



# St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form College

*'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world ablaze'*

## Newsletter: 10 January 2025

### Faith

In Church this Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of our Lord. In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 3:15-21), Jesus begins his mission to the world when the Holy Spirit comes down upon him. Pope Francis reminds us that 'Faith is a gift which we receive in Baptism and which allows us to encounter God.' Jesus came for everyone, he wanted to draw us into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God's own life. The new year gives us an opportunity to remember or to discover the blessings that we received at Baptism.

### Excellence

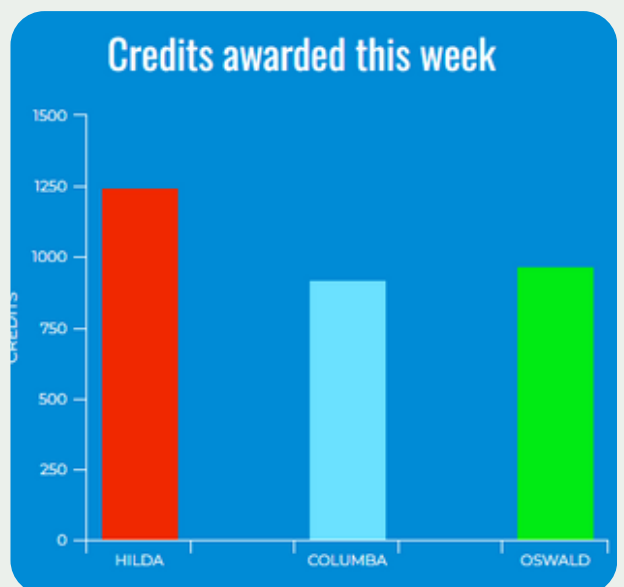
#### Headteacher's Award

In the last week of the autumn term, we were delighted to acknowledge, once more, all of the winners of our Headteacher's Award. We presented them with special badges to wear proudly on their blazers so that they can be recognised for this achievement throughout their time at St Bede's.

Congratulations to our role models: Abraham Laogun 7H1, Suur Bosua 7H1, Elise Parkinson 8C1, Sebastian Treanor 8H1, Nithishan Kugan 7H2, Eddy Joicey 9H3, Erin Bloomfield 11O1, Emily Milestone 8C1, Leon Richardson 7C2, Tyler Nichols 11C1, Rory Jones 9C3, Madox Cullen 7H2, Ethan Bell 8O1, Claudia Collings 9H2 and Grace Carr 9H2.

We will begin awarding our next series of celebratory trophies on Monday 13 January as our students strive to become the people God intends them to be.

We love to celebrate our students' achievements in and out of school - please contact us via [enquiries@st-bedes.org](mailto:enquiries@st-bedes.org) with the subject 'Newsletter' if your children have achievements we can share with our community. Hearing about the amazing things they do makes us so proud.



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Respect

This week we have asked our students to focus on how they respect themselves and others. In the words of Maya Angelou, **“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.”** Getting better never stops and if we all try to live properly, we will collectively flourish.

### Uniform

A huge thank you to parents/carers for supporting us in ensuring that our students are wearing their uniform with pride, showing that they belong.

We want our students to focus on cultivating their character and learning rather than on differentiating themselves through dress. We don't want any students to feel left out because they cannot afford certain items of jewellery, etc. Some rules also have a health and safety focus. Our clear rules avoid sensitive discussions over what is acceptable. Our uniform encourages high aspirations.



### Safeguarding Update: 'On Call' Escort

We have introduced a new system to safeguard our students further. During lesson time, if a student needs to leave the classroom for a particular reason (e.g. medical need, appointment, intervention) the teacher in the classroom will press an alert button on Arbor (our management information system). This alerts the member of staff that is 'on call' / 'on tour' who will collect them and escort them to where they need to be. Students are not permitted to leave the classroom during lesson time without adult supervision.

During lesson changeover and at break/lunch, staff continue to flood the corridors to supervise and students are encouraged to make their way to their next lesson with pace and purpose.

### Please Treat Our Staff With Courtesy & Respect

Our staff must be able to come to work without fear of violence, abuse or harassment. Please treat our people with respect. Shouting, swearing and aggressive behaviour towards our staff will not be tolerated and we reserve the right to ask you to leave our school site if you display such behaviour.

### St Bede's Football Stars

Congratulations to Teigan Wilson 11O1 & Eve Webster 11C2 for being selected to represent Newcastle United in a match against Tottenham Hotspur. Well done, girls! We are proud of your achievement. Our Under 16 Girls have progressed to the last 16 of the Elite National Cup with a fantastic 4-1 win over Ponteland High School. Well done girls - your determination is admirable!

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### UK Safer Internet Centre

Some students may have been lucky to receive new devices that can access the internet this Christmas.

The [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) provides lots of helpful advice, guidance and tips and resources for parents and carers to help keep your children safe online.

As a parent or carer you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. The UK Safer Internet Centre's advice and resources are available to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively.



### Upcoming Year 8 Youth Village Trip

We are excited to remind you about the upcoming Year 8 Youth Village Trip scheduled for Monday 3 – Wednesday 5 February 2025.

This trip promises to be an enriching and enjoyable experience for all the students involved. Equipment lists have already been emailed.

If you have any queries please email Mrs Ball on [oballs@st-bedes.org](mailto:oballs@st-bedes.org).

Important Details:

- Departure Date: Monday 3 February 2025 at 2.30pm
- Return Date: Wednesday 5 February 2025 at 3.00pm
- Balance: to be paid by Friday 17 January 2025

[For more information about the Youth Village, click here.](#)



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Citizenship Hero: William Oakley 801

William Oakley has demonstrated one of our six core values - citizenship, serving others - in an incredible way, raising over £3000 for charity by completing an ambitious 10 challenges in 10 months.

We are incredibly proud of William and his commitment to help others. Well done, William - this is truly amazing.

If you would like to support William's fabulous fundraising initiative, [please click here to read more and access the JustGiving link.](#)



### PE Extra-curricular Clubs

Students are welcome to attend the following clubs that have been organised by our wonderful PE Department and other members of staff:

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Week A lunch	Y10/11 Gym: Mr Garlinge Y12/13 Football: Mr Fowler	Y10/11 & Sixth Form Gym: Miss Brown	Y7 Sportshall Athletics: Miss Brown Y7/8/9 Gym: Mr Garlinge	Y7/8/9 Gymnastics: Miss Brown	Y7/8/9 Netball: Miss Brown BTEC Practical: Mr Garlinge
Week B lunch	Y7 Sportshall Athletics: Miss Brown Y12/13 Football: Mr Fowler	Y7/8/9 Netball: Miss Brown Y7/8/9 Gym: Mr Garlinge	Y7/8/9 Gymnastics: Miss Brown Y7/8/9 Gym: Mr Garlinge		Y7/8/9 Gym: Mr Garlinge
After school 3.30pm			All Years Netball: Miss Brown Rugby: Mr Bowyer		Friday Fun Club: Mr Wilson Football Y7 Girls: Mr Wilson, MG/LG/LC



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial for students to make the most of their educational opportunities. It not only helps them keep up with their studies but also fosters a sense of community and belonging. When students attend school consistently, they are more likely to engage actively in classroom activities, build strong relationships with peers and teachers, and develop the discipline needed for future success.

At St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form College, we strive to create an environment where every student feels motivated to attend and participate fully. We understand that there may be legitimate reasons for absences, and we encourage open communication with parents and guardians to address any challenges that might arise. Our dedicated staff is here to support students in maintaining a healthy balance between their academic responsibilities and personal well-being. Let's work together to ensure that every student can take full advantage of the learning experiences available to them, setting the foundation for a bright and promising future.

<b>Below 94% attendance</b>	<b>55 hours of learning missed</b>
<b>Below 92% attendance</b>	<b>75 hours of learning missed</b>
<b>Below 90% attendance</b>	<b>100+ hours of learning missed</b>

### Knowledge Organisers: Cycle 2

This week, all KS3 & KS4 students have been issued with a knowledge organiser which contains the essential knowledge needed for their curriculum subjects.

Knowledge organisers are powerful tools for consolidating classroom learning, promoting independent study at home, and preparing effectively for summative assessments. At home, they can help students complete homework, revise for exams, and allow parents to track what their child is learning and how they are progressing in each subject.

Pupils will be expected to carry their knowledge organiser booklet in their school bag at all times, ready for use in every lesson. To support your child, please ensure they bring their school bag to school each day.

### Vacancies

Our vacancies are advertised on our website. As well as several teaching and teaching assistant positions, we are looking to recruit lunchtime supervisors, cover supervisors and a pastoral liaison officer. [Click here for more information.](#)



## Sixth Form

# BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

On Thursday, our alumna Sophie returned to Byron Sixth Form from her first term at St Peter's college, University of Oxford. Sophie shared her Oxford journey with students and imparted valuable advice about the process. Sophie is studying English and History and also had some thoughtful insights into how students can manage the pressure of upcoming A-Level exams and tackle the exciting, but challenging, decisions they will make in the next six months. It's always great to see our alumni back with us in school sharing their experiences. If you're interested in coming back into school to share your experiences contact our Head of Year Sixth Form: [rscutt@st-bedes.org](mailto:rscutt@st-bedes.org)

Congratulations to Ella E Y12 who has been accepted to join the Leeds Futures: Social Work cohort. This programme helps aspiring social workers learn more about the demands of a degree and career in social work. Kayla G Y12 has also been accepted to Leeds Futures: Healthcare, the first exciting step on her journey to pursue a career in Paramedic Science. Kaylm R Y12 has been accepted to join Next Steps York. Another highly competitive programme, Kaylm will spend time exploring the university campus and his course options!

Join!  
us!



[Apply Now!](#)

There's also great news in Y13. Abbie C has been invited to interview for an apprenticeship at BAE systems and EDF - a tremendous achievement!

Even over the Christmas holidays, the university offers were still flooding in. Particular congratulations to Carrie H who has received all five offers including a phenomenal offer for Durham University. Another exceptional offer was received by Isaac S who has a place to study at St Andrews University. With an acceptance rate of just over 1 in 4, St Andrews is widely considered to be one of the most difficult universities to obtain a place from in the UK. Alfie B, who aspires to study mechanical engineering, also scooped up offers from Newcastle and Leeds over the break.

[To view our latest Sixth Form Prospectus click here.](#)



## Key Dates

- Monday 13 January: Week A timetable
- Monday 13 January: Y11 STEP block 2 begins
- Thursday 23 January: Y10 Parent Evening
- Monday 3 February: Y8 Youth Village Retreat (returning Wednesday 5 February)
- Monday 10 February: Y11/13 mock exams fortnight begins.
- Friday 21 February: End of half term (3.15pm finish)

## Safeguarding

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### Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

#### Designated safeguarding leads:



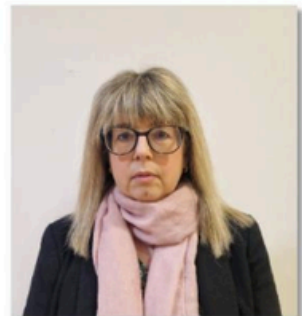
**Mr Logan**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Cessford**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Robinson**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Ord**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

## Home and School Links

**Address:** St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form  
Westway, Peterlee, Co. Durham, SR8 1DE

**Email:** [enquiries@st-bedes.org](mailto:enquiries@st-bedes.org)

**Phone:** 0191 5876220

**Website:** [www.st-bedes.org](http://www.st-bedes.org)

**Facebook:** [StBedesandByron](https://www.facebook.com/StBedesandByron)

**Class Charts:** [www.classcharts.com](http://www.classcharts.com)

**Our Parish:** [Our Lady of the Rosary in Peterlee and Horden](#)

**Our Diocese:** [Hexham & Newcastle](#)

