



Headteacher's Update – Friday 29th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Bridget Boylan (Year 7) - Act of kindness toward a member of staff

Charlie Doughty (Year 7) - Excellent role model, always kind and helpful

Shakeel Ali (Year 8) - Excellent hard work and outstanding attitude to learning

Joe Wilkinson (Year 8) - Excellent involvement and effort in all lessons

Maisie Newburn (Year 9) - Outstanding achievement: Black Belt grading in Tae Kwon Do

Heidi Greenwood, Oliver Nunn, Sophia Southworth, Archie Tate, Jack Wain, Theo Williams (Year 9) - Outstanding contribution to UKMT Mathematics Challenge

Lily Gratrix (Year 11) - Excellent hard work and acts of kindness to other pupils.

Parents' Evenings

This week we held our remote Year 8 Parents' Evening. We hope that parents, carers and pupils have found the meetings useful. As with earlier events, we would be grateful if you could offer your feedback by completing the survey via the link you will have received separately.

Our Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place later this term on Wednesday 6th July. Further details will be issued nearer the time.

Year 11 exam arrangements

Well done once again to Year 11 pupils, who collectively are continuing to approach the challenge of the exam preparation season with great determination.

As I explained in an earlier update, the normal timetable for all Year 11 pupils will continue to operate until Friday 13th May. The traditional Summer Barbeque (Thursday 12th May) and Leavers' Service (Friday 13th May) to commemorate the end of their time at Saint Bede's will both make a welcome return.

GCSE exams begin on Monday 16th May. Between Monday 16th May and Friday 27th May, all Year 11 pupils will be required to attend school as normal. When pupils are not sitting an exam, structured revision lessons will be provided. As far as is practical, these lessons will be scheduled around the exam timetable, so that pupils will have crucial time with subject teachers before sitting exams in those subjects. The programme for these sessions is currently being finalised and will be shared with pupils in due course.

The half-term break is from Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June inclusive. From Monday 6th June, Year 11 pupils will have the option of Study Leave and will only be required to attend school for exams. However, revision sessions will continue to be provided and pupils who prefer to remain in school full-time to study will be able to do so. As I explained previously, we reserve the right to insist any pupil attends school full-time until the conclusion of their exams if they have not demonstrated that they will be able to prepare effectively for exams at home. Further details regarding Study Leave arrangements, such as arrival to and departure from school, will be circulated in due course.

Exams and Assessments

Good luck to Year 10 pupils who have begun their end of year exams in the Sports Hall this afternoon. Thank you to parents and carers for your support in preparing pupils for these exams, which are an important moment in the process of getting ready for final GCSE exams next summer.

During this half-term, Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will also undertake formal assessments during their lessons. The timing of each assessment will vary by class but will be clearly signposted to pupils in lessons and on Firefly. Pupils will be provided with information, both in class and on Firefly, relating to the knowledge and skills that will be covered in each assessment.

The results your child achieves in these exams and assessments will be communicated to you in the Summer Progress Report which will be issued later in the term.

CCTV

Over the course of the academic year, we have installed CCTV cameras in some of our pupil toilets. As I explained in an earlier update on 3rd December, this was in response to feedback from parents and carers regarding some inappropriate behaviour in the toilets. Please be assured that, of course, cameras are directed only at open communal areas and do not impinge on privacy in any way. This is a common measure used by many schools to ensure the safety and comfort of pupils.

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend. We look forward to seeing pupils return on Tuesday.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher