



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: 7 February 2025

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 5:1-11), Peter (after a night of failed fishing) is finally successful and realises his true calling because he listens to and follows Jesus' instructions. It is important to make the right choice about who or what we follow in life. Simply following our desires and feelings, which often change, can leave us feeling unsatisfied. Jesus invites each and every one of us to make following him our most important priority. We follow Jesus whenever we are kind, try to make peace and make others feel welcome. Choosing to follow him is not always easy but it really does guide and help us and our families to keep growing in wisdom and love.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to **Harley Bannon-Edwards of 11O** who has achieved this week's Headteacher's Award. Harley has demonstrated the right mindset and tried his best. He's been very focused on his mock exams. Well done, Harley!

Tutor Group of the Week

9C1 are the winners of this week's Tutor Group of the Week award.

House Students of the Week

Columba: **Kennedy Young 10C1**

Hilda: **Jasmine Brown 9H2 & Lilly Wilkens 10H1**

Oswald: **William Bryson 7O1**

Chad: **Brandon Gardner 13Ch1**

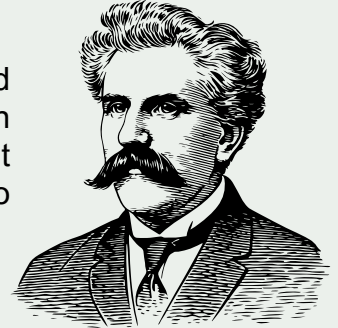


Since the beginning of the spring term, we have awarded many credits to students for living out our core values. **Oswald House** has achieved **9992 credits**. **Columba House** has been awarded **12,278 credits**. **Hilda House**, however, is sitting at the top of the league table with an incredible **13,212 credits** this term. Well done to each student for each individual credit earned - keep striving to be the people God intended you to be!

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Determination

“In the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity” is a quotation often attributed to Albert Einstein. The quote encourages us to embrace challenges and learn from them. It also suggests that opportunities can arise from difficult situations. Being determined and resilient is a useful lifeskill that we hope to instil in our students so that they rise to challenges with confidence.



This week's Mathematical Legends

Congratulations to the following pupils this week who have consistently exceeded expectations in the Maths Department - we are so proud to have such talent in our school!

- Miss Houghton - **Juliet Peter 9O1**
- Mr Taylor - **Olivia Fleron 11H3**
- Mr Fowler - **Claudia Collings 9H2**
- Mr Marrs - **Leonie Fullard 11O2**
- Dr Treanor - **Henry Williams 10C3**
- Mr Still - **Carl Dawson 9C3**
- Mr Hudspith - **James Cleary 11O2**
- Mrs Keniry - **Spencer Williamson 7C2**



Mathematics is a subject that requires focus and dedication, improving our work and correcting errors allows us to improve and progress. Our best pupil work doesn't always mean an absence of mistakes, but it does mean noting them and working to address them! We're looking forward to recognising our most dedicated and focused pupils next week again.

Year 8 Parents' Evening: Thursday 13 February

It is Year 8 Parents' Evening next week. Please use our online booking system to secure your appointments. We look forward to welcoming you on Thursday. [For more information about the online booking system please click here.](#)

Musician of the Week

Charlie Davison from **7A1**: Charlie wrote a fantastic and detailed answer based upon the listening task to see how French Composer Saint Saen describe the Lion in his Carnival of the Animals.





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Faith in Action

Congratulations to our Year 8 students for successfully completing the bronze level of the Faith in Action CYMFed award. The Faith in Action Award encourages young people through recognising, rewarding and celebrating their active faith lived out through service and reflection. The Award helps them connect their life and faith in a tangible manner.



Chief Scout Gold Award

Emily Powell from **9C2**, **Jasmine Brown** from **9H2**, and **Olivia Mellenthin** from **801** were awarded the Chief Scouts Gold Award this week. The presentation took place at the Xcel Centre in Newton Aycliffe. This is the highest award a Scout can earn. To complete it, you need to complete all nine of the Challenge Awards, plus six Activity badges. This is a fantastic achievement - well done girls, we are very proud of you!



National Apprenticeship Week 2025

National Apprenticeship Week runs from Monday 10 February to Sunday 16 February. It aims to raise awareness of the many benefits apprenticeships can offer you. It's a fantastic chance to learn about apprenticeships, explore your options and network. What better time to find out which of the hundreds of apprenticeships could be the right one for you?

What's on during National Apprenticeship Week?

There's a schedule of online and in person events for National Apprenticeship Week. These events offer you the opportunity to:

- hear from real life apprentices
- find out where your skills can take you
- learn more about different companies or sectors
- work out the right route for you

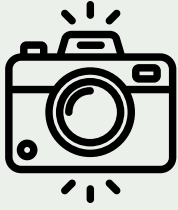


Both of the links below will take you to a number of events to look at the different apprenticeship opportunities available to you. All events are recorded so they will be available on demand after the event.

<https://nationalapprenticeshipweek.co.uk/events/>

<https://naw.appawards.co.uk/events>

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Nature Photography Competition

We are encouraging students to take a photo of God's creation and email it to Mrs Anwar, Head of Art: aanwar@st-bedes.org for the chance to win and Easter Egg. The closing date for the competition is April 7 2025.



Year 11: This is the Week... for final preparation before the mock exams

This weekend is the final mock exam preparations for Year 11 so they can 'let their light shine' and 'set the world ablaze'.

Last minute tips!

1. Do any last minute revision to refresh long term memory.
2. Feel fresh - get plenty of rest.
3. Be prepared - check the exam timetable.
4. Pack your bag – don't forget any equipment.
5. Remember the rules on technology and mobile phones (reminder below).
6. Finally, be positive!

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.

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Year 8 Emmaus Youth Village Retreat

Our Year 8 students have just returned from their visit to the Youth Ministry Team's Emmaus Youth Village in Consett. They all had an amazing time and the staff praised them for their interactions and exemplary behaviour throughout. A big thank you to Mrs Johnson, Miss Riddle, Mr Taylor, Mr Balls and Mrs Balls for enabling this wonderful opportunity.



Cookery Club

Mrs Johnson is starting a cookery club. We anticipate it will be popular so there will be a sign-up system in place. Twelve students will be able to participate each half term, with the list of students changing for the next half term to allow as many students as possible the opportunity to cook and to enjoy the experience of the club. Please see Mrs Johnson for more information and to sign up.

Cookery Club

Coming Soon

12 Places Available
Will be starting on a Wednesday
after school
See Mrs Johnson to sign up

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Children's Mental Health Week

This year's Children's Mental Health Week theme is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. The more we can understand about ourselves, the more prepared we are to express our emotions and take on life's ups and downs.

Being self-aware means getting to know and understand what we are good at, what we find difficult, our likes and dislikes, what makes us feel **joy** and what may cause us **sadness**. It is also about understanding what makes us unique and our fears, hopes and dreams. As we build a sense of self, we grow in our ability to connect with others, as well as develop our skills and talents. It is with this basis we can form strong and healthy relationships, from early childhood right through to adulthood and are equipped to cope with the challenges that life brings our way.

Tips for families:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Encourage journalling | Encourage children to express their emotions and thoughts through journalling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what it going on. |
| Make space for reflection | When children reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need. Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together. |
| Be visual | Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children recognise and label their feelings. |
| Practise mindfulness | Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique. |
| Communicate | Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them. |



It's **ok**
not to
be **ok**



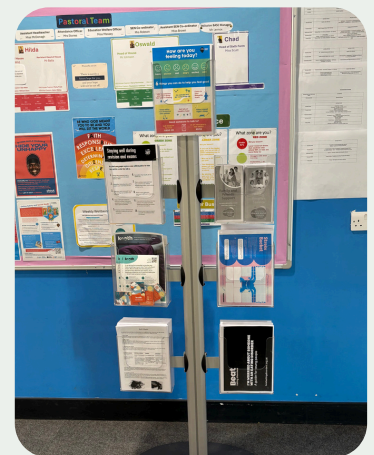
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Mental Health Intervention at St Bede's

We provide a comprehensive range of support and intervention services tailored to assist students struggling with mental health challenges. These services include onsite counselling through The Road Centre, online counselling via Kooth, art therapy, and the Piece of Mind Mental Health Support Team. Additionally, we offer resources through the Family HUB, which addresses topics such as anger management and emotional regulation (Staying Cool) and risky behaviors and peer pressure (Safe Choices). Other available resources include the Durham City Youth Project, the School Nurse, key staff members within the school, and referrals to CAMHS. Should you require support, please do not hesitate to contact our pastoral team for more information.

Adjacent to the Head of House office, students will find a variety of literature dedicated to mental health awareness, which outlines the services and systems previously mentioned. Students are encouraged to take this information home for further reference.

Additionally, we incorporate education on mental health into our PSHE lessons, ensuring that students gain a comprehensive understanding of the topic. Our aim is to foster an environment where open conversations about mental health are normalised, and students feel empowered to seek help when needed.



Uniform Reminder

We would like to take a moment to remind you of our uniform policy and the high expectations we have for our students' attire. It is essential that all students adhere to these guidelines, as they play a crucial role in promoting a sense of unity and discipline within our school community. [Our uniform policy is available here.](#) Thank you for your cooperation and support in ensuring that our students represent our school with pride.

Hardship Fund

If any families are struggling financially and need assistance to purchase uniform, please contact us regarding our hardship fund. This fund is available to assist families in need. We understand that times can be challenging, and we are committed to supporting our students and their families. Please don't hesitate to reach out in confidence; we are here to help ensure every student has what they need to succeed.

Internet Matters: Teens Online Dating & Relationships

Help teens stay safe as they interact with others online. The Internet Matters website www.internetmatters.org has expert advice and guidance to learn more about teens interactions with others online, the risks of online relationships, advice from experts and what online relationships look like for teens. [Click here to access the guide and support.](#)

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Attendance: Leave of Absence in Term Time

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the law say about leave of absence in term time?

It says Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The associated guidance states the need or desire for a holiday or leave for the purpose of leisure or recreation would not normally be considered exceptional. Head Teachers should determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted.

If my child's school refuses to authorise my term time leave of absence request, will I receive a Fixed Penalty Notice and can I be prosecuted?

Durham County Council's Fixed Penalty Notice Protocol acknowledges that regular and punctual attendance at school is both a legal requirement and essential for pupils to maximise their educational opportunities.

Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with the national framework and local code of conduct. Penalty Notices can be issued in circumstances where **10 unauthorised absence sessions (a session being a morning or afternoon registration period) have been recorded in any 10 school week period**. You can be prosecuted if you receive a fixed penalty notice and it is not paid.

Under the Education Act 1996, parents commit an offence if they fail to ensure their child's regular school attendance. Taking a child out of school for a leave of absence without permission, and where the absence amounts to 10 sessions or more of unauthorised absence in a 10 school week period is viewed as failing to ensure your child's regular attendance at school.

Payment of a Penalty Notice, where offered, is an alternative to prosecution by discharging liability for the offence. If unpaid, prosecution for the original offence under the Education Act can follow. A fixed penalty notice can be issued to **each person with parental responsibility** for the child / children who are deemed liable for the offence / offences, but usually to the parent or parents who have allowed the absence.



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Attendance: Leave of Absence in Term Time

Who has parental responsibility for a child?

The Department for Education (DfE) state a parent means:

- All **natural parents**, whether they are married or not;
- Any person who **has parental responsibility** for a child or young person; and,
- Any person who **has care of a child or young person i.e. lives with and looks after the child.**

The DfE further state: **'generally parents include all those with day-to-day responsibility for a child.**

Please see further information regarding Fixed Penalty Notices from Durham County Council below:



Fixed Penalty Notices for irregular attendance at school Important information for parents

1 Overview

Penalty notices are issued as an alternative to prosecution where parents have failed to ensure their child attends school regularly. They can be used in cases where absence has not been authorised by a head teacher.

The notices are used to prevent the need for court action, for example, when support has not been engaged with or is not appropriate (for example, leave of absence during term time). **Changes from September 2024 are shown below.**

2 Leave

Head Teachers are unable to grant leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**.

Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation **would not** constitute an exceptional circumstance.

3 Absence

A Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued if there are **5 days / 10 sessions** of absence in a period of **10 school weeks** (where absence has not been authorised).

A notice may be issued where the 5-day level of absence has not been reached, for example, if there are several periods of leave.

4 Amount

Within a 3-year period:

The **first** penalty notice is **£160** if paid within 28 days, reduced to **£80** if paid within 21 days.

A **second** penalty notice is **£160** to be paid within 28 days.

A **third** penalty notice cannot be issued. **Legal action** may result (for example, prosecution).

For further information please see Durham County Council website page on school attendance or email AFT@durham.gov.uk



Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Spotlight on: The Russell Group

Byron students are holding a phenomenal number of offers, particularly for Russell Group universities!

The Russell Group are 24 of the most research intensive, and academically selected institutions in the UK. They are characterised by a greater than average student to staff ratio, higher earning potential for graduates and more funding spent per student.

Currently, the Year 13 hold 36 Russell Group offers with 74% of students holding at least one offer for Russell Group.

16-19 Bursaries

We offer two types of 16-19 bursary. [Please check this link to see if you are entitled to financial support.](#)



Year 12 National Apprenticeship Week

Next week marks National Apprenticeship Week. Year 12 have used the week to consider some opportunities for higher and degree level apprenticeships. There are a number of virtual sessions and masterclasses next week from top employers and apprenticeship providers like The British Army, EY, Aldi and National Rail.

There are a number of exceptional opportunities available to students next week:
<https://nationalapprenticeshipweek.co.uk/events/>



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

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

- Monday 10 February: Y11/13 mock exams fortnight begins
- Thursday 13 February: Y8 Parents' Evening
- 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

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



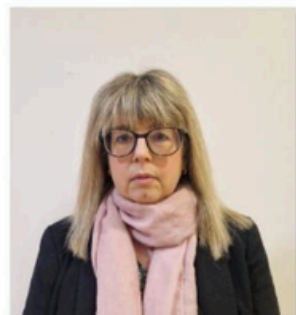
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



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
Westway, Peterlee, Co. Durham, SR8 1DE
- Email:** enquiries@st-bedes.org
- Phone:** 0191 5876220
- 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](#)

