



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 23rd October 2026

Faith

In this week's Gospel (Matthew 22:34-30), Jesus reminds us that the most important commandment is to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. These two simple instructions are at the heart of our faith.

As members of our school community, we are called to show this love through kindness, respect and compassion each day. By caring for others and putting love into action, we become living examples of Christ's message.

May we look for opportunities this week to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us.

House Awards

Hilda Student of the Week: **James C (8H1)**

Hilda Highest Credits: **Olivia B (8H1)**

Hilda Attendance Hero: **Olivia L (11JFO)**

Oswald Student of the Week: **Veronica T (9O1) and Grace S (10O3)**

Oswald Highest Credits: **Alexander S (8O1)**

Oswald Attendance Hero: **Niamh M (7O1),**

Columba Student of the Week: **Ellie S (10C2)**

Columba Highest Credits: **Ava H (8C1), Keira G (7C1), Kian B (8C1),
Robby B (9C1) and Emily M (10C1)**

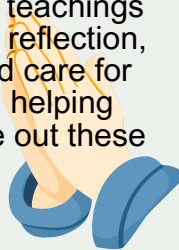
Columba Attendance Hero: **Oliver D (9C1)**



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

St John Paul II Celebrations of the World

Members of our Laudato Si' Team recently led a Celebration of the Word focusing on the life and teachings of St John Paul II. Through prayer, scripture and reflection, pupils explored his message of faith, service and care for others. We thank the team for their leadership in helping our school community reflect on how we can live out these values each day.



Lourdes Assembly

We were delighted to welcome Evie from YMT into school to speak with our Sixth Form students about the opportunity to volunteer on the Lourdes Pilgrimage.

Evie shared her experiences of serving others, the impact of the pilgrimage, and the many rewards of volunteering.

The session inspired students to consider how they can put their faith into action through service and support for others.



Confirmation Preparation

A reminder that the Confirmation preparation programme will begin at Our Lady of the Rosary on Sunday 1st November, from 10:30am to 12:00pm.

We encourage all young people wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to attend. This is an important step in faith, offering an opportunity to grow closer to God and deepen understanding of the Catholic faith.

Please keep all candidates in your prayers as they begin this special journey. If you require any further information, please call Fr Neylan on 0191 5862526.





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Year 13 Geography Fieldwork Week

Year 13 Geography students have completed an excellent week of fieldwork, collecting data for their Non-Examination Assessment (NEA), which contributes 20% towards their final A Level grade.

On Monday, students visited a range of beaches along the Seaham coastline to investigate the impact of coastal management, geology and wave type on beach characteristics.

On Tuesday, they travelled to Newcastle, where they collected data in various wards across the city, examining the range of services available and patterns of urban development.

Wednesday involved fieldwork in Durham, where students carried out soil testing in different locations to investigate the factors influencing infiltration rates. The week concluded with a visit to the popular seaside resort of Whitby, where students assessed the impact of tourism on people's sense of place and evaluated the services available within the area.

Throughout the week, students demonstrated excellent focus, enthusiasm and professionalism. They represented both the school and sixth form exceptionally well and gathered a wealth of high-quality data that will support their studies and NEA investigations.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to continuing our geographical adventures with Year 11, 12 and 13 students during next week's trip to Italy.





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Save the Date: Year 11 Prom

We are delighted to announce that the Year 11 Prom will take place on **Friday 25 June**, from **7:00pm to 10:00pm**, at **Hallgarth Manor** (currently known as 61).

This special evening will be an opportunity for students to celebrate the end of their GCSEs and create lasting memories with friends as they mark the end of their time in Year 11.

Further information regarding tickets and arrangements will be shared in due course. We look forward to celebrating with our Year 11 students.



Medication in School

To help keep all students safe, **all prescribed and non-prescribed medication must be signed into school by a parent or carer.** Students must not carry medication in school unless it is emergency medication, such as an inhaler or EpiPen that the school are aware about.

Parents and carers can provide consent for their child to receive paracetamol in school by updating their preferences on **Arbor**. Please ensure this information is completed and kept up to date.

If your child has any medical condition, allergy, or other healthcare need, please contact the school so that we can work with you to create an appropriate **Individual Healthcare Plan** where required.

Medical Appointments During School Time

If your child needs to attend a medical appointment during the school day, please provide medical evidence of the appointment. This will enable the absence to be recorded as authorised.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and healthy school environment.

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Year 10 Parents' Evening will take place on **Monday 16 November**, from **3:45pm to 6:00pm**, on the school site.

Appointments with your child's teachers can be booked via the **Arbor app**. The booking system will go live on **Friday 23 October**.

If you are unable to attend, please contact the school office at **enquiries@st-bedes.org**. We will arrange for feedback from your child's teachers to be shared with you by email or telephone.



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Helping Children Stay Healthy This Winter- Why Attendance Matters

Every day in school counts. Missing lessons can lead to gaps in learning, reduced confidence and difficulties catching up with work. By working together to prevent the spread of illness and making informed decisions about attendance, we can help ensure that students benefit from every possible learning opportunity throughout the school year.

Further Information following last weeks newsletter...

- **NHS: Is My Child Too Ill for School?**
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>
- **DfE: Reducing the Spread of Illness this Winter**
<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2026/09/reducing-the-spread-of-illness-this-winter-seven-steps-to-healthier-schools-and-higher-school-attendance/>
- **Secondary School Vaccination Programme 2026-2027**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adolescent-vaccination-programme-in-secondary-schools/adolescent-vaccination-programme-briefing-for-secondary-schools>

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our school community healthy, safe and ready to learn this winter.

Rowing Success

Our rowers were absolutely outstanding in competition, performing brilliantly. They represented the school with pride, demonstrated exemplary behaviour throughout, and showed tremendous determination in what is a highly challenging competition. Every student involved should be incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements.

Special congratulations to James C for competing in both the Year 8 and Year 9 events, John B for winning the Year 11 Boys' competition, Ellis C for winning the Year 11 Girls' competition, and Marni S for winning the Year 8 Girls' competition. A fantastic achievement all round!



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St Bede's Fri-YAY- Launching After Half Term

We're excited to introduce St Bede's Fri-YAY, a new initiative designed to boost attendance and create a positive end-of-week experience for our students. Each Friday, staff and students will take part in a range of fun, engaging activities — from games and challenges to creative sessions and community-building events.

Our aim is to make Fridays a day students genuinely look forward to, helping them stay motivated and connected right through to the end of the week. We hope this will support stronger attendance, improve wellbeing, and build a sense of togetherness across the school.

We look forward to seeing our students enjoy Fri-YAY and finish each week on a high.



ST BEDE'S FRI-YAY!

Friday 6th November
Sixth Form DJ sessions
at break and lunchtimes

QUIZ
Friday 13th November
Afternoon Quiz & sign
up for Lip sync battle

Friday 20th November
Film for winning tutor of quiz &
sign up for Mastermind

Friday 27th November
Lip sync battle - staff &
students

Friday 4th December
Mastermind - staff v students

Friday 11th December
Treasure Hunt
(Christmas theme)

Friday 18th December
Raffle prizes given out
- 1 ticket for every
Friday each student is
in school

TICKET

Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust



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Donate a Book, Share a Story

8H2 are excited to be running a **Second-Hand Book Stall** at the **St. Bede's Christmas Fayre!**

We're looking for donations of good-quality second-hand books from our school community. We are happy to accept both children's and adult books, so whether it's a much-loved picture book, an exciting novel, a gripping thriller or an interesting non-fiction title, we'd love to give it a new home.

Every donated book will help make our stall a success and support the Christmas Fayre.

Book donations can be given to Ms Laverick.

Thank you for helping us spread the joy of reading this Christmas!



Harvest Donations

A huge thank you to all our pupils, families and staff for the incredible generosity shown in supporting our Harvest Appeal. Thanks to your many donations, we have been able to provide much-needed support to our local community. Your kindness and willingness to help others truly reflects our school values and the spirit of caring for those in need. We are very grateful for your support.



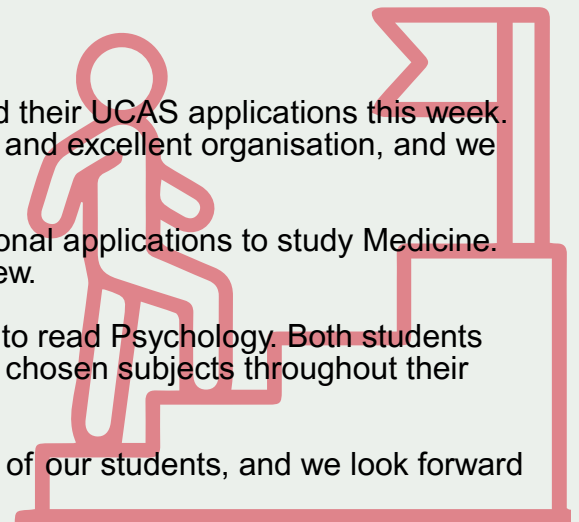
Year 13 Students Take the Next Step

Congratulations to our fantastic Year 13 students who submitted their UCAS applications this week. Being among the first to apply takes confidence, determination, and excellent organisation, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Special congratulations to Medhuja and Moses on their exceptional applications to study Medicine. We wish them every success as they await invitations to interview.

Cerys has applied to study Illustration, while Chloe has applied to read Psychology. Both students have demonstrated a genuine passion and commitment to their chosen subjects throughout their studies.

These applications showcase the diverse ambitions and talents of our students, and we look forward to following their exciting journeys in the months ahead.



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United Kingdom Senior Maths Challenge Celebrations!

Two weeks ago, mathematicians in Years 12 and 13 took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, renowned globally as one of the most competitive mathematical problem-solving assessments. We are delighted to share that Byron Students received one Silver and two Bronze certificates - a brilliant achievement, recognising their ability to apply their knowledge within a tight time frame.

Especially impressive, **Sebastian T (10H1)** also took part (as he won Best in School in last year's Intermediate Maths Challenge) and he was named as Best in School (as well as a Silver certificate holder). This is exceptional, Sebastian was competing against peers up to three years older than him and will be able to take part in three more future challenges...an exciting future awaits! Massive well done to Sebastian - we're so proud that your hard work, quiet confidence and natural ability were recognised.

A big thank you to Dr Treanor who organises the UKMT Challenges within school - next up will be the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge in January for Key Stage 4 pupils.

Best in School, Best in Year 10 & Silver- **Sebastian T 10H1**

Best in Year 12 & Silver- **Lily-May A 12Ch1**

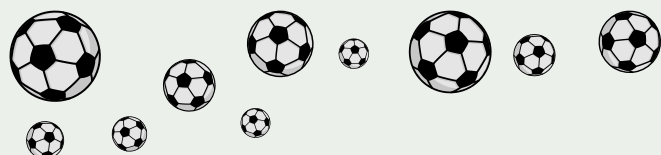
Bronze- **Noah E 12Ch1**

Bronze- **Maksym H 12Ch1**

Best in Year 13- **Medhuja K 13Ch1**



UK Maths Trust



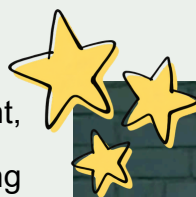
From St Bede's to the World Stage!

A huge congratulations to former St Bede's student, Mallie, who has travelled to China to represent England at the ISF World Cup. What an outstanding achievement and a testament to his hard work, dedication, and talent both on and off the pitch.

This is a fantastic opportunity to compete on the international stage, create lifelong memories, and proudly represent his country among the world's best young athletes.

Everyone at St Bede's is incredibly proud of your success and wishes you every success throughout the tournament. We hope you enjoy every moment of this remarkable experience.

Good luck, Mallie – we'll be cheering you on all the way!

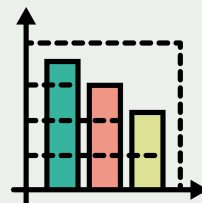
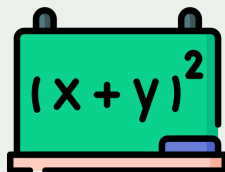


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Maths Wall of Legends

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. Well done to each of the pupils named this week - fantastic effort!

Miss Houghton- **Emily M (10C1)**
 Mrs Keniry- **Veronica T (9O1)**
 Mr Teasdale- **Maya H (7O1)**
 Mr Marrs- **Kian B (8C1)**
 Mr Taylor- **Oliver C (9C1)**
 Dr Treanor- **Archie W (10O3)**



English Stars

This week's English Stars have demonstrated outstanding effort and achievement in their English lessons. They have shown excellent progress in reading, writing and communication skills, and should be very proud of their accomplishments. Well done to all our deserving stars!

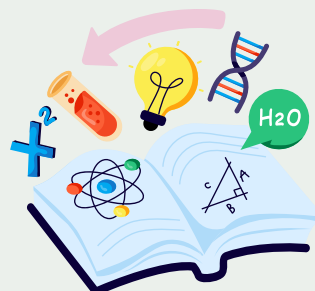
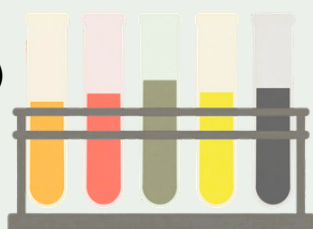
Miss Barkley- **Reece R (11PWY)**
 Mr Johnson- **Emilia E (11PWY)**
 Mrs Hamilton- **Julia J (11CCO)**
 Mrs Dolan- **Ruby L (7O2)**
 Mrs Wild- **Darrell H (9O1)**
 Mrs Milburn- **Sheena T (12CH1)**
 Mr Logan- **William B (9O2)**



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 Hayward- **Charlie S (10O1)**
 Mr Moss- **Sophie A (10O3)**
 Mr Griffiths- **Alfie B (7O2)**
 Miss Armstrong- **Shamah M (11PWY)**
 Mr Day- **Riley E (8H1)**
 Mr Balls- **Jenson H (8H2)**
 Mr Bowyer- **Lydia T (11GMO)**
 Mrs Lord- **Charlotte S (10H1)**
 Mr Gooch- **Rose S (7O2)**



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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.

History Heroes:

Miss Jackson- **Isabella H (11JMI)**
Mr Johnson- **Bella R (12CH1)**
Ms Laverick- **Connor B**

Map Masters:

Miss Scott- **Jess S**
Mr Harper- **Mary R S**
Mrs Martin- **Cain L**



Musicians of the Week

Mr Robinson

Year 7- Ola R-C (7H1) and Ariadne T (7H1)- for great leadership of rhythm performance groups

Year 8- Eldon L (8C2)- fantastic approach to composing and performing his melody

Year 9- Jack B (9C1) and Poppy A (9C1)- for KT2 performance of The Beatles With a little help from my friends.

Mr Teasdale

Year 9- Luke G (9C2)- for performing 'With a little help from my friends' with both hands to a good standard

Year 8- Jokubas K (8C2)- for a well composed 8-Bar melody, which is musical and challenging

Year 7- Hosna N (7H1)- for performing her 8-bar rhythm really well and leading the group performance



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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- Corey L (11CCO) - Amazing engagement in Educake league achieving an impressive total of 546 questions answered and amazing writing skills in writing exam. Keep up the good work!

Señorita Atkinson- Eva L (10C1) - An outstanding piece of extended writing, demonstrating excellent use of skills learnt in Spanish lessons to produce a high-quality exam-style response. Keep up the amazing work!

A Fantastic Start to Spanish for Year 7

Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to Spanish! During their first half term, they have been working incredibly hard to learn the story of The Giant Turnip (*El nabo gigante*) in Spanish. Along the way, students have developed their understanding of Spanish nouns and adjectives and have used their new language creatively to begin writing their own versions of the story. ¡Excelente, Year 7!

Here are the names of students with complete stories:

Ola C (7H1), Connor F (7O2), Nathan B (7O2), Rose S (7O2), Maya H (7O1), Eva W (7C1), Finnley C (7C1), Rhian B (7O1), Niamh M (7O1), Harry L (7H1)



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Career of the Week: Quantity Surveyor

Could you help turn a £100 million project into reality?

Sector: Construction | Property | Business

What Do They Do?

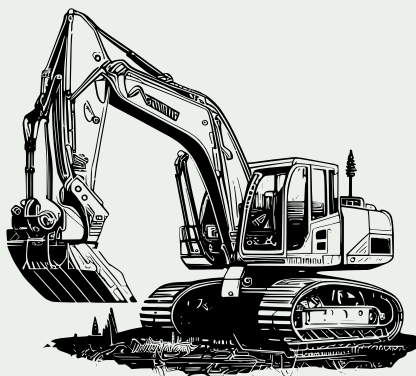
Quantity Surveyors manage the costs and budgets of construction projects. They work with architects, engineers and contractors to ensure projects are delivered successfully and within budget.

Why Consider This Career?

- The North East construction sector supports around 95,000 jobs and 9,750 businesses.
- New technology and sustainable building methods are creating exciting opportunities across the industry.
- Professional careers like Quantity Surveying are expected to remain in high demand in the future.

Key Skills

- Maths & Numeracy
- Communication
- Organisation
- Negotiation
- Problem Solving
- Attention to Detail



How Could I Get There?

GCSEs → A Levels / T Levels / College → Degree Apprenticeship or University → Quantity Surveyor

Useful Subjects: Maths • Business • Geography • Design Technology

Did You Know?

Many Quantity Surveyors qualify through a Degree Apprenticeship, earning while they learn.

Careers Challenge

- What's the difference between a Quantity Surveyor and a Building Surveyor?
- Find a North East company that employs Quantity Surveyors.
- Can you find a surveying apprenticeship vacancy?

Find Out More

Search "Quantity Surveyor" on Unifrog.

Could this be the career for you if you enjoy maths, business and problem-solving?





Key Dates

- Monday 26th October- Friday 30th October- Italy 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

