

23rd September 2022



SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's Commendation

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Cassie Houlihan (Year 8), Mollie Jenkins, Bethany Sherlock (Year 9): Outstanding Achievement in Netball

Edie Bridgeman (Year 9): Outstanding Achievement - BMC Youth Climbing Series (Bouldering)

Rebecca Love (Year 10): Remarkable acts of kindness.

Millie Fry (Year 11): Showing compassion, excellent behaviour and being an example to others.

Attendance Update

Please see below our whole-school attendance level for the current week and the academic year overall, which you can compare to the attendance level of your child in Class Charts.

Whole-school attendance this week: 95%

Whole-school attendance this year: 96%

Class Charts

A reminder that last week all parents and carers should have received an invitation to activate your parental Class Charts account. This online tool will greatly increase the information the school shares with you regarding your child. Currently, parents/carers can view up to date attendance and punctuality information, as well as details of the 'Be a Bede' credits your child has been awarded. In the near future, we will also begin to use Class Charts to alert you if your child receives a 'log' for a behaviour incident or a detention. Up to date information relating to your child's timetable and classes is also visible through the system.

Thank you to the 64% of parents and carers who have already activated their account as of today. It is expected that all parents and carers will access and engage with Class Charts, so please do activate your account as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Should you experience any technical difficulties, please do not hesitate to ask for support by emailing remotesupport@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk.

Open Evening

Thank you for your support in allowing so many pupils to participate in our Open Evening yesterday. As ever, our young people were the 'stars' of the event and it was with pride that I listened to so many complimentary comments from our visitors. I must give a specific mention to our Year 11 pupils who acted as 'tour guides' for the evening. As a group they were fantastic ambassadors for our school, and I thanked them for their contribution in assembly this morning.

Year 7 Update

In common with many other schools, every year our Year 7 pupils sit Cognitive Ability Tests, also known as CATs. In addition, they also undertake tests to identify their individual reading and spelling ages. These tests provide a 'baseline' which can be used to help us more accurately evaluate the progress a pupil is making, or identify any specific learning needs which may require our support. The tests are completed online in one of our computer suites, and no revision or preparation of any kind is required.

This week, Bamber, Beesley and Cottam forms have undertaken the tests (one form per day). Finch, Harcourt and Haydock will follow next week. At the end of the process there will be a 'catch-up' opportunity for any pupils who may have missed the tests due to absence.

A reminder that on Wednesday 5th October at 6.30pm we will be inviting Year 7 parents and carers into school for our 'Welcome' information evening. A letter with further details will be issued next week.

Finally, we are looking forward to Year 7 pupils taking part in our traditional pilgrimage to Jarrow Hall on Friday 7th October. This visit will provide pupils with the opportunity to learn about Saint Bede, our patron saint, as well as life in 8th Century England. Please see the letter you have received separately for details of how to confirm your child's place on the visit.

Uniform and Appearance

During our Open Evening, a number of visitors commented positively on our high standards relating to uniform and appearance. I am very grateful for the support of both parents/carers and pupils in the areas we have raised our expectations this year.

If it is necessary, please can you discuss with your child the below elements of our uniform policy where we have experienced a small number of issues:

- The school skirt must be fully unrolled with the badge fully visible
- Trousers must be traditional black, straight-leg school trousers. Leggings, 'skinny-fit' and fashion trousers are not acceptable.
- Make up, false tans, false eyelashes, eyebrow enhancements, nail varnish and false/acrylic nails are all inappropriate for school and should not be worn.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher