



## SUMMER 2024

### HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Once again this has been an extremely busy academic year. There have been countless opportunities and examples of success for our pupils across all aspects of school culminating in our 'Shine - Be the best version of yourself' Ethos Day. I would like to thank everyone from our school community for their contribution in making these such worthwhile experiences for our pupils.

As you will read later, we have a number of staff who are leaving St Bede's this year and I am sure everyone would like to join me in wishing all our departing staff the very best for the future. I would like to give special mention to Mrs Bellas, Mrs Caton and Mrs Burgess who after many years of service to our school are embarking on a thoroughly deserved, long and relaxing retirement.

Can I thank everyone who made our uniform recycling afternoon last week such a successful event. Any donations are always welcome and can be dropped off at school at any time.

I would also like to take this opportunity to update families regarding the recent consultation that took place on St Bede's converting to an Academy as part of the Romero Catholic Trust. After careful consideration, the Governing Body of St Bede's RC High School have decided not to proceed to the next stage of the academy conversion process at this time. The Governing Body would like to thank all stakeholders for their contributions over the past five months.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors, the staff and myself, can I wish every family a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.



### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

To keep up to date with our latest news as and when it happens and to celebrate all things St. Bede's, follow our social media channels:

<https://www.stbedesblackburn.com/social/>

### UPCOMING DATES

22<sup>nd</sup> August - GCSE Results' Day (9am-11am)

3<sup>rd</sup> September - School Reopens @ 8.15am

9<sup>th</sup> September - Y7 Photographs

10<sup>th</sup> September - Class Charts Parent Support Session

11<sup>th</sup> September - Y9 Photographs

19<sup>th</sup> September - Y11 Careers' Trip

26<sup>th</sup> September - Open Evening



**"Everything is possible for one who believes" Mark 9:23**



## CARITAS CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AWARD

The termly Caritas Catholic Social Teaching Award was presented to Prep group 8DHA for their charity work that they have carried out over the past year. They have proactively worked to raise money for different charities this year and have shown love for others by putting their faith into action.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP - FAITH IN ACTION

Year 7 pupils from our Social Justice Group are working towards the Salford Diocese Faith in Action Award. Pupils from this group meet weekly to plan ways that they can make a difference through their faith, arranging charity events and faith activities for our school community to participate in.



## YEAR 10 ICELAND TRIP

In March, Year 10 GCSE Geography pupils spent 4 days exploring the volcanic landscape of south west Iceland. Pupils were lucky enough to experience one of earth's great natural phenomenon when the Sundhnúkur Volcano spectacularly erupted turning the night sky a burning red. As well as this, students visited: glaciers, black sand beaches, rift valleys, lagoons and many waterfalls.



## YEAR 6 TRANSITION DAYS



Year 6 students from 25 Primary schools joined us for their transition days this term. This involved an introduction assembly with Mr. Milton and Miss. O'Toole, trying a range of new lessons, travelling to and from school in the way they will in September and trying our infamous chicken burgers for lunch! We also met the families of our new intake at our annual transition evening.

Year 6 enjoyed gaining a taster of life at St. Bede's, making some new friends and meeting their new teachers. We look forward to welcoming you all in your St. Bede's uniform from September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## YEAR 8 MALHAM TRIP



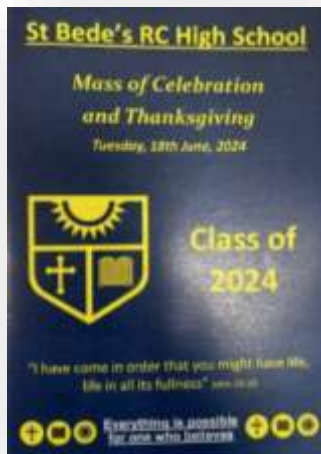
In May, the Geography department ran a school trip to Malham in the Yorkshire Dales for our Year 8 cohort. Whilst out walking, pupils visited waterfalls such as Janet's Foss and Gordale Scar, and took in the beauty of Malham Cove. Fieldwork studies were also completed, including river channel measurements, sediment analysis and a questionnaire with members of the public. Our students were fantastic ambassadors of St. Bede's.

## CLASS OF 2024



This half term, we said Goodbye to our Class of 2024 following their GCSE examinations. We celebrated the end of their time at St. Bede's with their Leavers' Day in June where the students enjoyed a celebration breakfast whilst taking part in the shirt signing ceremony. This was then followed by a Leavers' Assembly where we shared photographs and videos of their 5 years with us and staff created a leaving video before the assembly ended with confetti cannons!

In July, we celebrated our annual school Prom at Shaw Hill Golf Club. Students arrived in their finest suits and dresses via many modes of transport - including a scooter, limousines and on the back of a horse! Students enjoyed their last meal together before dancing the night away. We look forward to welcoming them on **Results' Day on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** to celebrate their examination success.



## LEAVERS' MASS OF CELEBRATION

We welcomed our Year 11 pupils and their families to a Mass of Celebration this month. This was an important and joyous occasion for our pupils to reflect on their time at St Bede's and look forward to the future. Thank you to Father Brian for celebrating Mass and to all our families who took part. This was a significant part of the Year 11 Leavers' events that took place after the exams.

## NEW LIBRARY LOCATION



We are excited to announce that our newly improved and relocated Taylor Library will be opening at the start of the next academic year. With an expanded book selection, increased space, and central location, there is much more for our readers to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you there in September!



## SKIPTON CASTLE TRIP

Year 7 were invited on a History trip to Skipton Castle. Students had a guided tour of the 800-year-old castle and our study of the importance of castles for power and control in the Medieval period.



## NEWLY APPOINTED PREFECT TEAM

This term, we appointed our Prefect team for 2024-25 following incredibly impressive applications from Year 10 students. These Prefects were then shortlisted to form the candidates for the Head Pupil Interviews (a very difficult process indeed). Following the interview process with Mr. Milton, Mrs. Diffley and Mrs. Houston, we appointed Phoebe, Joseph, Aaron, Jessica and Lily as our Head Pupils. Each Head Pupil will lead a Prefect team for each year group. Congratulations to all our Prefects and Head Pupils!



## OUR MISSION

*At St Bede's we believe that all things are possible. Our pupils are guided and encouraged to fulfil their God-given potential and are inspired to become the best versions of themselves; the people that God created them to be.*

*Together, we will learn to understand and live moral lives, based on the gospel values of; hope, love, forgiveness and compassion. We believe that every person is made and loved by God, with the potential to grow into the likeness of Christ.*

*Being part of the St Bede's community will be a journey of faith, discovery and learning where all pupils are provided with the opportunities to shine.*

## STAFF UPDATES

We are sad to be saying goodbye to the following staff members who are leaving us for pastures new:

**Mrs. Nightingale - Teacher of Geography**

**Mrs. Flood - Teacher of Spanish**

**Mr. Maddison - Teacher of Technology**

**Mr. Gould - Teacher of History**

**Mr. Furqan - Teacher of Science**

**Mr. Hughes - Cover Supervisor**

**Mrs. Gizzi - Alternative Curriculum Manager**

**Mrs. Bradley - Teacher of Art**

**Miss. Tasker - Teacher of Science**

**Mrs. Burgess - Teacher of Spanish**

**Mr. Jackson - Academic Leader of Computing**

**Miss. Ashton - Maths KS3 Coordinator**

**Mrs Caton - PA to Headteacher**

We are excited to welcome many new staff members to the St. Bede's team; we will share these additions in the Autumn term.

## MRS. BELLAS

Science Teacher, **Mrs. Bellas** will be retiring this summer following 33 years of teaching at St. Bede's. Mrs. Bellas came to our school as a trainee teacher in 1991 and joined permanently as a 'Probationary Teacher' that September and then never left! Mrs. Bellas has been our resident Physics' specialist ever since; she has been part of thousands of St. Bede's success stories over the years.

We thank Mrs. Bellas and all colleagues who are leaving us this summer; we wish them the very best for their futures.

## SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENT



Following the great success of the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, this term we welcomed over 150 visitors from our school community - mainly the Grandparents and extended family members of our student Guardians and newly appointed Prefects. Students led a morning of Music and Drama performances before serving Afternoon Tea to our guests. A great time was had by all and the feedback on our students was wonderful. Thank you to all who made this event happen - including Mrs. Berry and Miss. Wright who created the fabulous feast from our school kitchen!



## HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

From September, we will be replacing our home-school communication system; we will no longer be using Edulink and all updates will be communicated via Class Charts. Families will receive a Parent and Pupil Code, which will then give you individual access to your child's Timetable, Behaviour & Assessment Profile, Personal Study and daily Announcements. We will be holding 'Sign in' sessions in September to support families where needed: <https://www.classcharts.com/>



## BEING THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF



Thank you to families for ensuring that your child arrives to school on time, equipped to learn and has full complete uniform.

As a reminder all pupils should have the following equipment every day and every lesson:

- Black/blue pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Calculator & Whiteboard Pen



Equipment can be bought in school from our Prefect equipment shop during Break & Lunchtime in the school Atrium. All items are 20p.

On the 1st day back in September, Prep Tutors will be doing an equipment audit, therefore please ensure your child has all the necessary equipment to start the new Academic Year “ready to learn”.

Uniform standards on the whole are excellent and it is often noticed and commented on as a real positive when visitors come to our School. Before the new school year, please look at some of the points below to ensure your child is “St. Bede’s compliant” when they return:

- Hairstyles which are extreme in terms of cut or colour are not acceptable. Hair must be one natural colour.
- With the exception of a watch, no jewellery of any sort is permitted. This includes ear, nose and tongue studs.
- Make-up, nail polish, false eyelashes and gel nails are not permitted.
- Socks worn with skirts should be plain, white and pulled to the knee. Socks worn with trousers should be plain black.
- Shoes should be plain black and no trainer/trainer style.
- Coats must be black or navy - no hooded tracksuit top.
- Skirts must not be rolled up or pulled up.
- Pupils require a school bag capable of holding multiple A4 size books and equipment.

If in any doubt about Uniform expectations, please consult the School’s website and/or contact the school to speak to your child’s Prep Tutor or Year Team: <https://www.stbedesblackburn.com/uniform/>

## SPORTING SUCCESS



Town Sports 2024 featured students chosen for their achievements and commitment to sports. The event included a full day of track and field competitions against 10 other schools in Blackburn with Darwen Borough.

The day kicked off with relay heats, where all St Bede’s teams qualified. Jack Year 8 set a new record in the 800m race with a time of 2.07. As the day progressed, Hannah and Lily secured 1st and 2nd place in the 1500m race for Year 10/11 girls, while Harry won the Year 8 1500m race for boys.

In the sprint events, students from St Bede’s qualified for the finals, with notable wins by Evie in the girls 200m, Jack in the boys 200m, and Harvey in the 100m race beating the Town Record with a time of 11.01seconds.

St Bede’s also excelled in field events, with Alex breaking the Town Record in high jump with a score of 1.66m.

The impressive performances led St Bede’s to be crowned both Girls and Boys Town Team Champions, dominating the competition with a lead of over 100 points.

In addition to all these fantastic achievements, St. Bede’s were crowned Blackburn with Darwen Champions in both NETBALL and FOOTBALL!



## SPORTS’ DAY

The 2024 Sports Day saw colleges uniting to compete in various events, showcasing their hard work and dedication. The day witnessed remarkable achievements, with students setting new records in track and field events, pushing their limits to reach new heights. This included Jack in Year 8 breaking the 800m record and Alex in Year 9 also breaking the schools high jump record. Through the day pupils worked hard to win points for their colleges, showing determination and spirit.

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY MATTERS

As a school, we are committed to ensuring the best for all our students and we actively work with families to promote good attendance and punctuality. It is proven that for a student to reach their full educational potential, a high level of school attendance is essential. It is our duty to consistently strive to achieve a target of 100% attendance for all students. Every opportunity will be used to convey to students and their families the importance of regular punctuality and attendance. Penalty Notices can be issued by the Local Authority for poor attendance and for Term Time Leave.

### PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The Department of Education has recently announced national changes to Penalty Notices issued for unauthorised absences during term time. These are effective from 19th August 2024.

1. **FIRST OFFENCE:** The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

2. **SECOND OFFENCE:** The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be: £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

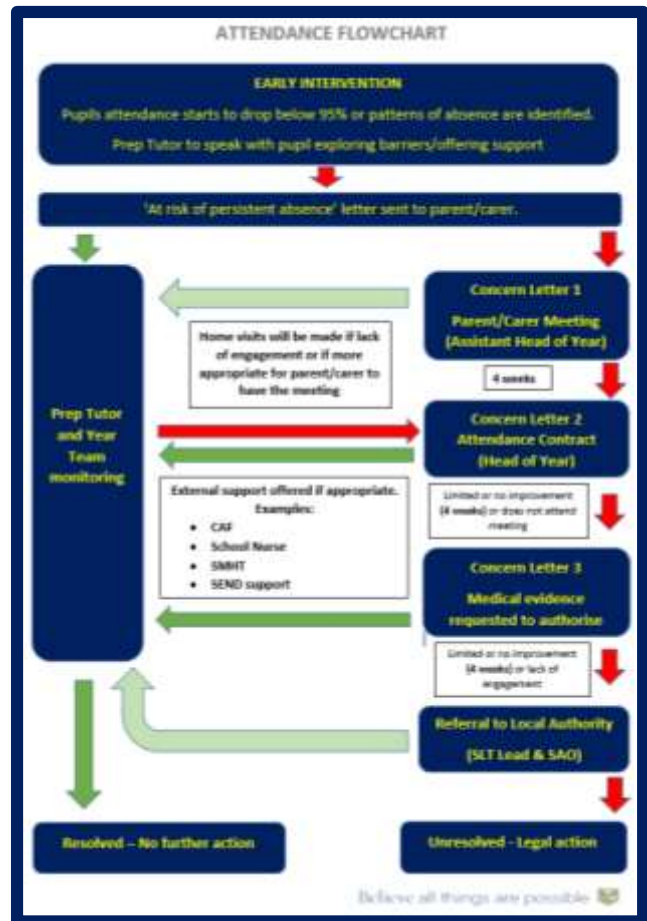
3. **THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN THREE YEARS):** The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented to the Magistrates Court and fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty can show up on a parent's future DBS certificate due to failure to safeguard a child's education

### **10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD**

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. Pupils who are late after 9.00am will receive a 'U' code which is classed as an unauthorised absence Please follow the link for the Department of Education's 'Working together to improve school attendance' statutory guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY MATTERS



## 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY



A selection of History students also went to the town hall to represent St. Bede's at the D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June.



## PERFORMING ARTS

Our school production of 'Frozen' took place in April and was a huge success. This magical journey would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work and support of our entire school community.

Last year, many of you joined us for our spectacular production of 'Beauty and the Beast', a tale that enchanted audiences with its timeless charm and captivating characters. The extreme success of the show meant it was feared we would never be able to follow such success. Looking back now, we are confident in saying that our Drama and Music departments definitely managed to and we look forward to what is in store for next year...



Over 120 pupils auditioned this year over a period of three weeks for the lead roles. The standard of the auditions was unbelievable and led to some very difficult decisions. We wanted to make sure we gave as many students the opportunity to perform and so we opted to double cast some of the roles.



We would like to thank all those who committed their time to the rehearsals, not only multiple times after school, but on various Sundays and late-night technical runs. Our school productions are not just about showcasing talent; it is about fostering a sense of community and collaboration within our school. Every member of the cast and crew played a vital role in bringing this production to fruition, and their teamwork and support for one another are evident both on and off stage.

We would also like to thank everyone for that enabled this show to go ahead. Your support is deeply appreciated and has helped to create an unforgettable experience for our students.

It has been a privilege to see our students bring the magical world of Arendelle to St Bede's. They were all amazing and we look forward to many more successful productions in the future.



## END OF YEAR REWARD EVENTS



Over 650 St Bede's pupils were invited to take part in our 2024 Rewards' Day. Over 650 pupils attended locations included Blackpool Pleasure Beach, The Trafford Centre, Blackpool Zoo and a local Walk in Witton Park. These pupils were rewarded for their attitude towards learning and high standards this academic year. Pupils had a great time on all trips despite some rain! Well done to all pupils who were rewarded for their hard work and effort this year.



## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

59 of our Year 8 pupils received the Sacrament of Confirmation last month. The Confirmation Service was celebrated by Bishop John Arnold in St Joseph's Church, Darwen. Leading up to the Service, pupils took part in preparation sessions that were led by Father Brian and supported by St Bede's staff. The collection during the Service raised money for the charity, Every Action has Consequences. This charity was chosen by the pupils who were confirmed.



## LIVERPOOL FIELDTRIP

Over 3 days in April 2024 all of the year 10 GCSE Geography pupils conducted their human geography fieldtrip to Liverpool. They spent the day investigating the regeneration of Liverpool city centre, completing an environmental survey and questionnaire. The pupils improved their geography skills and represented school exceptionally.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



Over the past 9 months 40 year 10 pupils have been completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. They have been volunteering in the local community, improving a skill and regularly completing a physical activity. They have also completed a practice expedition involving 2 days of walking with a nights camping. They are now ready to complete their assessed expedition and gain the prestigious award.

## MATHS' CHAMPIONS



Arthur, Mia, Jacob and Tia represented Year 7 and 8 at the Mathematics' Challenge held at LuSoM college in Preston. They had to complete 5 Rounds of challenges under timed conditions, one of which they completed in 2 minutes with 13 minutes to spare. Throughout the morning, they remained in the top 3 of 16 schools from around Lancashire.

Our Maths' Team achieved place and should be extremely proud of this achievement. Well done team!

## ECOLOGY CLUB

Our Ecology Group has enjoyed another year of taking care of our school environment and looking after the school garden - despite the weather! Our pupils have planted and grown various fruits and vegetables, and have shared the harvest with staff and their families. The group is also planning some exciting next steps, such as expanding the garden further, as well as teaming up with other after-school clubs to create artistic decorations for our outdoor spaces.





NEW FOR SEPTEMBER 2024...



# KS3 FOOD & NUTRITION

We are excited and delighted to announce that from September 2024 Food and Nutrition will be back on the menu at St Bede's.

Food and Nutrition will be available across KS3 giving pupils the opportunity to explore and develop knowledge and skills in a new purpose built Food and Nutrition room. Construction is underway and we will be serving this new curriculum addition from September 2024.

Pupils will learn all about different food groups and dietary requirements. They will gain knowledge in a huge variety of foods, but most importantly practical skills which they can apply in later life.

## WHALLEY ABBEY

Our Year 7 pupils have taken part in the annual Whalley Abbey retreat during July. The theme of the retreat was 'Live life to the fullest'. Pupils worked together in group activities and reflected on their faith and their time at St Bede's during Year 7. They also reflected on how they could live out the St Bede's mission and live life to the fullest in the future.



## UNIFORM RECYCLING

We offer a free 'pre-loved' uniform scheme. As uniform is an expensive requirement for families, the school can offer good-quality second-hand uniform. Our latest event was on July 9<sup>th</sup> and was once again a great success. Thank you for all donations from our school community. There will be a permanent donation container in the main reception where families can donate items. If we collect enough items, we will plan to hold another event in January.

## PERFORMING ARTS' SUMMER SHOWCASE



Our annual Summer Showcase was a resounding success; showcasing the incredible talents of our students. This event featured outstanding performances from soloists, singing groups, the Performing Arts' Club, the Swing Band, and an array of Rock Bands.

There were stunning vocal performances featuring solos from Isabella, Olivia and Marika, as well as group performances from the Performing Arts and Singing Clubs. They performed songs from *Sister Act*, *Pitch Perfect*, *Mamma Mia* and modern music artists. We also had a beautiful piano solo from Lillie, an amazing dance routine from 6 very talented dancers, as well as some hilarious drama performances about the trials of being Music and Drama teachers!

Following the interval, we watched outstanding performances from our rock bands, showcasing songs from Oasis, Bon Jovi, Nirvana, Toto and Duran. The evening finished with a collaboration of Ceelo Green's 'Forget You' performed by the school swing band and the whole cast.

Overall, the Summer Showcase was a testament to the hard work and talent of our students. The diverse range of performances provided a night of memorable entertainment, highlighting the vibrant music and drama culture within our school. Congratulations to all the performers for their fantastic contributions to a truly unforgettable evening.

## INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

The RE department welcomed in members of the Muslim, Christian and Baha'i faith for a Q&A session with Year 10 pupils. Students gained a valuable insight into our world of many faiths.



## GCSE SYNAGOGUE EXPERIENCE

All Year 11 students went to Whitefield Hebrew Congregation synagogue. A great experience for our pupils to see their Jewish learning come to life.



## PANTASAPH RELIGIOUS RETREAT

Our Year 9 pupils enjoyed a retreat to Pantasaph in Holywell, North Wales. The weather was glorious and the pupils enjoyed a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, taking advantage of the peaceful setting. Fr Paul celebrated Mass for our pupils in St David's Church at Pantasaph and invited pupils to look around at the beautiful stained-glass windows and stunning statues inside the building. On the trip back to Blackburn, pupils visited the shrine of St Winefride's Well that has been a place of pilgrimage since the 1100's and is visited by thousands of pilgrims every year.



## BE LIKE BEDE



Throughout this Academic year, we have awarded countless Postcards of Praise across all subject areas and for behaving in the St. Bede's Way. We look forward to awarding many more in September as we encourage all students to Be Like Bede...



## A PRAYER TO END THE SCHOOL YEAR...

*Dear God,*

*As we come to the end of an academic year, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to be a part of the lives of our students; may they be mindful that their steps make an impact and their words carry power.*

*Amen*



School reopens on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 8.15am. Students will spend the first hour of the new school year with their Prep group to prepare for the year ahead.

Wishing all our school community a happy and safe summer holiday.

We look forward to another new beginning in September...



**“Everything is possible for one who believes” Mark 9:23**