



*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

Poverty Proofing audit

Children North East, a local charity, will be working in school during the week commencing 17th March to poverty proof the school day. We are looking to ensure that every child has the same opportunities through the school day. As part of this we are seeking parent voice. It would be really useful if you could complete the following link: [Children North East Poverty Proofing Survey](#) We would be grateful if you could submit your responses by Friday 28th March.

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.

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](#)

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). See the Website for updated information The Spectrum Ball, at Gosforth Park Hotel and new XR therapies, supporting young people with generalised anxieties, fears and phobias. <https://www.ttth.co.uk/>

ASD Family Support Drop-in Sessions – New dates added

Free support and advice in your local area when supporting young people with ASD. 0-19 years. No diagnosis needed.



Dates and events

Parent Events

Week commencing 17 March 2025

Grease - School Show

Thursday 20 March 2025

Jill Sandeman (EP) will be in school on Thursday 20th March 2.15-3.15pm to run her second session on supporting young people. This focus will be emotional regulation. If you would like to attend, please register your expression of interest on the following form - [Expression of Interest Form](#) Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis, with a maximum of 20 places available. The form closes on Wed 19th March at 12 noon and places will be confirmed that afternoon.

Wellbeing and Values Focus Group

If you are interested in becoming part of a focus group discussing wellbeing and values, please contact **S Lewis-Dale** by email via admin@stbb.org.uk

Student Events

Saturday 15 March

FLAME Event

Week commencing 17 March 2025

Grease - School Show

Week commencing 24 March 2025

Year 12/13 Geneva Trip



RISE – The St Benet Biscop Way

Wellbeing hub

We have signed up to have access to the wellbeing hub, a resource developed by experts in child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing. We are able to offer all student parents and staff free access to this valuable resource. Students all have log in detail via their email.

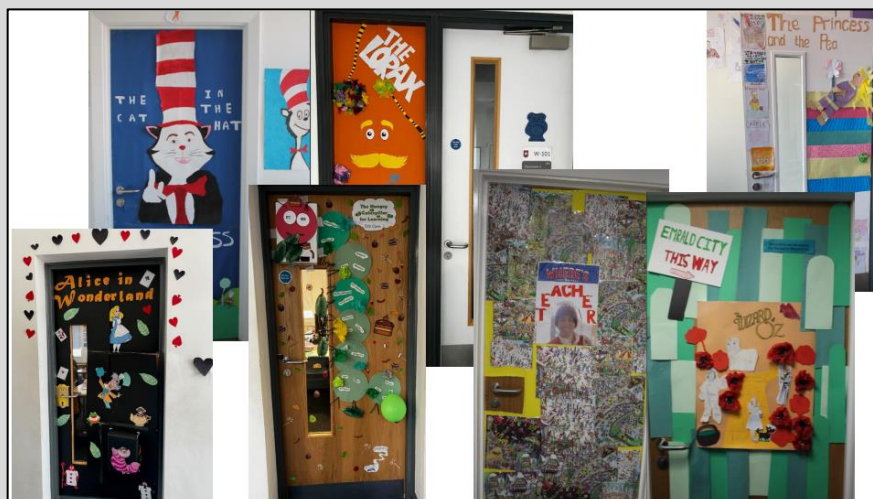
This is the link to log in as a parent

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/register/parents/?ca=d5d1d514bbe35c2520cf48c2be08da5a>

Festival of Reading

Last week we celebrated our love of reading with a week of activities, which included **World Book Day**. Students took part in a range of activities. In Tutor groups there was a Taskmaster style competition, with a Limerick Challenge and 'Speedy Sculpting' contest, in lessons Teachers had planned activities linking the learning in the lesson to books and authors and at lunchtime students took part in a photo competition to identify which Teachers had been 'caught reading' in unusual or quirky places. There was also a door decorating competition where Tutor groups worked together to represent a book on the door to their classroom.

Well done to the following Form Groups: 7I (The Wizard of Oz), 8B (The Princess and the Pea), 9O (The Cat in the Hat), 10T (Where's Wally/ the Teacher), 11I (The Lorax), 6th Form (The Very Hungry Caterpillar for Learning). Special mention goes to 11C who's Alice in Wonderland door had a cheshire cat with a mechanical tail.



On Thursday, World Book Day, we were lucky enough to have a visit from local author Dan Smith. Students had the exciting opportunity to hear first hand about his journey as a writer, gaining insight into the inspirations behind his thrilling novels.

Many students left the session feeling truly inspired, keen to explore Dan's novels and immerse themselves in his gripping stories. To support this enthusiasm, our school library has added a collection of 20 of Dan's books, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to enjoy his work.

The festival of reading and world book day is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the joy of reading, and this year's event was a great success. A huge thank you to Dan Smith for sharing his experiences and inspiring the next generation of readers and writers at St Benet Biscop!



Faith

Theme of the week

This week we have been thinking about the life of William Wilberforce, and how he left a legacy of justice and peace. William Wilberforce was a British politician and leader in the movement to abolish the transatlantic slave trade. Guided by his deep Christian faith, he saw the fight against slavery as a moral calling. Despite strong opposition, he campaigned tirelessly, leading to the abolition of the slave trade in 1807 and the liberation of enslaved people in 1833. His life demonstrates that true peace comes through justice. He worked through peaceful means to fight oppression. His legacy inspires us to be active peacemakers, standing for justice with faith, perseverance, and hope.

"He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God."
Micah 6:8

Ash Wednesday

Last week, we observed Ash Wednesday, a significant day for Catholics as it marks the beginning of Lent, a season of reflection, penance, and preparation for Easter. For our students, the day began with a virtual liturgy that highlighted the importance of Ash Wednesday, helping them understand its meaning in the Catholic faith. The liturgy focused on themes of repentance, humility, and the call to deepen one's relationship with God during this sacred time. Following the liturgy, students had the opportunity to receive ashes at lunchtime in the chapel, a visible sign of their commitment to the Lenten journey and a reminder of their mortality and the need for spiritual renewal.

Mass

We had our first Year 7 Mass of the year, and it was a truly special occasion. Fr. Quinn joined us to celebrate Mass in our beautiful chapel, and many students were excited to see him, as he had been their priest during primary school.

Omeose Egbiremolen, a 6th former, served at the altar, and several Year 7 students took part in reading the bidding prayers. We felt that Lent was the perfect time to begin this tradition with our Year 7s, as it offers a meaningful opportunity for reflection. Many students shared that it was a perfect way to end their day, offering a calm moment of prayer and thought.

Next week another form class will have the chance to attend Mass.



Confirmation into the Catholic Church

Please speak with your local parish priest about opportunities for Confirmation into the Catholic Church for students in Year 9 or above.



Outstanding gymnastic performance

Year 8 student, Jessica Redford, has made her school proud with an outstanding performance at a recent gymnastics and trampolining competition. Showcasing her incredible talent, skill, and determination, Jessica secured an impressive collection of gold, silver, and bronze medals across multiple events.

Her consistency and dedication paid off as she claimed an overall silver medal for second place, a fantastic achievement in a highly competitive field. Her hard work and passion for the sport have truly set her apart, and her school community couldn't be prouder of her success.

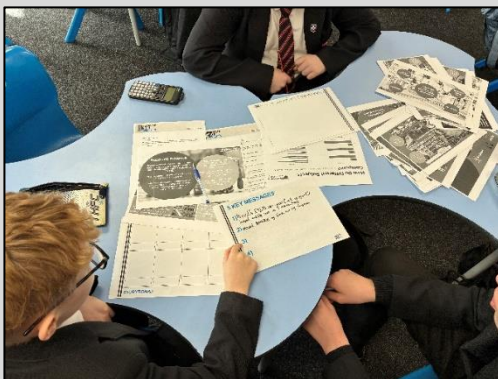
Well done, Jessica! We can't wait to see what you achieve next.

Budding crime writers

On Saturday, 1st March 2025, our Year 10 and 11 competition winners attended Bay Tales Live, an exciting literary event celebrating crime and thriller writing. Ronya Lane, Cheyenne Saculingan, Eva Grieves, Olivia Bell, and Amelia Long had the incredible opportunity to hear from novelists who shared insights into their craft and journey to becoming published authors.

A major highlight was meeting renowned local author Ann Cleeves, known for her Vera and Shetland series. Students also posed thoughtful questions to successful writers, gaining valuable advice on storytelling, character development, and perseverance in writing. The event concluded with our winners taking to the stage to receive their certificates and a collection of books, all to rapturous applause.

Inspired by the experience, they left feeling motivated to continue their own creative writing journeys. A huge congratulations to our talented winners—we can't wait to see what you write next!



Year 9 Enterprise Challenge – Inspiring Future Aspirations

Just before half-term, a group of Year 9 boys had the fantastic opportunity to take part in the Enterprise Challenge, a project run in partnership with Newcastle University. This exciting initiative is designed to introduce students to university life while helping them develop essential skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, independent research, and confidence building.

The challenge began with an engaging launch day at Newcastle University, where students took part in:

- A warm welcome and introductions
- The "Opportunity Knocks" interactive activity
- A student life presentation, offering insight into what university is really like
- A campus tour, giving them a first-hand experience of university surroundings

Since then, students have been taking part in a series of five weekly workshops in school, led by a member of the Newcastle University Foundation. This week, they have started working on their own marketing campaigns to inspire others to aim higher. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and look forward to seeing their progress throughout the challenge!



Learning

Year 10

Food Preparation and Nutrition students made some delicious pancakes for Shrove Tuesday.



Year 9 Geography

9BH/Ge have been learning about coastal stacks and the processes involved in the making of these spectacular landforms. Once the pupils had recapped their coastal processes of erosion, they were charged with the task of making a clay 3D model of a stack formation, explaining how they are formed. To add to the competition, we added an element of time pressure. Great efforts were made by Jacob Cole, Eden Robson, Jana Al Dalati, Logan Reed, Lucas Porter, Arron Wallace, Adam Burn, James Pollard and Oscar Kirkcaldy.

Featured in the photo was the winner by Ellis Idemudia and runner up Sammie Borthwick.



VI Sixth Form

Cambridge University - Opportunities for Year 12

There are a number of opportunities coming up at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Subject Masterclasses

5 - 12 April 2025

www.pem.cam.ac.uk/y12masterclasses

Arts and Humanities Residential

7 - 10 July 2025

www.pem.cam.ac.uk/y12summerschool

Subject Taster Webinars

Various May – June 2025

www.pem.cam.ac.uk/yr12subjecttasters

Open Days

10 – 11 July and 12 September 2025

www.pem.cam.ac.uk/open-days

ALL ARE FREE TO ATTEND! CHECK THE WEBLINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

English Language Masterclass – Sacred Heart School

On Wednesday the 19th February the English Language students from Year 12 and 13 went to the Sacred Heart Sixth Form Centre for an examiner led workshop. Over the course of the morning, students looked at exam papers and gained a lot of useful insight into how to plan exam responses. Emily Preston thought *“It was reassuring to have an examiner repeating what we have learnt in lessons and has given me more confidence in my ability to answer these types of questions. Overall, it was a very useful morning that I feel has helped all of us gain more confidence in our exam skills.”*

Newcastle University History Workshop

Our History students have benefitted from a visit to Newcastle University for a workshop on The Tudors and Stuarts. The day was led by professors and historians who worked with students on historical and ethical ideas. Some feedback on the visit from a Year 12 student was that they *“thoroughly enjoyed learning more about Charles I and the Restoration. It deepened my historical knowledge and visiting a university, an option for me in the future, helped with my personal development.”*

Living Leaders Programme 2025

Two Year 12 students, Chelsey Park and Zara Coultas, have successfully completed the Living Leaders Programme, a leadership programme designed to help students fulfil their potential and thrive as leaders in the future. The course is a challenging but exciting programme that both Chelsey and Zara thoroughly enjoyed, and who were exceptional ambassadors, representing our school among other students from the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust.

The programme teaches that outstanding leadership is not how good a leader you are but how many you develop, which is the key difference between management and leadership. Over the three days, they covered topics like: communication, responsibility, and styles of leadership.

Chelsey felt that the experience *“challenged my thinking, and helped me learn about problem solving. It also gave me a range of tools to help me focus on what I want in the future, and how the only person that can ensure I achieve this, or who can stop me achieving this, is me!”*

Zara wanted to share that, *“Overall, the programme changed my perspective on leadership by developing my confidence and communication skills, giving me a greater understanding on leadership skills and how certain beliefs impact our behaviour. Finally, it increased my self-awareness and self-esteem allowing me to take 100% responsibility for my actions.”*

Oxbridge North-East Conference 2025

The Oxford-Cambridge Northeast Conference took place at The Hancock Museum, Newcastle in February. Layla Air, in Year 12 attended the event and “learned a lot about what to expect at both Oxford and Cambridge. However, the focus of the conference was super-curricular activities and why they are so important to personal statements.”

A reminder!

Just a reminder that Year 12 and 13 all have Personal Development and Learning Journals where all their super-curricular activities can be recorded. They should be updated weekly with any wider reading, online learning and out of school activities that have contributed to their personal and academic learning.

Peer Mentoring

After the successful completion of their Peer Mentoring journey, we would like to once again say thank you to the Year 13 Peer Mentors.

The deadline for Year 12 applications to the Peer Mentor programme was Monday 10th March. We are excited to say that we’ve received fifteen applications and applicants will be informed of the next steps in this process shortly, via their school email.