



SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Headteacher's Update – Friday 27th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Reflection

Our prayer theme for next week is:

Overcoming Challenges - The Beatitudes

There is no life without change and no change without risk; and the challenge in every risk is to make the right choices so that we can be happy whatever the outcome. This is easy to accept when things are going well, but it can be more difficult when things are not going according to plan.

Christians are called to live their life according to the principles of the Beatitudes, which give us eight rules to live by. These are the foundations for facing life's challenges. If we make the choice to walk with God and to stick to them, though we will risk the laughter of others, or being misunderstood, we can trust that God will bless us with the grace and courage we need to overcome whatever life may put before us.

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: 93%

Whole-school attendance this year: 93%

Holocaust Memorial Day

27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day, marking 78 years since the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Death Camp in 1945. Today we remember the millions of people murdered by the Nazis in the Holocaust during the Second World War, including approximately six million Jews, as well as the victims of more recent genocides. Pupils have been reflecting on this theme throughout the week during our daily prayers, and I am grateful to Mr Coleman who delivered a series of extremely moving and thought-provoking assemblies.

NEU Industrial Action

Yesterday I wrote to all parents and carers to confirm the impact of the NEU strike action on Wednesday 1st February. School will be closed to Year 9 pupils, but pupils in Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 should attend school as normal on this day. Please see my separate letter for further details.

Year 10 Parents' Evening

On Monday 6th February we will be holding our Year 10 Parents' Evening in school. I strongly encourage all parents/carers to attend, together with your child. Please see the letter issued separately for further details, including the arrangements for booking appointments. Should you experience any technical difficulties using the booking system please do not hesitate to contact us.

Breakfast Club and After-School Provision

We are pleased to offer a 'Breakfast Club' provision in school from 8.00am, providing pupils with an opportunity to socialise, play games or catch up on work. Similarly, we run an after-school provision in our SLC until 5.30pm.

Please be mindful that 'Breakfast Club' is not staffed or supervised until 8.00am when school opens to pupils. We respectfully ask parents/carers not to drop children off at school before this time.

E-Cigarettes & Vaping

I have written to you on a number of occasions to express my concern about 'vaping' among some of our pupils, and to highlight the sanctions in place if pupils breach our rules relating to this. This is for the safety and well-being of all our pupils, and I know that the vast majority of parents/carers support and understand this approach.

Recently, concerns have arisen nationally regarding children and young people experimenting with 'THC vaping.' THC is the chemical which produces the 'high' effect in Cannabis and is illegal in the UK. I am circulating with this newsletter an information leaflet about this trend, produced by a local authority in London. Please read this leaflet carefully and discuss the contents with your child if you know or suspect they may be vaping.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher