



Headteacher's Letter Week 4

Dear Parents,

It has been another very busy and productive week for students and staff at our school community. On Monday, our general assembly was led by pupils in Year 11 on the theme of the environment, with a particular focus on our need to recycle. This is a topic, which is close to the hearts of young people throughout the world. I was very pleased with the way in which pupils looked carefully at the climate statistics and offered very practical advice for people to make changes at an individual level, which can have an impact on the wider conservation agenda. Pope Francis has recently prioritised our care for the natural world, as a reflection of God's love for humanity.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to pupils and staff, who supported the school during our Open Evening on Wednesday 25th September. In total over 950 visitors attended with pupils conducting tours of the school and visiting departments and faculties throughout the evening. The feedback I received from our visitors was overwhelmingly positive and as I have said, our pupils are our best ambassadors for the school and the future.

I would like to thank Mrs Mellish our School Business Manager and Miss Denny our School Chaplain who have coordinated the improvements to our school Chapel. These have included the design and installation of a new stained glass window commissioned exclusively to recognise the legacy of the Bernadine sisters. Secondly, the marble floor in the sanctuary, has been restored with support from Father Kevin, from the Holy Family Parish. The Chapel is a beautiful feature of our school and has been a place of worship for staff, pupils and the wider Catholic community since 1895. I am very sure that this will continue throughout the next century! Parents are always welcome to visit the Chapel or contribute to our restoration fund via ParentPay.

I would like to encourage parents to attend the first PTFA event of the academic year which will be a Barn Dance on 19th October 2019. This will be coordinated by our new chair of the PTFA, Mrs Westby. I am very pleased that we have been able to continue the great work of this group of parents, friends and volunteers to support St Bernard's students with community events and fundraising.

Since September, I have been very pleased with the standard of uniform worn by pupils. From Monday 30th September we will be positively reinforcing key messages about school uniform which include; for girls; wearing their skirts at the right length (just above the knee) and for boys a focus on having their top buttons done up with correctly tied school ties and shirts tucked in! Black school shoes, not trainer type must be worn and school coats must be navy blue or black. I have provided our pupil uniform list as a reminder. Parents will be contacted directly by the Head of Year, if their child's uniform standards fall below our expected high standards.

I look forward to welcoming Year 7 parents to our Pastoral Evening on Tuesday 1st October 2019 at 6:30pm.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Kassapian
Headteacher



Chaplain's Message



This week in school we have celebrated the feast of the Guardian Angels which has been a tradition since the school opened in 1897.

The celebrations began with Mass celebrated by Fr Sebastian, on Thursday lunchtime for the year 13s who organised the whole celebration.

We were also blessed to celebrate lunch time mass on Tuesday with Fr Joseph. Thank you to Fr Joseph and to 8B for helping out with the mass, especially Alex, Tamara, Jaydn, Krishane, Greg, Angelina, Renon, Max and Steve.



Prayer to our Guardian Angel
Angel of God, my Guardian dear
To whom His love commits me here
Ever this day be at my side
To light and guard
To rule and guide

Amen

Sermon on the Holy Guardian Angels by St. Bernard of Clairvaux

In this sermon on the guardian angels, St Bernard, a Doctor of the Church, helps us see what an awesome gift from God our guardian angels are and how we should appreciate and use that gift.

"He hath given his angels charge over thee." O wonderful bounty and truly great love of charity! Who? For whom? Wherefore? What has He commanded? Let us study closely, brethren, and let us diligently commit to our memory this great mandate. Who is it that commands? Whose angels are they? Whose mandates do they fulfill? Whose will do they obey? In answer, "He hath given *his* angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." And they do not hesitate even to life thee up in their hands.

So the Supreme Majesty has given charge to the angels. Yes, He has given charge to His own angels. Think of it! To those sublime beings, who cling to Him so joyfully and intimately, to His very own He has given charge over you! Who are you? "What is man that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him?" As if man were not rottenness, and the son of man a worm! Now why, do you think, he Has given them charge over thee? -- To guard thee!

With what great reverence should you treat this word! What devotion should you proffer it; what great confidence should you place in it. Reverence because of their presence; devotion because of their benevolence; confidence because of their solicitude. Walk carefully, in all thy ways, as one with whom the angels are present as He has given them charge. In every lodging, at every corner, have reverence for thy Angel. Do not dare to do in his presence what you would not dare to do if I were there. Or do you doubt that he is present whom you do not behold? What if you should hear him? What if you should touch him? What if you should scent him? Remember that the presence of something is not proved only by the sight of things.

In this, therefore, brethren, let us affectionately love His angels as one day our future coheirs; meanwhile, however, as counselors and defenders appointed by the Father and placed over us. Why should we fear under such guardians? Those who keep us in all our ways can neither be overcome nor be deceived, much less deceive. They are faithful; they are prudent; they are powerful; why do we tremble? Let us only follow them, let us remain close to them, and in the protection of the God of heaven let us abide. As often, therefore, as a most serious temptation is perceived to weigh upon you and an excessive trial is threatening, call to your guard, your leader, your helper in your needs, in your tribulation; cry to him and say: "Lord, save us; we perish!"

This item 3074 digitally provided courtesy of CatholicCulture.org

Siobhan Denny
School Chaplain



A Full report of GA will be provided next week.



I attach the text of the Novena in preparation for the canonisation of Blessed John Henry Newman on 13 October. The novena runs from 4 – 12 October. This is a very significant moment in the life of our Church in England and I encourage every school to use this as far as is possible. The text can be found at newmancanonisation.com/Novena. Please encourage staff, parents and carers to use it through your newsletter and other media.

Congratulations to Sofie in Year 7



Congratulations to Sofie in Year 7, who achieved great success at the Berkshire County Badminton tournament last weekend. She came away with four trophies in total!

On Saturday she played in the U16 age category and was crowned County Champion in Ladies Doubles, and runner up in the Ladies Singles. Quite an achievement as she is 3 years young in this age group!

On Sunday, she competed in the U14 category and was crowned County Champion in Singles, and Ladies Doubles.

Well done Sophie!

Miss Whelan
Head of Year 7

Congratulations to Dillon in Year 9



Dillon is Sofia's older brother!

On Saturday, he also took part in the annual Berkshire County Badminton tournament and was crowned county champion in the U16 age group (for the second year running).

On Sunday, he competed in the U18 age group and managed to defeat boys older and a lot bigger than him, earning him a semi-final place.

Well done, Dillon!

PTFA Barn Dance

Save the Date: Saturday, 19th October 2019



Please support the first PTFA event of the year!

St Bernard's are hosting a fundraising Barn Dance on Saturday, 19th October - doors open from 7:30pm. Live music from 8.00pm until 10.30 pm.

Tickets will be no more than £15 per person and will be available through ParentPay next week.

This is an adult only event and whilst this will be a wonderful social and entertaining evening, this is a major fundraising event and every penny raised goes towards the school to benefit your children.

Dress is casual and we are hoping to include food as well as running a bar – details to follow.

We would welcome your support with:-

- Donating a prize for the raffle.
- Profit Matching Programme - If your company can profit-match this on any School fund-raising event.
- Assisting with the organisation of the event.
- Could you help on the night?
- Could you make suggestions about any events like this that we should copy?

Contact details: Mrs S Westby sharonw3stby@gmail.com



Key Stage 3 and 4 School Uniform

The School expects high standards of uniform and appearance at all times. This includes all occasions where the uniform is worn outside of school including school trips, fixtures and activities.

Girls

Plain dark blue or black coat

Royal blue school blazer

Regulation navy tailored trousers / regulation navy skirt (it must be of a suitable length; no shorter than the top of the knee)

Regulation turquoise blouse

Dark blue V-neck cardigan or V-neck jumper

Plain navy or black scarf, gloves and hat (optional)

Tights – navy, black or flesh coloured

Socks – short or ¾ length navy or white

Shoes – black leather (trainers including Vans or Converse are not permitted)

Boys

Plain dark blue or black coat

Royal blue school blazer

Regulation trousers - charcoal grey

White shirt

School tie

Dark blue V-neck jumper

Plain navy or black scarf, gloves and hat (optional)

Socks – dark grey or black

Shoes – black leather (trainers including Vans or Converse are not permitted)

PE Kit Girls and Boys

Compulsory:

White embroidered polo shirt

Navy 'Roma' shorts

Royal 'saracen' games shirt

Recommended:

Regulation St Bernard's tracksuit top

Regulation St Bernard's tracksuit bottoms

Locker bag

Compulsory:

Shin pads

Trainers – outdoor use

Studded football boots

Non-marking trainers – indoor use (the sole must be all white or rubber gum)

Ankle length white socks

Plain white football socks

All PE clothes (including kit bag) should be named and have initials embroidered onto the outside, all other sports equipment should be named.

The School rules state:

- Correct school uniform, including blazers, should be worn to enter/exit the school and when moving around the school.
- Coats should not be worn in the school buildings.
- Girls are allowed to wear one small stud in each ear, if ears are pierced, and a small chain with a crucifix or medal, such as a St Christopher. No other jewellery should be worn.
- Boys are allowed to wear a small chain with a crucifix or medal, such as a St Christopher. No other jewellery should be worn.
- Make-up, nail varnish, false and extended nails are not permitted.
- Boys should be clean shaven (unless for religious observance and where this can be substantiated by a letter from a parent/guardian).
- Ribbons, hairbands, slides etc. should be small/discreet and blue or a neutral colour such as brown.
- Boots and high heeled shoes are not permitted.
- Trainers should only be worn for PE lessons or during break times.
- No extreme hairstyles, including colours, shaved sides, patterns, tramlines or shaved eyebrows are permitted.

The Headteacher reserves the right to say when clothing, hairstyle, jewellery or make-up are not acceptable.
The school is sensitive to religious dress and other observances from pupils who belong to other faith communities.



Key Stage 5 School Uniform

Sixth form pupils are leaders in the school community. Their dress and appearance must therefore be smart, appropriate business wear which will support and encourage the ethos of the school.

Girls

Regulation Black Watch Tartan skirt (it must be of a suitable length; no shorter than the top of the knee)

Any female pupil wishing to wear school trousers must be approved by the HOY.

White blouse with collar and sleeves

A business style plain colour and plain knit V-neck cardigan or V-neck jumper

Black blazer style jacket

Plain dark blue or black coat (neither denim or leather)

Make-up (including nail varnish), if worn, should be discreet.

No unsuitable footwear such as boots or canvas shoes should be worn (trainers including Vans or Converse are not permitted)

Boys

Dark grey or black trousers (no jeans or jean style)

White shirt

Black Watch Tartan tie

A business style plain colour and plain knit V-neck cardigan or V-neck jumper

Black regulation blazer

The School rules state:

- Correct school uniform should be worn to enter/exit the school.
- Coats should not be worn in the school buildings.
- Girls are allowed to wear jewellery suitable for a professional environment.
- Boys are allowed to wear one small stud in their ear, if ears are pierced, a small chain with a crucifix or medal, such as a St Christopher and a single ring. No other jewellery should be worn.
- Boys are expected to come to school clean-shaven or with a neatly-trimmed beard.
- Boots and high heeled shoes are not permitted.
- Trainers should only be worn for PE lessons or during break times.
- No extreme hairstyles, including colours, shaved sides, patterns, tramlines or shaved eyebrows are permitted.

The Headteacher reserves the right to say when clothing, hairstyle, jewellery or make-up are not acceptable.