



Parent and Carer Bulletin

Issue #27 | 15th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well. As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a positive, consistent and transparent approach to behaviour, I would like to share an important update regarding our school's behaviour systems.

Over recent months, we have actively gathered and reflected upon feedback from both students, staff and parents. While our existing behaviour system has supported strong standards and consistency, it became clear that the terminology we used was not always as clear or accessible as it could be. In particular, families highlighted that simplifying the language would help them better understand how the system works and how they can support it at home.

In response, we will be making a carefully considered change to the terminology used within our behaviour system. This refinement is designed to make expectations, processes and outcomes easier to understand for all members of our community. We will gradually transition towards the use of this new terminology throughout the next half term.

Importantly, this change is also intended to ensure that both students and parents can more clearly identify why students are being recognised and rewarded, as well as to better understand those behaviours that may not be supporting students' progress and personal growth. By making this distinction clearer, we aim to promote greater reflection, encourage positive choices and strengthen students' understanding of how their actions contribute to their success in school.

I would like to reassure you that the core principles and expectations remain unchanged. We continue to uphold high standards, promote responsibility and support every student in making positive choices. What has changed is simply the clarity and accessibility of the language we use to communicate these expectations.

We believe this improvement will:

- Help students better understand what is expected of them
- Provide clearer recognition of positive behaviours and achievements
- Support students in identifying areas for improvement
- Enable parents to engage more confidently with school systems
- Strengthen shared understanding between home and school

To ensure all families feel well-informed, further correspondence will be shared from next week, clearly outlining the updated terminology and what it means in practice.

In addition, we will be offering opportunities for parents and carers to access support and guidance, including developing a clearer understanding of both the behaviour system and how information is communicated through the Arbor app. These opportunities will provide practical support and the chance to ask questions, ensuring that all families feel confident in navigating these systems.

This refinement is a direct result of the valuable feedback we have received, and I would like to thank you for your continued engagement and support. Working together, we can ensure that all students are supported to thrive both academically and personally.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Glenn Thompson
Head of School



Sixth Form Updates

Year 13 Examinations

Year 13 students have made a very positive start to their A-level examinations. We are delighted with their approach so far and wish them the very best of luck for the remainder of their exams.

Year 12 IntoUniversity Talk during PPD

This week, Year 12 students attended a PPD session delivered by IntoUniversity, a government initiative aimed at encouraging young people in areas such as Hartlepool to consider higher education. The session focused on developing key employability skills and raising awareness of future opportunities.

Year 12 Work Experience

A reminder that the dedicated Work Experience week will take place from 6th-10th July. Students can still arrange placements by contacting employers directly. Please encourage your son or daughter to secure a placement, as this provides valuable insight into the world of work. Well done to those students who have already confirmed their placements.

Year 12 Prep Exams

A reminder that Year 12 Preparation Exams will begin on 15th June and will run for two weeks. Exam timetables will be shared with students before the half-term break. This is an important opportunity for students to practise exam techniques, identify areas for improvement, and build confidence ahead of their final assessments. We encourage all students to prepare thoroughly and make the most of this valuable experience.

Year 12 Open Days

Following the UCAS Discovery exhibition, students will now begin the process of exploring and applying to university. The event provided a valuable opportunity for them to gain insight into higher education options.

We are pleased to be offering all students the opportunity to visit the Newcastle and Northumbria Open Days, ensuring that everyone has at least one chance to experience a university environment. However, we strongly encourage students to visit a range of universities to help them make informed choices.

Over the coming weeks, students should take time to research which universities they are interested in and check individual university websites for open day dates. Open Days typically take place in June, July, September and October.

A useful starting point is the link provided, although this is not an exhaustive list, and students should continue to explore university websites for further information.

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/events?query=>

Ms Jackson

Local History Trip

Our second cohort of Year 7 students attended a local History rewards trip this week, visiting the Heugh Battery museum in town (the only preserved WW1 battlefield site in the UK). 30 students took part in commemorating the bombardment of Hartlepool from December 1914. We handled WW1 weaponry, uniform, early gas masks and even carbolic soap!

Well done to all students selected from each teaching class based on achievement points and attendance. Watch this space for another cohort to visit the site this term!

Ms Edwards

HOLY FAMILY PARISH EVENT - May Procession, 17th May 2026

During May the Catholic Church honours Our Lady, the Mother of God and our heavenly mother. A procession to Our Lady's statue, led by those who celebrated their first Communion the previous weekend, will culminate with laying flowers before her image. All are welcome to join Canon Paul Douthwaite on Sunday 17th May at 4pm, in St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool. After the procession there will be refreshments and cake in the Parish Centre Hall. Please do come along.

Thanks to Canon Paul for celebrating two Masses with English Martyrs this week.

A big thank you again to students who attended the rosary group this week. Your prayers and devotion are making a real difference to the Catholic Life of English Martyrs!

Mr Tucker

Student Athletic Success

A huge congratulations to Karson Boothe (Year 8).

Karson recently broke the school 100m sprint record, that has stood since 2011. Karson completed the 100m sprint in a school record time of 11.95 seconds!

This year Karson has also completed the 200m in 25.40 seconds

Karson is a member of Hartlepool running club and they have informed him that these times make him the 29th fastest, under 14's runner in the whole of the UK.

Well done, Karson!

Ms Wilson

Year 7 Updates

Year 7 have enjoyed another extremely successful and busy half-term, and it is hard to believe we are already approaching the May half-term break. Students continue to represent the school with pride in all areas of school life, both inside and outside of the classroom, and staff are incredibly proud of their attitude, effort and achievements.

Sporting Successes

It was fantastic to see both the Year 7 boys' and girls' football teams crowned Hartlepool Schools Champions shortly after the Easter break, proudly lifting their trophies at Victoria Park. Both teams demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience and determination throughout their competitions and fully deserved their success.

Our Year 7 girls' rugby team also achieved an outstanding result, becoming Tees Valley Rugby Champions following a dominant performance in the final. The boys' rugby team also represented the school superbly at Mowden Park, finishing as runners-up and returning with medals after an excellent tournament, showing great commitment throughout. The athletics season has also begun, with a number of students competing in the Schools Track and Field Cup. They were a credit to the school, showing great effort, enthusiasm and sportsmanship across the event.

SMART MOVES Programme

Congratulations to those students who recently completed the eight-week SMART MOVES programme with Mrs Craigen. They demonstrated excellent engagement, commitment and maturity throughout, and they should be very proud of the progress they have made.

Trips and Enrichment

Students have also taken part in a range of enrichment opportunities this half-term. A group of 65 students visited Emmaus Youth Village for a retreat experience focusing on friendship, teamwork and faith. They represented the school exceptionally well and received high praise from staff and the YMT team for their positive attitude and behaviour.

In addition, Mrs Spears and Mrs Ranson have taken a group of students to the Lake District for a three-day residential visit, where they have been involved in a range of outdoor and team-building activities. We look forward to hearing about their experiences on their return.

Finally, another group of students visited the Heugh Battery Museum at the Headland, where they explored what life was like during the First World War and learned about the Bombardment of Hartlepool. This was an engaging and valuable learning experience, and students thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

Mr Hutchinson

Year 7 Updates - Continued

We are delighted to launch our new Curriculum Stars initiative this week, designed to recognise the fantastic effort and high-quality work taking place in classrooms across Year 7.

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our first group of winners, who have demonstrated excellent commitment, enthusiasm and achievement in their subjects:

Kayden H. – Maths
Mariam K. – Geography
Imogen S. – English
Ini J. – French
Willow D. – RE
Alice N. – RE
Oliver O. – RE

All students have shown outstanding dedication to their learning and should feel very proud of their success. We look forward to celebrating many more Curriculum Stars in the weeks ahead!

Alongside this, we are placing a strong focus on improving attendance in Year 7. We will be working closely with students to support and encourage them in raising their attendance, as this is key to their success in school. Further information will be shared soon, and we are really looking forward to getting this initiative underway.

Mr Hodgson

Ark Students Rising to the Challenge in RE

We are incredibly proud of the dedication and determination our Ark students have shown in Religious Education as they tackle the complex concept of the Magisterium. This is no easy topic—yet our students have approached it with maturity, curiosity, and real academic resilience.

Rather than being overwhelmed, they worked collaboratively to break down the concept step by step, exploring what the Magisterium means, its role in the Church, and its importance for Catholic teaching and authority. Through discussion, questioning, and careful thinking, they transformed a challenging idea into something they could confidently understand and apply.

A particular highlight was seeing one student take the lead and deliver a clear, practical explanation at the whiteboard, guiding their peers through the concept with confidence and clarity. This moment truly captured the spirit of our Ark community—students supporting one another and stepping into leadership roles in their learning.


It is inspiring to see how hard our Ark students are working to master their GCSE concepts. Their commitment, perseverance, and willingness to engage deeply with demanding material is something to be celebrated.

Well done, Team Ark—we couldn't be prouder!

Ms Fairclough


GCSE RE REVISION WEBINARS


Year 11 – Don't Miss Out!

 Join our live online revision webinars to boost your exam confidence and understanding.


WEBINAR DATES & TIMES


Foundational Catholic Theology (FCT)

 Monday 11th May


 5:00pm – 6:30pm


Applied Catholic Theology (ACT)


 Tuesday 19th May

 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Judaism

 Sunday 31st May

 4:00pm – 5:30pm

 Session Structure


Each webinar lasts 90 minutes

45 minutes per theme

(e.g. FCT: Origins & Meaning / Good & Evil)


 How the Webinars Work

 Cameras & microphones disabled

 School account required to access

 Students admitted by the presenter

 Questions asked via chat function

 Live polls used to check understanding

 Sessions will be recorded

 **A great opportunity to revise key topics, exam technique and ask questions before the GCSEs!**

Summer Exam P6 Timetable

Summer Exams 2026 Period 6 Timetable						
Week Commencing	11th May	18th May	Half Term	1st June	8th June	
Week	1	2		3	4	
Monday	RE Biology	English Comp Science Child Development			Physics	Maths
Tuesday	Geography Comp Science Maths	English RE			Maths	Maths
Wednesday	Maths	English			History French	Geography
Thursday	History Chemistry	French GCSE PE			English	Chemistry
Friday	Chemistry				Biology	Physics

