



Bishopton Road West, Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 0QH
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OUR LADY & ST. BEDE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Head Teacher: M Wilkinson
CEO: M Regan OBE, DL M.Ed., B.Ed (Hons)., FCIEA, CEA
Deputy CEO: M Shorten M.Ed., BA (Hons)
Chair of Directors: J Wilson BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

14th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of what has been a very eventful year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your support during these unprecedented times. Over the past academic year we have navigated together in partnership the home schooling journey, lateral flow testing and year group bubbles to name but a few Covid led educational adaptations.

Whilst we intend to continue to develop online learning so that it is integrated into our school curriculum planning and recognise that lateral flow testing will probably be with us for some time, we hope to be in a position to disband year group bubbles from September.

This would not only allow pupils to access the full curriculum and subject specific equipment and resources, but it would also support the wider holistic education offer we want all our pupils to experience during their time at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy. This ambition will of course be informed by DfE and government guidance and may be subject to change, nevertheless, we strive to make the ambition a reality.

We will close for summer at 12 noon on Friday 16th July 2021 and will conduct a staggered reopening schedule to ensure new routines and significant logistical adaptations are embedded for all year groups safely and successfully.

Year 7 and 11 will return on Tuesday 7th September 2021 and Year 8, 9 and 10 will return to school on Wednesday 8th September 2021.

As always, in the event of any summer national or localised Covid directives, we will contact parents to provide updates and information via the MyEd app and school website.

Whilst this has been a turbulent year we are, more than ever, proud of the resilience and determination that our pupils have shown whilst working both at home and in school. Many pupils produced excellent pieces of work from home whilst others have impressed with the rapid progress they have made upon their return to school. To keep you updated on your child's progress, enclosed with this letter is their end of year report. The report is in two parts, the first part shows pupil's attainment in the end of year assessments, and the second part provides an effort grade for behaviour and work rate in class, participation in lessons and quality of homework completed. An explanation of these grades is provided on the report.





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Could I ask and encourage any parents or carers who have not already downloaded the MyEd app to do so, as this is an effective and efficient way for school to alert families to news, events and any significant Covid 19 developments. It also provides a safe way to pay for your child's school meals, thus minimising the Covid risks associated with cash handling and it will support the school in its intention to move to a cashless system in school.

To finish the academic year on a high, we have posted a copy of the latest edition of Engage Summer 2021 on both our school website and facebook page which highlights and celebrates all the great work that has been going on in our school even in a global pandemic and recognises the hard work and achievements of staff and pupils within our school community.

I look forward to welcoming you all back safely in September, but for now, can I take this opportunity to wish you all a good summer break and thank you for your continued support.

God bless and best wishes,

Mrs M Wilkinson
Headteacher





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Free School Meal Vouchers

I am pleased to confirm that Stockton Local Authority have agreed to fund vouchers over the summer holidays for all pupils entitled to receive free school meals. One voucher of £70.00 will be issued covering the holiday period.

Uniform

The school has a uniform store that is stocked with generous donations of pre-loved uniform items. Currently, our stock is very limited and we would be grateful for any donations of uniform your child may have outgrown. This can be dropped into our main reception during the summer break.

Lateral Flow Testing

As pupils will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, all secondary school pupils will receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.

Parents who have already consented to the testing do not need to update their consent, as their submission from earlier in the year is still valid. For those parents who have not consented for their child and would like to do so please follow the link <https://forms.office.com/r/uHDtdNK7kU>

From September schools will no longer trace close contacts, close contacts will still be identified via NHS Test and Trace. Face coverings will be advised for pupils, staff and visitors in communal areas.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for all schools and all pupils.

Return to School Arrangements

All pupils will enter school via the green gates. The school day starts at 8.40am for all pupils and 8.35 on Tuesday. We advise that all pupils aim to get to school by 8.35am each day and 8.30am on a Tuesday, meaning that they are in school in time for the start of the day. All pupils will finish school at 3.20pm and 2.20pm on a Tuesday.

The uniform is the strongest visual representation we have of all our standards and we will return to all pupils wearing school uniform every day. Pupils will not be required to wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE.

