

St Bede's Catholic Academy

Parents' Newsletter

Friday 8th September 2023

Issue 1



BACK TO SCHOOL!



Welcome back to school

It is an absolute pleasure to see all students return from the summer holidays. This week we have spent a significant amount of time working with all year groups to prepare them for the challenges ahead. A special mention to Year 7 who have been absolute stars, they have settled into Secondary school really well. I know on Tuesday there were many nerves and a few tears but I am sure as we finish next week most of these will have disappeared. Today students were following their normal timetable, it's been a very busy (and hot) week.

This year we also welcomed three new members of staff: Mrs Reaney (Mathematics), Mrs Willis (English) and Mrs King (Pastoral). There have also been changes to some of our systems, we are now using Arbor for all registers and within time we will also use this system for payments, reports and attainment/behaviour tracking. More information will be released about this over the coming academic year.

A reminder to all parents that the website contains a wealth of information such as school policies, calendar, term dates and lots more.

The forecast is for a sunny weekend, I hope that you all have a great time.

Mr Hibbard

Year 7 and Year 9 photos

On Thursday there will be individual photos for all students in Years 7 and 9.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 5th September
Year 7 return to school

Wednesday 6th September
Yr 8,9,10 & 11 return to school

Thursday 14th September
Yr 7 & 9 School Photos

Friday 29th September
Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thursday 5th October
Flu Vaccinations
Open Evening

Friday 6th October
Mizens Visit Yr 10 & 11
Flu Vaccinations
Open Morning

Thursday 12th October
WMIM Parents Coffee morning
8:15am – 9:15am
Yr 7 Surgery

Thursday 19th October
Yr 7 Mass of Welcome

Monday 23rd October
School closed for Half Term

PSHCE

Next week your child will be bringing home a letter regarding PSHCE. You only need to complete the reply slip if you wish to withdraw your child from sex education.

Enrichment Programme 2023/24

Please find attached the enrichment programme for 2023/24. This will be supplemented by school trips and visits as the year progresses and we encourage all students to become involved with the enrichment programme; we would love to see them! If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you, Mr Fields.

School Lunch

We operate a cashless till system so all money for lunch should be added through the ParentPay account. We have set for each child a daily allowance allowing students to spend up to £4.50 per day if there are sufficient funds on ParentPay. We have set this value to prevent students spending large amounts each day without the consent of parents, if you wish for your child to have a larger daily allowance please contact the school and we can increase this for individual students.

Free School Meal students have an allowance of £2.60 per day to purchase a Meal Deal at lunch, should your child wish to purchase additional items at lunch or items at break please can you pay additional funds through the ParentPay account to allow for these additional purchases.

Term dates 2024-25

The following term dates have been agreed for 2024-25. Please note the dates below are for students.

Advent 1: Tuesday 3rd September – Friday 18th October

Advent 2: Monday 28th October – Thursday 19th December

Lent 1: Tuesday 7th January – Thursday 13th February

Lent 2: Monday 24th February – Friday 4th April

Pentecost 1: Tuesday 22nd April – Friday 23rd May

Pentecost 2: Monday 2nd June – Friday 18th July

May Day: Monday 5th May

Safeguarding

Dear parents and carers,

As you will know, online safety is paramount to the safeguarding and wellbeing of young people. Students spend more time than ever online and we all have a part to play in keeping young people safe. In the first year of the pandemic, the NSPCC helpline saw a 45% increase in contacts from people worried about online sexual abuse. Together we can make sure it's safe for every child to go online. The NSPCC supports parents with online safety advice, and to protect and support young people. During this half term, we will provide a series of links regarding online safety for you to read in order to support you to protect young people.

The following link takes you to the NSPCC website and advises how to report images and videos online and have them removed:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-reporting/report-remove/>

Educational Visits - Parental Consent

As per updated guidance, written consent from parents is not required for the majority of Educational Visits organised by school that are within school hours and are a normal part of a child's education at St Bede's. Parents will be informed of the Educational Visits in advance and you will be given the opportunity to withdraw your child from any particular visit or activity. Please ensure that you keep your contact details and child's medical details up to date with the school.

Contingency Day

Next year's Contingency day for GCSE exams has been released – Wednesday 26th June 2024. This will be followed up with formal communication in the coming school year. Ms Taylor

With Me In Mind coffee morning

There will be a With Me In Mind coffee morning at school in the library on Thursday 12th October 9:15am-10:15am. This is to offer support around children's well-being.

