

Headteacher's Update – Friday 11th September 2026

"Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"
Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."
(Matthew 18:21–22)

In this Sunday's Gospel, Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness. Thinking seven times is generous, he is surprised when Jesus calls him to forgive "seventy-seven times." This was a way of saying forgiveness must be infinite and uncounted - just like the boundless mercy God shows to us.

As we settle into the new academic year, this message arrives at the perfect time. A new term brings fresh starts, but adapting to new routines can naturally bring small friction points. Jesus offers us the blueprint for a healthy school community: the grace to forgive without keeping score and the commitment to let everyone start again with a clean slate.

Building a true sense of belonging at Saint Bede's means creating a space where everyone can learn, make mistakes, and grow. As we go into the week ahead, let us practice the endless patience and reconciliation Jesus teaches us - giving one another a fresh start every day, so that our school remains a place of genuine peace, love, and unity.

Being a BEDE – Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our first recipients of the academic year:

Devotion: Annabel Spencer, Isy Uzochukwu, Milly Hardman and Benedict Bradley (Year 7) for their participation in the Year 7 Welcome Mass.

Excellence: Max Meikle (Year 10) for signing for Blackpool Football Club.

Attendance Update

Attendance is vital for both the academic success and the broader school experience of your child. As in previous years, I will continue to share with you our attendance data on a weekly basis. At Saint Bede's, **we consider 96% to be a good level of attendance**. Anything below this over the course of an academic year is not good enough, because we know that this is likely to lead to lower academic progress and achievement for your child.

Well done to Year 7 (99%) and Year 8 (98%), who have made an exceptional start with attendance so far. I am also proud of Year 11, whose attendance is 4% higher than at this point last year, reflecting a great deal of determination and resilience from some individual pupils who have found attendance more difficult in the past.



	Weekly attendance	Yearly attendance
Year 7	99%	99%
Year 8	98%	98%
Year 9	95%	95%
Year 10	94%	94%
Year 11	93%	93%
Whole school	96%	96%

Headteacher's Information Evening

Parents and carers of pupils in Years 8-11 have received a separate letter of invitation to our start-of-year Headteacher's Parent Information Evenings, which are taking place on Monday 14th September as below. We look forward to welcoming you into school.

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

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

School Production 2027 - We're off to see the Wizard!

We are excited to announce that this year's school production will be 'The Wizard of Oz.' An initial meeting is taking place in the school hall on **Monday at 3.15pm** for pupils in all year groups who may be considering auditioning and would like to find out more.

Our school productions are always a wonderful and joyous showcase of the gifts and talents our children possess. Please do encourage your child to go along, whether they are an experienced performer or a beginner.

Travelling to school safely

With this week's update I am sharing a leaflet from Lancashire County Council. If your child travels to school by bus, please share and discuss the information and advice with them.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions

Earlier today, a group of our Year 11 pupils set off to complete their qualifying Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition.

The DofE scheme is a fantastic opportunity for our children to develop resilience, teamwork, navigation skills, and leadership. Navigating their routes independently, carrying their own equipment, and



SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

spending the weekend outdoors requires real perseverance and determination - qualities that lie at the heart of 'Being a Bede.'

We pray for kind weather and safe travels for all taking part. I am immensely grateful to the staff members who are giving up their weekend to support, supervise, and ensure the safety of our pupils on the trail. Best of luck to all involved!

Year 11 School Photographs – change of date

Please note that photograph day for Year 11 pupils will now be on **Monday 28th September**.

Open Evening

A reminder that 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.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher