



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: 19 June 2026

Faith

In the Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 9:36-10:8) we are reminded that Jesus came to establish a kingdom – God's kingdom.

The scripture shows Jesus noticing people who are struggling, and choosing compassion. He doesn't just feel sorry for them; He sends His disciples to bring hope, healing, and kindness. It's a reminder that caring isn't passive. It's something we do.

In our school, we get the same invitation. We can look around with compassionate eyes and see who might need a smile, a bit of help, or someone to sit with. Small choices, including others, offering kindness, lifting someone up can make a real difference.

Excellence

House Awards

Hilda Student of the Week: **Isla Staley**

Hilda Highest Credits: **Isabel Wood**

Hilda Attendance Hero: **Theo Bagnall**

Oswald Student of the Week: **Olly Bell and Lydia Laidler**

Oswald Highest Credits: **Ruby Robinson**

Oswald Attendance Hero: **Sophia Place**

Columba Student of the Week: **Jacob Moss**

Columba Highest Credits: **Imogene Bygroves**

Columba Attendance Hero: **Ruth Chucks**



Year 7 Parent and Student Welcome Meeting

Last week, we were pleased to welcome our new Year 7 parents and students for their introductory parent meeting. Families had the opportunity to meet key members of our pastoral team, try on uniform items, and spend time with their new form class. It was a positive and engaging start to their transition into secondary school.

We look forward to seeing our new students again on 25th and 26th June for their transition days, where they will experience lessons, explore the school, and continue building confidence ahead of September.

Reminder: For transition days, students should attend in PE kit (no football tops).



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Scout Adventures – James in Action!

James recently completed an exciting milestone with the Dawdon 2nd Seaham Scout Group as part of his Chief Scout's Gold Award. Alongside his fellow Scouts, he took on a two-day hike and camp, trekking around seven miles fully equipped from Seaham to a campsite near Haswell. Despite blustery weather, James threw himself into every part of the adventure — pitching tents, cooking meals, and keeping team spirits high.

After an overnight stay, the group packed up and made the return journey the following day, with a well-deserved McDonald's stop to refuel.

It was a tough challenge but James showed brilliant resilience, teamwork, and determination throughout. We're incredibly proud of his achievement — well done, James!



Y7 Science Club

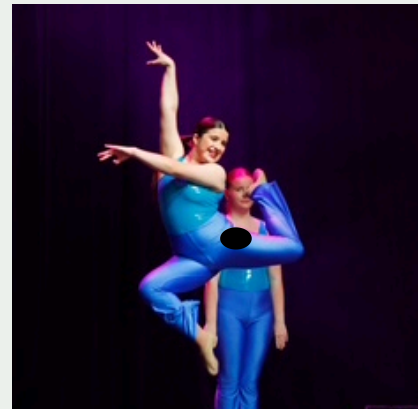
During Y7 science club last week we looked at how to count/sample different species in nature. This included using mini quadrats to find averages of numbers of species.

We discussed how this technique is used by ecologists and biologists to monitor and track species numbers in the wild to support conservation efforts to prevent extinction of species.



A Big Moment at the O2 for Isabelle

Isabelle represented her dance school at the O2 Arena in London last weekend, taking part in a vibrant group performance. It was a fantastic achievement and a wonderful experience for her to dance on such a well-known stage.





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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.

Map Masters:

Josh Johnson - Miss Scott

Elsie Magee - Mr Harper

Emily Powell - Mrs Martin

History Heroes:

Astin Cooper - Miss Jackson

Samuel Ellsworth - Mr Johnson

Olivia Blaney - Ms Laverick

Experto de Español

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

Señorita García- **Emmeline Collings 12CH2**- She consistently shows great effort in Spanish, driven by a genuine love of the subject and of languages, and always pushes herself to improve.

Señorita Atkinson- **Sonny Iley 8C1**- Shows excellent participation, a strong work ethic and a really positive attitude to learning in Spanish. He always puts in great effort, completion extension tasks, speaks confidently in Spanish, and tries his best in every lesson.

Lab coat Legends

In science we want to award and celebrate the excellent effort put in by our different students. Working hard in science lessons builds problem-solving skills, encourages curiosity, and helps students understand the world around them. It shows determination by often involving analysing complex problems, predicting outcomes and conducting Experiments.

Mrs Lord- **Olivia Mellenthin**

Mr Griffiths- **Medhuja Kayan**

Mr Balls- **Eva Lilea and Emily Milestone**

Miss Armstrong- **Kianna Charlton**

Mr Day- **William Jackson**

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Fiction Addiction

Year 9 and year 10 readers are taking part in an exam board initiative which involves our students receiving free books in return for submitting reviews linked to the books' GCSE suitability. 'This is Lit' is organised by Pearson exam board and is a valuable opportunity for students to help shape the future of GCSE English qualifications, champion a contemporary literary canon and be inspired to explore texts and create a love of reading. So far, we have received:

Free books: An exciting selection of 21st century books that reflect the diversity and vibrancy of modern literature.

Discussion guides and resources to support engaging conversations.

We have taken part in an author event linked to our first novel 'Glasgow Boys'.



Ella W said: The book 'Glasgow Boys' is an all-round enduring piece of literature, which highlights every part of society, whilst showing conflicting viewpoints that both challenge and engage a reader. This personally made me fall in love with the book, with it being a contrast to my personal reading preference, further showing the analogy that you should not judge a book by it's cover!

Emily M said: The main thing I liked about this book is how the author illustrated how different children can act after being in the foster system, using two different main characters to show how different people react and move on after experiencing similar things and events. I think that this makes the book suitable for GCSE as it would help show students different issues that others face in their day-to-day life and help them understand how to deal with these scenarios.

Our next book is 'The Crossing' by Manjeet Mann.

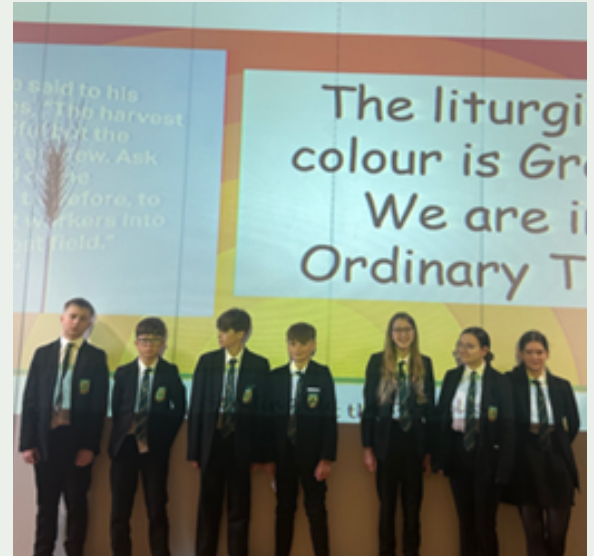
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Celebration of The World

This week, Mr Teasdale's class led a thoughtful Celebration of the Word focused on the theme of sending out the disciples. Their message reminded us that Jesus doesn't just call people to follow him, he sends them out with purpose, courage, and trust.

In the Gospel, Jesus sends his disciples to share God's love, even when the journey feels uncertain. As a Catholic community, we are invited to do the same:

Mr Teasdale's class reminded us that being a disciple today doesn't require travelling far. It begins in our classrooms, our friendships, and our daily actions. May we continue to step forward with faith, ready to be the hands and heart of Christ in our school and beyond.



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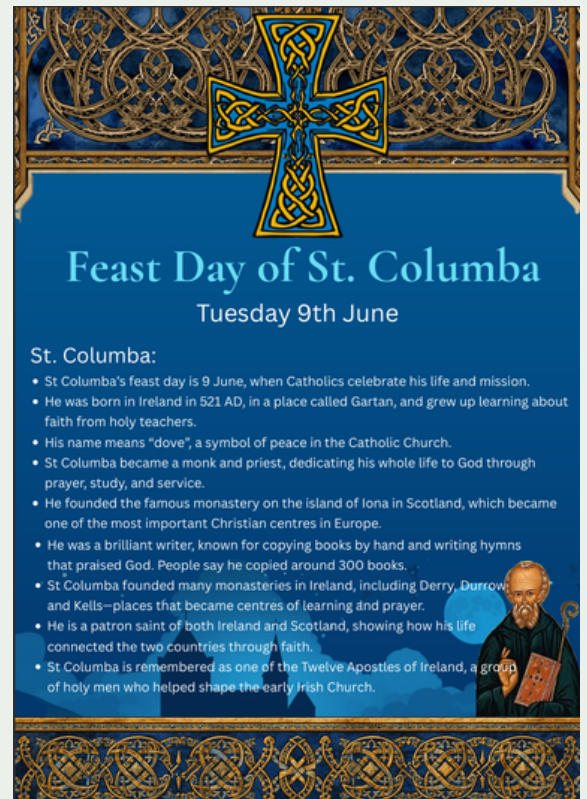
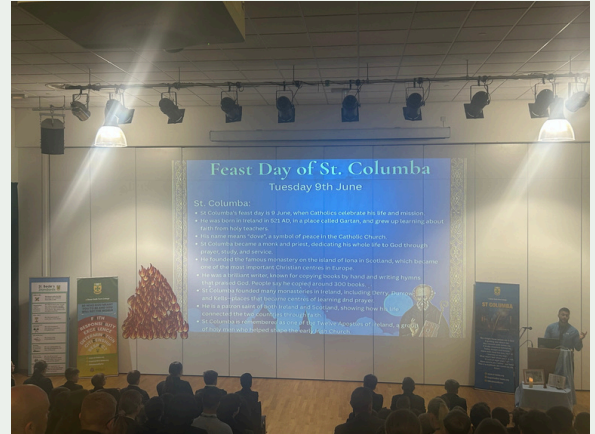
Feast Day of St Columba

On Tuesday, our school marked the Feast Day of St Columba (one of our house saints) with a warm and spirited celebration that brought students and staff together in a shared moment of faith, identity, and joy. The day began with a Celebration of the Word, inviting everyone to pause, reflect, and draw inspiration from the life of St Columba, a man known for courage, wisdom, and a deep commitment to spreading hope.

Staff members wore blue, a colour closely associated with St Columba and his connection to the sea, symbolising peace, depth, and the journey of faith. This simple act created a visible sense of unity across the school, reminding us that we walk together in the spirit of our house saint.

Students also enjoyed a special treat, adding an element of delight to the day. While small, gestures like this help build positive memories and strengthen the sense of belonging that defines our school community.

The Feast Day of St Columba is more than a date on the calendar, it is a reminder of the values we strive to live out: courage, compassion, and a willingness to journey beyond what is familiar. Celebrations like this help keep those values alive in the hearts of our students and staff.

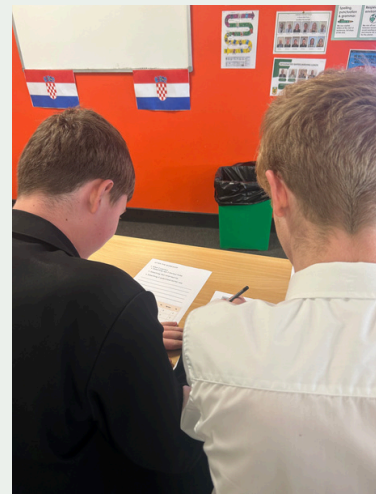
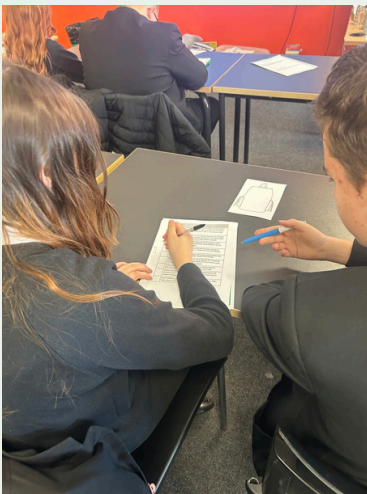


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Refugee Week

This week is Refugee Week, and our school is taking time to explore the experiences of refugees and the importance of kindness, inclusion, and understanding.

As part of Refugee Week, our Year 9 students participated in a range of workshops designed to deepen their awareness of global displacement and highlight the importance of compassion within our community.



Uniform Donations

We're collecting any unwanted school uniform items to help us run a Uniform Swap Shop. Donating what you no longer need is a great way to support other families and care for the environment. Donations can be brought into school and taken to Mrs Balls or Mrs Conway.



County Champion Success for Isla

Isla delivered an outstanding performance at the Durham County Schools Athletics Championships on Saturday. Competing in the 800m, dominating the race from start to finish and crossing the line to be crowned Durham County Champion.

Her impressive victory means she now progresses to the Inter Counties Championships at Hexham next week, where she will be aiming for another strong performance. A successful result would further strengthen her chances of being selected to represent Durham at the prestigious English Schools Athletics Championships in July.

Congratulations, Isla, on a fantastic achievement, and we wish you the very best of luck at Hexham!





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Genius HOLIDAY CLUBS
FREE FOR CHILDREN ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS

SUMMER

2026

ARTS & CRAFT SPORTS SCIENCE EXPERIMENT HOT MEALS TRIPS

WHEN: 27TH JUL TO 20TH AUG - MON TO THU

TIME: 10AM TO 2PM

WHERE: Horden Spiritualist Church, Yoden Way
Horden, Peterlee, SR8 4RD **AGES: 5-16**

VISIT: WWW.GENIUSTUITION.CO.UK/peterlee



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Key Dates

- **Thursday 25 June: Year 6 Transition Day 1**
- **Friday 26 June: Year 6 Transition Day 2**
- **Thursday 9th July: Year 11 Prom**
- **Friday 17 July: Break up for summer holiday**

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](#)

