



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: 17 January 2025

Faith

This Sunday's Gospel (John 2:1-11) reminds us of the joy that Jesus brings when we put our faith and trust in him. Although he was divine, Jesus was also human. The Gospel tells us how Jesus helps out the unfortunate bridegroom whose wedding celebrations are on the verge of disaster because they are about to run out of wine. Jesus sends the servants to fill jars with water and then a miracle occurs. The steward tastes the water and finds that it is wine. This miracle reminds us about the joy of heaven, which is often described as a wedding-feast to which we are all invited. Jesus came to bring joy to everyone in every age. Happiness comes and goes but the joy that comes from a close friendship with Jesus stays forever.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to Layton Andrews 8H3 who has earned our Headteacher's Award for his outstanding first week back at school. Layton worked to the best of his ability, was always prepared for school and did his very best to make progress. He had the right mindset, believed in himself and did his best throughout the week. This is the St Bede's standard!

Tutor Group of the Week

Well done to 9H3, Miss Milburn's group. An excellent effort!

House Awards: Students of the Week

Columba: Benjamin Brown 9C3

Hilda: Leona Berry 9H3

Oswald: Emily Scollen 10O3

Chad: Eve Antiliff 12Ch2

We are proud of each of you; you are setting the world ablaze with your gifts and talents and becoming the people God intends you to be.





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Excellence

This week we have encouraged students to **'Compare yourself to who you were yesterday, not to who someone else is today.'** Excellence is about personal growth and self-improvement rather than competing with others. It involves striving to be the best version of yourself, focusing on your own progress and achievements.

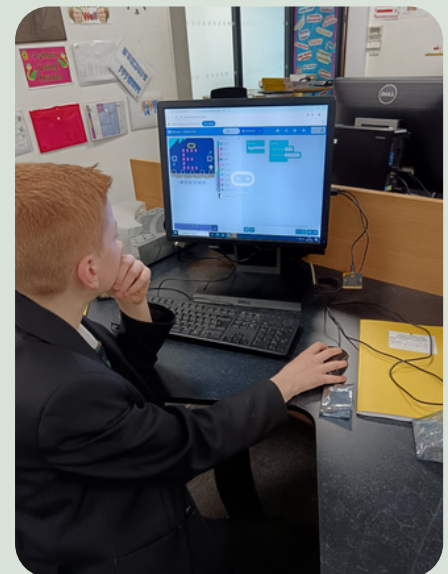
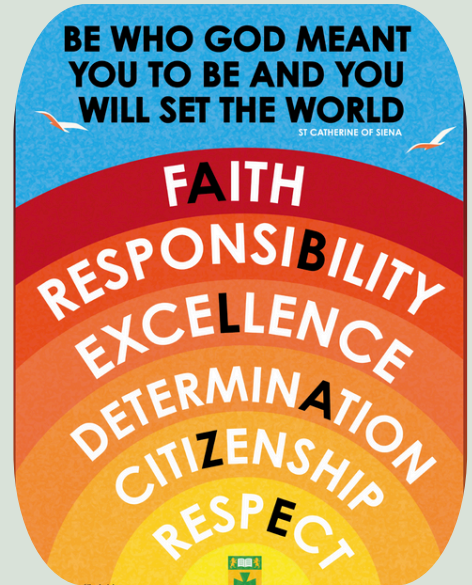
School Uniform

Little Gems still exists but has rebranded itself as The School Outfit and is based in Crowther Industrial Estate, Washington. [Click here to access the website](#); items can be purchased online or in store. [For directions, click here](#). Thank you once again for your support in ensuring our students are showing that they belong. If you require financial support for uniform please contact us.

BBC Microbits

We are fortunate to have borrowed a class set of microbits from our local Computing Hub. Until the February half term, anyone interested in using the microbits is invited to join us in ICT1 on Tuesdays after school, where we will experiment with their applications. We will delve into various projects that can be completed with this unit.

This week, our Year 7 students had the opportunity to explore the microbits. We are excited to discover how we can integrate the microbit into our classroom while we have this borrowed kit. For any additional information, please speak with a member of the ICT department.



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Neurodiversity Family Support Information drop-ins

Are you a parent or carer of a child who:

- Has a diagnosis?
- Is waiting for a diagnosis?
- Needs extra support?

Come along to our family information drop ins to find out more about the help you can get for your family! There will be people to talk to from Durham County Council and NHS services, charities and support groups.

JOIN US!

Details:

Wednesday 22nd January 2025
10am-12.30pm

Sedgefield Parish Hall, TS21 3AT

There is plenty of public parking and public transport links close to the venue

Open to everyone. No diagnosis needed to come along!

- Find support
- Meet other families
- Share your views
- Ask any questions

The events are FREE and we can help with bus fare costs if needed. No need to book, just come along!

For more information, contact chloe.dickinson@investinginchildren.net or call 01913077030

Please get in touch if you need extra help to attend, including a letter for your employer about the event.

County Durham

Neurodiversity Family Support Information

The Durham County Emotional Wellbeing and Effective Learning Team have shared details of a neurodiversity family support drop-in that is occurring at Sedgefield Parish Hall on Wednesday 22 January 2025 between 10am and 12.30pm. This is a free event and Durham County can help with bus fare costs if needed. There is no need to book, you can just turn up. For more information, contact chloe.dickinson@investinginchildren.net or call 01913077030. If you need extra help to attend, contact Chloe. A letter to employers to request leave of absence can be provided too.

Neurodiversity is an umbrella term, covering autism, DID, ADHD, OSDD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, Tourette's, OCD, ABI, PDA, dyscalculia, synesthesia and more.

Maths: Wall of Legends

The Mathematics Department are delighted to launch our new 'Wall of Legends'. Each week, every maths teacher shall nominate one of their pupils to be recognised and they will be featured on the wall for one week. Additionally, pupils with outstanding work will have their work displayed for all to see! This represents an extraordinary achievement and we cannot wait to see which pupils can appear as a 'Legend'!



Art: Students of the Week

This work celebrates GCSE coursework, showing recreations of artist work. Students have demonstrated great understanding of their style and techniques.

Congratulations, your art work is truly outstanding!



Football: National Cup Quarter Final

Good luck to our Year 11 boys' football team who are competing in the Quarter Final of the National Cup on Tuesday in Leeds.



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Year 11: This is the week... to plan for success

Year 11 have been focusing on reflection and planning for the next mock exams which start on 10 February - only 4 weeks away.

Their targets are to:

- Reflect on previous mock revision - was it successful or could it be improved? What worked well and what didn't?
- Incorporate 'look, cover, write' into their revision.
- Check Teams for revision materials and revision planners – all subjects have revision materials in the Year 11 Teams group. There are also revision technique suggestions and the PowerPoint from the parent revision evening.
- Complete progression questionnaire on Teams – this will give up date information on the intended destinations for students for September 2025. This will enable targeted sessions and support to be provided to all students. Attend all STEP sessions – STEP sessions are there to provide extra revision and support in smaller groups, if you have been selected to attend, please use this resource.

Careers: Unifrog



In keeping with our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next steps after school / college, we use Unifrog - an award-winning, online destinations platform. All students in Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 are able to log in and have access to this website. Year 7 will be registered and have logged in during lessons and will have access by February half term.

Unifrog is a universal destinations platform and is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own account where they can explore all the career and next step options available to them and find information on everything from managing their workload to writing a winning CV.

Parents can also have their own Unifrog account. You'll be able to research careers, attend webinars delivered by employers and universities to learn more about their opportunities, and compare pathways so you can support your child in making an informed decision about their next steps. The sign up code you need is: **SBBCparents** and you can sign up here: www.unifrog.org/code. You can also sign up to Unifrog's parent / carer newsletter when you first sign in to get expert advice and guidance on supporting your child with their next steps. For security purposes the parent code will expire on 18/2/25, a new code will be published to allow continued access.

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Teigan on Standby for England

We are absolutely delighted that Teigan Wilson 11O1 is on standby for the England Women's Under 16 Fixture Camp at the beginning of February. This is a remarkable achievement for our future lioness! Well done, Teigan - your determination and commitment to excellence is paying off.



Iceland Trip

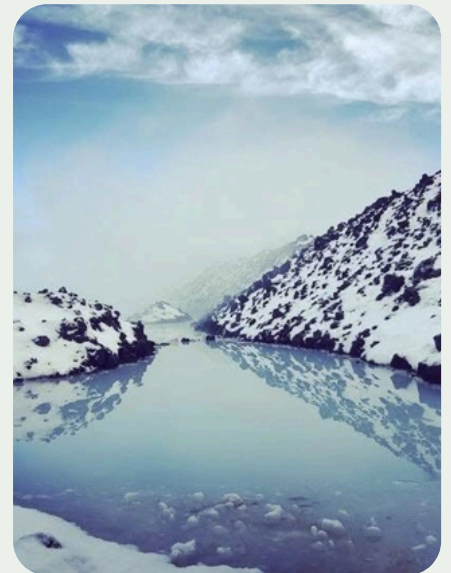
Staff and students are very much looking forward to the Geography field trip to Iceland this half term, which is running 22 – 26 February 2025.

Highlights of our itinerary include a visit to the bridge between the continents, where students will be able to see the splitting of the Eurasian and North American plate. We will also be visiting many volcanic and geographical features such as craters, geysers, glaciers and waterfalls and are all looking forward to a swim in the secret lagoon, one of Iceland's natural hot springs.

Remember, when we arrive in Iceland we will be going straight to activities so please wear warm clothing and suitable shoes (walking boots recommended) on the flight. We won't arrive at our hotel until early evening so consider packing snacks in your hand luggage and buying soft drinks once we have cleared security at the airport as this will be much cheaper than buying in Iceland.

See you nice and early outside the school at 2.00am on Saturday 22nd Feb!

Year 10 and 12 students keep a look out for the trip to be advertised again soon for next year!



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St Bede's Musical Talents

We have introduced a new weekly award to celebrate the musicians of the school. These students might be those who have worked exceptionally well in classroom music lessons or who have performed well during Durham Music Service Instrumental Lessons.

As this is a new initiative for 2025, Mr Robinson and Mr Teasdale felt they would like to award certificates to many students who worked particularly hard in the autumn term. From next week, they will publish one name per week:

Term 1 in retrospect:

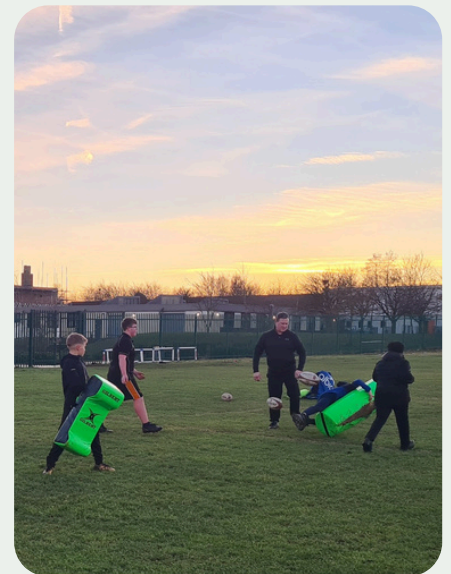
- Poppy Adamson Y7, Leah Bird Y7, Zac Garraghan Y7, Sam Wilkinson Y7, Isabel Wood Y7, Annabell Bland Y9, Daniel Csuri Y9, Eddy Joicey Y9, Anna Lovstad Y9, Julia Frel Y10, Zara Laverick Y11, Dahiana Novas Vilorio Y11, Ethan Regan Y11, Oliver Regan Y11

Term 2 to date:

- Eva Lilea Y8, Zara Laverick Y11

Rugby Club

Another amazing effort from everyone at Rugby Club on Wednesday after school. This club is open for all all year groups, all genders. Please come along.



Thank you

We have really appreciated the support of parents/carers since the beginning of term. Uniform, attendance, punctuality and behaviour has significantly improved and this has had a huge positive impact on learning in the classroom. We want the best for your children so that they can achieve and flourish. Please contact us if you need our support with anything.



Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

It's been another exciting week in Byron.

There's nothing we love to see more in Byron than students fulfilling their wildest dreams and aspirations. We want to offer a huge congratulations to Isaac S and Esme S in Year 13 who have both been offered places to study at the University of Oxford next year. Isaac's offer to read English at St John's College is the culmination of months of hard work and preparation including his completion of the prestigious OxNet programme in which he focused on heritage and interdisciplinary study. Proving there's no one route to success, Esme focused on her love of literature including volunteering at mental health charity Mind and based her volunteering on her love of reading. Esme hold an offer to read English at Somerville College. We are thrilled to continue to see our students gaining places at the UK's most prestigious institutions.

Emily M in Year 13 also had cause to celebrate this week having picked up a clean sweep if offers to read psychology including offers at Manchester Metropolitan University and University of Sheffield. Well done Emily!



Join Us!



[Apply Now!](#)

Leo T continues to progress in boxing having recently participated in a strength and conditioning session with Boxing England.

There was more sporting success for Kaylm R in Year, who has been invited to trial for the England golf team. We wish him all the best!

Academic successes continued in Year 12 as Grace P and Eve A were offered places on the University of Cambridge's Pelican Programme run by Corpus Christi College. Grace will take part in the history strand whilst Eve undertakes the architecture strand. To gain their place, both students underwent a challenging application. We're so pleased to see their hardwork pay off.

Finally, our student librarians have worked tirelessly throughout the week to ensure our LRC is a welcoming, orgained resource for all members of our school community. A huge thank you to McKenzie, Jess and Eve for all your efforts - you really are embodying what it means to be a role model in our school!

Upcoming Opportunities: Citizenship is at the core of our values, please allow us to draw your attention to two exceptional volunteering opportunities over the summer break.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Summer 2025) lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk <https://ymt.org/lourdesyouth24/>

SVP Summer Camp - Holy Island - <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp>

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



Key Dates

- Monday 20 January: Week B timetable
- 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)
- Monday 3 March: Return to school - Week A timetable

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



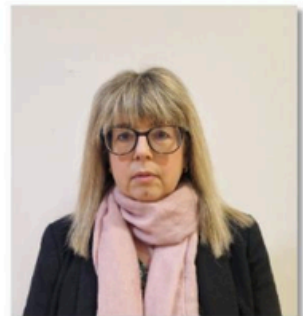
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Cessford
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Robinson
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Ord
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Home and School Links

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Website: www.st-bedes.org

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

Class Charts: www.classcharts.com

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

Our Diocese: [Hexham & Newcastle](#)

