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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

7th April 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

As we approach our Easter break I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for working with us in partnership to ensure we continue to provide the best possible educational experience for your children. I would also like to share some updates, information and reminders that I hope you will find useful.

It has been a very busy, productive and successful term for staff and pupils at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy as we emerge from the challenges and disruption that the recent pandemic presented. Despite such adversity, 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 highlight 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 variety of activities for the benefit of our school community. Such success would not be possible without the support of parents and carers. As we continue our recovery from lockdown, it is important now more than ever that home and school work together to ensure effective routines and high standards are maintained to maximise the life chances of our young people.

At Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy we consider attendance to be central to academic progress, the higher the level of attendance, the greater the chance of success. The expectation is that all pupils achieve 100% attendance as it is proved that anything under this has a detrimental effect on academic achievement. We would wholeheartedly appreciate your support with this.

Below you will find our revised "Professional Learner Expectations" and reminders and information about uniform and department standards.

Please help us by talking to you child about the importance of upholding such standards. Finally, even though this is my third year as Head teacher at our wonderful school, the disruption of lockdowns and Covid bubbles has made, getting to know parents through the normal channel of school events impossible.

To address this, myself and my team will be holding a series of open evenings in the summer term so that we can get to know each other, but more importantly, so that you can come and see what we offer our young people in terms of curriculum, opportunities and facilities.





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More to follow in terms of dates in the near future, but for now, on behalf of Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy, can I wish all our families a Holy, healthy and happy Easter and I look forward to our return on Monday 25th April.

Best wishes

Mrs M Wilkinson
Headteacher

Standards/Expectations

Following consultations with staff and pupils, can I also take this opportunity to remind you of our expectations for all pupils.

Full school uniform must be worn smartly at all times. Skirts should be an appropriate length and should not be rolled up. Pupils missing a uniform item will be loaned that item for the day from our store in school. Plain black school shoes should also be worn. Trainers are not allowed unless accompanied by a note for medical reasons.

Please be aware that false eye lashes/nails are not allowed in school. Should a pupil arrive in school with false eyelashes or nails then parents/carers will be required to collect their child to have them removed. Pupils are permitted to wear one pair of small studs in their ears.

Pupils must ensure they have the correct equipment for all lessons. This will include pencil case, pupil planner, a black/blue and green pen (black pens only for exams), a pencil, a ruler, a calculator and a reading book. Pupils should also ensure that they bring their PE kits on the correct day.

Mobile phones should not be used during the school day. They will be confiscated and returned to pupils at the end of the day if staff see them being used.

We are also introducing a one-way system back into school. This is to aid movement around the buildings and ensure pupils arrive to lessons promptly and ready to learn. New signage has been ordered and will be in place for the start of the new term. Please remind children about the importance of following the new system.





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Latest Covid Guidance

Updated guidance and advice on living with COVID-19 issued by the Government has now come into effect.

This guidance states:

- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.
- Children and young people aged 18 and under with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days, which is when they are most infectious.

Therefore, there is no longer a requirement for anyone who tests positive to complete 10 days isolation if they continue to test positive. Nor is it a requirement for two consecutive negative LFDs to end isolation early.

We ask all parents/carers to follow the guidance in the bullet points above to determine when their child can attend school.

We will continue to have measures in place in school to minimise risk of transmission, where possible.

