



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: 13 March 2026

Faith

We are reminded in this Sunday's Gospel (John 9:1-38) that seeing clearly is about more than eyesight. Jesus heals the man born blind, but He also challenges everyone around Him to look deeper, to recognise God's work in unexpected places. As we continue through Lent, we are invited to open our eyes in the same way: to notice goodness, to look past assumptions, and to see one another with compassion. May this season help us grow in clarity, kindness, and faith.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Eva Lilea 9C1 is a shining example of dedication and ambition, constantly going above and beyond in all areas of school life. Her positive attitude and work ethic make her a valued member of the school community and a truly deserving recipient of this week's Headteacher's Award.

Tutor Group of the Week

Congratulations to **903** for their hard work and enthusiasm this week.

Columba

Student of the Week: **Jia Qi Guan 8C1**

Highest Credits: **Emily Milestone 9C1**

Attendance Hero: **Myles Barnes 10C2**

Hilda

Student of the Week: **Jack Ridley 9H1**

Highest Credits: **Sebastian Treanor 9H1**

Attendance Hero: **Oliver Thompson 7H1**

Oswald

Student of the Week: **Jacob Hall 8O1**

Highest Credits: **Marcos Bravo 9O1**

Attendance Hero: **Holly Burdon 10O1**



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Maths Wall of Legends

This week, we are delighted to celebrate the exceptional efforts of our Year 11 pupils from their mocks, naming them on our Wall of Legends. Each pupil remains on the wall for one week, receives a personalised postcard home and will appear on our permanent Roll of Honour from September 2026. Each of the Year 11 pupils below displayed exceptional effort and determination throughout their mock examinations, leading to excellent attainment and progress - true role models for younger peers. Well done!

- Mr Fowler: **Sophie Bennett 11H1**
- Miss Houghton: **Lucy Hillcoat 11O2**
- Mr Marrs: **Jasmeen Aujla 11O1**
- Mr Taylor: **Sophie Ward 11O1**
- Dr Treanor: **Maksym Hrudko 11O1**
- Mr Wyness: **Millie Mai Thompson 11O1**

Maths Department celebrates International Women's Day

On Monday, the Maths Department were delighted to mark the contributions of female mathematicians, including our very own Miss Houghton and Mrs Keniry! Only 40% of British maths graduates are women and we want to play our vital role in making sure that every pupil, no matter their gender or background, can flourish in maths.

With our Year 8 pupils, we looked at the life and legacy of Ada Lovelace, studying how she predicted the functionality of the modern computer and discovered elements of mathematics that only became well known many years after her death.

The pupils demonstrated our key values of respect and citizenship, as well as taking part in mature discussion of British Values and protected characteristics.

Year 10 Revision Carousel

On Tuesday, our Year 10 pupils took part in a revision carousel, learning about the benefits of using revision timetables, mind maps and flashcards among others. This event sought to kick start the pupils' revision for their upcoming April mock examinations, providing them with the skills and knowledge of how to revise effectively.

Across each of the six sessions, pupils engaged well and feedback from staff and pupils has been exceptionally positive... 5 weeks to put new learning to practice before our Year 10 mocks!



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International Women's Day

On Monday all of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils were off timetable to take part in a full day of celebrations and workshops in honour of International Women's Day.

Pupils enjoyed whole year group assemblies and a series of inspiring workshops exploring the achievements of women across history and the modern world. Sessions focused on influential women in:

- STEM
- Medicine
- Climate change activism
- Politics
- History
- Education
- Literature
- Art & creative industries

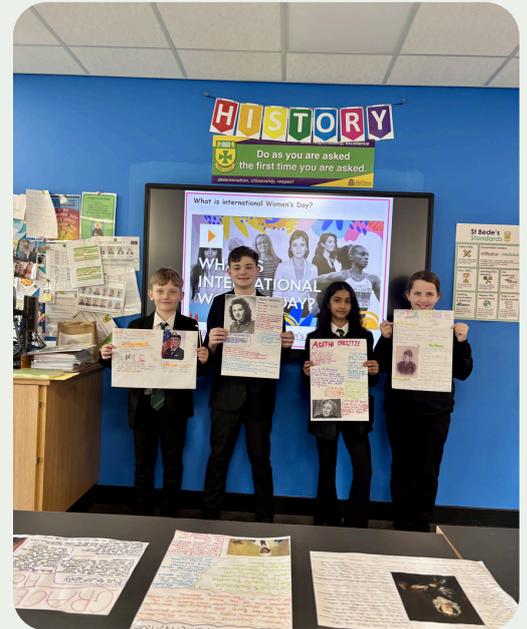
Across the day, 16 staff members delivered a diverse programme of workshops, including:

- Science and STEM sessions
- Pop-up history museums
- Art and creativity workshops
- Maths and problem-solving inspired by Ada Lovelace
- Explorations of inspiring figures such as Amelia Earhart
- ... and many more!

Pupils were an absolute credit to the school, engaging brilliantly with discussions, activities, and creative challenges. Students produced thoughtful "Pop-up Museum" displays celebrating remarkable women and their impact on the world, which they were able to display and present to their peers.

We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and maturity throughout the day. A huge thank you to all staff involved in making the event such a success.

#InspireInclusion #IWD2026 #StBedesCommunity
#EmpoweringOurStudents



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The Glasshouse Careers Morning was attended by GCSE Music Students and some year 8 and 9 students on Friday 6th March.

Year Nine students Eva and Emily wrote about their experience.

“We really enjoyed our visit to the Glasshouse. It was interesting to learn about the different job opportunities in the music industry beyond performing, such as orchestra management and roles in education and outreach that go beyond traditional music teaching. The staff were very welcoming and helpful throughout our visit.

We found the detailed tour of the Glasshouse fascinating, especially seeing the different stages and halls. We enjoyed speaking with various members of staff and learning more about their roles and the different aspects of the music industry. It was particularly interesting to hear how each hall is designed to achieve the right acoustics for different events. One new fact we learned was that even the seating can affect how sound bounces around the room.

Overall, we really enjoyed this experience and learned a lot.”

Durham Music Service Gala Concert at The Glasshouse - Tuesday 10 March 2026

The music service once more took over Hall One at The Glasshouse for a gala concert to celebrate the achievements of students from across Durham and Darlington. Year 8 student, Isabel who plays flute took part. Not only did she perform with the East Durham Wind band she was given the immense honour of conducting the DMS Youth Voice Pop-Up Band in an arrangement of Bowie's Space Oddity. Well done to all performers!

If you would like lessons with the music service - do see Mr Robinson, Mr Teasdale or visit the website: <https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/sign-up>



Easter Concert Spectular at St. Bede's!

Join us for an unforgettable evening of live music as our talented performers take centre stage in St. Bede's vibrant Spring Concert. We are thrilled to welcome exceptional young violinists from St. Cuthbert's, New Seaham, and St. Godric's, making this a true celebration of creativity, collaboration, and musical excellence. Come along, show your support, and enjoy a night that promises to inspire and entertain!



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Celebrating Success: Year 11 & Year 13 Mock Results Events

This week, we were delighted to host our Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exam Results events, with Year 11 pupils collecting their results in the morning and Sixth Form students joining us for an evening celebration of their hard work and progress. Both sessions were incredibly positive, with pupils engaging maturely in conversations about their achievements, next steps, and strategies for further improvement.

These events are an important milestone in the build-up to the summer exam season, giving pupils a realistic insight into what to expect on GCSE and A Level Results Days. We hope that the experience inspires all of our students to give their very best in the weeks ahead and to continue working with determination, resilience, and pride.

With the GCSE and A Level exams fast approaching, we are confident that - through hard work, focused revision, and the support of staff and families - our pupils will rise to the challenge and achieve results they can be truly proud of.



Sarah Bellis, Emotional Health & Resilience Nurse, was present on Thursday; if anyone needs any support from her team during the exam period please ask our pastoral team to refer to the service.

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Experto de Español

We are proud to celebrate this week's Expertos de Español. Their consistent effort, positive attitude, and impressive progress in lessons have truly stood out. They continue to embody the high standards of our school. ¡Enhorabuena!

Señorita García: **Kaylm Rowland 13CH1**. Exceptional effort, both in class and beyond, sets an exemplary standard. Their commitment to independent study and consistent hard work is truly outstanding.

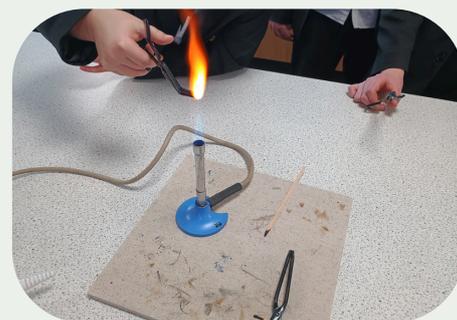
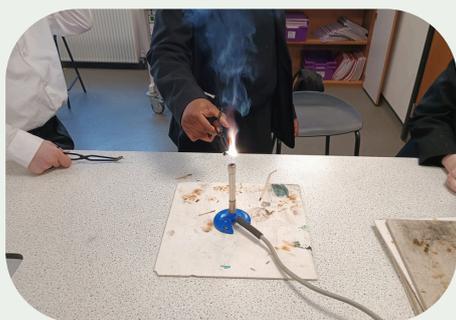
Señorita Atkinson: **Nosariemen Izevbigie 9O2**. Excellent effort in Spanish lessons this week. This student has gone above and beyond, showing real enthusiasm and determination.

Year 7 Science Club

In Y7 science club this week we were using Bunsen burners to react magnesium with oxygen to form magnesium oxide and discussed what happens during a chemical reaction and how we might be able to tell when one occurs.

One student also brought in a model Stirling engine for us to look at which enabled a great discussion about how the engine works and what scientific processes it uses.

If you are in Y7 and would like to come along to science club, please turn up or speak to Mr Day. It is on Thursday's 3:15pm-4pm in SO3 lab (Mr Day's lab). Please note that there is no science club on 19 March due to Y9 parents' evening.



Easter Art Competition

We are inviting all of our families and students to take part in an Easter Art Competition - Resurrection/New Life.

You can use photography, artwork or even produce a 3D model. Entries need to be sent to Mrs Anwar or Mrs Balls by Friday 27 March.



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Stations of the Cross

As part of our Lenten preparation, Hilda students led Stations of the Cross in school. Their reverence, reflection, and leadership have been truly inspiring. The Stations of the Cross is a traditional Christian devotion that helps believers reflect on the final journey of Jesus, from His condemnation to His death and burial. Its purpose goes deeper than simply remembering events; it invites us to enter into the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice.

A big thank you to all of our parents who were able to attend and support them. Your presence means so much to our school community, and it enriches these moments of prayer and preparation.



John Paul II Awards

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the students who were presented with their John Paul II Award on Sunday. This honour recognises their dedication to faith, service, and leadership within both school and parish life.

We are incredibly proud of the commitment and generosity they have shown throughout their journey, and we celebrate this well-deserved achievement with them.

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 - **Elsie M 9C2**
- Mr Johnson - **Harry D 11C3**
- Ms Laverick - **Louis D 8O1**

Map Masters:

- Miss Scott - **Anna R 11H1**
- Mr Harper - **Robert B 8C1**
- Mrs Martin - **Valerie O 9C2**

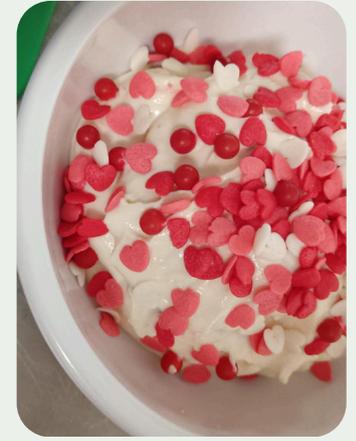
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Cookery Club

We have had a busy week in the Food room. Cookery club saw us making Cheesecake Easter Eggs and our Year 7s also experimented with pancake and waffle batter.

Other classes used the 4/4/2 method to create small cakes. We have had a lot of happy faces this week and again can I thank all parents for supporting cookery club.

Mrs Johnson



Reminder: Mobile Phone Expectations Before and After School

Please can we ask all parents and carers to remind pupils that our school's mobile phone rules apply at all times on the school site - including before school begins and during any after-school clubs or activities.

Phones should remain switched off and out of sight from the moment pupils arrive until they leave the premises at the end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a calm, focused environment for all pupils.

Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Byron Sixth Form Committee

This week in Byron, we are proud to introduce the new Sixth Form Committee!

After a carefully planned meeting on Wednesday we can now proudly say that students are helping to cover in each of the department areas and we are preparing to present all kinds of events and fundraisers.

The members of the committee are a group of passionate and strong minded Year 12 students:

- **Alexander** - Maths, Geography and Student Complaints
- **Susy** - RE and Geography
- **Michael** - RE, English and Debate Captain
- **Harriet** - History and Event Decorator
- **Julia** - Maths and Art
- **Moses** - Physics, Maths and Chemistry
- **Danielle** - Events Co-ordinator
- **Neve** - Sports
- **Medhuja** - Biology and Chemistry
- **Devon** - Art and Event Decorator
- **Emmeline** - Spanish and Chemistry

We all have very exciting ideas to help you have fun in and out of lessons. If you have any questions or concerns then please find or contact Michael or Alexander.

We hope you enjoy!

Byron Sixth Form Committee



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

[Click here to sign up for our superb Sixth Form](#)



Key Dates

- **Mon 16 March:** Timetable Week A
- **Tue 17-Wed 18 March:** GCSE Geography Field Trip - South Shields
- **Wed 18 March:** Easter Concert 6.00pm
- **Thu 19 March:** Y9 Parents' Evening 4.00-6.00pm
- **Mon 23 March:** Tom A. Smith performance - all years
- **Wed 25 March:** Y11 Group Photograph
- **Wed 25 March:** Y9 Options Evening 5.00pm *NEW DATE*
- **Thu 2 April:** Break up for Easter - last day of term, 12:30pm finish
- **Mon 20 April:** Return to school

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

Our Parish: [Our Lady of the Rosary in Peterlee and Horden](#)
Our Diocese: [Hexham & Newcastle](#)

