

Headteacher's Update – Friday 17th May 2024



SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Reflection

'When the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth'
(Jn 16:13)

As we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost Sunday, we can thank God that He guides His church in the way of truth. In a world of uncertainty and disarray, this is a marvellous gift for us.

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: 93%

BEDE Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

- Behaviour:** **Harrison Roberts (Year 7):** Modelling Bede Behaviour over time
Deborah Doherty (Year 8): Kind, helpful and representing the school beautifully at Parents' Evening
- Engagement:** **Matilda Brown (Year 7):** Excellent effort and self-review on the Rivers Shoebox homework
John McGuckin-Kelly and Clayton Smith (Year 8): UKMT Team Maths Challenge
- Excellence:** **Freddie Barrows, Bannan Crainey, Jacob Halstead, Oliver Oatridge, Jack Parry, Jacob Scot, George Scott, Mitchell Shakeshaft-Cookson, Joseph Veevers, Jack Whiteside and Keir Woodham (Year 8):** Hogan Cup Final - Runners Up
Harry Harrison-Cockram and Isaac Whall (Year 9): Completing the Scouting Bowland Challenge
Mollie Jenkins (Year 10): ENG Junior Prem League National Championships at Gloucester University - voted most valuable player

Year 11 Update

Once again it is my pleasure to share with you just how proud we are of our Year 11 pupils for the determination and resilience they have shown all week, not just in the exam hall but throughout a very busy programme of revision sessions. It has been pleasing to hear how well-prepared pupils have felt for each exam, because of the combination of their hard work with independent revision and the vital guidance they have received from subject teachers in the sessions before each exam.

Next Friday, as we reach half-term and the half-way point in the exam season, we will hold our Leavers' Service. Unfortunately, due to staffing changes at Lancashire County Council who provide our catering service, we cannot offer the Barbecue lunch as in previous years. However, we will still be having the traditional musical performances on the yard, and there will be the opportunity for shirt-signing and the annual year group photo as usual. We are looking forward to a celebratory afternoon to say thank you and good luck to this wonderful year group.

Further details regarding the arrangements and expectations for Friday 24th May, and the remainder of the exam period from Monday 3rd June, will be issued to Year 11 parents/carers next week.

Mental Health Awareness Week

Thank you to Mrs Holmes and all the pupils and staff who have supported and participated in our 'Move for Mental Health' theme for Mental Health Awareness Week. A highlight was the staff versus pupils rounders match on Wednesday – which ended up in a closely-fought draw but will mostly be remembered for the deluge of rain which arrived halfway through!

Our Bake Sale was, as ever, a great success and I look forward to sharing with you the amount raised for mental health charities next week. Thank you for your donations.

Term and holiday dates - 2025/26

Our term and holiday pattern for the 2025/26 academic year was recently approved by the Governing Body and is being issued with this update. Pupils joining Saint Bede's in Year 7 will start on Monday 1st September 2025. Pupils in Years 8-11 will return on Tuesday 2nd September 2025.

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.

Half-term

Saint Bede's will close for the half-term break at 3.15pm on Friday 24th May. School will re-open for all pupils at 8.45am on Monday 3rd June.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher