



# 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: 21 March 2025

### Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 13:1-9) the fig tree represents God's people so all of us. We are called to change, to grow and so enrich the world around us – to love as Jesus loved.

This is what being truly human means. Jesus is like the gardener. He is patient with us, nurtures us and helps us to change for the better.



### Excellence

#### Headteacher's Award

This week's Headteacher's Award was presented to **Marnie Hall 9H3**. Marnie is a role model to all students and has a wholly positive outlook. She consistently demonstrates kindness and dedication, both in her academic efforts and in her interactions with peers and staff. Marnie's enthusiasm for learning and her cheerful disposition make her a valued member of our school community. Congratulations, Marnie, on this well-deserved recognition!

#### Tutor Group of the Week

**10C3** are the winners of this week's Tutor Group of the Week award.

#### House Students of the Week

Columba: **Sonny Iley 7C1**

Hilda: **Alfie Saunders 8H2**

Oswald: **Max Griffiths 10O2**

Chad: **Madalina Botezatu 13Ch1, Gurjeevan Aujla 13Ch1, Alfie Wolfe 13Ch1 & Carrie Hanson 13Ch1**





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Determination

**“The sky has no limits. Neither should you.”** These words by the greatest sprinter of all time Usain Bolt inspire us to reach beyond the horizon of our perceived capabilities. At St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form College, we embrace this philosophy wholeheartedly. Our students have the tools and support they need to chase their dreams and achieve greatness. We expect all our students to aim high - nothing but the best is good enough.

### Flame 2025

A group of our students had an amazing at the Flame Congress last Saturday, joining 10,000 other young people from Dioceses throughout the country. They represented our school well and it was inspiring to see our students shine.



### Silver CYMFed

Congratulations to our Year 9 students who were presented with the silver level of the CYMFed awards this week. The Silver Level encourages a maturity of faith which is expressed in terms of leadership and initiative. Participants recognise that serving others is a direct consequence of their faith and their desire to do God's will.



### Stations of the Cross 7C1/7C2

As part of our Lenten preparations our young people led Stations of the Cross this week in school. They were reflective and respectful and those qualities will definitely serve them well both in their personal growth and as representatives of our school. 7H1/7H2 will be leading Stations of the Cross on Friday 28 March. If you would like to book your place please email [oballs@st-bedes.org](mailto:oballs@st-bedes.org)



### Blessed Carlo Acutis Relic Visit

The Opening Mass will take place in St Cuthbert's on Wednesday 26 March at 7.00pm, celebrated by Bishop Stephen. All are welcome. The relics will then spend Thursday with the young people of our Diocese and on Friday 28 March St Cuthbert's will have a 24-hour Vigil in St Michael's Church from 9am. The Church will remain open for 24 hours of prayer and veneration, so if you can, come and visit Jesus and the relics.



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Arbor Parent Portal

On **Friday 28 March** we will launch our free Parent Portal and Parent App using our Management Information System, Arbor. **Parents/carers will receive an email with login details.**

Initially, parents and carers will be able to track attendance, view their children's timetables and receive instant notifications from school.

Over the coming weeks and months we will introduce more features that we hope will make communication between school and home stronger.

From September 2025, we will move our behaviour system to Arbor too.



## We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

**We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.**

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

### How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Sunnyville School of Magic  
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log In

Forgotten password?

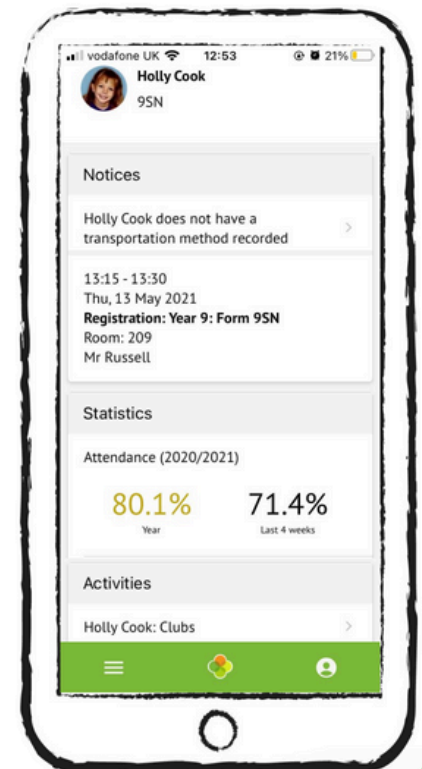
### Need help using Arbor?

**Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal.** Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

#### Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Geography Field. Trip: Data Collection

Year 11 have had a great two days at Roker and Seaburn beach in Sunderland collecting data for Component 3 of their GCSE Geography exam. On the morning of their visit they gathered data on the sustainability of the coastal defences in place, questioned members of the public on their opinion and investigated the land use along the coastline. After fuelling up at the Stack for lunch they then spent the afternoon investigating the services on offer in Seaburn. They completed pedestrian and traffic flow counts at various locations. They completed environmental quality surveys and again questioned the public about their opinions. Students were impeccably behaved on both days and members of the public commented on how friendly and polite our students were.

They did St Bede's proud, well done Year 11 geographers!





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Our Maths Wall of Legends continues to grow!

Following in the footsteps of Pythagoras, Stephen Hawking and Ada Lovelace, we are delighted to unveil 6 more pupils as "Legends". These pupils epitomise our values and they are setting the world ablaze with their effort, presentation and manners. Well done - a particularly good week for the houses of St Hilda and St Columba!

Mr Taylor - **Harry Mason 9H3**  
 Mr Fowler - **Charlie Wilson 9H3**  
 Dr Treanor - **Evie Ashcroft 10H1**  
 Mrs Keniry - **Harry Petch 8C1**  
 Mr Marrs - **Owen Charlton 10C3**  
 Miss Houghton - **Emily Milestone 8C1**



### Mathematics Department celebrates St Patrick's Day!

This week saw the feast day of one of the world's most well-known Saints, Patrick. Our Maths Department marked the day by decorating their corridor, flooding the area with a blaze of green, shamrocks as well as a life size banner of Saint Patrick.

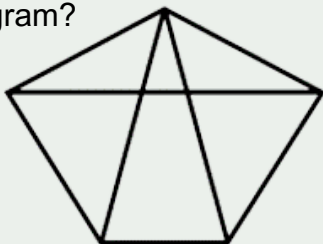


### St Bede's House Maths Championships Launches

To celebrate the start of Mathematics & Statistics Awareness Month (April), St Bede's Mathematics Department is delighted to announce our inaugural House Maths Championships! We are excited to showcase and celebrate our mathematicians' problem solving talent.

Competing in House teams over the course of a week, pupils from every year group will work together to solve a variety of puzzles and maths challenges in order to win coveted points for their House. A variety of questions will be available so every pupil, no matter their age or confidence, can take part. Team sizes will be capped with Heads of House making final selection decisions.

A challenge for our readers - how many triangles are in this diagram?



The Championships shall take place during lunchtime and pupils can sign up by speaking to their Maths Teacher. We look forward to sharing with you the results!



**St Bede's House Maths Championships**


*Can you lead your house to victory?*

Work in teams to solve puzzles and challenges to win points for your house.


Speak to your Maths Teacher to sign up!

Taking place during lunchtime:	
Monday	Year 7
Tuesday	Year 8
Wednesday	Year 9
Thursday	Year 10
Friday	Year 11


50 points



200 points



100 points



St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form College

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### English Department Stars of the Week

A huge congratulations to this week's Stars of the Week in the English Department! Your hard work, enthusiasm, and creativity have truly stood out. Whether it's through insightful analysis, creative writing, or brilliant contributions in class discussions, you have impressed your teachers! 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! Keep up the fantastic effort—your passion for English is inspiring! ★📖★

Well Done, and keep striving for excellence! ★

- Mrs Cook - **Karis Rowland Y10**
- Mr Johnson - **Lacey Hogwood Y7**
- Mrs Wild - **Iyla Appleby Y8**
- Mrs Dolan - **Aleisha Caffrey Y11**
- Mrs Scutt - **Esmee Brown Y9**
- Miss Caine - **Riley Richardson Y8**
- Miss Barkley - **Isabel Wood Y7**
- Miss Milburn - **Faye Miller Y8**



### Science Department Year 11 Achievement & Progress

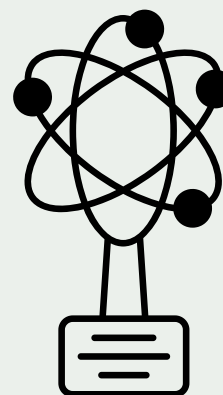
Following the February mock exams the students below have been recognised for their achievements and progress in Science. We're thrilled to celebrate your hard work and are confident you will continue to excel in your academic pursuits. Keep reaching for the stars and inspiring others with your enthusiasm for learning!

Combined Science High Achievers  
**Aidan Wilkinson** and **Neve Clark**

Combined Science Rapid Progress  
**Neve Beattie** and **Matthew Carlisle**

Separate Science High Achievers  
**Medhuja Kayan** (Chemistry and Biology), **Zara Laverick** (Physics)

Separate Science Rapid Progress  
**Zara Laverick** (Chemistry and Biology), **Tia Sinclair** (Physics)





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Fast Feet Manchester Visit

On Saturday 15 March, some of the Year 11 Fast Feet boys and girls, in partnership with Pathway Soccer, visited Old Trafford and the Etihad Stadium.

They had a tour of the museum and stadium at Old Trafford, viewing the immense history of Manchester United Football Club. They then drove across Manchester, parked up, and visited the fan zone at Manchester City Academy, which is adjacent to the Etihad, where there were loads of Football related activities for the kids to get involved in. Nobody could beat Mr Pounder or Mr Larkin at Cornhole though!

They walked back across to the ground to their seats for the Manchester City v Brighton & Hove Albion match where they were fortunate to see four goals, a penalty by Erling Haaland and appearances from some of the Premier League Champions' best players, as the game ended 2-2. It was a great experience for all involved.



### Returning to School after Sickness

To ensure the health and well-being of all students and staff, please follow these guidelines regarding your child's return to school after illness:

- If your child has a **single episode of sickness** (not related to a contagious illness), they may return to school **after 24 hours**, provided they are feeling well.
- If your child has a sickness bug (vomiting or diarrhoea due to a virus or infection), please adhere to the **48-hour rule** — they should remain at home for **at least 48 hours** after the last episode to prevent the spread of illness.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community healthy.

### Year 11: This is the Week... to Prepare for English

This week Year 11 have been practising exam techniques with Mrs Cook, in preparation for their GCSE English exams 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 Science exams.

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

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

#### Spanish: OPTION

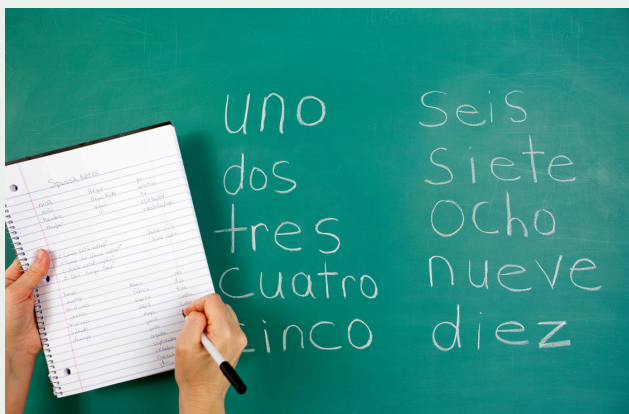
At KS4, students deepen their Spanish skills while exploring real-world topics that prepare them for both their GCSE exams and life beyond the classroom.

In Year 10, students begin by diving into technology, social media, and celebrity culture, learning about key Spanish-speaking influencers like Rosalía, Ibai Llanos, and Shakira. They then focus on the environment, their local area, and free time activities, as well as essential topics like travel, tourism, family, and relationships helping students to build their practical language skills while preparing for their GCSE.

In Year 11, the focus shifts to cultural traditions and festivals across the Hispanic world, as well as life style, and future plans. Students also refine their language skills to discuss relationships and marriage, while practicing essential GCSE exam techniques to ensure success in their exams.

With a blend of modern themes and cultural exploration, KS4 Spanish helps students gain confidence, broaden their perspectives, and develop skills for real-world communication.

¡Vamos!







## Sixth Form

# BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

### Golfing Excellence for Kaylm

**Kalym Rowland, Year 12**, has been accepted to join the England golf academy. Starting in September, Kaylm will train with some of the best coaches in the country. Not only is Kaylm an exceptional golfer, he has been accepted to the prestigious Next Steps: York programme to prepare him for his transition to university. Well done Kaylm on a remarkable achievement!

### Grace goes for Oxford

**Grace Purvis, Year 12**, has also been accepted onto the small subjects residential at The University of Oxford. Grace is hoping to study history and philosophy at university in preparation for a career in law.

### Senior Students lead the way

Our Senior Students, each representing one of our core values, have met this week to discuss important issue at the Sixth Form. Leadership plays a vital role at Byron Sixth Form with students encouraged to voice their opinions and find proactive solutions and improvements to their experience.

### Is University for you?

On Wednesday 26 March (starting at 5pm), students and their parents/carers are invited to join us for an event focused on preparation for university. Open to any student from any year group, the talk will focus on some of the frequently asked questions around university admission. From fees and finances, to what students should be doing at every stage of their education to be well prepared, the evening promises to be informative and reflective for both students and their supporters.

Join  
us!



[Apply Now!](#)

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 Spanish

At KS5, our Spanish curriculum offers students a dynamic and enriching journey into the language and culture of the Hispanic world. Following the AQA specification, students not only develop their linguistic skills but also engage with cultural topics that broaden their global understanding.

Throughout year 12 and 13, we explore key themes such as cyberspace, regional identity, gender equality, the influence of celebrities, social values, coexistence, immigration, monarchies and dictatorships, racism and youth issues in Spanish-speaking countries. These topics encourage students to think critically about contemporary social issues while enhancing their ability to communicate in Spanish with confidence and fluency.

In addition to these themes, students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Hispanic the critically acclaimed film *El laberinto del fauno*, a visually stunning and deeply symbolic story set in post-Civil War Spain, and the novel *Como agua para chocolate*, which blends magical realism with themes of love, tradition, and revolution. These works provide a deeper cultural and historical context, enriching students' understanding of the Spanish-speaking world.

#### A Level Psychology

Are you fascinated by the workings of the human mind? Are you curious about why people think and behave the way they do, and how psychological theories apply to real-world issues?

##### Why Choose A-Level Psychology?

- Explore the Mind: Study topics such as social influence, memory, attachment, psychopathology, biopsychology, gender, schizophrenia and aggression.
- Develop Critical Skills: Learn to analyse data, assess research studies, and think critically—skills that are valuable in higher education and in many careers.
- Real-World Application: Whether you want to work in healthcare, education, law, or marketing, psychology is an essential tool in understanding people.

##### What are the requirements for studying A-level Psychology?

Psychology is classified as a Science subject and this is reflected in the biopsychology and research methods content. Mathematical skills represent at least 10% of the overall assessment with research methods representing 25-30%.

You will sit three exams, each lasting two hours, at the end of the second year of study. The exams consist of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

**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](http://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

- 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:



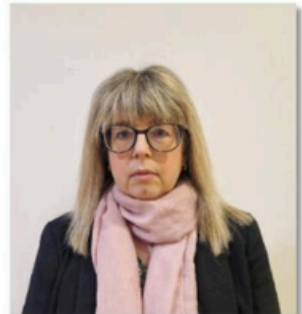
**Mr Logan**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**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](mailto:enquiries@st-bedes.org)

**Phone:** 0191 5876220

**Website:** [www.st-bedes.org](http://www.st-bedes.org)

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

**Class Charts:** [www.classcharts.com](http://www.classcharts.com)

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

**Our Diocese:** Hexham & Newcastle

