

Christmas Edition 2018

The Venerable Bede News



Message from the Executive Headteacher, Dayspring Trust

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the Christmas holidays, I would like to thank you and our pupils for your generosity of spirit and kindness towards others. For some, it is always a difficult time of year, whether it is through the loss of a loved one, a change in circumstances or financial hardship. To this end, our pupils have been involved in a variety of activities which are underpinned by our Gospel values, such as focusing on Year 7 transition and developing mindfulness, raising money for various charities, and donating food for the homeless food bank.

In addition, Venerable Bede pupils have also donated toys to what has become a fantastic annual tradition: the Christmas Carol Service at St. Patrick's Church with the Salvation Army.

Finally, congratulations to all of our Year 7 pupils who took part in our Christmas card competition, particularly our winner, Lucie Willis, a version of who's design can be seen behind this text.

I wish you and your family a joyous and peaceful Christmas and I am looking forward to working with you in the New Year.

With best regards

GABOOTH.

Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all of your support throughout this term. I feel that our pupils have worked hard and made a good start to the year, both in lessons as well as in the multitude of extra-curricular clubs and activities which have taken place.

The Community Christmas party took place on Monday 17 December 2018. Our Year 7 pupils were really excited about hosting the afternoon of festive fun. On Thursday 20 December 2018 we have our "Wear your Christmas Jumper to School" event, combined with our Christmas Lunch. We are raising money for the "Save The Children" appeal, as well as for our Lesotho charity. As always, a Christmas Lunch with 900 guests is not easy to manage. I would like to thank our catering staff in particular for their efforts.

Recently we attended St Patrick's Church (Ryhope) Carol Service with our senior prefects. This was a fantastic evening which culminated in the presentation, to the Salvation Army, of the toys which have been collected by us and other schools. Everyone's generosity has, again, been overwhelming this year, so I would like to pass on our thanks to you all.

A reminder that school will be closed for the duration of the Christmas break. The School Office will re-open at 8.00 a.m. on Monday 7 January 2019.

Please note that pupils return to school on Monday 7 January 2019. The main school building will open to pupils as usual at 8.30am, and our free breakfast club will be open from 7.45am that day.

I would like to wish all of our pupils, parents, carers and community a restful and Happy Christmas, as well as a prosperous New Year. I look forward to working with you all in 2019.

Yours faithfully

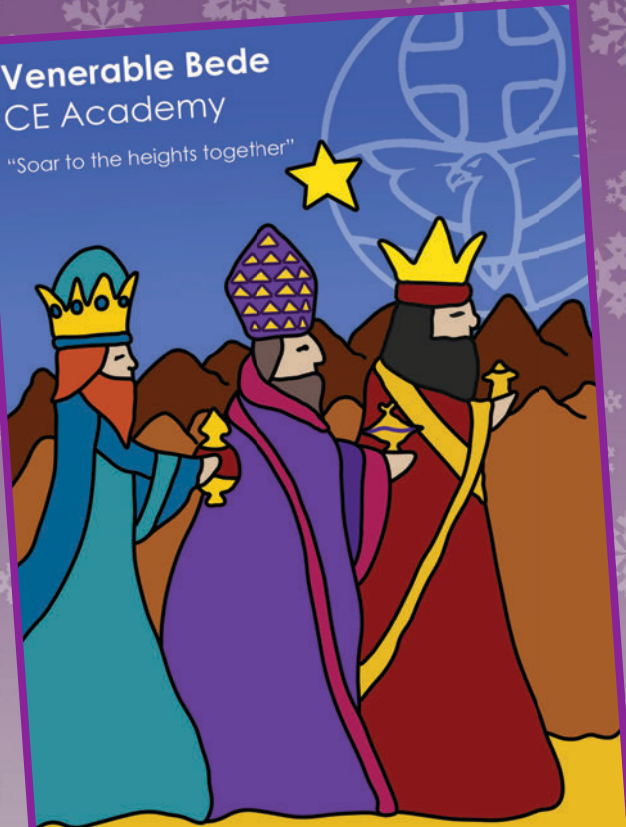
David Rivey.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2018

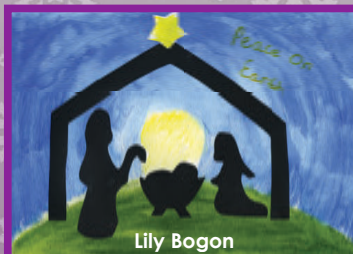
Venerable Bede

CE Academy

"Soar to the heights together"



Dayspring Trust



Lily Bogon

One of the highlights of the festive season each year at Venerable Bede is our annual Year 7 Christmas card design competition!

This year Lucie Willis won with this stunning artwork. The design was sent out as Venerable Bede's official card.

Lucie received professionally printed copies of her design as did the runners up who's designs you will find above/right.



Emily Nixon



Jessica Jewitt



Matthew Nichols

FESTIVE SEASON ROUND-UP

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY!



Festive smiles abound as pupils and staff donned their Christmas sweaters for the day!

As you can see from our photos we really were a sight to behold!

One member of staff said: 'I look forward to Christmas Jumper day every year it's a lot of fun!'



CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

In a video made earlier this year Rev. Canon Stuart Bain (Chair of the Board of Directors, Dayspring Trust) said:

'The Eucharist, Holy Communion, it's at the heart of Christian Worships [coming] from Jesus and the Last Supper and because we are a Church of England School I think it's really, really important that we share the Eucharist together.'

Though the pattern varies [slightly] on each occasion we have a core [service] which [remains] the same and we [have] tried to develop that in terms of [our pupils] becoming familiar with the words, knowing the responses, getting an idea of the shape of what a Communion Service is about, [and] the importance of that.'

Our Christmas Eucharist this year built on that strong foundation with contributions from our Senior Prefects and Choir bringing a festive air to the service.

In order to accommodate as much of the academy's community as possible two services were held on Wednesday morning.

The video from which the earlier remarks are excerpted, can be seen on the academy website in our 'Ethos' section.



COMMUNITY PARTY

Residents from our local community along with pupils and staff from Venerable Bede enjoyed a wonderful festive afternoon at our annual Community Christmas Party.

Over 80 guests enjoyed entertaining performances, carol singing, refreshments and the ever-popular Bingo and Raffle.

Pupils and staff worked tirelessly both in the preparation and running of the event to ensure everything went smoothly.

The afternoon concluded with Santa distributing gifts to the delight of all!



Bingo!



Santa's Helper!



A special visitor!



Fun for all!

One guest commented:

"I look forward to this event every year, it marks the start of my Christmas celebrations."

VB CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our Carol Concert was a huge success this year, with outstanding performances from the Venerable Bede choir along with pupils from across the school community.

Parents, staff and governors were treated to a wonderful evening of carols and Christmas readings.

The pupils worked exceptionally hard to ensure the evening was full of festive cheer, and they were rewarded with a fabulous audience who seemed to truly enjoy themselves.



Soloists



Choir



Soul Band



Our Musical Director

CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Crackers too!



Trainee!



Christmas Dinner



Our Catering Team

Our famous Christmas lunch was once again served up with heaps of festive spirit on the penultimate day of term.

Pupils look forward all year to our traditional Christmas lunch of turkey, stuffing and all the trimmings. The catering staff join in the fun by dressing up in their Christmas uniform and santa hats, making sure that everyone enjoys a fun-filled lunchtime.

The finishing touch is the exchange of Christmas crackers – one of the highlights for the pupils and staff alike.

ANTI BULYING WEEK 2018

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. Read on to find out some of the things that happened...



ODD SOCK DAY

To celebrate and bring awareness to those things that make us all unique, Venerable Bede pupils and staff took part in 'Odd Socks Day'.

Participants made a voluntary contribution to 'BullyingUK' and took the opportunity to express themselves through their choice of (odd) socks!



NEW LOGO!

Part of our relaunch included the designing of a

new logo featuring the faces of our current team.

The design was suggested by team member Cameron Speck. Look out for it across the school!

ANTI-BULLYING BAKE SALE

On 16th November Members our Bully Buddies group organised a bake sale at break and it was a resounding success.

As you can see from the photos, pupils from every year group donated baked goods of all kinds to be sold in aid of 'BullyingUK' a part of the 'Family Lives' charity.

Sold at a very reasonable 50p an item the sale was incredibly popular in-fact

all items sold out in the first few minutes leading to a planned lunchtime sale being cancelled!

The organisers of the sale Miss Jackson and Miss Murray were 'over the moon' with how popular the sale had been and were 'really pleased with how the re-launch of the Bully Buddies group has progressed and look forward to many more events to come'.



KEY DATES

Event	Starts	Ends
Christmas Holiday	(1.30pm) Friday 21 December	(School reopens to pupils) Monday 07 January
Y11 Mock Exam Results Day	Wednesday 09 December	-
Y10 Exams	Monday 14 January 2019	Friday 25 January 2019
Y8 Exams	Monday 04 February 2019	Friday 08 February 2019
Y8 Curriculum Options Evening	Tuesday 26 February 2019 - 4pm	Tuesday 26 February 2019 - 6pm

ANTI-BULLYING LESSONS

During a 'Personal Development' lesson in November, the Y7 pupils learned strategies to help prevent bullying, the effects bullying can have on those who have experienced it and the role our 'Bully Buddies' play within the academy community.

One pupil said 'The session was really useful. It's important to be aware of the different types of bullying and its great to know that there are things I can do to try and prevent it'

