



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: 1 May 2026

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (John 14:1–12) Jesus encourages His followers not to be troubled, reminding them that even in uncertain times they are not alone. He calls Himself "the way, the truth, and the life," offering direction and hope. As a school community, this invites us to face challenges with confidence, knowing we each have the potential to bring light, kindness, and courage into the world around us.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

We are proud to celebrate **Alice Andrejczyk 8O2** for winning this week's Headteacher's Award. She consistently lives out our core values of respect, excellence, determination, faith, responsibility and citizenship, and is a wonderful role model in our community.

As St Catherine of Siena said, "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world ablaze." Well done, Alice!

Tutor Group of the Week

Well done to **7H2**, our Tutor Group of the Week. They have impressed staff with their positive attitude, strong sense of community, and the way they live out our core values each day.

Columba

Student of the Week: **Tianna Dawson 7C2**

Highest Credits: **Elise Parkinson 9C1**

Attendance Hero: **Jia Jun Guan 10C1**

Hilda

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

Highest Credits: **Michael Amusat 8H2**

Attendance Hero: **Dexter Barrett 8H1**

Oswald

Student of the Week: **Ruby Robinson 8O1 & Thomas Lennox 10O2**

Highest Credits: **Olivia Mellenthin 9O1**

Attendance Hero: **Shannon Robinson 8O2**





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Maths Wall of Legends

We are delighted to unveil the newest crop of St. Bede's Maths Legends. We created this weekly honour to recognise pupils who epitomise our core values within our lessons and those who are role models for their classmates. Well done to the newest Legends below...they join over 160 mathematicians who have been named this academic year.

- Miss Houghton: **Sebastian Treanor 9H1**
- Mr Fowler: **Leo Watson 9O1**
- Mr Day: **Nikita Mather 8O1**
- Mr Taylor: **Ruby Franks 11C1**
- Dr Treanor: **Sheena Takhar 11O2**

United Kingdom Maths Trust Junior Maths Challenge comes to St. Bede's!

On Wednesday, three classes in Year 7 and Year 8 took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. This 60-minute, 25 question paper, completed under exam conditions in our Sports Hall saw pupils battle with tough, multiple-choice questions to assess how well these mathematicians could apply and tweak their knowledge to solve problems.

The 90 pupils not only demonstrated exceptional exam etiquette but also showed our core value of determination in abundance.

Pupils compete to win Gold, Silver, Bronze, or Best in Year/School certificates that are internationally recognised symbols of mathematical excellence. We are so proud of you all, what a crop of mathematical prowess!



St. Bede's House Maths Championships returns!

Following its success last year, we are delighted to announce the return of our St. Bede's House Maths Championships. This will take place in two weeks, during lunchtimes and see groups of pupils competing in year group teams for their House to solve 5 problems.

Over the course of the week, each winning team shall attain points for their House, with an overall winner being announced on Friday as House Maths Champions!

Pupils can sign up to take part via their maths teacher and competition shall last during 20 minutes of one lunchtime.

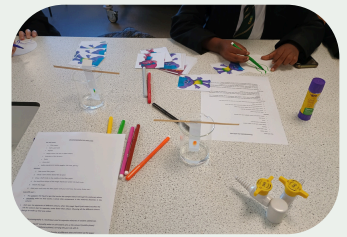
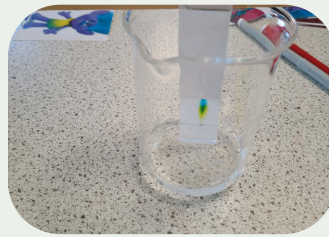
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Year 7 Science Club Update

This week in Science Club, our Year 7 students explored the colourful world of chromatography- a technique that uses water to separate the different pigments within inks. One of the highlights was discovering that a seemingly simple green pen is actually made from both blue and yellow dyes once separated on the chromatography paper. It was a great mix of curiosity, prediction, and hands-on investigation.

Science Club is open to all Year 7 students. If you'd like to get involved, please speak to Mr Day or Mrs Kashyap.

We meet every Thursday from 3:15pm to 4:00pm in lab S03. New members are always welcome.



8Y1 Shine While Exploring How Our Planet Formed

This week in science pupils in 8Y1 have been exploring a high-quality non-fiction text focused on the formation of the Earth. As a class, we carefully read and discussed the article, developing our understanding of both the scientific content and effective writing techniques. This work has also played a key role in improving pupils' literacy skills, particularly in reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and the ability to identify and summarise key ideas. The pupils were challenged to produce their own summaries, and the results have been very impressive.

We are incredibly proud of the effort and progress shown by all students.

English Stars of the Week

We are proud to recognise our latest English Stars of the Week. This weekly celebration highlights pupils who show a love of learning, give their best in English lessons, and quietly model our core values through their attitude and effort.

These pupils set the standard for others and join a growing group of students who have been celebrated for shining in English this year. Well done to all of our new English Stars—keep reading, writing and thinking brilliantly.

- Mrs Dolan: **Paranyaa Jeyanathan 11O2**
- Mrs Cook: **Joshua Dunning 12Ch1**
- Mrs Wild: **Charlie Basley 10O1**
- Miss Milburn: **Heidi Cook 9H1**
- Mr Johnson: **Alesha Robinson 7O1**
- Mr Logan: **Henry Williams 11C3**



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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: **Thomas Price 9H2**
- Mr Johnson: **Harriet Cahill 11O3**
- Ms Laverick: **Brody Roberts 7O1**

Map Masters:

- Miss Scott: **Tia Irving 11O1**
- Mr Harper: **Joseph Iweanya 9H1**
- Mrs Martin: **Olivia Blaney 7H1**

Experto de Español

We are proud to celebrate this week's Expertos de Español. Their consistent effort, positive attitude, and progress in lessons have truly stood out. ¡Enhorabuena!

Señorita García: **Jasmine Lillie 11H2** - Outstanding dedication to revision and a strong work ethic in preparation for the GCSE Spanish-speaking exam.

Señorita Atkinson: **Jasmeen Aujla 11O1** - Outstanding dedication to revision and a strong work ethic in preparation for the GCSE Spanish-speaking exam.

Wishing Our Examination Students the Very Best

As our Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students begin their external examinations, we extend to them our very best wishes. This important period represents the culmination of years of learning, effort and determination, and we are incredibly proud of how our students have approached their studies with maturity and resilience.

At this time, we are reminded of the words of St. Catherine of Siena: "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world ablaze." Each examination paper is not simply a test of knowledge, but an opportunity for our young people to show who they have become - thoughtful, disciplined and ambitious individuals, ready to make their mark on the world.

Our students have been well prepared by committed staff and supported by families and carers every step of the way. We encourage them to enter each exam with confidence, calm and faith in their own ability, knowing that their best effort is all that is ever asked of them.

The whole school community stands firmly behind our examination students. We look forward to celebrating their achievements and to seeing how they go on to "set the world ablaze" in the next stage of their journey. We wish every student courage, clarity and success in the weeks ahead.

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Music Department Visit The Glasshouse

Our KS3 Durham Music Service strings and woodwind pupils enjoyed an inspiring trip to The Glasshouse to hear *Sounding the Deep*, a vivid and engaging orchestral concert celebrating the power and mystery of the sea. Guided by presenter Rosalind and conductor Ellie, students were taken on a multisensory nautical journey featuring Malcolm Arnold's *Padstow Lifeboat*, Mendelssohn's dramatic *Hebrides Overture*, Britten's *Four Sea Interludes* and Anna Clyne's evocative *Night Ferry* alongside Ethel Smyth's *The Boatswain's Mate*. Step by step, we boarded the "Good Ship Harmony" to explore the different instrumental families of the orchestra, the vital role of the conductor as the ship's captain, and how composers are inspired by the oceans and their importance to our planet. It was a memorable and hugely valuable musical experience that brought learning vividly to life.





Key Dates

- **Monday 4 May:** Bank Holiday
- **Tuesday 5 May:** Timetable Week B
- **Friday 22 May:** Break up for Half Term 3.15pm
- **Monday 1 June:** Return to school
- **Monday 8 June:** Year 6 Welcome Evening 5.00pm
- **Wednesday 10 June:** SEND coffee morning
- **Thursday 25 June:** Year 6 Transition Day 1
- **Friday 26 June:** Year 6 Transition Day 2

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](#)

