

FEBRUARY 2021

The Venerable Bede News



Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our school newsletter for February 2021. It is hard to believe that we have completed a full half term of Remote Education which our pupils are tackling with great enthusiasm and dedication. We understand that it brings its own pressures and stresses for pupils, parents/carers and staff alike.

School is closed over the half term break, reopening on Monday 22 February. Remember that, with the exception of those Critical worker and vulnerable children who have arranged to work in school already, all other pupils will continue with remote learning when we re-open.

A reminder that we currently have our **pupil and parent surveys** open.

As an incentive to our pupils, there are 10 £25 vouchers to be won! Names will be drawn at random, from those who complete the survey, after the closing date of 27 February.

We have several new staff who have joined us since the Christmas Edition of our news letter. We would like to welcome Mrs. K. Stebbing who has taken up the post of second in the English department. Miss A. Winwood joins us in the Learning Support Department - she is also a former pupil of VBCEA, so welcome back! Mr G. Thompson also joins our Learning Support Department, and finally Mrs S. Bell who has joined our behaviour support team.

We are also creating two additional Learning Support posts, which are going out to advert in the next week or so. Please share the details of these posts with anyone you think may be a suitable candidate.

We need to say a fond farewell to two members of staff. Ms B.

Charlton first joined us a couple of year ago to train as a teacher. Since qualifying, she has been with us for a year and a half working in the History and then the English Departments. We wish her every success in her new role as a Teacher of History.

Finally, we would like to say a fond farewell to Mrs J. Reed who has worked in our Learning Support Department for over 18 years! Mrs Reed joined VBCEA when we first opened in 2002. She has worked tirelessly to support pupils in school with additional needs throughout this time. We all hope that she takes many fond memories of her time with us into her well earned retirement. She will be missed.

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

Best Wishes

Headteacher

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Contributed by SHL

During these unprecedented times, it is especially important to take care of our mental health and wellbeing. Here at Venerable Bede CE Academy, we care deeply about the emotional wellbeing of our pupils, families and staff.

Last month we launched our new Mental Health and

Wellbeing Directory that signposts pupils and parents/carers to supportive services such as counselling, helplines and websites. This month we will be developing this even further by creating a virtual Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub. This will promote positive mental health throughout the pandemic and beyond. Here, you will find detailed

information linked to a range of areas. Available resources will include videos, activities, articles, websites, self-help guides and more.

**Resource
Directory
PDF**

READING HUB LAUNCH

Contributed by CHL

During the most recent Lockdown, we have launched a new Reading Hub area on the school website.

Whether pupils are in school or working at home, the Reading Hub is a central place to find information about reading, books and literacy related activities.

You can find links to ebooks, author pages, book reviews and much more. As the Reading Hub develops, we will be asking pupils and the wider school community to participate by sending in reviews

and making suggestions for other content.

Reading Challenges are being added regularly and all pupils are able to join in. During lockdown we will be encouraging pupils to take a break from screen time and try some fun creative tasks: write a letter, be an illustrator or choose to make a book character.

As a school we know how important reading is, enabling pupils to benefit from all the opportunities that education has to offer them. Whether you are usually a keen

reader or not, why not have a try at some of our activities?

Do send us details of any that you have a go at, and keep an eye out for new items being added for World Book Day in March.



YOUTH FOR CHRIST - ONLINE RESOURCES

Contributed by DLJ

For over 15 years we have had the privilege of working alongside Wearside Youth for Christ (YfC). Members of the team often join us at the academy to deliver some of our RE lessons and lead in the running of both our Christian Union (CU) and Well-being sessions.

During the lockdowns in 2020, Andy and the team worked tirelessly to create online Worship resources for use by staff in RE lessons. These are also available via their **YouTube**



channel for all of our community to benefit from.

Following the success of these Worship resources, YfC have begun

this year to create video resources focusing on Mindfulness, Mental Health and Wellbeing. Lauren and the rest of the team are doing a great job!

In collaboration with YfC, we have made these resources available via our website from the recently updated **Mental Health and Well-being** page, as well as the **Worship and Prayer** page.

The **most recent video** 'Well-Being 7 Day Challenge' is a great start to the half term break and is well worth checking out!

A SPOTLIGHT ON REMOTE EDUCATION

Contributed by VDG

We would like to thank you all, both pupils and parents and carers for your efforts with Remote Learning over this half term. You have certainly shown your teachers that you are resilient learners and growing in independence each day. We've all even become technical gurus.

We have spoken to some of you about your experiences with Remote Learning.

"Overall, I have found remote learning to be quite similar to just being in school. I think the best parts of this have been how well teachers are producing the lessons and making it very similar to being in a classroom."

Lily

"You get guidance from teachers and you can still make progress. You must be prepared and ask teachers when you don't understand."

Leah

Remember if you have any technical difficulties we are always here to help. Just **log your issue on the school website**.



APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2021

Contributed by HPE

Venerable Bede CE Academy was proud to once again support National Apprenticeship Week!

A young person's career is their pathway through learning and work. At our Academy we strive to provide pupils with a wide range of activities that equip them with the skills and knowledge needed for

post 16 life and onwards. Apprenticeships are just one of the options available to our pupils when they finish Year 11.

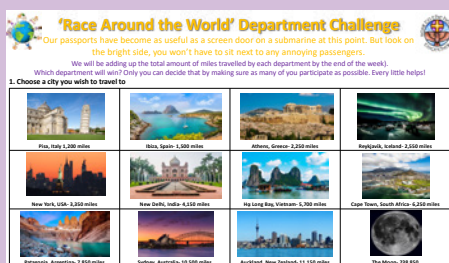
Please visit our **academy website** to see lots more information about apprenticeships. There is also an **activities booklet** for students and an **information pack** for parents and carers.

If you have any questions regarding apprenticeships, please feel free to contact **Miss Pestell**.



STAFF ACTIVE LIFESTYLE CHALLENGE

Contributed by SBR



Since the start of lockdown, Team PE have been promoting active lifestyles for the students of Venerable Bede.

As 'Blue Monday' was on the horizon, we thought it would

be a good opportunity for us to promote the positive impact that exercise can have on our mental health, as well as, physical health.

The aim was for all departments to work together to get as many "miles" on their map as possible. Staff chose a destination that they would like to try to 'travel to', then they had to consider which carousel of exercises they would need to complete to reach their chosen destination.

Additional challenges were also introduced for those who thought a sit up should really be a sit down. These included throwing teabags into a mug and finding a creative way to keep a toilet roll in the air. In total, our staff travelled 169,948 Kilometres enough to travel the equator of the Earth 4.24 times!

Below you will see some images submitted by some of our intrepid contributors and a video celebrating their achievement will be **on our website** soon!

