



*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

### 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

April is generally regarded as Autism Acceptance month. 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. Time to Talk - is their face-to-face monthly post diagnostic support group at The Toby Henderson Trust in Bedlington. See the website for further support services <https://www.ttht.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. Please see attached flyer for dates and locations.

### Safeguarding during school holidays

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and support with safeguarding throughout this term. Over the Easter holidays, to help support the wellbeing of your child, please remember that there are links to useful websites and resources on our safeguarding page on the school website:  
<https://www.st-benetbiscop.org.uk/safeguarding>.

If you have any concerns at all about a child or an adult please contact OneCall on 01670 536400 or use the following link if you have concerns about a young person

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Safeguarding/What-can-I-do-if-I-suspect-a-child-or-young-person.aspx#worriedaboutachild-reportyourconcerns>

For wellbeing support please access The Wellbeing Hub <https://teentips.co.uk/club/> and also Kooth as valued resources <https://www.kooth.com>

### Community Police update

The Bedlington Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) had been made aware of repeated incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), including fires being set alight, in Gallagher Park, Bedlington. This is a message direct from our police colleagues:

You may be aware that over the weekend, we had a Dispersal Order in place covering the whole of the park. This Order was in effect for the maximum time period that the law allows. Police need to balance the ability of people to move freely in the area with the need to keep people safe and limit nuisance caused upon others, so considerations regarding putting a Dispersal Order in place have to be proportionate, well thought out and supported with clear evidence of an ongoing issue.

With the Order in effect and with dedicated high visibility patrols, both on foot and on bicycle, we are pleased to inform you that there were no reported incidents of ASB within the park over the weekend.

The team will continue to monitor the situation as time progresses. We will take robust action against any individuals identified as causing issue. We would urge users of the park and local residents to report any issues of ASB by:

- visiting the force website [here](#),
- by visiting the public enquiry counter at Bedlington Police Station on Schalksmuhle Road which is open daily between 9am-5pm,
- by calling the non-emergency number '101'.

In the event of an emergency or if something is happening there and then, contact Police by calling '999'.

In the event of any fires set alight, please also contact Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service via '999' providing as detailed a location as possible (via the use of [What3Words](#) preferably).



## Dates and events

### Parent Events

**Wednesday 07 May 2025**

Year 7 Parents Evening – Online (information to follow)

### Student Events

**Tuesday 29 April 2025**

Return to School

**Week commencing 29 April 2025**

Year 10 Trial Exams Begin

GCSE & GCE Exams Begin

Year 11 Art Practical Exam

Year 13 French & Spanish Speaking Exams

**Week commencing 06 May 2025**

Year 10 Trial Exams Continued

GCSE & GCE Exams Continued

Year 13 Art Practical Exam



### School Show wows the audiences

Last week saw the long awaited return of the annual Performing Arts department school show - "Grease". A culmination of over 180 hours of rehearsal, our cast of almost 100 students took to the stage and wowed audiences at all 6 sell-out shows. The breath-taking talent and energy displayed was a joy to behold as evidenced by the glowing reviews, not just from proud parents and staff, but from visitors to the school who were stunned at the enthusiasm and enjoyment evident in every aspect of the production. This was a great chance to see our students live out their values. RISING Up and Shining with every dance step, note and line delivered!



### 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>



## Theme of the week

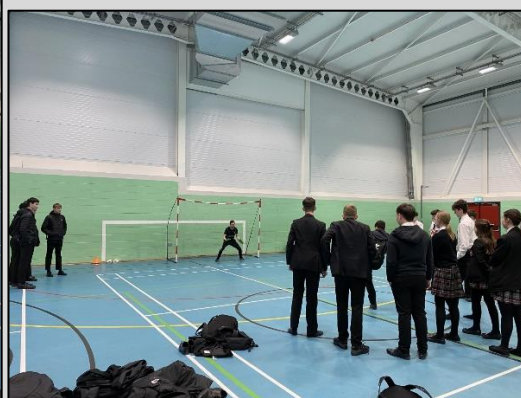
This week, we reflected on the theme of adventure, particularly how it connects to our journey through Lent. Life itself is an adventure, and in this season of Lent, we are invited to embrace the challenges and opportunities that come with drawing closer to God. It is an adventure of faith, learning, and transformation, where every sacrifice, prayer, and act of service helps us grow into the people God created us to be. Lent calls us to step out in trust, to seek renewal, and to embrace the path that leads us closer to God's love and purpose for our lives.

## Carlo Acutis Relic

Some of our RE classes took part in the live stream from St Michael's Church on Friday 28 March to witness the visit of the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis. The students found the experience deeply powerful and moving, as they joined in prayer and reflection alongside pupils from St Michael's and St Teresa's Catholic Primary Schools. The relic is a piece of Carlo Acutis' pericardium, a part of the tissue surrounding his heart, which has been venerated across the world as a reminder of his holiness. Carlo Acutis was a young Italian teenager who used his love of technology to spread the message of the Eucharist and the beauty of the Catholic faith before his death from leukaemia at just 15 years old. He is often referred to as the first "Millennial Saint" and continues to inspire young people to live their faith with passion and courage.

## Lent Fundraising

Throughout Lent, we have come together as a school community to fundraise for CAFOD as part of our almsgiving efforts. Each form class has taken on a unique fundraiser, and most have exceeded their targets. The fundraising activities have been diverse, ranging from football events like penalty shootouts against staff and interform football matches, to cake sales, "guess the name of the bunny" competitions, Easter egg hunts, quizzes, raffles, and many more creative initiatives. Thanks to everyone's hard work and generosity, we have raised hundreds of pounds for this worthy cause, and the final total will be confirmed after Easter. It's been an inspiring display of teamwork and charity, and we're proud of what we've achieved together.



## Easter liturgy crosses

Throughout Lent, all the form groups came together in their classes to create a cross for our Easter liturgy. It was amazing to see everyone contribute their ideas and efforts, with each group adding their unique touch. As the crosses took shape, it became a beautiful symbol of our collective effort, creativity, and unity. When revealed during the Easter liturgy, the crosses stood as a powerful reminder of the strength of our community and the beauty of working together toward a shared goal.





### Film Night

This week we held a film night at our school where we watched 'The Letter: A message for our Earth.' Our Chaplain and Head of RE had worked closely with the St Benet Biscop Partnership Development Group to plan this event, as a follow-up event to the Environmental Morning the local parish held back in October. The film highlighted the importance of taking action on climate change, inspired by Pope Francis' call to care for our planet. After the film, we enjoyed some delicious biscuits made by our catering team while chatting about all the things we can do to help fight climate change.

### Cloud Singh

This week our 6th formers had a guest speaker in their Core RE lesson, called Cloud Singh. He gave an insightful talk on Sikhism, including the key aspects of the faith and its practices. After his talk, he had a full Q&A session, answering all the thoughtful questions the students had prepared during registration with their form teachers. The students thoroughly enjoyed the session, finding it both fun and inspiring.



### Sponsored Silence

10B have been very busy this week collecting sponsorship pledges for their Lenten fundraising activity. Three members of the form will be rising up to the challenge of staying silent from 8.45-3.15 on Monday. Their peers (and staff) have pledged an incredible amount so far in sponsorship.

The form had a practice today and showed they are determined to support CAFOD, knowing how vital the charity's work is to vulnerable communities around the world.

### Pi Day raises £100 for Cafod

On Friday 14th March we celebrated Pi Day at St Benet Biscop through a range of activities. Students were challenged to recall as many digits of the mathematical constant Pi as possible. The top two students were Daisy W (9S) and Freddie W (10T), who recalled 104 and 81 digits, respectively. The winners got the lucrative prize of putting a pie in Mr Smailes' and Mr Feeney's faces. Special mention to Olivia W (8T), Molly M (7C) Eve M (13I) and Jake P (7T) who all recited over 60 digits of Pi. It was great to see so many students across key stages getting involved. As staff, we celebrated Pi Day with a bake sale, which raised £100 for CAFOD. Thank you to everyone who got involved!





## Sixth Form Touch Rugby Tournament

Our 6th Form Sport Students headed to the annual regional touch rugby tournament on a sunny day at the end of March. T1 rugby is a new touch version of the game and is designed to encourage new entrants to the game whilst incorporating some of the traditional elements such as scrums (in a non-contested form).

We entered a Year 13 team (this was their second year of competing as they had also played in Year 12) and a Year 12 team. Despite not having previous experience the Year 12 started the most strongly. In attack, they scored try after try, using both space out wide and kicking in behind to beat the opposition. However, the Year 13s grew steadily in to the tournament and Ewan Ogden deserves credit for closing down opposition attacks and for organising our defensive line.

Our students displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Some of their interplay and support of each other was of really high quality. The following players were awarded players of the tournament:

Year 12 boy: Dan MacDonald

Year 12 girl: Ellie Brown

Year 13 boy: Nate Pink

Year 13 girl: Niamh Lamb



## Bedlington Air Cadets Visit School Assemblies

Last week, students in Years 8, 9, and 10 had the exciting opportunity to hear from representatives of the 2522 (Bedlington) Squadron of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets during their assemblies. The cadets shared an engaging presentation about the wide range of activities and opportunities available through the organisation, inspiring many students to consider joining.

The Air Cadets offer young people aged 12 to 17 the chance to take part in a variety of enriching experiences including flying and gliding, target shooting, adventure training, STEM and space activities, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Through these programs, cadets develop skills in leadership, teamwork, and discipline, all while having fun and building friendships.

Meetings take place on Monday and Thursday evenings from 6:45 to 9:30 PM at their headquarters on Waverley Drive, Bedlington (NE22 5HD). It's a great way for students to challenge themselves, grow in confidence, and explore potential careers in aviation and beyond. For more information or to get involved, families can contact the squadron by emailing [OC.2522@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:OC.2522@rafac.mod.gov.uk)

**2522 (BEDLINGTON) SQUADRON**  
**AIR CADETS**  
**JOIN US**  
#REACHINGFORTHESTARS

FLYING & GLIDING  
CLIMBING  
TARGET SHOOTING  
STEM & SPACE  
DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

AGED BETWEEN  
**12-17**

**2522 (BEDLINGTON) Squadron**  
MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS 6:45-9:30PM  
ATC HQ, Waverley Drive,  
Bedlington,  
NE22 5HD  
Email us : [OC.2522@rafac.mod.gov.uk](mailto:OC.2522@rafac.mod.gov.uk)

**ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS**  
the next generation



### **Year 9 students win enterprise challenge at St James Park**

7 Year 9 students have been working on an Enterprise project with Newcastle Foundation. This enterprise project started with a visit to Newcastle university where the project was launched and our students were split into two groups. Today their hard work paid off! They pitched their presentation on University life and one of our groups one out of several schools. We are very proud of them truly living out their quest. The Newcastle foundation are also hoping to arrange a tour of St James' Park for them in the future.



### **Year 10 Work Experience - 19th to 23rd May 2025**

Thank you for your patience as we finalise work placements. The vast majority of students have already secured their placement. However, we still have students who have not finalised or found a placement. Any student without a work placement will be in school.

The Work Experience sign-up and management is completed through the Unifrog platform – [www.unifrog.org](http://www.unifrog.org) Unifrog is an excellent tool that allows students to explore and apply for opportunities, track their progress, and ensure they meet all necessary requirements.

To assist you in navigating this process, we have provided a video guide for parents that walks you through the steps of using Unifrog. You can find the guide at the following link and video: <https://www.unifrog.org/blog/unifrog-placements-tool-faqs>

#### How Does The Placements Tool Work?

The Placements tool is essentially a series of forms that have to be filled in one after another. Each time one is completed, the person who filled in the form gets a confirmation that they've done it, and the next person who needs to fill in a form gets an email notification. When (and how) should a student add a placement? To start the process on the Placements tool, the first step is for the student to add the placement to the tool. However, before adding a placement to the placements tool, the student should first agree their placement with the employer, for example by email or over the phone. When the student is ready to add the placement, they can find the Placements tool just like any other student tool, via a tile on their homepage:

After the student fills in the 'Student initial form' to get the ball rolling, the system automatically emails the employer inviting them to fill in the 'Employer initial form'. The employer must have agreed to the placement before this is filled in.

The employer details what the placement will consist of, and confirms Risk Assessment, Health & Safety, GDPR compliance, safeguarding, and insurance.

As soon as the employer marks the Employer initial form as complete, this form is emailed to the parent / carer. The Parent/carers agree for the placement to go ahead.

#### Some email tips:

All the forms are sent by email, so it's really important that everyone involved in a placement has the right email entered for them, and that everyone checks their email.

#### To help avoid issues:

- Unifrog shows each person involved everyone else's email addresses;
- If anyone involved says they aren't getting the automated emails that the system generates, they should check their junk folders, and add [noreply@unifrog.org](mailto:noreply@unifrog.org) to their safe sender list

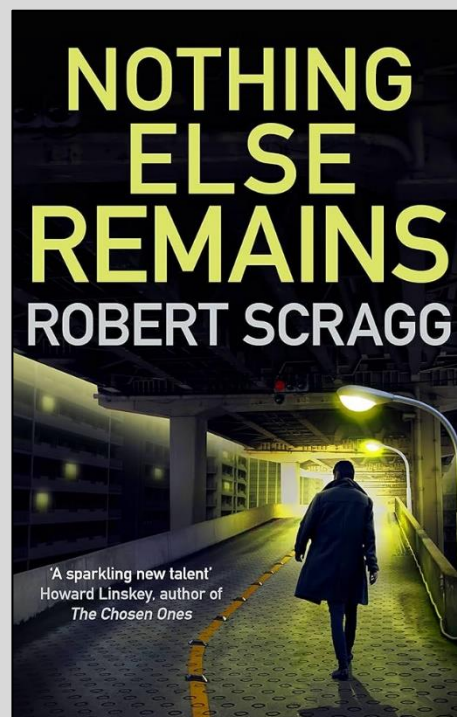
For further information and FAQ please have a look at the Placements Tool Guide in the Unifrog know how library. <https://www.unifrog.org/student/know-how/keywords/how-to-use-the-placements-tool>



## Learning

### Author Visit

On Thursday 3rd April, The Sunday Times bestselling, local author, Rob Scragg, visited school to talk to our A Level English Literature students, and some KS4 creative writing competition winners. The workshop was very informative and covered working as an author, as well as key elements of crime fiction. A big thank you to Rob for his time and expertise and thank you to Vic, director of the Bay Tales Crime Fiction Festival, for helping arrange the visit and for her generous prizes for our competition winners.



## VI Sixth Form

### Student Finance

Applications for Student Finance are now open. Please use the following link to find out more and to start your child's application. <https://www.gov.uk/get-undergraduate-student-loan>

It can take up to 6 weeks to process an application so please ensure that you submit the application in a timely fashion to ensure any student loans are in place ready for the start of your child's course.

### EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)

We have had a number of Year 13 students studying the EPQ this academic year, where they have devised their own project title. Last week this culminated in students presenting their project journey to an audience, where there was a live Q&A session as part of the presentation. During the course of the year, students have really demonstrated that they are resilient and disciplined learners where they have had to independently research their chosen topic. Among the titles were '*What influences have had the most significance on the cosmetic dentistry market in the UK?*', '*Is there a biological difference in education?*', '*LGBTQ+ representation in South Korean Film and TV*' as well as an artefact '*A silent horror film*'. It has been incredibly rewarding to see students develop the necessary skills ready for life beyond sixth form.

### UCAS Discovery Exhibition – Utilita Arena, Newcastle – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025

The UCAS Discovery Exhibition is due to take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025, where there will be a host of exhibitors, from universities, colleges, employers as well as apprenticeship providers to help support your child with their 'next steps' after sixth form. Further details as well as a booking form can be found using the following link: <https://www.ucas.com/registration/register/event/455906>

Your child will be required to register for the UCAS website (please ensure they use their personal email address rather than a school one) and they will be required to make their own way to and from the event. Parents/carers can accompany their child if they wish.



## **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](http://www.pem.cam.ac.uk/y12masterclasses)

### **Arts and Humanities Residential**

7 - 10 July 2025

[www.pem.cam.ac.uk/y12summerschool](http://www.pem.cam.ac.uk/y12summerschool)

### **Subject Taster Webinars**

Various May – June 2025

[www.pem.cam.ac.uk/yr12subjecttasters](http://www.pem.cam.ac.uk/yr12subjecttasters)

### **Open Days**

10 – 11 July and 12 September 2025

[www.pem.cam.ac.uk/open-days](http://www.pem.cam.ac.uk/open-days)

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