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OUR LADY & ST. BEDE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Head Teacher: M Wilkinson
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Deputy CEO: M Shorten M.Ed., BA (Hons)
Chair of Directors: J Wilson BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

24 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 pupils to school on Tuesday, 7th September.

We understand this will be a very different start to a new academic year for everyone and some pupils might be feeling a little nervous or anxious about returning to school. However, please be assured we have been working very hard to make pupils' return to school as safe and as smooth as possible.

We know pupils must have lots of questions and maybe some worries, I hope the booklets that you received have answered some of your questions and I hope to answer some more of them here, specifically about the first day arrangements.

During our Virtual Transition Day, we introduced the pupils to our 'Summer Challenges', which can be found on our school website. However, I have also enclosed a copy of these with this letter. Over the summer break, each child must complete at least one challenge and hand it to their tutor by Wednesday 8th September 2021. We are excited at seeing how creative everyone can be, especially with the 'Get Caught Reading', Art and Science challenges. Every pupil will receive acknowledgement for their work, which will be displayed around the school and shared through our school website and Facebook page.

Finally, we continue to work in keeping our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is happening across the country using the quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and pupils to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have Coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our schools open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but we would encourage everyone to take it. We will be testing all secondary school age students where consent is given during the first two weeks back in September. If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the form below (one per child). To complete the consent form please go to <https://forms.office.com/r/uHDtdNK7kU>.

Please do continue to check our school website and Facebook page for updates.

Best wishes and stay safe,

Mrs A Stephenson
Assistant Headteacher

