



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: 23 January 2026

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 4:12-23) Jesus begins His public ministry with a simple but life-changing invitation: "Follow me." He calls ordinary fishermen (people going about their everyday routines) and invites them into something bigger than they ever imagined. What's striking is that Jesus doesn't wait for perfect people or special qualifications. He meets people exactly where they are and sees potential they may not even see in themselves.

For our school community, this message is a powerful reminder that each day brings opportunities to respond to that same invitation. We may not be mending nets by the lakeside, but we are learning, growing, and discovering who we are. Jesus' call encourages us to be brave enough to step forward, to try new things, and to use our gifts to bring light to others

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

We are delighted to share that **Max Ridley 7C1** has won the Headteacher's Award for living out our school's core values and achieving the highest number of credits in the whole school last week. An outstanding achievement and a fantastic example to everyone well done, Max!

Tutor Group of the Week

We have joint winners of our Tutor Group of the Week! Both **10C1** and **MMA** (Miss Massey's group) had 100% attendance last week - this means they share the honours! Well done!

House Awards

Columba

Student of the Week: **Emily Powell 10C2**

Highest Credits: **Layla Peacock 7C1**

Attendance Hero: **Myles Barnes 10C2**

Hilda

Student of the Week: **Nithishan Kugan 8H2**

Highest Credits: **Alexis Rogers 7H2**

Attendance Hero: **Liam Tracey 8H1**

Oswald

Student of the Week: **Finley Griffiths 9O2**

Highest Credits: **Tommy Laing 9O1**

Attendance Hero: **Louis Donaldson 8O1**





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Year 10 Parents' Evening - Thank You

Thank you to all our **Year 10 parents and carers** who attended parents' evening last night; we really value your time, support, and positive engagements in **working together to support our students' progress**.

Have Your Say – Parent Survey Now Open!

We **value your feedback** and **want to hear your views** on how we can continue to improve our school. Please take a few minutes to **complete our Parent Survey** - your opinions really do make a difference!

The survey is quick and easy to complete, and your responses will help shape the future of our provision and support for pupils.

Click here to complete the survey: [PARENT SURVEY](#)



Thank you for helping us make St. Bede's the best it can be for your child.

Sports News

Congratulations to **Myles Price** and **Joel Soppitt (Y10)**, who have been selected to represent the **Cricket U15 County Age Group Team**. This is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of their hard work, commitment, and dedication—well done to both students on earning their place in the squad.

A huge well done also to **Isla Staley** and **Jacob Hall (Y8)**, who represented **Easington District** at the **County Cross Country Championships** held at Barnard Castle School on Sunday 18th January. Isla finished an impressive 5th out of around 65 competitors, securing qualification for the next round at Sedbergh on Saturday 7th February. The challenging course demanded real determination, and we are incredibly proud of both students for their effort and resilience.





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Maths Wall of Legends

This week, we are so **proud** of each of the following pupils, for displaying determination, faith, responsibility and excellence in their maths lessons, shown by their exceptional work. With their addition to the Wall of Legends, **since September, we have appointed over 100 legends...**and we're not even halfway through this academic year! Keep up the great work - we're really proud of you.

- Mr Fowler - **Myla Garside 8O1**
- Miss Houghton - **Samuel Ellsworth 9C1**
- Mrs Keniry - **Leon Richardson 8C2**
- Mr Marrs - **Katie Bewick 10O1**
- Mr Taylor - **Josh Carr 8O1**

English Stars of the Week

This week, we are incredibly **proud** of our English Stars of the Week, who have demonstrated determination, faith, responsibility, and excellence in their English lessons through **consistently high-quality work** and a **positive attitude** to learning.

- Mrs Cook - **Keira Ridley 11H1**
- Mrs Scutt - **Elisha Branthwaite 11C3**
- Mrs Dolan - **Noel Sajan 8H1**
- Mr Johnson - **Jennifer Tanos 11H2**
- Mrs Hamilton - **Kacie Johnson 10O2**
- Miss Barkley - **Adam Jackson 11O2**
- Miss Milburn - **Charlie Savage 9O1**
- Mrs Wild - **Kai Dunster 9H3**

Win a Free Prom Ticket - Year 11!

To reward and encourage excellent attendance, we're giving **Year 11 students** the chance to win a FREE prom ticket! For every **full school week of 100% attendance**, you'll automatically earn **one entry into our raffle** — and the more weeks you attend every day, the more chances you have to win. Entries will be **backdated to the beginning of December**, there's no limit to how many you can earn, and one lucky winner will be drawn to receive a **free prom ticket**. Attend every day, every week - it really could pay off!



YoungMinds

Need support? YoungMinds can help. If you're worried about your child's **mental health**, YoungMinds offers a **free Parent Helpline** for advice and guidance. Call 0808 802 5544 (Mon-Fri, 9:30am-4pm).

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Year 7 Science Club

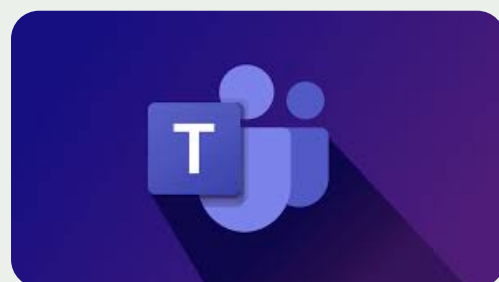
Year 7 Science Club runs every **Thursday from 3:15pm to 4:00pm**, and any pupils interested in joining are encouraged to speak to Mr Day.

Over recent weeks, students in Science Club have been learning lots of new scientific ideas through **hands-on, practical activities**. They explored **forces and energy** by designing and building catapults, discussed **microscopy** and used microscopes to observe insects and plants at high magnification, and have recently begun **growing pea seeds** as part of an investigation into plant growth and the factors that affect it. A great mix of curiosity, teamwork, and practical science - well done to everyone involved!



Year 11 Science Homework

All Year 11 Science homework is consistently shared via **Microsoft Teams**. Parents who wish to support their child at home are welcome to view homework tasks through the Teams area.



Revision Information Evening

On Thursday 29 January (at 5:30pm), we would like to invite all **parents/carers of Year 11 & Year 13** into school for a Revision Evening. This will take the form of a carousel where different **revision techniques** for a variety of different subjects will be shared by our subject leaders.

We know how vital revision is to ensure our pupils get the grades they want and need for their next steps and teachers shall discuss **practical strategies**. For previous year groups, parental feedback for this evening has been exceptionally positive, with parents/carers leaving feeling equipped to **help their child's preparation for exams**.

We very much look forward to seeing you there!



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Durham Youth Council

Calling all young people in Peterlee! Durham Youth Council are working with Urban Foresight and Durham County Council to **gather young people's views** on the regeneration and refurbishment of Peterlee Front Street and surrounding areas.

The ideas and thoughts shared will directly influence the changes made, so it's vital that young people have their say. As we grow from children into young adults and adulthood, we're the ones most likely to benefit from these improvements.

Have your voice heard!

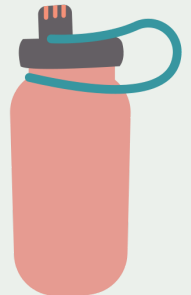
- The consultation is completely anonymous
- Young people cannot be identified from their responses
- Scanned or paper copies can be accepted if needed

Deadline: **1 February 2026** at 11:59pm

Take part here by completing this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/iRu4ynrjXE>

Water Bottle Reminder

Bringing a water bottle to school helps students stay **hydrated** and ready to learn. We encourage all pupils to bring a **re-usable water bottle** (no glass bottles) each day so they can look after their health and get the most out of their learning. We have water stations around school, where students can re-fill their bottles.



Reminder: Vehicle Access Restrictions at Drop-Off and Pick-Up Times

This is a polite reminder that, in order to ensure the safety of our students and staff, **no cars are permitted on the school site between 8:30–9:00am and 3:00–3:30pm**, unless they have been given explicit permission from the school.

These restrictions are essential to:

- **keep pupils safe** during the busiest times of the day
- **avoid congestion** at the school entrance
- allow our **school buses** to arrive and leave the site safely and **without obstruction**

We **kindly ask all families to support us** by adhering to these times and parking or dropping off safely in the surrounding area.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form College



Vehicles not allowed to enter or exit site between 8:30am and 9:00am and 3:00pm and 3:30pm



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Extra-curricular Activities - Get Involved!

All pupils are warmly **encouraged to take part** in our wide range of extracurricular activities, which offer fantastic opportunities to **develop new skills**, **build confidence**, and **make new friends**. Please see the activities listed below and on the following page for full details - there's something for everyone, and all are welcome to get involved.

Week A	Y7,10-13 lunch 1210-1255	Y8 & 9 lunch 1305-1350	After school 1530-1630
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y10/11 BTEC Sport• Y7 Netball• Bede's Voices• Fast Feet Football• Art & DT Coursework drop in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bede's Voices• Y8/9 Gym	
Tuesday		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fast Feet Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cookery Club
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y7 Boxercise• Chess Club		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rugby Club• Craft Club• Y7/8/9 Netball
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engineering Coursework Catch Up & Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keyboard Club• Soft Archery	Dungeons & Dragons Y7 Science Club
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS4/5 Crochet Club• Byron FC (Y12/13 Football)• Keyboard Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fast Feet Girls Only Football• Soft Archery	Friday Fun Club



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Week B	Y7,10-13 lunch 1210-1255	Y8 & 9 lunch 1305-1350	After school 1530-1630
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y7 Netball		
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y7 Gym• Fast Feet Football• Keyboard Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fast Feet Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cookery Club
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y7 Gym• Chess Club• KS4/5 Crochet Club		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rugby Club• Craft Club• Netball
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History Mystery Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keyboard Club• Soft Archery• Y8/9 Gym	Dungeons & Dragons Y7 Science Club
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Byron FC (Y12/13 Football)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fast Feet Girls Only Football	Friday Fun Club

We are always **looking to expand and enhance our extracurricular offer**, and we would love to hear from pupils who have ideas for new clubs, activities, or opportunities - they are more than welcome to share suggestions with any member of staff. Likewise, if parents or carers have contacts, expertise, or resources that they feel could support or enrich our extracurricular provision, we would be delighted to hear from you.



Key Dates

- **Monday 26 January:** Timetable Week A
- **Thursday 29 January:** Parent/Carer Y11 Revision Evening
- **Monday 9 February:** Y11 & Y13 Mock Exams Week 1
- **Monday 9 February:** Bronze and Gold Cymfed Award presentations at 2:30pm (invites will be sent out via email)
- **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
- **Sunday 8 March:** John Paul II Award presentations at the Hilton Hotel Newcastle (invites will be sent out via post)

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



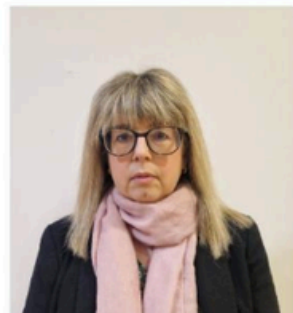
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



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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Email: enquiries@st-bedes.org

Phone: 0191 5876220

Website: 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

