

Headteacher's Update – Friday 4th September 2026

**"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
(John 10:10)**

As we open our gates for the start of a new academic year, there is a natural sense of hope, anticipation, and fresh beginnings across our school family. Whether welcoming our new Year 7 pupils taking their first steps at Saint Bede's, or encouraging our older year groups as they return to familiar routines, a new year offers every one of us the chance to start afresh.

In John's Gospel, Jesus shares His vision for each of us: He does not call us merely to get by, but to flourish and live "life to the full." At the heart of this full life is a deep sense of belonging. Before a pupil can truly flourish academically or personally, they need to know they are valued, known, and loved for who they are as part of our Saint Bede's community.

As we begin this journey together, let us commit to making our school a place where every pupil feels they truly belong. May we approach the coming terms with enthusiasm, kindness, and open hearts, trusting that God walks alongside us in every new beginning. We keep all our pupils, families, and staff in our prayers for a happy, peaceful, and successful year ahead.

Welcome back!

Welcome back to all our pupils, parents/carers and families for the 2026/27 academic year. It has been wonderful to be all together again in school today, and to welcome both our new Year 7 pupils and the children joining Saint Bede's this week in other year groups.

We are also delighted to welcome a number of new staff to our school family this week, and wish them a happy and successful career at Saint Bede's.

- **Mr J Baker-Yates** - Teacher of Mathematics
- **Miss B Brady** - Pastoral Support Officer
- **Ms K Elliott** - Pastoral Support Officer
- **Mr A Hickton** - joining as Teacher of Product Design
- **Miss A Holloway** - Teacher of Science
- **Mr C Jakins** - Teacher of English
- **Miss K McDougall** - Teacher of Geography and PE
- **Miss J Poulter** - Teacher of Computing

Year 11 2025/2026 results

We offer our warmest congratulations to our 'Class of 2026', who received their GCSE results in August. We are extraordinarily proud of the way this year group demonstrated such resilience, character, and



determination throughout their unique journey through secondary education, achieving results that reflect their hard work and ambition.

We are hugely grateful to all the parents, carers, and families whose encouragement and partnership played such a vital role in these successes. As our leavers now embark on their college courses, apprenticeships, and next steps, we pray that they will continue to carry the spirit of 'Being a Bede' with them. We wish each one of them every happiness and success for the future.

Standards and Expectations

Thank you for reading my letter sent earlier this week regarding mobile phone, uniform, appearance, and punctuality expectations. As usual, the overwhelming majority of pupils arrived to school wearing their uniform correctly and with pride. In a very small number of cases, parents/carers may be contacted by their child's Form Tutor or another member of staff regarding a uniform issue that requires correction. Please support us by resolving these issues as quickly as possible.

Please may I also remind you of two points in particular:

- Skirts must be worn to or below the knee, with the Saint Bede's badge on the waistband fully visible and the skirt fully unrolled.
- Pupils wearing a skirt must wear white knee-length socks, **without bows or other embellishments** (white socks with bows are widely available and we appreciate these could easily have been purchased in error. If this is the case, please remove the bows or replace the socks).

PE kit reminder

A reminder that due to the ongoing work to improve the PE changing rooms, from Monday 7th September pupils should wear full Saint Bede's PE kit to school on the days they have a timetabled PE lesson. Parents/carers and pupils can view their timetable via their School Synergy account.

Pupils are encouraged to continue to wear their school blazer in addition to their PE kit. If a pupil chooses not to wear the blazer, please ensure they have with them any equipment they would usually carry within it such as their timetable or stationery.

Pupils attending lunchtime PE enrichment activities may wear suitable sports trainers. Pupils attending after-school PE enrichment activities should bring their full PE kit to school. Alternative arrangements will be put in place to enable pupils to change into PE kit for enrichment activities.

School Photographs

Our School Photographer will be visiting to take individual and group photos of Year 7 and Year 9 pupils on Friday 11th September, and Year 11 on Friday 25th September. For some pupils, this will require some adjustments to the arrangements regarding PE kit on PE days, because uniform is required for the photograph. Further details will be sent out to parents/carers of pupils involved separately.

Headteacher's Parent Information Evening

As usual, we will be offering a start of year information evening for parents and carers. These will take place on **Monday 14th September** in the school hall as below. Please note this is a week earlier than the date shared in July:

5.30pm - Year 8 and Year 9
7.00pm - Year 10 and Year 11

A letter with full details will be issued next week.

Parents and carers of Year 7 pupils will be invited to our separate 'Being a Bede' evening on Monday 5th October. Again, a letter will be issued nearer the time.

Open Evening

Our annual Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 24th September**. If you have a younger child who may be applying for a place at Saint Bede's in future - particularly if they have begun Year 5 or Year 6 this term - we are delighted to invite you to visit the school for a closer look at everything we have to offer. As usual, school will close early at 12.45pm on this day.

School Opening Hours

A reminder that our 'after-school club' supervision closes at **4.30pm**, and the school reception will close at the same time.

Parishes of Our Lady Star of the Sea & St Albans – Sacrament of Confirmation

If you live in the parishes of Our Lady Star of the Sea or St Albans, please see the attached letter from Mrs Gregan (Headteacher at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School) and Canon Peter Hart (Parish Priest) regarding the opportunity for your child to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher