

St Bede's

Parent/Carer Bulletin

Term Two

(January 2019)



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful break. Our first term was a very successful one; 91% of acknowledgements entered into our ClassCharts system were positive which demonstrates that the vast majority of students continue to make very positive contributions to their school experience. They attend regularly, dress smartly and uphold our high expectations in all facets of school life; we are very proud of them. As always, we recognise that it is a team effort and that you play an integral part in supporting our school community and we thank you for your ongoing commitment. As mentioned in the previous bulletin, we are keen to further develop our methods of communication with parents. As part of our efforts we would like to establish a Parents' Focus Group which would meet once a term. If you are interested in attending please contact Mrs Kilburn via the student support email address - studentsupport@stbedes.durham.sch.uk.

Best wishes

Mr N Harrison

Headteacher

School Year

Holiday	Closing Date	Opening Date
Spring Half-Term 2019	Friday, 15 th February 2019	Monday, 25 th February 2019
Easter 2019	Friday, 5 th April 2019	Tuesday, 23 rd April 2019
Summer Half-Term 2019	Friday, 24 th May 2019	Monday, 3 rd June 2019
Summer 2019	Friday, 19 th July 2019	Wednesday, 4 th September 2019

Year 7 ~ Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 25 th to Friday 29 th March 2019	Year 7 - assessment week
Monday 10 th to Friday 14 th June 2019	Year 7 – assessment week
Wednesday 3 rd or Thursday 4 th July 2019	Year 7 Parents' Evening

Year 8 ~ Key Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 14 th February 2019	Year 8 Options Evening
Monday 25 th to Friday 29 th March 2019	Year 8 - assessment week
Wednesday 8 th May 2019	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th June 2019	Year 8 – assessment week (including GL tests – Maths, English & Science)

Year 9 ~ Key Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 9 th January 2019	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Monday 25 th to Friday 29 th March 2019	Year 9 - assessment week
Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th June 2019	Year 9 – assessment week

Year 10 ~ Key Dates

Date	Event
Monday 25 th February to Tuesday 5 th March 2019	Year 10 PPE – all subjects
Wednesday 1 st May 2019	Year 10 Parents' Evening

Year 11 ~ Key Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 23 rd January 2019	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 6 th to Tuesday 12 th March 2019	Year 11 PPE – English Literature, Maths, Science & R.E

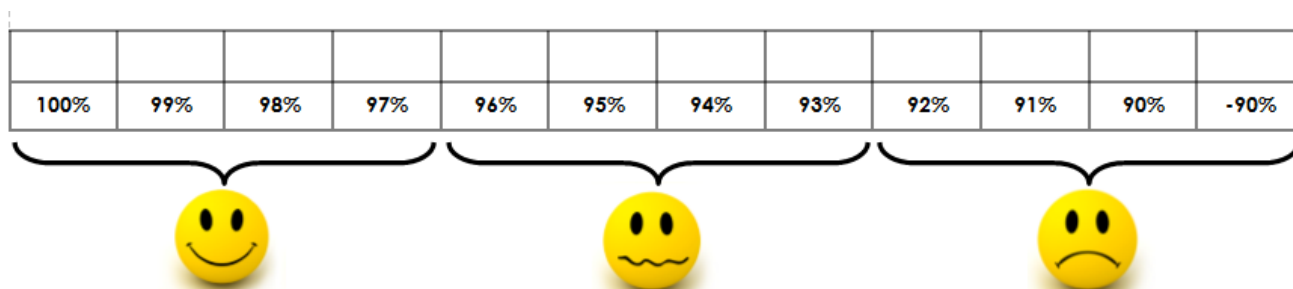
Extra-curricular ~ Key Dates

Date	Event
Friday 25 th January 2019	Whole Year 9 – Holocaust Memorial Day
Friday 25 th January 2019	Cohort of Year 10 & 11 – R.E Conference
February Half Term	Cohort of Year 9, 10 & 11 Geography Trip to the Azores
February Half Term	Cohort of Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 Skiing Trip to Austria
Friday 3 rd May 2019	Whole Year 10 – ID Day
Thursday 20 th June 2019	Year 7 Retreat (three form groups)
Friday 21 st June 2019	Year 7 Retreat (three form groups)
Monday 24 th June 2019	Year 7 Retreat (four form groups)

Please note that all dates above are those which we have planned in our school calendar. They are subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances or other opportunities presenting themselves during the year.

Is your child's attendance giving them the best chance of success?

The Department for Education has stated that there is clear evidence of a link between poor attendance at school and low levels of achievement. Students and parents should be aiming for an attendance level of at least 97% to have the best chance of success. Every week your child's form tutor will encourage them to record their attendance in their planner:



We're proud of you!

Well done. You are giving yourself the best chance of success now and in the future.

We're worried!

You need to improve quickly. Attendance below 97% reduces your chance of success now and in the future.

We're seriously concerned!

You are in a serious position. If you do not improve your attendance immediately, it will not only have a serious impact on your education outcomes but will also reduce your life chances in the future.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance and the impact it may be having on their progress, please contact the relevant Welfare Manager who will be happy to discuss a support plan.

School Uniform



As you are aware, we have high expectations about school uniform. Whilst we strive to maintain a fair and consistent approach across all year groups, teenage trends come and go. The most recent for boys seems to be shaved lines in hair and eyebrows. For girls, nose piercings, acrylic nails and false tan.

We appreciate that they can be costly and are intended to have longevity but they are not acceptable in any form in school and we urge parents not waste money on them. Students will be asked to remove them and if not able to do so immediately, will face graduated sanctions until the situation is remedied.

As trends can be difficult to predict, we have a general uniform policy whilst reserving the right to judge whether a student meets our expectations. We will work closely with parents to resolve any issues as quickly and positively as possible. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's uniform, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Safeguarding

Local Safeguarding Children's Board

The government recommend that all students are educated on a range of issues which are known to impact on the safety and wellbeing of young people in the UK. Recently, our Local Safeguarding Children's Board produced a resource and asked schools to share it as part of their campaign to raise awareness. We have signposted our students to the resource via information in their planner but would encourage parents to also access the resource and discuss it with their child. The resource can be found in the safeguarding section of our school website (www.stbedes.durham.sch.uk) and contains information and guidance on issues such as:

- Child Abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Domestic Abuse
- Neglect



If you have any further questions or require more information, the LSCB's website is a great source of support and guidance (www.durham-lscb.org.uk).

PREVENT

This term we also have members of Durham Constabulary and the PREVENT team coming in to speak to all year groups including Sixth Form. PREVENT is one part of the Government's strategy for countering terrorism and violent extremism in the UK. The PREVENT strategy has three objectives;

- **Ideology** – Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote and support it.
- **Institutions** – Increase the resilience of institutions to resist terrorists and extremists. Priority areas include education, health, criminal justice system, faith institutions, internet, charitable sector, youth justice system.
- **Individuals** – Stop people from being drawn into terrorism and protect those vulnerable individuals who are at risk of radicalisation, ensuring they are given appropriate advice and support.



More information can be found on Durham Constabulary's website (www.durham.police.uk).

Please encourage your child to discuss the safeguarding topics they are covering in school. They are faced with many messages and images via the media and it is extremely important that they can explore in secure environments such as home and school.