

Contact Us



Our School

We are situated in the beautiful rural setting of Lanchester village, just outside of Durham City centre.

Our site consists of two main buildings, with further specialised buildings, and a state-of-the-art modern Sixth Form building which provides light and airy classroom facilities, ICT suites and bespoke Sixth Form facilities.

Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form has an excellent reputation for high quality post-16 provision and was recognised by Ofsted as a 'strength of the school'.

Applications to Main School

Applications to school are made via Durham Local Authority application process.

Applications to Year 7 are made by 31 October annually for a place starting the following September. In-year admissions (Years 8 -11) are also made via Durham Local Authority.

We ensure that there is a smooth transition from primary school so that students feel confident to commence at St. Bede's. Our dedicated Transition Team is there to support students and their families.

Applications to our Sixth Form can also be made directly to St. Bede's School.

Email: stbedes@stbedes.durham.sch.uk

Telephone: 01207 520424



St Bede's
Catholic School
& Sixth Form College

PROSPECTUS



2024-2025

St Bede's Catholic School & Sixth Form College, Consett Road, Lanchester, County Durham DH7 0RD

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Proud to
be part of



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust
Through Christ, in Partnership

Introduction to St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Dear Families,

Having recently joined the school as Headteacher in June 2023, it is my absolute privilege to introduce you to St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College. St. Bede's welcomes students aged 11-18 years old and we currently have over 1300 students on roll. Our school was opened in 1966 and we are now of part of the family of 47 schools within Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust.



Our school is a loving and inclusive learning community where we welcome students from all faith backgrounds and none. Our core mission is to ensure that all students within our community are provided with the opportunity to develop as a whole person.

We recognise that every student is a unique individual with their own gifts and talents; our role is to support and enable students. We work closely with our students at an individual level: each child is known and deeply cared for.

As a staff we are here to support your child in fulfilling their potential and becoming the person God is calling them to be. Here at St. Bede's everyone is treated with kindness, respect and compassion and we strive to instill these values in our students. We are aspirational for each and every one of our young people.

We firmly believe all our students are capable of excellence and we proactively encourage them to work to the best of their abilities to fulfil their potential, not only in acquiring rich academic knowledge and skills, but excellence in character development and service to our community.

We offer our students a wide range of enrichment, extra-curricular and leadership activities and encourage them to embrace these opportunities in order to develop their learning and skills, as well as their relationships with one another.

The relationship between home and school is of paramount importance to us. We work closely with families to support our students in their holistic development: spiritual, moral, social, academic, emotional and physical, through the provision of a broad, balanced, aspirational and vibrant curriculum.

We seek to enable our students so that they can 'live life to the full' and are fully supported in progressing towards further education and future employment.

You are very welcome to contact us to organise a visit to our school and we are happy to answer any questions you may have.



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Our Catholic Distinctiveness

Our Vision and Values

“ The task of a teacher is not simply to impart information or to provide training in skills intended to deliver some economic benefit to society; education is not and must never be considered as purely utilitarian. It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom. ”

Pope Benedict XVI
(Address to Teachers and Religious, 2010)

We pride ourselves on the quality of teaching and learning our students experience, but that excellence of provision rests on our core commitment to forming the whole child. We recognise the value and worth of each student and that they deserve to be safe, happy and able to flourish in a loving and supportive environment.

In our daily interactions with one another, all staff model our understanding that the most important learning our students can experience is how to treat others with respect, kindness and compassion. We prioritise teaching our students about how they can form positive and productive relationships with others.

We emphasise the importance of community: that each one of us has something positive to offer. We instil in our students the importance of encouraging and supporting those around you, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

We understand our role as educators is to prepare our young people for becoming citizens of the wider world and actively encourage students to recognise that they have a responsibility for the communities they will be living and working in and how they can contribute to those around them.

Our students are taught to proactively reflect on and develop their interpersonal skills and relationships; to have the confidence to provide their views and opinions and to listen to others; to recognise their own worth and how they can utilise their gifts and talents for the benefit of themselves and others; to consider the impact of their actions; to recognise they are stewards of the planet.



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Our Curriculum

We have a broad and balanced curriculum that is based on developing a rich knowledge base where students know more, do more and remember more, in order to be more.

Our curriculum content is sequenced in a progression model so that knowledge is selected and sequenced at a pace to match our students, ensuring learning develops over time and at the right time for students.

Subject Leaders have developed the learning curriculum so that it engages, challenges and inspires our students and supports progress in a deliberate and thoughtfully sequenced manner.

The learning journey is explicitly articulated to students so they have a full understanding of what they are learning, why they are learning a topic at a specific time and how this fits into the overall sequence of learning.

Our teachers inspire, motivate and challenge students to excel. Crucially, teachers instil in students an ability to also study and master the curriculum as independent learners.

We encourage our students to build upon their prior learning, and learning from different areas of the curriculum, so that new knowledge can be understood and rooted within a bigger picture.

We fully recognise the benefits to our families of clear and helpful information about what your child is learning, how it is being assessed and what you can do to support your child.

We provide families with regular communication about your child's learning, offer information sessions and provide a wide range of resources throughout the year so that you can help your child on their learning journey.



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Learning Beyond The Classroom

Personal Development

In addition to our taught curriculum, we offer a wide range of enrichment, character development and student leadership activities for students to get involved with at St. Bede's.

The music department offers many activities such as choir, orchestra and an annual musical theatre production: students recently performed 'School of Rock' to sell out audiences! We offer instrumental and vocal lessons which can lead to qualifications.

Our dedicated P.E. team run a variety of lunchtime and after-school clubs including athletics, dance, football, rugby, and cricket. This gives students the opportunity to reach very high standards and compete for their city and county, on a regional and national level.

We also offer a range of extra-curricular, enrichment and leadership opportunities including Art Club, Chess Club, Woodwork Club, Youth SVP and are a nationally accredited Cyber First School with the National Cyber Security Centre.

Students have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of local, national and international educational visits and we work closely with the Turing Scheme which supports the funding of these visits, reflecting our inclusive approach. Recent visits have taken place to Germany and Spain with visits to France, Italy and Chile all planned for the forthcoming year.

We are deeply committed to ensuring our students across all Key Stages have as many opportunities as possible to explore and experience a wide range of careers and further learning. We have a full-time dedicated Careers Lead and run an extensive careers programme with work experience opportunities and external speakers to raise aspirations.



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Learning Beyond The Classroom

Reading

Reading is central to ensuring our students can access the taught curriculum and we therefore explicitly teach our students a range of strategies to support the continued development of their reading skills.

Equally, reading is a fundamental part of how students successfully communicate with those around them and the wider world, it is also a source of pleasure: unlocking other worlds and experiences.

The ability to read fluently, to fully comprehend the reading material and to be able to apply that knowledge and understanding to one's own learning is the bedrock of learning for all our students.

Alongside our dedicated full-time Librarian, all our teaching staff are committed to proactively developing our students' reading abilities both within, and outside of, lessons.

Ensuring that every student can read fluently and is equipped with high standards of written and spoken communication is an intrinsic part of our core mission: to form our students into successful individuals who can fully engage in school and the wider community.

We want our young people to be confident communicators with high levels of self-esteem who – despite the increasingly challenging world – can successfully voice their views and feelings, listen to others and be a voice for those more vulnerable than themselves.



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Pastoral Care

We are here to love, cherish and support every student. We recognise the dignity and worth of every student and treat everyone as an individual. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and our prime responsibility.

We have a dedicated designated safeguarding team and work closely with students, staff, families and external agencies to ensure our students are safe, cared for and able to flourish.

Our high expectations for behaviour are founded on the principles that all students act in a safe manner towards others and themselves; that we respect everyone in our community at all times and that we are ready for learning. We seek out every opportunity to recognise and celebrate our students for their excellent attitudes, hardworking efforts and kindness to others.

We have an extensive Pastoral Team that comprises of both teaching and support staff to ensure all students receive the individual attention, care and support they need.

Every student has the direct support of their Tutor, Assistant Year Leader and Year Leader who are further supported by the Senior Pastoral Leaders within our school. In addition to this we have dedicated full-time support for attendance, safeguarding, behaviour, home-school communication, medical needs and chaplaincy.

We are an inclusive school who believe in the potential of all our students. Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are served by our SENDCo, Assistant SENDCo and Learning Support Manager alongside a team of Learning Support Assistants.

We recognise that life is a journey and our students, and their families, may need to lean on us at different times and for a variety of reasons. As a Catholic school we are here to support everyone in our community.

We have an open-door policy and encourage families to contact us in times of need; we are proactive in ensuring we are inclusive in all aspects of our provision and seek to remove any barriers for our students.

**Be Ready.
Be Respectful.
Be Safe.**



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Transition Support

We work very closely with all our primary schools to ensure that students have a positive and supportive move from their primary school to joining us here at St. Bede's.

We have a dedicated Transition Team who work directly with our primary colleagues, families and the students themselves which means throughout the transition process our prospective students are treated as individuals and feel cared for.

We recognise some students will benefit from additional support in transition and work hard to ensure we have done everything we can to support them.

We have developed a detailed and thoughtful Transition Programme that will help your child to become more familiar with our school, make new friends and prepare for the exciting opportunities St. Bede's has to offer.

We are available for individual visits at any time of the year: you are very welcome to come and see us. We also have dedicated Transition Days, information events and a weekly Transition newsletter.

Each year a special group of students are trained as Transition Buddies and they work with students when they are in primary school all the way through to the end of Year 7, forming lasting positive and supportive relationships.

This year we are delighted to introduce St. Bede's Summer School which will further support our students in feeling welcome, safe and excited to join us!



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