



Headteacher's Update – Friday 25th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week.

For performing in the Shakespeare Festival at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool: **Emilia Beacham, Amy Billington, Troy Bradoo, Ashleye Brookes, Bethany Brookes, Charlotte Cleasby, Lucinda Farrell, Melanie Ferguson, Ella Flanagan, Pedro Gomez-Guerrero, Evangeline Hewitt, Sadie Howard, Bella Maano, Mateusz Sklepowicz, Issy Tuck, Grace Tyson (Year 8).**

Parents' Evenings

A reminder that we will be holding our Year 10 Parents' Evening remotely next Wednesday 30th March. Please see the separate letter for details of how to arrange appointments.

We are also looking forward to meeting with Year 8 and Year 9 pupils, parents and carers at their remote Parents' Evenings shortly after Easter on the dates below. Further information regarding these events will be issued separately.

Year 9 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 20th April (4pm – 7pm)

Year 8 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 27th April (4pm – 7pm)

Drama Performance

In the hall on Thursday all Year 10 pupils, as well as Year 11 pupils studying Drama, watched a performance of "I Love You Mum – I Promise I Won't Die" performed by a visiting theatre group. The play told the story Daniel Spargo-Mabbs, a 16-year-old boy from Croydon who died in 2017. Daniel was a sixth form student embedded in his school, local and church communities. He played in the school band, ran errands for the elderly people to whom he delivered on his daily paper round, and was involved in youth work at the church he attended with his family. He had a real social conscience, having before his death recently signed up to the bone marrow donor register and becoming a member of Amnesty International.

Daniel died after unwittingly taking a lethal dose of MDMA (Ecstasy) at an illegal rave he attended with friends. The play was commissioned by the charity set up in Daniel's name, to educate young people to make safe choices. The title uses Daniel's last words to his mother, Fiona, before he left home for what turned out to be the last time. This hard-hitting and deeply thought-provoking experience was very well received by pupils and staff involved.

E-Cigarettes

In previous updates I have emphasised our strong stance in relation to 'Vaping.' It is illegal in the UK for retailers to sell e-cigarettes or e-liquids to a person under the age of 18, or for an adult to buy these products for a person under the age of 18. Despite this, I remain concerned that a small number of pupils persist in bringing E-Cigarettes and related items into school.

To further support our zero-tolerance approach to this issue, we have amended our behaviour policy regarding confiscated 'Vapes' and related items as set out below. This change will be communicated to all pupils next week and will be enforced from the start of the new term on Tuesday 19th April:

"Any confiscated items relating to smoking, vaping or similar activity will be disposed of. They will not be returned to pupils or parents/carers in any circumstances."

This approach is fully in line with Department for Education guidance and no exceptions will be made for any reason, even if this is requested by a parent/carers.

School Uniform Consultation

Thank you to parents and carers who responded to the survey regarding the proposed introduction of a new school skirt. I can confirm we have decided to proceed with the implementation of the new skirt with effect from September 2022. In response to feedback received from parents/carers and pupils during the consultation, we are also investigating introducing an updated trouser option for girls as an alternative to the new skirt. I will write to you separately in due course with further information.

End of Term

Saint Bede's will close for the end of term at 1.00pm on Friday 1st April. School buses have been arranged for the earlier time. School will re-open for all pupils at 8.55am on Tuesday 19th April.

This will be my final update of the term. Our usual half-termly newsletter will be issued next week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher