



*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

New School Blog

We are always looking for ways to celebrate our wonderful students and staff and communicate with you about all the opportunities and events in school that our students have to live out our values and “Rise up and Shine”. We have now set up a school blog. Please use this to find out more about what is going on in school.

<https://www.st-benetbiscop.org.uk/blog>



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).

<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. Please see attached flyer for dates and locations.



Dates and events

Parent Events

Thursday 13 February 2025 2.15 – 3.15pm

Parent drop-in session with Education Psychologist – supporting young people with anxiety
Jill Sandeman (Education Psychologist) will be in school to run a session on anxiety; why young people experience anxiety and how best to support them.

If you would like to attend, please register your expression of interest on the following form:

[Education Psychologist Drop in Session Interest Form](#)

Note - places will be allocated on first come first served basis, with a maximum of 20 places. The form closes on 7th February.

Student Events

Monday 3 February 2025

Year 11 and 13 trial exam week

Wednesday 5 February 2025

Baker Hughes STEM - Girls event

Friday 7 February 2025

Dickens' Day - Drop Everything and Read Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12

Wednesday 12 February 2025

Year 12 History Trip to Newcastle University

Monday 17 February 2025

Careers week



RISE – The St Benet Biscop Way

Year 10 Students involved with National research into Hygiene Poverty

Two charities, In Kind Direct and Children North East are carrying out research with children and young people aged 5-18 to help them to know what children and young people understand about Hygiene Poverty, and how it can affect some children and families. 5 of our year 10 students were involved in two sessions. It is hoped that their input will make policy makers aware of children and young peoples' views. It was a great example of Catholic Social Teaching in action.

Wellbeing hub

As a school 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 students, parents and staff free access to this valuable resource. Students all have log in details via their email.

This is the link to log in as a parent

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

This month's webinar link can be found here: [Healthy masculinity and relationships with Fredi Beard, Director of Operations at Voicebox, an organisation tackling unhealthy masculinity](#) - This takes place on Wednesday 12th February at 6:30 pm (GMT).



The theme for this week was 'forgiveness', which takes on special significance as Holocaust Memorial Day was on 27th January. This day honoured the millions of lives lost during the Holocaust, and serves as a reminder to combat hatred and intolerance. While forgiveness in the context of such atrocities may seem difficult, it remains vital for healing and moving forward. Forgiveness doesn't erase the past, but it helps release the burden of anger and resentment, offering a path to peace and reconciliation. As we remembered the Holocaust, we were reminded of the power of forgiveness in our own lives. Though it may be challenging, offering forgiveness can heal wounds, restore relationships, and help build a more compassionate world.



Holocaust Memorial Day

On Holocaust Memorial Day, all students watched in a virtual reflection that highlighted the significance of the day and the importance of remembering the atrocities of the Holocaust. In addition, some Year 9 form classes were given a deeply moving assembly, delivered by 6th form students who had recently visited Auschwitz. The students who had visited shared their personal experiences and insights from the trip, recounting the solemnity and profound impact of being in such a historic and tragic place. The assembly was powerful and emotional, leaving a lasting impression on the Year 9 students, as it not only educated them about the horrors of the Holocaust but also sparked a sense of responsibility to ensure such atrocities are never forgotten.



Year 9 Holocaust Memorial

This Monday marked Holocaust Memorial Day 2025 with the theme of "For a better future". Our Year 9 historians have been studying Nazi Germany and the Holocaust as part of their curriculum and spent time looking at how we remember and ensure these events can never happen again. As part of this students studied examples of Holocaust memorials from around Europe and designed their own. There was excellent work from the students who really connected with this task and produced some thought provoking pieces of work.





YR 13 Business Visit

Year 13 Business students recently welcomed Sarah Legge, founder of Maid to Butler, for an insightful talk on marketing. Sarah shared insights into key marketing concepts such as communication channels, unique selling



propositions (USPs), and target market strategies. She explained how Maid to Butler uses a mix of traditional methods like print ads and modern platforms like social media to reach its clientele. Sarah emphasised the importance of identifying a USP to stand out in a competitive market, highlighting her company's focus on luxury and personalised services. She also discussed the need for businesses to understand their target market and tailor their communication accordingly. The session provided students with practical examples of how these marketing strategies are applied in a real business setting, helping them better understand the dynamics of modern marketing.

Students left the session equipped with knowledge they can apply to their Marketing Communication assignment.

Year 10 Work Experience

Thank you for your patience as we finalise the details for the upcoming Work Experience programme. We understand that many of you have been eagerly awaiting further information, and we appreciate your understanding during this process.

The Work Experience sign-up and management will be completed through the Unifrog platform – 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/carer agrees for the placement to go ahead.

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>

We hope this helps clarify the process and we are confident that using Unifrog will make the work experience planning smooth and efficient for both students and parents alike.



Learning

Y7 Mini Lava Lamps

Students in Mr. Pollard's Science class have been exploring the concept of density. To model this principle, they created mini lava lamps using effervescent tablets, food colouring, and oil. The students demonstrated a clear understanding of the science behind the activity, effectively linking the behaviour of the lava lamps to differences in density. Additionally, they showcased vibrant and creative colour combinations, with standout examples produced by Joshua, Lucy, and Abigail.



Paired Reading

The Sixth Form Paired Reading programme has started this week, and students in Year 7 and 8 have been buddied up with a Year 12 or 13 student to read once a week. This provides students with an invaluable opportunity to read in school and also helps build relationships with the older students.



St Benet Biscop Dickens Day – Friday 7th February

Charles Dickens is one of Britain's most famous novelists and for good reason. He published 15 novels, a host of short stories and essays all whilst being the editor of his own newspaper. 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Oliver Twist' have been adapted into stage and film and translated into over 150 different languages. Next Friday would have been his birthday, so we are celebrating the achievements of this author by hosting St Benet Biscop's very first 'Dickens Day'.

There are a number of activities throughout the week including a KS3 writing competition, dramatic readings of some of his most famous scenes performed by teachers and on Friday the school will be taking part in a 'Drop Everything and Read' activity where the whole school will be reading one of Dickens short stories and exploring the themes within it. We look forward to sharing photos after the event.

VI Sixth Form



Congratulations to our Year 13 Peer Mentors

Our Year 13 Peer Mentor team received their AQA Unit Award Scheme certificates last week. The certificates acknowledge the work our mentors have done, as well as the training they have completed in mentoring and safeguarding. The mentors have had a phenomenal impact on the school community, especially those they've worked closely with, and we are very proud of their achievement. It is entirely voluntary, and their commitment has been tremendous to see.

Year 13 UCAS applications

Those Year 13 students planning on university next year have now completed their university applications and are receiving offers. We wish them all the very best in their applications and in their preparations for the next step in their education.

Year 13 Trial Exams

Year 13 trial exams are underway. We wish our Year 13 students all the very best in this assessment period. Trial exams are a vital way to assess progress and potential outcomes in the summer, as well as providing a chance for students to experience tests in exam conditions. It is also a very good reason to start revision and we'd urge all Year 13 students to continue to revise during and after these assessments, to give themselves the best chance of success in the summer exams. Guidance on planning and managing revision can be found here: [Year 13 Revision Support](#)

Cambridge University - Opportunities for Year 12

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

Subject Masterclasses

5th - 12th April 2025

www.pem.cam.ac.uk/y12masterclasses

Arts and Humanities Residential

7th - 10th July 2025

www.pem.cam.ac.uk/y12summerschool

Subject Taster Webinars

Various May – June 2025

www.pem.cam.ac.uk/yr12subjecttasters

Open Days

10th – 11th July and 12th September 2025

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

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

UNIDays Card

Students studying in Sixth Form are eligible to apply for a UNIDays card, offering discounts on 800+ brands.

To apply for a card, follow this link: [UNIDays](#)



Do you have a child aged 0-19 years? Come along for a cuppa and chat and to meet other parents. No diagnosis needed!

JOIN US ON:

Wednesday 15th January 2025 10am-12 at Alnwick Family Hub

On St Michaels School Site, Howling Lane, NE66 1DJ

Thursday 13th February 2025 1-3pm at Berwick Family Hub

Ladywell Place, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2AE

Tuesday 14th January 2025 10am-12 at Hexham Family Hub

On Hexham First School Site, Beaufront Avenue, NE46 1JD

Wednesday 29th January 2025 1-3pm at Haltwhistle Family Hub

On Haltwhistle Primary Academy Site, Park Avenue, NE49 9BA

Tuesday 21st January 2025 10am-12 at Ashington Family Hub

Alexandra Road, NE63 9EF

Monday 3rd February 2025 1-3pm at The Community Hub at Cramlington

Forum Way, Manor Walks Shopping Centre, NE23 6YB (Next to Concordia)

Tuesday 18th February 2025 10am-12 at Morpeth Library

Morpeth Sports and Leisure Centre, Gas House Lane, NE61 1SR

If you have any questions, please contact your local Family Hub or email us at:
robyn.robinsonenorthumberland.gov.uk or adelle.hicksenorthumberland.gov.uk