



THIS IS HOW WE DO IT HERE

14th July
2026

WELCOME FROM HEAD



Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to our final newsletter of the academic year. Inside, you'll find important information to help you prepare for a successful start in September.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you enjoy looking back on another fantastic year in our school community.

Mrs Wilkinson
Headteacher

END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM MRS WILKINSON

Dear parents/carers,

As another school year draws to a close, I would like to thank every member of our school community for the commitment, kindness and determination they have shown throughout the year.

This has been a year filled with achievement, growth and memorable moments. Whether through success in the classroom, on the sports field, on the stage, in acts of service, or simply through the quiet perseverance shown each day, our pupils have continued to demonstrate what it means to be part of Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy.

Our theme this year, '**Masterpiece**', has reminded us that every person is uniquely created by God with gifts, talents and a purpose. It has been inspiring to see our pupils grow in confidence, character and faith, supporting one another and striving to become the very best versions of themselves.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our exceptional staff and the unwavering support of our parents, carers and families. Together, we have continued to build a community where every young person is known, valued and encouraged to flourish.

To our Year 11 pupils, thank you for the contribution you have made to our school. You leave with our prayers and best wishes as you begin an exciting new chapter. Remember that you will always be part of the Our Lady and St Bede family, and we look forward to celebrating your future successes.

As we look ahead, we do so with great optimism. Every school year tells its own story, and next year is another chapter waiting to be written. We have ambitious plans, exciting opportunities and, most importantly, a community of remarkable young people and dedicated staff ready to make them a reality.

I wish all of our pupils, families and staff a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

God bless,

Mrs Wilkinson

Headteacher



LOGISTICS FOR THIS WEEK

End of Term Arrangements

Thank You for Your Support

Thank you for your continued support during the recent period of exceptionally warm weather. Your understanding and flexibility helped us ensure that pupils remained safe and comfortable while continuing to learn.

With cooler temperatures now forecast, all pupils should attend school in full school uniform for the remainder of the week, including Friday.

End of Year Mass – Friday

Our annual End of Year Mass takes place on Friday at 11:00am, when our Sports Hall is transformed into a beautiful place of worship as the whole school comes together to celebrate the year.

Centred on our theme of 'Masterpiece', the Mass is a joyful and reflective celebration of all that has been achieved. It concludes with our Virtue Awards and our much-loved End of Year video, celebrating the people, moments and successes that have defined the year while looking ahead with hope to September.

Pupils should attend school in full school uniform. School will finish at 12:45pm, when pupils will be dismissed to begin their summer break.



SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION

The New School Day



New School Day

From September, our new school day has been carefully designed to maximise learning, strengthen routines and provide every pupil with the very best opportunity to succeed.

The school day will now begin promptly at **8:30am**, ensuring every pupil benefits from a calm, purposeful start through our **ASPIRE programme** before lessons begin. To support this, we ask that pupils arrive in good time and are ready to learn from the very start of the day.

Our lunch break has been shortened to create additional curriculum time. This change allows us to introduce **Period 6** into the timetable, providing every pupil with extra learning opportunities each week. Period 6 will be used flexibly for curriculum enrichment, academic support, careers education, personal development and other activities that broaden pupils' experiences and help them achieve their full potential. Please take a moment to familiarise yourself with the new timings in the infographic above so that everyone is ready for a positive start in September.



SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION

When do pupils return to school?



OUR LADY &
ST BEDE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY
*To know God
is to know me.*

FIRST WEEK BACK AT OLSB

A FRESH START. TOGETHER.



ALL PUPILS EXPECTED TO BE IN SCHOOL FOR **8:30AM**

TUESDAY
1
SEPTEMBER



STAFF INSET DAY

NO PUPILS

WEDNESDAY
2
SEPTEMBER



**YEAR 7 AND
YEAR 11 ONLY**

Years 8, 9 and 10
do not attend on this day.

THURSDAY
3
SEPTEMBER



**YEAR 8, 9 AND
10 RETURN**

All year groups
in school from this day.



**BE ON TIME.
BE READY.**



BE RESPECTFUL



BE RESPONSIBLE



BE READY



BE YOUR BEST SELF



RESPECTFUL



RESPONSIBLE



COMPASSIONATE



AMBITIOUS



TOGETHER

Staggered Start

To ensure every pupil has the very best start to the new academic year, we will once again operate a staggered return in September.

Beginning with **Year 7 and Year 11** allows us to give additional time and attention to two key transition points: welcoming our newest pupils into the OLSB family and preparing our oldest pupils for the important year ahead. This dedicated time helps Year 7 settle confidently into secondary school and enables Year 11 to begin their GCSE year with clear expectations and purpose.

When **Years 8, 9 and 10** return the following day, staff will be ready to ensure that every pupil is organised, familiar with our new school day, and understands the routines and expectations that underpin success. This staggered approach creates a calm, purposeful start for all pupils, helping every year group begin September ready to learn, thrive and achieve their very best.



SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION

What are our uniform expectations?



BLAZER
REQUIRED



WHITE SHIRT
REQUIRED



SCHOOL TIE
REQUIRED



TROUSERS
REQUIRED

EVERYDAY UNIFORM

- ✓ **ALLOWED**
- ✓ Navy trousers
- ✓ Navy tapered trousers
- ✗ **NOT ALLOWED**
- ✗ Skinny trousers
- ✗ Tight-fitting trousers
- ✗ Leggings
- ✗ Fashion styles

Trousers must be navy, full length and of a smart school style.



TARTAN SKIRT
REQUIRED



OUTDOOR COAT
Plain coats can be worn over your uniform but must not replace the blazer.

FOOTWEAR – SMART SHOES ONLY

✓ **ACCEPTABLE**
Plain black formal shoes only.



✗ **NOT ACCEPTABLE**



TRAINERS



CONVERSE STYLE



BOOTS



SANDALS



VISIBLE LOGOS

⚠ No logos, branding or decorative features.

GENERAL APPEARANCE


JEWELLERY

- One stud in each ear
- Wristwatch only
- No necklaces
- No bracelets
- No rings
- No smartwatches


NAILS

- Short
- Natural
- No nail varnish, gel or false nails


HAIR

- Natural colours
- Smart
- No extreme hairstyles


RELIGIOUS HEAD COVERINGS

- Plain black or navy
- Safe and practical
- In line with health and safety rules

EXPECTATIONS FOR PUPILS

✓ **CORRECT UNIFORM AT ALL TIMES**
Wear the full school uniform correctly from arrival until the end of the school day.

★ **HIGHEST STANDARDS**
Take pride in your appearance and represent our school with professionalism.

👥 **FULL COMPLIANCE**
Meet our uniform expectations every day without repeated reminders.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STAFF


MORNING GATE CHECKS
Key staff complete uniform checks as pupils arrive on site.


TUTOR UNIFORM CHECK
Form tutors complete a full uniform check during PREP each morning.


EVERY LESSON MATTERS
All staff are responsible for checking and maintaining uniform standards throughout the day.


RECORD ON ARBOR
Any uniform non-compliance must be recorded on Arbor.



IF A PUPIL IS NOT IN FULL UNIFORM...



Address the issue immediately.



Speak to the pupil respectfully.



Ensure the issue is resolved where possible.



Follow the school's behaviour procedures where necessary.



Do not ignore or walk past non-compliance.

CONSISTENCY FROM EVERY MEMBER OF STAFF ENSURES HIGH STANDARDS FOR EVERY PUPIL.

Uniform and Presentation

Our uniform reflects the pride we have in our school and the high standards we set for ourselves. The infographic above provides clear guidance on our expectations so that pupils and families know exactly what should be worn from the first day of term. By ensuring consistency, we create a culture where every pupil feels a sense of belonging and is ready to learn.

Our uniform has been designed to promote a smart, professional appearance, helping pupils develop habits that prepare them for the world of work and life beyond school. Uniform items can be purchased through our Trust's approved supplier, Michael Sehgal, as well as from a range of high street retailers, giving families flexibility while maintaining consistency.

This forms part of our continued drive to raise standards across every aspect of school life. Our mantra for the coming year is 'Higher Expectations, Higher Outcomes.' These outcomes extend far beyond academic success; they include how pupils present themselves, the pride they take in their appearance, the strength of their character and the positive contribution they make to our school community. By working together, we can ensure every pupil is equipped to thrive both in school and beyond.

SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION

What happens when pupils return?



A Calm and Purposeful Start

A positive school day begins with a calm and organised arrival. From September, all pupils should arrive in school in good time for our **8:30am start**, entering through their designated entrance and following the routines shown in the infographic.

These simple routines enable us to complete important morning checks, ensure pupils are ready to learn and create a purposeful atmosphere from the moment they arrive. By starting every day in a consistent and organised way, we maximise learning time, reinforce our high expectations and ensure every pupil is ready to make the most of the opportunities ahead.



SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION

What do I do with my mobile phone pouch?



As pupils prepare for the summer break, we ask that they keep their Yondr mobile phone pouch in a safe place ready for September. Every pupil must bring their pouch with them on the first day of the new term.

Our Yondr system supports the latest Department for Education guidance, ensuring that mobile phones remain out of sight throughout the school day. This helps to minimise distractions, promote positive social interaction, safeguard pupils and maintain a calm, focused learning environment.

SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION

What will my lessons look like from September?

Every pupil deserves excellent teaching in every lesson. To support this, all teachers will use **FLOW** – our shared approach to teaching and learning.

FLOW provides consistency across every classroom while allowing teachers the flexibility to meet the needs of their pupils. It helps create lessons where pupils understand new learning, think deeply, develop independence and achieve their full potential.

By ensuring a consistent, high-quality learning experience, we are giving every pupil the best opportunity to succeed.



SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION

What will I need to bring with me in September?



Being organised is one of the simplest ways pupils can set themselves up for success.

Every pupil should bring a **school bag**, a pencil case with additional equipment, their **Yondr mobile phone pouch**, and a **reading book** (Key Stage 3 pupils only) from the very first day. A school bag is essential for carrying books, equipment and learning resources safely throughout the day, ensuring pupils arrive at every lesson prepared, organised and ready to learn.

SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION

Safeguarding my child over the summer in preparation for September



Over the summer, we encourage parents and carers to continue supporting their child's wellbeing by promoting healthy routines, encouraging reading and maintaining open conversations about online safety, including responsible use of social media, gaming and messaging apps.

Working together, we can help ensure every young person returns in September safe, confident and ready for a successful new school year.

SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION

What does Period 6 look like for Y11?

MONDAY



OPTIONS

THREE-WEEK CYCLE

Follow the week of the cycle to know which option block you attend.

WEEK OF CYCLE	ATTEND
WEEK 1	A Your Block A subject
WEEK 2	B Your Block B subject
WEEK 3	C Your Block C subject



Your option subjects stay the same throughout Year 11. Only the week of the cycle changes.



If you do not study a subject in the scheduled option block, attend the Revision Room.

WEDNESDAY



SCIENCE & RE

TWO-WEEK CYCLE

X and Y bands swap subjects each week.

WEEK 1

 X BAND	 SCIENCE
 Y BAND	 RE



WEEK 2

 X BAND	 RE
 Y BAND	 SCIENCE



Check which week of the two-week cycle you are in. It changes every week.

THURSDAY



ENGLISH & MATHS

TWO-WEEK CYCLE

X and Y bands swap subjects each week.

WEEK 1

 X BAND	 ENGLISH
 Y BAND	 MATHS



WEEK 2

 X BAND	 MATHS
 Y BAND	 ENGLISH



Check which week of the two-week cycle you are in. It changes every week.

Year 11 Academic Enrichment

From September, all Year 11 pupils will take part in Academic Enrichment during Period 6 on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. These compulsory sessions provide additional teaching from subject specialists, focused revision, exam techniques, targeted support and the tips and strategies pupils need to maximise their GCSE success.

Academic Enrichment is a key part of our Year 11 provision and attendance is mandatory. Pupils are expected to arrive fully prepared, know where they are expected to be and make the most of every session. There are no Period 6 sessions on Tuesdays, allowing time for whole-staff professional development, while Fridays are intentionally kept free to support pupil wellbeing and ensure a healthy balance throughout this important year.



SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION

What will Period 6 look like for the rest of the school?

Enrichment Clubs - Monday

Period 6: 2:55pm until 3:35pm

Creative	Active	Wider World
Roahl Dahl on Stage DRI LWa/RSi	Y7 and Y8 Netball Sports Hall RLo	
Homework Support EMS LSe/AGI	Inclusion Club (Invite Only) Gym CWa	Student Librarians Library MJa
Steel Pan Band Hall A PTh	Board Games EMS SMc	Faith Leaders and SVP RE4 LWe/MSH
Minecraft Club CSI SFu/LGi	Challenge Zone RES RPa	Pokemon Club Library MJa
	Darts League Sports Hall BWo	

#GETINVOLVED



Enrichment Clubs - Wednesday

Period 6: 2:55pm until 3:35pm

Creative	Active	Wider World
Creative Writing Club E5 NPi	Dodgeball/Handball (Before School 8am) Gym BWo	
Worship Choir MU2 ECo	Gardening Club Prayer Garden ENe	Young Citizens Chapel LWe
Homework Support EMS LSe/AGI	Dance Squad DRI FBa	Multi Culture Club Library MJa
Lego Club EMS KDi	Y9/10 Netball Sports Hall JEg	MFL Champions League of Linguists MFL3 DRa
OLSBand MUI PWa	Football (Girls in all years, Y7/8 Boys & Y9/10 Boys) Field BWo, CWa, OBU	Student Librarians Library MJa

#GETINVOLVED



Our new **Period 6 Enrichment programme** offers every pupil the opportunity to build character, develop new skills and discover new interests through a wide range of clubs and activities. Full details will be available on our website, with pupils choosing their clubs in September, while additional enrichment opportunities and experiences will be offered throughout the academic year.

SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION

What will Period 6 look like for the rest of the school?

Enrichment Clubs - Thursday

Period 6: 2:55pm until 3:35pm

#GETINVOLVED



Creative

Performing Arts Club
DR1 ACa

Student Newspaper
RE2 MHu

Homework Support
EMS LSe/AGI

Active

Global Fashion
G3 SRI

Potions Club
S1 LHo/SJo

History Debate Club
H3 IMc

K-Nex
EMS VSm

Recycling Club
AD2 KPo

Y7-Y9 Rugby
Field AGI

Wider World

Sustainability Club
G2 HSn

Faith Leaders and SVP
RE4 LWe/MSh

Social Justice Club
Library MJa

Student Librarians
Library MJa

Enrichment Clubs - Friday

Period 6: 2:55pm until 3:35pm

#GETINVOLVED



Creative

Religion in the Media
RE2 MHu

Pop Choir
MU1 PWa

Active

Badminton
Sports Hall JEg

Catholic Life Society
Chapel EWe /

Wider World

Student Librarians
Library MJa

Our **enrichment programme** is designed to ensure every pupil has opportunities beyond the classroom to grow in confidence, resilience, leadership and teamwork. By taking part regularly, pupils will broaden their experiences, develop lifelong skills and become active, well-rounded members of our school community.



OUR LADY &
ST BEDE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

*To know God
is to know me.*

ATTEND TODAY ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Every day in school matters.

GOOD ATTENDANCE HELPS YOU...



LEARN MORE

You don't miss important lessons.



MAKE PROGRESS

You build knowledge, skills and confidence.



BUILD FRIENDSHIPS

You belong and feel part of our school community.



ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

Good attendance opens doors to your future.



BE YOUR BEST

You develop positive habits for life.

ATTENDANCE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!

ATTENDANCE

THAT MEANS...

100%

0 DAYS MISSED

Excellent! You are making the most of every opportunity.



97%

6 DAYS MISSED

Good attendance. You're on the right track!



95%

10 DAYS MISSED

Room for improvement. You could be missing key learning.



90%

20 DAYS MISSED

Poor attendance. You are missing valuable learning time.



85%

30 DAYS MISSED

Serious impact on your progress and future opportunities.



REMEMBER: Even a few days missed here there adds up to lost learning over time.

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Missing just 1 day a fortnight means you miss...



20

DAYS A YEAR

That's nearly 4 weeks of learning missed.



100

LESSONS A YEAR

That's a lot of new knowledge missed.



LESS CHANCE

of achieving your full potential.

Be here. Be ready. Be your best.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO YOU



We care

We notice.
We listen.
We support.



We help

We work with you and your family to overcome barriers.



We challenge

We have high expectations because we believe in you.



We celebrate

We recognise and reward great and improved attendance.



TO KNOW GOD
IS TO KNOW ME

*Together we flourish
in faith, learning
and love.*

★ STRIVE FOR 100% – BE PROUD OF YOUR ATTENDANCE ★



RESPECTFUL



RESPONSIBLE



COMPASSIONATE



AMBITIOUS



TOGETHER

ONE COMMUNITY • ONE PURPOSE • ONE JOURNEY

IMPORTANT LINKS



OUR WEBSITE

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE HERE](#)



OUR FAITH

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OUR CURRICULUM

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OUR POLICIES

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This is how we do it here