

SUMMER 2021

The Venerable Bede News



Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our school newsletter for June 2021. It was a great end to the half term, with a farewell afternoon to our Y11 on Thursday. We wish them all good luck for the future. We are all hoping that the "Y11 Summer Ball" will be able to go ahead on 2 July.

School will re-open after the Half term break on Monday 7 June at our usual time of 8.30 a.m. (breakfast club will be open from 7.45). For your information, the school office is closed during the half term break.

I can share that we have had no positive cases of coronavirus last term. I am confident that this is in part due to all of the protective measures that everyone has put in place at home and in school. Let us hope that this can continue.

As we approach the final term, I would like to remind everyone that we have an active recycling scheme for any good quality school uniform that your child

might have grown out of. We appreciate all donations. I am sure that everyone can see the advantages.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the summer break this year is 7 weeks (due to where bank holiday falls - pupils are still in school for the same number of days each year. School closes on 16 July and reopens to pupils on Wednesday 8 September.

I would like to wish everyone a restful half term.

Best Wishes

David Airey

Headteacher

GOODBYE CLASS OF 2021

Contributed by RJE

Five years ago the class of 2016 had their last week in school. Many of my colleagues expressed their regret at their departure and pondered a future without them.

"They will be a hard act to follow."
Remarked a Head of department.

Having seen Mr Exley, Mrs Birtwistle, Mrs Outen and then Mr Crampton nurturing, counselling, persuading and guiding the younger pupils through their school careers with the combined strategies of love, sympathy and kindness I was ready for the new challenge. I must admit I was actually stepping into a type of Pastoral Narnia. The past five years have gone in the blink of an eye and the cohort of 2021 have been truly magical for me and the staff at the Venerable Bede Academy.

Year 11- your big day came for your first day at secondary school and there you all were on the yard, meeting your new form tutors and classmates. Your form tutors have been amazing and I think most of your successes are due to the great relationships you have developed with them. Highlights of Year 7 were the Community Christmas Party, shopping at the Metro Centre and a week in Derwent Hill. Also trips to Durham Cathedral, Seaham, Marsden, High Force and Flamingo Land were good fun too.

I regret that the pandemic and lockdowns have prevented you from having the same opportunities that others who came before had. The cancellation of the Lesotho trip and the lack of time together have been my greatest regrets. You have had many opportunities to shine- you are stars! You have coped so

well with the challenges of the past two years and have shown beyond all doubt that you are determined, resilient, driven and capable. So much more than that though, you have shown that you are kind, compassionate, tolerant and wise.

Since Easter you have worked impressively to secure your futures. Your determination to succeed is remarkable and it is a quality in very short supply and in high demand these days. Thank you. I will miss you.



COVID-19 CONSULTATION

Contributed by RSC & KBO

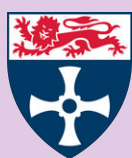
Children North East, a local charity working alongside Newcastle University, were commissioned to complete a report called the Voices Project into the impact of the National Lockdown on the lives of young people in our region.

Children North East will share the findings with Newcastle University, schools, local authorities and the general public through reports, blogs and press releases to help ensure children are at the centre of future decisions made in the region. It will consider the perspectives of over one-thousand pupils from across the region, including a vital contribution from pupils at Venerable Bede Church of England Academy.

In April, the first stage of the Voices Project, at The Venerable Bede Academy, consisted of 85 students from Years 7 to 9 who were asked complete a brief survey where they could draw or write about what they thought was good or difficult about the pandemic and what was

important to them now. "I've enjoyed focusing on myself, looking after myself and learning not to stress about the little things", "online learning wouldn't stick in my head" and "it's been a year of instability without seeing people, I worry I've forgot how to talk to them, it's going to take some time getting used to it".

In the second stage, a selection of thirty pupils from Year 7 to 10 took part in online focus groups via Teams to establish a deeper understanding of their experiences and how COVID 19 has affected their lives. Pupils were asked questions to gauge what was better, worse or different due to the National Lockdown, and what they wished they could change. Every pupil involved in the study demonstrated excellent manners and consideration of the impacts beyond themselves



Newcastle University



when answering questions. "I worry about bringing home covid to my nana who is on her own, I worry about her keeping her safe" and "it's better being back at school where you can see people. I'm glad I'm back at school as I can see my friends and make sure they are alright because during lockdown it was hard to check up on others".

Several of the students from the original focus groups have opted to take part in the next stage of the Voices Project to produce either a comic strip or video about their experiences in association with Newcastle University and Children North East.



Because growing up can be hard

SCIENCE & RE

Contributed by LCA & DLJ

The Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership have created a series of research projects to improve learning and links between Science and Religious Education (RE) across the country.

At The Venerable Bede CE Academy, the R.E. and Science departments are very pleased to be working on this prestigious project and are working in

conjunction with Canterbury – Christchurch University on the Epistemic Insight Project, which encourages pupils to think deeply about topics that crossover between the two subjects for example 'The origins of the universe'.

We are just at the beginning of the project and are looking forward to seeing the project develop. We will update you next academic year with our findings.



Canterbury Christ Church University



DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Art, Design and Technology

The Design and Technology Department are happy to present some fantastic work created by our pupils.

In the Design Technology Department, we take pride in the pupils' work and are always happy to share their great progress.

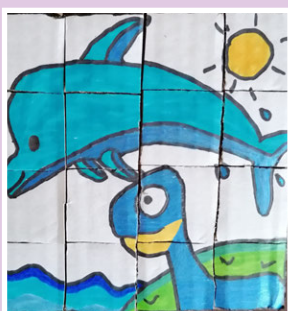
Health and Social Care -

Year 9 pupils took part in a patient egg project, each pupil created a care plan to support the needs of their own patient which they developed themselves. You can see that our pupils took the role of carer very seriously, ensuring that their patients' needs were met, through planning engaging activities which simulated their holistic development and met their individual care needs. Pupils adapted their activities to ensure that all patients could take part without discrimination and upholding the values of care.



Resistant Materials -

Learners had to use their imagination to create an alternative jigsaw using materials from around the home while in lockdown. Pupils excelled themselves in their effort and imagination using a variety of materials from around the home to produce some fantastic jigsaws.



Food Technology -

Year 11 focused on the effects on the environment from food packaging. Year 11 worked hard researching up to date and relevant information with regards to the effects of food packaging on the environment and how we can make more sustainable food packaging in the future considering the overall impact this could have on our seas and global warming.



Fashion and Textiles -

Year 9 has been an extremely talented cohort. Sketch books are all to a very high standard. A new and exciting project has been added in which pupils learn to pattern cut, model their designs and create a mini outfit. Pupils have demonstrated

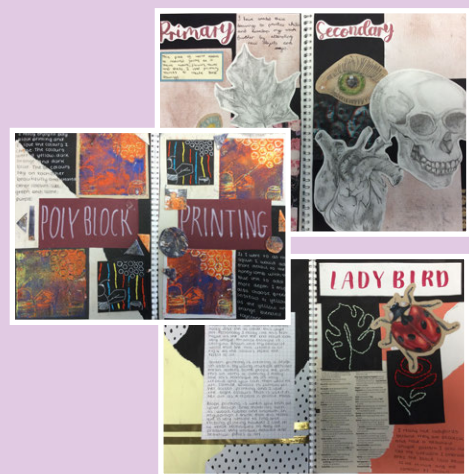


creativity and imagination being inspired by natural forms.

Year 11 Fashion and Textiles pupils have excelled themselves working independently, spanning different art forms and disciplines within Textiles.

Art -

Learning through and about the arts enriches the experience of pupils while at school, as well as preparing them for life after school. Within Art lessons pupils have been encouraged to show self-expression, creativity and develop confidence, as well as a sense of individual identity. With the current situation, we have seen pupils being expressive using materials and resources from around the home and garden to create exciting



collages to inspire repeat patterns which are then used when experimenting with printing styles.

We would like to take this opportunity as a department to wish our year 11 pupils the best

CAREERS UPDATE

Contributed by HPE



It is never too early for pupils to start to think about their possible education path or a career choice. Have your young people thought about what they are going to do

when they leave The Venerable Bede CE Academy? Where and what they are you going to go?

It is important to ensure that our young people are heading towards a course that suits their needs and interests. The Venerable Bede CE Academy would normally host an annual Careers Fair where pupils can gain information from a wide range of post 16 providers. Due to restrictions this event has now been placed online, for everyone to browse at their leisure.

There are a range of different providers on our Virtual Careers page with an abundance of information to support our young people (entry requirement, subject choices, travel arrangements, extra-curricular opportunities, links to further education or job opportunities etc).

CLICK HERE TO VISIT

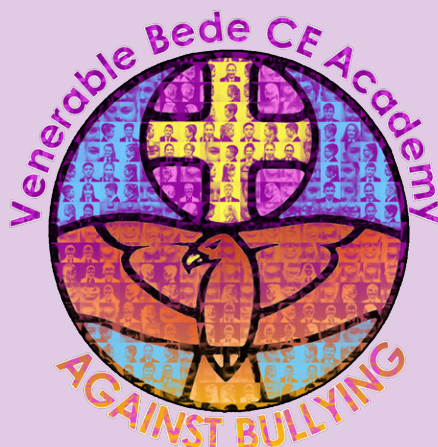
If you require any extra support, please see Miss Pestell.

VBAB 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 have experienced an incident of bullying.

For further information and support please access our Anti-Bullying Hub via the school website or contact Miss Jackson directly.



Venerable Bede
Anti-Bullying



CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE VBAB HUB

You can also visit the "Kooth" website for information or advice.

<https://www.kooth.com/>

READING UPDATE

Contributed by VHA & CLH

Mental Health is something that has been talked about a lot more in recent years, and is more important than ever bearing in mind the changes that the COVID pandemic has brought.

Our Learning Resource Centre has just launched a new **SHELF HELP COLLECTION (self help on a shelf)**. We now have a designated space for books dealing with aspects of mental health and wellbeing. You can find a mixture of fiction, non fiction and poetry,

aiming to support and encourage pupils who are having a tough time, but also helping all of us in the school community to empathise with what other people might be going through.

Some books have already been read and recommended by Mrs Holmes, and some by pupils. Others have been selected from the **Reading Well** and **Empathy Lab** projects.

All the information is displayed outside the LRC. If you'd like to borrow any of the books just email or speak to Mrs Holmes.

