



BISHOP BEWICK

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

SUMMER 2025



St Stephen's Catholic Primary School

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

An update from the Chief Executive, Anita Bath

As another school year comes to a close, it is a joy to read so many positive stories of what has been happening across our Bishop Bewick schools.

The many lovely photographs shared from school events cannot fail to make us smile at the happiness of the children. Our schools all share the same mission, to provide children and students with fantastic opportunities that help them to explore the wider world and their unique gifts and talents.

It's clear in the stories featured that this is happening on a daily basis. I am sure parents and carers will join with me in thanking the staff that enable such a range of wonderful events to take place, from school performances to trips to the Vatican.

Teaching is a real vocation where staff give of themselves far beyond what is expected in their work. The rewards are many and it is a wonderful career. If teaching is something you have ever considered please look for the link to our teacher training facility, Sacred Heart Newcastle SCITT within this newsletter. There are many opportunities for career changers as well as new graduates.

May I finish by saying I hope all our families enjoy happy times over the coming holidays and enjoy precious family time together. We look forward to welcoming your children back in September after what we hope is good weather this summer.



Anita Bath

A message from our Chair of Trustees, Dave Harrison



Dave Harrison

In his inaugural address, Pope Leo called for a unity rooted in listening and relationship. This same principle lies at the very heart of an Academy Trust — it is almost our job description. Our success depends on our ability to build positive, honest relationships, to listen attentively, to collaborate effectively, and to look after the marginalised and most vulnerable within our communities.

We must also continually look beyond our own schools, reaching outward to connect with other Trusts, our Diocese, and other educational communities. This sense of unity is less a simple performance measure and more a shared experience, one that grows stronger as we mature together. We hope you can feel how much more connected and supported we are within an Academy Trust than when we were just 39 schools working in isolation.

Our Diocese is also deeply committed to fostering unity across our four Catholic Trusts. The recent Governance Conference brought together directors, headteachers, governors, and trustees to celebrate our shared mission and energise our collective efforts. We are equally proud to be working alongside the Department for Education, supporting our wider community and sharing best practice.

Locally, there has been much to celebrate across our Trust. A particularly notable event was the opening of the new St Benet Biscop Sixth Form building. A huge thank you to Bishop Stephen, who formally opened this outstanding facility. It is a wonderful embodiment of our collective educational ambition and vision - a space where our young people can learn, socialise, and grow as they prepare for their future.

On behalf of the Trust Board I'd like to send a heartfelt thank you to all governors, directors and staff who uphold the highest standards of transparency and service for all the young people and families in our care.

Have a lovely summer!



Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants (MITA)

Our journey so far...

At Bishop Bewick, last summer, we started a piece of work aimed at supporting schools to make best use of their Teaching Assistants (TAs), making sure that teachers and TAs are working really closely to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Research shows that the best progress is made by those who are supported flexibly and sensitively by TAs to develop independence. Our schools are looking to make long-lasting improvements that are rooted in guidance produced by the Education Endowment Foundation, and build on the great strength and skill we already see.

In July last year we held a conference for all the TAs across our schools as a starting point, and since then schools have been working on action plans related to the effective deployment and training of their teams. We are working towards co-producing guidance for schools around best practice, which will draw on the thoughts and voices of staff.

Julie Teer, Head of School at St Aidan's Catholic Primary School (Ashington), describes what they have done so far: "As a school, we are at the beginning of our MITA (Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants) journey, with a strong focus on long-term, sustainable improvement.

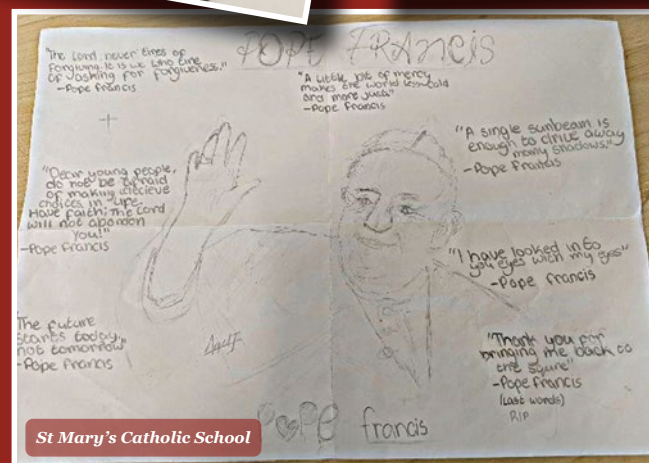
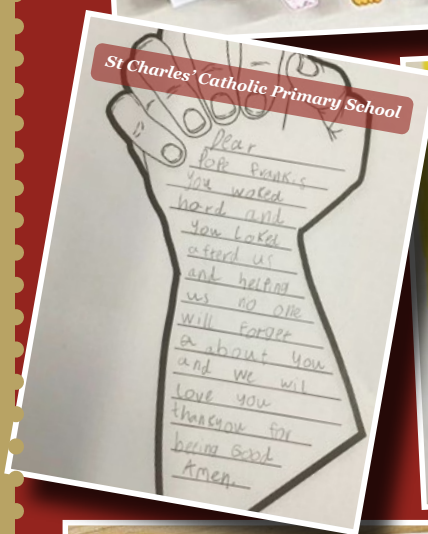
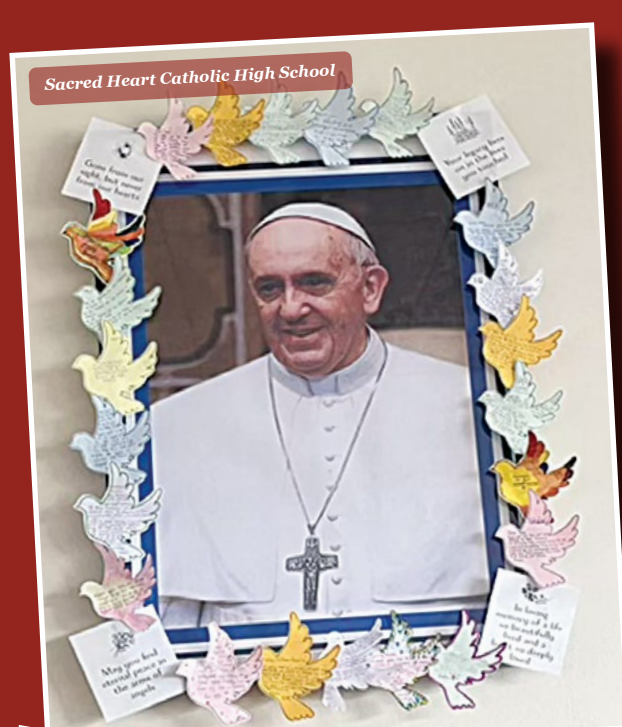
Our first step was to develop a clear, realistic plan shaped collaboratively and put together by all our staff. Together, we identified key things we wanted to look at in terms of how we make the best use of our TA team. Together, firstly, we mapped out the changes we wanted to see, and established how we would make the changes within a timeframe, and what success would look like.

A core part of this process involved aligning any concerns and actions with the four key recommendations from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) guidance on the deployment of TAs. This ensured that our approach was rooted in evidence-based practice.

One of the most impactful steps was creating a Teacher/TA agreement. This outlined the roles and responsibilities of TAs within every lesson. We have formalised a daily meeting time between teachers and TAs to support planning and communication. This has helped to clarify expectations and strengthen the working partnership between teachers and teaching assistants.

Once we know that strong communication and practice in line with the Teacher/TA agreement are in place, our next step is to work together to develop a shared bank of scaffolding tools which will help TAs and teachers to meet the needs of every child.

The staff team at St Aidan's are feeling really positive. There is a growing sense of cohesion and shared purpose across the school. We believe that TAs now feel more supported, valued, and empowered in their roles."



Remembering Pope Francis (December 1936- April 2025)

Earlier this term we heard the sad news of the passing of our beloved Pope Francis. We are very thankful for all he has given us throughout his ministry and leadership.

His complete humility and compassion for the most marginalised has been such a strong example for all of us, and has touched the lives of so many of the poorest and most vulnerable communities throughout our world.

Staff and pupils remembered and shared their memories of Pope Francis through special assemblies/events, prayer and reflection.

Grand opening of the new Sixth Form Building, St Cuthbert's, at St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy

On Thursday 26 June Bishop Stephen Wright officially opened our new Sixth Form building, St Cuthbert's.

The Bishop celebrated Mass with all of Year 12, alongside visitors from the parish and our trustees. We were proud of our readers and school choir who sang beautifully during the service, adding a special touch to the occasion.

In addition, one of our 6th formers, Omeose Egbiremolen also had the honour of serving for the Bishop during mass, which made it extra special. This event marks an exciting new chapter for our Sixth Form, which will be a place where students can grow, thrive, and flourish living out our school values and Mission to be who God intended them to be.

Our new Sixth Form building, which has its own café for Year 12 & 13, is part of a wider £2.6 million capital investment in the St Benet Biscop school site. Site works this summer will also include the demolition of the old St Cuthbert's block at the front of school and landscaping to create additional recreational space for main school pupils.



(C) Vatican Media

In the presence of the Pope

A day to remember for St Thomas More pupils.

Two students and staff members from St Thomas More Catholic High School were honoured to meet His Holiness Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican City. Travelling as part of the national organisation Citizens UK, and accompanied by former Chaplain Michael Thompson and Fr. Chris Hughes, Dean of the Tynemouth Priory Partnership, the group attended St. Peter's Square on Thursday 26 June 2025.

Following the Audience, the Holy Father graciously greeted and conversed with the delegation. Year 12 student Lily Clephane was privileged to speak directly with the Pontiff, who marked this memorable occasion by joining the group photograph on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica.

The delegation shared details of their community organising work with Pope Leo, highlighting campaigns St Thomas More's students

led on fair bus fares and mental health. Representing the North East of England as part of the wider Citizens UK network was a joy. Witnessing fellow students from across the country present their collaborative efforts to the Holy Father proved deeply inspiring. It was exciting to be joined by the cast of "The Chosen", a TV series that dramatises Jesus's life and ministry.

Reflecting on the experience, Year 13 student Iona Bell remarked, "It was a fantastic experience. I enjoyed the history of it all." Year 12 student Lily Clephane stated, "A faith-enriching, once-in-a-lifetime event that I will never forget. It was extremely valuable to have this shared moment with like-minded young people and hear about the work they have been doing."

Assistant Headteacher Andy Merchant praised the students' efforts: "Being amongst the first young people from the UK and the North of England to meet the Holy Father is a great recognition for the hard work of these young people in bringing change to others. It is a memory and an honour that will stay with the students of St Thomas More for the rest of their lives. It was profoundly moving to witness Pope Leo take the time to meet and speak personally with all the young people present."



St Mary's Catholic School Celebrates Jubilee Day with Bishop Stephen

On Friday 27 June, we were honoured to be visited by the Bishop Stephen Wright, who joined with us as we celebrated Jubilee Day, and reflected on the Jubilee theme of Pilgrims of Hope.

Bishop Stephen led students in a Q&A session where representatives from our Student Leadership Team asked him about his career in law and his journey to becoming a Bishop. He then visited lessons and retreats which were being held around school as students continued to reflect on the theme of Pilgrims of Hope, gathering stickers for their "Pilgrim Passports".

Finally, Bishop Stephen celebrated Mass in the Atrium with all of Year 7. In his homily, he explained the significance of his Bishop's mitre and crozier, and called upon the young people of our school to "be on fire" and share their gifts and talents.

A Special Day

Students were truly inspired by the opportunity to meet Bishop Stephen and to celebrate Mass with him. It was a joyful day in school, made especially memorable with extra touches such as artwork and bunting in the atrium and our new stained-glass windows in the Chapel, a permanent reminder of this special occasion.

Two students, Emilia Siemens in Year 9 and Liam Korriku in Year 7, presented Bishop Stephen with special gifts on behalf of our whole school community; a special painting of St Mary by Emilia, and a prayer book featuring beautiful prayers written by our students. *What a day!*



School in the Spotlight...

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

It has been a busy year for St Catherine's who have shared some highlights with us from this academic year...

Shakespeare comes to life at St Catherine's

Each year, our KS2 children take centre stage as part of a fantastic partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company and Northern Stage.

Working alongside other local schools, we rehearse and perform key scenes which are then brought together into one full-scale production. Our children approach the challenge with energy, focus and flair.

Last year, they captivated the audience with their gripping performance of Macbeth. This summer, they are tackling Much Ado About Nothing, ready to perform in a professional theatre to a packed house. It's an unforgettable experience, and our children always rise to the occasion.

Celebrating Cultural Diversity

With children from over 22 different countries, our school community is rich in culture, language and tradition.

Each year, we come together for Cultural Diversity Day – one of the most joyful and meaningful events in our calendar. Children dress in traditional clothing, bring food from their heritage and share stories, music and customs from around the world.

Classrooms are filled with colour, conversation and celebration as we learn from one another and take pride in who we are. It's a beautiful reminder that our differences are to be honoured, and our diversity is our strength.



School in the Spotlight...

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

Early Years: Learning through play outdoors

We have been busy transforming our Early Years outdoor space, and the results have been fantastic. Our youngest children now enjoy a well-planned, engaging environment with clearly defined zones that promote exploration, creativity and physical development.

From zooming around the bike and tractor track to climbing the fabulous tree in our adventure area, every corner inspires active play. This carefully designed space supports all areas of learning and gives our children the freedom to imagine, investigate and thrive outdoors every day.



A new logo to Let Our Light Shine

This year, we launched our brand-new school logo – designed by the children, for the children.

Working in their house groups, children reflected on our school motto: *Let your light shine and set the world on fire.*

They explored its meaning and created designs that captured the spirit of our community. The final logo brings together elements from across the school, symbolising growth, hope and belonging.

It's a logo full of meaning, and a daily reminder that every child has something special to offer the world.



Ofsted Visit

During our recent Ofsted inspection, our children shone. They were articulate, kind and confident – showing visitors exactly what makes our school so special.

Inspectors praised the “compassionate and friendly environment” and “strong, positive relationships” across school. We are incredibly proud of our children and staff for all they bring each day.



Northumberland pupils light up the stage in their annual performance at Whitley Bay Playhouse

St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy proudly led a vibrant school partnership event at Whitley Bay Playhouse, joined by students from our Northumberland schools: St Robert's, St Bede's, St Aidan's, Ss Peter & Paul's and St Wilfrid's. The day was a celebration of talent, teamwork and creativity, with each school bringing unique energy to the stage.

Warmly hosted by Mrs Maughan and Mrs Anderson, the event showcased the power of collaboration and shared values. St Benet Biscop students demonstrated respect, resilience, integrity, self-discipline, and excellence from rehearsals through to performance, inspiring younger peers.

The showcase offered a rich mix of performances—from upbeat dance numbers and soulful songs to stirring choral pieces and dynamic live bands. Every act reflected the strengths of each school and was met with enthusiastic applause.

Parents and carers watched proudly as their children lit up the stage, creating lasting memories and moments of genuine joy. More than just a performance, the evening was a testament to the unity and spirit of a thriving school community.

A heartfelt thank you to all the students, staff, and families who made this event such a success. Here's to many more shared celebrations ahead!

The pupils final song was "Celebration" by Kool and The Gang and it reminds us that it's the spirit of unity and friendship that makes experiences like this so unforgettable for the pupils. We come together as a Catholic community of schools every year to celebrate the magic of performance and theatre and it's always an absolute joy to see the pupils from all the schools perform!

David Sutcliffe, Headteacher, St Robert's Catholic First School



It was so much fun and I felt very very important and starry.

Gabrianne, St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School



I liked performing on the stage as I have never been on one before. I was nervous to start with but happy and excited after I had performed.

Dolly, St Robert's Catholic First School



It was really scary but I felt so proud of myself for singing on my own.

Fletcher, St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School



I feel that my confidence really developed as I had not imagined that I would be able to stand and sing in front of around a thousand people who I barely knew! It was good to be part of a choir and meet new friends.

Mae, St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Bedlington



St Bede's choir was formed especially to be part of this performance. The children who performed had given up many lunchtimes over a two-week period to prepare their songs. That level of commitment alone was commendable, however on the day they absolutely stunned us with their courage, confidence and star quality as they stood on the stage and performed. Some of our children had really stepped out of their comfort zone and to see them visibly 'light up' as they entertained the audience was a moment that we certainly won't forget. There was such a buzz the next day; everyone across school was thrilled with their achievement. This is certainly one for the memory books!

Lisa Dempsey, Assistant Headteacher, St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Bedlington



The Whitley Bay Playhouse event was a fantastic opportunity for our cluster of Northumberland schools to come together and showcase their talents. It was a true celebration of creativity, collaboration, and community.

Charlotte Chapman, Executive Headteacher, Ss Peter & Paul's Catholic Primary School



What fills me with the most pride is watching the transformation that takes place over ten months. It's not just about the glitter and the spotlight. It is seeing the quieter children, the ones who start off hiding at the back of the room, slowly come forward. It's hearing them sing louder, watching them dance with confidence, and witnessing that moment when the lights hit the stage- and they give it everything they have got.

Saira Roberston, High Level Teaching Assistant, St Aidan's Catholic Primary School, Ashington



St Mark's Catholic Primary School pupils dive into maths fun at St Cuthbert's Catholic High School for Pi Day!

On Friday 14 March, pupils from Years 2 to 6 at St Mark's School enjoyed an exciting and enriching afternoon of maths-based challenges and activities at St Cuthbert's Catholic High School – perfectly timed to celebrate Pi Day!

The event brought together younger pupils and was supported by a wonderful group of boys from St Cuthbert's – all of whom were former St Mark's pupils themselves. It was a heartwarming moment of reunion and mentoring as Zinho, Jakob, and Allesandro from Year 7, along with Kian, Evan, Jayden, and John from Sixth Form, guided their younger peers through the afternoon.

The activities kicked off with an engaging game of Eigen Squares, where pupils used a colourful number grid to solve maths problems. The aim was to quickly identify numbers, such as number bonds and sums, folding the grid to display the correct answer – all designed to boost number fluency and mental maths skills. Following this, the pupils rotated through a range of 'Crystal Maze'-inspired challenges in pairs, grouped by year. Each station offered a new mathematical puzzle or task to solve, from creative thinking to communication skills, all wrapped in fun and exploration. Activities included:

- **A Pi Day-themed colouring challenge and memory game**
- **Tangram and Pentomino puzzles**
- **Domino and playing card-based logic games**
- **African and Egyptian number puzzles**
- **Building a Soma Cube (a 3D jigsaw)**
- **The classic Towers of Hanoi**
- **A cultural jigsaw puzzle based on a Benin mask**
- **A communication game, pupils described and drew shapes while sitting back-to-back**

The grand finale was the much-anticipated Crystal Pool. Pupils worked in teams, racing against the clock to search through a paddling pool filled with polystyrene beads to find hidden dominoes. With just one minute on the clock, teams had to calculate their scores by adding up even-numbered dominoes and subtracting those with odd totals – a thrilling mix of speed, teamwork and arithmetic.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for cross-school collaboration within the Trust and a joyful celebration of maths in action. It was especially meaningful to see former St Mark's pupils giving back, supporting and encouraging the next generation of learners. A huge thank you to everyone at St Cuthbert's who made the afternoon such a success – and well done to all the pupils who took part with such enthusiasm and creativity.



Pupils from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Benwell) enjoy a trip of a lifetime to France

The school was granted funding from the Turing Scheme which enabled them to send 27 children to the French city of Nancy for a week in June. St Joseph's partnered up with Hubert-Monnais Primary School in Luneville and were able to visit their school and explore the rich history of Nancy together.

During the trip pupils visited an art gallery, a castle, a palace, a museum, an aquarium and a range of restaurants. They also managed to fit in a riverboat cruise down the Seine to explore the sights of Paris which began and ended at the iconic Eiffel Tower.

The pupils were an absolute credit to themselves, their families and their school. Their level of maturity, independence and of course kindness made all of the accompanying staff extremely proud.

Some of the children have shared their thoughts about the trip:

I loved going to the castle and loved socialising with French children our own age. It was amazing how grateful they were when we gave them our bookmarks.

I enjoyed the art and the museums as I learned so much historical information.

I enjoyed playing (and winning) my first international football match against our French friends!



Learning through outdoor play...

Children of all ages learn through play. It allows them to use their senses and be active whilst encouraging exploration and curiosity. These skills are the foundation of intellectual development and cognitive processing.

Through explorative play, children learn to be more concise in their use of language, to be considerate of ideas different to their own and develop the strength and coordination required to accomplish physical tasks. These are all extensions of the early years prime areas which provide the foundations for all future growth and development.

Our current cohort of primary pupils have all been impacted to some degree by a lack of social interactions during COVID and by the increased proportion of time that children spend on digital interactions. It is therefore more important than ever that schools think carefully about the use of play and free time.

Two examples of this are St Paul's in Alnwick and St Wilfrid's in Blyth.

St Paul's Catholic Primary School

Eileen Lomax, Headteacher

Children at St Paul's thrive in the outdoor environments, confidently exploring, creating and playing alongside peers of all ages. The development of play at St Paul's stemmed from an aim to create opportunities for classroom learning to be extended into unstructured times of the day, building on the success of Commando Joe's. Being a rural school and benefitting from extensive grounds, the aim was to take the children's love of the outdoors and provide them with play that fostered resilience and teamwork.

Over the past two years they have been and continue to be the driving force in developing exciting, adventurous and open-ended play opportunities which afford them the chance to live out our RESPECT values, while extending learning and continuing to develop imaginative play.

We have observed children taking their learning outside across school:

Year 5 have built pyramids; Year 6 have dug trenches and re-enacted World War One. Year 4 became archaeologists digging for Viking treasures, Year 2 have constructed a drawbridge using pallets and ropes to cross the moat to the castle, and Reception have built shelters for Percy and the animals after the storm.

Using loose parts, the children have constructed towers, slides and many different structures using communication, resilience and teamwork. Turn-taking has improved through activities using bikes, scooters etc. Opportunities for communication and language have been enhanced through role play in our Starbucks café, mud kitchen, ice-cream parlour and mini Morrisons supermarket. These, along with a reading library, stage, musical instruments and construction area, provide engagement for all and has brought enjoyment to staff and children alike.

We're also proud to run our learning through outdoor play club every other Thursday, where families are invited into school to help us maintain and improve these fantastic areas. It's been wonderful to see so many parents/carers and children getting involved, and their support plays a huge role in our continued success.



St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School

Pauline Johnstone, Headteacher

We began their OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey nearly 18 months ago, and what a transformation it's been.

Playtimes took place on two rudimentary yards, and although we had a fantastic field and forest school area, there was still more that we could do to develop the play environment and opportunities for pupils.

We have invested in outdoor equipment and areas of the school grounds have been completely revamped. Previously unused areas have been developed into exciting, purposeful play spaces including:

- The Quad
- Small World Area
- Water Area
- Prayer Garden
- Mud Kitchen
- Wheel Zone
- Den Building Space
- Campsite Area
- Winter Film Room
- Adventure Trail

And we're not stopping there!

New additions like our giant sandpit and St Wilfrid's Village are currently under development.

The impact of OPAL has been clear and positive:

- ✓ Improved behaviour
- ✓ Richer language development
- ✓ Stronger relationships across year groups
- ✓ Enhanced social and emotional skills
- ✓ Increased physical activity



Ofsted updates...



St Cuthbert's Catholic First School

St Cuthbert's has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection where it was graded good.

'Pupils thrive at St Cuthbert's Catholic First School, Berwick.'

'The school has high expectations of its pupils. Pupils respond well to these expectations.'

'Pupils read well and widely at St Cuthbert's. Staff deliver the school's phonics programme with expertise and flair.'

'Children in the early years are entranced when surprise storytellers, be it parents, carers, relatives or members of the local community, pop into school to share a storybook with them. This provision is joyful and very effective.'

'The school has a clear vision for pupils' personal development and preparation for their next stages of learning. Pupils have a thorough understanding of how to stay healthy and safe, particularly when working and playing online.'

'The school's staff have a deep knowledge of the pupils and their families.'



St Columba's Catholic Primary School

St Columba's has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection where it was graded good.

'Pupils at the school are caring and happy. The school has high expectations for what pupils achieve.'

'The curriculums in writing and mathematics are carefully sequenced. This ensures pupils learn the strategies they need before completing more complex tasks.'

'Pupils behave well in classrooms and at breaktimes. Relationships between staff and pupils are positive. Staff celebrate pupils' successes and nurture their broader development.'

'Children make a strong and positive start to their education in the early years. The early years is a hive of activity. Warm and nurturing relationships between adults and children create an environment where children flourish.'



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Forest Hall

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Forest Hall has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection where it was graded good.

'St Mary's is an inclusive and welcoming school.'

'Pupils are proud of their school and said they would definitely recommend it to others. Parents and carers are extremely positive about how staff care for their children and nurture their potential.'

'The school has high aspirations of what all pupils can achieve and how they should behave. Pupils happily rise to meet these expectations.'

'The school's curriculum has been carefully considered. It enables most pupils to achieve well. Teachers have a good level of subject knowledge.'

'The school's chosen phonics programme is delivered consistently well. As a result, pupils become fluent and confident readers.'



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Cullercoats

St Mary's has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection where it was graded good.

'Pupils are happy at this caring and inclusive school. Parents comment positively about the 'family feel' of the school and how it is part of the local community.'

'The school has high expectations for pupils' achievement. Published outcomes show that pupils achieve well in the core subjects of English and Mathematics.'

'The school has developed a curriculum that is ambitious and meets the breadth of the national curriculum. It is well considered and well sequenced.'

'The school quickly identifies pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). These pupils receive exceptional support.'

'Pupils' behaviour is exemplary. They are polite and respectful of each other and staff.'



St Robert's Catholic First School

St Robert's has taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection where it was graded good.

'Pupils love attending this school.'

'Pupils show exemplary attitudes to their education. They respect each other and listen attentively to staff.'

'The school has established an ambitious vision for all pupils to achieve highly. Teachers ensure that lessons are adapted to support all pupils to learn well.'

'Since the previous inspection, the school has implemented an ambitious curriculum. Teachers follow the curriculum sequence well to ensure that pupils gain important knowledge and skills as they progress through the school.'

'The school identifies and assesses the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) accurately.'

'Governors offer appropriate support and challenge to the staff team. Staff are proud to work at the school. They value leaders' actions to support workload and well-being.'



St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

St Catherine's has been graded good in all areas.

'This is a fully inclusive school with pupils at the centre. Pupils experience a compassionate and friendly environment in which they feel safe and can learn effectively.'

'Strong, positive relationships are the distinctive thread in all that this school does so well. There are high aspirations for all pupils.'

'Classrooms are respectful and purposeful spaces in which learning can thrive.'

'Pupils experience a rich curriculum, and it has developed positively since the last inspection.'



An outstanding year for the Year 5/6 English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School Football Team

English Martyrs' Year 5/6 football team has enjoyed a truly outstanding year, marked by continued improvement, determination, and a team spirit that has been the foundation of their success. Match after match, the players have shown commitment, resilience, and a strong team bond, all of which have helped them achieve so much this year.

Under the guidance and encouragement of Miss Moran, the team has gone from strength to strength and has represented the school with pride, passion and perseverance.

One of the major highlights of the year was reaching the regional finals of the English Schools Cup, where the team had the chance to compete against some of the top primary school teams from across the north of England. This prestigious event was held at the Liverpool FC Academy, providing the players with an unforgettable experience.

The day did not come without its challenges—a broken-down mini-bus threatened to derail their journey, but thanks to the quick thinking and swift action of staff, a replacement rental bus was secured just in time. The team arrived minutes before kick-off and rose to the occasion, putting in a brilliant performance to reach the semi-finals, only narrowly missing out on a place in the final.

Their spot in the regional finals was earned through impressive victories in both the Newcastle Schools Cup and the Northumberland County Cup. These wins were just part of a trophy-filled year for the team, who also claimed titles in the Great North Children's Hospital Cup, the Newcastle Catholic Schools Cup, and the Donaghy League winners.

“What a season it has been for English Martyrs’. I have been so impressed with the boys’ teamwork, respect and love for the game. It really has been inspiring! They have learned so much as a team, showing that success is more than just goals (although there have been hundreds!) – it is about attitude, effort and playing with heart. We are very proud and look forward to keeping track of how their game develops in the years to come!”

Miss Moran



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School celebrates 50th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Goals of Education



This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Goals of education, which we share with the global network of Sacred Heart schools. The Sacred Heart Goals embody the core values by which we live by.

They guide us and identify us as belonging to a common family, they express what we are and what we stand for. Each year a goal is embedded into the life of the schools. The goals are: Faith, Community, Personal Growth, Intellect and Social Awareness.

We worked with two artists in residence Annabel Talbot and Dave Gamlin alongside Glow, to produce our very own Sacred Heart sculptures and composed our own Sacred Heart Goals song. Bishop Stephen came along to join in the celebrations with our school community, where he blessed the new sculpture trail as the children performed their goals song, which they had recorded earlier at the Glasshouse in Gateshead.

Along the trail, children explained what each of the five goals meant to them as everyone walked in pilgrimage around the track. Each person made their own pledges, considering what the goals might mean to them and had a chance to think about how we can all work together to make the world a better place.



Sacred Heart SCITT inspire career changers and the next generation of teachers



Sacred Heart Newcastle is the largest School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) Partnership in the North East and welcomes trainees of all ages and backgrounds onto its courses each year.

Working across four different local authorities, placements are available in both primary and secondary schools, including within our Trust. It provides a unique route into teaching, with a bespoke, school-based training programme which blends the best of both worlds – ‘on the job’ training and high-quality academic study.

It continues the long tradition of training teachers in Fenham that was started by the Society of Sacred Heart. Before its closure in 1985 St Mary’s College, a stone’s throw away from the school, served as a teacher training college for 80 years. Commenting on this long history of teaching in Fenham, Louisa Connolly, SCITT Director said “We are still passionate about recruiting, teaching, and subsequently employing the very best graduates into the teaching profession. The legacy of training the very best teachers for our region lives on at Sacred Heart Newcastle SCITT”.

You can read more about the SCITT as well as testimonials and how to apply via www.newcastlescitt.co.uk

Prior to teacher training, I was working in our family business.

said 42-year-old Emily Gray, who is studying to become a geography teacher.

24-year-old trainee Nathan Batten switched careers to teach Religious Studies:

I was a researcher, which had its interesting moments but didn’t feel like the right long-term path for me. Teaching, on the other hand, is the busiest thing I’ve ever done – it is far more rewarding, with never a dull moment.

Ofsted described Sacred Heart SCITT as

A partnership focused on training highly skilled, resilient teachers for the future” and praised the “ambitious curriculum, wide variety of teaching opportunities, and excellent pastoral care.

To keep up to date with what is happening at Bishop Bewick schools please follow us on our social media pages

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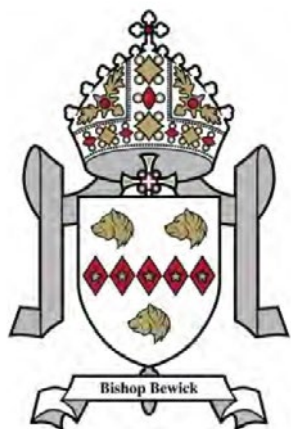
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St Lawrence's Catholic Primary School



BISHOP BEWICK

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

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St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy