



St Bede's Catholic School and
Byron 6th Form College



School Prospectus 2022

Welcome

On behalf of everyone at St Bede's, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child.

Our distinctive Catholic ethos is at the very heart of all that we do, and as a fully inclusive school we welcome students of other faiths and of no faith to be part of our family. We believe we can offer your son or daughter the very best educational provision, both academically and pastorally as they make the important transition from primary to secondary education.

We strive for excellence in all that we do, whether supporting our students towards first rate academic achievement, or providing extracurricular opportunities for their all-round development. We ensure that outstanding pastoral care, excellent teaching and high quality learning are delivered daily. Most importantly, we help our students to develop as mature young adults who are well educated individuals, fully prepared to take their place successfully in the wider world. We value working closely in partnership with parents and carers as this is key to the success of students. Should you decide to entrust your child into our care, we can assure you that we will give your child the very best provision.

We very much look forward to welcoming your son or daughter to help us write the next exciting chapter of St Bede's continued achievements, as our great school moves from strength to strength.



Mrs F. Cessford
Headteacher



Mr T. McCourt
Chair of Governors

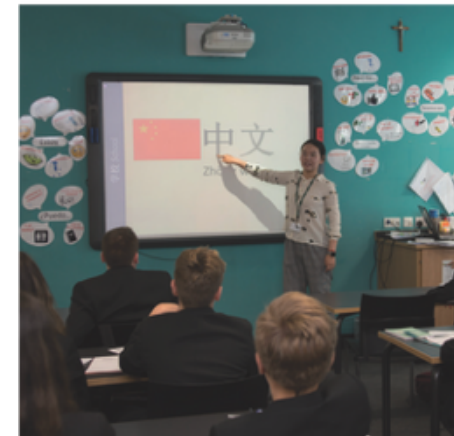


Our School

Choosing which secondary school your child goes to is a big decision. A milestone for both your child and for you as parents. We believe that St. Bede's is the right place to make the educational experience for your child and you as rewarding as possible.

At GCSE 74% of students achieved a grade 4 in both English and Mathematics. 52% achieved a higher grade 5 in both, this was the highest in the East Durham area and well above County average.

- Our growing reputation for delivering excellent educational outcomes is rooted in a confidence that this will be sustained over time. In July 2020, we were named as the 8th best school in the region in The Chronicle's Real School's Guide.
- We are committed to support students through our strong pastoral system which enables us to know each student as the individual they are.
- It is our mission to achieve inclusive education and social justice for pupils with SEND.



Our Ethos

At the heart of St. Bede's, and underpinning everything we do is our mission to bear witness to Christ. Whatever your child's faith background, you can be assured that at St Bede's your child will have the opportunity to explore and develop their spiritual life in a supportive environment, where tolerance and mutual respect are some of our guiding principles.

Catholic Education is about much more than just the delivery of an academic curriculum. We are also responsible for the spiritual and moral formation of young people; a responsibility we take just as seriously as academic progress. As parents you have entrusted the care of your child to primary colleagues for a number of years, in a school who no doubt knows your son or daughter as the unique individual that they are. Our admissions intake caters to be more personalised than some other providers can offer. As such we know every student by name and can minister to their specific needs.

These high quality relationships are at the heart of our ethos and explain, more than anything else, why we are such a successful school. Children are extremely well cared for at St Bede's. Staff nurture each student as valued individuals, blessed with God-given gifts and talents. We encourage our students to develop these to the full, for their own sake and in the service of others.



Our School

Visitors always comment on the warm and welcoming atmosphere which envelops our caring school, which we believe is a very special place to learn and work in.

We are a happy, safe community where students mix together well, and where every member is encouraged to search for excellence in all that they do. When your child arrives at St Bede's they immediately become part of our extended family.

St Bede's Catholic School was part of the 'Building Schools for the Future' government initiative. As a result we benefited from a multi million pound redevelopment of the school site. We are proud to have a beautiful and spacious new school building with modern classrooms, sports facilities, large indoor spaces for dining and pupil use. We also have a dedicated 6th Form area and catering.

Transport arrangements:

All of our students who live more than 2 miles from school in our feeder areas travel on dedicated school transport to and from school. This is without cost to parents and is regardless of faith. We believe in supporting families to access the best education for children, rather than just the closest one.

Our facilities include:

- Sports Hall
- Gymnasium
- Multi Use Game Area (MUGA)
- Extensive school playing fields
- Main Hall
- Activities Hall
- Chapel
- Large Dining Hall and catering facilities
- ICT Suites
- Science Laboratories
- Technology and Engineering Rooms
- Music Rooms
- Art Studios

6th Form facilities include:

Bespoke facilities exist for Key Stage 5 students including modern teaching rooms, specialist laboratories, spaces for private and group study as well as a dedicated social space and café.



Pastoral Structure

St Bede's is an orderly, well-disciplined community where learning flourishes. Excellent behaviour plays a major part in our continued success.

The pastoral system is the bedrock of our school and is based on high behavioural standards, mutual respect and a true level of dedication towards students from our compassionate staff.

All Year 7 students are assigned to a tutor group within a House structure which they will remain in until Year 11. This group is a mixed-ability group made up of students from different primary schools. Siblings are placed in the same House to allow the Heads of House to form long lasting relationships and get to know families as the first point of home school contact.

Standards

We expect the highest of standards from students and follow robust discipline policies which allow every student to fulfil their potential, and in which classroom disruption is an extremely rare occurrence. Our school is calm and well ordered, we support students to become more self disciplined and to have a sense of responsibility for their actions. We praise and duly reward positive behaviours and attitudes with credits which create our House points system. Pupils who fail to meet our high standards face staged sanctions.

Developing the whole student

Throughout these five years students will experience personal, social and health education. These weekly sessions cover:

- Spiritual development: Providing students with an opportunity to help develop a real and lasting relationship with God.
- Relationship development: Exploring what is understood as authentic human love and the dignity of each person.
- Social development: Developing our students' social skills, self-awareness and personal wellbeing.
- Careers development: Providing impartial advice and unleashing student ambitions for their future.
- Learning development: Acquiring the skills of an effective lifelong learner.

We know that parents and carers play a vital role in children's learning, so we regularly ask them for their opinions and feedback to ensure they're working with us as full partners.



Expectations

At St. Bede's we aim to create a safe, orderly, happy environment in which all students can learn to the best of their ability.

In order to do this, it is expected that each student will:

- Observe the school code of practice regarding uniform.
- Ensure that they have the correct items and equipment for each lesson and take good care of any items of equipment provided for them.
- Be caring and respectful to all others at all times.
- Concentrate on their work and follow the teacher's instructions.
- Record homework tasks in their diaries and complete them diligently.
- Show respect and consideration to all people they meet outside of school and on the journey to and from school.

To ensure the smooth running of the school, students must:

- Keep to the left on staircases and corridors and walk quietly. They must line up quietly and wait for the teacher to lead them into the classroom.
- Have an appointment outside of school day for visits to Doctor/Dentist/Clinic. If not possible they must bring in the appointment card and show it to their Registration Tutor and follow the correct signing out procedures.
- Ensure parent/carer rings in before 8.45am on the first day of any absence.
- Sign the late list if arriving after 8.45 am registration and then report to their Registration Tutor.
- Provide a note if they need to be excused (on medical grounds only) from PE.
- Remain in school at lunchtime.
- Not use mobile phones and personal devices during lessons or formal school time. They should be switched off at all times and placed in the student's bag, otherwise they may be confiscated for a parent/carer to collect later.



Curriculum

St Bede's – a school where success and potential of each individual is recognised and a will to achieve is actively encouraged.

St Bede's Catholic School and Byron 6th Form College provides a broad and balanced curriculum which aims to:

- Develop in students lively, enquiring minds; to help them enjoy the acquisition of knowledge; promote the ability to question and argue rationally; to better understand technology, science and mathematics; to enhance the use of information technology across the curriculum; to encourage students to apply themselves to a range of tasks and skills which will equip them for their life in a technological future and as Christian adults.
- Enable students to use language and numbers effectively; to appreciate and respond creatively through the variety of learning experiences offered to them by all areas of the curriculum.

We provide a curriculum rich in opportunities, recognising that each student is unique and has different talents and gifts. The curriculum provides students with the skills and knowledge which will allow them go onto a range of GCSE, A level and selected applied courses. We are highly ambitious for our young people and every student who is appropriate for the EBACC suite of qualifications is entered. We are proud to have one of the highest entry rates in County Durham. Students are set by ability from KS2 prior attainment, and reassessed across their 5 year academic career.

Students are set aspirational targets in order to make sure that they push themselves to fulfil their God given potential. In order to realise this goal we know how important it is to work with parents, keeping them informed and working as a team to maximise student success.

We are a forward thinking school, always seeking to futureproof our offer and to find new and creative ways to allow young people to develop a zest for learning. We are proud to be a flagship Mandarin Excellence provider and selected students learn Mandarin Chinese which is our second school language. This has proven to be extremely successful and is recognised by students, parents and employers as particularly advantageous to student future career opportunities.

Core Subjects

English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Science.

Foundation Subjects

Art, Computing, Design & Technology, Geography, History, Mandarin Chinese, Music, Physical Education, Spanish.

KS4

- Year 10 and 11 study all core subjects.
- History and/or Geography.
- A Modern Foreign Language for most students.
- Further option choices from a range of GCSE and high quality vocational courses.



Admissions

The full Admissions Policy is available under the Policies page on the school's website.

The admission policies explain:

- How we consider applications for each age group.
- What parents should do if they want to apply for their child to attend St Bede's.
- Our arrangements for selecting the pupils who apply.
- Our 'over-subscription criteria' (how we offer places if there are more applicants than places).
- How parents can find out about our school's admission arrangements through our local authority.

Improtech's Elite Football Academy

St. Bede's now offers a dedicated football training programme for both boys and girls who have talent for the sport. Through the Improtech programme, students will be given professional-standard coaching aimed at enhancing their chance of a career in football, while at the same time guaranteeing them a good education.

Improtech are the leading supplier of elite football coaching in education in the North East and have a fantastic track record of taking young prospects and developing them into players that have fantastic careers.

Improtech strive not only to make the most of a young player's ability but also to mould a character and person that they and their parents can be proud of. Any top coach or manager will tell you that to succeed in sport, talent alone is not enough – discipline, drive and a professional attitude focused on personal achievement is crucial. These are qualities which Improtech encourage both in training and in general school life.

More information on the scheme can be found at:
<http://www.improtechsoccer.com/>



Uniform

The school requires high standards of personal appearance and all students should wear school uniform to and from school, during the school day or when participating in school-organised events.

Girls' Uniform (Years 7-11)

- White school shirt with top button fastened (not a polo shirt).
- Black formal tailored school trousers (not lycra or denim)
- or black knee-length school skirt (not lycra or denim) with black opaque tights.
- A black blazer with the St Bede's school badge and house ribbon attached
- A St Bede's school clip-on tie.
- Black formal school shoes.
- Optional St Bede's black jumper with logo.

Boys' Uniform (Years 7-11)

- White school shirt with top button fastened (not a polo shirt).
- Black formal school trousers (not denim type material or jean styled trousers)
- A black blazer with the St Bede's school badge and house ribbon attached
- A St Bede's school clip-on tie.
- Black formal school shoe shoes.
- Optional St Bede's black jumper with logo.

Fashion statements with regards to students' dress or appearance are unacceptable. (If in doubt, parents and carers should contact the school before any decisions are made).

Jewellery (other than a wrist watch) including piercings must not be worn. Extreme haircuts (tramlines, extreme patterns or unnatural dyed colours) are forbidden. Hair should be no shorter than a number 2. Make-up is not allowed for students in years 7-11. All students in years 7-11 to have their hair tied up.

All students should come to school with a suitable school bag. We define "suitable" as a school bag which can easily contain room for class books, planner, textbooks and a PE kit.





Proud to be part of
Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust

**St Bede's Catholic School and
Byron 6th Form College**



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