



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: 27 March 2026

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 21:1-11) Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey, greeted by crowds shouting "Hosanna!" His choice of a humble animal shows us that true leadership isn't about power or show, it's about peace, gentleness, and service.

The crowds welcomed Jesus with excitement, but many didn't fully understand His message. It's a reminder that enthusiasm is easy; commitment takes courage.

As a school community, this passage invites us to choose humility, kindness, and consistency in our daily actions. Like the people laying down their cloaks, we can make space for others through small acts of generosity and care.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

We are delighted to announce that **Olivia Blaney 7H1** is this week's recipient of the Headteacher's Award. Olivia has consistently demonstrated our school's core values in everything she does, setting a shining example for others to follow. Well done, Olivia.

Tutor Group of the Week

Congratulations to **8H2** for their effort and behaviour this week, using their gifts and talents to set the world ablaze.

Columba

Student of the Week: **Josh Oakley 10C1**
Highest Credits: **Robert Brown 8C1**
Attendance Hero: **Matthew Antliff 11C2**

Hilda

Student of the Week: **Isabel Wood 8H2**
Highest Credits: **Daniel Wilson 9H2**
Attendance Hero: **Kayla Turner 10H1**

Oswald

Student of the Week: **Leila Davies 9O2** and **Annabel Bland 10O2**
Highest Credits: **Keaton Harrison-Stokoe 7O1**
Attendance Hero: **Ethan Bell 9O1**



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Feast Day of the Annunciation

On Wednesday we celebrated the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. This marks the day when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that she would become the mother of Jesus. This moment is seen as the beginning of God's plan becoming visible in the world.

Mary's response, her brave and trusting "yes" is central to the feast. Even though she didn't fully understand what the future would hold, she chose faith, courage, and openness to God's call.

For us as a school community, the Annunciation is a reminder that ordinary people can do extraordinary things when they act with kindness, courage, and purpose. It encourages us to listen, reflect, and respond to the opportunities we have to make a positive difference.



Stations of the Cross

A big thank you to **Year 7 Oswald** for leading the Stations of the Cross as part of our Lenten journey. Your care, reflection, and leadership helped our whole school pause, think, and walk through the story of Jesus with real understanding. Moments like these remind us how powerful it is when students guide one another in faith and reflection.

A big thank you to those parents who were able to attend.

Celebrating Year 11 Creativity: The Making of Guyicide III

We are delighted to celebrate the remarkable creativity shown by a group of our Year 11 pupils who have spent the last few years designing, refining and producing their very own card game: Guyicide III.

What began as a set of imaginative, hand-drawn ideas has grown into a fully playable, student-designed card game that has become a break-time favourite. The group took their original concepts and used coding skills on Scratch to develop digital versions of their cards before printing, cutting, organising and assembling them into a complete, polished deck.

A huge congratulations to the talented team behind the game: **Jack Sangster, Dillan Harkness, Sam Darlaston, Owen Charlton and Kane Devine.**



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Tom A. Smith Inspires Pupils with Live Performances and Powerful Message

This week, our school was delighted to welcome Sunderland's Tom A. Smith - acclaimed Sunderland singer, songwriter and producer - who performed for all year groups and spoke passionately about his journey in the music industry.

Tom shared stories of how his career has grown from playing local gigs to performing on some of the world's most exciting stages. Pupils were captivated as he described appearing at Glastonbury, the Leeds and Reading Festivals, and, most recently, SXSW in Texas just last week. He also spoke with pride about his upcoming appearance at BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend, taking place soon at Herrington Park.

Over the years, Tom has worked with some of the biggest names in music, including Elton John, Sam Fender, The Courteeners, and The Charlatans. Despite such high-profile collaborations, he remained incredibly grounded as he spoke to pupils about the importance of hard work, determination, and self-belief.

Throughout his performances, our pupils were exceptionally well-behaved and clearly inspired. Tom's advice centred on our school vision of discovering your gifts and talents, nurturing them, and having the courage to "set the world ablaze" with what you can achieve. He talked openly about the setbacks he has faced, the resilience required to overcome them, and the steps he took to plan and shape his career.

We hope our pupils take inspiration from Tom's story and continue to pursue their own ambitions with the same enthusiasm, creativity, and resilience he demonstrated. His visit was a powerful reminder that with talent, passion and perseverance, extraordinary things are possible.





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Musical Theatre

Lily-May Armstrong 11H2 now has her Cabaret Grade 5 in Musical Theatre for Actor's and UWL Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Musical Theatre Grade 5; she has received a Distinction award. Well done Lily-May!

Durham Gala Theatre

A huge well done to our St Bede's dancers who set the world ABLAZE on Monday in the Feet First Dance Festival at the Gala Theatre in Durham.

Poppy A in year 8 danced beautifully to a joyful tribute to Irish tradition - a celebration of culture, individuality, and the timeless thrill of dance.

Our trio, **Evie L, Elise G, and Leah, B** choreographed an amazing piece themselves set to the haunting vulnerability of "Stay" by Rhianna, this contemporary piece explored the raw tension between love and self-preservation.

Our dance set to the heartfelt storytelling of "Matilda" by Harry Styles included **Isabelle F, Isabel W, Isla S, Imogene B, Ruby R, Katy H and Gabriella S**. This contemporary piece was a story about healing, growth and finding home within yourself. A huge thank you to **Holly T** in Year 11 who choreographed this piece giving up her own time to help create this fabulous dance.



Experto de Español

We are very proud to celebrate this week's Expertos de Español. Their consistent effort, positive attitude, and impressive progress in lessons have truly stood out. They continue to embody the high standards of our school. ¡Enhorabuena!

- Señorita Tilston: **Cash Iley 11C2** - Being a talented and hardworking natural linguist who will make a brilliant A Level student.
- Señorita Atkinson: **James Powell 7C2**- An exceptionally hardworking and dedicated student who consistently produces impressive work in every lesson.
- Señorita Atkinson: **Jacob Knowles 8H2**- for his excellent work and dedication in the subject. Shows confidence and love for the language in every lesson.



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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: **Finley Griffiths 9O2**
- Mr Johnson: **Jael Badejo 9C2**
- Ms Laverick: **Elise Doran 7C2**

Map Masters:

- Miss Scott: **Jacob Knowles 8H2**
- Mr Harper: **William Benjamin 8H2**
- Mrs Martin: **Charlie Wilson 10H3**

Lab coat Legends

In Science, we are proudly celebrating the exceptional effort and dedication shown by our students. Their hard work in every lesson is building powerful problem-solving skills, sparking curiosity, and deepening their understanding of the world around them. Our students consistently demonstrate impressive determination as they tackle complex problems, make thoughtful predictions, and carry out practical experiments with care and accuracy. Their enthusiasm and commitment deserve to be recognised and applauded.

- Mrs Hayward: **Louis Surtees 11H2**
- Mr Bowyer: **Emily Scollen 11O3**
- Mr Day: **Robert Brown 8C1**
- Miss Armstrong: **Maria Eleni Platana10H1**
- Mr Gooch: **Alexis Morris 8O2**

Year 11 English Revision Carousel

We would like to inform you that a GCSE Revision Carousel will take place on the morning of Thursday 2nd April. This event has been organised to support students as they prepare for their upcoming English examinations.

During the Revision Carousel, students will rotate through a series of short, focused revision sessions on the set texts and language papers. These sessions are designed to reinforce key knowledge, address common misconceptions, and provide valuable exam guidance and revision strategies. Further details, including timings and room arrangements, will be shared with students in due course. We kindly ask that all students attend promptly and come equipped with their usual writing materials.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to help our students achieve their best.
Yours sincerely, The English Team.

English Stars of the Week

- Mrs Cook: **Harry Petch 9C1**
- Mrs Dolan: **Biamrit Johal 10O1**
- Miss Milburn: **Jack Ridley 9H1**
- Mr Logan: **Lilly Pennick 10O2**
- Mrs Wild: **Yousef Saad 10O1**
- Mrs Hamilton: **Bailey Butterfield 8H1**
- Mr Johnson: **Shannon Robinson 8O2**
- Miss Barkley: **Jack Turner 11O2**

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Updated Safeguarding Page Now Live

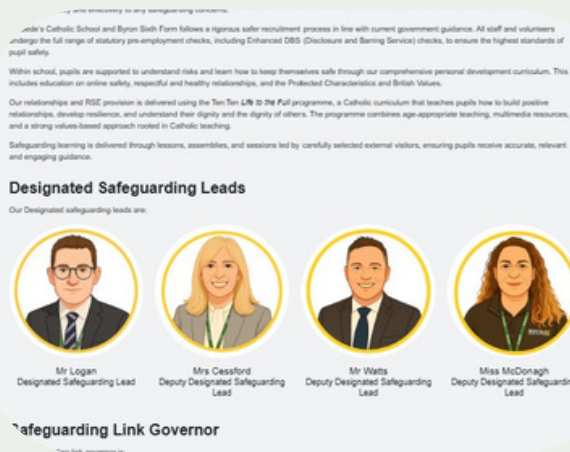
We are pleased to let families know that we have updated our Safeguarding page on the school website with a range of new information, advice and support links for both pupils and parents.

The page now includes guidance on mental health and wellbeing, online safety, and details of organisations that can offer help outside of school hours. These resources are designed to ensure that every member of our community has access to support whenever it is needed.

You can access the updated safeguarding page here:

<https://st-bede-s-catholic-school-and-byron-sixth-form.schudio.com/key-information/safeguarding>

Safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do, and we encourage all families to take a moment to explore the new content.



Digital Safety: 20 Apps Parents & Carers Should Be Aware Of

At St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form, we know that children and young people are spending more time online than ever before. Many are using apps that adults may not recognise or fully understand - and with that comes risks that can be easy to miss.

To help our families stay informed and confident, we're sharing a helpful list that highlights 20 of the most commonly used apps across social media, messaging, gaming, video chat, and live-streaming platforms.

This list explains, in clear and simple terms, why certain apps may pose risks for young people, including:

- Messages, photos or videos that disappear or can be hidden
- Anonymous accounts, making it easier for strangers to make contact
- Grooming risks through games, chats, or friend requests
- Unmoderated groups and live streams where harmful behaviour can spread
- Exposure to adult or sexual content
- Bullying, peer pressure, and unhealthy comparisons
- Apps disguised to hide photos, videos, or messages

We encourage all parents and carers to familiarise themselves with this information. Understanding what children are accessing online is a vital step in supporting their safety and wellbeing.

If you have any concerns, please contact the school's safeguarding team - we're here to help.

20 APPS PARENTS & CARERS NEED TO KNOW

www.SocialWorkersToolbox.com

 <p>Snapchat</p> <p>Messages and photos disappear. Children can be pressured to send images because they believe they will not be saved. Location sharing can show where a child is in real time.</p>	 <p>Roblox</p> <p>Although it looks like a children's game, it includes chat features. Children can be contacted by strangers and slowly groomed through friendly game play.</p>	 <p>Kik Messenger</p> <p>Accounts can be anonymous. It is often used to move conversations away from apps parents may check.</p>	 <p>Fortnite</p> <p>Voice chat allows children to talk to strangers during games. Language and behaviour are often inappropriate.</p>
 <p>TikTok</p> <p>Children can see adult content, receive sexual comments, and be contacted by strangers. Live videos allow real-time interaction, which can quickly become unsafe.</p>	 <p>Telegram</p> <p>Messages and groups are encrypted, making them difficult to monitor. It is used to share sexual images, harmful material, and to keep conversations hidden from adults.</p>	 <p>Hoop</p> <p>The app connects directly to Snapchat and encourages children to add new contacts quickly, including people they have never met.</p>	 <p>Reddit</p> <p>Children can easily access sexual, violent, or extreme material through posts and comments.</p>
 <p>Instagram</p> <p>Messages allow strangers to contact children directly. Many children run secondary accounts that parents do not know about. There is strong pressure around appearance and popularity.</p>	 <p>OmeTV</p> <p>Random video chats with strangers. No effective safeguarding. Sexual content and adult behaviour are common. Children have no control over who appears on screen.</p>	 <p>LiveMe</p> <p>Children can broadcast themselves live to anyone watching. Viewers can comment in real time, including adults.</p>	 <p>BeReal</p> <p>The app prompts children to take photos instantly, which can lead to oversharing without thinking about safety.</p>
 <p>WhatsApp</p> <p>Private chats and group chats are often used for school or friendship groups, but bullying, exclusion, and sharing of images can happen quickly and spread widely.</p>	 <p>Yubo</p> <p>The app is designed to meet new people. Children can live stream and chat with strangers, which can quickly become sexual or exploitative.</p>	 <p>Calculator+</p> <p>These apps look like calculators but are used to hide photos, videos, and messages from parents and carers.</p>	 <p>Twitch</p> <p>Children watch and interact with live streamers through chat, which often includes adults and unmoderated comments.</p>
 <p>Discord</p> <p>Children join private chat servers linked to gaming or interests. These spaces are often unmoderated and can include adults, sexual content, or harmful language.</p>	 <p>Monkey</p> <p>Children are placed into random video chats with people they do not know. They have no control over who appears on screen.</p>	 <p>YouTube</p> <p>Children can be exposed to adult content through suggested videos, comments, and live streams, even when watching innocent clips.</p>	 <p>Bumble</p> <p>This is a dating app. Despite age limits, some under-18s access it to talk to adults looking for relationships.</p>



Key Dates

- **Mon 30 March:** Timetable Week A
- **Mon 30 March:** Easter Mass
- **Mon 30 March:** Achievement Assemblies - all year groups
- **Tue 30 March:** Pokemon Hunt
- **Wed 1 April:** Active lunchtime on school field
- **Thu 2 April:** free toast upon arrival for all pupils
- **Thu 2 April:** English revision carousel - Year 11
- **Thu 2 April:** Break up for Easter - last day of term, 12:30pm finish
- **Mon 20 April:** Return to school

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](#)

