



Headteacher's Update – Friday 8th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Ruby McKinless

We were hugely saddened last week to learn of the death of Ruby McKinless at the age of just 17. Ruby was a Saint Bede's pupil from 2015 to 2020 and is very fondly remembered by a great many of our staff. The funeral took place at St Nicholas' in Wrea Green this afternoon. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Ruby's family and friends at this desperately sad time.

Headteacher's Commendation

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

Joseph Ball (Year 11): Outstanding effort in RE

Theresa Boylan (Year 9): Achievement in ballet

Ella Caunce (Year 10): Contribution to Open Evening

Emily Ready (Year 8): Act of kindness towards another pupil

Blair Selbie (Year 10): Contribution to Open Evening

Isabel Tuck (Year 8): Act of kindness towards another pupil

Punctuality

I am concerned that a small number of pupils are regularly arriving late to school in the morning, in some cases significantly so. Punctuality is, of course, an important attribute children must develop as they prepare for future education and employment. The overwhelming majority of our pupils demonstrate this without difficulty every day.

As a result, with effect from Monday 11 October the below arrangements will apply if a pupil arrives late to school (without a valid reason):

- The pupil entrance gate will be locked at 8.55am.
- Pupils arriving after this time will be required to enter the site via Reception.
- Pupils arriving between 8.55am and 9.10am will 'sign-in' in the Dining Room with a member of staff. Pupils who arrive late between these times **on three occasions in any half-term** will be issued with a 30 minute after-school detention (as is currently the case).
- Pupils arriving after 9.10am will 'sign-in' at Reception. Pupils arriving after 9.10am will be issued with an **automatic 30 minute after-school detention**.

Pupils who arrive on site before 8.55am, but subsequently report late to their classroom for morning registration, will be as marked late by their Form Tutor as is currently the case. This will also count towards the 'three strikes' per half-term rule.

If your child is going to be late to school for a valid reason, such as a medical appointment, please inform the school **in advance** by emailing attendance@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk or telephoning the attendance line on 01253 737174 and pressing '1'. If no such contact has been received, the sanctions for lateness set out above will apply on each occasion.

Allowances will, of course, continue to be made if a school bus arrives late. If your child travels to school by public bus, they should catch a service that allows for possible delays and ensures they can arrive to school on time (just as they will be expected to do in later life).

Charitable activities

Over the past two weeks our budding bakers have organised two very successful charity bake sales. Last week Mrs Langley and a group of Year 9 pupils raised money for Fylde Food Bank, followed this week by Paula and the SVP group who were fundraising for CAFOD. In total almost £500 was raised across the two events! Thank you and well done to all pupils involved.

COVID-19 update

There is no change from last week's update in that we are still awaiting confirmation from the School Age Immunisation Service as to the date the COVID-19 vaccine will be offered in school to pupils aged 12-15.

Please do continue to ensure your child undertakes a twice-weekly LFD test and report the result to the NHS and to school. If your child produces a positive LFD test result, or experiences any COVID-19 symptoms, you should immediately arrange a PCR test via the NHS website. Your child must not attend school until the result is known. The main COVID-19 symptoms are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Parental Communication

As the new Headteacher I am of course very interested in the views of parents and carers about Saint Bede's. We will be inviting you to offer your feedback through a parental survey shortly after half-term. However, should you wish to get in touch beforehand you are welcome to do so by email at contact@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk. Thank you for all the helpful comments you have provided so far.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden
Headteacher