



THIS IS HOW WE DO IT HERE

9th April 2025/
Vol. 008

WELCOME FROM HEAD



Welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students and families a joyful and blessed Easter.

You can find my full letter on the following page.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Wilkinson



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Our Lady & St Bede
Catholic Academy

Head Teacher: Mo Wilkinson

Deputy Head(s): David Pinnock & Megan Shields

BHCET CEO: Stuart McGhee

BHCET Chair of Directors: Yvonne Coates

9th April 2025

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach our Easter break, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for working with us in partnership to ensure we continue to provide the best possible educational experience for your children. This Easter edition of 'This Is How We Do It Here' provides some updates, information and reminders that I hope you will find useful.

School will close for the Easter break on Friday 11th April 2025 and reopen on Monday 28th April 2025.

It has been a busy term for all our pupils but particularly for our Year 11 pupils who have approached their pre-public examinations in a mature, exemplary way. We are very proud of their continued efforts and continue to do everything we can to support them and maximise their chances of getting the grades they deserve.

As the exam season is fast approaching, we have put together a series of revision classes over the Easter break for our Year 11 pupils. This is a fantastic opportunity for your child to gain some high quality, focused revision from their teachers. Mr Race will be sending a separate letter to parents of year 11 pupils which details the Easter revision timetable.

Finally, on behalf of Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy, can I wish all our families a Holy, healthy and happy Easter and I hope you find the latest 'This Is How We Do It Here' informative.

Best wishes,

Mrs M. Wilkinson



Noverim Te Noverim Me

MRS STEPHENSON

NEW DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL)



Introducing Our New Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral Standards) and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mrs Stephenson

We are delighted to announce the promotion of Mrs Stephenson to the role of Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral Standards) and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Mrs Stephenson has been a valued member of our school community for many years, bringing dedication, warmth, and a wealth of experience to every role she has undertaken — from inspiring Science teacher to Head of Year and most recently, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL).

In her new role, Mrs Stephenson will take the lead in promoting the highest standards of care, behaviour, and wellbeing across our school. As DSL, she holds the crucial responsibility of ensuring the safety and protection of all students and staff. This includes overseeing safeguarding policies, leading on child protection concerns, working closely with families and external agencies, and ensuring that all staff are trained and confident in safeguarding procedures.

ASSOCIATE ASSISTANT HEADTEACHERS

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TEACHING AND LEARNING TEAM



Alongside Mrs Stephenson's promotion, we are also delighted to welcome **Mrs Milligan and Miss Chapman** to our Senior Leadership Team as Associate Assistant Headteachers. Both colleagues will be working closely with the Quality of Education team, supporting our drive for continued excellence and innovation in teaching and learning.

Miss Chapman, our current Head of English, brings a wealth of subject expertise and a proven track record of raising standards through creativity and high expectations.

Mrs Milligan, an experienced and passionate Maths Lead teacher, is dedicated to ensuring all students are challenged and supported to achieve their full potential at school..

Y11 UPDATES

THE FINAL PUSH TO SUCCESS



Easter Revision

Week 1					
Date	Monday 14 th April	Tuesday 15 th April	Wednesday 16 th April	Thursday 17 th April	Friday 18 th April
AM Session (10-12)	RE (All pupils)		Science Higher	English Language All Pupils	
PM Session (1-3)	RE (all pupils)		Science Foundation		
Week 2					
Date	Monday 21 st April	Tuesday 22 nd April	Wednesday 23 rd April	Thursday 24 th April	Friday 25 th April
AM Session (10-12)		Maths	History Pupils 11A, 11B and 11C	Spanish F & H	
PM Session (1-3)		English Literature Paper 1 All Pupils		English Literature Paper 2 All Pupils	

EASTER REVISION

As part of our commitment to helping our pupils succeed, we are delighted to share that a number of our staff have volunteered to deliver revision during the Easter holidays. This will allow pupils to receive up to 20 hours of extra support in a wide range of subjects, ensuring that they are well-prepared for their upcoming exams. Well done to all of the Y11 students who signed up to this amazing offer!

SIX WEEKS TO SUCCESS

We're now entering the final six weeks before the Year 11 GCSE exams, and it's all systems go for our pupils as they prepare for the big day. The last stretch is a crucial time, and we've put in place a range of exciting initiatives to support their journey toward success.

To kick things off, our **1% Boost Assemblies every Tuesday morning** have been a hit. These assemblies focus on the power of marginal gains, embracing the mantra "Success is a series of small wins." This message has inspired our students to approach each day with purpose and a drive to improve, even if it's by just 1%.

In addition to the assemblies, we have launched the **Success Hub** to give pupils more opportunities to succeed. Every Wednesday afternoon, **Wise Up Wednesdays run from 3:30-4:00 in EI**, providing targeted support for students who need a boost in any subject area. We've also got a variety of **subject-specific masterclasses each Wednesday and Thursday evening from 5:00-6:00 on Microsoft Teams**, offering expert guidance in key subjects. And for those who prefer a more structured revision environment, our popular **Revision Room is open from 3:30-4:30 in CS4 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday**, providing a quiet space for focused study with support available.

RESULTS AND REWARDS

On Tuesday 8th April, pupils received their mock exam results. A huge congratulations to all of our pupils. This was followed by our Y11 Parent's Evening, allowing pupils to get instant guidance from their teachers.

To recognise and celebrate the hard work our students have put in, we held a Rewards Assembly to acknowledge those who have shown outstanding effort, resilience, and dedication. Additionally, we're excited to announce a special Reward Trip for students who have gone above and beyond. These students have demonstrated exceptional commitment and perseverance, and they'll be treated to a well-deserved reward for their efforts.

AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLUB

Supporting Your Success



Where?
EMS



When?

Every Monday, Wednesday &
Thursday 3:30pm – 4:00pm



Who's it for?
SEN students only

Need help with homework in a
quiet, supportive space?

We're here for you!



Interested?
Speak to Miss Seaman
for more details.

PASTORAL

UPDATES



Yonder Pouches – mobile free school

As part of our ongoing commitment to a focused, respectful, and supportive learning environment, we are relaunching the use of Yonder pouches from **Thursday 10th April**.

Pupils will continue to bring their phones to school but will be required to secure them in Yonder pouches for the duration of the school day. Pouches will remain locked until the end of the day or unless opened by a member of staff at an approved time.

This initiative also supports our wider focus on pupil well-being. Studies show that limiting phone use—particularly access to social media—can reduce anxiety, improve focus, and enhance emotional resilience. By creating a phone-free school day, we aim to give pupils space to be fully present, build real-life connections, and reduce the stress of constant notifications.

We are grateful for your continued support in making Our Lady & St Bede a calm, connected, and thriving environment for all pupils.

Professional Learners – Standards

At Our Lady & St Bede, we take pride in high standards—this includes the way our pupils present themselves. A smart, consistent uniform supports a focused learning environment and reflects the values we uphold as a school community.

As we progress through the school year, we would like to remind pupils, parents, and carers of the following key expectations:

- **Jewellery:** Pupils may wear one pair of plain stud earrings (one in each ear). No other piercings or jewellery are permitted. Any additional items may be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day.
- **Footwear:** All pupils must wear plain black school shoes. Trainers are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn during the day. Appropriate footwear helps maintain a professional and safe school environment.
- **Equipment & Planners:** Pupils must bring their school planner and a fully equipped pencil case to every lesson. This should include: 2 black or blue pens, a green pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, and highlighter. Being well-prepared supports learning and organisation.

We are grateful for your continued support in upholding these standards. If you have any questions about uniform or equipment, please contact the school office.

Together, we can ensure Our Lady & St Bede remains a smart, safe, and well-prepared learning environment for all.



PASTORAL

PARENT COMMUNICATION



Communication to and from Our Lady and St Bede



Communication is important to us, and we want to ensure that it is strong and effective between parents/carers and our school. To support this, the sections below outline our methods of communication



Phone Calls

01642 704970

Our Receptionist will answer your call during school hours. Lines are open between 8:00am and 4:00pm. Sometimes our lines can be very busy, we will always endeavour to take your call as quickly as possible. Please be mindful that our staff could be teaching/ in meetings or working with pupils at that time. Please allow 24 hours for a call back. For the purpose of this policy this refers to 'working days' only. This excludes weekends and school holidays. **Emergency and safeguarding calls will always be taken as quickly as possible by our safeguarding team.**



Meeting Requests

We understand that there will be times you may wish to meet with a member of staff to discuss your child or any concerns you may have. We of course would want to meet with you as early as possible, therefore please call the school first to ensure an appropriate time can be scheduled. If you arrive at the school without a pre-scheduled meeting it is unlikely the member of staff will be available.



New Message



enquiries@olsb.bhcet.org.uk

Emails

Our aim is to acknowledge all emails within 48 hours on school days. However, during busy periods, it may take a little longer. Please note, in the unlikely event that you have not received a response within 48 hours, please send a follow up email. Staff will not be expected to monitor their emails out of their normal working hours(including weekends and published school holidays).



Social Media



We will utilise social media to keep you informed about school updates, provide reminders of important events, and celebrate the achievements of our pupils. Please note that our social media messages are not actively monitored. We encourage you to use our other available contact methods if you require a response.



@Our Lady and St Bede



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Public Speaking Competition

BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Isabella (Y10) & George (Y8)!

On Sunday 23rd March 2025, these two superstars represented Our Lady & St. Bede's at the Catenian Province 5 Public Speaking Competition at Sacred Heart High School, Newcastle upon Tyne 🎤👤



They spoke with confidence, showed incredible courage, and made us all proud! 🏆🔥💪

A special shoutout to Mr. Lee, our brilliant Chair of Governors, for his time, mentorship, and endless support 🙌📁❤️

We are SO proud of you both – future leaders in the making!



Stockton Sing

It was a marvellous celebration of the incredible musical talent across our Stockton schools, and we were thrilled to welcome a packed audience into St Mary's Hall! 🎵🎤

A huge THANK YOU to the amazing staff and pupils from St Joseph's, St Patrick's, St Gregory's, St Cuthbert's, and OLSB for all their hard work and dedication. You were all fantastic!



Everyone left with a big smile on their face! 😊🎵

We're also proud to share that the concert raised almost £300 for the Trussell Trust through ticket sales. Thank you so much for your support! ❤️💚



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

£400 raised on CAFOD - Lent Bake Sale

🙏 CATHOLIC LIFE: Gratitude abounds! Huge thanks to our incredible staff, pupils, and parents for making our Lent Bake Sale a sweet success 🍰 We're thrilled to announce that together, we raised £400 for CAFOD! Your generosity truly makes a difference. Let's keep spreading kindness and serving our community.

🚢 MARITIME CAREERS WEEK! 🚢

12 of our brilliant Y9 pupils had an incredible week exploring the world of Maritime Careers right here on Teesside, thanks to the amazing High Tide Foundation!

🌟 **Day 1:** Kicked off at PD Ports TeesPort with a tour of the massive docks! 🏗️ They even cruised the River Tees on a Tees Pilot Launch, just like the pros! 🚤

🌟 **Day 2:** Off to Svitzer Tug Boats (global legends!) 🌍 and Casper Shipping Agents, where they explored a real tug boat! 🚢👨‍🔧

🌟 **Day 3:** A trip to the Harbour Master's Office, where they watched an oil tanker guided in live on CCTV! 📺

👁️ Big thanks to River Pilots Al & Albert for sharing their wisdom! 🚢

🌟 **Day 4:** The PD Ports Conservancy Team showed off their £23 MILLION hybrid dredger! 🤖⚙️ Pupils learned how they keep the river safe and clean! 🌊🛑

🌟 **Day 5:** Finished strong at Middlesbrough College, diving into warehousing and logistics 📦🚚 before presenting everything they learned about the incredible world of maritime! 🌟👏

What a week! So many fantastic career opportunities right on our doorstep! 🌟🚢





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.

CATHOLIC LIFE



Jubilee Year 2025 – The Trust Cross

We were proud to welcome the Trust Pilgrims of Hope Cross earlier this half term, which arrived from our friends in Hartlepool as part of its journey across our schools.

Every school in our Trust played a part in designing and building this beautiful Cross just a few weeks ago, and our Year 7 pupils gathered for a moving liturgy to reflect on its meaning. It was a chance to pray, to hope, and to be part of the Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Year 2025.

As Pope Francis calls young Catholics to action this Jubilee Year: “Young people, you are the today of God, the now of God!” We are reminded to live with courage, hope and joy as pilgrims on this journey together.

What is my child currently studying in RE?

Year 7: Desert to Garden

Year 8: Desert to Garden

Year 9: *Ethics and Morality*

Year 10: *Sin and Forgiveness*

Year 11: *GCSE Revision*

More info here





Congratulations to
Year 7 for achieving **332,881**
house points in total this
academic
year so far! **AMAZING!**

Big shout out to Emily (7SPP),
Peace (7SPP) and Nathaniel
(7SPP) for being top of the
house points leaderboard!



Heads of Year Commendations

A HUGE congratulations to all our amazing students who received Head of Year Commendations this week! 🎉
These special awards were proudly presented by Mrs Wilkinson on Friday 🌟

Every week, we celebrate the dedication, resilience and hard work of our pupils 💪—because effort deserves recognition! 🌟 Whether it's kindness, progress or outstanding attitude, we see you and we're proud of you!

🔥 WELL DONE to this week's winners – your achievements are inspiring the whole school! 🏆🌟 Keep aiming high – next week it could be YOU! 🚀





Attendance Raffle

A huge well done lucky to all of the winners in the weekly Fab Friday Attendance Raffle! 🏆📸

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to all the winners – your amazing attendance paid off! 🙌🌟

This exciting raffle happens EVERY FRIDAY!

Be in school to win! ✅🎫



Show and Tell Event

Nearly 100 students took part in our Show and Tell Celebration today! 🎉🧠

They shared their amazing work 📄, spoke proudly about their achievements 🏆, and inspired others with their stories 🌟

All led by our incredible pupil leaders 🙌 – what a success! Together, we're raising aspirations 🚀 and living out our mission: Formation of the Whole Child, Formation of Faith, Formation of Professional Learners.



IMPORTANT LINKS



OUR WEBSITE

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This is how we do it here