



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: 11 April 2025

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 19:28-40) we hear about Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem on a donkey which marks the beginning of Holy Week. This is the week in which the Church especially remembers Jesus' final days in Jerusalem. Palms will be handed out in Church in remembrance of the welcome and great praise that the people gave to Jesus when he entered the city.

Holy Week is a special time: it includes Palm Sunday, the celebration of the Last Supper, the washing of feet, the agony in the garden, Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and his resurrection.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to **Lucas Stokoe 801** who has been awarded the Headteacher's Award this week. Lucas has 364 credits and 0 debits so far this year - a fabulous effort. He has 98 credits for working to the best of his ability and his attitude is always exemplary. Lucas consistently demonstrates kindness and respect towards his peers and teachers, embodying the values we strive to uphold at St. Bede's. He is a role model for his classmates. Well done, Lucas! Keep shining brightly and inspiring those around you.



Tutor Group of the Week

8C1 are the winners of this week's Tutor Group of the Week award for the second week in a row! Their consistent dedication and teamwork have truly stood out, demonstrating a remarkable commitment to excellence and community spirit. A big congratulations to all the students in 8C1 for their hard work and enthusiasm. Keep up the fantastic effort, and let's see if you can make it three weeks in a row!

End of Year Celebration

We celebrated the end of what has been a lovely term by awarding many students for their efforts and achievements. Some of our regular awards are listed in this week's newsletter; we will announce winners of other awards in our next issue. We also want to express our gratitude to our dedicated teachers and staff, whose commitment to nurturing and guiding our students has been invaluable. Their tireless efforts make St. Bede's a wonderful place for education and personal development.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Cafod World Gifts

We have been selling doughnuts and cookies to help raise funds to support CAFOD World Gifts. This year we decided to support the Chirpy Chickens and we have raised enough to send 20 chickens to a family. A chicken is a great alternative for farmers who can't rely on crops. They don't take up much space and they produce delicious, nutritious eggs every single day. Chickens breed well. A family's brood can quickly grow – extra chickens and eggs can be sold to provide families with extra money in case of emergencies.



Stations of the Cross

As part of our Lenten preparations 7O1/7O2 led Stations of the Cross. A big thank you to all involved and to the parents who were able to attend.



Lourdes Fundraiser

We have some members of our Sixth form who would like to volunteer to help with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. There is a cost for this and we would like to give the students some financial help with this so we will be holding a raffle when we return from the Easter break. Tickets are 0.20p each and can be purchased during tutor time, The prize is a pair of Jordan Pickford football gloves and a signed programme.



Lourdes 2025

Two of our students will be travelling with the HCTP Easter Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year. A big thank you to Fr Sean Neylan for supporting our young people and we hope that they have an amazing time.

End of Term Mass

Thank you to Fr Marc for celebrating our end of term Mass. It was a privilege to celebrate with our Director of Education, Catherine Craig, and her team. Thank you to all of students for their reverence throughout.





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Goodbye Mrs Stones

After almost twenty years at St. Bede's, Mrs Stones is leaving us today for pastures new. Her dedication and passion have left a lasting mark on our community. Mrs Stones has been more than just an attendance officer and cover supervisor; she has been a mentor, a friend, and an inspiration to countless students and colleagues. Her ability to engage and motivate students has set a high standard for excellence at our school.

Though we are sad to see her go, we are excited for her as she embarks on this new chapter of her life. We wish Mrs Stones all the best in her future endeavours and hope she knows she always has a home here at St. Bede's. Thank you, Mrs Stones, for everything you have done. You will be deeply missed, but never forgotten.



Weaving Friendship Project - Express Yourself

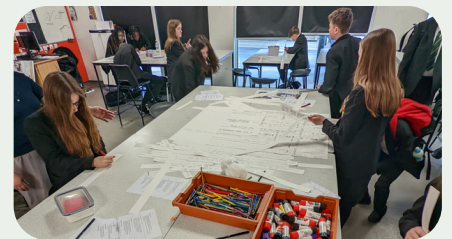
We are incredibly proud to share that our students took part in the Weaving Friendship project organised by Express Yourself North East Festival of Languages – a powerful celebration of friendship, culture, and creativity.



They joined 6,669 children and young people from 60 schools across the North East of England and 10 European countries in creating woven artworks that reflect their thoughts and feelings about friendship. Each weaving included a personal message, written in English, a home language, or another language from around the world, making this a truly multilingual and inclusive experience.



Our students' contribution is now part of a larger installation – Friendship Trees – now on public display at Newcastle Civic Centre from April 2025. These beautiful trees are a symbol of cultural identity, unity, and the bonds that connect us across communities and continents.



We are so proud of our students for representing their voices, cultures, and ideas, and for helping to build connections with other young people across Europe. As part of the project, all participating schools received a certificate and a photo book documenting this inspiring work.



[Click here to view the photobook.](#) [Click on this link to see the article on the Festival website.](#)



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

One Term's Worth of Maths Legends!

Since January, 80 Maths Legends have been created - celebrating exceptionalism, in books and as role models as well as recognising those pupils who truly embody our school values. 10 examples of pupil work have been displayed on the Wall of Legends also, something we want to build on in Term 3!

- Miss Houghton - **Rory Jones 9C3**
- Mr Taylor - **Jodie McCourt 11O1**
- Dr Treanor - **Lily Richardson 10C3**
- Mr Marrs - **Rubi Laverick 9C1**

By summer, we are hoping to have named over 150 pupils as Maths Legends. Our Year 9 Legends have been rewarded with a guaranteed space on a Maths trip to London in May - we shall be continuing to link rewards and experiences in school with our Wall of Legends honourees!



St Bede's House Maths Championships 2025 (pictures attached)

In celebrating the start of Mathematics & Statistics Awareness Month, the Maths Department hosted our first ever St Bede's House Maths Championships last week. Over 100 pupils took part, competing in house teams to solve a variety of challenges in 20 minutes, all within a suitably decorated department! The Championships were open to pupils in any year group of any confidence level and we are so proud of how they competed and worked in their teams - they truly set our Maths Department ablaze!

Year Group Results:

Year:	1st	2nd	3rd
Year 7	Hilda	Oswald	Columba
Year 8	Oswald	Columba	Hilda
Year 9	Columba	Hilda	Oswald
Year 10	Oswald	Columba	Hilda
Year 11	Oswald	N/A	N/A

Overall Results:

House:	Challenges solved:	Total House Points:	Ranking
Oswald	15	700	1st
Columba	14	450	2nd
Hilda	11	350	3rd

1500 House Points have been earned and the Heads of House (and Maths Teachers) are thrilled with our outstanding mathematicians! Well done, Oswald!



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Parent Portal

Thank you to everyone that has downloaded our Parent Portal App - Arbor. 83% of our parents/carers have signed into the App so far - thank you. We believe it will greatly improve our communication with you. We're currently collating update consent - please use the App to indicate your consent for various aspects of school life. Please do not report absences on our parent portal; call our school office and speak to a receptionist / leave a voicemail each morning of absence. Thank you.

Durham Music Service Lessons

We are very fortunate in County Durham to have the Durham Music Service teaching with our school. We currently have opening for lessons in Brass, Woodwind, Vocals, Drum Kit and Guitar. If you'd like further information please visit the [Durham Music Service website](#)

Any Free School Meals student that is eligible for free school meals can be supported by the school should they wish to have the opportunity to play an instrument.

Musician of the Week

Lily Roberts: Excellent vocal work in Singing Lessons. We look forward to hearing Lily perform again in our next concert. Well done, Lily! Our next school concert will take place on Tuesday 24 June at 6pm in the main school hall.

Crochet Club

Look at this incredible crochet top made by one of the girls in Crochet Club. It's incredible to see them making their own creations from the skills they have learned. They are all so talented, Mrs Armstrong is very proud of them all

We are still busy making Octopuses for the babies too. If anyone would like to join Crochet Club it's on Week A Mon KS4 lunch and Week B Fri KS4 lunch with Miss Armstrong in Science 3.



RE Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils for consistently demonstrating our school values throughout this half term in Religious Education lessons: Year 7: **Jack Brown, Charlotte Wylie, Lavanna Pennick, Jacob Hall, Brody Gooricke.** Year 8: **Nyla Robinson, Shreya Thomas, Logan Robinson, Layla-Mai Brown, Finlay O'Malley, Luke Pedalty.** Year 9: **Jasmine Brown, Ava Rae, Biramrit Johal, Kai Gardner, Evie Cochrane, Oliver Watson.** Year 10: **Lucas Doyle, Tyler Irving, Dillan Harkness, Bobby Newbery, Olivia Sennett.** Year 11: **Neve Clark, Molly Smart, Ellie Meade, Liam English, Ava Caine.**


RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Key Scientists to the Periodic Table

Year 9 have been using their literacy skills and creativity in science to explore the contributions of key scientists to the development of the periodic table. As part of their learning, they were challenged to write a newspaper article debating whether Dmitri Mendeleev was the most influential figure in its history. Students researched the work of Mendeleev alongside other scientists such as John Newlands and Henry Moseley, and used persuasive writing techniques to present well-structured arguments. This cross-curricular task not only deepened their understanding of scientific progress but also encouraged critical thinking, independent research, and engaging written expression.

5p

WAS JOHN NEWLANDS **ROBBED!**



OF THE PERIODIC TABLE? 1869

Among all of the scientists involved in the Periodic Table, John Newlands is one of the most influential there currently is.

!JUSTICE FOR NEWLANDS!


John Newlands was the FIRST to arrange elements in the periodic table (in increasing atomic mass). He also found that every eight elements had similar properties, so he named this the Law of Octaves!

THE PERIODIC TABLES

MENDELEEV IS HE THE GENIUS?
Mendeleev a genius proclaimed, the first man to make a copy of the periodic table, so you might say. But what is the truth, under the surface? Who made it the first periodic? Is Mendeleev a real genius or has he stolen someone else's part? Mendeleev the truth revealed.

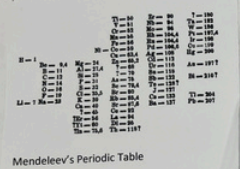
THE BREAKTHROUGH OF THE CENTURY?
Many have spoken about this scientific miracle but what is different about this man's creation than any other? Mendeleev created a table to show and store all known elements according to their increasing atomic weight. But what makes this different to any other is that gaps were left for unknown elements.

THE EARLY LIFE OF DIMITRI
Dimitri Mendeleev was born 1834 and lived in Russia as a young boy, but tragedy struck when he lost his mother at 11. Dimitri troubled by the ghosts of his past, was committed to his passion for chemistry to fulfill the final wish of his late mother. Due to this commitment Dimitri made a massive breakthrough in 1869.



Dimitri Mendeleev taken 1870 by Mark Edwards

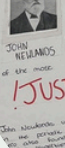
3 pence - get yours



Mendeleev's Periodic Table

5p

WAS JOHN NEWLANDS **ROBBED!**



OF THE PERIODIC TABLE? 1869

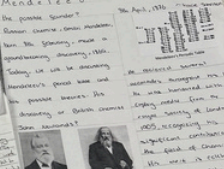
Among all of the scientists involved in the Periodic Table, John Newlands is one of the most influential there currently is.

!JUSTICE FOR NEWLANDS!

John Newlands was the FIRST to arrange elements in the periodic table (in increasing atomic mass). He also found that every eight elements had similar properties, so he named this the Law of Octaves!

MARVELLOUS MENDELEEV
Dmitri Mendeleev made significant developments towards the Periodic Table. He arranged elements in order of increasing atomic weight and noticed that elements with similar properties appeared at regular intervals. He left gaps for elements that were not yet discovered.

THE GENIUS
Mendeleev's genius was not just in his ability to predict the properties of unknown elements, but also in his courage to stand up to the scientific establishment of his time. He was often ridiculed and even threatened, but he remained determined to prove his theory correct.




Mendeleev's Periodic Table

discovered. This man deserves a lot of recognition for his work. Read on to find out more about the Periodic Table and how it looks...

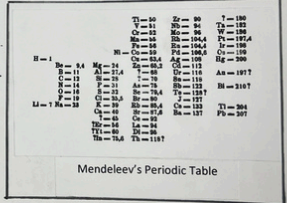
Dmitri Mendeleev has shocked the world with his new Table of Elements. They have been arranged with care by weights and their shared properties. His table shows clear patterns, and Mendeleev even dared to leave gaps for elements yet to be found. Scientists are astounded by this discovery as it not only helps understand elements now, but also in the future.

John Newlands
John Newlands was the first to arrange the elements in a table. He deserves recognition, as his work paved the way for Mendeleev. This is what some think... 1



John Newlands

SUEZ CANAL OPEN!
The Suez Canal has opened, connecting the Mediterranean and Red Seas. Read on Pg 7



Mendeleev's Periodic Table

Durham Cricket: T20 Ticket Offer



**DURHAM
CRICKET
T20 OFFER**

Your school has teamed up with Durham Cricket to get you exclusive access to discounted tickets for this summer's opening game! T20 games at Durham are the ultimate family-friendly experience – packed with fast-paced cricket, an electric atmosphere, and plenty of food and drink options to keep everyone happy.

Whether you're coming for the big hits, the fun festival vibe, or just a great day out with friends and family, there's something for everyone.

The first game of the season is Durham V Lancashire in an exciting Double Header on Sunday, 1st June!
Gates Open 12pm

YOUR UNIQUE SCHOOL CODE FOR 1ST JUNE IS:

SBCS25

**ADULT £10
CHILD £2**

 **DURHAM
CRICKET**

The poster features four small inset images: a person performing a stunt on a blue mat, a person in a white shirt and blue shorts performing a stunt, a group of people with a bear mascot, and a group of children playing a game.



Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

UCAS Discovery

On Wednesday 30 April, Year 12 students will attend the UCAS Discovery event at Teesside University. The event brings together universities, employers and apprenticeship providers from across the UK to allow students to fully explore their post-18 options. In preparation for this Year 12 students' Thursday morning was transformed into a workshop on all things post-18 choices. We discussed how to stand out from the crowd, the different options available including the values of higher education and degree apprenticeships. We learned about the three Ps: passion, personal and proof which every university and employer wants to see. There was a lot of food for thought and some really exciting aspirations taking shape including students considering paramedic science, law, English literature, politics and medicine. As always, the scope and scale of our students' ambitions are staggering and we look forward to supporting each and every one over the next eight months.

Join!
us!



[Apply Now!](#)

Advanced notice: Year 12 visit to the University of Leeds Open Day

Next term Year 12 students will attend the University of Leeds open day to explore their options further. A popular choice for Byron students, University of Leeds boasts an exceptional medicine and healthcare department as well as a fantastic range of arts and STEM degree options. Thanks to the generosity of the university, this trip will be free to every Year 12 student.

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



Key Dates

- Monday 28 April: Return to school (Week A)
- Tuesday 29 April: Year 8 Immunisations
- Thursday 1 May: Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Monday 5 May: May Day Bank Holiday - school closed
- Thursday 8 June: GCSE exams begin
- Friday 9 June: London Visit - maths department

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



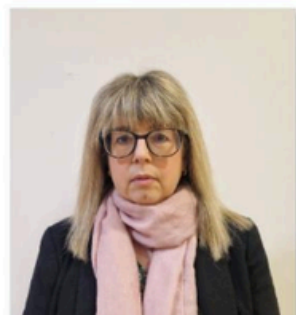
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



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](#)

