



Headteacher's Update – Friday 25th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Adam Wareing (Year 7) - Dedication and hard work in P.E.

Evelin Biro, Francesca Burrough, Emily Craddock, Lila Duxbury, Cassie Houlihan, Daisy Lamb, Gabriella Mulligan-Green, Hannah Sergeant, Darcey Tate (Year 7), Edie Bridgeman, Eleanor Francis, Beth Mazzola, Isabel Tuck (Year 8) - Under 13's Girl Indoor Cricket Team.

Sofia O'Neill (Year 10) - Outstanding Achievement in Computer Science.

Henry Follett, Lewis Martin (Year 11) - Outstanding Contribution to the life of the school.

Lorna Manning

During the half-term break we were extremely saddened to learn of the death of Lorna Manning, our former Chair of Governors, after a brave battle with cancer. Lorna leaves behind her three children Jacob, Amelia and Maggie, all of whom attended Saint Bede's over the last decade. Lorna was a great friend and supporter of the school and will be greatly missed by many within the Saint Bede's community. Her funeral will be held on Monday 28 February at Our Lady of the Assumption RC Church in Blackpool.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lorna's family and friends at this desperately sad time.

COVID-19 Update

As you will be aware, this week there were several changes to national COVID-19 restrictions and guidance which have some implications for schools. In summary:

- Pupils and staff are no longer advised to take routine twice-weekly LFD tests. We will no longer be issuing test kits to pupils and staff or collecting results via FireFly.
- Although the legal requirement to self-isolate after a positive test has been lifted, people who test positive for COVID-19 are still advised to self-isolate for at least 5 full days as was previously the case. This means that if your child has COVID-19 symptoms (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste) they should self-isolate and immediately arrange a PCR test. If the test is positive, your child should not attend school for at least five full days. If your child produces a negative LFD test on both day 5 and day 6, they can return to school from day 6 (or after two consecutive LFD tests on subsequent days).
- If your child is a close contact of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (such as another member of their household), no action is required and your child should continue to attend school as normal.
- Face coverings will continue to be optional for pupils and staff who feel more comfortable wearing one.

Year 11 Exam Preparation Evening

Thank you the very many pupils, parents and carers who attended the Exam Preparation session on Wednesday. We were thrilled to see so many of you in the hall and we hope you found the event useful.

All the information and resources shared during the event will be distributed via Firefly. We will also issue a short feedback survey and would be grateful if all parents/carers who attended the event could complete this to assist us in planning future events.

Year 10 assessments

Next week all Year 10 pupils will be completing a short diagnostic online assessment in school. The results will enable us to identify pupils who may require additional support moving into Year 11, or who may be eligible for exam access arrangements such as additional time. No revision or preparation of any kind is required for the assessments.

Year 9 'Options'

Year 9 pupils will shortly be commencing the 'Options' process to determine the subjects they will continue to follow in Years 10 and 11. This important period in their school journey will begin with an Information Evening for all Year 9 pupils, parents and carers in the school hall on Wednesday 16 March at 6.30pm. A letter with further details will be issued next week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher