



Weekly Bulletin – 15 March 2024

As we continue our Lenten theme of 'Dust and Glory', this week we have focussed on how there are many times in life when we don't always get things right, but we have the ability to get up and try again. In the same way, we can keep following Jesus, even though we stumble along the way.

This Lent our school is taking part in The Big Lent Walk for CAFOD. This is a challenge to walk as far as we can over the 40 days of Lent and get sponsored to raise money to help people fighting extreme poverty globally. We can walk alone or with family and friends. On Tuesday, year 7 spent time walking a route around our school grounds, where they covered 2km each. Some of our students walked even further, as they joyfully speed walked past their peers, making the year 7 total just over 400km. Everyone was laughing and smiling the entire way around, as they felt like they were walking in solidarity with people in need, all over the world. We have set up a just giving page where you can easily donate money for this wonderful cause. Please click on this link to find our school fundraising page:

<https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-benet-biscop-catholic-academys-fundraising>

Northumberland Holiday Provision

Looking for fantastic activities during the holidays? Funding has been received in Northumberland by the Department of Education via Northumberland Communities Together which pledges to help families make their holidays fabulous! Further information can be found on their website:

<https://northumberlandholidayprovision.co.uk/>

Cost of Living Support

Support is available for all Northumberland residents, providing trusted advice and information, helping with the financial support available and bringing people together in their local communities to stay safe and well. Further information can be found at <https://beta.northumberland.gov.uk/support>

Crime Author

On Friday 8th March, local crime author, Trevor Wood, visited school to deliver a session on crime fiction. Trevor has written five crime fiction novels, set in Newcastle, and teaches creative writing courses across the North East.

The visit was planned as part of our World Book Day celebrations, and following up on our successful crime writing competition, held in December.

Trevor met a group of students from Year 9 – Year 13, some are in the North East Book Award reading group, others were the crime writing competition winners and the rest were sixth form literature students. Trevor delivered a very interactive session on story writing, thinking about narrative perspectives, plot development and characterisation. The students got to listen to Trevor talk about his interest in crime writing, and how he approaches writing, as well as the themes and ideas he enjoys exploring in his novels. The students were a credit to the school – listening attentively, asking questions and volunteering ideas. Trevor was delighted he came and was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the students he met.



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Sixth Form at St Benet Biscop

Durham University Supported Progression

Durham University were in school on Tuesday 12th March, talking to Year 12 about their Supported Progression scheme. The programme offers a range of residential and online opportunities, free of charge. Students who complete the scheme will benefit from a lower offer, if they apply to Durham. Students and parents can find out more on the Durham University website. And at: durham.ac.uk/supported.progression

The presentation can be accessed via the Sixth Form area of the school website and will be shared with parents via Parentmail.

Touch to Twickenham

Year 12 Sport students took part in the North East tournament at Touch to Twickenham at Billingham Rugby Club this Wednesday. Touch to Twickenham is a mixed gender, 8 aside, non-contact tournament that is designed to be an inclusive introduction to rugby. Our students, completely new to the game competed on the white pathway which is designed for beginners. As the day went on they grew in confidence. After losing the first two matches, they then drew the third before winning their final two matches. The team worked extremely well together and tries were scored by a wide range of students including Zack Rudd, Niamh Lamb, Aoife Howe, Brooke Ness, Ewan Ogdan and Nevaeh Barnes. As the players became more experienced they started playing some flowing rugby and Joshua Marshall, Harrison Legge, Matt Whalley, Nader Al Shaar, Zoe Robson, Grace Pringle and Lydia Appleby all contributed to the team effort to make tackles in defence and keep the ball alive in attack. Player of the Tournament was deservedly given to Pacy Timlin who didn't stop running, passed the ball well and kicked strategically. The tournament will also provide a case study example to the Y12 sport class for discussion in their Skill Acquisition and Anatomy & Physiology modules.



Community Help Hub

Run by Hope Church in Bedlington, the Hub runs its very own kids uniform and clothes bank. If parents/carers would like to donate at a time that the hub is not open, there are 2 blue wheelie bins behind the premises for donations. There is also a large white metal bin for adults clothing. Click [here](#) for more information.

North East Festival of Languages

Year 12 French and Spanish students enjoyed a trip to Northumbria University on Wednesday 13th March to participate in some languages sessions as part of the North East Festival of Languages running this month. Students were given the opportunity to practise their foreign languages by experiencing university-style learning and explore their options for further study of languages. Students engaged in a variety of both cultural and linguistic sessions, developing their language skills and knowledge of society in other countries. Students were thrilled to be able to put their language skills to use while engaging in sessions delivered entirely in their foreign language. The afternoon also included meeting some current fourth year students at Northumbria University and hearing them describe their exciting experiences studying languages abroad as part of their degree programme. Our sixth-form students were inspired listening to all of the wonderful opportunities gained by studying a language and some have even already begun to plan trips abroad to practise their language skills!

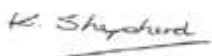
Curriculum Spotlight – Modern Foreign Languages

Mr Jones and Mrs Johnson are busy getting the Y11 students ready for their GCSE Spanish exams. The speaking exam is soon after Easter so not many weeks to go now. The students really impressed us in the mocks so we hope they will pull out all the stops in the real exam too. A reminder that if students want extra practise sessions they can arrange this with their class teacher.

Vocabulary learning is a really important skill when it comes to learning a language, so the MFL department have spent some lesson time recently teaching students how to revise and how to learn their vocabulary. Flashcards are a really effective revision tool and are an easy way for you to get involved and help your child to learn their vocabulary. You never know, you might even pick up the odd word or two yourself! Watching films and TV series in a foreign language is a great way to practise listening skills. Y8 have just watched the beautiful French film 'Belle et Sébastien' whilst they have been doing their speaking exams which they have really enjoyed. If you have Netflix or other streaming platform subscriptions, you can change the settings to add subtitles in French or Spanish to anything you're watching. The MFL department are always happy to give French and Spanish film recommendations too!

We are delighted to have students studying both French and Spanish in our sixth form this year. Studying a language at A Level, is incredibly rewarding and opens doors to so many further opportunities in the future. Our students seem to be relishing the challenge and enjoying the wide range of topics that they are able to study. We hope to welcome lots of our Y11s into our A Level Spanish class next year, and we are also delighted that so many Y9 students have opted to take Spanish next year for their GCSEs. ¡Qué emocionante!

Espero que tengan un buen fin de semana.



Mr K Shepherd
Headteacher