

FIRST DAY PRAYERS, Staff

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Today the gates of the school officially open to welcome all of you as members of the school's staff for the opening of the new school year.

All of you come here to form a single community with all the pupils who will begin to trickle through the school gates over the next few days.

Your role as members of this community is above all to enable the school to live up to its purpose, to serve its mission:

The London Oratory School exists to educate children for a life, lived according to the principles of the Catholic Church and inspired by the examples of Saint Philip Neri and Saint John Henry Newman, our school's spiritual founders.

Your role, your *exalted vocation* in all that you teach and do for the school, is to collaborate in this mission, opening the gates for our pupils to human fulfilment understood according to these principles, and so find fulfilment in your own life journey.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for the pupils that we will educate in the year ahead; May they grow in the knowledge and love of God and of one another by our example.

Lord, hear us...

Let us pray for the new members of staff in our school; May they find in us a community that reflects the commandment to love and to serve.

Lord, hear us....

Let us pray for ourselves; May we never cease to search for the Truth, and discover the way towards the fullness of life in God. Lord hear us...

Saint Philip Neri: **Pray for us.**

Saint John Henry Newman: **Pray for us.**

In the name...

FIRST DAY PRAYERS, First Form

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

Everyone loves an exciting 'adventure' story.

God made you that way.

You have been made by God to think of life as one big and *adventurous journey* towards a place which will bring you joy and fulfilment; And we call that place 'Heaven'.

Today is an important and adventurous moment on your journey though life; the beginning of a new chapter in your life story, when you start a new school in a new place and with lots of new people who will be joining you on your journey for the next few years.

So it is important to be excited about opening this new chapter. Don't be frightened.

If you want it to be, it will become an exciting adventure full of joyful surprises, so throw yourself into it with enthusiasm!

The first lesson you need to learn is how to make friends;

You do that best by becoming *curious* about each other.

Discover what there is to *like* about all the other boys in your class: What is it that makes them *special*.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for the gift of Courage;

May we be inspired to rise to the challenges that will confront us in the year ahead.

Lord hear us... **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for our parents; May they support the school in helping us learn how to know and love God.

Lord, hear us... **Lord, graciously hear us.**

St Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratory: **Pray for us.**

Saint John Henry Newman,

Founder of the Oratory in London: **Pray of us**

In the name...

FIRST DAY PRAYERS, Lower Sixth Form

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

We are never too old to enjoy adventure stories, and to love travelling.

Holidays are made special if they include an adventure, and take us away from ordinary, day-to-day life.

Moreover, experiences of adventure and travel change us; they open up new horizons and if we are challenged, then we grow in maturity.

This is as it should be.

God wants you to think of life as one big and *adventurous journey* towards a place which will bring you joy and fulfilment; ultimately, towards Heaven, the only place where we can experience ultimate joy and fulfilment.

Today marks a small milestone on your life's journey, the beginning of a new chapter at school, in a new environment, where you are thrown together with new people who will be joining you on your life journey for the next two years.

Think of it as an adventure, and throw yourself into the challenges and opportunities which will come your way with enthusiasm!

Let us pray for the gift of Courage;

May we be inspired to rise to the challenges that confront us in the year ahead.

Lord hear us... **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for our parents; May they support the school in helping us learn how to know and love God.

Lord, hear us... **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Saint Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratory: **Pray for us.**

Saint John Henry Newman,

Founder of the Oratory in London: **Pray of us.**

In the name...

PRAYERS

FIRST DAY PRAYERS, Rest of School

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

As you come back to school after a break, you will need to catch up with each other and renew your friendships.

Old friends are important, but so is your duty to befriend new people who have joined the school or whom you didn't know so well last year.

A new school year gives you the opportunity to make changes to your life, and travel along new, unexplored paths.

Blessed John Henry Newman, founder of the Oratory in England, said that *"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often"*.

The new school year gives you the opportunity to change things from how they were last year.

Rather than thinking of this coming year as more of the same, You can think of it as a fresh start, a new adventure in life, a chance to challenge yourself in new ways.

PRAYERS

Let us pray for the gift of Courage;

May we be inspired to rise to the challenges that confront us in the year ahead.

Lord hear us... **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Let us pray for our parents; May they support the school in helping us learn how to know and love God.

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