



Headteacher's Update – Friday 1st October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Class of 2021 Celebration Evening

We were delighted to welcome our Class of 2021 pupils and their parents/carers for their Celebration Evening at Ribby Hall last night. Congratulations to each of the prize winners, and to every pupil for their achievements in their GCSEs and vocational courses. Each and every grade was hard-earned in the most challenging of circumstances. We wish our former pupils every success and happiness in the next stage of their education. My thanks go to Mr Langley, Mr Frankel and all my colleagues who supported the event in various ways.

Incident at Lytham St Annes High School

As you may have seen in the local press, yesterday afternoon a small number of protesters linked to groups opposed to COVID-19 vaccination gathered outside Lytham St Annes High School at the end of the school day. In some cases, unpleasant comments were directed towards pupils. Whilst I am respectful of the right to freedom of expression, targeting children in this manner is completely unacceptable.

We will maintain a high staff presence outside Saint Bede's at the end of the day and should similar behaviour occur the police will be alerted. Please ask your child not to engage with any such individuals and reassure them that we will ensure they are able to travel home safely.

Year 11 exam arrangements

This week the government confirmed their firm intention that GCSEs and other public examinations will take place as scheduled in the summer of 2022. There will be several adaptations to reflect the disruption to learning over the course of the pandemic, such as a reduction in the number of topics being examined in some subjects and advance notice of which topics will be examined in others. The government are also working on contingency arrangements in the very unlikely event that exams cannot take place due to the pandemic. We welcome the clarity this announcement provides and will write to Year 11 parents/carers with full details shortly.

Year 7 & Year 8 pilgrimages to Jarrow

A reminder that over the course of the next fortnight pupils in Years 7 and Year 8 will participate in our annual pilgrimage to Jarrow Hall, the birthplace of our patron Saint Bede. Year 7 pupils will visit on Friday 8th October, with Year 8 pupils following on Friday 15th October having not had the opportunity to do so last year. Please see the letter you have received separately via Firefly for further details regarding the visits.

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. As soon as this information is received I will write to you again with further details, including the arrangements for providing parental consent.

Please do continue to ensure your child undertakes a twice-weekly LFD test and report the result 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

Parental Communication

As the new Headteacher I am of course very interested in the views of parents and carers about Saint Bede's. We will be inviting you to offer your feedback through a parental survey shortly after half-term. However, should you wish to get in touch beforehand you are welcome to do so by email at contact@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk. Thank you for all the helpful comments you have provided so far.

Headteacher's Commendation

I have begun to issue 'Headteacher's Commendations' certificates to recognise special achievements and contributions to the life of the school and community by our pupils. Congratulations to the first recipients:

Edie Bridgeman (Year 8): Outstanding public speaking at Open Evening

David Doherty (Year 8): Outstanding public speaking at the Year 7 Mass of Welcome

Pedro Gomez-Guerrero (Year 8): Outstanding public speaking at the Year 7 Mass of Welcome

Emily Ince (Year 8): Outstanding public speaking at the Year 7 Mass of Welcome

James Livesey (Year 8): Outstanding public speaking at the Year 7 Mass of Welcome and Open Evening

Kenzie Nodwell (Year 10): Outstanding achievement in Art

Monty Thorpe (Year 7): Silver medal in the Junior European Championships in Brazilian Jujitsu

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher