

Headteacher's Update – Friday 14th July 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Reflection

Our prayer theme for next week is:

Thank you

Loving God. We give thanks for our pupils, for their faithfulness, friendship and commitment to serving others. We ask you to guide them as they continue to flourish according to your will.

We give thanks for our families and all those who care for us. For the strength, comfort and love, that they have given us this year. May you watch over them and help us to recognise and appreciate all that they do.

We give thanks for the staff and governors at Saint Bede's, for their dedication and generosity of spirit. May they continue to guide our pupils, support them and keep Christ at the centre of all that they do.

We ask that you unite us through your Spirit, as one community, grounded in your love.

Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Dulcie Richardson (Year 7): 'Trainer of the Night' - Blackpool Football Club Emerging Talent Centre.

Phoebe Atkinson, Ava Barrows, Hettie Bridgeman, Brendan Cowell (Year 7): Representing the school at the New Intake Evening.

Louis Varley (Year 8): Academic success in Religious Education

Phoebe Armitage (Year 9): Taekwondo World Championships

Baxter Briggs, Archie Heyes, Hugo Robinson (Year 9): Acts of kindness towards another pupil.

Theresa Boylan (Year 10): Musical Excellence – Merit awarded on Grade 5 Flute Exam

Emily Warrington (Year 10): Musical Excellence – Merit awarded on Grade 5 Music Theory Exam

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%

Sports Day

On Monday we hope to hold our annual Sports Day. The arrangements for the day have been explained to pupils by Form Tutors and the PE department.

Pupils should attend school on Monday in **full Saint Bede's PE kit** (which may include either PE socks or white ankle/trainer socks). **Pupils must also bring their exercise books and other school equipment** in case it is necessary for Sports Day to be cancelled or cut short due to poor weather.

'Stars In Their Eyes'

We are now just a few days away from our annual 'Stars In Their Eyes' talent show on Tuesday, which is certain to prove to be a fitting climax to the academic year. The various solo and group entries have been working hard on their performances, and we can also look forward to the traditional interval act from last year's winner, David Doherty. A few tickets are still available from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/saint-bedes-catholic-high-school> – don't miss out!

Year 8 History Visit

It may be almost the end of term but there is still time next week for Year 8 pupils to participate in a visit to Liverpool with Mrs Smith and the History department. This will include visiting both the International Slavery Museum and the Museum of Liverpool at the Royal Albert Dock, itself a site of great historical and cultural significance. Forms Bamber, Beesley and Cottam will be taking part on Tuesday, followed by Finch, Harcourt and Haydock on Wednesday.

Uniform update - jewellery

The governing body recently agreed an amendment to our uniform and appearance policy for the new academic year. With effect from September, **no jewellery of any kind will be permitted, except a suitable watch. This includes any form of ear jewellery.**

This change removes the exception to our existing uniform policy, which allowed pupils to wear a small gold or silver stud in the lobe each ear. Experience has shown this expectation is difficult to uphold with consistency, with different interpretations of what constitutes a 'small stud.' We know that our pupils respond best when expectations are simple, clear, and consistent. This new policy achieves this – jewellery is not necessary for children in school and so is not allowed.

As in the existing policy, plastic 'retainers' will not be permissible as an alternative to ear jewellery. It is therefore important that if your child intends to have their ears pierced during the summer holidays, they do so at the beginning to allow adequate time for healing. In my end of term letter next week, I will include a few other reminders relating to our uniform and appearance standards to assist you in preparing your child for the new academic year.

New Intake Evening

On Wednesday we were delighted to be joined by our new Year 7 pupils and their parents/carers. As so often on these occasions, the hall was full and we continue to be grateful for the extremely high level of parental engagement and support we enjoy at Saint Bede's. We look forward with excitement to seeing our new "Bede's" when they officially join the school in September.

Achievement Assemblies

Across the week we have completed our program of achievement assemblies for all year groups. Congratulations to the many pupils who received badges and certificates for 'Being a Bede' in exceptional ways, and to the parents/carers who were able to join us to celebrate the achievements of their children. I am also grateful to Mr Langley for co-ordinating the programme of assemblies and to Mr Warrington and the choir for their contributions each day.

End of term

A reminder that 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. Please remember that pupils will be registered both in the morning and the afternoon on this day, and so if pupils are absent from school this counts on their attendance record as a **full day absence**.

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.

This will be my final weekly update of the academic year. My end of term letter, and our termly newsletter, will be issued next week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher