BEDE'S NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2024





ST. BEDE'S
C O L L E G E
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Dear Parents,

This term has begun with great energy and excitement, giving us many reasons to celebrate. Our students continue to excel, with year-on-year improvements in exam results reflecting their hard work and dedication. The College has also seen significant improvements over the summer, including exciting refurbishments and the launch of the Bedian Research Programme, which promises to further enrich our students' learning experience.

It was a joy to welcome our pupils back to school, especially our new Upper Third students, who are settling in wonderfully and growing in confidence with each passing week. Seeing them embrace the challenges of this new chapter has been a source of great pride.

I also had the privilege of leading assemblies with each year group, where I was struck by the students' determination to take responsibility for their growth and approach life's challenges with gratitude. It is clear that they are eager to make the most of the opportunities you have entrusted to them by choosing St Bede's for their education.

We were delighted by the success of our recent Sixth Form Open Evening, which was well attended by both internal and external candidates. While thinking about the future can feel daunting, we encourage our students to see it as an exciting adventure, full of possibilities and personal growth.

On Tuesday, we came together to celebrate the Feast Day of Our

Lady of Walsingham. It was a fitting way to close the month, asking for Our Lady's guidance and protection as we embark on this new academic year with wholehearted enthusiasm.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

María KempHeadteacher





Dear Parents,

We were absolutely delighted to welcome our pupils back to school, and it has been a joy to greet our new families as well. The start of this term has been busy but exciting, with one of the highlights being our 'Prep Eurovision' event to celebrate European Day of Languages on Wednesday, 25 September. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to engage with different cultures and languages.

As part of our commitment to enhancing our educational approach, we have introduced a Concept-based Curriculum throughout the Prep. This innovative approach moves away from traditional subject-specific content and instead focuses on 'big ideas' that span multiple disciplines. By promoting higher-level thinking and a lifelong love of learning, our students are

encouraged to explore concepts in a learner-centred environment. We are also thrilled to announce the opening of our newly developed outdoor space and classroom in the Regis grounds. Both teachers and pupils are excited about this new area. and we are keen to incorporate outdoor learning more extensively this year. In Prep 3, we have devised a programme of activities specifically for the outdoors, aptly named the 'Bedian Rangers' programme. We are especially pleased to have Mrs Eddison leading this fantastic initiative.

Additionally, our Virtue of the Month for September has been 'order'. We are working to develop new skills and build upon existing ones in collaboration with parents, helping to weave this virtue into our daily lives. Finally, please remember to invite family and friends to our annual open event on Saturday, 5 October. We would be delighted to welcome them to our school and share in the wonderful experiences we offer.

With my best wishes for October,

Claire HuntHead of Prep

Dear Parents,

It was a pleasure to welcome our Sixth Formers back at the start of term, and to sense the excitement from the new Lower Sixth students. For them, the transition from GCSE to A-levels can be a major shift, with greater academic demands and higher expectations. This month's Virtue of 'order' is especially relevant, emphasising the importance of time management as they navigate a heavier workload, manage more detailed notes and engage in additional reading beyond the syllabus. Despite these challenges, their eagerness to pursue their favourite subjects is clear. They are excited to build expertise in areas where they already excel, confident in the support they'll receive from their tutors and teachers throughout their journey.

Dr Anne McMonagle

Head of Sixth Form



Safeguarding

Mobile Phone Safety in School

There are numerous studies which suggest screen time is counterproductive to a good night's sleep. A recent BBC Panorama programme posed the question Can We Live Without Our Phones? which made for very interesting viewing and is still available on BBC iPlayer.

In Australia there have been calls to ban social media for all under 16s and in the UK the minimum age for social media accounts such as Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook and Whatsapp is 13. With calls for smartphones to be banned for children due to the dangers associated with extreme and harmful content, we stand by our mobile phone policy in school which should help pupils to focus on school life, rather than be distracted by technology.

As a reminder, no phones, headphones or AirPods should be visible between 8.50 a.m. and 3.50 p.m. and, as pupils come onto site in the morning, they are asked to start putting away their devices. Pupils should also have their phones switched off.

If parents need to get hold of their child urgently, they should call College Reception where a message will be passed to the child. If a child needs to call you urgently, they should seek permission from a member of staff and go to reception to make the call.

If pupils are on their phones without permission their phone will be confiscated and not returned until the end of the week, unless it is confiscated on a Friday and then it will be retained until the following Friday. In the event of this unfortunate situation. we will of course endeavour to make direct contact with you so that you are aware, and we will ensure a pupil has the necessary funds to travel home, if they normally do so via public transport, on the first night of confiscation, but request your support in making arrangements for the subsequent nights.

Similarly, parents should resist the urge to contact children directly in the school day and discourage their children from texting them, especially if they are upset or not feeling well.

We are here to care for and support your children during the day and we have a school nurse on site who will make the decision whether a child needs to be collected for medical reasons. If your child suffers with a medical condition, this should be divulged to the school nurse (matron@sbcm.co.uk) so she is aware and knows which pupils to monitor closely.

Mrs C Boylan

Assistant Head (Safeguarding & Ethos)

Virtue of the Month

Order

As we reflect on September's virtue of the month - 'order' - we recognise how it has set a strong foundation for the academic year. Order is about cultivating structure, discipline, and balance in all aspects of life, qualities that have helped our students start the year with purpose and focus. By embracing order in their studies and activities, our pupils have begun to develop habits that will serve them throughout the year and beyond.

September saw our students putting this virtue into practice, whether through rehearsing for the upcoming production of Oliver, taking part in Bedian Rangers, or balancing their academic commitments. The virtue of order has encouraged them to organise their time, manage their responsibilities, and approach each task with intention and care.

As we move into October, the value of order remains ever-present. It continues to support the efforts of our students as they work towards their goals. The structure and discipline they've nurtured throughout September will help them navigate the year ahead with confidence, whether it's achieving success in their studies, managing co-curricular activities, or taking on challenges like the John Locke Essay Competition.

Reflecting on this past month, we can see how order has helped set the tone for a year of growth, achievement, and personal development at St Bede's.



Prep

Bedian Rangers

"It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty; the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living." – Sir David Attenborough

As College life settles into its natural rhythm, our Bedian Rangers stepped into the tranquil embrace of the Forest School for the first time, exploring the woodland on a crisp, sunlit autumn afternoon. Joined by Bee, our loyal Prep dog, they began their journey of discovery amidst the trees and the gentle rustle of leaves.

With the opening of this natural hideaway, we hope to foster a lifelong connection between our Prep pupils and the environment. Through planting trees, observing

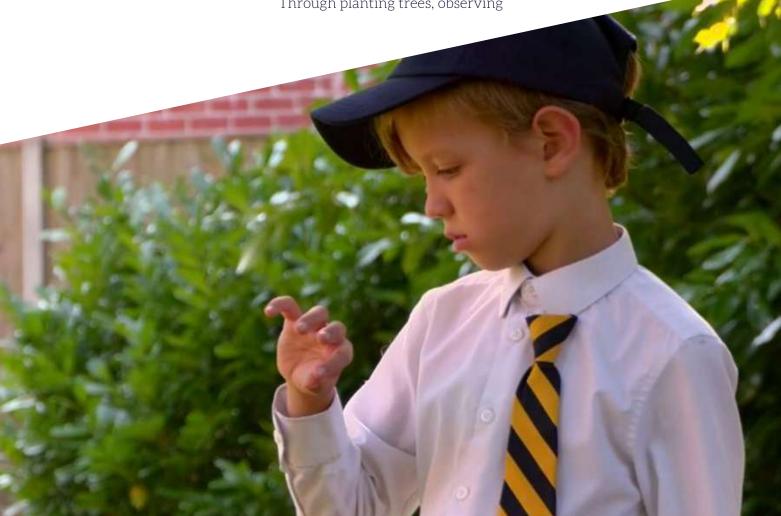
the local fauna, and learning how to care for the earth, Bedian Rangers will cultivate curiosity and social responsibility - core values of our school.

In experiencing the beauty of the natural world, we trust that our pupils will also deepen their faith, discovering it with a quiet confidence. As Mrs Hunt aptly shared in her Monday Motivation: "When you open your heart to Jesus, you are opening your heart to the greatest love in the universe."

Mrs J Eddison

HLTA and Outdoor Learning





Prep



All the Prep children have excelled themselves by learning to sing and perform songs, partly in a foreign language, in order to participate in Prep Eurovision 2024.

Sylvie and Saif from Prep 5 were amazing hosts and - with comedic interruptions from Ruby, Evelyn and Sam in Prep 6. They superbly introduced each act and kept everyone entertained with fun facts, interruptions, jokes and interaction with the audience.

First to perform were Nursery and Reception, representing Spain, singing Twinkle Twinkle in Spanish. They were simply adorable. Prep 1 and 2, represented Italy with Hakuna Matata and The Circle of Life in Italian. Many thanks to Mrs McDonald for the beautiful moves. Prep 3 sang Eye of the Tiger in German and enjoyed boxing and knocking out Mr McGrath (all in jest, of course!). Prep 5, representing Japan, Rick rolled us all with Never Gonna Give you up in Japanese. Banzai! Prep 6 sang How Far I'll Go in French and included many impressive solos. Bravo!

The show came to a peaceful close with everyone using sign language to quietly perform What a Wonderful World By Louis Armstrong.

Congratulations to all the children for their hard work, determination and teamwork. This uplifting event was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the importance and joy of foreign language learning and music, which we value so highly at St Bede's Prep.

A fabulous day to remember.

Mrs C Casson

Prep 5 Class Teacher and MFL Coordinator



Prep

A Creative Triumph: Tudor Popescu's Origami Masterpiece We're thrilled to celebrate the incredible creativity of Tudor Popescu, a Prep 6 student who spent his summer crafting a stunning origami swan. Tudor's dedication and patience led him to create around 600 individual origami pieces, which he carefully slotted together to form an elegant, intricate sculpture - a true testament to his talent and perseverance.

Tudor's artistic achievement not only showcases his creativity but also highlights one of St Bede's core values: nurturing individual expression and imagination. His project is a perfect example of how we encourage our students to explore their passions and push the boundaries of their skills.

even outside the classroom.
The Popescu family is deeply rooted in the St Bede's community. Tudor's siblings also attend the College, and his parents are valued members of our staff. Their family's involvement is a wonderful example of how whole families contribute to, and thrive within, the Bedian community, embodying our shared values of creativity, collaboration, and support.

Tudor's origami extravaganza is more than just a work of art - it's a reflection of the creativity, patience, and determination we nurture at St Bede's. We couldn't be prouder of his accomplishment and look forward to seeing what he'll create next!

Mrs C Harrison Deputy Head of Prep



Performing Arts

Oliver Musical

Performances: Wednesday 22 -Saturday 25 January "Food, glorious food! We're anxious to try it. Three banquets a day, our favourite diet. Just picture a great big steak, fried, roasted or stewed. Oh food, wonderful food, marvellous food, glorious food!"

Rehearsals are now underway for this year's winter musical, Oliver! Shine those lights, strike up the band, step-ball-change, and sing your heart out! The Performing Arts Department is proud to announce that this January, you can Consider Yourself part of the family.

We can't wait to watch the cast bring this beloved classic to life over the coming months! With every note and every scene, they're embodying our core value of creativity in its purest form.

Mr J Dickson

Director of Performing Arts



Visit our post!



Trip

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Once again I was privileged to take a fantastic group of Sixth Form students to Lourdes as part of the Salford Diocese Centenary anniversary pilgrimage and, as always, it was a profound experience for us all. We reflected that as Catholics our role is to be God's Ambassadors on earth and by volunteering to help those who would otherwise be unable to go to Lourdes, we were fulfilling that mission.

One of the themes of the pilgrimage was that of accompaniment as we were reminded that regardless of our abilities we walked side by side in supporting each other and everyone had something valuable to offer.

The week involved a variety of services, some specifically for the youth and others as part of

the wider diocese and Lourdes community. The candlelight procession is always very moving and inspiring, and my personal favourite is the healing service which Maciej describes so beautifully below. The students were particularly touched by the Water Gesture led by Bishop John which they decided they would like to share with the whole College, so they bought the largest container they could find, filled it with holy water and carried it back on the plane. It was a good job our luggage wasn't weighed!

One other new tradition they started was to bring every new Upper Third student a mini-rosary, to be given out at Welcome Mass. They wanted to inspire and encourage our younger students to invite Our



There was also time for exploring the area, a trip to the Lac du Lourdes and we absolutely aced the fancy dress party. It was an amazing week, however, don't take just my word for it, the student testimony is much more powerful:

When first starting our journey to Lourdes, I was nervous of the social setting and unsure what the upcoming week would consist of. However, as the week unfolded, each experience provided me with more to reflect upon and my feeling of belonging in Lourdes kept growing. When I first passed the Grotto, I felt a peace that I had never had the chance to experience before and this feeling flourished during my stay at Lourdes. It was the perfect opportunity for me to just think and fully focus on my prayers - something which comes very rarely in my day to day life! Having to pick a single experience from my competitive list of favourite activities is simply an

injustice. If I had to throw one out there, the Anointing of the Sick was one of the more personally touching for me. What began as a regular service developed into the strongest, most evident show of unity - a true symbol of the interdependent relation of pilgrim and volunteer, and offered a new perspective to my personal pilgrimage and everything I was both giving and receiving.

Each experience I had in Lourdes spoke to me in a different way and taught me about the way I interact with God, and the way I should look to interact in the future. The peace and grace of Our Lady is present like nowhere else, and it allows

the perfect environment for your thoughts to bloom into a beautiful flower. Moreover, the effect of Lourdes is not temporary. It teaches you how to care of that flower, how to ensure it remains resilient, and how to encourage the growth of different flowers to cultivate a beautiful garden.

Maciej

Upper Sixth student



In reflecting upon Accompaniment:

Butterflies born in winter live for only two short months, much less than butterflies born in spring. If a person were to raise a butterfly that was born in winter time, it would only take them two months to care for the butterfly, but for the butterfly, you are its whole world.

We often forget how we are privileged enough to have an ablebody care for others. Our effort and companionship might not hold much significance to us, but we should never forget how even the smallest help we provide might mean the world to those who need it. We must make good use of our body and our human nature (empathy) given by God to care for others.

This experience has been nothing but astonishing. I bonded with people who I could have never imagined I would meet and with people I've known for years.

Lourdes is a magical place that truly brings out the best of people; there are always discoveries to be made, stories to be reflected on, times of silence and fun things to take part in.

Margaret (my pilgrim) changed my life, like how I changed hers. If it wasn't for her I would have never experienced the things I have experienced in Lourdes. She helped me to find my purpose, my passion and happiness. It's not just about you helping the pilgrims, they actually help you back more than you could ever imagine!

Sienna

Upper Sixth student



Rafal, who was not a first-time visitor to Lourdes but a first-time volunteer, reflects:

I have been fortunate enough to have visited Lourdes on five occasions with my family as part of the Salford Diocese children and family group, but this year was the first time I went without my family and as a helper representing St Bede's College. Both pilgrimages are very rewarding, but in different ways. Experiencing Lourdes with the children and family group focuses mainly on the children. There are activities, social events. and all the services incorporate the children as participants, either by using musical instruments, singing with actions, or doing the readings. Experiencing Lourdes as a helper was much more dedicated to a spiritual journey, whereby you have the privilege of helping and assisting an individual who otherwise would not have the opportunity to go to events, be part of a group, and have fun. As a result, you gain a sense of reward. This reward is not financial; it is something much more precious. It's spiritual, knowing that

you have done something good and made someone happy. For those few days, it will be a holiday that the person will treasure for much longer than you can imagine.

I would not hesitate in recommending everyone experience the fulfilment of helping others, and I can assure you, the rewards you receive from participating in a Lourdes pilgrimage will stay with you forever.

Rafal

Upper Sixth student

We have already started preparing for next year's pilgrimage, where all of our Sixth Form students, whether Catholic, of other faiths, or of none, are invited to join us as volunteers. Provisional dates for this are from 30th July 2025 to Tuesday 5th August 2025. To help with costs, we have started a fundraising group with both staff and Sixth Formers involved, and any support parents can offer would be greatly appreciated.

Mrs M Corbett





Sixth Form

Welcome Day

As part of their first day, Lower Sixth students enjoyed a series of introductory talks and a fun afternoon of games. They were invited to sign up for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ); highly prized by universities, the EPQ evidences the ability to work independently, research effectively and manage both time and resources. The EPQ is an excellent opportunity to sharpen the critical thinking skills essential for A-levels. where students move beyond memorising facts to analysing,

synthesising, and evaluating information. They also learned about the weekly lessons they will take as part of the Bedian Research Programme, which has been designed to foster self motivation and encourage them to truly own their own futures. In a session introducing UCAS, our new Sixth Formers were shown how the university applications process works and made aware of the support they will receive in choosing a career path and crafting excellent personal statements.







Sixth Form

Merits Awarded in Prestigious John Locke Essay Writing Competition

We are proud to announce that Sixth Formers Alexander Bryce and Kamwana Mwara have both been awarded Merits in the 2024 John Locke Essay Writing Competition for their outstanding work in Economics. This prestigious competition attracts entries from students around the world, challenging them to engage with complex topics and demonstrate their critical thinking and writing skills.

The John Locke Essay Writing Competition, named after the renowned philosopher, encourages young minds to explore thought-provoking questions across a range of subjects, including Economics, Philosophy, and Politics. It is an internationally recognised competition, offering students the opportunity to showcase their academic abilities on a global stage.

Alexander and Kamwana's success is a testament to their intellectual curiosity, hard work,

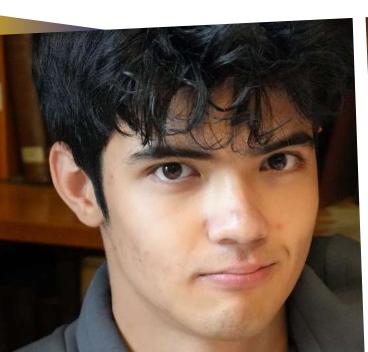
and dedication to their studies. Competing against peers from some of the top schools in the world, they demonstrated a deep understanding of economic principles and impressed the judges with their insightful essays.

This achievement not only highlights their academic excellence but also bodes well for their futures, particularly as they continue to develop their skills in critical analysis, research, and persuasive writing - skills that will undoubtedly serve them well in higher education and their professional careers.

We congratulate Alexander and Kamwana on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to seeing their continued success!

Mrs S Bolton

EPQ Coordinator & Teacher of Economics & Business





Sixth Form

Inspiring Peers to Join Lourdes Pilgrimage in 2025

Sixth form students Sienna, Rafal, and Maciej, alongside past pupils Charlotte and Isaac, recently led an inspiring assembly encouraging their peers to join the annual Lourdes pilgrimage with the Salford Diocese. This life-changing trip, taking place in July 2025, offers students the opportunity to support sick pilgrims and make a meaningful impact on their lives.

The assembly featured a heartfelt slideshow of the students' experiences, where they spoke about the joy and fulfilment of helping pilgrims by pushing their wheelchairs but mostly the interactions that took place as some elderly pilgrims can be lonely and disconnected to the youth. They also shared stories of the fun and camaraderie they experienced through quiz nights, fancy dress parties, and visits to Lac de Lourdes

The Sixth Formers have extended their legacy by visiting the Upper

Third assembly, where they gifted rosary rings to each pupil. These rings will be blessed at the Upper Third Welcome Mass, creating a lasting connection between students and the pilgrimage and inspiring them to want to help in years to come.

Throughout the academic year, Sixth Form students will be preparing for the pilgrimage and working to raise funds to support participants. We encourage pupils from Lower and Upper Sixth to join this rewarding journey and to apply to Mrs Corbett or Mrs Hibbert.

To start us off Mr Power will be running a marathon at the end of September so if you would like to sponsor him that would be amazing. We would like to wish him the very best of luck!

Alternatively you can support our other fundraising efforts by donating via the link below.

Make your donation!

Mrs C Hibbert School Lay Chaplain



Chaplaincy

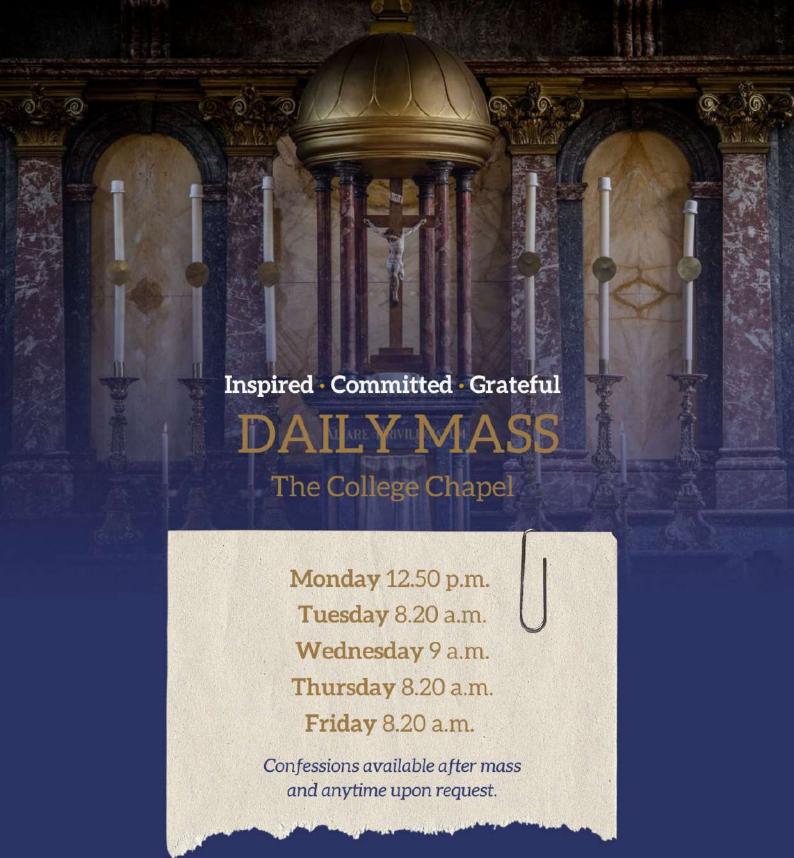
Fr. Alvaro Tintore

When I returned to college, the first thing I noticed was that the library had been refurbished. New screens, lights, tables, and chairs had been added. Someone had worked hard so that when the students came back from their summer holidays, they could read books and publications, and study in a pleasant and well-lit space. This reminded me of something similar in the history of creation. The first chapter of Genesis tells us about the creation of the universe. God. like the builders. had worked hard so that when man and woman came into being on the sixth day, they found a universe waiting to be discovered! And this is precisely what students will be doing over the next few months: discovering the

vast library of the universe. They will be encouraged to be curious and inquisitive. But in a Catholic college like St Bede's, being inquisitive means not stopping halfway; it means daring to ask the big questions not only about creation but about the Creator. Only by discovering God in creation can we answer the most pressing question of our existence. By knowing the Creator, we discover that creation is a gift from God, something we are called to value and preserve. By knowing God, we understand that we too made in his image and likeness are called to become a gift to others.

Fr Alvaro Tintore





Faith is at the heart of what it means to be a Bedian.

We welcome everyone to join us as we celebrate and nurture our sense of community and shared values each day.



Chaplaincy

Record Number of Students Show Interest in Becoming Pupil Chaplains

This year's recruitment process for Pupil Chaplains has seen an overwhelming response from students in Prep 5 and 6, with many eager to join the team. The process, led by the current Pupil Chaplains, provided a unique opportunity for aspiring chaplains to gain insight into the recruitment process, teamwork, and the importance of serving their school community in this meaningful role.

The process began with interested students completing an application form, outlining their motivations and reasons for wanting to become a Pupil Chaplain. From this pool of applicants, students were shortlisted and invited to an interview conducted by the current chaplain team, who were appointed last year. This peer-led interview format gave returning chaplains the opportunity to play an active role in selecting their successors while developing leadership and communication skills.

Mrs Hibbert shared, "It was exciting to see so many students interested in becoming part of

the team. The interview process really showed how eager they are to make a difference in the school, draw others closer to God and help in the prep. We're incredibly proud of the current chaplains for taking on such a big responsibility in interviewing the new applicants. It's clear they learned a lot about what makes a good team member and the value of this role."

With the final selection of new Pupil Chaplains just around the corner, the school is looking forward to welcoming a new team that is eager to serve and support their peers in the year ahead. The response from the Prep 5 and 6 students highlights not only the desire to be involved but also the commitment to continuing the strong legacy of care and leadership within the school community.

The future of the Pupil Chaplaincy team looks bright, with students across the school engaged and passionate about making a positive impact.

Mrs C Hibbert School Lay Chaplain



Alumni

Save the Date: Alumni All Souls' Mass

We are excited to invite our alumni to a special All Souls' Mass on Saturday, 2nd November in the St Bede's College Chapel. This event offers an opportunity to come together in faith and community, as we remember and honour loved ones who are no longer with us.

Faith remains at the heart of St Bede's, shaping the values and mission that have guided the College for generations. As we approach our 150th anniversary, this Mass carries extra significance. Our alumni, whose connection to the College spans decades, are an integral part of our story. Their continued

involvement enriches the vibrant Bedian spirit, and we are grateful for the lasting impact they make.

After the Mass, we will gather to share refreshments and conversation - a chance to reconnect with old friends, meet new faces, and celebrate the strong bonds that unite the Bedian community. Whether you graduated years ago or more recently, your presence will make this occasion even more meaningful.

We hope you will join us for this special event, as we come together in reflection and celebration, looking forward to the future while honouring the past.

Mrs C Hibbert School Lay Chaplain

Co-Curriculars

Co-Curricular Fair: Exploring Life Beyond the Classroom

At St Bede's College, holistic education is at the core of our ethos, and we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom. To kick off the new school year, students were given the opportunity to explore our vibrant co-curricular programme at this year's Co-Curricular Fair.

The fair showcased the wide array of activities on offer, from music and sports to debate club and stage crew. Students had the chance to explore their interests, discover new passions, and speak directly with the leaders of each club. These face-to-face conversations allowed them to ask questions, learn about different activities, and see firsthand the opportunities that can enrich their experience at the College.

Whether they're performing on stage, competing on the field, or collaborating behind the scenes,

our students are encouraged to take part in activities that foster personal growth, teamwork, and creativity. The Co-Curricular Fair highlighted just how many ways students can get involved and develop new skills outside their academic studies.

With so many exciting clubs and activities to choose from, this year promises to be an exciting one for College life. As always, we are committed to offering a well-rounded education that supports the development of each student, encouraging them to engage fully in the rich and diverse life of the St Bede's community.

We're looking forward to seeing what our students will achieve in the year ahead!

Mrs C Boylan

Assistant Head

Download our booklet!



Upcoming Events

Friday 4 October

8.30 a.m. - Coffee with the Headteacher (U4 & L5)

Saturday 5 October

9.30 a.m. - Open Day **Get your tickets here**

Thursday 10 October

3.00 p.m. - Prep Parents' Evening (Virtual)

Friday 11 October

8.30 a.m. - Coffee with the Headteacher (L4 & U3)

Wednesday 16 October

3.50 p.m. - Half Term Begins

Tuesday 29 October

Pupils return

Thursday 31 October

5.00 p.m. - The Gratitude Project-Photography Exhibition

Saturday 2 November

Alumni All Souls' Mass

Wednesday 13 November

9.10 a.m. - Open Morning Get your tickets here





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