



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 March 2026

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42), Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at a well and offers her "living water". Water is a sign of life. The 'living water' is the sign of everything that Jesus offers us to satisfy our need of God's love and guidance.

This story reminds us that many things in life can leave us feeling tired or empty, but when we pause and open ourselves to God, we find strength that lasts. Like the woman at the well, we're invited to let our everyday moments become opportunities for renewal, connection, and growth.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to **Layla Peacock 7C1** on receiving the Headteacher's Award! Layla has demonstrated outstanding effort, commitment, and a consistently positive attitude. We are incredibly proud of her achievements - well done, Layla!

Tutor Group of the Week

9C1 are this week's worthy winners.

Columba

Student of the Week: **Kianna Chalton 9C1**

Highest Credits: **Ava Hawley 7C1**

Hilda

Student of the Week: **Lexi Maddison & Chanse Morgan 9O2**

Highest Credits: **Leo Bell 8O2**

Attendance Hero: **Sylvester Kwiecien 8O1**

Oswald

Student of the Week: **Alana Hubery 10H1**

Highest Credits: **Abaraham Laogun 8H1**

Attendance Hero: **Ephraim Kidd 10H3**



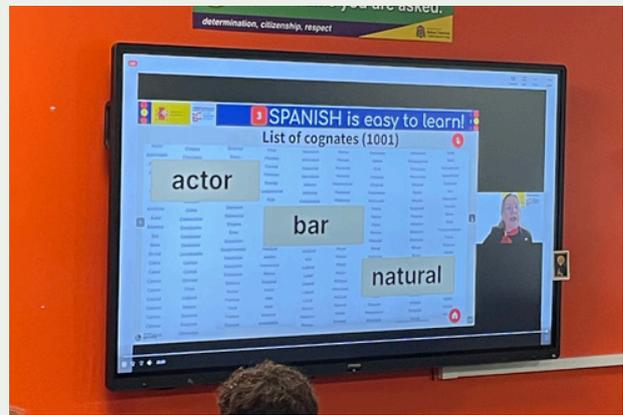
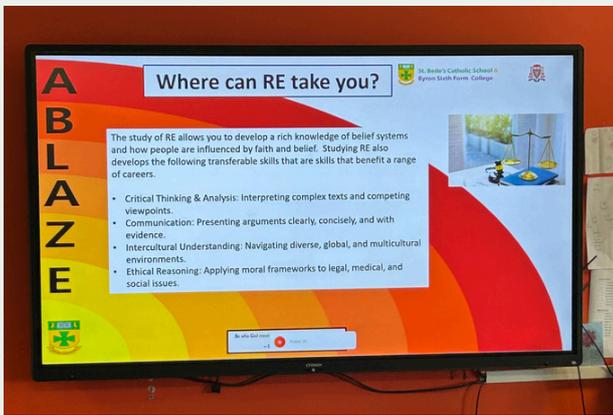
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Careers Week 2026

Careers Week offered pupils a rich and varied programme designed to help them understand how their subjects link to real-world opportunities and to broaden their awareness of future pathways. Across the school, departments highlighted how classroom learning connects to different industries, giving pupils a clearer sense of how their skills translate into careers.

Curriculum Links Across Subjects

Throughout the week, teachers embedded career connections directly into lessons. Pupils explored how subjects such as science, maths, languages, technology, the arts, and humanities underpin a wide range of professions. These sessions helped students recognise the value of their learning and understand the diverse routes available to them.



Careers Fair

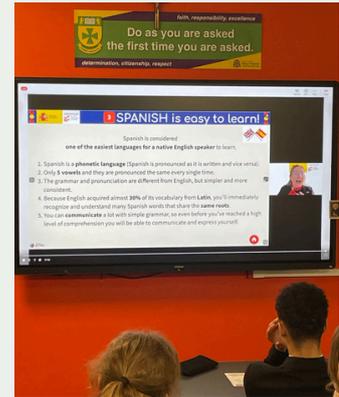
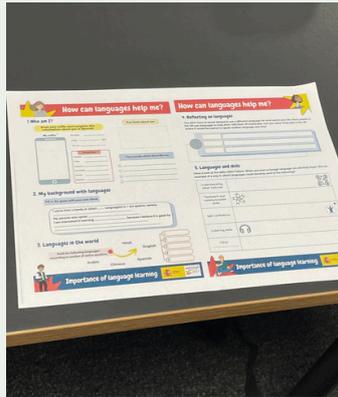
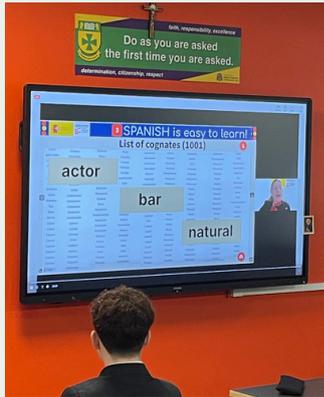
More than 300 pupils attended the school's Careers Fair on 4 March, where over a dozen employers and training providers showcased opportunities in sectors including engineering, healthcare, digital technology, public services, and the creative industries. Pupils engaged in conversations, collected information, and gained insight into the qualifications and skills needed for different pathways. The event created a lively and inspiring atmosphere, with many students leaving more confident about their next steps.



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Year 9 Careers in Languages Webinar

Year 9 pupils took part in a live webinar delivered by the Spanish Embassy, exploring the wide range of careers available to those who study languages. The session highlighted roles in translation, diplomacy, tourism, international business, and cultural exchange. Pupils were able to see how language learning opens doors to global opportunities.



Sustainable Energy Workshop with Morven

A group of Year 9 pupils participated in a hands-on workshop led by Morven, an offshore windfarm project. The session focused on sustainable energy, with pupils examining how wind turbines work and discussing the future of renewable power. This practical workshop helped students understand the growing importance of green careers and the skills needed in the energy sector.



Careers in Music and the Performing Arts

Another group of pupils visited The Glass House in Newcastle to explore careers in Music and the Performing Arts. Through guided activities and behind-the-scenes insights, students learned about roles in performance, sound engineering, event management, production, and arts administration. The visit highlighted the breadth of opportunities within the creative industries and inspired pupils interested in artistic pathways.

Across all activities, pupils gained a deeper understanding of how their interests and subjects connect to future careers. The week encouraged them to think ambitiously, ask questions, and begin shaping their own pathways with greater clarity and confidence.

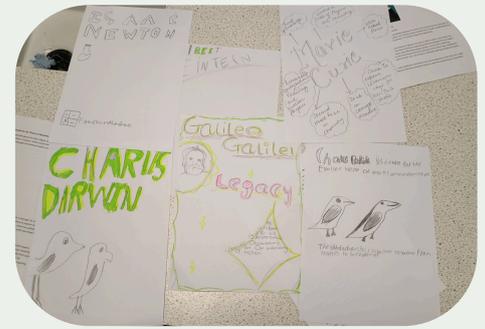
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Year 7 Science Club

Last week in Y7 science club we had a look at our pea plants that we are growing, with some students taking some plants home to continue growing at home.

We also spent time learning about some famous scientists and the huge contributions they have made to our understanding of the universe, from Charles Darwin and Isaac Newton to Marie Curie and Rosalind Franklin. Students then each chose one scientist to make a poster on to highlight some of their important work.

Y7 science club is on Thursdays 3:15pm-4:00pm in S03 lab. Please speak to Mr Day if you are interested in joining!



John Paul II Awards

This Sunday, six of our 6th form students will receive their John Paul II Award, a recognition of their commitment to faith, service, and active participation in their community. We are incredibly proud of the dedication they have shown and the example they set for others in our school.

Please join us in congratulating them and celebrating this wonderful milestone in their journey of faith and leadership.

Stations of the Cross

Next week year 7 will be leading stations of the cross in the chapel. If you would like to attend please email oballs@st-bedes.org.

- Monday 9th 7H1/7H2 - 2.45pm
- Tuesday 10th 7C1/7C2 - 2.45pm
- Wednesday 11th 7O1 - 2.45pm





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40 Acts of Kindness for Lent

This week we launched our 40 Acts of Kindness challenge for Lent, encouraging pupils to make small, meaningful choices that brighten someone else's day. Lent is a time for reflection and growth, and simple acts of kindness can have a powerful impact on our school and wider community.

If you would like to take part as a family, please email oballs@st-bedes.org to receive a copy.

40 Acts of Kindness

Give a genuine compliment to a classmate.	Hold back from gossip for the whole day.	Help someone with homework or studying.	Sit with someone who is alone at lunch.	Let someone go ahead of you in line.
Share something you have - snacks, notes, pens.	Pray for someone you know who is struggling.	Hold the door open for people all day.	Leave an anonymous encouraging note.	Offer to help at home without being asked.
Let someone else choose the music or game.	Share a motivational quote with a friend.	Give someone your full attention when they talk	Do a chore for a sibling or family member.	Pray for peace in your school and community.
Help someone carry something heavy.	Give someone a sincere apology if needed.	Share something that made you laugh today.	Support a small business instead of a big chain.	Let someone else have the last piece or turn.
Be patient with someone who's having a rough day.	Give a shout out to someone on social media.	Help clean up after an event or meal.	Share your notes with someone who missed class.	Say a prayer for someone you disagree with.
Let something small go instead of arguing.	Encourage someone who's trying something new.	Do something kind without telling anyone.	Reflect on your 40 days and choose one habit to keep.	



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Humanities Students of the week

The following pupils 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: **Leo Watson 9O1**
- Mr Johnson: **Emily Milestone 9C1**
- Miss Laverick: **Preston Wilson 8H2**

Map Masters:

- Miss Scott: **Isaac Young 9C2**
- Mr Harper: **Macie Dixon 7C2**
- Mrs Martin: **Kenan Al Sammak 10C1**

Maths Legends

As always, we are incredibly proud to unveil this week's newest additions to the Maths Wall of Legends. Each pupil has demonstrated our core values and set the world ablaze with their maths work and attitude. Well done!

- Mr Fowler: **Max Griffiths 11O2**
- Miss Houghton: **Riley Ashcroft 11C1**
- Mr Day: **Zac Garraghan 8C2**
- Mr Taylor: **Tommy Warland 8O1**
- Dr Treanor: **Ava-Lily Bird 9O3**

Free Maths Circles for students in years 7-10 - Register Now!

Registered charity "We Solve Problems" is inviting pupils to join the in-person weekly Maths Circle at Durham University <https://wesolveproblems.org.uk/maths-circles-at-durham-university/>. These start in April and you can apply now.

Maths Circles are free maths-loving training sessions that promote the art of problem-solving and structured thinking.

All students in school years 7-10 who love puzzle-solving will enjoy the sessions regardless of their proficiency in school curriculum. The programme is also around the rest of the UK - from KCL and UCL in London, to the Universities of Oxford, Warwick, Glasgow and Cardiff among others.

The activity does not only help pupils develop their skills, but also lets them visit and study at the university premises. Maths Circles are run by mathematics students of the University of Bath and professional mathematicians.

To register for participation in Maths Circles, please fill in the following form: <https://forms.gle/cnpgjauoxgrxWcNR8>.

To find out more information about Maths Circles, please visit: <https://wesolveproblems.org.uk/maths-circles/>. Also, please feel free to ask us any questions at p-and-s@wesolveproblems.org.uk

English Stars of the Week

Congratulations to this week's English Stars - these pupils have excelled in English lessons this week and have demonstrated our core values in lessons. Well done!

- Mrs Wild: **Olly Matthewson 11O2**
- Mrs Hamilton: **Jokubus Kvasys 7C2**
- Mr Johnson: **Kyla Furlong 7C1**
- Miss Barkley: **James Hogan 7O1**
- Mr Logan: **Ava Thomas 11O3**
- Miss Milburn: **Imogene Bygroves 8C1**
- Mrs Cook: **Tianna Taylor 9O3**

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World Book Day

This week we celebrated World Book Day. Our staff got dressed up as characters from literary classics (ahem!) and pupils enjoyed participating in a variety of activities. Our 'The Masked Reader' prize winners are 10C2, 11RWI, 9O2, 7H2, 8H2 and 13CDO. They received their prizes this afternoon in their reading sessions. We will include further prize updates and more photographs in next week's newsletter.



Attendance: Spin the Wheel!

This week, every pupils that had attended school on the previous Friday - and was in attendance today - was entered into our Wheel of Fortune. 15 lucky winners were chosen to collect prizes at break time. The prizes may change - today's reward was a packet of sweets. This small token adds a little excitement and recognition for our pupils who regularly participate and commit. Well done to all who won (and to all who continue to have fabulous attendance).



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Iceland

Our Year 11 and Year 12 Geography students enjoyed an unforgettable adventure in Iceland this half term. Over three action-packed days, they explored Reykjavik, volcanic craters, geysers, lava fields, black-sand beaches, a glacier, and several spectacular waterfalls.

Among the standout moments were a visit to the stunning Sky Lagoon - a geothermal pool built into the cliffs overlooking the Atlantic Ocean - and a stop at a traditional Icelandic ice-cream farm. Students represented St Bede's and Byron brilliantly throughout, demonstrating excellent behaviour, enthusiasm, and genuine curiosity at every stage of the trip. Well done to everyone involved!





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Kooth - Webinar Dates for Parents, Carers & Family Members who are Supporting Children Through Exams This year

Join Kooth for a free 45 minute webinar and you will hear from one of their community engagement team, alongside a clinician from Kooth.

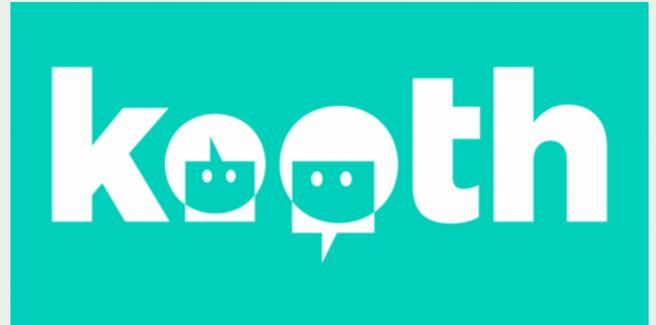
They will:

- offer expert tips on when to take action
- share practical ideas to help children manage their anxiety
- Discuss how Kooth can provide extra support

The content has been written predominantly for families with children sitting GCSEs and A Levels.

To book a place, click the links below:

- [9 March 6.00pm](#)
- [16 March 7.00pm](#)



WKKC English Championships

On 22 February **Archie Howey 10C3** attended the WKKC (World Karate & Kickboxing Commission) Championships and came home with three silver medals! 14-15 -55kg, 14-15 -55kg in light continuous and 14-15 open weight where he fought his way to an all ironfist final against his teammate. Archie now has the chance to compete for England in Spain in October. Also in the picture is **Mason Howey 7C2** who attended the same competition. Mason just fell short of the medals but did everybody proud. Well done to both of you!



Year 11 Attendance: Prom Ticket Incentive

Thank you to all students who have been showing up, showing effort, and staying committed this term! As part of our attendance incentive program, we held our **first raffle for a FREE prom ticket**, and we're excited to share the results. Congratulations to our winner: **Grace Nguyen!**



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

Westway
Peterlee
SR8 1DE
0191 587 6220

Celebrating Music

Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 6pm

Refreshments served from 5.15pm



St Bede's School Hall

**Tickets will be on sale on parent pay
and available on the door**

Adults £3 and under 18s are free with an accompanying adult.



Key Dates

- **Mon 9 March:** Week B timetable
- **Mon 9 March:** International Women's Day - Y7/8 timetable change
- **Thu 12 March:** Y11/13 Mock Results Evening
- **Tue 17-Wed 18 March:** GCSE Geography Field Trip - South Shields
- **Wed 18 March:** Easter Concert 6.00pm
- **Thu 19 March:** Y9 Parents' Evening 4.00pm
- **Mon 23 March:** Tom A. Smith performance - all years
- **Wed 25 March:** Y11 Group Photograph
- **Wed 25 March:** Y9 Options Evening 5.00pm *NEW DATE*
- **Thu 2 April:** Break up for Easter - last day of term

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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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](#)

