St. Bede's Catholic College

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Principal: Mr R. J. King, MEd

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Dear families,

As we prepare for the new academic year, I would like to outline our approach to home learning at St. Bede's Catholic College and introduce an important improvement to the way home learning will be set and monitored.

At St. Bede's, home learning is set each week to support students' progress in their learning. We believe that high-quality home learning reinforces classroom learning, helps students to develop independent study habits and prepares them for success in assessments and examinations.

Rather than following a fixed timetable for home learning, each department sets tasks at appropriate points within their curriculum so that home learning is purposeful and meaningful. This ensures that students complete activities when they will have the greatest impact on learning.

Home learning may take a variety of forms, including:

- Retrieval practice to strengthen long-term memory
- Activities on online learning platforms
- Preparatory work for upcoming lessons
- Pre-reading tasks, particularly at Key Stage 5, where students are expected to engage with material before lessons to help manage the breadth and depth of A Level course content
- Revision and preparation for assessments and tests.

To support students in managing their workload effectively, home learning will normally be set with a minimum of three school days before the submission deadline for shorter tasks. Longer or more substantial pieces of home learning will be set with an extended completion period.

To further improve our approach, we are introducing a new system for setting and monitoring home learning using Google Classroom. Google Classroom provides a clear and consistent platform for students, teachers and families. It allows students to view all of their home learning in one place, organise their workload effectively and prioritise tasks according to their due dates. We believe this will help students to develop greater independence and stronger organisational skills, while also making it much easier for parents and carers to support learning at home by having greater visibility of the work that has been set.

Students will receive training on using Google Classroom during registration in the week commencing 7th September, and teachers will begin setting home learning through Google Classroom from Monday 14th September.

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Please note that Year 7 students will not be set home learning during their first few weeks at St. Bede's. This will allow them time to settle into college life, become familiar with their routines and build confidence before beginning regular home learning.

As part of our move to Google Classroom, parents and carers will be able to support their child's learning by receiving Google Classroom Guardian Summaries.

Once this feature is enabled, you will receive an email invitation from Google Classroom asking you to accept Guardian Summaries. The invitation remains active for 120 days. Once accepted, you will begin receiving email summaries of your child's home learning. Although you can unsubscribe at any time, we encourage all parents and carers to remain subscribed so that you can continue to support your child's learning at home.

By default, Guardian Summaries are sent weekly. If you use a Gmail account, you will also have the option to receive daily summaries instead. You can choose your preferred frequency when accepting the invitation. If you would like us to use a Gmail address for these summaries, please update your contact details through MCAS or contact Reception by emailing contact@stbcc.org.

Guardian Summaries provide a helpful overview of your child's home learning and include:

- Missing work – assignments that have not been submitted
- Upcoming work – assignments due today and tomorrow (daily summaries) or during the coming week (weekly summaries)
- Class activities – recent announcements, assignments and questions posted by teachers.

Each assignment in the summary includes a link that allows you to view further details. Please note that this provides view-only access and does not allow parents or carers to submit work or interact with assignments.

Google has also produced helpful guidance for parents and carers on using Guardian Summaries, which can be accessed here:

https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6388136?hl=en

We are confident that this new approach will provide a more consistent and supportive experience for students and families, helping all of our young people to develop the independent learning habits that are essential for success both at school and beyond.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the coming academic year.

Yours faithfully,

Lucy Tyler
Assistant Principal
St. Bede's Catholic College