



THIS IS HOW WE DO IT HERE

23rd October 2026

WELCOME FROM HEAD

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding half term, I am delighted to share some of the wonderful opportunities and achievements from across our school community. In this edition, you can read about our successful Geography field trip, our continued focus on Reading Matters, exciting curriculum developments, and a highly successful Personal Development Day that provided pupils with valuable experiences beyond the classroom.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to help every child grow, achieve and flourish.



Mrs Wilkinson
Headteacher

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Year 11 Geography Field Trip

Students recently enjoyed a valuable Geography fieldwork trip, visiting both South Shields and Newcastle as part of their studies.

The day began in South Shields, where students investigated coastal management strategies and explored the role of sand dunes in protecting the coastline. They carried out a range of fieldwork activities, collecting data and developing their understanding of how physical and human processes shape coastal environments.

Students then travelled to Newcastle, where they examined changes in high street shopping over time. Through observations and data collection, they considered how consumer habits, regeneration and online retail have influenced the way town and city centres have evolved.

One of the highlights of the trip was seeing the confidence and maturity our students displayed when conducting questionnaires with members of the public. They approached the task with enthusiasm, asked thoughtful questions and represented the school exceptionally well throughout the day.

A fantastic learning experience for all involved, providing students with the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge in real-world settings while developing important geographical and communication skills. Well done to everyone who took part!



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Day of Languages

Students enjoyed celebrating European Day of Languages in their Modern Foreign Languages lessons through a variety of engaging and interactive activities. The day provided an opportunity to explore the wide range of languages spoken across Europe, while learning more about the cultures, traditions and communities they represent.

Through a range of fun challenges and language-based activities, students developed their communication skills, increased their cultural awareness and gained

a greater appreciation of the benefits of learning a new language. It was wonderful to see so many pupils embracing new experiences, stepping outside their comfort zones and approaching the day with such enthusiasm.

A huge well done to everyone who took part and helped make the celebration such a success. The day was a fantastic reminder of the value of languages in connecting people and broadening horizons.



A safer
simpler
smarter way
to pay

We are going

Same
school.
Brighter
futures.

CASHLESS

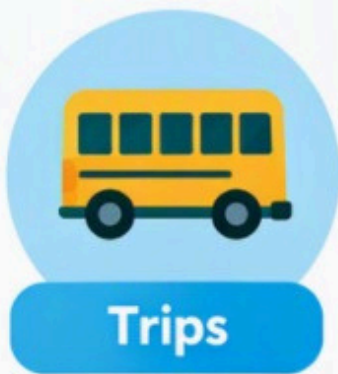
in school



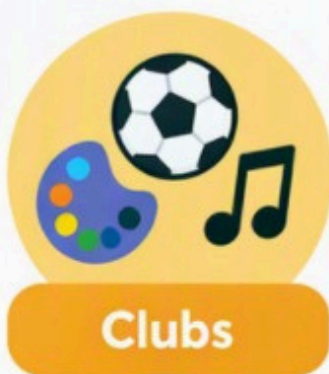
From the **2nd November 2026**, all payments for meals, trips, clubs and other school-related items will be made through **Arbor**.



Meals



Trips



Clubs



Other
school-related
items



If you or your child have any questions, please direct them to the **school office**, where support and guidance will be available for anyone needing assistance with **Arbor** registration or access.



Arbor

Helping our school community thrive



LEARN
BELONG
ACHIEVE
TOGETHER

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY



Our recent Personal Development Day was a fantastic success, providing students with valuable opportunities to explore important topics that support their personal growth, wellbeing and future success.

Throughout the day, students took part in a range of engaging sessions focused on areas such as online safety, social media and self-esteem, healthy relationships, AI, personal wellbeing and developing positive life skills. The workshops encouraged thoughtful discussion, reflection and active participation, helping students to build confidence and develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities they may encounter both in and beyond school.

It was wonderful to see students engaging so positively with the activities, asking insightful questions and demonstrating maturity when discussing important issues. The day reinforced our commitment to supporting the whole child, ensuring that students not only achieve academically but also develop the knowledge, resilience and character needed to thrive in modern society.

We would like to thank all staff who contributed to making the day such a rewarding experience for our students. Their expertise and enthusiasm helped create a meaningful and memorable day of learning for everyone involved.

READING MATTERS

Reading Matters

Our latest Reading Matters newsletter has been packed with exciting opportunities to inspire a love of reading and celebrate learning across the school.

This edition shines a spotlight on Black History Month, featuring a range of recommended reads that explore Black history, culture and achievements. From *Black and British* by David Olusoga to *Black Poppies* by Stephen Bourne, students have been encouraged to broaden their perspectives through powerful stories and historical accounts. The feature reminds us that Black history is an important part of our shared history all year round.

There has been plenty happening in the library this half term too. Congratulations to Sam in Year 7, who achieved an impressive 100% on an Accelerated Reader quiz. The library continues to be a welcoming space where pupils can read, research and study, while clubs and activities such as the popular Pokémon Club provide additional opportunities for students to engage with reading, games and social learning.

We encourage all pupils to take part in the half-term reading challenge, continue exploring new books and make the most of the fantastic resources available in our library. Reading opens doors to new ideas, experiences and opportunities, and it has been wonderful to see so many students embracing reading both in and out of lessons.



Our curriculum is ambitious, carefully sequenced and designed to ensure that every pupil develops the knowledge, skills and understanding needed for future success. From Year 7 through to Year 11, pupils are challenged to think deeply, build on prior learning and achieve their very best. We are proud of a curriculum that not only secures strong academic outcomes but also broadens horizons, nurtures curiosity and prepares young people to thrive in further education, employment and modern society.

Looking ahead to Half Term 2, we will continue to build on this strong foundation by maintaining high expectations in every classroom and ensuring pupils are consistently challenged to achieve excellence. Departments will continue to refine and deliver ambitious learning experiences, with a focus on deepening knowledge, strengthening literacy and numeracy, and helping pupils make meaningful connections across their subjects. As always, our aim is to provide every child with a rich, engaging and aspirational education that enables them to flourish both academically and personally.

OUR CURRICULUM

OUR CURRICULUM
AMBITION TODAY • SUCCESS TOMORROW

More Than Lessons

KNOWLEDGE
Building strong foundations

SKILLS
Developing for life

UNDERSTANDING
Thinking deeply

PROGRESS
Achieving our very best

OPPORTUNITY
Broadening horizons

Curiosity drives brighter futures

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LOOKING AHEAD TO HALF TERM 2

We will continue to build on this strong foundation by maintaining **high expectations** in every classroom and ensuring pupils are consistently challenged to **achieve excellence**. Departments will continue to refine and deliver ambitious learning experiences, with a focus on **deepening knowledge, strengthening literacy and numeracy**, and helping pupils make **meaningful connections** across their subjects. As always, our aim is to provide every child with a rich, engaging and aspirational education that enables them to **flourish** both academically and personally.

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HIGH EXPECTATIONS
in every classroom

DEEPER KNOWLEDGE
across all subjects

STRONGER LITERACY & NUMERACY
for future success

MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS
across learning

RICH, ENGAGING AND ASPIRATIONAL
experiences for all

THRIVE
ACHIEVE
EXPLORE
LEARN
GROW
BELONG

Small Steps Big Futures

CONFIDENCE | OPPORTUNITY | RESPECT | AMBITION | KINDNESS

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES



This week, we have had the privilege of recognising the incredible achievements of students across every year group during our Half Term Awards.

Led by Mrs Wilkinson, Miss Coates and our amazing Heads of Year, the week has been filled with positivity, pride and well-deserved recognition. From tutor impact awards and academic excellence to our behind-the-scenes stars, we have celebrated the students who make a difference every single day through their effort, kindness, resilience, leadership and commitment to our school community.

The smiles, applause and overwhelming sense of pride have reminded us just how fortunate we are to work with such remarkable young people. Congratulations to every winner and nominee. Keep shining, keep striving and keep being extraordinary. We are so proud of you all!

ENRICHMENT CLUBS



OUR LADY AND ST BEDE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Period 6 Enrichment Programme

Autumn Term

Period 6 runs from 2:55pm to 3:35pm

MONDAY



Club	Location	Teacher
Roald Dahl on Stage	DR1	LWa/RSi
Homework Support	EMS	LSe/AGI
Steel Pan Band	Hall A	PTH
Minecraft Club	CS1	SFu/LGi
Y7 and Y8 Netball	Sports Hall	RLo
Inclusion Club (Invite Only)	Gym	CWa
Board Games	EMS	SMc
Challenge Zone	RE5	RPa
Darts League	Sports Hall	BWo
Student Librarians	Library	MJa
Faith Leaders and SVP	RE4	LWe/MSh
Pokemon Club	Library	MJa

TUESDAY



No Period 6 enrichment clubs scheduled.

WEDNESDAY



Club	Location	Teacher
Creative Writing Club	E5	NPi
Worship Choir	MU2	ECo
Homework Support	EMS	LSe/AGI
Lego Club	EMS	KDi
OLSBand	MU1	PWa
Dodgeball/Handball (Before School 8am)	Gym	BWo
Gardening Club	Prayer Garden	ENe
Dance Squad	DR1	FBa
Y9/10 Netball	Sports Hall	JEg
Football (Girls in all years, Y7/8 Boys & Y9/10 Boys)	Field	BWo, CWa, OBU
Young Citizens	Chapel	LWe
Multi Culture Club	Library	MJa
MFL Champions League of Linguists	MFL3	DRa
Student Librarians	Library	MJa

THURSDAY



Club	Location	Teacher
Performing Arts Club	DR1	ACa
Student Newspaper	RE2	MHu
Homework Support	EMS	LSe/AGI
Global Fashion	G3	SRI
Potions Club	S1	LHo/SJo
History Debate Club	H3	IMc
K-Nex	EMS	VSm
Recycling Club	AD2	KPo
Y7-Y9 Rugby	Field	AGI
Sustainability Club	G2	HSn
Faith Leaders and SVP	RE4	LWe/MSh
Social Justice Club	Library	MJa
Student Librarians	Library	MJa

FRIDAY



Club	Location	Teacher
Religion in the Media	RE2	MHu
Pop Choir	MU1	PWa
Badminton	Sports Hall	JEg
Catholic Life Society	Chapel	LWe
Student Librarians	Library	MJa



FAITH



COMPASSION



RESPECT

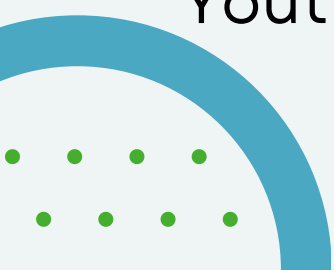


EXCELLENCE

Pupils are welcome to attend **more than one enrichment club** and are encouraged to explore the wide range of opportunities available. There is no need to sign up in advance for most clubs, simply turn up, get involved and enjoy being part of our vibrant enrichment programme.



KEY DATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday 2nd November: Y11 Maths and English evening for parents
 - Tuesday 3rd November - PTA Meeting (Hall A)
 - Wednesday 4th November - Future Steps for Year 11
 - Wednesday 18th November - Y7 Retreat Youth Village
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OUR LADY &
ST BEDE
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

*To know God
is to know me.*

ATTEND TODAY ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Every day in school matters.

GOOD ATTENDANCE HELPS YOU...



LEARN MORE

You don't miss important lessons.



MAKE PROGRESS

You build knowledge, skills and confidence.



BUILD FRIENDSHIPS

You belong and feel part of our school community.



ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

Good attendance opens doors to your future.



BE YOUR BEST

You develop positive habits for life.

ATTENDANCE MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!

ATTENDANCE

THAT MEANS...

100%

0 DAYS MISSED

Excellent! You are making the most of every opportunity.



97%

6 DAYS MISSED

Good attendance. You're on the right track!



95%

10 DAYS MISSED

Room for improvement. You could be missing key learning.



90%

20 DAYS MISSED

Poor attendance. You are missing valuable learning time.



85%

30 DAYS MISSED

Serious impact on your progress and future opportunities.



REMEMBER: Even a few days missed here there adds up to lost learning over time.

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Missing just 1 day a fortnight means you miss...



20

DAYS A YEAR

That's nearly 4 weeks of learning missed.



100

LESSONS A YEAR

That's a lot of new knowledge missed.



LESS CHANCE

of achieving your full potential.

Be here. Be ready. Be your best.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO YOU



We care

We notice.
We listen.
We support.



We help

We work with you and your family to overcome barriers.



We challenge

We have high expectations because we believe in you.



We celebrate

We recognise and reward great and improved attendance.



TO KNOW GOD
IS TO KNOW ME

*Together we flourish
in faith, learning
and love.*

★ STRIVE FOR 100% – BE PROUD OF YOUR ATTENDANCE ★



RESPECTFUL



RESPONSIBLE



COMPASSIONATE



AMBITIOUS



TOGETHER

ONE COMMUNITY • ONE PURPOSE • ONE JOURNEY

IMPORTANT LINKS



OUR WEBSITE

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OUR FAITH

[VISIT OUR PAGE HERE](#)



OUR CURRICULUM

[VISIT OUR PAGE HERE](#)



OUR POLICIES

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This is how we do it here