



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: 13 February 2026

Faith

In Matthew 5:17–37, Jesus reminds us that living well isn't just about following rules—it's about the attitudes behind our actions. He encourages us to be people of honesty, kindness, and integrity, even when no one is watching.

In school, this means choosing respect, speaking truthfully, and treating others with care, not because we have to, but because it reflects who we want to be. As we move through the term, may we aim to live from the heart, building a community shaped by compassion and responsibility.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

A huge congratulations to **Joe Beeston 902**, who has been awarded this week's Headteacher's Award. Joe consistently lives out our school's core values and truly strives to set the world ablaze with his gifts and talents. His good nature, sharp sense of humour, and unwavering commitment to learning and self-improvement make him an absolute pleasure to teach.

Well done, Joe - we are incredibly proud of you.

Tutor Group of the Week

A big well done to all students in **10H2**, our Tutor Group of the Week. Your positive attitude, teamwork and commitment to the school community have really stood out. Keep it up!



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

House Awards

This week, we proudly celebrate the achievements, character and contributions of pupils across our House system. The House Awards recognise students who consistently embody our school values, show exceptional commitment, and make a positive impact on their peers and the wider school community. These awards highlight not only individual excellence but also the teamwork, determination and spirit that make our House system such an important part of school life.



- Columba Most Credits: **Layla Peacock 7C1**
- Columba Attendance Hero: **Thipahish Prakash 8C2**
- Columba Student of the Week: **Polly Scott 7C2**



- Hilda Most Credits: **Sam Wilkinson 8H2 + Michael Amusat 8H2**
- Hilda Attendance Hero: **David Wiatr 11H2**
- Hilda Student of the Week: **Elise Dobson 9H3**



- Oswald Most Credits: **Joe Beeston 9O2**
- Oswald Attendance Hero: **Oliver Wilson 8O1**
- Oswald Student of the Week: **Keve Szilagyi 10O2**

Complimentary Croissants for All Pupils – Friday 20 February

Next Friday morning, 20 February, we are delighted to welcome all pupils with a complimentary croissant on arrival. This small gesture is our way of thanking students for their continued positivity, effort and enthusiasm throughout the term.

Croissants will be available in the Heartspace from 8:00am, and staff will be on hand to greet pupils and ensure everyone receives theirs. We look forward to starting the day with a warm and friendly atmosphere for the whole school community.



Year 11 and Sixth Form Treat: Hot Chocolate and Cookies – Friday Afternoon

Following their dedication, resilience and hard work throughout the mock exam period, our **Year 11** and **Sixth Form** students will be rewarded on Friday afternoon with free hot chocolate and cookies. This well-deserved treat is a recognition of the focus and determination they have shown over recent weeks.

Hot chocolate (with cream and marshmallows!) and cookies will be served on the afternoon, and we encourage Year 11 pupils to take this moment to relax and enjoy a little comfort after all their efforts.



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6 more Maths Legends created!

Marking our halfway point through this academic year, we are delighted to recognise six more mathematicians who have excelled inside and outside the classroom. Well done for being excellent role models and always trying your best. A particularly strong week for the House of St. Oswald!

- Mr Fowler: **Leo Cairns 9H2**
- Miss Houghton: **Neave Armstrong 9H2**
- Mrs Keniry: **Leo Bell 8O2**
- Mr Marrs: **Shannon Robinson 8O2**
- Mr Taylor: **Tianna Taylor 9O3**
- Dr Treanor: **Louca Cooke 11O1**



Humanities Students of the week

The following students have been recognised this week by their Geography and History teachers as working really hard and producing excellent work in their lessons. Well Done.

History Heroes:

- Miss Jackson: **William Dove 10H2**
- Mr Johnson: **Brooklyn Lee Brown 10O2**
- Ms Laverick: **Kianna Chalton 9C1**

Map Masters:

- Miss Newnes: **Jack Wardropper 10O2**
- Mr Harper: **Macie Dixon 7C2**
- Mrs Martin: **Godric Glassbrook 7O1**



Experto de Español

We are thrilled to celebrate this week's Expertos de Español. Their positive attitude in lessons and increasing confidence makes us very proud, well done!

- Señorita Tilston: **Rosie Edwards 11C2** Hard work and resilience shown in her Mock Spanish speaking exam.
- Señorita García: **Emily Powell 10C2** Consistently produces outstanding work both in lessons and after school. She has shown exceptional dedication on Educake, completing an incredible 629 questions - around 100 more than the next student in KS4.
- Señorita Atkinson: **Lexi Smithers 7C2** An excellent attitude to learning, with outstanding participation in lessons and consistently completing work to a very high standard.

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English Stars of the Week

Our English Stars of the Week have impressed their teachers with exceptional effort, enthusiasm and progress. Whether through thoughtful contributions, creative writing or a brilliant attitude to learning, these pupils have truly stood out. Well done to all of our stars!

- Mrs Dolan: **Khayal Greenland 9H2**
- Mrs Hamilton: **Dexter Barrett 8H1**
- Mr Johnson: **Gabriella Soloman 7H1**
- Miss Barkley: **Shanelle Egglestone 9H2**
- Miss Milburn: **Evie Ashcroft 11H1**
- Mrs Cook: **Jacob Wood 11C3**
- Mrs Wild: **Zak Robson 10O2**
- Mr Logan: **Lilly Pennick 10O2**



Safer Internet Day: Staying Safe Online

Tuesday 10 February was Safer Internet Day, an important reminder of how we can all make positive and safe choices when using technology. As young people spend increasing amounts of time online - whether for learning, socialising or entertainment - it is vital that we work together to promote responsible, respectful and secure online behaviour. To support families further, our [Online Safety Policy](#) is available on our school website. We encourage all parents and carers to take a moment to read it so they are aware of the guidance, expectations and safeguarding measures we have in place to help protect pupils online.

For additional advice, practical tips and up-to-date guidance on keeping children safe online, we recommend the following trusted websites:

- [Internet Matters](#) – a helpful resource offering age-specific advice, guides on apps and platforms, and practical tools for setting up online safety controls.
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) – provides expert advice, safety tips and support for dealing with online concerns. Working together, we can help ensure that our young people use the internet wisely, confidently and safely.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Bronze Faith in Action Awards

We were delighted to welcome so many parents and carers to our recent celebration of the Bronze CYMFed Award. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognise the commitment, service, and personal growth shown by our young people as they worked towards this nationally respected faith leadership award.

Your presence made the occasion truly special. The support you give, encouraging your child, helping them reflect on their faith, and cheering them on as they take on new challenges, plays a huge part in their success. It was inspiring to see families and staff coming together to celebrate not just an award, but the values and character that sit behind it.

We are incredibly proud of every student who achieved their Bronze CYMFed Award. Their dedication, compassion, and willingness to serve others shine brightly in our school community. Thank you once again for joining us and for the ongoing support you give your children. We look forward to celebrating many more achievements together as they continue their journey through the CYMFed programme.



Ash Wednesday

Next week we begin the season of Lent, an important time of reflection and preparation in the Church's year. As part of our observance, some of our classes will be representing St Bede's at Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church.

Unfortunately, due to limited space in the church, we have only been able to invite four classes to attend on this occasion. We appreciate your understanding and support. All other students will take part in a celebration of the Word led by our Youth SVP Group.

For those attending, this will be a special opportunity for our pupils to come together in prayer, reflection, and celebration as they continue their faith journey. We are grateful to Our Lady of the Rosary parish for welcoming us so warmly.

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St. Bede's break record at United Kingdom Maths Challenge!

Last month, over 70 **Year 9** and **Year 10** mathematicians took part in the United Kingdom Maths Trust Intermediate Challenge, tackling a range of complex problems in 60 minutes. This was the first Intermediate Challenge for St. Bede's pupils since 2018 and inspired by the words of St. Catherine of Siena, they have truly set the maths world ablaze with their effort and skill!

Best in School:

- Sebastian Treanor 9H1

Best in Year:

- Matthew Nixon 10H2
- Sebastian Treanor 9H1

Gold:

- Sebastian Treanor 9H1

Silver:

- Daniel Csurí 10C1
- Julia Jankowska 10H1
- Matthew Nixon 10H2
- Valerie Onogholo 9C2
- Joel Soppitt 10H3

Bronze:

- Annabell Bland 10O2
- Samuel Ellsworth 9C1
- Corey Hardy 10O2
- Hollie Hodgson 10C2
- Eddy Joicey 10H3
- Eva Lilea 9C1
- Josh Oakley 10C1
- Harry Wright 10C1



Taking part and attaining Gold, Silver or Bronze is a truly exceptional feat that has a national reputation. We are particularly proud of our **Year 9** pupils who competed against older peers, with **Sebastian Treanor** achieving the first ever Gold certificate at St. Bede's! This achievement has meant he has also been invited to take part in the United Kingdom Maths Trust Grey Kangaroo in March, competing against the best mathematicians in Key Stage 4 across the world!

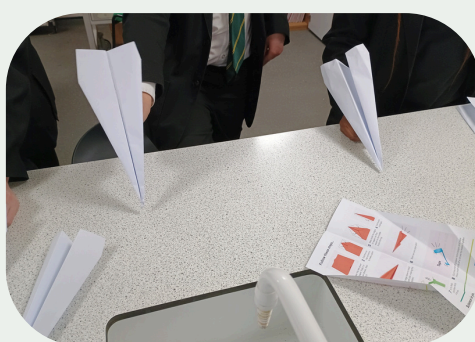
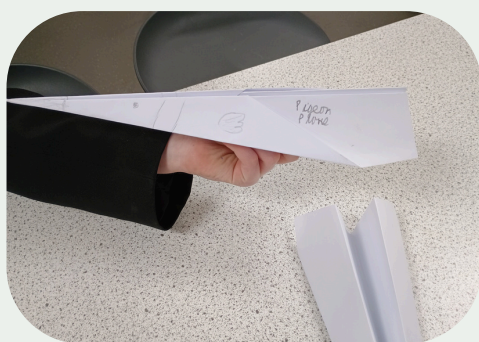
The bar has been well and truly set for our **Year 7** and **Year 8** pupils who will be taking part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge in April! A huge congratulations to every pupil who took part - the whole Maths Department is exceptionally proud of you.

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Year 7 Science Club

This week in Y7 science club we were exploring forces, particularly looking at gravity (weight), air resistance and upthrust. We discussed and investigated these forces by making paper aeroplanes and testing them out in the lab!

Please speak to Mr Day if you would be interested in joining science club - we meet on Thursdays 3:15pm-4:00pm in S03 lab.



Year 11 and 12 Iceland Trip

Not long to go to the Geography trip to Iceland. A reminder that we are meeting outside the school at 4.00am on Sunday 22 February. Please make sure you check your luggage size when packing for the trip. With Jet2 we only have a hand luggage allowance of a 10Kg cabin bag and a backpack that will fit under the seat in front. The airline will be strict on the size and weight of the cabin bag so please ensure this is correct. Cabin bag maximum dimensions are 56 x 45 x 25 cm. This also means that each liquid packed needs to be under 100ml for security. We recommend approximately £100 spending money which can be in cash or a bank card. If you have any questions regarding the trip please contact Mrs Martin, the trip leader. We hope you are looking forward to it!

Vote for Your Inspirational Staff! – Chadwick Celebration Awards 2026

- Pupil Nominations Now Open
- Deadline: 20 March

Have you ever had a teacher or member of staff who has really inspired you? Someone who has supported you, motivated you, or helped you believe in yourself? Now is your chance to recognise them!

The Chadwick Celebration Awards 2026 are coming up, and pupils across the Trust are invited to submit nominations for the Inspirational Staff Award. This is your opportunity to celebrate the people who make a real difference to your school experience every day.

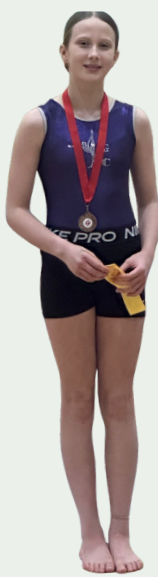
To nominate, complete the Pupil Nomination Form for the Inspirational Staff Award. It only takes a couple of minutes, but your nomination could mean a huge amount to the person you choose.

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Sports News

Isabel Wood 8H2 is part of Seaham Gymnastic Club and against other local gymnastic clubs she achieved bronze (3rd) for her tumble routine and 4th for her floor routine in her age category.

This weekend, Isabel also successfully passed her Taekwondo grading. She achieved her 3rd Kup which is the blue belt with red tag. Well done Isabel, keep up the fantastic work!



A huge well done to **Julia Jankowska 10H1** for competing at Northumberland and Durham County Swimming Championships at the weekend.



Byron Sixth Form

Year 11 students are encouraged to enrol in Byron Sixth Form by scanning or clicking the QR code below. With a wide range of courses, expert teaching, and a supportive community,

Byron Sixth Form is the ideal place to take the next step and shape your future ambitions. Rooted in a nurturing and inclusive ethos that helps students grow academically, personally and spiritually, our Sixth Form provides an environment where every young person is inspired to thrive and “set the world ablaze” with their talents.



Key Dates

- **Monday 16 February:** Timetable Week B
- **Monday 16 February:** Y11 & Y13 Mock Exams Week 2
- **Friday 20 February:** Break up for half term at 3.15pm
- **Thursday 5 March:** World Book Day
- **Sunday 8 March:** John Paul II Award presentations at the Hilton Hotel Newcastle (invites will be sent out via post)
- **Wednesday 11 March:** Year 9 Options Evening
- **Thursday 12 March:** Year 11 & Year 13 Mock Exam Results morning & evening
- **Tuesday 16 - Wednesday 17 March:** Year 9 Immunisations
- **Thursday 19 March:** Year 9 Parent's Evening
- **Wednesday 25 March:** Year 11 Group Photograph

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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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

