



# 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: 19 December 2025

### Faith

This Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 1:18-24) reminds us that Joseph's story shows us what it means to trust God even when life feels confusing. He learns that Mary is expecting a child through the Holy Spirit, and though he doesn't understand it at first, God speaks to him in a dream. Joseph chooses to listen and obey, welcoming Mary and the baby Jesus into his life.

For families today, Joseph reminds us that God's plans may surprise us, but they are always good. Sometimes we face situations that don't make sense, yet God invites us to trust Him and move forward with courage. As Christmas draws near, may we follow Joseph's example, listening for God's voice, choosing kindness, and making room in our hearts for Jesus.

### Excellence

#### Headteacher's Award

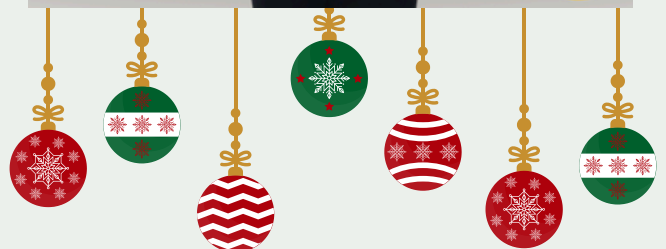
We are delighted to announce that Michael Amusat in 8H2 is this week's Headteacher's Award winner. This achievement is particularly special as Michael becomes the first student to receive this award for a second time - a testament to his outstanding commitment and consistency.

Michael is a model student who exemplifies our school values every day. His exercise books demonstrate exceptional standards, and he approaches his learning with diligence and pride. Beyond his academic work, Michael is reliable, pleasant, and a positive influence within our school community.

We are incredibly proud of Michael and the repeated excellence he displays. Congratulations on this remarkable achievement!

#### Tutor Group of the Week

Congratulations to 11C2, our Tutor Group of the Week! Your hard work and positive attitude have truly set the standard—well done to everyone in the group!





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Advent Celebration of the Word

This week, our Year 8 classes 8O1 and 8O2 led our Advent Celebration of the Word with reverence, joy, and a deep sense of faith. Their leadership reminded us of the true meaning of Advent: a season of hope, light, and preparation for the coming of Christ.

Through scripture, prayer, and reflection, the students helped us pause in the busyness of December to focus on waiting with expectation and living with gratitude. Their voices and presence brought warmth to our community, and we are proud of the way they embraced this responsibility.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents and families who continue to support our students in their faith journey. Your encouragement and partnership make moments like these possible, and we are grateful for the way you nurture the values of faith, service, and community at home.

As we move closer to Christmas, may the light of Advent continue to guide us all, filling our hearts with peace and joy.



### Cinema Treat for Our Top House Students!

This afternoon, the top 12 students from each house enjoyed a fantastic in-house cinema experience as a reward for their hard work and commitment. They watched the Christmas classic Jingle All the Way while tucking into pizzas, sweets, and juice, before rounding off the day with fun and games in the sports hall.





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Celebrating Our End-of-Term Achievers!

As we close the Autumn term, we are proud to recognize the incredible effort, resilience, and commitment shown by our pupils. These awards celebrate those who have gone above and beyond in attendance, attitude, and achievement.

#### 100% Attendance Champions

**Year 7:** Connor Gunn, Esme Hirst, Jacob Hirst, Eldon Li, Jeorgy Lowther, Above Okojie, Florence Onogholo, Oliver Richardson, Alexander Smith, Gabriella Solomon, Oliver Thompson, Sophie Thompson, Tobias Todd, Tristan Warrand, Arthur Ashcroft, Lacey Cairns, Thomas Dale, Scarlett Daly, Macie Dixon, Elise Doran

**Year 8:** Pipeloluwa Adebayo, Joshua Bailey, Harvey Barnes, Leah Bird, Jacob Briggs, William Bryson, Lily-Anne Dowse, Ezekiel Fasasi, Evan Goundry, Jia Qi Guan, Jacob Hall, Jacob Knowles, Jayden Li, Harry Nguyen, Derek Obaro, Stephanie Obi, Ruby Robinson, Anais Scollins, Harry Spellman, Isla Staley, Evan Turns, Isabel Wood

**Year 9:** Arthur Assadi, Ruth Chuks, Amelia Cummings, Ty Dube, Esther Ejiamatu, Israel Fasasi, Thom Fishwick, Katie Garrick, Gracie Greener, Finley Griffiths, Meagan Jabangwe, Eva Lilea, Evie Lunn, Elsie Magee, Ruby Milner, Riley Newton-Wharfe, Valerie Onogholo, Kyla Onyenekunum, Elise Parkinson, Thomas Price, Riley Richardson, Dominic Scollen, Mercy Sheidu, Lucas Stokoe, Charlotte Stonehouse, Sebastian Treanor, Daniel Wilson

**Year 10:** Kenan Al Sammak, Annabell Bland, Ewan French, Isabella Hawes, Joshua Johnson, Reenie Johnson, Eddy Joicey, Ephraim Kidd, Jake Laidler, Corey Lamond, Shamah Mawonde, Shanah Mawonde, Josh Oakley, Maria Eleni Platana, Theo Rack, James Stokoe, Keve Szilagyi, Lydia Turns, Amanda Ugochukwu, Maisey Whitehead, Olly-James Wood

**Year 11:** Matthew Antliff, Joel Bernard, Annamol Biju, Owen Charlton, Sam Darlaston, Ella Hackworth, Isabel Hanson, Tia Irving, Tyler Irving, Bobby Newbery, Rosie Pearson, Sarah Pescod, Kaylee Plant, Samuel Raine, Oliver Sidaway, Aaron Tervit, Sophie Ward  
Sixth Form: Byron Batey, Julia Gawron, Brooklyn Hutchinson, Susy Lodge, Alexander Treanor, Ethan Tervit





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT



### Fast Feet – Players of the Term


- Y7G: Elise Doran – Fantastic attitude and consistently outstanding performances.
- Y7B: Asa Appleby – Always gives his best and strives to improve.
- Y8G: Lydia Raine – Never-say-die attitude and multiple Player of the Match awards.
- Y8B: Brody Goodricke – Maximum effort and emerging leadership.
- Y9G: Emily-Grace Readman – Scored 10 goals in four matches while playing first halves in goal!
- Y9B: Reuben Barwick – Outstanding work ethic and earned an eight-week trial with Sunderland AFC.
- Y10G: Evie Cochrane – Incredible determination after injury and strong performances.
- Y10B: Harrison Martindale – Raises the standard in every session with his attitude.
- Y11G: Sarah-Jayne Pescod – Resilient, committed, and a role model for younger pupils.
- Y11B: Caleb McCarthy – Quiet but consistently excellent in training and games.



The Elite Football Academy at St Bede's offers specialised training for young athletes, focusing on long-term player development.

Our experienced coaches use a holistic approach to enhance technical skills and tactical understanding, to give each player the best possible chance of fulfilling their potential.

 @Stbedesandbyron

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 [www.st-bedes.durham.sch.uk](http://www.st-bedes.durham.sch.uk)

[www.fastfeetfa.com](http://www.fastfeetfa.com)

**FAST FEET**  
**FOOTBALL ACADEMY**

STUDY • DEVELOP • COMPETE





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### ABLAZE Credit Leaders

- Leah Bird Y8: **Excellence**



- Isabel Wood Y8: **Responsibility**



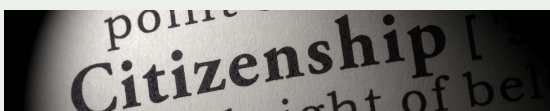
- Isla Staley Y8: **Determination**



- Cialan McCarthy Y10: **Faith**



- Pipeloluwa Adebayo Y8: **Citizenship**



- Grace Carr Y10 & Michael Amusat Y8: **Respect**



### Keep the Fire Burning!

Our pupils keep setting the world ablaze with their God-given gifts and talents and we're proud of each and every one of them. This term's achievements show what dedication, resilience, and teamwork can accomplish. Whether it's perfect attendance, outstanding performances, or leading by example, every success reflects the power of effort and ambition. Let's carry this momentum into the new year - keep aiming high, supporting one another, and striving to be the best version of yourself.

The next term is full of opportunities - make it count!

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Christmas Concert Magic!

On Wednesday evening, our school hall came alive with the joyful sounds of Christmas music! Talented musicians from St. Bede's, Our Lady of the Rosary, St. Godric's, St. Cuthbert's, and St. Mary Magdalen joined together to create a truly magical celebration of the season. From beautiful harmonies to toe-tapping tunes, it was a wonderful showcase of talent and festive cheer.



A huge thank you to all the incredible musicians and singers who filled the hall with festive cheer and entertained the audience from start to finish. This year's Christmas Concert was nothing short of spectacular - truly the best in recent memory! It was a dazzling showcase of talent, teamwork, and holiday spirit, with every performance shining brightly. Our young superstars-in-the-making didn't just sing and play - they created magical moments that will be remembered long after the last note faded. Bravo to everyone involved for making this an unforgettable evening of joy and celebration!





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Exciting News – Scholarship Success!

We are thrilled to announce that Nathan Wheatley has been offered a two-year scholarship with Carlisle United. This fantastic opportunity will combine a full-time football and education programme, ensuring Nathan continues to excel both on the pitch and in the classroom.

Congratulations, Nathan – we are proud of your achievement and look forward to seeing all you accomplish!



### Durham Music Service Stars

Sam, Stevie and Lucy are the first St Bede's recipients of the Durham Music Service Stars programme for their participation in violin lessons and concerts.



### Cookery Club

The final cookery club of the year, saw us cooking sausage rolls. Some even experimented making festive versions with caramelised onion and cranberry.

Mrs Johnson would like to thank parents and carers for the support shown this year, especially in purchasing ingredients. We've thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT



### 85 Maths Legends Created This Term

Since September, the Maths Department have appointed 85 Maths Legends, recognising their exceptional effort, mathematical resilience and embodiment of our St Bede's core values. We are very proud of every single of them. This week, we are very pleased to announce that the following pupils have been named, by their teachers, as Legends.

- Miss Houghton: Cash Iley 11C2
- Mrs Keniry: Dylan Pittilla 8C2
- Mr Taylor: Above Okojie 7O1
- Mr Wyness: Noah Scott 11O3



### Celebrating Excellence in RE

This half term, we are proud to recognize pupils who have consistently demonstrated our school values in Religious Education. Their commitment, respect, and enthusiasm have set a fantastic example for others and reflect the spirit of our learning community.

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| • 7S James Powell           | • 10X1 Corey Hardy   |
| • 7B Esme Hirst             | • 10X2 Joel Soppitt  |
| • 7D Keaton Harrison-Stokoe | • 10X4 Reece Rowland |
| • 8X1 Oliver Crawford       | • 10Y1 Rosie Holmes  |
| • 8X2 Theo Wotton           | • 10Y2 Frankie Jones |
| • 8Y1 Sam Wilkinson         | • 10Y3 Layton Warren |
| • 8Y2 Jia Qi Guan           |                      |
| • 9X1 Sebastian Treanor     | • 11X2 Ava Raine     |
| • 9X2 Noah Leighton         | • 11X4 Owen Charlton |
| • 9X4 Grace Scott           | • 11Y2 Ruby Franks   |
| • 9Y2 Mercy Sheidu          | • 11Y3 Rosie Wood    |
| • 9Y3 Kianna Chalton        |                      |





### Fun & Food Parent Christmas Guide 2025

Looking for ways to keep your children active, inspired, and smiling this Christmas?

Our Fun & Food programme is back with an amazing line-up of **FREE** holiday activities for eligible families across County Durham! **The Fun & Food programme** is managed by Durham County Council and is a brilliant initiative from the Department for Education.

The programme offers **FULLY FUNDED** places for children and young people (reception to year 11) including children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, who are in receipt of benefit-related free school meals.

Get ready for an unforgettable Christmas with over 70 locations packed with fun, food and learning. Choose from theatre thrills, arts & crafts, outdoor adventures, sports galore, youth day trips for teens, fun on the farm, xmas parties, panto magic and even a visit from Santa himself!

This is a great opportunity for children and young people to be active, make friends and enjoy a healthy meal over the Christmas holidays – for free!

**Our online portal for Christmas activity bookings opens at 12 noon on Monday 24 November 2025.**

Use the QR code or weblink found on your Fun & Food ticket to access the online portal. Speak to your school before the end of term if you have not received your ticket and think you are eligible. Not sure how to book...

**Watch our step by step video guide [here](#) or email [funandfoodtickets@durham.gov.uk](mailto:funandfoodtickets@durham.gov.uk)**



Department  
for Education



**Durham**  
County Council





## Key Dates

- **Mon 5 January:** INSET day - staff only
- **Tue 6 January:** Students return to school - timetable Week B
- **Thu 22 January:** Year 10 Parent Evening
- **Mon 9 February:** Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams begin
- **Thu 12 February:** Year 8 Parent Evening
- **Wed 18 February:** Ash Wednesday
- **Friday 20 February:** Half term ends 3.15pm

## Safeguarding

### Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

#### Designated safeguarding leads:



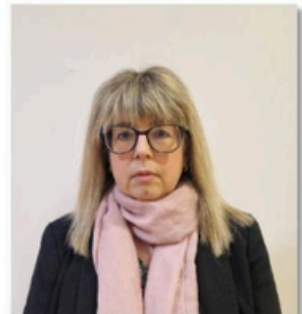
**Mr Logan**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Cessford**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Robinson**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**Mrs Ord**  
Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

## Home and School Links

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**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

