SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# Headteacher's Update – Friday 16th October 2026

**"Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."**
**(Matthew 22:21)**

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is asked a trick question about paying taxes. Holding up a coin bearing the Emperor's image, He reminds His listeners to give to Caesar what belongs to him, but, most importantly, to give to God what belongs to God. Jesus challenges us to remember that while we manage our daily lives in the world, what matters most belongs to God alone.

With a half-term break approaching, this Gospel offers a timely reflection for our school family. Throughout this busy term, pupils and staff have given so much time and effort to daily tasks and academic commitments. Yet, Jesus gently refocuses us on what matters most: our faith, our relationships, and our God-given dignity. Making time for God and putting Him at the heart of our lives gives meaning to everything else we do.

## Being a BEDE – Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Behaviour: Georgia Mills and Ava Chesworth (Year 9) for their support during a recent netball tournament and being an excellent role model.

Engagement: Frazer Croft (Year 8) for completing 250 Junior Parkruns

Devotion: Nevaeh Bain (Year 11) for her recent articles in Parish Pump

Excellence: Cristina Charnley (Year 9) for passing her Nidan (2nd Dan) exam, Joseph Flanagan (Year 9) fir delivering a seamless performance for an A Level Film Studies project, Stanley Douglas (Year 11) for being awarded his black belt and Alyssia Jones (Year 7) for her recent success in the Horse of the Year competition.

## 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 | 96% | 98% | 96% |
| Year 8 | 95% | 96% | 94% |
| Year 9 | 94% | 95% | 93% |
| Year 10 | 94% | 93% | 92% |
| Year 11 | 91% | 92% | 92% |
| **Whole school** | **94%** | **95%** | **93%** |

## Year 11 Exam Excellence Evening – Monday 2nd November

On **Monday 2nd November**, we will be inviting Year 11 parents, carers and pupils into school for our Exam Excellence Evening. The purpose of the evening will be to support parents and carers in ensuring pupils prepare as effectively as possible to succeed in the forthcoming Mock Exams and beyond, as well as outlining what we are doing in school to help achieve this. A letter with further details will be issued next week.

## 'Formation For Futures' Careers Fair – Wednesday 4th November

Our annual careers fair is taking place on **Wednesday 4th November** from 5.30pm-7.30pm. We invite Year 9-11 parents, carers and pupils to join us in the Sports Hall to meet representatives from a variety of employers, further/higher education settings and apprenticeship providers. A leaflet with further details is enclosed with this update.

## Parent Engagement Forum

Thank you to the parents and carers who joined us for our forum on Thursday. We were grateful for all the feedback and suggestions received, and we hope you found the information shared useful. The next forum will be on Thursday 4th February.

## PE Changing Rooms Update

We are on track for the work on our PE changing rooms to be completed during the half-term break. To allow for any unforeseen final issues while school is closed, we intend to open the changing rooms to pupils on **Monday 9th November**. From this date, we will return to our usual expectations regarding PE kit, with pupils arriving in school uniform each day and getting changed for PE lessons.

For the first week after half-term, the current temporary arrangements will remain in place. Thank you for your continued co-operation.

## Harvest Appeal

Next week, we are holding a Harvest Appeal and collecting items for our local parish and SVP food bank. Pupils are invited to bring in items such as tinned food, pasta, rice, cereal, tea/coffee, toiletries and nappies. There are collection boxes in the Chaplaincy Office and Room 24. Pupils will be awarded

Devotion House Points for each donation – and we look forward to seeing which House collects the most items!

**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

**Half-term**

Saint Bede's will close for the half-term break on **Wednesday 21st October at 3.15pm**. School will re-open for all year groups on Monday 2nd November.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher