



The Venerable Bede Church of England (Aided) Secondary School



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DAI/JRO

3 June 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a busy spring half term. I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. As you will be aware, Governors successfully appointed Mrs Booth to the post of Principal. Mrs Booth is already working closely with staff in readiness for September when she takes up her new role.

Other appointments made this term to start in September include:

Mr N Wilkie	Head of English
Mr R Goodman	Head of RE
Miss P Forsyth	Teacher of Mathematics
Miss K Pendry	Teacher of RE

On Friday 28th May we had our Year 11 leavers' service which went really well. Many of our students realised that their remaining time could be counted in weeks! So many students commented on how quickly their time with us had gone. Year 11 are now fully engaged in their GCSE exams. A reminder that teachers of Year 11 will still be in their timetabled classes even though study leave has started. This means that Year 11 can still come into school to study should they wish to do so. I wish all of the Year 11 good luck in their exams. I am confident that they will reap the rewards of their hard work when the exam results are published in August. We will all be celebrating a job well done at the leavers' prom on 9th July.

To compliment Year 11 leaving, next half term sees the start of our induction process for the new Year 6 cohort who join us in September. In readiness for next year, it is worth noting that one of our uniform suppliers – The Uniform Shop – has relocated to 8 Derwent Street, Sunderland, SR1 3NT.

After half term there are Science and Maths GCSE module exams. These exams affect some students in both Year 10 and Year 9. The students involved have already been informed, but should there be any queries please contact Mr A Common.

We have arranged a series of drop in sessions for students with our school nurse service. Students will be able to speak in confidence about any health related concerns that they may have. Dates, times and venue will be displayed around school.



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I am delighted to be able to inform you that our recent non uniform day raised over £1000. The proceeds being equally split between St Benedict's Hospice and MacMillan Cancer Care.

There are quite a few "well done's" to be celebrated. The school production of "Little Shop of Horrors" was a huge success. Everyone involved should be congratulated on their professionalism and determination to make the show a hit. I will never be able to go into a florist again!

Our Year 7 football team won the City 5-a-side tournament and were second in the Northern Finals earlier this year. Well done to all of them. Again Year 7, our cricket team were involved in the Sunderland Schools Inter Cricket Festival. The standard of cricket was excellent. Of the 13 schools involved we progressed to the final and were sadly beaten by 1 run! Still, a huge achievement.

I am pleased to be able to announce that the winners of our "keep school tidy" campaign are:

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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 st | Nathan Lough | (Year 9) |
| 2 nd | Hannah Hurdman | (Year 9) |
| 3 rd | Rebecca Pacheco | (Year 10) |

Their designs were both innovative and informative.

The band "We Beat The System" is going from strength to strength. They are playing in the Sunderland Live Fringe Festival on 5th June, and have made it through to the national finals of the "Live and Unsigned" event. This means that they will play the O2 Arena in London on 10th July. What an opportunity! I wish them all the luck in the world. Sadly this means that they will miss the Year 11 prom.

Our school band night which was held on 28th April was attended by well over 200 people and raised over £400! Well done to all those concerned. This money will be spent on extra equipment for the music department.

There is a GCSE Art and Design private view exhibition to be held on 14th July between 4.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. Please do come along and have a look at all of the work the students have prepared for their GCSE portfolios. I have to say that the work is top class!

Once again we are collecting the Sainsbury's active kid's vouchers. Please keep sending these into school. There is a collection point at the Learner Welfare Reception Desk.

I am pleased to be able to report that the change over to a single lunch sitting has gone well. All students are served by approximately 12.30 p.m. giving them at least 30 minutes to eat and relax. We are continuing to expand the number of lunchtime activities. The most popular seems to be the Wii room! It is still my intention to give parents/carers, students and staff the opportunity to let us know what they think. There will be a survey carried out next half term.

Preparations for our curriculum enrichment week (Monday 5th July – Friday 9th July) are well in hand. There are many different educational activities planned for this week both locally, nationally and internationally. I am sure that it will be a great success and be enjoyed by all.



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Once again I would like to thank everyone for their continued efforts in making sure that our students attend school in full uniform. Spare ties are available from your son's/daughter's Head of Year. These can be borrowed on a daily basis, but please do make sure that they are returned. As we enter the summer term a reminder that students do not need to ask permission to remove jumpers or cardigans. It is acceptable to attend school wearing only a white shirt, school tie and blazer (which can be removed if it is too hot). I would like to encourage all students to bring in a sports type water bottle which they can fill with water during the day. Students are allowed to drink water in lessons with the exception of some practical based subjects where it would not be safe to do so. Students are not allowed to drink cans of pop during lessons.

I would like to remind everyone that they should not bring mobile phones or music players into school. Apart from the risk of damage or loss of these items, they can be a distraction and disrupt learning. These items will be confiscated if anyone is found using them in lessons. I would ask that everyone works together to prevent these items from becoming an issue in our school.

Advance notice of our Year 7 parents evening which is scheduled for Wednesday 7th July from 4.30 p.m. until 7.00 p.m. We look forward to sharing with parents/carers how well their son/daughter has done so far this year.

Could I remind everyone to check at the Learner Welfare Reception Desk for any property that they may have lost in school. We cannot store lost property indefinitely. Any property that is not collected by the end of the summer term will be donated to charity.

Please find enclosed a copy of our school newsletter in which you will read about some of the exciting events that have taken place recently. Finally, a reminder that school finishes for the summer vacation on 23rd July and recommences 8th September.

Finally, can I thank you again for your continued support as we work together to ensure the success of your child or son/daughter.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Airey
Acting Principal



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