



SAINT BEDE'S  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## Headteacher's Update – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

### Reflection

Our prayer theme for next week is:

#### **Being a Bede – Patronal Feast Day (Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May)**

Saint Bede is recognised as the greatest of all the Anglo-Saxon scholars and more importantly, a devout and disciplined man of faith. During his life, he studied the scriptures, fulfilled monastic rituals and sang joyfully each day. He is described as the Father of English History, as he documented the conversation of the Anglo-Saxon communities. This week, may we seek to reflect the discipline and determination of Saint Bede, when approaching our daily tasks with joy and enthusiasm.

During this special time, we pray for all members of our school community, that they may continue to be united by our Bede's values of love, service, justice, forgiveness and faith.

To celebrate the Feast of Saint Bede, we will be joined by Father John for our House mass for Harcourt forms in the hall on Wednesday.

### Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

**Darcey Davies (Year 7):** Representing the Catholic Ethos of the School

**Isabella Foster, Hannah Kidd, Liliana Solanki, Maia Stewart-Gee (Year 8), Star Ascroft,**

**Penelope Hughes (Year 9):** Excellence in French

**Flossy Plum (Year 9), Molly Walker (Year 10):** Kindness towards another pupil

**John McGuckin-Kelly (Year 7), Sophie Tate (Year 10):** Performances at Lowther Pavilion and The Grand Theatre

**Erin Redican (Year 10):** Exceptional kindness towards a member of staff

**Joseph Fenton, Jennifer Romer (Year 10):** Contribution to Catholic School Life - Catholic School's Inspection Castlerigg Video and Easter Liturgy

### 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: 92%**

**Whole-school attendance this year: 93%**

### Year 11 Update

Year 11 have reached the end of the first week of GCSE exams. We have been really impressed by the mature and determined way they have approached what is of course a really challenging period, and I have congratulated them for this during a short assembly this morning. Week 2 will commence with Chemistry for all pupils on Monday morning.

### **Transition visits**

It is the time of year when we start to prepare to welcome our new 'Bedes' in September. If you have a child in Year 6 who attends one of our local Catholic primary schools and is joining us next year, I look forward to meeting them in my transition visits over the next few weeks. Next half-term we will also be hosting Year 4 pupils for an RE and Catholic life day, and Year 5 pupils for a series of Science and Technology days.

### **Behaviour in the community**

In a recent update I highlighted concerns about the behaviour of a small number of pupils in the community, particularly in and around local supermarkets. Having received further complaints from members of the public, I am particularly concerned about pupils gathering around the 'Premier' store on Saltcotes Road and the lawn opposite. We will be increasing our staff presence in this area after-school, but it is reasonable to expect secondary-age pupils to manage their behaviour outside of school without this.

If you know that your child passes through this area after-school please do remind them of the importance of 'Being a Bede' in the community, and if they are using public transport ask that they use a different bus stop if this is available.

### **Timing of the school day**

Following a recent consultation, I can confirm that with effect from September 2023 the school day will be extended by 10 minutes. The school day will begin at 8.45am and will end at 3.15pm. Among other things this will allow us to introduce more opportunity for pupils to read together. I will write to you again with further details after half-term.

### **Holiday Dates**

Our term and holiday dates for the 2024/2025 academic year have been confirmed and are being issued alongside this update.

### **Half-term break**

Saint Bede's will be closing for the half-term break at 3.15pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May. School will re-open for all pupils at 8.55am on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden  
Headteacher