

SUMMER 2022

# The Venerable Bede News



## Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the summer term draws to a close, I would like to thank you for your continued support this year. I think that it is fair to say that our first "full year" in school since 2020 has not been without challenges. Storm Arwen brought with it significant damage to school; we are only now seeing significant progress with the roof. The good news is that the new roof comes with a 25-year guarantee!

We all know that we continue to experience the impact of COVID-19 on families, as well as staff in school. Staffing within school has certainly been a challenge this year. I am pleased that despite significant staff absences, we have not had to close school due to these shortages. I am pleased to be able to report that we are currently fully staffed for September 2022.

It is good to see that schools are starting to get some normality back after all of the disruption suffered. Recently, we have enjoyed two very successful Transition days for our new Y7 pupils joining us in September. A couple of weeks ago I enjoyed a wonderful community concert with many of our primary

schools taking part. The talent there was clear to see.

We also enjoyed our Y11 Leavers Ball, which took place at the Ramside Hall Hotel. As always, our pupils celebrated in style. The atmosphere was wonderful - a fitting culmination to remember their time with us. We wish each and every one of them good luck when they get their GCSE examination results in August.

Finally, I wish everyone a restful summer break. I hope that you and your family find some time to relax and unwind.

Best Wishes

*David Airey*

Headteacher

## Important Information: Trust Growth



Dear Parent / Carer

Some exciting news for the autumn term:

Dayspring Trust – which consists of our two secondary academies, Ian Ramsey in Stockton-on-Tees and Venerable Bede in Sunderland – is looking to merge with Northern Lights Learning Trust

and Teaching School Hub in the next academic year.

Both trusts have been identified by the Durham Diocese for growth and currently serve either primary or secondary pupils in either Stockton, Hartlepool or Sunderland. This is an exciting opportunity to grow the trust and to develop opportunities for both our pupils and our staff. Further information will follow in due course. Please be aware, however, that there will NOT be any changes to our uniform or school name. Do contact us via the enquiries office if you have any questions.

Wishing you and your families a wonderful summer.

With best wishes

*GABooth*

Executive Headteacher



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs R Bonner

## DOUBLE SUCCESS AT SUNDERLAND SEARCH FOR A STAR!!!

On Wednesday 6th April we took 2 acts to Sunderland College to compete in the Search for a Star talent show. What a night and what a fantastic showcase of talent in Sunderland. There were 12 secondary schools participating.

Venerable Bede acts were awarded 2nd and 3rd place – a fantastic achievement! In 2nd place, the Runner-Up award went to Matthew, our Head Boy, who sang an arrangement of I'm Still Standing from Rocketman.



In 3rd place, the Rising Star award went to Vennerz, one of our rock bands. They performed a rendition of Love Story but with a twist – our talented drummer completed 2 Rubix cubes during the band's performance!



Mrs Bonner, Head of Music, said "It was great to see such a variety of talent from across many different art forms and the performers clearly really enjoyed

seeing each other schools' performances as well as feeling a great sense of achievement about their own performance. I am so proud of our pupils – they are extremely committed and talented and have worked hard to prepare for this event. To secure 2 of the top 3 places is an amazing achievement and we are all delighted with the results. It has been a very rewarding experience."

Mr Exley, Assistant Headteacher, said "The wealth of talent attending Sunderland Search for a star is incredible. Given this high standard, we are incredibly proud to have not one, but two acts finish in the top three for the evening."



## VB'S GOT TALENT 2022

We were finally able to hold our first live musical performance with an audience (it has been a long time)!! Our annual talent show, VB's Got Talent, took place on Friday 1st April 7pm at Silksworth Comrades Club. The evening was a huge success and it was great

to perform live music to an audience. The evening featured a variety of musical performances from our rock bands, choir and a variety of other acts and soloists. The pupils were an absolute credit and the performance standard was extremely high.



## YEAR 6 INDUCTION DAY - PERFORMANCE

On Wednesday 29th June we re-launched year group singing with a full hour of live music with our Y6 pupils during their transition day. Pupils got to watch a selection of performances from the rock band, school choir and staff team. We then sang several hit songs including Mamma Mia, This Is Me, Livin' On A Prayer and Dance Monkey. Pupils engaged in body percussion performances and call and response vocal activities. The atmosphere was amazing and the pupils enjoyed the experience. We are looking forward to welcoming them into the music department in September. We will send a letter out in September outlining how to sign your child up to peripatetic instrumental and singing lessons.



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE - CONTINUED

Contributed by Mrs R Bonner

### COMMUNITY CONCERT

On Wednesday 6th July we were proud to host our community concert which featured a variety of musical performances from Venerable Bede musicians, and choirs from some local primary schools; Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy, St Paul's Primary School, East Herrington Primary School and New Silksworth Academy.



The performance was a welcome return to public performance and to be able to share it with pupils and colleagues from some of our

local primary schools was an absolute joy!

### THEATRE ROYAL NEWCASTLE - GREASE JULY 2022

On Wednesday 20 July 2022 We visited the Newcastle Theatre Royal in Newcastle to for the evening performance of the rock 'n' roll classic, 'Grease'.

One pupil said, "it's been so long since we could visit the theatre, I've had a brilliant night!"

### MUSIC EXAM SUCCESS!



One of our pupils has completed and passed a graded music exam at the end of the spring term. Charlie completed his "grade 6" Rockschoool piano exam with a "distinction" - amazing!

### INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Once again, we've had a number of pupils sign up and begin lessons during the summer term.

They are proving extremely popular with over 200 pupils accessing lessons on a weekly basis. If anyone is interested in starting peripatetic music lessons in September, please contact Mrs Bonner for further information.

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

We now have our singing club, and 3 rock bands running after school between 3-4pm every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. If you wish your child to get involved in an extra-curricular musical activity, please contact Mrs Bonner for further information.

### FAREWELL CLASS OF 2022 MUSICIANS

This term we said goodbye to Matthew and Charlie who have shown complete commitment and dedication to the music department during their 5 years at VB. We are extremely proud of their successes and wish them all the best for the future.



## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Contributed by Ms K Tanjong Pendry

Year 10 and Year 9 have been completing their statutory learning in Sex and Relationships Education (RSE) recently. Dave Messenger from Together for Children (Sunderland) has been coming into school to speak to pupils about their sexual health. This has involved giving them

advice about caring for their bodies, effective use of contraception and how to protect against sexually transmitted infections. Pupils have also been informed about the external agencies in the city where they can access further professional care and advice.



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Contributed by Mrs S Holt & Mrs J Chipp

Mental Health Awareness Week took place this year from 9th May to 15th May.

The theme for 2022 is loneliness - the experience of feeling lonely, it's affect on our mental health, and how we can play a part in reducing loneliness in our communities.

Our pupils have been thinking about their friendships, relationships and support systems, about how best to support others,

and self-care strategies to employ if they ever feel lonely.

They have taken part in Personal Development sessions covering topics such as:

What does loneliness feel like?  
How we can help people feel less lonely?

Pupils have also learned skills to enable them to combat their own loneliness.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>



## CAREERS UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs H Tracey

### Year 9 Work Experience Day

In July Year 9 were given a fantastic opportunity to spend a day in the workplace. This will hopefully help our pupils begin to gain a wide range of transferrable skills that they can take with them as they move into working life - such as:

- Give them experience of the work place
- Prepare them for the world of work
- Give them the chance to explore career options
- See the value of school and qualifications in the long run

• See what their parent's/ carer's/relative's working day is like and what motivates them

• Give them the opportunity to see what careers and jobs are available

We were very excited to see our Year 9 pupils when they returned to school and to hear all about their experiences.

Should you have any questions about careers education in our school, please feel that you can contact Mrs Tracey at:

[holly.tracey@venerablebede.co.uk](mailto:holly.tracey@venerablebede.co.uk).



## POPULAR EXAM RESOURCE LAUNCHED

Contributed by Mrs T Burgess & Mr A Irvine

In early March, the Curriculum Team, building on a similar resource trialed in 2018, launched the 2022 'Venerable Bede Revision Hub'

Found at this link, this comprehensively updated hub offers a wealth of resources for both our pupils and their families .

Resources available include; exam specific revision information and resources, exam and revision session timetables, revision technique support and resources for both pupils and their families to maintain wellbeing during what is a challenging time for all.

With page views rising an encouraging 144% in the final

weeks before the exam season began, we're confident this evolving resource will be of benefit to our pupils and their families for many exam seasons to come!

Venerable Bede  
Revision Hub





# ANTI BULLYING & SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Contributed by Miss A Jackson

## ANTI-BULLYING

Members of our "Bully Buddies" recently went into morning Worships to discuss the results of the "Safe to Learn" surveys completed by all pupils in school during form time. Pupils answered questions from the survey around what their perception of bullying is, if they felt they had ever been bullied, where it had happened, by whom and how we, as a school, can address these issues moving forward. The Bully Buddies also spoke about how pupils can be "upstanders" to acts of bullying and not "bystanders."

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Members of the School Council also took part in worships to introduce themselves to the whole school community. A survey has recently been carried out during form time (through the form council), about potential ideas pupils would like to see improved in school. Ideas have been put forward to Mr. Airey through a meeting with the School Council. The School Council are currently working on fundraising ideas in order to achieve some of these improvements. Watch this space...

# FOND FAREWELL TO CLASS OF 2022

Contributed by Mrs L Pallas

The Class of 2022 Leavers' Ball took place at The Ramside Hall Hotel and Golf Course on Friday 1st July. With pupils and their families arriving early for photographs.

Pupils have had an amazing opportunity this year to use their Class Charts points to purchase money off their ticket. Some pupils have been able to buy three vouchers valuing at £30 off which is fantastic and a real credit to the pupils.

In the run up to Year 11 leaving we organised a whole year group photograph to help celebrate their 5 years with us. All the pupils looked very smart, a huge well done!

All Year 11 pupils have the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw for a £50 gift voucher by simply returning their locker key. Pupils are expected to hand their locker key into the School Office once lockers have been cleared. If pupils have misplaced their locker key a charge of £5 is applicable for the cost of replacing the key and barrel.

May I personally take this opportunity to thank you for



supporting  
school and  
your child  
during the  
time that  
we have  
s p e n t  
together;  
we will  
certainly miss  
our Class of 2022!





# SPORTING UPDATE & DERWENT HILL FEATURE

Contributed by Mr Rob Atherton & Mrs A Thompson

## MMA TITLE WIN

On Sunday 12th June in South Shields, Mia from year 9 competed in the kickboxing British title fight. In 3 rounds of 3 minutes, Mia at -49kg won the British Kickboxing title. Mia fights for Spartans MMA club and has lost no fights to date.



## YEAR 8 FOOTBALL TEAM

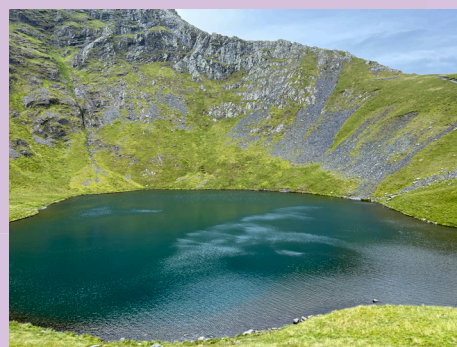


After a two year break from schools football, the Sunderland schools' league and cup competitions resumed. Venerable Bede year 8 football team had a fantastic season and were winners of the under 13 league. The team went unbeaten in the league competition. A number of the players were given the opportunity to attend Sunderland Schools trials to represent the city. I am delighted to report that two of our players were successful and Daniel C and Daniel B will be part of the City squad for the 2022-23 season.



## DERWENT HILL

After a long break, our Derwent Hill trip returned. Fifty Year 7 and Year 8 pupils attended the Derwent Hill Outdoor Centre in Portinscale, Keswick to participate in a range of outdoor activities including gorge walking, kayaking, hill walking and high ropes/swing challenge. The trip was a huge success with all pupils having a positive experience and developing their self confidence, social, and team work skills. We are already looking forward to next year's trip which will take place in the summer of 2023.





## SPECIAL FEATURE - END OF TERM LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Contributed by Mrs R Bonner

On Friday (22 July), we put on three live performances over lunchtime to celebrate the end of the school year. Mrs Bonner, Mr Exley, Miss Forster and Mr Bovill performed together to entertain pupils. Pupils were able to sing-along to some popular hits including Mamma Mia, Best Day of My Life, Summer of 69', Don't Stop Believing and Dance Monkey.

