



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well and that you are looking forward to the christmas break.

As always our school community have been amazing and we have continued to raise funds for charitable organisations such as MacMillan Cancer Research, The Poppy Appeal, East Durham Food Bank and Stella Maris. Deacon Peter from the Apostleship of the Sea picked up the shoe boxes to take down to the port today and was overwhelmed with your generosity.

Chaplaincy

Our faith in action groups have continued to work towards their bronze and silver awards. Eleven of our 6th form have completed their John Paul II awards and will be presented with their medals and certificates in March.

Our equality group led anti-bullying week including all of the assemblies. This term our Laudato Si group received confirmation that they have been awarded with the Eco Schools Green Award. This involved a great deal of hard work which was led by our students. Our chaplaincy group have worked incredibly hard and have been a key part of liturgical events in school and will lead us once again in prayer and reflection today in our end of term Celebration of the Word.

We celebrated our year 7 welcome Mass in November as part of the World Youth Day celebrations and tutor Masses continue to be celebrated on a weekly basis.

Uniform Reminder

We have high standards of uniform. St Bede's students take pride in themselves and in our school. All students are treated equally and fairly; if any students breach any part of our uniform policy, then they will either be given some temporary uniform to wear, sent home to change, or be withdrawn from social time until their uniform is correct. We will do this to ensure that all our pupils take pride in their appearance. We wish our students to demonstrate their commitment to their education at St Bede's by conforming and wearing the uniform as prescribed in the policy. Further details are available in the uniform policy on the school website. A sense of belonging and an ethos that celebrates community is integral to mental wellbeing, community spirit and academic success – we are unified and together every step of the way. Please note in particular that shoes must be black and plain. We do not permit logos that are a different colour. Please can parents / carers be mindful when buying shoes.



If you have any doubts about shoes or hairstyles please contact your child's Head of House and ask before purchasing.

Reports

Reports on pupil progress for parents and carers will be distributed in the New Year to allow parents of Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) to be updated on their child's achievements.

Return to School

School reopens for all pupils on Monday 8th January 2024.

Christmas Message

At Christmas we hear a message of hope which calls us not to be afraid. StJohn tells us that Jesus is, "The light that shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it". He is the living sign of God's healing, reconciliation and comfort. This term has been challenging but despite this our young people have shown determination, resilience and have adapted to change. As we finish this term our 'Celebration of the Word' will focus on how important it is to let Christ's light shine in our own hearts.

A Christmas Prayer:

God of silent nights, your light shines in the darkness
So that even our darkness becomes a place to find hope.
Still our hearts and minds, so that in this moment we might hear the cry
of new life born to us in a place of glorious humility;
with the strength of human and divine vulnerability.
Amen

I hope you all have a safe, healthy and happy Christmas break

Yours sincerely

F Cessford

**Frances Cessford
Headteacher**