

Headteacher's Update – Friday 18th September 2026

**"The last will be first, and the first will be last."
(Matthew 20:16)**

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. Landowners usually favour those who show up early, but this landowner pays those who arrived at the very end of the day the exact same generous wage as those who worked from dawn. Jesus turns human expectations upside down, revealing that in God's kingdom, everyone is valued equally, regardless of when they arrived or how much they feel they have contributed.

This parable speaks directly to our core value of belonging at Saint Bede's. Whether a pupil has been with us for years or joined us just a few weeks ago, whether they excel in the classroom, on the sports field, or quiet behind-the-scenes acts of service, God's love and place for them in our community is identical. Nobody is overlooked, and nobody has to earn their worth.

As we continue through this first term, let us ensure that every member of our school family feels seen, appreciated, and welcomed, creating an environment where everyone knows they truly belong.

Being a BEDE – Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Behaviour Stan Ryan (Year 8) for his kindness and care shown towards a friend

Engagement: Rook Ladish (Year 9) for performing for the Mayor in the 'Unite for Hope' event

Excellence: Niamh Moran (Year 11), Bella James-Montano (Year 11), Alex Aleksejeva (Year 9), Rosie Cooper (Year 8) and Kimberley Burns (Year 8) for their performance in 'Everyone's Talking about Jamie', Gerard Boylan (Year 9) for being a backstage crew member, Olivia Heslop (Year 11), Sam Marlow-Wrigley (Year 11), Rook Ladish (Year 9) and Sophia Hannan (Year 8) for their performance in 'Joseph', Farrah Pye (Year 9) for becoming a British Championship Gold medallist and Dulcie Richardson (Year 11) for recent football awards.

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.



This week, I am sharing with you the most recent national attendance data for comparison. Well done to Year 7, 8 and Year 9, who collectively have an attendance level above other schools nationally.

	Weekly attendance	Yearly attendance	National Average
Year 7	97%	98%	97%
Year 8	95%	97%	95%
Year 9	95%	95%	94%
Year 10	95%	94%	94%
Year 11	91%	92%	93%
Whole school	95%	95%	95%

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.

The event will run from **6.00pm - 8.30pm**, with Headteacher presentations in the hall at **6.15pm and 7.15pm**.

As usual, school will close early at **12.45pm** on this day. The school buses have been arranged for the earlier time.

Saint Bede's achieves the School Games Silver Mark Award

We are delighted to announce that Saint Bede's has been awarded the **School Games Silver Mark Award**, a national recognition of our commitment to providing high-quality physical education, competitive sport and opportunities for all pupils to be active and healthy.

The School Games Mark celebrates schools that demonstrate excellence in sport, inclusion, participation and pupil engagement. While we achieved an overall Silver Award, our application was recognised at **Gold standard in a number of assessment areas**, highlighting the strength of our sporting provision, inclusive opportunities and commitment to increasing participation across the school.

This is a fantastic achievement for our pupils, staff and wider school community, especially our PE department. We would also like to thank our School Games Organiser, Lee Cadwallader, for his support throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of this recognition and look forward to building on this success – next stop Gold Award!

Excellence Packs

Thank you for your continuing support with our Excellence Packs. Ensuring all pupils have access to the equipment they need to participate fully in every lesson, as well as a reading book, is crucial for their academic progress.



If you have not yet made payment for your child's pack, **please could you do so as soon as possible via ParentPay.**

Mobile Phone and Electronic Devices Policy

We are pleased that the overwhelming majority of our pupils continue to follow our increased expectations regarding mobile phones and electronic devices, with the number of recorded incidents very small indeed.

Please remember that the policy covers not only mobile phones, but also other technology such as **smartwatches and 'airpods'**. These devices must also be switched off and in a pupil's bag if brought to school.

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. If your child is using our after-school club, please ensure you have made arrangements for them to go home no later than 4.30pm.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher