



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Dayspring Trust

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DAI/TCG

13 February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

As this half term draws to a close, I would like to remind you that school **closes at 3.00pm on Thursday 16 February, and re-opens on Monday 27 February at 8.30am** (breakfast club is open at 7.45am as usual).

I would like to thank the pupils and staff for their hard work this half term, and parents for their support. We have had a busy half term. Our Y9 have sat exams, Y11 are working really hard on their GCSE courses and preparations for their exams in the late spring / early summer. The Y11 Maths and English intervention morning sessions seem to be working really well. We have had, Y9 and Y11 parents evening, both of which have been well attended. Thank you for supporting your child in this way, it really does make a difference. All other year groups are continuing to work well together. I would say that everyone is due a well-earned half term break!

Our Y10 Lesotho visit is currently underway. The pupils seem to be having a great experience. If you have access to "Twitter", why not follow their journey @vbedelesotho?

We have had a real push in school to reduce litter waste – particularly plastic drinks bottles. I would like to thank pupils for following the rules around not removing bottles from the canteen as this does really help. A reminder that we do sell sports bottles for £1 from the main school office, and that pupils are allowed to take a drink from these at appropriate times during lessons.

I have been asked by the local traffic enforcement team to raise the issue of illegal and inconsiderate parking by a minority of parents. This issue seems to be a particular concern in and around Paddock Lane and Fylingdale Drive, as well as on the roundabout next to the school entrance. The safety of our pupils both coming into and leaving school is paramount. Could I ask that everyone gives this their fullest consideration, and make sure that our roads and walkways are safe places for our pupils.

Like many schools across the country, we have had our share of illness due to winter virus. We appreciate that sometimes absence from school is unavoidable. I would like to thank everyone for making sure that all of our pupils attend school as regularly as possible. We all realise that regular attendance at school is essential for a pupil to fulfil their potential. If your child has been absent, they will need to catch up on the classwork missed. Their class teacher will organise this with them. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the class teacher in the first instance.



After the half term holiday, we are going to be visited by Archbishop Sentamu. He will be spending some of his time in school with us whilst he visits our region over the weekend of 3 March. His visits builds on the “Prayer Space” project in which we have been involved. If you get a chance, please read the full article at <http://www.durham.anglican.org/young-people-and-schools/prayer-spaces-in-schools.aspx>

Our school newsletter will be published shortly. As there have been many changes to the secondary school curriculum and the assessment processes used, we have decided to compile a “special edition” which focuses on these areas and summarises all the key changes in one handy reference guide. I hope that you find this a useful resource.

Some key dates for next half term:

- Y8 Exams – immediately upon return to school
- Y8 Curriculum Choices evening 16 March
- Y8 Parents evening 22 March
- Venerable Bede Talent Show 4 April (Provisional)

Finally, I wish you and your family a restful half term break. I hope that everyone is able to recharge their batteries, and return refreshed on Monday 27 February at 8.30am.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Airey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Head of School