



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: 21 November 2025

Faith

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King and in this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 23:35-43), the leaders, the soldiers and the people all mock Jesus as God's Chosen One and as King.

In this Gospel, Jesus shows us something amazing: even while on the cross, He forgives and promises paradise to the thief who turns to Him. This reminds us that it's never too late to ask for forgiveness or to make a fresh start. We all make mistakes but we never have to be afraid to ask for God's forgiveness.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Eliis Coils the worthy recipient of the Headteacher's Award for her leadership of our Remembrance Day event. Her dedication and commitment were evident as she coordinated a heartfelt ceremony that honored those who served and sacrificed. Her ability to inspire her peers and bring the community together in remembrance was truly commendable. We are proud to recognize Eliis's contributions and celebrate her as a shining example of our school's values in action.

Tutor Group of the Week

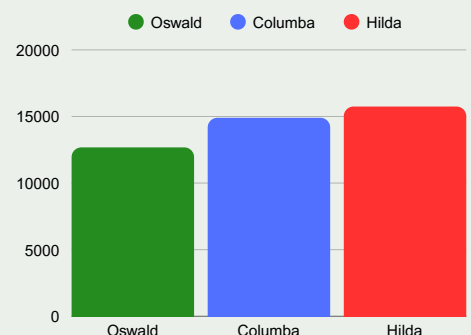
9C1 had a fantastic week - well done to all of you for receiving so few debits and so many credits! Keep striving to meet our standards!

House Awards

Hilda Student of the Week: **Luke Smiles 9H1**
Hilda Highest Credits: **Michael Amusat 8H2**
Hilda Attendance Hero: **Lennon Thirkell 10H3**

Oswald Student of the Week: **Olivia Mellenthin 9O1**
Oswald Highest Credits: **Joe Beeston 9O2**
Oswald Attendance Hero: **Pipeloluwa Adebayo 8O2**

Columba Student of the Week: **Tristan Warrand 7C2**
Columba Highest Credits: **Eva Lilea 9C1 & Emily Milestone 9C1**
Columba Attendance Hero: **Imogen Bygroves 8C1**



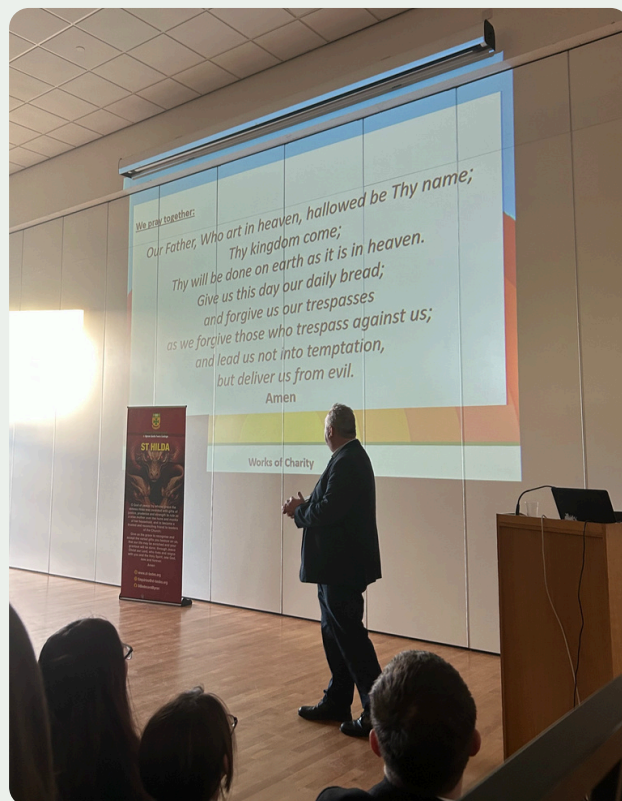
RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Feast of St. Hilda

This week, Hilda House students came together to celebrate the Feast of St. Hilda. St. Hilda was a remarkable leader in the early Church, remembered for her wisdom, kindness, and encouragement of learning. She guided her monastery with fairness and inspired both kings and ordinary people alike.

During our celebration, we reflected on how St. Hilda valued everyone's gifts whether they were big or small and encouraged others to use their talents for good. Her story reminds us that each of us has something special to share, and that by supporting one another we can make our school a place of joy, growth, and faith.

As we honour St. Hilda, may we follow her example by being kind, encouraging our friends, and using our talents to build a stronger, caring community.



Keyboard Club

It was fantastic to see such a great turnout from all the Year 7 students at Keyboard Club! The enthusiasm and energy in the room showed just how much everyone was eager to learn and make music together. It's wonderful to see so many young musicians discovering the joy of playing the keyboard — whether they're learning their first few notes or already performing full songs.

Keyboard music plays an important role in developing a wide range of musical skills. It helps students understand melody, harmony, and rhythm in a hands-on way. Because the keyboard allows you to see all the notes laid out clearly, it's one of the best instruments for learning how music works. Playing also strengthens coordination, concentration, and creativity — and it's a brilliant way to express emotion and build confidence.

The turnout shows that our Year 7 students are ready to explore and grow as musicians. With so many taking part, the future of our school's music scene looks bright!



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Katie Selected for England Women's Under 15 National Football Camp

Katie Bewick has been selected to represent England Women's Under-15s at a week-long national football camp taking place later this month at St George's Park, England's National Football Centre. Katie is a Year 10 pupil at St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust.

Katie, is part of the St. Bede's Elite Football Academy, run in partnership with Fast Feet Football Academy, and will attend the national camp beginning 20 November 2025. During the week, she will have the opportunity to take part in three international matches against Iceland, Turkey, and Germany, as well as a series of training sessions, match preparations, educational workshops, social and family time, and a player and parent debrief before returning home.

Katie said, "I felt happy and a bit surprised when I found out I'd been selected. The standard of the girls during the trial was excellent, so it's an honour to represent my country. I'm very proud, and although I'm a little nervous, I'm really excited and looking forward to the experience."

Colin Larkin, Lead Coach at St. Bede's, has worked with Katie since she was eight years old and expressed his pride in her success, noting the progress she has made through consistent effort and commitment. He said, "Katie has shown fantastic attitude and determination from an early age. She is a joy to work with, and this call-up is fully deserved."

Anthony Logan, Deputy Headteacher at St. Bede's said, "All at St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form extend their congratulations to Katie and her family on this outstanding achievement. We look forward to following her progress and have every confidence this is just the first step in what promises to be a long and successful career."

Good luck, Katie!



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Student Spotlight: Chloe Ebbelwhite

We are incredibly proud of **Chloe Ebbelwhite 8C1** for demonstrating outstanding maturity and resilience during a very challenging situation at home recently. Chloe remained calm, took responsibility, and showed exceptional care for her family when it mattered most. Her quick thinking and kindness made a real difference, and she handled everything with grace and strength.

Chloe is a shining example of our school values in action, and we are delighted to celebrate her for going above and beyond. Well done, Chloe - you've made your family and our school community very proud!

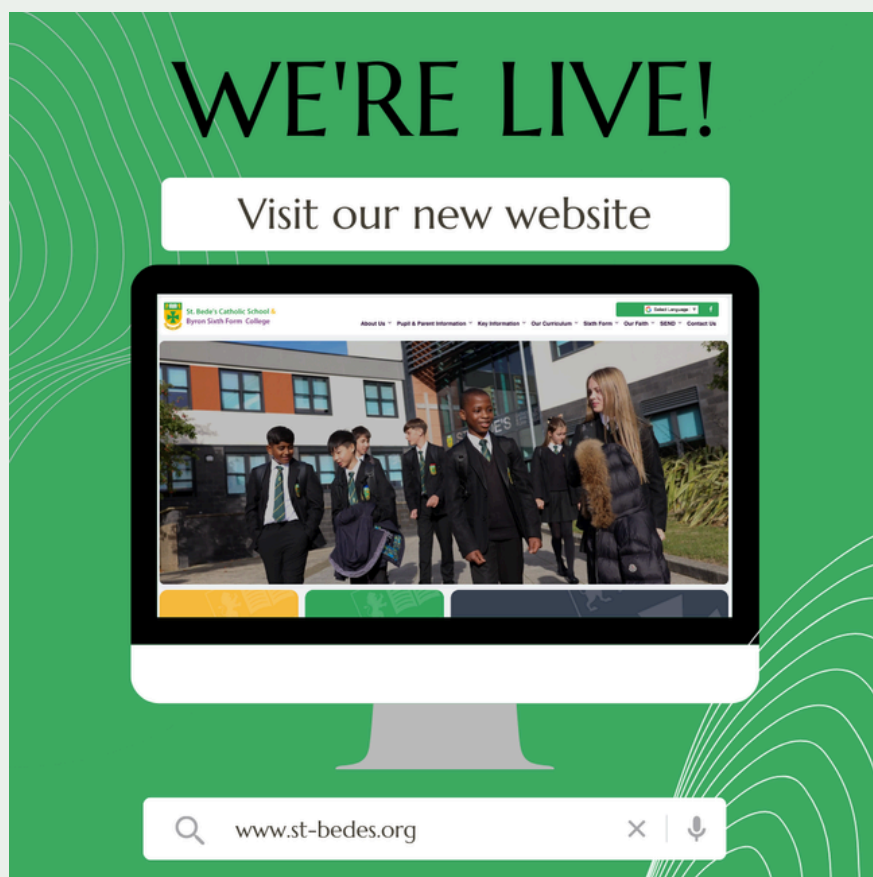
Website Launch

We are thrilled to announce the unveiling of our new website, which continues to use the URL: www.st-bedes.org.

The redesigned site boasts a fresh, modern aesthetic along with improved navigation to elevate your online experience. With easy access to essential information about our school.

This includes news updates, event calendars, and resources for students and parents - the website is crafted to keep our community connected and informed.

Stay tuned for upcoming developments and enhancements as we work to improve communication within our community.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Norah's North Pole

This week, we are delighted to share how our school is joining in with Norah's North Pole, a wonderful local initiative that spreads Christmas joy to children and families in need. Founded in memory of Norah, this project collects gifts and donations to make sure every child wakes up to something special on Christmas morning.

By supporting Norah's North Pole, we are teaching our children the true meaning of Christmas, kindness, generosity, and community spirit. It's a chance for our school family to come together and make a real difference.

Norah's North Pole will accept any items suitable for children from ages 0 - 18. This means everything from baby toys and clothes, to books, games, sports equipment, and thoughtful gifts for teenagers. Every donation, big or small, helps spread kindness and makes a real difference.

Check out Norah's North Pole here: <https://norahsnorthpole.co.uk/>

Christmas Jumper Swap

We're excited to announce our upcoming Christmas Jumper Swap Event! To make this festive and eco-friendly, we're asking families to send into school any old Christmas jumpers that are no longer needed.

Instead of buying new, children will have the chance to choose a "new-to-them" jumper from the swap. It's a fun way to recycle, save money, and spread Christmas cheer while caring for our planet.

Please send in your jumpers by **Friday 5 December**, so we can prepare for the event. All sizes are welcome, and the more we collect, the more choice everyone will have.

Christmas jumper day will be **Wednesday 10 December**.

Thank you for helping us make this Christmas sparkle with community spirit!





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Nasal and Intramuscular Flu Vaccination Consent Form

Our pupils are due to have their flu vaccine. The school session is booked for 02/12/2025. The vaccine helps protect your child from flu. Flu can make people feel very unwell and can be serious. The vaccine also helps stop flu spreading to family and friends. Most children will get the nasal spray. Some children may need the injection instead. This might be because of health, religion, or diet. Please choose which one you want your child to have on the consent form. Fill in the consent form using the link below by 25/11/2025:

<https://nhslmms.azurewebsites.net/session/d419329c>

If you do not want your child to have the flu vaccine, please let us know using the same link. If you have any problems using the link, please telephone 0333 358 3397. For more information about the flu vaccine please follow the link below:

[Children's flu vaccine - NHS](#)

Attendance

We apologise that the graph we previously attempted to create using our software did not display correctly and contained inaccurate data. To ensure clarity, we are now presenting the correct figures in a simple table below.

The most recent official DfE data (Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025 combined release) includes absence rates by day of the week. Here are the national figures for state-funded schools in England:

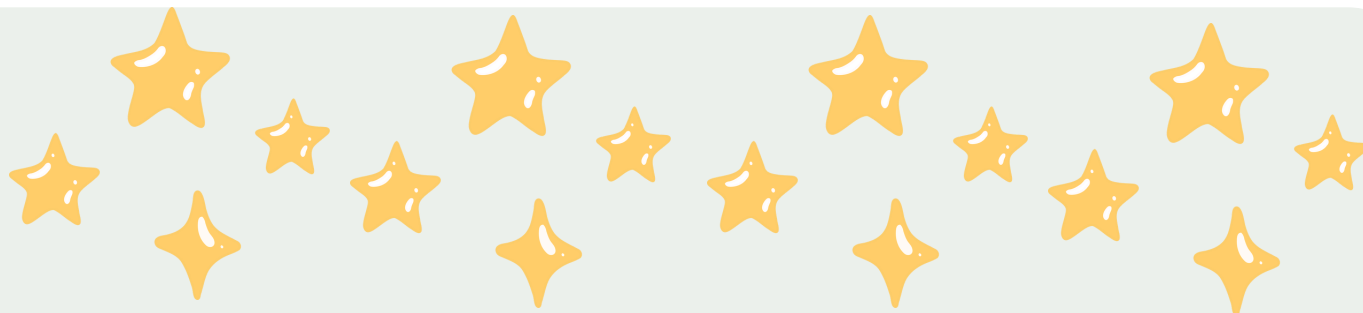
Day	Total Absence	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence
Mon	7.1%	5.3%	1.8%
Tue	6.8%	5.1%	1.7%
Wed	6.6%	4.9%	1.7%
Thu	6.5%	4.8%	1.7%
Fri	7.4%	5.4%	2.0%

Key points

- Fridays have the highest absence rate overall and the highest unauthorised absence.
- Mondays are also relatively high, suggesting a pattern around weekends.
- Midweek (Tuesday - Thursday) shows lower absence rates.
- Authorised absences make up the majority of absences across all days.

These figures are based on the latest accredited official statistics from the Department for Education for the 2024/25 academic year (Autumn and Spring terms).

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English Stars of the Week

Our English students have been exceptional this week and we are delighted to highlight some who have particularly caught the eye with their commitment, creativity and determination:

- Miss Barkley: **Alfie Heath 11H1**
- Mr Johnson: **Alex Evans 10O2**
- Mrs Hamilton: **Grace Carr 10H2**
- Mrs Dolan: **Jacob Hirst 7H1**
- Mrs Wild: **Harry Banks 10C2**
- Miss Milburn: **Reenie Johnson 10H1**



Maths Wall of Legends

We are delighted to recognise each of the following pupils for their excellent effort and determination during the recent mock examinations. They have epitomised our core values of determination, excellence and faith - well done!

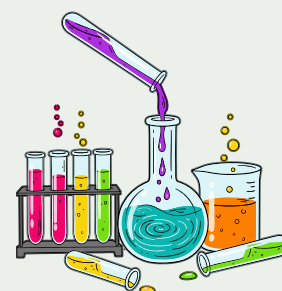
- Mr Fowler: **Karis Rowland 11O1**
- Miss Houghton: **Keira Ridley 11H1**
- Mr Hudspeth: **Dillan Harkness 11C3**
- Mr Marrs: **Tia Irving 11O1**
- Mr Taylor: **Daisy Wiseman 11H2**
- Dr Treanor: **Grace Nguyen 11C3**



Lab Coat Legends of the Week

We're thrilled to celebrate our Lab Coat Legends of the Week - students who have shown exceptional curiosity, creativity, and achievement in science! Congratulations to:

- **Anna Lovstad 10H1**
- **Bella Roberts 11C2**
- **Dean Blackburn 8O1**
- **Anya Ellsworth 11C2**
- **Brody Roberts 7O1**
- **Sam Elsworth 9C1**
- **John Burgin 10H1**
- **Cataliya Saad 7O1**
- **Isabelle McCarthy 8H2**



From excelling in assessments to conducting experiments with precision and enthusiasm, your passion for discovery is inspiring. Keep asking questions and exploring ideas.



Key Dates

- **Mon 24 November:** Timetable Week B
- **Thu 27 November:** Year 12 & Y13 Parents' Evening
- **Tue 2 December:** Flu Immunisations Y7-11
- **Wed 10 December:** Christmas Jumper / Lunch Day
- **Thu 11 December:** Y11 Parents' Evening
- **Wed 17 December:** Christmas Concert
- **Thu 18 December:** End of Term Carol Service
- **Fri 19 December:** Break up for Christmas - 1230 finish

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



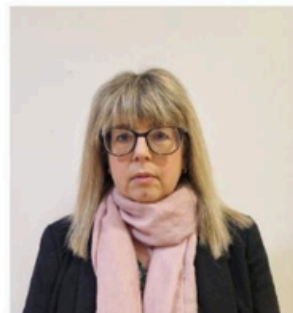
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Cessford
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Robinson
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Ord
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Home and School Links

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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

