



# THIS IS HOW WE DO IT HERE

29th Nov 2024/  
Vol. 006

## 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.

Mrs M. Wilkinson

# MR HUGHES

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT



Advent is a time of reflection, hope, and renewal. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming." During these weeks, we prepare our hearts not only for the celebration of Christmas but also for Christ's second coming. The lighting of the Advent candles—a new one each week—reminds us of the growing light of Christ in our world, bringing us closer to the peace and unity He represents.

This year, our school's Catholic Life theme, "**We Are One**," beautifully connects with the message of Advent. Just as the season calls us to come together in hope and love, our

theme reminds us that we are united as one community, one family in Christ. Advent invites us to put this unity into action—reaching out to others with kindness, sharing peace, and being a source of joy in our world.

As a school and parish family, let us journey together this Advent, finding moments of stillness in our busy lives to reflect on God's love and our call to share it with others. May this season bring your family peace, hope, and a deeper sense of unity. **As a school community, we wish you a very happy and holy Advent season.**

# Advent



# LITERACY AND READING



LIBRARY

## Library Opening Hours:

- Before school: 8:00 – 8:15
- Break: 10:05 – 10:20
- Lunch: 12:20 – 1:20
- After school: 3:20 – 4:00  
(Fridays until 3:30)

**Our library offers a calm space for reading, studying, and joining fun clubs including:**

- Monday: Multicultural Club
- Tuesday: Dungeons & Dragons
- Wednesday: Pokémon Club
- Thursday: Student Librarians
- Friday: First Chapter Fridays



*This Week*



Word of the

segregation

**Week**

**NEXT WEEK**

nostalgic

*Feeling a sentimental longing or affection for the past, often remembering happy times.*



*This is how we do it here*

# PASTORAL UPDATES



## Anti-Bullying Week Assemblies

This half term, pupils have participated in assemblies marking Anti-Bullying Week. These assemblies focused on the importance of respect and equality, helping pupils understand why it is essential to treat one another with dignity and kindness. They were delivered by our fantastic Heads of Years.

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP**

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the intended recipient(s). Not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy (in 2021) (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused concern to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted - it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

**16+**

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING**

Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with friends, but using people in WhatsApp, or other apps, can be risky. If you're not careful, you could be exposed to unwanted comments or jokes. The 'read' status feature gives the contact(s) of a group chat an idea of who can read messages. They can, for example, block people or 'ghost' in a chat, which means people are excluded and updates aren't sent.

**CONTACT FROM STRANGERS**

To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (in the app). WhatsApp can access the 'read' status of messages, so you can't recognize whom their contacts read messages. If your child has ever used their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

**LOCATION SHARING**

The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements where they go. While your child might not want to share their location, it's a useful feature for a young person to be able to share their location with a friend or relative, and it's important to remember that recipients may have their own location history, so they can see where you've been.

**ABUSING FAKE NEWS**

WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to spreading the spread of dangerous hoaxes, so it's important to be aware of the risks of fake news. Hoaxes have been used to spread fear and panic, and even to cause physical harm. It's important to be aware of the risks of fake news and to be able to identify and report it.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

**CREATE A SAFE PROFILE**

In WhatsApp someone could send a child's phone number to add them as a contact, and then use that number to contact them. Parents should ensure their child's profile is private, so only people they've added as contacts can see their phone number. The original one-time backup code should be deleted, and the backup code should be deleted. The backup code should be deleted, and the backup code should be deleted.

**EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING**

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or texts from a contact, they can block them using 'Block' in the chat. Blocking someone will stop them from seeing your child's contact list - so they also need to be added to the address book.

**REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS**

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from a contact, they should check the name of the contact, and if it's not a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify if really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

**DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES**

If your child sends a message they don't want to send, they can delete it. To delete a message, tap and hold on the message, then tap 'Delete' and then 'Delete for Everyone'. However, if it's important to remember that recipients may have their own location history, so they can see where you've been.

**CHECK THE FACTS**

You can now fact-check messages from WhatsApp. If you see a message that looks suspicious or too good to be true, you can tap on the message, then tap 'Check Facts'. This will take you to a page with information about the message, and you can see if it's true or false. It's important to remember that recipients may have their own location history, so they can see where you've been.

**THINK ABOUT LOCATION**

If your child needs to use the 'live location' feature to share their location with a friend or relative, they should be aware of the risks of sharing their location. They should be aware of the risks of sharing their location, and they should be aware of the risks of sharing their location.

**GET OUR EXPERT**

National Online Safety is a social media expert and digital media expert who is passionate about improving digital literacy and online safety. She has extensive experience in the area of online safety and is a member of the National Online Safety team.

**NOS National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

**STAY  
SAFE**



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Y11 English Trip to the Theatre

On Thursday 21st November, 70 of our wonderful Year 11 pupils got into the Christmas spirit by attending a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' at Middlesbrough Theatre. Pupils enjoyed a dynamic and intimate performance of Dickens' classic, which will provide a brilliant springboard into their study of their final English Literature text.



## What does my child do during form time?

All year groups follow the same weekly structure.

Three Sessions in Form Time:

- Personal Development
- Literacy Development
- Attendance

This is supplemented by an assembly each week and a Friday morning liturgy.



# CATHOLIC LIFE



## Bishops Visit, Mini Mission and Advent Liturgy Tickets

On Tuesday, 3rd December, we are thrilled to welcome Bishop Stephen to our school. During his visit, he will meet pupils, enjoy presentations, listen to our worship choir, and participate in the Year 6 Mini-Mission.

At the same time, we will host over 100 Year 6 pupils from our four feeder primary schools for our annual Advent Mini-Mission. This event provides a wonderful opportunity for pupils to connect with peers from other primary schools, learn songs, perform drama, and pray together, supporting their transition to our school.

Our Advent Liturgy will be celebrated over two evenings, on the 16th and 17th of December. Tickets are available now via [Ticketsource](#).

## What is my child currently studying in RE?

**Year 7:** Prophecy and Promise

**Year 8:** Prophecy and Promise

**Year 9:** Prayer and Pilgrimage

**Year 10:** Judaism: Practices

**Year 11:** Good and Evil

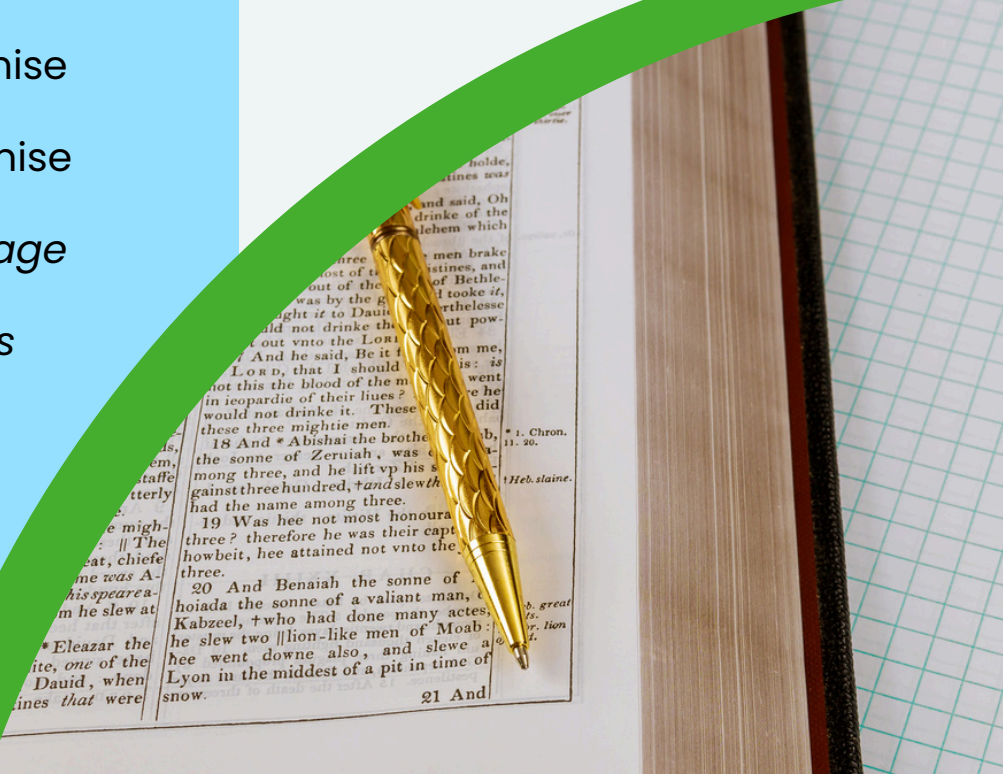
## More info here



**WE ARE ONE**

**Advent Liturgy & Christmas Concert**  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
6pm | St Mary's Hall

Tickets: £1  
All money will be donated to the Significance Foundation





Congratulations to **Year 7** for achieving **205,792** house points in total this academic year so far! **AMAZING!**

**127** letters have been sent this term celebrating incredible achievements across all year groups!



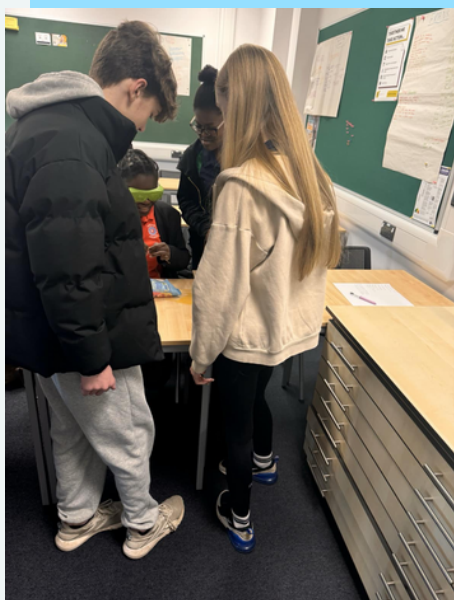
## Careers @ Bede College

Last week, 20 of our Y10 students headed to Bede College in Billingham for an incredible day of hands-on workshops exploring STEM, e-sports, policing, and performing arts!

These lucky pupils were specially selected based on their passions and career aspirations shared during their in-school interviews.

From coding challenges to crime scene investigations, thrilling e-sports sessions, and stagecraft performances, they embraced every moment and left inspired for their future journeys.

Thank you to Bede College for hosting such a fantastic event—we can't wait to see how our students take these experiences forward!



# 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](#)



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