



Weekly Bulletin – 28 March 2024

Easter liturgy

During Lent we have focussed on the theme of Dust and Glory. We have taken a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings, and rather than pretending we can always avoid them, we have sought to learn from them and grow closer to God through them. Today, during our Easter liturgy, we reflected on the true meaning of Easter about the love Jesus has for us and the purpose and peace he gives us.

CAFOD Lent fundraising

Throughout Lent we have been raising money for CAFOD, which is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. They work all over the world, wherever the need is the greatest. Our members of staff came together last week to bake cakes for our staff coffee morning, and in total we raised over £100 for CAFOD. Our students have also been working hard with their form, doing various fundraising activities. One form class has raised just under £200, and another form class raised £70 through cake sales; just two examples of how much our students are working together to raise money.

Student awards

It has been a rewarding week at school in more way than one as we celebrated students' successes with the award of certificates, Easter eggs and prom tickets! I am delighted to share with you a compiled list of our Headteacher and Head of Progress awards.

Josh	Danielson	7	Mrs Chapman	Head of Progress Award
William	Dixon	7	Mr Shepherd	Headteacher Award
Alfie	Byrne	8	Mr Mavin	Head of Progress Award
Ella	Bamford	8	Mr Shepherd	Headteacher Award
Jack	Lockhart	9	Mr Gravell	Head of Progress Award
Grace	Broad	9	Mr Shepherd	Headteacher Award
Mya	Stewart	10	Miss Todd	Head of Progress Award
Essie	Moody	10	Mr Shepherd	Headteacher Award
Harry	Lockyer	11	Miss Cowey	Head of Progress Award
Will	Lennon	11	Mr Shepherd	Headteacher Award
Eve	Murphy	12	Mr Plumb	Head of Progress Award
Toby	Farrell Knowles	13	Mr Shepherd	Headteacher Award

Focus on Year 8

8T: Hope Project Update:

You might remember that 8T was exploring the message of hope in 2023. Here's a little update on their work so far.



St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy, Ridge Terrace, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 6ED

Tel: 01670 822795 Fax: 01670 829427

Email: admin@st-benetbiscop.org.uk Web: www.st-benetbiscop.co.uk



“Together as 8T, we collectively wrote a prayer based on hope, progressing to explore the different ways we could spread hope. We planted our flowers of hope (mini daffodils) in our Form Room, which all flowered, and we made a display called 8T’s Wall of Hope. We really got into the idea of spreading hope and decided to plant a small garden of hope with daffodils and tulips. The daffodils and tulips are starting to come through, and we’re looking forward to seeing them flower shortly after the Easter holiday. As a form, we’d like to keep the theme of hope going strong in 2024, so we have now planted some sunflower seeds in pots in our Form Room, and they will eventually go into our little garden for hope, but for now we are excitedly watching them start to sprout and thrive.”

English Schools’ Cross-Country Championship

We are proud to announce that **Faye Heatley (8C)** was selected to represent NSAA at the 2024 English Schools’ Cross-Country Championships at Pontefract Racecourse on Saturday, March 16, 2024. This is a prestigious event for cross-country runners, and we know that all the students that were selected have worked hard at their training schedules to reach this standard of performance. They take this event extremely seriously and deserve congratulations for their selection. Well done, Faye!

Music Lessons

A number of our Year 8 students have taken part in extra music lessons over the course of the term. These lessons include piano, drums, and guitar lessons, as well as other instruments. The time, dedication, and organisation needed to maintain the effort and enthusiasm involved are splendid to see. A huge “well done” to all of those students involved!

Liturgy and Assemblies

On Tuesday, March 26th, we had our Year 8 Celebration Assembly to come together and acknowledge members of the Year Group who have worked solidly “to seek wholeness through faith, quest, and learning, to become what God intends us to be.” Students were awarded Form Tutor Prizes, Top Number of Merits Award, and the Head of Progress and Head Teacher Awards.

All of our students have taken part in our end-of-term liturgy, and over the term we have also had two form-led year group assemblies that were organised and carried out by Year 8 students. These assemblies are always a highlight of our term, with the students spending a great deal of time preparing for them and making them the best assemblies ever!

Kielder

A small group of year 10, 11 and 12 students, who have been involved in some after school sessions on astrophotography delivered by Kielder Observatory staff, recently got the chance to visit the Observatory. The intention had been for students to use the large Kielder telescopes to observe some of deep space and make use of the dark skies to do some real astrophotography and put their recently learned camera skills to the test. Unfortunately, mother nature had other ideas and as we left school at three o’clock on Thursday the blue sky that had started to make an appearance gradually vanished from sight the further west we went, and by the time we reached the Observatory, the cloud was so low you could virtually touch it and the rain was horizontal.

“Plan B” sessions took staff and students on a journey through the stars and galaxies, before giving the students the chance to handle some meteorites, touch actual moon rock and stand on Mars. We also saw how the telescopes would normally work as they showed us the two observatories with removable roofs. Hot chocolate, a hands-on example of gravity fields and then a Q and A session and our few hours there was over in the blink of an eye. Hopefully we can go back in the future on a better evening, weather-wise.

English Masterclass

On Tuesday, our year 13 English Language students attended an examination masterclass at Sacred Heart Catholic High School. Along with students from other secondary schools in the Trust, they had the opportunity to learn practical strategies to approaching texts from an experienced examiner. Everyone agreed the workshop was invaluable and came away with their confidence boosted.

Parent Survey – Homework

Homework is an important part of the curriculum as it allows students to prepare for upcoming learning, consolidate and enrich their knowledge as well as develop skills of independence.

We are currently reviewing our homework policy and would like to include the views of parents and carers. Please find below a link to a homework survey which will remain open until Monday 15th April, we welcome your thoughts on your experiences supporting from home.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Bq0iP1unHQ>

Exam Stress

Last week Louisa Taylor from the Mental Health and Wellbeing charity Bloom visited school to deliver a workshop to year 11 students on strategies and coping techniques to deal with exam stress. Students focused on understanding the root causes of exam stress such as comparing ourselves with others, being self-critical, fear of failure and exaggerating possible negative outcomes.

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting a young person's mental health and fulfilling this role can sometimes be challenging for parents. Bloom offer a free [Parenting Hub](#), a new online community for parents and carers. The hub can:

- Provide a safe environment for parents to share experiences, support each other and access expert advice
- Provide resources for parents to learn about mental health and how to better support their children
- Build parents' confidence to have supportive conversations and talk about mental health

Safeguarding

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 [What-can-I-do-if-I-suspect](#)

For well-being support, Kooth is a valued resource <https://www.kooth.com/>

Northumberland Holiday Provision

Looking for fantastic activities during the holidays?

Easter, Summer and Winter – we've got this covered as everyone deserves to enjoy holidays with great experiences to provide great family memories! 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/>

Catering Accounts

All deficit balances must be cleared before the start of the new term. We are unable to cover catering deficits owed to the school.

Cost of Living support

Support 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>

World Autism Acceptance Week

From 2-8th April, World Autism Acceptance Week will be celebrated across the UK. This is a great opportunity to raise awareness and find out why Autism is a difference and not a deficit. The colour theme is back for 2024 and there are lots of different and creative ways to get involved including attending a Spectrum Colour Walk in person, taking part in a Do Your Own Spectrum Colour Walk. For more information on Autism or taking part in Autism acceptance week, please visit:

<https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/raise-money/world-autism-acceptance-week-2024>

<https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/about/what-is-autism>

Arriva North East Strikes

Arriva North East workers at Blyth and Ashington depots have voted for strike action during the week commencing 21 April 2024. We are aware that some of our students use these buses to travel to and from school, so parents or carers will need to consider alternative ways for their child to travel during this week. To support with this, the school plan to offer a before and after school provision for students who will be affected by the action, further details will be sent after the Easter Holidays.

Please note that students who are entitled to free home to school transport will not be affected by the action as these coaches are not run by Arriva North East.

Students return to school for the Summer Term on Tuesday, 16 April 2024.

Wishing you all a happy and holy Easter.



Mr K Shepherd
Headteacher