

WINTER 2022

The Venerable Bede News



Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

Once again, we are at the end of what has been a very busy term. When I reflect back to this time last year, we have come through an awful lot. A new roof, hall floor toilets remodelled, to but list a few. The building works are not over yet. We have just secured funding to replace our entire heating system. Every classroom and office will be updated and have it's own heat source. This is a much needed upgrade and should make a far more stable learning environment for everyone.

This is one of those times in the school year when we need to say farewell to staff who are moving

on to new roles. Miss Outen (RE/History) is leaving us to work overseas; Ms Archer (Science Technician) is going to work in one of our local Universities; Mr Goodman (Deputy Head) has secured his first post as a Head Teacher. We wish them all good luck as they embark on the next phase of their career.

It has been fabulous to get back to doing some of the things that we used to take for granted. Everyone really enjoyed our Community Christmas Party (Pg 10), the Christmas Carol Concert with our Primary Schools, and our Christmas celebration on the last day in school. It was wonderful too see all of our pupils enjoying themselves during the Christmas celebration - especially our Y7 pupils who have really settled into school well since September.

A reminder that school will be closed over the entire Christmas period. If you need to contact us in an emergency, please use the "contact us" form on the [school website](#).

Be aware that this will not be monitored daily, and it may be the start of term before we are able to reply.

As we are well into the winter season, it is worth remembering that every pupil has their own school locker. This means that they can store outdoor coats and winter boots (such as wellingtons) during the day.

We return to school on Wednesday 4 January for the start of the Spring term. Breakfast Club is open daily from 7.45 a.m. Pupils should be lined up in their yard by 8.30 a.m. where they will be met by tutors. Finally, thank you for your continued support this term. It is appreciated.

We wish you all a restful and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best Wishes

David Rivey

Headteacher

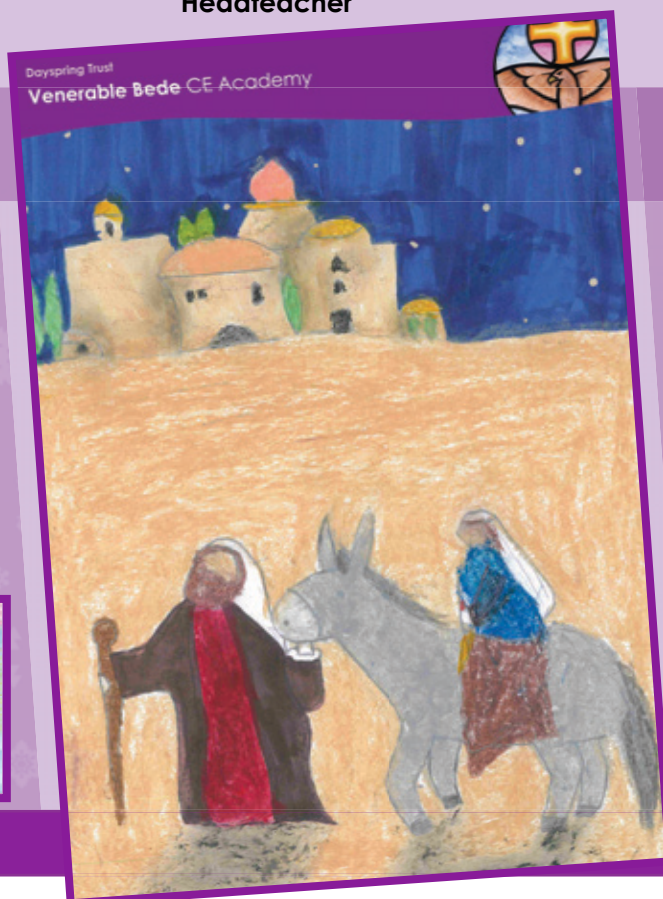
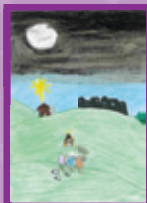
CHRISTMAS CARD 2022

Contributed by Mr. Irvine

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

This year, Anna won with this festive artwork. The design was sent out as the Venerable Bede CE Academy official Christmas card!

Anna received professionally printed copies of her design as did the runners up, who's designs feature below.



STEAM CHRISTMAS PROJECTS

Contributed by Mrs Rutherford and Miss Whinn

We have had a busy term in the Art, Design and Technology department. Art Club has been reintroduced as an after school activity this term. Pupils have been creating their own Lino printing designs to create cards and wrapping paper.



We ran our annual Christmas card competition where all Year

7 pupils submit a design for a card. Pupils were given the opportunity to research and design their card in lesson time. We send our congratulations to the winner and the runners up who created excellent designs.



Pupils were given the opportunity to participate with the planning of the community Christmas party. Pupils created clay and wooded tree decorations to be given as gifts.

Mrs Whinn collaborated with the R.E. Department to develop a design for Venerable Bede CE Academy's contribution to the Tree Festival at Sunderland Minster.

All pupils, across all years, designed and created their own angel for the tree. Each year group based their design on one of our core Christian values.



REMEMBRANCE DAY PROJECT

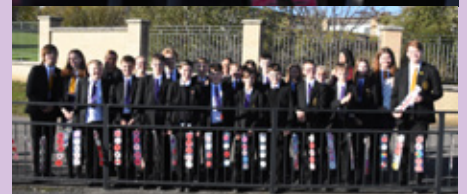
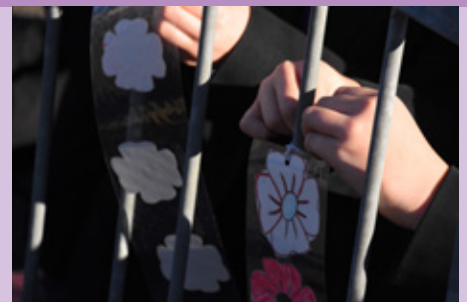
Contributed by Mrs Pallas

The Humanities department wanted to do something special to celebrate Remembrance Day this year and felt it was only right to make it a whole school effort.

Every pupil was given a poppy to design and colour, and add their own personal message to remember those affected by war. The poppies were then used to create a beautiful display at the front of school. With the help of some Year 8 pupils, and our senior prefects, the poppies were tied to the railings at the school gates for all visitors to see and commemorate Remembrance Day 2022 as a community.

Outside of school, pupils represented us at a service of remembrance at the Church of St John in Ryhope, which they did with great maturity and respect.

Inside of school, we carried out many other activities of remembrance; pupils designed posters to display on their classroom doors (which were amazing), took part in whole school worships and tutor reflection time, and the whole school also took part in the 2 minute silence at 11am on 11th day of the 11 month in a mark of respect for all those affected by war and hope for a peaceful future.



CLASS OF 2023 UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs Pallas

LEAVERS
23

Class of 2023 voted for their choice of hoodie at the end of last half term. The votes are in! It was a close call but they have decided upon grey with purple writing (preview above). A great choice that has been a hit over the years.

The hoodies went on sale November 4th and can be ordered up to 5th December. Links have been sent out via Parent mail. Hoodies are available to try on at break times and after school if needed. Any issues or concerns, please speak to Mrs Pallas who can help.

Coming soon.... Pupils will soon need to decide on their Leavers' Ball menu. This information will follow in the Spring term.

Don't forget, the Leavers' Ball is scheduled for Friday 30th June 2023. Pupils can arrive from 6:15pm for official photographs if they wish.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs Tanjong-Pendry & Mrs Bonner

The Violence Reduction Unit (part of the work carried out by the Northumbrian Police and Crime Commissioner) have been in school this half term speaking to Y7 about Malicious Communications.

Pupils received pertinent information about the legal implications of sending and receiving text messages via online platforms like WhatsApp - for example if they sent nude images or threatening content.

Pupils learnt about the communications that are illegal, the consequences of sending and forwarding such messages and what to do if they received these messages themselves.

This talk served to reinforce the learning in Personal Development that tackles being safe online, sexual harassment, anti-bullying and abuse.

The Wear Hear 4 You Prevention Bus has returned to school this

year to speak to Y10 and Y7 Pupils. The Bus is a City Wide initiative that informs young people about the services in Sunderland available to them including sexual health and mental health services.



ANTI BULLYING UPDATE

Contributed by Miss Jackson

In November, our 'Bully Buddies', led the academy during national 'Anti-Bullying Week,' this year's theme was "Reach Out".



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

Monday 14th November "Odd Socks 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 took the opportunity to express themselves through their choice of (odd) socks! Pupils also designed their own odd socks during form time.

(STORY CONTINUED BELOW)



ANTI BULLYING UPDATE - CONTINUED

Contributed by Miss Jackson

Anti-Bullying Week 2022 (Continued)

Wednesday 16th November

During the Personal Development lesson, Year 7-8 pupils watched an online Anti-Bullying production entitled "Hope" which examined a young girls' story of being bullied whilst at secondary school, and how she overcame the

obstacles she faced. Following on from this, tutors led a whole class discussion about bullying. Year 9-10 pupils completed a lesson focused around Anti-Bullying.

Pupil Voice

Also in November, members of Pupil Voice



(School Council and the Bully Buddies), led a whole school worship in the hall in front of their peers on the theme of the week "Peace." All pupils did extremely well and didn't show any nerves, despite it being a very daunting task. Well done again to all who participated!

CAREERS UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs Tracey & Mrs Carr

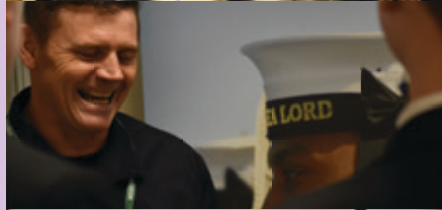
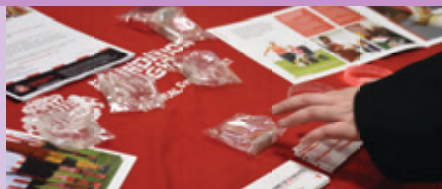
Careers Fair

In November we invited a wide range of Post 16 providers into school to speak to our Year 11 pupils. The event was an informal session where pupils were able to gather information, ask questions and interact with different providers. This is what a couple of our pupils thought;

'This event was really helpful as it allowed me to speak to providers face to face instead of trying to find information online. I have now decided that I am going to Durham Sixth Form Centre to study Business and Management.'

'It was really useful for me as there was lots of different apprenticeship providers with different opportunities for me to consider.'

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).



Nissan

Pupils in Year 10 are taking part in an 'Engineering Challenge' delivered by Nissan. They had the opportunity on Friday 25th November to visit the Nissan plant in Washington to have a tour of the plant and so that they could see what it is like to work there and the different types of jobs on offer. Whilst their pupils were given some scenarios that they will need to work on over the next few months before they go back and present their ideas to Nissan in June. Pupils involved were a credit to the school and found the trip extremely valuable.



BREAKING NEWS!

Mrs Tracey has just begun maternity leave however, Mrs Carr will be acting Careers Lead in her absence. Please feel free to contact Mrs Carr if you require any Careers support.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH & CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2022

Contributed by Mr. Irvine & Miss Atwater

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 a 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.

And of course, for this, his final Christmas with us before leaving for pastures new, Mr Goodman rolled up his sleeves one last time to help with service!

Christmas Lunch was served this year on 'Christmas Jumper Day'! Staff and pupils were encouraged to attend school decked out in their most Christmassy jumper or accessories!

Seeing everyone in their finery rose many a festive smile and really set the mood for the final two days of term!



SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM MISS ATWATER

Tutor Groups 7A, 7E and 7G all made an extra special effort to help with the Community Christmas party. From making hampers to bake sales and guessing which chimney santa would go down - it was amazing the effort that was put in. As a result Miss Atwater wanted to reward the tutor groups with a hot chocolate festive fun event. A huge thank you to Ms Dewart, Ms Thompson and Mrs Kelly who all helped to ensure that the students were able to have some festive fun!



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Contributed by Miss Atwater

After two years absence, following the pandemic, Venerable Bede opened it's doors once more for the annual Community Christmas Party. Residents from our local community, along with pupils and staff from Venerable Bede, enjoyed a wonderful festive afternoon.

More than 100 guests accepted the invitation and despite the snow, a wonderful afternoon of entertaining performances, carol singing, refreshments and the ever-popular Bingo and Raffle.

Our school band and choir led the room with rousing renditions of 'All I want for Christmas is you' plus many more festive tunes. Mrs Burgess, star bingo caller, played several rounds of bingo with some lovely prizes being won by our guests. The raffle was a great success and the buffet delicious.



Pupils and staff worked tirelessly both in the preparation for and running of the event to ensure everything went smoothly. We received lots of compliments from the guests who thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

It wouldn't be a Christmas party without a visit from Santa who delighted the guests with gifts for everyone.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR GUESTS!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT - SPECIAL FEATURE

Contributed by Mrs Bonner

Peripatetic Music Lessons

Small group and 1:1 small group instrumental and singing lessons restarted in September. Uptake this term has been phenomenal - we now have more than 25% of the school population taking part weekly. We offer tuition on guitar, drums, keyboard, singing, woodwind, strings and brass. In January 2023 we will be able to offer some additional spaces to pupils who are interested in signing up. If anyone is interested in starting lessons in January 2023, please contact the school/Mrs Bonner via the 'Contact' page on the academy website.

Newcastle Theatre Royal trip - Pantomime - Cinderella

This year we have once again been able to run our annual theatre trip to see a pantomime.



We took 107 pupils out to an evening performance and what a show it was! The pupils were an absolute pleasure to take out on a trip and a credit to themselves. We all really loved this pantomime- it was brilliant with lots of energy, fun and excitement, full of laughter, music, special effects and magic!

Community Christmas Concert

On Wednesday 14th December we were proud to host our community Christmas concert which featured a variety of musical performances from Venerable Bede musicians, and choirs from some local primary schools; Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy, New Silksworth Academy, Ryhope Junior School and Mill Hill Primary School. The performance was a welcome return to public performances at Christmas time and it was an absolute joy to be able to share it with pupils and colleagues from some of our local primary schools. The evening featured performances from 2 of Venerable Bede's rock bands, vocal performances from each of the schools' choirs and then some community songs which enable the younger pupils to perform with The Venerable Bede CE Academy choir and live band. Head of Music, Ruth Bonner said "we've waited a long time to finally be able to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and the concert tonight was an amazing event. It was lovely to see and hear all the youngsters sing and perform together. Feedback from parents and colleagues has been very positive and the children were an absolute credit to themselves and their schools. We hope to work together again soon in the near future.

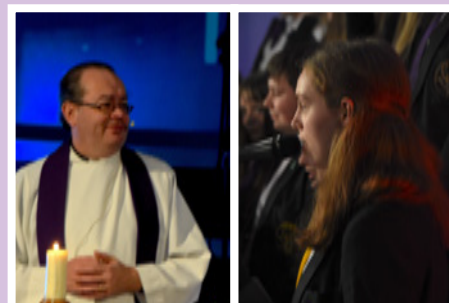
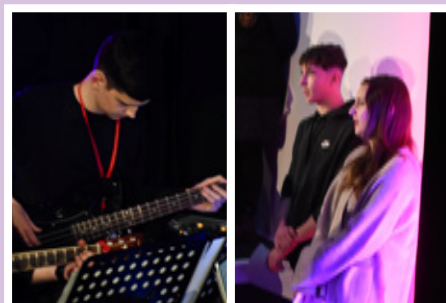
A special thanks for our 3 ex VB pupils Matthew, Charlie and Lily who came along to perform and offering their support at our Community Christmas Concert last week - having missed several opportunities to engage in live performance over the festive period for the last couple of years, it was lovely to be able to work together in person.



Advent Eucharist

On Wednesday 14th December, we held our first in-person Advent Eucharist, since 2019. The school community were able to sing a carol together once again and the choir performed beautifully. Songs included A Christmas Hallujah, Away in a Manger and a "rocked up version" of "O' Holy Night" which featured our Y11 senior prefect, Erin, as a soloist.

VB Alumni

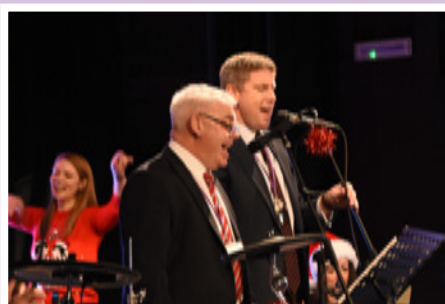


MUSIC DEPARTMENT - SPECIAL FEATURE

Contributed by Mrs Bonner

Christmas Celebration

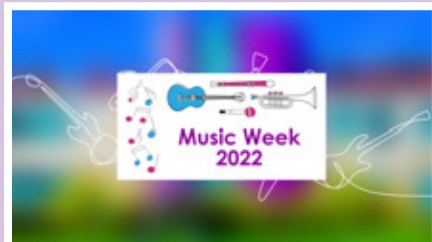
After a long wait, we were finally able to hold our end of term Christmas staff band performance and promote large group singing. Pupils enjoyed live music and enthusiastically engaged in singing along to a live staff band. Music tutors and departmental staff put on a live performance together, playing songs such as "All I Want For Christmas Is You", "Step Into Christmas", "Merry Christmas Everyone" and "I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday". Our school 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.



One member of staff commented:

"It was wonderful to be on the corridors of the academy on Tuesday morning to hear such amazing, joyful performances coming from the school hall as we were finally able to celebrate Christmas once again as a school community."

Music Week 2022 – A flying Start to the Year!



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"



Extra-curricular clubs

We now have our singing club, Year 8/9 rock band and Year 10/11 rock band clubs up and running after school between 3-4pm. In January 2023 we are looking to set up a new Year 7/Y8 rock band on a Monday night between 3-4pm as we have a number of enthusiastic Year 7 pupils who are keen to get involved in the extra-curricular activities offered by the music department. All will restart from Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Continued below...

MUSIC DEPARTMENT - SPECIAL FEATURE

Contributed by Mrs Bonner

Music Grant

In summer 2022 we applied to Universal Music UK Sound Foundation for a music grant in order to purchase some new electronic drum kits to support peripatetic drum lessons due to the number of pupils accessing drum lessons increasing significantly over the last 2 years. I am delighted to confirm that we were successful in our application and this term have received 3 new electronic drum kits which are now being used in our recording study to support drum tuition.

Exam success!!

Congratulations to Caleb (Y8) who has been preparing for his Grade 1 Rockschoool Guitar exam this term - he passed with a merit!

Music Mark status - VB Music Department hits the right note (AGAIN)!

We have, once again, been nominated by Sunderland Music Hub to become a Music Mark school for the 2022/23 academic year. We have been recognised



for our commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum and the value that we place on music, and as a result, we have been nominated to become part of the Music Mark community.

Mrs Bonner, Head of Music, said "It's great to receive this positive recognition - especially considering the difficulties we've faced as a subject during the pandemic. The peripatetic team have done everything possible to help keep music active and raise it's visibility and importance in the school curriculum. We are looking forward to a busy festive period this year where we can once again welcome live audiences to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and join in community singing.

As a department, we have approximately 25% of the school population engaged in small

group singing and instrumental tuition on a weekly basis and run several after school clubs from rock bands to singing clubs. We have had a number of pupils sit their external ABRSM and Rockschoool instrumental singing exams over the last 2 years, both remotely and face to face, and received some amazing results. The music staff have worked collaboratively to get involved in every opportunity to keep music alive in school, pre-recording performances for services and Christmas events. I am so proud to work with such a talented and committed team of peripatetic staff."



TOY COLLECTION

Contributed by Mrs DaGama

In the run up to Christmas 2022 our school took part in a Toy Collection for St. Patricks and the Salvation Army Toy appeal.

The whole school community (staff, pupils and parents) donated new toys to the appeal for underprivileged children of all ages. These were presented by some of our pupils to the Salvation Army at a Carol service at St Patricks Church in Ryhope on the 7th of December.

The carol concert was uplifting with the congregation singing joyously along with the Salvation

Army band. Our prefects did the readings during the service along with other pupils from across Sunderland. The toys are currently being donated to families in need across Sunderland ready for Christmas Day.



SPORTING ROUNDUP

Contributed by Mr Atherton

Athletics

Year 8 Sports Hall Athletics - Our Year 8 pupils attended the annual sports hall athletics school event, held at Biddick Academy. In the Sunderland School Games calendar, it is one of the most popular events with a high number of school participating from across the city. The event covers both track and field athletics adapted to suit the indoor sports hall environment. Both VB girls and boys performed exceptionally and represented the school impeccably. The girls team finished a credible fourth but the boys ended runners up and have now qualified for the regional finals which take place in January.

Sports Results Roundup

VB Year 7&8 girls have made an impressive start to the Sunderland Schools Football league competition. In the central venue format, the girls have won games against Seaham, St Anthony's and Dene Academy. They also drew with Kepier and lost their only game against a strong Hetton team. The girls have two games remaining in the season.

Year 11 Climbing

Year 11 GCSE Climbing - As part of the GCSE PE course, some of our Year 11 attended Sunderland climbing wall to participate in their GCSE PE climbing assessment. The pupils undergo an intensive programme covering all aspects of the assessment criteria with the grade contributing towards their practical scores in the summer. A company called Adventure Training North East (ATNE) are used to facilitate the course and support the pupils with their assessment. Mr Atherton, Head of PE said 'All the pupils performed extremely well and worked hard throughout the assessment. I am sure that with the efforts they showed, the outcomes will be positive'.



SEASONS GREETINGS

from

Pupils, Staff, Directors and Academy Council of the
Venerable Bede CE Academy