

Headteacher's Update – Friday 20th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Reflection

I am pleased to share with you our first weekly reflection, which will be linked to our school prayer theme for the following week.

Ordinary People: "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Mt. 25:40

Holocaust Memorial Day is celebrated on 27th January and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Nazi persecution and in genocides that followed.

This week we also call to mind some of the actions of ordinary people involved in resistance to the Holocaust, including those who participated in the Kindertransport, which began in December 1938. This 9-month rescue mission secured the transfer of more than 10,000 young people under 17 out of Nazi-occupied countries to places of safety. Ignoring the significant risk to themselves, it was ordinary people; rabbis, business and church leaders and youth organisations, who worked closely together to rescue these children. Most never saw their families again.

Please set aside some time this week to ask God for healing and reconciliation from these sins against humanity. Give thanks for the courage and resilience of the millions of ordinary people who endured unspeakable suffering, and ask that they may overcome the darkness of hatred and bigotry as they turn to the light.

Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Thea Heath, Joseph Pollitt (Year 11): Academic excellence in RE

Aaron Randles (Year 10): Dedication to his Computer Science studies

Oliver Nunn (Year 10): Extra-curricular Sporting Excellence - English Schools' Athletic Association

Jessica Grimshaw, Thomas Myerscough (Year 10): Outstanding homework for Geography

Mollie Jenkins (Year 9): Extra-curricular Sporting Excellence - Lancashire Netball

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: 94%

Whole-school attendance this year: 93%

Year 11 Parents' Evening

A huge thank you to the many parents and carers who were able to join us for our Parents' Evening on Wednesday. I was particularly pleased to see so many pupils in attendance. To help us improve the experience for future events I would be grateful if all parents and carers could complete the feedback survey which has been circulated separately.

BBC 'Share Your Career Story' event

We were delighted to welcome a group of BBC employees to school on Tuesday as part of our CEIAG (Careers Education Information and Guidance) programme. Over the course of the day, each year group enjoyed a session in the hall during which our visitors shared the journeys they had taken to reach their current roles in the BBC and associated organisations.

We were particularly pleased to welcome back a former pupil, Oliver Hill, who left the school in 2014 and is now working as a researcher for high-profile programmes such as 'The Voice'. The event was hosted by Martin Dougan, who worked as a presenter of Newsround for eight years.

NEU Industrial Action

As you may be aware, the National Education Union (NEU) has declared that it will calling several days of strike action involving teachers in England and Wales during February and March. The first of these dates is Wednesday 1st February. This is a national dispute between the NEU and the Department for Education and is not specific to Saint Bede's. I will advise parents and carers as soon as is practical if any disruption or changes to the school day will be caused by this action.

Class Charts

A reminder that this term we have begun to increase the amount of information we share with parents/carers via Class Charts. This now includes records of behaviour incidents and, where required, the setting of detentions. It is therefore essential that all parents/carers activate and regularly access their Class Charts account. If you have experienced any technical difficulties in accessing Class Charts or would like a new invitation to activate your account, please let us know via email at remotesupport@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher