



## OUR LADY & ST. BEDE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

### **2022 A Christmas message from our Headteacher**

It has been a very busy, productive and successful term for staff and pupils at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy.

Academic excellence continues to be enhanced by our extensive and well supported range of extracurricular events and opportunities which highlights the willingness of pupils to get involved and the commitment of inspirational staff who choose to go the extra mile in organising such a wide range of activities for the benefit of our school community.

The run up to Christmas is always a particularly vibrant time in Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy with Christmas dinners, Advent liturgies, parish and community Christmas tea parties and our annual Christmas hamper charity appeal.

This year it was wonderful to be able to finally welcome our primary schools back into school for our Christmas Mini Mission. The event was led by our pupil leadership team who combined performing arts activities with fun and spiritual reflection to ensure the 200 children that attended had a great time.

This week has also been a busy week in terms of community events. Thank you to all our families and the wider community who supported our pupils on Thursday evening at our annual Christmas liturgy. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and the many talents of our young people. Watch this space for more information about our summer production!

We were also delighted to host our inaugural Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy Art Exhibition which was a huge success. The event was an opportunity for our talented artists to showcase their work when we transform St Mary's Hall into an art gallery exhibition space. The community response was incredible with over 250 visitors joining us for this fantastic viewing opportunity which provided a platform for the creative talents of our pupils and an opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit with mulled wine and mince pies!

It has been wonderful to see so many parents and carers attending parents evenings and targeted EPRA (Engaging Parents Raising Achievement) events this term. We appreciate your time and support and look forward to continuing our home school partnership work as we move through the academic year.

As well as a vibrant extra-curricular calendar, we are of course also proud of the strong academic offer our pupils access on a daily basis. To support and strengthen the school / home academic relationship, I intend to send a bi-weekly newsletter to parents called "Heads-up from the Head" which will keep parents and carers informed and up to date with

our current and evolving teaching, learning and curriculum offer and sign post parents to websites, research and other online networks that will support the academic, social, emotional and spiritual development of your child. I hope this will be an added layer of support as we move forward together to ensure your child maximises their potential and secures success.

On a more practical note, as the calendar year comes to a close, it is timely to remind you that the last day in school this term is Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. As is the tradition, pupils will leave school after lunch at 12.30pm and will return to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 8.35am.

As we approach the end of term, we appreciate your continued support to ensure excellent attendance, especially in the season where coughs and colds are prevalent, and we look forward to working together with families in 2023.

We would be grateful if you could support us further by completing the attached parent / carer survey by the end of term and can I take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful, happy, and peaceful Christmas when it comes,

Best wishes

Mrs Wilkinson  
(Head teacher)

<https://forms.office.com/r/jwA4vn7z2H>