

2nd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year. I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful summer break. We have been delighted to welcome our new Year 7 pupils this morning, and we look forward to seeing Year 11 tomorrow followed by Years 8-10 on Friday, as we begin what promises to be a positive and successful year.

As we start the year, I would like to re-emphasise some of our high standards and expectations. Clear routines create a safe, focused, and distraction-free environment where every child can flourish spiritually, academically and personally.

To ensure a smooth and successful start to the year for your child, please read the below carefully with them.

Mobile Phone Policy Update

Please remind your child of our updated mobile phone policy. If you choose to allow your child to bring a mobile phone to school, the following expectations apply:

- **Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in a pupil's bag from the time a pupil arrives on site at the beginning of the school day until they leave the site at the end of the school day.** This includes during any morning or after-school activities.
- Mobile phones may not be carried anywhere other than a bag, even if switched off. This means a mobile phone cannot be carried in a blazer or trouser pocket.

With effect from today, if a pupil breaches this policy, the following consequences will apply:

- The device will be confiscated and held securely in the school office.
- Confiscated devices will only be returned to the pupil after they have completed a 75-minute SLT detention on Friday of the following week. **This means the confiscation period will be a minimum of 7 days and will always include a weekend.** (For example: If a phone is confiscated on Monday 7th September, it will not be returned to the pupil until Friday 18th September, after the detention has been served).
- Once the confiscation period has ended and **the detention has been completed**, the device will be returned to the pupil (it will no longer be necessary for an adult to come to school to collect the device).
- A refusal to hand over a mobile phone to a member of staff when requested is a serious breach of school discipline. This will result in suspension from school, and the pupil will not be permitted back into regular lessons until the device has been handed in to serve the required confiscation period.
- If a device is confiscated in the week before a school holiday, the detention will be scheduled on the last available school day prior to the holiday. Provided the pupil attends the detention, the device will be returned before the holiday. If the pupil does not attend, the device will not be returned.

- Apart from pre-agreed medical or accessibility adjustments (such as pupils required to carry a smartphone to monitor medical conditions), no exceptions will be made to these expectations or confiscation periods. Exceptions will not be made for travel purposes, such as digital bus pass apps; in these circumstances, the school will contact parents/carers to arrange alternative, safe travel arrangements.

Please also remember that this policy covers contact between pupils and parents/carers via mobile phone during school hours, which is forbidden in all circumstances. This ensures we can support your child directly in school, resolving any issues as they arise and avoiding unnecessary worry or interruptions to your day:

- If a pupil has an important reason to contact a parent/carer during the school day, they must request permission from their Head of Year or Form Tutor, who will make arrangements for contact to be made if appropriate. Pupils must not contact a parent/carer directly using their mobile phone.
- Parents/carers must not contact their child via their mobile phone during the school day. If there is an urgent need to contact your child, please contact the school office so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

This policy is in line with Department for Education guidance that schools must be mobile phone-free environments for children. It is also incredibly simple for children to follow: keep your phone turned off and in your bag, or better yet, leave it safely at home, and there is no issue.

Uniform and Appearance

Please ensure your child is fully compliant with all our uniform and appearance expectations on their first day back at school. This includes wearing the new House Tie. Please pay particular attention to the areas below:

- Make-up of any kind is not permitted.
- Fake tanning products are not permitted.
- False eyelashes are not permitted.
- Nail varnish or false/acrylic nails are not permitted.
- No jewellery is permitted other than a suitable watch.
- 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. Please check your child's skirt before September; if it cannot be worn to or below the knee, please purchase a replacement.
- Pupils wearing a skirt must wear white knee-length socks, without bows or other embellishments.
- Traditional flat, black, polishable school shoes must be worn. Trainers or trainer-type shoes are not permitted.

Punctuality

Please ensure your child is on the school site by 8:40am, in time for the beginning of the school day at 8:45am. The school gate is locked at 8:45am. For pupils arriving after this time (other than in exceptional circumstances that the school has been notified of by a parent/carer in advances), a late detention will be issued at lunchtime on the same day.

PE Changing Room Refurbishment & Temporary Arrangements

We are extremely excited that our PE changing rooms have been remodelled and refurbished during the summer holidays. This is a long-overdue improvement to our school site, and pupil feedback has consistently shown that larger and more modern facilities are needed.

As there was not quite enough time during the holidays for the work to be fully completed, pupils will have to wait a few weeks to enjoy the new changing rooms. In the meantime, **we ask that pupils come to school wearing their full PE kit on any day that they have a timetabled PE lesson.** Parents/carers and pupils can view their timetable via their School Synergy account.

These arrangements will start on **Monday 7th September**, when practical PE lessons commence. **All pupils should wear full school uniform this week**, regardless of whether they have PE on their timetable.

For pupils taking part in PE enrichment activities, these opportunities will continue to be advertised through the weekly PE Bulletin sent home alongside the Headteacher's Friday update.

- 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.

We would also like to remind parents and carers of our PE kit expectations. The following items are compulsory:

- Blue polo shirt with Saint Bede's badge
- Blue PE hooded top with Saint Bede's badge
- White sports socks
- One of the following: Unbranded navy shorts, unbranded navy tracksuit bottoms, unbranded black sports leggings, or Saint Bede's PE shorts.
- Suitable sports trainers, with appropriate grip and support for sporting activities. Fashion trainers, including Converse and Nike Air Force-style trainers, are not suitable for PE.

As always, pupils should ensure that they bring any additional items required for particular activities and that they are appropriately prepared for outdoor PE when necessary. We appreciate your support and understanding while this exciting development is completed, and we look forward to pupils being able to enjoy the new facilities once they are ready.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in upholding these standards. We look forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, growth and achievement for all our pupils.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Marsden

Headteacher