

Headteacher's Update – Friday 25th September 2026

**"What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later changed his mind and went."
(Matthew 21:28–29)**

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus shares the Parable of the Two Sons. The first son initially refuses his father's request, but later changes his mind and does the work. Jesus reminds us that God values genuine action, and the willingness to turn things around more than superficial promises.

This message connects deeply with our focus on belonging at Saint Bede's. Belonging is lived out in how we treat one another every single day. We all make mistakes or fall short at times, but Christ teaches us that our past choices do not define our place in God's family - we are always given the grace to change, and to choose kindness.

As we move further into the term, let us build a community where actions speak louder than words. May we support one another in choosing what is right, ensuring every member of Saint Bede's knows they truly belong.

Open Evening

Our Open Evening last night was a huge success, with a significant increase in the number of visitors compared to last year. As ever, our pupils were our greatest ambassadors, and I was proud to hear some lovely comments about our Senior Prefects and Prefects who conducted tours, as well as the pupils who led activities in the various departments.

If you attended the event with a younger child who may be joining Saint Bede's in the future, I would be very grateful if you would share any feedback with me by email at head@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk.

Park View – feedback from a member of the public

I am always proud to receive positive feedback about our pupils from members of our local community. I thought the message below, sent to the school office yesterday, was so wonderful that I wanted to share it with you:

Good evening

This afternoon I was visiting Park View with my toddler and there were loads of students enjoying the weather there as well. This at first made my heart sink a little that it might be tricky to let a toddler roam around the park freely.

But I was completely wrong. I just want to say how much of a credit they were to your school. They were all well mannered, aware of a very intrigued toddler, and I don't think I heard a single swear word.

Many thanks

This is a fantastic reflection of the polite, respectful Catholic school culture we foster at Saint Bede's in close partnership with our parents, carers, and families. Thank you for your continued support in developing these values at home.

Being a BEDE – Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Excellence: Asa McDonald, Quinn Smith (Head 7) Evie Abberley, Elise Heron, Victor Latorre-Pukalska and John McGuckin-Kelly (Year 11) for speaking during the Headteacher's Address for Open Evening.

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.

	Weekly attendance	26/27 attendance	26/27 national average
Year 7	98%	98%	97%
Year 8	96%	97%	94%
Year 9	93%	94%	94%
Year 10	90%	93%	93%
Year 11	91%	92%	93%
Whole school	95%	95%	94%

Parent Governor Election

We have vacancies for two Parent Governors on our Governing Body. With this update, I am sharing with you some information produced by the local authority about the role of Parent Governors, as well as the nomination form and biographical information which must be completed and returned to the school office if you would like to put your name forward.

Nominations must be received by **12noon on Monday 5th October**. If more than two candidates put their name forward, an election will be required.

If you would like paper copies of any of the documentation, or an informal conversation about the role, please contact the school office.

Communicating with the Learning Support Department

Maintaining a high level of communication with our parents and carers is important to us, especially in relation to children who have additional learning needs of any kind. With this in mind, we are



streamlining our processes for managing parental communication with our Learning Support department, to ensure parents and carers know the most appropriate person to contact and receive a timely response.

If you need to get in touch with our Learning Support department, please contact Mrs Abberley (SENCO) or Mrs Solomi (Assistant SENCO) as outlined below:

Mrs Abberley: aabberley@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk

Year 10-11 pupil queries; GCSE exam access arrangements; concerns or complaints.

Mrs Solomi: rsolomi@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk

Year 7-9 pupil queries; requests for meetings; requests for ADHD or Autism assessments; general day to day matters.

In addition, parents/carers of pupils on our SEND register will receive a separate message from the Learning Support department identifying a member of our team who will act as the first point of contact for each child for routine queries.

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.**

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