

Contact Us



Our School Site

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 Bursary

Financial support is available to Sixth Form students via the 16-19 Bursary. This provides support for:

Bus passes, educational visits, train / coach fare to university open days and interviews, textbooks, stationery, IT equipment and clothing to meet the dress code requirements.

Eligibility criteria applies. Please contact Mrs Snowdon (rsnowdon@stb.bwcet.com) for further details.

Applications

Applications to Sixth Form are made directly to the school Sixth Form team.

Applications open on 1st October for a place starting the following September.

We ensure that there is a smooth transition from Year 11 so that students feel confident to commence at St. Bede's Sixth Form.

Applications to our Sixth Form can also be made in person and online (see website for further details / online application form).

Email: stbedes@stbedes.durham.sch.uk
Telephone: 01207 520424



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St Bede's
Catholic School
& Sixth Form College



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 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.

Director of Sixth Form Introduction

I am delighted to welcome you to St Bede's Sixth Form College. It is an honour to lead the Sixth Form Pastoral Team and to work for such a fantastic group of students. Our Sixth Form has an excellent reputation for high quality post-16 provision and was recognised by Ofsted as a 'strength of the school'.

My vision is to develop students spiritually, socially and academically. I hope that all of our students leave St Bede's Sixth Form College with the qualifications needed to go on to their chosen careers, but more importantly, are well rounded individuals who are self-aware, self-confident, know and live by their own values and who contribute fully to the society they are part of.

The success of our Sixth Form College and the students who study here is made possible by the collective effort of all those involved; it is a partnership between our professional staff, parents and carers and the students themselves. Also linked to this partnership are our parishes and local communities.

The next two years of your life promise to be an exciting time that will help to shape your future. As a staff, we look forward to helping you meet the rigorous demands of Sixth Form and achieve your potential through a combination of hard work, determination, independence and fun. If you are looking for the opportunity to learn in an inspiring and loving environment with talented, experienced staff, I firmly believe St Bede's Sixth Form College is the place for you.

You are very welcome to contact us to organise a visit to our Sixth Form 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 and the benefit to all in 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

'The range of subjects offered is broad and diverse. Students are taught well and enjoy their time in the Sixth Form. In many subjects, students talk in detail about what they have learned and remembered across the curriculum. The work that students produce is of a high standard.' (OFSTED)

The success of our students is testament to their hard work, our excellent teaching and curriculum leadership, and supportive ethos.

We offer a wide range of academic Level 3 courses: A Levels, AS Levels, BTECs and CTECs, catering for a broad spectrum of students following personalised pathways. For example, some students will take 3 A Levels (occasionally 4) alongside an EPQ, others will take 2 CTECs and an A Level with all sorts of combinations in between.

Students can opt to continue into Sixth Form in the majority of subjects studied at GCSE / BTEC or they can choose from a range of exciting new courses such as Psychology, Sociology, Politics and Classical Civilisation. Vocational courses are also offered in Science, Sport, Law and Health and Social Care.

Many of our students take an AS Level Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This is an independent research project that enables you to explore a topic in real depth; you will learn research skills and have the chance to show off your knowledge and passion for learning. EPQs are recognised by all universities and most employers as they demonstrate high levels of independence, planning, organisation, thinking skills and self-reflection.

Alternatively, our AS Level Core Maths course is also very popular and consistently achieves excellent results. Core Maths qualifications have been designed to support post-16 learners with the mathematical and statistical needs of their further study of other subjects, as well as for employment and everyday life.

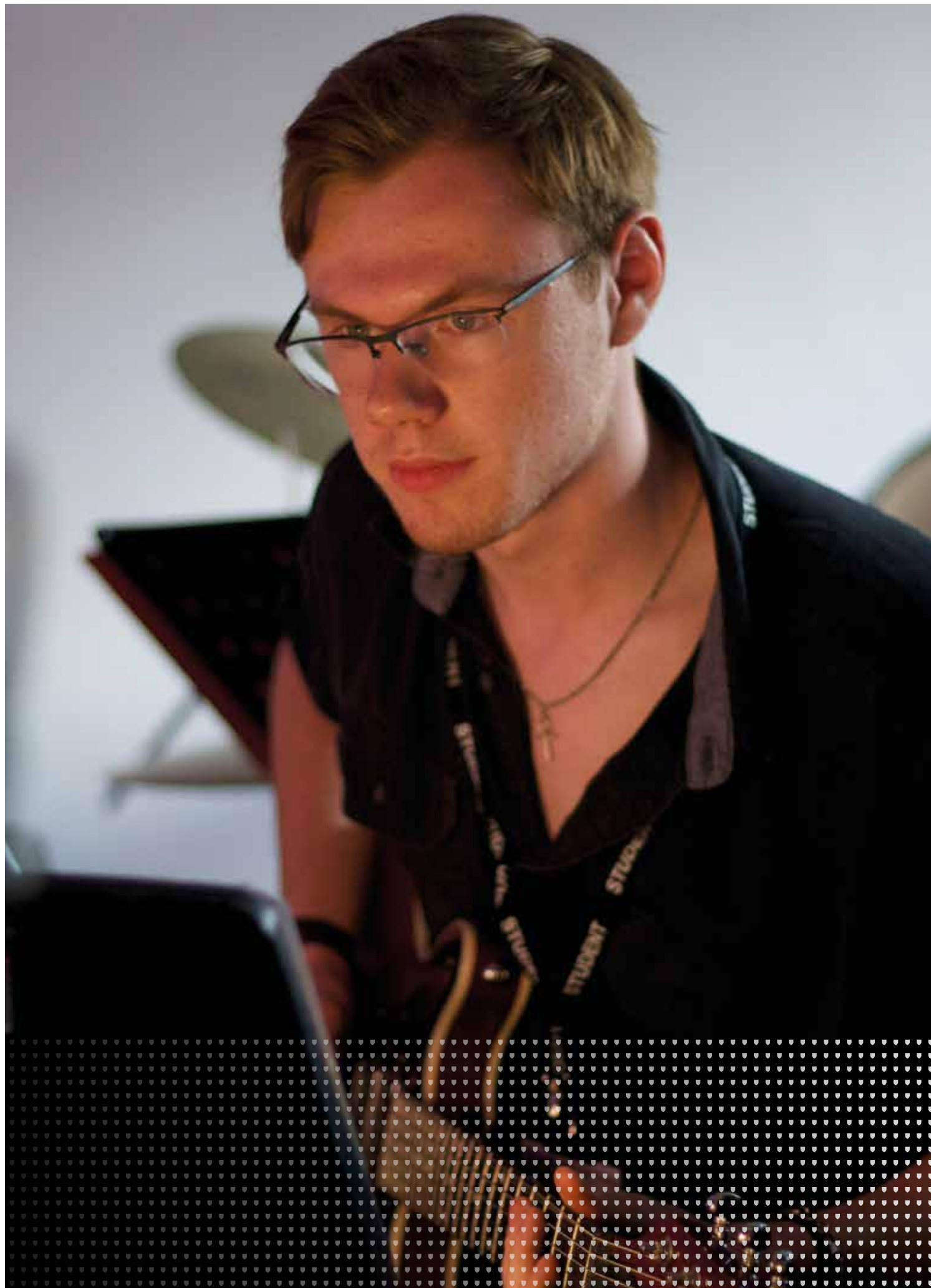
The course is valuable for learners preparing for a variety of technical and professional roles as they learn about mathematical modelling, costing, risk and the use of spreadsheets. Financial problem solving, which is important for all learners no matter what their future ambitions, is also a feature of the qualification.

All students participate in our Level 3 General RE course which provides additional UCAS points. The PE department also offer Sports and Dance Leadership Awards as an extra-curricular opportunity, these awards also come with UCAS points.



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Learning Beyond The Classroom

Personal Development

The two years students spend in our Sixth Form will be amongst the most important in their lives. They will be studying the subjects they are passionate about, making important decisions about their future and developing personally.

Our students embrace our ethos, work hard and commit to a range of activities; in doing so they go from strength to strength academically, personally and socially.

Students thrive in our Sixth Form whether they were with us in year 11 or move to us at the start of Year 12. We help them settle into new routines very quickly; through our tutor programme, we support everyone as they develop new friendships and build upon their study skills to take on the exciting challenge of focussing on a small number of subjects in greater depth.

Achieving the best set of examination results is only part of the Sixth Form experience. Our tutor programme will help you to prepare for life beyond school. Your life in Sixth Form can be as varied as you make it, with an enrichment programme, leadership opportunities, social activities and mentoring students in the lower school all on offer.

We also offer a range of extra-curricular and leadership opportunities including our recently launched 'Prefect' system. All students in Sixth Form will become prefects and can choose to fulfil this role in a variety of ways such as reading / numeracy buddies to main school students, working on the Sixth Form newspaper 'The Current', participating in the 'Bar Mock Trial' and much more besides. Students in Sixth Form also have the opportunity to participate in an annual Diocesan visit to Lourdes as well as the 'World Challenge', we are excited to announce our next expedition will be to Vietnam!

All of our students are encouraged to learn more about themselves and the things they want to achieve as they move off into an ever-changing world. Whilst we hope for great academic results, we are also passionate about seeing happy, confident students who are able to make their own choices and face the future with enthusiasm.



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Pastoral Care

The pastoral support given to students in Sixth Form is another area of strength; 'Students in the Sixth Form are well supported by a strong pastoral team. Students value the support they get from their personal tutors'. (OFSTED)

The Sixth Form Pastoral team underpins everything we do; it includes the Director of Sixth Form, Head of Year 13, Head of Year 12, a dedicated Pastoral Manager who also plays a key role in the UCAS / Apprenticeship application process, Careers Progression Manager as well as a team of highly experienced Sixth Form tutors who provide invaluable support to students in preparing personal statements, application letters as well as being the member of staff who will write their references.

In Sixth Form you will be in a mixed tutor group within your year group. You will form new friendships and mix with people taking completely different subjects. Your tutor is your main point of contact for acquiring new skills and accessing the wider support available in Sixth Form. You will attend morning registration and attend daily tutor period lessons where you learn study and life skills to prepare for your future beyond St Bede's.

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.



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Careers Education Information and Guidance

Many people are clear about their future ambitions when they arrive, others need time and support to develop their ideas.

The majority of our students aim for university (and our students apply to a very broad spectrum of universities and courses) whilst others apply for apprenticeships and jobs. One size definitely does not fit all. Our aim is to help you decide upon the future that works best for you and then support you in making that a reality.

We offer high quality advice, guidance and support from teachers and tutors as well as our Careers Progression Manager who plays a central role in supporting students to make informed choices through one to one interviews, providing advice and support, setting up individual and year group work experience and informing students of careers opportunities.

Year 12 students will attend events such as the annual UCAS and apprenticeship conference; they will participate in a week long work experience preferably in the industry they intend to build their career in and will experience talks from external visitors throughout their time in Sixth Form. Students can also take advantage of practice interviews.

This combination gives everyone exposure to a wide range of future options and support in getting there. Those students who aspire to go to the most competitive universities or who wish to apply for medicine, dentistry or veterinary sciences can also take advantage of the early applicant group to support them in learning to take university entrance exams.

Whether your target is university, apprenticeships or work we have the resources and expertise to help you make the right choice.



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Transition Support

Year 11 to Sixth Form

We work very closely with the Year 11 pastoral team at St Bede's (as well as the school which our external applicants are moving from) to ensure that students have a positive and supportive move from main school to joining us here at Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form Pastoral Team work directly with our teaching and pastoral colleagues, families and the students themselves which means throughout the application and transition process our prospective students are treated as individuals and feel cared for. We recognise some students will benefit from additional support making their applications and work hard to ensure we have done everything we can to support them.

We have developed an engaging and thorough Taster and Transition Programme that will help students to become more familiar with the Sixth Form and prepare for the exciting opportunities on offer.

We are available for individual visits at any time of the year; you are very welcome to come and see us. We will stay in touch with families and students throughout the year.

Sixth Form to Post-18 next steps

As students progress through Sixth Form, their thoughts turn to their post-18 next steps.

This may include applying to university, applying for an apprenticeship or degree apprenticeship, entering the world of work or choosing to take a gap year. Whatever students decide to do, they are fully supported so they and their families know they have been able to make an informed choice.

The personal development programme includes an extensive focus on post-18 options including support to write applications, personal statements, interview practice and more.

