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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

Thursday 4th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been lovely to welcome our pupils back and there is a real sense of positivity around the school. We are especially proud of the way our new Year 7 pupils have adapted to and embraced new routines.

We remain as committed as ever to ensuring every child maximises every learning opportunity and is supported in doing so by our outstanding teachers and support staff. With that in mind, and to help us maintain an environment where all pupils can thrive, I would like to remind and make you aware of some of our key expectations so that school and home are able to work together in partnership to ensure your child thrives and maximises opportunities available to them during their time at Our Lady and St. Bede Catholic Academy.

Attendance

Attendance at school is a key indicator of holistic success. Our Catholic ethos calls us to nurture resilience, responsibility, and commitment to community in our pupils.

Attending school daily, and on time, 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. With this in mind, please ensure your child attends and arrives on time and schedule non-urgent medical and dental appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.

Please also be aware that school requires medical proof to be provided for all medical/dental appointments and must be notified of the appointment in advance to allow school systems to be updated.

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.

Perfect Uniform: A smart and correct uniform helps pupils feel part of our community, reduces distractions about appearance, and prepares them for the professional standards expected in the wider world. Our full school uniform policy is available on the school website if you would like further details. Please support school and your child's professional development by ensuring your child understands why uniform is important.



Noverim Te Noverim Me

Yondr Phone Pouch Policy: Mobile phones can disrupt learning and social interactions. To support the enhancement of your child's holistic development, we are a mobile free school. Our policy protects learning time, reduces potential distractions, and helps safeguard pupils' wellbeing. The expectation is that pupils place their phone in their pouch at the start of every school day and their phone must remain in their pouch until they leave the school premises.

Punctuality to Lessons: Every minute of learning counts. Arriving on time to lessons ensures pupils do not miss important retrieval tasks and demonstrates respect for their own learning and that of others. Please reinforce with your child the importance of this basic requirement to protect the quality of their own learning, their peers and to ensure teachers are able to impart knowledge and learning in an interruption free classroom environment.

Work Rate and Effort in Lessons: Success is built on consistent effort. We expect every pupil to try their best, follow instructions, complete tasks set and actively engage with their learning.

Behaviour: Respectful, positive behaviour creates a safe and calm environment where all pupils can learn without disruption and develop important life skills such as cooperation and self-discipline.

Poor behaviour will not be tolerated as it undermines the learning of others and impacts the wellbeing of both pupils and staff. We believe every child has the right to learn in a classroom free from disruption and every member of staff deserves to come to work and be treated with respect.

We set these ambitious standards because they give every pupil the best possible chance to succeed academically, grow in confidence, and develop habits that will serve them well in the future. Your support in reinforcing these expectations at home is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Homework

Here at Our Lady and St Bede, homework plays a vital part of our pupils' learning journey. It reinforces classroom learning, encourages independent study, and helps pupils develop many essential skills. Homework also provides opportunities to revise key concepts, practise skills, and extend learning beyond the classroom. Homework will be set for all pupils on Classcharts and may take many different forms including:

- Revising for quizzes, key word tests or end of unit assessments.
- Practising different skills and techniques.
- Extending learning by researching or completing a project.



Noverim Te Noverim Me

If your child is in year 7, 8 and 9 please see the homework timetable below:

Every week (30 minutes)	Maths and English
Week A (30 minutes)	Science, History, Art, MFL, Music
Week B (30 minutes)	RE, Geography, Computer Science, DT, Drama

If your child is in year 10 and 11, they will follow the homework timetable below:

Every week (1 hour)	Maths, English, Science, RE
Every week (1 hour)	Option subjects (e.g. Spanish, French, History, Geography, Computer Science, Photography, Fine Art, Music etc.

Finally, as we embark on a new academic year, can I bring your attention to the attached letter which provides a link to our recent Ofsted report.

We are pleased that the inspectors recognised our many strengths across all four Ofsted judgements and would like to extend our thanks to all parents, carers, pupils, and staff for their valuable contributions during the inspection which took place June this year.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and assure you of our total commitment to providing your child with the best possible educational experience here at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy.

Best wishes,



Mrs M Wilkinson
Headteacher



Noverim Te Noverim Me