

St Bede's Chaplaincy

'Cum Deo'

Our school motto, meaning 'With God', underpins all that we do at St Bede's. Perhaps more importantly it also underpins how we understand who we are and what our purpose is. Prayer, worship, spiritual reflection and excellent pastoral care enables us to pray in our school prayer *'Help our school to be a place of nurture and growth for disciples in Christ'*.

As an Inter-Church School, supported by both the **Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia and the Church of England Diocese of Ely**, our Christian identity is key to our day to day school life, our strategic planning and our relationships. We work collaboratively with both the wider dioceses and our local parishes and youth workers to resource worship and discipleship within the school.



Our Chaplain, Revd Dr Alexandra Clarke, with Revd Fr Alan Hodgson, Assistant Priest of Our Lady and the English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church, Cambridge

St Bede's has a **fully comprehensive intake** with students coming from a wide variety of primary schools around the city of Cambridge and the villages beyond, as far as Ely, Newmarket, St Neots and St Ives. We are proud of the cultural diversity of our school community which enriches our communal life. As an **over-subscribed school**, priority is given to applications from families with strong connections to their local churches and worshipping communities. This brings a high level of participation in our worship and Chaplaincy activities, enabling us to offer a wide range of discipleship opportunities. Students belong both to their tutor group and to one of the six school houses, which span all year groups in the school. The **School Houses** are Corinth, Colossae, Ephesus, Galatia, Philippi and Rome and each has their own house prayer and bible verse. Houses, headed by a team of year 11 House Captains, engage in house events and competitions throughout the year.

The Chaplaincy works closely with the **Theology** Faculty who help develop and deliver our Reflection Days, and promote the rhythm of the Church Year in lessons. **Theology Prefects** at KS3 and **Young Ambassadors for RE** (members of a nationwide scheme run by the RE Council) who are organised by the Theology Department take on responsibilities and activities that promote our Christian Ethos, such as decorating the school with Christian themes, displaying news stories of a religious or ethical nature, and giving students opportunities to be involved in putting into action Christian values.

The Chaplaincy, led by the **Chaplain**, Revd Dr Alexandra Clarke and supported by Mr Stephen Allen, St Bede's Inclusion Manager, seeks to resource the school to live out its Christian vocation, stated in our Mission Statement, *'to create and sustain, with God's help, a learning, caring and serving community where all people are valued for who they are and who they may become in the light of Jesus Christ.'* As such, it is often the students who lead worship and develop our Christian vision.



Each tutor group elects 2 **Chaplaincy Representatives** who take responsibility for leading weekly **Tutor Group Worship** in classrooms. Chaplaincy Reps will also take leadership roles in our end of term liturgies and our regular celebrations of **Anglican Eucharist and Roman Catholic Mass**, which sometimes include whole year groups in the Pilgrim Theatre and are sometimes smaller voluntary services held in the Chaplaincy.



The Blessing of the Candles in the Year 7 Candlemas Eucharist in the Pilgrim Theatre

Chaplaincy Reps are also invited to take part in additional activities intended to nurture faith, such as Godly Play, Praying the Rosary, Prayer Walks in the Labyrinth, Understanding Spiritual Styles.



A Godly Play session for Chaplaincy Reps

Collective Worship plays an important part in the daily life of St Bede's, with a combination of whole year group assemblies and classroom based Tutor Group Worship. **Assemblies** are led by members of the Senior Leadership Team, the Chaplaincy, other staff, a range of visitors from local churches, and occasionally the students themselves. Weekly themes for collective worship often follow the

Sunday lectionary, interspersed with special themes and events such as Black History Week, Mental Health Awareness week and St Bede's Day.

Throughout the school year the Chaplaincy provides **Reflection Days**: whole year group activities designed to promote reflection on what it is to be human and Christian in our world today. Year 7 students visit **Ely Cathedral** to reflect on what it means to be part of a community; Year 8 follow a **Church Trail** around Cambridge exploring how different Christian traditions express their theology and worship through their physical surroundings; Year 9 have a day devoted to understanding more about **Peace** in personal, spiritual, social and political contexts; Year 10 explore **Being Human** through the myriad relationships we engage in, from the intimate to the global, and how our calling by God can shape our interactions with the world around us; Year 11 have a day on **Science and Religion** provided by the Faraday Institute.



Year 7 Reflection Day in Ely Cathedral

At the end of the school year all Year 7 students are invited to take part in a pilgrimage, the **Bede Trail**. This week-long trip, based in university accommodation in either Durham or Newcastle, allows the students to visit the site of St Bede's monastic home in Jarrow, his tomb in Durham Cathedral and the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. It also includes lots of opportunities for fun on the beach and the deeper formation of bonds of friendship and identity.



Bede Trail on the beach at Lindisfarne

An **Anglican Confirmation** service for St Bede's students in Years 8, 9 and 10 is held every other year in Ely Cathedral, following a preparation course within school. **Lunchtime bible study** and discipleship groups, 'Roots' (KS3) and 'Wellsprings' (KS4) run in the Chaplaincy, open to all.



The 2019 Confirmation Group with Bishop Stephen in Ely Cathedral

The Chaplaincy Team plays an integral role in the **Pastoral Care** provision in St Bede's. From a listening ear on a bad day to organising support from outside agencies, the Chaplaincy works with Heads of Year to care for all members of the school community. **Counselling and Therapy services** are also available to students as need arises.