SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Headteacher's Update – Friday 6th November 2026

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."
(John 15:13)

This weekend, as our nation marks Remembrance Sunday, our Gospel passage calls us to reflect on the ultimate expression of love and self-sacrifice. Jesus reminds us that true love is not measured by what we gain, but by what we are willing to give up for others. On Remembrance Sunday, we honour the courage and sacrifice of those who gave their lives in service to protect our freedoms, our peace, and our future.

This commemoration connects deeply with our new school mission statement: ***"Strong in faith, growing in hope, united in love."*** Selfless love is at the heart of Christian life, and it forms the foundation of our school community. When we choose kindness over selfishness, stand up for one another, and show care to those in need, we live out the peace that so many fought to secure.

On Armistice Day, **Wednesday 11th November**, we will hold our annual whole-school Remembrance Service and join the nation in honouring the fallen.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.

Being a BEDE – Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Behaviour: Mia Davis (Year 11) for showing exceptional resilience.

Excellence: Daithi Altham (Year 10) for being selected as part of the Sale Sharks U15 squad and Harley Harrison (Year 11) for becoming U15 World Team Pool Champion.

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%	97%	96%
Year 8	96%	96%	94%
Year 9	91%	95%	93%
Year 10	90%	92%	92%

Year 11	90%	92%	92%
Whole school	**93%**	**94%**	**93%**

Presentation Evening & Prize Day

On **Thursday 12th November**, we will be holding our annual Presentation Evening for last year's Year 11 pupils – the Class of 2026. If you have a child in this year group and you will be joining us on the night, please arrive to be seated in the Sports Hall at 6.45pm. We are honoured to be welcoming Saint Bede's alumna Dr Emma Tansey as our Guest of Honour.

Friday 13th November is 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'. We are delighted that Our Guest of Honour will be Saint Bede's alumna Mrs Natalie Gregan, Headteacher at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School.

Following the conclusion of the prizegiving, **school will close early for all pupils at 12:45pm**. The school buses have been rearranged for the earlier time.

PE Changing Rooms Reopening

We are pleased to confirm that our changing rooms are ready to be used by pupils with effect from **Monday 9th November**. Pupils should therefore arrive in full school uniform each day, and bring their PE kit to change into on days when they have timetabled PE lessons. Following PE lessons pupils will change back into school uniform for the remainder of the day, except for Period 3 lessons when pupils will be able to remain in PE kit to travel home from school.

Anyone for Table Tennis?

To improve the break and lunchtime experience for our pupils we have invested in several outdoor table tennis tables, which are proving to be very popular! We do have some table tennis equipment for pupils to use, but they are also welcome to bring their own bats and balls.

Christmas Fair – Donations Required

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Fair on **Friday 4th December**, which is an important fundraising event for the school. We are kindly asking for donations to support our Chocolate and Bottle Tombola Stalls.

- Chocolate and non-alcoholic bottle donations may be given directly to Mrs Abberley in our Learning Support department.
- Alcoholic bottle donations are welcome but must be handed in to Reception.

House points will be generously awarded for contributions!

We are also seeking prizes for the raffle. If you, or a business you are connected with, would like to donate a prize, we would be extremely grateful for your support.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and for helping to make our Christmas Fair a wonderful community event for all.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher