



HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY LETTER

Autumn 9



SPOTLIGHT ON ENGLISH

It's been a busy and exciting first half term in the English department! Pupils across KS3 and Year 10 have been reading some brilliant books:

- Year 7 have started learning about Gothic stories and are reading *The Prince of Mist* by Carlos Ruiz Zafón.
- Year 8 are reading *Animal Farm* by George Orwell and practising persuasive writing by creating speeches.
- Year 9 have been enjoying *Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman and thinking about how it links to British values.
- Year 10 have begun their GCSE course and are studying *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson.
- Year 11 have been working hard preparing for their prelim exams—well done!

We're also excited about our new school library, which pupils visit every fortnight for a reading lesson.

The library is open before school, at lunch, and after school until 4pm.

Outside of lessons, there are lots of fun activities happening, including:

- Creative writing competitions
- Poetry club
- A new film club

In September, our sixth form pupils visited Newcastle University for a workshop on academic writing and explored the Robinson Library.

Just before half term, Miss Old took a group of Year 7 pupils to see *Mary Poppins* at the Sunderland Empire as a reward trip!

We're now looking forward to more exciting events, including live stream sessions with the British Library next month!

DROP DOWN MORNING

Our recent PREP drop down morning was a resounding success, offering pupils a rich and engaging experience across a range of important topics. Pupils took part in interactive sessions focused on planners and organisation, healthy relationships and anti-bullying, British values, anti-racism, and enrichment.

The morning provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to reflect on their personal development, explore key social issues, and build essential life skills.

What positive impact can enrichment opportunities have on pupils?

Encourages a love of learning!

When you get to explore topics you're passionate about — like art, music, or science experiments — learning becomes exciting. It's not just about exams; it's about discovering what you enjoy so that you develop a lifelong passion once you have left St. Wilfrid's at the age of 18!

This love of learning and discovering exciting new topics may be something you could explore at our STEM Club.

10 minutes per lesson, per classroom, per department





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FAITH FOCUS

"Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"
– John 2:16

In John's Gospel, Jesus restores the temple's holiness, reminding us that sacred spaces are meant for prayer and connection with God. His actions invite us to reflect on the places we inhabit, our homes, school, and hearts. Our classrooms are not just places of learning, but spaces where faith is lived, values are shaped, and relationships grow.

KEY DATES FOR FAMILIES

Following your feedback, we've compiled a document outlining the key dates for this year.

You can view the document by clicking the link below:

[Key Dates](#)

MEET THE TEACHER

Name: Dr Cummins

What subject do you teach?
English

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I got into teaching a bit later than most. While I was doing my PhD, I ran a creative writing workshop with a group of 15/16 year olds, and I loved the experience as the students were smart, engaged and funny.

What's a fun fact about you that students might not know?

I was born in the middle east (Jordan), and my middle name is Hussein

What do you like to do when you're not teaching?

I love to read, spending time with my kids, traveling and eating different types of food.

Do you have any hobbies?

Other than reading, I enjoy listening to live music

Favourite books/movies?

Kindred by Octavia Butler or anything by Maggie O'Sullivan



As we head into the weekend, I'd like to take a moment to commend all our pupils for the focus and energy they've brought back to school this week. A special well done to our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils who have now completed their prelims; your hard work and determination have not gone unnoticed.

As this weekend brings Bonfire Night festivities, I wish all our families a joyful and safe celebration. Whether you're enjoying fireworks or gathering with loved ones, please take care. This time of year also brings All Souls' Day, offering us a quiet moment to reflect and remember those we've lost. May it be a time of peace, gratitude, and togetherness.

Mrs C Lennox 7/11/25



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Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust