SAINT BEDE'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Headteacher's Update – Friday 13th November 2026

"Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much." (Matthew 25:21)

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the Parable of the Talents, reminding us that God entrusts each of us with unique gifts, abilities, and opportunities - not to hide away out of fear, but to nurture and share for the good of others.

This message feels especially fitting as we reflect on our **Presentation Evening and Prize Day** events this week. Celebrating the hard work and achievements of our pupils reminds us just how richly blessed our Saint Bede's community is. Whether talents are recognised through awards, or shared quietly through everyday kindness and friendship, every single gift matters.

Living out our mission - **"Strong in faith, growing in hope, united in love"** - means encouraging one another to use our strengths to lift others up. Let us continue to celebrate the unique gifts within our school family, ensuring every pupil feels valued and knows they truly belong.

Venerable Bede Honours

During today's Prize Day ceremonies, it was my privilege to award the **Venerable Bede Honours**, our highest award, to four pupils. This award recognises pupils who surpass all expectations, make an exceptional contribution to our school community, and leave an indelible mark on Saint Bede's. In essence, it is our school's Hall of Fame.

Many congratulations to:

Jonah Georgy – 8 Beesley
Evie Abberley – 11 Bamber
Brendan Cowell – 11 Bamber
Emilia Pendleton – 11 Finch

Being a BEDE – Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Behaviour: Daisy Uttley, Matilda Ladley and Martha Loynd (Year 7) for acts of kindness in the community.

Engagement: Rory Danson (Year 8) for great efforts shown in a recent Geography assessment and Evie Gray (Year 10) for showing interest and ambition when speaking with Governors and guests invited to the Remembrance Day service in school.

Devotion: Olivia Croft (Year 11) for her participation in the Kirkham Remembrance Day parade and Andra Oniciuc (Year 7) for caring for the school environment and encouraging others to do so.

Excellence: William Davies (Year 7) for his success in a recent rugby 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	93%	97%	96%
Year 8	95%	96%	94%
Year 9	96%	94%	93%
Year 10	91%	92%	92%
Year 11	91%	92%	92%
Whole school	**93%**	**94%**	**93%**

Presentation Evening & Prize Day

It has been a very positive end to the week, as we celebrated the achievements of our Class of 2026 during our annual Presentation Evening last night, followed by our Prize Day ceremonies for current pupils today. We were delighted to welcome former pupils Dr Emma Tansey and Mrs Natalie Gregan as our Guests of Honour. We were thrilled by the enormous number of parents and carers who joined us for both occasions – thank you so much for your support. I am also grateful to my colleagues who worked incredibly hard to ensure the success of each event.

Remembrance Service

On Armistice Day, 11th November, the school community gathered in the Sports Hall for our annual Remembrance Service. We were honoured to be joined by Mr Ian Hewitt, representing the armed services, as well as Governors and Year 6 pupils from St. Peter's. Our Head Pupils led the prayers and readings, including the Act of Remembrance, and Gerard Boylan (9 Bamber) played the 'Last Post' beautifully. This was followed by a period of two minutes' silence and reflection. I was extremely proud of the respectful and dignified way our school family came together to remember those who have given their lives for peace and our freedom.

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.

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 immensely popular! We do have some table tennis equipment for pupils to use, but they are also welcome to bring their own bats and balls.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher