

Headteacher's Update – Wednesday 18th October 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

Reflection

Our prayer theme for next week is:

Be Resilient

*“But the one who stands firm to the end will be saved”
Matthew 24:13*

Resilience means having the ability to bounce back after troubled times or when things go wrong. We all need to show resilience at times at school, in our working lives or in our relationships with other people. At times we need resilience when it comes to our faith too. There are many references to resilience throughout the Bible, which offer a great deal of encouragement for us when life becomes difficult. God wants us to learn to turn to him during the storms that life can throw at us, knowing and trusting in his ever-present help, and then pick ourselves up afterwards and continue sharing his love with others.

BEDE Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Behaviour

Kaidon Kelly, Hollie-Rose McGow (Year 7): Modelling BEDE behaviour and being kind and caring to others

Excellence

Phoenix Gerrard, Elliott Hatton, Cameron McCormack, Jakob Oloffson (Year 10): Achieved the Chief Scout Gold Award

Cleo Dixon (Year 8): Achievements in UKA Ballroom & Latin at the Winter Gardens

Dulcie Richardson (Year 8): Passed her Grade 3 Trumpet Exam

Bridget Boylan (Year 9): Achieved a Merit in Grade 4 Ballet exam

Elliot Smith (Year 9): Selected to represent Lancashire Boys Football

Isabel Tuck (Year 10): Selected for the North West England Hockey Talent Academy

Theresa Boylan (Year 11): Achieved a Merit in Advanced Foundation Ballet exam

Remembering Bella and Harrison

Pink is the dominant colour around school today as we hold our non-uniform day to remember Bella and Harrison and raise money for charities chosen by their families. Please make your donation via ParentPay if you have not already done so. I look forward to announcing the amount raised after half-term.

As many of you will be aware, Bella's life will be remembered and celebrated at a service and 'Festival of Life' taking place tomorrow. At the right time, a memorial service for Bella will also be held in school.

A reminder of the additional pastoral support that has been in place during this difficult period for the school community is [available on our website here](#).

Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening

On Wednesday 1st November at 6.30pm we will be inviting Year 11 parents/carers and pupils into school for our Exam Preparation Evening. During the evening, we will provide information and guidance on how pupils can prepare most effectively for their mock exams later this term and final exams next summer. We will also discuss what you can do as parents and carers to support your child in doing so. A further letter with final details will be issued on Monday 30th October.

Shoes – September 2024

I would like to remind you of the below change to our expectations regarding shoes, which I wrote to you about in July 2023 and will be implemented from September 2024.

In recent years, we have taken a liberal approach to our expectation regarding shoes, and permitted some shoes which are sold as school shoes but are in fact trainers. In particular, this includes the 'Air Force 1' shoe by Nike. For September 2023, these shoes will continue to be acceptable so long as any embellishments (such as a metal clip) are removed.

*However, I would like to inform you that from **September 2024** we will be properly enforcing our policy regarding shoes and these 'trainer-type' shoes will not be permitted. We hope that these new expectations will be helpful to parents and carers, by removing the pressure to purchase very expensive designer trainers. By providing 12 months' notice we are allowing plenty of time for shoes which will no longer be allowed in school to be suitably replaced.*

'Being a Bede' in the community

Occasionally I have written to you to ask for your support in addressing instances of inappropriate behaviour in the community. When I do so, I am always very aware we are extremely fortunate that the overwhelming majority of our pupils are wonderful ambassadors for our school all the time. With this in mind, I am pleased to share with you an email I recently received from a member of the public who works in a local supermarket:

Good Morning Mr Marsden

I would just like to say how kind and polite your students are. When I serve them on the till, they are so polite, and always have a little conversation before saying thank you and goodbye. They are certainly a credit to your school and their families.

I quite agree!

Half-term

Saint Bede's closed for the half-term break at 3.15pm today. School will re-open for all year groups on Tuesday 31st October.

I wish all our pupils and their families a happy, restful and safe half-term break.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher