



Life to the Full

FORTNIGHTLY UPDATES & NEWS

Life to the Full – A Community of Hope, Faith and Opportunity

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY • PUBLIC EXAMINATION
UPDATES • WORK EXPERIENCE AND ENRICHMENT
• FAITH LEADERSHIP AND CATHOLIC LIFE •
STUDENT SUCCESS AND SPORTING
ACHIEVEMENT • WELLBEING AND ONLINE SAFETY
• SIXTH FORM UPDATES • LIFE AT CARMEL

**MONDAY 11TH APRIL- FRIDAY 22ND
MAY 2026**

WE ARE IN THE SEASON OF EASTERTIDE

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Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Week Commencing Monday 11th May 2026	Year 10 Work Experience
Monday 11th – Friday 22nd May 2026	Year 7 & Year 8 End of Year Assessments
Tuesday 19th May 2026	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026	May Half Term Break – College Closed
Monday 1st June 2026	Students Return to College
Monday 8th – Thursday 11th June 2026	Rome Trip
Week Commencing Monday 8th June 2026	Year 12 End of Year Assessments (Week 1)
Tuesday 9th June 2026	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Week Commencing Monday 15th June 2026	Year 12 End of Year Assessments (Week 2)
Monday 15th – Monday 22nd June 2026	Year 9 End of Key Stage 3 Assessments
Monday 15th June 2026	Year 7 Information Evening
Friday 19th June 2026 (Morning)	Year 13 Leavers' Celebration (Carmel)
Friday 19th June 2026 (Evening)	Year 13 Leavers' Ball – Redworth Hotel
Monday 22nd – Friday 26th June 2026	Year 12 Work Experience
Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd June 2026	Year 12 Induction Days
Thursday 25th – Friday 26th June 2026	Year 7 Transition Days
Friday 26th June 2026	Year 9 Celebration Dinner
Tuesday 30th June – Friday 3rd July 2026	Year 8 Culture Trails to Newcastle
Tuesday 30th June – Thursday 16th July 2026	Peru Expedition
Wednesday 1st – Friday 3rd July 2026	Diocesan Summer Festival (God Camp)
Thursday 16th July 2026	End of Year Mass – Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Friday 17th July 2026	Break for Summer Holidays

Week Commencing:
Monday 11th May 2026
Week 6 Eastertide Year A

THEME FOR THE WEEK:
"If you love me, you will keep my commandments... I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate... I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one." – John 14:15-21

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Jesus teaches that true love for Him is shown by obeying His command to love one another—and promises that through the Holy Spirit, He will dwell within us to guide and comfort. This week, our school community is invited to live out this Abiding Love, rooted in relationship with Christ and expressed in caring, faithful actions with and for one another

LINKED CST PRINCIPLE
LINKED BHCVT VIRTUE
LINKED BRITISH VALUE

Resilience

FEAST DAYS AND MEMORIALS THIS WEEK:
Our Lady of Fatima (15th)
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD SOLEMNITY- HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION - 14TH

World Religions and Cultural Events
21 May - International Human Day
Celebrates the principle of human dignity.
Celebrates religious diversity and respects the rights of all religions.
22 May - World Day of the Girl
Highlights the importance of girls and girls' education.
Calls to combat harmful practices and supports the education of all girls.
23 May - International Day of the Girl
Promotes awareness of girls' education and gender equality. Advocates the domestic Church, nurturing love, support and moral education.
24 May - International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia & Transphobia (IDAHOTB)
Raises awareness of LGBTIQ rights violations and promotes inclusion. Encourages respect for all individuals, offering their dignity without compromise.
25 May - World Information & Communication Day
Encourages digital inclusion and global connectivity.
Calls to use technology responsibly, connecting, educating, and respecting it.

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Week Commencing:
Monday 18th May 2026
Week 7 Eastertide Year A

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THEME: PURSUING UNITY - Jesus prays: "that they may be one even as we are one." – John 17:11

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In this heartfelt prayer, Jesus lifts His eyes to the Father, asking that His disciples be united with each other just as He is united with the Father—so that the world might believe. This week, our school community is invited to pursue unity—listening deeply, embracing shared purpose, and strengthening bonds through love and mutual respect.

LINKED CST PRINCIPLE
LINKED BHCVT VIRTUE
LINKED BRITISH VALUE

Self Belief

FEAST DAYS AND MEMORIALS THIS WEEK:
Patronal Feast Days:
(In hall form)
St Bede 25th
St Augustine (27th)

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Week Commencing Monday 11th May 2026 – Sixth Week of Eastertide (Year A)

Theme: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments..." – John 14:15-21

In this week's Gospel, Jesus reminds His disciples that love is shown not simply in words, but in the way we live and care for one another. He promises that the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, will remain with us — guiding, strengthening and comforting us in our daily lives.

Across our school community, we are invited to live out this abiding love through kindness, faithfulness and compassion. In the small choices we make each day, we are called to reflect Christ's love, building relationships rooted in care, respect and unity.

Week Commencing Monday 18th May 2026 – Seventh Week of Eastertide (Year A)

Theme: "That they may be one even as we are one." – John 17:11

In this week's Gospel, Jesus prays for His disciples, asking that they may remain united in love just as He is united with the Father. It is a powerful reminder that unity is not about all being the same, but about living with mutual respect, understanding and shared purpose.

As a school community, we are encouraged to pursue unity by listening deeply, supporting one another and recognising the value of every individual. Through friendship, teamwork and compassion, we continue to strengthen the bonds that make our Carmel community such a special place to belong. t our mission of Life to the Full each day.

[Follow the readings at Mass here.](#)



A Message From the Principal

Welcome to this latest edition of Life to the Full at Carmel College.

Over the past couple of weeks, our College community has continued to demonstrate tremendous resilience, commitment and spirit across every aspect of school life. Public examinations are now fully underway, and I would like to commend our Year 11 and Year 13 students for the maturity, determination and focus they are showing each day. We know this can be a demanding and emotional period, but students have approached it with positivity and real purpose, supported so well by staff, families and one another.

Alongside this, it was wonderful to welcome so many Year 8 parents and carers into College recently for Parents' Evening. These opportunities to work together in support of our young people are incredibly important, and we are very grateful for the continued partnership between home and school.

As you will see throughout this edition, life at Carmel continues to be full of opportunity beyond the classroom.

From Duke of Edinburgh expeditions in the North Yorkshire Moors, national sporting success and outstanding individual achievements, to Youth Alpha, faith leadership, work experience and student fundraising initiatives, our young people continue to represent the College with pride, compassion and enthusiasm.

This Thursday, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Ascension, when we remember Christ returning to the Father and commissioning His disciples to continue His mission in the world. During the half term break, we will then celebrate the great feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples with courage, hope and joy. It feels especially fitting during this busy and demanding season in College life, reminding us that we are never alone in the challenges we face and that God continues to guide and strengthen us.

When we return after half term, we move back into Ordinary Time in the life of the Church. Yet as St Thérèse reminds us, Ordinary Time is where we are called to do ordinary things with extraordinary love. That spirit is reflected so clearly in the daily life of Carmel: in the encouragement offered between students, the dedication of staff, the generosity of families and the many quiet acts of kindness and service which shape our community each day.

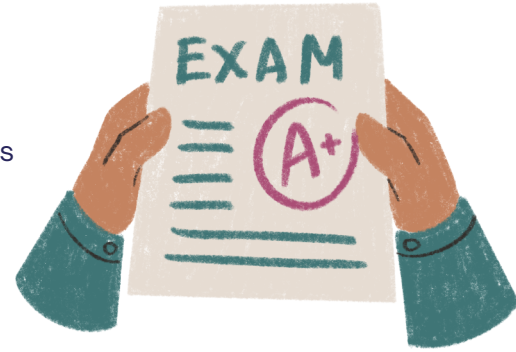
Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Carmel College and all that we seek to do together for our young people.

Melanie Kane

Academic Updates

YEAR 10 PARENTS' EVENING

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers of Year 10 students to our Parents' Evening on Tuesday 19th May, from 4:00pm–6:30pm. This is an important opportunity to meet with subject teachers to discuss students' recent mock assessment results, celebrate progress and explore the next steps as students begin preparing for their final GCSE year. Staff will be available to offer guidance on revision, study habits, strengths and areas for development following the recent examination period.



No appointment booking is required.

END OF YEAR ASSESSMENTS ACROSS THE COLLEGE

Students across all year groups are preparing for upcoming assessments:

- Year 7 & Year 8: Week commencing 11th May – 22nd May
- Year 9: 15th – 22nd June
- Year 12: Week commencing 8th June – 19th June

These assessments are an important part of tracking progress, identifying strengths and supporting students as they move into the next stage of their learning.

Mobile Phones Update

As you may be aware, the government has announced that it will introduce a legal requirement for schools regarding mobile phone use. Students have been informed that Carmel College will move towards a phone-free school day after the external exams. Further information will be shared with parents and carers in the coming weeks to outline how this will be implemented.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS AT CARMEL

Public examinations are now underway at Carmel, and we are incredibly proud of the focus, resilience and maturity being shown by our Year 11 and Year 13 students during this important period.

- Year 11 GCSE Examinations: Friday 1st May – Tuesday 16th June
- Year 13 A Level Examinations: Monday 11th May – Thursday 18th June

We would also like to thank our dedicated staff, who continue to provide guidance, encouragement and support for students throughout the examination period.

Please see overleaf for the examination timetable covering the next two weeks for both Year 11 and Year 13 students.



YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13 EXAMS



EXAMS AT CARMEL

WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 11TH MAY 2026





	MONDAY 11 MAY	TUESDAY 12 MAY	WEDNESDAY 13 MAY	THURSDAY 14 MAY	FRIDAY 15 MAY
AM 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA A Level English Language Paper 1 OCR Cambridge Advanced National Computing OCR Cambridge Technical IT Fundamentals of IT 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA Level 3 Mathematical Studies Paper 1 Edexcel A Level Geography Paper 1 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA A Level English Literature Paper 1 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTEC Human Biology and Health Issues 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA A Level Psychology Paper 1
	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA GCSE English Literature Paper 1 	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies Route B Component 1 	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA GCSE Geography Paper 1 	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edexcel GCSE Mathematics Non-Calculator Paper 1 	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA GCSE History Paper 1
PM 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA AS Psychology Paper 1 OCR Cambridge Technical Sport: Body Systems & Effects of Physical Activity 	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA GCSE Combined Science Biology Paper 1 AQA GCSE Biology Paper 1 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eduqas A Level Business Component 1 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCR Cambridge Technical Sport Organisation & Development OCR Cambridge Technical IT Global Information OCR A Level Further Mathematics Pure Core 1 AQA A Level Media Studies Paper 1 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTEC National Health & Social Care OCR AS Further Mathematics Statistics
	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eduqas GCSE Business Component 1: Business Dynamics 		YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCR GCSE Computer Science Paper 1 		



EXAMS AT CARMEL

WEEK BEGINNING MONDAY 18TH MAY 2026



	MONDAY 18 MAY	TUESDAY 19 MAY	WEDNESDAY 20 MAY	THURSDAY 21 MAY	FRIDAY 22 MAY
AM 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA A Level Sociology Paper 1 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eduqas A Level Business Component 2 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTEC Behaviour and Discipline in the Uniformed Services AQA A Level Psychology Paper 2 AQA Level 3 Mathematical Studies Paper 2 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BTEC Children's Development AQA A Level Physical Education Paper 1 AQA A Level Polish Paper 1 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQA A Level Design & Technology Product Design Paper 1 AQA A Level English Language Paper 2
	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Chemistry Paper 1 	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE English Literature Paper 2 	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE French Listening and Reading 	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE English Language Paper 1 	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Arabic Listening and Reading GCSE Physical Education Paper 1
PM 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCR Cambridge Advanced National Human Biology 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCR AS Further Mathematics Mechanics AQA A Level History Paper 1 Option C Edexcel A Level Arabic Translation Into English 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCR A Level Physics Paper 1 	YEAR 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCR A Level Further Mathematics Pure Core 2 OCR A Level Law Paper 1 Edexcel A Level Geography Paper 2 	
		YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Child Development GCSE Computer Science Paper 2 	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Religious Studies Route B Component 2 GCSE Enterprise & Marketing 	YEAR 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Business Component 2 	



Pastoral and Well-Being

EXAM WELLBEING AND SELF-CARE

As we move further into examination season, it is important that students take care of themselves not only academically, but also mentally, physically and emotionally. Exams can naturally bring pressure and anxiety, and looking after wellbeing is an important part of performing at your best.

Revision can help students feel more prepared, focused and in control, but balance is essential. We encourage students to:

- Plan revision in short, manageable sessions
- Take regular breaks away from screens and notes
- Use revision timetables to stay organised
- Get plenty of sleep and fresh air
- Eat well and stay hydrated
- Spend time with friends and family
- Ask for support when needed

Small, consistent steps can make a big difference in reducing stress and building confidence over time.

Further advice and support for young people around exam stress, self care and wellbeing can be found by clicking the image to the right.



PARKING PLEDGE – KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

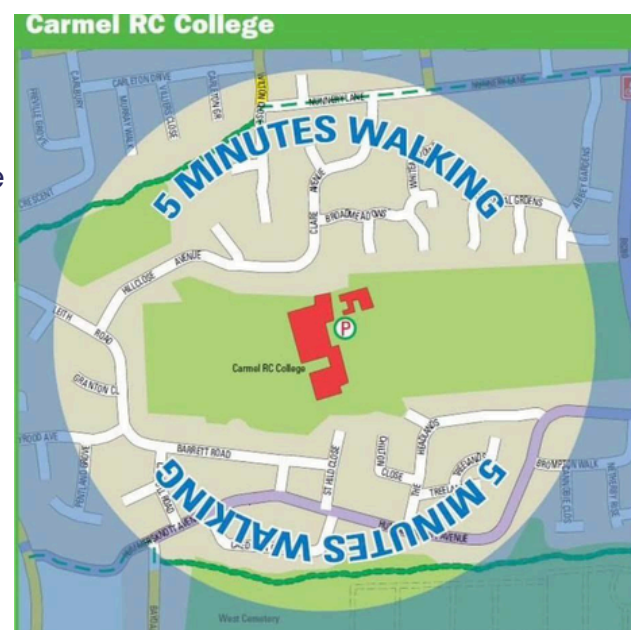
The safety of our students and local community remains a priority. We ask all families to continue supporting our Parking Pledge.

Where possible, we encourage walking or cycling to College. If driving is necessary, please park a short distance away and walk the final few minutes.

When dropping off or collecting students:

- Follow the one-way system via The Headlands
- Park only on the left-hand side
- Use the nearside door for drop-off
- Avoid stopping on keep-clear markings or across driveways
- Do not park on pavements or verges
- No vehicles are permitted on site between 3:15–3:45pm

By working together, we can reduce congestion, improve safety and show respect for our neighbours. Thank you for your continued support.





BISHOP HOGARTH
Catholic Education Trust

ATTENDANCE

Why is it so important?

Children are required by law to attend school **190 days per year**. The Government states that every pupil's attendance should be at least **95%**.

ATTENDANCE	DAYS ABSENT	WEEKS ABSENT	LESSONS MISSED
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13.5 Weeks	340 Lessons

How do you measure up?

89% & Below

Drastic effect on academic achievement

95% - 90%

Cause for concern

100% - 96%

Excellent



Pastoral and Well-Being

ONLINE SAFETY AND DIGITAL WELLBEING

As part of our continued commitment to student wellbeing and safeguarding, we encourage all families to remain vigilant around online safety, screen time and responsible use of social media and digital platforms.

This month's Online Safety Newsletter includes helpful guidance for parents and carers on topics including online communication, staying safe online, healthy digital habits and supporting young people in navigating the online world safely and positively.

Please take a few moments to read the newsletter by clicking the Online Safety image.



SUPPORT OUR CARMEL RE:NEW SHOP

Our Carmel Re:New Shop continues to play an important role in supporting families, reducing waste and ensuring every young person can participate fully in school life with confidence and dignity.

We are currently making a particular appeal for donations of:

- Prom dresses
- Smart suits
- First Holy Communion dresses to support families in our feeder Catholic primary schools

These items can make a huge difference in helping young people celebrate important milestones and special occasions.

We also continue to welcome donations of:

- Blazers and ties
- Trousers and skirts
- PE kit
- Bags and coats

All donations should be clean and in good condition and can be dropped off at main reception.

A special thank you as well to our Year 11 parents and carers who are already beginning to donate uniform items their children will no longer need after the examination period. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated.



SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Thornton, Vice Principal (Pastoral)
- Deputy DSLs: Mr McCann and Mrs Parnaby

If you have any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, please contact the safeguarding team through the main school office.

Sixth Form Updates

YEAR 13 – EXAMS UNDERWAY


Our Year 13 students have now begun their A Level examinations and continue to work incredibly hard as they move through this important final period of Sixth Form life.


Across the college, there has been a fantastic atmosphere of determination, resilience and commitment, with students attending revision sessions, interventions and lessons right up until their final examinations in each subject. Teacher-led support continues at lunchtimes and after school, helping students build confidence and prepare thoroughly for the weeks ahead.

We are extremely proud of the maturity, focus and positivity our students are showing during this demanding examination season and know the entire Carmel community is behind them every step of the way.

YEAR 13 LEAVERS' CELEBRATIONS

We are looking forward to celebrating our wonderful Year 13 students in June as they prepare to move onto exciting new opportunities.

 Year 13 Leavers' Celebration
Friday 19th June, 9:45am
John Caden Hall, Carmel College

 Year 13 Leavers' Ball
Friday 19th June (evening)
Redworth Hall Hotel

 A Level Results Day: Thursday 13th August 2026
Further information will be shared by Mrs Parnaby in the coming weeks.

YEAR 12 – ASSESSMENTS, WORK EXPERIENCE AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Year 12 students are now preparing for their end of year assessments, which take place over two weeks:

 Week commencing 8th June – Friday 19th June

Alongside their studies, students are also preparing for their Work Experience placements:

 Monday 22nd – Friday 26th June

Students should ensure that all placement details are uploaded to Unifrog as soon as possible.

Work experience provides an invaluable opportunity for students to develop confidence, explore possible career pathways and gain insight into the world of work as they begin thinking ahead to university applications, apprenticeships and future employment opportunities.

SIXTH FORM INDUCTION (YEAR 11)

We are excited to welcome prospective Sixth Form students for our induction days:

 Monday 22nd – Tuesday 23rd June

These two days will provide a fantastic opportunity for students to experience life as a Carmel Sixth Former through:

- Taster lessons
- Meeting staff and current students
- Exploring subjects and enrichment opportunities
- Building friendships and confidence ahead of September

CAN YOU SUPPORT US?

On Friday 26th June, our Year 9 students will come together for their Stepping Up Day and Formal Celebration Lunch, marking the end of Key Stage 3 and the beginning of their journey into GCSE study and the next stage of school life.

This event is an important moment within the Carmel calendar and reflects our commitment to ensuring every young person feels valued, celebrated and included. Every Year 9 student will take part, and no student will be asked to contribute financially towards the event.

Following the incredible generosity shown by our community last year, we are once again inviting support from local businesses, families and friends of Carmel to help make this year's celebration truly memorable. We are currently seeking support with decorations, table centrepieces, printed materials, small student favours or contributions towards the overall event.

The support we receive helps create a joyful and dignified experience for every student and is a wonderful example of community spirit in action. We are incredibly grateful for all support offered and look forward to celebrating the kindness and generosity of those who help make this special day possible.



Fun House Fridays This Half Term

Fun House Fridays continue to bring energy, laughter and community spirit to Fridays at Carmel, giving students the opportunity to relax, connect with friends and take part in a wide range of activities across the college.

This half term's programme includes:

- Friday 8th May – Celebrating the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough with themed interhouse activities
- Friday 15th May – Interhouse Rounders, promoting teamwork, participation and house spirit
- Friday 22nd May – Open Mic and Chilled Vibes, featuring live performances, covered seating areas and ice cream on sale

These events continue to be a fantastic part of college life, encouraging students to get involved, support one another and enjoy opportunities beyond the classroom. Whether competing, performing or simply enjoying the atmosphere, Fun House Fridays remain an important part of helping students live life to the full.



Student Success and Sporting Achievement

It has been another exceptional few weeks for Team Carmel, with students achieving success at regional and national level across a wide range of sports and activities.

Our Year 8 boys' table tennis team travelled to Wolverhampton to compete in the National Finals after progressing through town, county and North East rounds. Facing some of the strongest schools in the country, the boys demonstrated outstanding resilience and determination to finish an incredible 7th nationally. James led the team superbly, supported by Nye, Demi and Nethan, with thanks also to Owen Li from Darlington Table Tennis Academy for his continued coaching and support.

Athletics students also represented the college brilliantly at the English Schools Track and Field Cup at Monkton Stadium, where 60 students from Years 7 to 10 competed with determination and school pride. Special congratulations go to Ollie, who broke the school 1500m record, and Charlie, who set a new school discus record.

Carmel students have also continued to shine in individual sporting achievements. Lucy and Ollie proudly represented the North East in the London Mini Marathon Championships, competing on the iconic course through central London. Leah in Year 10 celebrated league success with Middlesbrough FC, while Nate in Year 7 helped Darlington Young Bulls Steels secure a league title. Noah and Darlington RFC Under 14s were crowned Durham County Cup Champions following an outstanding unbeaten season, while our Year 7 girls' rugby team achieved an excellent second place finish at the Tees Valley County Finals.

Congratulations also go to Faith in Year 12, who received the Most Improved Player award at Darlington Mowden Park RFC whilst also representing Scotland Academy, GB7s and county coaching pathways. Across every sport, students continue to represent Carmel with pride, resilience and commitment.



Duke of Edinburgh Adventures!



Students have continued to embrace the opportunities and challenges provided through the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

Our Silver Duke of Edinburgh students completed their practice expedition in the North Yorkshire Moors, enjoying glorious weather as they navigated challenging routes, pitched tents and developed valuable teamwork and leadership skills. The expedition culminated with students successfully climbing Roseberry Topping carrying full expedition packs, a fantastic achievement for many completing the challenge for the first time.

Meanwhile, 30 Year 10 students completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition in Swaledale near Reeth. Despite overnight rain and difficult camping conditions, students demonstrated outstanding resilience, teamwork and positivity throughout. From navigating the Yorkshire countryside to cooking together at camp and supporting one another through the wet weather, students embraced every aspect of the experience and represented the college superbly.

Academic Excellence and Aspirations

Students across the college continue to demonstrate excellent commitment to their studies and future aspirations.

Year 11 students gave up part of their weekend to attend revision sessions in preparation for their GCSE examinations, showing tremendous determination, resilience and maturity. Staff also generously volunteered their time across the weekend to provide additional support and guidance as students approach this important examination period.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 students have now embarked upon their work experience placements across a huge range of industries and professions. From healthcare and education to business, construction, retail and hospitality, students are gaining invaluable experience of the workplace whilst developing confidence, communication skills and future aspirations. These experiences form an important part of helping students prepare for the next stage of their education and future careers.



Performing Arts, Culture and Enrichment



Students have continued to thrive through a wide range of cultural and enrichment opportunities.

Staff and students recently enjoyed a fantastic evening at the theatre watching *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* performed by Darlington Operatic Society. The production featured outstanding performances from Carmel sixth form students Faith and Eva alongside Carmel alumni, making it a particularly proud evening for the college community.

Students have also continued to excel in dance and performing arts. Isabella in Year 7 achieved the prestigious honour of becoming an IDTA Nationwide Finalist after competing at the famous Empress Ballroom, representing the college with confidence, positivity and grace.

Elsewhere across the college, students have shown fantastic entrepreneurial spirit and creativity. Year 11 students recently organised a hugely successful ice cream sale to raise money for their prom celebrations, selling out completely and demonstrating excellent teamwork and initiative.

The Geography department also led a special celebration marking the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough, with interhouse quizzes, scavenger hunts and themed activities helping students reflect on environmental stewardship and care for creation.



Faith, Leadership and Catholic Life

We were delighted to launch our first Youth Alpha session, led by students for students, exploring the big questions of life, faith and purpose. It was wonderful to see students from across different year groups coming together in conversation, reflection and prayer, supported by Fr Kevin and our Sixth Form Heads of Spiritual Depth, Holly and Noah. This ecumenical initiative reflects our commitment to creating spaces where young people can explore faith openly and confidently.

Our Youth SVP group also continues to meet each Friday morning, growing in understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and the mission of service. Students are currently researching inspirational SVP figures including St Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and St Louise de Marillac, exploring how their lives of compassion, justice and practical charity continue to inspire the work of the Society today. As part of this project, students will be creating short videos to share with Mini Vinnies groups in our feeder primary schools, helping younger pupils learn about these important role models and encouraging faith in action across our wider Catholic community.

We also welcomed students from Year 9 who were recently confirmed to take part in a meaningful encounter with members of the St Augustine's SVP Conference. Through prayerful discussion and discernment linked to the diocesan pastoral strategy, students reflected deeply on questions surrounding the future of the Church, hospitality, mission and belonging. Their thoughtful contributions will help inform conversations across the diocese and were a powerful reminder that young people are not simply the future of the Church, but an active and vital part of it now.

Alongside this, students from 10R and 10M prayerfully prepared and led Holy Mass during Eastertide, reflecting on Jesus' words: "I am the vine; you are the branches." We were also delighted to welcome representatives from the Darlington Circle of the Catenians, who presented bursary support to students preparing for the Peru mission project and the HCPT Lourdes pilgrimage. Their generosity continues to support students in living out their faith through service, pilgrimage and encounter.

Across Carmel, faith leadership continues to grow through prayer, service, charity and witness, helping our young people truly live life to the full.

