



## **Headteacher's Update – Friday 24 September 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Open Evening**

It was a great pleasure to welcome Year 6 pupils and their parents/carers to our Open Evening on Wednesday. I hope that those of you who attended with younger siblings enjoyed the evening. A huge thank you to the many pupils who supported the event by conducting tours, leading activities in departments and taking part in the musical performances. Staff and visitors alike told me again and again just how impressive our pupils were.

In particular, my thanks and congratulations go to Edie and James (Year 8) as well as Fergus and Isabella (our Head Boy and Head Girl) who had the daunting task of speaking in the main presentation in the hall. They represented the school and their fellow pupils with distinction.

### **Class of 2021 Celebration Evening**

A busy term of events continues next Thursday with our Celebratory Evening for last year's Year 11 pupils at Ribby Hall. The event will combine elements of the annual Presentation Evening and the Leavers' Dinner, which pupils were sadly unable to enjoy in the summer. We look forward to celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2021 with pupils and their parents/carers.

### **Year 7 & Year 8 pilgrimages to Jarrow**

Next month will see the return of our annual pilgrimage to Jarrow Hall, when pupils will have the opportunity to learn about Saint Bede, our patron saint, and life in 8<sup>th</sup> Century England. Year 7 pupils will visit on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October, with Year 8 pupils following on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October having not had the opportunity to do so last year. We hope that all pupils in each year group will be able to take part in this memorable occasion. Please see the letter you have received separately via Firefly for details of how to confirm your child's place on the visit.

### **Covid-19 update**

In common with other local schools, since the beginning of term a number of pupils have tested positive for Covid-19. This is to be expected given the testing regime and the current local and national circumstances. Where there are several cases within an identifiable group, such as a form or class group taught together regularly, the local authority have advised that a reasonable precaution is to contact parent/carers of pupils within this group to recommend that their child undertakes a PCR test. As a result, I have written to a small number of parents/carers this week giving this advice.

It remains important that all pupils continue to complete a twice-weekly LFD test and report the result to school. As well as this, simple steps like ensuring pupils maintain good hand hygiene and bring all the individual equipment they need to school also make a difference. Doing all these things will help to prevent the spread of the virus and, crucially, minimise disruption to education.

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### **Behaviour in the community**

I would be grateful if you could remind your child of the importance of behaviour when pupils are in the community and interacting with members of the public. This week we have been made aware of a small number of instances of anti-social behaviour involving our pupils in the local area either before or after school. Whilst all schools will experience this, it is frustrating for me as it can undermine a great deal of hard work by the school to build positive relationships with the local community. It can also create an inaccurate impression in the local community of our pupils, the overwhelming majority of whom are excellent role models and ambassadors for our school. This is unfair.

Where we are made aware of poor behaviour by our pupils in the community before or after school, we will investigate this and address in school in the strongest possible terms. Sanctions will be enforced where appropriate. This particularly applies when pupils are wearing school uniform, but is equally the case when pupils are in any way identifiable as pupils of Saint Bede's. Thank you for your support.

### **Friday 1 October – early finish**

A reminder that 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. 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](mailto:contact@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk). Thank you for all the helpful comments you have provided so far.

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr P Marsden  
Headteacher