



THIS IS HOW WE DO IT HERE

17th Oct 2025/
Vol. 012

WELCOME FROM HEAD

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

As we are near the end of what has been a very positive first half term, and before we embark on our scheduled half term school break, I wanted to share some key information and celebrate some key successes.

I hope you continue to find these updates both informative and encouraging and may I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and assure you of our total commitment to providing your child with the best possible educational experience here at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy.

Best wishes

Mrs Wilkinson
Headteacher



MR RACE

QUALITY OF EDUCATION



My name is Mr Race and I am the new Deputy Headteacher here at Our Lady and St. Bede leading on curriculum and assessment. I look forward to working with you over the coming months and years supporting our pupils to achieve academic excellence underpinned by our school mission statement, "the formation of the whole child".

Please take an opportunity to visit the curriculum pages of our school website and familiarise yourself with what your child is currently learning.

<https://olsb.bhcet.org.uk/curriculum/curriculum-and-subject-areas/curriculum-overview>

[Our Curriculum](#)

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Our recent year 10 parents' evening was a huge success and having listened to your feedback we have moved to an appointment system. Many parents commented how much improved the evening was with no queues and an opportunity to see every teacher.



KEY DATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tuesday 21st October** - St Cuthbert's and English Martyrs Form Saints Mass - all parents and parishioners are welcome. 2:20pm.
- **Friday 24th October** - INSET Day (**school closed to all pupils**)
- **Monday 3rd November** - Return to school and Y11 Mock Exams Begin



This is how we do it here

CATHOLIC LIFE



MacMillan Coffee Morning

We are thrilled to announce that our MacMillan Bake Sale raised an amazing £439!

A huge THANK YOU to all our wonderful pupils for bringing in delicious cakes and to everyone who bought and enjoyed them. Your generosity will make a difference, as every penny raised goes directly to MacMillan to support their vital work. Together, we continue to live out our Catholic values of service and care for those in need. Well done, everyone! **#MacMillan**
#CatholicLife **#CommunitySpirit**
#MakingADifference



What is my child currently studying in RE?

Year 7: *Creation and Covenant*

Year 8: *Creation and Covenant*

Year 9: *Creation and Covenant*

Year 10: *Judaism*

Year 11: *Origins and Meaning*

More info here



CATHOLIC LIFE



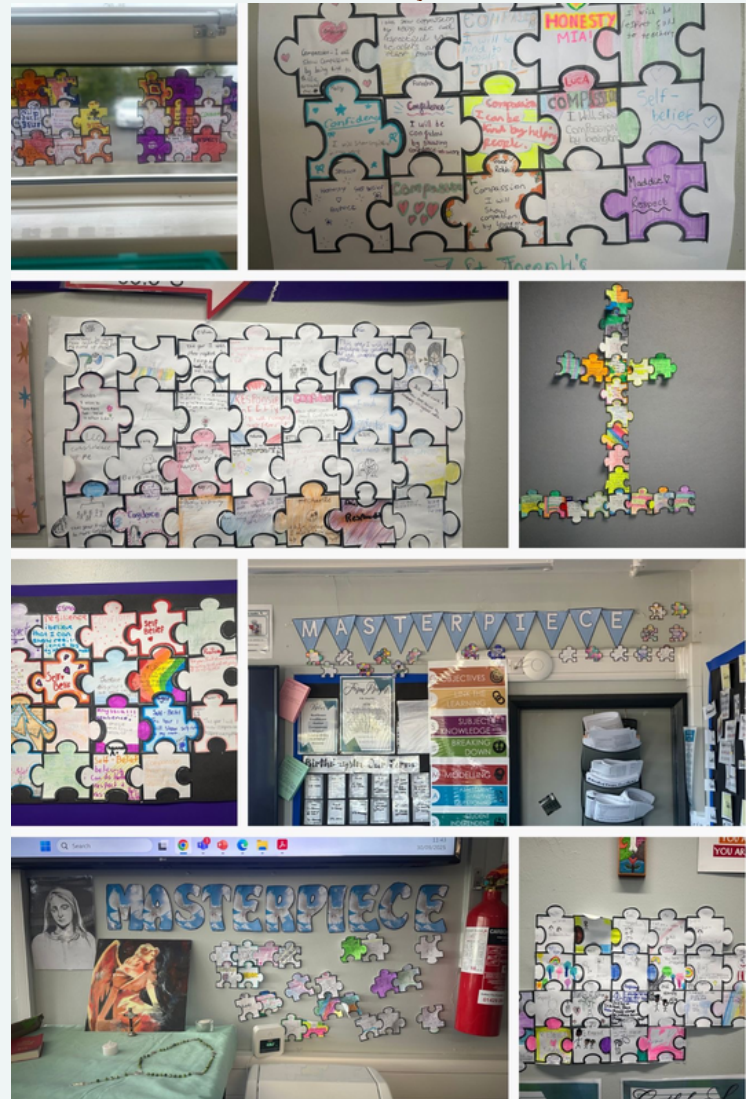
'Piece of Me' Task

A few weeks ago, every form class took part in our whole-school 'Piece of Me' task. Each pupil created their own unique jigsaw piece, reflecting on our school virtues and choosing which ones they want to grow in this year.

When joined together, these pieces formed a beautiful class jigsaw – showing how every individual is a vital part of our school community. The creativity and honesty of our pupils have created something truly special – a reminder that we are each a masterpiece, called to grow in confidence, resilience, respect, compassion, and more.

Diocesan Events

This half term, our pupils have proudly represented the school at several key diocesan events, including the Recommissioning Mass for Chaplains led by the Bishop, the visit of the Papal Nuncio, and the Jubilee Mission Day with the Youth Ministry Team at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. As always, they were exemplary role models, demonstrating a genuine and active commitment to Catholic life.



CATHOLIC LIFE



Our Daily Examen and October Devotions

Each day at the start of Lesson 4, pupils take part in our Daily Examen – a reflective prayer helping them pause, give thanks, and recognise God’s presence in their day. This long-standing tradition supports pupils to grow in self-awareness, gratitude, and faith.

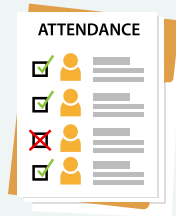
October is a special month in the Church, dedicated to Mary and the Rosary. Our Examens this month feature devotional prayers:

- The Memorare – asking for Mary’s help and comfort.
- The Angelus – recalling the moment God became human through Mary.
- The Glory Be – giving praise to the Holy Trinity.

Through these prayers, pupils reflect on Mary’s example of faith and deepen their relationship with God.

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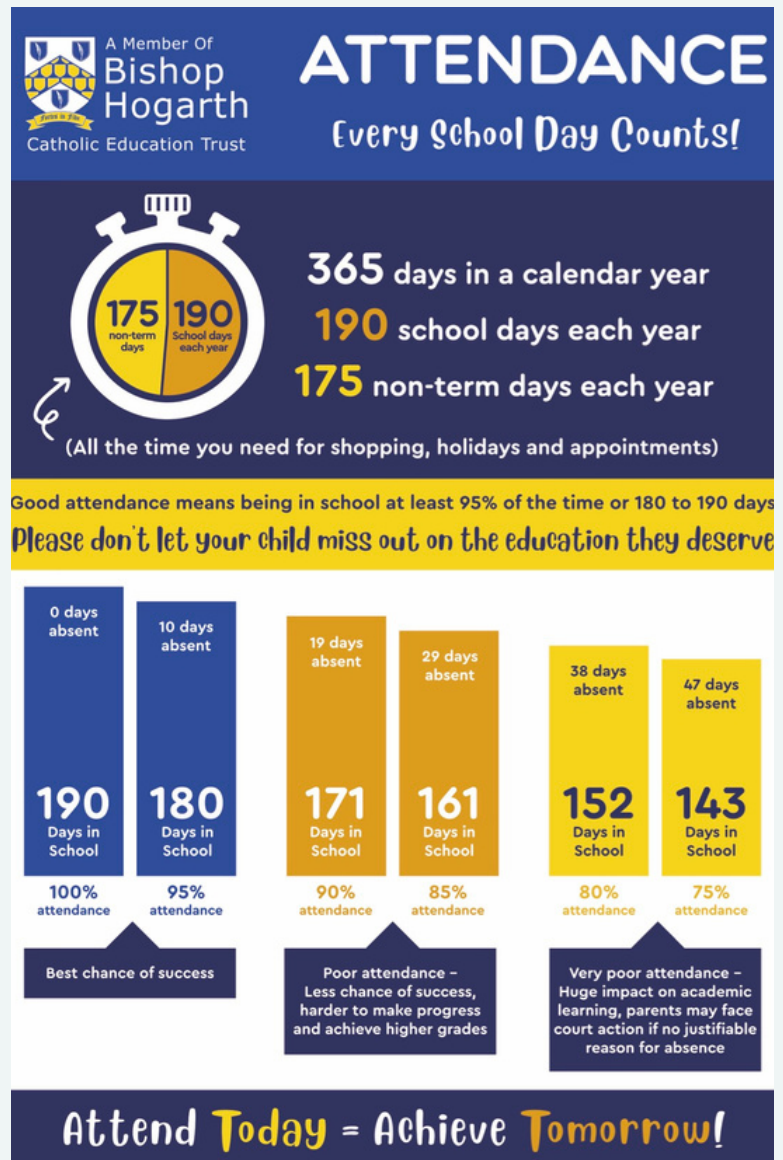
THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



Attendance

Our Catholic ethos calls us to nurture resilience, responsibility and commitment to community in our pupils. Attending school daily, and on time, is essential for developing these virtues.

Research also clearly demonstrates that frequent absence often leads to poor academic performance. Attending school consistently, helps pupils stay engaged, participate fully, and build meaningful relationships. With this in mind, please schedule non-urgent medical and dental appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. Family holidays and trips should occur during breaks, not during term time. Holidays taken during term time, in accordance with our attendance policy, will be unauthorised.



Remember....

- Students who attend school regularly are more likely to succeed – every day of learning matters.
- Good attendance builds good habits – and good habits build great futures.





ATTENDANCE REWARDS



OLSB SUPER DRAW

To encourage excellent attendance and rewarding pupils for living out our virtues, every term we hold a super draw.

Tickets are issued for 100% attendance and for achieving virtue points. The termly draw features amazing prizes so please encourage all pupils to attend to earn their tickets.

Attendance Streaks

In order to motivate and support pupils to maintain excellent attendance – every pupil has their own attendance streak. The streak increases with every consecutive day in school. The greater the streak the greater the reward. We challenge all pupils to become an OLSB attendance champion by earning their 100 day Blue Badge.

A day absent means the streak starts again!



BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS



My name is Mrs Shields, and I have the honour of being Deputy Head at Our Lady and St Bede. This year, we are placing a renewed focus on behaviour and high expectations across school. By working together to maintain clear expectations, we can ensure that every pupil feels safe, respected and ready to learn. Positive behaviour supports a calm and purposeful environment where all pupils can achieve their best, both academically and personally. Our shared commitment to these standards helps to build a strong, caring school community where everyone can thrive.

We would like to thank our parents and carers for their continues support as the first educators of their children, your partnership makes a lasting difference in helping them grow and succeed.



IMPORTANT LINKS



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