



THIS IS HOW WE DO IT HERE

22nd May 2025 /
Vol. 009

WELCOME FROM HEAD

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

The purpose of this series of communications is to introduce and feature key school staff, share successes and good news stories, and give more in-depth information about what and how your child learns in Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy.

I hope you continue to find it informative and supportive and I thank you for your continued support.

Please find my end of half term letter on the next page.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Wilkinson



CATHOLIC LIFE



THE SOURCE EVENT

14 of our pupils and 3 staff members travelled to St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Newcastle for The Source event a few weeks ago, run by the incredible Youth Mission Team (YMT)!

The Source is a powerful evening of praise and worship, live music, prayer, adoration, and inspiration—bringing young people together to grow in their Catholic faith and encounter Christ.

It's a brilliant way to celebrate our Catholic Life as a school and be part of the wider diocesan family. A huge thank you to YMT for creating such a joyful and faith-filled space!



LENT LITURGY

All pupils took part in a special Lenten liturgy focused on building bridges, not walls, offering them a meaningful moment to pause, reflect, and prepare their hearts for Easter.

What is my child currently studying in RE?

Year 7: To the ends of the earth

Year 8: To the ends of the earth

Year 9: Religion and Society

Year 10: *Revision*

Year 11: *Exams!*

More info here



STUDENT SUCCESSES AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

MP Visit

Two weeks ago, we welcomed our local MP for Stockton South, Matt Vickers, into school! He listened to a powerful presentation from our Social Justice Club as part of their journey towards the CAFOD Live Simply Award and took part in a brilliant Q&A with our pupils.

Our young people were inspirational – showing how British Values, Catholic Life, and strong oracy skills can spark real ambition to shape the world around them and contribute to their ongoing Personal Development journey. From tackling local issues to dreaming big about becoming MPs, activists, and global leaders – our pupils are preparing to compete on the world stage and become global players in the careers of tomorrow.

Q&A with House of Lords

Last week, our amazing Social Justice Club, pupil leaders, and pupils passionate about politics and law took part in an inspirational Q&A with Lord Young of Cookham from the House of Lords!

They confidently presented their work on social justice, then asked powerful questions about local, national, and global issues – showing ambition, integrity, and real leadership!





CALLING ALL OLSB ALUMNI

**Help inspire the next generation through sharing
your achievements.**

If interested, email enquiries@olsb.bhcet.org.uk and
put FAO Mr Hughes for more information.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

TRUST SWIMMING GALA

Well done to everyone who competed at the Catholic Partnership Relay Swimming Gala – your dedication and teamwork were incredible!

Huge congrats to our Senior Boys Team who won every single race OLSB finished 2nd out of 5 schools – what an achievement!

REWARDS, REWARDS AND MORE REWARDS!

This year, we've celebrated pupil success through a variety of exciting rewards shared on our social media. Weekly attendance raffles have rewarded students with 100% attendance, selected at random to receive prizes. Top-performing form classes and year groups have been recognised each week with shoutouts and celebrations. Pupils with the highest attendance since September have also been celebrated alongside those who've shown the most improvement week-on-week. Every year group had celebration assemblies at the end of last term to help us celebrate all of the pupil successes with prizes given out to lots of pupils! We are proud to recognise successes and achievements





Congratulations to
Year 7 for achieving **356,008**
house points in total this
academic
year so far! **AMAZING!**

Big shout out to Emily, Peace
and Myanna for being top of
the house points leaderboard!

Habemus Papam

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, a 69-year-old Chicago native, has been elected as the 267th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. He has chosen the name Pope Leo XIV, becoming the first American to ascend to the papacy.

Pope Leo XIV was elected on the second day of the conclave, following the death of Pope Francis on April 21, 2025. The announcement was made from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, where the new pope greeted the faithful with the words, "Peace be with all of you."

During his first mass, he taught:

1. Go out and evangelise!

Drawing on his missionary roots in Peru, he called us to spread the Gospel with courage and compassion.

2. Lead with humility

Describing his papacy as both a "cross and a blessing," he encouraged Church leaders to serve with humility and let Christ lead.

3. Inclusion and simplicity

Two women read Scripture during the Mass, and Pope Leo chose simple black shoes and modest housing—showing the power of simplicity.

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Lord God,
We thank you for our new Pope, Leo XIV.
Guide him with your Holy Spirit,
fill him with wisdom and love,
and help him to lead your Church with
courage and faith. May Mary watch over him always.
Amen.



POPELEO XIV





Year 11 Exams

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 pupils for their hard work, determination, and aspiration during the GCSE exam season. Their commitment has been outstanding, with over 100 pupils attending core revision sessions each day over the Easter break. They continue to try their best in every exam, showing resilience and a real desire to succeed. Keep going—we believe in you!

Effective Revision Tips for Students

Make a Study Plan: Break down topics and schedule study sessions to stay organised and reduce last-minute stress.

Use Visuals: Try diagrams, mind maps, and colour-coded notes to help remember information in a fun, engaging way.

Teach What You Know: Explaining topics to a friend or family member can strengthen your understanding and highlight areas to review.

Take Regular Breaks: Short breaks when revising to help keep your mind fresh and focused—don't forget to stay hydrated too!



Examination Dates

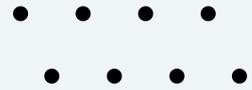
<https://olsb.bhcet.org.uk/assessment-dates>

Key Dates and Events

- Year 6 Mini Mission - Wednesday 18th June
- St. Bede and St. Peter and Paul Mass - Friday 20th June
- OLSB Live - Thursday 19th June
- Year 10 College Taster Days - Monday 23rd June until Thursday 26th June
- Culture Festival - Monday 30th June
- Y7 Parents Evening - Tuesday 1st July
- Diocesan Summer Festival - Wednesday 2nd July until Friday 4th July
- Y6 Transition Days - Monday 7th July and Tuesday 8th July
- End of Year Show - Wednesday 9th, Thursday 10th and Friday 11th July
- End of Year Mass - Thursday 17th July
- Break for the Summer - Thursday 17th July



IMPORTANT LINKS



OUR WEBSITE

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