



The Venerable Bede Church of England (Aided) Secondary School



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GBO/TCG

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Dear Parent /Carer

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support this term. Once again, we have seen a raft of wonderful and inspirational achievements in The Venerable Bede School. Awards and accolades continue to flood in due to the dedication and commitment of our students and staff. Sport continues to flourish. Congratulations to our new Year 7 team who won the 7-a-side football tournament this term, beating St. Aidan's in the final. What a tremendous start to the year and we look forward to watching their skills develop. Not to be outdone, our table tennis teams took first, second and fourth place in their tournament this year – an incredible achievement. Similarly, our Under 14 and Under 16 Basketball teams won the Sunderland South tournament and returned to school carrying trophies. Our trampolining teams got through to the finals and we left with a number of awards under our belt including the silver medal. And it's only December!

However, it is not only in the world of sport that we are exceling. One of our ex- Year 11 students, Sophie Byron-Foster, won first prize in the 15-20 category for the "Daffodil" watercolour she did as part of her GCSE course. Her winning entry, as well as the work of our other students, is available for viewing at the Washington Arts Centre – well worth a visit over the Christmas break. The variety of the work on show this year is a credit to the Art Department and the commitment of the students themselves. We look forward to entering our students again next year. Film-making is one of our new ventures, with Year 7 students currently making their own History Programmes in Enrichment and some of our older students making scientific films to explain the laws of physics! Mathematics Enrichment is also proving to be very competitive and exciting with students taking part in the Jaguar Challenge. In addition, one of our Year 7 students, Adam Liddle, is fast becoming an international star as he has won the University of Southampton Cypher Challenge over three times now. We have also just been awarded National Trust Literacy Status – an acknowledgement of the many literacy initiatives that have been introduced this year.

Venerable Bede students continue to make a huge contribution to the community. This year, we have raised money for a number of charities, including Children in Need, Operation Christmas Child, Lesotho and The British Legion to name but a few. Thank you so much for your generosity and support, especially in this time of economic challenge. Our students are also involved in planning and delivering workshops in order to make the school and community a better place to be: Anti-bullying Ambassadors have co-ordinated a scheme that raises awareness of Cyber-Bullying, presenting their ideas to parents/carers and visiting local primary schools; Peer Mediators continue to support students throughout the school who need someone to talk to; Reading Champions work alongside younger students to help them gain confidence with their reading; Year 7 students wrote prayers that were delivered to our new Bishop and read aloud at the Minster; wreaths were laid at four Remembrance Sunday Services.



committed to
inclusive staff
development



Of course, there is so much more to share but you'll have to wait for the next edition of our newspaper in February.

Below is some information for the end of term:

Santa Hats for sale - £1 each. School Entrepreneurs are selling these with Ms Hill (hats can be worn in school on Tuesday 13 December during the Staff Panto, Wednesday 14 December lunchtime in the Bistro, Thursday 15 and Friday 16 December but not before).

Tuesday 13 December – Staff Pantomime (£1 entry fee. Money to go to support our link with Lesotho).

Wednesday 14 December – Christmas Day lunch in Bede's Bistro. (Remember – you can wear your Santa hats on this occasion).

Wednesday 14 December – Evening performance of Staff Panto. All welcome, (£2 adults; £1 children and concessions).

Thursday 15 December – Evening Band Night (£2 ticket, 6.00pm to 8.30pm).

Friday 16 December – last day of term. Please note: **Students will be dismissed at 2pm. School re-opens on Wednesday 4 January at the usual time.**

There are a number of trips and visits each year that students of Venerable Bede School have the opportunity to participate in. We appreciate that they all cost money and parents need to know what might be offered in order to plan for this. I have, therefore, tried to give an overview of the more expensive visits likely to be offered to students over the course of this year.

Our activities week this year will take place on the week beginning 9 July 2012.

	Visit	Date
Year 7	Derwent Hill	2 to 6 July 2012
	Lightwater Valley / Flamingo Land (reward)	Week beginning 9 July
Year 8	Lesotho	February 2014
	Lightwater Valley / Flamingo Land (reward)	Week beginning 9 July
Year 9	Lesotho	February 2013
	Lightwater Valley / Flamingo Land (reward)	Week beginning 9 July
Year 10	Italy (Geography / History visit)	9 to 13 July
	Derwent Hill (PE coursework)	2 to 6 July
	Lightwater Valley / Flamingo Land (reward)	Week beginning 9 July

Finally, please note that school closes on Thursday 19 July next year due to the additional day given for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

May we all wish you and your families a very peaceful and joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

With every good wish.

Yours faithfully



**Mrs G Booth
Headteacher**