



# Newsletter

## Saint Bede's Catholic High School

### Summer 2023



## REFLECTION

The end of the school year is a time to look back and give thanks to God for all that has passed; on the challenges and the successes, the sorrow and the joy, all the change that has shaped us into the newest version of ourselves. We can be grateful for the lessons we've learned from the difficulties we felt were huge, but we managed to overcome through the love of God and support of those around us. All of this has helped us grow towards the image of God. So, we give thanks to Him for all we have been, all that we are and all that we have yet to become.

Nevertheless, this is just one year, and we still have so much to learn. There are so many opportunities that lie ahead of us, so many talents to develop and new skills to learn, it's mind-blowing! So, take full advantage of the holidays: it's time to slow the pace down, approach our time differently - resist filling every moment with activities - and make sure to enjoy every minute of rest, so we can return refreshed, restored and ready to give of our best in the year ahead. Happy holidays!

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## PRAYER

*Lord, teach us to celebrate success, as we reach the end of another school year.*

*Fill us with gratitude for family and parents, teachers and good friends.*

*And thank you for your unconditional love and protection.*

*Amen.*

*In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,*

*Amen.*

*Saint Bede, pray for us.*

## Mr Marsden

### Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

*We have arrived at the end of another term and academic year at Saint Bede's during which, once again, there has been a huge amount to celebrate and remember. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the best examples of 'Being a Bede' on the pages that follow.*

*At the end of term we say thank you and goodbye to a number of highly valued colleagues. Miss Murphy (Teacher of English), Miss Beswick (Assistant Head of English) and Mrs Langley (Head of Year 10) are moving on to exciting new opportunities after a combined total of 34 years service to Saint Bede's. A special mention must be reserved for Mr Barnett (Assistant Headteacher), who is retiring after giving 21 years service to our school. During this time he has held a number of crucial responsibilities, including leading our English department, overseeing public exams and, of course, taking charge of all things bus-related! We wish him a long and happy retirement, and all of our departing colleagues every success in their new roles.*

*Thank you to all our parents and carers for the support you have offered both to me and to my colleagues throughout this academic year. I wish all our pupils a happy, restful and safe summer, and look forward to seeing them in September - alongside our new intake of 'Bedes'!*

*Best wishes,*

**Mr Marsden**

**Headteacher**



## CHAPLAINCY

### 8am Holy Mass

We welcomed pupils and staff who gathered in the Chapel this half term on Tuesday mornings to celebrate Mass together with Fr John Millar. We are especially proud of our pupils for their contributions as readers and servers. Pupils and staff also have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to right and restore their relationship with God. Thank you to everyone who has joined is for these happy and holy celebrations and we hope you enjoyed the doughnuts!



### Year 9 & 10 Retreat Day

A huge thank-you to our Year 9 and 10 pupils for their fantastic contributions during last week's retreat. The theme was 'Made in God's image.'

During the retreat, pupils completed three exciting activities, beginning by reflecting on the person of Christ and how we are called to reflect the values he taught throughout the Gospels.

During their second workshop with pupils reflected on the current challenges in society, creating prayer flags to raise awareness for the situations they felt most concerned about. We were so impressed with their creativity and compassion for others.

Pupils joined Miss Newsham and Miss Dixon to complete 'The Big Catholic Quiz' to test their knowledge that they had learnt throughout the year.

All pupils received an achievement award for their generous contributions to St. Bede's Catholic life!

### Catechesis with Fr John

In recent weeks, pupils across all year groups have enjoyed discussing with Fr John his experiences of the priesthood and had the opportunity to ask him any questions about Catholic life.

Last week pupils Fr John held catechesis lessons for Year 7 and 8 pupils to help develop their understanding of artwork and music in the Catholic Church.

Pupils said 'they found it really interesting seeing how much meaning there is in the detail of the artworks, which you would never usually recognise.'





## Saint Bede's Stars in Their Eyes

Stars in Their Eyes

*A spellbound audience were delighted to welcome 'Stars in their Eyes' back to the Saint Bede's stage. After a busy year for the performing arts team with 'Narnia' being the highlight of the Spring Term, it was a delight to conclude the year with this ever-popular show.*

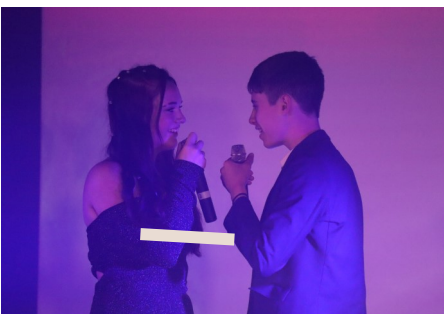
*As always, this popular event in the school calendar showcased some of the amazing musical talent nurtured at Saint Bede's. Skilfully coached by Mr Warrington, Mrs King and Mrs Holmes, a range of solo artists and group performers from all year groups performed songs that appealed to all ages and tastes ranging from soulful love songs to driving rock and foot-tapping 'golden oldies'.*

*Skilfully choreographed and energetic dance routines enhanced the musical numbers and the hall was transformed by striking lighting effects delivered by our skilled and hard-working technical crew. As well as the excitement and competitive element of 'Stars in their Eyes', it is always good to see the teamwork and spirit of mutual support and encouragement that characterises this event.*

*A 'Stars in their Eyes' tradition is to welcome back the winner from the previous year to entertain the audience while the votes are cast for the winner. We welcomed back David who sang a plethora of songs with his characteristic energy and showmanship.*

*With so much talent in evidence, the audience faced difficult decisions in selecting the winner for 2023. However, after the deliberations had taken place, the triumphant artist was Ella in Year 10 and Jessica in Year 10 was the runner-up.*

*Another vintage year for this great galaxy of stars and we can be confident of an even brighter firmament in 2024!*



## Geography

### Year 7 Geography

At the beginning of Year 7, pupils started the year with an enquiry question which provided an opportunity for them to carry out fieldwork techniques around our school grounds. After recently studying 'extreme weather' it seemed fitting to conclude the year with another fieldwork opportunity; investigating whether our school had a microclimate. Students used a digital anemometer and took recordings of the weather at various sites around the school. They then spent time in class presenting and analysing the data to draw conclusions based on their investigation.

Here are some questions to ask your child to encourage discussion on microclimates

- How much did the wind speed and temperature vary around the school?
- What instrument(s) did you use to record the temperature and wind speed?
- What is the beaufort scale and how did you use it in your enquiry?
- Can you tell me what is meant by the urban heat island effect (UHI)?
- What factors affected the climate of the school?
- Do you think our weather is becoming more extreme?



### Year 9 Geography

This term we have done an out of school fieldwork enquiry with Year 9 to investigate globalisation in Lytham as part of our 'The Almighty Dollar' topic.

We discussed the idea of globalisation and how, within Lytham, this might be identified by how many shops are part of a national or international brand. Using this idea, we decided on a hypothesis 'There will be more independent shops in Lytham than chain stores'.

On the day of the field work, we walked down to the main shopping area and conducted a land use survey to identify the types of shops from a list of categories which we will later consider to see how many of them are independent shops and how many are chain stores. We also did a pedestrian count to see which areas of Lytham are busiest and whether this is influenced by the types of shops in that location. It was interesting to see how busy Lytham is on a week day, when we would normally be in school!

In future lessons we will be presenting the data we collected using the most appropriate methods and using this data to draw conclusions that prove or disprove our hypothesis. Pupils enjoyed being out of school to collect their primary data and it really helps to develop the enquiry skills which are essential for geographers.



## History

Pupils have enjoyed an academically challenging and rewarding term in the Saint Bede's History department.

Year 7 have been working as historians by grappling with the work of historian Peter Frankopan to explain the importance of learning a broad history curriculum that spans global history. They have produced some wonderful treasure troves showcasing the impact that Medieval Baghdad had on Europe. Mrs Smith would like to give a special mention to 7T who have risen to this challenge admirably producing some thoughtful reflections on the importance of looking at history through many lenses.



Year 8 have been building on their knowledge of our key thread, Britain and the Wider World by focusing on the impact of the British Empire. They have analysed the impact that Imperialism had on enabling Britain to be the Industrial powerhouse of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century, whilst evaluating the impact this had on the New World, India and the West Coast of Africa. They have been immersed in the work of historians Sathnam Sanghera and Professor Emma Griffin. Pupils have been preparing for their upcoming trip to the International Slavery Museum and the Museum of Liverpool by learning about the rich, diverse history of Mali and its emperor, Mansa Musa-King of Kings. This has helped them to understand the importance of learning about pre colonial African history. We look forward to our trips and know that they will help to enrich their understanding. We are so proud of the academic excellence Year 8 have shown.

Year 9 have worked hard to reach judgements on the complex causal factors behind the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945. They have been building on their understanding of causation since Year 7, so it has been a pleasure to see how far they have progressed. They have analysed and evaluated various historian's arguments on the significance of key World War Two events on the eventual downfall of the Third Reich. It has been wonderful to see them evaluate significance from differing perspectives. Why might Stalin cite the German defeat at Stalingrad as the deciding factor? They have loved learning about the fascinating British acts of subterfuge, especially Operation Mincemeat which saw the British government planting a fake corpse off the coast of Spain and the legendary work carried out at Bletchley Park to crack the enigma code. We are thrilled that so many Year 9's have chosen to continue their study of history on to GCSE next year. And to those pupils who leave us here, well done and good luck.

Year 10 have embarked on their study of Elizabethan England with zeal. We have loved spending time focusing on the Age of Discovery with particular interest in Francis Drake's circumnavigation of the globe from 1577-1580. We were lucky to be able to take some pupils to visit London. They were given a tour of Shakespeare's Globe, a replica of the original Elizabethan theatre, the Tower of London, where they saw the sites of some famous public executions, including that of Queen Elizabeth's alleged favourite noblemen, the Earl of Essex. They later had a tour of Francis Drake's flagship, the Golden Hinde (originally named The Pelican) where they were immersed in the reality of crewing a ship laden with treasure and livestock for a 3-year journey. Mrs Smith would like to thank pupils on the trip for their exemplary behaviour. You really were a credit to the history department and school.



Mrs Smith and the history department would like to wish you all a restful and productive summer. Year 10, please upload your summer retrieval work to Firefly as soon as you have completed it. This will help to prepare you for Year 11. We are so proud of you all, well done.

## English

### Lancashire Book of The Year

*Year 9 pupils have been busy reading a selection of new fiction for the Lancashire Book of the Year Award. Lancashire Book of the Year – the longest running young people's regional book award in the country.*

*The award remains one of the few book awards in which young people themselves are solely responsible for choosing both the shortlist and the overall winning book.*

*The award is voted for by Year 9 students in high schools around the county. Each school is given a collection of books, submitted by publishers as being the best books they had produced for the 12-14 age group. The young people then read and shortlist the books before choosing the overall winner.*

*Accompanied by Mrs Tankard, Izzy, Sadie, Amy and Alana joined other Lancashire pupils at UCLAN (University of Central Lancashire) on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> July and met the shortlisted authors as well as hearing from a couple of US writers via a live feed. They all received a free anthology of Lancashire short stories as well as buying signed copies of the shortlisted novels.*

*They all had their own clear favourites. Sadie was enthralled by the magical elements of 'Dark and Shallow Lies'; 'Twin Crowns' captivated Izzy as it combined magic, romance and tension; Amy was gripped by 'Defy the Night' and Alana was taken aback by the unexpected ending of 'The King is Dead' (no spoilers!).*

*The interactive nature of the event was enjoyed by all the participants who valued the opportunity to question the authors and share their views on the novels.*

*After much deliberation, Cynthia Murphy's 'Win, Lose, Kill, Die', a thriller set in a school for high achieving students where the rivalry to become Head Girl leads to murders was announced as the winner.*

*Our articulate, perceptive and erudite pupils represented Saint Bede's superbly.*

## Excellence Academy

Throughout June, Miss Beswick arranged for a group of eleven Year 9 pupils to take part in Blackpool Sixth Form College's Blackpool Sixth's 'Excellence Academy' – a prestigious series of four after-school workshops designed to help pupils to develop crucial college-level study skills. The pupils worked with other highly able students from different local schools, exploring academically challenging material from a range of disciplines, including: medical science; ethics; biochemistry; history and politics.

The skills developed included research, analysis and debating. The programme concluded with our pupils taking part in Oxbridge-style debates on 'Whether the US was justified in dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki' and 'Is reproductive technology a threat?' As well as skilfully fielding challenging questions from other participants, lecturers and students, our pupils presented their arguments with confidence and maturity. They were great ambassadors for Saint Bede's.

The group comprised of: Sean Edmonds, Jason Sandford-Jones, Eleanor Robinson, Alex Burt, Alana Vanderveldon, Bella Manno, Lucy Appleton, Katy Barr, Grace Tyson, Genevieve Maslin and Shannon Ferguson.

## Effervescent English Awards



The following pupils have been recognised by their English teachers this term due to their consistent effort and positive attitude to learning. There were many worthy winners but we could only select two per teacher. Well done to the Summer Term recipients. We are very proud of you!

Mr Barnett:

Cian 10BA

Tabitha 10BA

Mrs Blackburn:

Kyle B 10FI

Lydia H 8CO

Jenson 7BA

Mrs Tankard:

Vinny P 8Fi

Olivia K 10Mu

Miss Rodgers:

Oakley 7CO

Poppy W 8FI

Louise V 9HY

Maddie R 10BA

## Achievement Assemblies

The end of year achievement assemblies have been taking place all week to recognise all the good work and accomplishments made by the pupils this academic year. Parents of prize winners were invited to school as guests to witness these special occasions and all assemblies were well received. Well done to all the pupils who received an award and they should wear their badges with pride.



## A Great First Year!

### Dulcie 7BA

Dulcie is our sporting superstar and this year, not only did she win a trophy at her annual football presentation for Player of the tournament, she also received the 'Trainer of the Night' award from the Blackpool Football Club Emerging Talent Centre. It was a fiercely fought competition, with players challenging from all over the North West. Amazing achievements, Dulcie! We hope you remember us when you get your England call up!

### Cleo 7HY

Cleo has really excelled in her extracurricular achievements this year. From Ballroom, to Street, to Cheer and everything in between, it seems that every Monday there is news of another competition, another trophy or another success! Well done, Cleo, we don't know where you get the energy!

### Jacob 7CO

When it comes to doing good in the community, few pupils go as far as Jacob. This year he has supported partially sighted footballers in the Disability FA Cup, won the Active Lives Blackpool Young Volunteer of the Year award and was even nominated for the national Young Volunteer awards. Jacob volunteers 20 hours of his time a week to a multi-sport disability group, guiding, coaching and nurturing adults and children alike. Jacob is also a youth leader and coach at the Spirit of Youth Football Club, raising money for the club and other charities that are close to his (larger than your average!) heart. We are **so** proud of you, Jacob.

### Lorna- Jane 7FI, Sophie 7CO, Annabelle 8CO

Lorna, Sophie and Anabelle really fulfilled what it is to 'Be a Bede' this year, volunteering their time and weekends to help at their local church. Most notably, during the Advent period, Lorna-Jane made lots of yummy chocolate desserts, plated and served these to everyone attending the Advent meal.

Lorna-Jane also spent weeks, with her friends' help, creating stained glass windows to adorn the stage at the same celebration. As Pope Francis said, "The life of Jesus is a life for others. It is a life of service". Well done, girls!

### Hettie 7BA

Hettie is the definition of what it is to Be a Bede. Not only does Hettie put her all into her lessons and homework, but she also takes part in all of the optional extra-curricular elements of school life, everything from performing in the school production of Narnia, creating a beautiful Easter cross for our Easter competition, to, most recently, volunteering to speak to pupils and their parents at the year 6 induction evening. But Hettie's commitment doesn't stop outside of school, last month, she ran the distance of a Marathon (26.2 miles!) and raised £430 for Huntington's Disease. Wow! Please continue to shine as brightly as you do, Hettie.



## A Great First Year!

### Evie 7BA, Sam 7HY, Bea 7HY

This year three of our talented Year 7s, Evie, Sam and Bea, appeared in The Grand Theatre's production of The Wizard of Oz. We would like to congratulate them, not only on the incredible (and I'm sure exhausting) six show run but also for the dedication, skill, hard work and time it takes to prepare for such an undertaking. Well done!

### Evie 7BA

When Evie wasn't dancing down the yellow brick road, she somehow also found time to perform at The Winter Gardens for the 'Legends of Variety' show, raise money for Marie Curie by Irish dancing in Blackpool town centre with her dance school, and, if that wasn't enough, she also achieved a Distinction in her LAMDA exam. What a superstar! Well done, Evie!

### Chloe 7CO

This year, Chloe made her family and school proud when she used her talents for good and swam an impressive 42 laps in the 2023 Swimathon. Chloe managed to raise over £150 for Bone Cancer and Brian House. Well done, Chloe!

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate you, year 7, for your incredible first year at Saint Bede's. Every day, I see something that makes me proud, whether it is your kindness, compassion, determination, enthusiasm or talents; you amaze me.

Being your Year Leader is an honour. I wish I could put every single one of you on these pages purely for bringing me such joy.

The transition to high school is not an easy one, yet each of you have tackled this monumental challenge so magnificently that I am in awe. You have made your Form Tutors and I so incredibly proud. I cannot wait to see what you achieve in Year 8.

Enjoy your summer holidays!  
Miss Rodgers



Can you find the answers to Mr Binns' Summer Maths Challenge?

### Mr Binns' Summer Challenge 1

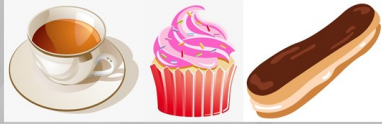
- What is the solution of the equation below?

$$24 \div (3 \div 2) = (24 \div 3) \div m$$

A:  $\frac{1}{4}$    B:  $\frac{1}{2}$    C: 0   D: 2   E: 4

### Mr Binns' Summer Challenge 2

- Tea and a cake cost £4.50
- Tea and an éclair cost £4
- A cake and an éclair cost £6.50
- What is the cost of tea, a cake and an éclair?



A: £1.00   B: £3.00   C: £3.50   D: £5.00   E: £7.50

### Mr Binns' Summer Challenge 3

- There are 81 players taking part in a knock out tournament
- Each match involves 3 players and only the winner remains in the tournament – the other 2 players are out
- How many matches are required to find an overall winner?



A: 9   B: 27   C: 40   D: 75   E: 81



## Notices

### Parking

Although the vast majority of parents park safely and considerately when dropping off or collecting their children, a small number are still using the zig-zag markings for that purpose.

The markings are a vital safety feature that helps to provide uninterrupted vision for pupils crossing the road to enter/exit the school site.

According to Highway Code Rule 243, you should not park near a school entrance – as well as anywhere that would prevent access for emergency services, at or near a bus stop, opposite or within 10 metres of a junction, over a dropped kerb, and in front of an entrance to a property. Fixed penalty notices and fines can be issued in the event of infringement of these rules.

We ask for everyone's support in helping to keep our children safe.

We are grateful for your help in keeping our children and the pupils at St Peter's safe.



### Keeping safe online this summer

As the summer break begins, it's important to consider our children's online safety. Although our children won't be seeing their friends at school each day, there is no doubt they will stay in touch online. Please ensure they use secure devices and consider setting appropriate screen time limits. It's always a good idea to discuss the importance of acting responsibly online. This will help you to stay informed about your child's online activities, create good, trusting relationships and foster safe and responsible online users.

Please visit the '[Safeguarding and Online Safety](#)' page of the school website where you will find further information to support parents and children.

