

St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College



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Newsletter

Issue 314 20th July 2021

A FINAL MESSAGE FROM MR MAHER AS HE RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

My teaching career began thirty-five years ago and little did I imagine back then that it would culminate in the midst of a challenging global pandemic. Having only ever worked in Catholic schools I am fortunate enough to be able to say that I have enjoyed every one of those years – the students, the laughter and the tears are all cherished memories.

It has been a privilege to serve the families and children in five Catholic schools in the south-east of England, London and in the valleys of South Wales before ending my career in Bristol. I have been supported by families, worked with outstanding colleagues and been humbled by inspiring young people – and learnt from them every day. Teaching has certainly given me the opportunity to influence the lives of students – many of whom have gone on to do great work in their chosen specialist fields.

Having spent twenty-one years as a senior leader across the schools and the last four years as Principal of St Bede's Catholic College has enabled me to fulfil my vocation as a teacher – a vocation grounded in faith and in the desire for every student to be the very best version of themselves that they can be.

I would like to say a special 'thank you' to everyone for your continued support and encourage you to accept the challenges that life brings you, with courage and never fearing what the future may hold.

Last week I was delighted to receive an Apostolic Blessing from the Holy Father Francis in recognition of the 35 years of dedication to Catholic Education. The Blessing was presented by Bishop Declan during a special Mass.

I wish everyone at St Bede's continued success and am confident that the College will continue to thrive in the years to come.

Yours in Christ,

J. G. Maher,
Principal Emeritus

Mr Maher, thank you for your valuable contribution to the College during your time with us. We wish you a wonderful retirement.



REFLECTION – 15 July

This week we celebrate the feast day of St. Bonaventure

St. Bonaventure is a Bishop and Doctor of the Church whose Feast day is celebrated on July 15.

St. Bonaventure, known as "the seraphic doctor," was born at Bagnoregio, in the Lazio region of central Italy, in 1221. He received the name of Bonaventure in consequence of an exclamation of St. Francis of Assisi, when, in response to the pleading of the child's mother, the saint prayed for John's recovery from a dangerous illness, and, foreseeing the future greatness of the little John, cried out "O Buona ventura"- O good fortune!



At the age of 22, Bonaventure entered the Franciscan order and by the age of 35 was General of the Order. As General, he composed 'The life of St Francis.' He was a scholastic theologian, philosopher and Cardinal Bishop of Albano.

Reflection: "In all your deeds and words, you should look upon this Jesus, as your model. Do so, whether you are walking or keeping silence, or speaking, whether you are alone or with others. He is perfect and thus, you will be, not only irreprehensible but praiseworthy." St Bonaventure

Prayer

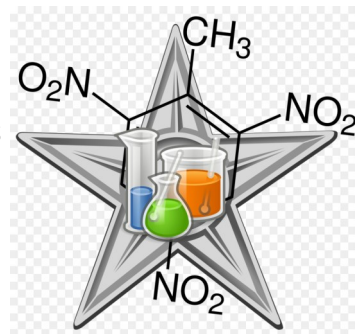
Dear St. Bonaventure Cardinal, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, you chose a life that embraced great humiliation. Choosing to serve those individuals who were rejected and sick you risked illness for yourself. You made your life a continuous prayer and spent hours meditating on the wounds of Christ. Please pray for us that we may have a sincere and humble heart. Pray that we may not lose sight of Jesus' wounds and thus walk on the straight path to eternal salvation. May we take a great many souls with us to Our Heavenly Father. Amen.

CHEMISTRY COMPETITION

Earlier this term, ten Year 12 students participated in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Lower 6th competition. The competition is a written paper which is ideal for challenging all students taking A Level Chemistry, in particular the most able.

Congratulations to **James Moss**, **Neha Jegison** and **George Herron** who achieved excellent results and were awarded a Copper certificate. All other participants came very close, with a few only missing out on a certificate by a single mark!

Only 33% of students across the country entering this competition were awarded this certificate, which represents a firm grasp of A Level material and the ability to apply this knowledge to novel problems, so this is a fantastic achievement!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday
20th July

**Last Day of Term 6
for students**

Wednesday
21st July
INSET DAY

Tuesday
10th August
A Level
Results Day

Thursday
12th August
GCSE
Results Day

Thursday
2nd September
INSET DAY

Friday
3rd September
INSET DAY

Monday
6th September
Year 9, 10 12 & 13
students only
return to College

Tuesday
7th September
Year 7, 8 and 11
students only
return to College

Wednesday
8th September
All students to
College

STAFFING

As we approach the end of the year, we have 7 staff who are leaving us for pastures new.

Mr J.G Maher, Principal—Retirement

Mr J Marshall, Assistant Principal—Retirement

Mrs P Nevin, Learning Support Assistant—Retirement

Mr O Poole, Music Teacher—Promotion in a new school

Mr S Gibbs, History Teacher—Promotion in a new school

Miss M Calwell, Geography Teacher—Promotion in a new school

Dr R Hewitt, Science Teacher—Promotion in a new school

Our sincere thanks for the service of all staff leaving, and our good wishes go with them. In the next newsletter we look forward to sharing with you new staff who will be joining us.

FAREWELL GIFT—CANTERBURY POTTERY

Mr Maher presented the students at the College with a farewell gift of a communion set with a Canterbury Cross inlay last week.

This communion set will be used during House masses next year and hopefully students will say a little prayer remembering Mr Maher's time with us here at St. Bede's.



PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete the parent survey.

We had 309 responses which will inform decisions moving forward. Thank you for your suggestions for improvement.

BELL BURNELL HOUSE NEWS

Over the last few weeks, Bell Burnell House have held celebration assemblies, highlighting the resilience and the various acts of kindness many have shown throughout this pandemic. Mr Johnson was very pleased to award the top participating pupils in each year with a 'Thank you' prize. Thank you to the Co Op in Lawrence Weston for their generous donations. Congratulations to:



Together Everyone Achieves More

8BAW: **Allen Joju** and **Angela Tanga**

8BMHa: **David Filpowicz** and **Sylvia Wloczewska**

9BJP: **Ben Marples** and **Sharon Joseph**

9BJLS **Alicja Hormanska** and **Lara Moriarty**

10BLB **Conor Gudge** and **Jasper Left-Charnock**

Prizes were also awarded to students who have shown compassion and been of great support within their tutor groups. These were awarded to:

8BAW: **Emilie Esteves Louw** and **Edward Hartley**

8BMHa: **Albert Aditya** and **Romily Maunder**

9BJP: **Ellie Rockell** and **Alfie Welch**

9BJLS: **Niamh Whifford** and **Jaycob Jones**

Mr Johnson would like to thank all of the families in Bell Burnell House for all of their support over this difficult year and wishes them a restful and relaxing summer.



PASTEUR HOUSE NEWS

Dear Pasteur House pupils and your lovely families,

This year, particularly, I feel honoured to be able to thank you for all that you've done and have achieved. There may not be a long list of college and house events to say you've participated in, or even National competitions in which to share your successes, that is so often the case. However, what we can celebrate is your determination, motivation, kindness and so often, good humour - and for this, you should feel extremely proud!

Let's take our experiences and build on them to become even better, stronger, more resilient and kinder people. Pasteur House, the other Houses, all the staff (and a special thank you to Mr Maher) are a team to be very proud of. I am really looking forward to building on and embracing our challenges from September going forward.

Have a wonderful summer and stay safe.
Warm wishes, as always,
Ms Sharp (and of course, Norman).



DESCARTES HOUSE NEWS

Different people, different strengths

A warm hello to all the Descartes pupils and families.

We have made it to the end of a very challenging year for us all! I am so very proud of each and every one of you. You have shown determination, strength of character, resilience and commitment to your studies. I wish you all a safe and well deserved rest and look forward to welcoming you all back in September as we hopefully start a new academic year without bubbles!

Happy holiday and take care.
Ms Johnston



SEACOLE HOUSE NEWS

Hello all,

I am immensely proud of all your achievements during this difficult year. We have all learned to use technology and adapt to a new way of learning. In school, I have seen you all support each other and adapt to new rules even when times were difficult. When you had limited access to parts of the school, I know all you really wanted to do was play basketball or make daisy chains sitting on the field.

Next year, with our hopes and prayers we will be able to enjoy all of those things and more. Please take the time over the summer holiday to rest, try new things and enjoy time with your families. I look forward to seeing you all back in September for an exciting year ahead.

Best wishes
Mrs Turri



IT'S COMING HOME!

During the year 10 sports day activities, England once again took on Italy in an epic re-enactment of the Euro Cup final.

England was captained by **Ted Jotcham** and Italy was under the command of **Antonio Mercato**. The game was frantic with some great individual performances. A special curling shot for Italy by **Dom Conway**, straight into the top corner, comfortably beat the diving Mr Johnson. The full time score ended 3:3, so the game entered extra time. A wonderful solo effort for England, from **Carys Wilson**, who picked up the ball on the half way line, only to beat 3 defenders and slot the ball into the back of the net. Ted Jotcham also completed his hat-trick. The final score after extra time saw England win 7-5! Just for fun we went onto penalties and like last Sunday's game, England missed one and had 2 penalties saved.



Well done to all those who participated.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RETURN TO COLLEGE SEPTEMBER 2021

As you may have heard, the government has asked schools to complete on-site lateral flow tests on students on their return to college in September.

As we only have the capacity to test approximately 600 students per day, we are going to have to stagger the return to college.

Monday 6th September

Year 9, 10, 12 and 13 students only

Tuesday 7th September

Year 7, 8 and 11 students only

Wednesday 8th September

All students



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Please click on the following link for a useful guide to support and promote self care over the long summer break.

<https://www.annafreud.org/media/12101/final->

#SelfcareSummer
Secondary pack

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Admissions Policies for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 have been amended in line with the latest guidance. Updated versions are now available on our college website:

<https://bit.ly/36Mz8MW>

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COLLECTION OF A LEVEL & GCSE RESULTS

Please do come into college to collect your A Level and GCSE results in August, however, to comply with social distancing you will need to collect your results at allotted times allocated by surname. We ask that you wear a facemask whilst queuing for/collecting your results and use hand sanitiser as you enter the college.

Tuesday 10th August – A Level Results

8.30am – 8.50am : Surnames A – H

8.50am – 9.10am : Surnames I – O

9.10am – 9.30am : Surnames P – Z

9.30am – 9.50am : Year 12

Thursday 12th August – GCSE Results

9.00am – 9.20am – Surnames A – C

9.20am – 9.40am : Surnames D – H

9.40am – 10.00am : Surnames J – M

10.00am – 10.20am : Surnames N – R

10.20am – 10.40am : Surnames S – Z

10.40am – 11.00am : Year 9, 10 12 and 13

St. Bede's Catholic College Term and Holiday Dates 2021-2022

Term 1: Thursday 2nd September 2021 to Friday 22nd October 2021

Term 2: Monday 1st November 2021 to Friday 17th December 2021

Term 3: Tuesday 4th January 2022 to Friday 18th February 2022

Term 4: Monday 28th February 2022 to Thursday 7th April 2022

Term 5: Monday 25th April 2022 to Friday 27th May 2022

Term 6: Monday 6th June 2022 to Friday 22nd July 2022

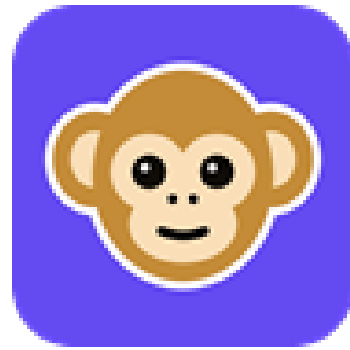
Inset Days:

**Thursday 2nd September 2021, Friday 3rd September 2021,
Monday 1st November 2021, Friday 18th February 2022, Friday 22nd July 2022**

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Please be aware of a new platform called **Monkey Web**, that presents a risk to children and young people. We have been alerted to an extremely dangerous website and app called '**Monkey**', which allows users to have video calls with strangers. The platform markets itself as 'an alternative to Omegle, with a *TikTok* vibe' and therefore may potentially seem attractive to your children. Experts from our safeguarding partners have reviewed and reviewed this platform and have found that it contains large amounts of inappropriate, disturbing, and harmful content transmitted via web cameras.

For further details <https://bit.ly/3rriJaz>



Childline have launched [Report Remove](#), an online service that allows children and young people under 18 to report a nude image or video of themselves on the internet and get it removed.

Along with the reporting tool, Childline have included links to services and information offering emotional and safeguarding support, these include; [sexting](#), [online grooming](#) and a useful [video](#) for children and young people that explains how Report Remove works.



For further information: <https://bit.ly/3euFWCP>

**Nude image of you online?
We can help take it down.**

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Stuck for ideas of what to do during the summer holidays?

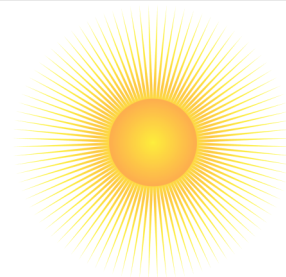
A document outlining a vast array of wonderful activities available in the area for our families, parents/carers and our young people has been provided by the North Bristol Families in Focus team.

The information is available on our website and can be viewed here:

[Services and Information for Young People this Summer](#)

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Sun safety



NHS Advice for adults and children on sunscreen and sun safety in the UK and abroad.

Sunburn doesn't just happen on holiday – you can burn in the UK, even when it's cloudy. There's no safe or healthy way to get a tan. A tan doesn't protect your skin from the sun's harmful effects. Aim to strike a balance between protecting yourself from the sun and getting enough vitamin D from sunlight. Sunburn increases your risk of skin cancer.

Sun safety tips

- spend time in the shade when the sun is strongest. In the UK, this is between 11am and 3pm, March to October
- make sure you never burn
- take extra care with children

Wear Sun-Screen

- Don't rely on sunscreen alone to protect yourself from the sun - cover up with suitable clothing.

When buying sunscreen, the label should have:

- a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 to protect against UVB
- at least four-star UVA protection
- Make sure the sunscreen is not past its expiry date. Most sunscreens have a shelf life of two to three years.

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES TO EDUCATION SETTINGS FROM 19 JULY 2021

In light of the country coming out of lockdown from today, 19th July, an overview of the changes to the identification of close contacts following a positive PCR test and a useful Frequently Asked Questions document has been provided.

The documents are available on our website and can be found here:

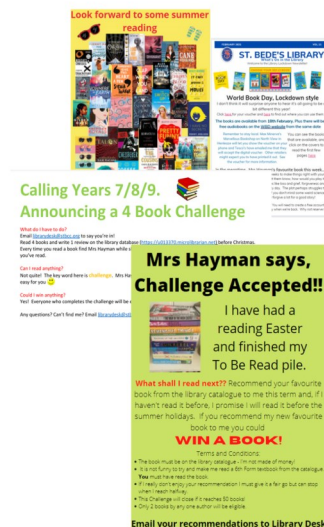
[Changes to how close contacts will be identified following a Positive test](#)

[Contact Tracing for Step 4 onwards NHS Frequently Asked Questions](#)

We hope all our families remain safe over the summer break.



St Bede's Library Summer Newsletter



I don't think anyone could disagree that it's been a funny old year!

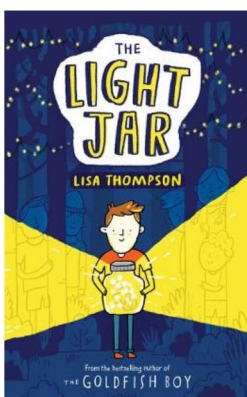
All year groups should have had reminders of their overdue books and of how to use the Library database to reserve books. Please check your school email and email librarydesk@stbcc.org if you have any difficulty returning books.

If you can't access the College Library, don't forget that the public libraries are open. You can access them online at <https://www.librarieswest.org.uk>.

Other websites that might be useful are:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories/> for free audio books

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/> for free first chapters of lots of books



Finally, I have really enjoyed reading all your recommendations this term! Thank you especially to Bella in Year 7, who recommended *The Light Jar* by Lisa Thompson which is my new favourite book! (And available to borrow from the library!)

Enjoy your summer reading everyone! See you in September