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OUR LADY & ST. BEDE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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

9th December 2021

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.

Our pupils continue to excel in all areas of school life and our relentless focus on academic achievement remains as steadfast as ever.

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.

Our visible and tangible commitment to the social, emotional, spiritual and academic development of all our young people, ensures our school continues to flourish.

Such success would not be possible without the continued support of parents and carers and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you.

Please find key dates and school updates attached for your information and can I wish you and your loved ones a joyous and peaceful Christmas

Best wishes,

Mrs M Wilkinson
Headteacher





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Due to the current climate in Stockton with regard to Covid 19 rates, we have decided to keep all Christmas activities within year groups.

Hampers:

Thank you for all the contributions towards our annual Christmas Hamper appeal. Every year our pupils go above and beyond to make amazing Hampers which will hugely benefit our local community.

Santa Dash:

Monday 14th will be our annual Santa Dash. Each year group will compete against each other for the most laps around St Marys & St Bede's yard. The winner will be rewarded with a special celebration breakfast on Tuesday! Pupils are permitted to arrive at school in their PE kit, with Santa hats.

Workshops:

Period 4-5 on Tuesday 15th, pupils will be involved in our Christmas Workshops. Staff are offering a range of fantastic workshops such as Escape Rooms, Christmas Crafts, Football etc... We hope that this will be a lovely celebration for all pupils.

Christmas Lunch:

Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 15th, costing £2.20 for the full dinner. Pupils are permitted to wear a Christmas jumper/ top and jeans/ joggers. Skirts/ shorts/ leggings will not be permitted.

Christmas Liturgies:

Our Liturgies will focus on our theme for Christmas, 'Our Greatest Gifts'. Pupils will enjoy an hour of reflection, prayer, song, and drama.

Final Day:

On Friday 17th school will finish at the earlier time of 12.00pm. Pupils will have a brunch during the morning along with workshops in form.

Covid:

All staff and pupils should continue to test over the Christmas holidays in line with national guidance.

The result of a test could be positive, negative or even void. But whatever it is, it should be reported straight away, every time. Recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond.

The links to report results are below.

<https://forms.office.com/r/ypekfxSRp0>

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>





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The Department for Education has also asked all secondary schools to prepare to test their pupils once on-site on return in January.

Testing all pupils in school boosts testing participation and will help reduce transmission after a period of social mixing over the school holidays.

After this test on return, pupils should continue to test in line with government guidelines.

Consent given for previous testing at the school is still valid for this period of testing. However, if you haven't previously completed the form or you wish to withdraw consent please complete the form: <https://forms.office.com/r/uHDtdNK7kU>

In order to facilitate the testing of pupils on their return pupils will return to school as follows:

Tuesday 4 th January	Wednesday 5 th January	Thursday 6 th January
Year 10 and 11 return	Year 8, and 9 return	Year 7 return

