help dancing to Jazz,
They do the Jig in Ireland
And it is really true
They still Morris dance in England
When they can find time to.

By Benjamin Zephaniah