

The Venerable Bede News



Welcome

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our Newsletter. As you will remember, at the end of the summer term we had a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) visit. May I thank all of the pupils and parents who were involved in this inspection. We are really pleased with the report, which graded Venerable Bede as Outstanding in each of the four areas and stated that: "The academy is a community that cares about each other and nurtures everyone". This embraces our core purpose in school. The report can be downloaded in full from the school website.

As the mornings get darker and the nights draw in, could I remind everyone to make sure that they dress appropriately for the weather, and also wear something reflective on their journey to and from school. If you cycle to school, please make sure that you not only can be seen, but that you are aware of other road users. Please follow the rules of the road at all times. It would be worthwhile reading the Highway Code which can be found at www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/.

A reminder that pupils can store any bulky items, such as outdoor coats or wellington boots, in their locker during the day. Also, why not start the day a little earlier and visit our free breakfast club? There is no need to wait outside in the cold if you arrive at school early.

Feedback from parents last year indicated that you wanted us to

consider having an appointment system for parent's evenings. We have trialled this with our Y7 settling in evening and it worked well; We intend to trial this further during our next full parents evening and further details will follow.

Finally, a reminder that our half term break is from 23 to 27 October, and we return to school Monday 30 October at the normal time. We also have an In-Service Training Day for staff on Friday November 24. Pupils do not need attend school that day.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone for such a positive start to the school year.

Best Wishes

David Airey

Head of School

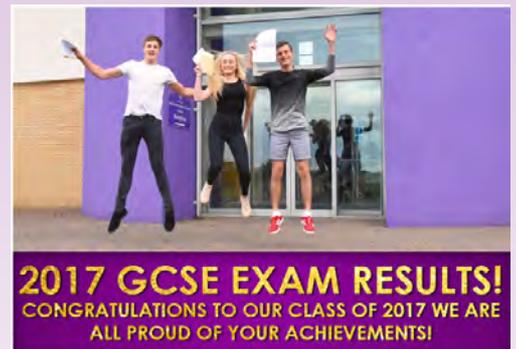
RESULTS 2017

We would like to congratulate our class of 2017 for their achievements in their GCSE Exams this summer. Results day was a fantastic event, with many smiling faces as pupils opened their envelopes. It was a pleasure to share the experience with them, and see the relief on their faces as they realised that they had achieved what they needed to move on to the next stage of their education. One parent commented that they were "overwhelmed" with their child's fantastic results, saying, "The world is now his oyster."

Whilst we cannot mention everyone individually, there are some notable achievements, showing what can be achieved through hard work and a determination to succeed: Kristin Hindmarch, who joined us from Benedict Biscop Academy five years ago, made us all extremely proud by being one of the few pupils across the entire country to achieve the new top Grade 9 score in English Language, Maths and English Literature, as well as achieving A* in all of her other GCSE subjects.

Aaron McGahan, who joined us from St. Paul's C of E Primary is one of the pupils who has made most progress. He achieved 10 A* - C grades including 4 at A*/A. This result is testament to his hard work and determination to succeed.

Senior prefects Krista Shaw (from Mill Hill Juniors), Sarah Bell (from Ryhope Juniors), Adam Boxall (from New Silksworth Academy) and Luke Bresnen (from Ryhope Juniors) have achieved 40 A* - C grades between them with 26 at A*/A. What a fantastic achievement. Well done, Year 11!



WELCOME TO SENIOR PREFECTS



Venerable Bede is pleased to introduce our senior prefects (Left to right: Deputy Head Boy Paul Wright, Deputy Head Girl Abigail Mahoney, Head Girl Emilia Smith and Head Boy Matthew Carruthers).

Following a rigorous application and interview process, the team have quickly settled into their new roles: taking part in transition events for new Year 7 pupils, leading worship and delivering one of the keynote speeches at our recent Year 5/6 Open Evening to name but a few.

Deputy Head Boy, Paul Wright, said, 'It is a great honour to become a senior prefect and I strongly suggest to anyone who is thinking about applying for the position to go for it!'

'BRING IT ON' ENGINEERING EVENT

On Wednesday 4th October 2017, businesses from across the region set out to inspire, educate and inform students and teachers about the many possibilities engineering can offer in the North East.

The event was called 'Bring It On'. It was an interactive and engaging and showed just how exciting engineering can be, helping to capture the imagination of students who are poised to make their GCSE choices.

The event was attended by a group of Venerable Bede students from both Y7 and Y8 who had been identified as having a particular interest in a career in engineering. Feedback from the students indicated that the event had been a worthwhile and enjoyable experience. One student commented that the event 'really helped me find out more about the types of jobs I could do in the future.'



YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

As part of the preparation for GCSE, all Y11 pupils will follow a programme of 'Study Skills' during the weeks prior to the 'mock' examinations which will be held over a 2 week period, beginning Monday 27th November.

The programme will focus on planning revision, suggested revision strategies and managing stress. Additional support will be given to help students with exam access arrangements make the best use of the help they receive.

Pupils will also be provided with revision materials to support their work at home.

Teachers will use the results of these mock examinations to plan intervention and support to ensure that all pupils achieve their best in the summer 2018 examination series.

Prior to Christmas, pupils in other year groups will also have key assessments and will receive appropriate revision materials to support this. Y10 pupils will sit mock exams in the early part of 2018 and will be entered for GCSE English Literature in the summer 2018 exam series.

Week 1 – Monday 27 November – Friday 1 December 2017

	1 9.00-10.00	2 10.00-11.00	3 11.15-12.15	4 13.00-14.00	5 14.00-15.00
MONDAY	English Language Paper 1 (105mins)			Textiles (60mins) HSC (60mins) RM (60mins)	
TUESDAY	History – American West (55mins)			Biology (75mins)	
WEDNESDAY	Maths Paper 1 (90mins)			Spanish (90mins)	
THURSDAY	Geography Unit 1 (90mins)			Chemistry (75mins)	
FRIDAY	English Language Paper 2 (120mins)			RE – Christianity and Islam (60mins)	

Week 2 – Monday 4 December – Friday 8 December 2017

	1 9.00-10.00	2 10.00-11.00	3 11.15-12.15	4 13.00-14.00	5 14.00-15.00
MONDAY	English Literature Paper 1 (105mins)			ICT/Business Studies (90mins)	
TUESDAY	History – Medicine through time (75mins)			RE – Ethics (60mins)	
WEDNESDAY	Maths Paper 2 (90mins)			Media Studies (90mins) Music (90mins) ICT (90mins)/Business Studies (60mins)	
THURSDAY	Geography Unit 2/3 (90mins)			Physics (75mins)	
FRIDAY	Maths Paper 3 (90mins)			PE (90mins) ICT (90mins)/Business Studies (60mins)	

* Note: Spanish speaking mocks will take place between Monday 18 December and Wednesday 20 December. Individual times will be given to pupils.

LESOTHO UPDATE

LESOTHO AUTUMN RAFFLE

The Lesotho team held a raffle at the start of October 2017, and were delighted to raise over £1,100! The money that has been raised will be used to enrich the lives of others while the group visit Lesotho. Some of the funds will go to the God's Love Orphanage to help with upkeep of their building and to fund education for the older children who are living there. Money will also be provided to help facilitate a weekend of fun activities, coordinated by our students, for children who have been orphaned due to AIDS. While in Lesotho, the group will visit St James' Primary School, and money that has been raised will also help to buy decorating resources to enable some of their classrooms to be painted.

This year's Lesotho team are preparing to travel in February 2018, and everyone in the team is grateful for all the support that the project has had so far this year. It is the continued support of our dedicated parents, students and the wider community that make the Lesotho project possible.

We have just started to collect prizes for our Christmas raffle which will be drawn just before we break up in December. Please keep your eyes peeled for the raffle tickets coming home. Donations welcome at the main office.



VENERABLE BEDE SCAPELL PIKE CHALLENGE 2017

In September 2017 the current Lesotho team climbed the highest mountain in England, Scafell Pike, to raise funds for their trip in February 2018.

Along with Mr Exley, Mr Roberts, Mr Tinn, Miss Fox and Miss Pestell, the group of Year 10 students scaled the peak, reaching the summit at 2:30 in the afternoon. At times, some of the group struggled, but were able to help and encourage each other to complete the challenge. There was fun to be had on the adventure as well, as the students entertained themselves with funny stories on the side of the mountain.

Thankfully, the weather on the day of the climb was perfect, and the scenery at the top of the mountain made the early start and all the effort worthwhile. Members of the group are now excited to see the mountainous landscapes of Lesotho.

It was a fantastic day, and with February fast approaching the team are planning more fundraising activities.

Current team member, John Oliver, said, "It is a life changing opportunity, and it will be eye opening to see just how lucky we are in what we own and what we have. It will be emotional, but we're are looking forward to being able to help the people we meet at the schools, orphanages and churches that we visit."



FOCUS ON OUR CHRISTIAN ETHOS - HOPE

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Pupils and staff have been busy baking recently in order to take part in Macmillan's annual coffee morning. GCSE Health and Social Care pupils volunteered to organise the event, and cakes were sold in the school bistro and in the staffroom.

Having successfully sold the cupcakes, cookies and brownies, the organisers were delighted to have raised £130.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LANGUAGES

On the 26th September pupils at Venerable Bede celebrated European Day of Languages in style with our very own French Cafe run by Year 8 students. 'The focus of the day was for pupils to be exposed to a new language and culture, and have fun whilst learning', said Mrs Da Gama, Head of MFL.

Year 8 pupil, Evie Morton, explained that she had 'thoroughly enjoyed' the experience and hopes to put some of what she has learned into practice in the future.



FOOD BANK HARVEST COLLECTION

Harvest is a wonderful time of year when we can reflect upon the many blessings we have and are thankful for: family, friends, running water, shelter and food. However, this season reminds us that for some, these things cannot always be taken for granted.

The Year 10 Princes' Trust class have been thinking about those in the local area who find themselves in a crisis situation. Often through no fault of their own, through job loss, benefit changes or family circumstances, there are those who may find themselves unable to purchase essential items like food.

In early October the students organised a project to collect items of non-perishable foods and toiletries to donate to the food bank. They were overwhelmed by the incredible generosity of the whole school community, who supported the project by providing a tremendous amount of

donations. Staff also donated money which the Year 10 Prince's Trust group then used to purchase items from Lidl as a part of their lesson.

The collected food was then taken to the food bank at Bethany City Church, Bede Tower. It is one of several in Sunderland who provide emergency food parcels, usually to those who have been referred by a GP, health visitor or other agency. In any one week the food bank can receive more than 15 referrals, and then provides 3 days' worth of meals for every family member.

"I liked helping the food bank because I get a warm feeling imagining the smile on their face after giving them the food" Marshall, Year 10 Princes' Trust Group

"I have really liked doing the food bank project, especially going to Lidl because it helped my money management skills and it boosted my confidence. It makes me very humbled to help

people in our community" Katelyn, Year 10 Princes' Trust Group

"I have enjoyed the food bank project. Firstly it has helped to encourage my confidence. Secondly, it raises awareness of how the food banks work" John, Year 10 Princes' Trust Group



SPORTING UPDATE

“READY? OK!”

A group of KS3 pupils have formed a new ‘cheerleading club’ with Mrs. Lawton in the P.E. Department.

The aim of the club is to promote teamwork as well as to develop pupils’ dance and gymnastic skills.

The club runs every Tuesday 3:15pm-4:15pm.



TRAMPOLINE COMPETITION

On Tuesday 17th October, KS3 pupils participated in an inter-schools trampoline competition.

The pupils described the event as ‘really fun’ and ‘exciting’, stating that it was a wonderful opportunity to compete against their peers at some of the other schools in our region.

We eagerly await the outcome of the event!

SPORTING EXCELLENCE UPDATE

Many of our pupils participate in sport outside of school and demonstrate their talents at a range of levels. Once again, Y10 pupil Josh Waddell has attended Team GB training camps for wheelchair fencing and continues to compete in wheelchair rugby.

In Y9, Abby Towers has been selected for England team trials. She was successful in the first round of the trials and has been invited to a training camp.



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Event	Starts	Ends
October Half Term	Monday 23rd October	Friday 27th October
INSET Day (Pupils not in school)	Friday 24th November	Friday 24th November
Advent Eucharist	Wednesday 20th December (am)	-
Christmas Holiday	Friday (1.30pm) 22nd December	Monday 8th January

UNIFORM

Please see our website for a reminder on our uniform policy, particularly regarding footwear. If in doubt, please contact us and check before purchasing. We do appreciate your support in keeping our standards as high as possible! Thank you.

