

7 May 2020

## The Headmaster's Review of the Week

Dear Bedian Family.

As I write to you with my review of the week, I hope that all members of our community are keeping safe and well during these difficult times. Some of you may be quite surprised to be still hearing from me, given how imminent our new baby's arrival was last Friday, but there has been no sign of her or him as yet! I remain very confident that I will be a father for the second time over the next few days and look forward to telling you all about our happy news very soon.

I have been reflecting upon the College's mission and purpose extensively this week, and it is clear that through our approach to teaching and learning, pastoral care, co-curricular activities and the importance we place upon kindness, compassion and leadership, that we are very much committed to educating the whole person in each of our pupils. It is also our Catholic, family values at the core of our identity, which are the bedrock of everything we do and every decision we make.

Due to a few difficulties, my latest COVID-19 (coronavirus) update letter, which was meant to be sent out on Monday, was not published until Tuesday and please accept my apologies for this. It is very likely that the next update letter will be sent by the College's Senior Deputy Head, Mrs Pike, who will be acting as the Interim Head while I am away on paternity leave for two weeks.

I would like to thank you again for the extremely valuable and essential feedback which we continue to receive regarding our systems for remote learning, and it has helped us to incrementally develop our practice during this period of physical closure for the College. I am hopeful that we will receive some news about the phased reopening of schools shortly and that some semblance of normality can return to College life, but only as long as we can ensure the health and safety of our pupils, their families and my colleagues.

During this continued period of unprecedented uncertainty and change, It is so important that we continue to spend some valuable time each day in spiritual reflection. I have included a prayer below for us to say in private or with our loved ones:

Lord.

May your words be like a lamp that lights our way. May your love be like a compass that gives us direction. May your truth be like a signpost bringing clarity. May your peace be like a measure that guides decisions. May your hope be like a flag that declares we walk with you. May your words be in our minds, Your love guide our feet,

Your truth be a sign,

Your peace be a measure,

And your hope a flag,

As we walk close to you at this time.

Amen.

St Bede - pray for us.

As I come to the conclusion of my review, I would like to thank you all again for your outstanding support for myself and the wider College in recent times and I very much look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Do please continue to stay in touch with my colleagues and me, and do not hesitate to contact us at any stage if you need our assistance or advice.

May God bless you all and we continue to keep all of the Bedian Family in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr L d'Arcy Headmaster @LouisdArcy1





#### Interested in Law?

Calling Lower Sixth students wishing to become lawyers or read Law at University. Law is a competitive career and universities are looking for excellent students for their Law degree courses. Usually, Lower Sixth students would be seeking work experience placements this summer to bolster and support their applications, but this difficult times due to the COVID-19 pandemic have sadly ruled this out. However, we have been offered a great opportunity for our students which will help make their university applications really stand out and be an extremely exciting and interesting experience for anyone interested in legal processes and the working life of a lawyer.

Mr Lavorini of law firm McHale & Co, a Bedian parent and husband of Mrs Lavorini, College teacher, is offering interested Lower Sixth students the opportunity to access on-line materials including legal research problems set by various departments within the firm for the students. There will be opportunities for feedback and discussion.

This is a fantastic offer which is much appreciated by the College and Sixth Form Team. Any Lower Sixth student who would like to take up this valuable opportunity is asked to email Mrs Lockett as soon as possible. rlockett@stbedescollege.co.uk





#### **Celebrate and Commemorate**

The History Department have tasked the Lower School pupils with learning about and commemorating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day at home. We are running a competition to see how pupils can celebrate and demonstrate their understanding of the Allied Victory in 1945.

Already there have been some delicious entries, like Patrick's in Lower Fourth, and some more moving ones like that of Louie in Lower Fourth, who sent in photos and information about his grandfather who served in World War Two. We look forward to seeing what our other young historians produce and hope that all of our Bedian family celebrate and commemorate VE Day together this Friday.

#### Mr Lee Rodriguez







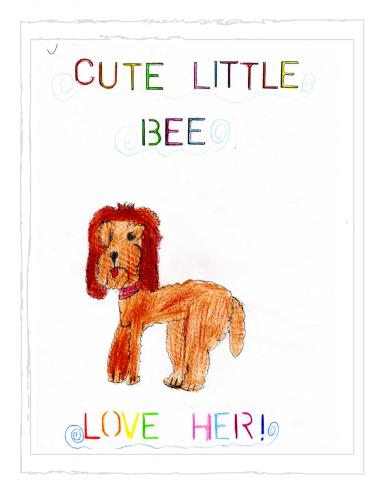




## Senior College

#### **Draw Bee Competition Winners**

Thank you to all who entered the competition to draw the Prep School dog Bee! The winners, who will receive a book token when we return to College, are Casey M - Prep 4, Francesca G - Prep 4 and Danny J - Nursery. Well Done.







## Cornerstone - Amazon Wishlist - Covid-19 Appeal

It has come to our attention that one of the many charities we support - Cornerstone are in need of our support. We remain critically short of essential food & hygiene supplies. Please consider making a purchase from our Amazon wishlist <a href="https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/28U2BX5F4Z67K?ref\_=wl\_share">https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/28U2BX5F4Z67K?ref\_=wl\_share</a> to help us continue our service to the most vulnerable in our diocese.

Deliveries should be sent to:

Cornerstone Day Centre

104b Denmark Road

Manchester

M15 6JS

We will then distribute goods from here to our others services in need. If you would like to make a cash donation, you can do so by visiting <a href="https://www.justgiving.com/caritassalford">https://www.justgiving.com/caritassalford</a>

Anything you can spare will be much appreciated.





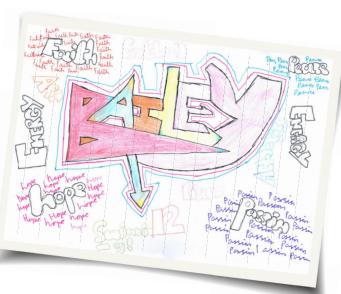
## Senior College

## Lower Seniors - Spark Joy Challenge

There has been no shortage of creative inspiration among Lower Seniors this week as they embraced our second weekly challenge with gusto. This week's theme was energy, and our students seem to have plenty. Entries ranged from cartoons, art, music and science to some practical activities, with keeping fit in lockdown proving a popular choice. All of the submissions have certainly sparked joy, and congratulations must go to Paddy, Holly and Maria for their winning entries. Next week's theme is... food!

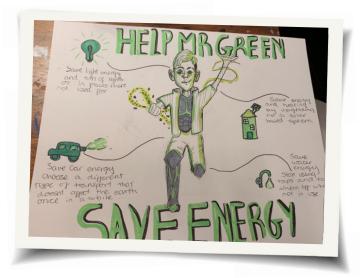
#### Mrs Vyce











Prep School

## **Thinking Of Others**

Again, this week we have witnessed some fantastic acts of kindness from our children. Maisie in Prep 5 and her sister Lily who is in Year 7 visited a residential home close to their house to deliver a selection of toiletries and a cake.

The care home has a special place in their hearts as it was where their Grandma was a resident when they were young. Their act of kindness was greatly appreciated by the residents. We all know that loneliness has affected many of our senior citizens during lockdown. They have been unable to see their families or friends, so this wonderful gesture from Maisie and Lily makes all the difference and brightens the day for them.

Thank you, Maisie and Lily for thinking of others. Everyone is so proud of you both and the Bedian spirit you have shown.









PREP 1 **ALEXIS**PREP 2 **EMILY**PREP 2 **HEIKO** 





## Prep School

# Yet Another Busy Week For Our Talented Pupils

Here is a selection of some of the fabulous work the children have been taking part in.





#### The Sixth Form View

On the 8th May, 1945 the Right Honourable Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain appeared at the balcony of Buckingham Palace, alongside the King and Queen. As the jubilant crowds cheered, in an ecstasy of euphoric relief, tinged with a powerful sense of the terrible sacrifices made to bring the nation to this crowing moment, Churchill spoke. His words, always stirring, had never been more poignant.

There we stood, alone. Did anyone want to give in? [The crowd shouted "No."] Were we down-hearted? ["No!"] The lights went out and the bombs came down. But every man, woman and child in the country had no thought of quitting the struggle. London can take it. So we came back after long months from the jaws of death, out of the mouth of hell, while all the world wondered. When shall the reputation and faith of this generation of English men and women fail?

At this time of difficulty and doubt, it will do us a great deal of good this Friday to remember a time when our country faced far worse peril and came through. It will also be a good time to remember in our prayers the forty-nine students from this College who fell fighting against the Axis Powers between 1940 and 1945. At a time of national sacrifice and suffering it is good to recall that the very freedoms, obligations and pleasures we have been asked to put aside during lockdown were won for us in the blood, toil, tears and sweat of that mighty generation.

V.E Day was a moment where, for the first time since the dawn of the new century, people looked to the future with a genuine hope that a better world was within reach. Mere months after his speech on the balcony, Churchill's Conservatives were unceremoniously ejected

from government to make way for the Labour Party of Attlee and Bevan which ushered in the National Health Service we so revere today, now more than ever. Crises are transformative, not just on a national level, but for individuals. I would like now to take the opportunity to suggest that our Sixth Formers, who are themselves at a great moment of change as they consider what lies beyond St Bede's, think about how they will play a role in shaping the future to come. I would like to remind them of a message I have repeated to our Sixth Form several times. Live your lives in such a way that you are willing make sacrifices to alleviate the suffering of others. That is, to me, the true Bedian spirit and what sets us apart.

I would simply end by saying to all our Sixth Form that I hope you can carry the spirit of St. Bede's with you wherever life takes you and know that we are all here to support and guide you through the weeks and months ahead.

#### Mr Power

