

## **Headteacher's Update – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023**



Dear Parents/Carers

### **Reflection**

Our prayer theme for next week is:

#### **Be Faithful**

'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' *Jeremiah 29:11*

It is no wonder that the message to "Fear not..." appears so frequently in the Bible. Fear can, after all, have a way of creeping in on us. We might fear a new job prospect or worry about our finances. Fear is a common human experience, but scripture promises us that God walks with the faithful at all times and when we put our trust in Him, our fear can be transformed into peace and joy.

### **Headteacher's Commendations**

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

**John Stacey (Year 7):** Success and effort in Technology on the topic of Lumen

**Layla Acton (Year 8):** Showing courage and compassion towards others.

**Callum Blackburn (Year 9):** Act of honesty

**Lucy Appleton, Emilia Beacham, Amy Billington, Edie Bridgeman, Jack Flitcroft, Hollie**

**Shearer, Izzy Tuck, Grace Tyson, Holly Weafer, Abbi Wild (Year 9):** Outstanding effort with Pop Art project

**Amy Stone (Year 8), Sam Nelson (Year 10):** Academic improvement and success in Religious Education

**Bridget Boylan (Year 8), Theresa Boylan (Year 10):** Reliable and responsible helping members of staff with daily room changes.

### **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%**

### **Prom**

Ribby Hall was again the venue for our Year 11 leavers' 'Prom' last night. It was a wonderful evening, with highlights including staff providing a 'guard of honour' for pupils as they arrived, and two fantastic speeches from our departing Head Boy and Head Girl, James and Maya.

The Prom, following the climax of the exam season earlier this week, marks the end of their Saint Bede's journey for our Year 11 pupils. I am incredibly proud of their hard work and dedication, not just over the last few months but over 5 years during which they have faced huge challenges, not least the disruption to their education caused by the pandemic.

Whatever their chosen pathway I hope their results provide a platform for future success and happiness, and I wish them all well. They will always be a 'Bede.' See you on Results Day Year 11!

### **Prefect Recruitment 2023/24**

This week, I was delighted to appoint 80 Year 10 pupils to our Prefect team for 2023/24. 49 of these have also been shortlisted for the position of Senior Prefects in the next stage of the selection process. We were hugely impressed with the quality of applications, and so those pupils who were successful can be immensely proud of this achievement.

### **Industrial Action**

As you may be aware, the government has failed to reach a resolution with the teaching unions in the ongoing dispute. The National Education Union (NEU) has advised that their members will be taking industrial action on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

I am currently reviewing the likely impact of the industrial action, and whether it will be necessary to close the school to some pupils. I will write to you again with further information next week.

If you have a child currently in Year 6 who will be joining Saint Bede's in September, we have advised our partner primary schools that the Year 6 Induction Day has been brought forward to Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July because of the industrial action.

### **PE Update**

The girls have taken centre stage this week and I am pleased to report several successes. Our Under 13 (Year 7 and Year 8) girls cricket team won the Wyre & Fylde Cup, beating AKS (twice), Rossall and St Aidan's to win the trophy. This ensured qualification for the Lancashire final later in the week, where the girls finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the county overall, including victories over Ripley St Thomas (Lancaster) and our namesakes from St Bede's (Blackburn).

The girls' district athletics also took place this week at Stanley Park. Despite our relatively limited facilities to prepare pupils for track and field events compared to some other schools, the team acquitted themselves well with notable performances from Emma Killick (Year 7) and Edie Bridgeman (Year 9) in the field events.

### **Lytham Festival**

We have been asked by the organisers of next week's Lytham Festival to share the following update regarding the road closures which will be in place:

*"During weekdays (Wednesday 28th June – Friday 30th June), the road closure timings for the promenade road (East, West, and Central Beach) have been revised. Instead of the originally planned closure at 3pm, the closure will now take place at 4pm. This change is aimed at facilitating smoother traffic flow for school-related journeys and supporting the road network in and around Lytham.*

*Starting from 4 pm each day, we will be providing an advertised diversion route around Lytham for individuals driving towards St Annes or Warton, allowing them to avoid the town centre. The designated diversion route will encompass Forest Drive, South Park, Ballam Road, Park View Road, Mythop Road, and Saltcotes Road. We are aware that many local residents already utilise this route as an 'unofficial' diversion. However, during the crucial hours between 4pm and 12 midnight, we will be signposting this as an alternative route to bypass the centre of Lytham."*

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden  
Headteacher