



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: 6 February 2026

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 5:13-16) we are reminded that even small actions can make a big difference. Salt brings out flavour, and light helps us see, simple images that show how our words and choices can shape the world around us.

This message feels especially relevant as we celebrate our Bronze Award Faith in Action group on Monday. Their commitment, kindness, and service have been a quiet but powerful example of what it means to make a positive difference. Through small acts of generosity and courage, they have shown how faith can be lived out in practical, meaningful ways.

As a school community, may we follow their lead: choosing kindness, offering support, and shining light wherever we go. Even the simplest actions can have a lasting impact.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to **Robby Brown 8C1** for being awarded the St. Bede's Headteacher's Award this week. Robby has achieved credits for excellence, determination, responsibility, citizenship and respect this term, along with recognition for meeting the St. Bede's Standard in his classwork. Well done, Robby - keep striving to set the world ablaze!

Tutor Group of the Week

This week's winners are **9C1** who collectively demonstrated very positive behaviour. Top skills!

House Awards

Columba

Student of the Week: **Riley Richardson 9C1**

Highest Credit: **Robert Brown 8C1**

Attendance Hero: **Elise Parkinson 9C1**

Hilda

Student of the Week: **Evan Bates 8H2**

Highest Credits: **Jacob Knowles 8H2**

Attendance Hero: **Grace Carr 10H2**

Oswald

Student of the Week: **Nasir Hashimi 8O2 + Lucy Hillcoat 11O2**

Highest Credits: **Kwan Loi Chan 9O3**

Attendance Hero: **James Hogan 7O1**



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Year 7 Science Club

Last week we replanted our pea plants and explored what they need to grow. We also compared plants kept in the light and in the dark, and found out how stems grow up and roots grow down no matter how the seed is placed.

Year 7 Science Club runs on Thursdays from 3:15pm to 4:00pm in S04 Lab. Speak to Mr Day for more information. (No club on 12/02 because of Year 8 Parents' Evening.)



Soft Archery Competition

Last week, our Year 7 and Year 9 students took part in the Easington School Sport Partnership's soft archery competition. They showed our school's core values of excellence and determination from start to finish. Well done to everyone involved, with a special mention to our Year 9 team for placing third overall and to **Freddie W** for receiving the school games values award for his helpful and supportive attitude. A big thank you also to **Lucy P** and **Olivia M**, our sports leaders, for helping set up and run the event.





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Experto de Español

The Spanish department are delighted to recognise this week's *Expertos de Español*. Our students continue to impress us with their dedication, growing confidence, and wonderfully positive approach to learning Spanish. Congratulations to:

- Señorita Tilston: **Ruby Milner 9H1**: Brilliant extended writing, and consistently giving 100%.
- Señorita García: **Claudia Collings 10H2**: Excellent attitude to learning and fantastic extended writing in Spanish.
- Señorita Atkinson: **Kyla Onyenekunum 9H2**: Consistently demonstrates a fantastic attitude to learning. Always aiming for high-quality work and showing brilliant enthusiasm when engaging in Spanish.

Maths Wall of Legends goes from strength to strength!

Since September, over 120 pupils have featured on our weekly Wall of Legends. Our intention is to recognise nearly 250 pupils over the course of this academic year, rewarding exceptional effort, determination and respect. A particularly strong week for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. This week's Legends are:

- Mr Fowler: **Joshua Miller 11C3**
- Miss Houghton: **James Garrick 12Ch1**
- Mrs Keniry: **Demi Nicole Brown 13Ch1**
- Mr Marrs: **Thomas Dale 7H2**
- Mr Taylor: **Joseph Bradshaw 11O3**
- Mr Teasdale: **Paul Waldron 11O2**
- Dr Treanor: **Harry Dunleavy 11C3**

English Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following students that have been selected as our English Stars of the Week:

- Mrs Cook: **Elliott Mitchell 9O1**
- Miss Barkley: **Polly Scott 7C2**
- Mr Logan: **Connor Wilson 10H1**
- Mr Johnson: **Katie Morland 8C2**
- Mrs Wild: **John-James Francis 10C1**
- Mrs Hamilton: **Above Okojie 7O1**
- Mrs Dolan: **Jake Laidler 10O1**



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Safeguarding

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads have changed. We have 15 staff that are trained as Designated Safeguarding Leads but the four members of staff currently leading on Safeguarding are:

- **Mr Logan**, Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Mrs Cessford**, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Miss McDonagh**, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Mr Watts**, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

The images of these members of staff are on the final page of our newsletter and the posters around school are being changed to reflect this. **Mrs Robinson** will continue to have oversight of Sixth Form safeguarding and **Mrs Ord** will remain as a key safeguarding lead for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Year 11 English Mock: Continental Breakfast & Revision Boost – Don't Miss It!

To give our Year 11 students the very best start to their mock exam days, the English Department is hosting a special continental breakfast on Monday 9 February and Wednesday 11 February, starting from 8:00am.

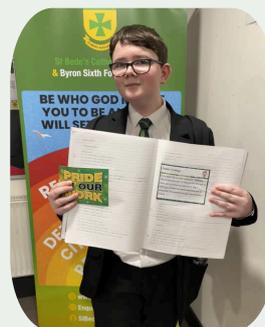
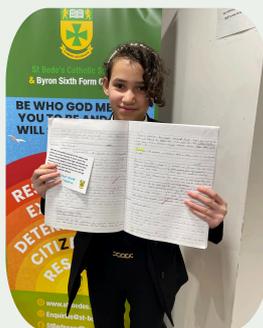
Students are warmly invited to join us for a delicious morning treat and some final high-impact revision. Our English teachers will be on hand with last-minute tips, smart strategies and expert advice to help students feel confident and fully prepared before heading into their exams.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Year 11 to fuel up, focus, and get those final questions answered - a perfect blend of motivation and morale boost.

Please encourage your child to pop into the English Department first thing on both days. It's too good to miss!

St. Bede's Standard on Show!

We had a huge turnout of students showing us work that they are proud of today. Well done to all of you - keep striving to set the world ablaze with your gifts and talents!



TOM A. SMITH

**UK SINGER-SONGWRITER WITH
HIS BRAND NEW EP**

Say What You Want

**COMING TO
YOUR SCHOOL
ON
THURSDAY
26 MARCH
2026**



We are delighted to welcome Tom A. Smith to St. Bede's next month. Tom will be performing his new EP to years 7-11 and discussing bullying, mental health, discrimination, and misogyny. Tom, from Sunderland, has played Glastonbury and Leeds Festivals and will be performing at Radio One's Big Weekend at Herrington Park in May!

TOM A. SMITH



@tomasmithrusic



Key Dates

- **Monday 9 February:** Timetable Week A
- **Monday 9 February:** Y11 & Y13 Mock Exams Week 1
- **Monday 9 February:** Bronze and Gold Cymfed Award presentations at 2:30pm
- **Thursday 12 February:** Y8 Parents' Evening 3.45pm-6pm (Booking available on Arbor Parent Portal App)
- **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 A. Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs F. Cessford
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss K. McDonagh
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mr N. Watts
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](#)

