

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 1ST JUNE - FRIDAY 12TH

JUNE 2026

WE ARE IN THE SEASON OF ORDINARY TIME

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Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
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 1st June 2026 Week 9 Ord Time Year A

THEME FOR THE WEEK:
THEME: The Holy Trinity - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son... whoever believes in him is not condemned, but has eternal life." - John 3:16-18

LINKED CST PRINCIPLE
LINKED BHCET VIRTUE
LINKED BRITISH VALUE

FEAST DAYS AND MEMORIALS THIS WEEK:
 St Charles (Sat)
 St Boniface (5th)
 Corpus Christi is the Sunday

Week Commencing: Monday 8th June 2026 Week 10 Ord Time Year A

THEME FOR THE WEEK:
THEME: Corpus Christi - "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."

LINKED CST PRINCIPLE
LINKED BHCET VIRTUE
LINKED BRITISH VALUE

FEAST DAYS AND MEMORIALS THIS WEEK:
 St Columba (9th)
 St Barnabas (11th)
 St Anthony of Padua (15th) OR Immaculate Heart of Mary (Patronal Feast Day)
 St William of York (8th)
 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (12th)

Week Commencing Monday 1st June 2026 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity - The Ninth Week of Ordinary Time (Year A)

Theme: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son..." – John 3:16

Following the great feast of Pentecost, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. In this Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the incredible love of God, revealed through the relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Trinity teaches us that God is a perfect communion of love, inviting each of us into a relationship with Him and with one another.

Across our school community, we are encouraged to reflect that same love through our words and actions. As we continue through this busy term, we are called to build strong relationships rooted in kindness, forgiveness and mutual respect, recognising that we are strongest when we work together as one community of faith, hope and love.

Week Commencing Monday 8th June 2026 – The Solemnity of Corpus Christi- The Tenth Week in Ordinary Time (A)

Theme: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." – John 6:54

The feast of Corpus Christi invites us to reflect on the gift of the Eucharist, where Christ gives Himself to us as spiritual nourishment and the source of our strength. Through Holy Communion, we are united with Christ and with one another as members of His Church.

This week, our school community is encouraged to recognise the power of the Eucharist to unite, heal and transform us. Just as Christ feeds us with His love, we are called to go forth and share that love with others through acts of service, generosity and compassion, helping to build a community where everyone can flourish and live life to the full.

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



A Message From the Principal

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

I hope that you and your families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half term break. It has been wonderful to welcome students back to College for what promises to be another busy and exciting few weeks.

Public examinations continue for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, and I would like to commend them for the resilience, determination and maturity they continue to show. Exam season can be demanding, but our students have approached this important period with positivity, focus and a commitment to doing their very best. We continue to hold them in our prayers as they work towards the completion of their examinations later this month.

Across the College, students in Years 7, 8 and 10 have now completed their end of year assessments and are spending time in lessons reviewing their progress and strengthening key knowledge. Meanwhile, our Year 9 and Year 12 students are preparing for their own assessment periods, which begin later this month.

There is also much to look forward to. Next week, a group of our Year 10 students will travel to Rome and Vatican City, providing a wonderful opportunity to deepen their understanding of history, culture and faith in one of the most significant cities in the Catholic world. We also look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our Year 7 Parents' Evening and to seeing our Year 8 students take part in their upcoming Culture Trails visits to Newcastle.

As you will see throughout this edition, Carmel students continue to achieve great things both in and beyond the classroom. We celebrate success in football, cricket, netball, athletics, cheerleading and many other areas of school life. We have also been delighted to see our Year 10 students return from work experience having represented the College so positively in workplaces across the region.

During the half term break, the Church celebrated the great feast of Pentecost. Through a special multilingual reflection prepared by our students, we were reminded that although we come from many different backgrounds, we are united as one family in Christ. The Holy Spirit continues to inspire us to use our gifts in service of others and to be people of hope in our communities.

As we continue through the month of June, we also celebrate the great feasts of the Most Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi, reminding us of God's love for His people and the gift of Christ who continues to nourish and strengthen us through the Eucharist.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Carmel College and for the partnership we share in helping every young person live life to the full.

Melanie Kane

Academic Updates

YEAR 7 PARENTS' EVENING

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers of Year 7 students to our Parents' Evening on Tuesday 9th June from 4:00pm to 6:30pm.

This is an important opportunity to meet with subject teachers, discuss your child's recent assessment results, celebrate their achievements and consider the next steps in their learning journey as they move towards Year 8.

Staff will be available to provide guidance on progress, strengths, areas for development and how students can continue to build on the excellent foundations established during their first year at Carmel.

Refreshments will be available throughout the evening, served by our fantastic Year 9 Formal Dinner Committee as they continue their fundraising efforts ahead of their Year 9 Celebration Dinner.

No appointment booking is required. We look forward to seeing you there.



WELL DONE TO ALL STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR END OF YEAR ASSESSMENTS!

Students in Years 7, 8 and 10 have now completed their end of year assessments. We would like to congratulate them on the maturity, resilience and effort they have shown throughout the assessment period.

Over the coming weeks, students will be working closely with their teachers to review their performance, address misconceptions and strengthen their understanding of key concepts. This process is an important part of learning and helps ensure that students have secure foundations on which to build future success.

Meanwhile, our Year 9 and Year 12 students are preparing for their end of year assessments, which take place from Monday 8th June to Friday 19th June for Y12 and Monday 15th- 22nd June for Year 9. These assessments provide valuable preparation for the demands of both Year 10 & Year 13 and help students identify strengths and areas for development as they begin planning for university, apprenticeships and future careers.

The outcomes of all end of year assessments will be reflected in students' end of year reports, which will be shared with parents and carers later this term.

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

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. Following the final exam, students will have their Celebration Assembly.
- 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



YEAR 11 & YEAR 13

You've got this!

★ EXAMS: WEEK COMMENCING 1ST JUNE 2026 ★

MONDAY 1 ST JUNE	TUESDAY 2 ND JUNE	WEDNESDAY 3 RD JUNE	THURSDAY 4 TH JUNE	FRIDAY 5 TH JUNE
<p>AM EXAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 13 Edexcel A Level Russian: Listening, Reading & Translation Year 13 OCR A Level Physics: Exploring Physics Year 13 Edexcel A Level Arabic: Translation Into Arabic Year 13 AQA A Level English Literature B Year 11 AQA GCSE Physical Education Paper 2 <p>PM EXAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 13 AQA A Level Physical Education Paper 2 Year 13 OCR A Level Law: Law Making & The Law of Tort Year 13 AQA A Level Polish Paper 2 Writing Year 11 Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies Route B Component 3: Judaism 	<p>AM EXAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 13 AQA A Level Chemistry Paper 1 Year 11 AQA GCSE Physics Paper 1 <p>PM EXAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 13 AQA A Level History Option H Year 11 GCSE Polish Listening & Reading Year 11 GCSE Russian Listening & Reading Year 11 GCSE Arabic Writing 	<p>AM EXAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 13 AQA A Level Sociology Paper 2 Year 11 Edexcel GCSE Mathematics Calculator Paper 2 <p>PM EXAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 13 OCR A Level Mathematics: Pure Mathematics Year 11 GCSE Health & Social Care Year 11 AQA GCSE Geography Paper 2 	<p>AM EXAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 13 OCR A Level Religious Studies: Philosophy of Religion Year 13 AQA A Level Spanish Paper 1 Year 11 AQA GCSE History Paper 2 <p>PM EXAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 13 AQA A Level Media Studies Paper 2 Year 13 OCR A Level Biology: Biological Processes Year 11 AQA GCSE French Writing 	<p>AM EXAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 13 AQA A Level Psychology Paper 3 Year 11 AQA GCSE English Language Paper 2 <p>PM EXAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 13 OCR A Level Further Mathematics: Statistics <p>(No Year 11 PM exams)</p>



We believe in you!

#LifeToTheFull



YEAR 11

You've got this!

★ NEXT WEEK'S EXAMS ★

MONDAY 8 TH JUNE	TUESDAY 9 TH JUNE	WEDNESDAY 10 TH JUNE	THURSDAY 11 TH JUNE	FRIDAY 12 TH JUNE
<p>AM Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Paper 2 (AQA GCSE) <p>PM Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography Paper 3 (Edexcel A Level) Russian Paper 2 (Edexcel A Level) Creative iMedia (WJEC Level 3) 	<p>AM Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry Paper 2 (AQA A Level) Law: The Nature of Law & Contract (OCR A Level) Religious Studies: Religion & Ethics (OCR A Level) Polish Paper 3 (AQA A Level) Spanish Listening & Reading (AQA GCSE) <p>PM Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Component 3 (Eduqas A Level) 	<p>AM Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design & Technology Product Design Paper 2 (AQA A Level) Mathematics Calculator Paper 3 (Edexcel GCSE) <p>PM Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Science (OCR A Level) Russian Writing (GCSE) Design & Technology (AQA GCSE) 	<p>AM Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arabic (Edexcel A Level) Geography Paper 3 (AQA GCSE) <p>PM Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mathematics: Pure Mathematics Statistics (OCR A Level) 	<p>AM Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italian: Listening, Reading & Translation (Edexcel A Level) Biology: Biological Diversity (OCR A Level) Chemistry Paper 2 (AQA GCSE) <p>PM Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further Mathematics Mechanics (OCR A Level) Spanish Paper 2 Writing (AQA A Level) Sociology Paper 3 (AQA A Level) Polish Writing (GCSE) Hospitality & Catering Paper 1 (WJEC Level 1/2)



We believe in you!

#LifeToTheFull



Pastoral and Well-Being

♥ LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF DURING EXAM SEASON

As examination season continues, it is important that students take care of themselves not only academically, but also mentally, physically and emotionally. While exams can naturally bring pressure and anxiety, maintaining good wellbeing habits can help students feel more confident, focused and prepared.

We encourage students to:

- Revise 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 family and friends
- Ask for help and support when needed



Small, consistent steps often make the biggest difference. Remember that success is not about doing everything at once, but about building positive habits over time.

Further advice and support on exam stress, self-care and wellbeing can be found through the excellent resources provided by Anna Freud. Please click the image opposite to access further guidance

EVERY DAY MATTERS AT CARMEL

As we approach the final weeks of the academic year, we would like to thank our families for their continued support and recognise the resilience, commitment and positive attitudes shown by our students throughout the year.

At Carmel, we know that good attendance makes a real difference. Regular attendance helps students achieve their academic potential, build confidence, develop positive friendships and feel fully connected to our college community.

With 175 days outside of term time available for holidays, celebrations and family events, we encourage families to protect those valuable 190 school days wherever possible.

A reminder that:

- Term-time holidays cannot be authorised
- Unauthorised leave may result in a fixed penalty notice
- Missed learning can be difficult to fully recover

If you need support regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to contact our pastoral team. Together, we can ensure every student has the very best opportunity to succeed.

HEALTHY HABITS FOR SUMMER

As the weather becomes warmer, we encourage all students to look after their health and wellbeing by bringing a refillable water bottle to school each day and staying well hydrated.

We also encourage students to make the most of the many enrichment opportunities available at Carmel, spend time outdoors, remain active and balance screen time with other activities. Sometimes the best wellbeing boost comes from putting devices away and enjoying time with friends, family and the wider world around us.

Pastoral and Well-Being

YEAR 8 CULTURE TRAILS TO NEWCASTLE

We are looking forward to our Year 8 Culture Trails taking place at the end of term, providing every student with a fantastic opportunity to explore Newcastle and engage with a range of educational and cultural experiences.

Tuesday 30th June: 8C and 8A

Wednesday 1st July: 8L and 8J

Thursday 2nd July: 8E and 8R

Friday 3rd July: 8M and 8P

Students will visit a number of important cultural and educational landmarks including the Discovery Museum, Great North Museum: Hancock, Newcastle Cathedral, St Mary's Cathedral and other locations within Newcastle city centre.

This is a free trip provided to ensure all students can participate and enjoy the experience. Students should arrive at Darlington Railway Station no later than 8:45am wearing comfortable clothing and suitable footwear. They should bring a packed lunch, water bottle, sun cream, a hat and a pen. Students eligible for Free School Meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

Students will return to Darlington Railway Station at approximately 4:30pm, where they should be collected by parents or carers.

Families who are able to do so are invited to make a voluntary contribution of £7 via Arbor towards transport costs. Students have received letters and reply slips should be returned as soon as possible.

PARKING PLEDGE – KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

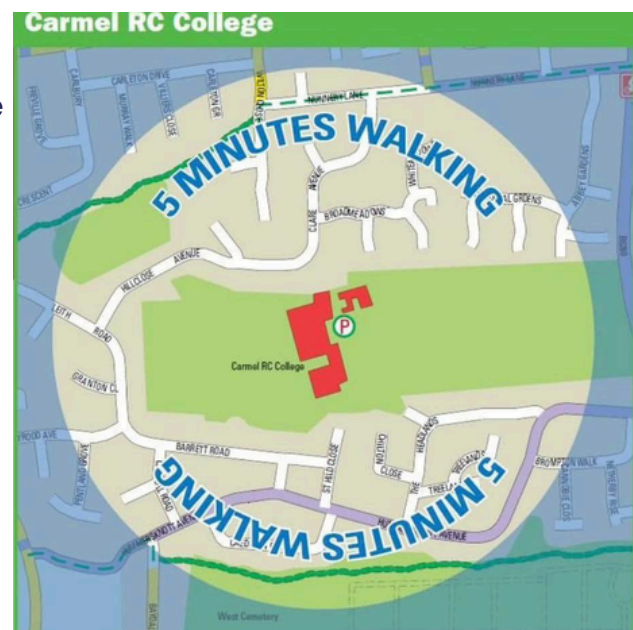
The safety of our students and local community remains a priority. We ask all families to continue supporting our Parking Pledge.

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.

June'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

We also continue to welcome donations of:

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

All donations should be clean, in good condition and can be dropped off at Main Reception.

As Year 11 examinations continue, we would also like to thank the many parents and carers who have already offered to donate uniform items once exams are complete. Your generosity helps support other families within our community and is 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 – WE ARE NEARLY THERE!

Firstly, a huge well done to our Year 13 students, who continue to approach their A Level examinations with maturity, resilience and determination. External examinations remain ongoing until Thursday 18th June (with the national contingency day on Wednesday 24th June), and we are incredibly proud of the commitment students are showing during this important period.

Alongside their examinations, students are also looking forward to celebrating the end of their Sixth Form journey. Our Year 13 Leavers' Mass will take place on Friday 19th June at 10:00am, followed by light refreshments and an opportunity to celebrate together as a year group.

YEAR 12 – ASSESSMENTS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 12 students will begin their internal examinations on Monday 8th June, with assessments continuing until Friday 19th June. These important assessments will help prepare students for the challenges of Year 13 and provide valuable evidence for future applications.

Looking ahead, Year 12 students will also take part in their Work Experience Week from Monday 22nd to Friday 26th June, providing valuable insight into future careers and pathways beyond Sixth Form.

The final half term is also an exciting time for our current Year 12 students as preparations begin for university, apprenticeship and employment applications. The UCAS process is now being launched, while applications for the Sixth Form Student Leadership Team, including the prestigious roles of Head Student and Deputy Head Student, will soon open ahead of elections later this term.

Finally, a group of Sixth Form students will travel to London on Friday 5th June for a special visit, providing another valuable opportunity to broaden horizons and raise aspirations.

As always, we are incredibly proud of the ambition, commitment and achievements of our Sixth Form students and look forward to celebrating many successes over the coming weeks.

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

We look forward to welcoming the next generation of Carmel Sixth Form students for two exciting days of discovery, challenge and community.

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

Our popular Fun House Fridays return for the final half term of the year, with a fantastic programme of activities for students to enjoy.

Friday 5th June

Outdoor Fun Launch

Try our new outdoor equipment including giant chess, giant Connect Four, swingball, handball, cricket and rounders.

Friday 12th June

The Big Sing

Take to the microphone, sing your favourite songs and earn points for your house.

Friday 19th June

Art Attack

Creative challenges, competitions and collaborative artwork for students of all abilities.

Friday 26th June

Interhouse Rounders

House teams compete for glory in one of the most popular sporting events of the year.

Friday 3rd July

Carmel Does Countdown

Letters, numbers and the famous Countdown conundrum. Can you become Carmel Champion?

Friday 10th July

Carmel's Got Talent

A showcase of student talent featuring music, dance, comedy, magic and more.

Friday 17th July

House Celebration Parties

A special end-of-year celebration for the houses with the highest Class Charts totals.



We look forward to another half term full of fun, friendship, competition and house pride.

Faith & Catholic Life

Seminarian Visits Carmel

Students and staff were delighted to welcome Emmet O'Leary to Carmel College during the final week before half term. Emmet, a fourth-year seminarian studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, spent time visiting classes and sharing his personal story of faith, vocation and formation.

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be called by God and how each person is invited to use their gifts and talents in service of others. Emmet spoke openly about his own journey towards priesthood, the challenges and joys of discernment, and the importance of listening to God's call.

His visit provided a powerful witness to faith in action and offered students an insight into the life of someone preparing to serve the Church. As a college community, we continue to pray for Emmet and all those currently discerning or preparing for vocations within the Church.

Ascension and Pentecost: Sent Out in the Power of the Spirit

Over the past fortnight, the Carmel community has celebrated two of the most important feasts in the Church's year: the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord and the Feast of Pentecost.

On Ascension Day, students gathered through a whole-college livestream Celebration of the Word to reflect on Christ's return to the Father and His command to the disciples to continue His mission in the world. As Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised that His followers would not be left alone but would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The day was also marked by Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Barrie, attended by students from Year 7. It was a wonderful opportunity for our youngest students to celebrate this Holy Day of Obligation together, reflecting on Christ's ascension and the mission entrusted to all Christians to be witnesses of hope in the world.

That promise was fulfilled at Pentecost, often described as the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and filled them with courage, joy and faith. Although Pentecost fell during the half-term holiday, several Carmel students helped mark the feast by pre-recording a special reflection based on Acts 2:1-11.

In a powerful reminder of the diversity and unity of our college community, the scripture was proclaimed in a range of languages including Bulgarian, Tamil, Malayalam, Spanish, Arabic, Hungarian, Ukrainian, English, Romanian and Polish. Just as people from many nations heard the Gospel proclaimed at the first Pentecost, our students demonstrated the richness of the Carmel family today.

The reflection celebrated the theme of Fratelli Tutti – brothers and sisters all – reminding us that whilst we come from many different backgrounds and cultures, we are united through faith, hope and our shared mission to bring Christ to others.

As we move from Eastertide back into Ordinary Time, we do so strengthened by the same Holy Spirit, called to live out our faith through ordinary acts of love, service and kindness each day.



Examinations & Student Life

Year 13 Reach the Halfway Point

Our Year 13 students recently reached the halfway point of their A Level examinations and took some time to celebrate together with form photographs and ice cream in the sunshine.

The occasion provided a welcome opportunity to pause and reflect on everything they have achieved throughout their time at Carmel. Students spent time with friends, shared memories and enjoyed a well-earned break before preparing for the next phase of examinations.

We continue to be incredibly proud of the maturity, resilience and determination shown by Year 13 throughout the examination season and wish them every success in the weeks ahead.

Year 11 Make Memories

The final day before half term saw Year 11 students enjoying one of the many traditions that make the final weeks at Carmel so special.

Students gathered together in the sunshine for shirt signing, creating lasting memories with friends through messages, ribbons, sequins and plenty of creativity. An ice cream van proved particularly popular as students celebrated the end of another busy examination week.

The following day also saw students gathering for year group, form group and friendship photographs, which will become part of their lasting memories of life at Carmel. As examinations continue, we are immensely proud of the way Year 11 students are approaching this important period with positivity and determination.

Year 10 Return from Work Experience

Following a highly successful week of placements, it was wonderful to welcome Year 10 students back to Carmel. Students represented the college brilliantly in workplaces across the region, gaining valuable experience and developing important employability skills. From healthcare and education to engineering, retail and business, students embraced the opportunity to experience life beyond the classroom.

Upon their return, students took part in a special 'Stepping Up' assembly as they begin preparing for the challenges and opportunities of Year 11. We look forward to seeing how these experiences help shape their future aspirations.



Community & Transition

Welcome, Year 6!

More than 110 families joined us for our Year 6 Welcome Disco and Family Quiz Night, creating a fantastic atmosphere of excitement ahead of September.

Whilst future Carmel students enjoyed music, dancing and meeting new friends, parents and carers took part in a family quiz and enjoyed the opportunity to get to know one another. The event raised valuable funds for the PTA whilst helping children and families feel part of the Carmel community long before their first day at college.

A huge thank you goes to our PTA, staff and student helpers whose hard work made the evening such a tremendous success.



Sister Act Tickets Now On Sale!

Excitement is already building for this summer's production of Sister Act, which will take to the stage from 8th-10th July.

Following the success of Bless Our Show, rehearsals are well underway and students are working incredibly hard to bring this much-loved musical to life. Audiences can look forward to outstanding performances, fantastic music and plenty of laughter as the story of Sister Mary Clarence arrives at Carmel.

Tickets are now on sale and we look forward to welcoming audiences for what promises to be another unforgettable production.

[Click here for tickets!](#)



Team Carmel

Town Cup Glory for Team Carmel

Our football teams celebrated an unforgettable week in the Darlington Town Cup competitions. The Year 7 boys were crowned Town Cup Champions with a superb 6-1 victory over Hurworth, while our U13 girls lifted the trophy after a dominant 9-0 win. The Year 8 boys also reached the Town Cup Final, narrowly missing out after a dramatic penalty shootout.

There was further success on the cricket field as our Year 7 and 8 girls were crowned Darlington Town Cricket Champions following an unbeaten run throughout the tournament.

Meanwhile, our Year 7 netball team produced an excellent performance at the Town Netball Tournament. Competing against six other schools, the girls showed tremendous determination and teamwork to finish as runners-up, securing an impressive second place overall.

These achievements reflect the hard work, commitment and sporting excellence of our students, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who has represented Carmel so brilliantly.

Carmel Cricket Champions!

Our Year 7 and 8 Girls Cricket Team were crowned Darlington Town Champions following an unbeaten tournament performance.

After winning their opening fixtures, everything came down to a decisive final against Polam Hall. The girls rose magnificently to the occasion and produced an excellent display to secure victory and bring the trophy back to Carmel.

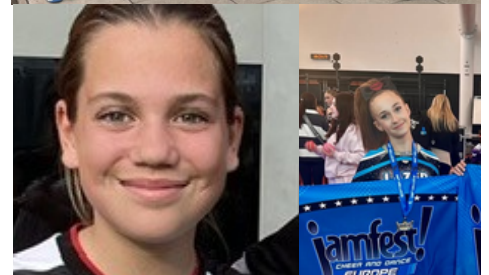
The success reflects the hard work and commitment shown by students and staff throughout the year and is another example of the growing strength of girls' sport at Carmel.

Individual Sporting Success

Year 8 student Mila Parnaby represented both her club and the North East at the England Netball U14 National Club Finals, competing against some of the country's most talented young players despite playing above her age group.

Nevaeh and her Royal Ruby cheerleading team enjoyed extraordinary success in Edinburgh, becoming Division Champions and Grand Champions before securing prestigious bids to both the American Summit and European Summit competitions in 2027.

Pennie continued her remarkable football season with multiple league titles and individual honours, whilst Imani, Thea, Faith and Marni celebrated becoming Division One champions with Darlington RA Girls. Zach, Seb and Sam also completed a league and cup double with their club side, whilst Carmel students involved with 21st Allstars celebrated a league title of their own.



Camino Creativity Celebrated

Several Carmel students attended the El Camino Awards Ceremony following their success in a special writing competition inspired by pilgrimage and history.

Students were challenged to write a letter imagining the experiences of a pilgrim walking the Camino de Santiago more than 500 years ago. The competition encouraged students to combine historical understanding with creativity, imagination and storytelling skills.

The standard of entries was exceptional, with winners receiving £100 vouchers and runners-up receiving certificates in recognition of their achievements. Students represented Carmel superbly throughout the event and were excellent ambassadors for the college.

The competition provided a wonderful opportunity to explore themes of pilgrimage, faith and perseverance whilst celebrating the creativity and talent of our young people.

Carmel in Bloom

This summer, members of our Student Stewardship Group are launching an exciting new project to help make Carmel an even more welcoming, colourful and environmentally friendly place to learn.

Many people may not realise that the name Carmel comes from the Hebrew word Karmel, meaning “a fruitful garden” or “fertile land”. Inspired by this beautiful meaning, students are working to create vibrant flower displays, hanging baskets and planting areas around the college grounds, helping Carmel truly live up to its name.

The project forms part of our ongoing commitment to stewardship and caring for creation. Through practical action, students are helping to enhance the college environment whilst demonstrating the importance of looking after the world God has entrusted to us.

To support the project, we are seeking donations of peat-free compost, bedding plants, flowers and plants suitable for hanging baskets and containers. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at Main Reception.

As the prophet Isaiah reminds us: “You shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail” (Isaiah 58:11).

We look forward to seeing Carmel flourish and bloom throughout the summer months thanks to the hard work of our students and the generosity of our wider community.

