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**Our Lady & St Bede**  
Catholic Academy

**Head Teacher:** Mo Wilkinson

**Deputy Head(s):** David Pinnock & Megan Shields

**BHCET CEO:** Stuart McGhee

**BHCET Chair of Directors:** Yvonne Coates

Dear Parent/Carer

As the Deputy Headteacher of Pastoral Care at Our Lady and Saint Bede Catholic Academy, I am writing to emphasise the vital importance of consistent attendance and its impact on your child's academic progress and wellbeing.

Our Catholic ethos calls us to nurture resilience, responsibility and commitment to community in our pupils. Attending school daily is essential for developing these virtues. Research also clearly demonstrates that frequent absence often leads to poor academic performance. Attending school consistently, helps pupils stay engaged, participate fully, and build meaningful relationships. Please schedule non-urgent medical and dental appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. Family holidays and trips should occur during breaks, not during term time. Holidays taken during term time, in accordance with our attendance policy, will be unauthorised.

We recognise that regular attendance requires a partnership between families and the school. We are here to support you and your child and together we can encourage responsibility, resilience and success.

Can I please also stress the importance of pupils wearing full school uniform, including appropriate school shoes. Trainers should not be worn unless your child has an exemption which is supported by a medical note. Additional information about acceptable uniform can be found on the school website.

I would like to also take the opportunity to congratulate our Year 11 pupils who have completed the first two weeks of their GCSE examinations. Guidance is available from school if you would like information on how to appropriately support your child in preparing for upcoming exams after the half term break.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a relaxing half term break.

Kind Regards

David Pinnock

Deputy Headteacher



**Noverim Te Noverim Me**