



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: 15 May 2026

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (John 17:1-11) Jesus' prayer reminds us that we are called to live with purpose, unity, and a sense of belonging.

In this passage, Jesus prays for his disciples, showing how deeply he cares for them. He speaks about completing the work God gave him, which encourages us to use our gifts well and approach each day with intention. He also prays that his followers stay united, reminding us that our school community is strongest when we support one another and choose kindness.

As we move through the term, may we be people who bring out the best in each other and live with the same sense of purpose and care that Jesus shows in his prayer.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

A huge congratulations to **Oliver Crawford 8C1** for becoming our very first Reading Challenge Word Millionaire - an exceptional achievement that reflects his dedication and love of reading. As a result, Oliver is the proud recipient of this week's Headteacher's Award. Well done, Oliver - an inspiration to us all!

Tutor Group of the Week

Well done to all students in 8H2, our tutor group of the week!

Columba

Student of the Week: **Lilly Surtees 9C2**

Highest Credits: **Leah Bird 8C1**

Attendance Hero: **Daniel Csurí 10C1**

Hilda

Student of the Week: **Ollie Atkins 7H2**

Highest Credits: **Emily Martin 9H2**

Attendance Hero: **Kyla Onyenekunum 9H2**

Oswald

Student of the Week: **Bree Wood 9O2**

Highest Credits: **James Hogan 7O1**

Attendance Hero: **Oliver Wilson 8O1**





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Uniform Swap Shop - date TBC

Following the success of last year's Uniform Swap Shop, we are delighted to share that we will be hosting the event once again. If you have any items of school uniform that you would like to donate, please send them into school for the attention of Mrs Balls or Mrs Conway.

Your donations help support families, promote sustainability, and ensure good-quality uniform can be reused within our school community.

Live Simply Award

We recently announced that we have successfully achieved the CAFOD LiveSimply Award - a recognition of our school community's commitment to living simply, living sustainably, and standing in solidarity with those in need.

This award reflects months of dedication, creativity, and teamwork. Here are some of the students who played a key role in the work behind the award. Their enthusiasm and leadership helped bring our LiveSimply projects to life, from environmental initiatives to acts of kindness across our community.



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Ascension Thursday

Thursday marked the Feast of the Ascension, the moment when Jesus returned to the Father after completing his mission on earth. In John 17:1–11, Jesus prays for his disciples, entrusting them with the work of continuing his message of hope, unity, and love. He reminds them that they are called, chosen, and strengthened for a purpose.

This week, our John Paul II Award students have lived out that same spirit of service by leading celebration of the Word across the school. Through their words and example, they have encouraged us to grow in faith, support one another, and use our gifts for the good of our community.

As we celebrate the Ascension, may we follow Jesus' call to step forward with confidence, knowing, just like the first disciples, that we are never alone and that our lives can make a real difference.

Pentecost

Next week we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, when we remember the moment when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, filling them with courage, hope, and a renewed sense of mission. Pentecost reminds us that God's Spirit continues to work through us today, inspiring our words, actions, and the way we support one another.

This week, our Youth SVP group have been putting that spirit into action by creating beautiful flame symbols for the Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers' Celebration of the Word. Their creativity reflects the fire of the Holy Spirit, bringing light, warmth, and inspiration to our school community as we prepare to send our leavers forward with faith and confidence.



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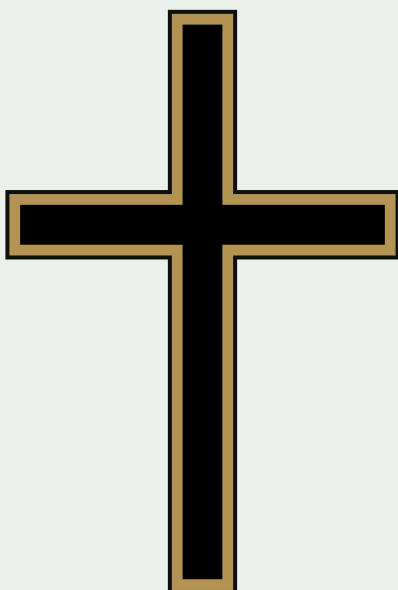
Feast of St. Bede

We will be celebrating the Feast of St. Bede, our patron saint, on Friday 22 May. Although the official feast day falls on 25th May, we will mark the occasion in school a little earlier so the whole community can join in.

To celebrate, our catering team will be serving a special Fish & Chip Shop Day lunch. All students are welcome to take part, including those who normally bring a packed lunch. The cost of a school meal is £2.60, which can be added to your child's ParentPay account if they would like to join the celebration.

As part of our celebrations for the Feast of St. Bede, some of our students will attend Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church on Thursday 21st May. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to take part in our parish community's worship and to reflect on the life and example of St. Bede.

Unfortunately, due to space restrictions, we are only able to take a limited number of students to Mass, however, all students will still take part in meaningful Celebrations of the Word in school throughout the week, reflecting on the life and example of St. Bede.



Feast of St Bede Lunch

Friday 22nd May 2026



Menu

- Fish
- Fischeake
- Cheese pasties
- Pizza
- Quorn Nuggets
- Chips
- Curry sauce/gravy
- A selection of desserts
- Meal deal price £2.75

We will be celebrating the feast of St Bede, our school patron saint on Friday 22nd May 2026.

The catering staff will be serving a special lunch this day and we are having a 'Chip Shop Day'.

If your child usually brings their own lunch but would like to take part, could you please email Mrs Balls so that we can ensure that we cater for the correct number of pupils.

oballs@st-bedes.org

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Maths Wall of Legends

As always, we are very proud and pleased to announce that the following pupils have been named as "Maths Legends" by their teachers this week. With most teachers having over 100 pupils to pick from, this represents a significant achievement, and they truly deserve recognition for this, in school and at home. Well done, mathematicians!

- Miss Houghton: **Georgia Watson 9O2**
- Mrs Keniry: **Matthew Holmes-Winter 8C1**
- Mr Marrs: **April Benson 11TMS**
- Mr Taylor: **Charlie Davison 8H1**
- Mr Teasdale: **Harley Leighton 11MTA**
- Dr Treanor: **Blazej Sadowski 9H2**

Junior Mathematicians excel in United Kingdom Maths Trust Junior Maths Challenge!

On 29th April, 90 Year 7 and Year 8 pupils took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge - an international competition consisting of 25 complex, multiple choice problems to be solved within an hour. We can now share the exceptional news that 31 pupils secured enough points to achieve a Bronze or Silver certificates!

We are truly proud of every single pupil, they all performed exceptionally, especially given it was their very first time sitting an assessment within our formal exam hall. This setting, as well as the difficulty of the paper, makes the feat even more impressive, with every pupil demonstrating our core value of determination, building their resilience and confidence. To mark this achievement, each pupil has earned their very own certificate.

Each of the following pupils performed so well that they have earned a special prize, recognising their mathematical prowess compared with pupils from across the United Kingdom and beyond! This is the first year that we have participated in the Junior Maths Challenge and we are so proud to have performed so well - 2027, we'll be back, bigger and better!





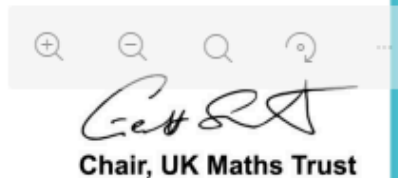
This is to certify that

St Bede's Catholic School

participated in

Junior Mathematical Challenge 2026

Supported by



Best in School & Best in Year 8:

- Ava Crumbie 8C1

Best in Year 7:

- Joshua Welch 7H2

Silver:

- Michael Amusat, Ava Crumbie, Madox Cullen, Matthew Holmes-Winter, Jacob Knowles, Jayden Li, William Pescod, Lilly Smith, Szymon Studzinski, Lucy Thompson, Isabel Wood

Bronze:

- Asa Appleby, James Bland, Lennon Bonnar, Jack Brown, Robert Brown, Imogen Bygroves, Thomas Dale, Isabelle Ford, Jai Qi Guan, Lincoln Homer, Nithishan Kugan, Jacob Moss, Dylan Pittila, Leon Richardson, Annabelle Tanos, Veronica Tervit, Stephen Thompson, Rose Tucker, Chikonzi Warambwa, Joshua Welch

These pupils shall have their names added to the UKMT Roll of Honour within the Maths Department. A huge well done from all the maths team - we're genuinely so proud of you all!



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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- Tianna Taylor 9O3 - Her constant work and effort in the subject are admirable. Always striving for the extensions and giving the 100% in every lesson. Her pronunciation as well as her engagement in the subject is always outstanding.

Señorita Atkinson- Evie Lunn 9H2 - Excellent engagement and attitude for learning in Spanish. This week she has gone above and beyond, particularly in her practice and application of grammar structures. Keep up the fantastic work!

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: **Eddy Joicey 10H3**
- Mr Johnson: **Eva Lilea 9C1**
- Ms Laverick: **Jacob Moss 7C1**

Map Masters:

- Miss Scott: **Ava Chester 9C1**
- Mr Harper: **Ava Hawley 7C1**
- Mrs Martin: **Charlie Wilson 10H3**

Year 11 Netball

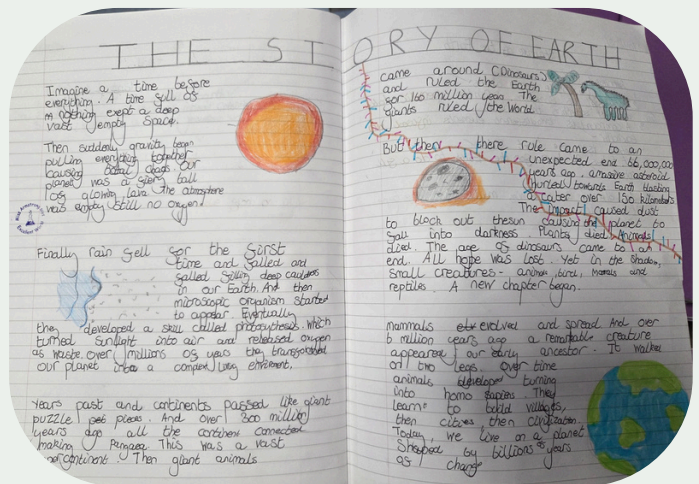
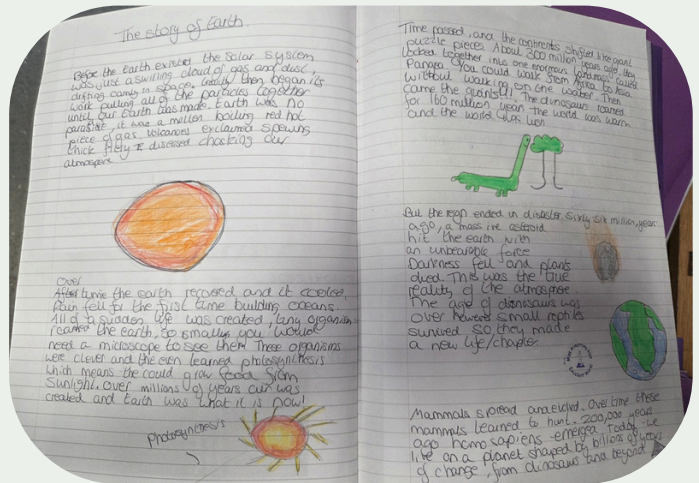
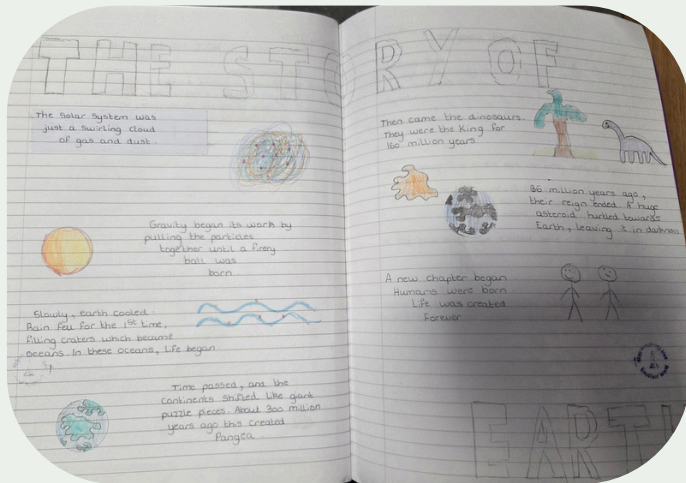
Our Year 11 Netball team travelled to St. Bede's Lanchester last week for a friendly match before their exams start. The girls came away with the win and managed to catch up with some old faces. A great evening had by all. Well done ladies.



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Excellent Effort in Science Lessons

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.





Key Dates

- **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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Facebook: [StBedesandByron](https://www.facebook.com/StBedesandByron)

Our Parish: [Our Lady of the Rosary in Peterlee and Horden](#)
Our Diocese: [Hexham & Newcastle](#)

