

SPRING 2022

The Venerable Bede News



Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. As you can see, our pupils have been very busy over this past few months trying to get back into the swing of things as we all try to "get back to normal" and learn to live with COVID. I would like to thank everyone for the level of support that has been afforded us as we have grappled with keeping school as normal as possible for everyone this year. It has not been easy at times, but we have

really appreciated everyone keeping us informed about COVID absences and other linked situations.

It is hard to believe that in only another 2 weeks we will have the Easter Holidays and be 2/3 of the way through the academic year. A reminder that we break up for Easter on Friday 8 April at 3.00 p.m. returning on Monday 25 April.

I would like us all to take a moment and wish our Y11 good luck in their forthcoming GCSE exams. These start a mere 3 weeks after Easter! I know a lot of the Y11 pupils have been asking where the time has gone!

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the recent information

we sent out to everyone about donating essential items to support those displaced by the War in Ukraine. All contributions are gratefully received and will go directly to help those in great need.

I hope that you and your families have a restful Easter break.

Remember that Jesus said;

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

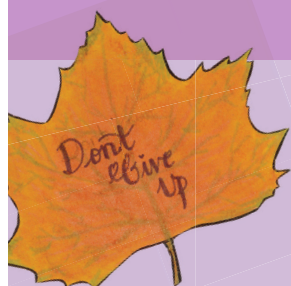
Best Wishes

David Airey

Headteacher

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2022

Contributed by SENDD



Children's Mental Health Week was launched in 2015 to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. Now in its eighth year, it is hoped that more people than ever are encouraged to become involved and spread the word.

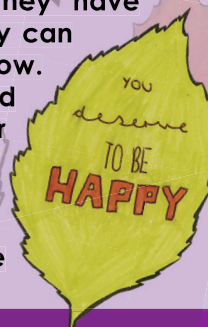
Children's Mental Health Week took place from 7th - 13th February 2022; this year's theme is Growing Together. Growing Together is about growing

emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

For Children's Mental Health Week this year, we encouraged pupils to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. Pupils completed activities with their tutor and were asked to consider the question: what would you like

someone to do or say if you were struggling? Pupils decorated leaves with their responses which will be displayed in school.

Around five children in every classroom have a mental health difficulty and many more struggle with challenges from friendship issues to bereavement. School provide a range of support for pupils that may be struggling. This support includes Kooth online counselling and referrals to the school counsellor, CAMHS, CYPS, ELSA and our Emotional Resilience Nurses. If you have any questions, please contact our Lead Practitioner for Physical and Mental Health, Mrs Chipp.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Contributed by RBO

YOUNG SONGWRITERS

During February half-term Sunderland Music Hub launched "Young Songwriters", a project aimed at students from years 9, 10 and 11 who have a passion for music and might want to have a go at writing and recording their own songs in a professional studio!

GCSE Music pupils in Y9-Y11 participated in a free one-hour taster session. During the session they had to work in groups to plan and create a catchy jingle associated with a brand or product. Students were then able to express an interest if they wished to take part in the full length, 3 day event.

6 Venerable Bede pupils were selected to attend the event which ran from 23rd-25th February.

During the course, pupils had to analyse Sam Fender's song, 'Hypersonic :)' and look at song writing lyrics.

Students had to complete a group task and write a song based on the style of The Beatles.

For a second task, pupils opted to write a song based on a specific genre - sad pop bop.

Jack said 'the recording session has really changed opinion on song writing and opened my eyes to how songs are actually written.'

Trinity commented 'it was a fun 3 days as it gave me a chance to work with different pupils.'

Students also got a tour of the music and performing arts facilities available at Sunderland College. They had a great time working in smaller groups to write and record an original song, alongside professional songwriters - a fantastic opportunity!



SEARCH FOR A STAR

Sunderland Music Hub are organising their annual talent show competition, 'Search for a Star'.

We gave pupils the opportunity to sign up for an audition and the response was phenomenal! Acts ranging from singing, dancing, bands and instrumental performances all enthusiastically took part.

Auditions took place during the first week after returning from the February half term break and the winning acts, who will represent Venerable Bede at the event, are: Matthew who will perform as a solo singer and Charlie, Sam, Erin, Ashlayne, Lexie, Andrew, Brandon and Jack who will perform as a group - 'The Vennerz Rock Band'.

The event will take place on April 6th 2022 at Sunderland College and tickets to attend are available now on the VB website.

MUSIC LESSONS

Once again, we've had a number of students sign up and begin lessons during the spring term. They are proving extremely popular with still over 200 pupils accessing lessons on a weekly basis. If anyone is interested in starting peripatetic music lessons, please contact Mrs Bonner for further information.

VB'S GOT TALENT 2022

We are finally able to hold our first live musical performance with an audience (it has been a long time)!!

We are holding our annual talent show, VB's Got Talent on Friday 1st April 7pm at Silksworth Comrades Club. The evening will feature a variety of musical performances from our rock bands, choir and a variety of other acts.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Contributed by KMP

HE KNOWS SHE KNOWS

In January during Personal Development, pupils were treated to a musical performance and mental health talk from the band He Knows She Knows. The performance and talk was delivered to Y7, 8, 9 and 10 and was carried out Teams. The band performed some well known songs and then spoke about their experiences including; managing stress at school; coping with peer pressure; bullying and grief. Pupils were also given an opportunity to ask the bad questions about their life and experiences.

We have also been lucky enough to secure a live, in-person, performance from He Knows She Knows later in March and look forward to sharing some images from that!

'WEAR HERE FOR YOU' BUS VISIT

Together for Children in partnership with Growing Healthy,



Northumbria Police, Youth Consortium and other partners around the city have a mobile bus that has visited school this term. Year 10 and 11 pupils have been able to visit the bus and speak to the professionals on board about any issues regarding health and wellbeing. The professionals were able to signpost the pupils to the appropriate service in the city where they can source advice and support. Services include



those that deal with drugs and alcohol, sexual health, domestic violence and careers.

COUNTY LINES PRESENTATION



Following their presentation last year on malicious communications we have been fortunate to welcome back Northumbria Police who delivered a presentation and Q&A about issues around the selling of drugs, organised crime and the devastating effects these are having on young people in our region.

The visit took place over two weeks during our Wednesday PD period.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2022

Contributed by RWY

For two weeks every year, thousands of schools, colleges and universities come together to learn from the people who grow what we eat, drink and wear! But unfortunately, many of the people who do these jobs are often exploited and underpaid. That's why Fairtrade is so important, it allows the workers to be paid fairly for their work.



FAIRTRADE
INTERNATIONAL

This years' theme for Fairtrade fortnight is all about standing up with farmers and workers to seek climate justice.

We at Venerable Bede are going to

celebrate Fairtrade fortnight the week we return from half term

We are giving you an opportunity to think about your future, to look into the work Fairtrade does

and its impact on those who need their help and protection to thrive.

Pictured: Our FairTrade Tree and the winners of our quiz completion!



CAREERS UPDATE

Contributed by HPE

VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

To ensure that all of our pupils gain as many life skills as possible, Year 10 have started to complete some Virtual Work Experience during their Careers lessons.

Pupils will study topics such as teamwork, problem solving, how to be an effective employee and

the recruitment process. This is an exciting time for our pupils and it ensures that our pupils continue to strengthen skills that will be used throughout their lives, long after they finish their studies at Venerable Bede.

I look forward to seeing who shines as a leader, who has a

logical way of thinking and who can keep calm in an interview situation!

If you have any questions or comments regarding Careers, please contact Mrs Tracey.

ANTI BULLYING & SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Contributed by AJA



We are pleased to promote our Anti-Bullying group at The Venerable Bede CE Academy.

We are here to support any member of our school community who has experienced an incident of bullying.

For further information and support, please access our AntiBullying Hub via the school website or contact Miss Jackson directly.

If you want to report an incident of bullying, please use the "Report now" button on the [Anti Bullying Hub](#).

You can also visit the "[Kooth](#)" website for information or advice.

All pupils in the school are currently in the process of completing an online "Safe to Learn" survey regarding all bullying issues including what bullying means to them, areas where pupils feel vulnerable and strategies to support pupils in school.

The Bully Buddies have had a meeting to decide job roles in school and have started to look at the results of the surveys with a view to put actions in place to make all pupils feel more supported.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are in the process of re-launching our school council!

The structure this will take is: each form has 2 form council members totalling 14 pupils per year group. Of these 14 pupils, 2 from each year group will become members of the School Council via an application process.

The School Council will meet with Mr. Airey every half term to discuss pupil issues in and around school and solutions to those issues. The School Council will then pass the minutes of the meeting with Mr. Airey back to form council members and they will be shared with forms.

SPORTING ROUNDUP

Contributed by ROA & AJT

SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS INDOOR ATHLETICS COMPETITION 2022

Year 8 boys and girls took part in Sunderland Schools Indoor Athletics competition- competing against several schools across the city. There was a variety of athletic events, including a number of track, field and relay events.

All students represented the school fantastically; the boys winning the competition overall.

YEAR 10 PUPIL GAINS PLACE ON NATIONAL TEAM!

Emily Cassap, year 10 student, who represents both Sunderland academy and Durham county schools FA, was invited for

England School girls trials. After completing the trial process, she has been successful in gaining a place in England school girls U16's squad. Emily will now attend a number of England training camps and begin playing international fixtures against other countries. This is testament to her commitment, attitude and level of performance in the game.