

FEBRUARY 2019

# The Venerable Bede News



## Welcome

Dear Parent / Carer welcome to the first edition of our school newsletter for 2019. It is hard to believe that as we approach the half term holiday, our Y7 pupils have completed half of Y7 already. They have certainly found their feet and settled in well. Equally, our Y11 pupils only have a few months left with us until they start their GCSE exams. I would like to wish them good luck as they start this journey. Hopefully, they will make sure that they prepare themselves well by revising and taking advantage of all of the additional support offered to them as they approach the exams.

I need to inform you that **school will be closing early on Wednesday March 13** for additional whole staff training. Pupils will finish **after lunchtime between approximately 1.15 – 1.30**

**pm.** There will be no after school clubs that day, as the training is for all staff. **School will be open as usual on March 14.**

A group of our Y10 pupils and staff have just flown off to experience life in the African country of Lesotho. Whilst this is a great opportunity, no doubt it will be a humbling experience as life for most youngsters of their age is very different to our own. You can follow them on Twitter (@vbedelesotho) & Instagram (@vblesotho). I am sure that we will hear more about their adventure upon their return.

I would like to welcome Mrs T. Willets to school as a new Head of Year. She will be overseeing the day to day pastoral care of our Y10 pupils. Congratulations to both Mr J. Exley and Ms V. DaGama, both of whom have been appointed as Assistant Headteachers to join our Senior team. Mr Exley is Assistant Head with oversight of Pastoral Care, and Ms DaGama is Assistant Head overseeing Teaching and Learning. We have also

appointed a new Assistant Head SENDCo, Ms S. Holt, who will join the team after Easter.

Finally a request for your cooperation. I would really appreciate it if all parents and carers could park with consideration for the safety of our pupils and local neighbours when dropping off and picking up pupils from school. I know that it can be difficult to park on the roads and in the streets around school. School is next to quite a busy road. Sunderland Council have tried to fill the vacant position of crossing patrol for outside school for some time now. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this role, please ask them to make contact with Anthony Bell on (0191) 562 1524, email [anthony.bell@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:anthony.bell@sunderland.gov.uk).

I hope that you and your family have a restful half term break

Best Wishes

*David Airey*

Headteacher

## MP FOR SUNDERLAND CENTRAL VISITS VB



On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February, members of the school council from all year groups met with MP Julie Elliot to talk with her about her career and ask any questions they may have about her time in Parliament.

Julie Elliot has been a Member of Parliament since 2010. During her time with us she spoke about her education at Newcastle Polytechnic (now known as Northumbria University) where she graduated with a degree in Government and Public Policy.

When it came to asking questions about Julie Elliot's job our students were engaged and interested which prompted questions such as:

### What are the best and worst aspects of your job?

'I like doing community work and helping people, especially locally. However, I am not keen on travelling but accept that travelling from the North East to London is an essential part of my job.'

We were honoured to host Ms. Elliot and found her talk really informative.



PUPIL PAGE EDITOR - LEAH HUNTER Y11

## UPDATE FROM OUR SENIOR PREFECTS



As we draw closer to our last months at Venerable Bede, we continue to be involved in the life of our Academy. We are using our skills and experience to learn how to balance our role as Senior Prefects with the responsibilities of our subject studies, revision, intervention and more as we prepare for our upcoming GCSE exams.

Intervention continues to go well and has become an integral part of our exam preparations, it has recently been supplemented with optional revision sessions which take place after school. We are taking advantage of this extra support and everybody is finding it useful, especially in subjects that prove more challenging.

The latest group of year 10 pupils have recently left to take part in the annual VB expedition to Lesotho. We hope they enjoy their experience during their time away and look forward to reading of their adventures in the next Venerable Bede Newspaper.

Our school community is closely working with and supporting our neighbours in Lesotho, as we have in previous years.

We look forward to continuing our role as Senior Prefects in the remainder of our time here and look forward to updating the academy as we move into post 16.

## JOSH IN JAPAN



**Y11 Pupil and world class para-sportsperson, Josh Waddell has been extremely busy in recent months making great progress in his Journey towards the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.**

Recently taking part in a fencing competition in Kyoto, Japan, Josh performed very well!

His efforts placed him in the final 32 for both foil and epee in the Senior competition, placing him 18th in the Tokyo World Rankings in epee and 21st in foil.

Josh needs to be in the top 25 to qualify outright for Tokyo.

We wish him the best of luck in the near future as he prepares for further international competitions in the coming weeks.

## Y11 MOCK RESULTS DAY

Last year after extensive revision and long anticipation about how they will do, Year 11 took part in their mock exams. Many exceeded expectations and all learned what areas of study they need to focus on in the lead up to the real thing.

Earlier this year they were given the opportunity to experience the anticipation of an exam results day as they collected their mock GCSE results. The event was designed to mimic as closely as possible the procedures of their actual results day and many pupils found the experience both trepidatious as well as exciting!



## KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Event	Starts	Ends
Spring Half Term	Friday 15 February	Monday 25 February
Staff INSET	Wednesday 13 March - Academy closes to pupils from 1.00pm then reopens the following day as normal.	
Easter Holiday	Friday 5 April	Tuesday 23 April
May Day	Monday 6 May	Tuesday 7 May
Summer Half Term	Friday 24 May	Monday 3 June



PUPIL PAGE EDITOR - NOAH DOWSETT Y11

## HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR...

### VENERABLE BEDE'S NEW BULLY BUDDIES

In September we relaunched our incredibly well respected and successful 'Bully Buddies' group, Venerable Bede's anti-bullying ambassadors.

Comprising pupils from years 7-10, the group works across the academy to promote safety and wellbeing. Each of the members receive training so they can act as one of the first points of contact to those who may be experiencing difficulties.

In November our 'Bully Buddies', led the academy during 'Anti-Bullying Week' a national initiative to reduce negative behaviour in schools.



## COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR FOR NATIONAL THEATRE VISITS VB



Soon after we returned in January we were lucky enough to have a visit from **Martin Prendergast**, previously Head of Communications for the National Theatre.

At the end of his presentation he held a question and answer segment where he answered the pupils questions about theatre, business and life in general.

During his visit he gave an inspiring talk about his career and life experiences to pupils years 9 through to 11.

The pupils were very vocal in their enjoyment of the session and Martin hopes to visit again next year.

During his talk he led the pupils through his 'top tips' for how to succeed in their careers and then talked about his own journey.



## EXAMS ALREADY UNDERWAY!

In January and February 2019 we undertook the first of our 2019 GCSE exams.

Business and Health & Social Care pupils sat their exams in January and we wish them good luck with their results.

Year 11's are currently nearing the time that they will sit their English speaking, and Spanish speaking exams, as well as other exams such as Drama.

GCSE Drama will be performing excerpts from 'Girls Like That', a play by Evan Placey. as part of their final performances. These will be observed by an external examiner.

Images from the rehearsals can be seen to the right, preparations are well in hand and we wish them the best of luck!



PUPIL PAGE EDITOR - ALEX RIDLEY Y11

## SPORTING UPDATE

### CROSS COUNTRY UPDATE!

On the 4th of December our team of pupils from Years 7-11 competed in the Sunderland schools cross country championships.

The top 12 racers even qualified for the Durham county finals; we wish the students luck and we hope that they achieve even more! VB's top performer was Josh Davis (Year 11) well done to him and all of the team.



### TRAMPOLINING SUCCESS!

In October, our trampolining team (Years 8-10) represented Venerable Bede at the

annual trampolining competition at the AAA sports centre.

Our qualifiers were Kayden Thornton and Nathan Hedley.

Kayden also achieved the accolade of 'Elite Boys Winner! Congratulations to him!

We look forward to further successes in the future. Well done to all who took part!



### ST JOHN ABULANCE



St John Ambulance Cadets are holding a 'Fund Raiser' event at the Bridges shopping centre on the 26th March.

Times are yet to be decided, but there will be many fun events through the day, such as a Tombola, Guess the sweets in the jar, and many more! Donations would be greatly appreciated, whether it be money or donations for the Tombola. Items should be in good condition, relatively unused or sealed. We appreciate it very much!

Faith Evans Y11 pupil and St John Ambulance Cadet - First Aider (the first to hold this title in Sunderland) said 'We're really looking forward to the event and look forward to seeing everyone!' Please contact your local St John Ambulance Centre for more information.



### UPCOMING FIXTURES

Event	Venue	Date
Under 12 Boys Football	TBC	28 February
U14 Girls Football	Houghton Kepier	7 March
Year 7 Girls Hockey	Raich Carter	5 March
Year 8 Girls Hockey	Raich Carter	5 March
Year 7 Boys Hockey	Raich Carter	5 March
Year 9 Girls Volley Ball	Biddick Academy	19 March
Year 10 Girls Volley Ball	Biddick Academy	19 March
Year 7 Boys Volley Ball	Biddick Academy	19 March
Year 8 Boys Volley Ball	Biddick Academy	19 March

