



THIS IS HOW WE DO IT HERE

14th Nov 2024/
Vol. 005

WELCOME FROM HEAD



Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

The purpose of this series of communications is to introduce and feature key school staff, share successes and good news stories, and give more in-depth information about what and how your child learns in Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy.

I hope you continue to find it informative and supportive and I thank you for your continued support.

Mrs M. Wilkinson



WELCOME FROM OUR PUPIL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Hello, we are the Y11 Pupil Leadership Team at OLSB: **Teddy, Maddie, Deborah, Maxwell, Ellyka, and Ernes**. We feel incredibly honoured to hold these roles, as we're committed to making a meaningful difference in our school community. For example, we will be introducing Wellbeing Buddies to ensure that every pupil has a peer they can confide in and we are planning to implement some of the suggestions put forward by student council reps last week.

We're excited to continue building on the work from previous leadership teams, aiming to continue to contribute to our vibrant and inclusive environment where every pupil's voice is valued and heard throughout the school.



MRS GLOVER

ASSISTANT HEAD, SEND

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Open Event



Monday 20th January
3:00pm – 6:00pm

Join us at Middlesbrough College to find out about the range of pathways and courses available to students with SEND and EHCPs.

Who should attend?

- › Year 11 students with an EHCP and/or SEND
- › Parents/guardians

At Middlesbrough College 80% of our SEND students access main vocational programmes between Level 1 to 3 in a range of sectors and industries.



The remaining 20% access our specialist Preparation for Adulthood (PFA) and Supported Internship provision – and we'll provide information, advice and guidance on all of these at this event.

Our Additional Learning Support team will be available to discuss application, local authority consultation, transition and support planning.

Specialist teaching staff will be on hand to provide insight on:

- › Vocational Steps to Industry Skills
- › Preparation for Adulthood
- › Skills for Independence & Employment
- › Supported Internships

Register now and complete the online form to attend this event. We look forward to welcoming you!

Scan the QR code to book your place



Visit mbro.ac.uk/events



Middlesbrough College

Taking you higher

SEN AFTERNOON

Thursday 21st November 2.30pm-4pm

A session for anyone with SEN concerns.

Come and speak to the SENCO and Assistant Headteacher for SEN. Please book a time by emailing senteam@olsb.bhcet.org.uk

SEND COFFEE MORNING

Our next SEN coffee morning is Thursday 12th December 10-11:30am. We have a representative from the parent carer forum attending. Sign in at main reception if you'd like to come.

SEN REVIEWS FOR YEARS 8, 9, 10 AND 11

SEN support reviews are taking place this half term for years 8, 9, 10 and 11. This is to review the current support plan and discuss any concerns you may have.



This is how we do it here

CURRICULUM CORNER

How is my child supported to learn most effectively at school?

We believe structured, interactive learning helps every pupil achieve their best. To maintain high standards, teachers use a comprehensive toolkit, **OLSBMASTER**, for planning and delivering consistent, high-quality lessons.

Learning Journeys: Each topic includes a 'Learning Journey' that guides pupils through key skills and knowledge, helping them understand their progress and upcoming goals.

Retrieval Tasks: Each lesson begins with a retrieval task to reinforce prior learning and strengthen memory, laying a solid foundation for new material.

Mini Whiteboards: Pupils use mini whiteboards for real-time feedback, allowing teachers to spot and address learning needs immediately.

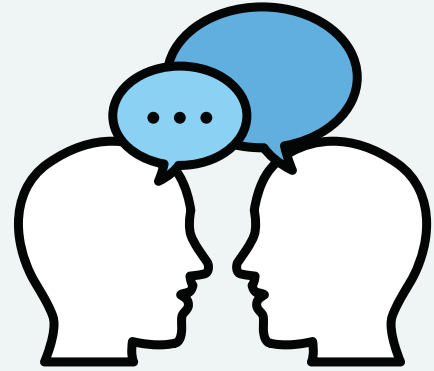
Golden Time: Each lesson includes "Golden Time" for independent practice, enabling pupils to apply their knowledge and prepare for future challenges.

For more on what your child is currently studying, visit our [Curriculum section](#) online.



This is how we do it here

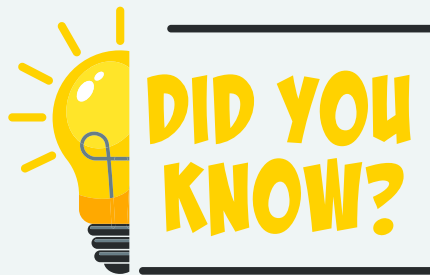
CURRICULUM CORNER



Reports - How is my child doing?

In the last week of this half term, KS3 pupils (Years 7-10) will bring home a report with one-word judgments (acquiring, developing, securing, extending) for each subject. They will also receive a letter grade (A-D) for attitude, participation, behaviour, and homework in each lesson. Year 10 will get a grade (9-1), and Year 11 will receive their mock results on **Monday, 9th December.**

LITERACY AND READING



- Each day, KS3 pupils participate in DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time for 20 minutes.
- Our library offers over 4,000 books, and each department has curated recommended reading lists to support wider learning.
- We also have a book vending machine where pupils can win books as rewards for their effort.



This is how we do it here

CURRICULUM CORNER



LIBRARY

Library Opening Hours:

- Before school: 8:00 – 8:15
- Break: 10:05 – 10:20
- Lunch: 12:20 – 1:20
- After school: 3:20 – 4:00
(Fridays until 3:30)

Our library offers a calm space for reading, studying, and joining fun clubs, including:

- Monday: Multicultural Club
- Tuesday: Dungeons & Dragons
- Wednesday: Pokémon Club
- Thursday: Student Librarians
- Friday: First Chapter Fridays



Homework Support at School

We offer a variety of subject-specific homework support sessions as part of our enrichment programme, available before school, during lunch, and after school. To make homework completion easier for everyone, the library provides access to laptops and printers. Additionally, CS4 is open daily after school until 4:15 pm, giving pupils a quiet space with computers and printing facilities for their study needs.



This is how we do it here

PASTORAL

UPDATES



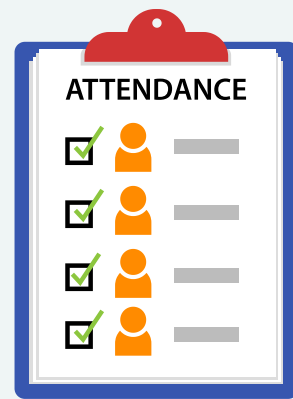
REMINDERS

- Parents/carers please can we ask for your support with regards to school uniform.
- A school blazer must be worn in school.
- No trainers are allowed.
- No jewellery (apart from one pair of stud earrings) is allowed.
- Ensure you wear a tie if you are choosing that uniform option.

Attendance Successes

Congratulations to our pupils with outstanding attendance!

- 337 pupils have achieved 100% attendance so far.
- 537 pupils met our target of 97% attendance.
- 119 pupils are close, with 95–97% attendance—let's aim for 97%!



Top Tips for Attendance Success

- Get a good night's sleep and stay organised for school.
- Be on time—arrive by 8:40 am.
- Even with minor illnesses, resilience is key; every day counts.
- Use the 13 weeks of school holidays for trips and holidays.

Remember: Attendance below 90% is considered “persistent absence.” Be here, be on time, be your best!



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – RELATIONSHIPS – OCTOBER 2024

Thursday 24th October marked the first of our three Personal Development Days, and what a powerful start it was! With the theme of Relationships, our pupils dove into crucial topics like **Online Relationships, Healthy Relationships, Teamwork & Communication, and Racial Discrimination**. They also had a presentation by RESPECT Me in Hall A.

We're so proud of how maturely everyone engaged in these discussions, debates, and activities –exploring the importance of diversity, equality, and respect in today's world.

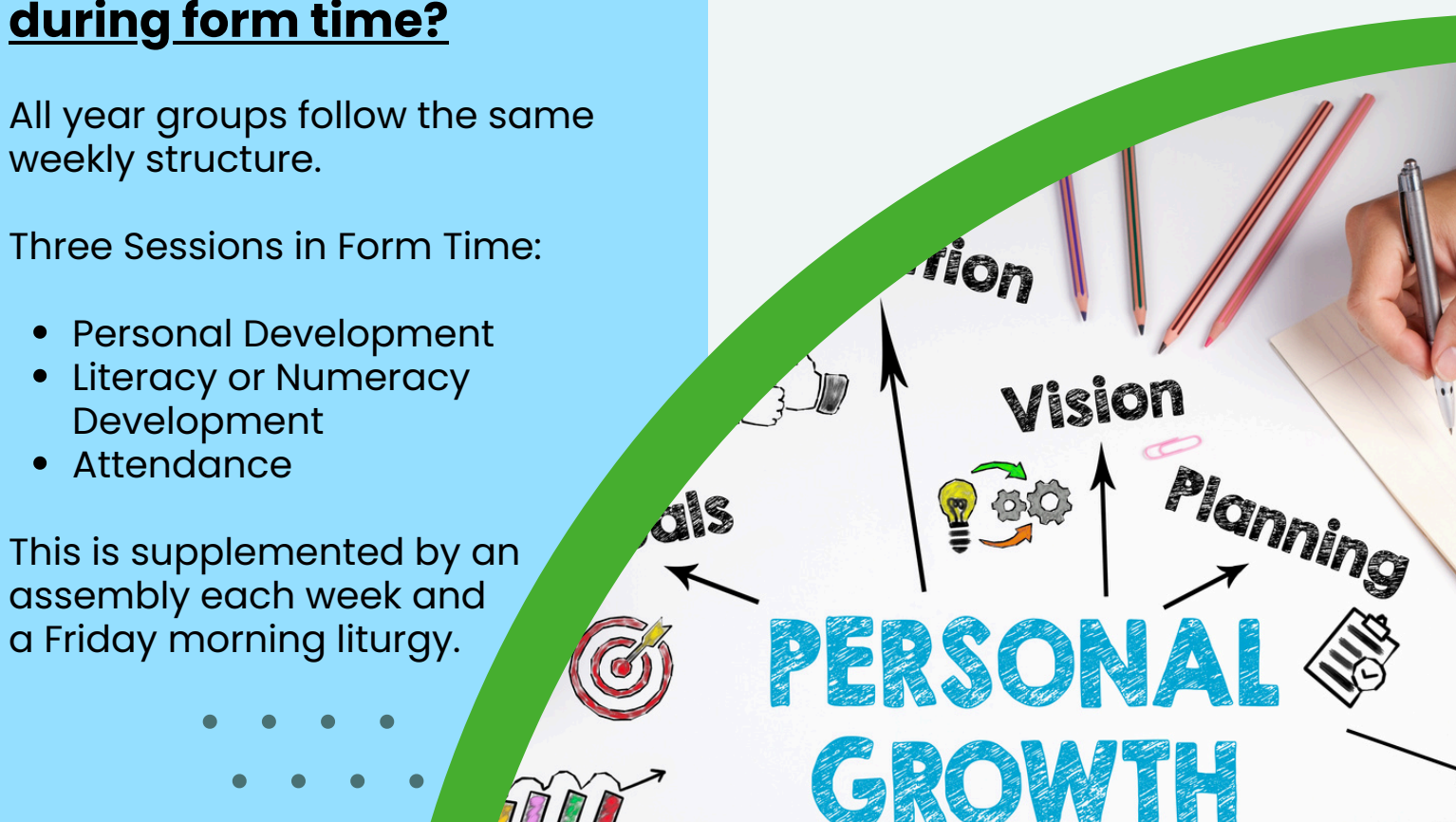
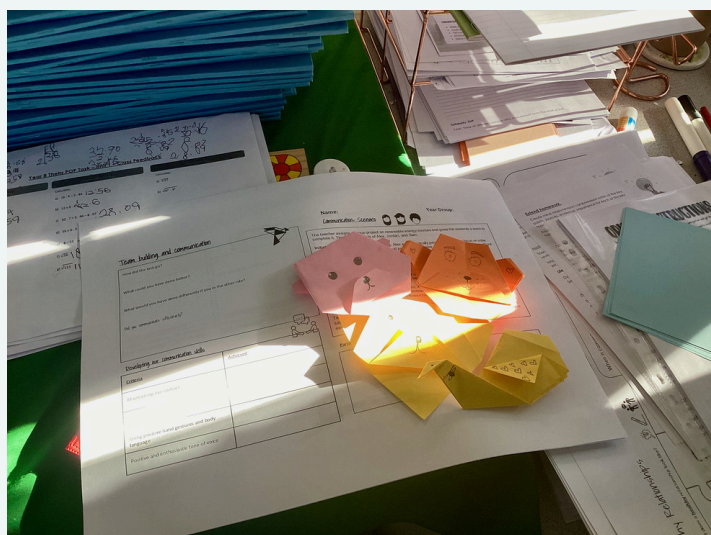
What does my child do during form time?

All year groups follow the same weekly structure.

Three Sessions in Form Time:

- Personal Development
- Literacy or Numeracy Development
- Attendance

This is supplemented by an assembly each week and a Friday morning liturgy.



CATHOLIC LIFE



CAFOD LIVE SIMPLY AWARD

Our SVP group began preparing the prayer garden for Year 7 pupils who began visiting the garden during form time for prayer last week.

SVP have teamed up with the Social Justice and Empowerment Clubs to present their exciting plans for completing the CAFOD Live Simply Award to staff during staff briefing. Truly inspiring teamwork and dedication! This application of Catholic Social Teaching will help to further develop our school community and allow our pupils to apply the principles of our faith to their daily work and life.



What is my child currently studying in RE?

Year 7: Prophecy and Promise

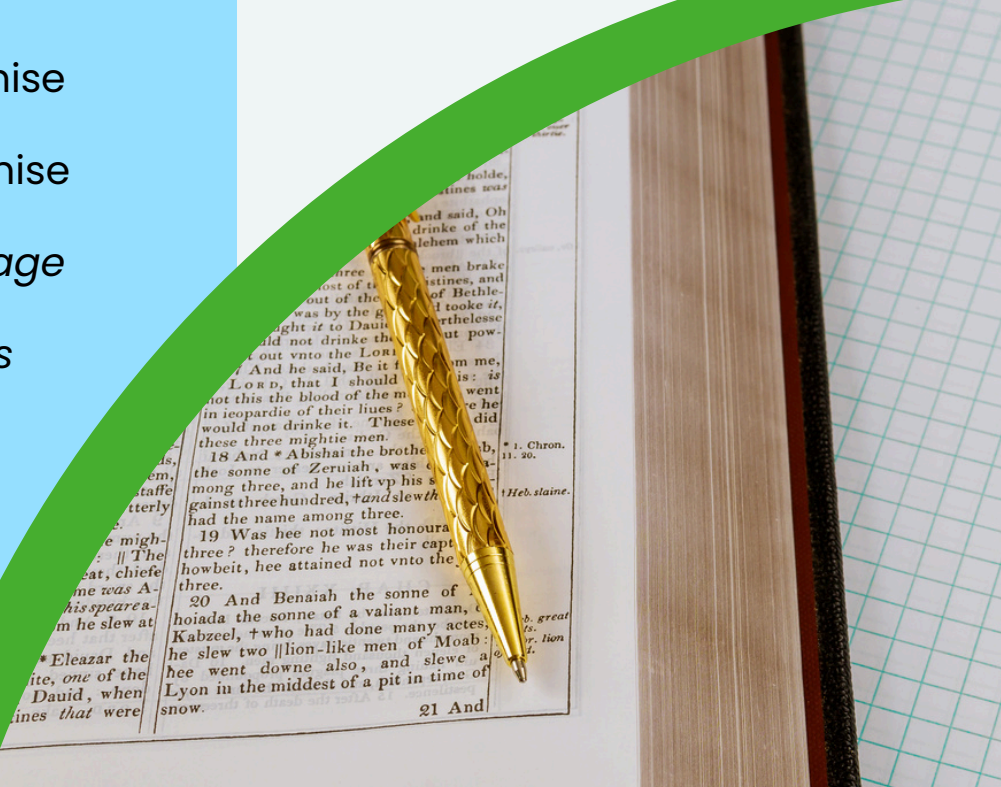
Year 8: Prophecy and Promise

Year 9: Prayer and Pilgrimage

Year 10: Judaism: Practices

Year 11: Good and Evil

More info here





Congratulations to
Year 7 for achieving **165,387**
house points in total this
academic
year so far! **AMAZING!**



Enrichment Timetable – Autumn 2024

The autumn timetable can be accessed [here](#).

PupilLeadership Team and Student Council

Congratulations to our newly elected Pupil Leaders across school. As well as the head pupils in Y11, each form class has elected a representative for the student council so that every pupil's voice is heard.

British Values Assemblies

Our newly elected Y11 Pupil Leadership Team took the lead in assemblies for all year groups, focusing on British values! They designed and delivered the entire assembly themselves, showing great initiative and leadership from start to finish. The assembly imagined what school would be like without these very important values. A brilliant example of what student leadership looks like in action!



Student Council

The student council met for the first time since being elected last Thursday. They worked with their form classes to come up with three priorities for change to help improve our school. All of the suggestions have been collated and will be shared with the headteacher this week.



CAREERS



- **Year 10 Careers in Construction Event**

Last week, ten of our Year 10 pupils attended a taster event at Stockton Riverside College to explore careers in construction. Each pupil had shown an interest in this industry as a potential career during their careers interviews. It was an insightful day, offering invaluable hands-on experience and guidance for their future plans.



DOUBLE ELEVEN

Work Experience

At the end of last half term, Tom in Year 10 had an exciting opportunity to spend a week on work experience at Double11 Games in Middlesbrough. This placement allowed him to explore his passion for computer games design and development, giving him valuable insight into the industry. Tom had a fantastic week, making a great impression and representing our school brilliantly.

