



# Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Tunstall Bank, Sunderland, SR2 0SX

Telephone: 0191 523 9745 Fax: 0191 523 9775

Email: venerable.bede@venerablebede.co.uk Website: www.venerablebede.co.uk

Head of School: Mr D Airey (BSc Hons)

Executive Headteacher: Mrs G A Booth (BA Hons/M.Ed.)



DAI/TCG

20 June 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

As many of you will be aware, over the past decade or so we have developed a really strong partnership through the Durham Anglican Link with the country of Lesotho. Each year, we send a group of pupil and staff ambassadors on exchange visits which have not only had a personal impact on them and the Basotho pupils they meet and work with in Lesotho, but which have also strengthened links between our whole communities.

I am delighted to say that, in recognition of these links, King Letsie III and Queen 'Masenate Mahato Seeiso have announced a **Royal Visit to Venerable Bede Academy on the afternoon of Friday 24 June**. During this visit, the King and Queen will meet with some of our pupils who have visited Lesotho, have a tour of the academy, speak to our staff and pupils, and visit some classrooms. As well as the King and Queen, there are other notable dignitaries visiting the academy, including the Bishop of Durham, the Right Reverend Paul Butler, the Lord Lieutenants of both Tyne and Wear and Durham, the Diocesan Director of Education for Durham Diocese, Sunderland's Director of Education, and Members, Directors and Academy Council members of the Dayspring Trust.

Whilst it will not be possible for all of our pupils to be directly involved in the proceedings, we hope that we can capture the essence of the afternoon and share it with everyone in future Worship and in our newsletters. In recognition of the fantastic start that our current Y7 pupils have made to the academy, they will form a guard of honour as the King and Queen arrive at school, ensuring them a warm welcome.

Apart from an adjusted lunch period for our pupils and staff, the visit should have minimal impact on the normal functioning of the school, including the start and finishing times. However, for reasons of security, there will be no access to the school building for anyone other than those directly involved in the visit between 12.15 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. If you feel that this could possibly impact upon you or your child, for example if you have a scheduled dental/medical appointment during this period and you need to take your child out of school, please contact the school office for further advice.

Yours faithfully

Head of School

