

St Bede's Catholic Academy

Parents' Newsletter

Monday 27th February 2023

Issue 21



Ash Wednesday this week marked the start of the Lenten Journey. As a school, we celebrated this with Liturgical Prayer and both staff and students had ashes placed on their forehead. Many people choose to fast during Lent, in solidarity with Jesus who fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. However, Lent is focused on what more we can do-what can we do to enrich our lives? Fr Lim shared with us his reflections on the Gospel and he offered a prayer: "Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint." There is a lot of military language in this but it teaches us that just as soldiers sacrifice a lot when they go to war to win freedom, during Lent we should make sacrifices too which will help to free us from our sins and bad habits.

Accelerated Reader Programme

As part of the St Bede's Reading Strategy, we have launched the Accelerated Reader programme with our lower KS3 students. All students are tested when they arrive at St Bede's to determine their reading age and this is shared with staff to help support the teaching and learning in the classroom. Accelerated Reader includes additional testing in order to recommend a suitable book for an individual based on their reading age. Students are encouraged to read for pleasure and enjoyment and will see a dramatic improvement in their reading age if they engage in this. Students who do not regularly read or are reading book unsuitable for their age, will not see their reading age progress in the same way. As reading is a priority at St Bede's, we appointed a full-time librarian this academic year who has transformed the library into a vibrant and welcoming environment to foster that love of reading. This is a place where students can read through social times, before and after school and this will also help boost their reading age.

We understand that each student has their own narrative, their own journey, when it comes to reading and this presents challenges too. It is recommended that 20 minutes of reading is built in every day. This will be facilitated both in school and encouraged at home. Over the next few weeks, we will be sending out useful information to help support parents and carers to encourage reading at home and what you can do to help your child if they are a reluctant reader. Please find attached a link to the Accelerated Reader parent's guide for more information on this particular programme: <https://www.renlearn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Parents-Guide-to-Renaissance.pdf>

Diary Dates

Tuesday 28th February
Industrial Strike

Thursday 2nd March
Year 8 HPV Vaccine

Monday 6th March
National Careers week
with activities on site

Thursday 9th March
Yr 11 Drama GCSE
Yr 9 Consultation

Monday 13th March
Yr 10 Day of Reflection

Thursday 16th March
Yr 9 Online Options Evening

Monday 20th March
BAE Systems STEM
Roadshow with Year 8

Thursday 23rd March
Yr 11 photos

Tuesday 28th March
Yr 10 Consultation

Friday 31st March
Year 9 HPV Vaccine
School closed for Easter

Industrial action

A reminder that on Tuesday the NEU trade union are continuing their industrial action. As a result on Tuesday, the school will only be open to students in Years 9 and 11. Students in Years 7, 8 and 10 will work at home via remote learning. A letter with the full information can be found on our website:

<https://stbedesscunthorpe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Letter-to-parents-Industrial-Action.pdf>

If you need any further information please contact the school. Thank you for your support Mr Hibbard

Calling Catholic Teachers

Do you know somebody who is a practicing Catholic and who is a teacher or senior leader working in a school outside of the Catholic sector? The Diocese of Nottingham along with the Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts is leading a virtual information session about working in a Catholic school on Wednesday 29 March from 7.00pm – 8.30pm.

For further information, please contact: Julie Sweeney at the Diocesan Education Service (julie.sweeney@nottingham-des.org.uk).

Active Humber

Mrs Frost took 10 year 9 students to a well-being event held by Active Humber this week. The students participated in different forms of exercise to encourage fitness as a form of well-being. The students did all of us proud with how they represented themselves and St Bede's voluntary catholic academy, showing great respect for all staff, other students and members of the public. Mrs Frost was also incredibly proud of how the students gave their all to every activity. There were lots of smiles and laughs throughout the day and we are all looking forward to more events in the future.

National Careers Week

From Monday 6th March to Friday 10th March, St Bede's will be showcasing careers in school as part of National Careers Week. Each day we will be inviting in a member of the St Bede's community to talk about their progression from St Bede's to their current employment to help our students understand the world of work. In addition to this, we will have displays in the library, daily facts for our students and workshops in IT with a member of our alumni.

If you would like to discuss careers at home with your child, there is a wealth of information and resources on the career's pages on the St Bede's website and students are able to see me on site at school for additional support. Thank you – Ms Taylor

Website of the day:

Monday: www.icould.com

Tuesday: www.reed.co.uk

Wednesday: www.prospects.ac.uk

Thursday: www.goconstruct.org

Friday: www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices

Safeguarding

Dear parents and carers,

As you will know, the wellbeing and mental health of young people is incredibly important. As a school, we teach about wellbeing and mental health in a variety of ways via PSHCE, personal development and teaching in curriculum areas. Equipping young people with the strategies to keep themselves safe and to take care of themselves is an important aspect of their education.

The following link takes you to the NSPCC website which has useful support for parents and carers to help you support the wellbeing of your child.

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/covid/supporting-children-young-people-mental-health?utm_source=Corona-newsletter&utm_medium=Mental-Health&utm_campaign=202006_Corona

Please contact the safeguarding team at St Bede's if you require further support or if you have any concerns.

MFL Exams - Year 11 exams

French, German and Polish) speaking exams will be held after half term in the w/c 27th February. Their time will be on the following dates depending on who their teacher is. Final times to be confirmed after half term.

Students should be revising and learning their speaking questions regularly over half term, and it would be beneficial for parents to help test their students by asking them questions from their speaking booklet.

27th Feb - RC P1-5

28th Feb - LL

1st March - LL

2nd March - LL

3rd March - SB

6th March - SB - P1-3

7th March - AGr

8th March - EW

9th March - EW

10th March - EW



Cooking Club

Leading up to the Easter Holiday there will be the annual Easter Cooking Club after school on Thursdays for four sessions, which will feature a range of chocolate recipes, including making mini chocolate eggs, an all in one chocolate and orange cake recipe, and chocolate truffles. Letters will be given out in the first couple of weeks after half term.

Thanks Mr Jagger, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Hunter

Yr8 HPV Vaccinations

Yr8 students will be receiving their first dose of the HPV vaccination in school on 2nd March. To give consent you must click on the below link, please do not give consent again if you have already done this. This is NOT the Covid vaccination.

<https://systems.rdash.nhs.uk/eConsent/138018HPV221326>

Talking Futures

Talking Futures is a website created to help parents and carers have meaningful and informed conversations with their young people. Parents often don't know where to start, and this website is designed specifically for them. Please share with your parents/carers and perhaps it's a good one to add to your careers website.

A parents' toolkit for career conversations talkingfutures.org.uk

Alumni

We are continually expanding our alumni database to enable our students more interactions with the workplace. If you are an ex St Bede's student please complete this short form so we can add you to our database <https://forms.office.com/r/qGkRU6MU0m> If you have older children who have studied with us previously and are now in further study or employment, please share this link with them so that we add them too. Our alumni group support in a number of ways, some give us case studies for our newsletters, and other deliver assemblies. We are grateful for any contribution that they can give. Thank you - Ms Taylor