



# 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: 14 February 2025

### Faith

The blessings in this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 6:17, 20-26) are taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount – the Beatitudes. This is one of the most well-known passages in the Bible and has encouraged people throughout the ages to trust in God. The Beatitudes remind us that however bad things might look, those who serve and trust in God will have the reward of his everlasting love and blessings.

Trusting in God's promises isn't always easy, but it is always rewarding. No amount of worrying will increase our safety or comfort; it's through trusting in God that we will find security and hope.

### Excellence

#### Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to a student in **9H2** who was awarded the most credits in the school last week. He has the right mindset and has lived out our core values, showing kindness and helping others. He is always well-mannered, works to the best of his ability and is an asset to our school. Well done.

#### Tutor Group of the Week

**10C3** are the winners of this week's Tutor Group of the Week award.

#### House Students of the Week

Columba: **Leon Richardson 7C2**

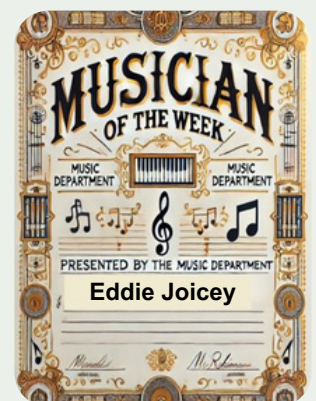
Hilda: **Evan Turns 7H2 & Gabriel Oates 11H3**

Oswald: **Rebekah Cambridge 10O2**

Chad: **Erin Gilling 13Ch1**

#### Musician of the Week

**Eddie Joicey 9H3** has made exceptional progress in keyboard work producing a stylistic solo performance of Guantanamera. Well done, Eddie!





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Citizenship

Mother Teresa said, **“Give your hands to serve, and your hearts to love.”** Serving others gives us a strong quality of life; it is important to the person who serves as well as the recipient; it is the way in which we grow and develop as meaningful citizens. If we serve our communities - being the people God intends us to be - we can set the world ablaze and make it a better place for current and future generations.

### John Paul II Award

Congratulations to our Year 13 students who were presented with their John Paul II Awards.

This award is a faith achievement award for young people between the ages of 16 and 18.

The Award enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church – in the life of their community and society. It enables young people become more aware of the teaching and role of the Catholic Church in the world and to engage at a deep level with Christ.

The Award was created to commemorate the late Pope Saint John Paul II who was so committed to young people and who had such belief and confidence in them



### Exciting New Maths Partnership

The Mathematics Department is delighted to announce a brand new partnership between St Bede's and Byron and one of the most prestigious schools in the North East, Royal Grammar School Newcastle.

As part of the first initiative within the partnership, a group of Year 10 pupils shall have the opportunity to complete the GCSE Further Mathematics qualification through weekly virtual lessons, completing their examinations in June 2026. This exciting expansion to our curriculum not only provides St Bede's pupils with an additional qualification (with an impressive track record of exceptional results), but will also strengthen their understanding and confidence, bolstering their GCSE Mathematics capability and helping to ease a future step to A Level Mathematics.

In the future, we plan to introduce more initiatives, in addition to this GCSE Further Mathematics provision, to further leverage our partnership with RGS to further support and benefit pupils at St Bede's and Byron.



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### This Week's Maths Wall of Legends

Celebrating the work and effort of our pupils is incredibly important to us - we know that recognising that extra bit of effort or that resilient mindset goes a long way to support our pupils to become the person that God meant them to be. This week, the following pupils set our Maths Department ablaze with their outstanding attitude, pride in their work and kindness.

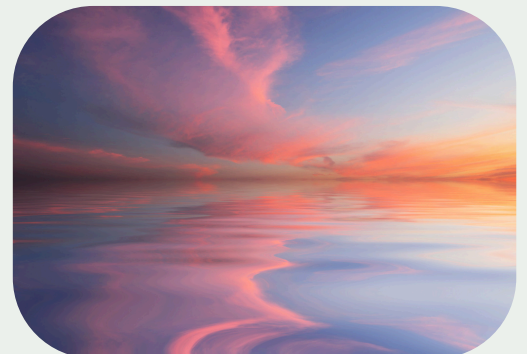
Mrs Keniry - **Oryna Zaiats 7H1**  
Mr Still - **Isabel Wood 7H2**  
Dr Treanor - **Benjamin Selby Brown 9H3**  
Mr Marrs - **Frankie Jones 9C3**  
Mr Fowler - **Oliver Dodds 7C1**  
Mr Taylor - **Ava Cain 11C2**  
Miss Houghton - **Noah Rutter Bryson 10C2**



### Photography Competition

As mentioned last week, we are hosting a whole school photography competition, celebrating awe and wonder of God's creations. Students can take a photograph of anything to do with nature. Nature offers so many beautiful and diverse subjects to capture. Here are a few ideas students can consider for their photos:

- **Wildlife:** A close-up shot of a bird, insect, or any animal in its natural habitat.
- **Landscapes:** A wide view of a scenic spot like a forest, beach, mountain, or even a field.
- **Plants and Flowers:** A detailed shot of plants, trees, or flowers in full bloom.
- **Water:** Rivers, lakes, waterfalls, or even a dewdrop on a leaf.
- **Sunrise or Sunset:** Capturing the beautiful colours of the sky as the sun rises or sets.
- **Seasons:** A photograph highlighting one of the seasons, such as fallen autumn leaves, spring blossoms, or snowy winter scenes.
- **Textures in Nature:** Close-up shots of tree bark, leaves, rocks, or water ripples.



Entries can be emailed to Miss Anwar on [aanwar@st-bedes.org](mailto:aanwar@st-bedes.org). Entries close on April 7 2025 and the winners will be accounced on Friday April 11 2025.

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Year 8 Parents' Evening

Thank you to everyone that attended our Year 8 Parents' Evening on Thursday 13 February. We hope you found the discussions with teachers informative and helpful in understanding your child's progress and achievements. It was wonderful to see so many of you engage with the staff and express interest in your child's educational journey. Your support is invaluable, and we are grateful for your involvement in our school community. If you have any further questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Crochet Club Valentines Hearts

The Crochet Club Valentines were all sold and they have been delivered this morning. Thanks to the students that made them and those that bought them, raising money to buy cotton that the Crochet Club will use to make octopuses that will be sold to support hospital neonatal units - a worthy cause.



### Year 11: This is the Week... to give yourself a pat on the back for a great first week of Mock Exams

Moving into the second week of mock exams requires students to be resilient and determined. Remember, the revision materials for subjects and the revision technique guides are in the Year 11 Teams area for you to access at home. All of the PowerPoints from the parents' revision evening are also on the school website in the examination section <https://www.st-bedes.org/pupil-parent-information/examinations/>

Also, a quick reminder below:

### Technology and mobile phones in the Exams (guidance from the exam boards)



**Possession of a mobile phone/smart technology** or other unauthorised material is **breaking the rules**, even if you do not intend to use it, and you will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification.

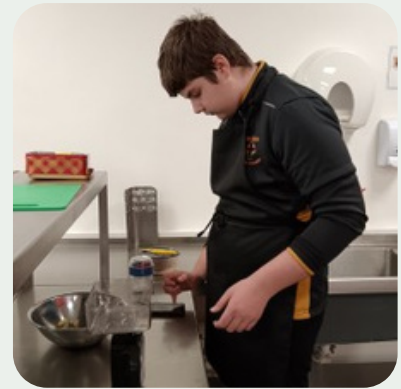
The minimum penalties are as follows:

- Device found on you and turned **ON** - **disqualification for the entire subject award**.
- Device found on you and turned **OFF** – **disqualification from the specific paper you are sitting** at the time.
- **Phone rings** during the exam **wherever it is in the room** - the exam board must be informed and you will be **disqualified from all papers for the subject, including any already taken**.
- **This rule is taken very seriously with no exceptions to it.**

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Cookery Club - Up and Running

When RAAC impacted the school, we lost access to the food room, leaving us unable to cook for more than a year. However, the Cookery Club is now back in action! The delightful aromas wafting from the kitchen on Wednesday evening were incredible. Many students are signing up, and we will operate on a six-week cycle to ensure that all students have the opportunity to enjoy the facilities.



### Good Luck Ava!

We would like to wish Ava Crumbie of 7C1 the best of luck whilst she plays for the England Under 13 Ice Hockey Team in Canada! Ava also plays for the Billingham Stars Junior Ice Hockey Club. We are incredibly proud of Ava - we look forward to hearing about your experience.



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Safer Internet Day: Tuesday 11 February 2025

Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety. Each year Safer Internet Day covers online issue or themes that speak to the things young people are seeing and experiencing online.

The 2025 Safer Internet Day theme is: 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.'



All Key Stage 3 students were taught about what they can do to protect themselves from scams and fraud online. We explored what a scam is, the signs of a scam and online sextortion. If children feel concerned about any of these online threats, they should speak to a trusted member of staff who will inform our Designated Safeguarding Leads and signpost them to appropriate support. Check out the UK Safer Internet Centre for support regarding:

- Coerced online child sexual abuse
- Cyberflashing
- Gaming
- Livestreaming
- Misinformation
- Online bullying
- Online challenges
- Parental controls

- Pornography
- Reporting
- Screen time
- Sexting
- Sextortion
- Social Media

*It also has helpful guides to social media apps and filtering and monitoring*



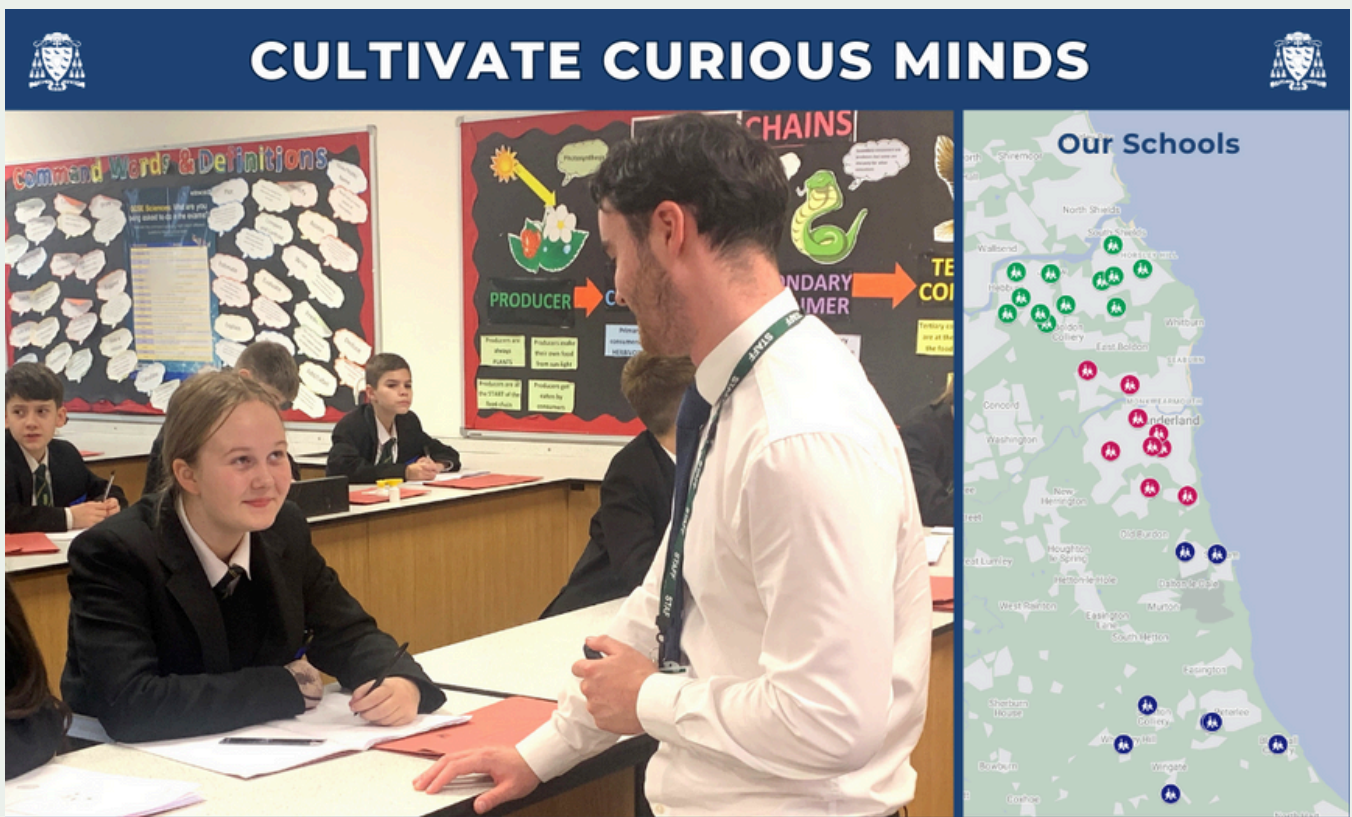
### International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGIS): 11 February

IDWGIS is a day to recognise the gender gap that has happened throughout the years in many levels of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). In tutor groups, students have been looking at the women who have changed the world with their contribution to science. Pupils also considered the gender inequality within science and how this gap could be closed.

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Football Success

Our Under 16 Girls have progressed to the Quarter Finals of the Elite National Cup with an outstanding 5-2 win over St Aidans of Harrogate. The girls now play away to South Hunsley from Hull, who won the National Cup in Year 8 and have finished runner-ups in the last two years. Goals were scored by **Teigan Wilson (2)**, **Anna Rowntree (2)** and **Macey Huggins**. **Anna** was the player of the match. Well done, girls!



### Learn to teach in a school near you - join our SCITT programme:

- Get hands on experience and high-quality training
- Qualify in less than 12 months
- 1-2-1 support from experienced mentors
- Dedicated Director of Teacher Development
- Train to retain – thirty schools in our Trust
- Primary and Secondary school places available



Bishop Chadwick  
Catholic Education Trust



@BishopChadwickCET



bccet.org.uk



teach@bccet.org.uk

## Sixth Form

# BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

### Erin 'Nails' It!

Like many of our Sixth Formers, Year 13 student Erin has balanced study with work throughout the year. Following on from her work experience in Year 12, Erin has built an exciting venture as a nail artist. Her exceptionally detailed work has led to recognition at a national beauty award. Erin has placed in the top 50 and will attend an exclusive red-carpet event in August!



### Firm and Insurance Choices

As more and more of our students get ready to make their university decisions, we've stopped to consider and reflect on our firm and insurance choices this week, and how we make a thoughtful, informed choice.

Each student has the opportunity to select two of their university offers (regardless of how many they hold).

- **Firm choice** - this is the university they wish to attend.
- **Insurance choice** - this is a backup choice in case they don't gain the necessary grades for their firm choice.

This can be a tense time for students, especially at Byron where most students are fielding a range of offers. We're very proud of the focus and dedication Sixth Form students have shown this week in preparing for their mock exams, and working hard to meet coursework deadlines.



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





## Chadwick Celebration Awards 2025 Pupil Nomination Information

FULLY  
FUNDED



### Nominate staff from your school for our Inspirational Staff Award

One of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trusts values is **Celebration** and we want to celebrate all our staff across the Trust who go that extra mile. There are seventeen categories in our awards and only pupils can nominate in the **Inspirational Staff Award** category.

We would like you to think about all the staff at your school the Headteacher and teachers, the teaching assistants, the office staff, the kitchen staff, caretaking team etc. If there is someone that you think has done a really good job then you can nominate them for this award.

For younger pupils you may need to ask an adult for some help to make your nomination. Nominations need to be a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words you can use the QR code or the link below it to access the nomination form. **Nominations will close on Monday 24 March 2025.**

This award is to celebrate someone who is positive and full of enthusiasm, who has gone above and beyond to support pupils.

Your nomination should include what the person's role or roles are in your school. It should give some examples of what they have done, how that impacted on pupils, and why they deserve to receive this award. This could be by providing additional support, a consistent friendly face, leading on new opportunities or championing student causes in school, or providing an inspiring role model.



2022 Inspirational Staff Award Winner  
Mrs Blackburn, Teaching Assistant  
St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow



2023 Inspirational Staff Award Winner  
Mrs Young, Office Manager  
St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow



2024 Inspirational Staff Award winner  
Mrs Peart, Headteacher  
St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland

Link to nominate: [www.tinyurl.com/pupil2025](http://www.tinyurl.com/pupil2025)

Thank you for getting involved - finalists will be announced in May 2025 and the winner will be announced at an event on 11 July 2025.

Thank you to our event sponsors who allow us to fully fund this event.

Better Schools | Better Communities | Better Futures in Christ



## Key Dates

- Friday 21 February: End of half term (3.15pm finish)
- Monday 3 March: Return to school - Week A timetable
- Thursday 6 March: World Book Day
- Monday 10 March: Careers Week
- Thursday 13 March: Y9 Immunisations
- Thursday 13 March: Y9 Options Evening
- Wednesday 26 March: Spring Music Celebration (6pm)
- Thursday 27 March: Y9 Parents' Evening

## Safeguarding

### Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

#### Designated safeguarding leads:



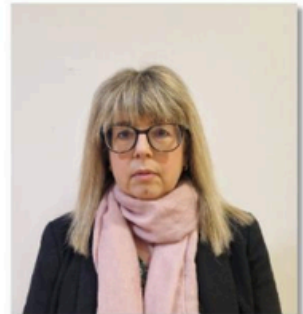
**Mr Logan**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Cessford**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Robinson**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Ord**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

## Home and School Links

- Address:** St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form  
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- 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](#)

