St Bede's Catholic Academy Parents' Newsletter

Monday 21st January 2025 Issue 47





Lent is Around the Corner - February 14th

As we approach Lent, it's a wonderful time to prepare our hearts and minds for this sacred season. Lent is a period of 40 days leading to Easter, during which we reflect on Jesus' journey to the Cross and His ultimate sacrifice for us. It's a season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, inviting us to grow closer to God through simplicity, self-discipline, and acts of love.

What Lent Means for Families

For parents and children alike, Lent offers an opportunity to focus on what truly matters: our faith, our relationships with others, and our relationship with God. Families can use this season to:

- 1. Reflect on Faith: Discuss what the season of Lent means and why it's important.
- 2. Grow Together Spiritually: Attend Mass, pray the Rosary, or explore Lenten traditions like Stations of the Cross as a family.
- 3. Practice Gratitude: Use this time to reflect on the blessings in your life and give thanks to God. Ideas for Lenten Practices

Here are some simple and meaningful ways to observe Lent as a family:

- Prayer:
 - Create a prayer space at home with a crucifix, candle, and Bible, and commit to daily family prayers.
 - Attend a weekday Mass or Lenten service as a family.
 - o Pray for a specific intention each day, such as peace in the world or the needs of the poor.
- Fasting:
 - Choose something to give up that helps the family grow spiritually, such as unnecessary screen time, junk food, or unkind words.
 - Encourage children to practice self-control in small ways, like sharing a favorite toy or snack.
 - Fast from distractions by setting aside time for quiet reflection or reading Scripture together.
- Almsgiving:
 - Start a "family giving jar" where each member contributes to a charitable cause during Lent.
 - Volunteer together at a local food bank, soup kitchen, or parish charity event.
 - Participate in your school or parish Lenten initiatives, such as food or clothing drives.

Key Reminders for Families:

- Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics.
- Encourage your child to approach Lent with a sense of purpose, considering what they can do to strengthen their faith and help others.

Diary Dates

2025

Tuesday 28th January Humberside Secondary Cross Country Finals

Wednesday 5th February Health & Social Care JLC visit 10am - 12.15pm

Tuesday 11th February Yr 8 Day of Reflection

Thursday 13th February School closes for half term at 3.05pm

Monday 24th February School re-opens to students

Tuesday 25th February GCSE Music Performance (Contingency Day)

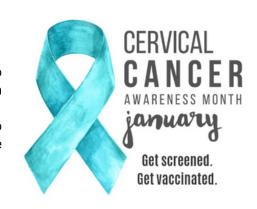
Wednesday 26th February Year 9 Vaccinations

W/C Monday 3rd March Year 11 English & Maths Mock Exams

Wednesday 5th March GCSE Live Event Yr10

National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week: Let's Talk Prevention

This week marks National Cervical Cancer Awareness Week, a crucial time to discuss the importance of education, prevention, and early detection in safeguarding the health of women and girls in our families and communities. Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer, thanks to advancements in screening and vaccination. Yet, many remain unaware of the steps they can take to protect themselves and their loved ones.



Key Facts to Share with Your Family:

The Importance of Screening: Regular smears (or cervical screening tests) can detect abnormal changes in cervical cells before they develop into cancer. Early detection saves lives.

HPV Vaccination: The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is a powerful tool in preventing the types of HPV that most often cause cervical cancer. It's recommended for pre-teens but can be administered up to age 45.

Lifestyle Matters: A healthy diet, regular exercise, and avoiding smoking can also reduce the risk of cervical cancer.

How You Can Get Involved:

Educate Your Children: For parents of pre-teens and teens, now is the time to discuss the benefits of the HPV vaccine. Encourage Regular Checkups: Lead by example and make sure the women in your family are up to date on their screenings.

Spread the Word: Awareness saves lives. Share facts and resources with your network to amplify the message.

This week is a reminder that a simple conversation or a proactive decision can make all the difference. Together, we can ensure that cervical cancer becomes a thing of the past.

School Crossing Patrol Collum Avenue (near Roundabout)

We have a new School Crossing patrol at the above site starting AM next Monday 27th January







