

ST BEDE'S NEWSLETTER



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Message from the Headteacher

This term seems to be passing remarkably quickly. We find ourselves already halfway through both the half term and as well as the season of Lent, welcome news for those who may be abstaining from chocolate, crisps, or even the occasional glass of wine. This Sunday marks the fourth Sunday of Lent, known as Laetare Sunday, a moment of joy and encouragement within this reflective season. It is also the day on which we celebrate Mothering Sunday.



As a parent myself, I appreciate the challenges that come with raising young people, particularly as they grow in independence during their secondary school years. With the ever-changing landscape of social media and online trends, ensuring their safety can feel increasingly complex. In this newsletter, you will find important information regarding concerns about potentially harmful TikTok content currently circulating; I strongly encourage all parents to familiarise themselves with this.

Amid these challenges, there are also many moments of joy, pride, and celebration that make parenting so deeply rewarding.

On Thursday 26th March, we will hold our whole-school Parents' Evening, an invaluable opportunity to meet your child's tutor or Head of Year. We strongly encourage students to attend alongside you. I would like to thank all parents and carers for the continued support you show the school. I firmly believe that strong partnerships between home and school are essential in guiding our young people through both their successes and their challenges.

I hope that on this Laetare Sunday, mothers everywhere will be able to rejoice and hopefully relax.

Early finish

On Thursday 26th March the school will close at 1:50pm. This is to allow time to set up for the start of parents evening at 2:30pm. The school bus will pick up at this time. Thank you for your understanding

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Thursday 26th March**
Year 7-11 Tutor Parents Evening. School closes 1.50pm
- **Monday 30th March**
Sheffield Hallam University - ICT Trip
- **Thursday 2nd April 3.05pm**
School closed for Easter
- **Monday 20th April**
Students return to school
- **Tuesday 21st April**
GCSE Art Exam
- **Wednesday 22nd April**
Yr 8 HPV Vaccine
- **Monday 27th April**
GCSE MFL Speaking Exams
GCSE PE Moderation
- **Monday 4th May**
May Day - School Closed

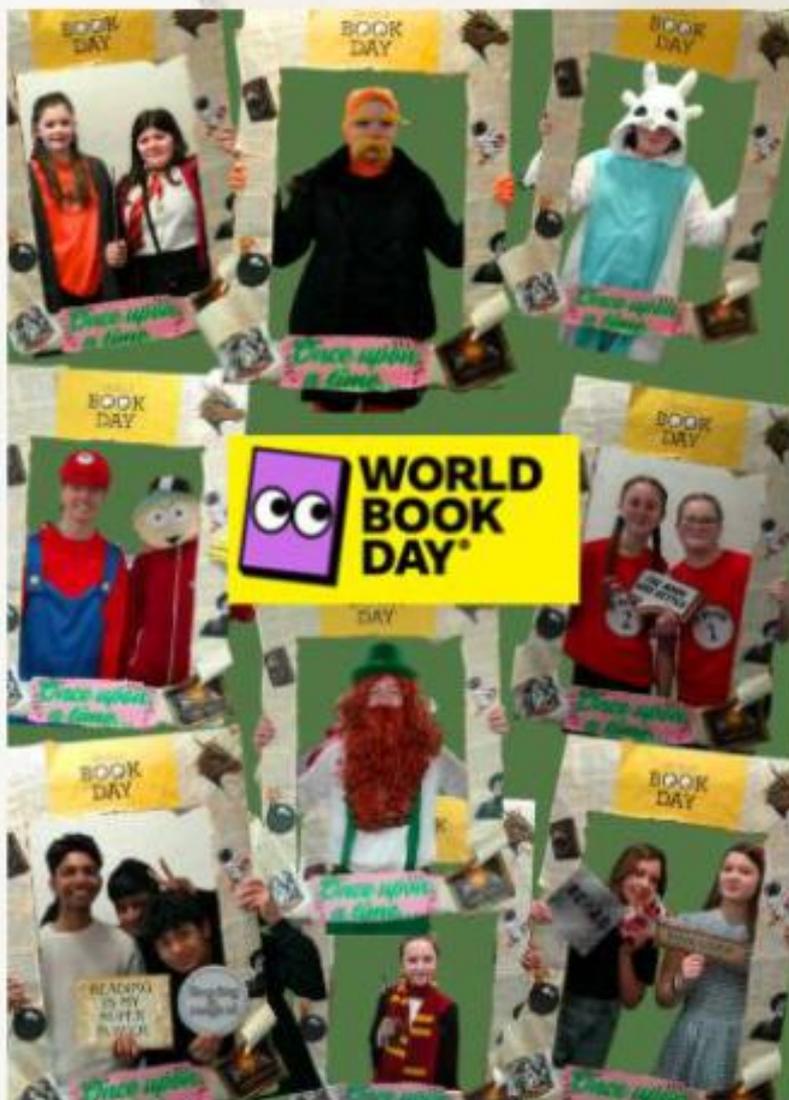
St Bede's celebrated World Book Day in style this year, transforming the school into a vibrant hub of literary excitement with its very own Literature Festival. Students and staff alike were swept up in a week of book-themed fun.

Tutor groups put their literary knowledge to the test throughout the week in the fast-paced Fastest Finger First literature quiz. Quick thinking and teamwork made for a thrilling finale, with teams racing to answer questions before their rivals.

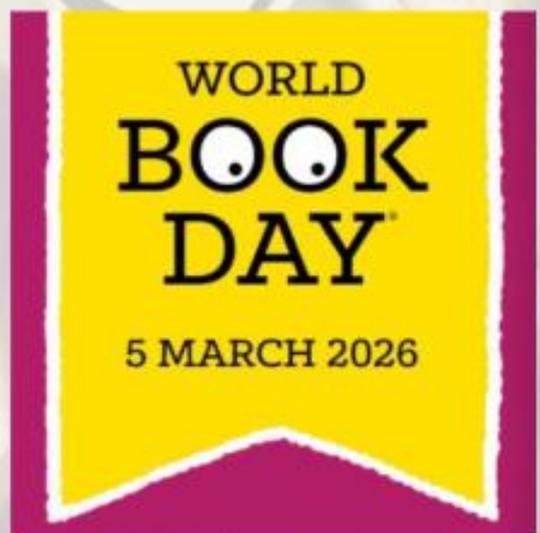
One of the most popular events was The Masked Reader, where teachers disguised their identities while reading excerpts from well-known books. Pupils eagerly submitted their guesses, sparking plenty of friendly competition.

Students also had the opportunity to design and create their own book-themed badge.

Golden Ticket giveaways added an extra layer of magic, where winners found surprise tickets hidden around the school, each redeemable for book-themed prizes.



Imagination took centre stage with the Book in a Box challenge, where students recreated scenes or themes from their favourite stories using only a small box and their creativity. The classroom displays quickly became miniature museums.







JOB OF THE WEEK - CNC MACHINIST



A CNC Machinist is someone who uses computer-controlled machines to cut and shape materials such as metal or plastic into precise parts. These parts are used in many industries including cars, airplanes, medical equipment, and everyday machinery. In this role, machinists read technical drawings, set up the machines, select the correct tools, and monitor the process to make sure each part is made accurately. Attention to detail and problem-solving skills are very important, as even small measurement errors can affect how a component works. Many CNC Machinists start their careers through engineering or manufacturing apprenticeships, where they gain practical experience while earning a wage. For students who enjoy technology, engineering, maths, and working with their hands, becoming a CNC Machinist could be an exciting and rewarding career path.

Women in Manufacturing and Engineering Event

14 of our year 9 girls visited the Bath's Hall on Wednesday to attend the Women in Manufacturing event. This event is a Humber based initiative to inspire more girls and women to consider STEM based careers in the manufacturing, engineering, digital, construction and renewables sectors. Engineering and Manufacturing is a growth sector in the Humber region and our students got the opportunity to find out more from 31 organisations including British Steel, Orsted, Phillips 66, Siemens, Smith & Nephew, SEE and Tronox.

THE BATHS HALL



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT



MEET THE STAFF

- | | |
|---|--|
| + MS B GRAHAM DIRECTOR OF ENGLISH | + MRS D WETHERHEAD ENGLISH TEACHER |
| + MS A WILKINSON HEAD OF ENGLISH | + MRS J PINTO ENGLISH TEACHER |
| + MRS J JACKSON ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER | + MRS S RYAN ENGLISH TEACHER |
| + MRS L BUSK SENIOR ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER | + MRS K BROCKLEBANK TEACHER AND HOY 10 |
| + MISS N WILLIS ENGLISH TEACHER AND LITERACY LEAD | + MISS R COGGAN TEACHER AND SENDCO |

AN OVERVIEW OF THE CURRICULUM

At KS3, students study a range of literature, including 3 Shakespeare plays, gothic literature, extracts from classic pre-1914 English literature as well as modern texts, both fiction and non-fiction based on real world events.

At KS4, all students study AQA GCSE English Language and EDUQAS GCSE English Literature. English is a vital subject because it equips students with the skills they need to succeed across the curriculum and beyond school. Through reading, students develop empathy and cultural awareness by exploring a range of voices, ideas and perspectives. Through writing and discussion, they learn to think critically, communicate clearly and construct convincing arguments. These skills are essential for exams, further education and the workplace. English also builds confidence: whether analysing a poem, crafting a narrative, or presenting a viewpoint, students learn how to express themselves thoughtfully and effectively. Through study of literature and the opportunity to express their reactions to a range of texts, students learn empathy and understanding of others which is an important life skill.

CAREERS LINKED TO ENGLISH

Studying English opens doors to a wide range of future careers because it develops the essential skills of reading, writing, analysis and communication. These skills are highly valued by employers and universities alike. A strong foundation in English can lead to careers in journalism, publishing, marketing and media, as well as law, medicine, teaching and public services. It also underpins roles in business, human resources and management, where clear communication and critical thinking are vital. In fields such as psychology, history, the creative industries and politics, the ability to interpret information carefully and express ideas confidently is key. Whether students aspire to become a lawyer, doctor, teacher, entrepreneur or journalist, English provides the communication skills and analytical thinking that help them succeed.

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

Year 7 are currently studying extracts from Anne Frank's diary and deepening their knowledge of what life was like for people during WW2. Next term they will be studying *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Shakespeare and will be acting out scenes and completing creative text-based tasks.

Year 8 are learning about the development of poetry across time by reading and responding to poetry from Anglo Saxon times to present day. Next term they will be studying *Macbeth* by Shakespeare and learning about how superstition and beliefs in witchcraft influenced people's actions. They will be performing scenes, writing their own spells in Shakespeare's style and completing creative writing tasks based on the text.

Year 9 are reading *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller and learning how modern plays are constructed. Next term, they will be studying *Romeo and Juliet* by Shakespeare.

Year 10 are reading *An Inspector Calls* by Priestley in preparation for GCSE Literature and studying poetry from the new Eduqas Anthology as well as learning skills for GCSE English Language Paper 2.

Year 11 have been preparing for their mock exams which are currently taking place and have been busy revising and attending after school classes to supplement their learning.

As a department, we aim to make lessons interesting and to expose students to a wide range of creative texts that focus on real world themes and encourage students to develop personal responses to them.



FINAL THOUGHT

In a world driven by communication, in summary, English empowers young people to understand others and to make their own voices heard.





RECEPTION NOTICES



Parents and carers must arrange appointments in advance if they wish to meet with a member of staff. Unfortunately, the school is unable to accommodate unscheduled or on demand meetings during the school day.



When you are granted access to reception, please ensure that you do not allow anyone to tailgate behind you. All visitors must follow the proper check-in procedures and be admitted by a member of staff to maintain a safe school environment.



If your child is going to be late to school, please contact the school office to inform us so we are aware of their expected arrival time.



SAFEGUARDING

Child criminal exploitation is one of the main contextual factors we are concerned about in our local area therefore we want to equip you as parents and carers with the knowledge of signs or concerns that your child may be exploited and how you can prevent this. Child criminal exploitation is when someone uses a child (under 18 years old) to commit crimes for them.

It includes things like forcing a child to work on a cannabis farm, or targeting, grooming, coercing and exploiting a child to sell drugs in county lines operations.

Child criminal exploitation can involve bribery, intimidation, violence and/or threats. The child does not need to have met whoever is exploiting them - children can be exploited via the internet or using mobile phones.

They can also be targeted via social media platforms and gaming forums.

A child may have been exploited even if it looks as if they have been a willing participant.

Many young people do not see themselves as victims.

Children can be exploited by individuals or groups, men or women, and adults or young people.

People who exploit children use the fact that they have power over children, because of an age difference or some other factor like gender, intelligence, strength, status or wealth.

Who is likely to be exploited

Any child can be a victim of child criminal exploitation, not just those who are known to social care or local authorities. But risk factors include:

- neglect or abuse
- not having a safe and stable home
- poverty
- social isolation or other social difficulties
- connections with people involved in gangs or crime
- disability
- mental health issues
- alcohol or drug problems
- being in care
- being excluded from mainstream education



Signs of exploitation

Signs to look out for include:

- displaying aggressive/violent behaviours
- often going missing from home or school and being found away from their normal area
- unexplained money, clothes, designer wear, jewellery, gadgets or mobile phones
- having multiple mobile phones
- getting lots of phone calls or texts
- use and/or possession of drugs and/or alcohol
- possession of hotel key cards/keys
- committing theft/shoplifting
- relationships with older people
- unexplained injuries
- carrying weapons
- abandoning friends and their social circle
- school performance getting worse
- self-harm
- changes in well-being
- significant emotional changes (like becoming angry or sad), or becoming fearful, withdrawn or isolated
- using different language/terminology
- new peer groups and/or relationships with unknown associates

Any sudden change in a young person's lifestyle could be because of criminal exploitation and you should talk to them about it

For further advice and guidance please visit the following website.

<https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/child-criminal-exploitation/>





This week our **Reading Stars** were joined in St Bede's Library by former **Scunthorpe United** player and manager **Brian Laws**, who spoke to the students about his life in football and why reading is important to him. Students also dreamed up their own Fantasy Football team using literary characters.



ST BEDE'S PRESENTS
ROOM 21 BIG BAND



Join us as Room 21 Big Band brings the dance floor to life with some of their favourite Big Band and Swing tunes. This is your chance to swing, sway, and dance the night away to the electrifying power of big brass and bold beats!

Wednesday 1st April
Doors open 6:45pm
Starts 7:00pm

Tickets £5
Cash Only at School
Reception or Arbor

St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Collum Avenue, Scunthorpe, DN16 2TF

