



Life to the Full

SUMMER CELEBRATION EDITION!

Life to the Full – Celebrating an Extraordinary Year at Carmel.

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- FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS
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WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 13TH

JULY 2026

WE ARE IN THE SEASON OF ORDINARY TIME

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Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 14th July 2026	Final day for donations to the Flower Appeal for Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Thursday 16th July 2026	Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, End of Year Mass and awards celebration
Friday 17th July 2026	Carmel Summer Silent Disco in support of The Listening Post
Friday 17th July 2026	College closes for the summer holidays at 1:30pm
Thursday 13th August 2026	A Level Results Day, 8:30am to 10:30am in the Atrium
Thursday 20th August 2026	GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form enrolment, 8:30am to 10:30am in the JC Hall
Sunday 30th August 2026	Remaining balance due for the Year 8 retreat
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	Year 7 and Year 12 return to Carmel
Thursday 3rd September 2026	All students return to College
Wednesday 23rd to Friday 25th September 2026	Year 8 retreat at the Emmaus Youth Village



Our Lady of Mount Carmel: A Light of Hope



As another academic year draws to a close, our Carmel family prepares for the most important celebration in the life of our college, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Over the past week, students have been preparing for this special day in many different ways. During our daily Celebrations of the Word, we have reflected on the story of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, explored the Scriptures that will be proclaimed at our Mass, and considered what it means to become people who carry Christ's light into the world. Throughout the college, students have been creating beautiful stained glass artwork for six large lanterns that will stand around the sanctuary during our celebration. Inspired by Simeon's words in the Feast Day Gospel, "A light for revelation to the Gentiles," each lantern reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World and that we are called to reflect His light wherever we go.

Every student has also been invited to write their name on a ribbon in the colour of their House. During our preparations these ribbons have been tied to the lanterns as a visible reminder that every member of our community has a unique place within the Carmel family. Different colours, different gifts and different stories are united in one shared mission, to shine with faith, hope and love.

Families, alumni, former staff, parishioners and friends have once again responded so generously to our Flower Appeal.

Each flower represents a prayer of thanksgiving, a loved one remembered, a personal intention or a sign of gratitude for Carmel. After our Mass, these flowers will be delivered to local care homes, ensuring that the joy of our celebration continues beyond our school gates and becomes a gift of hope for others. This year's Mass also marks the culmination of our theme, The Light of Hope. Looking back over the past year, we give thanks for every lesson learned, every friendship formed, every challenge overcome, every achievement celebrated and every act of kindness witnessed across our community. We have seen the light of Christ shining through the generosity, resilience and compassion of our students and staff each and every day.

As we begin the summer holidays, may we remember that the light we celebrate at our Feast Day is not something to leave behind at school. It is a light that we are called to carry into our homes, our families and our communities, bringing hope wherever we go.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us.

Important Reminders...

Flower Appeal

As we prepare to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Thursday 16th July, we would be very grateful for donations of flowers to decorate the sanctuary and our statue of Our Blessed Lady.

Flowers may be brought into College by Tuesday 14th July and can be offered in thanksgiving, in memory of a loved one or for a special prayer intention.

Following the Mass, the flowers will be delivered to local care homes, sharing the joy and hope of our celebration with others.

Carmel Summer Silent Disco

On Friday 17th July, students from Year 7 to Sixth Form will celebrate the end of another fantastic year at our first Carmel Summer Silent Disco.

The event will raise funds for The Listening Post, a local charity providing important mental health and wellbeing support for young people across Darlington.

Students may bring cash or a bank card if they wish to purchase refreshments, sweets, glow sticks, glow-in-the-dark tattoos and other summer accessories.

End of Term Arrangements

College will close for the summer holidays at 1:30pm on Friday 17th July.

All school transport providers have been informed and buses have been arranged for the earlier finish, allowing students to travel home as normal.

Summer Results Days

A Level Results Day

Thursday 13th August 2026

8:30am to 10:30am

The Atrium

GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment

Thursday 20th August 2026

8:30am to 10:30am

JC Hall

Staff will be available throughout both mornings to celebrate successes, offer guidance and support students as they prepare for their next steps.

September Return

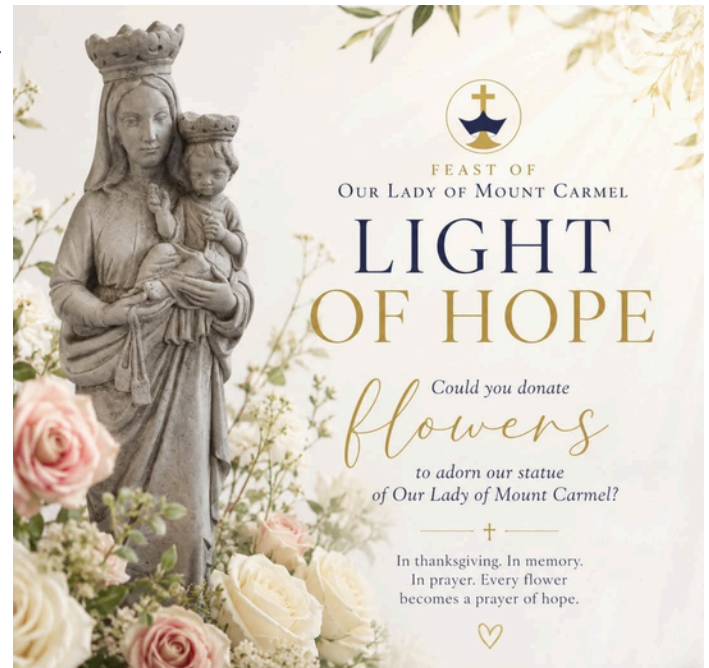
Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Year 7 and Year 12 return to College.

Thursday 3rd September 2026

All students return to College.

Further information about the start of term will be shared with families through Arbor before the end of the summer holidays.





A Message From the Principal

As you read this final edition of Life to the Full for this academic year, our college community is preparing to gather for one of the most important moments in our school calendar, our End of Year Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Looking through these pages, I am once again reminded of what an extraordinary few weeks it has been. We have celebrated sporting success as Town Champions, applauded outstanding performances in Sister Act, watched our Year 9 students take their next steps during their Stepping Up celebrations, welcomed our newest Year 7 students into the Carmel family, and seen our Sixth Form students preparing for exciting futures through induction, work experience and university opportunities.

Beyond our own community, we have followed the inspiring journey of our students in Peru, serving others with generosity, building friendships across cultures and putting our mission of Life to the Full into action. Whether on a building site in Iquitos, on the sports field, on the stage, in the classroom or in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, our young people continue to show us what it means to live lives of faith, hope and service.

As we approach our Patronal Feast, our thoughts naturally turn to giving thanks. Throughout this week, students have been preparing for our End of Year Mass through daily prayer and reflection. They have created beautiful stained glass lanterns inspired by the words of Simeon, "A light for revelation to the Gentiles," and every student has added a ribbon bearing their name, reminding us that each member of our community is called to shine with the light of Christ. Alongside our Flower Appeal, these simple but powerful symbols will help transform our celebration into a joyful act of thanksgiving for another remarkable year.

This year's theme, The Light of Hope, has shaped so much of our journey together. It has reminded us that hope is found not only in the biggest achievements, but also in the everyday moments of kindness, encouragement, perseverance and friendship that make Carmel such a special place to belong.

As another successful year comes to an end, I would like to thank our wonderful students for their enthusiasm, resilience and commitment, our dedicated staff for their tireless care and professionalism, our governors and clergy for their guidance, and you, our parents and carers, for your continued trust and partnership. Together we have created another year full of opportunity, achievement and joy.

Whether you are returning to Carmel in September or moving on to an exciting new chapter, I hope the summer brings rest, happiness and precious time with family and friends. Thank you for being part of another wonderful year in the life of Carmel College.

I wish you every blessing for a happy, peaceful and safe summer, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

With every good wish,

Melanie Kane

Faith & Catholic Life

The Heartbeat of Carmel

The final weeks of the academic year are always among the most prayerful and joyful in the life of Carmel College. While examinations draw to a close and celebrations begin, our focus remains firmly on Christ as we prepare to celebrate our Patronal Feast, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Throughout this final half term, our students have continued to place faith at the centre of college life through Mass, Celebration of the Word, Eucharistic Adoration, retreats, service and outreach, living out our mission of Life to the Full in countless different ways.

Preparing for our Patronal Feast Day

As this edition goes to print, our whole college community is preparing for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and our End of Year Mass on Thursday 16th July.

Throughout the final week, students are taking part in daily Celebrations of the Word, exploring the story of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Scriptures for the Mass and this year's theme, The Light of Hope.

As part of the practical preparation, students have created stained glass artwork for six large lanterns representing Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 12 and staff. Each lantern will carry four House-coloured ribbons, with the names of students and staff written upon them, reminding us that every person belongs within our Carmel family and is called to reflect the light of Christ. Flowers donated through our annual appeal will adorn the sanctuary and the statue of Our Lady. Offered in thanksgiving, remembrance or for special intentions, they will later be shared with local care homes so that the joy of our Feast Day continues beyond the College.

Our Patronal Feast gives us the opportunity to pause, give thanks for another remarkable year and entrust the future of our community to Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us.

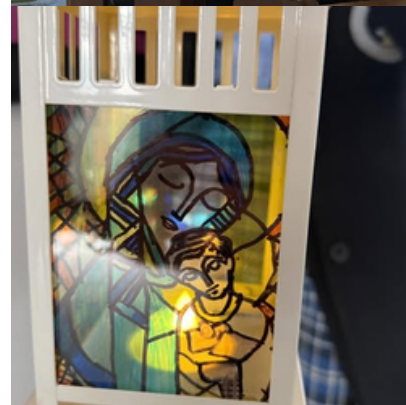
Year 13 Leavers' Mass

Our Year 13 students gathered with staff and Fr Kevin Dixon for their final Mass as Carmel students.

The celebration gave thanks for the gifts, friendships and achievements of the Class of 2026, while looking ahead with hope to university, apprenticeships, employment and new opportunities. Beautiful music, thoughtful readings and a moving homily reminded our students that Christ walks beside them wherever their journey leads.

Following Mass, students celebrated together at their Leavers' Ball at Redworth Hall, bringing their Carmel journey to a fitting close.

We continue to keep every member of the Class of 2026 in our prayers as they prepare to receive their A Level results in August.



Looking Ahead: Year 8 Retreat

Our new Year 8 students will begin the new academic year with their retreat at the Emmaus Youth Village from Wednesday 23rd to Friday 25th September.

The retreat offers every student the opportunity to step away from the busyness of daily life, strengthen friendships, explore faith and reflect on the year ahead through prayer, activities and time together.



Year 11: A Carmel Story Continues



One of the most moving moments of this half term was our Celebration of the Word with Year 11 as they gathered together for one final time before beginning the next chapter of their journey.

Following breakfast together, students reflected on their own Carmel Story, giving thanks for the friendships they have made, the challenges they have overcome and the people who have helped shape them over the past five years. Together we reflected on Jesus' call to be the light of the world, recognising that although their time in Year 11 has come to an end, their story is still being written.

Each student received a blessed medal of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and a holy image as a reminder that wherever life leads them, they remain part of the Carmel family and are held in our prayers.

The day concluded with a joyful leavers' celebration, looking back over six years of memories, achievements and laughter. For many students it was not goodbye, but simply the beginning of a new chapter as they prepare to return in September as members of Carmel Sixth Form.

Once a Carmelite, always a Carmelite.

Welcoming the Next Generation of Carmelites

The final weeks of term have seen us welcome our newest Carmel family members as Year 6 pupils joined us for their Transition Days.

Their Carmel journey began with a Celebration of the Word reflecting on Jesus' call to "let your light shine."

Throughout the day, pupils experienced lessons, explored our beautiful chapel, learnt about the Catholic faith and our devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and received a prayer booklet to accompany them on the next stage of their journey.

It has been a joy to witness their enthusiasm, curiosity and excitement as they prepare to begin life at Carmel in September.



6 for 6: Students Serving Students

One of the highlights of this term has been the launch of our new 6 for 6 programme.

Students joining Year 12 returned to College to complete safeguarding and peer mentoring training before supporting our new Year 7 pupils throughout Transition Days.

Over the coming year they will continue to act as mentors, role models and friendly faces, helping younger students settle confidently into Carmel life while developing their own leadership skills through service.



God Camp 2026

Fifty of our Year 10 students travelled to the Diocesan God Camp for 3 days of prayer, worship, friendship and fun.

Joining hundreds of young people from across the Diocese, students celebrated Mass, spent time in prayer and worship, took part in workshops and had loads of fun! God Camp has strengthened both their faith and friendships.

The experience was a wonderful reminder that faith is joyful, lived in community and centred on Christ.



A New Rhythm of Prayer

This half term has seen the introduction of a new daily Examen for every form group at the end of the school day.

Rooted in the spirituality of St Ignatius of Loyola, the Examen invites students to pause, give thanks, reflect on the events of the day and recognise God's presence in the ordinary moments of school life.

Using the themes of Head, Heart and Hands, students are encouraged to consider what they have learnt, how they have loved others and how they have used their gifts in service. The day concludes with a simple prayer, helping every member of our community leave College with gratitude, hope and a renewed sense of purpose.

This quiet moment of reflection has become a fitting way to end each day, reminding us that Catholic education is about forming the whole person, mind, heart and spirit.



EXAMEN

Give thanks
Pray for light
Review the day
Look at what's wrong
Make a resolution for the day to come

Project Peru: Faith in Action

Travelling via São Paulo and Lima before reaching Iquitos, our students began an unforgettable experience of service, cultural exchange and adventure, living out Carmel's mission of Life to the Full far from home.

At the heart of the project was practical work at a local nursery and community site. In the heat and humidity of the Amazon, students shovelled sand, mixed cement, prepared plaster, built pillars, completed walls and began painting.

Their teamwork and determination transformed the site day by day.

Each afternoon, the group visited a local girls' home, supporting young people who have experienced difficult circumstances or who stay there during term time because travelling home through the jungle is not possible. Students planned and led English lessons, sports, dance and artisan craft activities. Despite the language difference, friendships quickly grew through laughter, creativity and kindness.

The team also experienced the beauty and culture of the Amazon, spotting pink river dolphins, fishing for piranha and visiting indigenous communities to learn about traditional ways of life, music and dance.

Project Peru has been far more than a trip. It has been an opportunity to serve, encounter others and recognise the dignity of every person. Our students have shown compassion, resilience and generosity throughout, creating memories and friendships that will stay with them for life.



Celebrating Y11

The Class of 2026 came together for a wonderful Prom to celebrate the end of their GCSE journey. Students arrived in style before enjoying an evening of live music, great food, entertainment, mocktails, dancing and time together with friends and staff.

Following an incredibly successful examination season and an emotional leavers' liturgy earlier in the term, Prom provided the perfect opportunity to celebrate friendships, achievements and memories made over the last five years. We now look forward to welcoming many of these students back into Carmel Sixth Form in September, while wishing every member of the year group every success as they await their GCSE results.



Y13 Celebrate in Style!

Following their Leavers' Mass, our Year 13 students gathered at Redworth Hall for an evening of celebration, friendship and unforgettable memories.

Looking incredibly smart, students enjoyed a wonderful evening together as they marked the end of their time at Carmel. It was a fitting celebration of two years of hard work, achievement and personal growth, providing one final opportunity to come together before embarking on the next stage of their journey.

We hope every member of the Class of 2026 enjoyed a fantastic evening. We now look forward to welcoming them back on A Level Results Day and wish them every success as they prepare for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.



Living Life to the Full

Stepping Up to the Next Chapter



One of the highlights of the half term was our Year 9 Stepping Up Day, marking the end of Key Stage 3 and the beginning of students' GCSE journey.

Throughout the day, students took part in a programme of activities designed to encourage them to reflect on their achievements so far, celebrate their friendships and begin looking ahead to the opportunities and responsibilities of Key Stage 4.

The day concluded with a wonderful formal celebration lunch in the JC Hall. Beautifully decorated with the support of local businesses and volunteers, students enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by our catering team, entertainment from Daisy and Galilea, music from our very own DJ Sam, and the presentation of our annual Virtue Awards. The atmosphere throughout the day was one of celebration, gratitude and excitement for the journey ahead. It was a fitting way to recognise a fantastic year group as they prepare to begin the next chapter of their Carmel story.

Phone Free Carmel

This half term marked the successful introduction of the first phase of our Phone Free Carmel initiative.

Students have embraced the new expectations with maturity and responsibility. Phones are now switched off and out of sight throughout the school day, before being securely stored in classroom wall units during lessons.

Alongside this change, we have introduced a revised structure to the school day. Students now line up before Period 4, creating a calm and purposeful start to afternoon learning, before returning to their form groups at the end of each day for notices, reflection and our daily Examen. Together, these changes are strengthening relationships, improving routines and providing a more settled end to the school day.

The positive impact has already been evident across the College, with students engaging more with one another during social times and staff reporting a calmer, more focused learning environment.

From September, the next phase of our journey will begin with the introduction of secure mobile phone pouches, further supporting our commitment to creating a distraction-free environment where every young person can flourish academically, socially and spiritually.



Attendance Matters

Excellent attendance continues to be one of the strongest indicators of student success. We are incredibly grateful to families for supporting regular attendance throughout the year. Every lesson attended helps students build confidence, strengthen friendships and maximise their opportunities for success.

With 175 days each year outside term time, we continue to encourage families to make full use of school holidays for family celebrations and trips wherever possible, helping every young person benefit from every day of learning.

Caring for Our Community

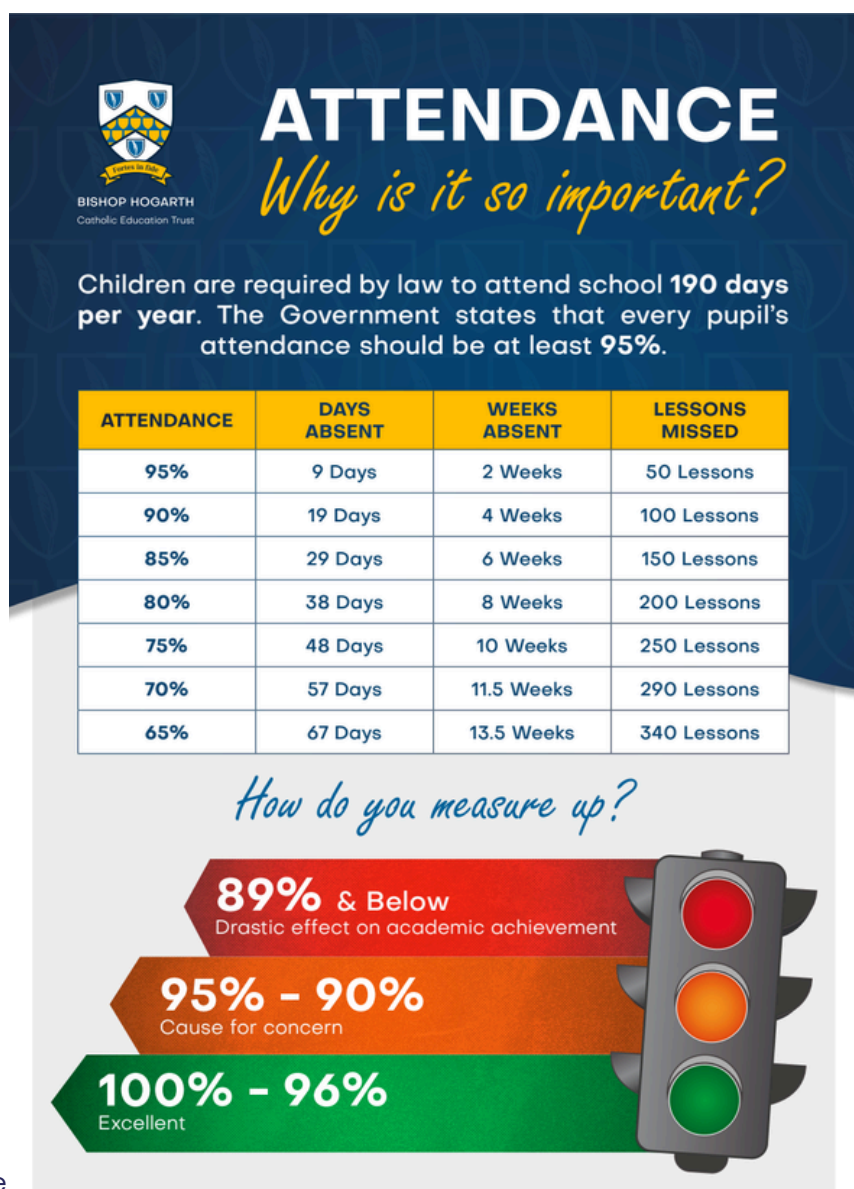
Our ReNew Uniform Shop continues to go from strength to strength, supporting families whilst promoting stewardship of God's creation.

By recycling high quality uniform, PE kit, football boots and school shoes, we are reducing waste, supporting sustainability and providing affordable uniform for Carmel families. Students themselves continue to play a leading role in managing the project, developing valuable leadership and enterprise skills whilst serving our wider community. We are always grateful for donations of good quality uniform that can help another young person begin the new academic year with confidence.

Building a Culture of Respect

Respect lies at the heart of everything we do at Carmel.

During the final half term, Year 10 students have taken part in a series of pastoral assemblies exploring respectful relationships, positive masculinity and challenging misogyny. These important conversations encourage students to reflect upon dignity, empathy, responsibility and the way we treat one another, both in person and online. They form part of our wider commitment to creating a culture where every member of our community feels safe, respected and valued.



Academic Life

Durham Schools Physicist of the Year

Congratulations to Josh in Year 13, who was recognised as a Durham Schools Physicist of the Year.

Nominated by his teachers, Josh was recognised for his exceptional commitment to Physics, his mature scientific thinking and his outstanding communication skills. It is a prestigious achievement and one we are incredibly proud to celebrate.

Outstanding French

Our Year 8 French students have produced work of an exceptionally high standard this term.

Students developed simple written responses into sophisticated extended pieces using ambitious vocabulary, opinions, connectives and GCSE-style language. Their work impressed staff so much that it was described as being of a standard expected from much older students.

Geography in Action

Creativity was flowing in Geography as Year 7 students designed and built their own volcano models.

Using a wide variety of materials, students combined geographical knowledge with imagination and practical skills before many of the volcanoes spectacularly erupted in class. The project was a fantastic example of bringing classroom learning to life.

Developing Digital Skills

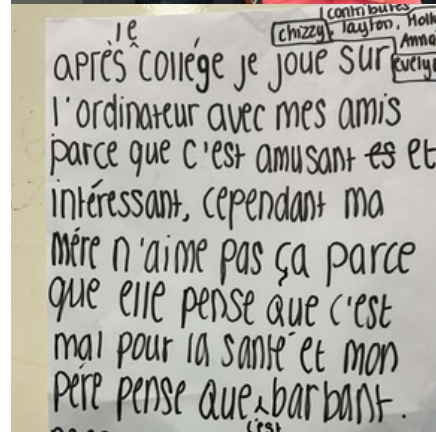
Congratulations to Sophia in Year 7, who has achieved her Bronze iDEA Award.

Often described as the digital Duke of Edinburgh's Award, iDEA develops digital, enterprise and employability skills through interactive online challenges. Sophia's commitment throughout the year has been outstanding, and we look forward to welcoming more students to iDEA Club next year.

Reading for Pleasure

Our Carnegie Book Awards Shadowing Group recently came together to discuss this year's shortlisted books.

Students shared recommendations, debated their favourite titles and celebrated a shared love of reading in a wonderful afternoon of thoughtful discussion.



Sister Act Raises the Roof!

Team Carmel Enjoy Another Outstanding Summer of Sport

What an unforgettable three nights!

Our John Caden Theatre was transformed into a convent full of music, laughter and incredible talent as students staged the spectacular musical Sister Act.

Performing to three sell-out audiences, our cast, orchestra and backstage crew delivered performances of exceptional quality, bringing energy, humour and professionalism to every scene. Months of rehearsals, dedication and teamwork culminated in a production that had audiences laughing, applauding and giving standing ovations each evening.

Productions like this simply would not be possible without the extraordinary commitment of our staff. Our sincere thanks go to Mrs Denley, Mrs Bray and the entire production team, together with everyone involved behind the scenes, whose passion and countless hours of work created such a memorable experience for our students and audience alike.

Congratulations to every student involved. You truly raised the roof.



TEAM CARMEL

Team Carmel Enjoy Another Outstanding Summer of Sport

The final half term has been another unforgettable one for Team Carmel. Across athletics, rounders, cricket, netball, kayaking and motorsport, our students have represented Carmel with distinction, demonstrating not only sporting excellence but also the teamwork, resilience, respect and determination that lie at the heart of our college community.

Whether competing for house honours, representing the town, supporting younger pupils or achieving success at county and national level, our students continue to embody what it means to live life to the full.



Carmel Crowned Town Sports Champions

One of the highlights of the sporting calendar came as Carmel College were once again crowned Overall Town Sports Champions, retaining the title after another incredible day of competition.

Our students were exceptional throughout, competing with determination whilst supporting one another with outstanding encouragement and sportsmanship.

The results speak for themselves:

Year 7

- Girls: 1st Place
- Boys: 2nd Place
- Overall Champions

Year 8

- Girls: 1st Place
- Boys: 1st Place
- Overall Champions

Year 9

- Girls: 2nd Place
- Boys: 1st Place
- Overall Champions

Year 10

- Girls: Joint 1st Place
- Boys: 3rd Place
- Overall 3rd Place

Overall, Carmel were crowned:

- 🥇 Girls' Champions (377 points)
- 🥇 Boys' Champions (374 points)
- 🏆 Overall Town Champions (751 points)



A huge thank you goes to our dedicated PE Department for the countless hours spent selecting teams, organising training and supporting students throughout the season. We are also grateful to Eastbourne Sports Complex and the PE departments across Darlington for helping make the event such a fantastic celebration of school sport.

Record-Breaking Performances

Several of our athletes produced performances that will go down in the record books.

Bethany Dixon broke the Town Record in the Year 7 Girls' 75m Hurdles, while Tom Allum smashed both the Town and School records in the Year 7 Boys' Shot Put.

Mila Parnaby produced a remarkable throw to break both the Town and School records in the Year 8 Girls' Javelin, while Lucy Hellewell set a new Town Record in the Year 8 Girls' 1500m.

School records also fell thanks to Jacob Jones in the Standing Triple Jump and James Blewitt in the Long Jump.

These achievements are a wonderful reward for the dedication our students show in training throughout the year.



Sports Day 2026

Sports Day once again brought the whole Carmel community together for one of the most anticipated afternoons of the school year.

With glorious sunshine, enthusiastic house support and some fiercely competitive performances, students competed with passion whilst demonstrating outstanding respect for one another.

Congratulations to St Cuthbert's House, who claimed the Sports Day trophy after one of the closest finishes in recent years, finishing just one point ahead of St Hilda's.

Just as importantly, Sports Day reflected Pope Leo XIV's June prayer intention that sport should be "an instrument of peace, encounter and dialogue", promoting respect, solidarity and personal growth. Those values were evident throughout the afternoon.



Double Town Rounders Champions

It has been a remarkable season for girls' rounders. Both our Year 8 and Year 9 teams completed unbeaten Town Tournament campaigns, winning every fixture to become Town Champions.

Throughout both competitions the girls demonstrated outstanding teamwork, confidence and resilience, supporting one another brilliantly whilst representing Carmel with great pride.

Cricket Success

Our girls' cricket teams have enjoyed an exceptional end to the season.

The Under 13 team secured a superb victory over Eggescliffe, batting confidently without losing a wicket before producing disciplined bowling and fielding to secure a 16-run victory.

Meanwhile, the Under 15 team completed their very first cricket season unbeaten, defeating King's Academy to round off a remarkable campaign and laying strong foundations for the future of girls' cricket at Carmel.

Leadership Through Sport

Sport at Carmel is about far more than winning competitions. Our Netball Sports Leaders gave up their time to officiate at the Town Primary Netball Tournament, umpiring matches throughout the day and acting as outstanding ambassadors for the College.

Year 10 Sports Studies students also enjoyed a kayaking experience on the River Tees, developing leadership, teamwork, resilience and confidence whilst learning new skills in an outdoor environment.

Individual Sporting Success

We are also delighted to celebrate the achievements of students competing beyond school.

Year 10 student Seb continues to lead his karting championship after victories at Lydd and Wigan, demonstrating remarkable consistency, determination and sportsmanship as he heads into the next round as championship leader.

Year 12 student Jack has been selected for the North East Community Team (NUSC), where he will represent the region in the North East Cricket Series against the British Army whilst helping to raise money for local charities. Congratulations to every student who has represented Carmel this year. Whether competing for their house, the College, the town or beyond, you have made us immensely proud and continue to demonstrate that success is built on commitment, perseverance and teamwork.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

Newcastle Culture Trails

Over four exciting days, every Year 8 student travelled to Newcastle to take part in our annual Culture Trails programme.

Travelling together by train, students explored some of the city's most important cultural, historical and religious landmarks, including the Discovery Museum, the Great North Museum: Hancock, the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle Cathedral and St Mary's Cathedral. The visits encouraged students to engage with history, science, art and faith beyond the classroom whilst developing confidence, independence and an appreciation of the rich heritage of the North East. Moments of quiet reflection in the cathedrals sat alongside creativity in the galleries and discovery in the museums, creating a memorable experience for every student.

We are delighted that every Year 8 student was able to take part, ensuring this opportunity remained accessible to all.

Year 10 Sports Studies

Our Year 10 Sports Studies students enjoyed an unforgettable kayaking experience on the River Tees.

The day challenged students to develop new practical skills whilst building teamwork, leadership and resilience. Throughout the session they encouraged one another, stepped outside their comfort zones and represented Carmel with outstanding maturity and enthusiasm.

Experiences such as these help students develop confidence and character alongside their academic studies.

Work Experience

Our Year 12 students completed another highly successful Work Experience Week, spending time with employers across a wide range of professions and industries.

From healthcare and engineering to business, education, local government and the voluntary sector, students gained valuable insight into the workplace whilst developing the employability skills that will support their future careers.

One particularly inspiring placement saw a student working alongside former Darlington Mayor Cyndi Hughes DL, visiting community organisations across the town and gaining a first-hand understanding of leadership, service and civic responsibility.

These experiences continue to play an important role in preparing our students for university, apprenticeships and employment.



STEM and University Inspiration

As part of our commitment to raising aspirations, Year 12 students also took part in a NYBEP STEM event alongside employers from the NHS, CDDT, Longworth Group and Magnet.

Students impressed employers with their professionalism, communication and enthusiasm before visiting Northumbria University, where they explored the campus, attended subject sessions and experienced university life first-hand.

Support the Carmel PTA Lottery

The Carmel PTA works tirelessly to enhance the experience of our students, funding opportunities and resources that make a real difference to life at the college. One of the easiest ways to support this work is by joining the Carmel Parents Lottery.

For every £1 ticket purchased, 60p goes directly to the PTA, helping to fund projects and initiatives that benefit our young people. These contributions support a wide range of activities, including the purchase of books and literacy resources, equipment for breaktime clubs such as table tennis and badminton, enrichment activities and performances, and special events and rewards for students.

By taking part, you will not only be supporting the college community but will also have the opportunity to win prizes through the weekly lottery draws.

To join the Carmel Parents Lottery, please click the image below.

Every ticket purchased helps us continue to provide the extra opportunities, experiences and resources that enrich the lives of our students. Thank you for your ongoing support.

