



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: 5 September 2025

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 14:25-33) we are reminded that, to be Jesus' friends, we must place our loyalty to him before anything else in our life. To be loyal is to be faithful, reliable, supportive and trustworthy – to keep promises and stand up for the truth. Being loyal to Jesus is not always easy. He asks us to take up our cross – which means that we must sometimes do difficult things like saying sorry or helping when we don't want to. As this new school year begins consider ways in which you could show loyalty to Jesus.

Excellence

JOIN NOW

Our doors are always open to prospective students and their families. At St. Bede's, we pride ourselves on fostering a nurturing and inspiring environment where each individual is encouraged to reach their God-given potential. During your visit, you'll have the opportunity to meet our dedicated staff, explore our excellent facilities, and witness firsthand the vibrant community spirit that defines our school. We look forward to welcoming you and answering any questions you may have about joining our school family.

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND BYRON 6TH FORM COLLEGE PETERLEE, SR8 1DE



OPEN EVENINGS

YEAR SIX OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2025
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER 2025
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**OUR
PROSPECTUS**



enquiries@st-bedes.org



0191 587 6220



st-bedes.org



[@stbedesandbyron](https://www.facebook.com/stbedesandbyron)

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Welcome Back to a New School Year!

We are delighted to welcome all our families, old and new, to the start of what promises to be a joyful and enriching school year. As we return, we are guided by our mission:

“Be who God intended you to be and you will set the world ablaze.”

This year, we continue to grow together in faith, learning, and love—living out the Gospel values in our words, actions, and relationships. Each child is a unique gift, and we are excited to help them flourish in every way.

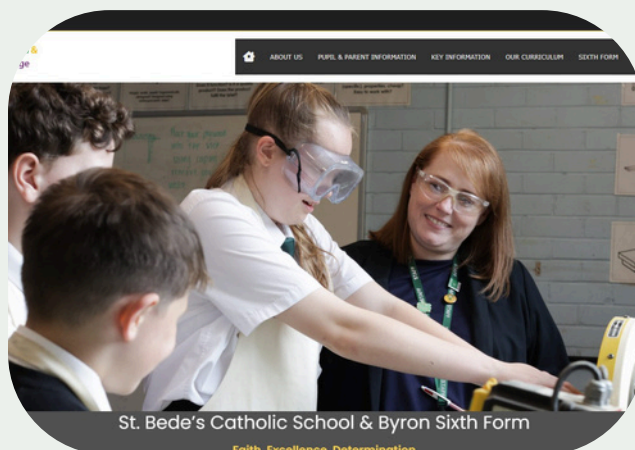
A heartfelt thank you to all our parents and carers for your ongoing support. Your partnership is vital to everything we do, and we look forward to working closely with you throughout the year. Let's make this a year full of purpose, kindness, and inspiration!

School Policies

Please check our website to view our school policies. Several have been updated including:

- Anti-bullying
- Behaviour and Relationships
- Mobile Phone
- Safeguarding
- SEND (including SEND report & accessibility plan)
- Uniform

The policies are available here: <https://www.st-bedes.org/our-school/school-policies/>



New Homework Policy

For the next few weeks, homework will not be set for KS3 pupils as our school is trialling a new homework policy for KS3 and KS4. During this period, we will be modelling the new approach with students in school, helping them understand the expectations and routines before it is introduced for use at home. This will give us time to ensure the policy is effective, consistent, and beneficial for all students.

We would like to share our new homework policy with parents/carers during an information event on Thursday 18 September. This will be a chance to talk you through what's changing, why we're making the changes, and how it will support students both in school and at home. It will also be a good opportunity to ask any questions and share your thoughts.

The same information will be delivered over two sessions. Please come along to either event.

- Session 1: 16:30-16:50
- Session 2: 17:00-17:20

We hope you can join us – your support really makes a difference, and we're excited to work together on this new approach!



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We warmly invite parents of Year 7 and Year 11 to join us for our MacMillan Coffee Morning to raise funds and support for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Date: Friday 26 September 2025

Time: 10.00am-11.45am

Come along to enjoy delicious coffee, tasty cakes and great company - all for a fantastic cause!

We hope to see you there to help make a difference. If you can make it, please email Mrs Balls on oballs@st-bedes.org to book your place.

Donations: If you're able to donate any cakes, biscuits or treats, it would be amazing. Every slice helps us raise money for a great cause.. Please send your donations to Mrs Ball on the week beginning 22 September. Thank you so much for your support!



Celebrating Our Students

We love to hear about our students' experiences and successes outside of school; please email us and share photographs and stories and we will celebrate them in our newsletter.

The email address is:

DBB-Celebration@st-bedes.org



Olivia's Super Scouting in Switzerland!

Olivia Mellenthin 9O1 travelled to Kandersteg in Switzerland with the Scouts during the summer holiday,

Adventures with the Scouts combine breathtaking landscapes and the spirit of camaraderie, exciting activities and essential survival skills.

Scouting helps children develop vital life skills such as leadership, teamwork and resilience; it builds strong character, confidence and a sense of responsibility. These experiences empower children to become well-rounded, responsible individuals prepared for life's challenges.





RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Congratulations to the Flute Players on their Outstanding Performance!

Congratulations to Flautists Zara L (former Year 11) and Isabel W (Year 8) who successfully passed their flute exams. Isabel passed with distinction and Zara with a merit.



Media Literacy & Safety at Secondary School Age

Tips to help teens stay safe online.

At Secondary school, children often use social media and messaging apps to chat with friends. So, with new apps, new interests and new friends, you might also come across some tougher online safety issues. Internet Matters (www.internetmatters.org) is a great website that advises parents to keep their children safe online.

**internet
matters.org**

Here is their '[Back to School Guide for Parents: Navigating Secondary School](#)'.

Fearless (Part of Crimestoppers)

The Fearless website (<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/fearless>) has many resources to help keep children safe. It includes, definitions, advice on how to spot signs, and guidance to support young people affected by crime. This month the focus is on Child Sexual Abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour. [There is an excellent online booklet here](#) which can help you discuss this topic with your child.

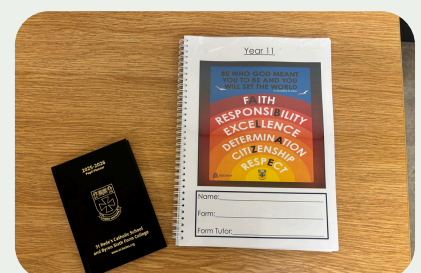


Nut-based Products - Please avoid bringing into school

We have a number of pupils in our school who have nut allergies; please do not send your child to school with any nut-based product for packed lunch or snacks. Potential allergens could include the following: spreads, cereal bars, some types of biscuit containing nuts, condiments, cakes containing nuts, some snack pots containing nuts. Due to the severity of the allergy, if any pupil is found with a nut-based product it will be confiscated and parents will be informed. Thank you for your cooperation - keeping our children safe is a priority.

Planners & Knowledge Organisers

We have provided all pupils with two essential daily items: a planner and a knowledge organiser. These are required each and every lesson. They were expensive to produce and pupils must buy a replacement if they lose them. Planners cost £3.50 and we ask for a £2 contribution towards the knowledge organiser. Thank you for supporting us in ensuring your child looks after these items.





Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Welcome Back!

It's been a busy week in Sixth Form welcoming our new Year 12 students and our returning Year 13 students. We have an exciting year ahead and are already well underway with the 2025-26 university and apprenticeship application cycle. Year 13 have been hard at work on their UCAS profiles and personal statements.

Work experience - Glowing Review

Lauren M, Year 13, completed her work experience with Cinch marketing in London. Over the holidays we received glowing feedback about Lauren's time with the company. Lauren was able to work in various areas of the business seeing different sides of a marketing strategy. On the final day of her experience, she even presented to the rest of her team with the feedback given:

'Her presentation skills were fantastic, she was calm and clear, and she managed to present to a group of people at all levels of the Marketing team, keeping everyone engaged and interested'

We're so proud of Lauren for having equipped herself so well in a new and daunting environment.

Byron FC

The start of the new year also bring the start of a new sports season. Mr Fowler will continue to manage and coach our Sixth Form football team.

Limited Places Still Available

There are still limited places available to join the Sixth Form this September. We're a small, friendly and ambitious Sixth Form with a focus on support and wellbeing as well as academic achievement.

If your college course or T-Level isn't quite working out, get in touch with Mrs Scutt at rscutt@st-bedes.org to discuss what Byron Sixth Form can offer you.

Oxford for North East Parents and Carers Session

We will be running a session for **parents and carers of Year 13 students** applying to Oxford, where they can hear more about what it's like to study at the University of Oxford, and how the application process works.

The session will take place on Teams online, at **6.00-7.30pm on Thursday 25 September**. Parents can register by completing a short form by 5.00pm on Wednesday 24 September.

Sign up link: [Oxford for North East parent/carers workshop 2024-25 registration](https://oxfordforne.org/parent-carer-workshop-2024-25-registration)

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



Key Dates

- Mon 8 September: Timetable Week B (there will be planner and equipment checks)
- Sun 14 September: Education Sunday
- Thu 18 September: Parent Info Evening re Morning Meeting and Homework - two sessions available 4.30pm or 5.15pm
- Thu 25 September: Year 6 Open Evening
- Fri 26 September: MacMillan Coffee Morning
- Wed 1 October: SEND Coffee Morning
- Thu 9 October: Sixth Form Open Evening

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



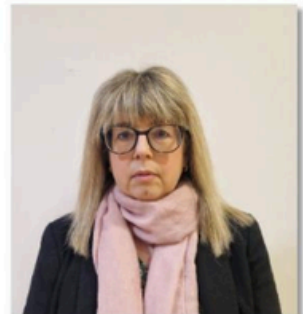
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



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

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

