



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 January 2025

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 1:1-4), we are reminded that Jesus brings Good News to everyone. We can all at times be blinded by selfishness or jealousy, be prisoners of guilt or worry, or be oppressed by bad habits, but Jesus has come to set us free, to help us renew our relationship with God and to enrich our relationships with each other. Today, our schools and parishes continue Jesus' work, sharing the Good News of the Gospel so that people of the world can know God's love for them. This Good News is for all, here and now, we only need to be open to God's Spirit.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

This week's Headteacher's Award has been presented to **Sonny Peacock** from **8H2**. Sonny had a great week, he was focused and well prepared, receiving credits for having the right mindset, striving to make progress and working to the best of his ability amongst numerous others. Well done, Sonny!

Tutor Group of the Week

10C2 has been recognised as the Tutor Group of the Week. Each student has demonstrated a commitment to becoming the best versions of themselves. Congratulations to you all!

House Awards: Students of the Week

Columba: **Evan Ellis-Jones 9C3**

Hilda: **May Jamieson 11H3**

Oswald: **George Tottle-Venton 9O3**

Chad: **Codie Atherton 13Ch1**



Congratulations to the students above and to all students that have tried their best to become the people God intends them to be this week. May you continue to shine brightly, inspiring those around you with your dedication and positive spirit. Remember, every small step towards personal growth and kindness makes a significant impact in our community.

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Responsibility

We've used a quote from Martin Luther King Jr to encourage our students to think about their responsibility to be good people: **"The time is always right to do what is right."** This week we've asked students to reflect on their achievements and how they're building character. Have they been a good friend? Have they exercised? Did they refuse to give up on something difficult? Did they make healthy choices?

Mobile Phone Policy

Thank you for supporting our mobile phone policy. [The full policy is available here on our website.](#)

The Department for Education produced guidance in February 2024, stating that schools should prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes.

The foreword in the document [Mobile phones in schools](#) explains the rationale behind the DfE's guidance, ultimately creating an environment that is calm, safe and free from distraction.



Buses: Durham County Council School Transport

Since the buses do not operate directly through the school, we can only issue a temporary school bus pass for one week if your child needs one.

Your child must present their original bus pass from Durham County Council at the earliest opportunity. If it has been lost, please reach out to the Durham County Council Transport Team or request a replacement on their website.

For further information, visit the Durham County Council website or contact them at:

- Tel: 03000 264 444 (option 3)
- Email: passengertransport@durham.gov.uk

Girls Code Club

Our Girls Code Club has started this week. The club runs each Thursday after school in IT2.

Girls in Years 7, 8 and 9 have the opportunity to create environments that can be used in Virtual Reality, program small computers to follow commands and lots more. If students have any questions about the club they can speak to Miss McVicker in IT2.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT



School Meals

Preparing healthy and nutritionally balanced meals for our students, our wonderful catering team provide us with the fuel we need to tackle the school day. We use fresh ingredients and the majority of our menus are homemade by our chefs in our kitchens. Staff are trained to accommodate medical diets and work in partnership with parents to ensure these needs are met.

We regularly review food miles and continue to work to reduce food waste. We have also made the commitment to develop sustainable kitchens where we can grow our own produce.

CHADWICK'S KITCHEN SECONDARY MENU					
WEEK 1					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Main 1 Meatball Pasta Served with Garlic Bread and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 1 Lasagne Served with Garlic Bread and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 1 Roast Of the Day Yorkshire Pudding Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 1 Chicken Korma Served with Rice and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 1 Fish and Chips Served with Beans Peas Curry Sauce/Gravy	
Main 2 Cajun Chicken Wrap Served with Wedges and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 Roasted Vegetable Flatbread Served with Wedges and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 Pish Dog in a Bun Served with Potatoes Wedges and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 Beef and Veg Steak Grill Served with Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 Selection of Pizza's	
Veggie Cauliflower and Chickpea Curry Served with Rice/ Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Crispy Topped Vegetable Pie Served with Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Vegetable Tortilla Stack Served with Roast Potatoes/ Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Macaroni Cheese Served with Salad Or Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Selection of Panini's	
Pasta PASTA BAR With a selection of Sauces	Pasta PASTA BAR With a selection of Sauces	Pasta PASTA BAR With a selection of Sauces	Pasta PASTA BAR With a selection of Sauces	Pasta PASTA BAR With a selection of Sauces	
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CHADWICK'S KITCHEN SECONDARY MENU					
WEEK 2					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Main 1 Katsu Chicken Served with Vegetable Savoury Rice and Curry Sauce	Main 1 Northumberland Sausage Served with Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 1 Roast Of the Day Yorkshire Pudding Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 1 Chinese Braised Beef Served with Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 1 Fish and Chips Served with Beans Peas Curry Sauce/Gravy	
Main 2 Steak Burger in a Bun Served with Wedges and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 Garlic Chilli Chicken Served with Rice and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 BBQ Chicken Served with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 Lasagne Served with Garlic Bread and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 Selection of Panini's	
Veggie Onion and Mozzarella Tort Served with Wedges/ Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Vegetable Chilli Filled Burrito Served with Paprika Wedges	Veggie Mallomai and Vegetable Wrap Served with Roast Potatoes/ Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Homemade Vegetable Frittata Served with Potatoes/ Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Selection of Pizza's	
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CHADWICK'S KITCHEN SECONDARY MENU					
WEEK 3					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Main 1 Spaghetti Bolognese Served with Garlic Bread and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 1 Minced Beef and Herby Dumplings Served with Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 1 Roast Of the Day Yorkshire Pudding Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 1 Chinese Style Chicken Curry Served with Rice/Prawn Crackers and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 1 Fish and Chips Served with Beans Peas Curry Sauce/Gravy	
Main 2 Southern Fried Chicken Burger Served with Wedges and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 Spicy Meatball Flatbread Served with Paprika Wedges and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 Chicken Shawarma Served with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 Pulled Pork Burrito Served with Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Main 2 Selection of Panini's	
Veggie Quorn Fajita Served with Potato Wedges and Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Vegetable Sweet Chilli Noodles Served with Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Vegetarian Tost in the Hole Served with Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Roasted Red Pepper and Onion Quiche Served with Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Selection of Pizza's	
Pasta PASTA BAR With a selection of Sauces	Pasta PASTA BAR With a selection of Sauces	Pasta PASTA BAR With a selection of Sauces	Pasta PASTA BAR With a selection of Sauces	Pasta PASTA BAR With a selection of Sauces	
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Meals cost £2.60 for students. The current menu runs to Easter 2025 on rotation:

Week 1: 27 January, 17 February, 10 March, 31 March

Week 2: 3 February, 17 March, 7 April

Week 3: 10 February, 3 March, 24 March

If your family is getting Income Support or Based Jobseekers Allowance or Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit or if you are in receipt of Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit), your child is likely to be able to receive free school meals. [Click here if you have not registered yet.](#)

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Holocaust Memorial Day

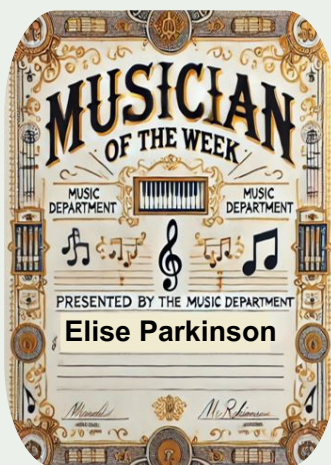
27 January marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. Every year on that day Holocaust Memorial Day takes place. In the words of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, Holocaust Memorial Day encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. Our Year 9 students will be given the opportunity to watch a moving live webcast of a survivor speaking about their experience during history lessons next week.

Anti-bullying: Zero Tolerance

We do not tolerate bullying; our school is committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for all students. Our zero-tolerance policy means that any form of bullying, whether physical, verbal, or cyber, will be addressed promptly and effectively. We believe in fostering kindness, respect, and empathy among our students. To support this, we presented an assembly to all tutor groups on Tuesday via Microsoft Teams to remind students to respect each other and how to report concerns. Our dedicated staff is always available to listen and offer assistance to those who need it, ensuring that every student feels valued and respected. Together, we strive to build a community where everyone can flourish without fear or intimidation.

Athletic Superstar!

Congratulations to **Isla Staley** from **7H1** for her outstanding performance at Gateshead Stadium last week, where she won the 60 meters in what was a fantastic race. This is a remarkable achievement! Well done!



Musician of the Week

Elise Parkinson from **8C1** has worked incredibly hard to develop her skills on the keyboard. During this cycle, we have been working on the 'walking bassline' and 'twelve-bar blues chord sequence', to which Elise has performed both of them perfectly. Elise's engagement in music is nothing but spectacular, which clearly shows in her performances.

Football: National Cup Quarter Final Result

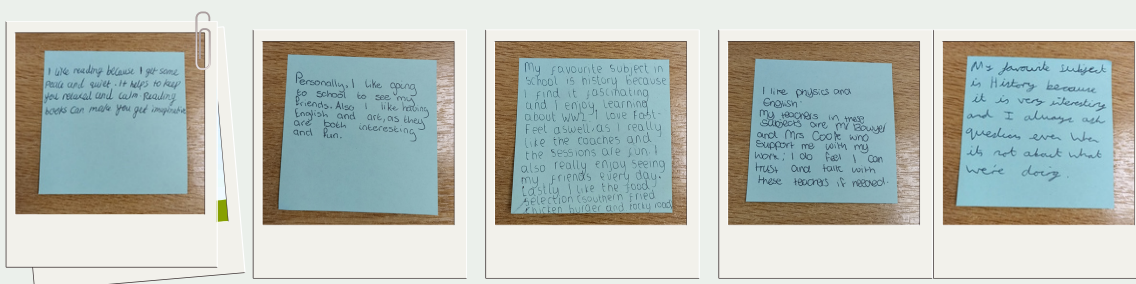
Congratulations to our Year 11 boys. They played against Brooksbank School in Leeds on Tuesday and won 2-1, winning a place in the Semi-Final. The goalscorers were **Andrii Khrystenko 11O2** and **Jay Talbot 11H3**. Jay was player of the match too - well done boys! We look forward to the next round.

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National Handwriting Day: Thursday 23 January

In a world full of digital devices and voice-to-text apps, handwriting may seem to be an unnecessary skill. It is, however, a very important skill that can help sharpen your brain, slow the pace of your thoughts, and improve your memory. Although we tend to record everything on electronic devices, research shows that writing things down by hand has benefits that typing does not. Writing by hand can improve focus, reduce stress, and aid with remembering things. Not to mention, a handwritten note, letter or card carries more weight and is more personal than a typed or emailed correspondence. Messages when typed can change meaning with auto-correct.

On Thursday, National Handwriting Day, we asked students: can you be aware of your handwriting and presentation, particularly today? Can you share an example of lovely handwriting? Students were given the opportunity to write what they enjoy at St Bede's.



Careers

All students in Year 10 and Year 12 will be on work experience from Monday 14 July – Friday 18 July 2025. During this time, there will be no classes: each day all students will be at the workplace of their host employer. Work experience gives students the chance to learn about what type of job they might enjoy and develop their CV. We know it can be one of the most transformational experiences young people have during their education.

Students (with help from family) should source their own work experience placements; however, students will also receive support from tutors and PSHE teachers. PSHE lessons over the next four weeks have been dedicated to learn more about work experience and to support the process of application. We are using Unifrog to manage the administration of the work experience programme, for example collecting information from the employer about their Risk Assessment and Health & Safety policy, as well as getting agreement from yourselves for the placement to go ahead.

All students have access to their own personal account, parents/carers are also able to access their own Unifrog account using the code SBBCparents. Emails have gone out to all Year 10 and Year 12 parents with further details. If any parents from any year group could offer work experience or any other careers support to students, please contact the school via enquiries@st-bedes.org. Thank you so much for your continued support in offering valuable work experiences to our young people.

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CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services): Courses for Parents

CAMHS have released their latest training dates for parents.

They have sessions on:

- Understanding why children might be anxious about school
- Anxiety
- Emotional wellbeing
- Understanding behaviour development in children and young people



Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys
NHS Foundation Trust

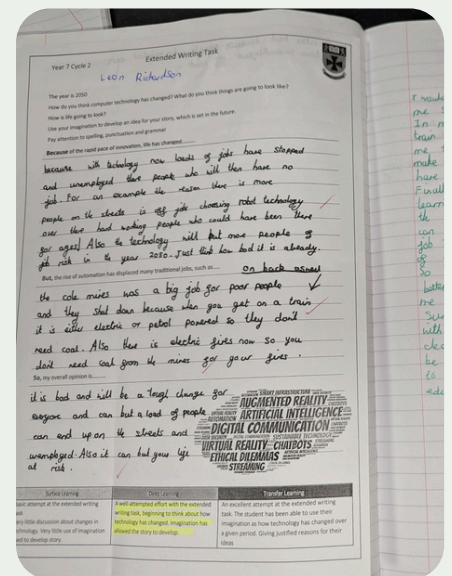
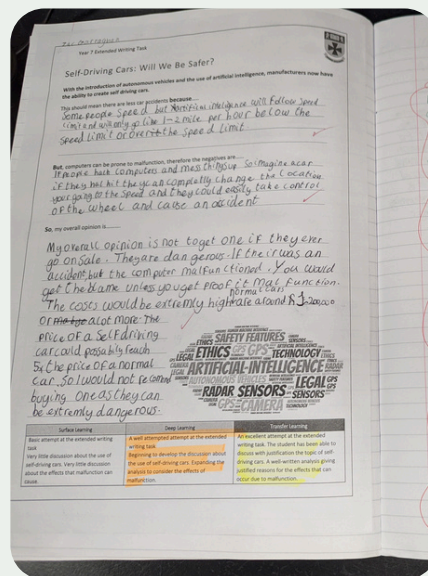
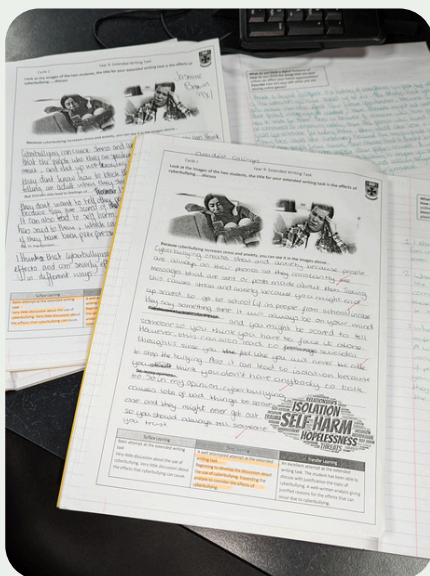
These sessions are for parents/carers of children and young people aged 0 to 25 years of age in County Durham.

[Click here to find out more about each sessions and how to book on their website.](#)

Amazing ICT Work!

In ICT this week we have been focusing on extended writing; each year group has been given a topic to discuss. We have been considering how to develop an answer.

Once again students have shown the core values of excellence and determination, most importantly showing resilience and never giving up. This is evident in the work produced, some of which is pictured below. Well done to all involved!



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope

This year, Pope Francis has announced the coming year as a Jubilee Year. He wants us to restore a climate of hope and trust, as a run up to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why the motto Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope, has been chosen as the theme of the year. Our 6th form students have led us in a celebration of the Word to mark the beginning of this Jubilee Year and they also opened our Holy Door.

When you walk through it, it will serve as a reminder that we need to be a pilgrim of God spreading hope to others. Passing through the Holy Door expresses our decisions to follow and be guided by Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd.

Watch video clip from Bishop Stephen – <https://youtu.be/IA-0QN-pyFE>



Year 11: This is the week... to stop and find your peace

Year 11 have been focusing on how to find their 'inner peace'. Life can sometimes become very busy and hectic with numerous jobs to do, friends to see and tasks to complete. With the added pressures of revision and exams, life can sometimes feel overwhelming. They have all been challenged to find time in their hectic lives to:

- stop, think and put everything into perspective.
- factor some time into their daily lives for peace and reflection.
- find an interest/hobby or sport that will help them relax.
- avoid conflict with others and practise being a peacemaker.
- accept God's gift of peace.

Internet Matters: Responsible Gaming Online

The [Internet Matters](#) website has an interesting article that shares two families' experiences of supporting their children's gaming. [Read the article here.](#) Internet Matters is a great website that includes step-by-step guides to [activating parental controls](#). It will also give you [personalised online safety advice for your family if you answer 7 questions, taking approximately 8 minutes.](#)

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Year 13 Geography Field Work

Year 13 Geography students have had a fun and busy week braving the cold January weather collecting data for their NEA this week.

As part of the Geography A Level students have to collect their own geographical data and complete geographical investigations.

We started the week with a visit to the picturesque Alnwick, looking at contrasting people's sense of place about the area. On Tuesday we gathered physical data at Penshaw Monument assessing the different factors that affect infiltration rates. Big shout out to **Isaac Smith of 13Ch1** who got the most muddy by far on this day! We have also visited different beaches along Seaham assessing different factors that affect erosion rates. On Wednesday we rode the metro and visited different wards of Newcastle, looking at differences in standards of living and service provision in the different areas.

All students have been a credit to the sixth form this week and have fully embraced the geographical experience! Well Done!



Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Exciting news for Codie!

Year 13 student **Codie Atherton** has been selected to compete for England in boxing and will fly to Sweden next week for the competition. Codie, who boxes at Horden ABC, has worked exceptionally hard over many years, balancing both her boxing and exceptional academic performance. Codie currently holds five offers to study law next year. We wish her all the best of luck in this exciting opportunity!



Leaping into Unifrog!

This week Year 12 students have started to look at their next steps. Using the innovative programmes on Unifrog, students have shortlisted careers and courses that interest them, match their personality and strengths to future careers and explored the online courses and experiences available to them. Over the next weeks, students will begin the crucial conversations and reflections which will help them make their decisions.



[Apply Now!](#)

Work Experience Launch

Year 12 have also launched their search for work experience. Completed at the end of the summer term, each student has the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and experiences which will serve them as they progress towards their chosen career or university course. Students are encouraged to think outside the box considering building key skills and challenging themselves to new experiences.

Could you or someone you know offer a work experience placement to our Year 12 students?
Contact Head of Year in Sixth Form: rscutt@st-bedes.org

[**To view our latest Sixth Form Prospectus click here.**](#)

Chadwick Celebration Awards 2025 Pupil Nomination Information

FULLY
FUNDED



Nominate staff from your school for our Inspirational Staff Award

One of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trusts values is **Celebration** and we want to celebrate all our staff across the Trust who go that extra mile. There are seventeen categories in our awards and only pupils can nominate in the **Inspirational Staff Award** category.

We would like you to think about all the staff at your school the Headteacher and teachers, the teaching assistants, the office staff, the kitchen staff, caretaking team etc. If there is someone that you think has done a really good job then you can nominate them for this award.

For younger pupils you may need to ask an adult for some help to make your nomination. Nominations need to be a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words you can use the QR code or the link below it to access the nomination form. **Nominations will close on Monday 24 March 2025.**

This award is to celebrate someone who is positive and full of enthusiasm, who has gone above and beyond to support pupils.

Your nomination should include what the person's role or roles are in your school. It should give some examples of what they have done, how that impacted on pupils, and why they deserve to receive this award. This could be by providing additional support, a consistent friendly face, leading on new opportunities or championing student causes in school, or providing an inspiring role model.



2022 Inspirational Staff Award Winner
Mrs Blackburn, Teaching Assistant
St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow



2023 Inspirational Staff Award Winner
Mrs Young, Office Manager
St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow



2024 Inspirational Staff Award winner
Mrs Peart, Headteacher
St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland

Link to nominate: www.tinyurl.com/pupil2025

Thank you for getting involved - finalists will be announced in May 2025 and the winner will be announced at an event on 11 July 2025.

Thank you to our event sponsors who allow us to fully fund this event.

Better Schools | Better Communities | Better Futures in Christ



Key Dates

- Monday 27 January: Week A Timetable
- Monday 27 January: Holocaust Memorial Day
- Monday 3 February: Y8 Youth Village Retreat (returning Wednesday 5 February)
- Monday 10 February: Y11/13 mock exams fortnight begins
- Friday 21 February: End of half term (3.15pm finish)
- Monday 3 March: Return to school - Week A timetable

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



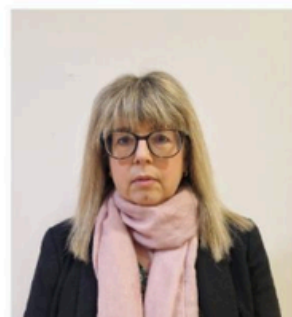
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Cessford
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Robinson
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Ord
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Home and School Links

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Email: enquiries@st-bedes.org

Phone: 0191 5876220

Website: www.st-bedes.org

Facebook: [StBedesandByron](https://www.facebook.com/StBedesandByron)

Class Charts: www.classcharts.com

Our Parish: Our Lady of the Rosary in Peterlee and Horden

Our Diocese: Hexham & Newcastle

