



27th March
2026

WELCOME FROM HEAD

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of term next Thursday, we also enter the sacred time of Holy Week—a moment for reflection, gratitude, and renewal. It is a time when we are reminded of the values at the heart of our school: faith, compassion, and service to others.

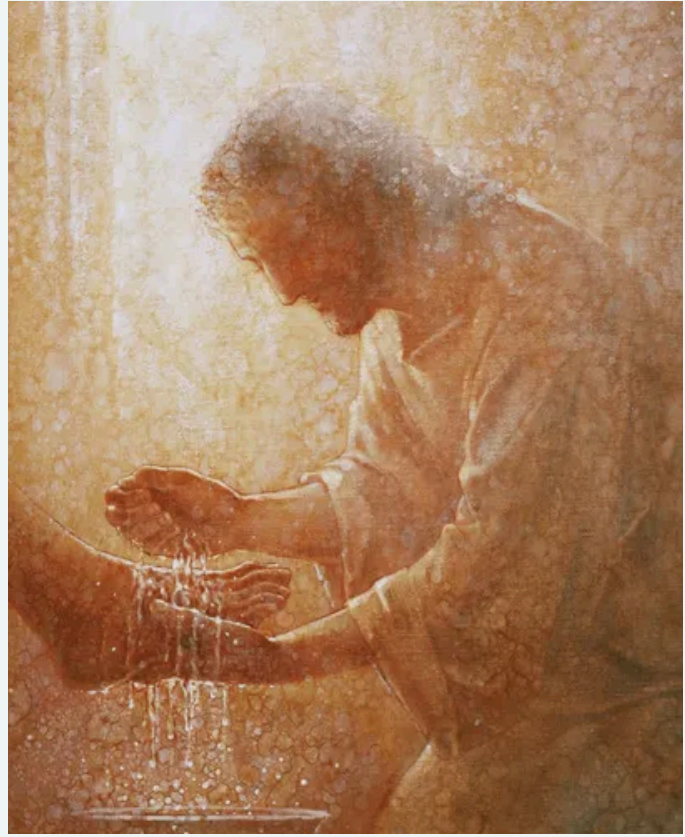
This edition of our newsletter is filled with so much to celebrate. I am incredibly proud of all that our pupils and staff have achieved this term—both in and beyond the classroom. Their commitment, resilience, and kindness truly reflect the spirit of our community. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish you and your families a peaceful and blessed Easter.

Just a reminder that we break up from school on Thursday 2nd April and we return to school on Monday 20th April.

Mrs Wilkinson
Headteacher



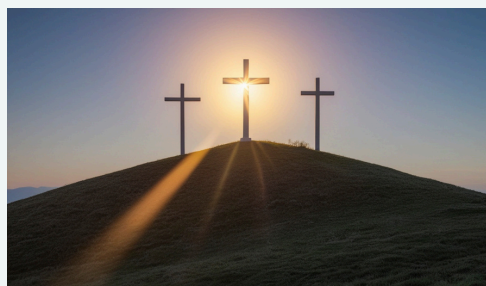
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Holy Week and Easter stand at the very centre of the Catholic faith. In these sacred days, we do not simply remember events from the past—we enter into the mystery of Christ’s suffering, death and Resurrection. Through the Cross, love is fully revealed; through the Resurrection, hope is made certain—that life, not death, has the final word.

As Pope Francis reminds us, “We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father’s love for us.” This message lies at the heart of Easter. Christ’s victory is not distant or abstract—it is personal. It speaks to each of us, reminding us that we are loved, restored and continually called to begin again.

For our school community, this speaks deeply into our theme of Masterpiece. Holy Week shows us that even through suffering and challenge, God is at work. Easter reveals that we are never defined by our struggles, but by the love of God who renews us. In this season, we are invited to reflect on who we are becoming. Through Christ, each of us is being shaped with care and purpose—called to grow in faith, compassion and dignity, as we continue to live out our mission: to know God, and in doing so, to truly know ourselves.



CATHOLIC LIFE

Lent Fundraising - Bake Sale

Our Lent Bake Sale was a fantastic success, bringing our school community together in a wonderful display of generosity and creativity. Pupils and staff went above and beyond, donating a wide range of homemade cakes and treats, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

It was brilliant to see such enthusiasm and support, with so many pupils taking part—whether baking, buying, or helping to run the event. Most importantly, all money raised will be donated to CAFOD, supporting those in need around the world.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed. A great example of living out our faith in action during the season of Lent.



Lent Fundraising - Fayres

Our Lent Fayres this week have been a fantastic celebration of community, generosity and faith in action.

Pupils showed great creativity and teamwork, planning stalls, organising activities and contributing to a really positive atmosphere across the school. From games and raffles to homemade treats, it was wonderful to see so many getting involved.

These events reflect the true meaning of Lent—giving to others and making a difference. All money raised will be donated to CAFOD, supporting those most in need around the world.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils, and final fundraising totals will be announced soon.



Our Lady and St Bede

9 Day Easter Challenge

Join us for an exciting Attendance challenge in the run up to Easter!



WEEK 1

Attend school every day for a chance to WIN!
Each day, one pupil from every year group will win sweet treats.

WEEK 2

Daily prizes continue... PLUS BIG REWARDS!!!

EXTRA PRIZES for pupils with 100% attendance in Week 1:

- Monday - Love2Shop Voucher
- Tuesday - Amazon Voucher
- Wednesday - UberEats Voucher
- Thursday - Bike



HOW TO TAKE PART?

Be in school every day. The more you attend, the more chances to win!

Be in. Be counted. Be a winner!



STANDARDS AND BEHAVIOUR

Present yourself smartly. Stay focused. Be prepared.

At Our Lady & St Bede Catholic Academy, our uniform is central to fostering unity, pride and a strong sense of belonging. A smart, consistent appearance minimises distractions and helps pupils remain focused on their learning, while also preparing them for the expectations of future education and the workplace.



We would like to remind families that trainers, leggings and jewellery—aside from one pair of studs worn at the same level in each lobe—are not part of the approved uniform.

We are proud of our pupils' smart appearance and appreciate the ongoing support of parents and carers in maintaining our high standards. Thank you for your continued cooperation as we work together to uphold a respectful, united school community.

If any family requires support with uniform, please contact the school. We are always happy to offer guidance and assistance in a discreet and supportive way.



ACADEMIC CELEBRATION

Launch of the Brilliance Club

We are proud to have launched our Brilliance Club Scholars Programme last week with our Year 9 pupils!

The Scholars Programme is an exciting initiative designed to give pupils a real taste of university-style learning. Through a series of challenging tutorials, pupils explore a fascinating academic topic, develop their thinking, and ultimately complete a final assignment – just like university students!

14 Year 9 pupils are taking part across two groups. The session was expertly led by a tutor from Teesside University, who immediately began to stretch, challenge and inspire our pupils.

This programme is all about raising aspirations—helping pupils to see themselves as future university students and encouraging them to aim high in everything they do. It sits proudly within our Lumina Programme, supporting our mission to develop confident, curious and ambitious learners.

A fantastic start – we can't wait to see our scholars grow in confidence and brilliance over the coming weeks!



HOLIDAYS ARE

FUN



Free, fun activities for eligible school age children from Reception to Year 11 during the Easter school holidays.



To be eligible, families must be in receipt of benefits-related free school meals.

Check if you are eligible for free school meals and apply at www.stockton.gov.uk/free-school-meals.



Scan to register:

 www.stockton.gov.uk/haf

 01642 527752

 HAF@stockton.gov.uk



From outdoor bushcraft to swimming, to ice skating and arts and crafts, to martial arts and filmmaking, there really is something for everyone.

Activity providers and locations are listed below.

Organisation	Age
Billingham	
Active Futures - High Clarence	5-12
BCT Aspire	8-16
Martin Bennington Goalkeeping and Coaching	6-12
Purple Door Studios	5-16
Tees Active - Forum Holiday Club	8-13
Tees Active - Ice Skating	11-16
Tees Active - Family Ice Event	4.5-16
Tees Active - SEND Go Climb	11-16
Tees Active - Teen Swim	11-16
School's Out Sport's In	5-12
School's Out Sport's In SHINE	6-12
School's Out Sports In Lego club	6-12
Norton/North Stockton	
Daisy Chain SEND sessions	5-16
Family Action family activities	4.5-16
Hardwick In Partnership	8-16
Live It & Get Active	5-12
Groundwork NE & Cumbria	8-12
Sporting Chance - St John's	5-13

Organisation	Age
Stockton	
Active Futures - Bowesfield Primary	5-12
Emily Wratten Dance Fitness	5-13
Outdoor Ambition - Bushcraft	6-12
KS Dance Warehouse	6-12
Roseberry Community Consortium	8-16
Stainsby Gymnastics	5-14
Stockton Globe music and theatre workshop	8-16
Stockton Libraries 3D pens and spike Lego	11-16
School's Out Sport's In at Tilery Primary	5-11
Tees Active - Family Airtrail session	5-16
Tees Active - Teen Swim	11-16
Tees Active - Teen Watersports	11-16
ReGenerate SEND session	5-14
Thornaby, Ingleby and Yarm	
Active Futures - Harewood	5-12
Active Futures - Ingleby Manor	5-12
Ninja Warrior	8-16
Stainsby Stud Riding School	6-16
Sporting Chance - St Francis	5-11
Live It & Get Active at Layfield Primary	5-11
Tees Active - Bio Bounce SEND session	5-13
Tees Active - Teen Swim	11-16

Details are subject to change. Please check our website for an up-to-date list of providers.

INSPIRING LANGUAGES

Kings College, London

We were delighted to welcome students from King's College this week, who delivered an engaging and inspiring talk on the value of learning languages. They spoke passionately about how languages can open doors to new cultures, opportunities and experiences, broadening horizons far beyond the classroom.

Our pupils were encouraged to see languages not just as a subject, but as a powerful skill for the future. A huge thank you to our MFL department for organising such a meaningful and inspiring opportunity.



SEND ADVENTURES

The LA organised a SEN Adventures Away From Home day designed offer opportunities to leave their comfort zone and develop resilience and problem solving skills. Activities included bell boating from the Barrage to the infinity bridge and back - even the quieter ones found their voice when leading the timing of the strokes, including Harvey!

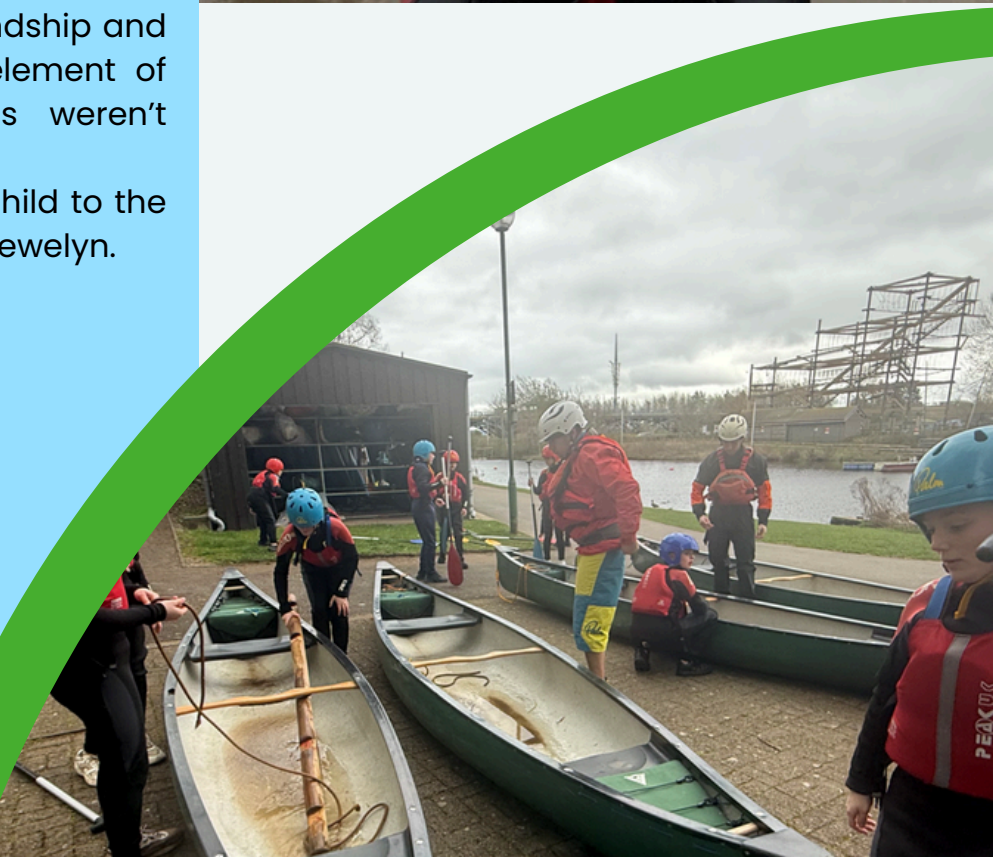
The group had to build a raft and work as a team to collect water to free a rubber duck, the challenge was fraught with challenges including holes in the container slowing progress. Through Tenacity and Resilience the team were able to complete the task in a little over 5 minutes - Macmillan's record of 4 remains there to be broken next time.

At the end, there was the opportunity to jump in and swim in the River- every single member of the group did this- even the ones who weren't sure about the water. They all supported each other and Del took an affinity to pushing Mr fielding in (explaining his absence?) and Harvey lost one of his shoes!

By far the hardest part of the day was putting the wet suit on!

The best, seeing the bonds of friendship and comradery being built and an element of tolerance- when people's ideas weren't being followed.

And the 13 thank you from every child to the instructor and Mr Fielding and Mr Llewelyn.



IMPORTANT LINKS



OUR WEBSITE

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE HERE](#)



OUR FAITH

[VISIT OUR PAGE HERE](#)



OUR CURRICULUM

[VISIT OUR PAGE HERE](#)



OUR POLICIES

[VISIT OUR PAGE HERE](#)



This is how we do it here