



**Acting Headteacher: Mrs F. Craik**

6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am delighted to inform you that the first month at St Bede's has been a very successful one for our Year 7 students. They have settled into their studies quickly and are making the most of the learning opportunities on offer. In addition to their timetabled lessons, all Year 7 students are now receiving a weekly additional numeracy session as well as embarking on the Accelerated Reader programme, which includes 30 minutes of supervised independent reading each week.

In the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> October, all Year 7 students will sit a computer based cognitive abilities test. This is designed to assess vocabulary, maths, non-verbal reasoning and skills for the modern world, such as proof reading and perceptual speed and accuracy. This is not a test that can be practised for and relies on the innate skills that pupils have.

The information we gain from these tests, alongside the regular teacher assessment that is embedded within our curriculum, will be used to determine the setting of students for January 2021. St Bede's have always traditionally operated a setting process; due to KS2 SATS not taking place nationally this year we have been cautious about setting too early and have undertaken the decision to wait until January to allow students to settle and demonstrate their ability with staff.

Placing students in teaching groups based on the most up-to-date assessment data will ensure that all pupils are receiving a bespoke level of academic challenge in their lessons. This allows us to accurately target the correct level of support and intervention where it is needed most. We will of course keep you informed of your child's progress and any proposed changes to teaching groups will be communicated well in advance. Please remember that you can contact your child's Head of House at any point if you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's education or development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support throughout the transition process so far. I look forward to our continued work together in supporting the progress of the young people in our care.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Smith  
Assistant Headteacher, Curriculum