



# St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form College

*'Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world ablaze'*

## Newsletter: 12 December 2025

### Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11), John the Baptist sends his followers to ask Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come?" Jesus answers by pointing to the signs of hope: the blind see, the lame walk, and the poor hear good news.

This reminds us that even great people like John had questions. Doubt is part of learning and growing. Jesus doesn't criticize John, He simply shows that God's love is active in the world. During Advent, we are invited to look for those signs of goodness around us.

Today, we can find signs of goodness all around us too. They might be small but powerful:

- A friend sharing their lunch.
- Someone helping another with homework.
- A smile that brightens someone's day.
- Acts of kindness at home or at school.

### Excellence

#### Headteacher's Award

We are delighted to announce that **Leah Bird 8C1** has received the Headteacher's Award this week!

Leah is a truly committed student who consistently supports school events and demonstrates outstanding dedication to her learning. She embodies our core values of faith, responsibility, excellence, determination, citizenship, and respect, making her a fantastic role model for our school community.

Well done, Leah – we are proud of your achievements!

#### Tutor Group of the Week

Well done to this week's winners **11O1** - their third award!

#### House Awards

Hilda Student of the Week: **Maisey Whitehead 10H2**

Hilda Highest Credits: **Michael Amusat 8H2**

Hilda Attendance Hero: **Faye Miller 9H3**

Oswald Student of the Week: **Lucas Stokoe 9O1**

Oswald Highest Credits: **Above Okojie 7O1**

Oswald Attendance Hero: **Isabel Hanson 11O1**

Columba Student of the Week: **Lola Davison 7C1**

Columba Highest Credits: **Daisy Jopling 8C1 / Leah Bird 8C1**

Columba Attendance Hero: **Ana Chiritoiu 10C3**



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Labcoat Legends

In science we award and celebrate the excellent effort put in by our different students. Working hard in science lessons builds problem-solving skills, encourages curiosity, and helps students understand the world around them. It shows determination by often involving analysing complex problems, predicting outcomes and conducting experiments.

- Mrs. Hayward: **Grace Carr 10H2**
- Mr. Moss: **Myles Barnes 10C2**
- Mr. Griffiths: **Katie Morland 8C2**
- Ms. Armstrong: **Ephraim Kidd 10H3**
- Mr. Day: **Leo Clint-Withers 7H1**
- Mr. Balls: **Iesha Walker-Young 10C2**
- Mr. Bowyer: **Imogene Bygroves 8C1**
- Mrs. Lord: **Ava-Lily Bird 9O3**
- Mr. Gooch: **Oscar Naylor 7C1**



### English Stars of the Week

Our English students have shone this week and we're proud of everything they have achieved:

- Miss Barkley: **Meevel Ullas** (Year 7) for high standards of presentation and great work ethic.
- Mr Johnson: **Eldon Li** (Year 7) for a great attitude to learning.
- Mrs Hamilton: **Bobby O'Regan** (Year 7) for great extended answers and contributions in class.
- Mrs Dolan: **Noah Rutter-Bryson** (Year 11) for a fantastic attitude towards his studies.
- Mrs Wild: **Kenzie Day** (Year 9) for volunteering to read when no-one else did.
- Mrs Cook: **Michael Harland** (Year 12) for always having a positive attitude and a great start to A-Level.
- Miss Milburn: **Valerie Onogholo** (Year 9) for a great attitude to learning at all times .
- Mrs Scutt: **Sarah Elliott** (Year 8) for a wonderful start to the new Shakespeare module in class.





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Week 13 isn't unlucky for these Maths Legends!

The Maths team are delighted to unveil this week's Maths Legends. They have demonstrated excellent effort, wonderful work and exceptional attitudes to their learning and we are very proud of them. Keep it up!

- Mr Fowler: **Thomas Price 9H2**
- Mrs Keniry: **Isla Staley 8H1**
- Mr Marrs: **Georgia Welch 10C2**
- Mr Taylor: **Logan Robinson 9O2**
- Mr Teasdale: **Jessica Taylor 11O2**
- Dr Treanor: **Alfie Hanover 9O2**
- Mr Wyness: **Jack Wardropper 10O2**



### Keeping Children Safe Online This Christmas

With many young people receiving new devices over the festive season, it's important to ensure they stay safe online. Here are some helpful resources and tips for parents:

#### **Internet Matters** ([internetmatters.org](https://internetmatters.org))

Offers step-by-step parental controls guides, advice on age-appropriate apps, and practical tips for managing screen time and privacy settings.

#### **UK Safer Internet Centre** ([saferinternet.org.uk](https://saferinternet.org.uk))

Provides guidance on online safety, including reporting harmful content, and resources for talking to children about responsible internet use.

#### **Current Online Challenges**

Be aware of trends such as viral dares and risky challenges circulating on platforms like TikTok and Instagram. These can encourage unsafe behaviour, so regular conversations about online choices are essential.

- **Top Tips:**
- Set up parental controls before your child uses a new device.
- Encourage open conversations about what they see online.
- Remind them never to share personal information or engage in harmful challenges.

For more advice, visit the websites above and make online safety a priority this Christmas.

### Collection of Confiscated Items

Any items that have been confiscated during the term such as jewellery, mobile phones, and other belongings - will be available for students to collect from the school office on Friday 19 December. Please ensure you collect your items before the end of the day.





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Norah's North Pole

This week, our Sixth Form students showed the true spirit of giving by volunteering at Norah's North Pole Sorting Centre. The centre is a wonderful local initiative that collects and organizes gifts for children and families in need, ensuring that everyone experiences the joy of Christmas.

To find out more about Norah's North Pole, click here: <https://norahsnorthpole.co.uk/>

Our students worked tirelessly unpacking and sorting donations to help to make sure each gift was ready to bring a smile to someone's face. Their enthusiasm and teamwork were inspiring, and their efforts remind us that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

As a school community, we're proud of their commitment to helping others. This experience not only supports a fantastic cause but also teaches the importance of compassion and service—values that truly matter during the Advent season.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and families for your incredible generosity in supporting Norah's North Pole this Christmas. Your donations of gifts and treats will bring joy to children and families who might otherwise go without during the festive season.

The response from our school community has been overwhelming. Every item donated is a sign of kindness and care, and together we have made a real difference.

### Advent Celebrations of the Word

During this Advent season, our students took the lead in guiding Celebrations of the Word focused on Advent, creating beautiful moments of prayer and reflection for our school community. These services helped us prepare our hearts for Christmas and reminded us of the true meaning of the season: hope, peace, joy, and love.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their creativity, confidence, and reverence in leading these celebrations. Their efforts brought the spirit of Advent alive in a special way. A huge thank you to all our parents and families who attended and supported these events. Your presence made the celebrations even more meaningful and showed the strength of our school community coming together in faith.





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Carol Singing

This week, our school choir shared the joy of Christmas with the residents of Bannatyne Care Home. The students performed a selection of beautiful carols and festive songs, filling the room with warmth and holiday spirit.

The visit was more than just music, it was about connection. Residents joined in singing, clapping along, and even sharing stories of their own Christmas traditions. One choir member said: "It was amazing to see how much happiness music can bring. Everyone was smiling and singing together."

Moments like these remind us of the power of kindness and community. By giving their time and talent, our students helped make this season brighter for those who may feel lonely at Christmas.

A big thank you to our choir for their dedication and to Bannatyne Care Home for welcoming us so warmly. This is what the true spirit of Christmas looks like, sharing joy and creating memories that last.



### Thank You for Making Our Inter-House Competition a Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our recent Inter-House Competition, brilliantly led by the RE Department. Your enthusiasm and teamwork made this event a fantastic celebration of our school spirit.



We are delighted to announce that the winning house was Oswald, taking 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

1st Place: **Georgia Watson (901)**

2nd Place: **Lilly Smith (802)**

3rd Place: **Julian Ewidz (802)**



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

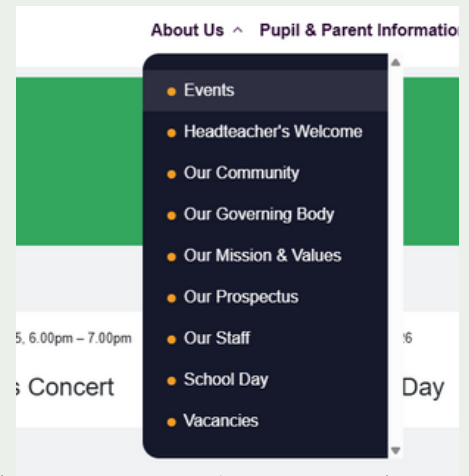
### New Events Section on Our Website

We're excited to announce a brand-new section on our school website dedicated to upcoming events!

From educational trips to special activities, this is the place to find all the latest information.

Please check regularly as we'll be adding details about the exciting opportunities coming up for our students.

Visit: <https://st-bedes.org/events>



### Local Scouts Shine at Seaham Santa 5K Run

**Two of our students**, Emily Powell 10C2 and **James Powell 7C2**, played a key role in supporting the community this weekend. Both were involved in marshalling the Seaham Santa 5K Run, an event that brought festive cheer while raising funds for three local charities.

Among the beneficiaries was Dawdon 2nd Seaham Scout Group, where James is an active member and Emily serves as a young leader. Their commitment ensured the event ran smoothly and safely for all participants.

Emily and James also exhibited our core value of citizenship by serving others, showing how young people can make a positive impact in their community.

This is a fantastic example of how our students embody the spirit of service and leadership beyond the classroom. Well done, Emily and James, for making a difference in our community!



### Craft Club Creations

Students from Years 7–10 have been busy in Craft Club with Mrs Lord, Mrs Conway, and Mrs Franks. Together, they've created stunning rag wreaths and macramé decorations. We're all incredibly proud of their beautiful work!





## Sixth Form

# BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

### Unlock Your Future at Byron Sixth Form!

Are you ready to take the next step in your education? Byron Sixth Form offers an exceptional learning environment where ambition meets opportunity. With a wide range of A-Level and vocational courses, expert teaching, and outstanding facilities, we provide everything you need to excel academically and personally. Our strong track record of success means you'll be joining a community that consistently achieves excellent results and prepares students for top universities, apprenticeships, and careers.

### Why Choose Byron Sixth Form?

At Byron, you're more than just a student - you're part of a supportive, vibrant community that values individuality and growth. We offer tailored guidance, enrichment opportunities, and leadership roles to help you stand out. From state-of-the-art resources to a culture of high expectations, we ensure you have the tools and confidence to thrive. If you're in Year 11 and ready to shape your future, apply now and discover why Byron Sixth Form is the perfect place to achieve your goals: [Click here to apply for Byron Sixth Form College](#)

### Bannatyne Care Home

This week, our Sixth Form students spent a day with the residents of Bannatyne Care Home, spreading festive cheer and building meaningful connections. The visit was filled with laughter, creativity, and companionship as students and residents worked together to make beautiful Christmas decorations and enjoyed friendly board game competitions.

The decorations created will brighten the care home throughout the festive season, and the time spent together reminded us all of the importance of kindness and community. This experience reflects the true spirit of Christmas, giving time, sharing joy, and making others feel valued.



To view our latest Sixth Form Prospectus [click here.](#)





## Key Dates

- **Mon 15 December:** Timetable Week A
- **Wed 17 December:** Christmas Concert
- **Thu 18 December:** Carol Service during the school day
- **Fri 19 December:** Break up for Christmas - 1230 finish (lessons as usual)
- **Fri 19 December:** Confiscated items available for collection
- **Mon 5 January:** INSET day - staff only
- **Tue 6 January:** Students return to school - timetable Week B

## Safeguarding

### Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

#### Designated safeguarding leads:



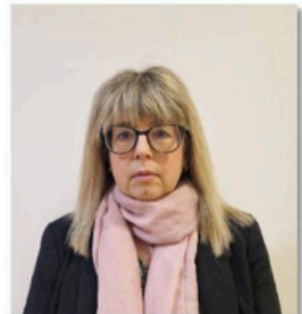
**Mr Logan**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Cessford**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Robinson**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Ord**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

## Home and School Links

**Address:** St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form  
Westway, Peterlee, Co. Durham, SR8 1DE

**Email:** [enquiries@st-bedes.org](mailto:enquiries@st-bedes.org)

**Phone:** 0191 5876220

**Website:** [www.st-bedes.org](http://www.st-bedes.org)

**Facebook:** [StBedesandByron](https://www.facebook.com/StBedesandByron)

**Our Parish:** Our Lady of the Rosary in Peterlee and Horden

**Our Diocese:** Hexham & Newcastle

