



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: 17 July 2025

Faith

As we approach the school holidays, Luke's story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10: 38-42) reminds us of the importance of taking time to rest and be present. While Martha was busy with many tasks, Mary chose to pause and listen, finding renewal in the moment.

This holiday season is a chance for students, parents, and staff to step back from the busyness of school life, to rest, reflect, and recharge—ready to return refreshed and focused.

Try setting aside a few quiet moments each day during the holidays, without screens or distractions, to simply be together or enjoy a peaceful activity, taking time to pause, reflect, and focus on what truly enriches our lives. It's a great way to reconnect and restore balance for the new term ahead.

Excellence

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

As we come to the end of another busy and successful school year at St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved together as a community.

This year has been a true testament to our core values. In faith, we have grown closer as a Catholic family, placing Christ at the centre of all we do. Through excellence, our students and staff have continued to achieve highly in the classroom, in extra-curricular activities, in sport and in service to others. We have seen so many examples of responsibility and determination, with students striving to do their very best and staff going above and beyond to help them flourish. Our sense of citizenship and respect has been evident in the way we support one another and reach out to those in need, living out the Gospel values in our daily actions.

I want to thank our incredible staff for their tireless dedication and care, our students for their hard work and enthusiasm, and our parents and carers for the trust and support you show us throughout the year. Together, we make St. Bede's and Byron Sixth Form the special place it is.

As we begin the summer break, I pray that all members of our community enjoy a safe, happy and restful holiday for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming our students back in September for another year of faith-filled learning and growth.

With every blessing,

Mrs Cessford

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Charlie Hits a Century!

Congratulations to Charlie Tudball from Year 9, who achieved his first century of 101 runs for his cricket club, Castle Eden, during a cup match for the Under 15s on Sunday. Great job, Charlie! This remarkable feat not only highlights Charlie's dedication and skill but also sets a shining example for his peers. His performance was a testament to his hard work and passion for the sport, inspiring young cricketers to strive for excellence. Keep up the fantastic work, Charlie, and we look forward to seeing more of your achievements in the future!



Celebrating Evie's Dance Achievements

Congratulations to Evie Ashcroft from Year 10 who competed in the Dance World Cup. Evie placed 8th in the world for a street dance and 10th in the world for both commercial and lyrical dances. There were up to 30 groups in the competition! This is an amazing achievement Evie, Well done! Evie's dedication to dance is truly inspiring. Her ability to excel in multiple styles demonstrates not only her versatility but also her commitment to her craft. The Dance World Cup is a prestigious event, and Evie's impressive rankings are a testament to her hard work and talent. Her success brings pride to St. Bede's and serves as a powerful motivation for her fellow students. We are all excited to see where Evie's dance journey will lead her next. Keep shining, Evie, and continue to reach for the stars!



Girls' Football

We are hosting an open day for girls aged 5-11 who are looking to start their football journey.

Details and a QR code to sign up are on the right.

We are delivering a girls only Wild cats football session at St Bede's comprehensive school to try and promote girls' football in the area.

We are looking for girls aged 5-11 who are looking to start their football journey. This session will be fun and engaging and it is a great way for girls to socialise and make new friends.

Details:
Date: Thursday the 28th of August
Time: 10am-3pm
Location: St. Bede's RC Comprehensive School, Westway, Peterlee SR8 1DE
Cost: £5



If you are interested in signing your daughter onto the open day, please scan the barcode

Girls only football open day



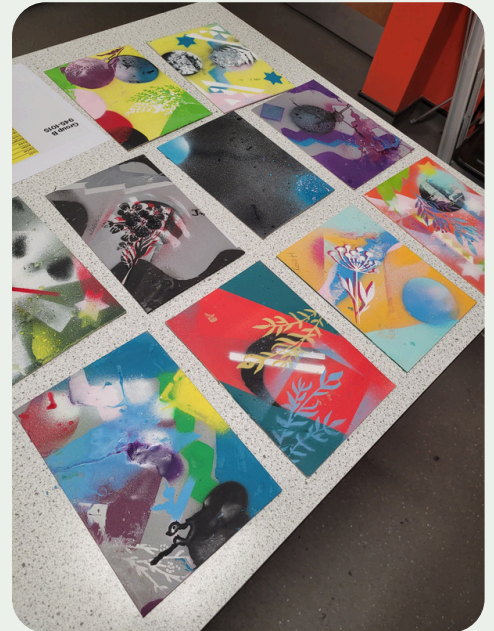
RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Art of Protest: Street Art Workshops

As a reward for excellent behaviour and living out our core values, many students were given the opportunity to learn how to spray paint with stencils.

The workshops were led by Art of Protest Projects, an urban business dedicated to transforming our towns, cities and communities - one spray can at a time! Students eagerly donned their protective gear and picked up spray cans, ready to transform blank canvases into vibrant expressions of creativity.

By the end of the workshop, the students had not only created stunning pieces but had also developed a newfound confidence in their ability to engage with new resources. This initiative perfectly aligned with our aim to cultivate compassionate, innovative, and engaged young individuals.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Durham Library Summer Activities

Below are some of the summer events hosted in various Durham libraries. Some are drop-in sessions, others require advance booking.



Summer Events in our Libraries
from 21st - 26th July

One-off Drop-in Crafts are available at the following libraries:

Chester-Le-Street - Monday 21st July ALL DAY - Snail and Ant
Wolsingham - Monday 21st July ALL DAY - Sunflowers
Newton Hall - Monday 21st July ALL DAY - Fairy Doors
Trimdon - 22nd July from 10am to 4pm - Roman Mosaics
Chilton - Thursday 24th July from 10am to 4pm - Garden Food Plates
Wingate - Thursday 24th July from 11am to 5pm - Plant Pots
Durham Clayport - Thursday 24th July from 2 to 3pm - Tulips
Willington - Thursday 24th ALL DAY - Rock Painting
Shotton - Friday 25th July ALL DAY - Nature/Garden Crafts
Horden - Friday 25th July ALL DAY - Garden Crafts

ALL WEEK Drop-In Crafts are available at:
Bishop Auckland, Blackhall, Bowburn, Chester-le-Street,
Esh Winning, Langley Park, Seaham, Shotton, Spennymoor, Stanley,
Wingate

NO NEED TO BOOK
but you can call your local library for more information!



Summer Events in our Libraries
from 21st - 26th July

We have the following big events coming up!
Zoolab at Peterlee - Thursday 24th July at 11am
Zoolab at Chester-le-Street - Thursday 24th July at 2:30pm

These libraries are also holding craft sessions:

Cornforth - Tuesday 22nd July at 11am - Hot Air Balloons
Barnard Castle - Tuesday 22nd July at 2pm - Bug Hotels
Crook - Tuesday 22nd July at 2:30pm - Stone Painting
Sedgefield - Thursday 24th July at 10:30am - Hama Beading
Blackhall - Thursday 24th July at 2pm - Basket Weaving
Newton Aycliffe - Thursday 24th July at 2:30pm - Egg Box Gardens
Spennymoor - Thursday 24th July at 2:30pm - Egg Box Flowers
Brandon - Thursday 24th at 2:30pm - Gardens and Caterpillars

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR THESE ACTIVITIES!

Call your local library for more information and to book your place!

Durham Holiday Clubs with Healthy Food



FUN & FOOD

FREE holiday clubs with healthy food for school kids and teens in County Durham.

Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/FunandFood or scan

Department for Education

- Free holiday clubs with healthy food for kids and teens across County Durham.
- Make friends, have fun, and enjoy learning new skills this summer!
- If your child gets benefit-related free school meals, they'll receive a Fun and Food ticket from school.
- Find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/FunandFood



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust Staff Awards

The 2025 Chadwick awards were held on the evening of Friday 11 July. This is an opportunity for our primary and secondary schools within the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust to come together and celebrate outstanding work from members of our family across the Trust. We had three nominees shortlisted this year!

- **Mr Teasdale** was a finalist for New Teacher of the Year
- **Mr Griffiths** winner of Mentor of the Year
- **Mr Wilson** winner of Teacher of the Year (Secondary)

"Mr Wilson is an exceptionally dedicated and passionate PE teacher and member of our pastoral team. Every day he demonstrates leadership quality and is an excellent role model. He goes above and beyond in every task be it his teaching or thinking of initiatives to support our wider school community. AS an ex-pupil of school, he clearly celebrates what the school gave him and is keen to give back. He consistently strives for the best outcomes for his pupils, he is a fantastic role model and a committed member of staff. He always gives 110% and he champions mental health both for staff and pupils."



"Mr Griffiths provides outstanding support and guidance to his mentees. He is committed to professional development and has extensive expertise and a wealth of knowledge. He shares valuable insights in to teaching strategies, behaviour management, and subject knowledge, which are invaluable to his mentees. Mr Griffiths' encouragement and dedication to his mentee's development builds their confidence, hones their skills, and helps them grow in to excellent educators. His mentorship has had a profound impact on his mentee's growth, helping to shape the teachers of tomorrow."



"Mr Teasdale has demonstrated an infectious enthusiasm since he joined our school. His passion for music aids him in inspiring pupils through engaging and well-structured lessons. His meticulous planning ensures that each lesson is tailored to meet the needs of all pupils. His ability to connect with pupils makes learning accessible and enjoyable and the improvement in pupil's confidence is evident. Beyond the classroom he runs extra-curricular clubs and always volunteers to support school events, a real team player. He contributes to the school newsletter, nominating pupils for recognition, this highlights his commitment to celebrating achievement."



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Celebrating Student Success: End-of-Year Awards Assemblies

Over the past week, our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students have taken part in our end-of-year Awards Celebrations. It has been a truly joyful and uplifting experience to come together as a school community and recognise the fantastic achievements of our students over the past academic year.

These celebrations offered the opportunity to highlight not only academic success but also personal growth, resilience, and contributions to school life. We are incredibly proud of every student who has worked hard, shown commitment, supported others, and embodied our school values.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all parents and carers who contributed by sharing additional information about students' extracurricular achievements. It was a pleasure to include these wider successes in our celebrations.

Award categories included:

- Tutor Awards (nominated by tutors)
- Head of House Awards (nominated by Heads and Assistant Heads of House)
- The "ABLAZE Awards" - Awards for the highest credits in the Categories of Faith, Determination, Excellence, Citizenship, Respect and Responsibility
- Extra-Curricular Awards
- Subject Awards (Nominated by Class Teachers)
- Head Teacher's Award (Nominated by the Headteacher)

Thank you once again for your continued support – and congratulations to all our students for a brilliant year!





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Laudato Si: Protecting Our Planet by Walking to School

In the spirit of Laudato Si', Pope Francis' call to care for our common home, we invite families to join us in protecting the environment by reducing our carbon footprint. Walking to school is a simple, powerful way to contribute—cutting car emissions and promoting cleaner air around our community. As the new school year term begins in September, it's the perfect time to encourage healthy routines and greater independence for your teen. Walking to school—even part of the way—can help secondary students feel more confident, energized, and ready to learn.

Benefits of walking for teens:

- Builds independence and time management skills
- Boosts physical and mental wellbeing
- Reduces morning traffic and environmental impact
- Offers a quiet moment to prepare for the day ahead

Together, let's take meaningful steps to care for the Earth, one walk at a time.

End of term Summer Mass

One again thank you to Fr. Marc who ended our school year with a celebration of Mass on Thursday.

Uniform Swap Shop – Help Us Go Green!

A reminder that the school will be open on **Friday from 9 AM to 12 PM** for parents who would like to support our environmental efforts by recycling uniforms that are still in good condition.

Bring in any clean, gently used items and swap them for what your child needs—helping reduce waste and save resources!

We're also excited to share that we have been able to purchase some new school shirts, available in male and female styles with both long and short sleeves. These will be available during the swap shop hours.

Thank you for helping us promote sustainability in our school community!

Free School Meal Eligibility Application

Emails have been sent this week regarding eligibility for free school meals. Please could all parents complete the online FSM application as soon as possible, even if you think you may not be eligible, as it helps the school to receive additional funding to support your child's education. If you are unable to complete the online application forms are available from the main office and can be returned for the school to complete on your behalf.

Lunch Accounts

Polite Reminder As we come to the end of term, please ensure that any outstanding lunch accounts are cleared by **Thursday 18 July**. Thank you.



Key Dates

- Mon 1 September 2025: INSET Day, staff only
- Tue 2 September 2025: Week A
- Tue 2 September 2025: Year 7 & Year 12 only
- Wed 3 September 2025: All years return
- Mon 8 September 2025: Week B
- Thu 25 September 2025: Year 6 Open Evening
- Thu 9 October 2025: Sixth Form Open Evening
- Fri 24 October 2025: End of half term 3.15pm

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



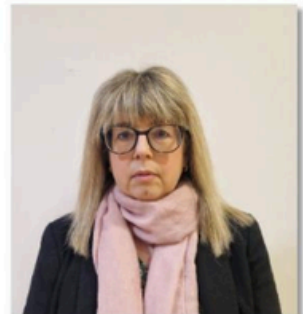
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Cessford
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Robinson
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Ord
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Home and School Links

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Email: enquiries@st-bedes.org

Phone: 0191 5876220

Website: www.st-bedes.org

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

Class Charts: www.classcharts.com

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

Our Diocese: Hexham & Newcastle

