



## **Headteacher's Update – Friday 10 September 2021**

As we reach the end of a busy first week of term, I would like to express my thanks for the warm welcome I have received from pupils and parents/carers over the last few days. I am both excited and humbled by the opportunity to lead Saint Bede's and, along with my colleagues, will work to the best of my ability to support the academic, spiritual and social development of your children. I look forward to meeting many of you at the various events throughout the school year and to working with you in the years ahead.

### **Year 7 Mass of Welcome**

We look forward to seeing our Year 7 pupils, parents and carers in the school hall for our Mass of Welcome on Wednesday 15 September at 6.30pm. This year, we do politely ask that pupils attend accompanied by a maximum of two adults and without any siblings. This is, as I am sure you will appreciate, to allow for greater distancing in the hall. Thank you for your understanding. We also encourage those attending to wear a face covering in line with government advice for indoor events.

### **'Be a Bede'**

I recognise that one of the many frustrations of both pupils and parents/carers since the beginning of the pandemic has been the disruption to the extra-curricular life of the school. As we cautiously move towards 'normality', I am pleased to confirm that our programme of sporting and other clubs and activities is already up and running, with much more to come following our 'Freshers Fair' style recruitment event in the hall next week. In assembly on the first day of term I challenged all pupils to 'Be a Bede' by getting involved in as many of these activities as possible and making the most of the opportunities that the year ahead will provide. Please do reiterate this important message to your child.

### **Covid-19 testing**

We have now reached the end of the programme of on-site LFD testing. Kits for home testing have been issued to pupils this week. We continue to encourage all pupils to complete a twice-weekly LFD test and report the result to the NHS and to school.

### **Mobile Phones**

Thank you for your support regarding the change to our policy on mobile phones. I have been grateful for the positive feedback this has received from parents and carers. Overwhelmingly, our pupils have adapted to the new expectations with maturity and as a result there have been remarkably few issues.

### **Uniform and appearance standards**

Similarly, I have been delighted with the way in which our pupils have presented themselves in school since the beginning of term, wearing their uniform correctly and with pride. I would however like to ask for your support in reminding your child of our expectations in a small number of areas:

- '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.
- Make up, nail varnish and false/acrylic nails and 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.

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### **E-cigarettes**

As with any school I am aware of the issue of teenage use of e-cigarettes, which has grown in recent years. Since October 2015 it has been 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. From the outset of the new academic year, please can I be clear that the below are not acceptable:

- Using an e-cigarette in school, when travelling to school or when in the community and in any way identifiable as a Saint Bede's pupil
- Having possession of an e-cigarette or e-liquids in school

As I am sure you would expect these expectations will be enforced rigorously. Breaches of the rules will be dealt with severely and may include fixed-term exclusion from school. The same expectations do, of course, also apply to all tobacco products.

### **Open Evening**

On Wednesday 22 September we will be welcoming Year 6 pupils, parents and carers to our annual Open Evening. There will be an early finish at 1.00pm for all year groups on this day. 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).

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden  
Headteacher