



Headteacher's Update – Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

A very Happy New Year to all our parents, carers and families. I hope as far as possible you were able to enjoy a healthy and restful break.

COVID-19 update

There have, of course, been significant developments in the national situation over the Christmas period which have impacted upon Saint Bede's as with all other schools. I am very grateful for the mature way in which pupils have adopted to the revised guidance regarding the wearing of face coverings in classrooms as well as other indoor spaces. Of course, none of us wants to see pupils wearing masks in schools, particularly in classrooms, and we hope that this guidance will remain in place for no longer than is absolutely necessary. However above all we all wish to minimise the risk of disruption to school life caused by transmission of the virus and so I thank you for your support with this and other measures.

Unsurprisingly, we have a number of children and staff absent from school due to positive COVID-19 tests. Pupils who are self-isolating will continue to be able to access remote learning via Firefly if they are well enough to do so. As you will be aware, a person is now able to end self-isolation if they produce negative LFD tests, taken at least 24 hours apart, on both Day 6 and Day 7. If your child is unfortunately required to self-isolate due to a positive test, please keep the school informed as to their return date.

The testing programme remains crucial to reducing transmission of the virus and reducing the possibility of disruption to education. Please continue to ensure your child takes a twice-weekly LFD test and the result is reported both to school and the government website.

Year 11 Mock Exam Results

Year 11 pupils received their exams results during a formal 'Mock Results Day' in the hall this morning. A great number of pupils can be very proud of their achievements so far. Parents/carers will be issued with a copy of the results along with a Progress Report in the coming days, and will have the opportunity to discuss the results and report during our Year 11 Parents Evening which will be held remotely on Wednesday 19th January. Further details will be issued soon.

Year 9 Exams

Congratulations to Year 9 on their excellent approach to their exams which have been taking place this week. Exams will conclude on Tuesday afternoon.

Diocesan Survey

The Diocese of Lancaster is seeking the views parents, carers and pupils in the Diocese. This follows the launch in October by Pope Francis of a 2-year worldwide Synod process entitled "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission." He has invited everyone to take part in a dialogue of listening and speaking under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to engage with this process by completing an online survey, please follow the link below. The survey will be available until 28th February.

<https://www.lancasterdiocese.org.uk/useful-information/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/>

Uniform and Appearance standards

Please do continue to ensure your child arrives to school entirely meeting our expectations regarding uniform and appearance. In particular:

- 'Hoodies' and designer/sports jumpers are not appropriate for school and should not be seen on site.
- No jewellery is acceptable other than a single small stud in the lobe of each ear, a watch and a chain and cross. Plastic 'retainers' are not acceptable as an alternative to an item of jewellery that is not permitted, such as a nose stud or ring.
- Make up, nail varnish and false/acrylic nails are not acceptable.
- Long hair should be tied back.
- The school skirt should be worn in a professional manner appropriate for a school and working environment. This means just above the knee with the waistband visible and not rolled up.

Parental Communication

A reminder that if you wish to contact a member of teaching staff regarding your child, please do so by email rather than the Firefly messaging system, which staff do not use for communication with parents and carers. A list of email addresses for teaching staff is on the school website. For most pastoral or academic queries, the appropriate member of staff to contact in the first instance is your child's Form Tutor.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher