

Headteacher's Update – Friday 19th April 2024



Reflection

*Jesus said 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep'
(Jn 10:11)*

We remain in Eastertide until the feast of Pentecost, a time to continue rejoicing in the Good News of the resurrection of Christ. We pray that this joy may remain with us, in all our lives. We ask the good shepherd, Jesus, to guide us and protect us.

Bishop of Lancaster – Pastoral Visit to St. Bede's

We are looking ahead with excitement to the pastoral visit of His Excellency Bishop Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster, on Tuesday next week. For all of us, this will be a significant and memorable occasion in the history of Saint Bede's.

Bishop Paul will be coming to pray with us, meet a wide range of pupils and staff (including some future 'Bedes' from our friends at St. Peter's Catholic Primary School), and bless our school. He will also be delivering an assembly address to our wonderful Year 11 pupils, as they begin the final term of their Saint Bede's journey. We look forward to sharing news of the visit with you next week.

Welcome (back!)

This week we have been joined by two new colleagues in our teaching team:

- Miss Gili-Ross (Assistant Head of English)
- Miss Gilmore (Teacher of RE)

We are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Briggs, who will be supporting us as a Teacher of English this term.

Attendance Update

It has been a pleasing start to the new term, with Year 7 and Year 10 leading the way with the highest levels of attendance this week – well done!

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: 94%

Whole-school attendance this year: 92%

BEDE Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Engagement: David Doherty, James Livesey, Jakob Olofsson, Jayden Richardson (Year 10):
Successfully competing in the AMSP Maths Feast

Excellence: Sophie Collister (Year 7): Younger Scouts Skills Weekend
Jayden Richardson, Tristan Waters (Year 10): Winning team: Barcelona Copa Castell 2024 Football tournament

Promotional Film Shoot

On Thursday 25th and Friday 26th April there will be a film crew in school capturing school activities for a new promotional film, and other updates to our promotional materials and social media output. Please see the letter issued earlier this week for further details. As I am sure you will appreciate, we would be grateful for your support in ensuring your child's uniform and appearance represents the very best of 'Being a Bede' on the day!

Parents' Evenings

A reminder that our Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 24th April and our Year 8 Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 8th May. We look forward to welcoming parents, carers and pupils into school for these important conversations with subject teachers.

Year 10 Prefect Recruitment

The process to recruit our new pupil leadership team for 2024/25 is underway, and we look forward to finding out who our new Head/Deputy Head Girl and Boy, our Senior Prefects and Prefects will be over the coming weeks. If you have a child in Year 10, please do encourage them to submit their application in time for Monday's deadline.

Year 7 'Excellence Booklets'

Next week, Year 7 will be beginning to use their new 'Excellence Booklets' to support their learning. These booklets contain information about how the memory works and how to revise. In addition, individual subjects have identified what they would like all pupils to know, understand and be able to do by the end of their current unit of work. They have created 'Knowledge Organisers' displaying this core subject knowledge, alongside four different strategies as to how to use them.

Pupils have been provided with a plastic wallet to keep this booklet safe and tidy. Pupils will be expected to have the booklets in school every day so that they can be used in class, but will also be taking them home for homework tasks which you will be able to support with. There is a section in the booklet for you to write a comment about which strategy your child found the most helpful, or what they have found the most interesting. We know that when pupils discuss what they are learning at home, it is much more likely to 'stick'

We want to praise and reward pupils who make the most of these booklets, so please extend this encouragement at home. Thank you in advance for your support.

Acceptable school shoes – September 2024

A reminder that from September 2024 we will be properly enforcing our policy regarding school shoes. In particular, 'trainer-type' shoes, including the 'Air Force 1' shoe by Nike, will no longer be acceptable. We hope that these new expectations will be helpful to parents and carers, by removing the pressure to purchase extremely expensive designer trainers.

A leaflet which clearly illustrates shoe designs and styles which will be acceptable from September is enclosed with this update.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher