



Reflection

The time of summer has arrived and for many of us this means holidays, extended time with loved ones and just the opportunity to take things slowly. The importance of rest and recuperation is recognised by many Saints and popes. St Pope John Paul II said of vacations that 'Holidays can help to balance activity with contemplation, haste with more natural rhythms, noise with the heralding silence of peace. Every good Christian knows that vacation is the time to rest the body but also to nurture the spirit three more time for prayer'.

Stepping away from our daily labour or work if we have the chance, allows us to appreciate creation, quiet the mind, and deepen our relationship with God. It is not just wasted time. So let us spend a moment in prayer as we enter into these times of holidays.

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Prayer

Heavenly father,

Grant us the grace to put all things into your hands and to rest for a moment in your love.

May Your providence allow us to take time for a holiday.

May we be able to spend precious time with loved ones and those close to us.

Keep all from the St Bede's community safe until we gather again in September.

And after this our rest may we be renewed with vigour to continue your work through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

St Bede – Pray for us

Mr Marsden

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

I am delighted to introduce our Summer 2026 newsletter. As we conclude another packed year at Saint Bede's, this collection of highlights offers a glimpse into everything our children have achieved. From impressive academic milestones to outstanding achievements on the stage, field, and beyond, there is a tremendous amount to be proud of. None of this would be possible without the determination of our pupils, the tireless energy of our staff, and the vital partnership we share with our families.

A highlight of the year has been celebrating our landmark 65th anniversary. Marking six and a half decades of Catholic education has been a wonderful reminder of the enduring spirit of 'Being a Bede'. It has given us a chance to look back with gratitude on our history, while firmly focusing on the bright futures of the pupils we serve today.

As always at this time of year, we must also prepare to say goodbye to some valued members of our team. We send our very best wishes to Mr Richman and Mrs Tankard, who are retiring after 20 years and 12 years of service to Saint Bede's respectively. We also say farewell to Mrs Hallas, Mr Jones, and Miss Welsh - who have not been with us for quite so long but have all made a fantastic impact during their time with us. We thank all of these colleagues sincerely for their hard work and dedication to our school.

As we head into the summer break, I pray that God blesses all our pupils and families with a time of peace, joy and renewal. Thank you for your continued support and for your shared commitment to our Catholic school mission over the past year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, and we keep our brand-new Year 7 in our prayers as they prepare to begin their own journey within our school family.

Saint Bede, pray for us.

Best wishes

Mr Marsden



Chaplaincy

As was said of St John Bosco's schools, we aim to live the reality that 'Here we make holiness consist in always being cheerful.' Our own Society of St Joseph are certainly living out that phrase. We continue with the Rosary every Thursday lunchtime, the cool of the Chapel Particularly welcome during the mini heat wave. Our SSJ pupils also had the opportunity to partake in a mini pilgrimage in June. God blessed us with fine weather and a lovely welcome at Ladyewell shrine in Preston. Our day was spent in prayer to the Lancashire martyrs, the chance to view some first class relics, a lovely lunch outdoors, and plenty of cheerfulness.



In a spirit of cheerful service SSJ pupils attended the Sacrament of the sick at St Joseph's church, Ansdell and served much appreciated tea and cakes afterwards, even the washing up was completed to a high standard!

Other events this final term included a visit to the Salvation Army in Blackpool to continue a collaboration with the Bridge project which will grow in the next academic year. Another continuing project is the intergenerational work with Starr Hills residential home where our pupil's certainly and literally bring cheerfulness with them, and hopefully leave it behind with the residents they get to meet.

As the Society of St Joseph grows in numbers and in faith, their devotion to praying for the school and fellow pupil's ensures that the St Bede's Chapel remains a place where all are welcome to spend a moment with their heavenly Father who wants the entire world to now the great love He has for us.

Thank you,

Mrs Ball

Stars in their Eyes

A spellbound audience were delighted to welcome 'Stars in their Eyes' back for another year. As always, this popular event in the school calendar showcased some of the amazing musical talent nurtured at Saint Bede's. Skilfully coached by Mr Warrington, Mr Gaughan and Mrs King, a range of solo artists and group performers from all year groups performed songs that appealed to all ages and tastes ranging from soulful love songs to driving rock and foot-tapping 'golden oldies'. We also welcome back Year 11 pupils from their long summer who volunteered to help during this time. Skilfully choreographed and energetic dance routines enhanced the musical numbers and the hall was transformed by striking lighting effects delivered by our skilled and hard-working technical crew. As well as the excitement and competitive element of 'Stars in their Eyes', it is always good to see the teamwork and spirit of mutual support and encouragement that characterises this event.

A 'Stars in their Eyes' tradition is for our audience to vote for the winner of our show. After a short wait we announced our winner, **Seb V and Joe F who wrote their own song** with energy and professionalism. It was good to see this talented singer shine on our Bede stage. A huge congratulations to **Lilah who came second** and **The Hammerheads band of Year 7 boys came in third for their second appearance here at Saint Bede's 'Stars in Their Eyes'.**

With so much talent in evidence, the audience faced difficult decisions in selecting the winner for 2026. It was another vintage year for this great galaxy of stars and we can be confident of an even brighter firmament in 2027!



Drama

What a term! Not only did we say sad goodbyes to our senior performers and designers in Year 11, six of whom are making their way to LIPA and Pendleton Theatre School next year, our Year 10 Dramatists began their GCSE coursework and are busy busy devising original theatre for their practical exams in the Autumn term. We also have new drama prefects and Dance Captains (well done and thanks to Evie and Bea) who are hard at work choreographing routines for our Summer show Stars In Their Eyes. It has also been an active term for our Key Stage 3 students; Year 9 completed a Film Studies unit looking at the history of film - in particular the "Horror" genre - learning about semiotics and soundtracks to create atmosphere, costume, set and camera angles. Year 8 explored Verbatim Theatre focusing on the playscript "Dan Nolan: Missing" by Mark Wheeler; amongst other pieces of work, we re-enacted key scenes, devised Alcohol Awareness adverts and performed Crime Watch videos to appeal for help in this real-life mystery which has not yet been solved. Year 7 have had lots of fun exploring the Commedia Dell'Arte style of drama, performing their own versions of "Scapino, Pantalone and The Chocolates" complete with stock jokes and plenty of slapstick. It has been a blast! Have a wonderful break and return to us refreshed and full of energy ready for next year's musical ... see you in September for auditions!!!

Jazz hands and a happy summer from Mrs King, Mr Gaughan and Anthony xx

If anyone is looking for LAMDA or private / group lessons in Singing, Musical Theatre or Acting with our resident Impresario and Director Anthony Roberts, please speak to any of us for details.

MP Andrew Snowden Visit



Some of our fantastic Bede's pupils had the opportunity to meet Andrew Snowden MP today. He shared his inspiration and motivation for public service, answered a wide range of questions - from potholes to the assisted dying bill - and offered many valuable insights.

Our pupils were their usual articulate and amazing selves, making us all incredibly proud. Our new Head Pupils, the President of the School Council, and leaders from the Society of St Joseph certainly left a strong impression.

Before he departed, pupils from the Society of St Joseph asked if they could pray for him and with him for his work in public service. They then recited the Litany of Saint Joseph and presented him with a Miraculous Medal, which he said he would take with him to Parliament.

The presence of the Blessed Mother in the Houses of Parliament can only bring great hope for our beloved country. Mr Snowden also shared that Parliament begins its work with prayer and spoke about the importance of this tradition.

Thank you, Mr Snowden, and God bless you for visiting us. Until next time

History

This term, our Year 10 history students embarked on an unforgettable enrichment trip to London, bringing the past to life through a carefully planned programme of historical sites and cultural experiences. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to deepen students' understanding of key themes from the GCSE curriculum, particularly power, conflict, exploration and cultural change.

A highlight of the trip was our visit to the **Imperial War Museum**, where students explored powerful exhibitions on the First and Second World Wars. This experience reinforced their classroom learning, enabling them to engage directly with artefacts, personal stories and historical interpretations. Many pupils were particularly struck by the Holocaust galleries and the immersive trench experience, which helped them to better understand the realities of conflict and its human impact.

The group also stepped back into the age of exploration aboard the **Golden Hinde**, Sir Francis Drake's famous ship. This visit helped to contextualise their studies of Elizabethan England, bringing to life Britain's growing global influence and the risks and rewards of overseas exploration. Students were able to explore the ship's cramped conditions and consider the challenges faced by sailors during long voyages.

Continuing the Elizabethan theme, students visited **Shakespeare's Globe Theatre**, where they learned about the social and cultural significance of theatre in the early modern period. This provided valuable insight into popular entertainment, social class and daily life in Elizabethan London, further strengthening their understanding of the wider context of the period.

The trip also included a ride on the **London Eye**, offering spectacular views across the capital. This allowed students to appreciate London as both a historic and modern city, identifying landmarks connected to different periods studied throughout KS3 and GCSE.

A truly memorable moment for many was attending a live performance of **Hamilton** in the West End. This experience demonstrated how history can be interpreted and presented in creative and engaging ways. Students were encouraged to reflect on the portrayal of historical figures, the use of music and storytelling, and how interpretations can shape our understanding of the past and it truly was a great show.

Throughout the trip, students demonstrated excellent behaviour and a genuine enthusiasm for learning outside the classroom. As always they represented Saint Bede's wonderfully which meant an easy trip for myself, Mrs Henshall, Miss Clayton and Mr Frankel.

In August we welcome back our Year 11s for GCSE results day and I wish them all luck for their post-16 journeys – hopefully they will all be studying history at A-Level!

Mr Coleman, Head of History



Geography

Sustainable Sewing Club

In Sustainable Sewing Club recently, everyone has chosen some fabric from our stores and have chosen to use it to make a variety of projects, from pencil cases, pouches and cushions to starting some applique techniques on tote bags. All are developing a range of techniques, from designing, measuring and cutting, to improving their neatness and precision with the sewing machine. Great progress being made by all!

Geography Club

In Geography Club, we are missing our Year 11s who have now finished their exams, but we're enjoying playing a range of games that draw on our locational and geographical knowledge – one of our favourites is 'Top of the World' where we have to try to guess the countries that are in the top 10 for various criteria.

We have loved having our Geography Club photo taken to lots of different places and building up our display of photos, but we'd really love to extend the challenge to encourage more of our pupils to take part. If anyone is going away over the summer holidays, we'd love you to take a copy of our 'Geography Club goes Global' logo with you and get a photo of it in interesting locations. Collect one from Mrs Boylan and House points will be awarded to anyone who sends a photo (sboylan@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk) – we can't wait to see where you take us!



Geography Club
goes global!



SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



A year to celebrate

Students from all year groups came together in the Geography department to celebrate a special birthday in honour of Sir David Attenborough, creating a wonderful sense of community and shared enthusiasm for the subject. Mrs Boylan delighted everyone with a fabulous homemade cake, which was enjoyed alongside a range of fun, environmentally themed party games that reflected our passion for the planet. The celebration was one to remember with laughter, learning, and appreciation, making it a memorable occasion for all involved.

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

Competition time – Young Geographer of the Year

The Royal Geographical Society's *Young Geographer of the Year 2026* competition invites students to explore this year's theme, **"From Source to Sea,"** focusing on the **importance of rivers**. Open to all age groups, the competition asks students to create an eye-catching and informative poster (or StoryMap for older students) showing how rivers shape landscapes, support ecosystems, and are used by people. Entries can explore topics such as flooding, energy production, sustainability, and conflict over water. This is a great opportunity for our **Year 7 and Year 10 students**—who have both been studying rivers—to apply their knowledge creatively.

Key Stage 3 criteria: A poster exploring at least two named rivers, exploring the processes that shape rivers, the features they create, and the many ways they are used by both people and nature across at least three geographical themes.

Key Stage 4 criteria: A poster exploring at least three named rivers, exploring the processes that shape rivers, the features they create, and the many ways they are used by both people and nature across a range of geographical themes, showcasing the challenges and solutions associated with the use of rivers.

Any images used on the posters MUST have the relevant permissions. Please do not take images from the internet without getting the correct permissions from the image owner. We recommend that sites such as Unsplash, Pixabay and Flickr are used. All images must be credited on the entry. Entries may be discounted if we are unable to guarantee that the images used are copyright free or have the correct permissions to be published in such a way.

Please submit your entries to the Geography Department by 14th September.

For more information - www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/young-geographer-of-the-year

Great UK Water Blitz

It is also a timely reminder that pupils can test their water at home with the 'Great UK Water Blitz', a biannual campaign that invites communities to test the quality of their local freshwater, including rivers, streams and lakes.

The initiative forms part of a nationwide monitoring programme designed to build an in-depth picture of our water quality across the UK. The next data collection point takes place 18th-21st September 2026.

For more information visit –

<https://earthwatch.org.uk/greatukwaterblitz/>



French Trip

From 7–11 July, 39 Year 10 students enjoyed an exciting and educational visit to Paris, France. The trip was designed to support the curriculum for French Language and Art students, while also providing valuable cultural experiences to enhance learning beyond the classroom. During the four-day visit, students experienced some of Paris' most famous landmarks and attractions. A Seine River Cruise offered spectacular views of the city's historic architecture, while a visit to Montmartre and the magnificent Sacré-Cœur Basilica gave students the chance to explore one of Paris' most artistic and picturesque districts.

The group also visited the Musée de l'Orangerie, where students admired world-renowned works of art, including Monet's famous Water Lilies. Climbing to the top of the Arc de Triomphe rewarded everyone with stunning panoramic views across the city. Other highlights included seeing the newly restored Notre-Dame Cathedral and strolling along the iconic Champs-Élysées, soaking up the atmosphere of one of the world's most famous avenues. The trip concluded with a full day at Disneyland Paris, where students enjoyed a range of exciting rides, attractions and entertainment.

The visit was a wonderful opportunity for students to develop their language skills, deepen their appreciation of art and culture, and create lasting memories with their fellow students. A great time was had by all.



London Trip

Fifty of our Year 7 pupils headed off to London last week in high excitement and temperatures. A very enjoyable visit to The Shrek Adventure saw them fulfilling a quest culminating in meeting the ogre himself. We then had an interesting visit to Tower Bridge, during which we saw the bascules raised and learned all about the construction and workings of the bridge. Many of them also braved the glass floor and got some great pictures! After a lovely dinner at Pizza Express we went to watch Wicked, which was absolutely amazing and enjoyed by all. We filled up with a good breakfast on our second morning and then set off for an invigorating workout at Pineapple Dance Studios with a focus on one of the dances from Hercules. We then went and experienced London from above with a trip on the London Eye before enjoying dinner at Bill's and then on to watch Hercules. It was great to see our dance instructor dancing and singing in the ensemble and it was a fantastic show. Despite the heat and very busy days, our pupils met our expectations and a fabulous time was had by all.



I may be bias, but we have had a fantastic school year for careers provision at school! **Careers**

Trips

Insight for our Year 11s and 10s on the Blackpool Sixth Excellence Program and the Cardinal Newman College Honours Program. Groups from each year were able to hear about the opportunities that these programmes can help pupils who achieve grade 7-9s in their GCSEs. Both programs at their respectable colleges offer more information on accessing the EPQ, access to the Oxbridge University HE+ Programme, tailored support for applications to study medicine, vet science, dentistry, law, maths and more. By accessing this programme you also have the opportunity to study AS Level courses. We have also experienced trips for International Women's Day, LUSom Maths talks, The STEM racing competition and meeting authors at Lancashire Book of The Year.

Careers Week

We were lucky enough to be joined by a variety of business owners and professionals for our careers week. We had 'Meet The Expert' Talks where Year 8 and 9 spent their morning speaking to six experts/careers professionals. The pupils listened to each expert and had to quiz the professionals about their careers to complete a task. The experts were incredible and pupils were fascinated by their experience and different career pathways. All pupils showed amazing engagement and participated excellently.

Each expert gave up their time for free, some even on annual leave! We were extremely grateful for the support of: Paul G at North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust, Ross K at Astra Zeneca, Seema D at Dalvee in Poulton Restaurant, Edward K at Boulevard Hotel, Emma R at Cardinal Newman College, Laura W at Department for Work and Pensions – DWP, and Emma I at DCMG Associates

We were also joined by The Chefs Patisserie Company, who gave our pupils a scallop masterclass including bringing some incredible desserts for them to try and giving out amazing fresh produce prizes too! Year 10 GCSE Hospitality pupils were able to learn from top chefs about their careers and the work they do for other restaurants around the world. The pupils worked in small groups to prepare a dish, to a real brief, as demonstrated and taught by their head chef, Martin. We are very grateful for their time, encouragement and support and giving our pupils an experience, they won't forget.

Year 7 and 8 pupils were joined by the Department for Work and Pensions to take part in a whole year group workshop on soft skills and how important communication is. The pupils participated wonderfully and showed full engagement. The pupils learned about the importance of communication skills, speaking and listening and also following instructions.

Year 10 Post-16

Our Year 10 pupils have had a busy summer term thinking about their post-16 options. Year 10 pupils have had the opportunity to visit two colleges for college taster days, Preston College and Cardinal Newman College. The pupils were able to experience a day at college as a pupil there - take part in classes at the colleges, roam the halls and taste the college cuisine! All pupils really made the most of the experience

Year 10 also took part in work experience this summer from 1st-3rd July. Pupils spent three days with over 100 different workplaces, organisations and employers who gave up their time to support our pupils with their placements and offer a structured placement for each of them. The feedback we receive is that pupils always try their best and some go above and beyond to show effort and enthusiasm in the workplace, still our pupils develop their important soft skills by taking part in these opportunities such as communication, answering the phone, speaking to customers, team work, using their initiative and listening to and following instructions. I am very thankful of our community of businesses and employers and I am proud of our pupils each year – thank you.

Miss Bolton, Careers Coordinator

Science

Another year in the school allotment comes to an end, and what a year it's been! We've been digging potatoes, harvesting peas, watching tomatoes grow, and hoping our courgettes are ready for the final week of term.

The Horticultural Science Club has worked hard over the last few years bringing the allotment back to life; clearing old beds, removing long forgotten bulbs, improving the soil with manure from Pemberton's Farm, and planning for the future.

We've enjoyed competitions like pumpkin carving and sunflower growing (although next year we might need a less windy spot!). We're also looking at caring for our neglected orchard, expanding our growing areas, and making the school even greener.

A huge well done to all our club members, past and present. Thank you for all your hard work, we'd love to welcome more helpers next year!



Summer Sport

Cricket

In Cricket, the Wyre & Fylde cup competitions took place @ AKS. The Year 7 Boys worked hard throughout with most of the team competing in hardball cricket for the first time, notable performances from Liam Fallows, Charlie Solomi, Enzo Dalmasso & Ben Little-Bonixo with both the ball and bat. The Year 8 boys competition was a competitive one and led to a mix of results. Notably, Noah Bushell retired with the bat v LSA and some excellent bowling from Luke Rawcliffe helped to complete a victory over Millfield.

Moving on to Year 7/8 Girls Cricket, the team delivered some great performances in the Wyre & Fylde cricket competition. Some excellent bowling from captain Ava Chesworth helped to take a number of wickets. Our Year 9 Girls Cricket team also competed in the Year 10 competition due to the Year 10's being in mock exams and were excellent in their approach with some playing Cricket for the first time. Special mention goes to Isabella Reid for her excellent captaincy.

Rounders

The recent Wyre & Fylde tournaments saw a great day of competition for the girls, with notable achievements across different teams. The YR7 girls secured 4th place, showcasing their skills and teamwork. Additionally, the YR8 girls managed to come 2nd out of 9 teams. They were narrowly beaten by only 3 rounders. The teamwork on show was impressive and they all enjoyed their day! The Year 9 girls have had a large number of pupils attending practice this time round. This meant that we were able to take 2 teams with us to the tournament. Both worked hard and showcased their skills with improvement throughout the day. The Year 10 Girls were excellent on the day throughout and only lost 1 game in the tournament. Special mentions go to Kaya for an unbelievable catch and some excellent batting from Dulcie.



Athletics

This year, we took 46 boys to the Wyre & Fylde Athletics competition. They all performed excellently and supported each other throughout. Special mentions for the day go to:

Tyler W-P - 1st in 100m with a time of 12.08 (he was 0.03 seconds off the Year 8 Wyre & Fylde record which has been held for 14 years). Daniel C-O came 2nd in Year 8 Shot (9m 42cm), Jacob W came 3rd in Year 8 800m (2.27 seconds) and Dexter A came 3rd in Year 8 Javelin (21m 42cm)