



## Headteacher's Update – Friday 19 November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### Headteacher's Commendations

Congratulations to our recipients this week:

**Alice Harrington, Oliver Holt, Vinny Palmer, Tia Smith, Poppy Whitelock (Year 7)** - Outstanding effort in Chaplaincy

**Jakub Drzewiecki, Chloe Tidswell (Year 7)** - Outstanding effort in French

**Gabriella Arciniega, Ethan Cassidy (Year 7)** - Outstanding effort in Geography

**Maisie Wright (Year 8)** - Outstanding effort in French

**Philip Greenwood (Year 8)** - Outstanding effort in Geography

**Lucinda Farrell (Year 8)** - Act of kindness towards a member of staff

**Ethan Scott (Year 9)** - Acts of kindness towards staff and pupils

**Ella Higginbotham (Year 9)** - Outstanding effort in French

**Joe Cookson, Daniel Crompton, Emily Douglas, Oliver Fallon, Maya Thomas (Year 10)** - Outstanding effort in Food Technology

**Alfie Dowle (Year 10)** - Acts of kindness towards staff and pupils and Outstanding effort in Food Technology

### Parental Feedback Survey

Thank you for the fantastic response to the parental survey which closed earlier this week. Among the over 300 replies there was a great deal of positive feedback and, as I hoped, plenty of helpful ideas and some constructive criticism which will be very useful to me and my colleagues in our work to continually improve the school. The fact that so many of you took the time to complete the survey indicates how fortunate we are to have parents and carers who are so supportive of and invested in the school.

We will now take some time to review your feedback. In the coming weeks I will write to you again with a summary of what we have learned.

### E-cigarettes

As I discussed in an earlier update, I am concerned about 'vaping' among some of our pupils. This is a concern that I know is shared by parents and carers, as was reflected in the recent survey.

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.

If you know or suspect that your child is using e-cigarettes, please ensure that under no circumstances are these brought into school. The possession and/or use of these in school, or in the community when in any way identifiable as a Saint Bede's pupil, is strictly forbidden. I would like to make clear that moving forward this policy will be enforced with zero-tolerance.

Where we have reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil may have breached these rules, the pupil will be questioned and may be searched in line with Department for Education guidance. This guidance allows for a non-intimate search, such as asking the pupil to remove outer clothing (for example their coat, blazer or shoes) or searching their possessions (such as their school bag). If a pupil refuses to comply with a search, a parent/carer will be contacted and the pupil will be suspended from school for at least the remainder of the day. Should a pupil be found to have breached these rules, they will be sanctioned. This may include suspension from school.

I recognise that this is a strong message and is necessary for only a very limited number of pupils. However, I am not prepared to tolerate the safety, comfort and wellbeing of any pupil in school or when travelling to school being compromised by the behaviour of a small minority in this way. Thank you for your support.

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### **Year 10 & 11 Post-16 'Choices' Evening**

Thank you to the pupils, parents and carers who attended the careers event on Monday. We hope that you found it useful, and we will be grateful for your feedback via a short survey which will be issued in the coming days. Our visitors from the colleges, universities and employers were hugely impressed by the way our pupils conducted themselves and engaged with the evening. Special thanks to Miss Beswick and her team for their work in putting such a well-organised event together.

### **COVID-19 update**

I can confirm that the COVID-19 vaccine will now be offered in school next Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November. If you have given your consent for your child to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, please return the additional form to school by Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the latest.

### **Mock Exams**

Good luck to our Year 11 pupils who will begin their Mock Exams on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Exams for Year 9 will take place between Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr P Marsden  
Headteacher