

SUMMER 2023

The Venerable Bede News



Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our school newsletter for Summer term 2023. As always it has been a busy end to the year.

It has been really lovely to get back to doing things in our usual way. Year 11 have left us on a high note, with a fabulous "Leavers Afternoon" and "Summer Ball". Our new Year 7 cohort who join us in September, have

already been welcomed into the VB community with two great inductions days.

For our current Y11 pupils, GCSE results day is on Thursday August 24. Further details will be sent out nearer the time. We hope that all pupils get the grades that they worked for, and that they can move on to the next part of their journey.

We have to say farewell to a number of staff this summer who are leaving VB. We would like to say thank you to the following staff for the service and commitment shown to our school; Ms Thirlwell (Learning Support), Ms Burnup (Maths), Ms Eldred (Maths), Mr Smith (Maths), Ms Storey (PE), Ms Gilpin (Spanish), Ms Fairbairn (History). We see several staff returning from maternity leave and are looking

forward to welcoming them back into our school community.

On a personal note, I would like to wish Mrs Booth (Executive Headteacher) a fond farewell. We have worked closely together for this past 13 years. Mrs Booth leaves us to take on the role of Diocesan Director of Education for Durham and Newcastle.

As you will be aware, we joined Northern Lights Learning Trust in February this year. The NLLT has a new magazine 'SHINE'. Please see the link below.

www.northernlights.education

David Airey
Headteacher

GOODBYE CLASS OF 2023

Contributed by Mrs Pallas and Mrs Osmond

CLASS OF 2023 LEAVERS CEREMONY

Year 11 pupils sat their final exam on Monday 19th of July 2023 and now have a long sunny summer ahead to relax and recuperate. Their conduct throughout was a credit to them and we wish them the very best of luck with their new adventures ahead.

All Year 11 pupils were invited back into school on the afternoon of Monday 19th of July with their parents and carers to celebrate their time at Venerable Bede Academy. This special event marked the end of their secondary school journey before pupils start their next adventure.



GOODBYE CLASS OF 2023 - CONTINUED

Contributed by Mrs Pallas and Mrs Osmond

CLASS OF 2023 LEAVERS CEREMONY - CONTINUED

Pupils were able to reminisce on their school journey looking at photos that had been taken over the years that brought back so many special memories. The afternoon was filled with speeches, band performances and was a true celebration of the time our pupils had spent with us, as well as all they have achieved. Afterwards, pupils along with parents and carers were able to gather together to say their final farewells to each other and the staff at Venerable Bede Academy. Overall, a fantastic celebration enjoyed by all.



Mrs Osmond (Head of Year 11) said, "I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud we are of Year 11. They have worked incredibly hard, building the skills and knowledge that will form a strong foundation for their futures."



Their journey over the last five years has not been a straight road, there has been twists and turns and a few bumps along the way. Year 11 have persevered, overcoming personal challenges, not just in preparing for their GCSEs but in planning for their futures.

Goodbye and good luck. What happens next is up to you."

LEAVERS' BALL 2023

The Class of 2023 Leavers' Ball took place at The Ramside Hall Hotel and Golf Course on Friday 30th of June.



Pupils have had an amazing opportunity this year to use their Class Charts points to redeem money off their ticket. Some pupils have been able to buy three vouchers giving a £30 discount which is fantastic and a real credit to the hard work and positive attitudes of those pupils.



Pupils and their families arrived early for photographs. We had an array of vehicles arriving at the venue and the pupils certainly didn't disappoint with their attire - the girls looked beautiful and the boys extremely smart. We were lucky that the bad weather held off until we entered the building.



The evening started with a two course meal, followed by a prize draw for pupils to celebrate their successes. For the first time, we were also able to have our school band perform for us, 'Vennerz'. They kicked off the night with

some fantastic song choices and certainly got everyone on the dance floor. Well done to everyone that was involved, they were a real credit to the school.



May I personally take this opportunity to thank you for supporting school and your child during the time that we have spent together; we will certainly miss our Class of 2023. Wishing you every success for the future.

REFLECTIONS FROM CLASS OF 2023

What is your fondest memory of your time at Venerable Bede?

"Making lots of new friends for life"
Calum

"The teachers for believing in me, being kind and making lessons memorable." Imogen

What advice would you give pupils starting Year 7 in September?

"Make the most of school before the years start speeding up" Ava

"Just keep going. Never give up. Never let your dreams go." Andrew

A reminder that results day is on Thursday 24th August - details have already been sent out. Any questions, please contact the school office.

If any pupils have any remaining locker keys or school books, can these please be returned ASAP to the School Office.

FOCUS ON ETHOS

Contributed by Mr Johnson and Mrs Burgess

DURHAM YEAR 6 LEAVERS

In June, eleven of our amazing Year 9's helped out at the Year 6 leavers celebration at Durham Cathedral. They helped hundreds of Year 6 pupils from around the North East of England engage with Prayer Spaces activities in the Cathedral throughout the day. Many people from other schools and organisations commented on how amazing our pupils were and how they were fantastic ambassadors for our school. Well done Year 9's.



PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ISLAND

The Holy Island of Lindisfarne lies just off Northumberland's north coast, close to the border with Scotland and reached by a causeway, Holy Island is totally cut off from the mainland twice a day when the tide comes in.



With strong connections to both St Aidan and St Cuthbert, Lindisfarne is one of England's most important centres of early Christianity, hence the name, Holy Island. The island became a popular pilgrimage site and, as a group Year 9 pupils and staff did in July, it's still possible to walk in the footsteps of the early pilgrims to reach Holy Island, following the line of poles that can clearly be seen in the sand.

The Celtic saints often referred to somewhere as a 'thin place' when the spiritual atmosphere of a location made it easy to connect

with God, almost as though there is no barrier between heaven and earth.



Year 9's and staff had an amazing experience when we had a day trip to Lindisfarne (Holy Island).



During the trip the weather was beautiful as we followed the steps of former pilgrims along with young people from other Anglican schools in the North East. The three-mile pilgrimage was followed by a church service on the island and some free time in the village.



TRANSITION

Contributed by Mrs Pallas, Mrs Osmond & Mrs DaGama

TRANSITION 2023

This year transition for our Year 6 pupils was held on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th of June 2023.



All of our new starters were invited to spend a full two days at Venerable Bede Academy for their first ever experience of our school. Pupils were able to experience school life with a jam packed two days of lessons and events. Pupils began each day with their new tutor and tutor group allowing them to get to know each other and meet new friends.

Pupils were able to sample a range of lessons including Geography, Technology, IT, Spanish and Maths. On the first day, pupils also gathered in the school hall for a fantastic musical

performance from our Music department. Pupils were able to see what extracurricular activities they could get involved in as well as being able to sing and dance along. They thoroughly enjoyed this and there was certainly a buzz by the end of the first day. At the end of the day we also celebrated the pupils' successes with certificates and prizes - it was so great to see such enthusiasm amongst the pupils as well as community spirit supporting each other - a massive well done.



Transition is such an important part of school life and at Venerable Bede Academy we know that these days help pupils, and parents transition from their primary school life to embark on their new journey in secondary school.

We are so excited to see you all back here at 8:30 am on Wednesday 6th September. Stay safe and have a well-deserved rest over the summer.

YEAR 5 SCHOOL VISITS

Mrs Da Gama and Mrs Pallas visited some of our feeder primary schools in the area and spent some time with the Year 5 classes. "It was wonderful to meet our local Year 5 pupils and spend an afternoon getting to know them and telling them a little more about the Venerable Bede."

Pupils completed a short task describing how they would embody the school motto 'Soar to the heights together'.

Ava said "I would represent the school motto by encouraging others to try their hardest and I would also try my hardest as well. I would help others when they are struggling to soar to the heights together."

It was a pleasure being able to visit the pupils in their schools. We can't wait to continue to do this next year and continue to work with our primary schools to ensure a smoother transition for our pupils.

MATHS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Contributed by our Maths Department

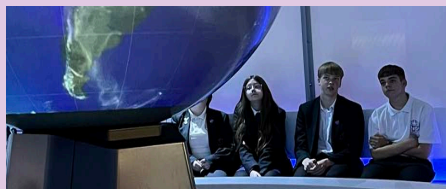
MATHSPLOSION

On Monday 10th of July, ten Year 10 pupils, accompanied by Miss Manning and Miss Gourlay attended the Mathsplosion event at The Centre for Life in Newcastle.

The day consisted of 4 different workshops, which explored Mathematical contexts in real life. All workshops were interactive and required pupils to draw on their Mathematical knowledge, whilst taking part in fun activities.

The workshops ranged from exploring the Maths behind card tricks to the effects of climate change on the environment.

All pupils enjoyed the event and were a credit to the school, not only for their behaviour, but their enthusiasm and participation in tasks throughout the day.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs Bonner

Y6 TRANSITION PERFORMANCE

On Wednesday 28th of June we put on a live performance for Year 6 pupils who were visiting the Academy for their transition days. The event featured a variety of musical performances that promoted year group singing and showed the pupils some of the extra-curricular activities they can choose to get involved in when joining the Academy in September. There was a real buzz in the atmosphere and pupils fully engaged and participated in the singing with great enthusiasm.



Y11 PROM BAND PERFORMANCE

For the first time ever, there were numerous requests for the Year 11 band, Vennerz, to perform at the school prom. On Friday 30th of July we set up our stage in Ramside Hall and the band performed several classic hits including Livin' On A Prayer, Summer of '69 and Don't Stop Me Now. The Year 11 musicians performed amazingly well in front of their peers and the staff. Everyone got up to dance and sing along. Feedback from everyone has been extremely positive - well done, you did an amazing job and we are extremely proud of how far you have come as musicians during

your time at Venerable Bede Academy!



COMMUNITY SUMMER CONCERT

On Wednesday 5th of July we held our annual community summer concert which featured performances from our local feeder primary schools as well as some of the primary schools from the NLLT.



enjoyed singing to a live band for the night.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Once again, small group music lessons have continued to be extremely popular this summer term. 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 extracurricular club, please watch out for the letter coming out in September to sign your child up for lessons for next term or email Mrs Bonner directly for further information.



PD UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs Bonner

YEAR 7 EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

This half term the school nurse has been back in school delivering emotional well-being sessions to some of our Year 7 tutor groups again.



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.

YEAR 8 CPR

Year 8 tutor groups have completed an hour long session on CPR over the summer term. This was an opportunity for pupils to consider what they would do if they were with someone and they stopped breathing. CPR combines chest compressions and rescue breaths to give a person the best chance of survival following a cardiac arrest. Pupils are learning about the Push-Call-Rescue response and practising the CPR skills and techniques on dummies within their Personal Development lessons.

YEAR 9 SEXUAL HEALTH

This half term our Sexual Health Outreach Lead has been back in school delivering sexual health workshops to some of our Year 9 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.



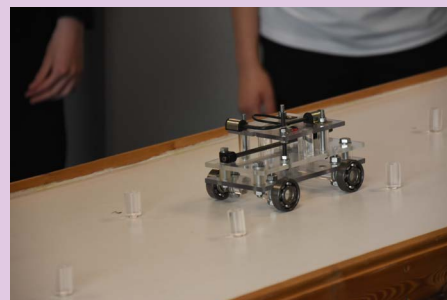
CAREERS UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs Carr

YEAR 10 NISSAN EVENT – TRY-Z

During work experience week, 16 pupils had the fantastic opportunity to take part in 'Try-Z', an event run by Nissan Employees in school. Pupils started by building a model car out of 70+ parts, throughout the week they focused on improving the quality and performance of their cars. In groups of 8, they produced 15 cars by Friday. The aim of the challenge was to beat the other team for the best cost per production run, focusing on continuous improvement, problem solving, safety and team work.

The pupils have worked really hard at this challenge all week and have had a fantastic time. Thank you to Nissan for running this challenge in school and well done to the pupils for their effort and engagement!



CAREERS UPDATE - CONTINUED

Contributed by Mrs Carr

YEAR 9 NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

At the beginning of June, a group of Year 9 girls attended the National Council of Young Women's Conference at Durham High School. The focus for the day was 'Moving On Up' and included some inspirational talks from Sophie Milliken, an award winning entrepreneur and CEO at Moja Group, and Fran Ratcliffe, Head of Client Services at O – a company that has won over 60 awards! After an enjoyable lunch, the girls took part in a workshop run by Stacey Wagstaff of The Girls' Network where they could explore their own strengths and consider pathways to achieve their goals.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and found the day interesting, motivational and inspiring.

YEAR 8 CAREERS CAFÉ



On Wednesday 28th of June, all Year 8 pupils took part in a Careers Café in the school bistro. Pupils enjoyed a drink and a snack whilst engaging in conversation with a range of representatives from different businesses including Nissan, Bowmer and Kirkland, Penshaw View, Cummins, Gentoo, Waterstons, the RAF, Advanced Electric Machines and the Foundation of Light.



The enthusiasm and behaviour of all year 8 pupils involved was exceptional and we had a fantastic morning. Pupils felt they had learnt a

lot about the businesses, careers and the world of work. Some pupils even felt they now had an idea of what they would like to do once they left school. They only wished they had had more time to spend talking to our visitors!

Both staff and the visitors were full of praise for the pupils. Well done Year 8!

YEAR 10 ASK APPRENTICESHIPS TALK

At the end of June, Jodene Aspinall, a representative of ASK Apprenticeships delivered a talk to our Year 10 pupils about what apprenticeships are; how and where to apply for apprenticeships and some of the areas in which apprenticeships are available. This is the beginning of preparation for our Year 10 pupils making their post-16 choices at the end of Year 11. We hope this has given them some food for thought and something to learn more about in the coming months and at the beginning of Year 11.

If they wish to find out more about apprenticeships, they should speak to Mrs. Carr, Careers Lead, in room 16.

YEAR 8 AND 9 TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

On Friday 7th of July, Year 8 and Year 9 pupils went out to work for the day with their parents, close family members or family friends. Pupils had the opportunity to experience the world of work and to begin thinking about their own choices for the future. This experience helped pupils to develop skills in team work, problem solving, communication and resilience.

Work settings included primary schools, hair and beauty salons, hotels, travel agents, GP surgeries and many more.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

In the penultimate week of the term, Year 10 pupils went out on work experience. Pupils organised their own placements in a range of settings including Nissan, Hays Travel, Nexus, Sunderland City Council and a range of primary schools and nurseries across the city.

Pupils have had a fantastic experience of the world of work and behaviour, enthusiasm and engagement have been exceptional.

Mrs. Carr visited pupils at East Herrington Primary, New Silksworth Primary, Wearside Plumbing Supplies, Busy Bees Nursery and more. The feedback from staff was fantastic and the pupils have all thoroughly enjoyed the experience with many now having a clearer idea of the pathway they may take when they leave secondary school.

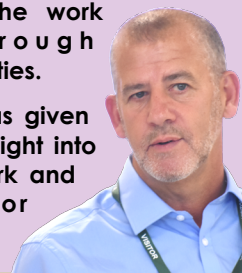
The next step for Year 10, as they move into Year 11, is to find out more about the possible options and pathways post-16. More about these options will be shared through talks from a range of colleges and sixth forms in Year 11 as well as through personal Careers Interviews with the school Careers Adviser.

Well done, Year 10!

YEAR 10 VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Those pupils that were not able to secure a placement for work experience have been working on a range of virtual work experience tasks in school during the week. These have included virtual tours of work places; listening to the experiences of other teenagers on work experience and business challenges. They also took part in a workshop run by Kevin Jones, the school's Enterprise Adviser, entitled 'Why Do We Follow Instructions?'. Pupils explored the importance of following instructions in the work place through interactive activities.

We hope this has given the pupils an insight into the world of work and some ideas for their own futures.



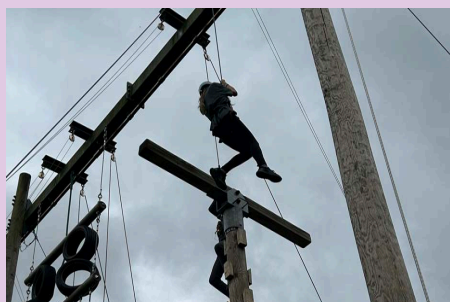
DERWENT HILL 2023

Contributed by Mr Atherton

Some of our Year 7 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. This is a trip that the PE department has run for many years and this year was a huge success with all pupils having positive experiences. The nature of the activities allowed our young people to develop their self confidence, social, and team work skills and provided physical and mental challenges.

Mr Atherton said,

'the pupils had a superb week in a beautiful part of the country. They really worked hard and pushed themselves out of their comfort zone and gained many essential skills from their time at Derwent Hill'.



SPORTING UPDATE

Contributed by our Physical Education Department

ENGLISH SCHOOLS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2ND IN THE COUNTRY!



Star Performance from Celine in Year 8. Celine competed in the Girls Inter County competitions where she finished 1st in her 100m Race, with an outstanding time, breaking a record of 50 years. Celine qualified for the National competition in Birmingham where she finished 1st in her heat with an outstanding new PB of 12.19 seconds. Celine, who was competing in the under 15 event, finished the competition in 2nd place at the age of thirteen. An amazing achievement and a massive congratulations to Celine. Everyone at VB is very proud of you.

YEAR 7 ATHLETICS COMPETITION



Exciting news to share with you all regarding the Athletics Competition. We took a group of Year 7 boys and girls to a competition at Silksworth. All pupils chosen were fantastic. We had some great individual performances. Both Katie and Jake finished 1st in the Shotput. Josh finished 1st in the Long Jump. Jude finished 3rd in the boys

1500m. Emily finished 4th in her 100m race and Kayden finished 3rd in the 200m race. Matthew also finished 2nd in his 200m race. Both boys and girls Relay teams ended the day on a high, finishing 2nd in both races. Well done to all, a great day and great performances.

WORLD'S GYMNASTIC COMPETITION

Macey represented GBR in the Scalabis Cup, the competition was held in Portugal. Macey came 4th competing against very talented Gymnasts around the world, who were also two years older than Macey. This is phenomenal and a well earned achievement. Macey has a very bright future ahead of her and we look forward to seeing her career develop further. Well done Macey, we are enormously proud of you.

GYMNASTICS COMPETITION NEWS!



Lily in Year 8 competed in a Gymnastics competition this weekend at Seaham Gymnastics Club. She secured 2nd place in her first ever competition. Big well done to Lily! Exciting times ahead for Lily.

SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS CRICKET WINNERS

A team of very talented VB cricketers participated in the Sunderland school cricket festival. They competed against seven other teams from schools across the city and came out as champions. In the morning group games, team VB won all group

games convincingly. In the afternoon, we met St Aidans in the final who finished top of the other group. Batting first team VB set a formidable total which St Aidans failed to chase down. This was due to some superb bowling and fielding from all members of the team. A great team performance.



DANCE COMPETITION

Gracie and Lucy competed at a Dance competition which was held at Silksworth Youth and Community Centre. The girls both came 1st in their lyrical and trio. Gracie also came first in her modern dance competition. This is amazing ladies, we are very proud of you both. Keep up the hard work!

COUNTY NETBALL TRIALS

VB are very proud to announce that Ruby has been selected to play for the County Netball team. This is a superb achievement. Ruby has been working very hard and training endless hours, the hard work has paid off Ruby! Ruby has also represented VB at many different Netball tournaments, she is an inspiration to many. We are excited to be part of your journey playing for the county.

SHOW JUMPING COMPETITION

Heidi competed in a show jumping competition which was held at Highfields. It was a very competitive field, Heidi finished 2nd place. Big well done to Heidi, keep up the hard work.