

MARCH 2024 EDITION

The Venerable Bede News



Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families enjoyed a restful festive break. It was wonderful to welcome pupils back to school in 2024.

The New Year has brought with it a number of exciting developments at Venerable Bede CE Academy. On Monday 8th January, Mr Exley and I held individual year group assemblies to discuss the vision by which we aim to support all members of our community to enable them to "Soar to the Heights Together".

The principles of this vision are based upon the school's motto and philosophy of working together to allow all members of our community to thrive.

Our expectations, behaviour systems and routines are intended to ensure our classrooms and corridors are calm, purposeful and conducive to learning. The majority of our pupils behave this way on a daily basis. There have also been a number of changes to the academy's pastoral system. We are confident you will agree that these systems allow for a simple and consistent approach that all members of our community can work with to help all our pupils "Soar to the Heights". By sharing these messages with parents and carers, we hope to work towards a common language and philosophy that can be used by all to support our young people

in achieving the very best they can.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this newsletter and thank you in advance for your support. We are determined to do the very best for all pupils at Venerable Bede CE Academy. Please be assured that our pupils will always be at the heart of the decisions we make. We look forward to working with you and watching the young people of Venerable Bede CE Academy grow in confidence, knowledge and spirituality during their time here.

Best Wishes.

Head of School

RE CHARTER MARK GOLD 2023!

Contributed by Mr Johnson



Venerable Bede CE Academy has been awarded the RE Gold Quality mark for the fourth time in a row. Full story below...

RE CHARTER MARK GOLD 2023!

Contributed by Mr Johnson

Hard working staff and pupils are celebrating gaining top recognition for teaching and learning.

The Venerable Bede CE Academy's Religious Education department has clinched a prestigious national award for the fourth time in a row.

Delighted staff and students have been awarded the RE Gold Quality Mark (REQM), which has been developed to recognise

high-quality religious education in schools across the country.

Head of RE at the Sunderland academy, David Johnson, said: "The award recognised the outstanding learning in RE, both in terms of exam results, and the high enthusiasm and enjoyment students have of the subject."

Gaining the award was no easy feat for the Sunderland school, who had to provide thorough evidence as an assessor spent

the morning with the department and senior staff, as well as pupils from all year groups.



REMEMBRANCE DAY PROJECTS

Contributed by Mrs Scott & Mr Exley

The 6th of November marked the start of Remembrance Week for Venerable Bede pupils. We launched the event by putting up the poppies on the gates outside of school. The display was made by our pupils who designed, coloured, and added their own personal messages to poppies to remember those affected by war. With the help of Year 9 pupils, and our senior prefects, the poppies were tied to the railings for all visitors, parents, carers and the local community to see and commemorate Remembrance Day 2023.

Throughout the week, pupils took part in Remembrance activities; these included fantastic tutor group door displays, whole school and year group worships and tutor reflection time. Our senior prefects also sold poppies and Remembrance merchandise to raise money for the British Legion. Pupils were really generous with their donations and it was lovely to see so many

of our young people wearing poppies with pride.

On Friday 10th November we held a two minute silence to remember fallen soldiers both past and present. The Last Post was played throughout school to mark the start of the silence, pupils then paid their respect and reflected on the impact war has on so many people and communities across the world.

On Remembrance Sunday several members of our school community took part in the church services at St Paul's in Ryhope and St Matthew's in Silksworth. Our senior prefects read at the service and we were all proud to join the local community in remembering those fallen soldiers.



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT QUALITY MARK 2023!

Contributed by our English Department

The Prince's Teaching Institute: English

In 2005, His Majesty The King (then Prince Charles) created what would be his 17th charity: the Prince's Teaching Institute. Building on the work of the initial summer schools and series of lectures by leading academics from Cambridge University, The Prince's Teaching Institute (now known as the PTI) launched the Schools Programme in 2007 to recognise and reward school departments that have ideas that inspire students and develop subject expertise.

To achieve the Schools Programme mark of recognition, the English department has had to demonstrate:

- Continued development of a broad and challenging curriculum
- A consistent improvement of teachers' specialist knowledge
- The creation of activities that enthuse and engage students beyond the curriculum.

The English department has earned this quality mark for the fifth consecutive year, awarded at the PTI Schools Programme Day. Having agreed challenging targets for improvement, PTI associated teachers and senior leaders review the evidence of progress made. The PTI Mark is given at the end of the year for

departments that achieve their objectives.

Mr MacIntyre, Director of English, said: "We are delighted to achieve this national award once again. It is a source of pride for the entire department to be awarded the PTI's quality mark, recognising the hard work and dedication in creating the best possible subject for our students."



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 "Make A Noise About Bullying".



On Wednesday 15th November, during their Personal Development lesson, Year 7 and 8 pupils watched an online AntiBullying 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 and 10 pupils completed a lesson focused around Anti-Bullying.

Anti-Bullying activities were completed during form time during the week including our own "odd socks" design and examining the differences between "bullying and banter," and how each can be identified.



Venerable Bede
Anti-Bullying

CAREERS UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs Tracey

GUEST SPEAKERS

As well as focusing on their studies, our Year 11 pupils are also thinking about which post 16 provider that they would like to attend and what they would like to study.

This year, Year 11 have had the pleasure of being presented to be a range of post 16 providers. This helps our pupils to decide on a post 16 route.

POST 16 APPLICATIONS

Our pupils have been applying to post 16 providers since September and it is really important that if they haven't already applied that they make this a focus. 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).

Click the images on the right to visit virtually!

CAREERS FAIR

We invited a wide range of Post 16 providers into school to speak to our pupils on 11th January 2024. The event was an informal session where pupils were able to gather information, ask questions and interact with different providers. Year 11 pupils were able to access the event during school hours and we were lucky enough that the providers stayed after school to allow all pupils from all year groups to take full advantage of this fantastic event. It is never too early to start and think of a Post 16 route!

NEWS

Mrs Tracey has just returned from maternity leave. We would like to thank Mrs Carr for acting as Careers Lead and for all of her help and support.

As always, if you require any Careers support, please see Mrs Tracey or email her holly.tracey@nllt.co.uk



INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING DAY

Contributed by Mrs DaGama

In January this Year we hosted an Initial Teacher Training day for our primary trainees who are training with the Northern Lights Learning Trust. The day gave the trainees an opportunity to explore secondary education with a special focus on transition from primary to secondary education.

It was wonderful to see that from the 10 trainees, 2 were alumni from Venerable Bede and they thoroughly enjoyed returning to school in a professional capacity several years after leaving.

If you would like to know more about Initial Teacher Training

with NLLT please click the image below.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT - SPECIAL FEATURE

Contributed by Mrs Bonner

MUSIC MARK 23/34

We have, once again, been nominated by Sunderland Music Hub to become a Music Mark school for the 2023/24 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.

As a department, we have approximately 30% of the school population engaged in small group singing and instrumental tuition on a weekly basis and run several before and after school clubs from rock bands to singing clubs. We have had a number of pupils sit their external ABRSM and Rock school instrumental singing exams over the few years, both remotely and face to face, and received some amazing results. The music staff have gone above and beyond and worked collaboratively to get involved in every opportunity to keep music alive in school and provide pupils with the opportunity to engage in and enjoy live performances numerous times a year. From our termly concerts, to our talent shows and staff band celebration assemblies - there is something for everyone to

enjoy. I am so proud to work with such a talented and committed team of peripatetic staff and we are looking forward to another positive year working with our pupils."



PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS

The uptake of small group and 1:1 small group instrumental and singing lessons this term has been phenomenal - we now have more than 30% of the school population taking part weekly. We offer tuition on guitar, drums, keyboard, singing, woodwind, strings and brass. From January 2024 we have offered some additional spaces to pupils interested in signing up. If anyone is interested please contact the school/Mrs Bonner via the 'Contact' page on the academy website.

NEWCASTLE THEATRE ROYAL TRIP - PANTOMIME



This year we have once again been able to run our annual theatre trip to see a pantomime. We took 115 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!

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

On Wednesday 20th December we were proud to host our Christmas concert



which featured a variety of musical performances from Venerable Bede musicians, rock bands and the choir. It was an absolute joy to be able to share it with pupils, colleagues and members of our local community. The evening featured performances from 4 of Venerable Bede's rock bands, vocal performances from the school choir. Head of Music, Ruth Bonner said "We have been working hard as a team to prepare and be able to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and the concert tonight was an amazing event.

CONTINUED BELOW

MUSIC DEPARTMENT - SPECIAL FEATURE

Contributed by Mrs Bonner

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES - CONTINUED

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.



ADVENT EUCHARIST

On Wednesday 20th December, we held our in-person Advent Eucharist. The school choir performed beautifully. Songs included A Christmas Hallulujah, Silent Night and a "rocked up version" of "O' Holy

Night which featured 2 of our Y10 GCSE musicians, Mitchell and Lyla, as soloists.

The choir also sang at our Community Christmas Party in December. They entertained our community guests with an array of Christmas songs and carols which were enjoyed by all.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

We were able to hold our end of term Christmas Celebration, staff band performance and promote large group singing on Friday 22nd December.

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.

TOY COLLECTION

Contributed by Mrs DaGama



At Venerable Bede we always strive to be involved in charity events in the local community. The whole school, staff and pupils, donated new toys to the collection for St.

Patricks Church and the Salvation Army toy appeal

A vast range of toys were donated for all ages from 1-16 years of age.

The toy service was held at St Patricks Church in Ryhope on the 7th December. Our Year 11 senior prefects took part in the

service and delivered the readings at the carol service. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the uplifting music and carols from the Salvation Army Band.

The toys will now be distributed to families across the region who are in need during this Christmas period.

SPORTING ROUNDUP

Contributed by our PE Department

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

On the 8th of November, 8 year 7 girls were selected to represent Venerable Bede in the year 7 Sunderland Schools football 5 a side tournament. The girls played fantastically well, Ellie received VB's player of the tournament.



fantastic for the girls to improve their football skills and will continue to challenge their abilities. Do we have any future Lionesses?



FUTURE LIONESSES



The Foundation of Light began our Girls Football training sessions - we had a turn out of 18 girls across year 7 and 8 for the first session. These sessions are

U14 FOOTBALL

On 12th of January , 9 girls were selected to represent Venerable Bede in the EFL Utilita U14 Girls football cup 2023/24 season. The event was held at Downhill football hub. The girls came second in their group, with a win, a draw and a loss, closely missing out on going through to the semi-finals.



Y9 NETBALL

On the 18th January, the year 9 netball team competed against 6 other secondary schools, in the Sunderland schools Netball tournament. The girls won every game they played, with a fantastic performance throughout.

