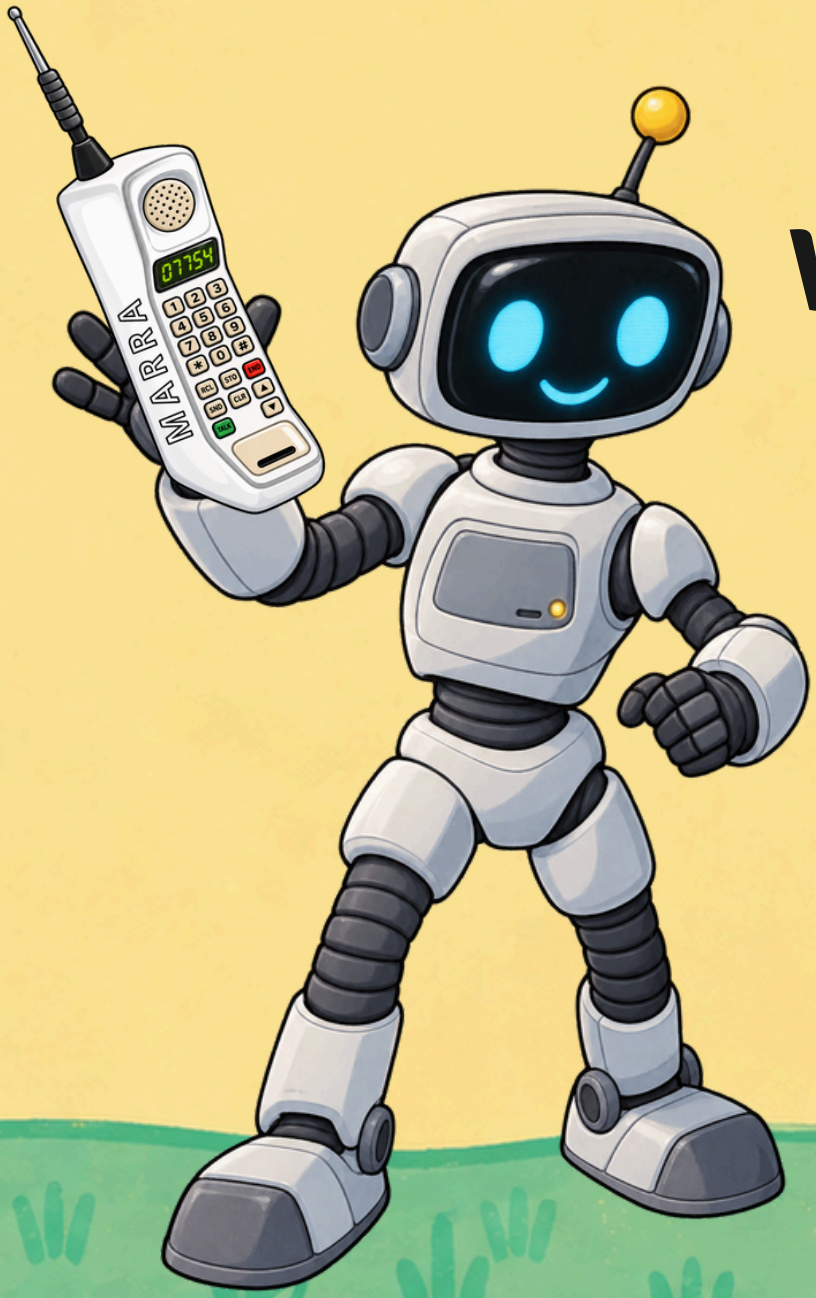

Wednesday 23 September 2026

O2 City Hall Newcastle

Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

seven stories
The National Centre for Children's Books

Welcome...

I am delighted to welcome you to this evening's premier performance of No More Sleeping.

This special event celebrates the energy, talent and spirit of the young people of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust. Through music, drama and performance, our pupils reflect the values of faith, hope and love that unite our Trust family. We invite you to enjoy an evening of inspiration, joy and community as we celebrate all that our children can achieve.

Bringing our schools together is a key part of our ethos and allows us to work towards our mission - Better Schools - Better Communities - Better Futures in Christ.

Brendan Tapping OBE, Chief Executive
Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust

The Story...

No More Sleeping tells the inspiring story of Dot, a teenage girl struggling with the loss of her grandparents.

Her world transforms when she receives Marra, a Multifunctioning Autonomous Robotic Resource Assistant – not just a machine, but a living archive of her family's history and the untold stories of the North East.

Guided by Marra, she embarks on a mesmerising adventure, encountering historical figures from the heritage of the North East. Together, they uncover the region's rich heavy industrial and cultural legacy, sparking a movement towards a future driven by arts, technology, sustainability and innovation.

No More Sleeping

Our Partners...

About Mike McGrother...

Mike McGrother is a musician, community engineer and social entrepreneur from Teesside, and the founder of Blind Tiger CIC.

An Honorary Fellow of Teesside University, he is renowned for creating innovative community projects that use creativity, storytelling and song to tackle isolation, improve wellbeing and strengthen local pride.

Through initiatives such as the Infant Hercules choir and Blind Tiger, Mike works to reconnect people with their communities and each other.

About Richard O'Neill MBE...

Richard O'Neill MBE is an award-winning author, storyteller and educator from the North of England.

He is renowned for his engaging children's books and performances that celebrate inclusion, identity, community and culture. His most popular titles include Polonius the Pit Pony and the Lost Homework.

He is Creative Lead at Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books and Professor in Practice at Durham University. He was awarded an MBE, in 2024, for his services to education, literacy and storytelling.

Our Perfomers...

The performance this evening would not have been possible without the support and creative expertise of many people, a heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped pull the show together, with particular thanks to:

Performers: Alfie Joey, leroy Peters, Freya Jobling, Jade Henderson, Alan & Pixel, BCCET pupils and staff, Richard O'Neill, Mike McGrother, The Infant Hercules Community Choirs.
Songs written by: Mike McGrother **Musical arrangement:** Danny Allinson
Writing and dramatisation: BCCET pupils, Richard O'Neill MBE
Special thanks: Dr Amir Atapour-Abarghouei, Associate Professor, Computer Vision & Machine Learning, and his colleagues at Durham University. Angela Tuplin, NE Displays. Wendy Elliott and the team at Seven Stories, Michelle Russell, Illustrator and Alrose Productions.

- 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

Performance Schedule...

7.15 pm Welcome

7.30 pm No More Sleeping

8.55 pm Closing remarks

9.00 pm Pupils dismissed

The Book...

A picture book has been created in collaboration with pupils, proving that world-class creativity can begin in the classroom. Author Richard O'Neill MBE and Illustrator Michelle Russell worked with our pupils to create the book.

Pupils have played an integral part in shaping this project, from developing characters and suggesting plot ideas to creating artwork and visual details, the children's creativity has been at the heart of the entire process, making this a truly shared and special achievement.

Copies of No More Sleeping are now available to purchase at a cost of £10 per book.

Available to buy online:
enquiries@bccet.org.uk

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