



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 October 2025

Faith

In this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 18:1-8), Jesus tells us that God is not unlike the unjust judge who is irritated by the woman pestering him. No matter how much we pray to God, he doesn't think that we are pestering him – he is our loving Father.

There are many kinds of prayer but prayer at its simplest is spending time with God – talking, listening, being together, telling God about our lives. We can trust that God always hears our prayers and will always do what is best for us and those we pray for.

Excellence

Headteacher's Award

This week we presented our Headteacher's Award to **Oscar Naylor 7C1**. Oscar is the first Year 7 pupil to win the award this year! Oscar has been awarded 86 credits already this term and has lived out our core values in lessons and around school - well done, Oscar. We're proud of you.

Tutor Group of the Week

9C1 are this week's Tutor Group of the Week - well done to all of you for your collective effort and striving to be the people that God wants you to be. Please continue to try to set the world ablaze with your gifts and talents.

Proud of our Work

Please encourage your children to bring work they're proud of to show Mrs Cessford, Mr Logan and other members of the Senior Leadership Team each Friday during morning break.

As well as a sweet treat, the pupils will receive a postcard with a handwritten message that will look lovely on the front of your fridge! We love to celebrate the successes of our dedicated pupils with their parents and carers - give them a little nudge to come along - there is so much superb learning going on and our pupils should be proud of themselves.



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House Awards

Columba Student of the Week: **Ilesha Walker Young 10C2**

Columba Highest Credits: **Oscar Naylor 7C1**

Columba Attendance Hero: **Chelsi Sadler-Penders 9C2**

Hilda Student of the Week: **Amelia Sadowska 7H1**

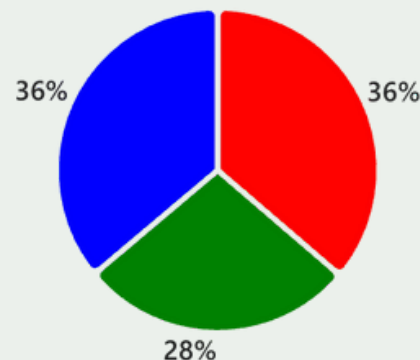
Hilda Highest Credits: **Grace Biddiscombe 11H2**

Hilda Attendance Hero: **Tobias Todd 7H2 & Oryna Zaiats 8H1**

Oswald Student of the Week: **Kacie Johnson 10O2**

Oswald Highest Credits: **Shayne Mills 7O1**

Oswald Attendance Hero: **Leon Smith 11O1**



■ Hilda
 ■ Columba
 ■ Oswald

House Credit Totals - Thank You for Your Efforts!

Columba's challenge to Hilda continues! They're almost neck-a-neck:

- **Hilda: 8682 credits last week ... 1268 this week... 10080 total**
- **Columba: 8445 credits last week... 1360 this week... 10038 total**
- **Oswald: 6545 credits last week... 983 this week... 7669 total**

Come on Oswald! There is plenty time left to get back in the reckoning. Try to get 1000 credits next week.

New After-School Club at Rainbows Sensory Space

A new after-school club has opened at Rainbows Sensory Space in Seaham. Their goal is to create a safe and calming environment for secondary school-aged children to engage in crafts and games during small group sessions. Below is the advertisement for the group:



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Fiction Addiction!

Year 10 book club Fiction Addition were gifted copies of *Witchlore* by Emma Hinds by Usborne Books. After completing the book, the girls have completed reviews of the novel, which they all thoroughly enjoyed. They already have their next three books ready to read including *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins.

As well as reading and reviewing, they have also started their own noticeboard in the Library. On here they hope to post reviews, their favourite quotes and lots of bookish content to share with other students.



Lauren's Experience in Physiotherapy Careers

Lauren Balls 13Ch2 had an enlightening and engaging week with the Physiotherapy Department at Sunderland Football Club. This opportunity allowed her to gain hands-on experience with the daily operations of a professional sports medical team, which included player assessments, rehabilitation protocols, and match preparations. The experience provided valuable insights into the challenges of physiotherapy in a high-performance setting and deepened Lauren's passion for sports medicine.



Victory for Peterlee & Horden Under 16 Boys

Several of our Year 11 boys are enthusiastic members of the Peterlee & Horden Rugby Club. They faced Consett on Sunday, October 12, in a Durham County Cup match and emerged victorious with a score of 52-17. Well done, boys – we are incredibly proud of you!



Musicians of the Week

Elise Parkinson 9C1: Elise performed "With a Little Help From My Friends" very well on the keyboard, playing confidently with both hands. Demonstrating a good understanding of swing rhythm.

Lucy Thompson 8H1: Her 16-bar rhythm composition demonstrates a strong understanding of musical notation, melody, and chord progressions. Her work shows creativity, careful attention to detail, and a clear sense of musical structure, resulting in a well-balanced piece.



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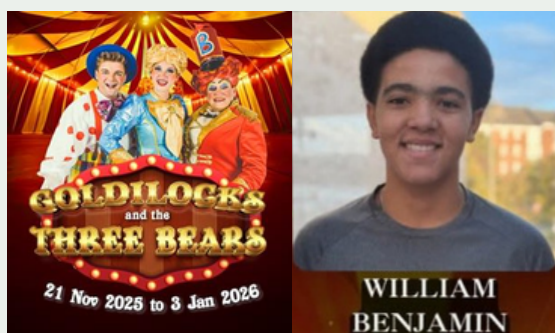
Ethan's Golfing Triumph!

Congratulations to **Ethan Bell 901** for winning the Junior Club Championship at Seaham Golf Club! This is an incredible accomplishment!



Evie's Dance Success!

Congratulations to **Evie Ashcroft 11H1**, who journeyed to Liverpool last weekend to participate in the "Can You Dance?" super convention. Evie delivered a stunning lyrical performance on the main stage. Additionally, she competed in the street dance competition, where her team secured 1st place for the second consecutive year, also achieving the title of highest scorers once again! What fantastic results!



William Lands Panto Role!

We are delighted to announce that **William Benjamin 8H2** has successfully landed a role in a pantomime! He will be performing in the enchanting Goldilocks and the Three Bears at The Custom House in South Shields, running from late November to early January. Wishing you the best of luck, William!



Leah's Dance Success!

Leah Bird 8C1 has competed in a dance competition this week and placed first in all of her solo performances: song and dance, lyrical, modern and tap. Amazing, Leah!

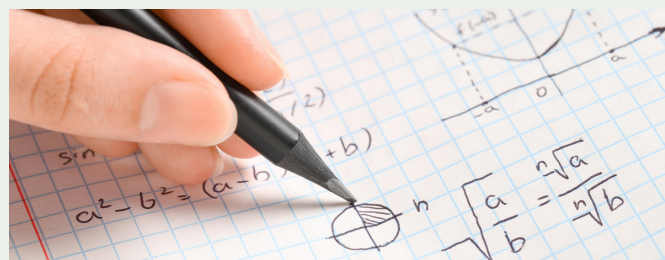
Everyone at St. Bede's is incredibly proud of our pupils' accomplishments. Keep up the fantastic work!

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Maths Legends

This week, the Maths team are delighted to announce the appointment of the four newest Maths Legends for this academic year, personifying our values of responsibility, respect and determination.

- Miss Houghton - **Amelia Hepple 11X2**
- Mr Marrs - **Stephen Garside 10Y3**
- Mr Taylor - **Kai Gardner 10Y1**
- Dr Treanor - **Paranyaa Jeyanathan 11X1**



Year 10 Mathematicians celebrate the life of David Blackwell

With October marking Black History Month, as part of the personal development curriculum in maths, our Year 10 pupils have been learning about the life and contributions of David Blackwell. He was a pioneer in the field of mathematics and statistics, becoming the seventh African American in US history to gain a PhD in Maths and Statistics. His contributions to the topic of game theory were particularly special; therefore, in lessons, Year 10 pupils have been learning about game theory and understanding how it can be used to represent real life problems, such as the "prisoner's dilemma" or the nuclear arms race. Pupils were able to connect this learning to their prior knowledge of British Values and protected characteristics to ensure they leave us as the citizens that God intended them to be!

THE PRISONER'S DILEMMA

	B stays silent (cooperates)	B betrays A (defects)
A stays silent (cooperates)	Both serve 1 year	A serves 3 years, B goes free
A betrays B (defects)	A goes free, B serves 3 years	Both serve 2 years

A Level students take part in United Kingdom Maths Trust Senior Maths Challenge

Last Thursday, nearly 20 Year 12 and Year 13 pupils took part in a 90 minute UKMT Maths Challenge, competing against thousands of pupils across the UK. Pupils faced a variety of abstract and applied questions to test their mathematical understanding and problem solving skills. For pupils wishing to pursue a maths-related degree, this was a critical experience that can be discussed on UCAS applications as well as university/apprenticeship/job interviews. In the coming months, pupils shall find out if they achieved Bronze, Silver or Gold status, with some having the possibility of teaming up to compete against the best mathematicians in the UK. In January, we hope to host the Intermediate Maths Challenge (for Year 10/11 pupils) with the Junior version taking place in April. Thank you to Dr Treanor for his hard work in organising and facilitating the event.



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This Week in Food Technology

It's time to dive into the workshop! This week, our focus has been on developing a pizza theme with a twist: designing a Halloween Pumpkin to be sold at a local supermarket.

Students practiced their knife skills by learning to hold ingredients using both the bridge and claw grips. We eagerly anticipate the upcoming weeks as we continue to enhance our cooking abilities.



English Stars of the Week

Congratulations to all our English Stars of the Week! Your hard work, creativity, and dedication to your studies have truly shone through. Keep up the excellent effort, and continue to inspire those around you with your passion for learning. We are proud of each and every one of you, and we look forward to seeing more of your achievements in the future. Well done!

- Miss Barkley: **Alfie Martin 10O1**
- Mrs Dolan: **Poppy Wilkinson 10O1**
- Mrs Hamilton: **Dexter Barrett 8H1**
- Mr Johnson: **Sophia Place 8O1**
- Miss Milburn: **Ellie O'Connor 11H1**
- Mrs Scutt: **Reece Rowland 10O1**
- Mrs Wild: **Lydia Burns 10H1**
- Mr Logan: **Emily Readman 9O1**



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Why School Attendance Matters: A Guide for Parents

Your child's success in school starts with showing up.

Here's why regular attendance is so important:

Stronger Academic Performance

- Every day in school counts. Missing even a few days can mean missing out on key lessons, class discussions, assignments, and tests—making it harder for your child to keep up and succeed.

Better Learning Experience

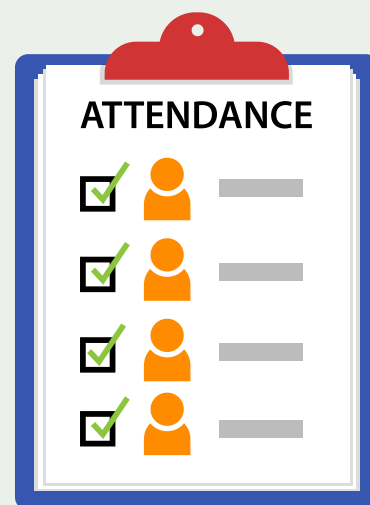
- Learning happens best in the classroom. Being present allows your child to engage with teachers and classmates, ask questions, and fully understand the material—something that's hard to replicate at home.

Staying on Track for GCSEs

- Students who miss too much school risk falling behind. Persistent absences can lead to lower achievement and increase the chances of not getting the grades they are capable of.

Building a Positive Attitude Toward Education

- When children know that attending school is a priority, they learn that education is important. This mindset helps build responsibility and sets them up for lifelong success.



Safeguarding: Safer Recruitment – What's Changing?

New guidance strengthens online pre-recruitment checks for shortlisted candidates. Schools must verify digital footprints and ensure no red flags are missed.

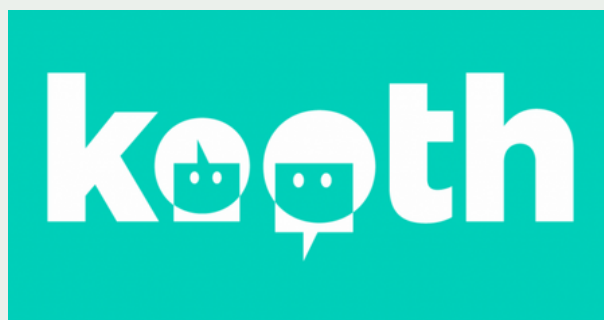
This reinforces the importance of thorough vetting, including references, DBS checks, and understanding any gaps in employment. Everyone involved in hiring must be trained in safer recruitment practices.

Our Senior Leaders and Governors involved in our recruitment process undertake safer recruitment changing with Clennell Education Solutions every two years. For more information about safer recruitment legislation, see [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025](#).

Kooth Assemblies

At St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form, we prioritize the mental health and wellbeing of our students. To support this initiative, all year groups will participate in an assembly next week, where Kooth's community engagement team will present an overview of Kooth's features and guide students on how to access online services and wellbeing support.

For further details about Kooth, please visit their website: <https://www.kooth.com/>



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Ambassadors for Sports!

Heartfelt congratulations to our Year 9 students: **Daniel S, Ruby M, Evie L, William O, Olivia M, Lucy P, Nyla R, and Neave A**, for being selected for the Easington Sports Partnership Leadership Programme.



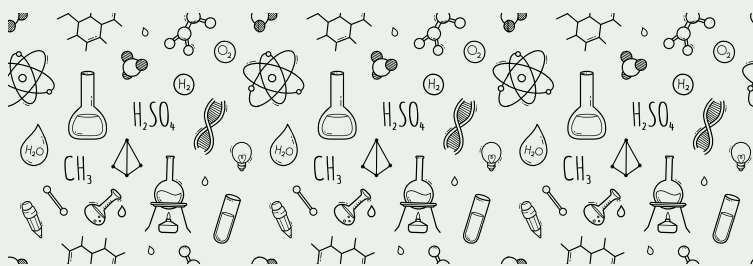
All students participated in a competitive application process and successfully earned their spots. This is a remarkable achievement, and we eagerly anticipate seeing them develop into outstanding ambassadors for sports.



Labcoat Legends

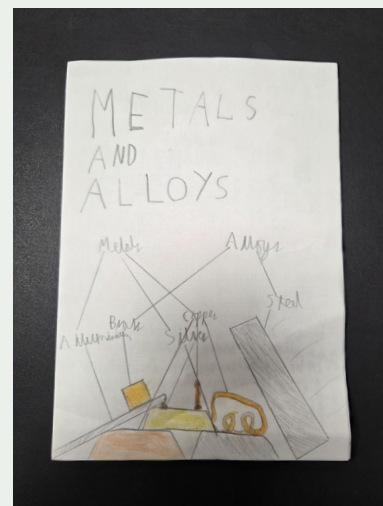
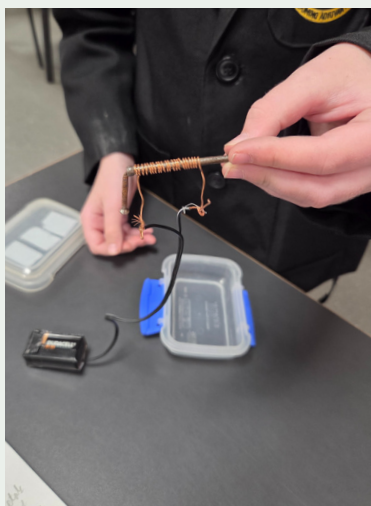
In science we want to award and celebrate the excellent effort put in by our different students. Working hard in science lessons builds problem-solving skills, encourages curiosity, and helps students understand the world around them. It shows determination by often involving analyzing complex problems, predicting outcomes and conducting experiments.

- Mrs Hayward: **Alfie Martin 1001**
- Mr Griffiths: **Molly Frost 11H2**
- Mr Bowyer: **Noah Rutter-Bryson 11C2**
- Miss Armstrong: **Jack Wardropper 1002**
- Mr Gooch: **Ewan French 10H3**
- Mr Day: **Lola Davison 7C1**
- Mr Moss: **Joshua Oakley 10C1**
- Mrs Lord: **Sylwester Kwiecien 801**



Special science shout out!

Isaac Mellenthin 701 has made an electromagnet and an awesome booklet about Metals and Alloys! We were all really impressed! Well done Isaac, keep up the great work and continue to explore the fascinating world of science, Isaac! Your curiosity and dedication are truly inspiring, and we look forward to seeing what amazing projects you tackle next.



DURHAM COUNTY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2025/2026



DURHAM COUNTY FA, RIVERSIDE SOUTH, CHESTER LE STREET DH3 3QR

-  14-18 year olds
-  Tuesday 28th October 2025, Tuesday 24th February 2025,
Tuesday 14th April 2026. 10am-4pm
-  £10 for 3 full day workshops, volunteering opportunities with the County FA
and grassroots football clubs, and a County FA Youth Leadership hoodie.



**SCAN TO
REGISTER**



For more information email amy.richardson@durhamfa.com phone 0191 3872929 (option 4, option 3)

PROGRAMME OF WORKSHOPS

OFF PITCH

- Club Maker workshop
- Social media/marketing
- Event planning/admin
- Neurodivergence workshop



ON PITCH

- Coaching
- Refereeing
- Groundskeeping



REWARDS AND BENEFITS

- Incite from specialist practitioners in football
- Youth Leadership Academy branded hoodie
- Opportunities to volunteer at DCFA events
- Volunteering opportunities in a grassroots football club
- Pathway into DCFA Youth Forum





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Y11 & Y13 Mock Exams

Mock exams for Y11 & Y13 begin on Monday 3 November 2025. Please can parents/carers click the link and read the information for candidates from JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications):

- <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents/>

	Date	am	Duration	pm	Duration
Mon	03/11/25	Y11 Maths Paper 1 Y13 English Literature Y13 Chemistry	1h30 3h 2h	Y11 RE Paper 1 - Catholic Christianity	1h30
Tue	04/11/25	Y11 English Language Y13 Geography Paper 1 - Physical Geography Y13 Physics Y13 Philosophy and Ethics Paper 1 - Philosophy	1h45 2h30 2h 2h	Y11 Geography	1h30
Wed	05/11/25	Y11 Biology and Combined Science - Biology Y13 History Paper 1 - Germany Y13 Biology	1h45/1h10 1h 2h	Y11 Spanish Paper 1 - Writing Y11 Computer Science	1h15/1h20 1h
Thu	06/11/25	Y11 History Y13 Maths Paper 1 Y13 Psychology Y13 Spanish Paper 1 - Listening, Reading and Writing	2h 2h 2h 2h30	Y11 Maths Paper 2	1h30
Fri	07/11/25	Y11 English Literature Y13 Geography Paper 2 - Human Geography Y13 Philosophy and Ethics Paper 2 - Ethics	1h45 2h 2h	Y11 RE Paper 2 - Judaism	1h
Mon	10/11/25	Y11 Chemistry and Combined Science - Chemistry Y13 History Paper 2 - Tudors Y12 Business - Personal and Business Finance	1h45/1h10 1h 30 1h	Y11 Business	1h30
Tue	11/11/25	Y11 Physics and Combined Science - Physics Y13 Maths Paper 2 Y13 Spanish Paper 2 - Writing	1h45/1h10 2h 2h	Y11 Maths Paper 3	1h30
Wed	12/11/25	Y11 Spanish Paper 2 - Reading and Listening	1h30/2h	Y11 Music Y11 Polish Reading and Listening	1h30 1h45
Thu	13/11/25	Y11 Design and Technology Y11 Further Maths Y11 Russian - Reading and Listening	2h 1h 1h50		
Fri	14/11/2025	Y11 Spanish speaking - 20 minute slots arranged by MFL department Y13 Art - all day			
Mon	17/11/2025	Y11 Spanish speaking - 20 minute slots arranged by MFL department Y13 Art - all day			
Fri	21/11/2025	Y11 Art - all day			

Y13 Spanish speaking will take place during lesson time



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Exam Boards & Courses

For reference, these are the exam boards and courses studied by current Y11 and Y13 pupils. Our curriculum is designed to challenge and inspire students, fostering critical thinking and a passion for learning. We encourage pupils to engage with the material deeply, preparing them not only for exams but for lifelong success.

KEY STAGE 4

Department	Course	Board	Course title
Art	8202	AQA	AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Art and Design (Fine Art)
Business	C510QS	WJEC	WJEC Eduqas Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Business
DT and Engineering	8552	AQA	AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Design and Technology
DT and Engineering	J823	OCR	OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National Award in Engineering Manufacture
English	1EN2	AQA	AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in English Language
English	1ET0	Pearson	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in English Literature
Geography	C111QS	WJEC	WJEC Eduqas Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Geography A
Health	RHS3	Pearson	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care
History	8145	AQA	AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in History
IT	J277	OCR	OCR Level 1/2 GCSE (9-1) in Computer Science
IT	RIT3	Pearson	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology
Maths	J560	OCR	OCR Level 1/2 GCSE (9-1) in Mathematics
MFL	8688	AQA	AQA Level 1 / Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Polish
MFL	1SP1	Pearson	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Spanish
MFL	1RU0	Pearson	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Russian
Music	C660QS	WJEC	WJEC Eduqas Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Music
RE	C120PB	WJEC	WJEC Eduqas Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies
Science	1BI0	Pearson	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Biology
Science	1CH0	Pearson	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Chemistry
Science	1SC0	Pearson	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Combined Science
Science	1PH0	Pearson	Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Physics
Sport	RSP3	Pearson	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport

KEY STAGE 5

Department		Board	Course title
Art	7202	AQA	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design (Fine Art)
Business	UCW11	Pearson	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business
DT and Engineering	7552	AQA	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Design and Technology: Product Design
DT and Engineering	UJA42	Pearson	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Engineering
English	7712A	AQA	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature A
Further Maths	8FM0	Pearson	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Further Mathematics
Geography	7037	AQA	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Geography
Health	XFL26	Pearson	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care
Health	DCWY7	Pearson	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care
Health	HRSJ9	Pearson	Pearson Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification BTEC National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)
History	H505	OCR	OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in History A
IT	H446	OCR	OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Computer Science
Maths	9MA0	Pearson	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics
MFL	7692	AQA	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Spanish
Psychology	7182	AQA	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Psychology
RE	H573A	OCR	OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in Religious Studies
Science	7402	AQA	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Biology
Science	7405	AQA	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chemistry
Science	7408	AQA	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physics
Sport	VDA07	Pearson	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport

Sixth Form

BYRON

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Click the link at the bottom of the page to access our amazing Sixth Form's prospectus. The support you get from us compared to a huge college is phenomenal. We care.

Enrichment Focus for our Byron Students

In today's competitive world, it's never been more important to develop employability skills and build your CV outside the classroom. Our Byron students have been getting stuck into a range of exciting opportunities this term. With more 20 activities currently on offer, we feel confident there's something to suit every student's interests and skillset. Students have enjoyed Byron FC with Mr Fowler, Future Medics, where we've focused on interview technique, and helped out with a range of voluntary activities this half term.

Niyah, Lucy, Sean and Kaylm reach for University

Our first four students have made their application to university with many to quickly follow. Being the first students to apply always shows real bravery and organisation so we commend these students on their ambitious applications.

Kaylm has applied to read Geography at a number of highly prestigious universities including Oxford and St Andrews. Lucy's application to read History was no less impressive and included destinations such as Oxford and Liverpool. Sean, who has developed a passion for politics over his time in Sixth Form, sent his application to study to Oxford and York amongst other top institutions. Niyah's tremendous application to study aeronautical/aerospace engineering is winging its way to Imperial College, Bristol and other high-flying universities.

We are exceptionally proud of the effort and dedication of all our students; we wish them well in the anxious waiting period.

Budgeting Bonanza

On Friday 17 October, Newcastle University visited Year 13 to deliver a session all about budgeting and money management. The session was enlightening and gave many students a lot to think about. Byron Sixth Form's PSHE programme is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in the world.

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



Key Dates

- **Mon 20 October:** Week B Timetable
- **Mon 20 - Thu 24 October:** Y13 Geography Field Trip
- **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
- **Mon 3 November:** Y11 & Y13 Mock Exams begin

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Designated safeguarding leads:



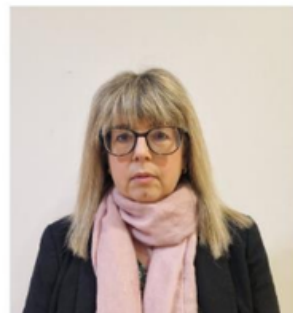
Mr Logan
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



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)

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

Our Diocese: Hexham & Newcastle

