

AUTUMN 2022

# The Venerable Bede News



## Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our Autumn Term newsletter. The time has felt like it has flown since the start of term in September. Our Year 7 pupils have settled in very well, and despite their worries have managed to find their way around the building. They have all been excited to study subjects which they have not looked at in detail before, such as Science and Design Technology. Large numbers of our Year 7 pupils are involved in extra curricular activities such as music and sport.

Half term will see the return of our contractors to finish off the final touches to our redesigned toilets. Feedback so far is very positive regarding the additional access these changes have made. We will send out pictures of the finished product. I have to admit, it will be nice to get the whole building back to ourselves.



There are a couple of projects I would like to promote. The first is our food bank collection.

At this time of year we always get involved in the donation of non perishable food stuffs to the Bethany City Church Food bank. All donations gratefully received.



A little nearer Christmas (and it will be here before we know it), we will be collecting toys and gifts to support the Salvation Army annual Christmas Present appeal. These gifts are given out to children who otherwise may receive nothing at all on Christmas day.

We hope that you enjoy reading the stories in this newsletter. I am sure you will agree, your children are not only busy, but very talented too!

Best Wishes

*David Airey*

Headteacher

## JUMPING TO THE HEIGHTS

### SPORTING SPECIAL FEATURE

Contributed by Amelia, Year 8 Pupil

**Pupil Voice**

Hi, I'm Amelia and I recently took part in a Show Jumping competition winning 1st, 4th, 10th, and 11th in the National Championships.

My love for horse riding all started when we moved house and bought the farm. We have stables and every day I would see horses outside. I started having lessons at a local riding school and fell in love with it. I started to go regularly! There are different disciplines in horse riding: dressage shows the harmony between a horse and their rider, show jumping tests the agility and reaction of a horse, and eventing

is a combination of the two. I tried all three disciplines however I just didn't enjoy them as much as show jumping. Eight years later, I have three ponies and I am competing at National Championships as well as events all around the country.

Toby, my pony, came with me to the British Show Jumping National Championships. We qualified for representing the school as well as competing individually.

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## JUMPING TO THE HEIGHTS - CONTINUED

### SPORTING SPECIAL FEATURE

Contributed by Amelia, Year 8 Pupil

Pupil  
Voice

I always feel nervous before a competition like this however I love the feeling I get when we have finished and have done well. I ride my ponies most days of the week and compete at different venues most weekends. All of the courses are designed to have different set ups so this helps us practise and work on our weaknesses.

The competitions are very hard and there can be over 70 competitors in just one class! The excitement of competing all around the country, with Toby, is the

best feeling ever. Even if my round doesn't go as planned, I am always so thankful for my opportunities. This was our second year at National Championships. We performed well last year but this year I knew what to expect and was prepared so we enjoyed it much more than last year.

Riding ponies gives me a feeling like no other. When I think about my accomplishments, especially with Toby, I feel very proud. I am looking forward to go and compete

at Arena UK Halloween Spooktacular in a few weeks. We competed there last year and had lots of fun and made lots of memories! Anyone is welcome at an event like this – it's certainly a great day out!

We would like to thank Amelia and Mrs E Ternent-Bird for submitting this article. We would also like to congratulate Amelia for her determination and successes and wish her the very best of luck for her future!



# Well done Amelia!

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs R Bonner

## MUSIC WEEK 2022

Music got off to a flying start in Venerable Bede this academic year!

We run small group instrumental and singing lessons and currently have over 200 pupils taking lessons each week, alongside our extra-curricular singing club and rock bands.



We re-launched music to our new year 7s through our Music Week event on Monday 12th September. Aimed at re-invigorating music in schools post COVID-19, the Music Hub gave funds to schools to enable us to have our peripatetic music teachers deliver a bespoke event featuring a range of musical performances, teacher demonstrations, question and answer sessions and a re-launch of singing together in worship.

Ruth Bonner, Head of Music at Venerable Bede CE Academy, said:

“Music Week at Venerable Bede has not only raised the profile of instrumental teaching and extracurricular opportunities available within the department, it has also given pupils a sense of excitement about their curriculum music lessons

and promoted large group singing.

The positive feedback from pupils since the event has been overwhelming with uptake to lessons increasing rapidly. Our Music Week event has been the highlight of the academic year so far. Music tutors and departmental staff put on a live performance together, playing songs such as “This Is Me”, “Footloose”, “Don’t Stop Believing” and “Thinking Out Loud”. Our new year 7 pupils loved listening and joining in and there was a real buzz in the atmosphere with lots of positive comments from both pupils and staff. We will continue to run assemblies like this in the future.”



Our Senior Leadership Team added:

“We are incredibly lucky to have such a talented and dedicated team of musicians working at Venerable Bede Academy to educate our young people. Year 7 thoroughly

enjoyed seeing the Music Team doing what it does best. The atmosphere was such that it left our pupils inspired to learn an instrument”



## MUSIC EXAM SUCCESS!

Two of our pupils have passed "Grade 3" ABRSM Music Theory examinations with distinctions during the summer holidays - well done to Sam and Alex - a fantastic achievement!!



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

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

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# MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE - CONTINUED

Contributed by Mrs R Bonner

## THEATRE ROYAL TRIP

We are currently planning our annual theatre trip to see the pantomime, Cinderella, at Newcastle Theatre Royal on Tuesday 29 November 2022.

## MUSIC SUMMER SCHOOL

Pupils from VB attended a 4 day song writing course and Sunderland College, Bede Campus in the Arts building. Pupils started out by re-writing Everlong by the Foo Fighters. They composed their own folk song based on a cartoon character and looked at song lyrics and chord progressions. Jack, senior prefect, said "the experience was eye opening and changed my view on how songs were written and produced." Brandon in Y11 also said, "we made a song adapted from Carolina by Harry Styles with our own lyrics and structure. It was a really positive experience as we also got to share our ideas with pupils from other secondary schools in Sunderland."

## INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Once again, we've had a number of pupils sign up and begin lessons during the start of this academic year. We now have over 250 small group instrumental/singing lessons running on a weekly basis.

If anyone is interested in starting peripatetic music lessons please contact Mrs Bonner for further information.



## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

After a long wait we are very excited to be planning our Community Christmas Concert which will take place on

Wednesday 14th December, 6pm. The concert will feature performances from choirs at Venerable Bede CE Academy, Benedict Biscop CE Academy, New Silksworth Academy, Ryhope Junior School and Mill Hill Primary School. There will also be a performance from our award winning rock band, Vennerz. Further details will be available via the school website.



# STAR GROUP HAS RISEN

Contributed by Mr J Henshall

The Star group is an after-school group of students from Years 9, 10 and 11 who are learning about astronomy. This is being run by the Physics department in conjunction with Kielder Observatory, who are delivering virtual sessions in all aspects of star gazing and astronomy. Excitingly, students will even venture on a trip to the largest telescope in Northern England on Kielder Observatory's very own site, in the famous Northumberland International Dark Skies Park.



# WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Contributed by Mrs J Chipp

We celebrated World Mental Health Day on October 10th where we opened up conversations and normalised the discussion of mental health and wellbeing in the classroom.

During tutor time, students accessed resources from The Anna Freud Centre and discussed mental health issues together.

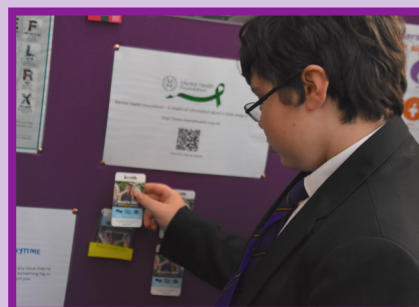
Students were signposted to various organisations and encouraged to access support if required.

The School Nursing Team was also available to speak to students in private.

This was a great opportunity for students and staff to reflect on their own wellbeing.

The Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families work in collaboration with children, young people, families and professionals to transform mental health.

<https://www.annafreud.org/>



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Contributed by Mrs K Tanjong Pendry

This Autumn term in Personal Development pupils in Y11 have received a RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) talk from Dave Messenger who works for Together for Children (NHS sexual health). The talk focussed on vaginal and penis hygiene and sexually transmitted infections. Pupils were made aware of the most common infections young people in Sunderland are typically experiencing at the moment, the symptoms of these and how they are tested. Pupils were also signposted to where they can receive further advice and get tested themselves should they wish to. Emphasis was placed on how pupils can prevent infection and the spread of infection.

This talk links to the statutory objectives of sex and relationships education as outlined by the Department for

Education. This encompasses how different STIs, including HIV/AIDs, are transmitted and how risk can be reduced through safer sex and the importance of testing, the prevalence of some STIs, the impact they have on those who contract them and key facts about treatment.





## SUMMER SCHOOL 2022



A highlight of Venerable Bede CE Academy's transition programme has always been our Summer School.

Our Summer School traditionally offers an opportunity for pupils to come in during the holidays, before they join the academy.

Places are limited and the summer school is often over subscribed.

This year, pupils and staff took the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including sports, an acting workshop, a treasure hunt and a visit from the always popular 'Zoo Lab'



On the Friday, we shared our experiences with the Parents/Carers and family members of those who took part with a video presentation and lively chat over light refreshments.

*I really enjoyed Summer School. I was able to meet some of the teachers and support staff and the treasure hunt helped me to get to know the layout of the school!*

*One of our Summer School Attendees*

*Zoo Lab was brilliant! I loved learning about all of the different animals that had been brought in and getting to hold a snake!*

*One of our Summer School Attendees*

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR 7



We have welcomed our newest cohort of Year 7 pupils and, as they begin to settle in, we asked how things were going...

*In my last school we pretty much stayed in one place. I really enjoy moving around the different areas of the school and taking part in all the different lessons.*

*Matthew*

*I was a little nervous before starting at Venerable Bede, but I really feel like it's taken no time at all to settle in! My favourite subject at the moment is English!*

*Emily*

*It feels like I've been coming to the school for ages! I've made loads of new friends already! My favourite subject is Art.*

*Chloe*

*I was excited about making new friends! It's different to my last school but I've become familiar with VB really quickly!*

*Josh*

# INTRODUCTIONS

Contributed by HoYs

At the beginning of this academic year 2022/23, we moved to a Pastoral System and welcomed to the team three new Pastoral Year Group Managers to compliment the two existing Year Group Managers. This is an exciting change and one that we hope will galvanise the support our pupils can access throughout their school career.

## WELCOME!



My name is Mrs Riley, my role in school is Pupil Welfare Manager and I have the pleasure of overseeing the Pastoral Year Group Managers and ensuring that a consistent approach is adopted across all years. I was previously based in schools Learning Zone overseeing the welfare of students who needed specialist support away from the main school building. I am exceptionally proud to be part of the new and exciting team and look forward to the challenges of the role.



Hi, my name is Ms Atwater and I am Pastoral Year Group Manager for Year 7. I have been an English and Drama teacher for 20 years but wanted to explore the pastoral side of school life. I am thrilled to be working

alongside our wonderful Year 7 cohort and excited to travel with them on their journey at Venerable Bede. Our first half term together has been fantastic! Year 7 look so smart in their uniform and have demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning.



Hi my name is Miss Willets, I am Pastoral Year Group Manager for Year 8. I have previously worked in a similar role on other schools and prior to this I worked within the Youth sector. I look forward to taking the current Year 8 cohort through to Year 11 as this is something new to my role.



My name is Mrs Kelly, I am Pastoral Year group Manager for year 9. Prior to starting in September I worked within the Autism Outreach Team supporting children within the mainstream environment to achieve their greatest potential by providing support with challenges that they face.

The last few weeks since starting at Venerable Bede has flown over and it feels like I have always been part of the team. I am looking forward to building strong relationships with the year group and watching their progression through their remaining school career.

Hi, my name is Mr. Gray and I am Pastoral Year Group Manager for Year 10. My



journey to pastoral support has taken me through a variety of disciplines, including; Early Help and intervention, supporting some of societies' most vulnerable people and behaviour management. I am thrilled to be taking up the challenge of working with the Year 10 cohort and excited to help with their development and preparation for exams and life beyond VBCEA. As you can imagine, our first few weeks together have had an undertone of amusement since the football fans in the year group realised I was a Newcastle fan working in Sunderland.



I'm Mrs Osmond, Pastoral Year Group Manager for year 11. Before joining the pastoral team here at Venerable Bede I worked as a Business Studies Lecturer for over 12 years. I also worked as a project coordinator for the Raising Aspiration project (Castle Ward) in the north of the city.

Since joining in January the pupils and staff have welcomed me into their school community. I am so proud of the hard work and perseverance Year 11 pupils are demonstrating in preparation for their GCSEs. I am passionate about supporting my year group to take those next exciting steps towards a bright future.

## Y11 GROUP PHOTO

Contributed by Mrs L Pallas



This year we decided to get organised and start the preparations early for our Year 11 Leavers' in their last academic year here at Venerable Bede CE Academy.

On Wednesday 21st of September we invited Phototronics in to take a whole year group photo of our Year 11 Leavers. Pupils were invited down to the stage end of the hall where they were placed in height order to then be assigned a place on the

scaffolding. Pupils looked incredibly smart wearing their school uniform with pride. Pupils really stepped up for this special occasion - a memory to treasure and celebrate their 5 year journey together. We hope they look back on this photo in their future and take with them many happy memories.

Pupils have placed their orders for their own print to keep and we will let you know when these are available for collection.

Coming soon..... Preparations are well under the way for this year's Leavers' hoodies. More information to follow next half term.

Date for your diary: The Year 11s Leavers Ball is booked for Friday 30th June 2023. Pupils can arrive from 6:15pm for formal photographs.

If you have any queries please contact Mrs Pallas.

## VB ANTI-BULLYING

Contributed by Miss A Jackson

We are pleased to promote our Anti Bullying group at Venerable Bede CE Academy.

We are here to support any member of our school community who has experienced an incident of bullying.

Bullying is defined as " the repeated negative behaviour that is intended to make others feel upset, uncomfortable or unsafe.

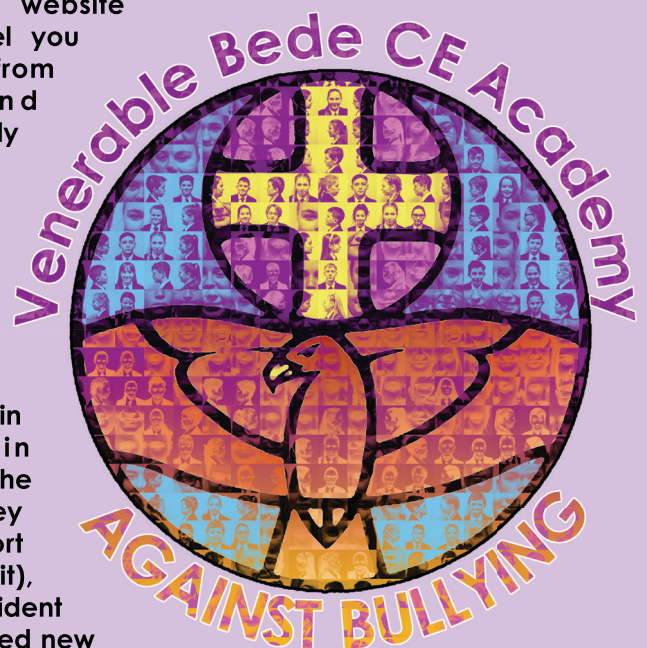
For further information and support, please access our Anti-Bullying Hub on the school website or contact Miss Jackson directly (room 15).

If you want to report an incident of bullying, please use the "Report now" button on the Anti Bullying Hub.

We will be opening Room 15 during break times in the coming weeks as an area which can be pre-booked via the website and used if you feel you need the support from Miss Jackson and members of our Bully Buddies.

Over the last half term, members of our Bully Buddy team have been going around Year 7 forms to introduce themselves and explain the work we do in school. We informed the Year 7's about how they can get any support (should they need it), how to report an incident of bullying and recruited new

Year 7's to become members of the Bully Buddies team.





## CAREERS

Contributed by Mrs H Tracey

### SUNDERLAND CITY SOFTWARE DONATION

We have been lucky enough to receive a donation of IT equipment from Click Travel via Sunderland Software City. The incredible donation included Windows Laptops and Apple MacBooks. The new equipment is currently being added to the school network and we are looking at ways in which the equipment will best benefit our pupils. We are very grateful for the donation and look forward to keeping you up to date with how it is being used.

Mark Oldfield who is the Framework Manager from Click Travel said 'Click Travel has been working closely with NEPO for a number of years now and social value is something that has formed a key part of the partnership. We are delighted to be able to support the public sector in this way and it is fantastic to see the benefits that this will bring to schools and students in the North East.'



### YEAR 11 - LOOKING TO THEIR FUTURES

This year, our Careers Advisors are Gaynor Wells and Tony Davison. Gaynor and Tony have started to hold 1-2-1 meetings with pupils to explore the opportunities that are available to them. All pupils will get a careers meeting before they leave Venerable Bede.

Our pupils have been applying to post 16 providers since September. It does not matter how many providers pupils apply for, a lot of pupils worry that they can only apply for 1, this is not true they can apply for all that appeal to them and make a final decision later in the year.

Look at the different providers on our Virtual Careers page and look for the information that you require (entry requirement, subject choices, travel arrangements, extra-curricular opportunities, links to further education or job opportunities etc).

<https://www.venerablebede.co.uk/careers-advice-ceiag-2/careers-fair-2020/>

We have been lucky enough to secure external guests from Post 16 providers to speak to our pupils and inform them of these opportunities. This week we welcomed Sidra Bruce from Durham Sixth Form Centre. Sidra spoke to our pupils about the exciting opportunities that the sixth form has to offer. Applications are now open for pupils to apply.

If you require any Careers support, please see Mrs Tracey.



## GARDENING CLUB

Contributed by Mr D Maw

Pupil  
Voice

Gardening Club is one of our exciting and engaging out of hours clubs!

Ran by Mr. Maw and regularly attended by a range of pupils, the club strives to build an understanding and enthusiasm for all things horticultural.

In gardening club this year, some projects undertaken have been:

- Taking cuttings of pelegonias and money plants.
- Planting seeds and producing basil, tomato (different varieties), chillies (different varieties), calendula, spinach, aubergine and sweet peas. These were given out to staff and students.
- Starting to plan a garden in the courtyard.
- Planting bulbs of crocuses, alliums for flowering in spring next year.

- Hanging bird feeders to attract wildlife into the quad.

### ATTENDEES THOUGHTS

*I enjoyed planting seeds and taking the plants home, I still have them.*

Harvey

*I have enjoyed doing the activities, talking to people and laughing.*

Iona

*I have met new people and planted seeds.*

Jacob

*I have enjoyed planting bulbs. It was a very fun experience. I also enjoyed making tie dye for lavender bags.*

Archie



## SPORTING ROUNDUP - CONTINUED BELOW

Contributed by Mr R Atherton

Year 11 girls football - Our year 11 girls football team participated in the Sunderland Schools 5-a-side competition held at Kepier. In a competitive tournament our girls won all six of their games and came away as champions. The final game saw us face Castle View A team with both teams winning all of their previous fixtures. The effort and

performance from the girls were excellent and they came away with a well deserved 3-0 win.





## SPORTING ROUNDUP - CONTINUED

Contributed by Mr R Atherton

Sunderland SFA representatives - Every year schools across the city are invited to send nominations for Sunderland Schoolboy trials.

The association has teams at under 13, 14 & 15. This year Venerable Bede Academy have 4 boys who have been successful in gaining a place in the squads. Jack has made the under 13 squad, Daniel C and Daniel B in the under 14 and Mitchell in the under 15.

All the boys were part of a rigorous selection policy which was performed over a number of trials. They will now represent the city in the Tyne & Wear league and various cup competitions. A fantastic achievement for all boys and good luck for the season.



## RESULTS ROUNDUP

### FOOTBALL

#### YEAR 8

Castle View 1 v Venerable Bede 4

#### YEAR 9

Hetton 0 v Venerable Bede 4

Kepier 1 v Venerable Bede 6

### NETBALL

**YEAR 8 - In their first ever school matches...**

Venerable Bede 2 v St Roberts 2

Farrington 6 v Venerable Bede 3

## VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING



<https://www.venerablebede.co.uk/virtual-open-evening/>