

St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy

Newsletter



Issue 3: 18 October 2024

*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.

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%.

Year 11 Attendance Workshop

We will be inviting selected Year 11 students who require support with their attendance to an attendance workshop. The session will be in conjunction with our Education Welfare Officer team. The workshop will explore students' barriers to attendance, how school can help and why attendance is so important.

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

Tuesday 22 October 2024 - 6pm

Camps International Meeting (In school event)

Wednesday 23 October 2024 – 6.30 - 8pm

Sixth Form Open Evening (In school event)

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is for students currently in Year 11. Further details together with a sign-up survey can be found in the letter sent by email - Mr Maughan (Head of Sixth Form)

Wednesday 6 November 2024 – 4.00 - 7.30pm

Year 11 Parents Evening (online)

Information on how to book appointments will be sent to parents on Monday 21 October 2024

Student Events

Thursday 24 October 2024

Year 7 Retreat (In school event – Students to come in their PE kit)

Half Term Holiday

Monday 28 October – Friday 1 November 2024

Students return to school on Monday 4 November 2024



RISE – The St Benet Biscop Way

Friday 18 October - Developmental Language Disorder Awareness Day

There are an average of 2 children in every class of 30 with DLD. These pupils present with on-going, persistent difficulties with their understanding and/or use of language and this impacts all the languages they speak. For more information on DLD please watch this youtube video - [What is DLD?](#) and see the attached flyer. If you have any questions regarding DLD, please contact school.

Y8 Rugby Team v Blyth Academy

The Y8 rugby team started their league campaign with a narrow 27-22 loss away at Blyth Academy. Captain Aaron Bacon led from the front scoring all 4 tries and a conversion. He was ably supported by Vice-Captain, Sam Mein who kept the ball moving quickly from the break down. The game was played on a full-sized pitch, the space allowing for some excellent running from Lucas Armstrong, Jake Atkinson, Matthew Lewis and Zac McHugh. The game was end to end with Blyth taking a 17-0 lead. St Benet Biscop fought back strongly in the second half to come within a try of the win. Powerful runs by Leo Todd, Luke Gibson, Morgan Day-Atkinson and Aaron Clavering helped the team to make good ground. Despite the loss, St Benet Biscop gained two bonus points – firstly for scoring four tries and secondly for the scoreline being within 10 points of the opposition.

Y9 Rugby Team V KEVI

The Y9 rugby team got their league campaign underway, and despite all the rain over the previous few days, the pitch was playable and promoted a fast style of rugby. We conceded early on from a barnstorming run from their inside centre. Great resilience was evident and Mason Phillips was impressive in defence throughout. Niall Dixon made some great last-ditch tackles which kept us in the game. We grew into the game because of Chi Kennedy's speed to every ruck, and excellent distribution. Mark Walker led the side well through counter rucking and carrying well. Niall Dixon scored two great tries in the match, and Logan Reed's brilliant run set up our first which Dan was able to convert.

KEVI showed their experience in the second half scoring 5 tries, with some excellent running, Crossfield kicks and offloads. We did not let this stop us and there was some great defence from those mentioned above, but also Charlie Mazzella, Corey Beecroft and Adam Burn. Many players were playing their first match and showed some great skills and resilience throughout. What was very pleasing was the respect shown to the referee throughout. We got the last try through Niall and the game ended up 40-19 to KEVI. Plenty to build on for our next fixtures.

Gritty Y8 Rugby Performance

St Benet Biscop Under 13 Rugby Team hosted Park View (Chester Le Street) on a lovely dry autumnal afternoon that was perfect for rugby.

Despite an end to end start, Park View scored the first try through some strong running and support play. St Benet Biscop were not short of grit and determination, they worked hard to win the ball, but then careless passing gifted a strong running Park View side some easy tries. Whilst St Benet Biscop, never made it over the whitewash for that elusive try, there was some excellent running in the open by a number of players including Jake Atkinson and Lucas Armstrong.

Captain Aaron Bacon led from the front with big ball carries and strong tackles. Great tackles were evident across the team but notably by Sam Mein, Alex Freeman and Matthew Lewis. Despite lots of good individual efforts Park View were a strong side who outplayed St Benet Biscop and fully deserved their convincing win. Although the final score line was an 8 tries to nil loss for St Benet Biscop, they learned a lot from the game and should be commended on their great sportsmanship and resilience throughout.

Faith

Two of our sixth form students, Christian Andrews and Nathan Smith attended the partnership mass on Friday evening at St Wilfred's Church in Blyth with Bridgid our chaplain. They delivered our school pledges about how we are going to 'live simply' to help in the fight to save our planet. This was an opportunity for students to think deeply about their responsibility to care for God's creation.

Students pledged to try and avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet, and reduce meat consumption, make greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation when travelling. They were inspired by the words of Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si, where he urges us to try and act now, in a bid to rescue and preserve our planet for future generations. Some of our KS3 students created some artwork for display in the church. Furthermore, year 7 students created letters for Mr Shepherd with some ideas about how we could be an eco-friendlier school.



This week, we have been thinking about the theme of 'Excellence,' a core value that inspires us to recognise our God given potential to excel in all areas of our lives. This theme serves as a reminder that each of us are uniquely crafted by God to grow into the individuals we are meant to be. By striving for excellence, we honour our abilities and pursue our passions with dedication and purpose. It encourages us to cultivate our talents, support one another in our journeys, and reflect the greatness that is inherent in each of us. Let us commit to embodying this value in our actions and interactions, fostering an environment where everyone can Rise.



Our Year 8 chaplaincy club has been diligently organising our food bank donations, and our school community has shown remarkable commitment by contributing as much as they can to support local food banks. Due to the great response, we've decided to extend the donation deadline to the end of this half term, allowing even more time for students to bring in their contributions. It would be wonderful to gather as many donations as possible before the holiday. The chaplaincy team plans to deliver all collected items to the local food banks during the week we return to school. Thank you to everyone who is helping make a difference in our community!

Quest

Zak Hull Performances in school

Years 7 to 10 all thoroughly enjoyed a live performance from solo artist "Zak Hull," which was followed by a talk on mental health, online safety, and cyberbullying and a live Q&A from each year group.

Hailing from County Durham, 15-year-old pop sensation Zak is an avid performer inspired by artists new and old. Zak lives and breathes music and certainly thrived on our school stage, with all year groups enjoying a singalong! Followed by insightful questions that covered life in the music industry through to how you cope with mental health worries. Thank you to all our students for their enthusiasm, passion, and maturity during these sessions.



Northumbria Police Violence Reduction Unit Education Session

Year 7 to 10 have taken part in knife crime awareness sessions with our VRU colleagues. In this session our students interacted with discussions linked to information on the law, stop and search, what a weapon is and the impact and consequences of knife crime. Each year group joined and took part in discussions dispelling any myths they had about this serious and increasing safeguarding concern in our students lives. Students also explored ways to keep safe if they ever found themselves in this dangerous situation.

Our Year 11 knife crime section linked closely with reflection on the tragic death of Hexham teenager, Holly Newton. Year 11 also considered red flags that can warn young people of dangers in their relationships and how and where they can get help.

The legal bit
Carrying a knife

The law states that anyone CANNOT carry a bladed or sharply pointed article in a public place without **good or lawful reason** (involving a folding pocket knife if the blade is locked & fixed). A bladed article exceeding these criteria is **EDUCATIONAL** (even under these criteria they still be confiscated).

Some weapons are banned and can not be possessed in public or in private (ie. at home). (Offensive Weapons Act - 2019)

Made: Knuckle duster / butterfly knife
Adapted: Broken bottle / spooly knife blades
Intended: Hammer / cricket ball

- A person CANNOT sell or hire to anyone under the age of 18.
- A person CANNOT use any knife in a threatening way. The use of a knife in a threatening manner in the same situation, would have been heightened.

Run, Hide, Tell

Run	Hide	Tell
<p>Escape if you can. If there is a safe route. RUN, if not hide. If you hide, tell others go with you. Don't sit there, show you know. Leave belongings behind.</p>	<p>If you can't run, HIDE. First cover. Be aware of your exits. Try not to get trapped. Be quiet, silence your phone. Lock / barricade yourself in. Move away from the door.</p>	<p>Call 999 when you are safe. Location, Where are the weapons? (What/How many) Direction, Where do you see the suspect? Description - Height, hair, eye, weapons etc. Further information - Car make, type of injury. Can you safely stop others from entering the area?</p>

Vape Warning

Northumbria Police are aware of recent incidents of vapes being in circulation that contain Spice (SCRA) or THC (sometimes referred to as Mazza). There have been adverse reactions to Vape use identified in Newcastle and North Tyneside but it is an emerging theme nationally so we suspect it to be wider within our own force area also. We will be carrying out education sessions with our students and hope that you can also talk with your child about the dangers of vaping, we hope that you find this resource helpful to use with this conversation: <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/vaping-to-quit-smoking/young-people-and-vaping/>

Year 7 0-19 Service Assembly

We would like to say thank you to our school health colleagues for coming into school to do an assembly around the 0–19 service and how the service can support our students. The NHS Growing Healthy 0-19 Northumberland Service would love for every child, young person, and parent/carer to have access to their digital support offer, which includes the Growing Healthy App, Website, and YouTube channel, where young people and families can access lots of information around health and wellbeing. Please explore access to these resources via the attached poster with helpful QR codes.

Camps International – Cambodia July 2026

A representative from Camps International delivered an inspiring presentation to students in Years 9 to 12 about the proposed expedition to Cambodia. Parents/carers of students who may be interested are invited to a meeting on **Tuesday 22 October at 6pm** in the School Hall. The meeting will outline the proposed itinerary, costs and fundraising initiatives. Please use the QR code below to register an interest in attending the meeting, using 'Booking Code' 9555



Learning

Y7 Dragon Quiz

Some of our Year 7 students took on the Dragon Quiz provided by the AMSP on Tuesday 15th October.

The aim of the quiz was to collect all the body parts of a dragon to complete a picture in the quickest time. To get the body parts you needed to answer 20 maths questions that made you think!



They worked in teams of 4 to solve practical and problem-solving maths questions that can relate to real life situations. The AMSP, the organisation who run the Dragon Quizzes, said “out of all the schools they go into our Year 7 students were some of the best they had seen. It was great to see every student getting involved and the enthusiasm from the students was great!”

Congratulations to Catherine Coates, Grace Eltis, Minahil Fatima and Elena Rosu who were the team that won the Dragon Quiz!

VI Sixth Form

Sixth Form Leadership Team

Congratulations to our new Head Students; Catherine Mason, Anna Dunn, Hollie Frame, Amarveer Ladhar, Lydia Appleby, Paris Lee, Sam Livingstone and Armani Carroll. These students performed exceptionally well during the interview process, sharing their vision for Sixth Form and reflecting on their own academic and personal journeys. We are very excited to work with you to improve our school community.



Personal Development

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 regularly uses their wider reading lists and updates their Independent Learning Journal as this will be checked regularly by their Form Tutor.

Newcastle University Library Visit

Year 12 visited Newcastle University's, Robinson Library last week. While there we had a tour of the library spaces for research, silent working and collaborative working. After the tour we were shown to our seminar room for a Sixth Form Study Skills workshop, led by university staff. The workshop covered how to research and critically evaluate academic books and journals, gave some very important information on plagiarism, showed students how to reference their wider reading properly, and gave them a chance to access the millions of resources available in the university's online archive. It was a great opportunity to experience a little of student life, to see how successful students study and use wider reading, and to explore some of the facilities on offer.

All Year 12 now have a valid Newcastle University Library card, that allows them access to the library building and hard copy resources, until August 2024.

The Year 12 students were a credit to the school, asking lots of questions and getting engaged with the learning activities during the workshop. Hopefully, they took a lot from the day that will help them now and when they eventually move into Higher Education or employment.

Some useful websites for independent study, recommended by the university team, are:

- [jstor.org](https://www.jstor.org) – access to over 100 articles, each month, for free. Searches can be refined and alerts set so students only receive articles of interest to them.
- scholar.google.co.uk – provides better quality scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, so helping make sure students are finding research material that is high quality and verified.
- core.ac.uk – freely available Open Access resources.