



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: 20 February 2026

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 4:1-11) Jesus faces three temptations in the desert. Each one offers an easier way out, yet He chooses to stay true to who He is and what He believes. It's a reminder that real strength often shows itself in quiet, everyday choices.

In school, our "desert moments" might look like pressure to follow the crowd, the temptation to cut corners, or the challenge of staying kind when we're tired or stressed. Jesus' example encourages us to pause, think, and choose what's right, even when it's not the easiest option.

As we move through Lent, this passage invites us to focus on small, positive decisions that shape who we are becoming. Every good choice, no matter how small, helps build a stronger, kinder school community.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

A huge congratulations to **Emily Milestone 9C1**, who is the well-deserved winner of the final Headteacher's Award of this half-term. Emily has demonstrated exceptional effort and a consistently positive attitude across all of her subjects. Her teachers have praised not only the quality of her work but also the kindness and maturity she shows around school each day. Well done, Emily.

Tutor Group of the Week

This week's winners are **8H2**. They have shown real teamwork and pride in representing their house, contributing positively to school life both in and out of lessons.

House Awards

Columba

Student of the Week: **Ellie Stutt 9C2**

Highest Credits: **Emily Mileston 9C1 + Eva Lilea 9C1**

Attendance Hero: **Oliver Dodds 8C1**

Hilda

Student of the Week: **Olivia Scott-Myers 8H1**

Highest Credits: **Sebastian Treanor 9H1**

Attendance Hero: **Nithishan Kugan 8H2**

Oswald

Student of the Week: **Leo Bell 8O2**

Highest Credits: **Nosariemen Izevbogie 9O2**

Attendance Hero: **Joseph Bradshaw 11O2**





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Ash Wednesday Mass

On Wednesday, our school community marked the **beginning of Lent** with a special Mass at **Our Lady of the Rosary Church**. Pupils and staff from **Our Lady of the Rosary** school joined together with **Our Lady Star of the Sea**, creating a wonderful sense of unity as we stepped into this important season of reflection.

The liturgy offered a gentle reminder of what Lent calls us to: slowing down, looking inward, and making space for prayer, kindness, and renewal. Receiving ashes together helped our young people understand that Lent is not something we do alone, but a journey we share as a community of faith.

As we move through the coming weeks, we look forward to supporting one another in small acts of compassion, thoughtful choices, and opportunities to grow closer to God.



Ash Wednesday Celebration of the Word

This week, our school marked the beginning of Lent with a thoughtful and reflective **Ash Wednesday Celebration of the Word**, led beautifully by our **Youth SVP group**. Their leadership brought a real sense of calm and purpose to the gathering, and they guided the school community with confidence and care.

Students took responsibility for readings, prayers, and reflections, helping everyone to pause and think about what Lent means, kindness, renewal, and making positive choices. Their preparation was clear in every part of the celebration, and their respectful approach set a wonderful example for the rest of the school.

Moments like this remind us how capable our young people are when given the chance to lead. We are incredibly proud of the Youth SVP members for their commitment to service and for helping our school begin the Lenten season in such a meaningful way.

Bronze CYMFed Award Presentations

Well done to our students who were presented with their **Bronze CYMFed Award**. Their commitment, service, and dedication to living out their faith in practical ways is something our whole school community can be proud of. The award recognises the time and effort they have given to helping others, growing in leadership, and contributing positively to school and parish life. Congratulations to each of them on this well-deserved achievement.





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

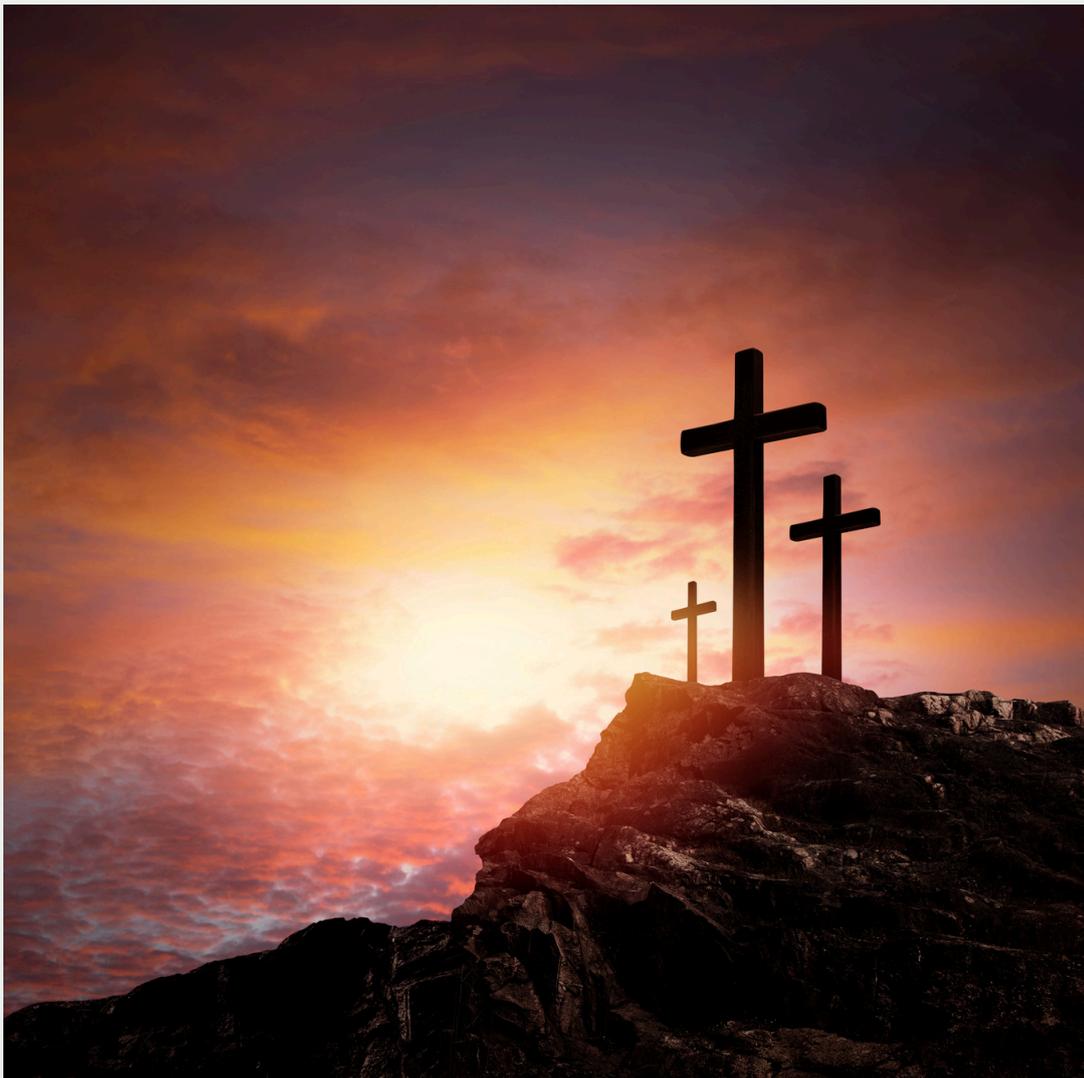
Stations of the Cross

We warmly invite all **Year 7 parents and carers** to join us for **Stations of the Cross**. This reflective prayer journey is an important part of our Lenten season, offering a quiet space to pause, think, and walk with Christ through His final moments.

Our students will help lead the reflections, and their thoughtful participation always brings a special sense of meaning to the experience. We hope you can join us.

If you would like to attend please email oballs@st-bedes.org to book a place.

- **7H1/7H2:** Monday 9 March 9.00am
- **7C1/7C2:** Tuesday 10 March 9.00am
- **7O1:** Wednesday 11 March 9.00am





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Music & Drama Education Awards 2026

We are beyond proud to announce that **Mrs Sellers** has been awarded **Instrumental/Vocal Teacher of the Year 2026** at the **Music & Drama Education Expo Awards**. Mrs Sellers makes a fantastic contribution with her violin teaching at St. Bede's and to our feeder primaries too. She always includes inspiring performances in our concerts.



Sports News

Congratulations to **Julia Jankowska 10H1** for representing **Peterlee Swimming Club** and **Iris Cahill 11O3** for representing **Hetton Swimming Club** and competing in the second weekend of the **Northumberland and Durham County Swimming Championships**.

A group of our **Year 8 and 9** students took part in the **Easington School Sports Partnership Sharlene Slater Gymnastics Festival** this week. The girls showed dedication throughout giving up numerous hours at lunch time. Their performance was about empowering women and working hard to get to where they want to be in life. An amazing performance by all well done girls.





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Experto de Español

We are delighted to celebrate this week's Expertos de Español. Their effort, enthusiasm, and growing confidence in lessons have truly stood out. We are incredibly proud of the positive example they set every day. ¡Enhorabuena!

- Señorita Tilston: **Harry Sinclair 10C3** - Effort and resilience in cracking the future tense.
- Señorita García: **Jia Qi Guan 10C1** - Hard work during lessons and outstanding pronunciation.
- Señorita Atkinson: **Oliver Richardson 7C2** - Outstanding effort and engagement in Spanish, producing eight extension sentences in Spanish at the start of the lesson.

Maths Legends

Well done to each of this week's Maths Legends who have demonstrated determination, respect and responsibility in each of their maths lessons. They have been role models, and we hope their families are as proud of them as we are!

- Mr Fowler: **Tyler Irving 11O1**
- Miss Houghton: **Ethan Thompson 11C2**
- Mrs Keniry: **Charlie Pugh 8O1**
- Mr Taylor: **Charlie Tudball 10C2**
- Dr Treanor: **Alice Cook 9H1**

Musicians of the Week

Congratulations to this week's musical superstars.

KS4:

- **April Benson 11C1**: Fantastic compositions for coursework

KS3:

- **Leah Bird 8C1 + Jasmine Roberts 9C2**: Fantastic work on duet for concert

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: **Darrell Harris 8O1**
- Mr Johnson: **Poppy Horseman 10H3**
- Miss Laverick: **Jacob Knowles 8H2**

Map Masters:

- Miss Newnes: **Jia Qi Guan 10C1**
- Mr Harper: **Layla Peacock 7C1**
- Mrs Martin: **Charlotte Welch 11H1**



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

English Stars of the Week:

Well done to this week's *English Stars*! Your enthusiasm, resilience, and growing confidence in English lessons are excellent to see. You are setting a brilliant example for others.

- Mrs Hamilton: **Harry Mason 10H3**
- Mrs Cook: **Danielle Raine 11C1**
- Mr Johnson: **Olivia Blaney 7H1**
- Miss Barkley: **Matthew Holmes-Winter 8C1**
- Mrs Wild: **Owen Charlton 11C3**
- Miss Milburn: **Elise Dobson 9H1**
- Mr Logan: **Matthew Donaldson 10C1**



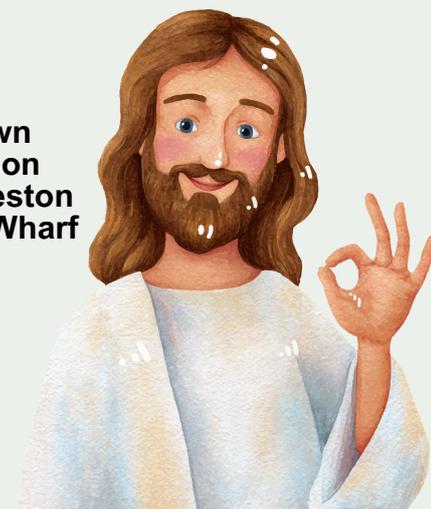
Religious Education Award Winners:

Congratulations to the following pupils for consistently demonstrating our school values throughout this half-term in RE. Each of them has shown exceptional respect, responsibility, and determination, contributing meaningfully to class discussions and approaching their learning with maturity and enthusiasm. They are excellent role models for others.

7S – Macie Dixon
7B – Max Farm
7D – Tobias Todd
7T – Above Okojie
7E – Cataliya Saad

8X1 – Jack Brown
8X2 – Lily-Anna Cowie
8X3 – Myla Garside
8Y1 – Isla Staley
8Y2 – Elidad Akinola
8Y3 – Brody Goodricke

9X1 – Ellie Stutt
9X2 – Rhea Gardner
9X3 – Frankie Fox
9X4 – Layla-Mai Brown
9Y1 – Sebastian Bryson
9Y2 – Shanelle Eggleston
9Y3 – Riley Newton Wharf



10X1 – Corey Hardy
10X2 – Marnie Hall
10X3 – Quinlan White
10X4 – Lilly Pennick
10Y1 – Harrison Martindale
10Y2 – Archie Conroy
10Y3 – Joe Dougherty

11X1 – Mathishan Kugan
11X2 – Rosie Edwards
11X3 – Alfie Lamb
11X4 – Leah Semple
11Y1 – Bobby Newberry
11Y2 – Ruby Franks
11Y3 – Gerald Igwilow

Year 10 Italy Trip

We are super excited that so many of our **Year 10** students have signed up to the **Geography Italy trip** in October. Thank you for paying the initial deposit.

A reminder that the second deposit of £110 is due by **Monday 23 March**. Payments can be made on Parent Pay or in cash to the school office.





Key Dates

- **Monday 2 March:** Returning on Week A timetable
- **Wednesday 4 March:** SEBD ciffie niorbubg 9-11am
- **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 17 - Wednesday 18 March:** Year 9 Immunisations
- **Wednesday 18 March:** Silver and Gold CYMFed Presentations
- **Wednesday 18 March:** Music Concert
- **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

- Address:** St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form
Westway, Peterlee, Co. Durham, SR8 1DE
- 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](#)

