



*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

End of Term arrangements

We break for the Christmas holidays on Friday, 20 December 2024. School transport has been arranged for shortly after 12pm, when students will be dismissed. Please contact your child's Head of Progress if these arrangements pose a problem.

Lunch arrangements on the last day

Students can order a packed lunch from the dining hall if they wish. If they would like to do so, please use the link below to complete the online order form by noon on Wednesday 18 December. Catering accounts will be charged as normal, if your child is entitled to Free School Meals this will be taken off their allowance.

[Packed Lunch Order Form](#)

Return to school

All students return to school on Tuesday, 7 January 2025. It will be week B.

Vehicle Access to School Site

We would like to remind parents that the construction work on our school sixth form project has started and the construction site entrance is at the main entrance to the school. To allow deliveries for the construction site to be made safely, we are not able to allow parent/carer vehicles on to the school site. Parents are reminded not to drive in to the school site to drop off or collect children, unless for special circumstances by prior arrangement with the school. If you have an appointment at the school, please park offsite and use pedestrian routes to access reception, if you are a blue badge holder, please contact reception. Thank you for your support with this, I am aware that restrictions will cause some inconvenience in the short term, but the overall benefit to our students will be great for years to come.

Celebrating attendance

We are excited to announce attendance celebrations will be taking place in the last week of term. Our Year 11 attendance workshop students have been competing over the last 6 weeks for the most improved attendance; a lucky student will be heading home with a much-coveted 'chocolate hamper' in the last week. All 100% attendance students will be entered into a prize draw with 15 students from each year group enjoying a Christmas surprise in the last week.

Finally, students who have successfully completed their attendance passports will also enter a draw to join the Christmas surprise, which also includes all students who have completed two successful attendance passports over 4 weeks. Strong school attendance is so important to ensure your child has the best possible options for their future, both academically and socially. As always, thank you for your support in encouraging your child to attend each day.

Attendance matters, moments count

Punctuality is essential. In each class the teacher takes a register and 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.

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.ttht.co.uk/>



Dates and events

Parent Events

Sunday 8 December 2024 – 10.00 – 4.00 pm

Please come and see the Performing Arts department and their fabulous students who are singing and dancing in Blyth Asda this Sunday 8th December from 10am to 4pm. We are raising money for Grease, the next school production, which takes place in March 2025.

Wednesday 11 December 2024 – 6.00 pm – 8.30pm Main Hall

Christmas Show

Student Events

Wednesday 11 December 2024

Student visit to Baker Hughes – Year 10 Girls
Year 10 Attendance Workshop (in school)

Thursday 12 December 2024

Rugby Festival

Friday 13 December 2024

Year 7 Advent Fair (in school)

Tuesday 17 December 2024

Christmas Lunch Day
Year 11 Apprenticeship Workshop (in school)

Thursday 18 December 2024

Year 10 Theatre trip to A Christmas Carol
Year 11 Healthy Relationships Day

Friday 20 December 2024

Rise up and Shine Spirituality Day
Finish at 12:05



RISE – The St Benet Biscop Way

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 student parents and staff free access to this valuable resource. Students will have assemblies next week and been sent their own log in details.

This is the link to log in as a parent

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

Here is a short video which will give you a tour of the site

<https://vimeo.com/1003650703/3a75b1d035>

We hope you find the resources helpful and interesting. We felt it was important to share before the Christmas holidays so that all students could access them.



On Sunday we entered the season of Advent.

Advent is four weeks long and marks the beginning of the Christian year. The word 'advent' literally means 'coming' and it is a time of reflection on the coming of Christ into the world, at his birth. It is also a time of preparation when Christians think about the second coming of Christ, and what they need to do to be ready for his return. On the first Sunday of Advent, we light one purple candle on the advent wreath, representing hope. Flickering against the darkness of the world that surrounds us, the fragile flame reminds us that our journey along the road to Christmas has begun, and because God has come amongst us, hope remains.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you."

Advent calendar

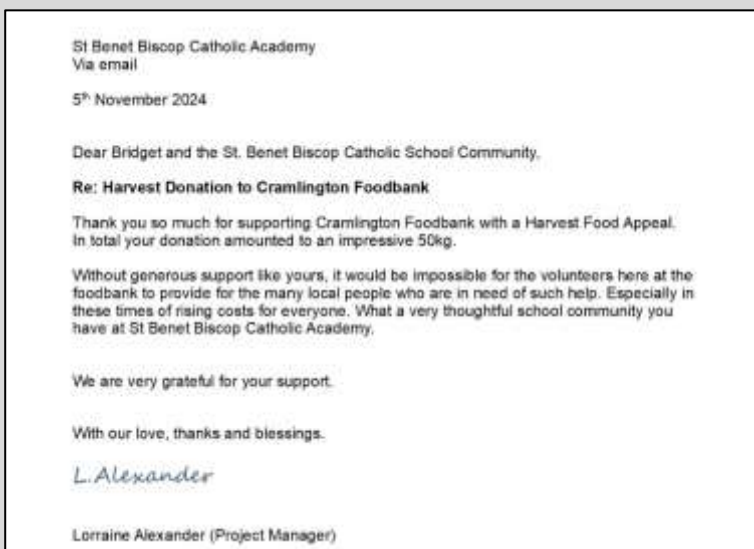
On Monday form tutors shared the St Benet Biscop Advent calendar with our students. Every day students will be challenged to carry out an activity or small act of kindness with the aim of making the world a better place. These challenges can range from making a Christmas card for someone who is ill, to something that is a little out of their comfort zone, like attending mass. Form tutors will support students each morning by trying to help them think about the challenge of the day.

During this special time of Advent, which can be a busy one in the lead up to Christmas, why not take a few moments of peace and quiet each day. The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle have prepared a booklet providing daily reflections for each day in Advent which can be accessed [here](#). They are a timely reminder that Advent is a time for watching and waiting for the Lord.

Foodbank collection

Last week, we launched our Christmas collection for local foodbanks, recognising their vital role in supporting our community. It's heartening to see many students already contributing donations, and we still have one more week to gather more support.

Our goal is to fill our minibus with food to deliver to those in need. Currently, the most needed items include tinned meat, Christmas Selection boxes, Christmas biscuits, and toiletries. We appreciate everyone's efforts in making a difference during this important initiative! The volunteers at the foodbank were overwhelmed by our Harvest collection and reminded us that they couldn't function without us.

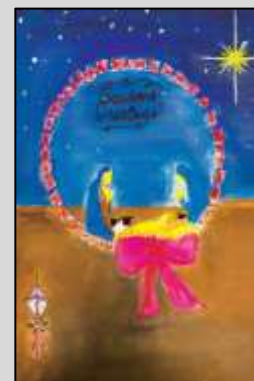


Imogen Year 7

Christmas card competition

We launched a Christmas card competition in November and had some wonderful entries. Our two winners were Omeose Egbiremolen, and Imogen Woodhouse.

These designs will be made into a card and a prayer card that will be sent out in our Advent prayer parcels to vulnerable members of our local community.



Omeose Year 12



Quest

Baker Hughes Stem trip - Boys visit



15 year 10 boys made a return visit to Baker Hughes (pipeline engineering) in Cramlington. Working alongside another school, students were split into six groups of five to participate in a Robotics challenge. Taking on the role of a design engineering team, students were tasked to design and build an inspection tool which could be used to assess a pipeline.



The tool had to meet the following specifications:

- Able to propel itself along a pipe
- Able to climb a steeply inclined pipe
- Incorporate a sensor device
- Simple robust design
- Lightweight (for ease of transportation)

It was amazing to observe all students adopting roles within their teams, many naturally fulfilling the role of project manager, ensuring designers and engineers were sticking to the brief with a one-hour time limit. Two engineers from Baker Hughes, judged and tested models against the brief. Although we lost out on first and second position, we were very proud to be ranked third in a challenging competition! Well done boys!

EmPower Cyber 2024

50 Year 8 girls joined the EmPower Cyber 2024 event which hosted approximately 1200 Year 8 girls from schools across the North East. This was an exciting day with 40 local and global organisations, charities and universities running a hands-on interactive cyber security and technology event day. The aim of the day was to educate and inspire the students about cyber security and technology, demonstrate to them the type of companies working within the sector, introduce them to a range of different people working in the space, and hopefully inspire them to consider careers within the industry. It was an excellent day, please read this first-hand account from one of our students:



“First, we got off the bus and went into St James' Park Stadium. After that, we were told to form groups of eight. My friends and I joined a group and we were all seated in a large assembly with many other girls from different schools. Then, my group completed our first task, which was about coding. After that, we participated in several more activities, including lock-picking, bomb defusing, creating cybercrime posters, learning about safety passwords, and playing a virtual reality game.”

We also had lunch together halfway through the day. After completing some of the tasks, we were given prizes—some people even received Amazon gift cards! Finally, at the end of the day, we had another assembly focused on how women can succeed in the tech world and pursue their dreams without being judged. During this assembly, some people even received a £25 voucher! After the assembly, we got back on the bus and headed home. It was an amazing day!”



Y11 Rugby

St Benet Biscop (29) v (22) Park View

Try scorers: Matthew Welch, Rory Ballance, Jason Venner, Kallen Osborne, Alfie Barratt

Conversions: Matthew Welch, Aidan Howe



The Y11 rugby team put on a performance of excellent handling and fantastic running to round out their school rugby career with a win at home over Park View Academy. Captain Matthew Welch finished an excellent passing move to open the scoring within minutes of kick off. The game was free flowing and some strong ball carries from Louie Cuthbertson, Ewan Holder and Troy Beecroft helped the team stretch the lead.

St Benet Biscop kicked tactically giving the ball to wingers Aidan Howe, Arjun Naryan, Reece Dawson-Rogers, Alex McKellar and Rory McEvoy who made great use of the space out wide. One of these kicks was collected by Evan Johnson and finished in the corner by Jason Venner for an excellent team try.

Strong rucking to protect the ball was evident across the whole team but notably by Thomas Catterall and Evan Johnson. Vice-Captain Kallen Osborne used his rugby experience to take a well taken try from a scrum. Ben Dodd and Reuben Yarrow tackled hard and tirelessly tidied up loose ball. Rio Martin had a big impact in both attack and defence and was "Player of the match" in his first ever game for the school team. The game was a delight to referee as both teams treated each other and the referee with the utmost respect. Matthew Welch chose to join the opposition in the second half to help them bring the game back to a respectable score line. Every single player was an absolute credit to their school, with honesty and thoughtful gestures throughout, their sportsmanship was truly of the highest standard.



Learning

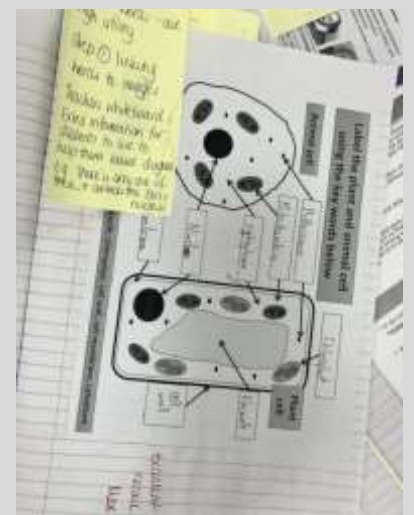
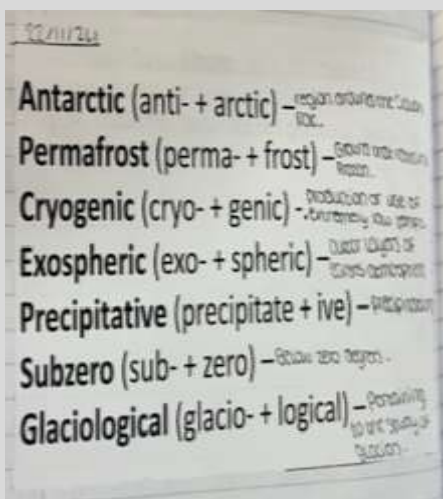
Year 11 Revision

The Year 11 revision timetable has been running for four weeks now, with over 17 sessions being offered at lunchtime or after school. This week 80 students attended a revision session in one of their subjects, using the time to review key learning, plan and prepare answers to practice questions and discuss any tricky content they have questions about.

Teacher Professional Development

This term Teachers have been focusing on the St Benet's 'Read to Learn' strategy and learning more about ways to support reading in the classroom. Reading is a fundamental building block of learning that unlocks access to the curriculum and irrespective of which subject is taught, all Teachers are Teachers of reading.

Last week in the Twilight they brought examples of students work and spent the meeting sharing ideas and learning from one another.



VI Sixth Form

Applications to our Sixth Form

Thank you to all Year 11 students who have submitted applications to join our sixth form next year. If your child has missed the application deadline and would still like to apply, please email Mr Maughan, Head of Sixth Form, using the following email address maughanp@stbb.org.uk

Year 13 UCAS applications – important dates

This is an important time for Year 13, as they work on their UCAS/Post 18 applications. Here are some important reminders and dates:

- **18th December 2024** - Deadline for completed UCAS applications; including all required information and Personal Statements.
- **29th January 2025** - Final UCAS deadline.

REMEMBER – It is each student's responsibility to check that all personal information is correct, and that all spellings and capitalisations are accurate. You must enter accurate grades for all GCSE qualifications. You must submit a personal email account, not your school email account, so that universities can contact you about your application, after you have left school.

Opportunities to take

Medical Mentoring

In2MedSchool is a registered Charity (1197973), which supports aspiring medical students. They are inviting students to sign up for a **FREE MEDIC MENTORING** scheme. So far, they have around 2,400 mentors, all of which are doctors/medical students who have been through the application cycle and will do their best to help you with your application.

If you are an aspiring medic, apply here: <https://bit.ly/I2MS-Mentee>

You can find more information here: www.in2medschool.com.

King's College London Medicine and Dentistry Lecture Series 2025

This programme is for students across the UK in Year 11, 12, and 13 interested in becoming a doctor or dentist. Over the course of the programme students will hear from a wide variety of speakers to help build their understanding of the opportunities and challenges of being a doctor and dentist, as well as guidance on the application process. Last year's lectures included the following:

- Medical and dental specialties: cardiology, oral surgery, renal transplant, and many more!
- Q&A's each week with current medical and dental students.
- Support with the application process: UCAT, personal statements, and interviews.
- Q&A with admissions colleagues in the school of medicine at KCL, UCL, St George's, Queen Mary, Brunel, and Imperial.

Most importantly participants will become part of a community of like-minded students all interested in applying to medicine and dentistry and finding out what being a doctor and dentist really entails!

Lectures will be held on Tuesday evenings between 6:00 – 7:30pm. The first lecture will be on Tuesday 4th February. For more information and to apply, [students should follow this link](#). The deadline is Friday 10th January.