



EASTER 2025

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



As you will be aware the school received visits from both the Catholic School Inspectorate and Ofsted over the course of this half term. I will be able to share with both families and pupils the positive outcomes of both these inspections once they have been formally published over the coming month.

Can I wish all our Year 11 pupils the very best of luck for their upcoming GCSE examinations. Their dedication to attending after school revision sessions has been highly impressive. Can I also thank the staff for their time and commitment to providing these over the course of the year.

This term has been busy as ever with numerous trips, visits, events and shows. Can I thank all the staff involved in providing such varied and diverse opportunities and experiences for our pupils. Can I also thank our pupils for their part in making these both worthwhile and successful.

The Jubilee Year continues to be celebrated at St Bede's. This term we received the Jubilee Anchor which is touring schools across the Diocese in 2025. It provides everyone in our school community with the opportunity to reflect and to become Pilgrims of Hope.

I am sure you would like to join me in wishing Miss O'Toole and Mr Walton all the best for the future as they embark upon the next chapter of their careers. I would like to thank them both for their dedication and commitment to the pupils, their colleagues, and the school over the time they have worked at St Bede's.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors, staff and myself, can I wish everyone a relaxing, holy and enjoyable Easter holiday.

Mr. Milton



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

To keep up to date with our latest news as and when it happens and to celebrate all things St. Bede's, follow our social media channels:

<https://www.stbedesblackburn.com/social/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7Wu3vv73KY>

UPCOMING DATES

28/04 – School reopens @ 8am

01/05 – Year 11 Celebration Mass

05/05 – May Day Bank Holiday

08/05 – GCSE exams begin

23/05 – School closes for Half-Term

25/05 – St Bede's Feast Day



**“Everything is possible for
one who believes” Mark 9:23**

THE ANCHOR ARRIVES AT ST BEDE'S



On Monday 24th March, the Diocesan anchor arrived at St Bede's. Pupils from Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Primary School delivered the anchor and were greeted by our Year 7 prayer leaders. This occasion was celebrated with a prayer service that reflected on the anchor, a symbol of the Jubilee Year.



Pupils wrote prayers of hope and enjoyed anchor biscuits, specially baked by our kitchen staff. The anchor took pride of place in our reception area, visited some of our RE classes and then was safely delivered to St Peter's RC Primary School by some of our Year 7 pupils.



A WORD FROM OUR HEAD PUPILS...



Our current Head Pupils will hand over their roles next half term as they begin their GCSE examinations. Aaron, Jessica, Joseph, Lily and Phoebe got together to craft their final few words: "Good Luck to all St. Bede's pupils – particularly the next group of Year 10 Prefects and Head Pupils; may they excel in their futures. We hope our students overcome any challenges they may face and become a better version of themselves. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time at St. Bede's and have relished the opportunities we have been given. We have also enjoyed guiding others in our roles as Head Pupils and Prefects, and hope we have inspired younger pupils to believe all things really are possible. Good Luck to everyone in the Class of 2025 as we begin our GCSE exams."



AUSTRIA SKI TRIP

102 pupils from Y8 – 10 attended the annual ski trip to Austria for a week of snow-filled fun. Led by ski instructors, our pupils improved their skiing skills, allowing them to explore the slopes and breath-taking scenery.



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE IN ATTENDANCE

Promoting the importance of good attendance continues to be a key focus at St Bede's. Good attendance and punctuality are not only a legal requirement, but essential in order for pupils to get the most out of their experience at St Bede's, including their academic progress, wellbeing and wider life chances.

Attendance	Category	Days Absent	Achievement
100%	Perfect	0 Days off school	Excellent chance to achieve Grades 9-5
99%	Excellent	Equates to 2 days off school	
97%	Very Good	Equates to 5 days off school	
95%	Good	Equates to 10 days off school	
92%	Concerned	Equates to 15 days off school	Significantly reduced chance to achieve Grades 9-5
90%	Very Concerned	Equates to 20 days off school	
85%	Serious Concern	Equates to 30 days off school	Extremely limited chance to achieve Grades 9-5
80%	Court Action	Equates to 40 days off school	

175 NON SCHOOL DAY A YEAR

175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments.

This term, pupils who had an attendance figure of 97% or above were entered into the Attendance Challenge 'Wheel of Names' to be in with a chance to win a £25 Amazon voucher. Pupils with excellent attendance continue to receive additional reward points each month.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind families that holidays during term time will not be authorised and may incur a penalty notice.

NETBALL SUCCESS

CHAMPIONS OF BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN... Congratulations to our Year 11 Netball team.



Well Done to our Year 8 Netball team... Runners up in the Blackburn with Darwen tournament.



YEAR 8 CASTLERIGG MANOR RETREAT KESWICK



At the start of March, some of our Year 8 pupils gathered on our annual retreat with pupils from St Augustine's High School. Over the three-day retreat, pupils enjoyed the wonderful weather, stunning scenery and took part in faith activities, that provided reflection and stillness. Pupils participated in Mass in the beautiful chapel at Castlerigg and enjoyed taking part in the readings, and singing the Year 8 hymn. Our final night was party night where pupils and staff had a great evening full of singing, dancing and new friendships.



YEAR 11 GCSE SPANISH SPEAKING

Well done to year 11 pupils in Spanish that have this week completed their GCSE Spanish speaking exams. ¡Bien hecho!



PILGRIMS OF HOPE RETREAT

On Friday April 4th, we hosted a Pilgrims of Hope retreat. St Bede's Prayer Leaders led the retreat, where we welcomed around 60 pupils from local primary schools. We reflected on what the Jubilee year meant to us, showcased our talents by watching our performing arts pupils sing songs from *Moana*, and created short liturgies, including designing our own anchors based on the theme of Pilgrims of Hope.



LIVERPOOL GCSE FIELDWORK

At the start of April, 110 Year 10 GCSE Geography pupils visited Liverpool City Centre to investigate the success of its urban regeneration. During the trip, students gathered data through questionnaires and environmental surveys.



A proud moment occurred when a member of the public praised the students for their politeness and professionalism during the questionnaire.



ICELAND GEOGRAPHY TRIP 2025



In March, a group of fantastic Year 10 pupils set off on an unforgettable adventure to Iceland, led by Mr Palmer and supported by Mr Lloyd and Mrs Wilson. During the trip, students explored the dramatic landscapes of the south coast and the famous Golden Circle, bringing their classroom learning to life. Highlights included witnessing volcanic features, tectonic activity, and stunning coastal landforms up close. Our pupils were a credit to the school throughout – showing curiosity, enthusiasm, and excellent behaviour every step of the way.



PERSONAL STUDY PERFECTION!

Well done to Julian (Year 8) who completed an amazing piece of research on the Porito Moreno Glacier.



INDOOR ATHLETICS

Well Done to our Year 7 & 8 indoor athletics teams who represented Blackburn with Darwen. Special mention to our Year 7 boys who finished 2nd in Lancashire!



YEAR 9 – IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

This term, students in Year 9 have been making links between the Year of Jubilee theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope' and the Holocaust Memorial Day theme for 2025 of 'For a better future'. The students who produced excellent pieces of work in this project were then invited to a trip to Imperial War Museum North where students really enjoyed creating their own historical documentaries.



YEAR 8 – LEEDS ARMORIES

Year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Leeds Armouries where they created their own museum exhibits, a particular highlight was a re-enactment of Medieval sword fighting!



CAREERS

YEAR 9 & 10 VISIT DURHAM UNIVERSITY FOR SCIENCE FESTIVAL

A group of our Year 9 and 10 pupils recently visited **Durham University** for their annual **Science Festival**— a day filled with exciting discoveries and hands-on STEM activities.

Students took part in interactive workshops, explored cutting-edge technology like robotics and VR, and heard inspiring talks from university researchers. The visit offered a fantastic glimpse into university life and sparked real enthusiasm for science.

Well done to all the pupils for representing the school so brilliantly!



BURNLEY COLLEGE INSPIRES ST BEDE'S PUPILS TO DREAM BIG ABOUT THEIR FUTURE CAREERS

Burnley College has been working closely with Year 9 pupils from St Bede's to spark ambition and open their eyes to the exciting possibilities that lie ahead. Through a series of engaging workshops, hands-on sessions, and inspirational talks, students have been exploring a wide range of future career paths.

From science and technology, to creative industries and public services, the sessions are designed to give pupils a real insight into the world of work — and the skills they'll need to thrive. The aim is simple: to boost confidence, ignite ambition, and help young people make informed choices about their futures.

With Burnley College's support and guidance, St Bede's pupils are already taking the first steps toward careers they're passionate about — and the future is looking bright.

YEAR 8 EXPLORES THE WILD AT CHESTER ZOO

In March, the science department took 120 Year 8 pupils on an educational trip to Chester Zoo. The visit aimed to enhance the students' understanding of animal biology and conservation efforts. During the day, pupils explored various enclosures, observed a wide range of species up close, and took part in interactive workshops led by zoo staff based on evolution.



The trip provided a hands-on learning experience that complemented their classroom studies, and the students returned with a greater appreciation for wildlife. The day was both enjoyable and informative, leaving a lasting impression on everyone involved.

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2025

In March, Year 7 and 8 pupils took a break from their regular science topics to participate in British Science Week. With the theme "Adapt and Change", students engaged in activities like designing whirly birds, creating timers using chemical reactions, and developing animals adapted to various environments.



The week concluded with a fun competition where pupils made models of aliens from distant planets, explaining how they had adapted to life there. The entries were fantastic, and prizes were awarded in every class.

SPRING TERM REWARDS

Students received awards for their exceptional behaviour for learning this term. The Top 25 students were rewarded for having the most positive Bede points and continually being the best version of themselves.



SOLAR ECLIPSE 2025

In anticipation of the solar eclipse on 29th March, the science department gave out 200 pairs of solar eclipse glasses to students for outstanding work in class. This allowed students to safely view the partial solar eclipse, a rare event in the UK. The next partial eclipse won't be until August 2026, making this a special opportunity for those who participated.

PUPILS EXCEL IN ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

On Friday 28th March, Burnley College hosted a Design Technology competition for local high school students, featuring hands-on engineering challenges.

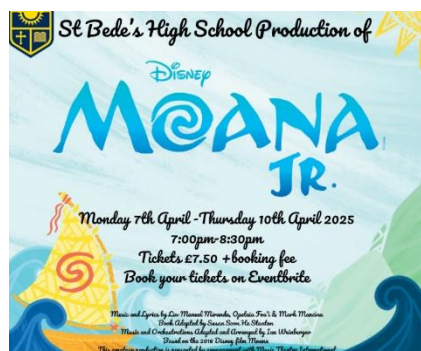
Twelve Year 10 students from St. Bede's competed in teams of four, tackling tasks such as building a bridge, creating a catapult, and designing a balloon-powered car. The challenges were judged on teamwork, design, aesthetics, and build quality. St. Bede's teams excelled, with one team securing second place and another third.



The event allowed students to apply their Design Technology knowledge in a competitive setting, and ended with a tour of Burnley College's engineering facilities, offering insight into life after St. Bede's.

ST BEDE'S BRINGS MOANA TO LIFE ON STAGE

The school production of *Moana* was a spectacular showcase of talent, creativity, and teamwork, captivating audiences from start to finish. The pupils poured their hearts into every performance, bringing the characters to life with energy and passion.



From the vibrant costumes to the stunning set design, the production was enthralling. The cast's dedication, combined with the hard work of the staff, made for a truly unforgettable experience. With standout performances and an inspiring story of courage and self-discovery, the school's *Moana* production was a resounding success, leaving everyone eagerly anticipating the next creative endeavour!



YEAR 9 ARTISTS

Year 9 have been exploring a range of new contemporary Artists as part of the curriculum. Jim Phillips is a renowned American artist, known for his distinctive illustration style. Phillips is best known for his work on skateboard graphics, especially his design for the "Screaming Hand" logo, which became one of the most recognizable skateboard graphics of all time.

Inspired by his work, pupils recreated some of his pieces, and their efforts caught Phillips' attention—he was so impressed that he shared their artwork on his Instagram page!



CHESS SKILLS ON SHOW AT ST BEDE'S

This week at St Bede's, students gathered for the exciting final of the school chess competition. After several challenging rounds and impressive displays of strategy and concentration, Jacob was crowned champion. His calm approach and clever tactics helped him secure a well-earned victory in the final match. A big congratulations to Jacob, and well done to all the students who took part and made the competition such a success!



YOUR CHILD'S SCREEN TIME

Know the risks, and what you can do to help keep your child safe.

Spending time online and on devices can be a positive thing, especially for educational use. However, high levels of screen time can put your child at greater risk of:

- Being bullied online
- Abuse and grooming (when someone builds a relationship with a child to exploit or abuse them)
- Seeing inappropriate content
- Not getting enough sleep and exercise
- Disruption to learning and studying
- Negative effects on mental wellbeing

While it may be tempting to ban devices altogether, this also has some risks, as it can:

- Cause children to keep any screen time a secret, making it more difficult for them to seek help with bullying, harmful content or potential grooming
 - Make children more prone to grooming, as abusers could offer them a 'secret' device
 - Slow technology skill development. Technology is part of everyday life, and teaching children how to benefit from it can help prepare them for the future and develop online safety skills
- Block access to resources that could be beneficial, such as educational apps or websites

4 steps you can take to protect your child

- 1) Set parental controls on devices
- 2) Agree rules on screen time
- 3) Talk to your child about staying safe online
- 4) Encourage off-screen activities

How to set up parent controls

Microsoft devices (Windows computers and Xbox)

- Getting started with Microsoft Family Safety: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/account-billing/getting-started-with-microsoft-family-safety-b6280c9d-38d7-82ff-0e4f-a6cb7e659344>
- Family-friendly gaming for everyone, Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

iPads and iPhones

- Use parental controls on your child's iPhone or iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Android phones

- Manage devices, apps and screen time: <https://support.google.com/families/topic/7336331>
- Get started with Family Link: <https://support.google.com/families/answer/7101025?hl=en>

Fire Tablet

- Set up parental controls on your Fire Tablet: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/help/customer/display.html?nodeId=GG2LBLEF5V2T8XUX8>

PlayStation

- How to set up family accounts on PSN: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/playstation-family-account-set-up/>
- How to set up parental controls on PlayStation consoles: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>
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Nintendo Switch

- Nintendo Switch parental controls: <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>
- Nintendo Switch support pages: <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Search/Search-299117.html?f=147397-3958-143-42>
- How to set Nintendo eShop restrictions: <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Support/Nintendo-Switch/How-to-Set-Nintendo-eShop-Restrictions-1406403.html>