

## **Headteacher's Update – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**



Dear Parents/Carers

### **Reflection**

Our prayer theme for next week is:

#### **Called to be Saints.**

In 1999, Pope John Paul II addressed young people around the world. He said, 'Young people of every continent do not be afraid to be the saints of the new millennium! Be contemplative, love prayer; be coherent with your faith and generous in the service of your brothers and sisters, be active members of the Church and builders of peace.'

Sainthood is not reserved for those written in history books. God calls us each today, to be courageous witnesses to our faith, to love generously and to pray without ceasing. To be Saints.

### **Headteacher's Commendations**

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

**Hettie Bridgeman (Year 7), Edie Bridgeman (Year 9):** Excellence in Extra-curricular Sporting Achievements

**Amelia Donnelly-Nelson (Year 8):** Performing in the RSC Sandgroun Project at The Grand Theatre

**Lucy Appleton, Katy Barr, Sean Edmonds, Shannon Ferguson, Jason Sandford-Jones, Genevieve Maslin, Eleanor Robinson, Alex Birt, Grace Tyson, Alana Vanderveldon (Year 9):** Participation in the 'Excellence Academy' at Blackpool Sixth Form College

### **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: 93%**

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

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

I was delighted this week to appoint our team of Senior Prefects after the second stage of the selection process. Next week, 12 Year 10 pupils will be interviewed for the prestigious roles of our Head and Deputy Head Boy/Girl. Both staff and pupils will be involved in the interview panels. I look forward to sharing the final outcome with you soon.

### **Transition Activities**

Next week we have two of the highlights of the Saint Bede's calendar to look forward to. On Monday, we will be welcoming pupils from all our feeder Primary schools for a full day with the RE department, including Mass together in the hall. On Tuesday, Year 6 pupils joining us in September will be welcomed into school for their Induction Day. For the first time, we will be hosting all our new pupils on the same day. We are very excited to seeing our new 'Bedes' all together for the first time!

### **Year 10 College Visits**

As we welcome 'Bedes' of the future to school, Year 10 will be spending time visiting some of our local further education providers as they begin to think about life after Saint Bede's. This will begin with a visit to Preston College on Monday, followed by Cardinal Newman Sixth Form College on Tuesday. There will also be an opportunity to visit Blackpool Sixth Form College later in July.

### **Blackpool Sixth Form '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'. This prestigious series of four after-school workshops is 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 'Was the US 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.

Well done to all the participants: Sean Edmonds, Jason Sandford-Jones, Eleanor Robinson, Alex Burt, Alana Vanderveldon, Bella Manno, Lucy Appleton, Katy Barr, Grace Tyson, Genevieve Maslin and Shannon Ferguson. Thank you to Miss Beswick for co-ordinating the visit and accompanying pupils throughout.

### **Industrial Action**

A reminder that due to the ongoing industrial action, there are part-school closure in place next week.

- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July: school closed to Year 9 pupils
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July: school closed to Year 7 pupils

Some work will be provided on Firefly for pupils who are affected on the relevant day. All other pupils should attend school as normal. Please see the letter issued separately for further details.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden  
Headteacher