

AUTUMN/WINTER 2020

# The Venerable Bede News



## Message from our Headteacher

### Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all of your support throughout the Autumn/Winter term. It has been a term like no other! I do feel that everyone has pulled together and tried to make the most of the current situation. It has not been easy. I would like to commend our pupils who have needed to self-isolate. They have accessed remote learning as best they can. I would also like to say thank you to our staff who have been providing live online lessons. Everyone has been

adapting to new situations, and refining the approach as they go along

This year's end of term has needed to be different because of the Coronavirus pandemic. However our pupils and staff have been determined to carry on regardless and miss out as little as possible.

For the past 19 years we have hosted our Community Christmas Party in the last week of term. We wanted to continue this tradition as we felt that it was especially important at this time. Since we could not host the party in school, we have created our own DVD which has been sent out into many community care homes in and around our local area. Do have a look at the extra features including our music department Christmas songs and the calls for your very own bingo game! We have posted the DVD on the school website so that anyone who has missed it can watch ([Click here](#)).

As we knew that we would not be able to have our usual Christmas Eucharist, we created a virtual Advent Reflection Worship. I would like to thank all of the pupils and staff who were involved in the creation of this, as well as the pupils for taking part in this in tutor time ([Click here to watch](#)).

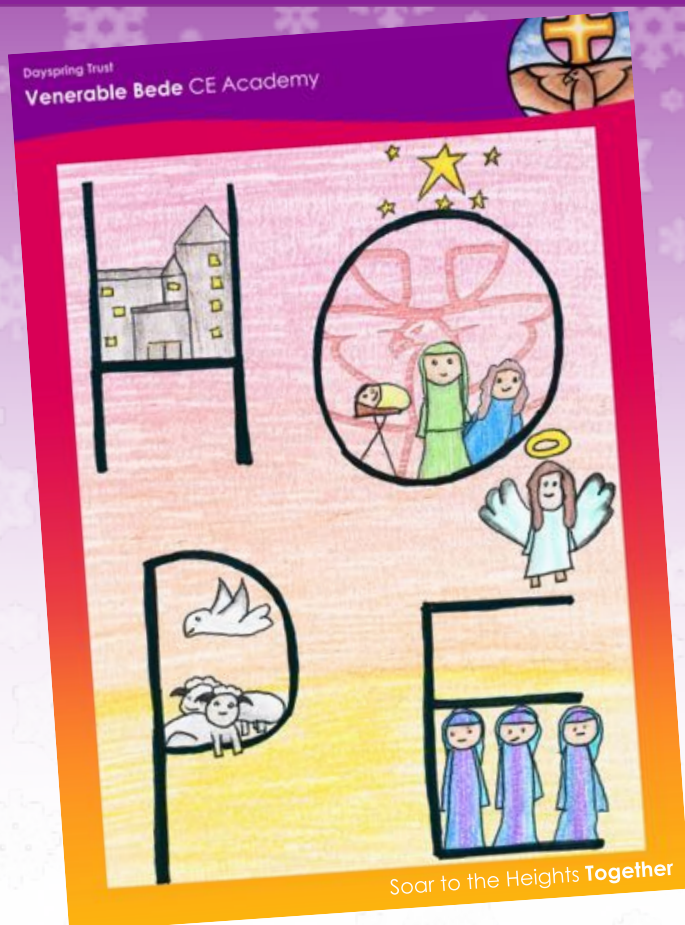
I would like to thank everyone for all of the donations of toys for the Salvation Army toy appeal. Even though the Church Service was not able to go ahead this year, we have been able to support this much needed charity. The response has been amazing.

I would like to wish all of our pupils, parents, carers and community a safe, restful and Happy Christmas, as well as a prosperous New Year. I look forward to working with you all in 2021.

Yours faithfully

*David Airey*

## CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2019



Kyle  
Runner Up



Natasha  
Runner Up



Neve  
Runner Up



Oliver  
Runner Up

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 won with this festive artwork. The design was sent out as Venerable Bede's official Christmas card.

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

## CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

During last half term, pupils at The Venerable Bede Academy were given the opportunity to enter a creative writing competition. The task was to complete a short narrative around the theme of Heroes and Heroines. There were many fantastic entries from pupils across the Academy. It was therefore very difficult to choose a winner! However, for a very moving and imaginative piece of writing on the events of September 11th 2001, the winner is: Emily (Year 7) Runners up: Cerys (Year 8) and Hannah (Year 8).

We hope you enjoy the extract from Emily's story:

"A bony hand attached suddenly to my wrist, digging its fingernails into my skin. 'Emily, you're taking too long, the tower could collapse at any moment!' His clench became increasingly harder. We ran down each stair, as tiny figures of humans flashed through the windows. Sweat and tears ran down my face, making my cheeks itchy, red and sore. My teeth were grinding, creating an indignant expression on my face. My eyes blinked with vexation, strong rage and hostility. I didn't want to accept any help or talk to anyone, I just wanted to wake up from this nightmare. If only it was a nightmare."

To read all three stories in full please click on the link below:

(Click Here)



## Anti-Bullying Week

The 16th November marked the start of "Anti-Bullying Week, " a national initiative to reduce Bullying behaviours in schools.

Read on to find out some of the events that took place in school to promote anti-bullying.

Monday 16th November-" Odd socks Day" to mark this year's theme "United Against Bullying." All staff and pupils at the Academy were encouraged to wear odd socks as a symbol of solidarity.



Wednesday 18th November- Launch of the Academies new "Anti-Bullying Hub" on the school website. To find out more click the link (Click here)

Anti-Bullying documentaries were shown to all pupils during PD lessons and all pupils in school completed the "Safe in School" questionnaire.

We have also been proudly awarded the Sunderland Young People's Anti Bullying Charter Mark at Gold level.



## FESTIVE SEASON ROUND-UP

### VB MUSIC DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS EP

Festive smiles abound as pupils, staff and parents/carers were treated to collection of fun music videos produced by our Music Department staff.

As you can see from the screen-grab below and by following the link ([Click here](#)) our Music Department really came through for us bringing much needed celebration!

One member of staff said: *'This is such an innovative way to bring us all together in the Christmas spirit, seeing and hearing these videos at lunch time was a joy'*



### A REFLECTION FOR ADVENT



As was the case for our Summer Eucharist our Eucharist for Advent took a different form 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... it's really, really important that we share this time together.'*

Our Advent Reflection this year builds on the successful video reflection we produced earlier in the year and included footage shot at the Minster in Sunderland and a great many contributions from VB staff and pupils including our Senior Prefects and Choir which helped bring a festive air to the service.

In order to accommodate as much of the academy's community as possible the video was launched as a 'premier' on YouTube and was viewed simultaneously in every room of the school.

### COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PRESENT



Residents from our local community along with pupils and staff from Venerable Bede traditionally enjoy a wonderful festive afternoon at our annual Community Christmas Party. This year, as with most things, we did it a little differently!

Pupils and staff worked tirelessly to prepare DVDs, Christmas hampers and a webpage to bring the party to the community!

The DVD and webpage comprises reflections, messages, performances and even virtual bingo!

#### One recipient commented:

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

It is such a shame that it had to be cancelled this year however this gift is a wonderful reminder that you are thinking of us! Thank you and Merry Christmas!"