



## Weekly Bulletin – 22 March 2024

This week we have been focussing on how we are all part of God's family, and how this can help us to love God and our neighbour. We reflected on The Golden Rule that Jesus gave his followers, which is, 'So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.' In other words, treat someone nicely because of the grace you have been given. Sometimes people don't always treat us the way that they would want to be treated, but that shouldn't stop us from doing the right thing.

### Big Lent Walk

This Lent our school is taking part in The Big Lent Walk for CAFOD. This is a challenge to walk as far as we can over the 40 days of Lent and get sponsored to raise money to help people fighting extreme poverty globally. We can walk alone or with family and friends. On Tuesday, year 8 spent time walking a route round our school grounds, where they covered 2km each. Some of our students walked even further, as they joyfully speed walked past their peers. Everyone was laughing and smiling the entire way around, as they felt like they were walking in solidarity with people in need, all over the world.

### Commissioning Mass

On Wednesday, our school chaplain took two of our Year 12 students, who are completing their John Paull II award, to a commissioning mass that was celebrated by Bishop Stephen. It was a moment to come together with other chaplains and student representatives, to reaffirm and celebrate the contribution they bring to the school community.

### Spotlight on Year 9

#### Year 9 Option Choices

Year 9 students have been choosing their GCSE options for September as they move towards Key Stage 4. Thank you for supporting your child through this process. Staff have been impressed when speaking with students about the decisions behind these choices.

#### Year 9 History

Staff in the History Department have shared with me how students have approached their studies with real maturity and understanding. Students have covered some challenging topics this year, from the Nazis' rise to power in post-World War I Germany to the Holocaust. There has been great engagement with this unit, and the students were again able to show empathy as they learned how difficult it was for people in both Britain and Germany to live through the conflict. There has been some very impressive work from Year 9 in History so far this year, and it's an exciting prospect when considering how many have decided to do History as one of their GCSEs.



St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy, Ridge Terrace, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6ED

Tel: 01670 822795 Fax: 01670 829427

Email: [admin@st-benetbiscop.org.uk](mailto:admin@st-benetbiscop.org.uk) Web: [www.st-benetbiscop.co.uk](http://www.st-benetbiscop.co.uk)



### Stars of the week

Well done to the following Stars of the Week, nominated by their form teachers:

Nayomi Catania, Michael Ibe, Livvy Riley and Zakk Hamilton for Excellence. Lily Anderson and Tyler Barton for Integrity. Marwa Al Saeed for Resilience and Freya Ratsey for Self-Discipline.

### Form-led Assembly

This week saw 90 plan, lead, and deliver their assembly on the theme of 'Integrity' to the whole 200 pupils in the year group. The assembly was engaging and thought-provoking and I was in awe of those students who read aloud, be it a key message, a passage from scripture, or the concluding prayer for continuing to challenge and push themselves out of their comfort zones. The message this week included how students can show a high level of integrity on a daily basis within and beyond our school community. I particularly liked the key message that 'sometimes it takes courage in order to show our integrity'.

### Cross Country Championships

Faye Heatley qualified to represent NSAA at the 2024 English Schools' Cross Country Championships at Pontefract Racecourse on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. This is a prestigious event for cross country runners and we know that all the students we have selected have worked hard at their training schedules to reach this standard of performance.



This is what Faye had to say about the event:

"It was a tough race with lots of people on a muddy course. I had to qualify through 2 previous rounds representing the school in the junior girls' category covering years 8 and 9. I came 254 out of 339 finishers. It was a great experience and a good race, hopefully I qualify next year!"

### Celebrating Attendance

Each half term, we are moving to celebrate the attendance of all students with over 97% attendance. As such, to celebrate good attendance between the January and February half-term, we would like to offer all our pupils with above 97% attendance entry to a **prize draw for a complimentary ticket for an adult and child to watch Newcastle United play Everton on April 2 at St James' Park**. All students with attendance above 97% have been sent a letter congratulating them and thanking you for your continued support in maintaining good attendance. The draw will take place during assembly on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Using Group Chats Safely**

Throughout the school year, we are often faced with safety issues that have been generated by students involved in a group chat. Group chats are a great way to stay connected and share memorable moments with friends, family, and loved ones. However, they can also serve as platforms for bullying and inappropriate content and behaviour. We would like you to share this group chat advice with your child and ask them about the group chats that they are in: [https://ineqe.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Shareable\\_Group-chats\\_INEQE.pdf](https://ineqe.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Shareable_Group-chats_INEQE.pdf)

Wishing you a joyful weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Shepherd". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mr K Shepherd

Headteacher