



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: 31 January 2025

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 2:22-40) we read about Simeon who joyfully recognised Jesus as the 'Light of the World' – the one who fills our lives with hope. Hope is a virtue which can strengthen and sustain us through life's greatest difficulties. Putting our hope in God is trying to live and do our best in the present moment and then trust the future to God. In the Gospel reading, Simeon is a great example of someone who placed his hope in God and was blessed by encountering Jesus, the 'Light of the World'. We too can be blessed and enlightened when we do the same.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to **Lucy Thompson** of **7H1** who has achieved this week's Headteacher's Award. Working to the best of her ability, Lucy was awarded a phenomenal amount of credits for setting goals, following passion, striving to make progress and discovering her purpose, to name just a few!

Tutor Group of the Week

11O1 are the winners of this week's Tutor Group of the Week award.

House Students of the Week

Columba: **Rosie Edwards 10C2**

Hilda: **Harry Mason 9H3 & Owen Holliday 11H1**

Oswald: **William Bryson 7O1**

Chad: **Brandon Gardner 13Ch1**



This week, several visitors, including the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust Chief Standards Officers, have commented on the exemplary behaviour, politeness and smart uniform of our students. We're delighted that our students left a lasting impression, showcasing the positive environment fostered within our school. Our core values are clearly being embedded, making us proud of each of you. With a positive attitude and a sense of togetherness, anything is possible!

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

St Bede's Celebrates the Reopening of our Full Site

We were rejoicing this week after the reopening of a block of newly renovated classrooms. Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) was discovered in parts of the school just before the start of the 2023 academic year. This discovery led to the closure of some school buildings, with some staff and students relocating to temporary accommodation until the start of this academic year.

All remedial work is now complete, allowing our school community to utilise all the school buildings. This marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for St Bede's, especially for Year 7 and 8 students, who will now be able to use the state-of-the-art science labs and food technology rooms — facilities they've been eager to use since the start of the school year.

Students have already expressed their excitement, with many noting they couldn't wait to start cooking in the newly refurbished food rooms.

"We love having the opportunity to cook in the new block, it's really given us creative freedom to make our own food," said year 7 students **Leah** and **Nithishan**.

Students **Lincoln** and **Isabel** added "Now that the history block is open, history is more exciting, we have our own room with lots of historical items to look at."

The disruption was challenging, but the school was grateful to have the support of students, staff, parents and carers, and the wider community. The tireless efforts of the Trust, school staff, contractors and the Department for Education have made the reopening possible.

Mrs Cessford expressed her delight, "As we reflect on the past year of disruption due to RAAC, it brings us immense joy to be back on one site, fully equipped with specialist rooms. Our entire community - staff and pupils alike - are thrilled to reunite and work together once again. A heartfelt thank you to the Department for Education and everyone in the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust community for your support. We are excited to embrace this new chapter and look forward to a successful year ahead!"



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Determination

Determination is a core value at St Bede's and an important part of our character. We have challenged our students to try and have the mantra: **'Today I refuse to stress myself out over things I cannot change.'** This week we reflect: Have I had some quiet time to myself? Have I been kind? Have I not worried about things outside of my control?

What We're Reading: Year 7 - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Year 7 are currently reading C.S. Lewis' The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, an exciting story about four siblings who discover a magical world, Narnia. **Charlie Davison 7H1** predicts that Lucy, the youngest of the siblings, will tell her brothers and sister about Narnia but they will not believe her. **Nithishan Kugan 7H2** says his favourite character is Peter because he is courageous and determined for his goals!



Reading novels enhances empathy, improves cognitive skills, expands vocabulary, fosters creativity and reduces stress. It also provides insights into diverse cultures, perspectives and human experiences. It is our aim to foster a lifelong love of reading at St Bede's.

Crochet Club: Valentine's Day

Our Crochet Club is very busy at the moment making valentines for Valentine's Day. We are trying to raise money to buy cotton so they can make Octopuses for the hospital neonatal units. These will be sold the week beginning February 10 at break and lunch. If you would like to join Crochet Club, it is during KS4/5 lunch on Monday Week A and Friday Week B in Byron Lab 2.

Year 11: This is the Week to... Prepare for the Mocks

There is:

- 1 week before the mocks start.
- 9 days before the mocks start.
- 5 teaching days before the mocks start.
- 25 lessons to make progress before the mocks start.

If students revise 1.5 hours per day = 13.5 hours revision. If students make the best use of their time, they have at least 38.5 hours of learning to make progress before the mocks start.

There are progress rewards to be awarded following the mocks: prom tickets for the Year 11 prom.



1. The student with the highest achievement overall
2. Students who make the most progress between the Autumn mock and the February mock.

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County Cup Semi-finals, Here We Come!

Our Under-14 girls have progressed to the semi-final of the County Cup with a thrilling game against Kepier. With the game tied 6-6 at full time, extra time ensued. A further 5 goals were scored with **Katie Bewick 901** scoring the last kick of the game to win 9-8! Katie and **Lydia Turns 9H2** scored three each with **Emily Readman 8O1** scoring two and **Evie Cochrane 9C2** getting a goal too. Katie was also the player of the match. Well done, girls - fantastic result!

Make-up

A polite reminder that make-up is not permitted in school. This is to promote equality, maintain a focused learning environment and encourage students to prioritise learning and our core values over appearance. Students arriving wearing make-up will be asked to remove it. Thank you for your support in ensuring all students show they belong.

Young Minds Wesbite: Self-harm and Mental Health Support

The Young Minds website www.youngminds.org.uk has a wide range of advice and support for young people and parents to help cope with mental health. Their guide to self-harm helps people learn more about what self-harm is, what the signs of self-harm are in a young person, and where to get support. [Click here to access the guide.](#) If you have concerns about mental health or self-harm, please get in touch with us too.

Internet Matters: Fake News and Misinformation Facts & Advice Hub

Help children develop their media literacy to stay safe online. The Internet Matters website www.internetmatters.org has several helpful guides that explain what misinformation is, how to prevent misinformation and how to deal with it online, as well as a link to get support, an online critical thinking guide and a 'Find the Fake' interactive quiz. [Click here to access it.](#)

St Bede's Maths Department: Home of Legends!

The Maths Department would like to celebrate the following pupils this week. Each week, every teacher nominates one of their pupils to be their "Legend" - most teachers will be selecting from a group of over 100 pupils so this represents a fantastic achievement and one that is worth celebrating! We are so proud of the work that they have produced and the role models that they have been, showing outstanding effort and engagement in lessons.

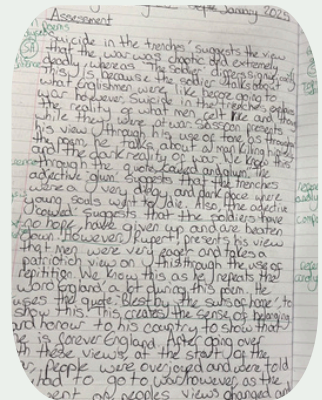
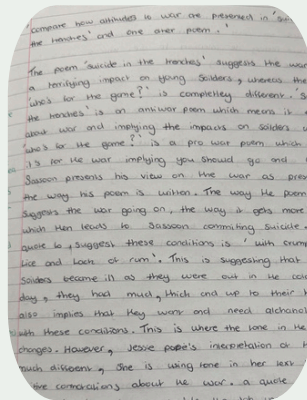
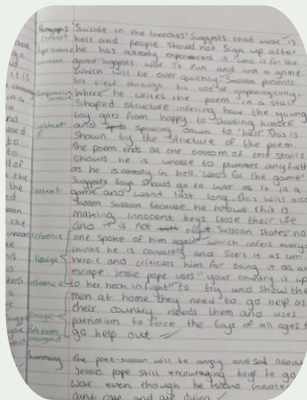


Mr Hudspith: **Anya Simmons**
Mr Still: **Alfie Lynch**
Mr Taylor: **Imogen Topping**
Dr Treanor: **Grace Nguyen**
Mr Marrs: **Lola Turner**
Miss Houghton: **Layton Andrews**
Mr Fowler: **Levi Mkansi**
Mrs Keniry: **Bailey Butterfield**

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Holocaust Memorial

This week, as we marked Holocaust Remembrance Day in the 80th year since World War 2 ended, 9Y1 have been analysing war poetry in their English lessons as part of a unit on conflict.



Youth Village Residential: Year 8

Final information regarding the youth village residential has been emailed to all parents. If anyone has any queries please email Mrs Balls: oballs@st-bedes.org

Bronze CYMFed Award Presentations

The presentations for current Year 8 students will take place on Monday 3 February at 2.15pm. Invitations have already been sent out but if anyone has not received this please email Mrs Balls: oballs@st-bedes.org

[Click here](#) to find out more about the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFed) Faith in Action Award.

Technology: Learning in the Kitchen and the Workshop

This week in technology we have managed to get back into the kitchen with some of the Year 7 students. We had looked at knife safety skills and understood the different grips in order to chop food: the bridge and the claw grip. We practised our chopping skills on potatoes.

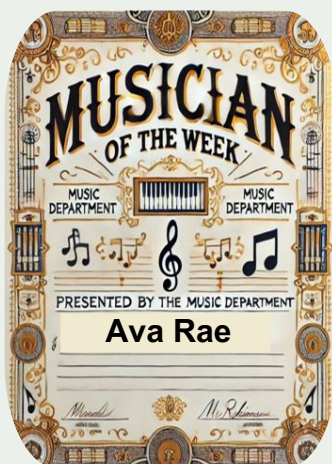
Year 8 students have been in the workshop continuing the development of their lamp. Sanding today mainly took place to ensure that no dangerous aspects of the wood remained, ensuring full health and safety.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Musician of the Week

This week we have three musicians that are worthy of recognition!



Ava Rae 9H1 challenged herself this week to perform the chord sequence as part of a duet performance of the Potter Waltz. Ava made exceptional progress during this week's lesson and should be proud of her work.

Israel Fasasi 803 and **Alfie Hanover 801** have enjoyed working on the melody and chord sequence to perform an authentic sounding Blues piece.

Every Thursday afternoon, students eagerly gather for Keyboard Club, where they explore the art of playing the keyboard in a fun and supportive environment. Whether beginners or experienced players, they enjoy learning new songs, improving their technique, and collaborating with peers. The club provides a creative outlet for students to express themselves through music, helping them develop confidence and discipline. With guidance from dedicated instructors, students build their musical skills while also forming friendships with others who share their passion. The weekly sessions not only foster a love for music but also offer a plethora of different skills.



Music plays a crucial role in students' education, enhancing their cognitive abilities, creativity, and emotional well-being. Studies show that learning an instrument strengthens memory, improves concentration, and boosts problem-solving skills. Engaging in musical activities also encourages teamwork, patience, and perseverance—valuable traits that help students in all aspects of life.

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Myles Representing North England Cricket

Congratulations to **Myles Price 901** who is going to Dubai to represent North England Warriors in the inaugural U14 World Junior League, which will take place in the United Arab Emirates from 7 to 15 April 2025! Myles is a talented cricketer and will be playing with and against the best junior players from around the globe in a professional environment. We look forward to seeing Myles use this talent to set the world ablaze, shining on the international stage!

Chadwick Chats: BCCET Magazine

Chadwick Chats Issue 2 2425 is out now, featuring an interview with **Louca Cooke 1001**. Click the link or image to open the Chadwick Chats magazine.



A Message to all of our Wonderful Students

We have arrived at the end of what has been an amazing January. The atmosphere in school is happy and purposeful. Thank you for being the incredible individuals that God intended you to be. Your unique talents, kindness, and dedication not only enrich our school community but also inspire those around you to strive for greatness. As you continue your journey, remember the importance of respect for one another, the responsibility you hold in your actions, and the faith you have in yourselves and each other.

One of the greatest ways to embody these values is by becoming good citizens through serving others. When you lend a helping hand, you not only uplift those in need but also strengthen the bonds within our community. Acts of service, no matter how small, can create a ripple effect of kindness and compassion. So, let this spirit of service guide you as you strive for excellence and tackle every challenge you face. Keep shining your light and embracing the wonderful gifts you possess!



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Spring Mock Exam Timetables: Year 11

DATE	AM (start 09.15)	PM (start 13.15)
Wed 5 Feb	Art Spanish Speaking	Art
Thu 6 Feb	Spanish Speaking	-
Fri 7 Feb	Spanish Speaking	-
Mon 10 Feb	Maths 1 (1 hr 30 min)	BTEC Sport - Component 3 - Developing Fitness (1 hr 30 min) BTEC Digital IT - Component 3 - Effective Digital Working Practices (1 hr)
Tue 11 Feb	English Language Paper 2 (1 hr 45 min)	Geography (1 hr 30 min)
Wed 12 Feb	Biology (Triple - 1 hr 45 min, Combined - 1 hr 10 min)	Spanish Writing (Higher - 1 hr 15 min, Foundation - 1 hr) Computer Science Paper 1 - Computer Systems (1 hr 30 min)
Thu 13 Feb	History (2 hrs) Russian - Reading and Listening (1 hr 50 min)	Engineering (1 hr 15 min) Polish - Reading and Listening (1 hr 20 min)
Fri 14 Feb	Physics (Triple - 1 hr 45 min, Combined - 1 hr 10 min)	BTEC Health and Social Care - Component 3 - Health and Wellbeing (1 hr)
Mon 17 Feb	RE - Catholic Christianity (1 hr 45 min)	Maths 2 (1 hr 30 min)
Tue 18 Feb	English Literature Paper 2 (2 hr 15 min)	BTEC Enterprise - Component 3 - Promotion and Finance for Business (1 hr 30 min)
Wed 19 Feb	Spanish - Reading and Listening (Higher - 1 hr 45 min, Foundation - 1 hr 20 min)	Music Listening and Appraising Paper (1 hr 30 min)
Thu 20 Feb	Chemistry (Triple - 1 hr 45 min, Combined - 1 hr 10 min)	Maths 3 (1 hr 30 min)
Fri 21 Feb	Design and Technology (2 hrs) Russian Writing (1 hr 25 min) Polish Writing (1 hr 15 min)	Computer Science Paper 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (1 hr 30 min)



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Spring Mock Exam Timetables: Year 13

DATE	AM (start 09.15)
Wed 5 Feb	Spanish Speaking
Mon 10 Feb	Maths Paper 1 (2 hrs) Philosophy and Ethics (2 hrs) Literature (2 hrs 45 mins)
Tue 11 Feb	History - Germany (1 hr) Geography - Physical Geography (2 hrs 30 mins) Y12 Health and Social - Unit 1 - Human Lifespan Development (1 hr)
Wed 12 Feb	Biology (2 hrs) Y12 Business - Unit 3 - Personal and Business Finance (2 hrs) Spanish - Writing (2 hrs)
Thu 13 Feb	Chemistry (2 hrs) Physics (2 hrs) Product Design - Technical Principles (2 hrs 30 mins) Psychology (2 hrs)
Fri 14 Feb	Maths Paper 2 (2 hrs) Philosophy - Developments in Christian Thought (2 hrs)
Mon 17 Feb	Geography - Human Geography (2 hrs 30 mins) History - England Later Tudor (1 hr 30 mins)
Tue 18 Feb	Y12/13 Business - Unit 2 - Developing a Marketing Campaign (3 hrs) Y12 Health and Social - Unit 2 - Working in a Health and Social Care (1 hr)
Wed 19 Feb	Spanish - Listening, Reading and Writing (2 hrs 30 mins)
Thu 20 Feb	Product Design - Designing and Making Principles (1 hr 30 mins)
Fri 21 Feb	History - Civil Rights in the USA (1 hr 45 mins)





Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Interview Success for Morgan!

Exciting news this week for **Morgan Clint-Withers 13Ch1** who has been offered two places at Teesside University to study Child Nursing/Child Nursing with a focus in Learning Disabilities. Morgan has worked exceptionally hard to prepare for interviews and has excelled throughout her time at Byron Sixth Form. We're so proud of this achievement for a nursing specialism which offers very few places per year.

EPQ Continues...

Students in Year 12 are offered the opportunity to complete an EPQ (extended project qualification) in any area or subject of interest. Naturally, this leads to some very interesting and unique project titles. This year students are researching the legacy of Kurt Cobain, the impact of desegregation laws on the American education system, the geology of our local beaches, and the subconscious mind, to name a few. Students complete both taught content and individual research overseen by a supervisor, mimicking the style of university teaching. Although challenging, these individual projects are highly rewarding for students, and are regarded by universities as some of the best preparation for undergraduate study.



[Apply Now!](#)

Year 13 Mock Exams

The final round of mock exams is approaching for our Year 13 students. In all the rush to prepare, it's important to remember to take care of yourself.

Here are some links to help if you or your young person is feeling overwhelmed:

- [Advice from Young Minds](#)
- [Advice from UCAS](#)

[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 3 February: Y8 Youth Village Retreat (returning Wednesday 5 February)
- Monday 3-7 February: Children's Mental Health Week
- Monday 10 February: Y11/13 mock exams fortnight begins
- Thursday 13 February: Y8 Parents' Evening
- 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:



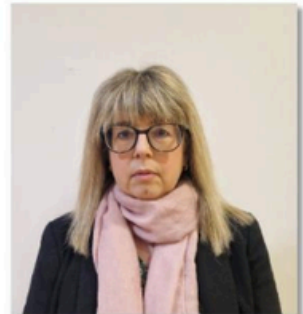
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



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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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

