

EARLY SUMMER 2023

The Venerable Bede News



Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

welcome to the early summer newsletter. Once again, it has been a very busy half term with our pupils being involved in so many different activities. It always amazes and humbles me with the achievements of our pupils.

Our Y11 pupils are well into their GCSE Exams now. It is hard to believe that they will

all be finished in a matter of weeks. Results day this year is Thursday 24 August. My message to Y11 is to keep focussed and try your best. It will all be worthwhile.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new cohort of pupils who will join school this coming September. We have two main transition days planned which are Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 June, where we welcome our new starters into the Venerable Bede Community.

It is very hard to believe that we are entering the final half

term in this academic year. The diary is already filling up. An event not to miss, is the Summer Community Concert which takes place on Wednesday 5 July. Tickets are now on sale.

Finally, advance notice that we break up for the summer holidays on Thursday 20 July. Pupils will be dismissed from 1.30 p.m. I do hope that you and your family get some time to relax over this half term break.

David Airey

Headteacher

CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III PUPIL COMPETITION

Contributed by Northern Lights Learning Trust

It's over 70 years since our last monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, was crowned.

On 6 May 2023 His Majesty King Charles III was coronated.

Venerable Bede CE Academy helped to mark this historic event by taking part in a trust wide pupil competition

The Trust plans to plant a tree in the autumn installed next to which will be a special plaque.

Students at each of Northern Lights Learning Trust's seven schools were invited to use an outline of King Charles' head

as a starting point for something creative!

They were encouraged to colour it in using pens or paint, or to make a collage using pictures or fabric, to write a poem, or compose a new piece of music with lyrics (if this type of entry won a QR code linking to the artwork would be added to the plaque).

The best entry from each school, in the opinion of the judges, will have their work preserved forever on a special plaque!

Below is Venerable Bede's winning entry and contribution to this momentous occasion! Well done Hannah!



MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS

Contributed by Mrs S Holt

If U Care, Share

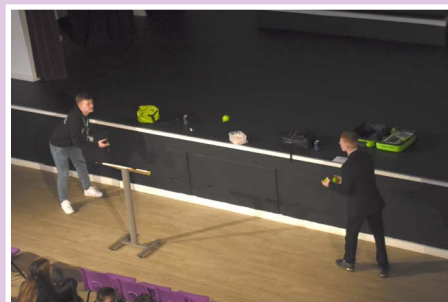
This half term mental health charity, If U Care, Share, delivered a suicide prevention workshop to all Year 10 pupils.

The workshops have been designed by young people, for young people and address the effects of emotional and mental health issues in a fun and interactive way. The aim is to encourage young people to open up and talk about how they feel. The two key messages are that it is ok not to feel ok and there is always a way.

98% of young people who have taken part in the workshops have felt more confident in sharing how they feel after taking part.

For more information, please visit:

www.ifucareshare.co.uk/



ELSA PROVISION

Contributed by Mrs J Johnson

Emotional Literacy Provision

Hello, my name is Mrs Johnson and I have been working at Venerable Bede CE Academy as a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) for nearly 18 years. Recently, I moved to a new role within school as HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) for Emotional Resilience. In my new role, I continue to support pupils learning within lessons, as well as delivering small group and one to one intervention sessions focusing on emotional literacy and resilience.

Emotional literacy is about understanding and coping with feelings about ourselves and

others; it helps increase self-esteem and resilience, encourages positive interactions with others as well as helping pupils to focus better on their learning.

The focus of these sessions can include supporting pupils in recognising and managing uncomfortable emotions, building self-esteem, strengthening resilience and working on positive relationships. It can also involve supporting pupils through loss and bereavement.

The emotional literacy sessions are bespoke to meet pupils' individual needs and can include games, activities or simply giving space to talk.



CURRICULUM CHOICES EVENING 2023

Contributed by Mrs T Burgess

On Thursday 27th of April 2023 we held a curriculum choices evening at The Venerable Bede Academy for Year 9 pupils, parents and carers. The evening was led by Mrs Burgess, Deputy Head Teacher, who said "Choosing the subjects for your KS4 journey is one of the many important decisions that you will have to make about your future. It is important that you select your subject choices wisely, after thought and consultation with your teachers and parents or carers. Your GCSE courses will last for two years. If your choices are subjects that interest you, and that you enjoy, you will be motivated to do well in them."

Prior to the evening, pupils were given their curriculum choices booklet, designed to inform pupils of what each course involves along with details of how each course is assessed and examined.

After the opening presentation, pupils, parents and carers

were given the opportunity to talk to staff from the subject areas and ask any questions they had.


Pupils, parents and carers found the evening very informative and enjoyed being able to speak to staff face to face. We have captured some of the comments made by pupils.

"The evening helped my parents understand all the options as well as myself. Overall it helped me decide what lessons I would like to take in Year 10" (Layla)

"The options evening helped me pick what I wanted to take for GCSE because it answered my questions and squashed any worries about subjects that I was originally sceptical about" (Matthew)

"Talking to the teachers on the evening helped with any questions I had. The leaflets were useful for information on the subjects" (Ellie)

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Tips for making the right choices:

Here are some good reasons for choosing a subject:


- ✓ you have ability in a subject and are achieving well
- ✓ you are interested in a particular subject
- ✓ you enjoy a subject
- ✓ the subject could help you in your chosen career

Here are some bad reasons for choosing a subject:

- ✗ your friends have chosen the subject
- ✗ you like the teacher

PLEASE make **YOUR** selections based only on what **YOU** want to study and believe **YOU** are good at.


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What choices will I have?

- Our curriculum offers each pupil the appropriate GCSE's or equivalent qualifications to enable them to access their chosen pathway after school. There are core subjects and option subjects.
- English Baccalaureate (EBacc) route?

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Key Dates:

Thursday 27 April 2023	Curriculum Choices Evening for Pupils and Parents/Carers 5.00pm – 6.30pm
Friday 5 May 2023	Deadline for handing in completed curriculum choices forms
May / June	Collation and checking of forms
Summer Term	Any additional 1:1 discussions between school, pupils and parent/carers as needed. Finalised option blocks and choices will be confirmed during this term.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Contributed by Our Science Department

The Science Department have recently spent time re-organising their prep-room. This has been to make room for some new and exciting equipment that has been invested in. Out with the old and in with the new! This will help students engage with their learning in a more practical way.

The department will also be joined by a new science technician. We look forward to welcoming him soon!



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Contributed by Mrs R Bonner

Y7 EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

This half term the school nurse has been back in school delivering emotional well-being sessions to some of our Y7 tutor groups.

The workshops have been designed to promote resilience skills in our young people and to encourage them to address the effects of emotional and mental health issues in a fun and interactive way. The aim is to encourage young people to open up and talk about how they feel.

Y8 KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS

This half term, Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit have visited the Academy to deliver a presentation on knife crime awareness.

The presentation was designed to prevent youth violence and look at the consequences for the person who commits the crime, the victim and their families. There are many reasons why people will get caught up in knife crime: they could be involved in criminality, they might think a knife will protect them but instead it gets used against them, or they might just be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Here are some key facts to use in your conversations with young people about knife crime:

It is a criminal offence to have in a public place any item that has a blade, or is sharply pointed. This includes scissors, kitchen knives and craft knives.



It is illegal for anyone under 18 to buy a knife of any sort.

It is not legal to carry a knife for self-defence.

If you are caught by police carrying a knife, even if it was for your protection or you were carrying it for someone else, you will be arrested and prosecuted.

If you use a knife, even in self-defence, you could be charged with assault with intent, or even worse.

You can go to prison even if you didn't use the knife.

Police can stop and search anyone they believe is carrying a knife.

Carrying a knife significantly increases your chances of getting stabbed yourself.

If someone is injured or killed by a knife in your presence, you could be prosecuted even if you didn't touch the knife. You could even go to prison for murder in what is called 'joint enterprise'.

There is no 'safe place' to stab someone. A wound in the arm or leg can still kill someone if an artery is severed.

If a knife punctures an artery you can bleed to death within five minutes.

A criminal record for knife use or possession can stop you from being accepted into college or university, and can make it much harder to get a job.

Y9 SEXUAL HEALTH

This half term our Sexual Health Outreach Lead has been back in school delivering sexual health workshops to some of our Y9 tutor groups.

The workshops have been designed to develop pupils awareness on sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy, coercion, violence and discrimination. Sexual health is a big part of life. It can affect and is affected by other aspects of health. This includes physical, mental, emotional, and social health. Being in good sexual health means you are well informed, careful, and respectful to yourself and others.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs R Bonner

Search for a Star

On Tuesday 25th April we took our girl band, Identity, to Sunderland College to compete in the Search for a Star talent show competition. What a night and what a fantastic showcase of talent in Sunderland. There were 12 secondary schools participating. The girl band performed the song Edge of Midnight by Miley Cyrus. Mrs Bonner, Head of Music, said

"Although our band didn't win this year, it was great to see such a variety of talent from across many different art forms and the performers clearly really enjoyed seeing all 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. It has been a very rewarding experience."



Teaching Gadget Competition

In April, pupils in the music department took part in a competition to try and win an electric drum kit for the school. The quantity of entries we submitted was amazing - a number of students also



engaged in competing at home to try and improve their highest scores. Students had to use their knowledge on notation to click on the correct notes as fast as they could to try and gain their highest possible score in 60 seconds. Some of the music staff took part in the teacher round. Although we did not win, our highest score was 57 correct answers in 60 seconds - well done to Hannah in Year 7.

Extra-curricular

Once again, small group music lessons have continued to be extremely popular this summer term. There is a real buzz around the department as lots of pupils are preparing for exams and summer performances. Due to popular demand we now have 5 rock bands running before and after school and the school choir. Should you wish your child to get involved in peripatetic music lessons or an extra-curricular club, please email Mrs Bonner directly for further information.

Community Summer Concert

We are currently busy preparing for our annual summer concert. This year we will be performing with some of our local feeder primary schools as well as some of the primary schools from the NLLT.

The evening will feature a variety of vocal performances from each school and promote large group singing, as well as featuring musical performances from some of our rock bands. Tickets are available to purchase via [ParentMail](#)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



FLAMINGO LAND TRIP

Contributed by Mr J Exley



As the end of the academic year draws ever closer and of course, the start of GCSE exams loomed! We decided that Year 11 were probably in need of some "down time"

COVID has hit our Year 11 pupils quite hard. The usual experiences that Venerable Bede Academy offers such as, our Year 10 trip to Lesotho in Southern Africa and opportunities to visit Italy and Poland with the Humanities department, have all been missed by this year group.

With this in mind, we decided to take a gamble on the Spring weather and visit Flamingo Land on the first day of the Easter break. The gamble paid off, as despite a fairly grim weather forecast, we were

fortunate enough to have a dry day. Visiting at the beginning of the theme park season also proved a smart move, as the year group virtually had the park to themselves.

We managed to sample all the big rides (multiple times) and with lines of no more than 6 people at any one time, we were off one ride and straight onto the next.

Year 11 took great delight in "dragging" Mr Exley, Mr Foster,

Miss Storey, Miss Barnes and Mrs Williams onto Kumali as well as the brand new ride "Sik" which after multiple rides back to back, proved to be quite an appropriate name.

While some pupils enjoyed the big thrills, others enjoyed spending some time with their friends visiting the zoo and relaxing in the park's surroundings. A great day was had by all.



YEAR 11 UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs L Pallas

With only a few weeks to go, plans are beginning to be finalised for our Year 11 Leavers Ball.

All pupils have had a letter sent to parents/carers giving information about the logistics of the event. Pupils have received invitations explaining how to purchase a ticket to their Leavers Ball through ParentMail.

Pupils must make sure they have filled in a seating plan to ensure that they sit with their friends.

A reminder that pupils can arrive to the Ramside Hall Hotel from 6:15pm with a formal start of 7:00pm. Any questions or queries, please contact Mrs Pallas.



CHRISTIAN ETHOS

Contributed by Mrs V DaGama & Mr A Irvine

DIOCESAN SYNOD - MAY 2023

It was our privilege, once again, to host the Durham Diocesan Synod meeting, here at Venerable Bede CE Academy.

It was a day filled with lively discussion and engaging presentations all centred around best practice for engaging with children and young people.

The day began with an act of collective Worship which was planned and delivered by staff and pupils from our academy.

Our Worship focused on the combined themes of 'Love' and 'Engaging Children and Young People'.



Participants of the Synod were welcomed into our main hall with reflective music played on piano

by VB pupils Alex and Sam which deftly set the tone for the day.

The Worship was then opened by Executive Headteacher for Secondary Education, Northern

Lights Learning Trust, Mrs

G Booth who spoke on how Worship and Eucharist have evolved over the years here at VB and the many strategies we employ to engage as many



members of our community as possible.

Mrs Booth then handed to our Associate Chaplain, Canon Dave Tolhurst, who explored the themes and welcomed contributions from some of our pupils who took part in reflections and readings via pre-recorded video and audio recording. he then introduced Senior Prefects, Erin and Andrew, who led us in both some rousing congregational singing (a deeply effective performance of 'Glorious Day which the pupils had arranged and rehearsed themselves) and in our Prayers of Intercession.



The Worship garnered several comments of positive

feedback with many of the facilitators mentioning the contributions of our pupils in particular, as a highlight of the day and a wonderful, inspiring way to begin the proceedings.

The reflection video and prerecorded reading will be posted on the Diocesan website in due course ([Click to view web post](#)).

Bishop of Durham Paul Butler delivered his presidential address ([Click to view](#)) during which he thanked our academy and our pupils for delivering the opening Worship, spoke about the recent Coronation of HM King Charles III, and also provided several interesting points for discussion.

We extend our gratitude to all those involved, for their hard work and for representing our academy so impressively!

BISHOP'S PRAYER WALK 2023

Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, visited us here at Venerable Bede CE Academy on Friday 19 May. Bishop Paul is very child centred and relished the opportunity to speak to pupils and staff alike.

The visit to VBCEA was part of the Bishop's Prayer Walk - Information on which can be [found here](#) and a [post about the Bishop's visit to VB here](#).



Duke of Edinburgh UPDATE

Contributed by Mr C Roberts

There's such a lot happening with D of E.



YEAR 11 completed their expedition back in September. It was a lovely weekend with

beautiful weather and great success achieved. They are currently finalising their evidence from the four categories so that they can receive their Bronze Award certificates.

YEAR 10 have now completed their training with tent-pitching skills taking place in the drier weather and are awaiting some warmer weather to do their practice expedition before embarking on their September full expedition. It's great to get our

pupils out into the Northumberland countryside.

YEAR 9 are just about to begin their D of E journey. I look forward to working with another committed group of pupils embarking on the adventure!



PE ROUNDUP

Contributed by our PE Department with a guest contribution by PYGM for Y10 Mr Gray



Athletics Achievement

On Wednesday 17th May, Miss Storey had the pleasure of taking a group of students to a athletics competition held at Silksworths Sports complex. Pupils competed against six different schools in the area and the standard was very high. Pupils performed extremely well and represented The Venerable Bede Academy tremendously. Throughout the competition, pupils congratulated and supported each other regardless of where they finished in their individual events. I am so proud to say 4 Venerable Bede pupils have

qualified for the county championships. Celine – 100m, Jack – 200m & high jump, Tinkerbelle – 1500m, Daniel – shot put & javelin. The last race of the day was a relay race. Venerable Bede pupils finished the competition strong with both teams winning the relay race.

Racing

A big congratulations to Celine in Year 8 who became a Northeast double champion this weekend, winning the U15's 100 and 200m race in high ranking times. This is a fantastic achievement as Celine was competing two age groups above her. She will now go onto represent the UK U15's, in the 100m and 200m at the inter counties competition in York in a few weeks' time. We wish her the best of luck for this! Well done Celine and good luck for the next race!

Boxing

One of our Year 10 pupils (Mia) was recently crowned a

double kickboxing champion. Training out of Spartan Fighting Arts in Hendon, she won her English title in September '22 in a bout that took place down in Derby. Mia then dedicated herself to her craft and returned to training, eventually being victorious in her pursuit of a British title in April 2023.

Mia has since taken her skillset from the ring to the octagon and participated in trials to represent England in MMA (Mixed Martial Arts).

Mia's teachers and all the staff at VBCEA wish her the best of luck in her sporting endeavours.

