



ST. BEDE'S  
COLLEGE

1 8 7 6

**Save the Date!**

Break up for Easter  
3:50PM Wednesday  
1<sup>st</sup> April

# BEDE'S NEWS

## February 2026

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term, recharging, spending time with family and, for those in examination years, continuing to prepare for the mock examinations with both balance and responsibility.

February always feels like a gentle transition in the year. We may begin to feel our moods lift as the days grow longer and the first signs of spring break through. It is fitting, therefore, that the Bedian virtue for the month is joy. However, joy is not simply a passing feeling, but something we practise through our choices and actions each day. True joy grows from gratitude, appreciating the things that bring happiness, but also recognising that challenges help us learn, grow and understand ourselves better.

This month also marked the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. It is an important time of reflection and renewal, inviting us to grow closer in our friendship with God and to deepen our sense of compassion and service to others.

February has also been a busy and vibrant month in the life of the College. Our pupils have taken part in fundraising events in support of the Lourdes Pilgrimage, and our University and Careers' Fair has provided valuable guidance and inspiration for our older pupils as they consider their future pathways. Meanwhile, our youngest pupils shone on stage in the wonderful Prep 6 Play, showcasing their creativity, confidence and teamwork.

Looking ahead, we are very much excited for our 150th Anniversary Concert. It promises to be a very special evening bringing together pupils, staff and members of our wider community to celebrate the musical talent of the College and mark this historic milestone in true Bedian style.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the College and of the many opportunities that allow our pupils to grow, flourish and serve others.

**Mrs Maria Kemp, Headteacher**





## PREP

February has been another busy and exciting month in the Prep School, with our pupils embracing every opportunity to learn, perform and celebrate together. One of the highlights of the month has been the wonderful Prep 6 production of 'Revoltin' Children'. The pupils' irrepressible energy and natural talent made this a joyful and energetic performance. Weeks of rehearsals, teamwork and dedication led to an incredible end result, and it was a privilege to see their hard work come to life on stage. The show truly captured the vibrant spirit of Prep at St Bede's, and we would like to congratulate all of the pupils and staff involved for creating such a memorable production.

This month has also provided many opportunities for pupils to explore and learn about important cultural celebrations. As part of their Concept Curriculum, Prep 1 have journeyed to China this term in honour of the lunar new year, with activities including a vibrant Dragon Dance and a Chopstick Challenge.

Experiences such as these remind us that learning reaches far beyond the classroom walls, helping our children grow in empathy, confidence and understanding as they begin their journey towards becoming thoughtful global citizens.

We also enjoyed a very special Valentine's assembly led by Prep 1, who brought the story of St Valentine to life for the school community. Through their thoughtful retelling, the children reminded us that love is not simply something we celebrate on one day of the year, but something God calls us to live out each day in our words, our choices and the way we care for one another.

As always, it has been a pleasure to witness the enthusiasm, creativity, joy and kindness that our pupils bring to school life each day. Thank you, as ever, to our staff and families for their continued support in making the Prep School such a positive and inspiring community.

**The Prep Team**



# THE SIXTH FORM

Our Upper Sixth students are currently immersed in their mock examinations, demonstrating admirable focus as they strive for the grades that will pave the way for their futures. With only a couple of months remaining before the A level season begins in earnest, this is a pivotal period of refinement and hard work. While the academic pressure is undeniable, it is encouraging to see so many students approaching these assessments as a vital stepping stone toward their goals. Alongside this academic rigour, the Lower Sixth have been exploring the virtue of Joy—not as a fleeting emotion, but as a resilient mindset of appreciation. By cultivating Joy, our students are learning to live in charity; it fosters a deep gratitude

for both the basic necessities and the extraordinary treats in life, while providing the strength to remain grounded rather than "mood-dependent."

Beyond the classroom and the exam hall, the Sixth Form continues to thrive through shared experiences and community building. The Lower Sixth recently enjoyed their Form Trips, which offered a well-deserved break and a chance to practice that very mindset of appreciation in a more relaxed setting. These independent excursions allow students to strengthen bonds that will support them throughout their senior years. We look forward to reading their own perspectives on the outings in the next edition of Bede's News.

**Dr Anne McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form**



**PREP 5 VISIT RELICS OF ST CARLO ACUTIS**



**PREP SPORTS ROUND-UP**



**PREP 1 EXPLORE CHINESE CULTURE**



**A CAPITAL SCHOOL TRIP**



**RISING FROM THE ASHES**



**1000 MILE TRIATHLON FOR LOURDES**



**EASY MONEY: SUPPORT THE LOURDES PILGRIMAGE**



**SIXTH FORM VISIT TO AMAZON WAREHOUSE**



**CAREERS UPDATE FEBRUARY 2026**



**SIXTH FORM VALENTINE'S HAND CRAFTED BAKES**



**SIXTH FORM BRAIN DAY**



**SIXTH FORM VISIT JAGUAR LAND ROVER**



ST. BEDE'S  
COLLEGE  
1876

# Bedian Ambassadors January 2026 - Fortitude

## Upper Third



Conan



Rafael



Nicholas



Leah



Cillian



Mia

## Lower Fourth



Eghonghon



Mukupa



Matthew



Faith



Beth



May



Victoria

# Upper Fourth



Nicholas



Dexter



Rae



Desman



Amelia



Ife

# Lower Fifth



Ryan



Jayden



Logan



Paul



Artemis



Carmen

## Upper Fifth



Viktor



Ines



Amir



Kasen



Lily



Olivia



Lucy

## Lower Sixth



Malaya



Martina



Eniola

## Upper Sixth



Molly



Solomon



Ruochen

# PREP STARS OF THE WEEK



# PREP HOUSEPOINTS



# PREP VIRTUE WINNERS FOR 'JOY'





# FATHER ALVARO'S FEBRUARY MESSAGE

## THE THREE-COURSE MEAL OF LENT

We often associate Lent with its hardships and disciplines, with what we do for God rather than with what God wants to do for us. Yet Lent is, above all, a season of particular grace and a renewed call to conversion. The disciplines and sacrifices of Lent certainly form part of the menu, but Lent is not simply about our effort; it is about allowing the grace of God to work within us, and through our efforts, transform our hearts.

During this time of preparation for Holy Week, we are invited to undertake a “diet” that has been tested by countless Christians before us — including Jesus himself, who fasted for forty days and nights — transforming not only their habits but, more importantly, their hearts.

### First Dish: Mortification (Fasting)

This is the appetiser. By fasting — whether from certain foods, social media, curiosity, or particular comforts — we learn to say no to different types of “fast food” and become more attentive to lasting spiritual fruits. Fasting helps us detach from distractions and reminds us that true satisfaction comes from God, not from material things.

### Second Dish: Prayer

This is the main course. Just as our bodies require proper nourishment to grow, our souls need daily prayer in order to deepen their relationship with God. Lent invites us to pray with the liturgy, and to reflect more intentionally on God’s love for us.

### Third Dish: Charity (Almsgiving)

This is the dessert. A genuine Lenten journey culminates in love put into action. As we become more aware of our own need for God’s grace, we also grow more attentive to the needs of others. Charity flows naturally from a heart that has encountered God’s mercy.

We undertake the disciplines of Lent not merely to succeed in giving things up for forty days, but mainly to unite ourselves more closely with Jesus and God, Our Father. And as Jesus reminds us, “Your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”

**Fr Alvaro - College Priest**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Upper Third & Upper Fourth Parents' Evening**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Upper 4<sup>th</sup> Catchup Immunisations**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Upper Fifth Parents' Evening**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March - 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert - [Book Tickets](#)**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Prep Parents' Evening**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Break up for Easter Holidays**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - Good Friday**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April - Easter Sunday**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April - Students Return from Easter Holidays**