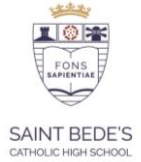


Headteacher's Update – Friday 9th February 2024



Reflection

Next week we will be entering the season of Lent, and so we will begin to prepare to commemorate Christ's sacrifice and his resurrection at Easter. Our weekly reflection will take Lent as its theme during this period.

Lent

The spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.
(Mk 1:12-14)

Lents last for 40 days – the same amount of time Jesus spent in the desert being tempted. Jesus, through his divinity, was able to resist the temptations, and he offers us this same strength. We can use this time to come closer to (or to find) God, who is always waiting for us.

The Lion King

As I write I am looking forward to the final performance of The Lion King this evening. It has been a truly magical week. Thank you to all the parent/carers, family members, friends and pupils who have provided three packed audiences in the hall. We were also delighted to welcome around 150 children from some of our partner primary schools for a matinee performance on Wednesday. The talent and enthusiasm on display has been breath-taking and it is with considerable pride that I have listened to your wonderful feedback each night. My heartfelt thanks go to all the pupils and staff who have taken part in the show and created such joy, in particular, of course, the Directors: Mrs King, Mr Warrington, and Mr Anthony Robert Kelly.

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: 91%
Whole-school attendance this year: 93%

BEDE Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Behaviour: Elise Heron, Samuel Marlow-Wrigley (Year 8): Consistently excellent behaviour and attitude

Engagement: Cian Byrne, Lola Donegan-Fearn, Joseph Fenton, Elizabeth Hall, Jemima Harrison, Ella Higginbotham, Olivia Koryciorz, Macee Pedley, Sophie Southworth, Emily Warrington (Year 11) – Representing the school at Year 10 Parents' Evening

Devotion: Oliver Healy (Year 9): Organising and leading a team in the Swimathon for Charity.

Excellence: Luke Alfrey, Connor Ellingford, Isaac Emery, Keelan Miller (Year 10): Performed at Supersonic Sunday fund raising event

Presentation of work

Congratulations to the below pupils who have produced beautifully presented work this week:

Year 8: **Dillan Pixton**
Year 9: **Bella Callaghan**
Year 10: **Eve Culshaw**
Year 11: **Hanna Drzewiecka**

PE kit changes

With effect from 19th February, we will be making some small tweaks to our expectations regarding PE kit, which I hope will make meeting these expectations slightly easier for pupils and parents/carers.

- Pupils may now wear white sport socks (over ankle length) from any retailer as an alternative to the blue PE socks.
- Plain black leggings may now be worn as an alternative to the school 'skort.' These should be plain black without obvious marking or patterns (a small logo is acceptable).

Behaviour system changes

As you know, the 'B' in our 'BEDE' school ethos stands for behaviour and reflects our ambition that behaviour in our school should be nothing less than exceptional. A considerable number of our pupils already demonstrate exceptional behaviour all the time. Some pupils, of course, need additional support to improve or correct their behaviour, and as with any school we have a system of sanctions and consequences to help achieve this.

I would like to inform you that with effect from 19th February we will be making a small number of changes to the use of some sanctions within our behaviour system as below.

'Alternative Day' sanction:

In recent years, within our behaviour system we have operated a sanction known as the 'Alternative Day' for some high-level behaviour incidents. This involves pupils attending school between 12noon and 5pm and working in our Inclusion Room. Feedback from parents and carers suggests you do not feel this sanction is particularly effective, particularly because of the later start to the day and the shorter day overall.

Having listened to this feedback, with effect from 19th February we will be discontinuing the use of the 'Alternative Day'. This will be replaced by a new Internal Exclusion sanction. Pupils who receive an Internal Exclusion sanction will be expected to arrive at reception between 8.30am and 8.40am for each day of the sanction and must not enter the school site via any other entrance. They will complete work provided by class teachers in the Inclusion Room until 4.30pm. Lunch and comfort breaks will be at separate times to the rest of the school, as with the current Alternative Day.

Friday Senior Detention:

A new 75-minute Senior Detention will be introduced on Fridays. This will take place in our Inclusion Room from 3.15pm - 4.30pm and will be overseen by a senior member of staff. Primarily this will be for pupils who fail to attend a detention earlier in the week, but will also be used for other behaviour incidents as appropriate. Failure to attend Senior Detention will be treated as a serious behaviour incident and may result in suspension from school.

Chewing Gum

Chewing gum has always been banned at Saint Bede's because of the unhygienic way it is disposed of, and the effort and cost involved in removing it from floors, carpets and other surfaces. Recently we have noticed an increase in pupils bringing chewing gum to school, and with it an increase in the mess this creates.

Chewing Gum (continued)

With effect from 19th February, any pupil seen to be chewing gum in school will receive an immediate 30-minute lunchtime detention. I would be grateful for your support by ensuring your child does not bring chewing gum to school.

Half-term

Saint Bede's is now closed for half-term. School will re-open for all pupils at 8.45am on Monday 19th February.

I wish all our pupils and families a restful half-term break.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher