

Headteacher's Update – Friday 7th July 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Reflection

Our prayer theme for next week is:

Thanksgiving

Harvard psychology research suggests that gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel positive emotions, relish good experiences, improves their health and builds stronger relationships.

It can be difficult during our busy lives, to stop, reflect and appreciate all that God has given to us. However, in our gratitude, we come to know God. The more we thank Him, the more we see Him working in our lives. This week, take the time to reflect on your blessing and give thanks to God for all His good works.

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%

Head Pupil Appointments

I am extremely pleased and proud to announce that this afternoon the following appointments were made for the 2023/24 academic year:

Head Boy - Joseph Fenton
Head Girl - Jemima Harrison
Deputy Head Boy - Ethan Scot
Deputy Head Girl - Jennifer Romer

They will be supported by a team of 80 Prefects including 24 Senior Prefects, following an extremely thorough application and selection process over recent weeks. Although it was incredibly difficult to reach a decision, it was a huge privilege for me and my colleagues to see and hear the passion and dedication each candidate had for leading and improving our school. I look forward to working with the whole team over the coming year.

Transition Activities

We were delighted to be joined by 170 pupils from our six local Catholic primary schools on Monday. The day began with a beautiful Mass with Father John in the hall and culminated in a joyous singing session led by Mr Warrington and our Saint Bede's choir. In between, pupils spent time with the RE department reflecting on the theme 'let your light shine.' Thank you to Miss Newsham, the RE department and the other staff who supported the day. I very much hope it was the beginning of the journey towards these children becoming 'Bede's' in two years' time!

This was followed on Tuesday by our Induction Day for Year 6 pupils who will be joining us in September. Thanks to the extension of our dining room last summer, we were able to host all our new 'Bedes' on the same day for the first time. Our Head of Year 7 for 23/24, Miss Bowers, welcomed the pupils in an initial assembly which was followed by a series of taster lessons as well as their first year group liturgy in the hall. Pupils also had the opportunity to sample a Saint Bede's lunch, which proved to be extremely popular!

I must give a special mention to our Year 9 pupils who worked with the primary children on both days and were fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Our final transition event is our New Intake Evening next Wednesday for our new Year 7 for 23/24. We look forward to seeing both new and not-so-new parents and carers in the hall for this important occasion.

Paris Residential

We say 'Bon Voyage' today to 43 Year 10 pupils who will be spending next week across the English Channel on our residential visit to Paris. As our first foreign visit since 2020, this is an important and exciting occasion for the school. Thank you to Mrs Hendey for organising the visit and to Miss Shaw, Mr Frankel and Mrs Pearson for accompanying her. We wish you all a safe and very enjoyable trip!

Achievement Assemblies

Today we began our program of celebratory end of year achievement assemblies with Year 10 (brought forward by a week due to the Paris trip!). Congratulations to the award winners and thank you to the invited parents/carers who were able to attend.

We will recognise the achievements of pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 in their assemblies next week.

End of term

Saint Bede's will close for the summer holiday at 1pm on Thursday 20th July. The school buses have been rearranged for the earlier time.

School will re-open for our new Year 7 pupils on Monday 4th September, and for all other pupils on Tuesday 5th September. The school day will begin at the earlier time of 8.45am, with pupils expected on site by 8.40am at the latest to ensure a prompt start.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher