

BISHOP BEWICK

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

AUTUMN 2023



St Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Wallsend

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

AN UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE...



Anita Bath

We are now well into our second year as a complete Trust of 39 schools and there are many examples to be found in this newsletter demonstrating that we are determined to be 'greater than the sum of our parts'. Across our 39 schools there is so much innovation being shared and embedded, a fantastic example being the collaboration with Seven Stories. We know that reading for pleasure is one of the most effective ways of ensuring our children succeed academically.

This project brings the magic of books to primary aged children and also includes our families who are so integral in supporting their children to become fluent readers. There are also examples of schools who have had really successful Ofsted visits where their fantastic practice has been praised by Inspection teams. These schools are now working with others to share their learning and areas of strong practice, helping to raise standards across our schools.

As a community of schools, we understand that if we are to close the gap between students, the best place to start is in Early Years. Hence the focus on developing our children's speech and language skills by working closely with our team of Speech and Language Therapists. We are very excited to be working with this team of experts and look forward to seeing the positive impact this will have on pupils and for staff across Bishop Bewick. This works alongside and beautifully complements the work to develop children's reading.

Finally, the proof that 'a great education can transform lives' can be seen in the next steps of our Year 13 students as they leave our five high schools. These young people are leaving to undertake a wide range of career and education paths, hopefully following ambitions that have developed in their school years. This year we have included the primary feeder schools from Bishop Bewick these students attended. One of the most positive things about being a large education Trust is how we can seamlessly shape the education of children from 3 to 19 years. This journey begins in Early Years and ends as tiny children grow and become young adults, ready for the wider world. Together with their parents and families, we can all celebrate their success.

Anita Bath

Message from our Head of Governance, Gilly Box and Dr Janice Gorlach, Trust Director

At Bishop Bewick, we want to ensure that all our children experience the best education possible, and this principle needs to be supported by strong governance processes. The purpose of good governance is to determine the vision and values of the Trust, and to support leadership in determining and fulfilling the Trust's strategic direction.

Responsibility for strategic governance lies predominantly with the Board of Directors. The Board is the Trust's accountable body and is responsible for the good governance of the Trust and its schools. They hold leadership to account, ensure staff wellbeing and oversee the financial performance of the Trust, ensuring there are systems in place to manage risk and ensure money is well spent. The Board has an obligation to act in the best interests of the Trust as a whole, while also having due regard to the needs of each individual school. Our Board is made up of eight Directors.

One of our Directors, Dr Janice Gorlach, has shared her experience so far with us: "It has been a real privilege to support the Trust as a Director over the last two years. I have seen for myself the strength and integrity of the executive team; their commitment to educating and developing the whole child and their deep respect for staff throughout the Trust. A culture of care and generosity of spirit is evident throughout the Trust. Staff readily support each other as we move forwards, facing high levels of challenge post-pandemic head on. Our children and young people face huge uncertainties as the world changes at an unprecedented pace. Never has it been more important to support our families in the formation and education of their children.

As a Director, I take part in strategic meetings, looking at the direction of the Trust and at a detailed level, examining key school indicators. As the Safeguarding Director, I carefully examine data provided on a whole range of measures and keep a close eye on regulatory requirements. The challenges for safeguarding leads are ever more complex. Never has it been more important that each school has a strong and tangible culture of safeguarding and that all staff are vigilant at all times to signs of need."



Janice Gorlach



Gilly Box

A great education transforms lives - SEN across Bishop Bewick... Nicola Taylor, Trust SEND Lead

Within our Trust, we firmly believe that a great education transforms lives. Our schools all work extremely hard to provide a great education for all children and young people. Where there are any barriers to learning, it is really important to us that those barriers are identified as early as possible so that schools can put in place what they need to, to make sure that each and every child has a great education. By understanding children's learning needs, through talking to the children and young people themselves and their families, the best plans can be put in place.

"There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in." Desmond Tutu.

To help schools with identification and support them with how best to meet needs, this year they have access to a 'new' offer which sits alongside the offer available through the three local authorities in which we sit. This includes better access to Educational Psychologists who provide advice on whole school approaches to mental health and wellbeing, and training for staff on a whole range of areas as well as advice relating to individual students. We have a specialist teacher who can provide advice for children in primary schools with specific literacy difficulties on a referral basis from schools. In addition we have Speech

and Language Therapists who introduce themselves below. Nicola Head, Gemma East and Ellen Fleetwood are now working in all of the Trust primary schools, making sure that everyone is confident in identifying speech, language and communication needs and then ensuring the right intervention is provided at the right time.



Gemma East, Nicola Head

We are the new Speech and Language Therapists for the Trust. We are delighted to be working in partnership with all of the Trust schools to share and develop best practice and ensure that all children receive the support they need in school.

Speech, language and communication skills are important life skills. They are the

foundations for literacy, learning and social and emotional development. Lots of children need help with these skills, particularly in the Early Years and up to 10% of children will need longer term support in this area.

We are working in partnership with schools to identify and support children's Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

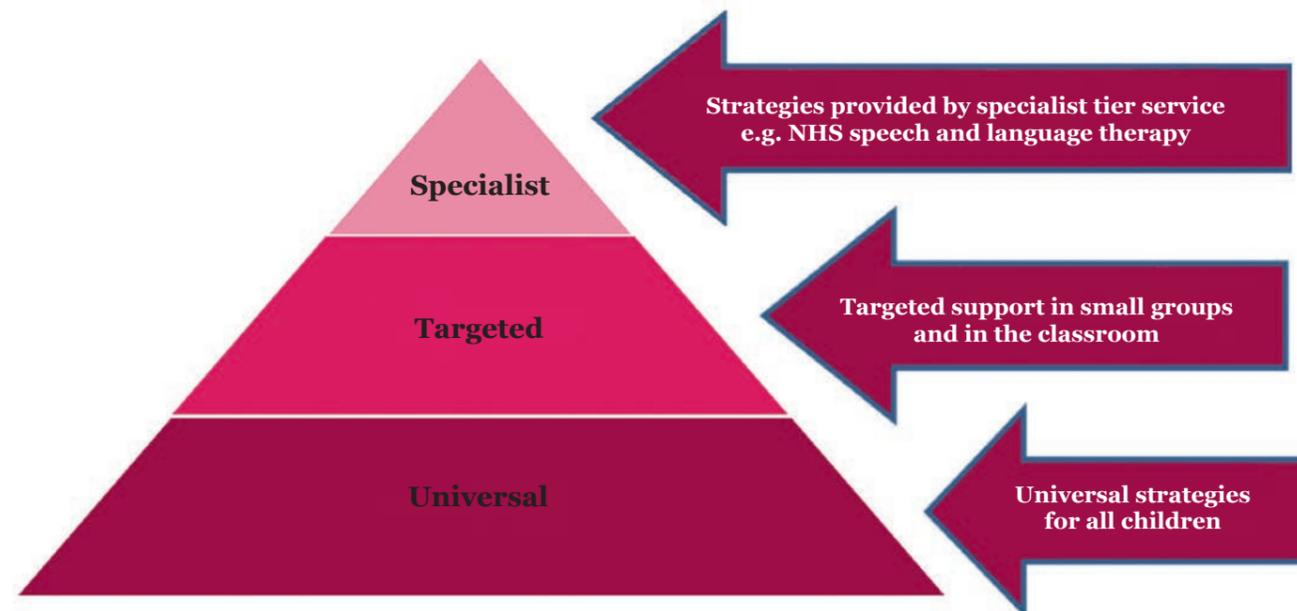
In the Autumn term we have been meeting with all of the primary and first schools to see what is already in place and what is working well. We are developing joint action plans with each school to enhance the systems that are already in place and supporting schools to implement the agreed actions. These action plans will be reviewed each term.

In the Spring term we will be gathering information from all staff and planning training events. In February there will be two Continuing Professional Development sessions for all Trust staff on 'The Graduated Approach to SLCN' and 'Think Language'.

We are using a triangular model to show the different levels of SLCN support for children in our schools.

Our role is to ensure that children are well supported at the universal and targeted level and that schools link in with their local NHS Speech and Language Therapy team at the specialist tier.

Thank you to everyone for welcoming us and we look forwards to continuing this new and exciting work.



Bishop Bewick's unique partnership with Seven Stories... Laura Fallon, Headteacher, St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Vocabulary is a huge predictor of how far children will succeed at school and beyond. The words they know will help them to read, understand, gain new perspectives, and change or confirm their world view. Perhaps not surprisingly then, language acquisition and reading are closely linked. The better a child's language knowledge and the richer their vocabulary, the more likely they are to understand the texts they read. Likewise, the more widely and often they read, the greater the number of words and different language structures and patterns they will encounter. Reading fuels language development, which in turn supports reading, forming a virtuous circle.



It seems obvious then that schools can play a major role in closing the word gap, thus ensuring the best chances of success for pupils both within school and beyond by investing significant time and resources into their reading for pleasure curriculum and school libraries, developing a reading spine with texts which are meaningful, enjoyable and help them to make sense of the ever increasingly complex world in which they live.

To this end, Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust are delighted to have developed an exclusive and collaborative partnership with Seven Stories, a National Centre for Children's Books, in order to develop and support a Reading for Pleasure strategy for all schools across the Trust. The strategy includes:

- A bespoke reading for pleasure spine
- Family Access Project
- Bespoke Trust Teacher CPD Reading Days
- Partnership Offers

A bespoke reading for pleasure spine

Staff from Seven Stories and Bishop Bewick have worked collaboratively to create a stunning collection of books selected carefully for their superb stories, exquisite illustrations and their ability to bind our school communities together with common experiences. Essentially, we have developed the spine to promote a love of reading, with books that represent and celebrate all children, regardless of their gender, ethnicity or social class. We similarly wanted to empower our teaching staff by providing them with a robust tool that would support them when recommending both captivating and enthralling books to our children.

In addition to this, it has been constructed to ensure that our children are offered a superb diet of stories that will delight and inspire them, when they share and talk about these books as part of their reading for pleasure programme. The themes we have chosen for our spine help our children to make sense of the world around them, as well as their own emotions and experiences.

We have developed a progressive reading spine which ensures the

children get a broad and balanced reading diet by the time they leave us in Year 6. The stories and poetry increase in complexity and challenge to ensure that we promote a love of reading that we hope will engage and delight children across our Bishop Bewick schools.

Family Access Project

The aim of the Family Access Project is to establish and embed early organic links with families within the Trust and Seven Stories. It is an opportunity to support families through school projects to access cultural venues across the region and to nurture an early hook to reading.

This is a fantastic opportunity for schools to utilise to suit their own needs. It is a Seven Stories hosted experience in the museum where school staff, children and families will be welcomed, provided with a guided gallery experience, viewing of original artwork from the current collection followed by a story time performance from Seven Stories staff.

Bespoke Trust Teacher CPD Reading Days

There will be two teacher CPD events where reading leads across the Trust will come together to discuss and debate, learn about new book releases, storytelling techniques, engage with original art handling and a range of other opportunities.

The focus is to inspire and create a culture of reading and book talk across Trust staff so they are more knowledgeable and skilled to instil this culture across individual schools.

Partnership Offers

As part of the collaboration, schools will be able to:

- Access offers around co-curation of special projects
- Organise the use of centre to support staff training days
- Have early access for teachers and Trust families to exhibition launches

Children from the Trust will be offered opportunities to be part of the Seven Stories exhibition programme.

School Success Story: St Mary's Catholic School celebrates their Ofsted Outstanding

St Mary's was visited by Ofsted in September 2023. The school received the highest Ofsted judgement of 'Outstanding' for 'Overall Effectiveness' and for all five sub-judgement areas: the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and sixth-form provision.

Everyone at St Mary's is absolutely delighted and very proud of this result. Headteacher, Emma Patterson, said: 'This is a tremendous achievement for everyone in our school community and is testament to our incredible students and our very dedicated teaching and support staff team. It is wonderful to see so much strong practice being recognised, in all areas of school life.'

The current Ofsted Education Inspection Framework, introduced from September 2019, is an exceptionally challenging framework. Ofsted have significantly raised the bar in all judgement areas and, because of this, fewer schools across the country are now achieving the highest judgement of 'Outstanding'. This achievement at St Mary's is, therefore, even more special.

The inspectors noted that, 'St Mary's is an ambitious and nurturing school where pupils thrive. They are taught how to live out the school's Christian values in everything they do. This includes a continual focus on the importance of positive relationships, gratitude and service of others. Pupils are happy and safe in this exceptionally supportive atmosphere, where leaders ensure that pupils benefit from a high-quality and expansive curriculum.'

Among other areas highlighted by inspectors were the school's exceptional academic outcomes for all students, high standards of behaviour, attendance and punctuality and the extensive range of extra-curricular activities and enrichment offered by the school. Inspectors also commended the excellent standards of teaching, the highly effective curriculum, including effective reading interventions and a strong personal development and careers education programme, as well as strong leadership at all levels. Furthermore, inspectors highlighted St Mary's significant role within the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust, stating that, 'St Mary's acts as a beacon for the multi-academy trust, supporting and developing other schools.'

"Most importantly, it was fantastic to see the inspection team recognise the very warm and nurturing ethos in the school, with our Christian values at the heart of this ethos, and the ambition, care and support that we embed for every child in a happy and safe school community," Headteacher Emma Patterson added.



Overall effectiveness	Outstanding
The quality of education	Outstanding
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal Development	Outstanding



Many congratulations to all students, staff, parents, carers and governors at St Mary's.

School Success Story: Ss Peter and Paul's Catholic Primary School



Transforming the School's First Impression

A school's reception area serves as one of the main interfaces between the school and the local community, setting the tone for pupils, parents and staff for the entire school experience. It's where first impressions are made.

Until September 2023 Ss Peter and Paul's Catholic Primary School lacked a reception area. Access to the school was gained by what felt like more of a back door and consequently the school felt somewhat closed off to the community and the opportunity to showcase the great work that was happening inside was being missed.

With this understanding, in 2022 we embarked on a transformative journey to create a new reception area that reflects our values, enhances functionality, and cultivates a welcoming atmosphere.

The creation of the new reception area was a collaborative endeavour, involving input from various stakeholders within the school community. We worked with Eddisons as principal designer and project manager and Compass NE as principal contractor to deliver this £735k scheme.

Beyond the initial primary objective of a new reception area, we created a new spine corridor for the school that helps the school function more cohesively. A new admin office and headteacher's



office behind reception means two existing rooms have been repurposed for parent meeting spaces and intervention work. A further small room was created for group work.

External soft and hard landscaping now takes staff and visitors from the main road towards new carparking and the front entrance.

The transformed school, completed by September 2023, has been met with really positive feedback from the entire school community, who can now be proud of a building and facilities that fully represent and enable the amazing work of the staff and pupils inside.

Anthony Gollings, Head of Finance and Estates

From RI to Good

The opening of the new school entrance by His Excellency, Bishop Stephen Wright in early October signified a new lease of life for the school community at Ss Peter and Paul's Catholic Primary School; reflected in the improvements inside the building on our journey to being graded 'Good' in our recent Ofsted Inspection.

With the support of Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust and under new leadership in January 2022, the school had the tools at its disposal to offer the pupils transformative education, rooted in Gospel values; in which all stakeholders are challenged to learn to value, learn to give, learn to achieve and grow in the peace of Christ.

The priority was clear – pupils needed a robust, sequential curriculum which built on prior knowledge in order to equip them for their present and future studies. We ensured that the intent of each subject area was clear, it was implemented through high-quality and consistent teaching and it impacted upon pupil progress and pupils' enjoyment of their learning.

This was something clear during our inspection, where inspectors found that, 'Staff have developed a carefully sequenced, high-quality curriculum. Pupils achieve highly in this school and acquire important knowledge and skills across a broad range of subjects.'

Central to our improvement has been the coaching model implemented, with teaching staff offered regular sessions with the Teaching and Learning lead in order to further refine their pedagogy. Our inspection report identified that, 'Staff report that they have been supported and coached extremely well. They feel valued and proud to be part of the school and Trust'.

This culture of openness and improvement has contributed to an incredibly positive and collaborative work environment, in which staff feel valued and supported and are able to fulfil our Trust vision to be 'greater than the sum of our parts'.

Stephen Anderson



Big Art Week at St Mary's, Catholic Primary School, Cullercoats...

Colette Bland, Headteacher

During our Big Art Week on 16th - 20th October all classes in school completely immersed themselves into the works of The Pitman Painters. The Pitman Painters were a group of miners from Ashington who took up painting as a hobby. Their paintings reflected their life experiences as miners and provide us with an insight into our local heritage. The children really enjoyed learning about the mining tradition in Northumberland and seeing how this was reflected in the artworks. The children then, inspired by these works, created their own works of art using a range of techniques and media.

On Wednesday 8th November we turned our school hall into a gallery and invited our families and local community to come and explore our Pitman Painters Art exhibition. The children proudly showed their work to family members as they told them about the original works of art and the tradition of mining in our region. We were overwhelmed by the feedback from visitors. Well done to our children for such amazing work and a huge thanks to all the staff whose hard work and dedication makes this annual event possible.



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School make it to the North of England Football Finals...

Vinny Turner, Headteacher



St Teresa's under-11 team progressed through two rounds of competitions to reach the Nationals Finals at the King Power Stadium, Leicester on Wednesday 7th June.



The team had won the Northumberland and Newcastle Small Schools' Trophies, which led them to the North of England Finals. The players then finished in the top two out of a group of six to represent Northumberland County in the prestigious National Finals - the first time the school has reached a National Final in any sport.

On the day, the team had to play three group game fixtures, winning their first two with the results 2-0 and 5-2. The final game was to decide who finished top and second. The team then went onto to play in the semi-finals.

The final match for St Teresa's was the third-fourth place play-off. That game ended 1-1, meaning that the team were joint third in the Pokemon Small Schools' National Finals - a great effort in a highly competitive tournament.

Mr Turner, headteacher and coach for the team, said: "All of the children should be immensely proud of themselves for going so far in the tournament with such a small squad. I think we were the only team with no subs on the day - which makes the children's efforts even more impressive! They all showed great resilience to bounce back from the disappointment of the semi-final defeat to dig in and battle to a hard-fought draw to claim joint third place. A superb achievement and the first time the school has made a National Final in any sport."

School Leavers: Where are they now?

John Foster, Senior Director of School Improvement

This summer, more than 500 students in our Trust's 5 secondary schools celebrated their wonderful achievements in A level and Vocational A level examinations. In total, there were more than 1,500 individual exam entries with a Trust wide pass rate of 99% - a fantastic achievement and testament to the hard work of our students as well as to the superb quality of teaching and wider support which they received from their teachers and support staff in each of our schools. Our students' results were, once again, well above regional and national benchmarks, indicative of the overall strength of our Sixth Form provision.

The range of subjects available in each of our schools is impressive. Across the Trust, students studied A levels in 38 different subjects, as well as Vocational A levels in 10 different subjects. Due to their success in examinations, the majority of students have either embarked on degree courses at leading universities around the UK and overseas, or begun high quality apprenticeships with leading employers which often combine direct work experience with degree course studies. There is so much to celebrate and each school's website includes more information about individual and collective success. Below we feature just a small sample of individual stories from our 5 schools. A huge well done to all 500 students and a huge thank you to our amazing staff for their excellent support of our young people.

St Thomas More Catholic High School



Molly Hay attended St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, North Shields before St Thomas More and achieved two A* grades in English Literature and English Language and an A in Philosophy & Ethics. Molly is now studying English Literature at Durham University.



Jaymie Shell attended St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School before St Thomas More and achieved Distinction* Distinction* Distinction in Btec Sport. Jaymie is now studying Sport, Exercise and Science at Northumbria University.



Sirio Pozzi attended Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School before St Thomas More and achieved three A* grades in Graphic Communication, Maths and Physics. Sirio is now studying Architecture with Professional Placement at the University of Bath.

St Cuthbert's Catholic High School



George Thomson attended St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Kenton before St Cuthbert's and achieved three A* grades in Physics, Maths and Further Maths. George is now studying Mathematics at Cambridge University.



Cyriac Shymon attended St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Benwell before attending St Cuthbert's and is now studying Medicine at Birmingham University.



Dean Mahmood attended St Mark's Catholic Primary School before St Cuthbert's and achieved three A grades in Physics, Maths and Computer Science. Dean is now completing a Degree Apprenticeship with Accenture.

St Mary's Catholic School



Angelin Saji attended St Stephen's Catholic Primary School before St Mary's, and achieved a grade A* in Biology and Psychology, and a grade A in Chemistry. Angelin is now reading Medicine at the University of Nottingham.



Katie Marley attended St Oswald's Catholic Primary School before St Mary's, achieved a Distinction in Child Learning, Play and Development and a Distinction in Health and Social Care along with a grade D in English Language. Katie is currently studying Primary Education at Leeds Beckett University.



Brea Chatto attended St Vincent's Catholic Primary School before St Mary's and achieved grades A, B and B in Maths, Economics and Psychology. Brea is now studying Accountancy and Finance at the University of Leeds.

Sacred Heart Catholic High School



Clare Aspray attended St Charles' Catholic Primary School before Sacred Heart. Clare achieved four A* grades in Religious Studies, Geography, English Literature and EPQ. Clare is now studying Theology at the University of Cambridge.



Laura Hodgson attended St Charles' Catholic Primary School before Sacred Heart and achieved grades A, B and C in Geography, Biology and Chemistry. Laura is now studying a range of subjects including research, macroeconomics, accounting and reading locally and globally at the University of Tampa, Florida..



Katie Pearson achieved two A* grades in Biology and Psychology, A in Chemistry and a C in Maths. Katie is now studying Medicine at the University of Edinburgh.

St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy



Euan Friend attended St Paul's Catholic Primary School before St Benet Biscop and achieved two A* and two A grades in Biology, EPQ Chemistry and Maths. Euan is now studying Biochemistry at the University of Oxford.



Roisin Lamb attended St Bede's Catholic Primary School before St Benet Biscop and achieved an A* and three A grades in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Physics. Roisin is now studying Maths at Durham University.



Katie Embleton attended St Bede's Catholic Primary School before St Benet Biscop and achieved a Distinction* in Applied Business and Distinction* Distinction* in Health and Social Care Double and B in EPQ. Katie is now studying a Foundation Diploma in Art at Newcastle College.

Sacred Heart Catholic High School and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School commemorate 180th anniversary of the Society of the Sacred Heart in England and Wales...

Lynsey Craig, Sacred Heart Catholic High School
Hannah Rutledge, Sacred Heart Primary School



On Friday 22nd September we continued to recognise the 180th anniversary of the Society of the Sacred Heart in England and Wales with a truly special event. To mark the occasion and celebrate this significant milestone, we were joined by RSCJ Sisters and Network Coordinators of the Sacred Heart Society, governors, staff, our Head Girl Team and our Goals Ambassadors to plant a tree.

A patch outside the entrance to our school was selected as the ideal location for our beautiful 'Scarlet Hawthorn' to grow and flourish. As we gathered together as a school and Sacred Heart Community, we listened as our students and Sisters shared readings and prayers to mark the event.

Sr Cath Lloyd RSCJ planted our tree and reminded us that trees are potent symbols of growth, strength, and continuity, something which our Society and school has demonstrated and will endeavour to continue in the future. We hope that our tree will remind us of our deeply rooted values and our strong commitment to education.

We look forward to watching our tree grow and display its double pink flowers in springtime.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School also gathered as a school family to celebrate the anniversary. It was a privilege to be part of history with our Sisters and Network coordinators of the Sacred Heart Society. We planted a tree together and discussed how we will watch the tree grow over the years and be able to tell our families about The Society of The Sacred Heart and in years to come tell our own children about this very special part of history.



St Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Ashington...

Michael Moran,
Headteacher

In October this year, the children from Year 5 and 6 at St Aidan's got the chance to meet a world class athlete in the flesh when Joy Eze, European under 20 100m champion visited our school. Joy was a former pupil of mine in one of my first years as a teacher at St Alban's Catholic Primary School in Walker. When the opportunity came up for our pupils to meet one of the fastest people in the country, we couldn't turn it down.

Joy came into school to discuss her experiences with the children and talk about what commitment it takes to become a high-level athlete. The children were captivated by her stories and they had free rein to ask her anything: from training, to diet, to mindset. They really enjoyed the session and how Joy communicated how passionate she was about her sport but also her commitment and dedication to ensure she improves.

At St Aidan's we hope that pupils leave us with the passion to inspire others through their actions and to meet someone who was a former pupil of mine who has done that, really brought it home to them that it is certainly within the realms of possibility that they'll be returning one day as athletes, dancers, scientists or anything they want to be.

"Joy taught me that, when I have a passion for something, I should follow it so I can shine."

Leo, Year 6

St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, North Shields...

Shaun Dillon, Headteacher

STEM Work 2023

Children from Year 5 and 6 at St Cuthbert's have been connecting their learning across the curriculum as they embark on a project to bring renewable energy to their outdoor Roundhouse.

The classes have been cycling to Newcastle College's Energy Academy in Wallsend to find out all about wind turbines and how renewable energy is created, talking to lecturers and past St Cuthbert's pupils studying renewable energy as part of their apprenticeships.

The classes then created two teams to put their learning into action with year 6 participating in the Monozukuri Caravan programme and Northumbria Water's Innovation Festival and year 5 following the journey of cars built at Nissan as they left the mouth of the River Tyne on their journey to Italy. The Monozukuri Caravan aims to inspire children and show them that social issues, economic background and gender are not barriers to a potential career in Engineering and Mathematics.

The Innovation Festival involved working with on a selection of business challenges and issues currently facing industry, as well as looking at wider global issues that impact everyone, like climate change and water poverty. The children worked with people from all over the globe with different skills and knowledge and to produce solutions and viable outcomes to problems set on the day- it was STEMazing!

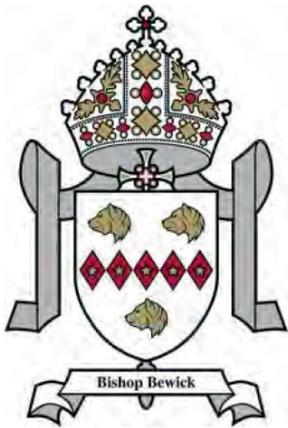


Catenian Public Speaking Competition 2024

Next year's competition will be held on Sunday 3rd March at English Martyrs in Hartlepool. It is a great opportunity for all children to learn about the important art of public speaking and to push their own personal boundaries and we hope to continue with our success from this year. Information has been shared with schools about how to take part.



St Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Wallsend



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