

BISHOP BEWICK

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

SPRING 2025



St Cuthbert's Catholic High School

One Trust, One Family
A great education has the power to transform lives

An update from the Chief Executive, Anita Bath

Thankfully Spring has sprung, and it is getting lighter and hopefully warmer: Easter joy is in the air.

This newsletter edition features some of the events schools undertake as part of their Easter preparation, including Ash Wednesday. Last month, 900 of our Diocesan secondary students travelled to London to celebrate the Flame youth conference at the OVO Arena Wembley, travelling to London the day before a certain cup final. As you will see from the article, they all enjoyed the event immensely and represented our Diocese brilliantly. This is also a Jubilee Year for Catholic communities where Pope Francis has called us to become Pilgrims of Hope. Some of our schools have embraced the call to have a Holy Door in school, beautifully decorated by their children.

In the last newsletter I wrote about the importance of ensuring our children gain the best examination outcomes possible to be able to pursue their aspirations for adult life. In this newsletter you will see how important our schools consider the development of the whole child, providing as many opportunities as possible to explore and discover each child's unique talents, gift and purpose in life. Our schools do this by enabling our pupils to engage in a wide range of activities, both in school and extra-curricular.

As a Trust we are also supporting our children with their mental health through a variety of measures, including access for students and their parents to the Wellbeing Hub to support them with the many challenges faced by today's world.

I have recently just finished two books that offer advice for schools and parents. The first is 'How to Raise a Viking' by Helen Russell and is particularly suitable for primary aged children. Helen lived in Denmark for many years where children are reported to be the happiest children in the world. She advocates several things including the importance of outdoor play which is something we are undertaking across our primary schools. The second is 'The Anxious Generation' by Jonathan Haidt who considers the impact of technology and social media on children. It contains some hard-hitting research and difficult messages, but it has provoked much thought in schools on how we can best support students to navigate the complex world of social media.



Anita Bath



At Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust we really understand the need for students to have the best emotional health possible. We know that children and young people and their families face many challenges in today's world, and that some need support from their schools and outside services at different points.

As a Trust we have made the decision to invest in The Wellbeing Hub, which is an online platform for students Year 6 and above, parents/carers and staff. It is a valuable resource developed by experts in child and adolescent mental health, and is easily accessible for everyone via logins provided by your schools. The material informs, explains and supports people to understand the things that their children, or they, may be feeling, supporting them to thrive, emotionally, socially and in their learning journey. The Wellbeing Hub is being rolled out across all our schools at present.

Our schools say:

Since its launch at Sacred Heart High School in 2022, it has become an essential part of our approach to student wellbeing. The platform has allowed us to enhance our existing support systems, including student assemblies, the PSHCE curriculum, tutor programmes, parental engagement, and staff CPD. As of September 2024, all secondary schools within BBCET have introduced The Wellbeing Hub, recognising its impact and the benefits it brings to school communities. At Sacred Heart, our Sixth Form Wellbeing Committee have been using the platform to strengthen their roles as wellbeing leaders.

Here's what they had to say:

"What we love most about The Wellbeing Hub is that it's not just about fixing problems-it's about giving us the tools to look after ourselves and each other."

"The Wellbeing Hub has given us the confidence to talk about mental health and wellbeing in a positive way. We feel grateful to have such a strong support system in place-one that will continue to help students for years to come."

Parents and carers can access a wide range of resources, including online courses, webinars, podcasts, blogs, and live Q&A sessions with experts. These tools are designed to offer guidance and support in navigating the challenges young people face today. Signing up for The Wellbeing Hub is free and easy, and we encourage all parents and carers to explore the platform. We hope it provides valuable support in helping the young people in your lives thrive.

Michelle Baldwin, Head of Lower School, Sacred Heart High School.

The Wellbeing Hub is helping us to offer further support to our St Mark's community, with families using the site to access online parenting courses, research articles and advice on a wide range of topics. Access is free for families and covers many common parenting questions and themes. Staff can also use the site to support their own wellbeing, making it a useful and beneficial resource for all.

Kate McKenna, Headteacher at St Mark's Catholic Primary School.

St Aidan's is very much a community hub where we work closely with children and their parents to overcome any SEMH barriers to learning. We operate an open-door policy, and our wellbeing team are available to support parents to best support their children. The Wellbeing Hub is rapidly proving to be a useful tool providing information for staff - and as a resource towards which we can signpost parents, in order to provide additional advice and the reassurance that they are not alone and that there is help out there.

Rachel Lalor, Headteacher at St Aidan's Catholic Primary School (Wallsend).



For young people it includes access to:

- Wellbeing ambassadors programme
- Peer mentoring courses
- Mental health courses
- Pupil Q&A library
- The A-Z of wellbeing
- Learning materials
- Wellbeing advice
- Help zone
- Careers advice
- Inspiring futures podcast
- Top tips

For parents/carers it includes access to:

- Parenting courses
- Free expert-led webinars
- One-to-one specialist support
- Support, advice and answers
- Weekly podcasts and articles
- Live Q&As
- Careers resources
- Q&A library
- Top tips
- The A-Z of wellbeing

A message from... Alison Miller, Trustee



Alison Miller

Over the past two years I have been privileged to support the Trust as a Foundation Director and have seen it go from strength to strength.

Previously I worked in education in Newcastle upon Tyne for over 32 years. I was a Primary Headteacher for 16 years and an Executive Headteacher for 8 Years. I was the Catholic Primary Schools representative on the Newcastle Promise Board SEN and Inclusion Subcommittee.

As the SEND Director, one of my roles is maintaining a focus on providing an inclusive education through the curriculum, pupil outcomes, accessibility, and inclusive pastoral support.

I meet termly with Nicola Taylor the Trust SEND Lead, attend regular SEND training, monitor outcomes for pupils with SEND and keep abreast of the DfE requirements relating to the education of children with SEND.

I have seen for myself the strength and commitment of SEND teams across the Trust. Nicola Taylor and her team are inspirational and have a clear and ambitious vision for our SEND pupils. Our Headteachers, SENDCos, teachers and teaching assistants are our strength. Collectively, they create environments in which all children and young people can flourish and thrive.

As a Trust we are continually reflecting on and adapting what we do for individual children. Each child has gifts and talents that must be optimised and celebrated.

Ensuring the needs of the child are at the centre of what we do - no child should be left behind. We believe a great education can transform lives.

Ofsted updates...



St Stephen's Catholic Primary School

St Stephen's may have significantly improved across all areas since their previous inspection where it was graded Good.

'Pupils are very happy here. They thrive in a school that helps them to be the best they can be. The school has a highly ambitious curriculum that enables pupils to gain the knowledge and skills to succeed. Pupils leave this school well prepared for their next steps in learning. All pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, achieve exceptionally well.'

'The school weaves its high aspirations for pupils into wider opportunities for them.'

'The school ensures that staff are well skilled. Carefully planned training and collaborative working across the school ensure that staff support pupils with learning effectively.'

'Classrooms are calm, industrious and focused. Pupils are eager to do well.'

'Leaders, staff and those responsible for governance share an unwavering vision for what pupils can achieve. Strong shared practice and values help the school realise its ambition for the pupils who attend.'



St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, North Shields

St Cuthbert's maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection where it was graded Good.

St Cuthbert's 'is a happy place filled with kindness... Outdoor learning enhances every part of the curriculum.'

'Pupils achieve well and this is reflected in published outcomes. The broad and ambitious curriculum prepares them well for the future. Books and reading are at the heart of this community school.'

'The school has high expectations of its pupils, both academically and socially.'

'The curriculum is sequenced effectively from early years to Year 6. The school recognises the importance of a flying start in the early years. Here, staff support children to build strong foundations in English and mathematics.'

'Across the school, teaching supports pupils to progress through the curriculum. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are included in all aspects of school life.'

'The school sits at the heart of the local community. Parents are proud of the school.'



St Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Ashington

St Aidan's maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection where it was graded Good.

'Pupils are happy and well behaved and enjoy coming to school. They feel safe as adults are caring and listen to them if they have any worries. Pupils are kind and respectful of each other.'

'Staff have high expectations of pupils to work hard and behave well. Pupils achieve highly, particularly by the end of key stage 2. The school's five values are revisited daily and underpin the ethos of the school.'

'The curriculum is broad and ambitious. It includes regular opportunities for pupils to revisit the knowledge they have studied. As a result, pupils secure knowledge and are able to apply it confidently.'

'Staff accurately identify the needs of pupils. Pupils with SEND receive additional support from adults and use extra resources when required. This helps pupils access the full curriculum.'



St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Kenton

St Cuthbert's may have significantly improved across all areas since their previous inspection where it was graded Good.

'Pupils thrive in an environment that is caring, supportive and highly inclusive. The school is ambitious for pupils and ensures that they are well prepared for each step in their education journey. This is reflected in their achievement in reading, writing and mathematics, along with a range of other subjects.'

'The teaching of reading is highly effective. When some pupils need more help with learning to read, they receive timely and effective support. Pupils at the end of key stage 2 attain highly in national reading assessments.'

'The school curriculum provides the pupils with a breadth of learning across the full range of subjects. Pupils learn these subjects effectively so that, by the time they leave Year 6, they are well prepared for the secondary school curriculum. This equally applies to pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).'

'The school provides pupils with many opportunities to enrich and bring their learning to life.'

Sacred Heart Catholic High School rated 'outstanding' across all areas!

Sacred Heart Catholic High School has been rated 'outstanding' across all areas by Ofsted inspectors, who praised "the caring school community that welcomes all". Inspected in December 2024, they received top marks across the board during the two-day inspection, with students commended for their "exemplary" behaviour and "exceptional" attitudes to learning.

"The school is committed to its mission of enabling educational and future success for every pupil. It works with intelligence and determination to achieve such success." The inspectors stated that "pupils behave in an exemplary manner" and "take responsibility for their own behaviour and show respect and kindness to all".

"The school values pupils for who they are. It celebrates pupils' different faiths and cultures. They benefit from a well-established school ethos, founded on the school's history and traditions."

Sacred Heart's "broad and ambitious" curriculum also received honourable mention in the report, which said the school had "applied considerable thought to the content and sequencing of the curriculum", enabling pupils to "build their knowledge and skills in a coherent and progressive manner".

The school's "culture of reading" was also recognised. "Pupils read widely and often at school," continued the report. "The school promotes a love for reading through events, such as author visits and a reading festival. Sixth-form students help younger pupils with their reading. The school has established a culture of reading. This culture makes a significant contribution to pupils' achievements."

Teaching standards were described as being "of a high quality" with teachers having "expert subject knowledge" and adapting their teaching approaches "to consolidate and extend pupils' knowledge and understanding".

Extra-curricular activities also met with the inspectors' approval. "The school provides pupils with a diverse range of opportunities to develop their talents and interests," they added. "Pupils enjoy educational visits that enrich their learning. They take part in extra-curricular activities, including sport, music, and dance. "Sixth-form students play a central role in the life of the school. Indeed, this is a school where the pupils lead and give back to others."

Sacred Heart's Headteacher, Suzanne Howell, was delighted with the glowing report. "We are so proud that the many strengths of Sacred Heart have been recognised, in all areas of school life," she said. "It is so pleasing to read such incredibly high praise of our students, who were throughout the two days, a credit to themselves, their families and their school. A huge well done to our dedicated teaching and support staff team – this report recognised the hard work that happens every single day in our school."

World Book Day



From Narnia to Hogwarts: Bishop Bewick Schools celebrated their love of reading in their own unique ways on World Book Day, 6th March.

World Book Day promotes reading for pleasure which is one of the single biggest indicators of a child's future success, both in terms of academic achievement (Reading for Change, OCED 2002) and mental wellbeing (Literacy Changes Lives, NLT 201).

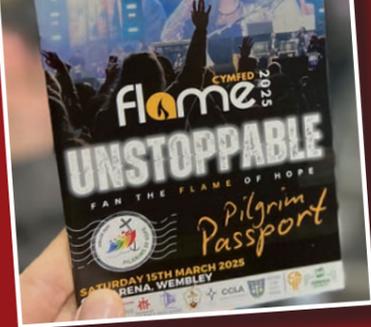
From dressing up as their favourite character, going to school in comfy pyjamas or taking part in activities such as quizzes and book hunts, pupils and staff truly embraced the magical world of story telling. Parents at St Catherine's became secret readers for the day sharing stories with different classes which really brought the whole school community together.

Pupils at English Martyrs' explored the book *I Want a Dog* by Jon Agee as a whole school.

Some schools were even lucky enough to hear from local authors including Dan Smith who visited St Benet Biscop. Dan spoke about his journey as a writer providing an insight to the inspiration behind his thrilling novels. St Robert's welcomed author Louise Dodds who read her latest book, *The Owl Who Hooted Happiness*, and carried out workshops with the pupils. Author Naomi Barley visited St Oswald's and talked about her book *The Zig Zags*.

You can read more about how our schools celebrated World Book Day via our website, www.bishopbewickcet.org/news and our social media pages.





Flame 2025

On 15 March, pupils from Bishop Bewick joined over 10,000 others at the UK's largest Catholic Youth Conference at the OVO Arena Wembley. It was a day of worship, prayer and music, with inspirational speakers including Bear Grylls.

The theme for the event was Unstoppable - Fan the Flame of Hope, complementing the theme for this Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope. It was an unforgettable experience and our pupils and staff had an amazing day.



St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy

"I never really thought much about faith before, but listening to Isaac Harvey made me realise that even when life is hard, you can still do amazing things. It made me wonder what I could actually do if I believed in myself more and trusted that God has a plan."

"Singing with 10,000 people was one of the best things I've ever done. It felt like we were all connected, and for the first time, faith didn't feel boring, it actually felt real and exciting."

"Before today, I wasn't really sure if I believed in God, and to be honest, I still don't know. But when we were singing the quiet songs, I felt something inside me that I can't explain. Maybe faith isn't about proving something, it's just about feeling it."

St Thomas More Catholic High School

"Flame is like a Catholic Coachella, such an experience!" *Year 10 student*

"I was lucky enough to attend Flame in 2023, and it completely changed my view of what 'church' could be like, it helped strengthen my faith and my spirituality. Having the opportunity to go again this year has confirmed how special this event is!" *Year 12 student*

St Mary's Catholic School

"Speakers were inspirational and spoke to me in such a way I can share with others what they said." "I will never forget this day." "Most uplifting day."

St Cuthbert's Catholic High School

"The spark of Flame ignited the spirit of youth, unity, and companionship in our hearts."

"I loved the interviews; they taught us that we are unstoppable with God by our side. The songs were incredible, and I have truly come away with the mission to spread the flame of hope."

"I really enjoyed interacting with students from other schools and sharing my faith with 10,000 other young Catholics."

Sacred Heart Catholic High School

"I really enjoyed Flame 2025. Flame was a great experience, I really enjoyed what we did...it was an amazing life-changing experience. My favourite part of Flame was the whole experience itself, the music, the singing, the dancing and the train home making friends with the other students from St Robert's. I really cannot wait for Flame 2027, and I definitely would recommend it to the younger students and people who didn't have a chance to go to this...has to have been one of the best school trips I've been on!"



National Careers Week

Preparing for your future...

From primary to secondary, Bishop Bewick schools are helping prepare pupils for future careers by giving them an insight into the vast and diverse range of career paths they can choose.

St Stephen's annual Careers Week took place earlier this term and is always a much-anticipated event in the school calendar.

Each year, St Stephen's hosts a careers week for Key Stage 2 pupils where they go off timetable over the course of the week and spend the afternoons hearing from various different professionals to highlight the diverse range of careers paths children can choose. Some pupils were also able to visit workplaces in the local area. In a vast and changing world of work, it is important for seeds to be planted about potential careers with our children as early as possible.

The week started with a visit from a scientist at Proctor and Gamble, where the children explored the chemistry that goes into creating many household products including laundry detergent and shampoo. Many of the children enjoy science lessons and creating experiments, and were enthused by the idea of doing this for a living! A highlight on Tuesday for a lot of the children was being able to make their own pasta dish with the school chef and catering provider, Hutchison Catering. Wednesday brought a visit from a doctor who specialises in the delivery of babies, but was able to tell us all about the many different types of doctors and the intense training required to secure a role in this field. A group of children also visited Boo-K Flowers in Heaton.

On the final day of careers week, fifteen lucky pupils got to experience life in a corporate office at the EE Mobile Office. Back at school, an academy under 18 player from NUFC came in to talk about their football career – a job many of our pupils aspire to!

A common thread throughout all of the talks over this week was that no one will hand out your dream job, and that hard work, determination and passion are required to get to where you want to be. These are all skills that pupils can be practising right now in their work in school and extra-curricular activities. Choosing a career path is not an easy decision to make and careers week highlights the variety of roles that exist in the world of work.

You can read more about careers week at St Stephen's on their website, www.ststephensprimaryschool.co.uk/post/ks2-careers-week-2025



St Mary's Catholic School

National Careers Week at St Mary's Catholic School was a fantastic opportunity to help students develop essential skills for life. It encouraged them to reflect on their strengths, explore different career paths, and see how the skills they're building in school will prepare them for the future.

Throughout the week, subject-specific career lessons were integrated across various subjects, helping students understand how their learning is relevant to the workplace.

With a focus on transferable skills like communication, problem-solving, and teamwork, students connected their education to future career possibilities. Our staff also played an active role, sharing their own career journeys and displaying door signs to spark career-related conversations with students.

Guest speakers from ESH Construction, ASK Apprenticeships, and the Newcastle United Foundation provided invaluable industry insights, broadening students' perspectives on potential careers.

The week set the stage for our annual Careers Fair, held later in the term, where over 45 employers from a range of sectors provided students with the opportunity to explore career options, gain first-hand advice, and build valuable industry connections.

The Careers Fair was a great success and a very worthwhile occasion, that was enjoyed greatly by our St Mary's students.



Catenian Public Speaking Competition 2025



Bishop Bewick schools once again celebrated the art of public speaking at this year's Catenian Public Speaking Competition that Sacred Heart Catholic High School had the pleasure of hosting.

This competition is designed to help young people to fulfil their potential and prepare them for the challenges in life. Sacred Heart was represented at Key Stage 3 by Duha Faiz who spoke about 'Fashion Waste'; at Key Stage 4 by Leena Ali, who spoke about 'Food Waste'; and at Key Stage 5 by Jessica Moyo, who spoke about 'Genocide.'

The standard on the day was exceptional and all three Sacred Heart competitors were very impressive, delivering their speeches with passion. "Our girls certainly demonstrated Sacred Heart courage and confidence when they stood up to speak in front of an audience of strangers that included 25 contestants in total, along with their friends and family" said Miss Connolly, Deputy Headteacher at Sacred Heart.

Reflecting on her experience, Leena said "Public speaking has taught me to be more confident when addressing a large group of people and has given me key skills, not only in delivery and vocal projection, but also in creating a coherent and meaningful argument which helps get my thoughts and feelings out to other people. I really enjoyed the diversity of the event and the different topics everyone chose; it served as a really good learning experience for me and I would definitely do it again in the future".

For the Year 6 round of the competition, to allow as many pupils as possible to benefit from this experience, Bishop Bewick once again held two internal rounds of judging. Pupils submitted a video in the initial round and unsurprisingly the quality of the children's presentations was exceptional. After some deliberation, the following six pupils went on to present their speeches to a live audience on



14 February. These were Kathryn from Ss Peter and Paul's, Dhvani from St Bede's (Denton Burn), Joni from St Lawrence's, Anna from St Mary's (Forest Hall), Sanjana from St Michael's and Kays from St Teresa's. All six pupils delivered their speeches with confidence and passion, but it was Anna from St Mary's with her speech, A Christmas Scrooge, who was chosen to represent Bishop Bewick in the Catenian Grand Final. On the day of the competition, Anna "spoke with maturity and clear diction on the theme of a Christmas Scrooge, convincing the audience that to be a scrooge could be a compliment" said a representative from the competition. Anna went on to secure first place in her category.

Well done Anna! Anna said, "I really enjoyed taking part in the competition. It was interesting listening to the other contestants and their views and interpretations on their chosen subjects."

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Cullercoats, receives School Mental Health Award



St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Cullercoats) were delighted to receive a Bronze School Mental Health Award, following a year-long period of assessment and evaluation.

The award was granted by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools at Leeds Beckett University. They run the award scheme in partnership with the charity Minds Ahead with the aim of 'improving the outcomes and life chances of young people'. St Mary's was recognised for its work in promoting and safeguarding the mental health and wellbeing of its staff and pupils.

The school compiled a portfolio of evidence over the course of a year and all staff and children of all ages played an active role in the process which included their curriculum work, their behaviour and values, and their views.

The campaign has been spearheaded by Joanne MacDonald, the Deputy

Headteacher and Senior Mental Health Lead and reflects the journey the school has been over the last five years. This has included taking part in pilot programmes within North Tyneside for Mental Health First Aid, being one of the schools to pilot work with Connect Mental Health Support Team. This has enabled the school to provide early intervention and support for children and families.

Joanne said, "We are absolutely delighted to achieve this award, which acknowledges the hard work and dedication of all the staff in school to be able to recognise and support mental health in ourselves, our pupils and our families."



A Special Message for Pope Francis from St Cuthbert's Catholic High School

At St Cuthbert's Catholic High School, we are proud to share the wonderful work that our boys recently did, to send a heartfelt message of prayers and good wishes to Pope Francis.

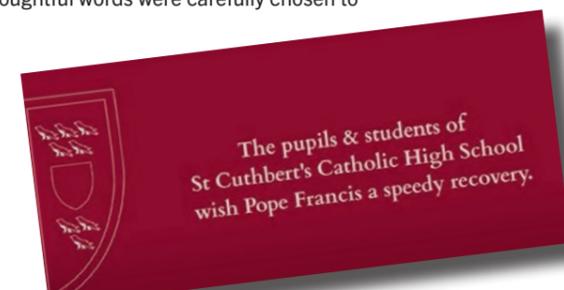
As many of you may know, our Holy Father has been recovering from a recent hospital stay and continues his journey of healing at the Vatican. In an effort to show our support and solidarity, our pupils and students came together to create a special video for Pope Francis.

This unique project saw the boys working collaboratively to record messages of prayer and encouragement in several languages, reflecting the diverse community that makes up our school. Their thoughtful words were carefully chosen to

lift the spirits of the Holy Father, letting him know that he is in our thoughts and prayers as he recovers.

The video is a beautiful display of the compassion and faith that guide us as a Catholic school. It not only demonstrates our community's deep respect for Pope Francis but also highlights the global nature of the Catholic Church, as our boys communicated their messages across cultural and linguistic barriers. We are incredibly proud of the initiative our boys took, and we hope that this gesture of kindness will bring joy and comfort to Pope Francis as he continues his recovery.

Please join us in keeping the Holy Father in your prayers.



You can watch the video using the following link youtu.be/GURYy-pnYKE

Ash Wednesday

Schools across Bishop Bewick marked the beginning of Lent with special Ash Wednesday services. Students and staff gathered in school halls and local churches to participate in this important day of reflection in the liturgical calendar.

Within school pupils learn about the significance of Ash Wednesday, with pupils discussing the Lenten journey and what they might give up or take on during the forty days ahead. Ash Wednesday reminds us that Lent is a time for renewal, and marks the start of a period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for Easter.

Celebrating these traditions together in our schools strengthens our Catholic ethos and sense of community.

A Double Celebration to begin the season of Lent

The pupils of Ss Peter and Paul's Catholic Primary School in Cramlington gathered in the school hall for a double celebration to mark the holy season of Lent.

In this Jubilee Year, the school had designated the entrance into the school hall as a Holy Door and it was beautifully decorated by some of the pupils.

At the start of the Ash Wednesday service, conducted by Fr Manoj Punchakunnel and Deacon Rob Wareing, Fr Manoj spoke to the assembled pupils to explain the significance of the Jubilee Year and the Holy Door.

He then blessed the Holy Door, and the pupils left the hall by the rear door before re-entering through the Holy Door. Deacon Rob also explained the meaning of the ashes and invited pupils and staff to come forward to receive them.

The children displayed exceptional behaviour which helped to create a calm and prayerful atmosphere. It was the perfect way to mark the start of this Lenten season.



School in the Spotlight:

Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School

Lots has been happening at Star of the Sea this academic year. Headteacher Kathryn DiMambro shared the following highlights for our School in the Spotlight feature in this edition of our newsletter...

FIRST LEGO® League

A group of Year 6 students recently competed in the FIRST LEGO® League Submerge Challenge at the Village Hotel.

Over four months, they've shown incredible dedication to our FIRST LEGO® Club, developing STEM skills and exploring real-world themes. Competing as "The Guardians of the Deep Sea," they showcased their innovation project and robot design, impressing everyone with their teamwork and creativity.

Their hard work paid off as they stood out and received the Judges' Award.

Congratulations to the team for their fantastic achievement and commitment to excellence!



School in the Spotlight:

Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School



Year 3 have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians in History and to show what they had learned they opened a museum for their parents, carers and the rest of the school.

They made artefacts, posters and fact files to showcase the work they had done. Visitors to the museum learned about the pyramids, pharaohs, the embalming process, Egyptian gods and goddesses, games and pastimes, food and drink and lots more.

It was a great fun and everyone enjoyed seeing all the hard work of the children.

One parent visitor said "This is the best museum I have ever been to! Well done year 3."

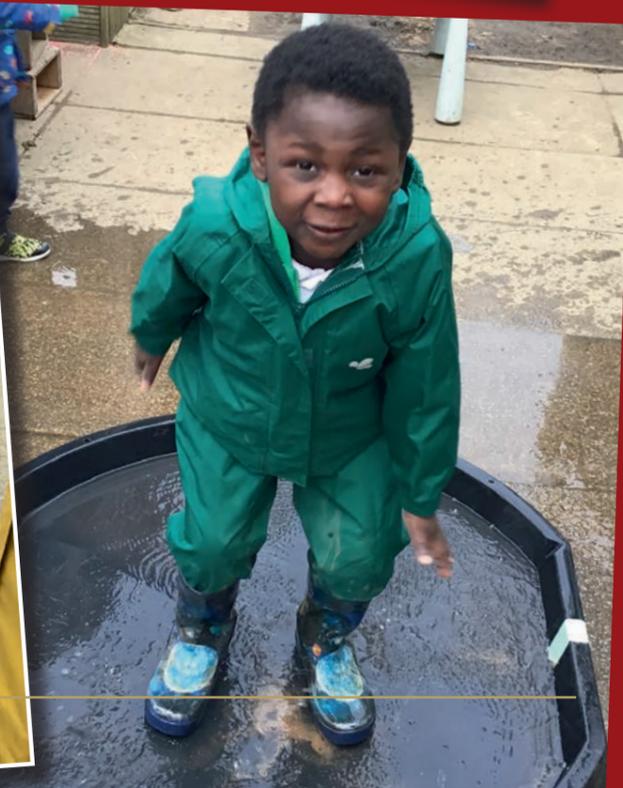
"This is the best museum I have ever been to!"

Splish Splash

Nursery had a great time jumping in puddles to raise money for our outdoor area.

The children were sponsored for each jump and raised a fabulous £400 for our outside area. The nursery staff were amazed at how many jumps the children did in 30 seconds; I think the record was 83!

We are going to spend the money on a lovely big sand pit for outside, big enough for us all to dig in!



A Special Remembrance

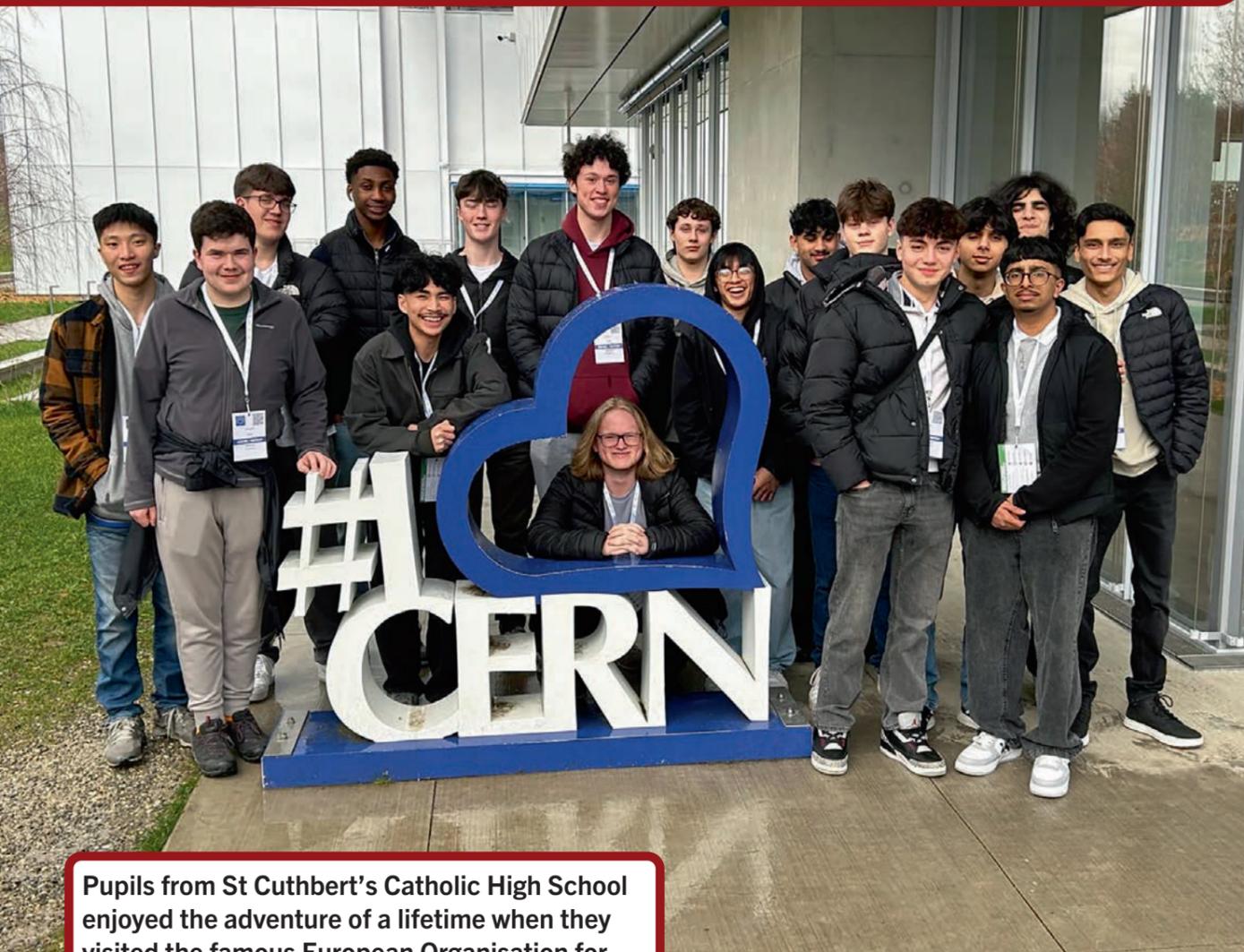
Children from Star of the Sea Primary School in Whitley Bay joined others from across the region for a special remembrance gathering to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's theme for this year was 'For A Better Future'. The children attended the event, saw drama performances, listened to experiences of visitors' to Auschwitz, poems, readings, first-hand accounts of Holocaust survivors, and then read prayers of their own.

At Star of the Sea, we believe that participating in Holocaust memorial events is deeply important for our pupils, as it helps foster understanding, empathy, kindness and awareness about the significance of human rights and tolerance, all while remembering the importance of preventing such events in the future.



St Cuthbert's Catholic High School: An adventure of a lifetime...



Pupils from St Cuthbert's Catholic High School enjoyed the adventure of a lifetime when they visited the famous European Organisation for Nuclear Research CERN laboratory during a trip to Geneva earlier this year.

It was the first time that the school had organised a trip to the home of the Hadron Collider on the Franco-Swiss border, where some of the world's leading research into particle physics takes place.

Staying at the Meininger Geneva Hostel, the students enjoyed a packed itinerary linking into study areas such as particle physics, fission and fusion and nuclear physics.

They visited the CERN exhibition, where students were able to apply what they had been taught over the course of their A Levels, and see it have real-world applications.

Pupils enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of CERN getting up close to the original Cyclotron that had been used when CERN was first started and also getting to visit the antimatter factory. 'This was some cutting-edge science,' said Mr Scott, Head of Physics.

Pupils also visited the Red Cross Museum to see how they have supported those involved in war throughout history, as well as the Swiss Plasma Centre, which included a talk and lecture on what plasma is and how scientists are aiming to carry out cold fusion on Earth. Despite the busy timetable, the group had the opportunity to explore Lake Geneva, where they sampled local delicacies of crepes and raclette.

Mr Scott said, 'Trips like this are incredibly important, as they help

build cultural capital and raise the aspirations of our pupils and allow pupils to see how their A Level choices can help lead them to careers such as this'.

You can read more about this trip via our website www.bishopbewickcet.org/post/bcct-students-swiss-science-adventure.



Our Lady and St Anne's Catholic Primary School: It's all in Black and White...

Our Lady and St Anne's Catholic Primary School celebrates its unique link to Newcastle United with their Magpie Montage and Black and White Day.

A stone's throw away from the Newcastle United (NU) Foundation, Our Lady and St Anne's Catholic Primary School, has close connections with The Magpies.

The NU Foundation have provided weekly sports tuition across the school from early years up to year 6. It was through this connection that 30 year 6 pupils were asked by Newcastle United Football Club (NUFC) to decorate lockers located outside the NU Foundation, with the help of design company Lines Behind.

James Dixon, founder of Lines Behind, visited the school to guide the artistic process. The children were asked to draw things under the title 'What Newcastle Means to Me' which involved an artist working with children to create pieces of artwork about Newcastle.

This artwork then helped to create a final piece which was put onto the lockers. The children were guests of honour at the official unveiling of their artwork at the NU Foundation, where the colourful lockers were opened to reveal gifts for the young artists including scarves, hats, hoodies, and NUFC teddy bears.

This experience also allowed the children to think about their own local area, and why they believe that Newcastle is such a special place to them.

Football fans at the school celebrated their cup-winning team in a special Black and White Day designed to promote and celebrate diversity as well as a love of football.

Sam Henzell, Headteacher, said "The event was important to us, because we value our strong sense of community, and we believe this was another opportunity for us to demonstrate this as a school family.

We are situated very close to St James' Park and we are always eager to develop our link with the club, as our aim is to provide opportunities and raise aspirations for our pupils.

We really do feel that we are 'united' as a school family."



The Arbor Parent Portal: Enhancing communication and supporting pupil success

Anna Hall, Strategic Project Accountant 

We're excited to announce the rollout of the Arbor Parent Portal, a tool to improve communication between our schools and families.

This user-friendly platform provides real-time access to attendance, progress, behaviour, events, and more. Parents can update contact details, pay for meals, register for clubs, and book trips online, reducing paperwork. St Michael's Catholic Primary School has recently switched on the portal.

School Business Manager Mrs Holliday commented "Parents and staff at St Michael's have responded positively to the new Arbor app. Feedback from our parents with English as an additional language is that the app is very user friendly and easy to navigate"

Arbor's Parent Portal is available on the web and as an app allowing for quick and easy contact between parents and school staff. St Mary's Catholic School have also successfully adopted the portal with 100% of parents accessing it.

Miss Rossi, Deputy Headteacher, highlighted the benefits for school and families alike; "The Arbor Parent Portal has really improved the way we communicate with families at St Mary's.

Parents appreciate how quick and easy it is to report absences, update medical information, and access their child's school reports.

It has also streamlined aspects of coordinating school trips and visits. For staff, it's reduced admin and freed up time to focus on supporting pupils. It's an invaluable resource for keeping everyone connected and working together for the success of our students."

Our schools are starting to roll out the various parts of the portal over the coming months at a time to suit them. Schools will keep parents updated when the system is ready to use.

We encourage all parents to explore the Arbor Parent Portal and use it to stay connected and support their child's success.

Are you a practising Catholic with a passion for children's education?

If so, we are always on the lookout for new governors to join our school committees.

As a Foundation Governor, you will play a crucial role in ensuring children receive the best possible education. Your commitment and involvement will help us maintain and enhance the quality of education and uphold our Catholic values.

Key Responsibilities:

- Support the vision of the school
- Ensure the school upholds its Catholic ethos and values
- Work collaboratively with other governors and school leaders

Requirements:

- Must be a practising Catholic
- Strong interest in children's education
- Willingness to dedicate time to support our schools

If you are interested in making a positive impact to our schools, we would love to hear from you!

For more information, please contact
Gilly.Box@bishopbewickcet.org

L-R: Gilly Box, Head of Governance with
Katie Hickman, Governance Partner



To keep up to date with what is happening at Bishop Bewick schools please follow us on our Social Media Pages...

X: @BishopBewick @: @bishopbewick f: Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust
 m: Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust v: @,bbcet b: bishopbewickcet



We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

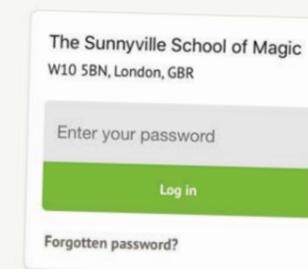
We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday



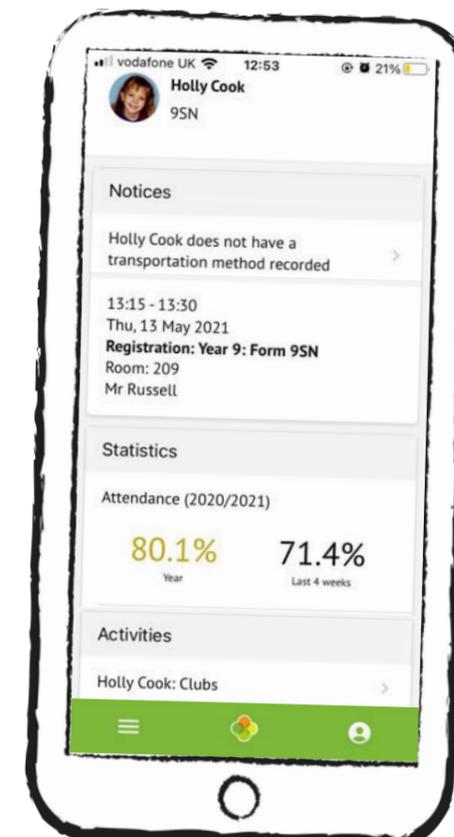
Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

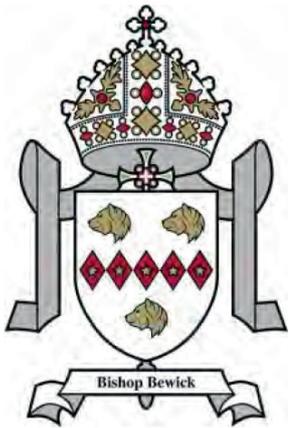
Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.





St Mark's Catholic Primary School



BISHOP BEWICK

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

Sacred Heart Catholic High School
Fenham Hall Drive, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE4 9YH
(0191) 816 3700 • enquiries@bishopbewickcet.org



St Mark's Catholic Primary School