



Friday 1st May 2026

Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

It has been another very positive week across the school, and it has been a pleasure to see pupils continuing to approach each day with focus and enthusiasm.

This week, we held a special celebration for our Year 11 pupils to recognise the dedication, effort and resilience they have shown over the past two years of study. The event provided a valuable opportunity to acknowledge their achievements, reflect on their journey and wish them every success as they approach their examinations.

I would also like to wish all pupils and their families an enjoyable and restful bank holiday. In particular, we hope our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils are able to take some well-deserved time to relax and recharge, as they prepare for the commencement of their examination season.

Prayer Theme

'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'

John 14:6

We have prayed together as a community:

Dear Lord,

You are the way before me and the truth within me. You are the life that sustains me, and You are the way when I feel lost. Lead me when I cannot see the path, teach me when I struggle to understand, and renew me when I grow tired. Keep my heart close to You, my steps steady in You, and my life rooted in Your grace.

Amen.



Year 11 Character Shields

- During our Year 11 celebration assembly, we had the honour of presenting our Character Shields to this year's truly deserving recipients. As always, choosing just one pupil for each award was incredibly challenging, given the outstanding calibre of nominees across the board. Our five Character Shields recognise pupils who consistently embody a wide range of values and qualities that enrich our school community, and this year's winners exemplified those attributes brilliantly.



- The **Father Donnelly Shield** for community recognises young people who do their best to bring a community together in love and goodness. Recipients may befriend the lonely, be inclusive in nature or invest in others beyond their friendship group.
- The **Irena Sendler Shield** for courage & integrity recognises the everyday bravery of our students. Recipients will have overcome personal barriers and hardships or shown acts of courage or integrity even when it is not popular.
- The **Oscar Romero Shield** for peace & dignity recognises students who bring a calm and gentle presence to the school. Recipients are known for speaking the best of others & carrying themselves with a quiet dignity.
- The **Wilma Rudolph Shield** for patience & faithfulness recognises students that practice perseverance and show resilience in school. Recipients may have overcome educational barriers, succeeded after setbacks or not given up regardless of circumstances.
- The **Barnardo Shield** for kindness & compassion recognises students who show kindness & compassion to others around them. Recipients have a character of helpfulness and care. They support others around them & try to put others first.



Year 12 Visit to the Hancock Museum

- Our Year 12 pupils had the opportunity to visit the Hancock Museum on Wednesday as part of this week’s Horizon session. They explored the museum’s collections and enjoyed an engaging talk delivered by one of the museum’s curators.



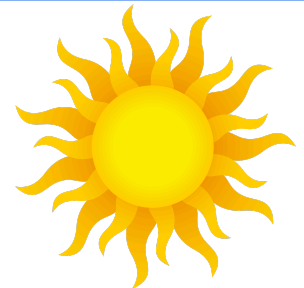
Wellbeing Support for Examinations

- As Year 11 and Year 13 pupils approach external examinations, and pupils in other year groups begin preparations for their end of year assessments, please see some useful guidance from BBC Bitesize for tips and advice on how young people can manage exam stress.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zckydxs>



Pop Up: Sun Awareness

- Our pop-up focus this week centred on sun awareness. As we move into the summer months and look forward to what will hopefully be a sunny bank holiday weekend, we are encouraging our young people to protect themselves from the sun by using sunscreen and taking sensible precautions.



Year 13 Leavers Mass - Reminder

- Families and parishioners are welcome to celebrate Mass with us for our Year 13 pupils on Friday 8th May at 11am at St Anne’ church, Winlaton.
- Pupils will then return to school for refreshments and afternoon lessons.

A reminder to use our house email addresses if you have any queries.

St Bernadette	St Catherine Laboure	St John Fisher	St Therese	Sixth Form
STM-StBQueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-StCLQueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-stjfqueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-sttqueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-SixthFormQueries@stm.bwcet.com

Please follow us on social media (**Facebook, Instagram and Twitter STM_CS_Blaydon**) where we share regular updates from our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Turner
Head Teacher

