



*To seek wholeness through faith,
quest and learning to become
what God intends us to be.*

R

Respect
Resilience

I

Integrity

S

Self-discipline

E

Excellence



Key information and news

Next week is: WEEK B

Attendance – Moments Matters, Attendance Counts

Our aim is to work with every family to ensure good attendance at school, working together can help remove barriers and help us together achieve excellent attendance for all our children. If your child takes too much time off school, they will become categorised as PA or persistently absent. (Attendance below 90% = persistent absence).

The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- Nationally in 2018/19, **36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs**, compared with 84% of regular attenders above 90%.



It's never too late to benefit from good attendance:

- **More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs**, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.

But always remember attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate **positive peer relationships**, which is a protective factor for wellbeing. To further support you in overcoming any barriers to attendance the following link provides advice and guidance for parents on school attendance: <https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2022/12/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance.pdf>

Student absence – If you are unsure whether or not send to your child to school, please consider the following NHS advice: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If you are reporting a student absence, please ensure that contact is made with school to report your child's absence as soon as possible before 8.45am on the first day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence. Please advise when they are expected to return. To report attendance, please email attendance@stbb.org.uk or call the school on 01670 822795 and select option 1.

The school will continue to phone home every day for a period of extended absence, even if the reason for absence is known. Please ensure that, where possible, appointments for your child are made outside of the school day



Dates and events

Monday 23 September 2024 6 - 6.45pm

Year 11 Parent Information Evening: How to support in Year 11

Tuesday 24 September 2024 6 - 8pm

Year 6 Open Evening

Wednesday 25 September 2024 4 - 7.30pm

Year 13 Parents Evening (Online)

Wednesday 2 October 2024

Year 7 Parents Welcome Meeting – information to follow



RISE – The St Benet Biscop Way

RISE Focus: Excellence

This week we have been focusing on our 100% excellence by wearing our correct uniform with pride.

Thank you for all of your help with uniform. We have had a great start. Please continue to support your child in arriving in full school uniform everyday which includes a tie and to have a bag with all necessary equipment for the day.

Rise to our faith

The chapel has been bustling with new year 7's during break and lunch time this week. As students have just been finding their feet, it has been a wonderful space where students can come for time to reflect, to have a chat to Bridgid, our school chaplain, or make new friends. Next week the chaplaincy clubs will be officially starting, where students will have a chance to start planning fundraisers for local charities.

ASD Family support Drop-in Sessions – New dates added

Free support and advice in your local area when supporting young people with ASD. 0-19 years. No diagnosis needed. Please see attached flyer for dates and locations.

“Rise up and Shine” Isaiah 60



Faith

In our assemblies this week, we have been thinking about Respect and what it means. Respecting others involves treating them as worthy and demonstrates acceptance. Respect is not something you obtain, but rather something you give over to others regardless of their views, ideas and beliefs – even if they are not the same as ours. It is through acceptance we bring harmony.

During form reflection time we have been thinking about integrity. Jesus believed that having a high level of integrity is one of the most important characteristics we can possess. Coming from a place of integrity means being truthful, honest, and reliable. As a school community, integrity is one of our key values. We will not always be right or do right, but when we have integrity, we step up; we accept responsibility for our actions, we feel remorse, we understand what went wrong and why it happened so that we can put a plan in place to ensure it will not happen again.

Next Assemblies: RISE and Self-Discipline



Careers Education at St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy

St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy is committed to providing high quality career education to ensure that our students are happy, secure and achieve exceptionally well in their future lives. We want all our students to have the knowledge, skills and experience to access the career of their choice. With this in mind, Year 11 have already started their 1:1 careers appointments in school. These appointments will run from now until Christmas. Our Careers Advisor is Laura Foster from Careerwave <https://www.careerwave.co.uk/>. Details from your child's career planning session is recorded on their personal Unifrog page which they can share with you at home. Unifrog is an online careers platform useful for all students and parents. Click [here](#) for useful information for parents about Unifrog.

Singing her way to success

We would like to share with you the recent recognition for Jessica Redford 's success in singing. Jessica spent last year working hard in her singing lessons. This week, she was presented with her Grade 1 singing certificate. We are all very proud of her. Well done, Jessica!

Online Safety

We look forward to working with our police partners around online safety in October. To reinforce our messages around living safely in a digital world we would like to support you talk with your child about their use of technology. We hope the following information is useful to share and discuss with your child.

Safe use of TikTok

At the start of this term, we have had students approach us upset or worried about videos they have watched on TikTok, we have supported children when they report concerns and are pleased that they talk to us. Please can you ask your child about their awareness or use of TikTok and videos they are being exposed to on this platform – please use this link to assist you <https://www.common sense media.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

Safe use of Snapchat

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and Users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

You can find out more about Snapchat here: <https://parents.snapchat.com/en-GB>

Family Centre: new features

Snapchat are expanding the features available to you in their Family Centre, allowing parents to view:

- story settings: you will be able to see who your child is sharing their story with e.g. all their friends or a smaller group.
- contact settings: see who your child can be contacted by (by people they have added as a friend or their phone contacts).
- if your child is sharing their location with friends on the Snap Map.

In addition, you will be able to restrict the use of Snapchat's 'My AI.' You can find out more here:

<https://values.snap.com/en-GB/news/expanding-our-in-app-parentaltools-2024>

More information

The NSPCC provide further information about Snapchat, the risks involved with using Snapchat and tips to help keep your child safe if they are using Snapchat.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-snapchat-safe-for-my-child/>



Learning



Here at St Benet Biscop we love reading and this week staff have been busy learning about different ways to support our students with their literacy. Literacy is the ability to read, write, speak and listen in a way that lets us communicate effectively and make sense of the world. The benefits of reading are numerous: it helps improve mental wellbeing, helps with communication skills and helps foster imagination and creativity. Being a skilful and confident reader also helps with success in later life.

Wednesday saw the launch of the St Benet Biscop “read to learn” strategy and staff had the opportunity to share different strategies to use in the classroom – such as ways to teach specialist vocabulary, choral reading and even how AI can help make lesson resources. We have lots of other exciting things planned this year as part of the Read to Learn programme and look forward to updating you in future newsletters.

VI Sixth Form

We’re delighted to welcome back Year 12 and Year 13. So far, it’s been a busy term. For Year 12, settling into their new routine can be daunting, especially with so much independent study time. To help students adjust to this, subject areas have provided students with wider reading lists to help them learn beyond the classroom and broaden their subject knowledge. Assemblies last week also focussed on the need to stay on top of work, managing deadlines and making use of our silent study areas in school.

Year 12 will be visiting Newcastle University Library in October to take part in a Sixth Form Study Skills workshop, led by university staff. Letters about the visit will be sent to parents/carers very soon.

Year 13 have also made a fantastic start to the year. Many of the Year 13 students are busily writing personal statements to support their post-18 applications. Students are encouraged to start actively looking at opportunities to visit universities or colleges they may be interested in applying to, as well as booking their places on careers fairs and apprenticeship or recruitment events.

In other Year 13 news, we’ve received a really good number of applications for our Student Leadership Team. Thank you to all of you who took the time to write your letters of application. The Student Leadership Team is a wonderful opportunity to be a role-model and a leader in our school community and to make a positive difference to St Benet Biscop.

Last year, our Peer Mentor scheme was very successful and we’re looking for more volunteers to train and work with younger pupils; supporting their wellbeing, friendships, and organisation. Applications for interested Year 12 students, will be open soon, for our first round of training.

Finally, we encourage our sixth formers to rise up to the responsibility of being the oldest pupils in school, and of taking responsibility for their own learning and growth. There are lots of exciting opportunities for them to develop personally, spiritually and academically, and we ask that they seize these opportunities, taking their personal development as seriously as their studies; striving to achieve their potential and thriving throughout their time here.