



*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

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](#)

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.

Is my child too ill for school?

At this of year we can all suffer from an annoying cold or feeling unwell however, with most conditions it is still fine to send you child into school. This is explained further in NHS guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

How do schools work out attendance?

Schools count each day as 2 sessions (AM & PM) Your child has to attend 10 full session (5 days, morning and afternoon) each week to achieve 100% attendance. If your child has a half day absence they would have 90% for that week. One day absence would be 80%.

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

Tuesday 26 November 2024 – 2.15 – 3.15pm

SEND parent/carer forum - invitations have been sent to parents (In school event)

Tuesday 26 November 2024 - 11.25 - 12.05pm

Northumberland C.A.R.E parent forum - invitations have been sent to parents (In school event)

Friday 29 November 2024 – School is closed

Student Events

Wednesday 27 November 2024

Empower Cyber 2024 - Year 8 Girls

Tuesday 3 December 2024

Baker Hughes STEM – Year 10 Boys



RISE – The St Benet Biscop Way

Y9 Rugby Team show resilience away at Blyth Academy

The Y9 rugby team lost away to Blyth Academy in a recent league match. The team were without several key players and this meant they struggled to protect the ball when in attack. The final score line of 45-5 was representative of the strong running by the Blyth team. However, the match wasn't without highlights including some excellent tackling and counter-rucking by the experienced Mason Phillips and Aaron Bacon. There was of the course, the well taken try which was started by a strong run down the left by Adam Burn and finished with a run through the middle of the defence by Dan Lyon. Mention must go to Mark Walker, Adam Hall and Logan Reed who tackled well throughout. Onwards and upwards to the next match where hopefully we can retain more the possession so we can actually make more use of the speedy players present on the team such as Harrison Huntley, Tyler Carr, Jacob Cole and Joash Thomas.



Faith

Theme of the week

This week, our theme has been learning, a concept deeply rooted in both personal growth and our faith. We will reflect on the value of education, recognising it as a gift from God that allows us to develop our talents and pursue our academic potential. At the same time, we will explore how learning goes beyond academics, urging us to embrace opportunities to discover more about ourselves, and grow into the people God created us to be. Education is seen not only as a means of acquiring knowledge but as a pathway to wisdom, understanding, and virtue, helping us to fulfil our unique purpose and serve others with compassion and integrity. Through our commitment to learning, we honour both our intellect and our faith, striving to become the best version of ourselves.

The Source

We recently took a group of Year 10 students to the Source event, ran by the Youth Ministry Team, at St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle, and it was truly an amazing experience! The event featured live music, games, engaging speakers, and a vibrant atmosphere that kept everyone hooked. One of the key messages of the event was about living in the moment and appreciating our own lives, rather than getting caught up in the endless comparisons on social media. It was a powerful reminder to focus on what we have, rather than what we think we lack. And, of course, we ended the night with plenty of chips, making it a fun and memorable experience for all!



Remembrance Service

On Remembrance Day, we held a beautiful and meaningful service in the chapel. Two representatives from each form hung their prayer poppy on the remembrance tree, symbolising our collective respect and remembrance for all those affected by war. Michael Elliot played the Last Post wonderfully, filling the chapel with a solemn and powerful atmosphere. The service was deeply moving, and everyone was incredibly respectful as we paused for reflection. Throughout the school, students also participated by watching a virtual Remembrance service, and the sound of the Last Post echoed through the halls, followed by a poignant two-minute silence. It was a truly powerful moment of unity and remembrance for all.



Quest

STEM event- Baker Hughes project

15 year 10 boys were selected to become involved in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) initiative led by staff from PII Pipeline Solutions, Baker Hughes in Cramlington.

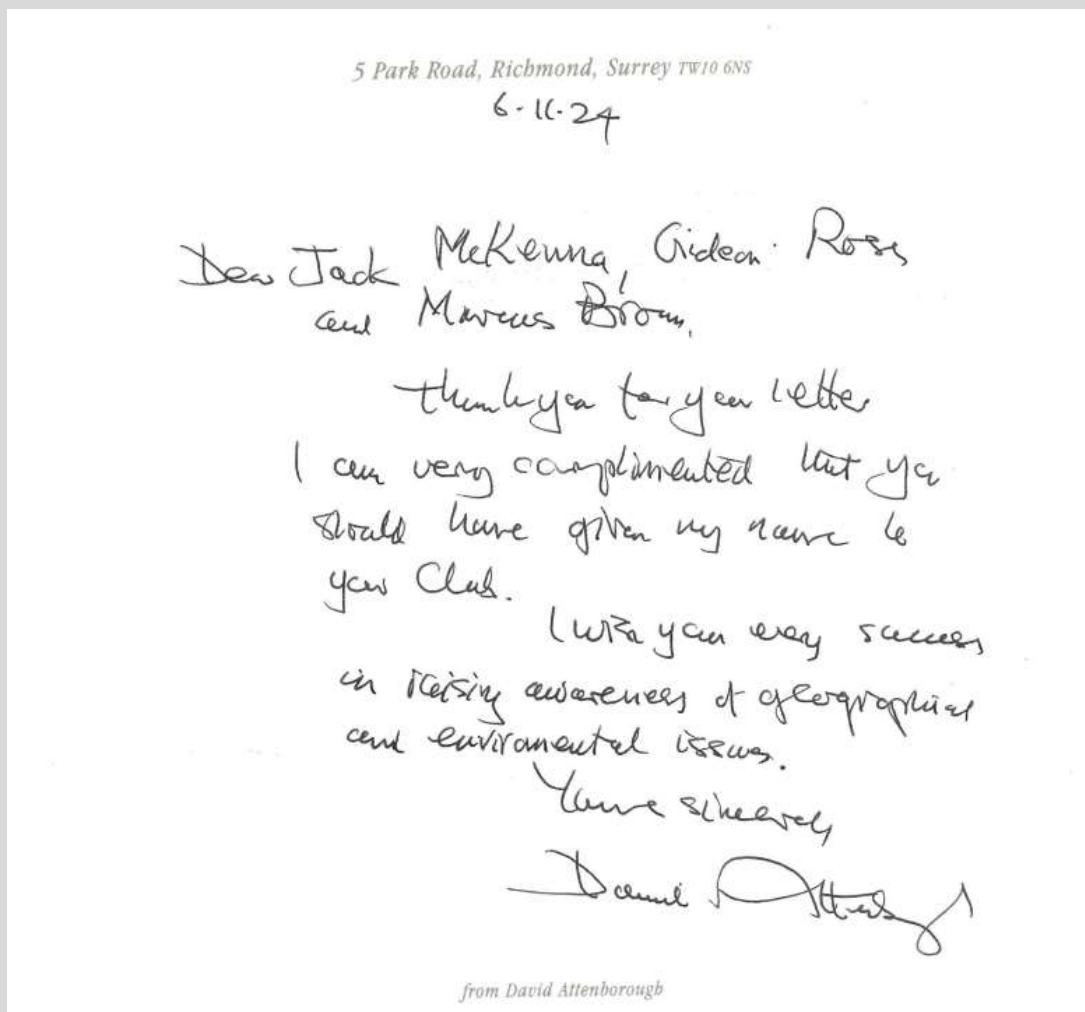
Working alongside another school, students were split into three groups. Students attended workshops covering Physics demonstrations, 3D printing in action and a visit to the workshop floor to see inspection and integrity machinery being built - these are machines used to maintain pipelines across the globe. Students also had the opportunity to build some of the parts on the pipe inspection machines, such as the tow bar unit, which enables the machine to move smoothly along the pipeline, and sensor assemblies, which collect the data. This data is then analysed by the Analysis team for the final report to the customer.

Students also attended a Q&A session enabling them to speak with key members of staff including the site manager to software and chemical engineers. Career pathways leading into the world of engineering were discussed which has sparked interest with most. Students are looking forward to their return visit on 3 December to participate in a construction workshop to create inspection and integrity machinery.



David Attenborough Appreciation Club

Our students from the David Attenborough club were excited to receive a handwritten reply to their letter to Sir David. They have been working on raising the profile of Stewardship and protecting the environment in school.



Raising Awareness: Year 10 Students Join Safeguarding Education on County Lines with Northumbria Police

This week, Year 10 students participated in a safeguarding education session led by the Northumbria Police Violence Reduction Unit. The session focused on county lines, an issue that increasingly affects young people across the UK.

What is County Lines?

At its core, county lines is a criminal operation where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another—often across police and local authority boundaries. This operation is typically carried out by gangs that exploit vulnerable individuals, especially young people.

The term "county lines" refers to the mobile phone line used by the gangs to take orders for drugs, and it is often run by "elders" of the gang who recruit younger individuals, called "youngers", to carry out the illegal activities. These young recruits may be coerced or threatened into transporting drugs, guarding them, or engaging in other criminal behaviour.

Spotting the Signs of Exploitation

A key part of the session was teaching students how to identify the signs of county lines exploitation in their peers. Recognising these warning signs early could be the key to helping someone before they become deeply involved in criminal activities. Some signs of exploitation that students were taught to look out for include:

- Possessing multiple phones or receiving an unusually high number of calls or texts.
- Changes in emotional or physical wellbeing, such as appearing distressed or anxious.
- Traveling alone, particularly at unusual times like late at night or during school hours.
- Being controlled or influenced by someone else, such as a peer or adult who tells them what to do.
- Meeting new people who seem unfamiliar or suspicious.
- Carrying large amounts of cash or showing off expensive items without being able to explain how they afford them.
- Frequent absences from school or home without a clear reason.

Support and How to Reach Out for Help

The session also ensured students knew where to turn for support. If they or someone they know is concerned about being involved in county lines or any other form of exploitation, there are several trusted sources they can reach out to:

- Support in School & Community: Teachers, school staff, youth workers, sports coaches, or tutors can provide guidance and help.
- Fearless: An anonymous platform for young people to report crime, offering a safe space for students to seek advice and report concerns. Visit www.fearless.org
- Northumbria Police: If immediate help is needed, students can contact Northumbria Police on 101 or 999 for emergencies. More information is available on their website at www.northumbria.police.uk
- Childline : For confidential advice, children can call 0800 1111 or visit www.childline.org.uk

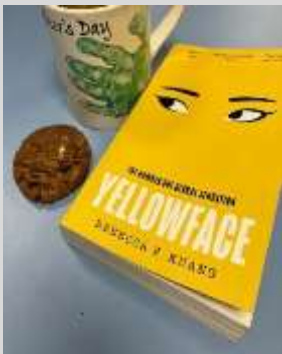


Learning

Year 11 Revision Timetable

Year 11 Trial Exams will be at the end of January, so the preparation for these is beginning in earnest. Year 11 lunchtime and after school revision sessions began on Monday 11th November, with 17 sessions being offered by staff throughout the week. This is the perfect opportunity for students to get additional support from their teachers in small groups. Revision activities will vary, but usually involve reviewing key learning, planning and preparing answers to practice questions and discussing any tricky content they have questions about. The timetable has been made available to students, parents and carers.

Staff Book Club



This week our staff came together to discuss the first book read by the St Benet Biscop staff book club – Yellowface. The book was chosen by students and staff have been reading it over the last half term. It plots the story of a young author who after witnessing her friend's death, steals an unpublished manuscript and passes it as her own work.

There was some great discussion of the main characters in the book, Athena and June, as well as the themes explored in the story. We were very harsh critics! The next book is currently being chosen by students so the group will be preparing to put it on their Christmas lists. Staff have donated copies of Yellowface to the library so if any of our older students would like to read it, then drop by and borrow a copy.

VI Sixth Form

APPLICATIONS TO SIXTH FORM ARE OPEN!

We are welcoming applications to Sixth Form from our Year 11 students. The application deadline is 6pm, November 30th 2024. The application form can be found at: <https://forms.office.com/e/CaHLr3Fbqw> or on the 'Joining Our Sixth Form' section of the school website.

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:

- Log on to Unifrog this week, and invite your teachers to complete subject references. They can't do this until you have sent them the Unifrog invitation.
- **29th November 2024** - Deadline for subject references.
- **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.

Sixth Form Personal Development Folders

All students have a Personal Development folder which contains their Independent Learning Journal, Wider Subject Reading resources and Core Studies activities. **Please ensure that your child brings this to school every day, regularly uses their wider reading lists and updates their Independent Learning Journal as this will be checked regularly by their Form Tutor.**

Student Leadership

There is a lot happening in terms of sixth form student leadership in school.

Student Council

Armani Carroll and Catherine Mason, two of our Head Students have been helping promote Student Council by speaking in all lower school assemblies. A big thank you to Armani and Catherine. They are great ambassadors for our school and a great example to others, getting involved in all sorts of extra-curricular activities. We hope their input will inspire others to get involved too.



Peer Mentoring

Sixth Form Peer Mentors are launching their work in school this week. As well as working with individual students, they will be visiting some Year 7 and 8 form rooms, to lend a helping hand. They're also running a Wellbeing Corner in the LRC. This will be running on Tuesday and Thursday, Week A, and Thursday, Week B.

Young Professionals & City Century Law Event, Newcastle

We're delighted that some of our students attended this event on Monday 18th November. Katie Hood in Year 12 has written this short review of the day, capturing the benefits of attending.

"From yesterday's experience, I have gained more of an understanding about Solicitor Degree Apprenticeships through a wide range of individual speakers, some who either run the City Century programme, and some who are studying on the apprenticeship course currently. We got an insight into the following topics: How to get into a solicitor degree apprenticeship, what's it like to be an apprentice and the next steps in applying and preparing to apply. We also got to talk to several people from different law firms at different stands, like Travers and Smith, and Weim, to talk to them about entry requirements for degree apprenticeships, what's it like and what they offer. I found it all to be very interesting as I gained more knowledge on what my post-18 options could be." Katie Hood, Year 12.

Newcastle University PARTNERS 2025

PARTNERS 2025 is still open for Year 13 students to apply. The deadline for PARTNERS 2025 is Wednesday 29th January 2025. To apply, you must submit a UCAS application to Newcastle University. When applying, use the same information on the application, as used in the UCAS application, and use a personal email account, not your school account.

If you are made an offer, through PARTNERS, you must be available to attend a summer school, Sunday 29th June and Friday 11th July 2025. You will likely only be needed for one of these weeks, but attendance is compulsory.

Apply here: [PARTNERS 2025](#)

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/l2MS-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&As 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. Our 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.

Calling all poets!

Oxford University are running their annual Christopher Tower Poetry Competition. The theme is 'Roots'.

- 1st prize £5000, 2nd prize 2000, 3rd prize £1500
- Entries welcome from students between 16-18 years old.
- Closing date: 12pm 20th February 2025

Scan the QR code for more details:

