



# 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 2nd October 2026

### Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 10:1-12), Jesus sends His disciples out to share God's peace with others. He reminds them to trust in God and to bring hope wherever they go.

As a school community, we are called to do the same through our words, actions, and kindness. A simple act of friendship or encouragement can help bring Christ's peace to those around us.

May we have the courage to be disciples of Jesus, sharing His love in all that we do.

### House Awards

Hilda Student of the Week: **Jacob H (8H2)**  
Hilda Highest Credits: **Niamh B (7H1)**  
Hilda Attendance Hero: **Ola R-C (7H1)**

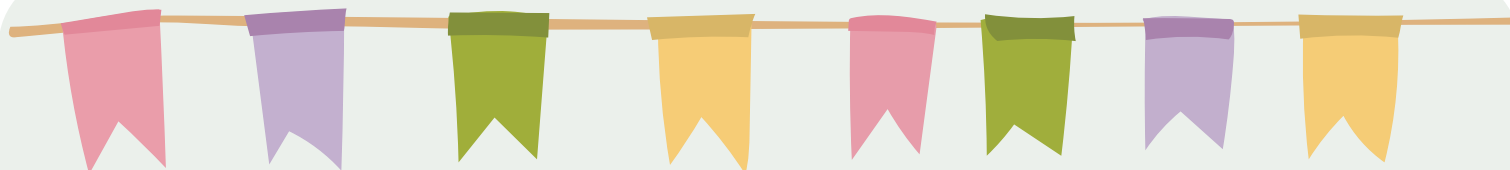
Oswald Student of the Week: **Jordan I (7O1) and Esther A (10O2)**  
Oswald Highest Credits: **Parker C (7O1)**  
Oswald Attendance Hero: **Elidad A (9O2)**

Columba Student of the Week: **Savannah M (7C1)**  
Columba Highest Credits: **Dante D (7C1)**  
Columba Attendance Hero: **Theo W (9C2)**





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT



ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL & BYRON 6TH FORM COLLEGE,  
PETERLEE, SR8 1DE



## OPEN EVENING

**SIXTH FORM** OPEN EVENING  
**THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER 2026**  
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM



[enquiries@st-bedes.org](mailto:enquiries@st-bedes.org)



0191 587 6220



[st-bedes.org](http://st-bedes.org)



Proud to be part of  
Bishop Chadwick  
Catholic Education Trust





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Why Every School Day Matters: Term-Time Holidays and Attendance

At St Bede's, we understand how important family time is and that holidays create lasting memories. However, taking children out of school during term time can have a significant impact on their education, wellbeing and future success.

#### Can Holidays Be Authorised During Term Time?

National attendance guidance is clear that holidays during term time should not normally be authorised. Headteachers may only grant leave of absence in exceptional circumstances and each request is considered on an individual basis. Generally, family holidays, cheaper travel costs or accommodation availability are not considered exceptional circumstances.



#### What Happens if My Child Is Taken Out of School for a Holiday?

If a holiday is taken during term time without authorisation:

- The absence will be recorded as unauthorised.
- The school's attendance team may contact you to discuss the absence.
- The school will refer the matter to Durham County Council for consideration of a Fixed Penalty Notice.
- The Local Authority may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice where a child has accrued 5 days (10 sessions) of unauthorised absence within a 10-school-week period, including unauthorised holidays.

Under current guidance, the penalties are:

- **First Fixed Penalty Notice:** £160 per parent, per child, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- **Second Fixed Penalty Notice** (within three years): £160 per parent, per child.
- **Third offence within three years:** A further Penalty Notice cannot be issued and the case may be considered for legal action through the courts.

Please note that fines are issued per parent and per child. For example, where two parents take two children on an unauthorised holiday, separate notices may be issued for each child. In addition to any financial penalty, children often find it difficult to catch up on missed learning when they return to school. Missing even a short period of education can result in gaps in knowledge, reduced confidence and lower academic progress.

#### Planning Family Holidays

We strongly encourage families to book holidays during school holiday periods wherever possible. Before making any travel arrangements, please check the school's published term dates to avoid disappointment.

#### Working Together

We know that parents and carers want the very best for their children. By ensuring that children attend school every day and arrive on time, we can work together to give them the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Remember: every lesson counts and every day matters. Thank you for supporting your child's education through excellent attendance.

#### Attendance Matters

A child who attends school for only 90% of the school year misses the equivalent of approximately four weeks of learning. Over several years, this can have a significant impact on educational outcomes.

Every day in school is an opportunity to learn, achieve and thrive.

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### BCCET Musical Spectacular at Newcastle's O2 City Hall

'What an incredible day for all of our students involved in the musical production of No More Sleeping at the O2 City Hall, Newcastle.

The amount of effort, commitment, respect and enthusiasm shown by the students throughout the day, as well as during all of the rehearsals leading up to the performance, was truly outstanding. From learning lines, songs and choreography to developing confidence and working together as a team, every student played an important part in bringing the production to life.

Musicals provide students with so much more than the opportunity to perform on stage. They help develop confidence, communication, creativity, teamwork, resilience and self-discipline. Performing in front of an audience can be a hugely rewarding experience, allowing students to challenge themselves, celebrate their talents and create memories that they will treasure for years to come. It is wonderful to see students supporting one another and discovering what they can achieve when they work together.

A massive congratulations to every student who took part in No More Sleeping. Your hard work, dedication and determination throughout the rehearsals and on the day were evident for everyone to see.

The performance on the night was truly outstanding. The students gave everything they had on stage; their energy, enthusiasm and talent were clear to see. The production was extremely well received by the audience, who thoroughly enjoyed the performance and showed their appreciation with fantastic support and applause.

We are incredibly proud of every student involved. A huge well done to you all for making No More Sleeping such a memorable and successful production!



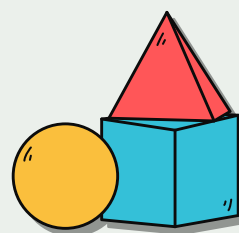
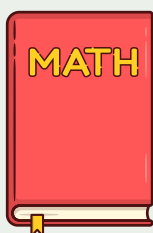
## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Maths Wall of Legends

Each week, every teaching member of the Maths Department selects one pupil who has been exceptional in lessons, demonstrating our St. Bede's core values and going over and above in lessons.

A particularly special week for members of St. Columba House - well done!

Mr Fowler - **Eve B 10C1**  
Miss Houghton - **Sarah E 9C2**  
Mrs Keniry - **Marcus S 9C1**  
Miss Scott - **Jasper A 7C1**  
Mr Marrs - **Zac G 9C2**  
Mr Taylor - **Eve O'C 9O1**  
Dr Treanor - **Alice C 10H1**



### Musicians of The Week

#### Mr Robinson

**Ola C (Y7)**- for creative and neat 4-bar rhythms notated in rhythm notation.

**Emily M (Y8)**- for her encouragement to other y8 students to join Bede's Voices as well as her creative 8-bar melody composition.

**Olivia S M (Y9)**- for her creative riff compositions composed in staff notation.

#### Performer of the week

**Edy I (Y7)**- for asking to perform his new piano piece to class at the end of the lesson.

#### Mr Teasdale

**Zach L (Y7)**- for his engagement in the lesson and giving 100% in his task.

**Scarlett D (Y8)**- Really great work on the 8-bar melody. Easily understood the task and performed her composition well.

**Zac G (Y9)**- Composed a really good riff and performed it well on the keyboard. Great engagement in the lesson and always gives 100%.

### English Stars

A huge well done to this week's English Stars. They have demonstrated outstanding effort, positive attitudes to learning and excellent progress in English lessons. Keep up the great work!

Miss Barkley- **Lucas S (Y10)**  
Mr Johnson- **Isaac Q (Y8)**  
Miss Hamilton- **Amanda U (Y11)**  
Mrs Dolan- **Ruth C (Y10)**  
Mrs Wild- **Shanelle E (Y10)**  
Miss Milburn- **Leo C W (Y8)**  
Mrs Cook- **Freddie M (Y7)**



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### 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.

Mr Griffiths- **Rhian B (Y7)**  
Mr Gooch- **Lilly P (Y11)**  
Mrs Hayward- **Daniel C (Y11)**  
Mrs Lord- **Jack P (Y9)**  
Mr Boywer- **Jokubas K (Y8)**  
Miss Armstrong- **Parker C (Y7)**



### 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- **Oliver C (Y9)**  
Mr Johnson- **Joe B (Y10)**  
Ms Laverick- **Lavanna P (Y9)**

#### Map Masters:

Miss Scott- **Ella W (Y11)**  
Mr Harper- **Daniel Hugill (Y8)**  
Mrs Martin- **Katie Garrick (Y10)**



### Spanish Stars

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

Señorita García- **Ava H (8C1)**- Demonstrates an excellent attitude to learning at all times and consistently produces high-quality work both in lessons and at home. Always strives to do her best and takes great pride in her work.

Señorita Atkinson- **Katie M (9C2)**- Outstanding engagement in Spanish lessons this week, showing confidence, resilience, and a consistently positive attitude towards learning.



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Career of the Week: Diagnostic Radiographer

Have you ever wondered how doctors can see inside the body to diagnose injuries and illnesses? A **Diagnostic Radiographer** plays a vital role in healthcare by using advanced imaging technology, such as X-rays, CT scanners and MRI scanners, to help medical teams identify and treat a wide range of conditions.

This exciting career combines **science, healthcare and technology**, making it an excellent option for students who enjoy scientific subjects and problem-solving but may not wish to become a doctor or nurse.

Diagnostic Radiographers work closely with patients and healthcare professionals, requiring excellent communication skills, attention to detail, empathy and the ability to remain calm under pressure. Teamwork and technical knowledge are also essential, as accurate imaging can make a significant difference to a patient's diagnosis and treatment.

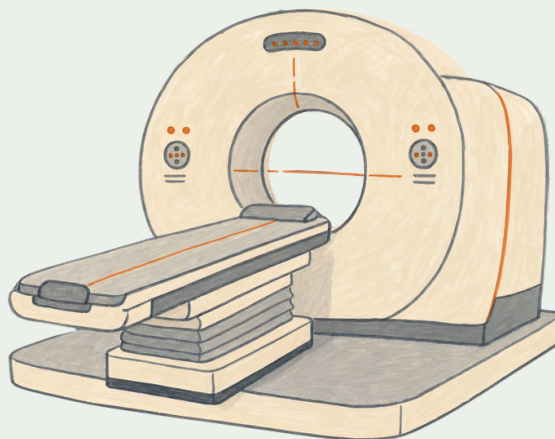
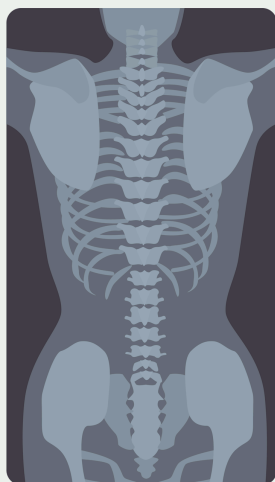
The healthcare sector continues to offer excellent career opportunities, particularly in the North East, where demand for skilled professionals remains strong. As healthcare services continue to grow, careers such as diagnostic radiography will play an increasingly important role in supporting patient care.

Students interested in this career would benefit from studying **Biology, Physics, Maths and English**. The typical pathway includes GCSEs, followed by A Levels or another suitable Level 3 qualification, before progressing to a **Radiography degree** or a relevant **degree apprenticeship**.

One important fact to remember is that healthcare careers extend far beyond doctors and nurses. There are many specialist scientific, technical and allied health professions working behind the scenes, all contributing to the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients.

### Careers Challenge

This week's challenge is to investigate:  
Three different careers that use medical imaging.  
Where a Diagnostic Radiographer could work in the North East.  
The qualifications needed to enter the profession.  
Students can find out more by searching "**Diagnostic Radiographer**" on **Unifrog**.



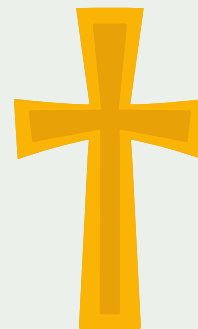
## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Reminder Year 7/12 Welcome Mass

A reminder that our Year 7 and Year 12 Welcome Mass will take place on Tuesday at 11.15am. Parents are warmly invited to attend and should arrive by 11.00am.

Please note that parents must book a place in advance by emailing **oballs@st-bedes.org**

We look forward to welcoming you as we celebrate together as a school community.



### Harvest Appeal

We are continuing to support the East Durham Food Bank this year through donations, helping them prepare for Christmas and support families in need during the festive season.

Any donations can be brought into school from **Monday 5th October until Friday 16th October**.



### Laudato Si Workshops

Our Year 7 students took part in workshops this week focusing on reducing their carbon footprint and caring for our common home.

Inspired by the message of Laudato Si', students explored practical ways to protect the environment and live more sustainably.



### Uniform and Appearance Reminder

As part of our school uniform expectations, students are reminded that make-up is not permitted in school. The only exception is a very light application of concealer, where appropriate.

We have also noticed an increasing number of students attending school with false eyelash extensions. These are not permitted and must be removed before attending school.

We appreciate the support of parents and carers in helping us maintain our high standards and ensuring that all students present themselves appropriately for the school environment. Thank you for your continued cooperation.



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Year 8 and 9 Billy Elliot trip.

All pupils who have returned forms have been allocated a place, dependent on continued good attendance and behaviour.

Payment of £35 should be made on Arbor Pay. You can find this link on the Arbor homepage. It would be appreciated if payment could be made as soon as possible. The final deadline for payment is Wednesday October 21st. Further details will follow closer to the day of the visit.

If you would still like your child to attend please ask Ms. Laverick for a form or collect from the office.



### Former Pupil Inspires Students with University Journey

We were delighted to welcome former pupil Sophie Jubb back to St Bede's this week to speak with students in Years 10 to 13 about her educational journey and experiences of applying to university.

During a series of sessions, Sophie shared valuable insights into post-16 study, higher education applications, student life and the opportunities that university can provide. She spoke honestly about the challenges and successes she has encountered, offering practical advice and encouragement to students as they begin to consider their own future pathways.

The sessions provided an excellent opportunity for pupils to ask questions and gain first-hand knowledge from a former St Bede's student who has successfully navigated the transition from school to higher education. Sophie's enthusiasm, openness and willingness to support younger students were greatly appreciated by all who attended.

We would like to thank Sophie for taking the time to return to school and inspire the next generation of St Bede's students. Her visit highlighted the importance of aspiration and ambition, while helping pupils make informed decisions about their future education and career choices.



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Making a Difference: Jack's Inspiring Message

This week, Jack D in Year 7 delivered a series of inspiring assemblies, helping to raise awareness and understanding of what it is like to live with a stoma.

Among those watching proudly was his brother, Thomas, whose reaction perfectly captured the impact of Jack's message.

Reflecting on the presentation, Thomas said:

"I got a tear in my eye when I saw the first photo on his presentation. He made me so proud."

Hearing those heartfelt words from his brother made the experience even more special for Jack.

Through his courage, confidence and determination, Jack is helping others to understand that having a stoma does not prevent someone from living a full and active life. His commitment to raising awareness and supporting others is truly inspiring.

Keep being you, Jack. We are incredibly proud of you and all that you are achieving at St Bede's.



### English Schools Swimming Association North East Regional Competition

A group of students from Years 9 to 12 represented the school at the English Schools Swimming Association North East Regional Competition this week.

The girls competed in both the 200m Freestyle Relay and 200m Medley Relay, demonstrating outstanding resilience, determination and teamwork throughout the event.

All participants were excellent ambassadors for the school, showcasing our core values both in and out of the pool. It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved, and a great day was had by all.





## Key Dates

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October- Year 7 and Year 12 Welcome Mass
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October- SEND Coffee Morning 9-11am
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October- Byron Open Evening 5.30-7.30pm
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October- Break up for half term, 3.15pm finish
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October- Iceland Trip
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November- Return to school on a Week A Timetable
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November- Year 10 Parents Evening (More information to follow)
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December- Year 11 Parents Evening (More information to follow)
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Concert 6pm
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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

**Address:** St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form  
Westway, Peterlee, Co. Durham, SR8 1DE  
**Email:** [enquiries@st-bedes.org](mailto:enquiries@st-bedes.org)  
**Phone:** 0191 5876220  
**Website:** [www.st-bedes.org](http://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

