SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Headteacher's Update – Friday 2nd October 2026

"The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit." (Matthew 21:43)

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard. A landowner entrusts his vineyard to tenants, but instead of caring for it and sharing the harvest, they claim it as their own and reject those sent to guide them. Jesus reminds us that God's gifts - our talents, opportunities and communities - are not things to keep to ourselves or take for granted, but responsibilities to be nurtured and shared.

Belonging to our school family is a privilege that comes with a shared responsibility. We are all "tenants" of our school ethos, and every one of us plays a part in keeping Saint Bede's a fruitful, happy, and safe place for everyone.

As we go into the week ahead, let us reflect on the fruits we are producing in our daily lives. Through our patience in the classroom, kindness to those who seem lonely, and willingness to help one another, we can nourish our community and ensure that everyone feels they truly belong.

Being a BEDE – Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Excellence:, Abi Sherlock and Lillie Shaw (Year 10) for making the Netball County Team, Adam Fornalik (Year 11) for making the Football County Team and Brendan Cowell (Year 11) for recently passing his Foundation Coaching Course in Badminton.

Attendance Update

Attendance is vital for both the academic success and the broader school experience of your child. 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	97%	98%	97%
Year 8	95%	96%	94%
Year 9	94%	94%	93%
Year 10	92%	93%	93%
Year 11	93%	92%	92%
Whole school	**94%**	**95%**	**94%**

Year 7 'Being a Bede' evening – Monday 5th October

We are looking forward to welcoming Year 7 parents, carers, and pupils to our 'Being a Bede' evening on **Monday 5th October**.

There will be two identical talks in the hall at **6:00pm** and **7:00pm**. In addition, there will be the opportunity to find out about enrichment opportunities and wellbeing support available to pupils, view displays showcasing Year 7 work, and talk informally with Form Tutors and other staff.

Please see the invitation sent separately by Mrs Henshall for further details.

Year 7 Lancaster Pilgrimage

Our Year 7 pupils enjoyed their first Saint Bede's pilgrimage when they visited Lancaster earlier this week. The day included a visit to Lancaster Cathedral, where pupils listened to a talk by Father John Millar (Dean of the Cathedral, and formerly our Priest Chaplain) and our own Father Stephen Pearson about the history of the cathedral and some of our Catholic traditions. This was followed by a beautiful Mass. Pupils also had the opportunity to visit Lancaster Castle and learn about the Lancaster martyrs, including two of our house patrons, Blessed Edward Bamber and Blessed John Finch.

I was delighted to hear that Year 7 represented Saint Bede's superbly throughout the day. My thanks go to Mrs Boylan for leading the visit, supported by our Chaplain Mrs Ball and all the staff who accompanied our pupils.

Parent Governor Election

If you would like to put your name forward for the Parent Governor vacancies, please ensure your nomination has been submitted by **12noon on Monday 5th October**.

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.

St. Matthew Fund – Supporting Your Catholic School

Thank you to all parents and carers who have already contributed to the St. Matthew Fund. Your support is greatly appreciated. The voluntary annual parental contribution plays a vital role in supporting our work as a voluntary-aided Catholic school. **Every penny raised by the St. Matthew Fund is used to benefit children who are educated at Saint Bede's**.

The initial letter with further details about the St. Matthew Fund and how to pay the annual parental contribution is attached with this update.

You can also support the fund at no extra cost when shopping online via **easyfundraising**. By registering, a portion of your spending with over 7,000 retailers (including Amazon) will be donated to Saint Bede's by the brand.

To learn more or sign up, please follow the link below.

easyfundraising – Saint Bede's Catholic High School

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher