



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 February 2025

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 6:27-38) Jesus teaches the people about how we should treat others. He calls us to do something exceptional: we must love people and be kind to them. Jesus' life is a lesson in how we are to be kind to all people – even those people who are not kind to us in return. Kindness is a part of everyday life, and in particular family life. Even small, everyday acts of kindness are most valuable in God's eyes. Every act of kindness done to someone else is also done to Jesus and it will be rewarded accordingly. In this coming week, think about ways in which we can show kindness to each other. This can be through simple acts such as generosity, compassion and patience.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to **Kodie Rudkin** from **11H1** for receiving our Headteacher's Award this week! Kodie showed responsibility and respect this week, exhibiting maturity in an adverse situation. Kodie chose to help someone in need. Well done, Kodie.

Tutor Group of the Week

8C1 are the winners of this week's Tutor Group of the Week award.

House Students of the Week

Columba: **Joel Henery 9C2**

Hilda: **Joseph Iweanya 8H3 & Anna Rowntree 10H1**

Oswald: **Shanah Mawonde 9O1**

Chad: **Morgan Johnson 12Ch2**



Well done to all of our students; we hope you all have a restful, happy half term. Remember that getting better never stops and we look forward to celebrating more of your achievements when we return.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Determination

Anne Lamott, the American writer said, **“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.”** This wisdom reflects the importance of taking breaks and allowing ourselves time to recharge. At St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form College, we believe in nurturing not just academic excellence but also the well-being of our students and staff. Our community is encouraged to find balance and embrace moments of rest - such as this half term break - knowing that these pauses can rejuvenate both body and mind. Enjoy the well-earned holiday; we look forward to seeing you all refreshed on Monday 3 March.

End of Half Term Message from Mrs Cessford

As we conclude this half term, I want to extend my thanks to each of you for your unwavering support and commitment. Your involvement plays a vital role in our school community, and it truly makes a difference. I would especially like to thank our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils for their preparation for the mock exams. Their maturity and focus throughout the exam period have been commendable, and I am proud of their efforts.

We also celebrate the impressive number of credits our pupils have achieved this term, which is a testament to their dedication. Additionally, we are proud of our students' sporting achievements, reflecting their determination and teamwork. I want to commend all the pupils who have been awarded the Headteacher's Award; their perseverance exemplifies our core values of faith, excellence, responsibility, determination, citizenship, and respect. Thank you for ensuring that our students arrive at school in perfect uniform and on time, ready to learn and grow. Your partnership helps us support our pupils in becoming the individuals God intended them to be.

Wishing you all a restful half-term break. We look forward to seeing everyone back, ready for the next exciting chapter!

Win a Signed Pair of Jordan Pickford's Gloves

During the next half term, we will be holding a raffle to win a signed pair of gloves from England and Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford. The proceeds will go towards assisting our students in participating in the Lourdes pilgrimage.

This is a fantastic opportunity not only to win a unique piece of sports memorabilia but also to support a meaningful cause. Participating in the Lourdes pilgrimage is a cherished experience that allows our students to engage in service, reflection, and personal growth. By purchasing raffle tickets, you are contributing to these life-changing experiences for our students.

Details regarding when and how to buy the tickets will be announced after half term.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Diocesan Youth Council

The Hexham & Newcastle Diocesan Youth Council is an integral part of the Catholic Diocese, serving as a platform for the voices of our young people.

The Youth Council is relaunching in 2025, inviting students in Year 9 and above to join.

See Mrs Balls for more information.



Join the Diocesan Youth Council
Being a voice of change together

We invite each secondary school and parish to nominate two representatives (Year 9 and above) to take part in this exciting initiative.

First Gathering – Be Part of the Relaunch!
Date: Sunday 18th May 2025
Venue: St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle
Time: 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

To nominate students, please send their details to:
admin@ymt.org

Make a Real Impact – A platform for students passionate about their faith to take action

Shape the Future – Help guide the direction of the Church

Amplify Young Voices – Ensure young people are heard in the Church

Youth Council
DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

Jubilee 2025: What is Hope?

This month we asked students to focus and reflect on what hope means to them. Hope gives us the ability to look at any situation and know that regardless of how it may appear God is always there. This is the essence of what hope is. At the Youth Village, students were divided into groups to present on a topic with the theme of 'their hopes for the future and how we can achieve this.'



Sixth Form Leadership Programme

Our Sixth Form students will be starting a leadership programme in March in which they will serve as role models for the younger members of our community. They will be engaging and spending time sharing their own unique gifts and talents.

This allows our students the chance to develop their own skills whilst making a positive impact in their community and also to share their skills which helps to foster confidence in both our Sixth Form students and the primary children. Good luck to **Leah, Jess, Demi, Josh, Maduyan, Millie, Sophie, Chloe, Kayla** and **Ezekial** who will be working with the children at Our Lady of the Rosary.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT



Sports Hall Athletics

Well done to our Year 7 students who are champions of the Easington District Sports Hall Athletics competition, meaning they went on to take part in the County Sports Hall Athletics finals on Wednesday 19 February. Everyone gave it their all, worked well as part of a team and had lots of fun. A special mention to **Isla Staley 7H1** who beat last year's County record in the triple jump. A big thank you to **Julia, Josh, Ella and Ben**, our sports leaders, who helped organise the teams on the day. #trambede #settheworldablaze

Neve Wins Kickboxing Gold!

Congratulations to our **Neve Clark 11C2** who won 3 Gold Medals at the Kickboxing GB National Championships. This means she has qualified in all her sections to represent Team GB at the European Championships in Portugal at the end of August. Well done Neve!



Under 15 Boys into County Cup Semi-Final

Our Under 15 boys progressed to the Semi-final of the County Cup with a fantastic 2-0 win away against Longfield Academy.

Nathan Wheatley 10O2 scored both goals to secure the win and our captain, **Max Griffiths 10O2**, was the player of the match. Well done to all of the team.

Katie Trains with the England Lionesses

Congratulations to **Katie Bewick 9O1** who was invited down to train with England Lionesses Under 16 Camp down in Nottingham on Monday. Katie, who is two years younger than everyone else on the day, enjoyed a great camp, training alongside the best girls in the country. Well done Katie!



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Car Park Safety

We kindly request that vehicles do not enter or exit our site between the busy pedestrian times of 8.30am and 9.00am and 3.00pm and 3.30pm. This is to ensure safe arrival and departure for our students.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone. Additionally, please be mindful of the designated parking areas and adhere to the speed limits within the school premises. Your attention to these guidelines plays a crucial role in the safety and well-being of our community. Thank you for your understanding and support.



Gymnasts Setting the World Ablaze

Our Year 7 gymnasts gave a fabulous performance yesterday afternoon at the Easington School Sports Partnership gymnastics festival.

Our St Bede's gymnastics performance was made up of ten Year 7 girls. They have been practising a routine performed to the upbeat 'Let's Get Loud' one lunchtime per week for the past four weeks. The audience loved their performance! #settheworldablaze

Skye Earns Guides Badges

Congratulations to **Skye Shotton 9C1** on earning her Girlguiding Remembrance badge, Christmas badge, and World Thinking Day badge.

These achievements reflect her dedication, kindness, and commitment to making a difference. Skye's hard work and positive influence are truly inspiring, and we are incredibly proud to have her as part of Columba House. Her efforts not only showcase her personal growth but also leave a lasting impact on those around her. Well done, Skye - keep up the fantastic work!



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

RE Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils for consistently demonstrating our school values throughout this half term in RE:



Football Success

Our Year 8 boys made the short trip to Easington for a friendly fixture yesterday. They came away with a very convincing 6-0 win. Goalscorers were **Oscar Stoker 8O3** x3, **Arthur Assadi 8C1**, **Cruz Murphy 8H2** and **Elliott Mitchell 8O1**. Oscar was player of the match. Well done!

Our Year 7 boys went to Newcastle on Wednesday evening to play the Newcastle United Performance Centre Under 12s. They played three games:

- 2-2. Goals by **Jack Penprase 7H1** and **Brody Goodricke 7H1**.
- 7-0. Goals by **Adam Waddell 7H1** x3, **Sonny Iley 7C1** x3 and **Brax Kirk 7O2**.
- 4-1. Goals by Jack Penprase 7H1 x3 and **Brax Kirk 7O2**.

Player of the night was **Adam Waddell 7H1**. Well done!



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

This Week's Maths Wall of Legends

This half term saw the launch of the Maths Department's Wall of Legends. Our intention was to recognise exceptionality and effort, and over the course of this half term, we have anointed 37 Maths Legends. We have been so proud of how our mathematicians have continued to raise their game and we're looking forward to creating more Legends next half term.

Mrs Keniry - **Lacey Hogwood 7H1**

Mr Taylor - **Logan Playle 10O2**

Miss Houghton - **Maja Ciesla 8H3**

Mr Fowler - **Esther Ejiamatu 8O3**

Mr Marrs - **Anna Rowntree 10H1**

Dr Treanor - **Laila Gleghorn 11O2**



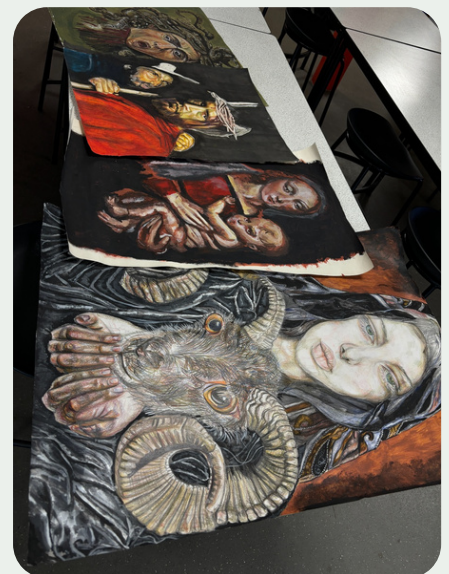
Musician of the Week

Grace Carr 9H2 is our Musician of the Week. Grace has worked tremendously on both her key tasks: The Waltz and Guantanamera, receiving top marks on both assessments. Grace's general engagement with music inside the classroom has been nothing short of remarkable. Grace should be proud of her accomplishments and her development in music. Well done, Grace!



Amazing Art Coursework

Esme Sinclair 13Ch1 has submitted a wonderful portfolio of artwork for her A-level. Her pieces showcase a remarkable blend of creativity and technical skill, reflecting her unique perspective and artistic voice. This artwork is fabulous, Esme!



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Year 11: This is the Week... to Rest and Reflect

We are so proud of the mature attitude our Year 11 students have displayed during the two weeks of mock exams. They have conducted themselves impeccably throughout and demonstrated an incredible amount of determination. We would also like to thank all parents and carers who have supported the pupils at home, the collaboration between home and school is vital to ensure the success of our young people. We all appreciate that exam periods can be very stressful for some individuals, we are constantly working with pupils to ensure the summer exams are as smooth and stress free as possible.

The half term week is a week for Year 11 to rest and reflect. Rest and be proud of the work already completed and reflect on their revision strategies, identifying what went well and areas for improvement. For the next half term, we have planned a variety of intervention strategies focussing on revision and exam techniques, this will be shared with the Year 11 on the Monday morning they return.

French & Spanish Flash Fiction Competitions

Submissions to our annual Spanish Flash Fiction competition for UK secondary school students are now open! If you are learning Spanish in Years 7-13, you are invited to send us a *very* short story to be in with a chance of winning up to £100.

The judges will award a top prize of £100 in each category, as well as prizes of £25 to a maximum of two runners up. The deadline for submitting your entry is 12 noon on 31 March 2025.

Ask your Spanish teacher for help - we are looking forward to reading your stories!



Internet Matters

Following last week's Internet Safety Day focus on online scams, the Internet Matters website has advice by age to arm children with the right skills to avoid scammers and conversations for parents/carers to have with children.

- [Protecting 11-13-year-olds from online scams](#)
- [Protecting teens from online scams](#)

Protecting 11-13-year-olds from online scams

internet
matters.org

How to keep scammers from targeting your child

Learn to **recognise** risk, **react** in appropriate ways and **resolve** issues caused by scams online.

Recognise



- Talk about the **common types of scams** and what they look like – such as **phishing** or **social media spoofing**.
- Find examples of scam emails, texts, calls or profiles you or others have come across to show your child and develop their understanding.
- Discuss scams that use AI such as **deepfakes** or voice cloning, which make it hard to tell if they're real or not.
- It's important to talk about **sexual coercion (or sextortion)** and **nude deepfakes** as well. If someone is pressuring them to share nude images or threatening to share nudes (even AI-generated ones) with friends and family unless a fee is paid, your child should stop talking to them and tell you.

If anything ever feels 'off', encourage your child to follow their gut. Block and report people or content as needed.

React



- Before clicking on a link or sharing information, **encourage them to pause and ask**: Is this real? Could it be too good to be true? Could it cause harm? Doing simple checks can help children make safer choices online.
- Show them how to **use report features** in games or apps to flag content or users that might promote scams.
- Together, **review the blocking, muting and restricting options available** in the apps they use or games they play, and encourage them to make use of these features.
- **Create a secret word** together and with others in your child's life. If someone contacts your child and says they are family member or family friend, your child should ask for the secret word. If the person can't give the secret word, your child should tell you.
- You should **regularly review** the games your child plays and the videos they watch, including their watch history or screen time reports. This can help you identify potential risks.

Remember to run regular security checks as well. You can do this by ensuring their device has **cyber security software installed.**



Resolve



- If they find themselves somewhere that makes them feel uncomfortable in anyway, encourage them to **leave the space and tell you**. If a user is making them uncomfortable, they should **block and report them**.
- If they have become a victim of someone's scam, **show them how to make a report** on the platform and contact the platform's support team if necessary (such as if they've lost access to their account).
- If someone scams your child or sends messages that could lead to scams, **consider making a report to **ActionFraud** or the **IWF****.

- If your child shares personal information, **help them change their passwords or make their profiles private**. Involve them in any other security updates as well.

Remember to talk with your child about the issue in a calm way. Ask them about what they could do differently in the future and talk through their worries with them.



◀ Scan or visit internetmatters.org for more advice

[InternetMatters](https://www.facebook.com/InternetMatters)

[@aim_org](https://twitter.com/aim_org)

[@InternetMatters](https://www.youtube.com/InternetMatters)

[Internet Matters Ltd](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Internet-Matters-Ltd)

[@internetmattersorg](https://www.instagram.com/internetmattersorg)

[@internetmattersorg](https://twitter.com/internetmattersorg)

Protecting teens from online scams

internet
matters.org

How to keep scammers from targeting your child

Learn to **recognise** risk, **react** in appropriate ways and **resolve** issues caused by scams online.

Recognise



- Talk about common **scams that often target teens**, such as online shopping scams, fake giveaways or phishing attempts.
- Emphasise the importance of **ignoring requests for personal information**. To protect their privacy they should also approach online forms in shops or for competitions with caution.
- Encourage them to **check URLs, reviews and comments for shops** to make sure they're buying from reputable sources and that the information they see is legitimate.
- Explain how scammers can use AI to create convincing fake videos or voices. Encourage them to **fact check before sharing** or providing any details.

Talk about sextortion and general extortion as well, and the importance of blocking people who threaten them or make them uncomfortable. Encourage teens to tell you if this happens.



React



- Empower them to **follow their instincts**; if something seems 'off', it probably is. **Block or report users**. Or ask a trusted adult for a second opinion.
- Encourage them to **report suspicious posts on social media**, even if they're not the target. If the scam is well-known, they can also **speak out in the comments to warn others if it's safe to do so**.
- Together, **review the blocking, muting and restricting options available** in the apps they use or games they play, and encourage them to make use of these features.
- **Create a secret word together** and encourage teens to do the same with friends or other family members. If someone pretends to be a person close to your teen, a secret word can set imposters apart from real family or friends.
- **Regularly check-in with your teen** about the content and people they interact with online to help you identify potential risks. Supervised or teen accounts on social media can help with this.

Help them run regular security checks by ensuring their device has **cyber security software** installed.



Resolve



- If your teen becomes a victim of someone's scam, show them **how to make a report on the platform** and contact the platform's support team if necessary (such as if they've lost access to their account).
- If someone scams your child or sends messages that could lead to scams, **encourage them to make a report to ActionFraud or the IWF**, especially as the same scam can target someone less prepared.
- In the case of financial scams, **contact your teen's financial institution** or card provider to limit long-term issues.
- If they share personal information, help them **change their passwords and consider using a password manager**. Set their profiles to **private** and involve them in any other security updates.
- Remind them that anyone can become a target and victim. **It's not their fault**, but you can only help them make it right if they tell you about it.

Talk with your teen about the issue in a calm way. Ask them about what they could do differently in the future and talk through their worries with them.



◀ Scan or visit internetmatters.org for more advice



InternetMatters



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Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Maduyan Visits Oxford

Maduyan Kayan in Year 12 has visited Oxford University this week in an event hosted by the Tamil Society. Showcasing the incredible range of clubs and societies at university, this event was open to UK students of Tamil origin and allowed Maduyan an insight into life as an undergraduate at a top university.

An aspiring doctor, Maduyan is also undertaking The Sutton Trust's 'Pathways to Medicine' programme in conjunction with Newcastle University.



Work Experience

Year 12 are making great progress in finding exciting work experience opportunities. A number of students have applied for work experience in medicine and psychology at James Cook University Hospital, whilst **Morgan Johnson** is eagerly awaiting the results of a competitive application process to complete her work experience in the labs at Imperial College, London. Well done to our students who are working exceptionally hard to find unusual and challenging placements.



[Apply Now!](#)

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

Chadwick Celebration Awards 2025 Pupil Nomination Information

FULLY
FUNDED



Nominate staff from your school for our Inspirational Staff Award

One of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trusts values is **Celebration** and we want to celebrate all our staff across the Trust who go that extra mile. There are seventeen categories in our awards and only pupils can nominate in the **Inspirational Staff Award** category.

We would like you to think about all the staff at your school the Headteacher and teachers, the teaching assistants, the office staff, the kitchen staff, caretaking team etc. If there is someone that you think has done a really good job then you can nominate them for this award.

For younger pupils you may need to ask an adult for some help to make your nomination. Nominations need to be a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words you can use the QR code or the link below it to access the nomination form. **Nominations will close on Monday 24 March 2025.**

This award is to celebrate someone who is positive and full of enthusiasm, who has gone above and beyond to support pupils.

Your nomination should include what the person's role or roles are in your school. It should give some examples of what they have done, how that impacted on pupils, and why they deserve to receive this award. This could be by providing additional support, a consistent friendly face, leading on new opportunities or championing student causes in school, or providing an inspiring role model.



2022 Inspirational Staff Award Winner
Mrs Blackburn, Teaching Assistant
St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow



2023 Inspirational Staff Award Winner
Mrs Young, Office Manager
St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow



2024 Inspirational Staff Award winner
Mrs Peart, Headteacher
St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland

Link to nominate: www.tinyurl.com/pupil2025

Thank you for getting involved - finalists will be announced in May 2025 and the winner will be announced at an event on 11 July 2025.

Thank you to our event sponsors who allow us to fully fund this event.

Better Schools | Better Communities | Better Futures in Christ



Key Dates

- Friday 21 February: End of half term (3.15pm finish)
- Monday 3 March: Return to school - Week A timetable
- Thursday 6 March: World Book Day
- Monday 10 March: Careers Week
- Thursday 13 March: Y9 Immunisations
- Thursday 13 March: Y9 Options Evening
- Wednesday 26 March: Spring Music Celebration (6pm)
- Thursday 27 March: Y9 Parents' Evening

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



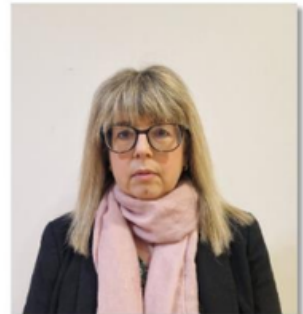
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Cessford
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Robinson
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Ord
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Home and School Links

Address: St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form
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Email: enquiries@st-bedes.org

Phone: 0191 5876220

Website: www.st-bedes.org

Facebook: [StBedesandByron](https://www.facebook.com/StBedesandByron)

Class Charts: www.classcharts.com

Our Parish: Our Lady of the Rosary in Peterlee and Horden

Our Diocese: Hexham & Newcastle

