



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Dayspring Trust



Tunstall Bank, Sunderland, SR2 0SX

Telephone: 0191 523 9745 Fax: 0191 523 9775

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

Headteacher: Mr D Airey (BSc Hons)

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

DAI/TCG

17 October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the half term holiday, I thought that it would be a good time to update you on what has happened over this last term. Our new Year 7 pupils have settled well into school. It is almost as if they they have always been with us. Our Year 5/6 Open Evening was a great success. It was lovely to see our new Year 7 showing off their school to the pupils who came to visit from across the city, as well as our older pupils showing what they do each day in class. Everyone represented school really well. A fantastic team effort, well done.

Year 11 pupils have now started the preparations for the final run up to their GCSEs in only a few months time. Year 11 intervention has started, and our pupils are rising to this challenge well. I think that they all understand preparation is the key to success. Our Year 11 pupils did very well in the English Literature exam which they sat in the summer. Every pupil who sat the exam has gained a GCSE pass, with 77 % of pupils gaining a Grade 4 GCSE pass or above, and 59% of pupils gaining a Grade 5 pass or above. We are really pleased with everyone's achievement.

I would like to say a big thank you for ensuring that pupils come to school in the appropriate uniform equipped and ready to learn. This really does support pupils and staff to make the most of each lesson. We would like to ask for your support in ensuring that our pupils attend school each day. . Whilst we appreciate that anyone can become unwell, and some absences are unavoidable, research shows that pupils with good attendance go on to achieve more highly than those who have frequent absences. We set an attendance target for each pupil to be above 95% over the course of a year. This is not an unreasonable target as it still allows 10 days absence over the course of the year for unavoidable illness. Startlingly, achieving 95% attendance each year over 5 years means that you would still miss out on a quarter of a whole school year during your time at secondary school. No wonder there is such a strong link between attendance and achievement. As attendance to school is such an important issue, we are only able to authorise time away from school in exceptional circumstances.

To celebrate our European day of Languages, we had our very own European Bake Off. The video of the judging process can be found on the school website. All judges (me included) enjoyed sampling the finalists produce. A very well done to our winners who were Isabel Johnston Year 8, Lauren Robson Year 8 and Chloe Robe Year 8, but well done to everyone who took the time to enter. It was a fantastic event.

Continued overleaf



As autumn approaches, I would like to remind everyone to be extra vigilant as they journey to and from school each day. Remember to wear appropriate clothing, which is not only going to keep you warm, but which will also make sure that you are seen whilst walking out and about. I would like to ask parents and carers who pick up their children from school by car at the end of the day to be considerate toward our neighbours; particularly to those who live in and around the immediate vicinity. Please park considerately and make sure that you do not block the entrance to any roads or driveways. Remember that each of our pupils has their own locker. This means that winter boots and coats can be worn to school as long as pupils store them in their locker during the day.

As a school, we are currently looking at how we can minimise our plastic waste. Together with our school council and environment group, we will be looking at ways in which we can work together and make our contribution to tackle this global issue. It would be a great start if we could encourage all of our pupils to bring a reusable sports-type water bottle into school. This can be filled up during the day free of charge, meaning our pupils can remain appropriately hydrated. We do sell reusable water bottles at our School Office, currently costing £1. A reminder that we do not allow pupils to bring energy drinks into school, and would encourage them to consume alternative drinks. These high sugar, high caffeinated drinks are no longer sold in the vast majority of supermarkets to the under 16's and there is currently a debate about banning their sale to the under 18 market because of their links to a string of health problems for children, including head and stomach aches, as well as hyperactivity and sleep problems - none of which are good for your child's wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to remind you that school closes **Thursday 18 October 2018 at 3.00 p.m.** for the half term holiday. We re-open on **Monday 29 October 2018** as normal. Our School Office will be open from Tuesday to Friday of half term between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Airey." The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent underline for the name "Airey".

Mr D Airey
Headteacher