

Headteacher's Update – Friday 26th April 2024



SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Reflection

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty."

Jn 15:5

These words from the Gospel remind us that Jesus is our source of true life and from him we can live life in its fullest sense, without fear, and with the knowledge of God's love for each one of us.

Visit of the Bishop of Lancaster

We were honoured to welcome His Excellency Bishop Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster, for a pastoral visit on Tuesday. Bishop Paul was joined throughout the day by Father Michael Docherty, Episcopal Vicar for Education and Formation, and Father John Millar, who is both Father's Michael's assistant and our own Priest Chaplain.

Highlights of the day included a beautiful rosary in the chapel, during which members of our new chaplaincy pupil leadership group, the Society of Saint Joseph, were joined by pupils from St Peter's Catholic Primary School. Bishop Paul also addressed our Year 11 pupils during a special assembly, concluding with a blessing as they continue their exam preparations. Please do have a look at the photos from the day we have shared on our social media platforms.

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: 92%

Whole-school attendance this year: 92%

BEDE Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Engagement: Harry Ailsby, Austin Atherton and Rivin Heard (Year 10): Outstanding effort with reading

Excellence: Daisy Daniels (Year 7): Participation in the Bowlander Scout Weekend

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to Year 7 parents, carers and pupils who joined us for our Parents' Evening on Wednesday. The turnout was exceptionally high and we are grateful for your support. I would be grateful if you could provide your feedback on the event by completing the survey issued separately. Our Year 8 Parents' Evening will follow on Wednesday 8th May.

Year 8 visits to France

As I write, our second group of Year 8 pupils (and a few Year 9 guests!) are part way through their visit across the English Channel to St Omer. The packed itinerary has included visits to a traditional French 'boulangerie' and markets, and even an opportunity to sample a famous local delicacy – snails! Huge thanks to Mrs Hendey for organising and leading both visits, and to all the staff who have supported her over the last two weeks.

Year 11 Update

The exam season is now underway, with the Art exam having taken place this week and speaking tests in French next week, ahead of the first full exam (Religious Studies) on Thursday 8th May.

We will shortly be writing to Year 11 parents and carers to confirm the arrangements for the exam period in school, and the programme of revision and exam preparation that will be in place for all pupils.

Supporting school funds

The school has recently registered with 'easyfundraising,' an online platform which supports good causes such as charities and schools, by collecting donations from brands and retailers such as Amazon. By registering, you can ensure that when you shop online with over 7,000 brands, a portion of what you spend will be donated to Saint Bede's by the brand (at no extra cost to the customer). This will help us make improvements to the school or purchase additional resources that we would not otherwise be able to afford.

We will write to you separately with further details and instructions next week, but if you would like to know more or register to support the school, please follow the link below.

[easyfundraising – Saint Bede's Catholic High School](#)

Bank Holiday – 6th May

Please note that Saint Bede's will be closed on Monday 6th May for the Bank Holiday. School will re-open for all pupils at 8.45am on Tuesday 7th May.

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