



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 9th October 2026

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 22:1-10) in the Parable of the Wedding Banquet, Jesus teaches that God's invitation is open to everyone. The guests who were first invited chose not to come, so the king welcomed others instead.

This reminds us to be grateful for God's love and to respond with open hearts. It also challenges us to include others and make everyone feel welcome in our school community. Just as there was room for everyone at the banquet, there is a place for everyone in God's family.

House Awards

Hilda Student of the Week: **Jack D (7H1)**

Hilda Highest Credits: **Jacob K (9H2) and Michael A (9H2)**

Hilda Attendance Hero: **Alice C (10H1)**

Oswald Student of the Week: **Rose S (7O2) and Joe B (10O2)**

Oswald Highest Credits: **Parker C (7O1)**

Oswald Attendance Hero: **Alfie B (7O2)**

Columba Student of the Week: **Theo O-G (7C1)**

Columba Highest Credits: **Ava H (8C1)**

Columba Attendance Hero: **James P (8C2)**



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Every Minute Matters: The Importance of Being Punctual

At our school, we are committed to ensuring that every student has the best possible opportunity to succeed. One of the simplest but most important ways to support your child's learning is to ensure they arrive at school **on time every day**.

Being punctual is about much more than simply arriving before registration closes. Students who arrive late can miss important information, morning activities, instructions for the day and valuable learning time. This can make it more difficult for them to settle into lessons and keep up with their peers.

The Link Between Punctuality and Attendance

Repeated lateness can have a significant impact on overall attendance. Just a few minutes late each day can quickly add up:

- 5 minutes late each day = over 3 days of learning lost across the school year
- 10 minutes late each day = around 6 days of learning lost across the school year
- 15 minutes late each day = almost 10 days of learning lost across the school year

These lost minutes can have a real impact on academic progress, confidence and wellbeing.

Why Arriving on Time Matters

Students who arrive on time are more likely to:

- Feel settled and ready to learn
- Start the day positively with their peers
- Develop good habits for later life and employment
- Achieve higher levels of attendance
- Make stronger academic progress

How Parents and Carers Can Help

You can support your child by:

- ✓ Establishing a consistent bedtime routine
- ✓ Preparing school bags, uniform and equipment the night before
- ✓ Allowing plenty of time for breakfast and travel
- ✓ Leaving home a few minutes earlier than necessary
- ✓ Encouraging your child to take responsibility for being ready on time

Working Together

We understand that there may occasionally be unavoidable circumstances that result in a student arriving late. However, we ask all families to make punctuality a priority wherever possible and please let us know if this is going to be the case.

By working together to ensure students arrive at school on time every day, we can maximise learning opportunities, improve attendance and help every child achieve their full potential.

Every lesson counts, every minute matters, and every day is an opportunity to learn.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

No-nuts Policy Reminder

To help protect students with severe nut allergies, we operate a no-nuts policy and ask that no nuts or products containing nuts are brought onto the school site. Whilst we cannot guarantee that the environment is completely nut-free, we rely on the support of all parents and carers in helping us minimise the risk and keep our students safe.

Some of our students have severe nut allergies, and even very small amounts of nut products can cause a serious allergic reaction. For these children, accidental contact with nuts can be life-threatening and may require immediate medical treatment.

To help keep everyone safe, please check the ingredients of any food items sent into school, including packed lunches, snacks, treats and baked goods. This includes products that contain nuts, as well as those that may contain traces of nuts.

Please do not send in:

- Peanuts or other nuts
- Peanut butter or nut-based spreads
- Chocolate bars or snacks containing nuts
- Cakes, biscuits or baked goods containing nuts
- Foods that list nuts as an ingredient



We also kindly ask that food brought into school for celebrations, rewards or special events does not contain nuts.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us provide a safe and inclusive environment for all members of our school community. If you have any questions about suitable food items or allergy management in school, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for helping us keep all of our students safe.

Uniform: Nail Varnish and False Nails Reminder

We would like to remind all students and parents that nail varnish and false nails are not permitted in school. Recently, we have noticed an increase in the number of students attending school wearing nail varnish, acrylic nails, gel nails, and other false nail enhancements.

As outlined in our school uniform and appearance expectations, students should attend school ready to learn and dressed appropriately. We ask for your support in ensuring that nail varnish is removed and that false nails are not worn to school.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining our high standards and helping to ensure a positive learning environment for all students.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Sporting Success for James!

We are delighted to share the fantastic news that James has been selected for the Durham Under 13s County Squad.

This achievement follows his successful participation in the Under 12s Super 4s teams earlier this year. From an initial group of 60 players, 32 were invited to trial, with just 16 ultimately earning a place in the county squad. We are incredibly proud that James was among those selected.

Congratulations, James, on this outstanding achievement. We wish you every success with the Durham squad!



Ariadne Takes a Special Role in Bishop's Visit

On Saturday 3 October, Ariadne had the honour of taking part in a very special Mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Shotton Colliery.

Ariadne confidently read two Scripture passages from the Bible and also led the congregation in the Responsorial Psalm during the service. The Mass provided an opportunity for parishioners to reflect on the teachings of the Gospel, as well as the life and good works of St Francis of Assisi, marking the 800th anniversary of his death.

We are incredibly proud of Ariadne for representing herself and her community so wonderfully on such an important occasion. Well done, Ariadne!



Neve Wins Silver at the WAKO Youth World Championships

Congratulations to Neve, who represented Team GB for the third year running at the WAKO Youth World Championships in Jesolo, Italy.

Neve delivered an outstanding performance, winning a silver medal in Junior Female Points Fighting. After winning three fights on the opening day, she was also named GB's Competitor of the Day.

Kickboxing GB praised her achievement, saying: "A brilliant performance from Neve and thoroughly deserved recognition after an impressive day representing Great Britain."

A fantastic achievement on the world stage—we are incredibly proud of you, Neve!





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Maths Department secures Ambassador & National Hub status

We are delighted to share that the Mathematics Department at St. Bede's & Byron has just been awarded "Ambassador School" status by Ark Curriculum. This means the department will become a regional and national hub to share practice with other teachers and support other schools with their curriculum design and implementation.

We are especially proud to have been recognised with this status just one year into our journey in teaching maths mastery in Key Stage 3 through Ark. We hope our approach will allow every pupil to know and understand maths to support them for the rest of their lives, including through excellent examination outcomes.

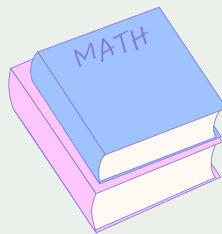


Maths Wall of Legends continues to be built!

5 weeks into the academic year and we're thrilled that 28 Maths Legends have been appointed already! The pupils below personified excellence, respect, and determination over the past week and beyond.

A special shoutout to Lydia and Robby who helped to run the department's Year 6 Open Evening - they were truly exceptional, showing kindness and warmth to every visitor.

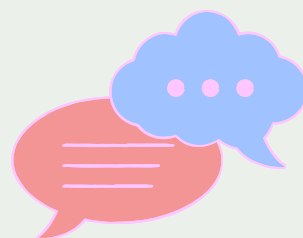
Mr Fowler- **Lucy B (10C1)**
Miss Houghton- **Riley E (8H1)**
Mrs Keniry- **Robby B (9C1)**
Mr Teasdale- **Rose S (7O2)**
Mr Marrs- **Anna Y (10C2)**
Mr Taylor- **Lydia T (11GMO)**
Dr Treanor- **Leo G (11JFO)**



English Stars

A huge congratulations to our English Stars of the Week! These students have impressed their teachers with their excellent effort, enthusiasm, and commitment to English lessons. Whether through outstanding classwork, fantastic homework, thoughtful contributions, or a positive attitude to learning, they have truly shone this week.

Miss Milburn- **Shay H (11CDO)**
Mrs Wild- **Summer P-T (11CDO)**
Mrs Dolan- **Dexter B (9H1)**
Mrs Hamilton- **Hope R (7O1)**
Mr Johnson- **Charlie D (9H1)**
Miss Barkley- **Abraham L (9H1)**
Mrs Cook- **Ollie B (11LHA)**





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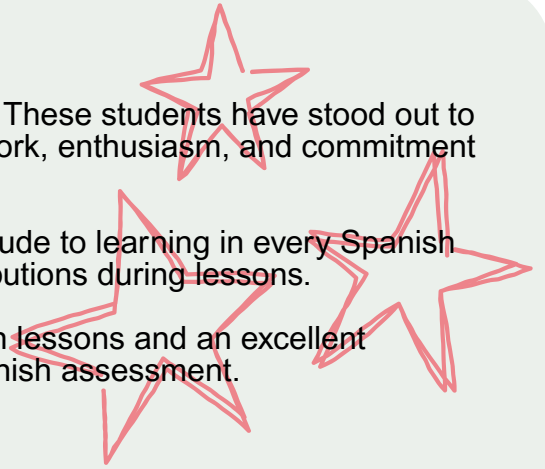
Spanish Stars



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

Señorita García- Zach L (7O1)- Demonstrates an excellent attitude to learning in every Spanish lesson. Always strives to do his best and makes excellent contributions during lessons.

Señorita Atkinson- Oscar N (8C1)- Outstanding engagement in lessons and an excellent extended piece of writing about his favourite celebrity in his Spanish assessment.



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 S (10O1)**
Mr Johnson- **Joe B (10O2)**
Ms Laverick- **Daniel H (8C2)**



Map Masters:

Miss Scott- **Leah B (9C1)**
Mr Harper- **Jorja B (7H1)**
Mrs Martin- **Harry S (8C2)**

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Learning, Creating and Cooking

It has been another busy and exciting week in the kitchen! Our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students have been developing their culinary skills by learning how to make a roux sauce, which they then used to create delicious macaroni cheese.

Cookery Club students have been getting creative making their own pizzas, while also experimenting with decorative tuilles to enhance their presentation skills.

Meanwhile, Year 9 students have been investigating the role of gluten in baking, carrying out practical experiments to discover how gluten-free flour can affect the texture and quality of different products.

Overall, it has been an enjoyable, productive, and informative week, with students demonstrating great enthusiasm and developing a wide range of cooking skills.



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Happy Retirement, Mary!

This week, we say a fond farewell to Mary, our wonderful Assistant Cook, as she begins her well-earned retirement.

Mary has been a valued member of our school community, helping to provide nutritious meals and a warm welcome to generations of students. Her hard work, kindness and dedication have been greatly appreciated by both staff and pupils over the years.

On behalf of everyone at school, we would like to thank Mary for her service and commitment. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement filled with new adventures, relaxation and time spent with family and friends.

Good luck, Mary, and thank you for everything you have done for our school!



Harvest Collection - East Durham Food Bank

A reminder that we are currently collecting donations for the East Durham Food Bank. All donations are gratefully received and will help support local families in need.

While any non-perishable food items are welcome, donations of tinned foods would be particularly appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity and support. Every donation, no matter how small, can make a difference.





St. Bede's
Domino Adiuuante

Christmas MARKET

Stall Holders Wanted!

Parents • Carers • Family Members • Friends
We have a limited number of tables available for our Christmas Market.

Hire a stall for £10
to sell your products or promote your business.

Tuesday 1st December 4pm – 6pm

Limited tables available – first come, first served!

If interested, please contact enquiries@st-bedes.org

Enjoy a range of festive activities...

- Face Painting
- Meet Santa
- Carols around the Tree
- Tombola
- Refreshments & more!

Raising funds for the development of our school nurture garden



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

How to talk about your mental health

Talking can help your mental health. Here are 5 helpful questions to ask yourself before you open up.

1. WHO CAN I TALK TO?

Who do you trust and feel the most comfortable with? This might be a family member, friend or colleague. Or you may want to talk to someone you don't know, for example, through a support line.



2. WHEN AND WHERE SHOULD WE TALK?

Make sure you're not rushing, and that you're in a place where you won't be interrupted. It might feel more comfortable sharing while doing an activity, like walking.



Our top tips to listen better

How to support someone's mental health through listening well.

1. FIND A GOOD TIME AND SPACE

If you're worried about someone, choose a time to talk when you won't be rushed, and a space where you won't be interrupted or distracted.



2. LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND

Focus on listening to understand, not to respond. This can make a big difference to making someone feel heard.

3. HOW DO I BEGIN?

Starting the conversation can be daunting. You could try practising your opening sentence if you're nervous. You could also try writing down your thoughts and feelings before you talk.



4. HOW MUCH DO I WANT TO SHARE?

You're in control of your story, so think about the level of detail you feel comfortable sharing. You can keep it brief or go deeper — whatever feels right for you.



5. WHAT IF THEY REACT POORLY?

They may react as you hope, but they may not, and this can be hard. Try to give them time to process, and more information if they need it. And don't forget to be kind to yourself and practise self-care.



Everyone deserves good mental health.
For more tips and information visit mentalhealth.org.uk/wmhd

3. ACTIVELY LISTEN

Show them that you're listening by facing them, making eye contact, and not interrupting. If you ask questions, keep them open and aimed at clarifying.



4. ASK, DON'T TELL

Don't rush to offer a solution. Instead, try to ask what you can do to help. They might want practical support, like help contacting their GP. Or they may simply want a listening ear.

5. CHECK IN

Keep checking in so that they know they can come to you again. If you're worried that they need more support, you can encourage them to talk to their GP or contact a mental health service: mentalhealth.org.uk/get-help





Key Dates

- 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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Our Parish: Our Lady of the Rosary in Peterlee and Horden
Our Diocese: Hexham & Newcastle

