



CHADWICK CHATS

SHARING OUR NEWS WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Issue No.3 | 2025



Join us in celebrating the power of education to transform lives and shape futures. Welcome to this issue of Chadwick Chats Magazine – your window into our wonderful schools and communities.

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NEWS**

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Better Schools



Better Communities



Better Futures in Christ



Welcome to this the third edition of Chadwick Chats magazine. As we approach the end of the school year, we find ourselves in a time of reflection and anticipation. This period is an opportunity to look back on our achievements, challenges, and growth over the past months. Each success has added to our confidence, and every setback has taught us something valuable. Whether in the classroom, on the field, on stage, or in moments of quiet determination, we've all contributed to a year full of progress and purpose.

This academic year has been, as always, a busy one. We have had dozens of Ofsted and Catholic Schools Inspections (find out more on page 8). We were once more bowled over by the volume of nominations for our annual Chadwick Celebration Awards, which are just one way we can celebrate the achievements of our staff right across the Trust. Huge thank you to all of the pupils who nominated in the Inspirational Awards category – as always this one is hotly contested (see page 5). We have also been working hard on our healthy lifestyles agenda and are delighted to have forged ahead with many collaborations (see pages 6 & 7).

It is also a time to look forward with hope and excitement for the future and we are delighted to hear from our pupils Belle and Aury about an exciting new Trust-wide project we are working on with celebrated children's author Richard O'Neill MBE, and musician Mike McGrother (find out more on pages 13 & 16). We look forward to a strong finish of this academic year, a celebration of how far we've come, and look ahead with excitement.

We hope this magazine provides you with an insight into our schools, and we welcome opportunities to work collaboratively for the benefit of our pupils, their families and their communities. If you are interested in working with us, or have any feedback or suggestions, do get in touch enquiries@bccet.org.uk.

Best wishes

Brendan Tapping,
Chief Executive Officer

Cover photo: Thanks to pupils at St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee



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 Primary Schools	25	 Secondary Schools	5	 In-house 6th Forms	4
 Total Pupils	11,495	 Total Staff	1,324	 Governance roles	203

NB: This publication is primarily available digitally, a small supply of print copies are available in our schools and parishes (printed on recycled materials). If you would like to sign up to our mailing list to receive a copy digitally please go to www.bccet.org.uk/news



Chadwick Celebration Awards Finalists 2025

One of the Trust's key values is Celebration, now in their fourth year, our awards are just one of the ways we celebrate the hard work and dedication of our wonderful staff right across the Trust. We are proud of our staff, and this is an opportunity to showcase the valuable and inspiring contributions being made every day to achieve our overall mission: Better Schools, Better Communities, Better Futures in Christ.

Well done to all our nominees, thank you to all the pupils that voted in the Inspirational Award category, and congratulations to our finalists. The winners will be announced at our awards dinner in July. We know behind every winner is a supportive team, allowing them to be the best version of themselves so all our winners receive a share the win box to take back and share with their teams. Keep an eye on our socials to find out who the winners are!

SCITT Trainee Teacher of the Year Award

- Kate Burke, English Martyrs Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Shaniah Livingston, St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland
- Josh Smith, St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland

Mentor of the Year Award

- Gemma Gray, St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Harry Griffiths, St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee
- Laura Roddie, St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn

New Teacher of the Year Award

- Lauren Hall, St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Juan Novas, St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn
- Jeremy Teasdale, St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee

Staff Member of the Year Award (Support/Central Team)

- Ni Hazard, St. Leonard's Catholic Primary
- Lesley Parkin, Central Team
- Mark Wood, St. Wilfrid's RC College

Staff Member of the Year Award (Classroom based)

- Beth Atkinson, St. Gregory's Catholic Primary, South Shields
- Dianne Johnston, St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Jarrow

Community Engagement Award

- Joanne Hill, St. Bede's Catholic Primary, South Shields
- Clare Riley, St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Jarrow
- Megan Vincent, St. Patrick's Catholic Primary, Sunderland

Governance Award

- Michael Facchini, St. Godric's Catholic Primary, Thornley & St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Wingate
- Carly Isherwood, St. Bede's Catholic Primary, Jarrow
- Kathryn Robinson, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary, Seaham

Gospel Value Award

- Nicola Dale, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary, Seaham
- Leigh Haggerstone, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, Peterlee
- Anne Perrett, St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy, Sunderland





Leadership & Management Award (Education)

- Julie Hill, St. Godric's Catholic Primary, Thornley & St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Wingate
- Gemma Hogg, St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland
- Dominic Woodhouse, St. Oswald's Catholic Primary, South Shields

Leadership & Management Award (Support /Central Team)

- Rob Bullock, St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy, Sunderland
- Sarah Irving, Central Team
- Kristopher King, Central Team

Teacher of the Year Award (Secondary)

- Dominic Hill, St. Wilfrid's RC College, South Shields
- Ian Perkins, St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn
- Daniel Wilson, St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee

Teacher of the Year Award (Primary)

- Madeleine Isherwood, St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Gregory Sanderson, St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Jarrow
- Lauren Usher, St. Bede's Catholic Primary, South Shields

Team of the Year Award

- Finance team, Central Team
- St. Leonard's School, St. Leonard's Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Office team (Theresa Armstrong & Amy Berry) St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary, Seaham

Healthy Lifestyles Award

- Gemma Hogg, St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland
- Kayleigh Price, St. Aloysius Catholic Primary, Hebburn
- Karen Reiling, Central Team

Achievement Award

- Paul Craig, St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Jarrow
- Valerie Graham, St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland
- Karen Reiling, Central Team

Everyday Hero Award

- Joanne Hill, St. Bede's Catholic Primary, South Shields
- Jason Thompson, St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow
- Dave Vasey, St. Gregory's Catholic Primary, South Shields

Inspirational Staff Award (Nominated by Pupils)

- Louise Coxon, St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Blackhall
- Thomas Johnson, St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn
- Molly Stonehouse, St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy, Sunderland



HUGE THANK YOU to our sponsors who allow us to fully fund this event - without them this wonderful celebration would not be possible:



Supporting pupil wellbeing Tackling poverty



In February, Mayor Kim McGuinness joined pupils and staff at **Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary** in Peterlee, to see first-hand how our school breakfast clubs are supporting children's learning and wellbeing.

Welcomed by Executive Head Marie Graham and Head of School Sarah White, the Mayor toured the school, visiting the Early Years Foundation Stage where pupils proudly displayed their immersive art exhibition with her. Two students confidently addressed a room of 30 adults to thank the Mayor for her visit, representing their school with pride and warmth.

The visit highlighted the vital role of breakfast clubs in improving outcomes for children and families. Francesca Craik, Chief Standards Officer said, "Breakfast clubs offer more than a meal – they're a foundation for success, improving social skills, behaviour, and attainment while promoting healthy habits."

The Mayor praised the nutritious and delicious meals provided by Chadwick's Kitchen and enjoyed speaking with pupils about how the club helps get their day off to the best start. The breakfast club investment also helps to build relationships between parents, children, and the school by being a welcoming setting for wraparound care. This visit underlined our Trust's commitment to equity, opportunity, and the wellbeing of every child.



Supporting pupil wellbeing

Making sacrifices for your health

We are delighted to be working with Dr Greig Taylor from the Newcastle University to support his research study 'What would a child sacrifice when making choices for their health'. Dr Taylor is an NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Paediatric Dentistry and is involved with several research projects focused on the inclusion of the voice of the child.



Dr Taylor sits on the Trust's Healthy Lifestyles Board, he said, "I am delighted to be working with the Trust to support health improvements – as a paediatric dentist it is great that the Trust identifies oral health prevention as a key priority for their pupils. In addition, being able to work with young people across the Trust to support the inclusion of their voices in our research is a great privilege."

Adults make choices about their health every day and in doing so there are trade-offs e.g., brushing teeth once-a-day versus twice-a-day to ensure optimal dental health, giving up time watching TV to do some exercise, paying for a gym membership versus going on holiday etc.

In making these decisions, it is common to have to sacrifice something to get the health you want and value. To obtain the value of the health choice an adult makes, the measure of sacrifice is usually the cost. This allows researchers to work out how much individuals would be willing to pay, and therefore the value, for that health care choice.

Young people are often unable to consider the financial cost of health, as they often don't pay directly for things. However, they will still place a value on their choice and must sacrifice something in order to get this choice. To encourage young people to place a value on their health choices, we need to get them to sacrifice something that is important to them e.g., time - having only 1 hour on an iPad vs 2 hours on an iPad.

There's no current agreement on what should be used as a measure of sacrifice for young people. This study asks young people what they would be sensible and realistic to include in these research studies. Dr Taylor has been working with pupils from **St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy** and **St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form** on the project.



Inspections Roundup

We are so proud of our staff and pupils for the welcome given to HM Inspection and CSI inspection teams. The following schools have received their inspection reports in the Spring term:

St. Godric’s Catholic Primary School, Thornley – Ofsted

‘School has high expectations for pupils’ achievements; pupils feel happy and safe in this warm and supportive setting.’

St. John Bosco Catholic Primary School, Sunderland – Ofsted

‘Pupils take great delight in their learning at this school and embrace the ambitious curriculum the school has for them.’

St. Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Sunderland - Ofsted

‘Pupils demonstrate a tangible love of learning, their focus and engagement in lessons is remarkable.’

St. Matthew’s Catholic Primary School, Jarrow – Ofsted

‘Pupils are proud to be themselves and to celebrate the things that make them special, but know that while other people may be different, they are equally special.’



St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Sunderland - Ofsted

‘This welcoming school has the very highest academic expectations of its pupils. Diversity is celebrated throughout the school’s curriculum.’

St. Oswald’s Catholic Primary School, South Shields

‘Pupils embody the school’s high expectations for behaviour and conduct and are very well prepared for life beyond the school. There is a real sense of family at St. Oswald’s.’

St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Blackhall – Ofsted & CSI

‘Pupils achieve exceptionally well at St Joseph’s. The school’s nurturing and aspirational atmosphere is palpable!’

English Martyrs’ Catholic Primary School, Sunderland - Ofsted

‘Pupils embody the values of this nurturing, caring and supportive school. Pupils’ needs are at the heart of every decision the school makes.’

St. Aidan’s Catholic Academy, Sunderland - Ofsted

‘St Aidan’s is a thriving and happy place. Pupils are extremely proud to be part of this highly ambitious school.’

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary School, Seaham – Ofsted

‘Pupils flourish at St. Mary Magdalen’s School. This nurturing and inspirational school has high expectations for all.’

Our elite football stars of tomorrow



St. Bede's & St. Joseph's Year 7 boys & girls with Fast Feet staff

St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee and St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn, launched their Football Academy partnerships with Fast Feet back in September, it has been a great first year, with some great successes.

St. Bede's:

- Year 11 boys reached the semi-finals of the ESFA National Cup.
- Year 11 girls reached the quarter-finals of the ESFA National Cup.
- Year 10 boys reached the semi-finals of the County Cup.

St. Joseph's:

- Year 8 girls reached the final of the ESFA National Cup
- Year 8 boys reached the semi-final of the ESFA National Cup.

ESFA = English Schools' Football Association

BREAKING NEWS

In May, St. Joseph's Year 7 boys won the ESFA National Cup beating Shenfield High School from Essex 2-0. All the squad got time on the pitch and played fantastically.

Well Done !



It is wonderful to see so many of our pupils striving to be the best versions of themselves. Many have already gone on to secure the next step on their professional football journeys:

St. Bede's:

- Emily-Grace, Year 9 attends Sunderland AFC's Women's Regional Talent Centre (RTC).
- Katie, Year 9, is at Sunderland AFC's Women's RTC and on the England Lionesses Pathway, having recently taken part in an Under 16's training camp.
- Lydia, Year 9, is a member of Durham Women's RTC.
- Anna, Year 10, attends Durham Women's RTC, and is on England Lionesses Pathway.
- Luke, Year 11, has a two year scholarship with Newcastle United FC.
- Joseph, Year 11, secured a two year scholarship with Middlesbrough FC.
- Tiegan, Year 11, signed to Newcastle United FC's Women's Under 21's from July, and is on England Lionesses Pathway.
- Eve, Year 11, trains with Newcastle United FC Women's Under 21's, and is on England Lionesses Pathway.

St. Joseph's:

- Layla & Anna, Year 7, attend Newcastle United FC's Emerging Talent Centre.
- Sophia, Year 7 is at Sunderland AFC's Women's Academy.
- Jamie, Year 7, is at Middlesbrough FC's Academy.
- Mekson, Year 7, is at Newcastle United's FC's Football Academy.
- Riley, Year 8, is at Middlesbrough FC's Academy.
- Lily, Year 8, is at Durham Women's RTC.
- Alex, Year 9 is at Newcastle United FC's Academy.
- Josie & Sophie, Year 9, are part of Sunderland AFC's Women's U14's Academy.
- Harry & Morgan, Year 9 have started trials at Carlisle United FC.
- Roman, Year 10, is at Newcastle United FC's Academy was offered a years scholarship.
- James, Year 10, is at Newcastle United FC's Academy.
- Charlie, Year 10, is at Sunderland AFC's Academy.
- Sophia, Year 10, is currently on trial at Durham ETC.

We will be keeping a close eye on all the academy graduates and hope they have a long and successful careers, wherever that takes them.



St. Joseph's Year 8 boys



St. Joseph's Year 8 girls



FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Calling all Year 4 and Year 5 pupils
for 2026 and 2027 intakes



**REGISTER
NOW!**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING US AND YOU ARE CURRENTLY IN YEAR 4 OR 5 AT PRIMARY SCHOOL, PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO EXPRESS AN INTEREST:

[**REGISTER AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - CLICK HERE**](#)



Proud to be part of
Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

The Jubilee Year 2025 – A Holy Year of Hope

The Jubilee Year, rooted in biblical tradition, calls us to restore relationships, forgive debts, and renew our commitment to God and one another. It is a special time of renewal, forgiveness, and joyful celebration.

The Jubilee year was launched in schools on 24 January with all of our schools sharing their Jubilee doors – to view our doors visit www.bccet.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025/

In March our schools supported an extra special CAFOD Big Lent Walk - a 40-day challenge, where participants walk, run, or stroll 200 km to raise money and awareness for CAFOD's work in fighting global poverty, coinciding with the Jubilee Year of the Catholic Church.

We were delighted to have Bishop Stephen, who is Chair of the Board of Trustees for CAFOD, as well as our Bishop, join **St. Bede's Catholic Primary**, South Shields on their Big Lent Walk.

As we conclude this academic year, let us embrace the spirit of the Jubilee by acknowledging the support and guidance we have received from our schools, our peers, and our families. Their encouragement has been instrumental in our journey of learning and growth.

As we celebrate our accomplishments and prepare for the next chapter, let us also remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 22:37: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." By integrating our faith with our education, we can develop a holistic understanding of the world and our place in it.

Big Lent Walks



Bishop Stephen joins St. Bede's pupils Big Lent Walk



St. Cuthbert's, Seaham



St. John Bosco's



Bishop Stephen joins St. Bede's pupils Big Lent Walk

On Friday 27 June 2025 we will join together with schools across the Diocese for a Jubilee Day. During the day, schools are invited to reflect on their mission and to commit to stand in solidarity with the poorest communities, sharing hope and challenging injustice by pledging to take concrete actions to make their communities, country, and world a better place, being that Pilgrim of Hope.

Useful links: [Jubilee 2025](#) * [Cafod Jubilee Year 2025](#) * [Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle - Jubilee](#)



Following on from the spectacular **Footsteps into Paradise @Durham Cathedral, 2022** and **JOY in my Heart @Rainton Arena, 2023**, find out more about the next event in our exciting series of Trust-wide projects on page 16.

Each issue we give our pupils the opportunity to speak about something that is important to them. This issue we talked to Belle and Aury, from **St. Bede's Catholic Primary School** in Jarrow about the Read It, Write It, Tell It project.

What school are you at and what year are you in?

We are in year 5 at St. Bede's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow.

What do you like most about school?

We both love maths because we are both really good at it.

Tell us a bit more about the Trust's new musical project?

We are helping with the production for a musical it is about a girl and a robot, it is exciting. Richard wrote some words for a song on the board, and we helped him to improve them.

How have you been involved?

Belle - We were chosen to represent our school and there were children from other schools too. We all sat together and wrote our ideas on the board and talked it all out.

Aury - I told them I had an idea, so they've asked me to send my idea in which was about secret time travellers.

What are you enjoying most about this project?

Aury - That children actually get to take part in it!

Belle - That they were really kind and sent us Colin the Caterpillar treats for our hard work!

Have you been involved in any other Trust projects (Footsteps into Paradise, Journeys of HOPE) if so, what did you like best about that?

Aury - I sang at Rainton Arena at Journeys of Hope with everyone. That was really good. It was massive! I got to talk to pupils from loads of other Trust schools and we performed together it was very happy.

What would you like to be when your grown-up?

Aury - I would like to learn coding and be a video games designer. I can already do some good animations.

Belle - I'm not sure a chef or a police officer, something that is social and helps people.

Character formation rooted in Faith across the Trust

At Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, character development is more than a concept – it is a living, breathing part of every school community. Guided by the mission ‘Better Schools, Better Communities, Better Futures in Christ,’ each school takes a unique approach to developing the whole child, while remaining grounded in the teachings of the Catholic faith.

Over the past three years, the Trust has been privileged to work closely with leading Australian character education expert, Dr Phil Cummins from a School for Tomorrow. Dr Cummins has visited our schools each summer, supporting the development of character education and helping to co-create an assessment framework to guide our progress. His final visit this summer will mark a milestone in our shared journey.

Across the Trust, the work is already having a deep and lasting impact. At **St. Mary’s Catholic Primary**, Sunderland, the BREW framework – Belief, Rights, Environment, and Wellbeing – supports pupil growth in a nurturing and joyful environment. “Our school is a place where happiness thrives,” says Headteacher Martin Clephane, “pupils feel safe, valued and are helped to live out their God-given potential.”



Ameliya (Mini Vinnie), Constance (Eco Action team), Azeem Zaman (Headboy), Edith (Headgirl), Zach (wellbeing champion) Minnie (school dog)

As a Trust one of the pillars in our Strategic plan is around the Character development of our pupils – ‘Spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral formation that prepares everyone to be the best version of themselves.’ We want to ensure we offer the best possible experiences and outcomes. Character education encompasses the character values, qualities and strengths that promote purpose, standards, flourishing and success in an individual.

This process happens across the education – in the classroom, in assembly, in pastoral care and through extra-curricular clubs and activities. It also happens through personal relationships and in the daily interactions of our community. We want to support our pupils to develop outside of the academic and help them to stand out as they enter the wider world, so they have access to more opportunities to allow them to be the best version of themselves.

BUILDING CHARACTER

In South Shields, pupils at **St. Wilfrid's RC College**, work towards a prestigious school colours award, which is awarded for faith, service, and leadership, inspired by a Catholic version of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Pupils compile a portfolio and present it to a panel, learning the importance of reflection, perseverance, and authentic achievement.



Character education is about preparing our young people not just to succeed in school, but to thrive in life. We teach them to discern right from wrong, to act with kindness and courage, and to be resilient in the face of adversity. These are vital lessons for a world that can often feel overwhelming.

In a digital age of constant distractions, the Trust's approach puts the child at the centre. Collaborating closely with parents and carers, and staff provide the support, tools, and relationships, which enable young people to grow in confidence and character - and to become the best versions of themselves.



St. Aidan's Catholic Academy

Year 6 Open Evening: 6.00 - 8.00 pm Tuesday 16 September 2025



staidancatholicacademy.co.uk



St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy

Year 6 Open Evening: 6.00 - 8.00 pm Tuesday 23 September 2025



st-anthonys-academy.com



St. Aidan's & St. Anthony's Catholic Sixth Form

6th Form Open Evening: 5.30 - 7.30 pm Tuesday 14 October 2025



aaasixthform.com



St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form

Year 6 Open Evening: 6.00 - 8.00 pm Thursday 25 September 2025
6th Form Open Evening: 6.00 - 8.00 pm Thursday 9 October 2025



st-bedes.org



St. Joseph's Catholic Academy

Year 6 Open Evening: 6.00 - 8.00 pm Thursday 25 September 2025
6th Form Open Evening: 5.30 - 7.30 pm Thursday 13 November 2025



stjosephs.uk.net



St. Wilfrid's R.C. College

Year 6 Open Evening: 5.00 - 6.30 pm Thursday 2 October 2025
6th Form Open Evening: 5.00 - 6.30 pm Thursday 16 October 2025



st-wilfrids.org

Our Choral Crusade

The Choral Crusade is one of the Trust's latest exciting music initiatives to be delivered in partnership with the Trust's musical and creative collaborator Mike McGrother.

Mike worked with us on the spectacular *Footsteps into Paradise* @Durham Cathedral and *JOY in my Heart* @Rainton Arena. As a Trust we are keen to collaborate more closely with our communities, and Mike suggested exploring intergenerational choirs.

Working with our five secondary schools, Mike will work with heads of music and interested pupils to use music as a means to connect with older residents in our communities. Mike hopes that the project, which will also explore the role that music can play within the lives of people living with dementia, will help pupils to widen their understanding of their musical gifts and talents.

He said, "I have always been astounded by the breadth and quality of music on offer at the Trust. The heads of music allow so many of the children to really shine time after time! This project will enable pupils to share their music in new contexts and, working within residential homes, alongside family members and interested people from their local community, unearth and perform a repertoire of songs that truly reflect our North-Eastern community!"



Coming soon, our new musical spectacular.....

Following our previous successful ventures – *Footsteps into Paradise* @Durham Cathedral in 2022, and *JOY in my Heart* @Rainton Arena in 2023, our bold and visionary new musical, *No More Sleepings*, is set to premiere, Summer 2026.

It will celebrate the heart and soul of our region. Children across our Trust schools have had the opportunity to contribute creatively, from song writing and storytelling to visual art and performance. This extraordinary production will be the result of a unique collaboration with acclaimed writer Richard O'Neill MBE, renowned musician and community leader Mike McGrother, Seven Stories - The National Centre for Children's Books, and Beamish - The Living Museum of the North.

Set in the North East, *No More Sleeping* follows Ella and Marra, a cheeky, wise humanoid robot filled with local stories, as they journey through time, uncovering the region's rich history and reimagining a future full of creativity, sustainability, and community spirit. Through song, story and performance, children across the Trust will show that the North East is bursting with ideas, talent, and pride. Together, we demonstrate that when leadership, community, creativity and young voices come together, there really is no more sleeping, only new beginnings.

Our schools are always getting involved in a wide-range of activities from sporting achievements to charitable endeavours. Over the next two pages are a round-up of just a few of our media headlines from the Spring term ...

THE SHIELDS Gazette

Education

Highly acclaimed children's author returns to roots to inspire future authors

Multi-award-winning children's author David Almond OBE, visited his alma mater, St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn, part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, to give an inspirational celebration assembly and workshops to Year 9 pupils aimed at raising aspirations.

David talked about his life, career and inspiration as a writer. Liz McBoon, English Teacher said: "David was a truly inspirational and entertaining speaker, who engaged both students and staff with his childhood stories and made writing fiction seem both accessible and possible for everyone."

The sessions took place in March, following on from World Book Day celebrations. During the assembly David shared his background of being an ordinary working-class boy from Telling who had a dream, and didn't give up on it, despite receiving many setbacks along the way. He encouraged them to think about their amazing brains and how they have so many stories and experiences which are very much worth sharing.

WALL OF FLAME

Newcastle World

Community

Hebburn Students' Diplomatic Adventure

By Sarah Irving

Students James and Lucy recently visited China as part of a national student diplomatic experience in conjunction with Hebei Provincial Association for UNESCO. The students, along with their teacher Jack Johnson, were welcomed into six schools in two cities: Qinhuangdo and Tangshan.

James and Lucy, both in Year 12 at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, were part of a larger diplomatic group from seven schools in the UK taking part in an experience designed to forge friendships with Chinese students of similar ages.

They experienced a broad range of cultural activities, including traditional Chinese music, martial arts, calligraphy, crafts, dance, sports, shadow theatre, and performances of Peking Opera. They toured around Beijing, where they visited the historic Bird's Nest Olympic stadium, the Yonghegong Lama Temple, the Temple of Heaven, and dined on Peking roast duck.

Sunderland Echo

Education

Sunderland children get an eggstra special Easter treat after hatching and rearing own chicks

Children from St Leonard's Catholic Primary School in Sunderland are especially eggcited this Easter after successfully hatching and starting to rear their own chicks.

The eggs, which were supplied by the Living Eggs programme, arrived in school in early March (2025), before being placed into an incubator in the children's classroom.

And last week, the baby chicks began to emerge from their shells to be cared for by the pupils.

Sunderland Echo

Home

Applications open for teacher training for September 2025 intake

Could you shape the minds of future generations and nurture children and young people into resilient adults equipped with the education and tools they need?

Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, which has 25 primary schools and five secondaries across South Tyneside, East Durham and Sunderland, is looking for the next cohort of ambitious, caring and committed teachers as it launches its SCITT programme for September 2025.

Last year's intake on the SCITT (School-Centred Initial Teacher Training) course of BC CET all secured teaching jobs after the completion of the course.

THE SHIELDS Gazette

Education

South Shields schoolchildren join Bishop to walk 200km in Lent fundraising challenge

Schools across a Multi-Academy Trust in the North-east have embarked on an epic 200-kilometre walk to raise funds for CAFOD.

Pupils and staff from Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, which has 25 primary schools and five secondaries across East Durham, South Tyneside, and Sunderland, have joined CAFOD Big Lent Walk.

This year's theme for the annual event, which is extra special this year as the Catholic Church celebrates its Jubilee year, is 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

Headteacher Carol Devine said: "We were absolutely delighted to have Bishop Stephen join us for the CAFOD Big Lent Walk on such a beautiful, sunny day!"

Hartlepool Mail

Education

Seaham pupil proves the adage 'Shy bairns get nowt' with his menu request

School dinners may conjure up a nostalgic memory of a scoop of mash and sponge cake and custard, however nowadays, pupils are treated to a wide selection of healthy and tasty dishes from around the world on the menu every day.

Social fan William Youll, from St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (BC CET), decided it would be a good new option for the school cook to add to the menu.

Empowered by the persuasive writing skills he has been learning in his English lessons, William, who is in Year 2 at the primary in Seaham, decided to pen a request to the headteacher and school cook.

Nine-year-old William wrote in his letter:

LASTLY, sushi is made of very healthy ingredients and there are many different combinations which means that you can stay safe from allergies.

I am looking forward to you response.

Best wishes
William Youll



Keep up-to-date with all the news across the Trust by visiting www.bccet.org.uk/news

THE SHIELDS Gazette

Education

'Proud and happy' pupils love attending primary school in South Shields

Pupils at St Oswald's Catholic Primary School in South Shields are "excellent ambassadors" with "exemplary attitudes", according to a new Ofsted report.

The school, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust and is located on Nash Avenue, was inspected by Ofsted at the end of January.

Ofsted lead inspector Richard Beachall said in his report: "Pupils at St Oswald's are welcoming, proud and happy members of the school community. Pupils of all ages are excellent ambassadors for the school. They exemplify the school's vision of recognising and developing the dignity of each pupil. Their behaviours and attitudes towards each other are highly positive. As a result, pupils work and play together in harmony. There is a real sense of family at St Oswald's."



Sunderland Echo

Education

'Praiseworthy' pupils 'love, learn and grow together' at Sunderland school - Ofsted

Pupils embody the values of a "nurturing, caring and supportive" school in Sunderland, according to a new Ofsted report.

English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, was inspected by Ofsted in February.

Ofsted lead inspector Anne Wilson said in her report: "Pupils' needs are at the heart of every decision the school makes. An atmosphere where respect is commonplace has been created by the school. Pupils flourish because they are cared for deeply. They are eager to attend school and enjoy their learning. As the school's mission statement says, pupils love, learn and grow together."



Manufacturing DIGITAL

Education & Employment

Celebrating a Decade of the Nissan Skills Foundation



Here's how Nissan is building a pipeline of future manufacturing talent at its Sunderland plant, advancing industry awareness, education and passion

After a decade of nurturing young talent, the Nissan Skills Foundation has reached a landmark milestone: 100,000 students reached.

Celebrating this accomplishment and looking to the future, the manufacturer has announced an expansion of the initiative, doubling its annual outreach to 16,000 students.

Hartlepool Mail

Education

'I am truly proud' - Headteacher's reaction after Ofsted inspectors visit St Joseph's Primary School in Blackhall Colliery

Education watchdogs say a primary school has "improved significantly across all areas" since it was rated "good" in its previous inspection.

Pupils "achieve exceptionally well" at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, in Blackhall Colliery, which provides a "nurturing and aspirational atmosphere".

The school, which is on Coast Road and is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, was visited by Ofsted for an ungraded inspection in January and February.



Sunderland Echo

Education

Sunderland school marks 50th anniversary with a time capsule

As part of their 50th anniversary celebrations, pupils and staff at St Mary's Catholic Primary School in Sunderland were invited to create a special time capsule at St Mary's Catholic Church.

They were invited by Father Chris at St Mary's Church to create a time capsule which was laid in front of the altar under the church floor, which is being replaced. The time capsule was filled with artefacts, images and items of historical importance from the church.

The placement ceremony was led by the head boy and head girl of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust.



THE SHIELDS Gazette

Education

'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' this Children's Mental Health Week

Children and young people are being encouraged to 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' to help them develop and build resilience to cope with whatever life throws at them this Children's Mental Health (3-10 February).

Launched by Place2Be, a children's mental health charity, to "empower, equip and give a voice to all children and young people in the UK", Children's Mental Health Week is an opportunity for everyone working with children and young people to reflect on the support they provide to younger generations.

As a North-east Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) with 25 primary schools and five secondary schools in South Tyneside, East Durham and Sunderland, Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust's ethos is to not only provide high-quality education to its 11,800 pupils, but also the faith teachings and pastoral care needed to develop strong, resilient characters.

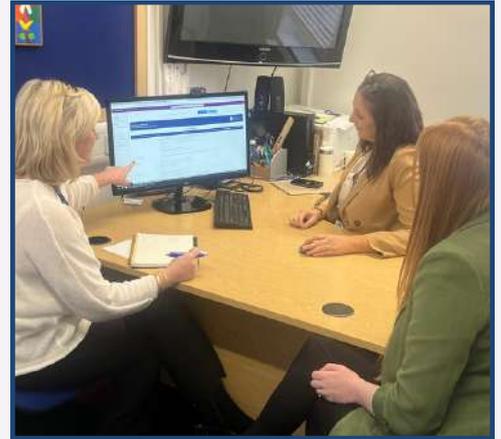


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Work for us ...



Our Trust is an exceptional place to work, where dedicated professionals collaborate to inspire and support fantastic pupils. Our staff are experts in their field, bringing passion and professionalism to everything they do. Please take a look at our current opportunities and see if there is something to suit you: www.bccet.org.uk/vacancies

Governor with us ...



We have over 200 governors across our Trust, playing a vital role in enhancing educational standards and ensuring that pupils can be the best version of themselves. By recruiting, developing, and supporting a dedicated network of governors, we can drive continuous progress and positive change in our schools.

Prior experience in governance or the education sector is not required – just a passion for making a difference. It's an ideal role for those looking to enhance their leadership skills, give back to their community, and positively impact children's futures.

We currently have vacancies at:

- Our Lady of Lourdes, Shotton & St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Blackhall (Federated LGC)
- SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary, South Shields
- St. Bede's Catholic Primary, Jarrow
- St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary, Seaham
- St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland



To find out more about the role of a governor visit www.bccet.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/The-role-of-a-school-governor.pdf
If you have any queries or are interested please email governance@bccet.org.uk

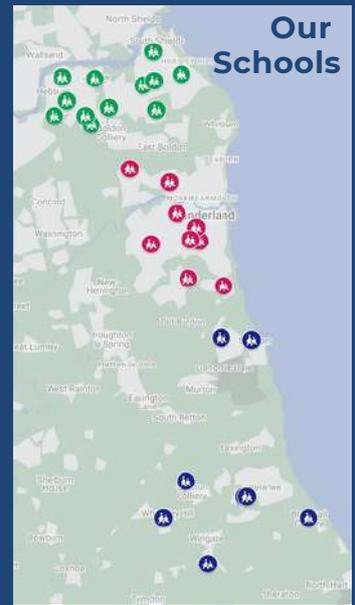


Train with us ...



CULTIVATE CURIOUS MINDS

- Train to teach in a school near you
- Get hands on experience and high-quality training
- Qualify in less than 12 months
- 1-2-1 support from experienced mentors



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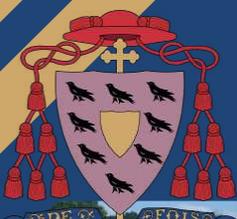
Feedback to us ...

We are working with our schools to improve their websites and will be undertaking further work on this over the coming months. We would value your feedback about the Trust or school websites you use, to assist us with our updates. Below is a link to our online survey:

<https://tinyurl.com/bccetwebsites>

It just takes a few minutes to complete and closes **Friday 27 June 2025**. Thank you.





BISHOP CHADWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST



Our family of schools....

English Martyrs Catholic Primary
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary
Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary
SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary
St. Aidan's Catholic Academy
St. Aloysius' Catholic Juniors & Infants
St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy
St. Bede's Catholic Academy, South Shields
St. Bede's Catholic Primary, Jarrow
St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form
St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary, Seaham
St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary, Sunderland
St. Godric's Catholic Primary
St. Gregory's Catholic Primary
St. James' Catholic Primary

St. John Bosco Catholic Primary
St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Millfield
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Blackhall
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Jarrow
St. Leonard's Catholic Primary
St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Sunderland
St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Jarrow
St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Wingate
St. Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary
St. Matthew's Catholic Primary
St. Oswald's Catholic Primary
St. Patrick's Catholic Primary
St. Wilfrid's RC College

Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust

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