

St Bede's

Parent/Carer Bulletin

Term Three

(April 2019)



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy Easter! I hope you all had a lovely break and enjoyed the warm weather. As we approach formal examination season, I hope you will join with me in keeping all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students in your thoughts and prayers. Our young people face a challenging linear examination system but are working incredibly hard, with the support of their parents and teachers, to fulfil their individual potential. We wish them every success!

We are very much aware of the demands that young people face in today's world and the impact that things such as mobile phones, social media and gaming can have on their mental health and wellbeing. With this in mind, we are very proud to have established a link with the local YAM (Youth Aware Mental Health) team who are piloting a project with Year Nine. Supporting your role as parent, we are continually seeking ways of helping our young people navigate a very complex world and will keep you posted with regard to the progress of our mental health strategy.

Please have a look at the final section of this bulletin which highlights some social media apps which may merit further investigation.

As you are aware, we take our safeguarding responsibilities very seriously. To further enhance our strategy and by incorporating existing fencing, we have installed security fencing to provide a secure internal perimeter. This is fully compliant with health and safety regulations and includes gate access for emergency vehicles. This additional safeguarding feature has been funded through devolved capital funding. At the present time, we are trialling management systems within the school grounds. Any plans regarding access to the front of the school will be shared with you in due course.

I am also delighted to announce that we have been successful with a capital bid and secured significant funding through the Capital Improvement Fund 2019/2020 to replace electrical circuitry within school. The scheme includes partial replacement of electrical infrastructure within the Main and Technology Building, including distribution boards and sub mains. The earthing and wiring in many areas will also be replaced along with replacement energy efficient lighting. Funded through Government capital grants, the project will commence during the school summer holiday period.

As always, we very much encourage your input. If you have any questions or concerns please get in touch via the Student Support email address – studentsupport@stbedes.durham.sch.uk

Best wishes

Mr N Harrison

Headteacher

Year 7 ~ Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 10 th to Friday 14 th June 2019	Year 7 – assessment week
Wednesday 3 rd <u>or</u> Thursday 4 th July 2019	Year 7 Parents' Evening

Year 8 ~ Key Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 8 th May 2019	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th June 2019	Year 8 – assessment week

Year 9 ~ Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th June 2019	Year 9 – assessment week

Year 10 ~ Key Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 1 st May 2019	Year 10 Parents' Evening

Year 11 ~ Key Dates

Date	Event
Friday 14 th June 2019	Year 11 Leavers' Celebration
Thursday 11 th July 2019	Year 11 Prom

Please note that all dates above are those which we have planned in our school calendar. They are subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances or other opportunities presenting themselves during the year.

Dates for your diary...

2018 ~ 2019		
Holiday	Closing Date	Opening Date
Summer Half-Term 2019	Friday, 24 th May 2019	Monday, 3 rd June 2019
Summer 2019	Friday, 19 th July 2019	Wednesday, 4 th September 2019

2019 ~ 2020		
Holiday	Closing Date	Opening Date
Summer 2019	Friday, 19 th July 2019	Wednesday, 4 th September 2019
Autumn Half-Term 2019	Friday, 25 th October 2019	Monday, 4 th November 2019
Please note, school will be closed to students on Friday 29th November 2019 for staff training.		
Christmas 2019	Thursday, 19 th December 2019	Monday, 6 th January 2020
Spring Half-Term 2020	Friday, 14 th February 2020	Monday, 24 th February 2020
Easter 2020	Friday, 3 rd April 2020	Monday, 20 th April 2020
Summer Half-Term 2020	Friday, 22 nd May 2020	Monday, 1 st June 2020
Summer 2020	Friday, 17 th July 2020	Thursday, 3 rd September 2020

2020 ~ 2021		
Holiday	Closing Date	Opening Date
Summer 2020	Friday, 17 th July 2020	Thursday, 3 rd September 2020
Autumn Half-Term 2020	Friday, 23 rd October 2020	Monday, 2 nd November 2020
Please note, school will be closed to students on Friday 27th November 2020 for staff training.		
Christmas 2020	Friday 18 th December 2020	Monday, 4 th January 2021
Spring Half-Term 2021	Friday, 12 th February 2021	Monday, 22 nd February 2021
Easter 2021	Friday, 26 th March 2021	Monday, 12 th April 2021
Summer Half-Term 2021	Friday, 28 th May 2021	Monday, 7 th June 2021
Summer 2021	Friday, 16 th July 2021	To be determined



As mentioned in previous bulletins, good attendance and punctuality are essential for student progress both academically and socially. Students and parents should be aiming for an attendance level of at least 97% to have the best chance of success and wellbeing. We are wholly committed to supporting parents and students in achieving this success. To complement the Student Support Team, we have recently engaged the service of an Attendance Support Officer. If you have concerns about your child's attendance and/or punctuality and would like to speak with Julie, please get in touch via the student support email address -

studentsupport@stbedes.durham.sch.uk



Julie Patterson



School Uniform



As you are aware, we are very proud of our uniform; visitors always comment that our students look very smart. Uniform standards are applied to ensure appropriateness and modesty at all times but we appreciate that teenagers grow very quickly. Could we please ask that you check your child's uniform regularly to ensure that items do not become too small/short as your child grows. If you have any questions or concerns about uniform, please get in touch via the student support email address - studentsupport@stbedes.durham.sch.uk

Lenten Fundraising

"Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation, especially our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Following in the footsteps of Christ, we hope to make present in our unjust and broken world, the justice, love and peace of God."

St. Bede's Lenten Fundraising Campaign began on Ash Wednesday. The whole of the school community attended a short Liturgy which included the Distribution of Ashes. During the Liturgy the students were reminded that Lent provides us with the opportunity of re-connecting with Christ through our prayer life, through our actions and through giving of ourselves.

The daily prayer resources included a Lent calendar produced by CAFOD. Every Friday during Lent the Dining Hall menu was 'meat free' and each tutor group was given a £10 enterprise donation and were challenged to come up with a fundraising idea to increase their £10 investment. The courtyard became a hive of activity and whilst money is still coming in, the total currently stands at over £1,000. An amazing achievement which reflects a fantastic effort across the whole school community.

Alongside all of the enterprise fundraising, the students were also challenged to take part in an AdLent Calendar – 40 Items in 40 days. Each tutor group was given a tote bag and asked to fill it with 40 items that we could then donate to two fantastic causes – Blackfriars SVP Homeless Hostel and Food4U Foodbank. Once again the generosity of our students (supported by you) ensured that both organisations received an overwhelming amount of food and toiletries to distribute to those in need.

As well as Food4U and Blackfriars SVP, charities supported by your generosity include:



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



St Cuthberts Care

Enabling People

CAFOD
Just one world

Henry Dancer Days
Supporting Children with Cancer



Willow Burn
DERWENTSIDE HOSPICE CARE FOUNDATION

We appreciate the support that you, as parents, show to our charity fundraising appeals. Your generosity is having an impact on many lives locally, nationally and internationally. Thank you!

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can help in any way:

Phone: 01207 523408 or 01207 520424 (option 1)

Email: studentsupport@stbedes.durham.sch.uk

In person: If you wish to speak to someone in person, please use the methods above to make an appointment. Please do not attend school without an appointment as it cannot be guaranteed that staff will be available to meet you and we do not wish you to have a wasted journey.



Safeguarding

Local Safeguarding Children's Board

As mentioned in the previous bulletin, the government recommend that all students are educated on a range of issues which are known to impact on the safety and wellbeing of young people in the UK. Recently, our Local Safeguarding Children's Board produced a resource and asked schools to share it as part of their campaign to raise awareness. We have signposted our students to the resource via information in their planner but would encourage parents to also access the resource and discuss it with their child. The resource can be found in the safeguarding section of our school website (www.stbedes.durham.sch.uk) and contains information and guidance on issues such as:

- Child Abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Domestic Abuse
- Neglect



If you have any further questions or require more information, the LSCB's website is a great source of support and guidance (www.durham-lscb.org.uk).

Social Media Apps to watch out for...

Reports suggest that the apps below are being regularly accessed by young people in the UK and beyond. If your child has any of them on their devices, we would recommend you research them to be fully informed of the potential risks they may pose to your child's safety and/or wellbeing:



Houseparty



Tinder



ask.fm



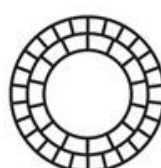
Kik messenger



Voxer



Snapchat



VSCO



Vine



Whisper



Tumblr



Instagram



Omegle

You may also wish to research icon hiding apps such as HIP or calculator+.