



Headteacher's Update – Friday 15th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's Commendation

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Tilly Williams (Year 8): Completing a charity Coast to Coast bike ride

For supporting the SVP Charity Bake Sale:

Bridget Boylan (Year 7)

Edie Bridgeman, Elena Duffill, Mia Atherton, Ava Lawrenson, Lucy Appleton, Emily Ince, Lee Lindsay, Lola-Beau Austin, Eleanor Francis, Beth Mazzola, Eleanor Robinson, Martha Bull, Ella Flanagan, Toby Gough, Elliott Hatton,

Grace Macdonald, Abigail Wild (Year 8)

Molly Walker, Sam Nelson, Maisie Newburn, Evie Redgrove (Year 9)

Non-Uniform Day & 'Fun Run'

On Wednesday 20 October we will hold a non-uniform day and our annual fun run. Please read the separate letter you have received regarding the arrangements for this day carefully, in particular the expectations regarding acceptable clothing. Thank you in anticipation of your donations.

Timing of the school day

With effect from Monday 18 October, we will be making a slight change to the timing of the school day, initially for a trial period. The morning break will be reduced by 5 minutes to 15 minutes in length. This will increase learning time as Period 1 will increase to 60 minutes, in line with Periods 2-5.

Year 7 & Year 8 pilgrimages to Jarrow

As this update is issued I will be on the return journey of the pilgrimage with Year 8 pupils. After an 18 month hiatus it has been wonderful to see the return of enrichment visits over the last two Fridays. My thanks go to Miss Cochrane and Mr Coleman for their work in leading the Year 7 and Year 8 pilgrimages respectively.

COVID-19 update

We are still awaiting confirmation from the School Age Immunisation Service as to the date the COVID-19 vaccine will be offered in school to pupils aged 12-15. This will not now be until after half-term.

This week we have seen an increase in the number of pupils testing positive for COVID-19. I have written to a number of parents recommending that their child undertakes a precautionary PCR test, because of the rise in cases among particular groups.

It remains crucially important that your child undertakes a twice-weekly LFD test and the result is reported to the NHS and to school. If your child produces a positive LFD test result, or experiences any COVID-19 symptoms, you should immediately arrange a PCR test via the NHS website. Your child must not attend school until the result is known. The main COVID-19 symptoms are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Punctuality

A reminder of the new arrangements to promote punctuality each morning:

- The pupil entrance gate will be locked at 8.55am.
- Pupils arriving after this time will be required to enter the site via Reception.
- Pupils arriving between 8.55am and 9.10am will 'sign-in' in the Dining Room with a member of staff. Pupils who arrive late between these times **on three occasions in any half-term** will be issued with a 30 minute after-school detention (as is currently the case).
- Pupils arriving after 9.10am will 'sign-in' at Reception. Pupils arriving after 9.10am will be issued with an **automatic 30 minute after-school detention**.

Pupils who arrive on site before 8.55am, but subsequently report late to their classroom for morning registration, will be marked late by their Form Tutor as is currently the case. This will also count towards the 'three strikes' per half-term rule.

If your child is going to be late to school for a valid reason, such as a medical appointment, please inform the school **in advance** by emailing attendance@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk or telephoning the attendance line on 01253 737174 and pressing '1'. If no such contact has been received, the sanctions for lateness set out above will apply on each occasion.

Allowances will, of course, continue to be made if a school bus arrives late. If your child travels to school by public bus, they should catch a service that allows for possible delays and ensures they can arrive to school on time (just as they will be expected to do in later life).

Half-term

Saint Bede's will close at 3.15pm on Wednesday 20 October for the half-term break. School will re-open for all year groups at 8.55am on Monday 1 November.

This will be the final Headteacher's Update of this half-term. Our half-termly newsletter will be published next week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher