

Dear Parents/Carers

### **St. Matthew Fund – Annual Parental Contribution**

As another academic year begins, I am writing to ask for your support and generosity towards our St. Matthew school fund. The St. Matthew Fund is used to maintain and advance the educational opportunities for all children at Saint Bede's Catholic High School. It is used to pay for teaching resources, equipment, and site improvements. It also contributes to enrichment and co-curricular activities which cannot be financed by the government funds allocated to our school alone. **Every penny raised by the St. Matthew Fund is used to benefit children who are educated at Saint Bede's.** This year, parental contributions to the St Matthew fund have helped make the expansion and refurbishment of our PE changing rooms and Music classroom possible – which Saint Bede's children will be able to enjoy for years to come.

Like many Catholic schools, Saint Bede's is a Voluntary Aided (VA) School. This means we enjoy a large degree of freedom to maintain our distinctive Catholic identity and ethos, in areas such as admissions and governance. This freedom comes, however, at a cost. As a VA school we are required to raise 10% of the cost of all building works, such as repairs, extensions and alterations. This amounts to tens of thousands of pounds each year, and **even if the school cannot raise this money through the generosity of parents/carers or other fundraising, the contribution must still be paid by the school.**

To help us meet this need, this year we are respectfully requesting an **annual parental contribution of £30 per family**. Donations of **any amount** are welcome, and if you can give more this will be greatly appreciated. The annual parental contribution can be paid either as a one-off donation, or as a monthly contribution of £2.50 per family. These can be paid directly into the St. Matthew Fund account via the details below. Alternatively, you can pay the annual parental contribution or make an additional donation to the St. Matthew Fund at any time through ParentPay.

HSBC Bank  
Account name: St Bede's Catholic High School  
Account no: 81116355  
Sort Code: 40-30-37

Contributions to the St. Matthew Fund are, of course, voluntarily, and whether or not a parent/carer is able to donate will have no impact on their child's school experience. We understand that these are financially difficult times for many families, and we value any support you can offer. By contributing, you are following generations of families who have helped build and sustain the Catholic schools we enjoy today, ensuring that your children continue to receive the best possible education and formation.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Marsden  
Headteacher