



# 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: 10 October 2025

### Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 17:11-19), we read about the Samaritan who thanked Jesus. For us too, there are many blessings in life for which we can be thankful and it's always worth giving thanks to God.

Being thankful to God puts us in the right frame of mind. It is good for our well-being and helps us to be happy in life. This week, we could all try to be thankful for all of the good things that we have in our lives.

### Excellence

#### Headteacher's Award

Our worthy winner this week is **Brooklyn-Lee Brown 1001**. Brooklyn noticed that someone was in need of medical attention and notified staff immediately, enabling us to help the person in need. Acting quickly, helping others and showing care is a key part of one of our core values: citizenship. Well done, Brooklyn, we're proud of you.

#### Tutor Group of the Week

For the second week in a row, **1101** is our Tutor Group of the Week. Their teamwork and positive attitude embody the spirit of our school's mission, and they serve as a shining example for others. Congratulations to 1101 for your outstanding efforts! Keep up the good work and continue to inspire those around you.

#### Year 7 & Year 12 Welcome Mass

Thank you to those who have already reserved a place at the **Year 7 & Year 12 Welcome Mass**. This is to be celebrated on Thursday 23 October at 11.15 am at St Bede's. If you would like to reserve a place please email Mrs Balls: [oballs@st-bedes.org](mailto:oballs@st-bedes.org)

We look forward to seeing many of you there as we reflect on our first term and thank God for the blessings of new beginnings. This special Mass will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a community and celebrate the start of a new chapter in the lives of our students.





## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### House Awards

Columba Student of the Week: **Poppy-Mae Quinn 8C1**  
Columba Highest Credits: **Sonny Iley 8C1**

Hilda Student of the Week: **Dominic Scollen 9H3**  
Hilda Highest Credits: **Sam Wilkinson 8H2**  
Hilda Attendance Hero: **Quinlan White 10H3**

Oswald Student of the Week: **Ruby Robinson 8O1**  
Oswald Highest Credits: **Olivia Mellenthin 9O1**  
Oswald Attendance Hero: **Alfie Hanover 9O1**

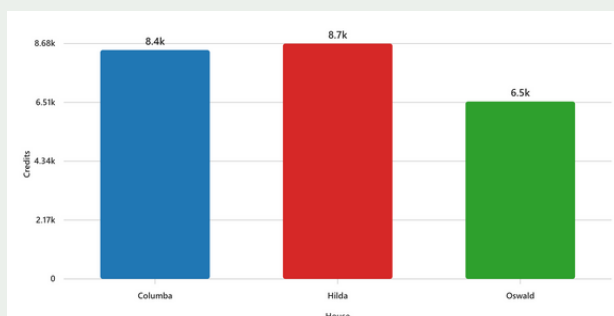


### House Credit Totals - Thank You for Your Efforts!

We're thrilled to share the latest credit totals for our school houses following a fantastic start to the term. A huge thank you to all students and staff who continue to contribute to our vibrant school community through hard work, participation, and teamwork.

- **Hilda: 8682 credits**
- **Columba - 8445 credits**
- **Oswald - 6545 credits**

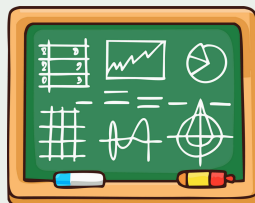
Hilda leads the way currently but Columba are closing the gap and it's still anyone's game! Come on, Oswald - let's catch them up. Keep earning those credits through positive contributions, academic excellence and community spirit!



### Maths Legends for this Week

As a Maths team, we are delighted to announce this week's Maths Legends, who have been on the Wall of Legends since Monday. They have shown themselves to be role models, display high effort and complete work that meets, and often surpasses, the St Bede's Standard in Maths. Well done!

- Mr Fowler - **Emily Powell 10X1**
- Miss Houghton - **Brody Goodricke 8Y3**
- Mr Day - **Jia Qi Guan 8Y2**
- Mr Taylor - **Rosie Wood 11Y3**
- Dr Treanor - **Lily-Anne Dowse 8X2**
- Mr Wyness - **Elaine Obaro 7E**

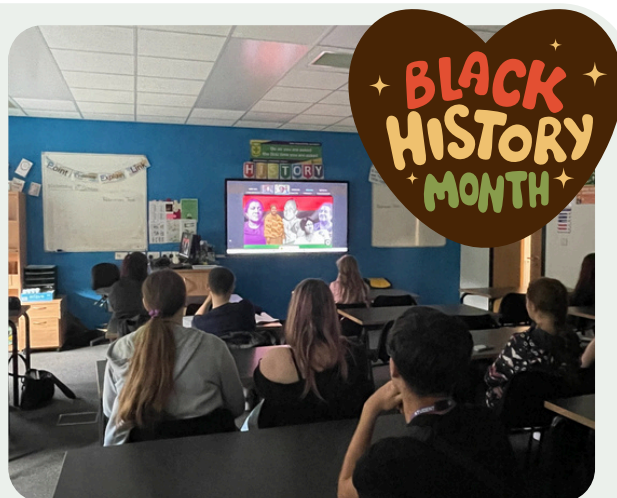


In addition, the outstanding work of **Tobias Todd 7D** and **Logan Playle 11Y3** has been placed on the Wall of Legends to model the St Bede's Standard. Well done both - your work is fantastic!

## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Black History Month

As part of Black History Month and for their Civil Rights Exam, **Year 12 and 13** attended a lecture focused on Civil Rights and race relations in the USA and Britain. The lecture was insightful and engaging, providing students with a deeper understanding of the struggles and triumphs that have shaped the fight for equality. Expert speakers shared personal stories and historical accounts, highlighting key figures and events that have influenced civil rights movements on both sides of the Atlantic. Students left the session inspired to continue learning and advocating for justice, equipped with newfound knowledge to apply in their coursework and beyond.

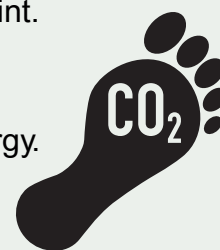


### Reducing our Carbon Footprint

Our **Year 7** students have recently taken part in workshops based on Stewardship with the theme of how we can reduce our carbon footprint.

Reducing your carbon footprint can make a meaningful difference for the environment and often leads to cost savings and a healthier lifestyle. As a result of the workshops the students came up with some practical ways/actions that we could all do to lower our carbon footprint.

- **Transport** : try to use public transport more or walk/cycle if practical.
- **Food** : less waste, meat free days and try to use locally produced food.
- **Energy**: switch off lights in empty rooms, try to use renewable sources of energy.
- **Biodiversity**: plant trees, encourage pollination by creating a bug garden.



### Harvest Collection

Thank you for all of the kind donations that have been sent in so far. We will be collecting items until Friday 17 October. Please bring donations to Mrs Balls.

### St. Bede's Students Continue to Impress!

**Lily-May Armstrong 11** now has her LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) exam certificate! She also received two trophies: one for an excellent performance playing Miss Hannigan in the musical Annie and another for her performative flare in a singing showcase. Well done, Lily!

**James Hogan 701** received five awards last Friday because of his impressive Under 11 Cricket season. James was celebrated as most improved player, parents' player of the season, Under 11's season, most runs and the first 50. Well done, James! James plays for Seaham Harbour Cricket Club and is trialling for Durham County in the new year. Good luck!







## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club

Looking to try a new sporting activity?

Whether you're looking to make new friends, improve your fitness, or simply have some fun, joining a rugby team could be the perfect opportunity.

Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club has teams across all ages. Please get in touch if interested.

They are particularly focusing on growing their **Year 9** boys' team. Absolutely no experience is needed, just a willingness to work hard.

The group of boys currently on the team attend a range of schools across the area, so it's likely any aspiring player will already know someone.



## PETERLEE & HORDEN UNDER 14'S

Current school year 9

Whether you've played before or are new to the game, we would love to see you down at Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club



Mondays &  
Wednesdays



6pm-7pm



### CONTACT US

Peterlee &  
Horden U14s



Peterlee & Horden  
Minis/Juniors info



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Peterlee Amateur Swimming Club


Looking to try a new sporting activity?

Why not dive into the world of swimming with the Peterlee Amateur Swimming Club?




Whether you're a beginner eager to learn the basics or an experienced swimmer looking to refine your technique, Peterlee Amateur Swimming Club offers a welcoming community and expert coaching to help you achieve your goals.

Visit their website or contact them by email for more information.



Swim your own race. Be in competition with no one but yourself

**THEN JOIN PETERLEE AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB!**



**THE SWIMMING CLUB PROVIDES:**

- Improver lessons for children who can swim 50m or over in 2 or more strokes
- Coaching for children who would like to swim competitively.

For further information please contact

Kelly our Secretary on

**email: [secretary@peterleesc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@peterleesc.org.uk)**



## RESPONSIBILITY – DETERMINATION – CITIZENSHIP – RESPECT

### Safeguarding: The Role of Attendance in Safeguarding

Being absent from school can be a red flag. Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025 highlights that absence - not just going missing - can signal abuse, exploitation, or neglect.

KCSIE 2025 advises that staff should look beyond the register. Patterns of absence, lateness, or disengagement may indicate deeper issues. Attendance is a safeguarding concern, not just an admin task.

### Why School Attendance Matters

- There are 190 school days in a year.
- That leaves 175 days for holidays, appointments and family time.
- Missing just 10% of school (around 19 days) each year adds up to nearly half a year lost over five years.

Every school day counts - here's how attendance can impact learning:

Days Absent	Days Attended	Attendance Rate	Impact on Learning
0 days	190 days	100%	Excellent - full access to learning opportunities
10 Days	180 days	95%	Great - strong chance of success
19 days	171 days	90%	Concerning - learning may be affected
29 days	161 days	85%	Risk - gaps in knowledge likely
38 days	152 days	80%	Serious concern - significant impact on progress
47 days	143 days	75%	High risk - reduced outcomes and opportunities





## Sixth Form

# BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

### Thank You for Joining Us at Byron Sixth Form's Open Evening!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the students, parents, and carers who attended our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 9 October. It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you into our school community and to share the exciting opportunities available at Byron Sixth Form.

Throughout the evening, visitors had the chance to speak with our dedicated staff about subject choices and future aspirations, explore a wide range of post-16 pathways - including A levels, degree apprenticeships, and higher education - and engage directly with representatives from five local universities. The atmosphere was buzzing with curiosity, ambition, and thoughtful conversations about the future.

We hope the event helped you feel more informed and confident about the next steps in your educational journey. If you're considering joining Byron Sixth Form in September 2026, we encourage you to apply and take the next step toward shaping your future with us.

### Applications for September 2026 are now open!

We look forward to welcoming a new cohort of passionate, driven students next year. Let your journey continue at Byron Sixth Form!

Speak to a member of staff to find out more about the application process and entry requirements.

Our team is here to support you every step of the way, ensuring that your transition to Sixth Form is as smooth and enriching as possible. Whether you're interested in pursuing traditional academic subjects, exploring vocational courses, or seeking advice on university and career options, our experienced staff are ready to guide and inspire you.



**We offer A-Level and BTEC courses in a caring, supportive Sixth Form where every student is known and valued.**  
Find out more: [www.st-bedes.org](http://www.st-bedes.org)

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



## Key Dates

- **Mon 13 October:** Week A Timetable
- **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
- **Fri 24 October:** Half term ends - 3.15pm
- **Mon 3 November:** Return to school - Week A Timetable

## Safeguarding

### Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

#### Designated safeguarding leads:



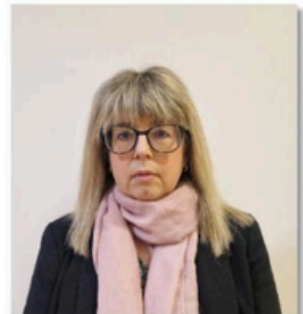
**Mr Logan**  
Designated  
Safeguarding Lead



**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)

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

**Our Diocese:** Hexham & Newcastle

