



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: 3 October 2025

Faith

Faith Message

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 17: 5-10) we are reminded of the power and the responsibility that comes from having faith in God.

Faith and love go hand in hand. Helping our young people to grow in faith, to know and love God is one of the greatest gifts we can give them. Putting our faith in Jesus helps us to know God as our loving Father and this changes how we see the world – it can free us from anxiety, give us confidence and inner strength and help us keep growing in our love and care for one another.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

Anya Ellsworth 11C2 is excelling in all aspects of school life. Anya is performing highly in all subjects. Her speech at our Open Evening last week was phenomenal, she was chosen as House Captain for Columba, and she is a role model of our core values. Anya keeps us up to date in the many interesting activities that she gets up to outside of school too, broadening her horizons and opportunities. Anya, we're very proud of you and the way you set our school community ablaze with your gifts and talents!

Tutor Group of the Week

1101 are this week's Tutor Group of the Week, setting the school community ablaze with their gifts and talents.



Open Evening

Year 11 students and their families are warmly invited to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 9 October 2025 - 6pm. As well as all our lovely students and staff, we have all five of our local universities attending. They will be well-placed to answer any questions about degrees and degree apprenticeships across a range of industries and specialisms.



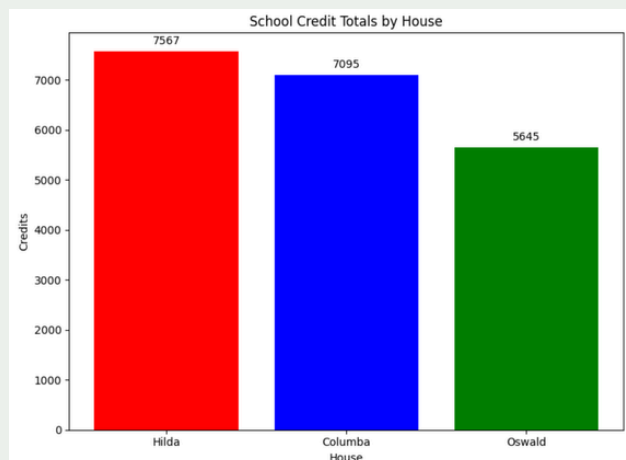
RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

House Awards

Columba Student of the Week: **Leah Bird 8C1**
Columba Highest Credits: **Sonny Iley 8C1**
Columba Attendance Hero: **James Hudson 10C1**

Hilda Student of the Week: **Bailey Butterfield - 8H1**
Hilda Highest Credits: **Isabel Wood - 8H2**
Hilda Attendance Hero: **Ruby Milner - 9H1**

Oswald Student of the Week: **Tianna Taylor 9O3**
Oswald Highest Credits: **Lennon Bonnar 7O1**
Oswald Attendance Hero: **Neve Brownlee 9O1**



British Council International School Award Success for St. Bede's

We are delighted to have been awarded Foundation level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of our work to bring the world into the classroom.

The international School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. St. Bede's international work included participating in the European Day of Languages, the Spanish Apprentice Project, Weaving Friendship project from Express Yourself North East Festival of Languages, and for participating in the Flash Fiction Competition organized by Oxford University.

Shannon West, Head of UK Schools for the British Council, said: "St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form's international work has earned the school well-deserved recognition with the British Council International School Award - Foundation Certificate.

We are delighted and proud that St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form is committed to developing a whole school approach to embedding and celebrating international work. The dedication from everyone is enriching education and supporting globally aware young people and the development of key skills. We thank all involved in this important work; embedding an international ethos across a school can lead to International School Award accreditation, which is the highest level of the award."



International School Award

Certificate

This is to certify that

St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth

has achieved

Foundation level
Introducing internationalism

Scott McDonald
Chief Executive, British Council



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Our students set the world ablaze with their gifts and talents...

...becoming the people God intends them to be



Cyprian Dyer Y11



Joe Beeston Y9



Kayden Adamson Y7



Olivia Mellenthin Y9



Elliot Mitchell Y9



Oliver Thompson Y7



Scarlett Daly Y7



Please send us photos & details of your children's achievements: celebrate@st-bedes.org

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

MacMillan Coffee Morning

A huge thank you to our school community for all of your kind donations and to those who were able to pop along and support our MacMillan Coffee Morning. We raised approximately £200 for this amazing charity.



Harvest Appeal

We are collecting donations of non-perishable food items, toiletries, and household essentials, which will be passed on to East Durham Food Bank to support individuals and families facing difficult times.

Every single item makes a difference.

Suggested donations include:

- Tinned foods (soups, vegetables, beans, fruit)
- Rice, pasta, and cereal
- Long-life milk and juice
- Toiletries and basic hygiene products

These donations can be brought into school over the next two weeks.

Let's come together as a community to share the harvest and offer help and hope to others. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

Together, we can make this Harvest season truly meaningful.



RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Year 7 Stewardship Workshops

Our Year 7 students have taken part in workshops based on stewardship with a special focus on understanding and reducing our carbon footprint.

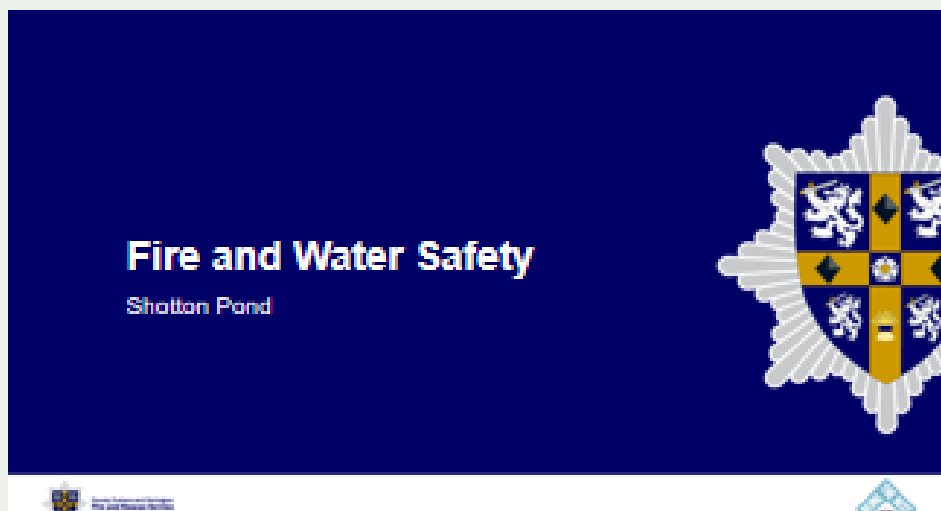
The sessions were designed to help students explore the impact our everyday choices have on the environment and to reflect on how we can all take responsibility for caring for the planet. As part of the wider theme of stewardship, students learned how small changes at school, at home, and in the community can make a big difference.



Fire Service Visit Highlights Water Safety at Shotton Pond

This week, we were pleased to welcome members of the local Fire and Rescue Service, who visited our school to deliver an important session on safety in and around water, with a particular focus on Shotton Pond, a popular but potentially dangerous spot in our local area.

The firefighters led an engaging and informative talk for our students, raising awareness about the hidden risks of open water, especially during warmer months when ponds and lakes can seem inviting.



Key topics included:

- The dangers of cold water shock
- Hidden hazards beneath the water's surface
- What to do in an emergency
- The importance of never swimming alone or in unsupervised areas

The visit was part of a wider campaign to help young people make safe choices around water and to reduce the number of preventable accidents during school breaks and holidays. We're incredibly grateful to the Fire Service for their time, knowledge, and dedication to keeping our community safe.

The message was clear: "Respect the water, think before you act, and always choose safety first." We encourage families to continue the conversation at home and help reinforce these vital safety messages.

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Safeguarding: Online Safety – Beyond the Basics

Online risks are evolving. KCSIE 2025 now includes threats like misinformation, conspiracy theories, and AI-generated content. These can influence young minds and contribute to radicalisation or harmful behaviours.

We ensure filtering and monitoring systems are robust and test these regularly, but education is key. We talk to our students about critical thinking, digital footprints, and how to report harmful content.

We recommend these two websites as a starting point for advice to keep your children safe online:

- Internet Matters: <https://www.internetmatters.org/>
- UK Safer Internet Centre: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

If you've got any worries about your child's online safety, please contact us for support.

Latest Sporting Successes

Well done to the **Peterlee and Horden Under 16 Rugby Team** winning their match against Houghton 46- 15 at the weekend.

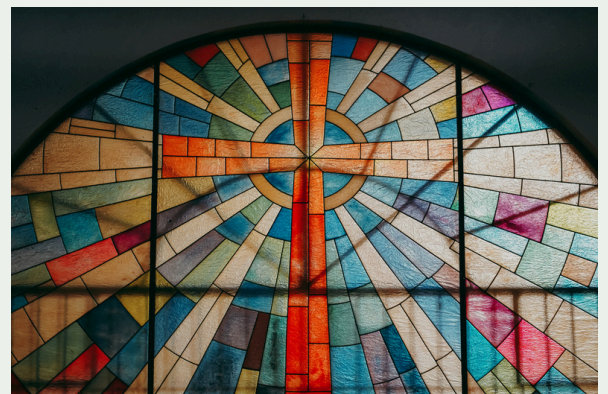
Congratulations to **Julia Jankowska 10H1** for going under 30 seconds for her 50 freestyle at the weekend.

Well done to **Anthony Emmerson 9H2** received some awards for cricket.



Y7 and Y12 Welcome Mass

Our Year 7 and Year 12 welcome Mass will be held on Thursday 23 October at 11.00am at St. Bede's. Information has been sent out to parents. If you have not received this invite and would like to attend please contact Mrs Ball on oballs@st-bede.org



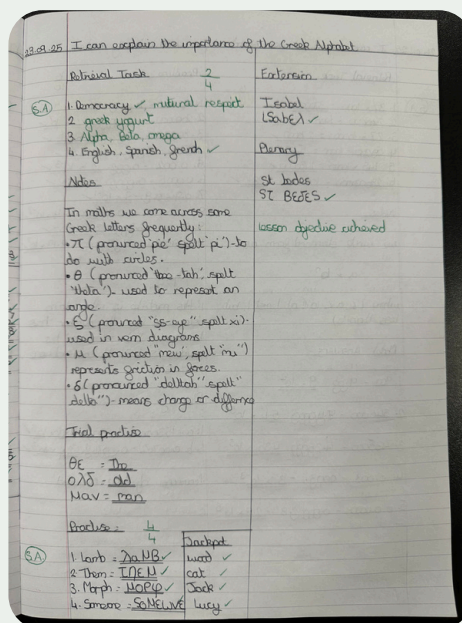
RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

Maths Department celebrates the contributions of the Greek mathematicians during European Day of Languages!

Friday marked European Day of Languages 2025 and, in the Maths Department, we didn't want the occasion to pass us by without celebrating!

In Year 8 lessons, pupils were taught letters of the Greek alphabet, learning how they represent key concepts within maths (from circles, to right-angled triangles and standard deviation) as well as deciphering Greek messages and writing words and names in Greek. Teachers used this opportunity to discuss the British Values of tolerance and democracy and pupils really enjoyed exploring a different type of maths lesson.

During Year 6 Open Evening, we recognised the Greeks' contributions to engineering and sport. We built the Parthenon out of spaghetti and marshmallows, made Olympic torches, hosted a Maths Olympics with times table relays and applied probability to chariot racing! We even had our very own London 2012 Olympic torch in the department, thanks to Mrs Keniry!



This Week's Maths Legends

Recognising those pupils who have gone over and above, personifying our six St Bede's core values, we are delighted to announce this week's "Maths Legends"!

- Mr Fowler - **Niamh Crawford 11X3**
- Miss Houghton - **Sarah-Jayne Pescod 11X2**
- Mrs Keniry - **Robert Brown 8Y1**
- Mr Marrs - **Valerie Onogholo 9Y1**
- Mr Taylor - **Corey Kitching 7T**
- Dr Treanor - **Isla-Rose Morrison 9Y2**
- Mr Wyness - **Maria Platana 10Y2**

RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

A Visit from Lord Shipley: Learning with the Lords

Today we had the privilege of enjoying Lord Shipley's company. A current member of the House of Lords, Lord Shipley led two sessions with pupils from Year 11. He discussed his role and how the House of Lords operates, answering questions posed to him by our pupils.

The pupils were captivated by his insights, as he shared anecdotes from his extensive career in public service and offered a glimpse into the workings of the British political system. His engaging storytelling and genuine interest in the pupils' questions sparked lively discussions, encouraging the pupils to think critically about governance and their own potential roles in society.



Attendance Update

This week's focus is on **TERM TIME HOLIDAYS**

Parents/carers can be sent a Penalty Notice for taking their children out of school in term time for the purpose of a holiday.

All families who take an unauthorised absence of five days or more will receive a Penalty Notice unless the circumstances are considered to be exceptional.

Payment is payable up to £160 per child, per parent, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

From August last year, only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period. Any second notice will automatically be charge at £160.

Any Further Offences (within a three-year rolling period) will be referred straight to the Magistrate Court.

This could lead to:

- Prosecution under s444 (1) Education Act 1996, where if convicted you may be fined up to £1,000
- Prosecution under s444 (1) (a) Education Act 1996, where if convicted you may be fined up to £2,500 and/or 12 weeks imprisonment.

We are aware that some families take time off school and call their child in as 'off sick'. If we have reason to believe your child has been away from school due to a family holiday rather than illness, we will write to you and ask for evidence such as medication or a screen print from the GP. We believe that if your child is off school for a week, medical advice should have been sought at some point. If we do not receive this evidence, you may still be liable for a penalty notice.



Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Byron Sixth Form Open Evening



We are excited to invite all students to a unique opportunity to start planning their future! On **Thursday 9 October 18:00-20:00**, our school will be hosting **Byron Sixth Form's Open Evening**. Students will have the chance to:

- Meet with our school staff to discuss subject options and future goals.
- Speak directly with representatives from five local universities about possible future pathways
- Discover the wide range of routes available after Year 11, including A levels, degree-apprenticeships, and higher education opportunities.

This event is designed to help students make informed choices and feel confident about the next steps in their education journey. Parents and carers are also warmly encouraged to attend. The event is a drop in so students and parents may arrive at any time. Parent and student information talks will be held at 18:15 and 19:15.

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



Key Dates

- **Mon 6 October:** Timetable Week B
- **Thu 9 October:** Sixth Form Open Evening
- **Fri 10 October:** World Mental Health Day
- **Mon 20 - Thu 24 October:** Y13 Geography Field Trip
- **Thu 23 October:** Y7 Smashed (alcohol awareness theatrical production)
- **Thu 23 October:** Y7 & Y12 Welcome Mass 11am
- **Thu 23 October:** Y11 Revision Parent Info Session 5pm

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



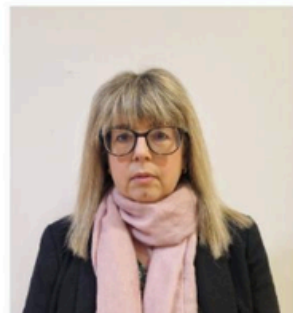
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



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)

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

Our Diocese: Hexham & Newcastle

