



*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

If you are interested in becoming part of a focus group discussing wellbeing and values, please contact **S Lewis-Dale** by email on admin@stbb.org.uk

Student Events

Week commencing 17 February 2025

Careers week – various sessions throughout the week for all year groups

Week commencing Monday 3 March 2025

Festival of Reading week

Wednesday 5 March 2025

Ash Wednesday

Thursday 6 March

Year 13 Drama Trip - Glasgow

Friday 7 March 2025

Year 11 and 13 Mock Results Day

Half Term Holiday

Monday 24 February – Friday 28 February 2025

Students return to school – Monday 3 March 2025



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 all have log in detail via their email.

This is the link to log in as a parent

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



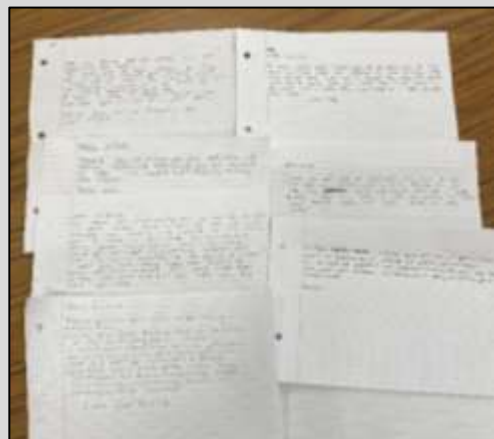
Faith

Theme of the week

This week, we have focussed on the theme of empathy, which is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. Empathy allows us to connect with people on a deeper level, fostering compassion and kindness in our relationships. In the Bible, empathy is reflected in the teachings of Jesus, who consistently showed care for those suffering, whether through healing, comforting, or offering support. Verses like Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn," remind us that we are called to live in harmony with others, sharing in both their joys and struggles. Empathy is a powerful way to embody Christ's love and build stronger, more caring communities.

Port chaplain visits Year 12

Steve Willows, the regional port chaplain for Stella Maris, visited Year 12 during their core RE lecture to talk about his role with the world's largest ship-visiting network and the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. Stella Maris supports seafarers who spend 9-12 months away from home, providing a 'friend in every port' and standing up for their rights. Steve shared the challenges seafarers face, including loneliness, depression, spiritual deprivation, and exploitation. Chaplains and volunteers visit hundreds of thousands of seafarers yearly, offering practical help, Mass on ships, and Wi-Fi to connect with family. Inspired by Steve's talk, Year 12 wrote letters of hope to the seafarers he meets, offering support and encouragement.



Pope John Paul II Award

Armani Carroll and Eve Murphy both achieved their Silver Pope John Paul II Award for their exceptional commitment to volunteering. They spent countless hours helping others, including litter picking, peer mentoring, leading dance and drama classes, tutoring students, serving teas and coffees, and raising money for charity. Their efforts within school and in their local parish were truly inspiring. Armani attended the award ceremony at the Hilton Hotel with our school chaplain and head of RE, where she had the special opportunity to meet the bishop and keynote speaker, Melany Francisco-Lawless.



Quest

Safer Internet Day 2025

This week, as part of Safer Internet Day 2025, our Key Stage 3 students have been engaging in important lessons focused on staying safe from online scammers. Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety, and each year, the event tackles a theme that is relevant to young peoples' experiences online. This year the theme is focused on scams, helping students understand how to protect themselves and others from the growing threats they may encounter in the digital world.

What Have Students Learned?

In their IT lessons, students have been exploring the risks of online scams, including phishing attacks, fake websites, and deceptive social media messages. They've discussed how scammers use various tactics to trick individuals into sharing personal information, and they've learned practical strategies to stay safe, such as recognising suspicious links, verifying the authenticity of messages, and reporting scams to trusted adults.

Snapchat

We want to make you aware that some students are experiencing friendship issues and fallouts through group chats on Snapchat. These situations can sometimes escalate quickly, causing unnecessary stress. To help prevent this, we strongly advise all students to ensure they cannot be added to group chats without their permission. By adjusting their privacy settings, they can have more control over who can add them. We encourage you to guide your child through this process using this helpful link: [Snapchat Privacy Settings Guide](#). This will help them stay in charge of their online interactions and avoid unwanted situations.

Year 8 Students: Exploring Career Pathways in the NHS

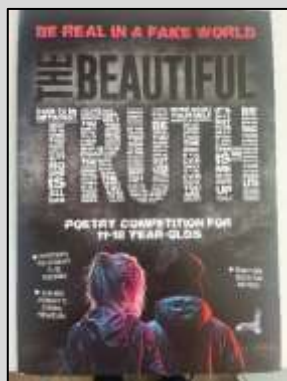
Last week, Year 8 students took part in an engaging and informative session about career opportunities within the NHS. The presentation provided a fun introduction to the wide range of pathways available post-16 and 18, including both clinical and non-clinical roles within healthcare.

The 1-hour session was designed to:

- Increase awareness of diverse careers in the NHS, including both clinical and non-clinical roles.
- Inspire and motivate students to consider a career in healthcare by raising their aspirations.
- Equip students with the knowledge of where to find information, advice, and guidance on healthcare careers.
- Emphasise the NHS values and the importance of patient care.
- Overcome socio-economic and cultural barriers to career progression.
- Strengthen pathways into vocational healthcare courses.
- Highlight various post-16 routes, showing how different learning styles can lead to fulfilling careers in the NHS.



We hope this session has helped our students see the exciting opportunities available to them in healthcare and inspired them to start planning for a successful future.



Congratulations to Bethany Moore Y10 – Poetry Competition

Bethany submitted a poem as part of the Young Writers competition and has had her entry published in The Beautiful Truth, Moments Unveiled book. Well done Bethany, keep up the great writing!



Learning

Year 9 IT students have been getting creative with logo design as part of the curriculum. They've been learning the importance of branding and how a well-crafted logo can help a business stand out. Students used various design tools to create logos that reflect the values and identity of their business. From selecting the right colour schemes to understanding the psychology behind shapes and fonts, they've gained valuable skills in graphic design. This project not only enhanced their technical abilities but also encouraged them to think critically about the impact of visual elements on consumer perception and business success.



GCSE French student Rise to the challenge

Our GCSE French students have been sitting their second mock speaking exam this week. It really is a challenging exam where students have to talk 1-1 to their French teacher on a series of topics, some of which they can prepare in advance. All of our students performed better than they did in the previous mock exam and now know what they need to do to smash their real exam in April, we are confident they will RISE up and shine. We've seen resilience and determination to succeed from so many of the candidates - two traits that will stand them in good stead for the future.

VI Sixth Form

Cambridge University - Opportunities for Year 12

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

Subject Masterclasses

5 - 12 April 2025

www.pem.cam.ac.uk/y12masterclasses

Arts and Humanities Residential

7 - 10 July 2025

www.pem.cam.ac.uk/y12summerschool

Subject Taster Webinars

Various May – June 2025

www.pem.cam.ac.uk/yr12subjecttasters

Open Days

10 – 11 July and 12 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.robinson@northumberland.gov.uk or adelle.hicks@northumberland.gov.uk