



# 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: 28 March 2025

### Faith

We think about the theme of forgiveness in this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32). In the Gospel the younger son insults his father; his inheritance is all he thinks about. To make matters worse, his reason for returning is not love or consideration for his father, but simply his own desperate hunger. The father does not question his son's motives but welcomes his son back with an open heart and open arms of forgiveness. The message for us is that whatever we may have done wrong, if we are truly sorry we can still count on the loving forgiveness of God who is our Father.

### Excellence

#### Headteacher's Award

**Levi Downes 9C3** has been presented with our Headteacher's Award this week. Levi has been working to the best of his ability and has done his utmost to make progress. Levi has ensure he is prepared for school and has had an excellent mindset. Well done, Levi, on this well-deserved recognition!

#### Tutor Group of the Week

**1001** are the winners of this week's Tutor Group of the Week award.

#### House Students of the Week

Columba: **Emily Mllestone 8C1**

Hilda: **Sarah Pescod 10H1**

Oswald: **Nosariemen Izevbogie 8O2**



Well done to all of our students that have made the commitment to give something up or do a little extra this Lent. Your dedication and efforts are truly inspiring and serve as a wonderful example of the spirit of reflection and growth that Lent encourages. Remember, every small action you take contributes to both your personal development and the greater good of our school community. Keep up the fantastic work, and let's continue to support one another on this meaningful journey.

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Determination



**"[He] who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life."** - Muhammad Ali. This week we had the pleasure of watching the performances of our musicians and singers - they were amazing. When you've discovered your gifts and talents it's important to nurture them with dedication and courage, just like the students showcased on stage. Their performances were not only a testament to their hard work but also a reminder of the joy and fulfillment that comes from sharing one's passions with others.

### Carlos Acutis Relic Mass

A small group of students represented St Bede's at St Cuthbert's Church on Wednesday evening. This was a special occasion for the students of St Bede's to participate in the Mass for the relics of Carlos Acutis, especially with Bishop Stephen presiding. Carlos Acutis, being a modern-day "blessed" with his devotion to the Eucharist and his passion for using technology to spread faith, is an inspiring figure.



### Stations of the Cross

We will be holding Stations of the Cross for 701 and 702 on Monday 31 March. If you would like to attend please book a place by emailing [oballs@st-bedes.org](mailto:oballs@st-bedes.org)

### St. Bede's Ducklings

Our science department recently hatched five adorable ducklings in the incubator, providing a fantastic learning experience for both students and staff. The children have not only had the chance to gently stroke and hold the ducklings but have also learned about the hatching process and how to care for them as they grow. Through our live stream, we've been able to watch their development closely, observing how they change and start to show their unique personalities. To make it even more exciting, we've held a competition between tutor groups to choose names for our new fluffy friends. Everyone has loved spending time with the ducklings and being part of their journey from hatchlings to lively little characters!





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Spring Music Concert

Thank you everyone who came to support the music department spring concert. Thank you to all our performers from right across our school community. Special thanks to our Durham Music Service staff who week by week support our students in performing to their God-given potential.

We are thrilled with the talent and enthusiasm displayed by all our students (and the fabulous violinists from St. Cuthbert's too), making the event a resounding success. The concert was a wonderful celebration of the diverse musical skills nurtured within our school, from the vocal performances to the energetic instrumental pieces. Each act was a testament to the dedication and passion of our young musicians, and it was heartwarming to see the joy on their faces as they shared their gifts with us.

When we return after Easter there are still some spaces for lessons in Guitar, Vocals, Woodwind and Drum Kit. If you are interested please [check out the Durham Music Service website](#) or speak to your music teacher. Whether you're a beginner or have years of experience, there's always room to grow and explore new musical horizons. Let's continue to make music a vibrant and integral part of our school culture.

### Musician of the week

April Benson, Jessica Brown and Maksyn Hrudko are our joint-musicians of the week! Congratulations to the three of you and please keep up your good work!

### Feet First Dance Show

Well done to **Holly Thynne**, **Evie Lunn** and **Elise Guest** who represented St Bede's at the Feet First Dance show at the Gala Theatre on Tuesday 25 March. Their performance was a testament to their hard work and dedication. Each dancer brought their unique flair to the stage, captivating the audience with their grace and precision. We are incredibly proud of Holly, Evie, and Elise for their outstanding representation of St. Bede's, and we look forward to seeing more of their incredible performances in the future. Keep up the fantastic work!



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Maths Wall of Legends

Congratulations to this week's newest legends - they personify our core values as a school, in particular, exemplifying respect, determination and responsibility within their maths lessons. We would also like to congratulate **Ethan Lloyd 7H1**, **Harry Sinclair 9C3** and **Elise Embleton 11O2**, who have had their fantastic work displayed on the wall of legends, as role models to their peers.

- Mrs Keniry: **Dexter Barrett 7H1**
- Miss Houghton: **Sonny Peacock 8H2**
- Dr Treanor: **Eliis Coils 9H2**
- Mr Fowler: **Karis Rowland 10O1**
- Mr Marrs: **Evie Lunn 8H2**
- Mr Taylor: **Oliver Corbett 9O1**



### English 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: **Jessica Hunter Y11**
- Mr Johnson: **Corey Lamond Y9**
- Mrs Wild: **Nyla Robinson Y8**
- Mrs Dolan: **Aleisha Caffrey Y11**
- Mrs Scutt: **Esmee Brown Y9**
- Miss Caine: **Georgia Welch Y9**
- Miss Barkley: **Juliet Peter Y9**
- Miss Milburn: **Lennon Thirkell Y9**
- Miss Hamilton: **Isla Staley Y7**



### History Heroes

The History Heroes for this fortnight are:

- Mrs Ahmed: **Grace Scott 8O3**
- Miss Jackson: **Astin Cooper 8O3**
- Mr Johnson: **Frankie J 9C3**

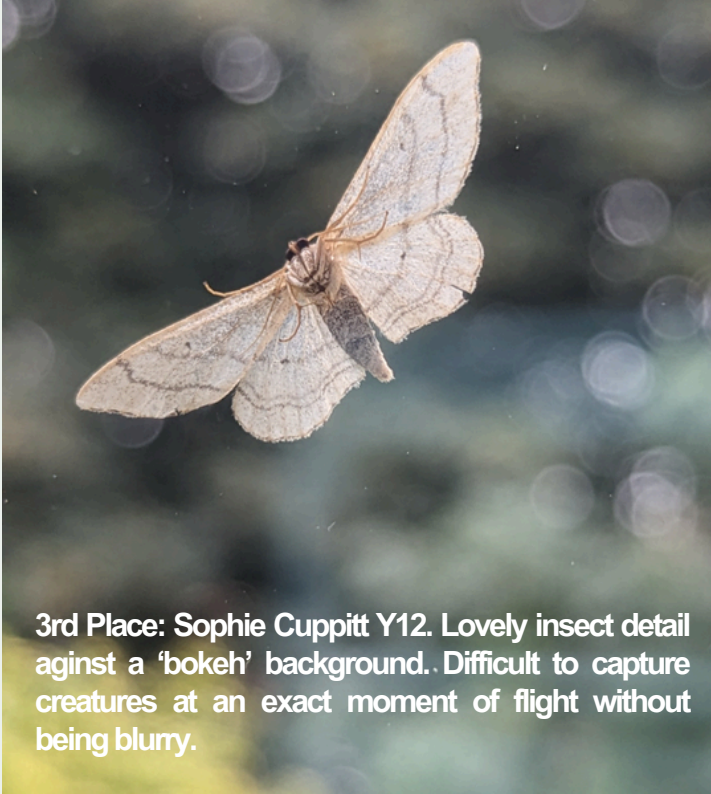
See Mrs Ahmed for your prize.



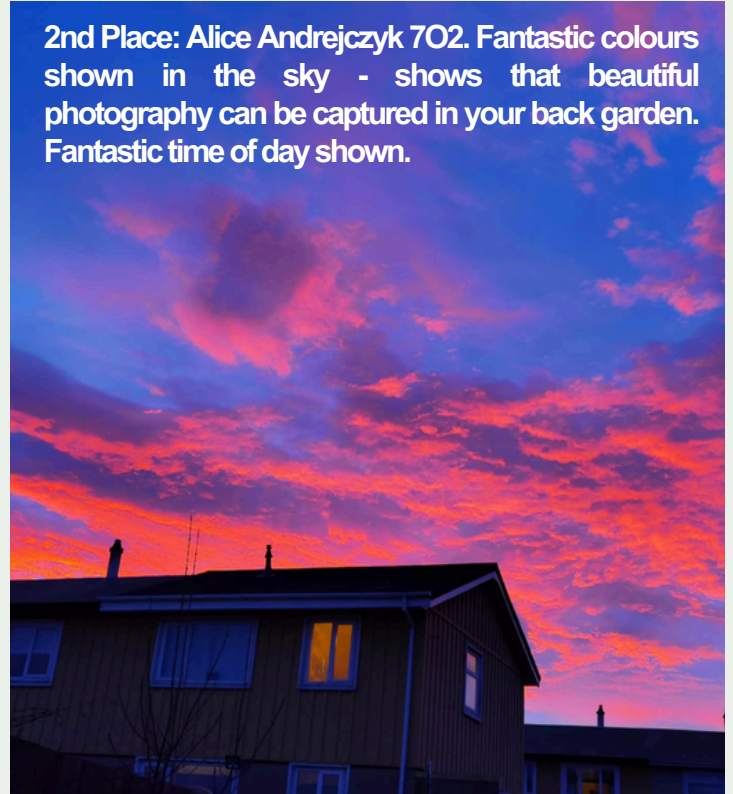


## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Photography Competition Winners



3rd Place: Sophie Cuppitt Y12. Lovely insect detail against a 'bokeh' background. Difficult to capture creatures at an exact moment of flight without being blurry.



2nd Place: Alice Andrejczyk 702. Fantastic colours shown in the sky - shows that beautiful photography can be captured in your back garden. Fantastic time of day shown.



1st Place: Marie Glassbrook 902. Beautiful photo of a floral field. Represents the season of spring well - stunning aperture created with the camera.

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### First Aid Training

On Wednesday 26 March, six members of staff completed first aid training. The training was comprehensive and engaging, covering essential skills such as CPR, handling emergencies, and administering first aid for common injuries. The participants appreciated the hands-on practice sessions, which boosted their confidence in applying their new knowledge in real-life situations. The training not only equipped them with vital skills but also fostered a sense of community and teamwork among the staff. Most importantly, we continue to be equipped to support the first aid needs of our students. More staff are completing this training in the coming weeks.



### Year 11: This is the Week... to prepare for science

This week year 11 have been practising exam techniques with the science Team, in preparation for their GCSE science 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 RE exams.

### FSM & Additional Funding for Schools

It is really important that you register for Free School Meals if you are entitled as the school receives additional grant funding from the government which makes a big difference to the school, providing additional funding to help support pupils' education. If you are registered for FSM, you may also be able to access school holiday meal vouchers. If you receive one of the following benefits, we would be most grateful if you could apply for your child's Free School Meals using the link below:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

You can access the online application by clicking this link.



The average child posts around *26 times a day* on social media but *only 6 out of 10* followers are real friends.



**Online safety should be on every parent's checklist this school year.**

That's why we've got information, advice and support for all your concerns about your child and the Internet. Showing you the best ways to keep them safe online, whatever they're doing.

Source: Ginger Research online survey

**internet  
matters.org**

Learn about it/talk about it/deal with it

## Sixth Form

# BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

### POST-GCSE PATHWAY: Studying at our Sixth Form

#### BTEC National in Business (Sixth Form KS5)

The BTEC National in Business course is a vocational course that introduces learners to a range of business concepts. The course is assessed by students completing two coursework units and two external exams. The first coursework unit encourages students to explore and compare two different contrasting types of business, their ownership and how they are structured and affected by external factors and how innovation has been used by businesses to meet the needs of customers.

The second unit of coursework examines the recruitment processes of large organisations and evaluates them to assess how successful they are in finding the right staff. The two examined unit look at managing personal and business finance and developing a marketing campaign for a business.

The two examinations take place in Year 12 and the coursework units are completed in Year 13. The course develops students' skills of analysis, evaluation and research. It is viewed favorably by universities as it prepares students well for the experience of working independently at university. Students who follow this course have progressed onto degree courses in a wide range of subjects from Business Management to Event planning. A BTEC Business course combines well with many other A level subjects



# Join us!



[Apply Now!](#)

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



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Arbor Parent Portal

Today we have launched our free Parent Portal and Parent App using our Management Information System, Arbor. **Parents/carers should have received 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?

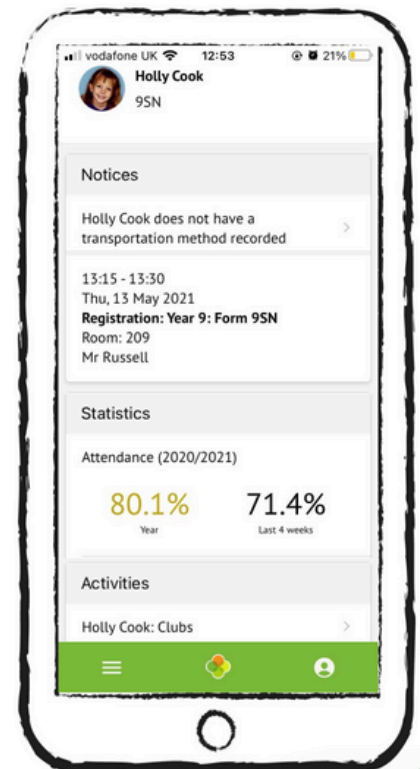
### Need help using Arbor?

**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.





## Key Dates

- 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)
- Monday 28 April: Return to school (Week A)
- Tuesday 29 April: Year 8 Immunisations
- Thursday 1 May: Year 7 Parents' Evening

## Safeguarding

### Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

#### Designated safeguarding leads:



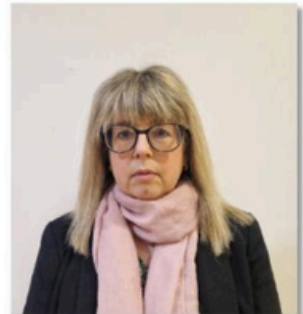
**Mr Logan**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**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

