



SUMMER 2025

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



I hope you will all enjoy reading our summer newsletter which concludes another busy and successful year at St Bede's, culminating in our Jubilee Celebration event today. As we head into the summer holiday I would like to thank everyone across our school community for their numerous and invaluable contributions throughout this academic year.

As always, there is a hint of sadness as we say goodbye to our departing Year 11 pupils, whilst at the same time there is excitement at the prospect of welcoming our new Year 7 pupils in September. I would like to thank all the staff for making the Leavers' Assembly, School Prom and our Transition days so successful and worthwhile.

Can I also thank everyone who made our uniform recycling afternoon on Saturday morning such a successful event. Donations are always welcome and can be dropped off at school at any time.

If any parent, carer or member of the local parish would be interested in becoming a Foundation Governor of St Bede's, please refer to the link below. Should this be of interest and you would like further details please contact Mrs Dudgeon early in the new academic year.

<https://www.stbedesblackburn.com/job-vacancies/>

I am sure everyone would like to join me in thanking our departing staff, Mrs Patel, Mr. Calderbank, Mr. Mottram, Mrs. Mizon and Mrs Buckley, for their dedicated service to St Bede's and to wish them all the very best for the future.

Finally, on behalf of the Governors, staff and myself, can I wish every family a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday.

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

Monday 1st September – Teacher training day – school closed

Tuesday 2nd September – School reopens

Tuesday 23rd September – Be Recognised Awards night

Thursday 2nd October – Open Evening

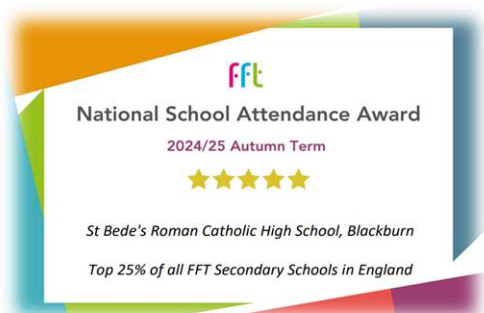
Friday 3rd October – Teacher training day – school closed

Friday 24th October – School closes for Autumn half term

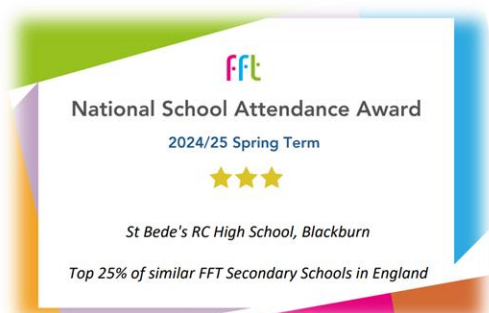


**“Everything is possible for
one who believes” Mark 9:23**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Attendance continues to be a focus in ensuring our pupils are learning, safe and in a healthy routine. This year, we received recognition awards for being in the top 25% of similar schools in England for both the Autumn and Spring terms.



PRIMARY TO SECONDARY TRANSITION



We welcomed Year 6 pupils for 2 exciting Induction Days in July. We look forward to them starting their St Bede's journey in September.



UNIFORM RECYCLING EVENT



Our annual uniform recycling event continues to be a huge success. Thank you for your generous donations. The uniform donation container is in the school reception throughout the year.



SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENT



We welcomed families from our school community for afternoon tea, led by our student Guardians & Prefects. This event brought together students and their families for a joyful morning. Our guests enjoyed a variety of delicious teas, freshly baked scones, finger sandwiches, and sweet treats. It was a wonderful opportunity for our community to connect and celebrate the end of the school year in a friendly atmosphere. We look forward to hosting more gatherings like this in the future!



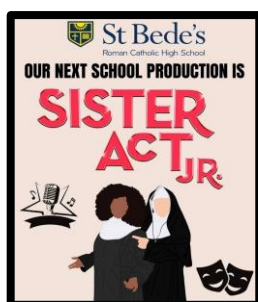
MALHAM FIELDTRIP



Our Year 8 students recently enjoyed an exciting and educational trip to Malham as part of their year 8 Geography studies. The visit gave pupils the opportunity to explore the stunning Yorkshire Dales landscape, including impressive landforms such as the limestone pavement at Malham Cove and the dramatic Gordale Scar. As well as taking in the natural beauty of the area, students investigated the impacts of tourism on the local environment and community, weighing up both the benefits and challenges it brings. To support their study, pupils carried out a questionnaire to collect data from visitors. Well done to all pupils on a fantastic visit!

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

St Bede's next school production has been announced as *Sister Act JR*! This lively and heart-warming musical tells the story of a disco diva who finds herself in a convent, where she helps the choir discover their voices and brings the whole community together. With show-stopping songs and plenty of hilarious moments, *Sister Act JR* promises to be a fantastic experience for all ages. Ask the Drama and Music staff for information about auditions — you won't want to miss it!



CLASS OF 2025



The Class of 2025 celebrated their much-anticipated prom in style with an unforgettable evening full of fun, music, and memories to last a lifetime. Held at Shaw Hill, students arrived dressed to impress, showcasing their unique styles and elegant outfits. The prom was the perfect way for the Class of 2025 to come together and celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to our Class of 2025!

LAUDATO SI' CENTRE



A group of students recently visited the Laudato Si' Centre in Salford, where they took part in a range of engaging and educational activities. The visit included participation in forest school sessions, allowing students to connect with nature through hands-on outdoor learning. They also explored a variety of vegetables and flowers, learning about plant life and sustainable gardening practices. In addition, the students engaged in meaningful discussions on recycling and caring for the environment, reflecting the Centre's mission to promote ecological awareness and action, in line with the principles of Laudato Si'.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE AWARD



Thirty-three of our pupils successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award expedition in the nearby West Pennine Moors. Over the course of two challenging days, they demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and determination as they navigated through tough terrain in hot weather. Despite the demanding environment and tricky navigation, all participants showed great perseverance and a positive attitude throughout. A huge well done to everyone involved!

INTERESTED IN AN ADDITIONAL GCSE TO SPANISH?



If you are in Year 9 or 10 and have prior knowledge of another language, you may be eligible to take this further at GCSE. Please contact the Spanish department to explore this opportunity.

THE SENSORY GARDEN – GROWING STRONG!



The Sensory Garden is now making excellent progress. The outdoor classroom has been developed, providing a dedicated space for hands-on learning and reflection in nature. In addition, the greenhouse area has been completed and is ready to support a variety of planting and growing projects. We are now welcoming **plant donations**, which would be greatly appreciated as we continue to grow this inspiring space for all to enjoy.



ST BEDE'S IS AN ART SCHOOL

The KS3 Art curriculum covers a wide range of exciting and innovative contemporary artists! Mr. Baxendale is sharing lots of our pupils' work online, which the artists are then reposting! Follow @stbedesart



GCSE FOOD & NUTRITION

We're excited to introduce GCSE AQA Food and Nutrition in the next academic year for our first KS4 cohort, and we're thrilled by the strong interest already shown by our pupils. The high uptake reflects their enthusiasm for gaining practical skills and a deeper understanding of nutrition, food science, and healthy living. This course will not only support their academic development but also empower them with valuable life skills, setting them up for success both in and out of the classroom. We can't wait to see what our pupils achieve.

SUMMER SHOWCASE 2025

The school's summer showcase featured an impressive line-up of musical performances, where pupils showcased their skills on various instruments and vocal talents. From solo pieces to full band performances, the event celebrated the dedication and growth of each young performer. Families and staff gathered to applaud the pupils' hard work, making the evening a memorable celebration of music and community.



AN UNFORGETTABLE WIMBLEDON ADVENTURE FOR YEAR 7 AND 8 PUPILS!



Forty enthusiastic Year 7 and 8 pupils recently enjoyed an unforgettable two-day trip to Wimbledon and London, arriving just in time for the hottest day ever recorded at the tournament! Despite the heat, their behaviour was outstanding throughout.

They spent an exhilarating day courtside on Court 2, soaking up the atmosphere of world-class tennis. The adventure continued in London with visits to iconic landmarks such as Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament, plus a fascinating trip to the Natural History Museum. A huge well done to all pupils for their enthusiasm and conduct — two inspiring days filled with lasting memories!

EDUCATIONAL VISITS –

A BUSY TERM OF ENRICHMENT

This term has been packed with exciting educational visits that have enriched our pupils' learning and personal development.

Year 7 visited Whalley Abbey for a day of reflection as part of our Catholic Life programme, while Year 8 enjoyed a retreat at Pantasaph. Year 10 explored future pathways with a taster day at Runshaw College.

Residential highlights included the Year 10 London trip, featuring a West End show and Harry Potter World, and a Wimbledon visit for Years 7 and 8 to experience world-class tennis. Meanwhile, Years 9 and 10 visited the WW1 battlefields in Belgium, bringing their History curriculum to life.

A huge thank you to staff for making these memorable opportunities possible.

EXCITING NEWS – SPANISH TRIP TO ANDALUCÍA, 2026!



We're thrilled to announce the return of our Spanish trip to Andalucía, Spain, in 2026! This enriching experience is being run in collaboration with the Food and Nutrition department. Full details are available in the Class Charts announcement for Year 8 and Year 9 students.

LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY TRIP

Pupils from Year 10 took part in a visit to Liverpool Hope University. They went on a guided taster day of the university campus and also had the opportunity to attend a lecture on Theology.

TOWN SPORT ATHLETICS DAY: A DAY OF OUTSTANDING TALENT AND TEAM SPIRIT!



Our pupils had an amazing day at the Town Sports Athletics Day, showing incredible determination and athletic ability. Both our girls' and boys' teams delivered fantastic performances, demonstrating speed, skill, and true sportsmanship.

We're proud to share that both teams placed 1st in their respective categories, making St Bede's the overall champions of the event!

Congratulations to all our athletes for their outstanding achievements and for representing the school with such pride. It was a brilliant celebration of talent, teamwork, and competitive spirit — we can't wait to see what our pupils achieve next!

ST BEDE'S TAKES A STAND AGAINST SINGLE-USE PLASTIC



From now on, St Bede's will no longer sell single-use plastic water bottles at lunchtime as part of our commitment to reducing plastic waste and protecting the environment.

To support this initiative, the **School Council** will provide every student with their own 400ml reusable water bottle in September. We encourage everyone to use these bottles daily and help make our school more sustainable.

LEARNING HUB - SPORTING SUCCESS



Our Learning Hub proudly hosted its first-ever Sports' Day, a fantastic celebration of the many talents within our school community. Students came together in the spirit of teamwork, determination, and fun, showcasing not only their athletic skills but also their enthusiasm and school pride. It was a day filled with energy & encouragement!

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE



A huge thank you to all the amazing organisations who welcomed our pupils — 124 students had a fantastic and rewarding work experience thanks to your support! Your generosity, time, and guidance made a real difference. We truly appreciate your partnership and look forward to working with you again in the future!

Pupils in school took part in an exciting week of virtual work experience, thanks to the incredible support of the British Army, the NHS, and EDF Energy. These opportunities gave our students a valuable insight into the world of work, and we're so grateful for the time and effort each organisation invested in making it such a meaningful experience.

HOLIDAYS AND CHALLAH TRIP

A group of Year 10 pupils were selected under the 'Be a Scholar' scheme to visit the Manchester Jewish Museum. They toured a former Spanish and Portuguese synagogue, made their own Challah bread, learnt about the importance of the Passover festival and experienced a Seder meal.

INTERFAITH GUEST SPEAKERS

Two guest speakers from the Christian and Muslim faith came into school for a visit from the 'Building Bridges' project in Burnley. They spoke to Year 7 about their faith and the impact it has on their lives.

INTERFAITH WEEK TRIP

A group of Year 8 and 9 pupils went to the Guardian Angels Parish Centre in Bury. Along with other schools, they took part in Interfaith week activities which involved listening to and questioning guest speakers from the six main World Religions.

LADY GRENFELL BAINES- HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

Lady Grenfell Baines (MBE) visited our school to speak to Year 9 pupils about her testimony of Holocaust survival. She spoke about her experience of the Kindertransport and Sir Nicholas Winton.



LINKING CLASSROOMS

Pupils from 7SA took part in Linking Classrooms activities with their peers from Pleckgate High School. 7SA spent time in RE lessons writing and exchanging postcards with Year 7 pupils from Pleckgate. When the Pleckgate pupils came into school for the afternoon, 7SA finally met their pen pals and participated in team building exercises, quizzes and ice breaker sessions.

EXPERIENCES IN HISTORY

It has been a busy and exciting term across the History department. Year 7 students have completed a fascinating local history homework project on the History of Lancashire, with some excellent work produced — including the incredible examples shown in the picture below — a particular highlight being the fantastic model of Darwen Tower. A group of students were also invited to visit the historic Chirk Castle in Wales to enrich their understanding of the topic.



POETRY IN MOTION

Some of our Year 10s had the pleasure of a visit from Father Brian, who performed some of his most loved works of poetry and shared some of his own poems too, based around his experiences both close by and afar! Students participated in conversations about the poems, sharing their own personal responses.

COMIC CLUB

Every Friday lunchtime, a group of creative students have gathered for Comic Club, where imaginations have certainly run wild. In this fun and friendly space, members have been designing their very own comic books — sketching characters, writing storylines, and adding bold colors to their panels. With each week, the students' comics have grown more detailed and exciting, proving that lunchtime can be a perfect time for creativity to shine.

YEAR 10 LONDON TRIP

Year 10 recently enjoyed an exciting English trip to London, packed with unforgettable literary and cultural experiences. The adventure began with a visit to the magical universe of *Harry Potter* at Warner Bros. Studio Tour, walking through sets like Diagon Alley and the Great Hall. The group also stepped into the iconic Globe Theatre, where students explored Shakespeare's world and learned how his plays were brought to life in the past, participating in a *Macbeth* workshop. A major highlight was a night at the West End to see the spectacular musical *Hamilton*, which left everyone inspired by its powerful storytelling and music. Alongside these, students visited famous tourist sites such as the London Eye, Buckingham Palace, and Trafalgar Square, making the trip both educational and memorable.



KS3 HISTORY – SILK ROADS

In class, Year 7 have started a new unit on the Silk Roads, inspired by the work of historian Peter Frankopan. Year 8 students have been delving into the rich and complex history of the Indian Empires, while Year 9 have been studying key developments in British politics during the 20th century. Year 10 students have now completed their in-depth study of the First World War and have begun a new unit on the USA from 1920–73, focusing on themes of opportunity and inequality.



ASYLUM AND REFUGEE CENTRE VISIT



This term, a group of our drama pupils had the incredible opportunity to visit the Asylum and Refugee Centre (ARC) as part of Refugee Week. Students created and performed a powerful drama piece titled *Life of a Refugee*, which poignantly explored the refugee crisis.

The pupils' hard work, empathy, and talent truly shone throughout the performance, moving the audience deeply. The response was overwhelming, with tears, standing ovations, and enthusiastic calls for an encore, which we were delighted to deliver!

Councillor Jacqueline Slater, Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen praised OUR students' efforts, saying: *"The children have been wonderful. The older generation is more resentful, but the younger generation understands and accepts differences."*

Wishing all our school community a happy and safe Summer.

