

7th October 2022



SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's Commendation

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Jacob Scot (Year 7) - Outstanding Achievement: Winner of the Blackpool Active Lives Community Award.

Jack Brown, Jason Collister, Sol Goncalves, Ella Hodson-Sharple, Joseph Langley, Thomas Massey, Harry McAndrew, Cameron McClelland, Lucas Robertson, Alexander Youde (Year 8) - Academic Excellence: French Vocabulary Test

Attendance Update

As you know, returning to pre-pandemic expectations regarding attendance is an important priority for the school this year. This means aiming for 100% attendance and 100% punctuality each week and each term. We have made a really encouraging start in this respect, with attendance above national figures and ahead of the same period last year. Year 7 are leading the way, with 98% attendance overall. Across the year groups, there are 465 pupils (56% of the school population) who have still have 100% attendance since the beginning of term. Thank you for your support in achieving these high standards.

Of course, young people just like adults do become unwell from time to time and there are occasions where the right place for them to be is at home. Please do remember, however, that each day of absence means five hours of missed teaching, which is not easily caught up on. Please ensure that your child is too ill to attend school each day before you take the decision to keep them at home, and that they are absent from school for no longer than is absolutely necessary.

Please may I also remind you that requests for absence in term-time can only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Requests for absence due to holidays are unlikely to be granted, and parental work patterns and the variation in the cost of holidays during term time are not considered exceptional circumstances.

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: 92%

Whole-school attendance this year: 95%

Governing Body Vacancies

There are currently vacancies on the Governing Body for both Foundation and Parent Governors. The role of the Governing Body is to operate at a strategic level, for example by holding the Headteacher and leadership to account and overseeing the budget and financial performance of the school.

Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop specifically to preserve and develop the Catholic ethos of the school. The Diocese has published 'Called to Serve,' a guide to being a Foundation Governor in a Catholic school. An electronic version of this document is attached to this update. Parent Governors are elected by current Saint Bede's parents and carers, and a separate letter will be issued shortly regarding the election process.

If you believe you have the skills, experience and availability to join the Governing Body either as a Foundation or Parent Governor, please feel free to contact me via head@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk for an informal conversation regarding the role.

Year 7 Pilgrimage to Jarrow Hall

Year 7 pupils had an early start this morning for the long journey to the north-east for our annual 'Bede's World' visit. Thank you to Miss Rodgers and all the staff who have supported the day. I look forward to hearing about their experiences next week!

Year 7 'Welcome' Evening

Thank you to Year 7 parents and carers who were able to join us for our 'Welcome' information evening on Wednesday. It was lovely to see so many of you in school and I hope you found the evening helpful. I would be grateful if you could offer your feedback on the event by completing the short online survey which will be issued separately.

Year 11 Geography Field Study Visit

On Wednesday, our Year 11 Geographers made the short journey to Cleveleys to complete field work. Let's just say that the weather was typical for a Geography field trip! My thanks go to Mrs Hardy and the Geography department for leading the visit and for their persistence despite the elements.

Class Charts

A reminder that all parents and carers have received an invitation to activate your parental Class Charts account. 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.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher