

# CHADWICK CHATS

SHARING OUR NEWS WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Issue No.2 | 2024/25



Join us in celebrating the power of education to transform lives and shape futures. Welcome to this issue of Chadwick Chats Magazine – your window into our wonderful schools and communities.

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Welcome to this the second edition of Chadwick Chats magazine. Our Trust is one of four Catholic Education Trusts in the North-East, and we cover the east of the region with thirty schools across East Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

Our schools sit at the heart of their communities, providing the opportunity to achieve academic excellence, contributing hugely to the development of their neighbours and showing the face of Christ to all.

We aim to enable each individual to fulfil their God given potential. Our Trust family of schools all work collaboratively, and we seek to achieve cohesion, not uniformity. Each of our schools has its own community and it is important that they maintain their own uniqueness.







This academic year started well with some fantastic inspection feedback for a number of our schools (see page 4), and we are delighted to share more about our new team of Chief Standards Officers who are collaborating with all our schools to support continued improvement (see page 12). We are also keen to put pupil voice at the heart of our Trust, this issue our *Pupil Perspective* feature is from Louca Cooke, 15, from St. Bede Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee (see page 11) sharing his thoughts on the elite football academy programme.

We hope this magazine provides you with an insight into our schools, and we welcome opportunities to work collaboratively for the benefit of our pupils, their families and their communities, so if you are interested in working with us, or have any feedback or suggestions, do get in touch [enquiries@bccet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bccet.org.uk).

Best wishes  
**Brendan Tapping**  
Chief Executive Officer

Cover photo: Thanks to pupils from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary, Shotton, St. Godric's Catholic Primary, Thornley, and St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Blackhall.

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 Primary Schools	<b>25</b>	 Secondary Schools	<b>5</b>	 In-house 6th Forms	<b>4</b>
 Total Pupils	<b>11,495</b>	 Total Staff	<b>1,378</b>	 Governance roles	<b>203</b>

**NB:** This publication is primarily available digitally, a small supply of print copies are available in our schools and parishes (printed on recycled materials). If you would like to sign up to our mailing list to receive a copy digitally please go to [www.bccet.org.uk/news](http://www.bccet.org.uk/news)

## Inspections Roundup



### Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, Shotton – Ofsted

Ofsted reported behaviour and attitudes to be outstanding, with an overall outcome of ‘Good.’



### Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School - CSI

CSI inspection resulted in the school being deemed outstanding.



### St. Bede's Catholic Primary School, Jarrow – Ofsted

Ofsted reported effective action taken to maintain the good standards.



### St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland – Ofsted

Ofsted reported personal development is outstanding, all other key judgements rated as good.



### St. James Catholic Primary School, Hebburn – Ofsted

Ofsted reported that behaviour is very good. Pupils are keen to learn, mature and sensible. Children enjoy a creative and ambitious curriculum.



### SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School, South Shields – CSI

CSI inspection gave an overall effectiveness grade of two, with Catholic Life and Mission and Religions Education graded at 1.

We are awaiting inspection results for St. Godric's Catholic Primary, Thornley, St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland, St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow and St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Sunderland.

## Nursery News



We are very proud to currently have nursery provision available in **14** of our Primary schools (visit [www.bccet.org.uk/our-schools](http://www.bccet.org.uk/our-schools) to see which). Early years education builds the foundations for children's educational journey, providing them with the tools they need to thrive throughout their education, and beyond.

We regularly review nursery provision and are currently considering the viability of introducing nursery provision at **Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, Shotton; St. Godric's Catholic Primary, Thornley; St. Gregory's Catholic Primary, South Shields and St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Wingate.** You can follow our schools and the Trust on [social media](#) to be kept up to date on the latest [news](#) or visit the schools page on our website [www.bccet.org.uk/our-schools/](http://www.bccet.org.uk/our-schools/).



## Chadwick Celebration Awards 2024



**2022 Inspirational Staff Award Winner**  
Mrs Blackburn, Teaching Assistant  
St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow



**2023 Inspirational Staff Award Winner**  
Mrs Young, Office Manager  
St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow



**2024 Inspirational Staff Award winner**  
Mrs Peart, Headteacher  
St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland

One of the Trust's key values is Celebration, our awards are now in their fourth year, and are just one of the ways we celebrate the hard work and dedication of our wonderful staff right across the Trust.

We are proud of our staff, and this is an opportunity to showcase the valuable and inspiring contributions being made every day to achieve our overall mission: **Better Schools, Better Communities, Better Futures in Christ.**

There are seventeen awards categories and nominations are made by staff right across our Trust. However, the most sought-after award each year is the Inspirational Staff Award, as this award is voted for by our pupils. Nominations are open now, so if you are a current pupil or the parent/carer of a current pupil, at one of our Trust schools this is your chance to get involved.

We would like you to think about all the staff at your child's school, the Headteacher and teachers, the teaching assistants, the office staff, the kitchen staff, caretaking team etc. If your child thinks there is someone really inspiring, then you can nominate them for this award.

This award is to celebrate someone who is positive and full of enthusiasm, who has gone above and beyond to support pupils. Your nomination should include what the person's role or roles are in your school. It should give some examples of what they have done, how that impacted on pupils, and why they deserve to receive this award. This could be by providing additional support, a consistent friendly face, leading on new opportunities or championing pupil causes in school, or being an inspiring role model.

For younger pupils you may need to ask an adult for some help to make your nomination. Nominations need to be a minimum of 50 words and a maximum of 200 words you can use the link below to access the nomination form. Nominations will close on **Monday 24 March 2025.**

**Pupil nomination form - Inspirational Award - <https://forms.office.com/e/H7PW9rE1Sh>**



**HUGE THANK YOU to our sponsors who allow us to fully fund this event - this wonderful celebration would not be possible without them.**

## Golden Years



Over the past year **St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Sunderland** celebrated 50 years. They marked this milestone with a range of activities including a whole school Mass, the first ever "Maryfest" rock festival, featuring music and dancing from 1974 (the year school opened), a picnic lunch (with ice cream), and a ceilidh dance. Many past students and staff attended events, and everyone loved the opportunity to re-connect.

School also commissioned four special stained-glass panels to add to their Mission Statement window (created for their fortieth anniversary). The panels depict the four values of school's BREW curriculum, Belief, Rights, Environment and Wellbeing. They were produced by Gill McGinley, the artist who did the original window, and have been framed and now are displayed proudly in the main corridor. A constant reminder of the values which make St. Mary's so special.

## Our Buildings



Over the summer we carried out a number of projects at several of our schools including roofing replacement works, toilet upgrades, flooring replacements, outdoor nursery area upgrades and health and safety and safeguarding essential works such as fencing and security installations.

Thank you to the school communities of **Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, Peterlee, St. Bede's Catholic Primary, Jarrow, St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary, Seaham, St. Gregory's Catholic Primary, South Shields, St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn, St. Leonard's Catholic Primary, Sunderland, St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow, St Joseph's, Catholic Primary, Sunderland, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary, Seaham and St. Oswald's Catholic Primary, South Shields**, for their patience and understanding during these improvements.

These works will have a huge impact on the teaching and learning in our schools. One of the advantages of being part of our Trust family of schools is the support we can provide as a Trust with property and estates maintenance, management, and improvement.

## School Rebuilding Programme



We successfully secured funding under the [Department for Education's \(DfE\) School Rebuilding Programme](#). Work is progressing well at **St. Aidan's Catholic Academy** and **St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School**, both in Sunderland, with building works expected to start early in 2025.

**St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Sunderland**, and **St. Aloysius Catholic Infant School, Hebburn** are both in tranche four of the DfE School Rebuilding Programme. **St. James Catholic Primary School, Hebburn** and **St. John Bosco Catholic Primary School, Sunderland** have also been added to the rebuilding programme, with timelines to be advised.

## RAAC Update

At the end of the summer holidays (August 2023), we were advised by the Department for Education (DfE) that three of our schools had Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and these sites should close or partially close.

**St. James Catholic Primary School, Hebburn** and **St. John Bosco Catholic Primary School, Sunderland** both returned to their school buildings in June 2024 following remedial works - we are delighted they have now been added to the school rebuilding programme. Work is ongoing at **St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee**. All students are now back on the school site. The DfE continue to provide us with support for this project which is due to be completed January 2025.

We would like to thank all our pupils, staff, parents/carers, and wider communities for all their support and understanding.

## Marking Milestones

### Celebrating 120 years of girl's education

**St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy, Sunderland**, is for girls aged 11-18 years, within the Mercy tradition. It received state recognition in 1904 and has been delivering high-quality education for young women for 120 years this year. School have lots of events planned for the academic year, including the opening of the Mercy Garden in September, the Senior Choir carol service in December (fundraising for St. Benedict's Hospice) and artwork throughout school based on Catherine McAuley quotes, special assemblies, plus lots more.



### Calling all ex-pupils and staff...



**St. Anthony's** needs your help to create their 120th Anniversary Gallery – they are collating an online gallery of old images from school and would love ex-students and staff to share their cherished memories. If you have any photos to contribute, please email [enquiries@staga.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@staga.co.uk).



Did you go to **St. Aidan's**? As school celebrate nearly a century of excellence and look forward to exciting developments, they are eager to enhance their dynamic alumni community. If you attended St. Aidan's or are an ex-member of staff and would like to share your story, please email [contactus@staca.co.uk](mailto:contactus@staca.co.uk)

## Diocese News



Alison Dunne, former Headteacher at **St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School, South Shields** has been appointed as Deputy Director of Education for the [Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle](#). Congratulations Alison, we will miss you and thank you for all your years of service. We wish you well in your new role.

A new Headteacher will be appointed for St. Gregory's in the New Year. In the meantime Emma Shaugnessy will continue in her role of Acting Headteacher.



In each issue we will be talking to one of our Parish Priests. This time it is **Fr. Saji Thottathil** who looks after **St. Matthew's and St. Mary's parishes, Jarrow**. He also works closely with our primary schools St. Matthew's and St. Mary's, Jarrow

**How long have you been a priest? and how long have you been at your current parishes?** 25 years. I have been in my current parishes since 28 February 2015.

**What lead you to your calling as a priest?** My calling to the priesthood was inspired by the selfless service of my parish priest, whose dedication to the community left a profound impact on me. I always want to do something good for others. After completing secondary school, I participated in a discerning program with my friends, which provided clarity and guidance.

**What is a typical day like for you?** It varies greatly, there are constants, like daily Mass and personal prayer, which are at the heart of my routine. However, much of my day revolves around responding to the unexpected. For example, if there's an emergency, such as a request for the Sacrament of the Sick in a care home or hospital, my plans must adapt to meet those needs. I've learned that the needs of the people often come before my personal schedule, and I cannot manage these demands without guidance and strength from God. I try to find moments to connect with family and friends, as these relationships provide balance and support.

**What do you enjoy most about your role and what is your biggest challenge?** Celebrating the Holy Mass and administering the sacraments, as these are joyful occasions that deepen my connection with God and the community. Assisting people in times of crisis is the biggest challenge (such as bereavement, terminal illness, or job loss). As priests, we are called to be another Christ in the world, and the real challenge lies in how to extend Christ's care, love, and compassion in these critical moments.

**What is your favourite time of year?** Spring and summer for their warmth and vibrant energy. In the liturgical year, I especially enjoy Christmas and Easter, as times of joy, reflection, and celebration.

**What do you enjoy most about working with schools and young people?** The opportunity to spend time with our pupils, especially during Holy Mass and liturgical celebrations. Young people are the future of our society and church, and the love and joy they bring to my ministry is truly remarkable. It is a privilege to witness their growth and enthusiasm in faith.

**What are your hobbies?** My hobbies are reading, walking, watching sports and socialising with friends and family.

**What advice do you have for our young people?** Youth is the most precious period of your life. It is a time filled with boundless creativity and potential—gifts that God has given you. Use this creativity to make a positive impact on your community and the world around you. Jesus is the best celebrity and the truest friend you could ever have. No matter what circumstances you face, He is always there to guide you. In today's world of consumerism and technological advancement, never lose sight of who you are. Embrace your individuality, for you are made with great intention and love.





## The Jubilee Year 2025 - A Holy Year of Hope

*'In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future will bring.'* Pope Francis

Pope Francis announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. The theme of the year will be “Pilgrims of Hope,” hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

Within the Catholic Church, Jubilees or as they are sometimes known, ‘Holy Years’ have always been special years for forgiveness, reconciliation, and mercy. The year is a special year of grace, it’s about pilgrimage and prayer as well as celebration and reconciliation.

Jubilee years traditionally have begun just before Christmas and end the Epiphany the following year. This year Pope Francis opened the first Holy Door on Christmas Eve at the Papal Basilica of St. Peter in Rome and then presided over the Mass for the Lord’s birth. Pope Francis in *Spes Non Confundit* (Hope Does Not Disappoint), the Papal Bull officially proclaiming the Holy Year of 2025 explained that in Catholic tradition, the Holy Door represents the passage to salvation – the path to a new and eternal life, which was opened to humanity by Jesus.”

For our schools, the launch of the Jubilee took place on Friday 24 January 2025 with the opening their own Holy Doors. Each month will have a theme that we are invited to explore.

On Friday 27 June 2025 we will join together with schools across the Diocese for a **Jubilee Day**. During the day, schools are invited to reflect on their mission and to commit to stand in solidarity with the poorest communities, sharing hope and challenging injustice by pledging to take concrete actions to make their communities, country, and world a better place, being that Pilgrim of Hope.

### Useful links:

[Jubilee 2025](#)

[Cafod Jubilee Year 2025](#)

[Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle - Jubilee 2025](#)

The Jubilee logo was designed by Italian artist Giacomo Trivisani.

Each issue we want to give one of our pupils the opportunity to speak about something that is important to them.

This issue we talked to **Louca Cooke**, 15, from St. Bede Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee.

He is part of the Elite Football Academy programme in school in partnership with Fast Feet Football Academy.



**What year are you in and what are you currently studying?** I'm in Year 10 at St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form in Peterlee studying English language and literature, maths, triple science, geography, engineering and BTEC sport.

**Why did you decide to join the Elite Football Academy programme?** I have always loved football. I have played since I was four or five and play in centre midfield position. I'm a Hartlepool United fan and love watching them play too.

**How does the programme combine your academic studies and your football coaching?** The football sessions are only before and after school, so you don't miss any lessons. I have two early mornings from 7.30am and two after school from 3.15pm-5pm. I don't mind the early mornings as I'm used to getting up early and it wakes me up more, gets me active and I feel better in lessons.

**What have you enjoyed most about the experience so far?** I enjoy the games and going out of school with the lads. It is nice and active, and I really enjoy the training. I've known the group for the past couple of years and the coaches are great.

**How does having the opportunity to include football in your school curriculum benefit you?** It makes me want to come into school on the days you feel ill; it gives you another reason to come into school. I'm a very loud, active person so playing football and having extra coaching is great.

**Would you recommend the programme to other students?** Definitely. As long as you love playing football, you will love it.

**What are your aspirations for the future?** I am looking into going to America to do a football scholarship programme after college. My Dad's friend did it and put the idea in my head, so I started looking into it.



**We currently have football academies for both girls and boys at St. Bede and Byron Catholic Sixth Form, Peterlee and St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn.**

**Our Football Academies are run in partnership with Fast Feet Football Academy. Their experienced coaches use a holistic approach to enhance technical skills and tactical understanding, to give each player the best possible chance of fulfilling their potential.**

**Find out more: [www.fastfeetfa.com](http://www.fastfeetfa.com)**

## Improving our schools together – our shared strategic vision

Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust Supporting Schools to Excel strategy, is a commitment to fostering collaborative leadership, transformational change, and sustainable school improvement across all schools within our Trust. The strategy reaffirms our dedication to empowering all pupils and staff to achieve their full potential.

Our Trust's innovative school improvement is centred on a collaborative, partnership-driven process. Our Chief Standards Officers (CSOs) play a pivotal role in "walking alongside" school leaders and staff, identifying evidence-based practices that support continuous school improvement.

*"When leaders feel well supported, they are more likely to engage in honest reflection. Together, we can then identify any areas of focus and implement lasting solutions."* **Kathryn Fenwick, Chief Standards Officer.**



**Glenn Sanderson, Francesca Craik, Leanne Barker and Kathryn Fenwick, Chief Standards Officers.**

*"Our CSOs have been a tremendous support across both schools and have worked closely with us to ensure that there has been continuous improvement across our federation. Visits provide support and challenge, whilst considering the workload and wellbeing of leaders- which is sincerely appreciated.*

*Time is always given to ensure that the uniqueness and exceptionality of both schools are recognised, something that was celebrated during our recent inspections. The support given during these inspections from our CSO was invaluable.*

*Leaders and all staff value our CSO, who is a great listening ear to offer advice and nothing is ever too much trouble."* **Lisa Ashton, Executive Headteacher, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, Shotton & St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Blackhall**

*"The support we have received from our CSOs is instrumental in helping us to continuously improve so that all of our pupils receive the best education possible. The visits are always very supportive, providing challenge, whilst also celebrating successes; CSOs take the time to make all staff feel valued during the visits and acknowledge the hard work that takes place within our school. The support that we received during our recent Ofsted inspection was invaluable, with our CSO walking alongside us the whole way and going above and beyond to provide support."* **Eve Alderson, Headteacher, St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow.**

Our Trust model of school improvement provides a common framework that emphasises five key areas where we will concentrate our collaborative efforts:

**Curriculum development:** Seamless curriculum progression across all key phases of education, ensuring continuity in learning, intelligent sequencing, breadth and balance and access to the richness of curriculum for all.

**Professional development:** Instrumental in equipping all educators with cutting-edge teaching practices to ensure the best possible outcomes for all, whilst reducing workload and improving staff wellbeing.



Mark Hurst, Headteacher, St. Bede's Catholic Primary, Jarrow, with Nicole Park from the CSO team.

**Success of all pupils:** Our schools are situated in some of the highest deprivation areas in the country. A commitment to all pupils regardless of background is central to our vision. We aim to ensure the highest quality provision, comprehensive support services and character-building enrichment activities that promote the formation of the whole child.

**Resource allocation:** Optimising resource allocation across central services and provision will enable every school to maximise resources to best support teaching and learning for every child.

**Data informed decision making:** The production of the strategic planning portal and associated data dashboards are providing a wealth of data insight that enables leaders to effectively identify key strategic priorities and make informed decisions about pupil progress and barriers to learning.

Our approach operates in two dimensions: within individual schools and horizontally across the Trust. This model allows us to foster impactful collaboration, recognising the unique needs of each school while promoting unity across the Trust. Walking alongside our school leaders and staff, we aim to strengthen individual capabilities while leveraging the power of our network of schools for collective improvement.

We firmly believe that sharing best practice, collective goals and collaboration will foster positive change and continuous improvement.

## Sharing strategic oversight

Our Trust has taken an innovative approach to managing the sharing of performance data across the Trust. In partnership with [Data2Action](#), we have developed a Strategic Portal using Power BI. This online tool allows us to align strategic planning across the entire Trust, providing high visibility to all stakeholders of key strategic priorities and importantly the ability at a school and Trust level to track the progress of these collective priorities against clearly defined Key Performance Indicators.



Through enhanced accessibility, visibility of all plans, automation of processes and significant data insight, leaders have seen a significant reduction in workload across all levels of the organisation.

*"The portal is a powerful tool for evaluating the effectiveness of our provision and identifying ways to further develop. The portal has also proven to be an invaluable resource for ensuring clarity of vision and alignment with our Trust values. It's laser sharp focus on robust school improvement and transparency of collective goals has brought teachers and leaders even closer together in our mission to achieve excellence in all aspects of school life."* **Anne-Marie Whitten, Headteacher, St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland.**

*"The portal has been created to reduce workload and support schools achieving excellence by holding all the vital information about the school in one place and sharing it with relevant stakeholders. Making it an invaluable tool to effectively move not only the individual schools but whole Trust forward. Ensuring clarity at all levels."* **Sarah White, Head of School, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, Peterlee.**



At the heart of the Trust's vision -  
**Better Schools, Better Communities, Better Futures in Christ,**  
lies a collective commitment to secure excellence.

*"Through collaboration, compassion, and rigorous support, we are ensuring that every school in our Trust flourishes as a centre of excellence for all pupils."*

For more information about the Supporting Schools to Excel strategy or Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust's initiatives, please visit our website [www.bccet.org.uk](http://www.bccet.org.uk) or email [enquiries@bccet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bccet.org.uk).

## Networking



As a Trust we are keen to provide opportunities for our staff to share best practice. With this in mind we developed a range of subject or theme specific network events for our teaching staff. These events have been instrumental in fostering a shared commitment across our schools to provide the very best education for our pupils and a collective responsibility to keep up to date with latest research. They provide an opportunity to say what is working well and together agree areas for improvement, providing staff with a fantastic opportunity to provide peer support and continue their own professional development.

**Andrea Goodwin, Headteacher, St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary, Seaham,** said, *"There are a growing number of opportunities now provided across our trust to enable staff to share good practice, build networks of support whilst developing positive relationships with colleagues in a safe environment. Feedback about these events from staff in school is always very positive and I can certainly say that I have gained so much from being part of this."*

**Lianne Peart, Headteacher, St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland,** said, *"Staff can access opportunities to develop themselves via a broad range of CPD resulting in a richer educational environment. Staff appreciate the opportunities for collective growth and innovation using shared expertise and resources. The collaborative networks foster a sense of community and shared purpose which is appreciated by our staff. Providing a support network for staff which enhances emotional and mental wellbeing within our school."*

*"Highly effective session - coming together and being able to share experiences and strategies developing my professional knowledge. Having the opportunity to see the documents used in other schools has helped to develop the SEND provision in my current school."* **SENDCO**

We also provide opportunities for other teams within the Trust to get together and share learning. Our Business Leads from each school regularly catch up via our Business Leaders Network, and other teams like as our Chadwick's Kitchen catering teams have cluster sessions to share best practice.



## Classroom Visualisers



Visualiser being used to project on to screen for class. Mr L Milne and his visualiser.

A classroom visualiser allows teachers to show items to pupils through a projector or a connection to an interactive touchscreen. Pupils can then see what the teacher is doing on a much larger screen, rather than crowding round a single desk. Providing a simple yet powerful tool to enhance teaching and learning.

As a Trust we have been undertaking a pilot of use of classroom visualisers in several of our primary and secondary schools to assess how they may be used in the future.

**Liam Milne, Assistant Headteacher (Teaching & Learning) at St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy, Sunderland,** said, *"With a visualiser, teachers can model complex tasks, annotate texts, or demonstrate problem-solving strategies in real time, ensuring that every student sees a clear, step-by-step example. Visualisers also support whole-class engagement by focusing attention on shared content, making lessons more interactive and collaborative.*

*They are invaluable for formative assessment, allowing teachers to display student work, provide immediate feedback, and address misconceptions on the spot. By streamlining lesson delivery and boosting clarity, visualisers not only improve outcomes for students but also make teaching more efficient and dynamic, whilst supporting workload and well-being."*

**Louise Priest, Senior Assistant Headteacher at St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland** said, *"Visualisers enhance teaching and learning by fostering collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.*

*In Religious Education, for example, a visualiser can be used to display and annotate student interpretations of sacred texts, encouraging immediate feedback and group discussion. Teachers can also model essay structures or analyse religious art and symbols in real time, boosting understanding and engagement. By integrating visualisers, educators create dynamic lessons that support deeper learning and continuous improvement."*





## Healthy Lifestyles

Our Trust Health Board sees us collaborating with leading clinical professionals to develop a comprehensive strategy aimed at tackling a range of health issues including the rising levels of childhood obesity and improving dental health to prevent tooth decay and keep our children smiling. We will share more on this journey in future issues. In this issue we wanted to share the amazing successes of some of our staff, pupils, and governors.

We are fortunate that each year in our region we host the biggest half marathon in the world – the Great North Run. We are heartened by the efforts of our Trust community, who have demonstrated their commitment to physical activity by participating in the Great North Run or supporting the event as volunteers. For many, this is an annual tradition, while for others, this year marked their first time. We are incredibly proud of all our runners and volunteers and the example they set for others. Not only are they getting active, many of them are also supporting wonderful local charities such as Together Forever Trust. Here are just some of this year’s participants...



Healthy Lifestyles



Healthy Lifestyles



Our schools are always getting involved in a wide-range of activities from sporting achievements to charitable endeavours. Over the next two pages are a round-up of just a few of our media headlines from the Autumn term..



**Sunderland Echo**  
Sponsored  
**Teacher training programme in the North East – learn on the job and develop your skills in the classroom**  
Ad Feature by Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust  
Published 15th Nov 2024, 07:00 GMT



**Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust has teamed up with Teach First to provide teacher training in the classroom.**



**Hartlepool Mail**

**New sign puts St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Blackhall on the map**

Cllr Crute, who represents the Blackhall ward and who is deputy leader of the Labour Group at **Durham County Council**, contacted the highways section at the county council and issued a request for a sign to be installed.



Cllr Rob Crute with pupils from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, in Blackhall Colliery, near the new sign.

As the highways team does not have a budget for such schemes, it was funded through a neighbourhood budget.



Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle

**St Cuthbert's in Sunderland receives glowing Ofsted report**

Pupils at a Sunderland school feel proud, safe and keen to learn, according to a new Ofsted report. **St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School**, which is part of **Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust**, received their Ofsted inspection at the end of September.

Ofsted lead inspector Andrew Gibbins said in his report, "St Cuthbert's motto is 'Once a part of St Cuthbert's, always a part of St Cuthbert's'. This creates a sense of belonging in a school where pupils know that staff care for them."

"Pupils are proud to attend the school. They play a central role in the welcoming culture. Pupils are keen to interact with each other and visitors. They enjoy attending this caring school and feel safe. The school welcomes hearing from pupils who have left the school some time ago. It is proud to celebrate their achievements. Pupils of all ages know that they are part of the St Cuthbert's 'Family'."

The Grindon Lane school's family approach and clear transition process mean that children in Early Years quickly settle in school and teaching staff show their understanding and knowledge of their children and families.

"Pupils meet the school's high expectations," continued the report.




**THE SHIELDS Gazette**

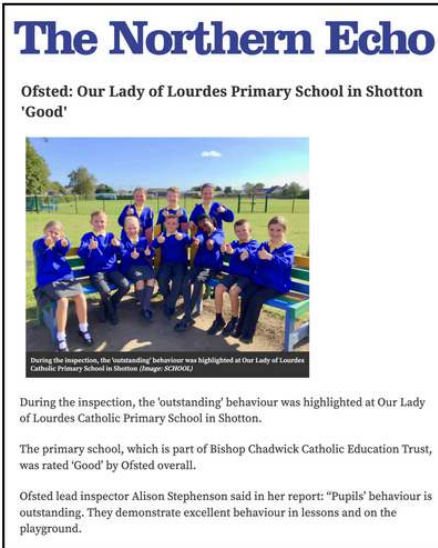
**Multi-Academy Trust teams up with football academy to nurture young talent**



**A new partnership between a Multi-Academy Trust and a football academy has kicked off.**


Fast Feet Football Academy has teamed up with two secondary schools, which are part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, to provide football coaching to talented individuals to nurture their talent.

The schools are St Joseph's Catholic Academy in Hebburn and St Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form College in Peterlee.



**The Northern Echo**

**Ofsted: Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School in Shotton 'Good'**



During the inspection, the 'outstanding' behaviour was highlighted at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School in Shotton (Image: SC2024)

During the inspection, the 'outstanding' behaviour was highlighted at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School in Shotton.

The primary school, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, was rated 'Good' by Ofsted overall.

Ofsted lead inspector Alison Stephenson said in her report: "Pupils' behaviour is outstanding. They demonstrate excellent behaviour in lessons and on the playground."



**Sunderland Echo**

**Education chief and business leaders take part in Sleepout event at the Stadium of Light**

An education chief who oversees 25 primary schools and five secondary schools in Sunderland, South Tyneside and East Durham has spent a night under the stars at the Stadium of Light to support national homeless charity, Sleepout.

On Thursday November 7, Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust CEO Brendan Tapping joined business leaders from across the city to raise vital funds for the charity as well as awareness of the plight of people who don't have a warm house and bed to go to at night.




Keep up-to-date with all the news across the Trust by visiting [www.bccet.org.uk/news](http://www.bccet.org.uk/news)

## THE SHIELDS Gazette

### Resilient school bounces back after RAAC crisis with glowing Ofsted report



A "close-knit and friendly" school in Hebburn, which was affected by the RAAC schools' crisis, has been praised by Ofsted for its "tireless" support of pupils to ensure they continued to receive the best education and pastoral care possible under unprecedented circumstances.

Like many other schools across the country, St James' Catholic Primary School, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, was forced to close due to the Government's announcement in September 2023 that any school which had reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) used in its buildings would have to close while safety mitigations were put in place.

Despite the challenges of having to close the school building and spreading the children across different sites, every pupil received face-to-face education throughout.

## Sunderland Echo

### New partnership set to unlock skills capacity in the North East

Dec 6, 2024 | Unrated/Good



A groundbreaking new partnership that will unlock career pathways in the built environment and develop cutting-edge skills to power the North East economy has been announced.

## THE SHIELDS Gazette

### Primary is an 'oasis' for the community it serves



A primary school in South Shields, which fosters "outstanding levels of pastoral care and inclusivity" and provides a "high-quality learning environment", has been rated 'Good' following an inspection by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate.

SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, was visited in September by the CSI on behalf of Bishop Stephen Wright, Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

CSI lead inspector Leigh-Anne Young said in her report: "SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary is a true 'oasis' for the community which it serves. It is a faithful witness to the mission of the Church, fostering outstanding levels of pastoral care and inclusivity."



## Primary school choir performs at Sunderland Minster

"I wish we could have sung more songs, it made me happy to sing with the music made me happy." Edie Milburn, a Year 5 pupil at St Leonard's Cat Primary School, Silkworth, sums up perfectly the pride and joy of sing Fishburn Brass Band at Sunderland Minster.

The school choir was thrilled to be asked to sing at a fundraising event for the Marie Curie and spent hours learning and practising eight songs, led by choir lead Ashleigh Hayes.

The school, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, was offered a fee for the special event, which was donated back to the charity.

Parents and members of the local community attended, alongside members from the local Ashleigh Hayes, teaching assistant and choir lead, said, "The children did extremely well and very high standard. I am so proud of the hard work they have put in during choir practice. The their families and our school."

Tara Olszany, a Year 5 pupil, said, "The best time of the night was singing in front of



## THE SHIELDS Gazette

### Children in South Tyneside learn how to fill their 'happy tank'

Children at a primary school in Jarrow have been learning a variety of ways to fill their "happy tank".

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, which is part of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust, welcomed John Magee, AKA the Kindness Coach and UK Kindness Ambassador, for a special Happy Tank Super Learning Day.



Children from Nursery to Year 6 at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Jarrow use boost their mental health on Happy Tank Day.

## Hartlepool Mail




### Nativity video captures spirit of Christmas



Education Trust releases special Christmas video featuring children from East Durham schools. The video was filmed at St Godric's Catholic Primary School, which also provided the props and costumes.

Children are at the heart of Christmas celebrations so when a Multi-Academy Trust in the North-east created its 2024 festive message they chose to make a special Nativity video featuring some of its youngest pupils.

## Follow Us on Social Media

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## Get into Governance

We have over two hundred governor and director posts within our Trust. These roles are all voluntary and we are very proud of our governor family and the contributions they make to supporting the education of the next generation.

But don't take our word for it, here we talk to Karen Shek, Governor at **St. John Bosco Catholic Primary School, Sunderland.**



**How long have you been a governor?** Just over a year.

**What made you apply to become a governor?** I saw schools' Facebook post promoting governor vacancies. For me I was interested in being the parent voice as I still have a child in school, and I wanted to be able to give back to the school for everything they have done for my children.

**What commitment is involved?** There are termly meetings at school. I try to attend as many as I can in person but if work commitments are an issue I am able to attend via TEAMS, this flexibility is really valuable.

**How has the role helped your own development?** During RAAC school was split between two sites. This was a difficult time and impacted staff morale. I decided to volunteer my free time to help in school and support staff wellbeing. Staff were so grateful to have me around, I didn't think I was helping much but, being there doing the smallest of jobs made a huge difference.

I also supported in class listening to pupils read, there were number of SEND children in class and I gravitated towards supporting them. Over the following months I found myself enjoying spending time engaging with the SEND pupils. Staff at school played a huge part in my personal development, giving me the confidence to apply to be a supply Teaching Assistant at a local special provision school. I have recently secured a permanent position as a Level 2 Teaching Assistant and am really enjoying my role.

**What is the most rewarding part of the role?** To be able to give my input on decisions that are being made within school and these being valued, being part of the school community and supporting pupils as they start their educational journeys.

**If you are interested in becoming a governor we have a number of roles available, please visit [www.bccet.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.bccet.org.uk/vacancies) or you can find out more about the role of a governor by visiting our [governance page](#) and downloading: [The role of a school governor](#).**



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[www.englishmartyrssunderland.org.uk](http://www.englishmartyrssunderland.org.uk)



**Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School**  
Shotton  
DH6 2JQ  
[www.ourladylourdesdurham.org](http://www.ourladylourdesdurham.org)



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[www.ourladyrosary.org.uk](http://www.ourladyrosary.org.uk)



**SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School & Nursery**  
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**St. Anthony's Catholic Academy**  
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[www.stcuthbertsprimary.com](http://www.stcuthbertsprimary.com)



**St. Godric's Catholic Primary School**  
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DH6 3NR  
[www.stgodricsthornley.org](http://www.stgodricsthornley.org)



**St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School**  
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**St. James Catholic Primary School**  
Hebburn  
NE31 2BP  
[www.stjameshebburn.co.uk](http://www.stjameshebburn.co.uk)



**St. John Bosco Catholic Primary School & Nursery**  
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[www.stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk](http://www.stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk)



**St. Joseph's Catholic Academy**  
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**St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary School**  
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[www.stmmschool.co.uk](http://www.stmmschool.co.uk)



**St. Matthew's Catholic Primary School**  
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[www.stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk](http://www.stmatthewsjarrow.co.uk)



**St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School & Nursery**  
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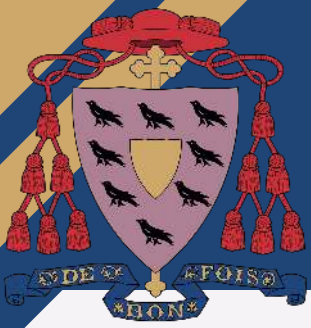
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# BISHOP CHADWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST



*Dear Lord,*

*May we always follow  
the example of Bishop  
Chadwick.*

*As we strive to follow  
his deep faith, and love  
of education, may we  
do so with humility and  
love, following his  
gentleness and  
kindness.*

*May he always be an  
inspiration to us all,  
students and staff.*

*We ask this through  
Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*