



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: 16 January 2026

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (John 1:29-34) we return to the beginning of Jesus' mission. In the scripture, John the Baptist gave people a sense that something exciting was about to happen.

John the Baptist points to Jesus and recognises him as the one sent to bring hope and new life. John doesn't try to make himself the centre of attention; instead, he shows what real humility looks like by directing others toward something greater.

For us in school, this is a reminder that leadership isn't about being the loudest or the most noticed. It's about noticing the good around us, encouraging others, and choosing actions that reflect kindness and integrity. When we support one another, stand up for what's right, or offer forgiveness, we become witnesses, just like John, to the values that make our community stronger.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

This week our Headteacher's Award has been presented to **Abraham Laogun 8H1**. Abraham works diligently and always has a superb attitude. He is an excellent role model - well done, Abraham!

Tutor Group of the Week

8C2 are our Tutor Group of the Week. They have received a lot of praise for effort and attitude and shown a commitment to our core values - well done all!

House Awards

Columba

Student of the Week: **Max Ridley 7C1**

Highest Credits: **Zack Young 7C1**

Attendance Hero: **Isabelle Ford 8C1**

Hilda

Student of the Week: **Abraham Laogun 8H1**

Highest Credits: **Joshua Beiley 8H1**

Attendance Hero: **Layla Mai-Brown 9H2**

Oswald

Student of the Week: **Charlotte Wylie 8O2**

Highest Credits: **Keaton Harrison-Stokoe 7O1**

Attendance Hero: **Jasmeen Aujla 11O1**





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

St. Bede's Standard – Proud of Our Work

Today we were absolutely delighted to celebrate 43 pupils who came to share work they were truly proud of with Mrs Cessford and Mr Logan.

The exercise books we saw were nothing short of phenomenal. Page after page showed pupils' determination to strive for excellence and produce high-quality work that reflects the St. Bede's Standard. From beautifully presented written responses to detailed diagrams, careful drafting, and thoughtful reflection, our pupils demonstrated effort, pride, and real intellectual curiosity.

At St. Bede's, we believe that getting better never stops. Today's celebration was a powerful reminder of what happens when pupils commit themselves to improvement and embrace the challenge of maximising their learning.

We are incredibly proud of every pupil who shared their work with us today. Their dedication, resilience, and ambition truly embody our mission to set the world ablaze.

Well done, everyone keep- striving, keep improving, and keep making us proud.





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Keeping Our Children Safe Online: Important Updates for Parents

At St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form, we are committed to ensuring that all students can use technology safely and responsibly. As part of our ongoing work to promote online safety, **all pupils will be signing the updated Acceptable Use of IT Agreement next week**. This agreement sets clear expectations for how students should use school ICT systems and devices, helping to protect both their safety and the integrity of our network.

To support this process, we have also introduced a **parent consent requirement** for children to access IT equipment in school. This consent can be easily completed via the **Arbor app**. Without this confirmation, pupils will not be granted access to school ICT systems.

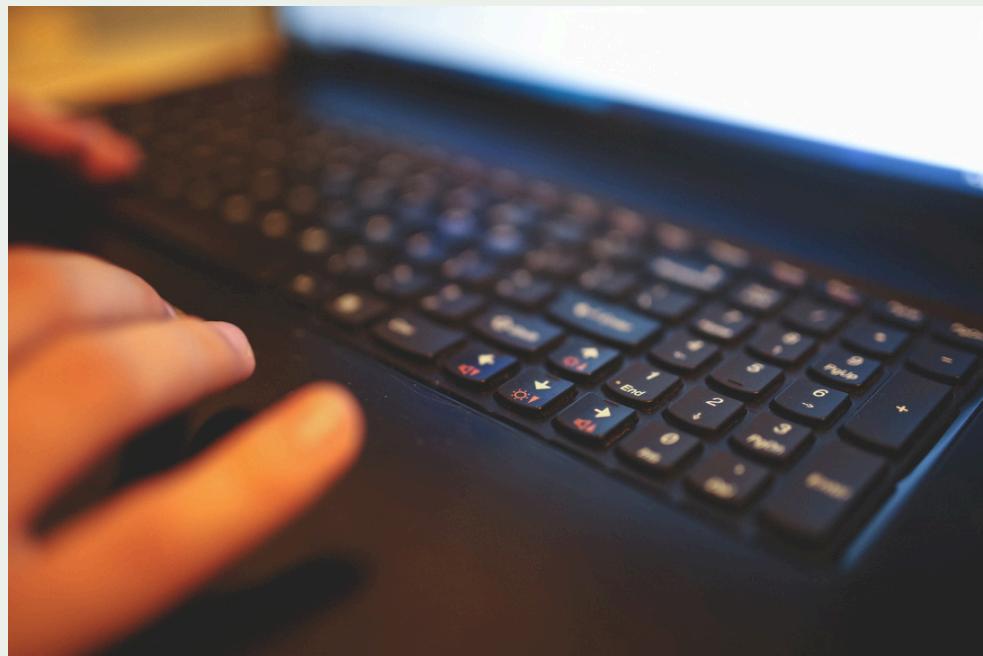
The Acceptable Use Agreement covers key areas such as:

- Using school ICT systems responsibly and safely.
- Keeping personal information private.
- Avoiding inappropriate content and online behaviour.
- Understanding consequences for misuse, which may include loss of access or disciplinary action.

We encourage parents to review the agreement with their child and discuss the importance of safe and respectful online behaviour. For further advice on supporting your child's e-safety at home, visit <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents>.

You can access our full online safety policy here: [https://files.schudio.com/st-bede-s-catholic-school-and-byron-sixth-form/files/documents/2025_11_03_Online_Safety_Policy\(1\).pdf](https://files.schudio.com/st-bede-s-catholic-school-and-byron-sixth-form/files/documents/2025_11_03_Online_Safety_Policy(1).pdf)

Thank you for working with us to keep our students safe online.





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Experto de Español

We are delighted to celebrate our first Expertos de Español of 2026. These students have shown exceptional commitment to their Spanish learning, demonstrating enthusiasm, resilience, and pride in their progress.

Señorita García- Isabel Wood 8H2: Exceptional engagement in Spanish lessons. A positive attitude to learning, with real pride in her book and a clear love for the language.

Señorita Tilston- Harry Warland 9O1: An excellent attitude to learning, and a brilliant Spanish accent (particularly rolling his double r!).

Señorita Atkinson- Michael Amusat 8H2: Outstanding participation in Spanish lessons and an excellent work ethic.

Flash Fiction Competition Returns!

Are you learning Spanish and in Years 7–13? Oxford University's Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages invites you to enter this year's Flash Fiction Competition! Write a complete story in Spanish using no more than 100 words and you could win a £100 prize.

Last year, one of our students, **Benjamin Brown**, was commended by Oxford for the originality of his entry—let's see what brilliant stories we can submit this time!

See your Spanish teacher if you'd like help drafting your entry.



The poster is for the 'Flash Fiction Competitions' organized by the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford. It features a green circular logo with the text 'The World needs your Story'. The main text on the poster reads: 'If you're in Years 7-13 and learning French, German and/or Spanish, we invite you to enter this year's FLASH FICTION COMPETITIONS!'. It explains that the aim is to write a complete story in French, German, or Spanish using no more than 100 words. Judges are looking for imagination and narrative flair, as well as linguistic ability. Winners will receive a £100 prize. For more information and to submit, visit <https://shorturl.at/4KWgU> or scan the QR code. The deadline is 12 noon on 31st March 2026. The poster includes flags of Spain, France, and Germany, and a QR code. At the bottom, it says: 'If you have a story to tell, don't miss out and participate! You can ask your Spanish teacher for help ~ We are looking forward to reading your stories!' with a pencil and paper illustration.



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Maths Wall of 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 - your effort is recognised.

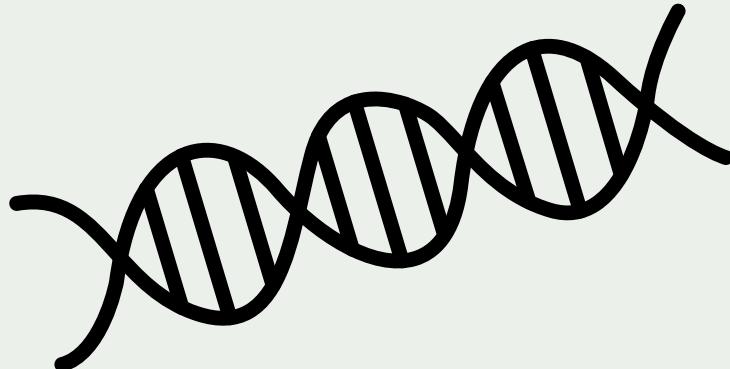
- Mr Fowler - **Carl Dawson 10C3**
- Miss Houghton - **Florence Onogholo 7C2**
- Mrs Keniry - **Isabelle Ford 8C1**
- Mr Taylor - **Ava Nicole Evans 10H2**
- Dr Treanor - **Elliott Mitchell 9O1**

$$(\sqrt[n]{a})^m = \sqrt[n^m]{a} = a^{\frac{m}{n}}$$

English Stars of the Week

The English team are thrilled to celebrate this week's English Stars! These students have shown outstanding creativity, impressive effort, and a fantastic attitude towards their learning. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and commitment. Keep shining – your hard work does not go unnoticed!

- Mrs Cook - **Anna Lovstad 10H1**
- Mrs Scutt - **Olivia Mellenthin 9O1**
- Mrs Dolan - **Poppy Wilkinson 10O1**
- Miss Milburn - **Casey Leigh 11C2**
- Mrs Hamilton - **Josh Oakley 10C1**
- Mr Johnson - **Bahram Nishat 8H2**
- Mrs Wild - **Katie Bewick 10O1**
- Miss Barkley - **Robert Brown 8C1**



Labcoat Legends

In Science, we are proud to recognise and celebrate the outstanding effort shown by our students. Hard work in science lessons not only builds problem-solving skills but also sparks curiosity and deepens understanding of the world around us. It demonstrates true determination, as students tackle complex problems, make predictions, and carry out experiments. Well done to all those who continue to strive for excellence!

- Mrs Hayward - **Shanah Mawonde 10O1**
- Mr Griffiths - **Ava Thomas 11O3**
- Mr Moss - **Julia Gawron 12Ch2**
- Miss Armstrong - **Lucas Stokoe 9O1**
- Mr Gooch - **Theo Bagnall 7H2**
- Mr Balls - **Valerie Onogholo 9C2**
- Mrs Lord - **Mason Hubble 9O2**





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Cookery Club

We've had another fantastic week at Cookery Club! This time, our talented students chose to bake delicious chocolate chip cookies – and the results were incredible. The aroma drifting through the building was simply irresistible!

If you'd like to join the fun and develop your culinary skills, please speak to Mrs Johnson or Mrs Oxenham for more details.



Chess Club!

As part of the Maths Department extra curriculum, chess club is running every Wednesday lunchtime for Year 7, Year 10 and Year 11 pupils. We have had a brilliant turnout so far, with chess players of all levels, from novice to master, individuals to pairs taking part. The standard of chess has been brilliant and we have been so thoroughly impressed at how players of different year groups are challenging and interacting with each other. It would be great to see even more players next week in GO12 (Mr Taylor's classroom).



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Core Practical: Removing and Examining Fish Gills Under a Light Microscope

This fascinating practical gives students the opportunity to explore the structure and function of fish gills in detail. By carefully removing and preparing the gills for observation under a light microscope, students gain hands-on experience with essential scientific techniques.

Through this activity, they learn how gills support efficient gas exchange, a vital process for aquatic life. It also reinforces key concepts about adaptation and respiration, helping students connect theory to real-world biology.



This practical not only develops technical skills such as dissection and slide preparation but also encourages curiosity and precision in scientific investigation.

Celebrating Ruby's Achievements!

Ruby Robinson 8O1 has had an incredible few weeks showcasing her talent and dedication to the performing arts. She recently played the role of Prince Abdullah in a production of Aladdin, where her hard work and commitment truly shone through in two fantastic performances.

Not stopping there, Ruby also stepped up at an Open Mic Night, performing three songs with confidence and skill – an amazing achievement for her very first time on stage!

To top it all off, on Saturday 6 December, Ruby took her first ever Musical Theatre exam through the University of West London, London College of Music – she passed with Distinction!



Year 11 Prom Committee

Our Year 11 Prom Committee meets every Friday Week B. Anyone from Year 11 is welcome to attend.

We met on Friday 9th January to discuss ideas for fundraising and we also started to talk about ticket designs and room ideas.

Everyone involved is hoping it's going to be the best Year 11 Prom ever at St Bede's!



Key Dates

- **Monday 19 January:** Timetable Week B
- **Thursday 22 January:** Y10 Parent's Evening
- **Monday 9 February:** Y11 & Y13 Mock Exams Week 1
- **Thursday 12 February:** Y8 Parent's Evening
- **Monday 16 February:** Y11 & Y13 Mock Exams Week 2
- **Friday 20 February:** Break up for half term at 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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Our Parish: [Our Lady of the Rosary in Peterlee and Horden](#)

Our Diocese: [Hexham & Newcastle](#)

