



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 March 2025

Faith

This season of Lent reminds us of Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness, where he grew stronger through resisting temptations. In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 4:1-13), the tempter makes three suggestions in an effort to divert Jesus from his true mission. It is part of the human condition to face temptation in life. However, the more familiar we become with the Word of God, the more we too can be strengthened to resist temptations and be filled with new life. Lent is a great opportunity to be strengthened. In the same way that bread feeds our body, we also need prayer and God's word to feed and strengthen our mind.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

The winner of the Headteacher's Award this week was **Eva Lilea 8C1**. Eva has been prepared, as always, doing her best, learning from obstacles, making right choices and discovering her purpose. She has set goals and demonstrated the right mindset all year long. Well done, Eva!

Tutor Group of the Week

9C3 are the winners of this week's Tutor Group of the Week award.

House Students of the Week

Columba: **Eva Lilea 8C1**

Hilda: **Maja Cielsla 8H3 & Neve Beattie 11H1**

Oswald: **Caleb McCarthy 10O2**

Chad: **James Anderson-Laybourne 12Ch2**



It has been a wonderful week back following the half-term break. Well done to all of the students that were awarded prizes, credits and rewards this week. We look forward to celebrating with more of you across the next five weeks as we prepare during Lent towards our Easter celebration.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Citizenship

Throughout Lent, we're asking students to think of others. Respect each other and our environment. In Aesop's fable, The Lion and The Mouse, he writes: **"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."** We are encouraging our students particularly to be kind to each other and to keep our school free from litter - small, simple acts that have a hugely positive impact.

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday, our Year 8 students had the privilege of attending the Ash Wednesday service at Our Lady of the Rosary Church. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Fr. Sean and the parishioners for their warm welcome and for making this occasion so special. Your hospitality and support helped make this a memorable and meaningful experience for all of us.



Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday 13 March

On Thursday 13 March we have an Options Evening from 5pm - 5.45pm. There will be a presentation in our hall followed by an opportunity to ask us questions about our options process.

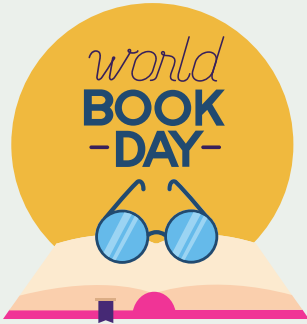
The timeline for Year 9 Options is:

Thursday 13 March	Y9 Options Evening
Friday 14 March	Y9 Options booklets given to students & published on school website
Friday 14 March	Y9 Options online form sent to parents/carers (paper copies available upon request)
Thursday 27 March	Y9 Parents' Evening (opportunity for parents/carers and students to discuss option choices with staff)
Thursday 3 April	Deadline for Y9 Options

Please email enquiries@st-bedes.org with queries/requests for clarification, for the attention of Mr Hudspith.

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

World Book Day



We had a lot of fun on Thursday 7 March as staff and students celebrated World Book Day. Staff and students decorated classroom doors to represent a variety of books and staff dressed up as famous literary (ahem!) characters.

We promote reading for pleasure all year round. Whether it's reading thrillers or diving into the magical worlds of fantasy novels, our aim is to foster a lifelong love for reading among our students. Every book is a doorway to a new adventure, and we are committed to supporting our students as they embark on their own literary journeys. Whether it's through discovering new authors or revisiting classic tales, we are thrilled to see our students' imaginations flourish and their love for reading grow.





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Geography Iceland Trip

Year 11, 12 and 13 Geography students had a fantastic experience in Iceland this February half term.

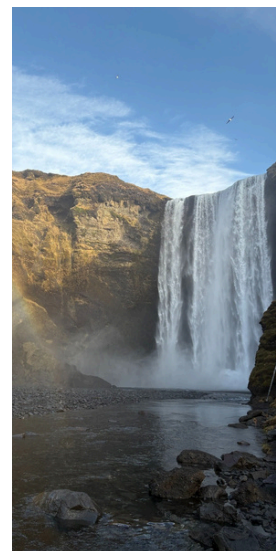
During the trip they visited some amazing geographical spots, including many waterfalls, bubbling hot springs, lakes, and coastal landforms. They were even able to visit a volcanic crater, see evidence of active volcanic activity and stand on the bridge between two continents - the location at which the Eurasian plate is pulling away from the North American plate. Students were also given the opportunity to have a swim in the natural geothermal lake the Secret Lagoon, where students were able to enjoy the natural 40 degrees water temperature. The highlight for many students and staff however was the midnight wake up call to see the appearance of the Northern lights. They did not disappoint and this once in a lifetime opportunity was appreciated by all.

Students proudly represented the school during this trip and were a real credit and ambassadors to the school. Both the tour guide and bus drivers commented on their impeccable behaviour and positive attitudes. Well done St Bede's and Byron





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RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

The Spanish Apprentice

Some of our Year 10 Spanish students recently took part in an exciting tourism marketing challenge at Bishop Auckland, as part of a collaboration with Durham University, The Auckland Project, and the 'Express Yourself' North East Festival of Languages. This unique experience gave students the opportunity to explore The Auckland Project's attractions while putting their Spanish language skills to the test. The experience was made even more special by the presence of Durham University undergraduate mentors, who supported the students throughout the day.

Competing against ten other schools, our students showed their creativity and confidence by delivering a Spanish presentation promoting Bishop Auckland as a tourist destination. Their hard work, enthusiasm, and presentation skills truly impressed the judges, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts!

With the added bonus of exploring the Spanish Gallery within The Auckland Project, this trip was a fantastic opportunity for our students to deepen their understanding of Spanish culture while engaging in a real-world language challenge. Well done for participating—you have represented our school brilliantly!



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Northern Farmers Award Nominee

Congratulations to **George Tottle-Venton 901** who attended the Northern Farmers Award 2025 in Harrogate on Thursday 20 February. George's family business was nominated for 'Arable Farmer of the Year' and he was able to attend this prestigious event, representing Dryden Farms. What a fantastic achievement and an amazing event! Well done, George.



Girls Rugby Stars

Anya Ellsworth 10C2, Harriet Cahill 1003 and Iris Cahill 1003 all played rugby on Sunday 23 February for Durham County at the Durham Northumberland and Cumbria PDGu16. Congratulations to the three of you, we love seeing St Bede's represented in the sporting community.



Easington Sports Partnership Boccia Tournament

We had a fantastic morning at the Easington Sports Partnership Boccia tournament on Thursday 6 March. All teams showed teamwork, resilience and determination. Well done!



- 1st place: **David, Erin & Jack**
- 2nd place: **Dexter, Max & Riley**
- 3rd place: **Grace, Layla & Sarah**
- 4th place: **Aaron, Lily & Leo**

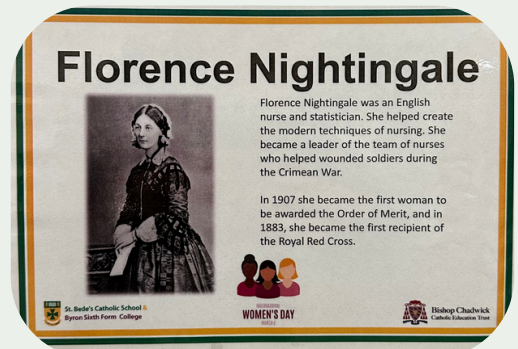
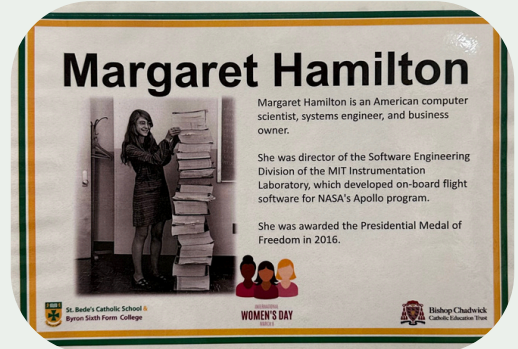
#settheworldablaze

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Maths Department Celebrates International Women's Day

Saturday 4 March marks International Women's Day - a day to reflect on and celebrate the contributions of women we know and those around the world. In the Mathematics Department, this week, we have been marking the work of pioneering women in the field of mathematics, discussing them in class and displaying information about them on our classroom doors! In particular, we are celebrating the contributions of Florence Nightingale, Hypatia, Ava Lovelace, Emmy Noether, Margaret Hamilton and Katherine Johnson.

Historically, mathematicians have been disproportionately male - in the UK, 40% of undergraduates studying mathematics related courses are female and only 30% of those studying PhDs in mathematics are female. As a school, ensuring that every one of our pupils can become the person God intended them to be is our vision and, as a department, we are continuing to strive to remove as many barriers as possible for every pupil in our care.



Mathematical Legends!

We are delighted to unveil our newest cohort of Mathematical Legends. They are a credit to their class, House and family - demonstrating exceptional effort, striving for perfect presentation in their work and being a role model for class mates!

- Miss Houghton - **Mallie Clayton 10X2**
- Mr Taylor - **Dean Blackburn 7X2**
- Mr Fowler - **Thomas Naisbett 11X3**
- Dr Treanor - **Zac Darlaston 8X3**



Health & Social Care Presentations

Our Year 12 Health & Social Care Double students have researched and presented information about Nutritional Values for their Unit on Nutritional Health.

Well done to all of you - we love seeing your learning in action and the pride you take in your studies.



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English Department Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our brilliant students who have been recognised as Star of the Week by their teachers in the English Department! Your hard work, dedication, and passion for learning have truly shone through, and this recognition is well-deserved. Whether it's your thoughtful contributions in class, your consistent effort, or your enthusiasm for the subject, you have all demonstrated what it means to excel. Keep up the amazing work - you are an inspiration to your peers and a shining example of what can be achieved through perseverance and a love for learning. We're proud of you and excited to see all the incredible things you will continue to accomplish!

- Mrs Cook - **Bella Roberts 10C2**
- Miss Milburn - **Kane Devine 10C3**
- Mrs Hamilton - **Kaylee Plant 10C3**
- Mr Johnson - **Bethany Robinson 7O2**
- Mrs Wild - **Lilly-Anne Dowse 7C2**
- Mrs Dolan - **Lucas Doyle Y10**
- Miss Barkley - **Jack 9H2**
- Mrs Scutt - **Veronica Tervit 7O1**
- Miss Caine - **Summer Potts-Taylor 9H2**
- Mr Old - **Isaac Smith 13CH1**

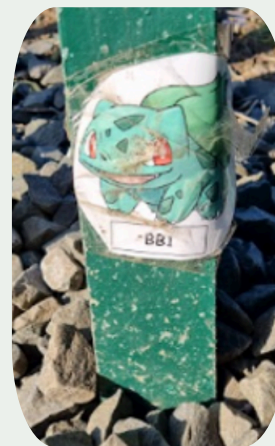


Pokemon Have Arrived!

Exciting news! Pokemon have appeared throughout the school, and Mr Wilson needs our students' help to catch them all. Their challenge is to find as many Pokemon as possible and record their special codes in a booklet.

Here's how it works: each Pokemon has a unique code displayed next to them. For example, if you find Bulbasaur, you'll see the code 'BB1', which you would write in the box for Bulbasaur.

There's a special prize for any students that manage to find Diglett or Mewtwo! Keep searching, complete your quest, and see if you can catch them all!



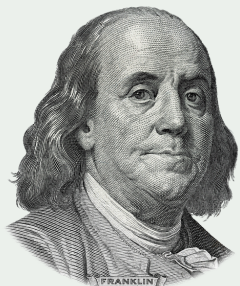
Musician of the Week

Cerys Bennett 11O1 is our Musician of the week. Cerys achieved the highest score on the GCSE Music Mock Listening Paper and her compositions have been transformed in the last couple of weeks. Well done, Cerys!



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Year 11: This is the week... to prepare



“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” Benjamin Franklin

There are 7 teaching weeks until the GCSE exams start, 7 weeks to make the most of every opportunity to prepare well for the exams. All year 11 have now been given a revision pack including flash cards and a revision planner and departments are preparing a revision schedule to enable all students to reach their potential. To ensure students have extra exam practice we have re focused the weekly assembly, tutor time and PSHE lessons.

Monday

The Year 11 assembly will focus on 'this is the week to practise exam techniques for *'specific subject'*'. They will be facilitated by Mrs Robinson but delivered by a core Head of Department. Students will be told this is the week for *'specific subject'* and the revision strategy is... (whatever the Head of Department believes is the best revision strategy for that subject)

Tue/Wed/Thur/Fri Tutor Time

Students will go directly to tutor (no line up) and the head of department will deliver a master class via Teams. Tutors will facilitate and support the students where necessary with the subject-specific information being delivered directly by the Head of Department.

All PSHE lessons during the week:

All year 11 students will complete revision in PSHE lessons, The Head of Department will provide year 11 PSHE teachers with the resources.

The Schedule for the Subject Focus:

Week 1	Revision Techniques	Week 5	RE
Week 2	Maths	Week 6	Maths
Week 3	English	Week 7	English
Week 4	Science	Week 8	Science / RE

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OPTIONS FOCUS: Studying at St Bede's in Key Stage 4



In the build up to our Year 9 Options deadline, we will focus on a selection of subjects each week, exploring what they offer at Key Stage 4 - including some core subjects too. As students prepare to make their choices, it's important to consider not just the content of the courses, but the skills they will acquire. We encourage our Year 9 students to think about their interests and future aspirations as they consider their options.

GCSE History: OPTION

Studying AQA History at GCSE offers students the opportunity to explore significant historical periods that have shaped the world we live in today. The course covers a range of fascinating topics, including the Inter-war years, 1919-1939, USA, 1920-1973, Medicine and the reign of Elizabeth I.

Through the study of the interwar years, students gain insight into the political and social changes that followed World War I, leading to the rise of new ideologies and tensions leading to World War II. The USA module allows students to explore the nation's development, including its cultural, political, and economic transformation. The medicine module provides an understanding of how medical practices have evolved, highlighting the impact of key discoveries and public health developments. Finally, the study of Elizabeth I's reign offers a rich exploration of politics, religion, and the challenges she faced as one of England's most powerful monarchs.

By studying AQA History, students not only gain knowledge of the past, but also develop crucial skills like critical thinking, analysis, and the ability to construct well-supported arguments, all of which are valuable for future careers.



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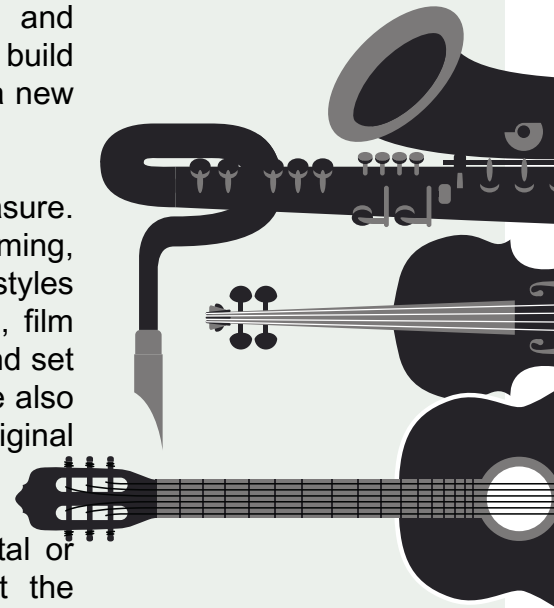
OPTIONS FOCUS: Studying at St Bede's in Key Stage 4

GCSE Music: OPTION

Bill Clinton said: "Music is about communication, creativity and cooperation. By studying music, students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives and experience the world from a new perspective."

Studying Music is both challenging and rewarding in equal measure. During both courses, you will hone your skills in performing, composing and listening. It will provide you with a vast range of styles of music to listen to, appraise and enjoy; from pop to classical, film music to rock and much more. You are given chances to shine and set the world a blaze with performances of your favourite music while also allowing your imagination to run wild and write your own original compositions.

To study GCSE Music, you must be already having instrumental or singing lessons and be playing to a grade 2-3 standard at the beginning of year 10. We study the Eduqas GCSE syllabus. Over the two years, you will perform 4 minutes of music on your instrument and compose 2 compositions. You will sit one exam at the end of the course in Year 11.



GCSE English Literature: COMPULSORY

Pupils will read a wide range of texts. Reading includes: a Shakespeare play, a 19th century novel, post 1914 prose fiction and a modern text and pre and post-1914 poetry. Students will be able to read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections, read in depth, critically and evaluatively, and appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage. They will write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English as well as acquiring and use a wide vocabulary, including grammatical terminology, and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read.



GCSE English Language: COMPULSORY

All pupils will have the opportunity to study GCSE English Language. Students will be assessed on their reading, writing and speaking and listening skills. Students will study both non-fiction and fiction texts that are engaging, have relevant contemporary themes and craft real world applicable writing tasks. Students must undertake a prepared spoken presentation on a specific topic in a formal setting, listen and respond to questions and feedback, and use spoken English effectively.

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OPTIONS FOCUS: Studying at St Bede's in Key Stage 4

BTEC Engineering: OPTION

Our OCR Cambridge National engineering course at key stage 4 is designed to give students a practical knowledge of engineering in a wide range of contexts.

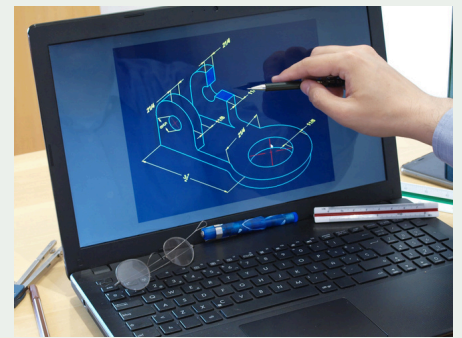
Students focus on product development and improvement employing their problem-solving initiative to evaluate and innovate.

In Engineering you will be covering topics such as:

- Safe working in the workshop.
- Using Engineering skills to communicate your ideas.
- Computer Aided Design techniques in engineering using industry standard software.

You will:

- Be involved in both classroom and workshop environments studying theory and practice.
- Use practical skills including new and industrial machining techniques.
- Design, make and investigate engineering products and systems.



BTEC Design Technology: OPTION

When people ask 'What is design technology?' We answer with another question, 'What isn't?'

Design Technology encompasses a huge range of design areas. Design technology allows students to study the theory behind products and product evolution and a wide range of material areas and manufacturing processes that would enable students to pursue such career paths with confidence.



Students also manage their own design project based on an exam board brief, where they can respond creatively and explore modern and traditional manufacturing and design techniques.



Students who have studied Design here have gone on to study architecture, automotive design, product design, jewellery design and graphic design.

Sixth Form

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Citizenship for Milad

After a lot of preparation and a nervous wait, **Milad Al Sammak** in Year 13, has taken and passed his British citizenship test. Milad joined St Bede's in 2019 when he and his family left Iraq as refugees. Milad has worked exceptionally hard to revise and study to pass his citizenship test and is proud to hold offers to study Theology at Durham University next year. Milad embodies our core value of citizenship as he serves in our parish as an altar-server and recently completed his John Paul II award which focuses on volunteering. We could not be prouder of the journey this young man has been on since arriving in the UK; we're so pleased all the hard work has paid off.



Free webinar for students & parents: The UCAS Personal Statement is Changing

UCAS have recently amended the personal statement format from one longer essay to three structured questions, affecting all students applying to a UK university from next year onward.

To help you navigate these changes, **InvestIN** is hosting a **free, interactive webinar led by experts**, covering everything you need to know to make your application stand out.

We strongly encourage **Year 11 and Year 12** students to attend to gain valuable insights on the new format and learn what skills and experiences you should develop to craft strong responses.

Date & Time: 26 March, 6-7pm

Online - Register [here](#)

If you cannot attend live, please register to automatically receive the recording.



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



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POST-GCSE PATHWAY: Studying at our Sixth Form

This half term our newsletter will also present a brief outline of what students can expect to study when they opt to stay at St Bede's and study at our fantastic Byron Sixth Form College. We are committed to providing a rich and diverse curriculum that prepares students for future academic pursuits and personal growth. Our courses range from traditional A Levels to more modern, interdisciplinary pathways that cater to a variety of interests and career aspirations. With small class sizes, staff that know our current Year 11 students very well already and an ethos of support and aspiration, we guarantee to continue to help you become the people God intends you to be. We will help you set the world ablaze with your gifts and talents.

*We can never
achieve greatness
alone*

We begin this focus with spotlights on English Literature, Product Design, Engineering, Music and History.

To find out more about our Sixth Form offer, students may talk to their class teachers, Heads of Department or Mrs Scutt - Sixth Form Head of Year.



A Level English Literature

English Literature A's historicist approach to the study of literature rests upon reading texts within a shared context. Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced, English Literature A encourages students to explore the relationships that exist between texts and the contexts within which they are written, received and understood. Studying texts within a shared context enables students to investigate and connect them, drawing out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives.



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



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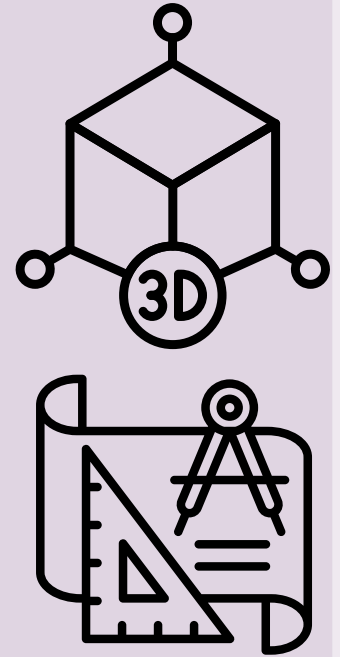
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

POST-GCSE PATHWAY: Studying at our Sixth Form

A Level AQA Design Technology (Product Design)

You will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing products of your choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Throughout Years 12 and 13 you are given the opportunity to design a new product based on any theme of your choice. Areas covered by the course of Product Design are intended to reflect the wide-ranging activities of professional designers and covers a wide range of materials. Written papers will be restricted to testing the core content, but other materials such as ceramics and textiles and other areas such as electronics and mechanisms can be incorporated to produce exciting coursework. The course meets the needs of students who wish to combine 3D Designing and workshop-based manufacturing.



BTEC Engineering

Introducing the new BTEC Level 3 Nationals from 2025. The BTEC Nationals will provide students with meaningful and practical learning experiences across a range of career sectors. They are made up of 4 units:

Unit 1: Engineering Principles. This unit will prepare you with a secure knowledge in the mathematical side of engineering.

Unit 2: Engineering Applications. This element looks to build on previous knowledge of materials and their manufacturing processes and develop them within real world contexts.

Unit 3: Engineering Design. Students will create a design solution in response to an engineering design challenge by developing three-dimensional (3D) models and two-dimensional (2D) detailed drawings including the use of a computer-aided design (CAD) system and other modelling techniques.

Unit 4: Engineering Project. Students apply project management principles to undertake an individual project and will develop conceptual or practical solutions to a chosen engineering problem related to a relevant engineering specialist area.



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Sixth Form

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POST-GCSE PATHWAY: Studying at our Sixth Form

A Level History

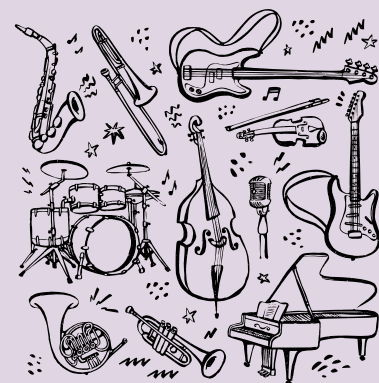
Studying OCR A-Level History offers students an engaging and in-depth exploration of some of the most significant periods in history. The course covers four fascinating topics: Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany, the Later Tudors, Civil Rights in the USA, and a coursework component that allows students to carry out independent research.

In the study of Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany, students analyse the rise and fall of the Weimar Republic and the Nazi regime, understanding the social and political forces that shaped 20th-century Europe. The Later Tudors focus on the challenges faced by English monarchs like Mary I and Elizabeth I, offering insights into religion, politics, and monarchy. The Civil Rights in the USA module provides a deep understanding of the struggles and triumphs of African Americans in their fight for equality, examining key movements and leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. The coursework element gives students the opportunity to develop independent research skills, encouraging critical thinking and analysis. OCR A-Level History equips students with valuable skills like argument construction, historical analysis, and the ability to evaluate evidence - skills that are vital for higher education and future careers.



A Level Music

At A-level, you will study Mendelsohn fourth symphony sometimes nicknamed the 'Italian' as well music from music theatre and classical music of the 20th and 21st century. You will perform a 10-15 recital on your instrument as well as compose two pieces lasting 6 minutes. To study A-Level music, you should have studied GCSE music or have Grade 5 Theory, be having instrumental or singing lessons and playing to grade 5 standard at the start of the course.



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Chadwick Celebration Awards 2025 Pupil Nomination Information

FULLY
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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 March: Careers Week
- Thursday 13 March: Y9 Immunisations
- Thursday 13 March: Y9 Options Evening
- Saturday 15 March: Fast Feet Manchester City Trip
- Friday 21 March: World Poetry Day
- Wednesday 26 March: Spring Music Celebration (6pm)
- Thursday 27 March: Y9 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 3 April: Y9 Options Deadline

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



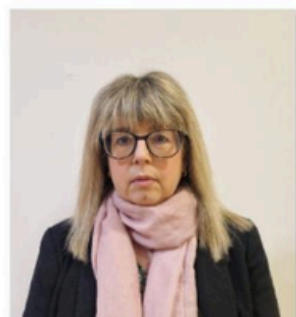
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



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](#)

