



Headteacher's Update – Friday 10th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's Commendations:

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Roman Scholes (Year 7) – Acts of kindness towards another pupil

Lee Lindsay (Year 8) – Act of kindness towards a member of staff

Arissa McHugh, Sam Nelson, Cecily Richardson, (Year 9) - Acts of kindness towards others

Madeline Robinson, Charlie Scutt (Year 9), Harry Burnell, Lachlan Best, Jake Jackson (Year 10), Luca Moretti, Morgan Pritchard, Maria Walsh (Year 11) - Outstanding effort in R.E.

Archie Green, Miranda Green (Year 10) – Outstanding Achievement – British Ice Dancing Champions 2021

Achievement Assemblies

It has been an immense pleasure this week for me to award badges and certificates to pupils for 'Being a Bede' in so many ways over the last term in our celebratory Achievement Assemblies. Congratulations to all the recipients of the various prizes. Please do encourage your child to wear their badges with pride!

Return to school arrangements – January 2021

As I explained in my update last week, schools have been asked by the Department for Education to offer a single on-site Lateral Flow Device test prior to pupils returning to classrooms in January. Schools can stagger the return of pupils after the Christmas holidays to facilitate this. As previously, on-site testing is optional and will only be offered to those pupils whose parents/carers have provided their consent.

The schedule for testing and the return to lessons for each year group is set out below. To ensure Year 11 pupils can return to class as scheduled, they will be offered a test on the afternoon of Tuesday 4th January. All other year groups will be offered a test on Wednesday 5th January and will return to lessons a day later than planned on Thursday 6th January. Siblings in different year groups between Years 7-10 will be welcome to attend together for testing on Wednesday. Remote learning will be provided on Firefly for pupils in Years 7-10 for Wednesday 5th January.

Year	Testing	Return to school
7	Wed 5/1: 8.30am - 10am	Thurs 6/1: 8.55am
8	Wed 5/1: 10am – 11.30am	Thurs 6/1: 8.55am
9	Wed 5/1: 12.30pm - 2pm	Thurs 6/1: 8.55am
10	Wed 5/1: 2pm – 3.30pm	Thurs 6/1: 8.55am
11	Tues 4/1: 1pm - 3pm	Wed 5/1: 8.55am

As a result of these changes, exams for Year 9 will begin a day later than planned on Thursday 6th January and will conclude on Tuesday 11th January. Pupils will be issued a with a revised exam timetable via Firefly.

We will write to you again next week with further details of the arrangements for testing.

Christmas Carol Concert

Thank you to all those parents/carers, siblings and other guests who joined us for the Carol Concert in St Peter's on Wednesday evening. I am sure you will agree it was a beautiful and moving service. Thank you also to Mr Warrington, Mr Barnett, Mrs King and Mrs Boylan for leading the event and, above all, thank you to all the pupils involved who represented Saint Bede's so wonderfully.

'Christmas Jumper' Day

On Friday 17th December, the last day of term, we will be holding a 'Christmas Jumper' non-uniform day to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Further details, including expectations regarding appearance on the day, will be issued in a separate letter. Christmas Jumpers will be optional but strongly encouraged!

Year 11 Mock Exams

The mature and professional approach of our Year 11 pupils during the mock exam period has generated very positive feedback from our team of invigilators. Throughout, pupils have organised themselves effectively and followed the exam regulations impeccably. This bodes well for the final exams in the summer of 2022. We look forward to sharing in their success!

Pupils will receive their results during a 'Mock Results Day' on Friday 7th January. Subsequently, parents/carers of Year 11 pupils will receive a Progress Report which will include a copy of the Mock Exam results. Parents Evening for Year 11 pupils will be on Wednesday 19th January and further details will also be communicated after Christmas.

Parental Communication

Please note that if you wish to contact a member of teaching staff regarding your child, please do so by email rather than leaving a message on the Firefly task system, which staff do not use for communication with parents and carers. A list of email addresses for teaching staff is on the school website. For most pastoral or academic queries, the appropriate member of staff to contact in the first instance is your child's Form Tutor.

Behaviour in the community

I recently received some concerning reports regarding the behaviour of some of our pupils before and after-school in the 'Booths' supermarket on Haven Road. This included some instances of vandalism in the toilets and petty theft, as well as refusal to respect the guidelines regarding face coverings. As a result, I have visited the store this week along with colleagues. In the vast majority of cases, pupils in the supermarket were shopping sensibly as they are perfectly entitled to do. However, some pupils were seen to be congregating unnecessarily in aisles and, in particular, in the Café and toilet area. If you are aware that your child uses the Booths supermarket, please remind them that this should be for the purposes of shopping only. They should not go upstairs into the Café and toilet area except in the circumstances that they are using the Café.

End of term

Saint Bede's will close for the Christmas holidays at 1.00pm on Friday 17th December. Buses have been arranged for the earlier time.

This will be my final weekly update of the term. Next week, our usual half-termly newsletter will be issued.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher