

## Headteacher's Update – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024



SAINT BEDE'S  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

### Reflection

*'This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you'*  
(Jn 15:12)

This is the greatest of all the commandments given to us by Christ Jesus, on this hangs the whole of our faith. How did Christ love us? He gave his life for us. As Christians we are called to live for the other, with Christ's spirit this is possible.

### Feast of the Ascension – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May we will be celebrating the Feast of the Ascension, a Holy Day of Obligation, with Mass in the chapel at 8am. All pupils are welcome to attend, including those who may not regularly attend our weekly mass on Tuesday.

Our 8am Tuesday mass will also take place as normal next week.

### 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: 93%**

**Whole-school attendance this year: 92%**

### BEDE Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

**Behaviour:** **Bridget Boylan (Year 9):** Helping set up for Year 7 Parents' Evening

**Devotion:** **Evie Abberley (Year 8):** Charity Work - Raising money for Marie Curie  
**Bannan Crainey (Year 8):** Honesty - handing in money found  
**Lila Duxbury, Sol Goncalves, Oliver Healy and Evie King (Year 9):** Bringing amazing energy to the French trip and being supportive of younger pupils

**Excellence:** **Izzy Issitt (Year 7):** Team Leader at the Bowlander Scout Weekend  
**Brendan Cowell (Year 8):** Winner - Junior Badminton Club Championships

### Year 11 Exam Arrangements

Well done to our linguists, who have completed their French speaking exams this week.

This morning, I spoke to Year 11 in assembly regarding the arrangements in school during the exam period. These are, in summary:

- All pupils will continue to attend school full-time (8.45am - 3.15pm) until half-term.
- On the afternoon of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, the last day before half-term, we will hold our traditional Leavers' Service in school (as there are no exams at this time).
- During this period, pupils will follow a programme of exams, special revision sessions, and their normal timetabled lessons at times.

- After half-term, from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, pupils will attend school for exams and for some compulsory revision sessions. If a pupil does not have an exam or a compulsory revision session, they will be able to study at home if they prefer. Pupils who prefer to continue attending school each day for revision can do so until the exam period ends.
- A timetable of the exams and revision sessions is enclosed with this update. From 8<sup>th</sup> May – 24<sup>th</sup> May, if a pupil is not sitting exam or attending a revision session, they will attend their normal timetable lessons.

I also spoke to pupils about maintaining full attendance and high standards of behaviour during this period. This includes:

- Attendance at all exams for which the pupil has been entered for by the school
- Attendance at all compulsory revision sessions
- No behaviour that disrupts exams or revision sessions in any way

Please be aware that during this period we will require evidence of appointments (such as an appointment letter or card) before any absences for medical appointments or similar will be authorised by the school. Any unauthorised absences during the exam period are likely to lead to Year 11 privileges, including attendance at the Leavers' 'Prom', being withdrawn.

The extensive programme of revision sessions over the next few weeks has been put together because we know, through both research and experience, that additional time with subject teachers prior to exams can significantly improve results. Thank you for everything you are doing to support your children in achieving their full potential during this busy and challenging time.

### **Parents' Evenings**

We look forward to welcoming our Year 8 parents, carers and pupils into school on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May for our Year 8 Parents' Evening. Please contact [remotesupport@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:remotesupport@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk) or telephone the school office if you have had any difficulty using the booking system.

### **Year 6 'Treasure Trail'**

It was lovely to see many of our new 'Bedes' for September in school on Wednesday evening for our first ever 'treasure trail.' If you have a child in Year 6 who attended the event, please do let us know if you have any feedback.

### **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.

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](#)

### **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.

### **Bank Holiday – 6<sup>th</sup> May**

A reminder that Saint Bede’s is closed on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May for the Bank Holiday. School will re-open for all pupils at 8.45am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.

Mr P Marsden  
Headteacher