

WHAT'S THE LATEST FROM ST BEDE'S?

Our new half term begins

Welcome to another blog that celebrates our thriving school life. In this edition there are details about the great work teachers are doing in school to develop teaching and learning as well as a whole school curriculum offer. There is also information on the positive meetings that have been taking place with our growing parent focus group. Finally, there are the usual stories of sporting success, musical events, special occasions and great lessons. I do hope you enjoy this blog and please follow us on twitter @stbedes1957 to keep up to date with the latest goings on!

Pearl of Africa Choir amaze everyone at St Bede's

On Thursday 31st October, we were privileged to welcome the Pearl of Africa Choir into our school community. The day opened with a breath taking concert where our pupils were mesmerized by the exquisite singing and energetic dancing and drumming. Sixteen young people delivered workshops in African singing, drumming and dancing throughout the day. These workshops provided a valuable insight for our pupils in understanding a different culture and way of life.

The aim of this wonderful charity is to improve the health, education and welfare of people suffering through disease, war and poverty in Uganda. Thank you to the Dream Team and Faith In Action pupils who organised fundraising events in the days leading up to the choir's visit and to all those who contributed, it was a remarkable day.- Mrs McMurray

You can view videos of the choir's visit on our Twitter page (@stbedes1957).





The choir turn to the football court

During their lunch break, the Pearl of Africa Choir joined our Year 9 football players for a game of 5-a-side in the sports hall. The boys play every week and were delighted to be joined by our guests from Uganda. The Ugandan players were really skilful and certainly liked a slide tackle!



Battlefields Trip for St Bede's students - October 2019

Four Year 10 students and a member of staff from St Bede's Catholic High School went with 6 other schools from the Lancashire and Merseyside areas on a commemorative and educational visit to the Battlefields of WW1. The trips are organised by the University College London's Institute of Education.

After a day's travelling, the group arrived at the Peace Village on the Messines Ridge just outside Ypres. The hostel was built over the battlefield that saw a major action in June 1917. Adjacent to the hostel was the war cemetery that contained the graves or names of the thousands of soldiers killed in action. During the evenings the group explored World War One weaponry, equipment and life in the trenches with expert guides and serving soldiers.

These are the diary accounts of the four students as they experienced the sites of the western front and what it has to teach us today:

Day 1

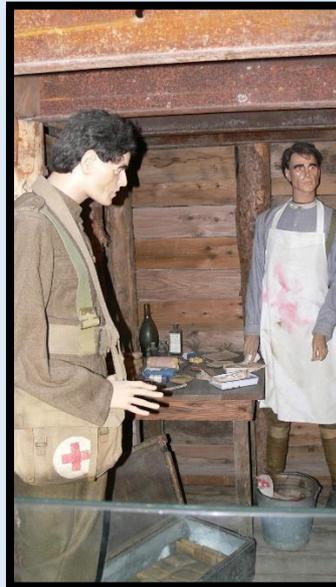
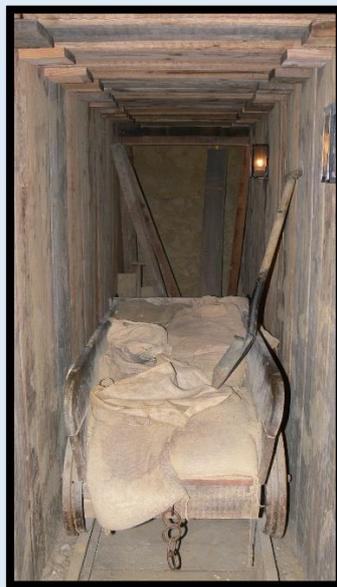


We went to Zonnebeke Museum and saw plenty of interesting war memorabilia as well as getting a taste of what life was like in the trenches. We also visited Lijssenthoek (this is a site of a casualty clearing station) and Tyne Cot cemeteries. We visited the Menin Gate in Ypres for the remembrance ceremony, and got plenty of Belgian chocolate afterwards!

-Josh

We went to a German cemetery at Langemark and we all felt the difference between what we'd felt before and what we felt in the German cemetery. We got a feeling of unease and discomfort yet we didn't know why. Later on we found out Hitler had actually been there and we had stood where he once did. It was quite hard to get our heads around this as we were quite shocked.

-Julia



We visited the Zonnebeck museum and went through a re-made trench under the ground. I was shocked since trenches are usually shown as being an open dug-out in fields yet the trench was fully underground. It was based on the ruins under the ground. We also visited the largest British war grave cemetery in the world and tried to find soldiers from our local area.

-Katie

We visited the Langemark cemetery and visited the German mass graves. The graves had more than ten people in one grave. The people are represented on a stone slab. We found out that Adolf Hitler used to visit the cemetery as it was one of his favourite places to visit. Adolf Hitler saw how we didn't destroy the German graves so he sent out an order to all troops not to destroy any allied graves.

- Alfie

Day 2- Battle Fields

On day 2, we began looking at the Battle of The Somme and went to some of the most important battlefields. We actually got to see the remains of some real trenches and craters where the British had

blown holes in the German defences. We finished off the day by settling into our new hotel in Albert and having steak and chips. - Josh



On day two we started looking at the trenches of allied soldiers at Beaumont Hamel and learnt about the Newfoundland soldiers; on the first day of the Somme, out of 25 soldiers, around three would survive unhurt by the end of the day. We also went to the trenches and saw the size of one of the failed attacks at Sunken Lane. The only remains of the battle is a large hole in the ground caused by an underground mine; it is called Hawthorn Crater. - Katie



The second day was all about the Battle of the Somme. The weather was a disaster for the English army. We went to Thiepval, the memorial that was supposed to stand in the middle of a new French town but instead it was placed next to a cemetery. On the walls of the memorial there were thousands of soldiers' names, these soldiers did not have a known grave.

-Julia

On day 2, we travelled to visit the site of the Battle of the Somme, we visited some actual trenches and craters from shells. We then went and visited a war memorial that should have been in a French town but the French didn't want it there in a newly built town. We then ended the day by going to a restaurant and eating steak and chips.

-Alfie

Day three and reflections on the trip



On our last day we went to see the museum of the treaty that was signed to end WW1. In this museum we saw a replica of the train that the treaty was signed in. We found out that the treaty was signed in a secluded area because the Germans would have no contact with the other Germans. Overall the trip was very good and we learnt new things by looking at the surroundings to see what happened there.

-Julia

On our last day we visited the exact place where the armistice was agreed between the French, English, American and the Germans. We saw a remake of the train carriage and saw the French memorials. The trip has been filled with facts and we've met other people interested in history from around Lancashire.

-Katie

On the third and last day my highlight was definitely going to Compiègne and visiting the site at which the armistice was signed. In the neighbouring museum we saw original 3D images of the war through these strange little peeping devices.

I've really enjoyed the trip and it's taught me a lot about what the war was truly like. The food wasn't bad either!

-Josh

On the last day we visited the place where the armistice treaty was signed, in the museum we saw a replica of the train that the treaty was signed in. We then went into the museum and saw the photographs from the war. This trip was a very good experience and I feel like I know a lot more about the war.

-Alfie

See you in February, Donald! USA 2020 is getting closer!

It's just a little over three months now to the St. Bede's USA 2020 trip. We have been working for well over a year, with our travel partners at European Study Tours in England and Focus Travel in America, to

design a fantastic schedule for the group. The trip will take in both the nation's impressive capital Washington DC and the greatest location in the world, New York City!

29 pupils from current years 8-10 will travel to America next February half-term. The students will enjoy a number of amazing experiences. World famous tourist sites such as The White House, The Statue of Liberty, The Freedom Tower and The Empire State Building are all on the itinerary. There will also be fantastic restaurants, exciting cultural visits and the chance to do the occasional bit of shopping along the way! Plus, as usual, a number of unique and 'only in America' style experiences have been added to the schedule!

The group will be based in The Capitol Skyline in Washington's cool Navy Yards District and our regular New York home, The Manhattan Hotel on W51st Street, literally steps from the excitement of Times Square. The 7th St. Bede's USA trip leaves on Sunday February 16th 2020 for five nights. The parents' meeting for this trip has now also been confirmed. Thursday 19th December 2019 School Hall 6.00PM



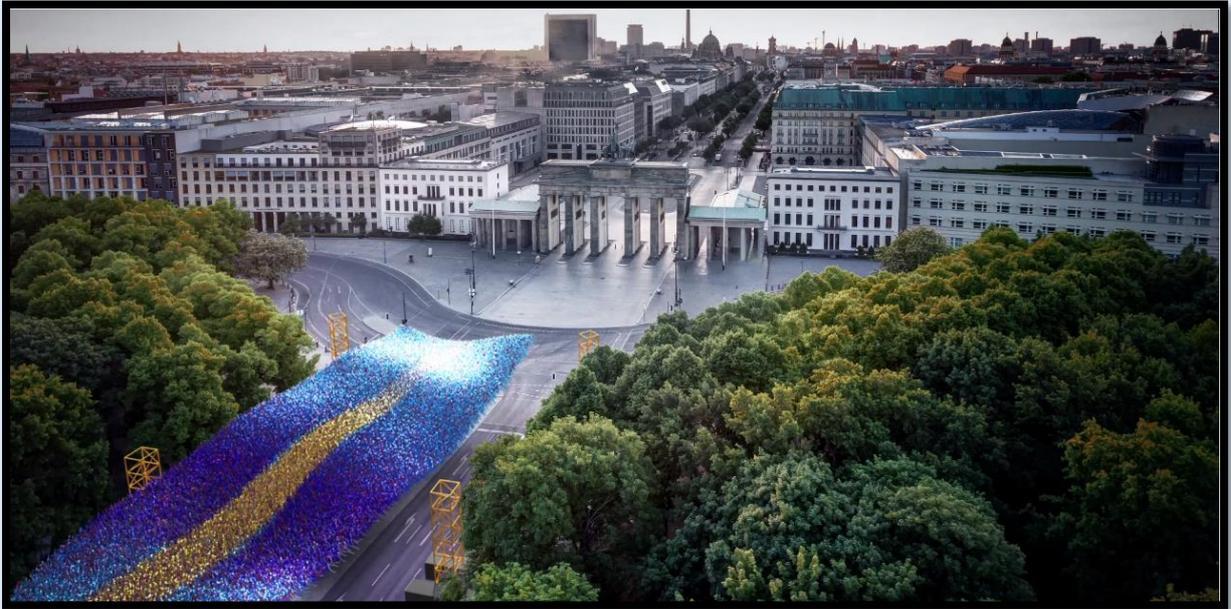
MFL News

Allow us to introduce.....

We are delighted to welcome Miss Waterhouse to the MFL Department, who will be our Languages Assistant for French and German. Miss Waterhouse comes to us after teaching for many years at Penwortham Girls School. She is keen to share her passion for the French and German language and culture with our pupils. Miss Waterhouse will work with students individually or in small groups to create enjoyable discussions that challenge students of all abilities and develop their confidence and spoken precision. She will work intensively with our Key Stage 4 pupils to prepare them for the AQA GCSE Speaking examinations which are worth 25% of the overall grade. We are very excited to have her here at St. Bede's!

Berlin and St Bede's celebrate 30 years since the fall of the Wall

To mark the 30th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on the 9th November, St Bede's will be taking part in a whole school Collective Worship event to mark the occasion. We are proud members of the **North West German Network** and our school, along with our neighbouring colleges and Universities in the network will be creating a wall of hope to tie in with the celebrations in Berlin.



As-tu faim?

On Thursday 7th November, we will be hosting a French Breakfast for Year 8 pupils. Please see your language teacher to buy a ticket, which costs £1. Be quick as it is first come, first served!

German Teaching at St. Bede's Recognised by German Government!

We are very proud and excited to announce that St. Bede's MFL Department has been awarded the prestigious Smart Choice German Status by the Goethe Institute for the second year running. The Goethe Institute is a German government funded organisation which promotes the study of German language and culture.



This award recognises schools who teach German as part of their curriculum and whose language teachers have the expertise to form and support a network of schools to teach German. Following our highly successful outreach work last year, we are continuing to offer German lessons and cultural activities at St Anne's, St John's, St Mary's and Our Lady and All Saints primary schools during this academic year.

The primary school teachers and children are very enthusiastic about their German lessons and appreciate the opportunities which learning German offers: "We just wanted to say a big thank you for all of your hard work in teaching our KS2 classes German. It's a great opportunity for the older children to learn some German and open their eyes to how easy it can be to learn another language ... it really is giving our children a wider opportunity and appreciation of a different culture. They are much more aware of MFL and the opportunities it can provide for them..."

As shown in the data below (taken from a recent CBI survey), German is a widely recognised and very desirable skill in today's employment market. We hope that by providing our pupils with the skill of German we are enabling them to have high aspirations and to engage with our school's world class vision.



Time for ballet?

Our Year 7 German pupils have just learned how to tell the time in German and practised their new skills in a very unusual way: dancing to the Blue Danube by the Austrian composer Johann Strauss. Can you tell what time it is from their dance positions?



Pupils on the run!

Our year 7 French pupils have been making WANTED posters in French, based on the Wild West style! There is a reward – une récompense – for finding them, dead or alive! Watch out, though. They may be dangerous!



Year 11 German Speaking & Listening Revision Sessions

The revision sessions will run in N1 from 3.20 to 4.10 on the following dates:

Tuesday 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th November

Tuesday 3rd & 10th December

More dates to follow...



The listening revision will be an independent study session to be completed whilst you are waiting for your speaking appointment or have finished that part of the session. You will be able to access a variety of listening material and past papers. **You will need to bring your text book and a set of headphones.**

The speaking revision will be an opportunity for 1:1 practice. You will be able to practise the role play and photo card or the general conversation – it will be your choice. The speaking revision slots are limited so **you will need to sign up on the sheet outside N5.** Each week there will be a role play and a photo card which you may take away to prepare prior to your revision appointment.

Year 11 Drama rehearsals continue

Our Y11 drama students have been busily preparing for their GCSE exams. The class will be required to perform for an exam assessor. They will also have their performances recorded. Our drama results have been fantastic for many years and this year's group look set to continue that success.



MFL Book of the Month



The *Neverending Story* by German author Michael Ende is about a boy who is bullied at school. He makes friends with the owner of a book shop, who shows him an ancient book which has magical but dangerous properties. Bastian borrows the book and is drawn into the mythical land of Fantasia, which desperately needs a hero to save it from destruction. Will Bastian be the boy to save Fantasia?

Harry Potter fans should borrow this book from the LRC!

Languages at the heart of learning



Literacy matters in MFL

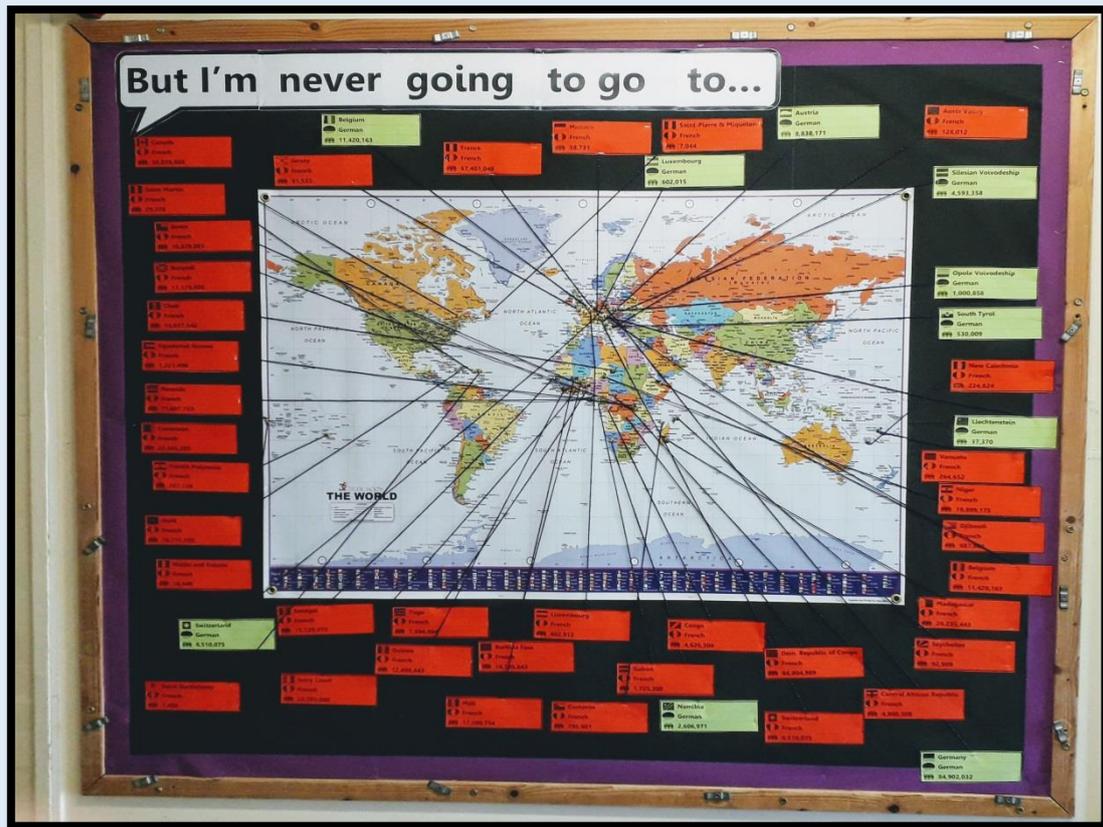
Year 11 French Revision Sessions

The revision sessions take place every week in N3 from 3.20 to 4.10 and are usually accompanied by a cup of tea and a delicious cake or biscuit! Come along for a variety of revision topics and a focus on exam technique!



Something to think about.....

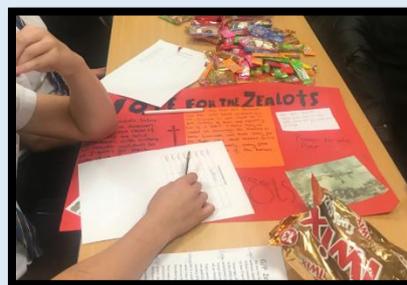
Many people think that French and German are languages only spoken in Europe and we may never need to use them post-Brexit. The department has made a new display showing just how many places in the world French (red) and German (green) are spoken, many of which are not even in Europe; Namibia for example has German as an official language. You never know where learning a language may take you!



RE classes look at democracy...biblical style!

Year 8 have been learning about the political parties that existed at the time of Jesus! Each group took on the roles of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes and Zealots to create a 'Vote for us' campaign. This involved a group presentation and lots of bribery!

Well done year 8 for your hard work, creativity, excellent group participation and for going the extra mile! Special thanks goes to Evie Maher and Sophie Orledge who baked their own cakes and buns for the occasion! Well done girls!



Ballot papers are due to be counted next week! Good luck everyone!



Get in the Christmas spirit at St Anne's

Get into the Christmas spirit early and complete your gift list this year while supporting the fundraising efforts of St. Anne's PTA. There will be a fabulous range of local craft business stalls, full of ideal Christmas gifts to ensure you don't struggle and they won't be disappointed.

To complement the craft fair there will be a generous raffle; mini photo shoots for your little cherubs and a range of crafts to keep the kids occupied while you browse the stalls.

When you are done with your shopping, put your feet up and treat yourself to some refreshments. There will be mulled wine, fizz, mince pies and cake (it's not ever too early for a Christmas themed afternoon tea, right??)

Tell your friends. Tell your husbands. Tell your parents and siblings! This is an event not to be missed for a worthwhile local cause.



Mikey selected to fight in the European championship

Mikey Molly has been selected to compete in the Karate European Championships and the World Championships next year. He will be representing the karate Team GB. He continues to compete in UK tournaments, balancing this with his school studies. Mikey's family are rightly proud of him and so is everyone at St Bede's.

Over half term, he competed in Denmark at the European Championships and was very successful. He won the European bronze medal and two British team silver medals. These achievements place him third in England and Europe. Again, another amazing achievement.



Parent Focus Group meets

In October, I met with several parents who came into school to discuss how they believe we can continue to improve St Bede's. We discussed topics such as homework and reports. All of the suggestions are now being considered and many will influence the way we operate as a school. If you would like to get involved please do contact me via: admin@sbchs.co.uk.

A word from our Chaplain

Feast of All Saints

On the first of November we celebrate All Saints. On this day we honour all Saints, including our friends and family members who have died and who are now with God in heaven. In honouring them we also learn from them, they have a message for us and can inspire us and intercede for us in our daily lives. This message was conveyed in the whole school assemblies which took place each day over the course of this week.

I met with some year 10 and 11 pupils in the lead up to these assemblies and we discussed which Saints inspired them and empowered them. Mother Teresa, Carlo Acutis and Oscar Romero were some of the Saints discussed.

What was truly wonderful, was our pupils' ability to examine 'why' they were inspired by them. The pupils said the Saints' humanity, their human weaknesses, their resilience in fighting injustice, poverty and refusal to be complacent and passive in a world that is often unjust were the reasons they looked to these extraordinary people, the Saints, as role models. Despite challenges, their faith ensured these remarkable people served God through love, kindness and compassion towards others.

How inspiring, refreshing and hopeful to hear our young people speak like this about the Saints. Thank you so much to Ethan West, Jack Sim, Carys McGregor, Lucy Quinn, Imogen Fearon, Connie Roberts and Dan Towler for such refreshing and insightful discussion and contributions.

Eucharistic Minister Training

A number of Year 10 pupils have been invited to become Eucharistic Ministers. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to deepen their faith and develop in their Christian formation. I'm delighted that so many have chosen to accept this invitation already; they fully appreciate that this is a sacred role within Mass and we are sure that they will be able to perform this role with dignity and maturity.

This year's Eucharistic Minister training course for young adults will be held on Saturday 7th December at Lowe House, St Helens. The course starts at 11am and ends with a commissioning Mass at 6pm to which all are invited. Pupils who are commissioned for school also act as Eucharistic Ministers for their parishes. This is something which can be discussed with your parish priest if your child wishes. If your child has received an invitation, please could you let me know by November 15th if they wish to accept. Many thanks to you for supporting your child in this special and sacred opportunity.

Month for Remembrance of Holy Souls

In November we especially remember and pray for people who have died. Throughout the month pupils are invited to write the names of family and friends who have died in their form's book of Remembrance. These people will be prayed for in our whole school Mass on Friday 29th November.

Eternal rest

Grant unto them,

O Lord;

And let perpetual light

Shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Amen.

Reflection

A man once said that his idea of God was revolutionised when, as a little boy, he was taken to visit an old lady. The old lady pointed to a picture on the wall with the text 'Thou, God, seest me' below it.

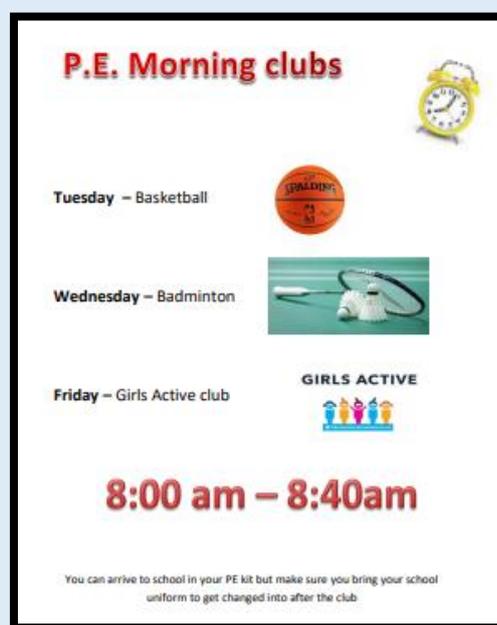
She then said to him, You remember those words. They do not mean God is always watching you to see what you are doing wrong; they mean he loves you so much that he cannot take his eyes off you.”

Cardinal Basil Hume.

What's on offer at St Bede's

Beyond the classroom there is something for everyone at St Bede's. Those students that fully engage with activities in school will always tend to enjoy their time here and come out with a holistic education.

Please have a look at the programme of events and activities below and encourage your child to get involved.





Physical Education 2019-2020 Extra-Curricular Term 1

Boys football fixtures and girls netball/football fixtures will also run on a variety of days throughout this term

	Morning clubs 8:00am – 8:40am	Lunchtime Clubs 1:00pm -1:30pm	Lunchtime 3G Astro Turf 1:00pm -1:30pm	After School 3:15 – 4.30pm unless stated
Monday		Year 10 boys 5 a side – Mr Denton Sports hall	Mr Cookson Year 9	Trampoline (all years) Sports hall Carlos 3.15-4:00pm
Tuesday	Basketball club All years		Mr Shepherd Year 10	Netball (all years) Sportshall/Courts Hockey (all years) 3G Astro Mrs Turpin/Mr Oakley
Wednesday	Badminton club All years	Girls Badminton Sports Hall Miss Gray SPORTS LEADERS DROP IN	Mr Doolan Year 8	Girls football (all years) 3G Astro
Thursday		Year 9 boys 5 a side – Mr Morgan Sports hall	Miss Gray Year 7	
Friday	Girls Active (8:00am-8:45am) Sports hall – Miss Gray	Living for Sport Sports Hall Mr Dawson	Mrs Turpin Year 11	

- Lunchtime Clubs - You must wear appropriate footwear (no shoes) and remove ties, blazers and jumpers.
- Afterschool Clubs – You must wear a full PE kit and appropriate footwear (no shoes).
- You will not be allowed to participate, if you fail to attend with the incorrect footwear and/or kit.

Extra-Curricular Music

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	Year 7 Choir	Music Group	Chamber Choir	Disney Choir Boys group	Senior Choir

Parking message

We have had several complaints about parents parking in areas around the school at the end of the day. Please could you park carefully to ensure pavements and roads are not blocked. We have issues in front of school with parents parking across neighbours' drives and opposite the buses which causes additional congestion. The school is working with Safer Travel in order to find an effective solution.

School Parking

A Guide to Parking Safely at Our Schools

Inconsiderate and dangerous parking around our schools has become a big problem, putting the safety of children and others at risk. We all want to keep our children safe around schools, so here's some top tips on how you can make a difference.

Did you know?
One in five cars in the morning rush hour is taking children to school

How Can You Help?

- ✓ Keep your speed down
- ✓ Turn your engine off if leaving your vehicle
- ✓ Leave the middle of the road free, with enough room for other road users to easily pass through
- ✓ Make sure your child leaves and enters your vehicle safely onto the pavement
- ✓ Check for pedestrians and cyclists before opening a car door
- ✓ Leave enough room on pavements for pedestrians to get past
- ✓ Take care when reversing

Please Keep Clear...

- ✓ Zig Zags and School Entrances
- ✓ Dropped Kerbs
- ✓ Resident's Driveways
- ✓ Opposite or within 10 meters of a junction- so that children can see cars and cars can see children

Your questions answered...

Can I double park if I remain in my vehicle?
No, vehicles parked in the middle of a road cause obstruction for all road users and may obstruct the line of sight for pedestrians and children crossing the road.

Am I okay to park on zigzag markings if I am only there a few minutes?
No, under no circumstances should you park on zig zag markings at any time, these are there to protect school entrances and leave a clear view of the street for pedestrians.

www.lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council

Don't Forget...
Congestion around schools is one of the main reasons given for dangerous parking and there are other ways you could do the school run.

Have you considered...

- Walking or cycling to school instead? This is a great way to contribute to a child's 60 minutes of activity a day and is easy to incorporate into your daily routine. Try it once a week at first and see how easy it can be.
- Parking nearby or getting off the bus two stops earlier and walking the rest of the way. If you live too far away to walk or need your car for your commute to work you can still walk part of the way. Doing this everyday could add up to an adult's recommended 30 minutes of moderate exercise, 5 times a week.
- Car Sharing is a great way to reduce congestion and save you pennies. Team up with other parents or carers who live nearby- share the cost and halve the hassle.

If you have a parking concern outside of your school report it online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/parking or Call 0800 1952774

For more information on this leaflet please email the Safer Travel Team at safetravelteam@lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire Constabulary
police and communities together

change 4life
Sign up to Change4Life at www.change4life.co.uk

Simple, straightforward behaviour policy adopted

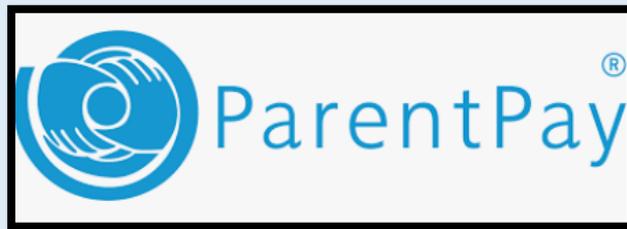
Around the school we have a clear and more consistent behaviour policy for both staff and students to follow. The revised approach has come from discussions amongst staff. It is hoped that this new system makes our expectations clearer and allows students to see how they may be rewarded for great work. It also explains clearly the steps that will be taken should the learning or safety of any child be disrupted. Please speak to your child about this or contact school should you have any questions. As you will see, we are asking students to be:

1. Ready
2. Respectful
3. Safe

Important notice for parents

In our continued move to a cashless catering system and due to having no local bank providers, we need to reduce the amount of cash brought into school. With effect from Monday 7th January 2019 pupils wanting to top up their dining account in school through the revaluer will only be able to use notes: £5, £10 & £20. Coins will no longer be accepted. Our Finance team will not be able to change coins for notes. All top ups to pupil accounts can be undertaken via our e-payment method of ParentPay.

You are able to check your child's spend and dinner balance using ParentScope which can be accessed via: www.lcrltd.com/stbedesormskirk.



Find out more about SEND provision in Lancashire

If your child has a special educational need or disability you may be interested in finding out more about what is on offer in Lancashire to support their needs.

As their website explains: 'The Lancashire SEND Partnership was formed following the Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) joint inspection of our special educational needs and disability (SEND) services.

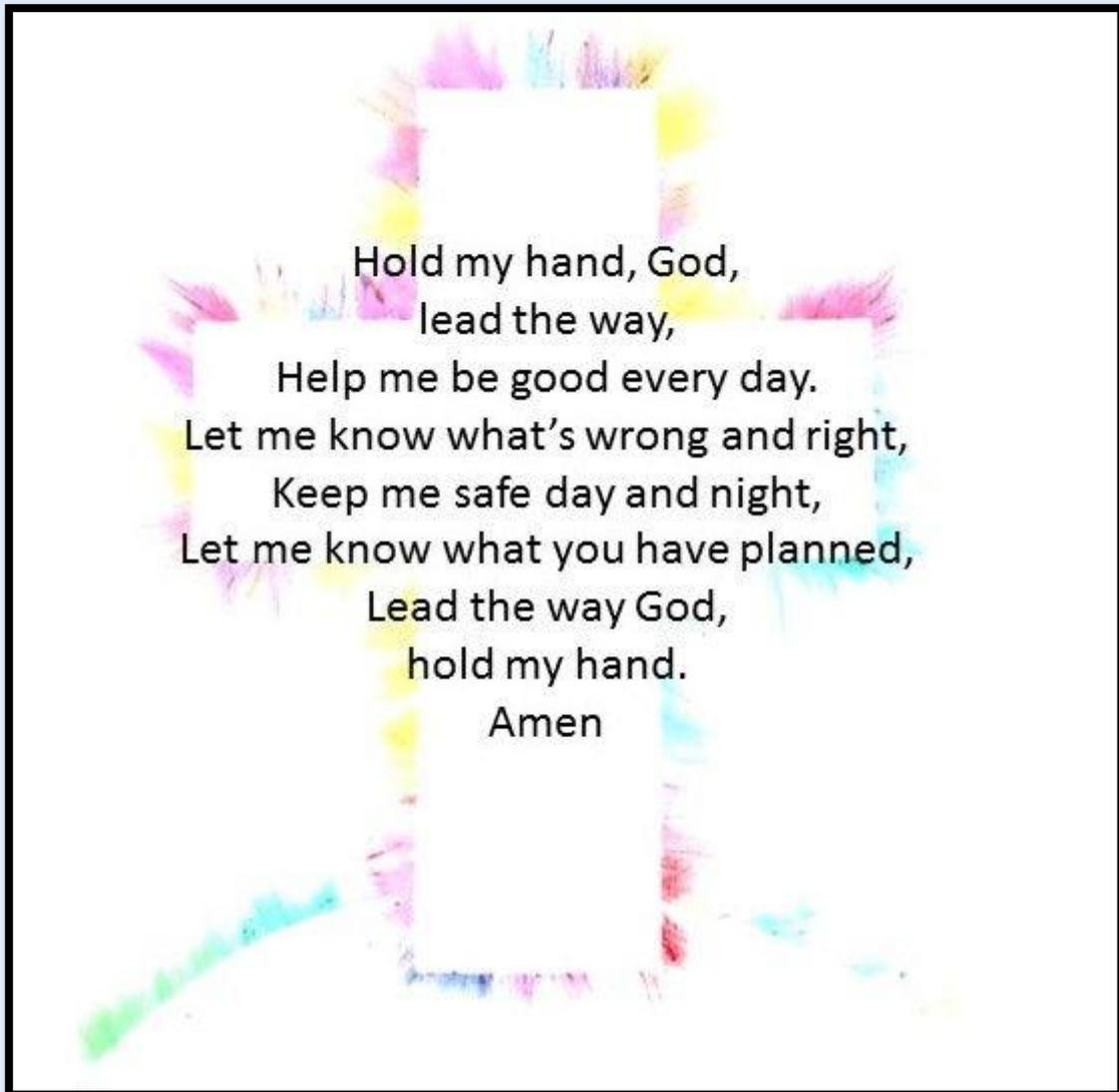
The partnership brings together all the agencies in Lancashire which provide the SEND services for children, young people, their parents and carers. It ensures everybody can work together to deliver the best outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The report by Ofsted and CQC highlighted a number of significant areas of weakness, which is a concern to everyone involved. Since the report was published we have established the SEND Partnership Board, produced an action plan, made some significant changes to improve key areas of services and recruited new people to the team.

The Department for Education (DfE) will be holding regular reviews to monitor our progress'. In order to access this information and all their latest news visit:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/shaping-send-together/lancashire-send-partnership/>

A prayer from our Chaplain



Let us know your news!

If you are involved in any exciting activities or you have stories of St Bede's from years gone by please contact school and we can celebrate this in our fortnightly blog. Also if you have a relative or friend who you would like our school community to pray for let us know via admin@sbchs.co.uk.

God bless,

Mr P Denton, Headteacher