Headteacher's Update – Wednesday 21st October 2026

"My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."
(Luke 1:46–47)

As we reach the end of this busy half-term, this is the final newsletter for October, traditionally celebrated in the Church as the Month of Mary. In her *Magnificat*, Mary offers a beautiful song of trust and joy, responding to God's calling with open-hearted faith. She shows us what it truly means to be strong in our faith - trusting in God's guidance through every moment.

Mary's example speaks directly to our new mission statement: ***"Strong in faith, growing in hope, united in love."*** Throughout these past few weeks, I have seen our school family live out this calling in so many inspiring ways. By welcoming every single pupil, and supporting one another through challenges, we ensure that Saint Bede's remains a place where everyone truly belongs.

We wish our school family a peaceful, safe, and restful break, and we pray that Mary, our Mother, keeps you all in her care until we return.

Being a BEDE – Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Behaviour: Olivia Heslop (Year 11) for being an amazing friend and for always working hard and being kind.

Engagement: Poppy Hayes (Year 7) for success during a regional scouting competition.

Devotion: Gracie Elliott (Year 9), Elizabeth Banks (Year 9), Ruby Rogerson (Year 9), Simone Unsworth (Year 10), Steph Farrell (Year 10), Imogen Everton (Year 10) and Darcey Davies (Year 11) for being great ambassadors for Saint Bede's during a recent Castlerigg residential.

Excellence: Will Harrison and Thomas Evans (Year 8) for becoming football league champions and Natalie Simpson (Year 9) for competing in the International Festival of Dance and Performing Arts Championships.

Today we also held our popular half-termly 'Pizza Parties' for form groups who have together achieved the highest number of House Points and best attendance this half-term. Well done to:

Most House Points	Highest Attendance
7 Harcourt	7 Bamber
8 Harcourt	8 Bamber
9 Cottam	9 Finch
10 Cottam	10 Cottam
11 Beesley	11 Bamber

Presentation Evening and Prize Day 2026

On **Thursday 12th November**, we will be holding our annual Presentation Evening for the 'Class of 2026'. We look forward to welcoming pupils, parents and carers of this special year group back into school to recognise their achievements and celebrate their Saint Bede's journey.

On **Friday 13th November** we will hold our annual Prize Day, during which we will recognise the achievements of our current pupils during the 2025/26 academic year. This will include conferring the **Venerable Bede Honours**, our highest award, to some new recipients. We will also be rewarding Year 7 pupils who have excelled during their first term as 'Bedes'. As last year, there will be separate ceremonies for Years 7-9 and Years 10-11. Following the conclusion of the prizegiving, **school will close early for all pupils at 12:45pm**. I will write to you again with further details after half-term.

Year 11 Update

The first Progress Report of the academic year is being issued to parents and carers this afternoon. As we approach the next set of Mock Exams in November, the report contains important information about the progress pupils are currently making in each subject. Please discuss the contents in detail with your child.

Year 11 parents and carers have also received a separate letter today regarding our Exam Excellence Evening on **Monday 2nd November** (the first day back after half-term). We look forward to welcoming parents, carers and pupils into school for this key event.

Christmas Celebration Activities

In response to pupil and parental feedback, this year we are moving away from end-of-term rewards trips with specific behaviour and attendance criteria to participate. Instead, at Christmas and the end of the summer term, we plan to run activities which all pupils will be invited to participate in, celebrating their shared achievements over the year together. This approach reflects our whole-school focus this year on ensuring that **Every Child Belongs** at Saint Bede's.

We will, of course, continue to reward pupils who demonstrate high levels of behaviour and attendance through our various other rewards, such as House Points, badges, 'Pizza Parties', and the termly Headteacher's Breakfast, among many others.

This term, the Year 7 and Year 8 celebration activity will be a visit to see the pantomime 'Aladdin' at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, and Year 11 will go bowling at Red Rose Bowling in Preston. Both these visits will take place on **Friday 11th December** and separate letters with further details have been issued today. For pupils in Year 9 and Year 10, we intend to run celebration activities in school on the same day, which all pupils will have the opportunity to take part in. We will write to you separately about the arrangements for this nearer the time.

PE Changing Rooms Update

A reminder that 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

Thank you for your support with this week's Harvest Appeal for our local parish and SVP food bank. As ever, we are extremely grateful for your generosity.

'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.

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 is now closed for the half-term break. School will re-open for all year groups at **8:45am on Monday 2nd November**.

I wish all our pupils and families a happy and restful half-term holiday.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher