



# 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: 24 April 2026

### Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (John 10:1-10) Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd, the one who knows us, guides us, and calls us by name. His voice is the one that leads to safety, hope, and a full life. In school, we hear many "voices": friends, social media, pressure, expectations. Some help us grow; others distract us from who we want to be. This passage reminds us to listen for the voice that encourages kindness, honesty, and courage.

We can also be like the shepherd for one another. When we include others, speak kindly, or offer help, we guide people towards what is good. As a school community, may we keep listening for the voice that leads us to life and become that voice of care and encouragement for others.

### Excellence

#### St. Bede's Prom 2026 - Free Ticket Winners

Congratulations to the following pupils that were awarded Prom tickets free of charge.

Nominated by Heads of House, Miss McDonagh and Mrs Cessford:

- **Kane Devine** nominated by Columba House
- **Millie Mai Thompson** nominated by Oswald House
- **Keira Ridley** nominated by Hilda House
- **Joshua Miller** nominated by Miss McDonagh
- **Anya Ellsworth** nominated by Mrs Cessford

Two attendance winners from the free raffle ticket for each week you have 100% attendance - **Mollie Wild** and **Jasmeen Auja**.

We look forward to this year's Prom at the Ramside Hall in July. Please note that attendance at the prom is a privilege, and students are expected to meet the school's behaviour and attendance expectations. We expect it to be a wonderful celebration after our pupils have given their all in their exams. Keep revising! Be excellent!



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Live Simply Award



We are delighted to announce that we have officially been awarded the CAFOD LiveSimply Award. This national recognition is given to parishes, schools, and groups who show they are living simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with people living in poverty. It marks the culmination of months of commitment, creativity, and collective effort.

Our LiveSimply journey began with a simple question: How can we better care for God's creation and one another? From that moment, our community embraced the challenge with enthusiasm. We set out to make meaningful changes, some small, some ambitious, that together would reflect our shared values and deepen our sense of purpose.

Over the past two years, we have:

- Lived simply by encouraging mindful consumption, reducing waste, and promoting reuse and repair within our community.
- Lived sustainably through initiatives such as recycling drives, energy-saving efforts, and outdoor projects that help nurture the natural world around us.
- Lived in solidarity by supporting local charities, participating in global justice campaigns, and raising awareness of the challenges faced by communities around the world.

Each step was shaped by the dedication of volunteers, families, staff, and parishioners who gave their time, ideas, and energy to bring the Live Simply vision to life.



At St. Bede's, we are incredibly proud of the many students who live out our school's values each day. Their commitment, kindness, and willingness to serve others shine through in the wide range of groups and activities they take part in. Today, we are delighted to introduce one of the teams that embodies this spirit so strongly: our Youth SVP group.

The Youth SVP (St. Vincent de Paul) group plays a vital role in supporting the chaplaincy provision within school. Whether helping to prepare and lead celebrations of the Word or offering a welcoming presence at chaplaincy events, these students bring energy, compassion, and a deep sense of responsibility to everything they do. What makes this group especially inspiring is the dedication of its members. Several students have been part of Youth SVP since the moment they joined St. Bede's, growing in confidence, leadership, and faith as they've moved through the school. Their long-standing commitment is a powerful example of what it means to serve our community with humility and heart. We are grateful for all they contribute and proud to celebrate them as part of the wider St. Bede's family.



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Student Success

Congratulations to Year 10 student **Eliis Coils** on her recent promotion within the Durham Army Cadets.

The photo shows Eliis being promoted from Lance Corporal to Corporal by C Company Commander Major Iverson during Christmas Camp last December at the Warcop Training Area.

Eliis has been a dedicated member of the Army Cadets for several years, and we are incredibly proud of her commitment and achievements.



A huge well done to **Emily Powell, Jasmine Brown, Josh Wilson and Olivia Mellenthin** for taking part in The Geoffrey Gordon Cup.

This challenging three-day, two-night event in the North York Moors required students to set up camp each night, cook all their own meals, and carry everything they needed on an 18km hike — with rucksacks weighing between 12–15kg. Along the way, they completed a series of activities to earn points for their teams.

Year 10 student **Archie Rowntree Howey** competed at the WAKO National Championships over the weekend and delivered an outstanding performance. He secured a gold medal in the -57kg Older Cadet Points Fighting category — a result that puts him in a strong position for potential selection to Team GB for the World Championships in Jesolo, Italy.

As if that wasn't impressive enough, Archie also claimed a silver medal in the team event, rounding off an exceptional weekend of success.

A brilliant achievement and a testament to his hard work and dedication.



**Owen Charlton**, a student in 11C, took part in a Walk for Autism challenge last month in support of the charity Walking for Autism, which provides help and resources for individuals with autism and their families.

To raise money, Owen committed to walking a minimum of 10,000 steps a day for eight consecutive days. He completed this challenge from 26 March to 2 April, walking along the Seaham coastline each day.

Owen chose to take on this challenge because he wanted to support people who may be finding life with autism difficult at the moment and to raise awareness of the help available to them.

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### "Berlin 2026 – A Look Back at an Unforgettable School Trip

As we returned from the Easter break and settled back into school life, our students have been sharing stories, reflections and plenty of enthusiasm about their unforgettable four-day visit to Berlin over the Easter Break. The trip offered a powerful blend of history, culture and personal growth, and it has clearly left a lasting impression on everyone who took part.

Throughout the visit, students explored some of Berlin's most significant historical sites, deepening their understanding of the topics they have studied in lessons. From the reflective atmosphere at Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, to the detailed exhibitions at the Topography of Terror and the DDR Museum, each experience brought classroom learning vividly to life. Many students have spoken about how these moments helped them connect more deeply with the human stories behind the history.

Walking tours across the city allowed the group to see Berlin from multiple perspectives. They traced the line of the Berlin Wall, visited Checkpoint Charlie and the Palace of Tears, and wandered along Unter den Linden in the spring sunshine, taking in landmarks such as the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag and the Neue Wache. These experiences sparked thoughtful conversations that have continued back at school.

We are incredibly proud of how our students represented St. Bede's. Their maturity, curiosity and kindness were evident throughout the trip, and staff received many positive comments about their conduct and engagement. A heartfelt thank you goes to the staff team who made the visit possible: Mr Johnson, Miss Jackson, Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Wild. Their organisation, care and commitment ensured that students felt supported, safe and inspired at every stage of the journey. We would also like to thank our parents and carers for your continued support. Opportunities like this are only possible because of the trust you place in us and the value you place on enriching experiences beyond the classroom.

Auf Wiedersehen, Berlin — and thank you for an extraordinary adventure."





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT



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### Year 9 Mathematician secures global maths prize!

We are delighted to share that **Sebastian Treanor** has been awarded a Bronze certificate after competing in the UK Maths Trust Grey Kangaroo. He qualified for the competition having won Gold in the UK Maths Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge in January. Despite the name, the competition welcomes mathematicians from across the world, so Sebastian's prize is even more impressive. A huge congratulations to Sebastian - we are so proud of this achievement and pleased your conscientiousness, humility and hard work has been rewarded.

As some of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils prepare for their UK Maths Trust Junior Maths Challenge next week, we hope they follow in Sebastian's footsteps!



### History and Geography Success

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: **Alfie Hanover**
- Mr Johnson: **Katie Moreland**
- Ms Laverick: **Max Farn**

#### Map Masters

- Miss Scott: **Olivia O'Connor**
- Mr Harper: **Madox Cullen**
- Mrs Martin: **Noah Rutter Bryson**

#### Fast Feet Manchester Trip

Our students had the privilege to attend the Man City v Arsenal game last Sunday. They had a cracking time and represented the school superbly. What a game!



#### Keeping Our School Nut-Free

A number of pupils in our school have severe nut allergies, which can be triggered by even minimal exposure. To protect their health and wellbeing, we kindly ask all families to avoid sending any nut products in packed lunches or snacks.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment for everyone.



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Summer Term Uniform Expectations – A Reminder for Parents and Carers

As we begin the summer term, we would like to thank parents and carers for the continued support you give in upholding our high expectations. A consistent approach to school uniform plays an important role in promoting pride, equality and a calm learning environment for all pupils.

We would like to remind families that school uniform rules continue to apply throughout the summer term. There is no separate “summer uniform”, and pupils are expected to attend school each day dressed smartly and fully in line with the published uniform policy.

### Core Uniform Expectations

All pupils must wear:

- A black blazer with the school badge
- The school tie (green with gold diagonal stripes), worn correctly
- A white standard school shirt, buttoned to the neck and tucked in at all times
- Either plain black standard school trousers (not tight-fitting or jean-style) worn to the top of the shoe, or a black pleated skirt worn to the knee
- Plain black tights or plain white/black socks (ankle or below-knee length)
- Plain black formal shoes (trainers, canvas shoes or branded sports footwear are not permitted)

Lightweight layers may feel tempting in warmer weather, but hoodies, cardigans, or fashion jumpers are not permitted. If worn, the approved black V-neck knitted jumper should be underneath the blazer.

### Coats and Warm Weather, Appearance, Footwear and Accessories

Students may wear a sensible waterproof coat when travelling to and from school. However, coats must be removed promptly once inside the school building. Please note that blazers remain compulsory at all times during the school day, including the summer term.

We also remind families that the uniform policy includes standards of personal appearance:

- Extreme hairstyles, including tramlines, patterns or unnatural colours, are not permitted
- The shortest permitted hair length is a number 2 all-over cut
- Make-up, false tan, false eyelashes, enhanced eyebrows, false nails and jewellery are not allowed
- Wrist-watches may be worn, but no other jewellery, including clear retainers
- Hats must not be worn inside the school building

Jewellery or make-up brought into school will be confiscated and must be collected by a parent or carer. These expectations help us promote equality and avoid unnecessary distractions during learning.

### Supporting Pupils to Be Ready to Learn

We kindly ask parents and carers to check uniform each morning, particularly footwear and shirts, as these are most likely to drift away from expectations during warmer months. Labelling items is also strongly encouraged, as the school cannot take responsibility for lost property.

If you are unsure whether an item meets the uniform or appearance policy, please contact your child's Head of House or the school office before purchasing. Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support in helping our pupils look smart, feel equal and be ready to learn every day.



## Key Dates

- **Monday 27 April:** Timetable Week A
- **Thursday 30 April:** Year 7 Parents' Evening
- **Monday 4 May:** May Day Bank Holiday
- **Friday 22 May:** Break up for Half Term @ 3.15pm

## 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

**Address:** St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form  
Westway, Peterlee, Co. Durham, SR8 1DE

**Email:** [enquiries@st-bedes.org](mailto:enquiries@st-bedes.org)

**Phone:** 0191 5876220

**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](#)

