



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: Friday 11th September 2026

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 18:21-35) Matthew reminds us that forgiveness is meant to be generous, not limited. Jesus' parable shows how easily we accept mercy yet hesitate to offer it. In our school community, forgiveness keeps relationships whole. It lets people begin again, rebuild trust, and grow.

We're invited to notice the forgiveness we receive and pass it on, in our classrooms, friendships, and conversations, so our community becomes a place of compassion and fresh starts.

St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron 6th Form College Peterlee, SR8 1DE



OPEN EVENINGS

YEAR SIX OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2026
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER 2026
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

OUR PROSPECTUS



 enquiries@st-bedes.org  0191 587 6220  st-bedes.org  [@stbedesandbyron](https://www.facebook.com/stbedesandbyron)

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Confirmations

St Mary Magdalen's Confirmation Programme 2026

Fr Charles would like to invite any pupils from St Bede's who have already made their First Holy Communion to prepare for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year.

Application forms are available from Father Charles Mass on Sunday at 9.30am

If you would like any further information, please contact Mrs Ball.



Our Lady of the Rosary Confirmation Programme 2026

Fr Sean would like to invite any pupils from St Bede's who live in Peterlee and have already made their First Holy Communion to prepare for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year.

Application forms are available from Father Sean after Mass on a Saturday at 4.30 pm or Sunday at 9.30 am.

If you would like any further information, please contact Mrs Ball.

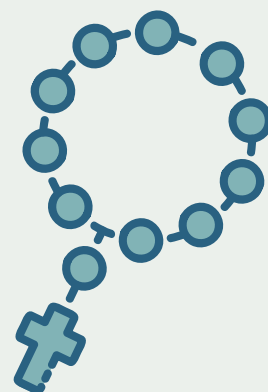


Feast Day of Our Lady

On Tuesday we joined the Church around the world in celebrating the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a feast kept every year on 8 September. It marks the moment hope entered the world in a new way, the birth of the girl who would one day become the Mother of Jesus.

Mary's birth is a reminder that God's work often begins quietly: in small places, in ordinary families, and in moments we might overlook. Her life became the dawn that prepared the way for Christ, the "Sun of Justice." As a school community, we give thanks for Mary's example of faith, courage, and gentleness.

May her birthday inspire us to bring light, kindness, and hope to one another today.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Attendance Matters: A Great Start to the New School Year

This week marks the first full week of the new school year, and we are delighted to see our students settling into their routines, reconnecting with friends, and engaging in their learning.

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's success at school. Everyday counts, and attending school consistently helps students build positive habits, maintain friendships, and make the most of every learning opportunity. Establishing strong attendance from the beginning of the year sets the foundation for continued success throughout the months ahead.

We ask all families to support good attendance by ensuring children arrive on time each day and by scheduling appointments, where possible, outside of school hours. If your child is absent, please notify the school as early as possible.

Let's work together to make this a year of excellent attendance, achievement, and wellbeing for all our students. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping every child be present, engaged, and ready to learn.

Attendance Goal: Every day counts. Every student matters. Every lesson makes a difference.

Everyday Counts!

100% Attendance

Outstanding!

0 days missed

0 lessons missed

98% Attendance

Excellent Attendance

Approximately 4 days missed

Approximately 20 lessons missed

95% Attendance

Cause for Concern

Approximately 10 days missed

Approximately 50 lessons missed

90% Attendance

Persistent Absence Threshold

Approximately 19 days missed

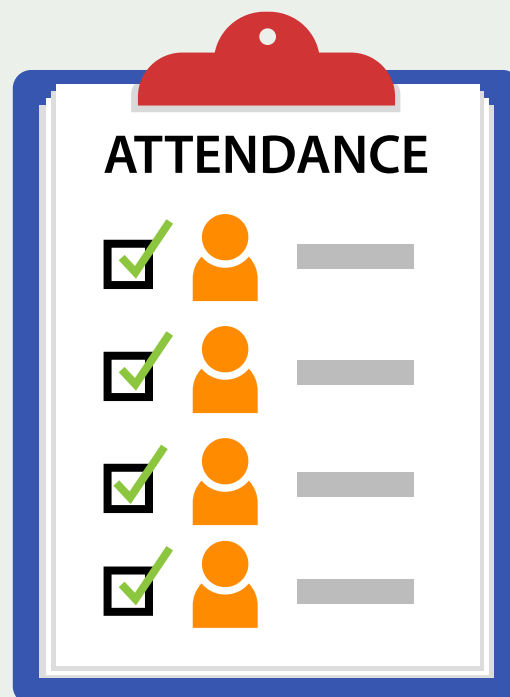
Approximately 95 lessons missed

85% Attendance

Significant Learning Missed

Approximately 29 days missed

Approximately 145 lessons missed



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Students Show Outstanding Community Spirit

We are extremely proud of Marie, William, Godric, and Isabelle, who showed exceptional kindness and teamwork while helping an elderly gentleman who had fallen in his garden and was unable to get up.

After hearing calls for help while walking home from school, the students quickly located the gentleman, raised the alarm, and stayed with him until emergency services arrived. They kept him warm with their blazers and jackets, made him as comfortable as possible, and provided calm reassurance throughout.

Marie drew on skills she has learned through her Health and Social Care course to help assess the situation and support the gentleman while they waited for help. She said that both her studies and additional research she has carried out at home helped her feel prepared to respond in an emergency.

Working together, the students demonstrated maturity, compassion, and excellent problem-solving skills. Their actions were particularly inspiring as they overcame their own additional needs to help someone in need.

Well done to all four students for being such positive role models and showing outstanding community spirit.



Alexis Enjoys a Fantastic VI Sports Event

Alexis R recently took part in a Vision Impairment (VI) Sports Event at Gateshead Stadium. The event brought together children with vision impairments from across the North East to experience a variety of exciting sports in an inclusive and supportive environment.

The day was all about giving young people the opportunity to participate in activities that had already been adapted to meet their needs, allowing everyone to get involved and enjoy trying something new.

Alexis had a fantastic time taking part in Blind Baseball, Archery, Cricket with Durham's Vision Impairment Team, and Football with the Newcastle United Foundation. It was a wonderful opportunity to develop new skills, build confidence, and meet other children with similar experiences.

Well done, Alexis, for embracing the challenge and representing the school so positively. We are very proud of your achievements!



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Nate and Ollie Shine as Sunderland AFC Mascots

On Tuesday, we were delighted to see Nate and Ollie take on a very special role as mascots for Sunderland AFC.

The boys had an unforgettable experience as they walked out onto the pitch alongside the players in front of thousands of supporters. They enjoyed being behind the scenes before the match, meeting members of the team, and soaking up the exciting atmosphere at the Stadium of Light.

Both Nate and Ollie represented our school brilliantly, showing confidence, enthusiasm and excellent behaviour throughout the evening. It was a fantastic opportunity and one that they will remember for many years to come.

We are incredibly proud of them and hope they enjoyed every moment of their special day. Well done, Nate and Ollie!



Good Luck, Mr Larkin and Miss Fox!

Everyone at St Bede's would like to wish Mr Larkin and Miss Fox the very best of luck as they take part in the Great North Run this Sunday.

This will be Mr Larkin's third Great North Run, which he is once again running in memory of former St Bede's student Lucy Coatsworth, while raising funds for Teenage Cancer Trust, a charity that holds a special place in the hearts of the St Bede's community. If you would like to support Mr Larkin's fundraising efforts, please donate here: <https://ajbellgreatnorthrun2026.enthuse.com/pf/colin-larkin>

Miss Fox is running in support of the Bradley Lowery Foundation, a charity that is very close to the hearts of many people in our local community.

If you would like to support Miss Fox's fundraising, please donate here: <https://ajbellgreatnorthrun2026.enthuse.com/pf/jess-fox>

We are incredibly proud of both runners and know they will have the support of the whole school behind them.

Celebrate Your Child's Achievements with Us!

We love celebrating the wonderful achievements of our pupils, both in and out of school. If your child has accomplished something special, big or small, we would be delighted to share their success with our school community.

Please send details, and any photos you would like us to include, to DBBCelebrations@st-bedes.org We look forward to helping celebrate your child's achievements with everyone!

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Year 9 Opportunity: Become a Young Sports Leader!

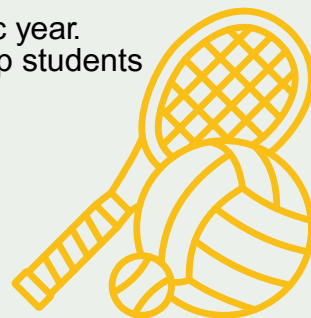
Easington School Sport Partnership, in collaboration with the School Games project, is offering Year 9 students the exciting opportunity to take part in a FREE Young Leaders Programme.

This programme is designed for students who demonstrate leadership potential, enjoy working with others, and have an interest in volunteering and sport.

What does the programme involve?

Students will participate in five Young Leaders sessions throughout the academic year. These sessions will combine practical activities and theory-based learning to help students develop essential leadership skills, including:

- Communication
- Organisation
- Teamwork
- Event planning
- Sports leadership knowledge



Participants will also be encouraged to volunteer at local sporting events organised by Easington School Sport Partnership and within school. This will provide valuable experience and the chance to put their leadership skills into practice.

Recognition and Awards

Students who demonstrate a strong commitment to volunteering will be recognised through the Sports Leadership Award Scheme, with opportunities to achieve:

- Bronze Award
- Silver Award
- Gold Award
- Platinum Award



Session Information

All five sessions will take place in secondary schools across the East Durham area and will run after school from 4:00pm to 5:30pm. Students will be expected to make their own travel arrangements to and from the venues. For Easington SSP events, transport support may be available and will be discussed with families and school staff where possible.

Interested?

If you are a Year 9 student and would like to apply for this fantastic opportunity, please collect an application form from Miss Brown as soon as possible.

This is an excellent chance to build confidence, develop leadership skills, gain valuable volunteering experience, and make a positive contribution to sport in the local community.



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Feast of St Oswald: A House Celebration

Although the Feast of St Oswald falls on 5 August, during the summer holidays, Oswald House was determined that the occasion would not pass unnoticed.

This week, students and staff came together to celebrate the life and legacy of our patron saint through a special House liturgy led by Mr Johnson, Head of House, and Miss Jackson, Assistant Head of House.

The liturgy reflected on the remarkable story of St Oswald, King of Northumbria, who is remembered not simply for his leadership but for the way he used his position to serve others. Living and ruling in the very region many of our students call home, St Oswald's example remains particularly relevant today. His courage, faith and compassion helped unite people, bring peace, and provide support for those most in need. One of the most famous stories associated with St Oswald tells of him giving away his own royal meal to the poor, demonstrating that true leadership is rooted in service and generosity.



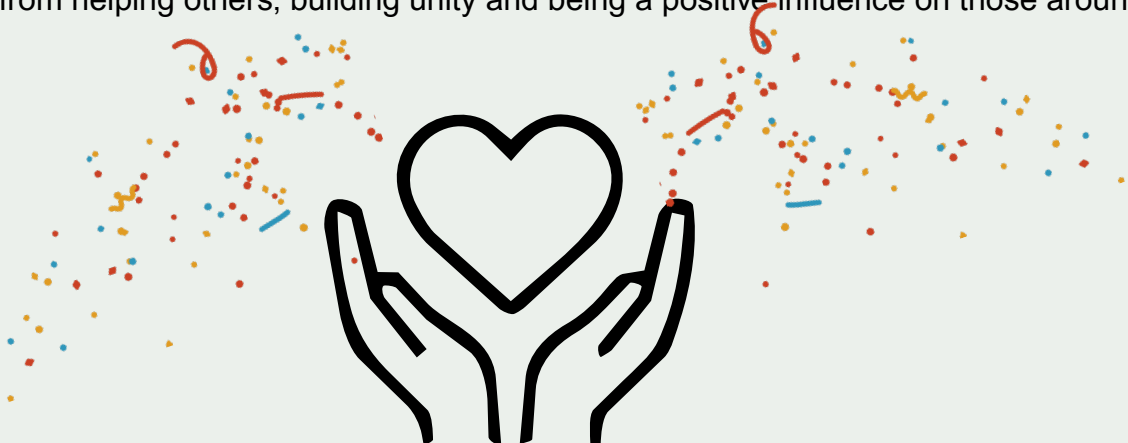
Students reflected on the Gospel message from Matthew 5:16:

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

This message provided a fitting reminder that, like St Oswald, we are called to lead through our actions, show kindness to others and use our gifts to make a positive difference within our school community.

Throughout the liturgy, students were exceptionally respectful and engaged, demonstrating immense pride in belonging to Oswald House. The celebration highlighted the core values that define our House: courage, service, faith and community.

To conclude the occasion, students enjoyed some green sweets to represent our House colour as a small but enjoyable way to mark the feast day together. It was a genuinely uplifting occasion and a wonderful way to begin the school year, reminding us all that real strength comes not from status or popularity, but from helping others, building unity and being a positive influence on those around us.

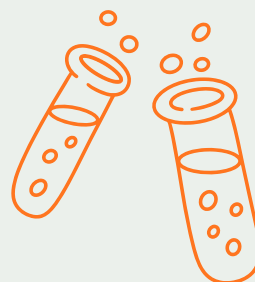
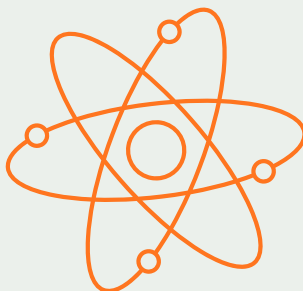


RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Science Lab coat Legends

In science we want to 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- **Alfie M**
Mr Griffiths- **Alfie W**
Mr Bowyer- **Frankie F**
Miss Armstrong- **Hope R**
Mr Gooch- **Rylee C**
Mrs Lord- **Hazel J**
Mr Day- **Eldon L**



Spanish Stars

We are delighted to announce this week's Expertos de Español! These students have truly stood out to their teachers in Spanish lessons this week through their hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment to learning. ¡Enhorabuena!



Señorita García- **Jacob K** (9H2)- Excellent confidence and attitude to learning in Spanish. Always strives to do his best and makes valuable contributions in lessons.

Señorita Atkinson- **Preston S** (8H1)- Outstanding participation in Spanish lessons this week, demonstrating confidence, determination, and an excellent attitude to learning.



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- **Marcus S**
Mr Johnson- **Rae M**
Ms Laverick- **Alyssa B**

Map Masters:

Miss Scott- **Oliver R**
Mr Harper- **Ruby L**
Mrs Martin- **Joshua B**

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

No More Sleeping

Students from Y8, 9 and 10 have been rehearsing for our whole trust musical which is being performed later this month at O2 City Hall Newcastle. For those involved, the tickets are to be paid for via Arbor Pay.

Durham Music Service

Lessons have begun this week - can students please check the timetables in music and ensure they collect a copy of the timetable from either Mr Robinson & Mr Teasdale. Please ensure you are on time to your lessons.

For those who would like to sign up for lessons - we currently have availability for lessons on Drum Kit, Woodwind, Voice and Guitar.

You can sign up using the following link-

<https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/sign-up>

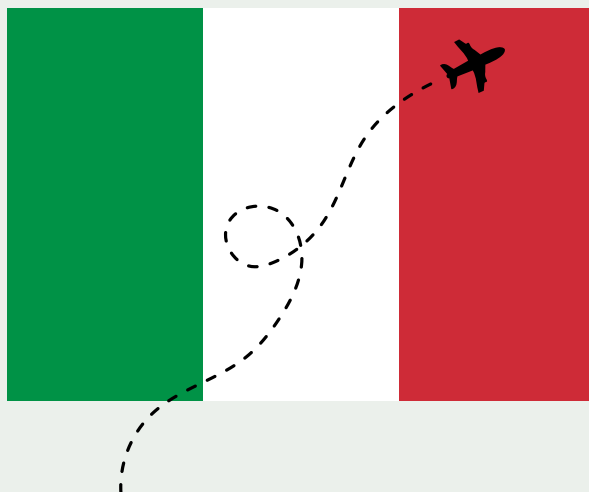


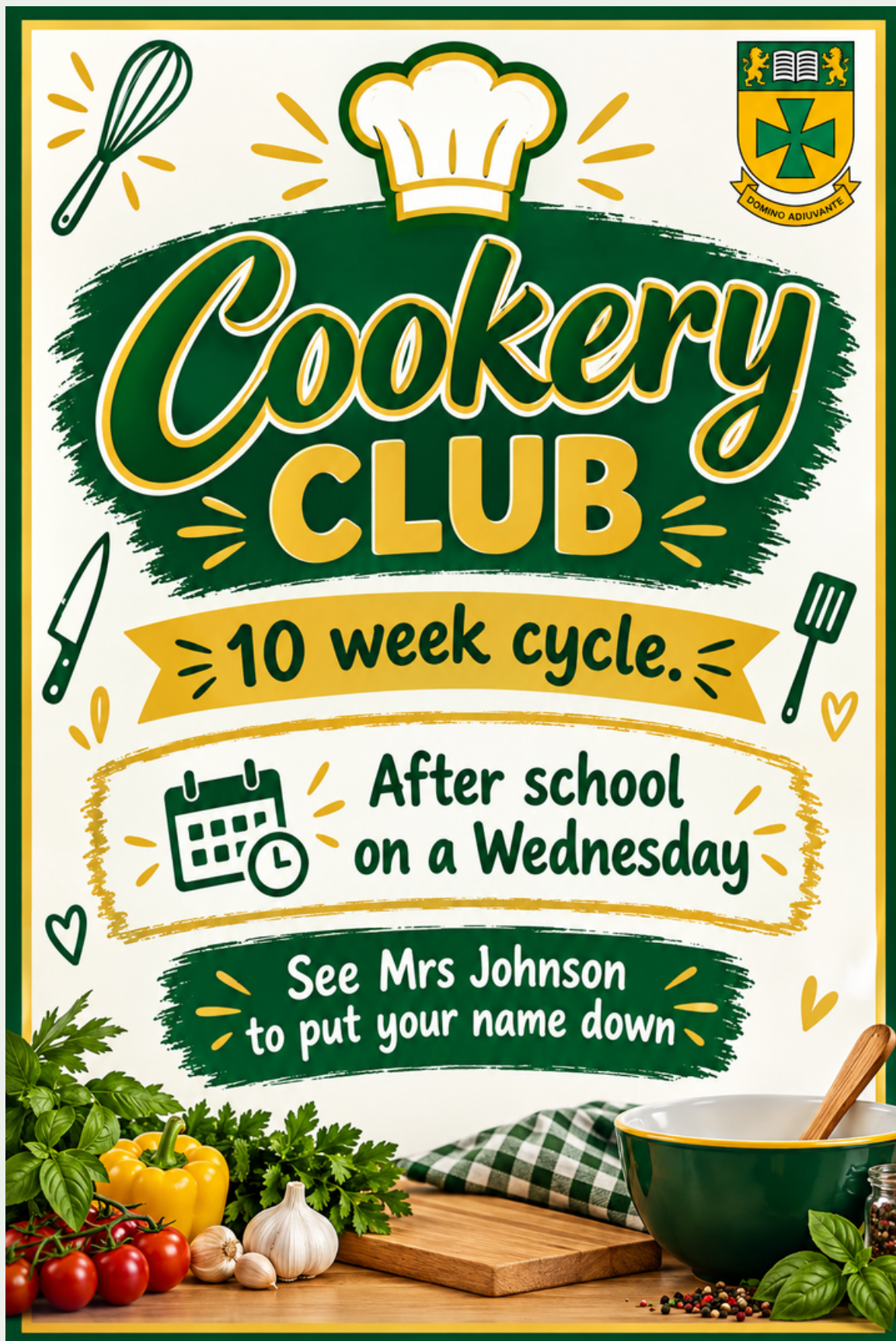
Geography Trip to Italy: Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

We are delighted to invite parents and carers to an information evening on Wednesday 30th September, where we will share important details about the upcoming Geography trip to Italy.

The meeting will take place from 5:00pm to 5:30pm and will cover key information including travel arrangements, luggage requirements, currency, a recommended kit list, and our planned daily itinerary. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the trip.

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing our exciting plans for what promises to be a memorable and enriching experience for our students.





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BACK TO SCHOOL

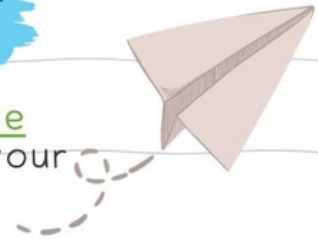


For some young poeple going back to school can be exciting and they look forward to the new adventures ahead. However for some children going back to school can cause anxiety.

Tips for supporting you child return to school



Be Aware, Listen and Empathise
check in, validate and listen to your child



Problem Solve

Together find a solutions to the problem

Positivity

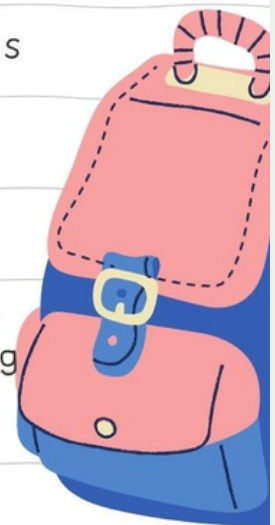
Praise you child for all positive steps they take in this journey.

Routine

Starting a routine early.

Reward Resilience

Reward and speak about how their day has been, allow time for learning and reflection.





SLEEP TIPS FOR TEENAGERS

DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH GETTING TO SLEEP?

DOES IT AFFECT HOW YOU FEEL THE NEXT DAY?

GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP HELPS YOU MANAGE STRESS, IMPROVE LEARNING, AND ENGAGE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN SCHOOL AND AT HOME.

Try these tips for helping with a healthy sleep pattern

- 01** Stick to regular bed and wake-up times (even on weekends).
- 02** Create a sleep-friendly space: dark, quiet, cool and free of screens.
- 03** Establish a relaxing routine 30 minutes to 1 hour before bed.
- 04** Be active during the day; reduce time spent sitting.
- 05** Limit screen time during the day and avoid screens at least 1 hour before bed.
- 06** Avoid large meals, and caffeine before bed.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

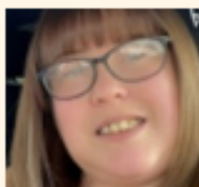
Who are the mental health support team?

A services that work directly within schools and colleges to provide early intervention for children and young people with mild-to-moderate mental health needs

What are Education Mental Health Practitioners?

EMHP work within St Bede's School and one of their roles is to offer Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) to support young people with exploring their thoughts, feelings and behaviours.

Practitioners based within St Bede's School:



Sarah Liddell
Senior EMHP



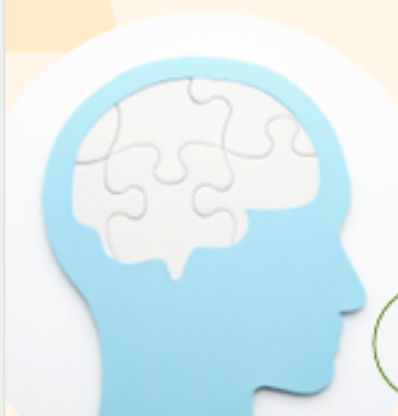
Karen Edwards
EMHP

What We Offer

6-8 sessions of early intervention support for young people struggling with low / moderate symptoms of:

- Low mood
- Social anxiety
- Generalised anxiety
- Separation anxiety
- Fears/phobias
- Panic
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

for further information please speak with your head of house for more details.





Key Dates

- Wednesday 23rd September- No More Sleeping Music Project (O2 City Hall, Newcastle)
- Thursday 24th September- Year 6 Open Evening (5pm)
- Friday 25th September- Year 7 and Year 10 Photograph's
- Thursday 8th October- Byron Open Evening

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
Phone: 0191 5876220
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

