



# 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: 5 December 2025

### Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 3:1-12) we hear John the Baptist calling the people to repent (to come back to God) to prepare themselves for Christ's arrival. As parents, we often prepare our children for school, sports, and life skills, but how are we preparing their hearts for God?

Repentance is more than saying sorry; it's about turning toward what is good and true. John warns that faith must bear fruit. This challenges us to model authentic faith at home—through kindness, forgiveness, and integrity, so our children see that following Jesus is more than words.

John also points to Jesus, who brings the Holy Spirit and fire. This is a powerful reminder that we cannot do this alone. We need God's Spirit to guide us as we nurture our children's spiritual growth.

### Excellence

#### Headteacher's Award

**Alex Elliott 8C1** has been presented with our Headteacher's Award this week. Alex had an amazing week and achieved the most credits in the school! Alex has worked hard and tried his best, showing determination and excellence. Well done, Alex!

#### Tutor Group of the Week

**8H2** are our Tutor Group of the Week! Their behaviour and attitude has been superb - well done to all of you.

#### House Awards

Hilda Student of the Week: **Eddy Joicey 10H3**

Hilda Highest Credits: **Jacob Knowles 8H2**

Hilda Attendance Hero: **Stan Smith 7H2**

Oswald Student of the Week: **Oliver Corbett 10O1**

Oswald Highest Credits: **Ruby Robinson 8O2**

Oswald Attendance Hero: **Alexander Smith 7O1**

Columba Student of the Week: **Kenan Al Sammak 10C1**

Columba Highest Credits: **Alex Elliott 8C1**

Columba Attendance Hero: **Jennifer Carr 8C1**



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Week 1 of Advent

This week marked a special moment in our school community as our students took the lead in the Celebration of the Word for the first week of Advent. Advent is a season of hope and preparation, and what better way to begin than by empowering our young people to share the message of faith?

The celebration focused on the theme of waiting in joyful hope. Students read readings, prayers, and reflections that reminded us of the importance of making room in our hearts for Christ. Their voices brought fresh energy and sincerity to the liturgy, inspiring everyone present.

Through this experience, students learned that leadership in faith is not just about speaking words but living them. They reminded us that Advent is a time to slow down, reflect, and prepare for the coming of Jesus with open hearts.



### Year 8 Advent Workshops

As we enter the season of Advent, our Year 8 students have been taking part in special workshops focused on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. These sessions have given students the opportunity to explore the scripture passages behind each mystery and reflect on what they mean for us today.

The Joyful Mysteries, such as the Annunciation, the Visitation, and the Nativity invite us to consider themes of hope, trust, and God's presence in everyday life. During the workshops, students engaged in discussions, thinking about how Mary's "yes" to God and the joy of Christ's birth can inspire their own choices and attitudes.

One key question students explored was: How can these mysteries shape the way we live during Advent? Many shared ideas about showing kindness, being patient, and making space for God in their busy lives. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and thoughtful responses as they connected scripture to real-life situations.



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Labcoat Legends

In science we 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- **Dalraj Jawanda**
- Mr Moss- **Eddy Joicey**
- Mr Griffiths- **Jessica Smith**
- Mr Bowyer- **Grace Nguyen**
- Miss Armstrong- **James Hudson**
- Mr Gooch- **John Burgin**
- Mr Day- **Eldon Li**
- Mr Balls- **Neve Clark**
- Mrs Lord- **Mercy Sheidu**



### Inter-House History Quiz Results

The results of our History Inter-House competition are:

- Year 7: **7C2 and 7H2**
- Year 8: **8C1 and 8C2**
- Year 9: **9C1**
- Year 10: **10O2**

Overall Best House: **Columba**

Well done to everybody who participated.



### English Stars of the Week

- Miss Barkley - **Daniel Williams (Y11)** Great attitude to learning. Well done.
- Mrs Dolan - **Sonny Peacock (Y9)** Fantastic contextual information - sharing his visit to Anne Frank's house
- Mrs Hamilton - **Emily Powell (Y10)** A great attitude to learning and working really hard.
- Miss Milburn - **Sebastian Bryson (Y9)** Huge improvement in behaviour and attitude
- Mrs Scutt - **April Benson (Y11)** Working exceptionally hard, model GCSE student
- Mrs Cook - **Alfie Martin (Y10)** Excellent participation in lessons and good recall of information
- Mrs Wild - **Sam Darlaston (Y11)** Excellent attitude to learning and effort in mocks/feedback
- Mr Johnson - **James Powell (Y7)** Excellent engagement and effort



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Phoebe's Gymnastic Success!

Congratulations to Phoebe Richardson 7H1 who finished second in her gymnastics competition at the weekend. Well done, Phoebe - we are proud of your achievement!



### Young Carers Award

We are delighted to share some fantastic news with our school community: we have been officially accredited with the Silver Young Carers Award! This recognition celebrates our commitment to supporting young carers, students who take on responsibilities at home to care for a family member.

Achieving this award reflects the hard work of our staff and the compassion within our school. It means we have strong systems in place to identify and support young carers, ensuring they feel valued and understood. From providing practical help to offering emotional support, we are dedicated to making sure every young carer can thrive both academically and personally.

#### Why is this important?

Young carers often juggle schoolwork with significant responsibilities at home. By earning this award, we show that our school is a safe and supportive environment where their needs are recognised and met.

Together, we are building a community where care and kindness are at the heart of everything we do.

## Young Carers Charter Accredited!



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Lourdes Fundraiser

We are delighted to share some wonderful news from our school community! Thanks to the generosity and support of parents, staff, and students, we have successfully raised £900 to help send students to Lourdes as part of the local HCPT group.

This fundraising effort will give our students a life-changing opportunity to join the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. Visiting Lourdes offers our young people a unique opportunity to experience their faith in a tangible way. Being in a place of pilgrimage helps them understand prayer, healing, and the importance of spiritual reflection.

Many trips involve helping others, especially those who are sick or vulnerable. This teaches empathy, kindness, and the joy of serving others - values that last a lifetime.

The pilgrimage is not just a trip; it's an experience of service, compassion, and community. Our students will learn the true meaning of giving and encounter the richness of faith in a global setting. We are proud of their commitment and grateful to everyone who contributed to making this possible.



### Sacrament of Reconciliation

As part of our Advent preparations, our students recently had the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This special moment allowed them to pause, reflect, and experience God's mercy in a personal way. Advent is a season of hope and renewal, and the sacrament reminds us that forgiveness opens the door to peace and joy.

For many students, this was a chance to deepen their understanding of God's love and to prepare their hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas. It was wonderful to see their openness and reverence during this important part of their faith journey.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Fr Sean for giving his time and care to guide our students through this sacrament. His presence and encouragement made the experience meaningful and uplifting for everyone involved.



## Sixth Form

# BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

### A flurry of offers:

We have been inundated with the number of offers and interviews our Year 13 have received in the last week.

Some of the highlights have included interviews for Occupational Therapy, Mental Health Nursing and Physiotherapy.

Many of our students have already completed interviews and been awarded places - well done to Leah Thompson (Occupational Therapy), Lennox Scott (mental Health Nursing) Ella Easterbrook and Leah Farrell (Primary Education).

We've also seen a huge number of exciting offers for students including Chloe Spoons offers at Newcastle and Lancaster for Philosophy and Grace Purvis with an offer for History at York.

Kayla Johnson has been offered the most places so far with offers from Sunderland, Teesside, Leeds Beckett for Psychology.

Well done to all our Year 13s!



Ready to join our Sixth Form? Visit our new website and sign up in a few quick steps:

<https://st-bedes.org/sixth-form/apply-now>

To view our latest Sixth Form Prospectus [click here.](#)



## Sixth Form

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SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

### Road Safety

On Monday, Sixth Form students were briefed by the fire department about road safety. As many of our students are learning to drive, this message was vital. We considered how to keep ourselves and our passengers safe on the roads.

### Byron Community Action

Over the last term, Byron students organised and assisted in a range of community and charity activities in conjunction with Chaplaincy.

This has included:

- MacMillian's World's Biggest Coffee Morning
- Voluntary work at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School
- Volunteering as guides and ambassadors on Open Evenings both Y6 and Sixth Form
- Selling poppies in aid of the Royal British Legion
- Paired Reading - helping younger students with literacy and confidence

Over the next few weeks students will:

- Visit a local care home to spread Christmas cheer to the residents
- Help pack and sort donations for Norah's North Pole
- Organise and run Year 7's Christmas Disco
- Assist at Christmas liturgy

We are exceptionally proud of the philanthropic nature of our students and the wider Sixth Form. At Christmas, we pause to reflect that we are here not just to achieve strong academic outcomes but also to better ourselves and our community.

**To view our latest Sixth Form Prospectus [click here.](#)**



## Key Dates

- **Mon 12 December:** Timetable Week B
- **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:



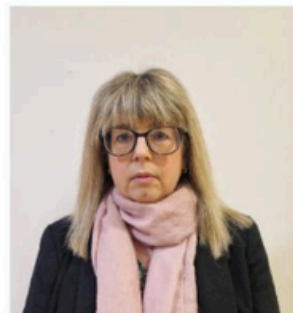
**Mr Logan**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**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](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

