

Fons Sapientiae - Fount of Wisdom



The St. Matthew Fund

Our School Fund

SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Behaviour - Engagement - Devotion - Excellence



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HEADTEACHER

Mr. Paul Marsden MA

As Headteacher, there are many things about Saint Bede's that I and the whole school community can be immensely proud of. Our children achieve well and are wonderful ambassadors for our school. Our parents/carers and wider school family are highly engaged and supportive of our work. Christ's love is at the centre of everything we are.

However, we know there is more for us to do. A key priority for me and the Governing Body is to ensure that the facilities, learning environment and resources available to your children and my colleagues continually improve so that we can provide an exceptional, 21st century Catholic education. In an ageing building, and with school funding being an ongoing national issue, this is a challenge for us all.

Through the St Matthew Fund, we are asking for your support in helping the school meet this challenge. I hope that this brochure is helpful to you in understanding our vision for improving the school and how you can help achieve this.

I am immensely grateful for any contributions you can offer, as well as for your ongoing support for the school.



MESSAGE FROM OUR GOVERNORS

Mr. Ian Gili-Ross - St. Matthew
Fund Link Governor

Over the past few years, I have had the privilege of working very closely with staff and pupils at St. Bede's in order to improve the school.

I have seen the ambition for improvement which the governors and I are very excited about. We have inherited a very well-loved school site which is in need of renovation and we believe that our school fund can be a key part of the improvement process.

Our mission remains the same as it did when we opened in 1961, we wish to provide the best formation for the children at St. Bede's. So it is with great hope, joy and gratitude that we ask for your contribution to the St. Matthew Fund so that we can continue to do this to the best of our ability.

We thank you for the unwavering support of our school as we shape our community and our future.



Why do we have a school fund?

Our school fund is used to advance the education provided at St. Bede's Catholic High School. By having a school fund, we can provide additional resources, site improvements, materials and equipment. Our school fund also finances extra-curricular activities which cannot be completely financed by public funds allocated to the school. The school fund directly benefits the children who are educated at St. Bede's.

Why is it called the St. Matthew Fund?

At St. Bede's we are a passionately Catholic community, and our faith is central to all that we do. We consulted pupil representatives about various names to give our school fund and our pupils chose to name it 'the St. Matthew Fund'. Amongst other things, St. Matthew is the patron saint of finances, so this is an appropriate choice. We are pleased to know that our fundraising efforts are under the patronage of a gospel writer and one of the twelve apostles.



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

How is money raised for the St. Matthew Fund?

As with most school funds, we rely on the generosity of the members of our community to support us. We receive voluntary contributions from parents/carers and wider community members who are keen to support the school. At times we will raise school funds through fundraising initiatives and charitable activities. All voluntary donations are gratefully received.



What can the St. Matthew Fund pay for?

We are always looking for ways to improve the pupil experience at St. Bede's and the St. Matthew Fund will support us with this. We can use the fund to pay for educational visits, IT equipment such as iPads, sports facilities, library improvements and much more.





Our focus areas are guided by the needs of the pupils, and we strongly consider their views when we determine priorities. Below are some of our current areas of focus.

- Improvement to sporting facilities through the provision of an AstroTurf.
- We wish to improve our changing room facilities to provide a more spacious area.
- We would like to create material improvements to the music rooms and equipment which would enable us to expand our curriculum offer.
- We also wish to improve our library and provide pupils with an even wider range of books.
- Access to the latest IT equipment can be vital for the enrichment of pupil education, and we wish to provide tablets and screens which will benefit our pupils, particularly those with SEND.

The children, staff and governors at our school are continually looking at ways to develop and improve the school. For this reason, we have a rolling programme of projects to continue the development of our school and enhance learning.

WHAT ARE OUR AREAS OF FOCUS?



HOW CAN I MAKE A CONTRIBUTION?

Contributions are entirely voluntary, but we hope that you will make an annual donation to The St. Matthew Fund. For the academic year 2024-25, we would be hugely grateful if you would make a donation of £10.00 per child, per year. This would greatly support us as we aim to make improvements to the areas identified above. If you are able to give more, or offer a regular donation via a standing order, this will be hugely appreciated.

A bank transfer can be made to our school fund using the following details:

HSBC Bank
St Bede's RC High School
Account No: 81116355
Sort Code: 40-30-37

Any names of contributing persons and the amounts are kept completely confidential. Whether or not a parent is able to donate to the fund will have no impact on their child's school experience. This is a voluntary scheme, but with your help we can provide an even richer education for every Saint Bede's pupil both today and in the future.

"Beautiful indeed and of great importance is the vocation of all those who aid parents in fulfilling their duties and who, as representatives of the human community, undertake the task of education in schools. This vocation demands special qualities of mind and heart, very careful preparation, and continuing readiness to renew and to adapt."

Pope Francis
Gravissimum Educationis

Parents/carers can also make voluntary contributions via Parent Pay. Just select the St. Matthew Fund on the St. Bede's Parent Pay homepage.



HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE THROUGH EASY FUNDRAISING?

The school has recently registered with 'easyfundraising'. This is an online platform which supports good causes such as charities and schools, by collecting donations from brands and retailers.

By registering with easyfundraising, you can ensure that when you shop online with over 7,000 brands, a portion of what you spend will be donated to Saint Bede's by the brand (at no extra cost to the customer).

This will help us make improvements to the school or purchase additional resources that we would not otherwise be able to afford.

If you would like to know more or register to support the school, please follow the link below or scan this QR code.

[Easyfundraising – Saint Bede's Catholic High School](#)





We politely and humbly ask for your prayers in support of our school. We believe that any effort we make must be enriched by prayer, and God will provide everything that we need.

We live by the following verse taken from St. Matthew's Gospel:

'do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

