



We rocked out in aid of Henry
Dancer Days
More on page 18



We celebrate our 50th
anniversary.
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Furry friends visit St Bede's
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Bede's World



A snapshot of 2015 - 2016

a community of faith hope and love



St Bede's
Catholic School
& Sixth Form College
Lancaster

WELCOME

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our new edition of Bede's World, a snapshot of life at St Bede's, 2015-2016. Bursting with great news stories and events, this edition shares with you some fantastic examples of our pupils' achievements and the many enrichment experiences they have enjoyed at St Bede's throughout the academic year.

Firstly, on behalf of governors, students and staff, I would like to thank Mr Jim Allen, a highly respected and much loved colleague, who retires at the end of the year, after twenty five years of faithful service to our school community. Jim joined St Bede's as Head of the Geography department and quickly developed into a dynamic senior leader, overseeing exams, assessment and achievement across the school. As Senior Assistant Headteacher, he has been a great support to me over the years and I thank him for his tireless dedication to the students and staff at our school. Jim will be a huge miss; not only to our leadership team but to the wider St Bede's community. We wish Jim a happy and fulfilling retirement and we ask for God's blessings on him, his wife Kate and their family.

As ever, our pupils have delighted us with their wealth of talents this year. Our production of 'We Will Rock You', along with our Christmas and Summer Concerts were absolutely fantastic and demonstrated the vibrant musical life of the school, which goes from strength to strength. There have been some superb sporting performances in football, netball, athletics and cricket as well as some fine performances by the Drama Llamas. Our pupils have engaged in many Chaplaincy projects. We have worked with children from our feeder primary schools in an exciting art project as well as hosting successful challenge and taster days in the summer term. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, we held a very powerful remembrance service, in which the whole school community were involved. All of these opportunities truly reflect the wonderful ethos of our school: a community of faith, hope and love.

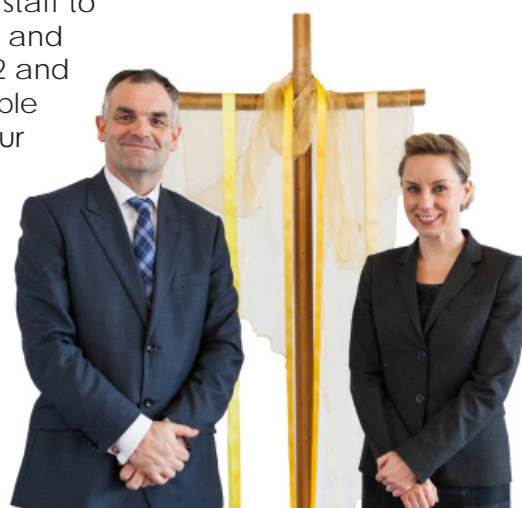
At the end of this term we also say a fond farewell to some long standing members of staff, Mrs Ramsay, Mrs Reid, Mrs Robertson, Mr Tiernan, Mrs Liddle, Mrs Wheelwright, Mr Williams and Mr Ferry, all of whom have served our pupils and wider school community in so many ways over the years. I wish them all well with the next stage of their career and thank them for their dedicated service to St Bede's.

This year has seen many changes to the educational landscape: new style linear exams at both GCSE and A Level; new methods of assessment; new courses and subject content. Pupils will need to be more prepared than ever to face the rigours of these more challenging public examinations. We have worked with parents to ensure you feel confident in supporting your children in their revision and we continue to offer quality information, advice and guidance to all our young people. Our staff are working tirelessly to ensure that the pupils receive the very best education and preparation for these new examinations.

In the new academic year, we will welcome new members of staff to our school community; they bring with them a wealth of talent and enthusiasm. We will also welcome new pupils to Years 7 and 12 and ensure that their transition to St Bede's is a smooth and enjoyable one. I am excited about the year ahead and confident that our school will continue to flourish.

Finally, I would like to thank parents for their ongoing support and cooperation. I wish you all a very happy and restful summer.

Neville Harrison
Headteacher



ART

We Will Rock You



A group of Year 10 students helped Mrs Dunbar create the backdrop set design for this year's musical show 'We Will Rock You'.

Our brief was to create a centre piece using the London skyline silhouette and side panels reflecting graffitied brick walls. The piece was very large and students worked extremely hard on creating an engaging and creative art piece. Mr Shaller and the entire cast were very happy with the outcome; it was the perfect backdrop to the show.



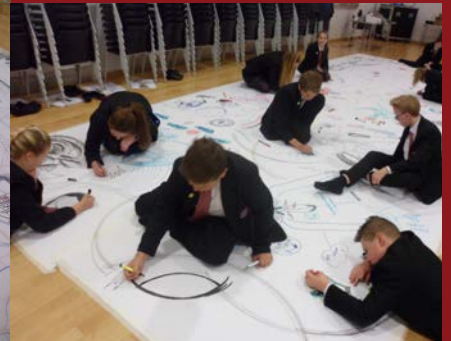
Consett Lions Rugby club held a Peace poster competition for their local area this year.



Students from our Key Stage 3 Art Club designed posters to celebrate peace and understanding using signs and symbols through illustration. They created some really interesting designs. Charley Niblo was selected as the Consett winner and received a gift voucher from Consett Lions Club for her excellent design and involvement in the competition.

BIG Doodle

Ten Year 8 students were involved in a Catholic Partnership drawing event called the Big Doodle at St Joseph's Catholic School in Hebburn. Students were involved in illustration workshops with different art teachers from the Catholic Partnership schools. They explored different illustrators to create an illustrated cube. Every student's cube was then used to create a Big Doodle centre piece on the floor. Students really enjoyed their experience and the opportunity to work with other students and teachers from different schools.



Life Drawing



Year 12 students were involved in Life drawing workshops at Sunderland University with the Catholic Partnership. Students were taught by a senior lecturer in Fine Art and learnt how to enhance their drawing skills by drawing the human form. They were able to explore using different drawing and painting materials which developed their mark making skills and techniques. They also had a super presentation from the Head of the Design faculty about the options available to them if they choose to study design and media at university and future careers/pathways in design.

Online Art Gallery

Students artwork from all key stages can now be seen on the school website. It's a wonderful celebration of the tremendous artwork produced at St Bede's. Make sure you check it out:

<http://bit.ly/295cJvL>

ART

Key Stage 3 Catholic Partnership Photography Competition

Key Stage 3 Art Club and Year 9 Art Club have been involved with the Catholic Partnership Photography competition. Students took a variety of photographs exploring a range of different themes such as Portraits, Landscapes, Natural Forms and Abstract etc. The quality of the photographs was amazing and thirteen were selected to be shown at a one off competition exhibition at The National Glass Centre in Sunderland. Winners received their photograph enlarged onto a canvas. The following students won their category or were highly commended:

Grace Cross - winner Natural forms
 Sophie Lynn Carney - winner Structures
 Daniel Marston - highly commended Abstract
 Charlotte Potter - highly commended Animals
 Charlotte Hird - highly commended landscape



Online Art Gallery

Stanley Community Centre has relocated to what is currently known as Stanley Day Centre which is located to the rear of Wear Road and Stanley Park Care Centre. It is a single story building with one main double entrance which leads into the reception area. It was agreed by the management committee that the new venture required a more modern approach and that "community centre" was a dated image and a new one was desired.

Consequently, Key Stage 3 Art Club students have been involved in a local competition to create a graphic/sign for 'The Venue'. The building will still be primarily used for the community but may also house other organisations; this needed to be reflected in the graphic of the new signage and letter heading.

Devon and Ellie were invited to present their ideas to the committee and performed extremely well, explaining their ideas thoroughly. Both students should be really proud of their involvement in the project.



Durham Cathedral Exhibition

A selection of Year 9 students created a group art piece for the annual Catholic Partnership Art Exhibition at Durham Cathedral in the Galiilee Chapel.

The Year of Mercy was our theme for this year. Students came up with the idea of exploring The Proud Tree/ Three trees story and how the tree showed mercy, respect, love and care for Jesus.



They created a papier mache tree which was over 6ft in height. They wanted the tree to stand proud, in full blossom and have a bird nesting happily in the tree. They also incorporated words related to the story hanging from the tree.

The group really appreciated help from Mr Meek and Mr Ambridge who created the stand for the piece and helped incorporate lights which really enhanced the presence of the tree.



Barcelona October 2015



During October half term Art and Design students made a visit to the exciting city of Barcelona to absorb the wonderful range of cultural and creative experiences on offer. Students visited a wide range of galleries viewing the work of many famous artists and designers, making sketches, taking photographs

and absorbing the truly inspiring sites that surrounded us.

The work of Antoni Gaudi provided the entire group with a real source of inspiration, combining elements of innovative architecture with ambitious designs. The Sagrada Familia Cathedral visit was certainly enjoyed by all; the elaborate and ornate interior which is now complete, was entirely breathtaking. A visit to Park Guell on a wonderful sunny morning in Spain provided further opportunities to truly experience the cultural diversity of this city.

With our accommodation situated just off La Rambla we were continually surrounded by sights of interest and all students embraced everything Barcelona had to offer on our daily strolls around galleries, museums and parks. The added entertainment of street statues, performers and artists was well received by students.

For the duration of the visit the positive attitude of every student involved ensured that this was an experience to be enjoyed and remembered by all, with most students wishing we could stay for a few more days. All staff involved in the visit had a fantastic time and this was entirely down to the outstanding behaviour and great team spirit shown by students throughout.

ART

A Level Exhibition 2016

An outstanding exhibition this year that was visited by parents, other family members, teachers, governors, Key Stages 3 and 4 students. We received excellent comments from all visitors who were very impressed with the high standard of artwork this year. The Year 13 students have worked extremely hard showing great enthusiasm and dedication to their artwork. Well done Year 13.



"It was amazing and really well set out. The artwork was varied and covered a range of interesting subjects and inspired me." Eleanor Reid

"I liked the dress artwork because it used a creative use of materials and is different." Imogen Harrison

CREATIVE MEDIA

Team Unity

The Year 12 BTEC Creative Media team have worked their socks off to create a new magazine especially for the Sixth Form. They did some audience research to find out what students would like to read and the styles that would attract them. They wrote and took images for many of the articles themselves with contributions from some media students in year 13. The final production was sent off to the prestigious national Shine Awards. Fingers crossed we are shortlisted at least. It will eventually be available as an online version on the school website so you can see for yourself how talented they are.



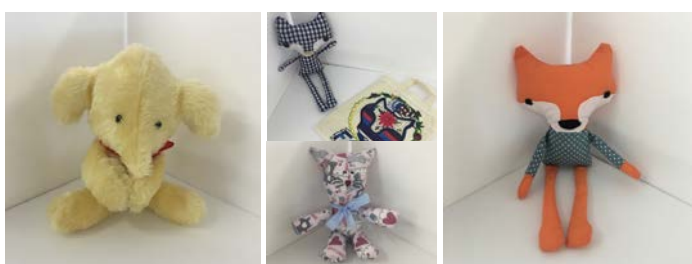
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Style is Eternal

Miss Ward and Mrs Hall arranged for the AS Textiles students to visit the Yves St. Laurent Exhibition at The Bowes Museum in July 2015. As part of their course they need to study the work of inspirational designers.

The garments on display were amazing and the students found the exhibition very enjoyable.

Unfortunately the pieces in the exhibition were not for sale and we have a sneaking suspicion that even if they were, they would be out of our price bracket!



Year 9 Textiles

Year 9 have had a lot of fun this year making bags, Christmas products, pin boards and of course a lot of soft toys. They actually couldn't decide which was their favourite project and along with learning many new practical skills they have also found out about new and exciting fabrics. Who knows some of these students could be the designers of the future.

Year 10 Textiles

Year 10 have excelled this year in Textiles and have produced a range of products that have taught them many textile skills and techniques. One of their favourite projects has been to produce a textured cushion using fabric manipulation and surface decoration inspired by a nautical theme. We're sure you will agree that these cushions could give any products sold on the high street a run for their money. Well done girls! We can't wait to see what you can do next!



Year 11 Textiles

Year 11 have had overwhelming success this year with their final submissions for their coursework projects. We have some outstanding final pieces. Year 11 have worked exceptionally hard over the past two years and will reap the rewards from their efforts. Our Textile Moderator commented on how well made the final garments and products were executed and enjoyed marking the range of garments and products. Well done ladies!



A' Level Textiles

Students in Years 12 and 13 have made some amazing products this year. Wedding dresses, evening dresses, leather jackets, Hawaiian holiday bags and outfits for many different occasions. Nothing seemed to have been beyond their imagination or capabilities. Many of our Year 13s are hoping to follow a career in textiles and we wish them luck in all their future careers.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Drama Llamas After School Club

Students in Years 7 and 8 received the fabulous opportunity to work with Shelley O'Brien, Artistic Director of Mad Alice Theatre Company earlier this year. The club proved to be really popular with a number of our students all of whom worked very hard to learn lines and rehearse for their debut performance.

Throughout the term, the students demonstrated their very creative and humorous sides. Shelley helped our budding actors to develop their performance techniques and skills in comedy theatre using the wonderful works of Roald Dahl as inspiration.

On the evening of 14th March, they performed their very own version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs to an eager audience of parents, grandparents, siblings and staff. Their delivery was brilliant, slick and very funny; a fantastic achievement in just six weeks and another shining testament to the wonderful talents of our students.



GEOGRAPHY

Year 10 Geographers Making a Splash!

Our 98 Year 10 Geography students recently completed a river study as part of their GCSE controlled assessment. Students measured the channel characteristics of the Smallhope Burn and River Browney near Lanchester at three study sites along the long profile. They collected primary data to show the velocity of the river, width and depth of the channel as well as river gradient and sediment size. They are now busy presenting and interpreting their findings using a variety of graphical and statistical techniques.



Geography in Action at Whitby

Back in wet and windy November, twenty Year 12 Geography students took part in a residential fieldtrip to Whitby and the Holderness Coast. As part of their AS Crowded Coasts unit, the students carried out fieldwork and research into the reasons for the growth of Whitby as a tourist resort and the impact this has had on local residents and the environment.

They also studied the causes and effects of coastal erosion along the Holderness Coast from Flamborough Head to Ulrome and then on to Hornsea. From previous trips over the last few years, the visible evidence of coastal erosion and cliff collapse here was clear for all to see.

The fieldtrip was an excellent opportunity to develop unique geographical skills and fieldwork techniques such as measuring beach gradient, sediment sampling, field sketching and undertaking a cost benefit analysis of the different coastal defences.

Fieldwork is an excellent way for students to see "geography in action". Many thanks to all the students involved for their positive attitude despite the weather; they proved to be excellent ambassadors for St Bede's.



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Year 10 and 12 Work Experience

Year 10 and year 12 Health and Social Care students have completed work experience placements this year. This was a huge success for all students involved. Students had the opportunity to work within a range of Health and Social Care settings including; nurseries, care homes, schools, pharmacies, the fire service and many more. The students were able to put their skills into practice and then also use their experiences to inform their work within the subject throughout the school year.

Our placements were full of praise for the students' efforts making comments such as; 'the student was a fantastic asset in the classroom, she has taken all opportunities positively and with great enthusiasm' and 'our student has been a great help this week. She has been warm, kind and showed interest in the children and their learning. It has been a pleasure to work with her'.

Following the placements students have gained a number of skills and have commented that their confidence in working with other people has increased. Well done to all involved for continuing to make the Health and Social Care work placements a valuable and positive experience.

Year 13 First Aid Training

Our Childcare students in Year 13 have been taking part in an Early Years First Aid Course this year and have all successfully completed the qualification. The students have also gained a Basic First Aid qualification. Students have thoroughly enjoyed the courses, provided by our First Aid and Health Officer, Mrs Stemp. Students have learnt a huge range of skills including resuscitation techniques, dealing with scalds and burns, how to stop bleeding, assisting someone who is choking and many more. The courses have been a huge success and the students have gained some valuable skills. Thank you to Mrs Stemp for delivering the courses and to the students who took part so enthusiastically.



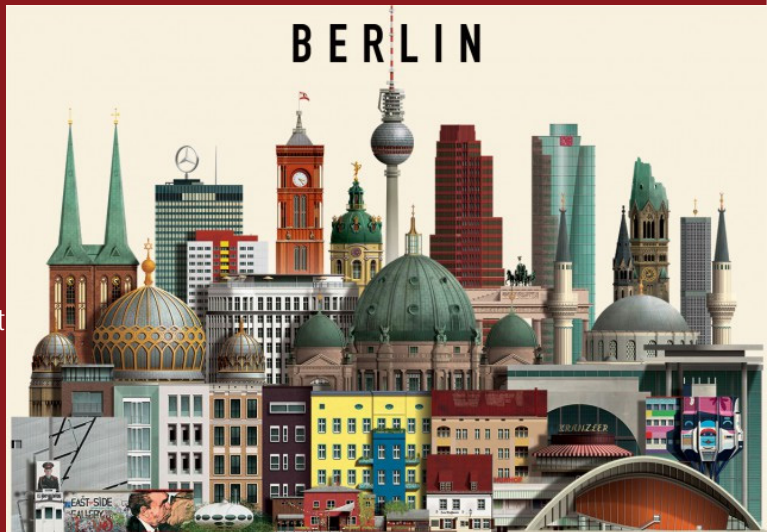
HISTORY



History Trip to Berlin

In February 2016, historians from St. Bede's went on a residential visit to Berlin. Here Matthew Richmond, Katie Goodwin, Hannah Mulholland and Caitlin Absalom look back on a wonderful trip:

Our first full day in Berlin was a fantastic walking tour of the city. In each area of the capital we visited, the guide gave a very rich and detailed description of how it slotted into the developing picture of Nazi Germany being drawn for us; bringing the stones to life so to speak. Having studied the Nazi rise to power back at school and the details of their regime it was intriguing to give a real life context to it, and stand



for example next to the Reichstag of which we had heard so much mention in the classroom. However the fun certainly did not stop there! Next on the agenda we had the German Resistance Memorial Museum. This was an absolutely fascinating look into a part of history so often neglected in the study of the Second World War and Nazi Germany. Here we were lucky enough to gain an incredibly interesting insight into the different levels of resistance, ranging from everyday acts such as listening to jazz music or joining non-Nazi youth groups; all the way to ever so slightly more memorable acts like the July Bomb Plot. All in all it was quite the start to a very memorable trip.

On the second day of Berlin, we went to Wannsee Villa, which was where senior Nazi officials decided that the Holocaust was to happen and the meeting outlined the different measures that would be put into place i.e. labour and concentration camps. In the afternoon, we went to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. Walking through the camp was indescribable. It's extremely hard to put yourself in the shoes of all those vulnerable people who lost their dignity and their basic human rights. The most astonishing thing that we found, was that in a woody, grassy area there were no animals, no birds; as if they could sense the mass death.

On the final day in Berlin, we went on a Cold War walking tour, beginning at the memorial of the Berlin Wall. Here we learnt about the attempts to cross the wall into West Berlin whether it be through tunnels or directly across the death strip, and we commemorated those who lost their lives trying to do so. We then moved on to see the exact point where the Berlin Wall fell. This was particularly interesting as we were told the steps that led to this hour by hour. Later on in the day we visited the Stasi Headquarters, where we learned about the lengths the police went to in surveying the people of East Berlin.

IAG

Compass Developments - Site Office Visit for Year 10 Construction Students

Many thanks to Compass Developments for allowing us to visit their site office earlier in the year. The Site Manager, Ken, took time out of his very busy schedule, replacing roofing and windows in our school refurbishment project, to engage with our young people and offer advice about a career in Construction.

He explained the various routes into the profession including apprenticeships and the variety of roles available from Project Management, Quantity Surveying and Site management to individual trades such as plumbing, scaffold erection and joinery. Ken talked about his own personal journey in the industry and emphasised the need to work on good communication skills, Maths and English whilst in school as they will provide a good foundation to help progression into the industry.

He emphasised the need to 'get along' with people on site and show an interest in people. He talked us through the detailed plans his company employs to ensure workers and the general public are safe whilst in the vicinity of a construction project. He discussed personal safety and the use of PPE - Personal Protective Equipment. Ken also explained the role of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in ensuring a safe working environment.

He explained that in the next few years there may be shortages of skilled workers in some of the trades therefore it is essential that students gain the necessary qualifications and CSCS cards to be able to work in the industry. (CSCS cards provide proof that individuals working on construction sites have the required training and qualifications for the type of work they carry out.) Ken went on to explain that, although they may start out on a basic salary related to their trade, there are many opportunities to work extra hours or travel to carry out work, which can add considerable amounts of money to their take home pay.

He did direct students to the Construction Industry Training Board CITB, where they will be able to find lots of information relating to the industry and try out some of the tests used to assess suitability for this type of work.

Year 11 Cambridge Visit



This year we made our second visit to Cambridge University. During a three day visit, six students from Year 11 enjoyed a range of activities to prepare them for university life at a prestigious university.

We were amongst sixty students from County Durham schools including North Durham Academy, Park View, Hermitage, Durham Johnston, Framwellgate and Teesdale.

Students went to sample lectures in Arts and Sciences as well as information sessions on personal statements and entry requirements, including Keystone Subject choices at A' level.

We were staying at St John's College but had lectures at St John's Divinity Centre as well as a visit to Emmanuel College.

As part of the visit, students enjoyed a guided night walking tour as well as a guided punt along the river. Students also had some free time to explore the city and even managed to squeeze in a visit to the cinema.

North East Skills

North East Skills is the biggest skills and careers event in the region. Aimed at 15-24 year olds, this free event aimed to inspire and motivate students and young people. There were hands-on interactive features to give students the opportunity to get a real taste of different future career options whatever their dreams or ambitions.

The event gave our students contact with local further education colleges, employers and training providers as well as access to national organisations.

Students were able to discover what other opportunities were available to them after Sixth Form College and made contact with a number of training and apprenticeship providers as well as a number of the uniformed services.



Year 10 Women into Construction

Lucky students in Year 10 were involved in a construction taster day at New College this year.

Students had the opportunity to work with staff in the areas of Carpentry and Joinery, Brickwork and Painting and Decorating.

Students were able to experience the skills needed to work in these specialised areas and also have the chance to put the skills learned in Design Technology and Art to practice in a different setting.

Students told us that they enjoyed

- Looking at other students' work
- Having a chance to speak to people who had worked in industry
- Meeting ex-pupils from St Bede's
- Learning new painting techniques

- *"This taster opened up new possibilities for me".*
- *"I can use these new skills in the future."*

New College staff were very complimentary about our wonderfully polite and engaged students.



Year 9 HE Focus Day at Northumbria University

A group of students in Year 9 had a fantastic visit to Northumbria University Campus to engage in the HE Focus programme, which offered students a first insight into university life and Higher Education.

The day gave students the chance to meet current undergraduate students, tour the campus and investigate various routes into and through higher education, starting with and focusing on their GCSE Options.

The day started with a true /false myth busting activity which encouraged students to find out more about university life in and out of lectures.

They also had a chance to work on a HE planner which they can use to aid their future pathways.

After the tour, which looked at the range of facilities available to students, our Year 9s competed against other schools to create a university society.

Year 11 Interview Day

We ran a pilot Interview Day with sixty students from our Year11 Work Skills groups. Students had the chance to follow a complete application process from deciding which job to apply for, researching the company online and making an electronic application which was sent to an external interviewer. IAG advisers and school liaison staff from New College Durham acted as interviewers: they came into school and interviewed each students for the post. At the end of the interview students were given feedback and Star Pupils were chosen. These were students who scored highly in the following areas:

- First Impressions
- Body Language
- Communication Skills
- Level of Interest/enthusiasm
- Quality of Application Form
- Quality of Questions asked by the student
- Overall Performance

Well done to the following 'Star Pupils':

- Perry Houston
- Sophie Wayper
- Georgia Robly
- Kelton Blackwood
- Chris Conlin
- Jaydon Collins
- Myles Lavery
- Bethany Hutchinson
- Faith Cowell
- Murren Coates
- Olivia Carr
- Josh Tilney

We hope that this exercise can be carried out with Year 10 Work Skills students and eventually the whole year group as valuable preparation for future job seeking activities.



Year 13 Extended Work Experience Placement

This year, Elizabeth Thompson has been working at Durham Crematorium as part of her Year 13 Extended Work Experience Placement. Initially for one day per week, Elizabeth has extended the programme to two days to enhance her knowledge of funeral arrangements.



Originally, Elizabeth had great difficulty trying to secure a placement with a funeral director as she was under 18 years of age. With the help of Durham Education Business Partnership, she was able to arrange the placement at Durham Crematorium, which has given her a fantastic insight into the legal and practical aspects of end of life care.

She has had the opportunity to meet funeral directors from many companies within County Durham, take on chapel duties and understand the behind scenes operations involved in cremation.

Her supervisor has been really pleased with her efforts over the past months and has encouraged her to apply for a trainee position within the organisation which will be advertised in the near future.

Staff were particularly keen to point out that it takes a special kind of person to work in this career. Above all, you need a caring, trustworthy attitude; Elizabeth has used the experience to showcase and develop these skills and is a valued member of the team.

Well done to Elizabeth for following her ambition!

Year 11 Extended Work Experience Placements

Since September, two of our Year 11 students have engaged in a weekly Extended Work Experience placement.

Both students have had experiences in two different settings:

Mathew Atkinson worked at St Stephen's Community Café and Beamish Museum while Murren Coates worked at Granny B's Café and Dreams Hair Salon in Consett.



Mathew has decided to go to Derwentside College next year to study Hospitality and Catering.

Murren initially wanted to study Beauty Therapy at New College but has since decided to apply for a Dental Nurse Apprenticeship with the college; the Customer Service skills she developed throughout her placements will be of great use in this role.

Well done and good luck to Matthew and Murren!

Second St Bede's student gains Merchant Navy Cadetship

Congratulations to Deavon Pickavance – Fletcher who has been accepted by Maersk Shipping as a Cadet to become a Merchant Navy Deck Officer in partnership with South Tyneside College.

Maersk Line is the world's largest container shipping company, known for reliable and flexible eco-efficient services. They provide ocean transportation in all parts of the world and serve customers through 324 offices in 115 countries. They employ 7,600 seafarers and 23,200 land-based employees and operate 590 container vessels.

Maersk Line is part of the Maersk Group, headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark. Deavon said "The Marine Shipping Day at South Tyneside College was a great experience and provided me with a lot of information.

The application process was relatively simple but required you to know relevant information and have the ability to pass the set tests. Make sure you have researched your company and the 3 year Cadetship programme.

Before applying I joined a yacht club to make sure I was suited to this career.

My advice would be:

"Start the process early and make sure you have a good CV."

South Tyneside College said "So pleased to hear that Deavon has secured a Cadetship with Maersk, this is no easy task with the amount of applications they receive."



ICT

HP Codewars 2016

On Saturday 5th April 2016 nine students and two members of staff from St Bede's took part in HP CodeWars which is an international first-class computer programming competition for secondary school students.

CodeWars was hosted on Hewlett-Packard's North Tynside campus which gave students a taste of what working in a high-tech setting is like. The competition involved solving a wide range of programming challenges under timed conditions.

There was plenty of food, music, drone flybys, and prize giveaways - all in an exciting, stimulating, and competitive environment. As this was the first year St Bede's have attended, it was very much a learning experience, so we didn't win any of the prizes, but we have high hopes for next year!

Watch this space!



LITERACY

Accelerated Reader

This year has been another phenomenally successful year for Accelerated Reader in the School Library. More than 5,091 quizzes have been passed and over 119,236,366 million words have been read across Year 7 alone. Thirty-five Year 7 pupils have become word millionaires and four Year 7 pupils have read more than four million words each.

The inter-form AR cup has added a huge amount of excitement and eager anticipation to see who has topped the leaderboard each week and more importantly inspired pupils to read many more books.

Well done to 7 Ward H, Miss Huck's form group who clearly love reading and by the end of the Year have read 21,208, 288 words!

The top ten most borrowed authors are;

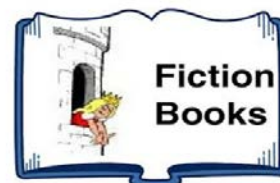
Anthony Horowitz, Jacqueline Wilson, Michael Morpurgo, Francesca Simon, Robert Muchamore, Roald Dahl, Derek Landy, Patrick Ness, Jeff Kinney

HAVING A SUMMER CLEAROUT?

Your School Library would really welcome any good quality, children's fiction books which you no longer need.

Please send them into school with your child or simply drop off at reception.

Thank you.



Comic Book Artist Masterclass

A group of our avid Year 7 readers had the opportunity to attend an amazing Comic Art Masterclass by the renowned comic artist Kev F Sutherland on World Book Day.

Kev F Sutherland writes and draws for The Beano, Marvel Comics, Doctor Who Adventures and lots more.

We did not know what to expect but we were all left open-mouthed by his brilliance, a few strokes of a pen and there was the Incredible Hulk, Spiderman and many other comic book favourites. He made it look so easy! We all had a go and managed to produce our own comic book full of everyone's drawings. It looked quite professional, helped by Kev's extraordinary front cover. We all left with a comic containing a strip by everyone.



As if we were not already in awe, Kev drew individual caricatures of everyone which we could take home and Isabel Willis won the Catholic Partnership Book Cover Competition, winning a fantastic £10.00 Waterstones' book voucher.

If you look closely at The Beano, you will see Kev's signature hidden in random places, 'KFS'.

He was amazingly entertaining and truly inspiring, a really enjoyable insight into the mind and work of a brilliant comic book artist.

World Book Day Activities

Thursday 3rd March saw a hive of activity taking place in the Library, with lots of competitions and activities to mark World Book Day. Pupils were very keen to get involved and we had over one hundred entries for the quizzes and competitions. There were nine winners in four different categories, who all received prizes of books or stationery.

The winners of the Design a Book Token Competition were:

1st prize Eleanor Champion Year 7,
2nd Prize Poppy Stewart- Piercy Year 7
3rd prize Kirsty Minto Year 9.

The winners of the very difficult, 'Match the Character to the Author' quiz were Thomas Parker, James Barker and Joel Sanderson (all Year 7).

The winners of the 'Wicked Horrid Henry Quiz' (still a firm favourite) were Maryam Khan and Amelie Pattison (Year 7).

Finally, the winner of the World Book Day Literary Quiz was Eleanor Reid (Year 8). Well done to all of the above and thank you to everyone who took part. We all look forward to World Book Day 2017!



Reading Aloud Programme

This term, seven small groups of Year 7 pupils have met once a week in the Library to read aloud. The pupils looked forward to coming to the Library each week. We have finished a variety of books, developed confidence in reading aloud and learnt lots of new words. The books we have completed are: Neil Gaiman, 'The Graveyard Book'; Malorie Blackman, 'Pig-Heart Boy'; David Walliams, 'Grandpa's Great Escape'; Sally Nicholls, 'Ways to Live Forever'; and Elizabeth Laird, 'Oranges in No Man's Land'. All were very popular. We were all moved by the beautifully written 'Ways to Live Forever', fascinated by the ethical issues raised in 'Pig Heart Boy', astounded by the cleverness of one of the most complex reads, 'The Graveyard Book' and everyone enjoyed the hilarious yet very poignant 'Grandpa's Great Escape'.



MATHS

Maths Tour of France – An overview by Miss Kinnell

It all started in 1336 when the French King died... and it ended when 40 students and 4 staff returned safely to St Bede's at 8pm on Tuesday 27th October 2015.

Friday 23rd October: after a long and tiring coach journey fuelled with several Starbucks and Costas, we arrived in Dover ready to catch the ferry across the Channel. Luckily it was a very smooth crossing. We arrived in Calais and saw for ourselves the terrible conditions in which refugees were staying on the edge of the port. After a diversion and a resulting traffic jam we were finally on our way across France to our first hotel in Tours. Again it was a very long and tiring journey made bearable by back to back Pitch Perfect and Pitch Perfect 2 which the staff (minus Mr Muggeridge, he can sleep through just about anything) sang along to. At 7pm we finally made it to the hotel and after a quick luggage drop in our rooms we had dinner in the hotel's restaurant. Students didn't seem overly impressed by the French apple tart but the spaghetti bolognese went down well after a day of snacking on sweets and junk food. After tea everyone was ready for bed ahead of the exciting days to follow.



The next morning we were up early ready to have breakfast and go to our first destination of the trip Chateau du Clos Luce in Amboise which was Da Vinci's last residence. Students were surprised by all the things Da Vinci had invented and enjoyed the interactive models that were to be found as we walked around the grounds. The biggest hit of the visit was the playpark however, with its Newton's Cradle style swing. Luckily for us the weather was fine and so we could make the most of our visit.



From Da Vinci's we walked the short distance down into the centre of Amboise. Once in the square pupils were given the chance to explore the town in small groups and were able to get themselves some food for lunch (no McDonalds unfortunately for them so they had to test out their French and find something different). It was great to see students sitting in a café, ordering in French and enjoying themselves.

After lunch, it was time to head to Paris. Again it was back on the coach, but not as long a journey as the previous day. We persuaded the drivers to stop at Val d'Europe on the way, a massive shopping centre on the outskirts of Paris which makes the Metro Centre look small. Here we managed to get food and even did a spot of shopping. Will Jefferies did treat us and the rest of the shopping centre to a bit of music on the piano in the food court. It was excellent to see and really made us proud to see him playing in front of so many people. From here we went to hotel number 2 where we stayed for the remainder of the trip. It is here that the students took part in the Paris Maths trip quiz, which in the end proved to be a bit of a challenge for most of them, but a big well done to James Kime, Matthew McCrory, Nathan Martin, Matthew Lane and Will Burnett who won with their excellent knowledge of red, white and blue flags.

Sunday was another early start ahead of a jam packed day. First stop the Cite des Sciences. Mr Muggeridge and I left everyone else on the coach as we went up to get tickets etc. We arrived at the doors to the science museum only to be told the Firemen are on strike and were picketing the museum so it would be closed all morning at least. As one Frenchman said, "Welcome to France, this is what we do!" Alternative plans were quickly put together and it was decided the drivers would drop us at the Place de la Concorde so that we could walk through the Jardin des Tuileries towards the Musee du Louvre where we would have the chance to visit the souvenir shops and have a spot of lunch (McDonalds, everyone was happy). There was then a walk across Paris, past Les Invalides, the Pont Alexandre III to get to the boat cruise.

The boat cruise was one of the students' favourite things, it was a great way to see the sights including Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower. The numerous bridges along the route and our insistence that they do a Mexican wave under each one helped make it an experience they would remember and the others on the boat certainly enjoyed our enthusiasm too.

After the cruise we had a short stop off at Trocadero for pictures of the Eiffel Tower before heading to The Montparnasse Tower, which gave us stunning views across Paris.

Before dinner, there was time for a stroll down the Champs Elysees and another chance for shopping. Thank you to the girls in my group who took me to the Mac shop where we spent about 15-20 minutes browsing and I was completely out of my depth and totally overwhelmed by the amount of make up on offer. Tea was a buffet style where we were able to have plenty of salad/veg and of course chips if you hadn't had enough already.

It was then back to the hotel for an early night (interrupted by the arrival of a group of Irish Girl Guides who insisted on running up and down corridors and banging on doors, our students really did us proud and behaved impeccably despite this).

Monday, the day we have all been waiting for – Disney!!! We had 'hopper passes' so were able to go into both parks meaning we had the morning in Disney Studios Park and then the rest of the day in Disney Land. A great time was had by all especially after we'd figured out the fast track passes and could avoid the queues. Mr Muggeridge and I made great use of this to get on Space Mountain without having to really queue at all.

Spent up, armed with bags and bags of Disney gifts we headed back to the hotel at the end of the day. Mr Muggeridge put his French skills to excellent use and ordered pizzas so that no one went to bed hungry.

Then it was time to leave, a very early start (yes there is a 6.30am, even in the holidays) and an extremely long journey back home. Luckily we made it to Calais in time to catch an earlier ferry and so made it home earlier than expected. The journey back was a DVD marathon,

Overall it was a tiring, but fun filled trip with plenty of interesting facts courtesy of Mr Muggeridge whose French skills proved invaluable throughout. Thanks to Miss Martin for organising the tuck shop (which sold out) and the hoodies, which everyone loved. Thanks too to Mrs Rath for our question sessions each morning which ensured everyone knew exactly what was happening every day. A massive thank you must also go to the Sixth Formers who really helped out and made life so much easier for staff. Finally a big thank you to all the students; seeing you enjoying yourselves made organising the whole trip so very rewarding!



MFL

La Tasca Visit, Lola Newbould, Year 9

As soon as we walked in to La Tasca, the vibes were warm and fun. We were greeted by one of the waiters who was friendly and talkative. He spoke to us in Spanish and showed us to our seats on two long tables, facing a large paella pan. Another waiter came out and greeted us all. He was the paella chef, and he explained to us how he made the perfect paella platter.



After some audience participation of pouring the rice into the paellera, we were served patatas bravas and chorizo and, since I am a vegetarian, I enjoyed a veggie dish of patatas bravas and cheese-stuffed aubergine. Platters of Spanish meatballs and mussels were also served to everyone.

As we chatted over our Spanish lunch we had barely finished the starter, when plate upon plate of paella was served, catering for vegans, vegetarians and pescitarians alike; everyone was happy.

The paella was nothing short of delicious, and once each pan was finished, there was a quick clean up and dessert was served: sumptuous cinnamon sugar churros with strawberries and chocolate sauce. Unsurprisingly, everyone was finished within minutes!

After a big thank you from everyone, we were whisked away from the restaurant, back on to the bus and back to school.

All in all, my time at La Tasca was an experience which brought depth to my cultural understanding of Spain and improved my language skills, by putting me in a real life situation with Spanish people. I hope to return to La Tasca with my family as I know that they will enjoy it as much as I did.



Vocab Express - League of Champions!

Huge congratulations to all Key Stage 4 students who took part in the Vocab Express League of Champions Challenge.

School	Score
1 Streatham and Clapham	964,315
2 St Bede's Catholic Academy (Lanchester)	546,585
3 The Academy at Shotton Hall	492,250
4 Levenshulme High School	397,585
5 Liceo Linguistico GB Vico Sulmona	384,005

Spanish Scoreboard

Spanish Challenge Cup Medio

School	Score
1 St Bede's Catholic Academy (Lanchester)	313,925
2 St John Fisher RC High School	166,470
3 Jumeirah College	154,800
4 St Mary's Grammar - Manherafelt	138,425

French Challenge Cup Medio

School	Score
1 The Academy at Shotton Hall	439,600
2 Streatham and Clapham	342,615
3 St Bede's Catholic Academy (Lanchester)	228,455
4 Coopers School	164,120

Student Scoreboard

Spanish St Bede's Geniuses

Student	Score
1 Ben Storey	24,085
2 Anastasia SECCOMBE	19,970
3 Suliman SATTAR	18,910
4 Aaron Crozier	10,115
5 Cleo WATSON	8,980
6 Emily KINGSHOTT	8,935
7 Samuel HUME	8,520
8 Emily KENDRICK	7,425
9 Lucy MCCULLAGH	6,060
10 Jacob Lloyd	4,860

MUSIC

Mr Ferry plays in Italy

It's been a very busy year for the music department. Mr. Ferry was gigging across the year as usual and was lucky enough to be asked to perform at a function in Venice last October. It was for the wedding of a wealthy Russian couple which took place at the seven star 'Cipriani Hotel' (famously used by George Clooney for his wedding). The band was the 'Jason Isaac Band' with special guest Faye Toser of 'Steps' fame. The wedding was an extremely luxurious extravaganza with performances also from a 30 piece orchestra, an electric violin duo, opera singers, a ballet dancing portrait artist and acrobats. Jason's band played throughout the evening celebrations and finished the night off before they gave the stage to a special surprise guest Sting and his band.



Rock Night

Monday 21st March saw St. Bede's first "Rock Night" organised by Mr. Ferry, Mrs. Graham and the SixthForm Student Council. The night raised £850 for the charity Henry Dancer Days. It was a fantastic night with music from Motown to Bon Jovi. The students who performed were: Caitlin Balmer, Jade Barron, Dominic Biasi, Ben Bradbury, Emily-Jo Boshier, Danielle Brown, James Brown, Jack Carr, Beth Cook, Alice Davis, Angelica Donnelly, Becca Draper, James Draper, Toby Dunne, Ailise Graham, Sam Grimes, George Grimes, Matthew Gunnion, Francis Guthrie, Anna Hall, Cameron Hume, Joe Hume, Alex Isles, Will Jeffries, Robbie Kalus, Oran Kurowski, Tom Leech, Jacob Lloyd, Daniel McMahon, Lola Newbould, Sam Parker, Deavon Pickavance-Fletcher, Laura Robinson, Anastasia Seccombe, Holly Railton, Anya Warner, Mabel Wolfe, Owen Young.

Past student Rebecca Symonds won three music trophies at the "Ryton Music Festival" in March. They were:

GIRLS' SOLO - The Stanley Davison Memorial Trophy for singing "Silver"

VOCAL SOLO Any Voice - The Jean Crawshaw Trophy for singing Homeward Bound

Special Vocal Award – The James K Nicholson Memorial Trophy for Music for singing Pie Jesu



Our students have continued being very busy this term preparing for their Instrumental Music Exams. The following students passed their exams: Thomas Parker passed Grade 3 Rock School Drum Kit with a Merit

Sam Parker passed Grade 3 Rock School Drum Kit with a Distinction

Lucy Miller passed Grade 2 ABRSM Violin with a Pass

Jennifer Rupp passed Grade 4 ABRSM Piano with a Merit



PE

"Championes Championes Are We Are We Are We!"

The 2015-16 season was a fantastic campaign for the Year 7 boys' football team, who were deservedly crowned champions of the Chester-le-Street, Washington and Derwentside Schools League.

The team remained unbeaten throughout the course of the whole season, winning an impressive eight of the ten league games they played. Much of their football was excellent to watch and there were some brilliant goals scored too.

Under-12 football is a 9-a-side competition but a total of nineteen players featured as part of the squad and every player made a valuable contribution.

Kaylon Boyle
Lewis Chirnside
Harry Collins
Jak Fairley
Andrew Haney (Captain)
Haydn Jackson
Charlie Kell
James Kennan
Joe Marshall
Jamie Peacock
Ross Pearson
Aidan Reay
Ethan Richards
Billy Ringer
Alexander Robinson
Kacper Szewczyk
Jamie Taylor
Jack Wayper
Jamie Williamson



Well done boys on a magnificent season!

Results and the final league table can be viewed at <http://www.washingtonschoolsfa.co.uk/Year7.html>

PSHE

12W Colour Obstacle Rush - Newcastle

On 21st May 2016, 12W, together with Mr Tones and his daughters, took part in the Newcastle Colour Obstacle Rush, with the aim of raising money for Willow Burn Hospice and Macmillan Nurses in memory of Mr Batty.

The annual event is a fun five kilometre run/walk where participants navigate a number of giant inflatable obstacles, challenges and colour stations.

The intrepid form class met outside of the racecourse on the day and proceeded to the register desks to pick up their t-shirts, sunglasses and bandanas. The warm up was directed by DJ's from Capital Radio after which they set off. The weather held and at the end of the run they were all elated and covered from head to foot in luminous paint! Everyone had a fantastic time and the team spirit was exceptional.



At the last count the students had raised over £700. Well done 12W!

Year 7's Animal Encounters

Bearded dragons, scorpions and a meerkat – not your typical classroom inhabitants at St. Bede's, but as some Year 7s discovered, they all paid a visit to the school along with some other interesting creatures in December.

Lucky students were treated to an afternoon with Jay Gunn and his Animal Encounters. They had the opportunity to learn about and handle an array of reptiles, mammals and insects including snakes of all shapes and sizes, a blue tongued skink, stick insects and of course, Daisy the skunk! Some students (and staff) were even able to confront their phobias of spiders and snakes throughout the afternoon but everyone had great fun with Merlin the meerkat!

The students used their new knowledge and observational skills to create art work to remind them of Jay's wonderful visit. Jay was very impressed with our Year 7s:

"I really enjoyed the afternoon. The students were so lovely and really connected with the animals."

A fabulous time was definitely had by all.



Prison? Me? No Way!

This term, as part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education programme, we organised a Year 8 enrichment day based around relationships and responsibilities within our communities. Prison? Me? No Way! was developed by the No Way Trust, a national educational charity that was set up in 1995 by prison officers who wanted to make an impact on the lives of young people and help them make a success of their lives. The programme adopts an innovative, fresh approach that encourages a positive decision making process, designed to reduce or remove the possibility of offending behaviour.

Prison? Me? No Way! incorporates a series of eight workshops, delivered by a variety of professionals including the Police, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Magistrates, the Prison Service and Northern Power Grid. The objective of the day was to help students consider choices and consequences which may impact on themselves and their community. This year students had the opportunity to hear from a serving prisoner at HMP Low Newton, who spoke honestly and openly about her situation. It was a fantastic opportunity which brought a great many benefits to our Year 8 students.



Battle of the Somme

On Friday, 1st July all students and staff at St Bede's remembered the 57, 470 fallen and wounded soldiers of the British Empire who took part in the first day of the 1916 Battle of the Somme; more men lost their lives on that day, 100 years ago, than in any other day of fighting in any conflict.

We gathered to give thanks for the ordinary men, some of whom 'joined-up' as part of the 'Pal's Battalions' scheme, valiantly wanting to protect those in need from tyranny and injustice. These brave soldiers, after hearing the piercing sound of a whistle, slowly climbed out of the trenches into no-man's land to face the onslaught of the German army, believing that the British heavy artillery guns had destroyed the German opposition. Told to walk upright, rather than crawl, the men were sitting ducks; mowed down by the rapid fire of the enemy.

Almost 20,000 soldiers of the British Empire lost their lives on 1st July, 1916, and more than 1 million soldiers from all belligerent nations would lose their lives by the cessation of hostilities on 18th November, 1916. Graham Meek and Sophie Brown added a poignant dignity to the event, acting as Standard Bearers. Graham, a former Sergeant in the British Armed Forces, presented an enduring link between St Bede's and soldiers who fight for democracy and freedom.

Not a sound could be heard as students and staff stood in solidarity as we remembered those who had given their tomorrow for our today. Subsequently, as the staff choir of Kirstie, Mrs Lawrance, Mr Ferry, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Grimes, Mrs Pine, Mrs McElderry, Mrs Parker, Miss Simmons, Mrs Hill, Mrs Johnson, Mr Cheong, Mr Pine and Miss Roscoe sang 'Abide With Me', students listened carefully to the lyrics and understood the importance of remembrance. Jacob Lloyd's 'Last Post' tribute to the fallen powerfully took us back to trenches as we wondered what the soldiers thought about before going out to fight.

All students carried a personal reminder of that tragic day; a remembrance card dedicated to an individual soldier who lost his life on 1st July. We would like to encourage students to research their soldier and to keep his memory alive.

Our commemoration was one of the most moving and powerful events in which our school community has been involved. The respect and tribute has left a profound mark on the memory of all those privileged to take part in the event; keeping the memory, of those who gave the biggest sacrifice, alive.



RE

Sixth Form RE Conference

On Monday 21st March a mini-bus full of intrepid Philosophy and Ethics students attended the Sixth Form RE Conference held at Ushaw College, Durham. The conference was organised by the Catholic Partnership, in conjunction with Durham University, and was not one to be missed as last year's conference was a real academic treat. Over one hundred students had travelled to the College to hear several eminent theologians from the University speak.

The day started off with a fascinating lecture by the Principal of St John's College, the Reverend Professor David Wilkinson as he chose to explore the following topic: "When I pray what does God do? On science and providence". Students and staff alike were enthralled as he posed profound questions relating to belief and faith using clips from a variety of films and television programmes, including 'The Simpsons'. His colleague from Durham University, Professor Robert Song enlightened each of us on "Genetic editing and Christian ethics". The dignity of the human person was emphasized, as the pros and cons of this new medical breakthrough were considered.

Lecturer Dr Marcus Pound chose to speak about "The History of an Error: God among the Starbucks" and a couple of current students encouraged our Sixth Formers to consider studying Theology at university, as they had found it a most worthwhile experience. The Bede Professor of Catholic Theology, Professor Karen Kilby chose to summarise the Pope's encyclical, 'Laudate Si' in her closing lecture: "The Pope and the planet: the ecological theology of Pope Francis".

We were then treated to an impromptu tour of the beautifully decorated chapel by a former student of Ushaw College. Overall, the day gave students a valuable insight into topics linked to the Philosophy and Ethics A' Level and showed them what studying Theology, Philosophy and Ethics at University might involve.



SCIENCE

Girls Go Digital

A group of twenty girls in Years 7-9 were invited to the Sage to attend a Girls into STEM event. They took part in many different activities that showcased how Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics can be used.

The aim of the event was to engage and excite more girls to take the STEM subjects. The girls who represented St. Bede's were brilliant and impeccably behaved! They took part in a coding workshop where they used an app and discovered how to incorporate coding into the movement and activities of a character. The students could battle others from different schools and the highest scores were awarded at the end of the event; two of our Year 7 girls – Beth Cunningham and Tara Taylor - received a tablet each for their efforts!

They then moved on to a Minecraft workshop where they were built a Science-based memorial. Our students competed against other schools in this activity too and three of our Year 9 pupils (Cleo Watson, Anastasia Seccombe and Emily Kingshott) won an iPod shuffle each for their memorial to Rosa Parks.

The students also took part in activities that were given by different companies during their lunch hour. These included marine biology, lifeguard training and robotics!



Medical Talk from Newcastle University

Two speakers from Newcastle University came to talk to students in Years 9 and 10 about what it is like to work as a doctor in A&E for a day.

They spoke of the normal things that doctors may face including trauma patients and the different types of injuries or symptoms they have to look out for. Questions were included so the students could think about what they would need to do in each situation.

This talk opened the eyes of our students to the work that doctors do and even inspired some into thinking about medicine as a possible career!



Kielder Observatory

On a cold weekend in March, a group of Year 11 and 12 students along with Mr Callow visited Kielder Observatory in Northumberland. On the Friday evening the cloud cleared and students were able to experience the fantastic dark skies at Kielder.

They were treated to lectures about constellations and features of the night sky and used the various telescopes and viewing stations to see these. One of the most stunning views was of Jupiter and its moons. The following day the students took part in a number of activities at a local scout camp, including a climbing wall, archery and a zip wire; a thrilling way to end the trip!



Year 12 Marine Biology Fieldwork

St Mary's Lighthouse can be found in Whitley Bay and is possibly one of the most photogenic spots in the North East. It benefits from an exposed shore and a sheltered shore within metres of each other.

This year our Year 12 students performed their fieldwork experience in March, giving our lucky biologists chance to see a group of seals whilst they put their sampling techniques knowledge into practice.

The students learnt about the marine environment and then carried out sampling techniques to allow statistical analysis of the biodiversity of the habitat. This turns out to be more difficult than might be imagined. With so many variables (exposure to the waves, nutrients, exposure to tides etc.) the students needed to rely on statistical tests to see if the apparent difference really was a difference!

Many thanks to marine biologist Sam at St Mary's Lighthouse who made the day so productive.



TRANSITION

St Bede's Summer School Sensation

You'd be forgiven for thinking that the first week of the summer holidays is an extremely quiet one in schools, but this was certainly not the case at St. Bede's! Thanks to funding from the Department for Education, our annual Summer School was in full swing from 20th to 24th July 2015 and what a week it was!

Sixty new Year 7 starters joined our Summer School staff to take part in an array of different activities including karate, cheerleading, Jay's Animal Encounters, drama, graffiti, cookery, storytelling and African drumming.

While the sessions provided a lot of different and enjoyable experiences, the main aim of the week was for the students to make new friends and get to know the surroundings of St. Bede's better. There were plenty of nervous faces on the Monday morning but by Friday, friendships had blossomed and the nerves were long gone.

The 2015 Summer School was a great success and ensured the new Year 7s taking part felt much more confident about making the move to secondary school.

It was literally the best week ever. You should definitely keep it going so others can have the best week of their lives. It was a phenomenon!

Year 7 have had a great first year, as the year comes to a close, we look forward to welcoming our new students in September 2016.

