

# St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy

## Newsletter



Issue 4 : 8 November 2024

*To seek wholeness through faith,  
quest and learning to become  
what God intends us to be.*

**R**

**Respect  
Resilience**

**I**

**Integrity**

**S**

**Self-discipline**

**E**

**Excellence**



### Key information and news

#### **Free School Meals**

The Department of Education has suggested that at least 14% of students eligible for FSM are not claiming them. For more information on children entitled to free school meals and how to apply, please see the website [Free School Meals](#)

#### **Attendance matters, moments count**

Punctuality. In each class the teacher takes a register. The attendance register is taken twice a day. If your child is late for school after the register has been closed your child is marked as late after registration. The Local Authority recognise this as an absent mark. Sustained lateness can result in prosecution, so we ask parents who are having difficulty with morning routines to speak to the attendance team as soon as possible for support from school.

#### **Is my child too ill for school?**

At this time of year we can all suffer from an annoying cold or feeling unwell. However, with most conditions it is still fine to send your child into school. This is explained further in NHS guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

#### **How do schools work out attendance?**

Schools count each day as 2 sessions (AM & PM) Your child has to attend 10 full session (5 days, morning and afternoon) each week to achieve 100% attendance. If your child has a half day absence they would have 90% for that week. One day absence would be 80%.

#### **Year 8 Attendance Workshop**

After the success of the engagement in the Y11 workshop we are now rolling this out to Y8. We will be inviting selected Year 8 students who require support with their attendance to an attendance workshop. The session will be in conjunction with our Education Welfare Officer team. The workshop will explore students' barriers to attendance, how school can help and why attendance is so important.

#### **Anti-Bullying Week 2024**

This will take place from Monday 11 - Friday 15 November. The theme is Choose Respect and is about empowering individuals to make the right choices in how we treat each other. Bullying is not tolerated in any form at St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy. To help raise awareness we will be providing all students with form time activities on bullying.

Together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying. There are steps we can all take to keep children and young people safe from bullying.

- Be available for your child to talk to you about their worries and make sure they know where they can go to for support. That could be yourself, a teacher they trust or online sites such as Childline.
- Explain to your child how bullying can make people feel. Childline has lots of great advice specially designed for children and young people.

Some signs to look out for

- being afraid to go to school, being mysteriously 'ill' each morning
- a change in how they are doing at school, including a dip in grades or not handing homework in
- asking for, or stealing money (to give to whoever's bullying them)
- a change in behaviour, including being nervous, losing confidence, or becoming distressed and withdrawn
- a change in eating or sleeping habits

For additional information you can use the following recourses or contact the pastoral team at school:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/>  
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-cyberbullying>

### **The Toby Henderson Trust**

The Toby Henderson Trust is an independently funded charity supporting autistic children and families in the Northeast of England. They provide relevant and appropriate support for young people and their families. Please get in touch to discuss what individual support can be offered (both for students with and without a diagnosis).

<https://www.ttht.co.uk/>



## **Dates and events**

### **Parent Events**

#### **Wednesday 13 November 2024 - 4.30 - 5.00pm**

RSE information event to share the purpose of RSE and key themes in year groups (In school event)

#### **Monday 18 November 2024 - 6.00 - 6.45pm**

Welcome to Key Stage 4 Meeting (In school event)

#### **Tuesday 26 November 2024 - 11.25 - 12.05pm**

Northumberland School C.A.R.E project focus group (In school event)

#### **Tuesday 26 November 2024 - 2.15 - 3.15pm**

SEND Parent/Carer forum – invitations have been sent to parents (In school event)

### **Student Events**

#### **Monday 11 November 2024**

School Remembrance Service (School Chapel)

#### **Tuesday 12 November 2024**

Lessons from Auschwitz Trip

Baker Hughes Stem Trip

#### **Thursday 14 November 2024**

The Source – YMT Event

#### **Wednesday 20 November 2024**

Police Violence Reduction Session



## RISE – The St Benet Biscop Way

### Northumberland School C.A.R.E project

St Benet Biscop have become involved with the Northumberland School C.A.R.E project. The project is designed to enhance all students' lives with a particular focus on caring about adversity, resilience and empowerment. It is a multi-agency approach to support the growth of resilience and gives individuals the knowledge and power to work with school and families to avoid adversities they can control. We hope that the involvement will support staff and students to feel confident and support them to thrive and rise up and shine.

As part of the project, we are looking for a group of parents who would like to come into school to take part in a focus group discussing the school values. This will be taking place at 11:25am at St Benet Biscop on Tuesday 26 November 2024. It will take approximately 40 minutes. If you would like to be part of this event, please email [admin@stbb.org.uk](mailto:admin@stbb.org.uk)  
FAO S Lewis-Dale

### Sporting Evenings at St Benet Biscop

We regularly have busy evenings of sport, but a recent evening stood out. It was a lovely autumnal Wednesday night just before half-term. The sports fields were overflowing with students taking part in sport. In PE we had to have a brief meeting beforehand to allocate spaces for all of the planned activity which comprised the 6th form football match, Year 11 rugby match, Year 9 rugby match, Year 7 and Y8 boys' football training and finally girls' football training.



The 6th Form football match was a round of the Peter Tracey Cup. The game saw several Year 11s make their first team debuts. These included Caiden Scott, Sam Lockyer, Alfie Barratt, Rio Martin and Thomas Wailes. The first half was very tight with both teams having plenty of possession. St Benet were particularly successful at getting in behind both St Cuthberts' full backs with some effective wall passing. Warren Ayre opened the score with a good run round the back and a tap in at close range. Second half saw St Cuthberts equalise mid-way through with a very well struck long range effort. Sam Lockyer came close to scoring with a brilliant solo run the whole length of the pitch and was unable to convert his chance from close range. This was closely followed by an excellent long-range effort from St Cuthberts which hit the post. Now with the momentum St Cuthberts were awarded a penalty kick which was converted to make the score 2-1 to the visitors. St Benet showed excellent attitude and continued to battle to the final whistle. The result saw St Cuthbert progress to the next round and will leave St Benet Biscop's first team fighting for league honours for the remainder of this season.

We hosted two rugby teams from Gosforth Academy. The Y9s were down to play in the league and the Year 11s were able to have their very first home match. In the Year 9 rugby match, Gosforth had the upper hand early with some strong running, offloads and passing into space, and we needed to show a lot of resilience to combat their skills. Many in the side were important in driving us forward and we got back into the game through strong carries from Niall Dixon, Harrison Huntley, Mark Walker, Mason Phillips and Aaron Bacon. Year 8 student, Aaron, was playing up an age group; he can be proud of his performance. Niall kept up his form from the previous game, scoring an impressive try breaking through many tackles. We got back into the game as we started to carry strongly, and many stepped up to do this, but it was the increase in offloads which showed our progress from the last game. There were some impressive offloads from Corey Beecroft, Tyler Carr, Joash Thomas and Chi Kennedy. There were excellent defensive performances from Mason as always, similarly a lot of fantastic tackles from Conor Arkle, Lucas Weatherley and both Adam Burn and Adam Hall. We never stopped working, especially Oscar Kirkcaldy and Jacob Cole. The score ended up 40-15 to Gosforth. A difficult contest but many things learned that we can take forward to our next game!

In the Year 11 match, the spectators were treated to a showcase of physicality and skill. The tries came thick and fast from both teams. Notably from St Benet Biscop, a 60 metre run in from Captain, Matthew Welch. Other excellent runs on the wings came from Arjun Naryan, Aidan Howe and Jason Venner. In the tight play, Vice Captain and 'Man of the Match', Kallen Osborne was outstanding as he stormed past defender after defender leaving them in his wake. Similarly, Rory Ballance made the opposition work hard to bring him down. Benn Dodd and Reece Dawson-Rogers worked hard in defence putting their bodies on the line tackle after tackle. Ewan Holder and Thomas Catterall showed some true rugby expertise in their play, often first to the rucks to protect our ball and win the ball from the opposition. The referee mentioned how much he had enjoyed playing his part as the rugby was so clean and easy to interpret and the attitude from both sides was respectful and disciplined. As it was a friendly, no-one kept track of the score line, and although Gosforth were undoubtedly the stronger side the match felt like a real victory for rugby and school sport.

### School choir visit care home

A few members of our school choir recently visited a local care home to perform for the staff and residents. They sang a selection of songs from musicals, bringing smiles to many of the residents, and even sparked some impromptu dancing between the students and the residents. It was a meaningful experience for our students, as they began to understand the joy their performance brought to those in the care home. The afternoon was filled with warmth and happiness for both the students and the residents, and we are already looking forward to returning at Christmas to sing carols.



## Faith

This week, we have been focusing on the theme of faith, exploring how having faith in God empowers us to overcome challenges and obstacles. When we trust in God, we open ourselves to the possibility that anything is achievable. Faith serves as a guiding light, inspiring us to rise above our difficulties and embrace our true potential. It reminds us that, despite life's trials, we are supported on our journey to becoming the individuals God created us to be. Through faith, we find strength, resilience, and the courage to pursue our purpose, knowing that we are never alone.

### Year 7 Retreat Day

During the last week of the first half term, Year 7 participated in an in-house retreat day. The aim of the day was to give our students a break from the busyness of everyday life, to take time to spend with friends, and reflect on their life journey. The theme of the retreat was based on the idea that we can think of the Church as one body with many parts, just like our own bodies. Each of us, through baptism, is like a different part of this body, with our own special gifts and talents. St. Paul teaches us in the Bible that just as a body has many parts, the Church has many members, with Christ as the head. This means that while we all have different abilities and roles, we are connected and work together. By helping and serving one another, we not only support our community but also live out the teachings of Jesus. To explore these themes, our students participated in a variety of engaging workshops. These included a team-building activity where they collaborated to navigate an obstacle course, an escape room challenge that required them to use their unique skills to solve puzzles, a bracelet-making session that encouraged reflection on their friendships, and a drama workshop centred on the theme.



### Foodbank Collection

Many of our students generously contributed donations to the Bedlington Foodbank, a vital charity for our local community. Our Year 8 chaplaincy team worked diligently to sort the food into the appropriate bags, and several of our Sixth Form students assisted with delivering the donations to the foodbank this week. Bedlington foodbank was overflowing with donations by the time we left, so the remaining donations were taken to Cramlington foodbank. We are already looking forward to the Christmas collection that will begin in a few weeks.



### Remembrance Day

In preparation for Remembrance Day, our students have been creating prayer poppies to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who have suffered and lost their lives in conflict. This activity has also encouraged them to consider how they can contribute to making a positive difference in the world.

At 11 am on Remembrance Day, all students will watch a virtual service from their classrooms, and observe the two-minute silence. Additionally, form representatives will attend a special service in the chapel, where we will collectively pray for those we honour on this day. Michael Elliot, a Year 12 student, will also play The Last Post during the service.





## Quest

### Year 10 girls visit Baker Hughes in STEM event.

15 year 10 girls were selected to become involved in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) initiative led by staff from PII Pipeline Solutions, Baker Hughes in Cramlington.

Working alongside another school, students were split into three groups. Students attended workshops covering Physics demonstrations, 3D printing and a visit to the workshop floor to see inspection and integrity machinery being built - these are machines used to maintain pipelines across the globe.

Students also attended a Q&A session enabling them to speak with key members of staff including the site manager and software and chemical engineers. Career pathways leading into the world of engineering were discussed which has sparked interest with most. Students are looking forward to their return visit on 11 December to participate in a construction workshop to create inspection and integrity machinery.

### Vape Warning

Northumbria Police are aware of recent incidents of vapes being in circulation that contain Spice (SCRA) or THC (sometimes referred to as Mazza). There have been adverse reactions to Vape use identified in Newcastle and North Tyneside but it is an emerging theme nationally, so we suspect it to be within our own force area also. We will be carrying out education sessions with our students and hope that you can also talk with your child about the dangers of vaping. We hope that you find this resource helpful to use with this conversation: <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/vaping-to-quit-smoking/young-people-and-vaping/>

### Year 10 Work Experience

All Year 10 students will be taking part in work experience during the week commencing **19 May 2025** (year 10 students who wish to go the Battlefields trip will take part in their work experience at the start of the week before the Battlefields trip commences). Work experience is always an exciting time for our students. To explain the work experience process further we will be launching this with you at the **Welcome to Key Stage 4 Evening on Monday, 18 November 2024 at 6pm.**



## Learning

### Year 11 Revision Timetable

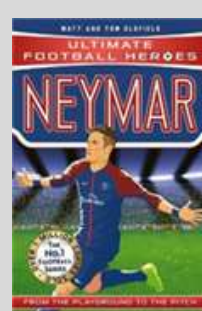
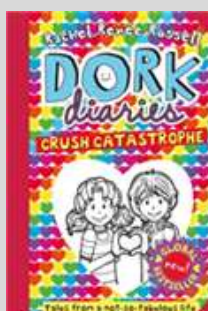
Year 11 Trial Exams will be at the end of January, so the preparation for these is beginning in earnest. Year 11 lunchtime and after school revision sessions begin on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, with 17 sessions being offered by staff throughout the week. This is the perfect opportunity for students to get additional support from their teachers in small groups. Revision activities will vary, but usually involve reviewing key learning, planning and preparing answers to practice questions and discussing any tricky content they have questions about. The timetable has been made available to students, parents and carers. A copy is attached to this bulletin.

### News from the school library

The school library continues to be very popular at break and lunch times. We now have several reading clubs, as well as a Manga club for each lunch sitting. Since September, students in Y7 & Y8 have passed a whopping 214 book quizzes on books they have read from the library! After half-term we extend our '6<sup>th</sup> form wider reading' section, which is already gaining some interest from our Y12 & 13 students. Our competition to design the new St Benet Biscop bookmark is also gathering pace.

**Most book quizzes passed this half term:** Mason Hickey: 11, Emil Pawliki: 7, Sadie Ramsden: 6, Jack Stewart: 5, Amelia Russell: 5, Isaac Redpath: 5, Callum Ellis: 5, Jayden Burdis: 5, Faith Wilson: 4, Josh Todd: 4

### Top 5 most popular books in KS3 this half term:



### Quote of the week:

"Today a reader,  
tomorrow a  
leader" Margaret  
Fuller

## VI Sixth Form

### Sixth Form Peer Mentors

Sixth Peer Mentors are students trained to support younger children who are experiencing difficulties with friendships, organisation, exam stress and low mood. They will be starting to visit lower school form rooms to introduce themselves and to explain the role of a Peer Mentor. They will also be helping to run some clubs in school. The Peer Mentors are a very valuable part of the school community, and their contribution is really appreciated by those children they work closely with.

### Apprenticeship Interview Workshop

On Monday, 4 November, Laura from Careerwave came into school to lead a workshop on Apprenticeship Interviews. The session covered the range of degree apprenticeships available, the differences between a degree and a Degree Apprenticeship, as well as how to emphasise your strengths in applications and interviews.

The workshop will be repeated for other interested Y13s. Date and time to be confirmed.

### Opportunities to take

#### Medical Mentoring

In2MedSchool is a registered Charity (1197973), which supports aspiring medical students. They are inviting students to sign up for a **FREE MEDIC MENTORING** scheme. So far, they have around 2,400 mentors, all of which are doctors/medical students who have been through the application cycle and will do their best to help you with your application.

If you are an aspiring medic, apply here: <https://bit.ly/I2MS-Mentee>

You can find more information here: [www.in2medschool.com](http://www.in2medschool.com).

#### Business Taster Days on Friday, 22 November 10:30-15:00 Northumbria University

A Business Taster Day will take place at Northumbria University and students will have the opportunity to take part in three chosen taster sessions and a campus tour. **Students should email Mr Plumb before Tuesday, 12 November, if they are interested in attending so that the organisers can be informed.**

#### King's College London Medicine and Dentistry Lecture Series 2025

This programme is for students **across the UK in Year 11, 12, and 13** interested in becoming a **doctor** or **dentist**. Over the course of the programme students will hear from a wide variety of speakers to help build their understanding of the **opportunities** and **challenges** of being a doctor and dentist, as well as guidance on the application process. Last year's lectures included the following:

- Medical and dental specialties: cardiology, oral surgery, renal transplant, and many more!
- Q&As each week with current medical and dental students.
- Support with the application process: UCAT, personal statements, and interviews.
- Q&A with admissions colleagues in the school of medicine at KCL, UCL, St George's, Queen Mary, Brunel, and Imperial.

Most importantly participants will become **part of a community of like-minded students** all interested in applying to medicine and dentistry and finding out what being a doctor and dentist really entails!

Lectures will be held on Tuesday evenings between 6:00 – 7:30pm. The first lecture will be on Tuesday, 4 February. For more information and to apply, [students should follow this link](#). The deadline is **Friday, 10 January**.

#### Young Professionals & City Century Law Event, Newcastle – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 1pm – 4:30pm

We are excited to announce an exclusive in-person event with City Century at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Newcastle on Monday, 18 November 2024, from 1:00pm - 4:30pm. This is a chance for students to connect with 10 leading law firms and gain invaluable insights into life as a city solicitor, as well as the solicitor apprenticeship programs they offer.

#### Why Attend?

- Discover Solicitor Apprenticeship Opportunities: Hear from top law firms about the apprenticeship programs they offer, allowing you to gain experience while continuing your education.
- Insights into Life as a City Lawyer: Learn what it's like to work in the heart of the world's leading legal centre and tackle complex, innovative legal work.
- Meet Industry Professionals: Network with legal experts and build connections that could shape your future career.

- Panel Discussions and Keynote Speakers: Gain first-hand advice from senior professionals about what it takes to succeed in this competitive and rewarding field.

#### **Event Details:**

- Date: Monday, 18 November 2024
- Time: 1:00pm – 4:30pm
- Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel - Newcastle
- Meet with Linklaters, Eversheds Sutherland, Pinsent Masons, Norton Rose Fulbright and many more.

#### **Don't Miss Out!**

This event could be your first step towards a dynamic and rewarding legal career. Spaces are limited, so make sure to secure your place by applying via the link below:

**Apply here:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZMFSQV9>

#### **Newcastle University PARTNERS 2025**

PARTNERS 2025 is still open for Year 13 students to apply. The deadline for PARTNERS 2025 is Wednesday, 29 January 2025. To apply, you must submit a UCAS application to Newcastle University. When applying, use the same information on the application, as used in the UCAS application, and use a personal email account, not your school account.

If you are made an offer, through PARTNERS, you must be available to attend a summer school, Sunday, 29 June and Friday, 11 July 2025. You will likely only be needed for one of these weeks, but attendance is compulsory.

Apply here: [PARTNERS 2025](#)

#### **Sixth Form Personal Development Folders**

All students have a Personal Development folder which contains their Independent Learning Journal, Wider Subject Reading resources and Core Studies activities. Please ensure that your child regularly uses their wider reading lists and updates their Independent Learning Journal as this will be checked regularly by their Form Tutor.

#### **Independent Study and Wider Reading**

A reminder that all Year 12, who attended the Newcastle University Library visit, have university library cards valid until August 2024.

Some useful websites for independent study are:

- [jstor.org](http://jstor.org) – access to over 100 articles, each month, for free. Searches can be refined and alerts set so students only receive articles of interest to them.
- [scholar.google.co.uk](http://scholar.google.co.uk) – provides better quality scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, so helping make sure students are finding research material that is high quality and verified.
- [core.ac.uk](http://core.ac.uk) – freely available Open Access resources.

#### **Get Involved!**

We're encouraging our sixth formers to become part of the wider school community. There are clubs to join, or help organise by supporting staff to set up and run the sessions. Ask your form tutor for more information about what's on and when. Thank you to all our sixth formers who have already signed up to help support the school community.

#### **Poppy Appeal**

Thank you to those sixth formers helping to collect donations and distribute poppies for this year's poppy appeal.

#### **John Paul II Award**

Good luck and thank you to those students who've started work on their John Paul II Award.



## Year 11 Revision Timetable – Term: Autumn 2 2024

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Lunchtime 12:45 – 1:10		<b>RE</b> (St Wilfrid's)	<b>Business</b> (St Aidan's)  <b>Maths</b> (St Aidan's)	<b>Design and Technology</b> (St Oswald's)  <b>Food Preparation and Nutrition</b> (St Oswald's)	
Afterschool 3:15 – 4:15	<b>Drama</b> DS1 and DS2	<b>English Language/Literature</b> (St Hilda's)  <b>History</b> (St Wilfrid's)  <b>Geography</b> (St Wilfrid's)  <b>BTEC Music</b> (St Benedict's)  <b>Child Development Health and Social Care</b> (St Cuthbert's)	<b>IT/Business</b> (St Aidan's)  <b>BTEC Sport (Jan onwards)</b>  <b>RE</b> (St Wilfrid's)  <b>French (Wed or Thurs)</b> (St Oswald's)	<b>Science</b> (St Oswald's)  <b>French (Wed or Thurs)</b> (St Oswald's)	