

# St Bede's Catholic Academy

## Parents' Newsletter

Monday 10th February 2025  
Issue 49



### Lockdown procedures

I am sure you share my deep concern regarding the recent tragic events at All Saints Catholic School in Sheffield. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family affected and the wider school community as they come to terms with such a devastating situation.

I also understand that many parents may feel anxious about this and other incidents involving weapons in schools. With this in mind, I want to take this opportunity to reassure you about the procedures we have in place should we ever need to initiate a school lockdown.

After the Christmas break, I led assemblies with all year groups to explain our lockdown procedures. While the likelihood of such an event remains low, it is essential that students and staff understand how to respond should it ever be necessary. Lockdowns can be initiated for various reasons, including but not limited to:

- A deliberate act of violence, such as the use of a knife or firearm
- A suspect package
- The death of a student or staff member
- Civil disturbances or terrorism
- Severe weather conditions
- An incident in the local community that poses a risk to the school
- A significant incident within the school
- An intruder on site with the potential to cause harm
- A major fire in the vicinity of the school
- A dangerous animal loose on the premises

In the event of a lockdown, all students will remain in their classrooms or a designated safe space. Managing the safety of over 700 students as quickly and effectively as possible is our absolute priority.

To ensure clear communication and coordination with emergency services, we ask that students refrain from using their mobile phones during a lockdown. We also kindly request that parents do not contact the school or attempt to come on-site during such an event. Rest assured, we will communicate with all parents as soon as it is safe to do so, providing details of the situation and the steps taken.

Thankfully, we have never had to implement a lockdown at St Bede's, and we sincerely hope this remains the case. However, in light of recent events, it is crucial that we remain prepared to protect our students and staff. Your support and understanding in this matter are greatly appreciated.

### Access to the main reception

Over the February half-term break, we will be making changes to the access procedures for the main school reception. To enhance security, an intercom system will be installed. Moving forward, students, parents, and visitors will need to use the intercom to gain entry to the reception area.

While this is not a change we take lightly, it is a necessary step to further safeguard our students, staff, and school community. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we implement this important security measure.

A reminder that the main school reception is open during the following hours:

- Monday – Thursday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Thank you for your continued support. Mr Hibbard

## Diary Dates

# 2025

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

Friday 7th March  
Girls biggest football session -  
Bottesford Town football club

Wednesday 12th March  
Inspector Calls

Friday 14th March  
Yr 7 - 11 Reports

Tuesday 18th March  
Yr 11 Photo  
Primary Netball Tournament



### **Mental Health Awareness Week – A Week of Reflection and Support**

Last week, we marked Mental Health Awareness month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of mental well-being. Throughout the week, students and staff took part in various activities and discussions to help break the stigma surrounding mental health and promote positive mental health practices.

From workshops to open conversations, the week encouraged everyone to reflect on their emotional health, recognise the signs of mental distress, and understand the importance of seeking support when needed. We hope this initiative continues to inspire a culture of care and understanding within our school community.

Remember, it's okay to not be okay – and support is always available.



### **Parent Governor Election – Nomination Deadline Extended!**

We are pleased to announce that the deadline for Parent Governor nominations has been extended to Friday, 14th February. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved with the school and contribute to the Local Governing Body's important work.

Who can stand for election?

No special qualifications are required to become a Parent Governor. The most important qualities are a genuine interest in the school's development and a willingness to play an active role in the Governing Body's activities. We would particularly welcome nominations from parents with a background in education, but we encourage all parents who are passionate about supporting the school to consider applying.

What does being a Governor involve?

Governors attend half-termly committee meetings, typically held on Tuesdays at 3:45 pm. If you are unable to attend in person, there is the option to join meetings via MS Teams.

While no prior experience is necessary, we do provide training for all Governors. New appointees will be expected to attend induction training and commit to any additional training as required.

Eligibility:

To stand for election, you must be a parent or a person with parental responsibility for a registered pupil at the school.

If you would like to stand for election, please complete the enclosed nomination form and return it to the school by the deadline of Friday, 14th February.

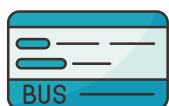
We look forward to receiving your nominations and appreciate your interest in supporting our school community!

### **Exciting School Bus Seats Now Available!**

We have limited spaces on our school bus, which conveniently serves the following areas. If you'd like your child to join the ride, simply reach out to the school for an application pack. Travel is just £1.75 per journey, making it an affordable and easy way to get to school!

Bus Stops Include:

- Crosby Avenue
- Ferry Road
- Kirks Corner
- Scotter Road Shop
- Berkeley Circle
- Scotter Bottom
- Westcliff



Don't miss out on this great opportunity – get in touch today!

### **RSE policy**

We regularly review and update the RSE policy in line with government guidance. Attached is a copy of the policy. If you have any comments, I would be grateful if you could complete the following form to provide feedback

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ImHgYCKGbkyT6kPA3x-vZnpOyM\\_DyZJs8A8jrShma5URDJHNDdaOE43NEZMU1ZMT1hJTTZOMEpXNi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ImHgYCKGbkyT6kPA3x-vZnpOyM_DyZJs8A8jrShma5URDJHNDdaOE43NEZMU1ZMT1hJTTZOMEpXNi4u)

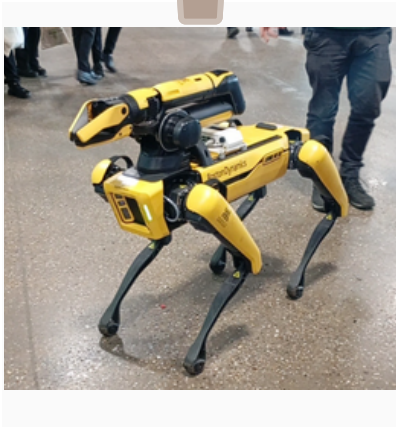
**Agricultural Trip to Lincolnshire Showground – A Hands-On Experience!**

Last week, our students had an exciting and educational trip to the Lincolnshire Showground, where they took part in a series of engaging workshops and talks. Topics covered included agriculture, energy, and veterinary science, giving our students a deeper understanding of the diverse fields within the agricultural sector.

The day was packed with hands-on activities, including building Lego engines, which sparked creativity and problem-solving skills. Students also got the chance to try some sustainable proteins, tasting teriyaki crickets and BBQ mealworms, offering a fun, yet informative, look into alternative food sources.

One of the trip's highlights was meeting "Spot", the incredible Boston Dynamics robodog, used by the University of Lincoln for sheep herding. This cutting-edge technology captured the students' imaginations as they learned about its real-world applications in farming.

It was a truly memorable day, blending science, technology, and agriculture in ways that inspire and educate the next generation of innovators!



**Big Sing**

Year 7 Students Shine at The Big Sing at The Baths Hall

We are thrilled to share that 73 of our Year 7 students recently had the incredible opportunity to attend The Big Sing at the Baths Hall. This event brought together young voices from across the region for a day filled with music, energy, and excitement! Our students took part in a fantastic singing workshop, where they learned new songs, harmonies, and performance techniques, all under the guidance of experienced vocal coaches. The highlight of the day was the grand performance, where our students joined with hundreds of other children to showcase their musical talents.

This was not only a wonderful opportunity for our Year 7s to develop their musical skills but also an event that fostered teamwork, confidence, and a real sense of community. We're incredibly proud of how our students represented the school and their enthusiasm throughout the day.

A big thank you to all involved in making this event such a memorable experience!

