

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope all our pupils and families have enjoyed a happy and restful summer break. As we prepare to welcome pupils for the start of the new academic year next week, I have a few updates and reminders to share with you.

Chaplaincy Update

During the summer break, Paula Burdess, our Lay Chaplain, left Saint Bede's to pursue new opportunities. Over a period of almost 20 years, Paula made a huge contribution to the Catholic life and mission of our school, and to the spiritual formation of both children and staff. In recent years, she has combined this work with a successful career in local government, in doing so working to improve the lives of people in her local community. We thank Paula for her service to the school and wish her every success and happiness in her future endeavours.

We will be seeking to recruit a new Lay Chaplain in due course. In the interim, Miss Newsham (Associate Assistant Headteacher – RE & Catholic Life) will have oversight of our chaplaincy provision.

Start of term

Our new Year 7 pupils will join us on Monday 4th September at 8.45am. Pupils in Years 8-11 will return on Tuesday 5th September at 8.45am. To ensure the school day can start promptly at the new, earlier time of 8.45am, **all pupils should be on site by 8.40am at the latest.**

Lancashire County Council have published updated timetables for the school bus services (598, 649, 916) reflecting the earlier start to the school day. [Please click here to view the school bus timetables page on the LCC website.](#) The timetables for Saint Bede's are on page 88 of the document that can be downloaded from this page.

Uniform & Appearance

To ensure a smooth and successful start to the new school year, please may I remind you of some of our expectations regarding uniform and appearance.

- No jewellery of any kind is permitted. This includes any form of ear jewellery. For the avoidance of doubt, plastic retainers are **not acceptable** as an alternative to jewellery.
- The blazer is a compulsory item and must be brought to school each day.
- Trousers must be black, traditional, full-length, straight-leg school trousers (jeans, jeggings, leggings, skinny-fit and fashion trousers are not permitted).
- Skirts must be worn to or below the knee, and the badge on the waistband must be fully visible with the skirt fully unrolled.
- Make up, false tans, false eyelashes, eyebrow enhancements, nail varnish and false/acrylic nails are all inappropriate for school and should not be worn.
- Shoes should be traditional flat, all-black, polishable school shoes with no visible logo or other embellishments. Boots, trainers, and slip-on 'ballet' shoes are all inappropriate for school and should not be worn.
- A suitable outdoor coat may be brought to school. Hooded jumpers, sportswear, tracksuits, sweatshirts, gilets and body warmers are not permissible.

Mobile Phones

Our policy regarding mobile phones is unchanged from last year. As a reminder, mobile phones must not be seen or heard once a pupil enters the school site in the morning until they are leaving the school site at the end of the day.

If a pupil breaches this rule, their device will be confiscated and the pupil will be issued with a 30-minute after-school detention. On the first occasion a pupil breaches this rule during the academic year, the device can be collected by the pupil from the school office at the end of the day. On the second and any subsequent occasion, the device will not be returned to the pupil and must be collected from the school office by a parent/carer or other appropriate adult. **Please note that in these circumstances the device will not be returned directly to the pupil, even if this is requested by a parent/carer.**

E-cigarettes/'Vapes'

Our policy regarding 'vaping' is also unchanged from last year. It is illegal in the UK for retailers to sell e-cigarettes or liquids to a person under the age of 18, or for an adult to buy these products for a person under the age of 18.

Please may I remind you that the below are not acceptable:

- Using a 'vape' in school, when travelling to school, or when in the community and in any way identifiable as a Saint Bede's pupil
- Having possession of a 'vape' or any items related to vaping in school

If a pupil is found to be in possession of these items in school, **the item(s) will be confiscated and disposed of by the school immediately.** These items will not be returned to the pupil or a parent/carer in any circumstances, regardless of the value of the item.

Parent Information Evenings

Over the next few weeks, we are inviting all parents/carers into school for our start of term Parent Information Evenings. The dates for each event are set out below and you will receive a separate letter with further details shortly. We look forward to welcoming you to Saint Bede's.

Year 7: Wednesday 11th October (6.30pm)
Year 8: Wednesday 13th September (6.00pm)
Year 9: Wednesday 13th September (7.15pm)
Year 10: Wednesday 6th September (6.00pm)
Year 11: Wednesday 6th September (7.15pm)

I look forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school next week, and to working with you over the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher