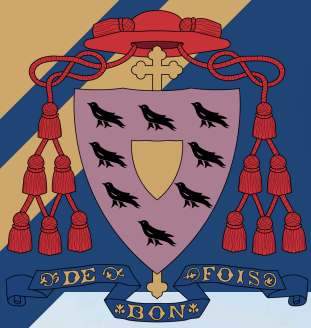




# CHADWICK CHATS

SHARING OUR NEWS WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Issue No.5 | 2026



**Pages 5,12,13,14**

**Articles from our Sixth  
Form student editorial  
team**

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**Chadwick Celebration  
Awards Finalists**

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**Open Evening dates  
for your diary**

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.



**Better Schools**



**Better Communities**



**Better Futures in Christ**





It gives me great pleasure to share our summer magazine, enriched this year by the work of our newly formed pupil editorial team. Made up of talented student volunteers from across our sixth forms, they have helped craft this issue with enthusiasm and honesty.

Their contribution reflects our belief that pupil voice should guide and inspire everything we do. We are a Trust that listens, learns, and grows alongside its young people. A powerful reminder that our pupils are not only the focus of our work, they are active partners in shaping it.

I am delighted to share this year's Chadwick Celebration Awards finalists, and I couldn't be prouder of the remarkable talent and dedication they represent across our Trust.

Thanks to everyone who made a nomination, and to all the colleagues that support these individuals and teams to be the best versions of themselves.

If you are interested in working with us, or have any feedback, do get in touch [enquiries@bccet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bccet.org.uk).

Best wishes

**Brendan Tapping OBE**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Better Schools**



**Better Communities**



**Better Futures in Christ**

**Cover photo:** Pupils from St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Wingate, class trip to Hall Hill Farm.

*"All creatures are our brothers and sisters because they were created by the same loving God". St. Francis of Assisi.*





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 Total Pupils

11,553

 Total Staff

1,415

 Governance roles

230

**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](http://www.bccet.org.uk/news)





## Jubilee year of St. Francis of Assisi

As we continue marking the Year of St Francis of Assisi, our school communities have been taking time to reflect on his message of simplicity, gratitude, and care for creation. Inspired by Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*, pupils and staff have been looking closely at how small daily choices can help us live more lightly and responsibly.

Our work toward the LiveSimply Awards, has encouraged everyone to reduce waste, use resources thoughtfully, and build moments of stillness into the school day. These simple actions help us recognise the gifts God places in our lives and the responsibility we share to protect them.

Across the Trust, caring for creation has become part of our prayer life too. Whether tending garden spaces or learning about the environment in class, pupils are discovering that the world around us is something to honour, not just to use. Their charity work and fundraising have also deepened their understanding that caring for our common home includes caring for one another.

You can read more about how our pupils have been considering the life of St. Francis in our companion article (see next page). Together, we continue to grow as a community of hope, living simply, loving deeply, and walking gently in his spirit.





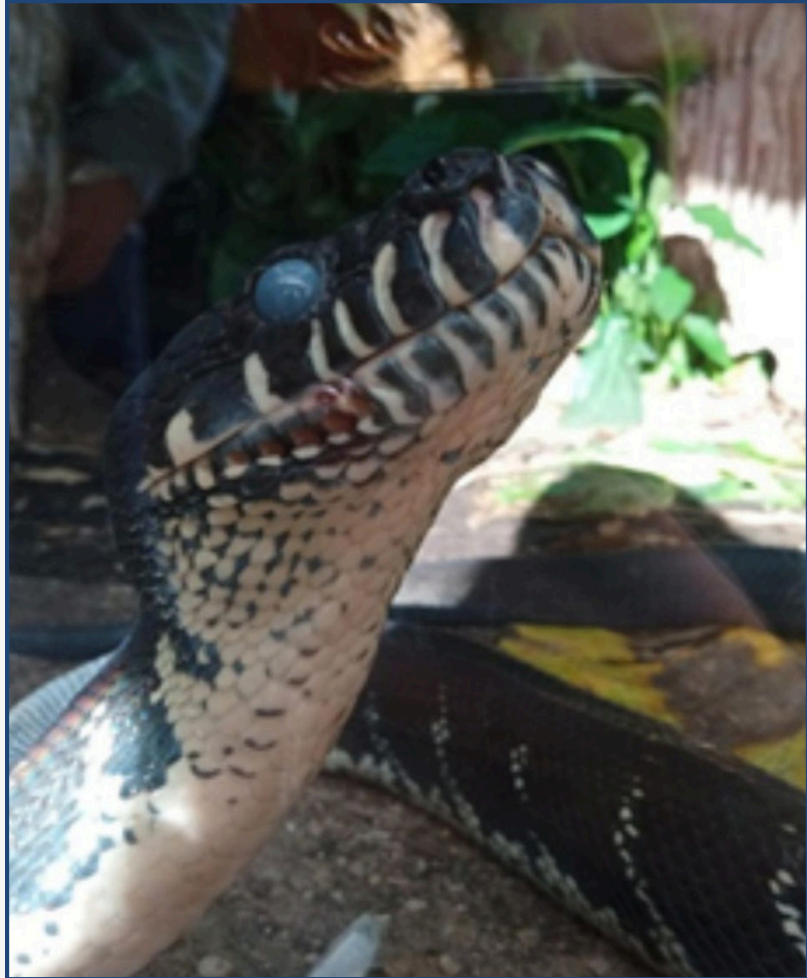
This year, Pope Leo has dedicated the Church's focus to St. Francis of Assisi, marking 800 years since his death. As the patron saint of animals, St. Francis reminds us of our shared responsibility for the natural world. To celebrate his legacy, members of our sixth form editorial team have written about how animals impact on, and inspire them.

## Connecting through creatures: The impact of Zoology Club

Humans connect with animals all the time when we look at the world around us. We see examples with Koko the Gorilla, a gorilla who was taught sign language by her keepers and was able to connect with them.

St. Francis of Assisi connected with animals, the patron saint of animals and ecology, he was renowned for stories of communicating with creatures he called his brothers and sisters. Stories like these emphasise how animals help people develop empathy. Through connections with animals, we can feel empathised with, they know and can sense when we feel excited, worried, sad, upset and their mood can match and connect with us.

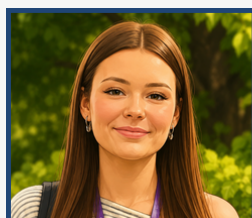
That is why **St. Joseph's Catholic Academy** implemented Zoology Club. At the club pupils are taught about various types of animals such as mammals, fish etc. The club organised a trip to Northumberland Zoo for students, where they interacted with animals, like axolotls, birds of prey and snakes.



Zoology Club had a great impact on the school community, it allows students to develop a love for animals and the world around them, just as St Francis of Assisi did with the animals around him. Year 12 student Orla said, *"Zoology Club was a great experience for me. It helped me to feel comfortable in school, meet new people and deepen my curiosity about the world."*

It also allowed pupils to develop their understanding of the scientific field of zoology, a passion that some may continue to pursue in later life. This enrichment activity has acted as a gateway for students to develop themselves both academically and socially. It built a community within the school, one that continues to have a significant impact on participants.

By Lizzie, Olivia, Niamh, & Isla, Y12 St. Joseph's Catholic Academy 6<sup>th</sup> Form





## 2026 Awards finalists

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for this year's Trust Awards. Now in their fifth year, the awards continue to highlight the dedication and hard work shown by our staff.

It has been inspiring to see so many colleagues recognised for the difference they make each day.

A special mention goes to the Inspirational Staff Award, our most cherished category, with nominations made by our pupils themselves.

We are delighted to announce this year's finalists and look forward to celebrating their achievements, and finding out the overall winners in July.



### Living the Gospel Award

- Sophie Barnfather — St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland
- Anthony Marratty — St. Bede's Catholic Primary School, South Shields
- Faye Osenton — St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland

### SCITT Trainee Teacher of the Year Award

- Bobbi Bowman — St. Godric's Catholic Primary School, Thornley
- Rio Elam — St. Bede's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow
- Morgan Hartley — St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland

### Guiding Light Award

- Andy Lee — St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn
- Sarah McKeown — St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy, Sunderland
- Chloe Newcombe — St. Leonard's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland

### New Teacher Award

- Georgia Burrows — English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, Sunderland
- Grace Scott — St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland
- Amy Watson — St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Seaham





## 2026 Awards finalists

### Staff Member of the Year Award (School / Central Team)

- Laura Bolam — St. Leonard's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland
- Lucy Frey — St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School, South Shields

### Staff Member of the Year Award (Classroom Based)

- Janet Hollamby — St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn
- Amy Moss — SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, South Shields
- Bernadette Robson — Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, Peterlee

### Governance Award

- Patricia Alexander — St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School, South Shields
- David Laws MBE — St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow
- Denise Minnican — English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, Sunderland

### Leadership & Management Award

- Frances Anderson — St. Wilfrid's RC College, South Shields
- Frances Collins — St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy, Sunderland
- Laura Dudley — St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy, Sunderland

### Teacher of the Year (Secondary)

- Rachel Bennett — St. Wilfrid's RC College, South Shields
- Emma Jackson — St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee
- Candice Kennedy — St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee

### Teacher of the Year (Primary)

- Gemma Gray — St. John Bosco Catholic Primary School, Sunderland
- Laura Laverick — St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland
- Maria Walker — St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow

### Team of the Year Award

- PE Team — St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn
- Stepping Stones Project — 15 Primary Schools across the Trust
- Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, Shotton, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Horden & St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackhall

**FULLY  
FUNDED**

**A HUGE THANK YOU to our sponsors who allow us to fully fund this event, this wonderful celebration would not be possible without them.**



## 2026 Awards finalists

### Heart of Our Trust Award

- Paul Baldasera — Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, Shotton
- Barry Graham — Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust Central Team
- Maria Potts — St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland

### Faith in the Community Award

- Lucie Campbell — St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School, South Shields
- St. James' School team - St. James Catholic Primary School, Hebburn
- Catherine Frost & Julie Wilson — St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary School, Seaham

### Inspirational Staff Award (Nominated by Pupils)

- Kate Forster — St. Wilfrid's RC College, South Shields
- Ryan Gooch — St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee
- Phil Roddy — St. John Bosco Catholic Primary School, Sunderland





## No More Sleeping

A groundbreaking new musical is waking up the North East. Created with pupils from across our Trust, collaborating with leading regional creatives, *No More Sleeping* brings our history, heroes and future to life in a bold, imaginative adventure.

Premiering in September 2026, it's more than a show - it's a movement to inspire the next generation of musicians, makers, storytellers and innovators. Get ready to rediscover the past, reimagine the future and celebrate the North East.

Follow us on social media to be the first to hear announcements, behind-the-scenes moments, and ways to get involved.





[@BishopChadwickCET](https://www.instagram.com/BishopChadwickCET)

**COMING  
SEPTEMBER  
2026**



# **NURSERY OPENING** **AUTUMN 2026**

## Flourishing futures for little learners: New nurseries opening soon



Following on from the news about the new nursery provisions opened earlier this academic year - Little Stars @ St. Gregory's Catholic Primary, South Shields and Little Shells @ St. James Catholic Primary, Hebburn - we are excited to share that we have three nurseries set to open in the Durham area in Autumn 2026.

The nursery provision will initially be for children aged from 3 years, with 15 and 30 hour places available. The new nurseries are purpose built, offering happy and inspiring environments for children to learn and grow. For more information, or to register your interest, please contact the relevant school:

**Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary, Shotton, DH6 2JQ** - [office@ourladylourdesdurham.org](mailto:office@ourladylourdesdurham.org)  
**St. Godric's Catholic Primary, Thornley, DH6 3NR** - [office@stgodricsthornley.org](mailto:office@stgodricsthornley.org)  
**St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Wingate, TS28 5AN** - [office@stmaryswingate.org](mailto:office@stmaryswingate.org)



## Inspections Round-up

We are so proud of our staff, pupils and governors, for the welcome given to Ofsted and Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) teams. The following schools received inspection reports this term:



**St. Bede's Catholic Primary, South Shields**, achieved CSI Outstanding.

*"The school environment is testament to its Catholic identity and mission. The care and attention given to the quality of space and purposeful displays contributes positively to formation of staff and pupils."*



**St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy, Sunderland**, achieved CSI Outstanding.

*"The mission of the school, 'Let us be shining lamps, giving light to all around us', has a unique character that is deeply rooted in the tradition influenced by the Sisters of Mercy. This mercy ethos permeates every element of the school community. It inspires all aspects of school life including relationships, behaviour and learning."*



**St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Wingate** achieved CSI Good, with Outstanding for Catholic Life and Mission.

*"A caring and distinctively Catholic school community with a strong commitment to the needs of the most vulnerable.... They are ambitious and constantly seek ways to develop provision. Pupils feel safe and happy."*



**St. Aloysius Catholic Federation**, achieved CSI Outstanding.

*"There is a flourishing partnership between home, school and parish which is deeply appreciated by all...Everyone is valued, without exception, in a supportive and joyful community."*



**St. Matthew's Catholic Primary**, achieved CSI Outstanding.

*"Pupils are happy, confident and secure. They care for each other well and are sensitive to the different needs of each other. Older pupils demonstrate this through their roles as playground leaders, peer mediators and buddies. They embrace their school mission and have a strong understanding of the 'SHINE' values."*



## Supporting everyone to thrive

We were delighted when eleven of our schools received emails from the Secretary of State for Education Bridget Phillipson in January, congratulating them on their excellent outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.

*"Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement."*

*This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed."*



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy, St. Bede's Catholic Primary, Jarrow, St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary, Seaham, St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary, Sunderland, St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Sunderland, St. Leonard's Catholic Primary, and St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Jarrow.

## Live Simply Awards

Three more Trust schools were awarded CAFOD Live Simply Award. **St. Gregory's Catholic Primary, South Shields, St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary, Seaham and St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee.**

The LiveSimply Award recognises Catholic communities who choose to live sustainably, stand in solidarity with our global family, and care for our common home, well done to all three schools.





## Elite sports facilities coming to St. Joseph's, Hebburn

Work began this year on the first steps in investment into sports facilities at **St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn**. Working in partnership with external professionals at Martin Nugent Elite Performance, their strength and conditioning centre is being relocated to the school's campus. This state-of-the-art facility will be run by a team of accredited strength and conditioning coaches, who support a wide range of athletes. Out of hours school and the wider community will be able to use the facilities.

Martin Nugent, said, *"The new purpose-built facility will be the first of its kind in the UK, with a performance-based company working in collaboration with a school. It is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to train and work alongside elite-level athletes in a unique environment. We look forward to helping enhance the school and the wider Trust's sports provision. The facility will also include physiotherapy and nutritional guidance, to help educate pupils on the importance of an active, healthy lifestyle."*



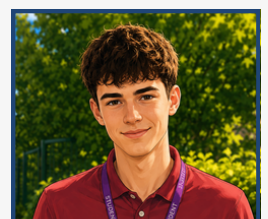
The new build will include a high spec gym next to the school's sixth form block and will host dietitians, physiotherapists and top-quality gym equipment, with the intention to use the facility to promote healthy lifestyles among pupils.

Headteacher James Crowe says it will mark the start of a sporting hub at St. Joseph's, with plans already in place to install a 4G pitch, which is lower maintenance and will support improved performance. He also hopes that it will open doors for pupils and demonstrates school's investment in pupils day-to-day experiences.

The PE team are incredibly excited by this development, as it will provide motivation and allow for an expansion in the PE department. Other pupil groups will also benefit, the gardening club will be involved in landscaping the surrounding gardens and grass area once the build is complete. The top soil dug out for the foundations will be 'upcycled' into beautiful flower and plant areas for all to enjoy, while also increasing biodiversity.

Pupils are also happy with the investment, with one sixth former commenting that they were happy that "such a core part of the school's identity" was being invested in. One thing is for sure, it's an exciting time for sports enthusiasts at St Joseph's.

**With contributions from Ethan and William,  
Y12, St. Joseph's Catholic Academy 6<sup>th</sup> Form**





## Update on St. Aidan's new building



We are delighted to share that **St. Aidan's Catholic Academy** redevelopment is progressing well, marking a new and exciting chapter for the entire school community.

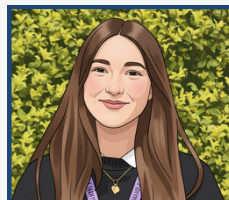
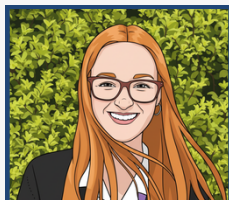
As of Spring 2026, the framework of the building is now clearly visible, offering a promising glimpse of what is to come. The next phase of the project will focus on removing the current teaching block to allow for a modernised sixth form centre, an upgraded sports hall, and a new multi-use games area, all of which will greatly enhance both learning and extracurricular opportunities for pupils and staff.

Even with St. Aidan's undergoing significant transformation, its proud legacy will continue with features such as the memorial wall and hall of fame images being carefully protected and thoughtfully preserved, before moving into new surroundings. This will ensure the school's unique history and cherished memories remain for future generations.

The teachers at St. Aidan's agree that the new school building will have great impact on both teaching and learning. They believe the upgraded and modern classrooms will allow teachers to adapt spaces for group discussion and independent study, and that the improved building will create an atmosphere of community cohesion.

Pupils Gabriel and Jay, Year 10, are "excited for the new building" as they believe it will be a "good improvement for the community" and the new facilities will create more space as it will "improve the narrow corridors". Both pupils and staff admit that they will miss the nostalgia and memories attached to the old school building, but everyone looks forward to building vibrant new memories in the new school.

Josh Chapman, Site Manager, at Bowmer + Kirkland, the main contractors on the project, said: *"Works on site are progressing well. We are currently working externally on installing the modular panels, while the internal elements of the project are starting to take shape. The internal works consist of partitions to form the new classrooms and installing the mechanical and electrical works. It's great to hear how excited the teachers and students are as we work to build their new school. We would like to thank them and the local community for all their continued support throughout the construction process."*



By Thanisha, Isabelle and Gabriella,  
Y12 St. Aidan's & St. Anthony's Catholic 6th Form

## Healthy Plates, brighter futures: Behind the scenes with Chadwick's Kitchen

School meals are an integral part of the school experience, as a Trust we are fortunate to have our own in house catering team, Chadwick's Kitchen.

Two of our sixth form editorial team chatted to Karen Reiling, the Trust Catering Manager about the impact and importance of providing nutritional and healthy meals for all our pupils to positively contribute towards their education.

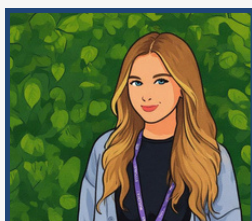
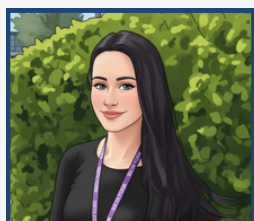
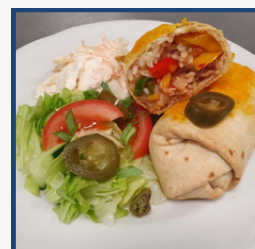
Designing menus for thousands of pupils isn't a quick task. Every dish is carefully planned to meet the School Food Standards, the government's benchmark for healthy eating in education. These standards help ensure that what we serve supports pupils' learning, energy levels, and long-term wellbeing. Current requirements include:

- A daily serving of vegetables or salad
- Fruit-based desserts (at least 50% fruit) twice a week
- No more than two deep-fried, batter-coated, or breadcrumb-coated items per week
- No more than two pastry-based dishes per week
- Protein-rich meals - meat, poultry, or dairy-free alternatives - on at least three days

Alongside this, teams create bespoke menus for pupils with medical diets and continually review ingredients and recipes. In line with the latest health guidance, they are also working to further reduce ultra-processed foods across our menus. They offer a vegetarian option every day and ensure the absence of meat on Fridays to uphold our Catholic traditions.

Sustainable and environmentally friendly practices have become a greater focus, for example, food miles are measured for primary school menus and suppliers are encouraged to reduce packaging and take waste back with them to repurpose or dispose. Sustainability has become a primary focus of catering decisions to maintain environmentally friendly practices and healthy diets.

Thanks to this ongoing effort, our pupils enjoy meals that are not only tasty but genuinely nourishing, which consider sustainability and help them thrive throughout the school day.



With contributions from Caitlin and Evangeline,  
Y13, St. Wilfrid's RC College 6<sup>th</sup> Form



## Moonshot Scholars: A new partnership expanding opportunities for pupils

In the last issue we shared that our Trust is working in partnership with HMC (Headteacher's Conference) and E-ACT Multi-Academy Trust, on a bold, sector-wide initiative to improve the life chances of every child in the UK and help 100% of Children to Thrive.

As part of this project we will be collaborating with Royal Grammar School (RGS) to launch Moonshot Scholars, a two-year post-16 development programme designed to support high-potential pupils into competitive universities and careers.

Starting with a pilot in 2026, pupils will be selected at the end of Year 11 and offered a personalised pathway that builds aspiration, academic strength, and real-world experience. Thirty students from six partner schools, including RGS, will form the first cohort.



From September 2026, participants will receive:

- One-to-one mentoring
- A personalised Pathway Plan
- Visits to selective universities
- Employer engagement and high-quality work experience
- Preparation for competitive admissions, including Oxbridge and Medicine

Selecting students before Year 12 ensures they benefit from a full two years of targeted support. Alongside the Scholars pilot, Moonshot Explore, will offer all sixth form students access to employer encounters, university insight sessions, skills workshops, and aspiration-building events delivered with RGS and regional partners. This ensures every learner has opportunities to broaden their horizons and build confidence.

RGS brings valuable expertise in high-tariff university progression and will support mentoring, enrichment planning, and cross-sector collaboration. This partnership represents a significant investment in widening access and raising outcomes across our Trust.

Fran Craik, one of the Trust's Chief Standards Officers, said, *"Moonshot is about giving talented young people time, support, and belief. By starting early and partnering with a school of RGS's calibre, we are raising aspiration and ensuring pupils from all backgrounds can reach the highest levels of academic and professional success."*

Recruitment for the first cohort will take place in Spring/Summer 2026 through a competitive application and interview process in all our Trust secondary schools. For more information contact [enquiries@bccet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bccet.org.uk)

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

### Children learn to Live Simply by growing fruit and veg at school



St Gregory's Catholic Primary School has achieved the Live Simply award.

The initiative has been led by headteacher Emma Shaughnessy and RE lead Lucie Campbell, with invaluable support from Dave Vasey, the school caretaker and volunteer gardener.

Pupils played a central role, including members of the Mini Vinnies and the Laudato Si gardening group.

The school community has worked tirelessly to embed the principles of Live Simply and Catholic Social Teaching into everyday life. Their efforts include:

## The Northern Echo

### County Durham school earns prestigious UNICEF award for second time

A County Durham school has been awarded a prestigious title for the second time, recognising its achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at its heart.



Pupils of St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, which has been awarded the UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting Status for the second time (Image: Supplied)

Nicola Noble, headteacher at St Cuthbert's, said: "We are delighted to achieve the Gold Rights Respecting Award for the second time.

"Our pupils are articulate, passionate and confident in their understanding of children's rights, recognising both how rights should be protected and how they can be denied.

## Sunderland Echo

### Tribute to Maggie - city's children raise money for Air Ambulance in memory of much loved pupil

Youngsters at St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy have raised a total of £4,700 for the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) in a heartfelt fundraising campaign held in memory of a much loved pupil.

In July last year (2025), the school community was left in shock after one of its pupils tragically passed away after suffering a medical emergency at the school in Thornhill Terrace in the city.



Pupils present the cheque to the Great North Air Ambulance Service. | Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust.

Laura Dudley, Assistant Headteacher at St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy, said: "We are incredibly proud of our students, staff, and families for coming together to raise such an incredible amount for a charity that means so much to our school community.

## THE SHIELDS Gazette

### Hebburn primary school is handed 'outstanding' rating by education inspectors

A primary school has been ranked 'outstanding' by education inspectors, who said pupils enjoyed their lessons and felt "loved and valued".

A primary school in Hebburn has received a glowing report from inspectors for its "supportive and joyful community" and "exemplary" staff.



Pupils of St Aloysius Catholic Junior School, Hebburn. | BCCET

St Aloysius Catholic Junior School, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, was recently inspected by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) and rated 'outstanding'.



Don't forget you can keep **up-to-date** with all the news across our Trust by visiting our website: [bccet.org.uk/news](http://bccet.org.uk/news)



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## The Northern Echo

### 1928 penny buried in County Durham discovered by pupils



1928 coin uncovered during nursery building works (Image: Supplied)

Lester said: "It was so exciting to find treasure!"

Lynsey Wetherell, EYFS lead at the school, said: "This remarkable discovery coincides with the very year our school was established, making it a piece of history that holds special significance for us."

Ms Wetherell said: "This discovery has not only brought history to life for our students but also connected our past with our future as we continue building our nursery."

"Finding such a piece of history on our school grounds is a wonderful reminder of our roots and the stories waiting to be discovered."

## Sunderland Echo

### Sunderland youngsters proud to see their artwork on display at exhibition

The exhibition is now in its eighth year

Youngsters from St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy are revelling in seeing their artwork on display in an exhibition at Washington Arts Centre.

Now in its eighth year, The Bright Lights Youth Arts Exhibition showcases the "exceptional creativity of local students".



Some of the pieces of artwork on display. | Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust

The exhibition offers young people the opportunity to have their work displayed in the venue's main gallery.

## THE SHIELDS Gazette

### Grand opening of Little Shells Nursery marks bright new chapter for Hebburn school

St James' Catholic Primary School held a grand opening of Little Shells Nursery @ St James, including specially branded cupcakes, brightly coloured balloons and an extra special visit from the CEO of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust.



BCCET CEO Brendan Tapping with nursery pupils at Little Shells

Brendan Tapping, who was awarded an OBE in the King's New Year Honours list, was thrilled to join the nursery children and staff for their special first day back of term.

"It is always a pleasure to visit our schools, but the excitement and joy at Little Shells Nursery @ St James was fantastic to see," said Mr Tapping.

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## Work for us

Our Trust is more than a group of schools, it's a family. We're proud that our staff tell us time and again that this is a fantastic place to work and grow. Every day, our incredible pupils inspire us, and our dedicated, passionate team brings out the very best in them. We're committed to being the employer of choice in our region, creating an environment where every member of staff can flourish, feel valued, and become the best version of themselves.

Across our Trust, you'll find a wide variety of roles that all play a part in shaping bright futures. To explore our current opportunities, please visit [www.bccet.org.uk/job-vacancies](http://www.bccet.org.uk/job-vacancies). To find out what it is like to work for our Trust you can view our [short film](#) or you can read about the views of our staff on our website - visit [Hear from our current staff and governors](#) or to find out more about the benefits we offer [click here](#).



## Volunteer with us

Our schools thrive thanks to the incredible volunteers who give their time and energy to support our pupils. One of the most rewarding ways to make a real difference is by becoming a school governor. Governors help shape the future of our schools, champion our pupils, and strengthen the community voice at every level. If you're passionate about education and want to give back, we'd love to welcome you into this vital role. You can find out more about the Role of a Governor in this [document](#) and our current governor vacancies are on our main [vacancies page](#).



## Join our school community

We have 31 wonderful schools across East Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland. 26 primary schools (16 of which have nurseries with three more opening in Autumn 2026), five secondary schools and four sixth forms. Visit [Our Schools page](#) to find out more.



### Bishop Chadwick

Catholic Education Trust






[www.bccet.org.uk](http://www.bccet.org.uk)  
[enquiries@bccet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bccet.org.uk)  
[staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk](http://staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk)

Open Evenings

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland, SR2 7HJ</b><br>Year 6 Open Evening: 6.00 - 8.00 pm Tuesday 15 September 2026                                                                                                |
|  | <b>St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy, Sunderland, SR2 7JN</b><br>Year 6 Open Evening: 4.30 - 6.30 pm Thursday 24 September 2026                                                                                       |
|  | <b>St. Aidan's &amp; St. Anthony's Catholic 6<sup>th</sup> Form, Sunderland, SR2 7JN</b><br>6th Form Open Evening: 4.30 - 6.30 pm Thursday 15 October 2026                                                               |
|  | <b>St. Bede's Catholic School &amp; Byron 6<sup>th</sup> Form, Peterlee, SR8 1DE</b><br>Year 6 Open Evening: 5.00 - 7.00 pm Thursday 17 September 2026<br>6th Form Open Evening: 5.30 - 7.30 pm Thursday 15 October 2026 |
|  | <b>St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn, NE31 2ET</b><br>Year 6 Open Evening: 5.00 - 7.00 pm Thursday 24 September 2026<br>6th Form Open Evening: 5.30 - 7.30 pm Thursday 12 November 2026                             |
|  | <b>St. Wilfrid's R.C. College, South Shields, NE34 0QA</b><br>Year 6 Open Evening: 4.00 - 6.00 pm Thursday 1 October 2026<br>6th Form Open Evening: 4.00 - 6.00 pm Thursday 19 November 2026                             |





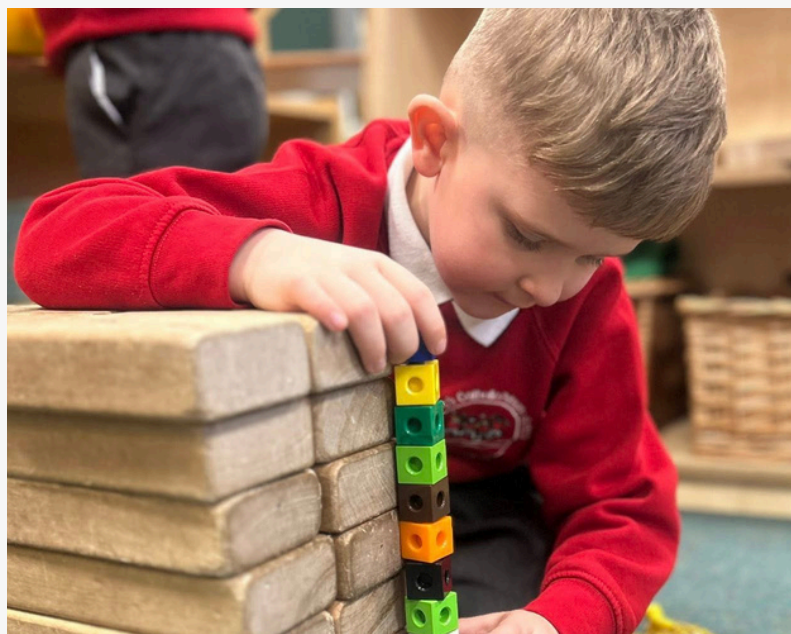
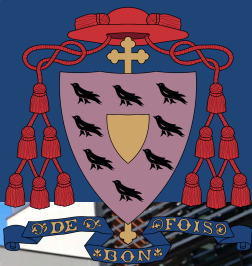




English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, Sunderland  
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, Shotton Colliery  
Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School, Peterlee  
Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, Horden  
SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, South Shields  
St. Aidan's & St. Anthony's Catholic Sixth Form, Sunderland  
St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland  
St. Aloysius Catholic Federation, Hebburn  
St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy, Sunderland  
St. Bede's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow  
St. Bede's Catholic Primary School, South Shields  
St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee  
St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland  
St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Seaham  
St. Godric's Catholic Primary School, Thornley  
St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School, South Shields  
St. James Catholic Primary School, Hebburn  
St. John Bosco Catholic Primary School, Sunderland  
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blackhall  
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow  
St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn  
St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland  
St. Leonard's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland  
St. Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School, Seaham  
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow  
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland  
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Wingate  
St. Matthew's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow  
St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School, South Shields  
St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland  
St. Wilfrid's RC College, South Shields







## Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust

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