



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: 14 March 2024

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 9:28-36) for the first time, Peter, John and James receive a glimpse of the awesome divinity of Jesus. God tells them to listen to Jesus and allows them to see Jesus for who he really is. Following Jesus isn't easy; it never was. However, if we too listen to Jesus we will experience the encouragement that God offers freely to each one of us today. There are times when we all need encouraging: that is, to be inspired with courage and to have our hope renewed, especially when we are going through difficult times.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to **Sonny Iley 7C1**, the winner of this week's Headteacher's Award. Sonny is a role model of the St Bede's standard - he had the right mindset, he does his best, he is a good friend and believes in himself. Sonny has 551 credits and not a single debit. Well done, Sonny. We're proud of you.

Tutor Group of the Week

7C1 are the winners of this week's Tutor Group of the Week award.

House Students of the Week

Columba: **Anya Ellsworth 10C2 & Rebekah Nicol 7C2**

Hilda: **Daniel Halliwell 11H3 & Marnie Hall 9H3**

Oswald: **Elliott Mitchell 8O1**

Chad: **Jay Dugdale 13Ch1 & Jacob Smith 13Ch1**



Since September, we have awarded over 1,800,000 credits to our students! In third place currently is Oswald House, with 534,418 credits. Columba House is second with 637,770 credits. Hilda House are sitting at the top of the tree in first place with an enormous 669,961 credits! These are amazing figures - well done to all of the students that have been steadily earning credits throughout the year.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Determination

Winston Churchill said, **“Success always demands a greater effort.”** We believe getting better never stops and the more we try, the harder we push ourselves, the more fruitful our rewards will be. This is particularly true of exam revision - you will appreciate your hard work afterwards.

Catholic Life & Mission

A group of our staff and students will be traveling to Wembley Arena on Saturday to attend the Flame Congress. Flame is the largest Catholic youth event in England and Wales. Filled with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer, adoration – it's an event like no other! We hope that you all have an amazing time.



Silver CYMFed Award Presentations

Our Year 9 students will be receiving their Silver CYMFed Faith in Action Awards on Monday at 2.15pm in the chapel. Invites have been sent out. If you have not already booked a seat, please email: oballs@st-bedes.org

Stations of the Cross

7C1/7C2 will be leading Stations of the Cross on Monday 17 March at 9.00am in the chapel. If any parents/guardians would like to attend please email Mrs Balls: oballs@st-bedes.org



Crochet Club Update

Our Crochet Club have used the money raised by selling Valentines to purchase cotton. They are making great progress so far making octopuses which will be donated to the neonatal unit at the hospital.

It's heartwarming to see our students using their skills to give back to the community in such a meaningful way. The octopuses, crafted with care and creativity, are sure to bring comfort and joy.

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

British Science Week

March 7 - 16 has been British Science Week; this year's theme has been 'change and adapt'.



During registration, students have looked at how we as people can change and adapt as well as nature. We have also looked at how Artificial Intelligence can help us change and adapt our way of life and the pros & cons of this. The science department are also running a poster competition in conjunction with the University College London (UCL) where students can share their ideas with top scientists. The poster is based on improving the health of our air in our buildings.

Competition: The scientists from UCL need your help!

Enter our special competition category this year and share your ideas with a team of top scientists at University College London (UCL). Can you help them by coming up with a new invention to improve the health of the air in our buildings? Schools should select the five best student entries and submit them for a chance of winning an array of prizes! See the next page for instructions.

Instructions

At the height of the COVID pandemic, many spaces in hospitals couldn't be used because of the risks from droplets in the air that could spread the virus.

Rooms sat empty, fewer patients were seen, and waiting lists became really long.

We can't use this room until the droplets have cleared.

We need to change this!

A team of scientists at UCL have been investigating...

We need your help!

How can we clear the droplets faster?

What about using fans or air filters?

Maybe a screen?

Can we improve ventilation?

What other ideas or inventions can you come up with? Where else could these ideas be used apart from hospitals?

Instructions

Competition: The scientists from UCL need your help!

Instructions

Choose an indoor public space where you often spend time – this could be an area where you learn, or a place you visit regularly like a library, café or cinema. Do you think the air in this space is healthy and clean? Why? Come up with an idea or invention to change the air in your chosen space, making it healthier to breathe. How will it work? Could it be used in other public places too?

You might have a brand-new idea, or you might come up with something that already exists but re-imagined in a unique or creative way. The researchers at UCL have considered lots of different ideas for improving air quality and preventing the spread of viruses in hospitals. For example, you could think about face masks, curtains and screens, ventilation, fans or air filters.

You should carry out some research first, to inform your thinking. Make sure your sources are trustworthy! Your entry should show some scientific understanding in line with your level of learning. Think about what you have learned in your science lessons and how this can be applied to the topic. How do the different states of matter behave? How do viruses affect our bodies? How could your design be physically built?

This year, we've opened up this special competition category to older students too, so young people aged 11-14, 14-16 and 16-19 are welcome to enter!

Then think carefully about how you will lay out and present your idea. You should consider how best to communicate your research so that it is clear and logical. You could create a set of instructions, a detailed diagram or you might like to develop an eye-catching poster! Will you include photos, graphs or other images to illustrate your thinking?

Entries must be A4 or A3 in size and you'll need to be able to take a photograph of your work so it can be sent to us online for judging.

Send us your entry

Once students' entries are complete, take a photo of them and complete the online form to submit the top five.

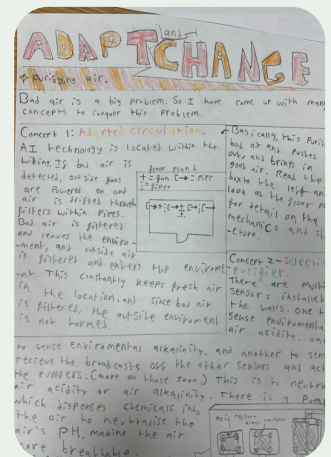
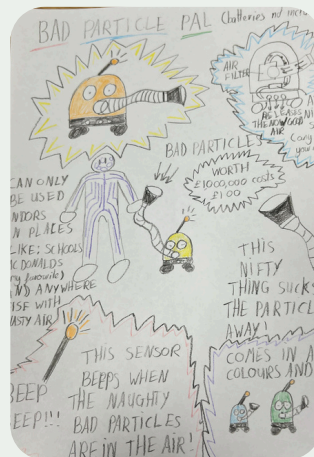
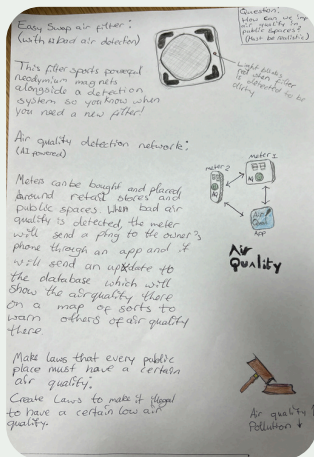
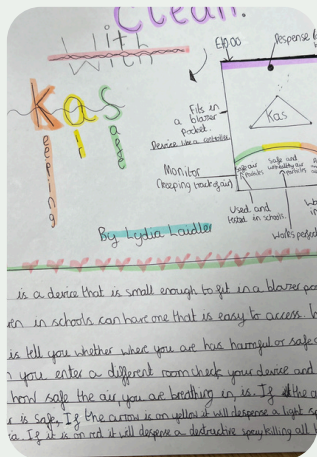
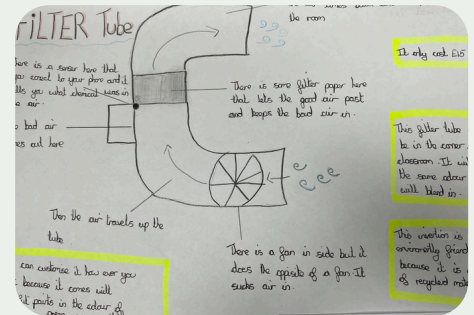
For more details, along with the full set of poster competition rules and tips, check out our website: britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition

Instructions

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

British Science Week

Here are some of our students' entries for the UCL competition. Hopefully they'll inspire more students to enter. See your science teacher for more information.



The science department also have some exciting news to share with the students in the next couple of weeks, linked to British Science Week, so they can watch first hand how life can change and adapt. Here is a clue!



Musician of the Week

Zara Laverick 11H2 is our Musician of the week. We look forward to seeing her continue to flourish and bring her talents to new heights. Congratulations, Zara!

Year 11: This is the week... to Prepare

This week Year 11 have been practising exam techniques with Mr Taylor, in preparation for their GCSE maths in the summer. All morning sessions have been recorded and are available in the Year 11 Teams group, these are available for catch up or revision of techniques. All other revision materials for all subject areas are also available in this Teams group. Next week we are preparing for GCSE English exams with Mrs Cook.

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

School Lunch Payments

Please ensure lunch accounts are topped up in advance. We kindly ask that any outstanding lunch balances are to be cleared on a weekly basis. If you do not have ParentPay login details or are experiencing difficulties using the system, please contact the main office for assistance: enquiries@st-bedes.org

If you believe your child may be entitled to free school meals, please collect a form from the main office or email: enquiries@st-bedes.org

If you are struggling to make payments, please contact your child's Head of House for support.

More Mathematical Legends are Born!

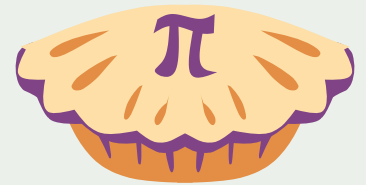
We have had another fantastic week in the Mathematics Department, bolstered by our superb new legends below. Pupils who produce neat, organised work, corrected in green pen with their date and title underlined, as well as showing respect and effort in lessons are eligible to be a Maths Legend - remember, not all legends are Greek, we have many in County Durham!

- Miss Houghton - **Lewis Horsley 9H1**
- Mr Taylor - **Logan Taylor 11C2**
- Mr Hudspith - **Evie Lennox 11O2**
- Mr Marrs - **Louis Dunn 9H2**
- Mr Fowler - **Chanse Morgan 8O2**
- Dr Treanor - **Finn Brennan 10C3**
- Mrs Keniry - **Nasir Hashimi 7O2**
- Mr Still - **Charlie Davison 7H1**



International Maths Day ("Pi" Day)

Today (14 March) marks International Maths Day as the date (in American format!) resembles the first three digits of the vitally important mathematical number of Pi (3.1415926...)! Pi is a number that continues to infinity and often pupils will challenge themselves to try to learn as many digits of Pi as possible. It is used to calculate the area and circumference of circles and was initially computed by the Greeks thousands of years ago.



In lessons, our Year 9 pupils have been learning more about Pi and the application of mathematics in the real world. Following National Careers Week, we are also focusing on how what we learn in our maths classrooms can be applied to the dream jobs of each of our pupils. Looking ahead to Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month in April, we are very excited to be planning more activities and special events for pupils to engage in the world of maths...so watch this space!



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Dodgeball Competition

Our Year 7 and 8 students showcased outstanding skill, resilience, and teamwork in a dodgeball competition on Thursday 6 March at Easington Academy. They played with great determination, demonstrating not only their ability but also excellent sportsmanship and leadership. It was fantastic to see them supporting one another and representing the school with pride. Their hard work and positive attitude made for an exciting and competitive event—well done to all involved.



English Department Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our brilliant students who have been recognised as Star of the Week by their teachers in the English Department! Your hard work, dedication, and passion for learning have truly shone through, and this recognition is well-deserved. Whether it's your thoughtful contributions in class, your consistent effort, or your enthusiasm for the subject, you have all demonstrated what it means to excel. Keep up the amazing work—you are an inspiration to your peers and a shining example of what can be achieved through perseverance and a love for learning. We're proud of you and excited to see all the incredible things you will continue to accomplish!

- Mrs Cook: **Rosie Holmes 9H2**
- Mrs Hamilton: **Ava Crumbie 7C1**
- Mr Johnson: **Bethany Robinson 7O2**
- Miss Milburn: **Millie Mai Thompson 10MMA**
- Mrs Wild: **Lilly-Anne Dowse 7C2**
- Mrs Dolan: **Eve Broadhead 8C1**
- Mrs Scutt: **Elise Parkinson 8C1**
- Miss Caine: **Finlay O'Malley 8O1**
- Miss Barkley: **Kealan Heron 9H2**



History Heroes

Each fortnight, our History Department will celebrate three students that have made an exceptional effort in their History lessons. The students must see Mrs Ahmed to receive a prize:

- Mrs Ahmed: **Chloe Akers 11C1**
- Miss Jackson: **Alfie Hanover 8O1**
- Mr Johnson: **Lily Richards 10C3**



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

OPTIONS FOCUS: Studying at St Bede's in Key Stage 4

BTEC Sport: OPTION

Our course is the BTEC extended certificate in Sport. It is a mixture of theory and practical work. It really helps if you are a keen sports person and regularly train and perform in sport. The course is made up of 3 components, 2 are coursework and the final assessment is an exam in Y11 and you will be recorded leading others as well as playing your sport. You have coursework and final assessment deadlines that you must meet throughout the two years. We cover topics such as training and fitness, the body, coaching others, improving others performance and social awareness of activity and participation.



GCSE Maths: COMPULSORY

All students must follow the course of Mathematics because it is a core subject in the National Curriculum and a pre-requisite for the vast majority of careers and Further/Higher Education courses. The course leads to one GCSE grade and the Exam Board is OCR.

The GCSE course focuses on using and applying mathematics in the following areas:

- Number – including fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, proportion, standard form
- Algebra – including indices, surds, graphs and their gradients, solving equations, sequences
- Geometry – including constructions, Pythagoras' theorem, trigonometry, circle theorems, vectors
- Measures – including maps and scale drawings, conversions, bearings, compound measures
- Probability – including theoretical probability, tree diagrams, Venn diagrams
- Statistics – including collecting & processing data, histograms, frequency polygons

There are two levels of examinations (Foundation and Higher) - pupils sitting the Foundation paper can achieve a maximum grade of 5, whilst those sitting Higher can achieve a grade up to 9.

Both levels have three 90 minute exam papers all taken at the end of year 11 - there is no coursework and each paper carries equal marks (100). One paper is non-calculator and two papers are calculator.

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

OPTIONS FOCUS: Studying at St Bede's in Key Stage 4

Health & Social Care: Tech Award Level 2 - OPTION

As the NHS is one of the top employers in the UK, the BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care provides students with the knowledge and understanding of how people grow and develop over their lifetime, the wide range of services that are available and the professionals that carry out over 350 different job roles. Do you have a passion for helping and understanding people? Studying this could lead you to your chosen career. Students will complete 2 Pearson Set Assignments and 1 External examination during the 2 years of study.



GCSE Religious Studies - COMPULSORY

The Eduqas GCSE in Religious Studies aims to:

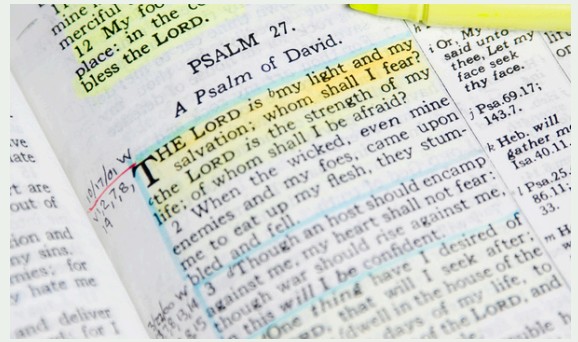
Develops learners' knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism.

Develops learners' knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings, practices, and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts, and scriptures of the religions they are studying.

Develops learners' ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject.

Provides opportunities for learners to engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life.

Challenges learners to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contributes to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

OPTIONS FOCUS: Studying at St Bede's in Key Stage 4

GCSE Geography - OPTION

Studying Educas GCSE Geography allows students to see the inter-connections between the physical world and the human world. Students will gain an appreciation for the fragility of the Earth and different ways we can be more sustainable. We look at key contemporary issues in today's world such as climate change, human misuse of resources and population growth.

Paper 1 involves the study of physical landscapes and processes, rural and urban areas of the UK and coastal hazards and their management. Paper 2 looks at issues on a more global scale such as weather, climate and ecosystems, economic development and resource issues and social development. As we progress through the course you will gain an understanding of how these different topics all interact. Paper 3 involves geographical skills and fieldwork. As part of this you spend at least one day collecting data and researching different geographical issues in our local area, such as Durham or Seaburn.

Geography enables students to build on a number of skills such as mathematical, graphical and map skills. The GCSE allows students to develop their analytical skills, assessing information that is presented, looking for trends and anomalies and suggesting reasons for what they can see. These are desirable skills; meaning that geography is a very popular GCSE to have developing skills that employers look for.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

OPTIONS FOCUS: Studying at St Bede's in Key Stage 4



GCSE Science - COMPULSORY

All students must follow a Science course as it is a core subject in the National Curriculum and a pre-requisite for the vast majority of careers and Further/Higher Education courses. The course can lead to either 2 GCSE grades if students follow the combined route or 3 GCSE grades if following the Separate science route. The exam board that we follow is EDEXCEL.

The Combined GCSE course focuses on all three science disciplines:

- Biology - Topic 1 – Key concepts in biology, Topic 2 – Cells and control, Topic 3 – Genetics, Topic 4 – Natural selection and genetic modification, Topic 5 – Health, disease and the development of medicine, Topic 6 – Plant structures and their functions, Topic 7 – Animal coordination, control and homeostasis, Topic 8 – Exchange and transport in animals, Topic 9 – Ecosystems and material cycles
- Chemistry - Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry, Topic 2 – States of matter and mixtures, Topic 3 – Chemical changes, Topic 4 – Extracting metals and equilibria, Topic 5 - Separate science only, Topic 6 – Groups in the periodic table, Topic 7 – Rates of reaction and energy changes, Topic 8 – Fuels and Earth science, Topic 9 - Separate science only
- Physics - Topic 1 – Key concepts of physics, Topic 2 – Motion and forces, Topic 3 – Conservation of energy, Topic 4 – Waves, Topic 5 – Light and the electromagnetic spectrum, Topic 6 – Radioactivity, Topic 7 - Separate science only, Topic 8 – Energy - Forces doing work, Topic 9 – Forces and their effects, Topic 10 – Electricity and circuits, Topic 11 - Separate science only, Topic 12 – Magnetism and the motor effect, Topic 13 – Electromagnetic induction, Topic 14 – Particle model, Topic 15 – Forces and matter

There are two levels of examinations (Foundation and Higher) - pupils sitting the Foundation paper can achieve a maximum grade of 5, whilst those sitting Higher can achieve a grade up to 9. The course is assessed by 100% examination where the students will sit a total of six papers two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics and the combined score of these two papers gives the overall double grade.

The GCSE Triple Award Science (Separate science) course has approximately 50% more material than the combined award and focuses on all three science disciplines in more depth. There are two levels of examinations (Foundation and Higher) - pupils sitting the Foundation paper can achieve a maximum grade of 5, whilst those sitting Higher can achieve a grade up to 9. The course is assessed by 100% examination where the students will sit a total of six papers two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics and for each subject they will achieve an overall grade for each science resulting in 3 separate GCSEs.

Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Armed Forces success for Jacob and Jay

This week **Jacob S**, Year 13, travelled to Scotland to complete the Royal Navy physical assessment following successful completion of the interview portion of the recruitment process.

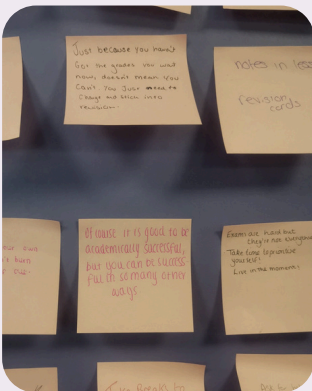
"I went to HMS Caledonia in Scotland where I stayed overnight completing fitness and medical tests alongside other candidates applying for a variety of officer and rating roles. It was an interesting experience and my first time seeing what a life in the Navy could be like."

Jacob was the youngest person assessed in his group and has passed the assessment. He awaits the outcome of several of his university applications including at University of Edinburgh and University of St Andrews. Already an offer holder for Durham University, Jacob is considering his options - something we heartily encourage at Byron.

It was an exciting week for **Jay**, also in Year 13, who is considering his future career options in the Army. Jay completed the interview and testing for the Army and scored very highly. He awaits his date to go to Scotland to complete the physical assessment.

Byron students offer advice

This week Byron students offered their younger peers some advice about revision, their GCSEs and their future plans. Each student wrote their messages down on a post it, which was placed in the Common Room for students to read as they walk through in lesson change overs. At Byron Sixth Form, we place great emphasis on teamwork, leadership and community. It was fantastic to see our students take the opportunity to share their experiences and their wisdom.



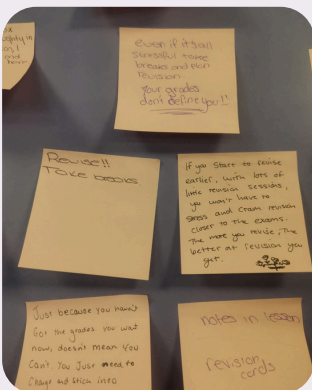
A Date for Your Diary

On Wednesday 26 March, St Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form College will be hosting an evening dedicated to preparation for university. The talk will begin at 5pm and last around an hour.

During the talk we will cover:

- Fees and finance
- Choosing a course and the different types of degree (including degree-apprenticeships)
- Support offered at Byron Sixth Form
- What to start doing prior to the end of Y12 with a particular focus on entry into Oxbridge, Medicine and other degrees requiring additional preparation or interview

All students and their parents/carers are welcome to attend. It is never too early to start considering future option



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

Sixth Form

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SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

POST-GCSE PATHWAY: Studying at our Sixth Form

A Level Mathematics

Byron Sixth Form offers A Level Mathematics to all pupils have achieved at least a Grade 6 at GCSE (Higher). A Level Mathematics builds on core topics explored in Key Stage 3 and GCSE, such as algebra and trigonometry, as well as introducing new concepts, including differentiation, integration and statistical distributions. The course is divided into three key categories; Pure, Mechanics and Statistics.

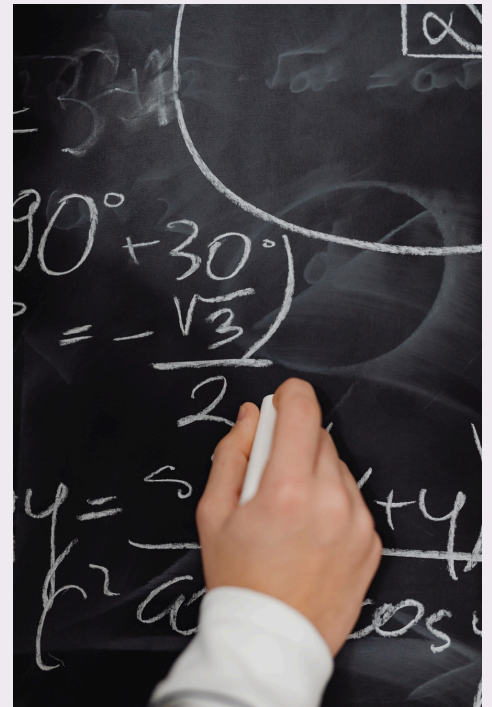
A Level Mathematics is the most popular A Level in the UK and often cited as one of the most challenging A Levels - it is the most common subject that is stipulated for a variety of university courses, such as Medicine, Dentistry or Engineering.

Assessment/qualification information:

- Exam Board for A Level Mathematics: Edexcel
- There is no coursework and the course is examined through three papers sat at the end of Year 13
- Pure Mathematics is examined in two of the papers, with Applied Mathematics (Mechanics and Statistics) being examined in the final paper
- Each paper is 2 hours long and is worth 100 marks

Health & Social Care: Extended Certificate Level 3

If you have the desire to expand your knowledge of Human Growth and Development including the factors that may affect us along with understanding the different types of sectors both public and private that we as service users may access then the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate is a great choice for you. Students will also be given the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of promoting health education and some of the principles behind delivering health and social care to the public. Students will complete two external examinations and two Pearson Set assignments over the 2 years of study.



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



Apply Now!

Sixth Form

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POST-GCSE PATHWAY: Studying at our Sixth Form

A Level Philosophy & Ethics

Studying OCR Philosophy and Ethics offers students an engaging and in-depth exploration of some of the most fundamental questions in life. The course covers three areas: Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought.

In the study of Philosophy of Religion different aspects of religious belief and practice are investigated through a philosophical lens. It explores different ideas like what does it mean to say God exists? And are human beings more than physical matter?

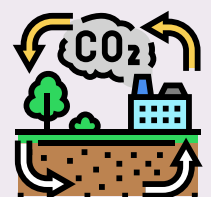
Religion and Ethics focuses on the moral decisions that we make throughout life. It asks questions like is it right to concentrate on consequences of actions? Are morals universal to everyone? It also looks at topics like Business Ethics, Euthanasia and Sexual Ethics. The Developments in Christian thought section explores questions raised by and about religion. It explores concepts such as who is Jesus? What actions should Christians take? Is Christianity sexist?



A Level Geography

Studying AQA A Level geography gives students an in depth understanding of our world and the physical and human factors that inter-connect on local and global scales. The course develops students' critical thinking and analysis and gets you to question issues at a variety of different scales. We look at some contemporary geographical issues in today's world, such as global governance, the carrying capacity of the planet and ways to mitigate the impacts of changes to the carbon cycle. We regularly consider how different topics are linked together and how local changes can have global impacts. Studying geography enables you to become a global citizen, with the issue of sustainability at the forefront of all topics.

The course is split into a physical paper and human paper each comprising of three topics. For Paper 1 we look at the water and carbon cycle, coastal landscapes and natural hazards. For Paper 2 we study global governance, changing places and population and the environment. We build on knowledge and skill from GCSE and continue to develop analytical skills throughout the course, making Geography a very popular A Level which is welcomed by both universities and employers.



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

Sixth Form

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SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

POST-GCSE PATHWAY: Studying at our Sixth Form

A Level Sciences

Byron Sixth Form offers A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics to all pupils who have achieved at least a Grade 6 at GCSE (Higher). All of the A level sciences build on core topics explored in Key Stage 3 and GCSE, such as Cells in Biology, Atomic Structure and Bonding in Chemistry and Forces & Motion in Physics as well as introducing new concepts.

A Level Sciences are very popular and are often cited as some of the most challenging A Levels - They are the most common subjects that are stipulated for a variety of university courses, such as Medicine, Dentistry or Engineering.

A Level Biology

Biology is a fascinating subject, the study of which will see you learn about the natural world and all the living things within it. Gaining an A-level in this subject opens up a vast range of opportunities for both university degrees and career options, many of which can take you all around the world.

Subject content:

Biological molecules, Cells, 2- Organisms exchange substances with their environment, 3- Genetic information, 4- variation and relationships between organisms, 5- Energy transfers in and between organisms (A-level only), 6- Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments (A-level only), 7- Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems (A-level only) and 8- The control of gene expression (A-level only)



Assessment/qualification information:

- Exam Board for A Level Biology: AQA
- This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all the A-level exams at the end of their A-level course.
- There is no coursework and the course is examined through three papers sat at the end of Year 13
- Topics 1-4 are examined in paper 1, Topics 5-8 are examined in paper 2 and paper 3 contains a synoptic element where any topic from 1-8 can be assessed, alongside a 25 mark essay and practical questions
- Paper 1 and Paper 2 carry 91 marks and are 35% of the course and Paper 3 carry's 78 marks and is worth 30% of the course.
- A separate endorsement of practical skills will be taken alongside the A-level. This will be assessed by teachers and will be based on direct observation of students' competency in a range of skills that are not assessable in written exams.

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



Sixth Form

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SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

POST-GCSE PATHWAY: Studying at our Sixth Form

A Level Chemistry

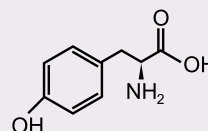
Sometimes referred to as the 'central science', Chemistry helps to connect physical sciences, like Maths and Physics, with applied sciences, such as Biology, Medicine and Engineering. In fact, Chemistry is all around us and an understanding of the subject can help to answer many simple questions about everyday life!

Chemistry is one of the Russell Group universities' 'facilitating' subjects — so called because choosing them at A-level allows a wide range of options for degree study.

Subject content:

- In this course students will study the three aspects of Chemistry
- Physical (a branch of chemistry that investigates how substances behave on an atomic or molecular level)
- Inorganic (the study of non-carbon molecules, or all the elements on the periodic table except carbon.)
- Organic (the branch of chemistry that deals with carbon compounds)
- Students will build upon their knowledge of these three aspects each year and complete 12 required practical's.

Assessment/qualification information:



- Exam Board for A Level Chemistry: AQA
- This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all the A-level exams at the end of their A-level course.
- There is no coursework and the course is examined through three papers sat at the end of Year 13
- Paper 1 – Physical chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry - written exam: 2 hours - 105 marks of short and long answer questions including practical skills (35% of A-level)
- Paper 2 - Physical chemistry and Organic Chemistry - written exam: 2 hours - 105 marks of short and long answer questions including practical skills (35% of A-level)
- Paper 3 – Synoptic paper covering any content and any practical skills - written exam: 2 hours - 90 marks - 40 marks of questions on practical techniques and data analysis, 20 marks of questions testing across the specification, 30 marks of multiple choice questions (30% of A-level)
- A separate endorsement of practical skills will be taken alongside the A-level. This will be assessed by teachers and will be based on direct observation of students' competency in a range of skills that are not assessable in written exams.

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

Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

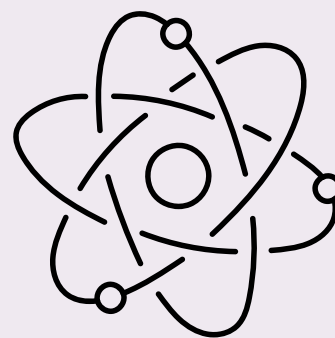
POST-GCSE PATHWAY: Studying at our Sixth Form

A Level Physics

A Level Physics allows you to delve into the laws that explain why everything in the universe – from quasars to Quavers – exists. It explores where energy comes from, how it behaves and how it can be transformed. It also examines the forces of nature – like gravity – and how they work.

Subject content:

- 1 Measurements and their errors,
- 2 Particles and radiation,
- 3 Waves,
- 4 Mechanics and materials
- 5 Electricity,
- 6 Further mechanics and thermal physics (A-level only),
- 7 Fields and their consequences (A-level only),
- 8 Nuclear physics (A-level only) and option topic
- 9 Astrophysics (A-level only)



Assessment/qualification information:

- Exam Board for A Level Physics: AQA
- This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all the A-level exams at the end of their A-level course.
- There is no coursework and the course is examined through three papers sat at the end of Year 13
- Topics 1-5 and periodic motion are examined in paper 1, Topics 7, 8 and Thermal Physics are examined in paper 2 and paper 3 contains a synoptic element where any topic from 1-8 can be assessed, alongside the option topic 9 and practical questions
- Paper 1 and Paper 2 carry 85 marks and are 34% of the course and Paper 3 carries 80 marks and is worth 32% of the course.
- A separate endorsement of practical skills will be taken alongside the A-level. This will be assessed by teachers and will be based on direct observation of students' competency in a range of skills that are not assessable in written exams.

[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

- Friday 21 March: World Poetry Day
- Wednesday 26 March: Spring Music Celebration (6pm)
- Thursday 27 March: Y9 Parents' Evening
- Thursday 3 April: Y9 Options Deadline
- Sunday 6 April: National Library Week
- Monday 7 April: Holy Week
- Tuesday 8 April: SEND Coffee Morning
- Friday 11 April: End of term (12.30pm)

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



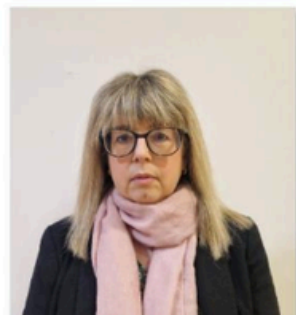
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Cessford
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Robinson
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Ord
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Home and School Links

- Address:** St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form
Westway, Peterlee, Co. Durham, SR8 1DE
- 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](#)

