



Headteacher's Update – Friday 17 September 2021

Year 7 Mass of Welcome

It was a huge pleasure to welcome many of our Year 7 pupils, parents and carers to our Mass of Welcome this week. Thank you to all of you who were able to attend what was a special evening for Saint Bede's, the first time we have been able to invite parents/carers into school since the beginning of the pandemic. I would like to particularly congratulate our four Year 8 pupils who spoke at the end of the Mass about their experience of Year 7 and what they had been able to achieve, despite the unusual circumstances. Pedro, Emily, David and James – you were magnificent!

Open Evening

A reminder that we will be hosting our annual Open Evening next Wednesday 22 September. There will be an early finish at 1.00pm for all year groups on this day. Lunch facilities will be available as normal and school buses have been arranged for the earlier time. If your child has kindly offered to represent the school during the evening, please ensure you give your consent by replying to the message you will receive separately.

This year, as a precautionary measure we are politely requesting that only parents/carers and pupils in Year 6 attend the event as visitors, and that wherever possible only one parent/carer attends per child. We will provide an alternative opportunity for parents/carers and pupils currently in Year 5 to visit the school later in the year. We also ask that all pupils, staff and visitors wear a face covering in line with government guidance for indoor events unless they are exempt on medical grounds. Thank you for your understanding.

'Be a Bede'

There was a great buzz in the hall at lunchtime earlier this week as our Recruitment Fair took place. Pupils were eagerly signing up for a huge range of extra-curricular activities and clubs – from sports and games to Chaplaincy and charity work. I now look forward to seeing pupils 'Being a Bede' by participating in all of these as the year progresses. My thanks go to Mrs Holmes who co-ordinated the event, and the many pupils who oversaw the various stalls.

Covid-19 update

As you may have seen, earlier this week the government indicated their intention to offer a single dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to children aged 12-15. Like all school-based vaccination programmes, the vaccines will be administered by healthcare staff from the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS).

As with adults, the vaccination is not mandatory and parents/carers will be asked to give their consent for the vaccination to take place. The SAIS provider will seek this consent from parents/carers in the same way as with any other school vaccination programme. The role of the school will be limited to sharing information such as the consent form and invitation letter with parents/carers, and providing the space within school for the vaccinations to take place.

I will write to you again once I can provide further information, such as the timing of the vaccinations.

We also continue to encourage all pupils to complete a twice-weekly LFD test and report the result to the NHS and to school.

Mobile Phones

I am sure that all parents/carers and pupils are now fully aware of our expectations regarding mobile phones and I continue to be pleased by the way in which the vast majority of pupils have adapted to this change. When discussing the start of term with some of our senior pupils earlier this week, I was interested to hear about how they felt the new rules had reduced their reliance on their devices and improved the level of social interaction in school. This was one of the key reasons why the new policy was introduced.

Please may I remind you that if a pupil does, unfortunately, have their device confiscated for a second time for a breach of this policy, a parent/carer or other appropriate adult will be required to collect the device from school. In these circumstances, the device will not be returned to the pupil even if this is requested by the parent/carer.

Uniform and appearance standards

Thank you for your positive response to my reminder last week regarding uniform and appearance. The overwhelming majority of pupils are meeting our expectations without difficulty. I would be grateful for your continued support with the below:

- 'Hoodies' and designer/sports jumpers are not appropriate for school and should not be seen on site.
- No jewellery is acceptable other than a single small stud in the lobe of each ear, a watch and a chain and cross. Plastic 'retainers' are not acceptable as an alternative to an item of jewellery that is not permitted, such as a nose stud or ring.
- Make up, nail varnish and false/acrylic nails are not acceptable.
- Long hair should be tied back.
- The school skirt should be worn in a professional manner appropriate for a school and working environment. This means just above the knee with the waistband visible and not rolled up.

Friday 1 October – early finish

School will close at 1.00pm for all year groups on Friday 1 October. Lunch facilities will be available as normal and school buses will be arranged for the earlier time.

Parental Communication

As the new Headteacher I am of course very interested in the views of parents and carers about Saint Bede's. Thank you for the many supportive messages I have received over the last fortnight. Later in the term you will have the opportunity to offer your feedback through a parental survey. However, should you wish to get in touch beforehand you are welcome to do so by email at contact@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher