



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: Friday 25th September 2026

Faith

In this week's Gospel, (Matthew 21:28-32) Jesus tells the story of two sons. One son said he would not help but later changed his mind and did the right thing. The other said he would help but never followed through. Through this parable, Jesus reminds us that our actions are just as important as our words.

In school, we are given many opportunities to put our values into practice. Whether it is showing kindness to a classmate, working hard in lessons, helping others, or treating everyone with respect, our daily actions reflect who we are. We may not always get things right the first time, but like the first son, we can choose to make a positive change.

This week, let us think about how we can turn our good intentions into actions and make a positive difference in our school community.

House Awards

Hilda Student of the Week: **Scarlett F (7H1)**
Hilda Highest Credits: **Abraham L (9H1)**
Hilda Attendance Hero: **Layton A (10H1)**

Oswald Student of the Week: **Joe B (9O2)**
Oswald Highest Credits: **Georgia W (9O2)**
Oswald Attendance Hero: **Rowan A (7O2)**

Columba Student of the Week: **Leah B (9C1)**
Columba Highest Credits: **Jasper A (7C1)**
Columba Attendance Hero: **Hollie H (11C)**





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Year 6 Open Evening a Huge Success!

We were delighted to welcome so many Year 6 pupils and their families to our Open Evening. The event was a tremendous success, with visitors enjoying the opportunity to explore our school, meet staff and students, and experience the wide range of opportunities available at St Bede's.

Throughout the evening, guests took part in exciting activities, toured our facilities, and learned more about school life. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and engagement from prospective students, who embraced every opportunity to get involved.

A huge thank you goes to our staff and student ambassadors, whose hard work, professionalism, and enthusiasm helped make the evening such a memorable occasion. We are also grateful to all the families who attended and contributed to the fantastic atmosphere.

We look forward to welcoming our future Year 7 students to the St Bede's community and thank everyone who helped make the evening such a great success.





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Year 11 Celebration of the Word

A big thank to two of our year 11 classes who led Celebration of the Word today based on the theme of Our Lady of Walsingham.



Year 7/12 Welcome Mass

Our Year 7/12 Welcome Mass is on Tuesday 13th October at 11.15am. Parents are warmly invited to attend, and places can be booked by emailing oballs@st-bedes.org.

MacMillan Coffee Morning - Friday 2nd October 2026

We warmly invite our Year 7 parents to join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 2nd October, between 10am and 12pm.

Every cup shared helps to support Macmillan's vital work. We look forward to welcoming you.

Please book your space by emailing Mrs Balls on oballs@st-bedes.org

Donations

We will be hosting our MacMillan Coffee Morning on **Friday 2nd October 2026**.

We'd love your help to make our Macmillan Coffee Morning extra special. If you enjoy baking (or picking up something tasty from the shop!), we'd be delighted to receive any cake or treat donations.

Every little contribution helps us support Macmillan. Thank you so much for your kindness.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Attendance Matters: Everyday Counts

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's success. The statutory guidance from the Department for Education states that parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly, and schools must work in partnership with families to support good attendance.

Being in school every day helps children make progress in their learning, build friendships, develop confidence and establish positive routines. Even occasional absences can make it harder for children to keep up with their learning and feel fully connected to school life.

Top Tips for Excellent Attendance

- ✓ Maintain regular bedtime and morning routines.
- ✓ Prepare school uniform, equipment and bags the night before.
- ✓ Aim to arrive at school on time every day.
- ✓ Book medical appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- ✓ Avoid taking holidays during term time.
- ✓ Contact the school as early as possible if your child is absent.
- ✓ Speak to us if your child is anxious or finding attendance difficult. We are here to help.



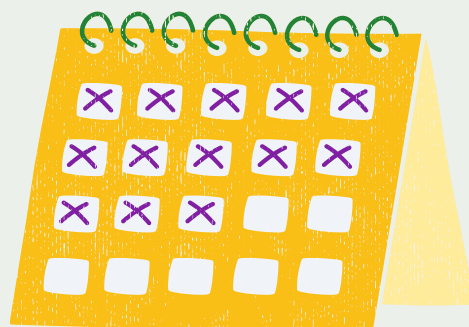
Remember

A child with 95% attendance misses around 10 school days a year, while 90% attendance means around 19 days missed, equivalent to almost four weeks of learning across the school year.

By working together, we can ensure every child benefits from the opportunities, friendships and learning experiences that school provides.

Every Day Matters. Every Lesson Counts. Every Child Matters.

LEARNING EVERYDAY



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Keeping Our Students Safe: Medicines in School

We have recently seen an increase in students bringing medication into school, including over-the-counter medicines such as paracetamol.

While many families may view these medicines as low risk, they can be extremely dangerous if taken incorrectly and it is not something that is permitted in an education setting.



For the safety of all students:

Students should not carry medication in their bags or pockets unless for immediate use, i.e. epi-pen.

Any medication that needs to be taken during the school day must be handed to the school office in its original packaging and accompanied by the appropriate parental consent form. These forms can be sort from the school office.

Students must never share medication with others.

Parents are asked to regularly check school bags and blazer pockets for medicines that may have been forgotten.

We appreciate your support in helping us keep all students safe.



ABLAZE in Action: Servant Leadership

Members of our newly appointed School Council have already been putting leadership into action by carrying out a litter pick around the school site in preparation for our Year 6 Open Evening.

By giving their time, taking pride in our school environment and serving our community, pupils demonstrated that leadership is not simply about having a title, but about setting an example and being willing to serve others.



A fantastic example of servant leadership and our ABLAZE values in action. Well done to everyone involved!



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Musical Success for Isabel

Congratulations to Isabel W in Year 8 on passing her Grade 2 Flute Exam with Merit. This is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful reward for all of her hard work, dedication, and practice. We are incredibly proud of Isabel's success and wish her the very best as she continues her musical journey. Well done, Isabel!



Youth SVP Group

We are delighted to introduce our new SVP group, including our new Year 7 members. We warmly welcome them as they begin their journey of faith, service and leadership within our school community. We look forward to seeing them grow in confidence, develop new friendships, and make a positive difference through their commitment to helping others.

We wish them every success in the year ahead.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Free Youth Dance Sessions

Looking for a fun and active way to spend your Monday evenings? Why not join the **Free Youth Dance Sessions at East Durham Partnership, Horden!**

When: Mondays, 4:30pm - 6:00pm

Where: East Durham Partnership, Horden, SR8 4TQ

Coached by: Northeast Dance

Organised by: Coalfields Regeneration Trust (Game On) and Creative Youth Opportunities

Cost: Completely **FREE!**

These exciting sessions are open to young people aged 8 to 17 years and welcome participants of all abilities and experience levels. Come along, make new friends, learn new skills, and enjoy the benefits of dance in a fun and supportive environment.



Happy National Teaching Assistant Day!

Today I want to say a huge thank you to our incredible team of Teaching Assistants. Their dedication, patience, kindness, and unwavering support make a real difference to the young people we work with every day. They go above and beyond to help pupils learn, grow in confidence, and achieve their potential. Their hard work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is seen in every success our students achieve.

Thank you for everything you do. We are truly fortunate to have such a talented, caring, and committed team.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

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- Charlie H

Mr Johnson- Poppy H

Ms Laverick- Cody D



Map Masters:

Miss Scott- Jack B

Mr Harper- Rose S

Mrs Martin- Alexander T

Maths Wall of Legends

We are very proud to unveil this week's Maths Legends who have appeared on the Wall of Legends this week and will be named on our permanent Roll of Honour from next September.

They meet the St. Bede's Standard in their books, demonstrate respect and determination in lessons and are role models for other pupils.

Well done - keep it up!

Miss Houghton- Lilly P 11SHO

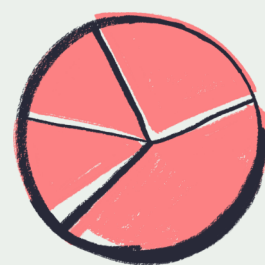
Mrs Keniry- Sam W 9H2

Mr Teasdale- Joshua B 7C1

Mr Marrs- Rowan A 7O2

Mr Taylor- Alice B 11JFO

Dr Treanor- Kris O 8H2



Spanish Stars

We are delighted to announce this week's Expertos de Español! These students have stood out through their hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment to learning. ¡Enhorabuena!

Señorita García- Leo W (10O1)- Outstanding dedication to Spanish learning, answering over 700 questions through independent study on Educake and currently leading our Educake league table. Keep up the amazing work!

Señorita Atkinson- Charlie T (11LHA)- Exceptional commitment to Spanish this week, showing determination and confidence in mastering the preterite tense. Keep up the excellent work!

FRIDAY TUCK SHOP IS BACK!

TREAT YOURSELF AND SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE!

SWEET BAGS ONLY 50p!

FIRST TUCK SHOP

Friday 25th September

Then running on the
LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Available in the Heart Space: ☒ First Break ☒ Second Break

SUPPORT OUR NURTURE GARDEN PROJECT

Every bag of sweets sold helps us raise funds for our exciting **Nurture Garden Project**.

Your support will help create a beautiful outdoor space where students can:

Learn Grow Relax Thrive

BUY A TREAT

SUPPORT THE GARDEN

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Don't Forget Your 50p!



REMEMBER: Small Change = Big Impact!

Friday Tuck Shop

50p per sweet bag

First & Second Break



GARDEN

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Career of the Week: Electrical Engineer

Could you help power the future?

Electrical Engineers design, develop and maintain electrical systems and equipment. They play a vital role in industries such as renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, electric vehicles and construction.

Why consider this career?

The North East has growing opportunities in engineering, energy and manufacturing, with increasing demand for skills that support green technologies and the transition to net zero.

Key skills:

- Problem solving
- Maths and numeracy
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Attention to detail
- Creativity



Useful subjects:

Maths • Physics • Design & Technology • Computing

Pathways:

GCSEs → A Levels, T Levels, College or Apprenticeships → University or Higher/Degree
Apprenticeship → Electrical Engineer

Careers Challenge:

Can you find local employers who hire Electrical Engineers or research engineering apprenticeship opportunities in the North East?

To learn more, log in to Unifrog and search Electrical Engineer.





Key Dates

- Thursday 1st October- National Poetry Day
- Friday 2nd October- Macmillan Coffee Morning 10am-12pm
- Wednesday 7th October- SEND Coffee Morning 9-11am
- Thursday 8th October- Byron Open Evening 5.30-7.30pm
- Friday 23rd October- Break up for half term, 3.15pm finish
- Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October- Iceland Trip
- Monday 2nd November- Return to school on a Week A Timetable
- Monday 16th November- Year 10 Parents Evening (More information to follow)
- Monday 7th December- Year 11 Parents Evening (More information to follow)
- Thursday 10th December- Christmas Concert 6pm
- Friday 18th December- Break up for Christmas Holidays, 12.30pm finish

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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Westway, Peterlee, Co. Durham, SR8 1DE
Email: enquiries@st-bedes.org
Phone: 0191 5876220
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

