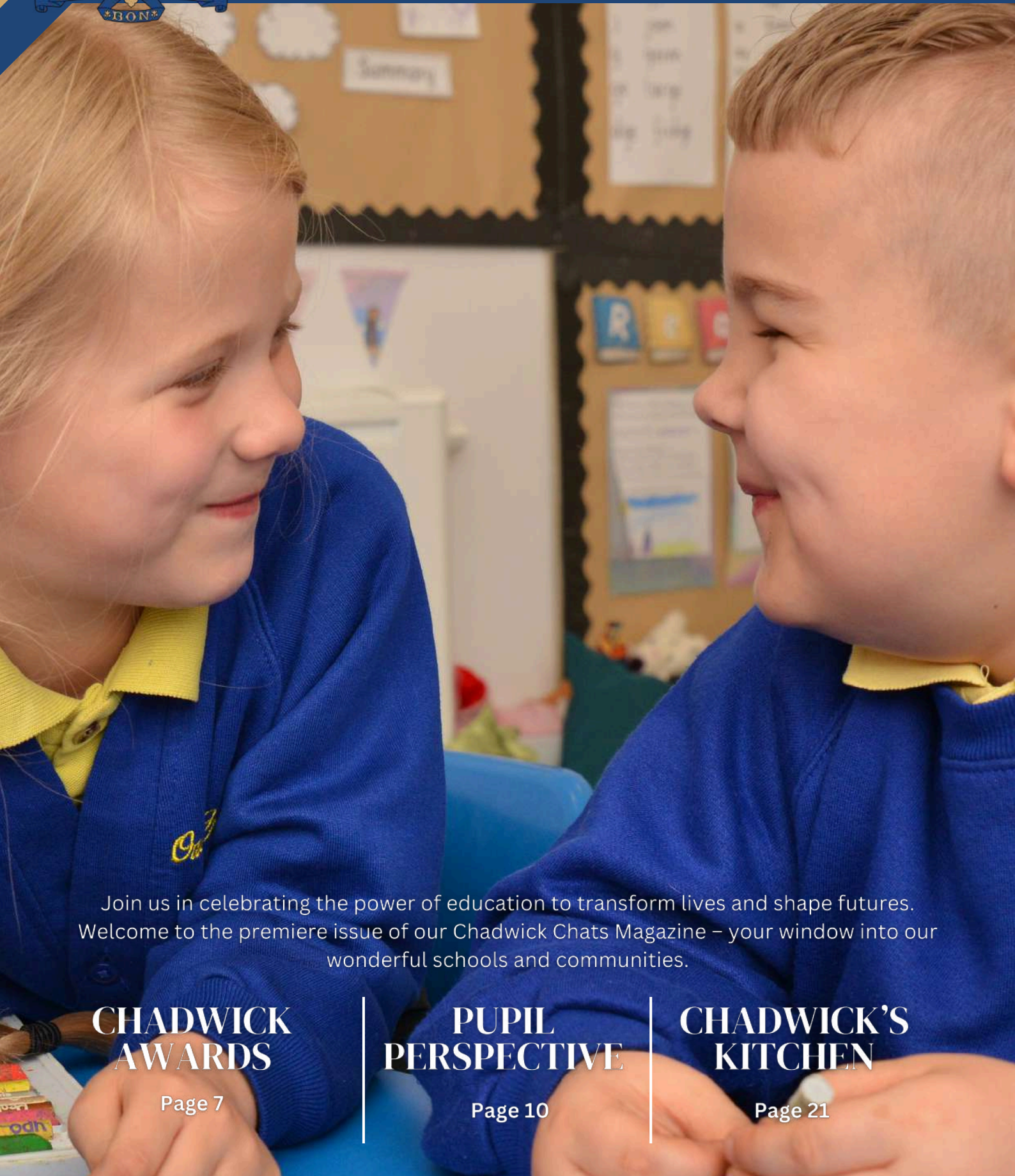




# CHADWICK CHATS

SHARING OUR NEWS WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Issue No.1 | 2024



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

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Better Schools



Better Communities



Better Futures in Christ

# WELCOME FROM OUR CEO

Welcome to the first edition of Chadwick Chats, a new magazine which we hope will allow us to share our news from this academic year (2023/24), with our schools, parishes and communities.

Our Trust is one of four Catholic Education Trusts in the North-East of England, and we cover the east of the region with thirty schools across East Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland. Our Trust consists of five secondary schools and twenty five primary schools.

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

We passionately believe that every person should be able to become the best version of themselves, be that our pupils or our staff. We constantly look for ways to improve so that we can provide the best education for our pupils and the best opportunities for our staff.

Our schools work collaboratively, however each of our schools is a unique and it is important that they maintain this which is why we seek to achieve cohesion, not uniformity.

I am very proud to be CEO of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust. It is an honour to be part of shaping pupils' educational journey every day. Our mission is to provide Better Schools, Better Communities, Better futures in Christ.

We hope that this magazine provides our staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors, parishes and wider communities with an insight in to our schools and an opportunity to work collaboratively to benefit the next generation.

If you do have any feedback or ideas for future features, please email [enquiries@bccet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bccet.org.uk).

**Brendan Tapping**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



**Cover photo:** Pupils from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School, Shotton.

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**NB:** This publication is primarily available digitally, a small supply of print copies are available in our schools and parishes (these are 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)

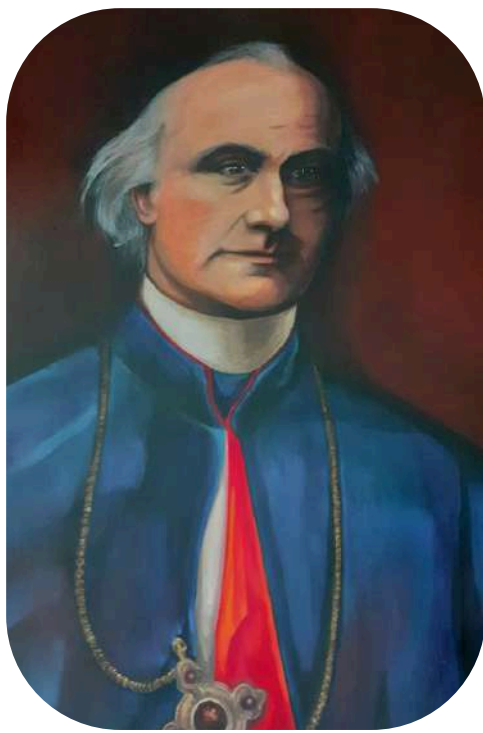


 Primary Schools	25	 Secondary Schools	5	 In-house 6th Forms	4
 Total Pupils	11,568	 Total Staff	1,409	 Governance roles	203

## Bishop James Chadwick

Bishop Chadwick was an Anglo-Irish Roman Catholic priest. He was the second Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, and is famous for writing the lyrics of the song *Angels We Have Heard on High*. He is remembered as a man of great personal dignity and charm, and for his gentleness of manner.

He was born 24 April 1813, Drogheda, Ireland and died 14 May 1882, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He is buried at Ushaw College.



*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*

## Gaudete: A Mass Setting



Following over a year of work we were very proud to launch our new Trust Mass Setting - Gaudete. We worked with our schools, our parishes and our local communities to write a Mass Setting inspired by them, with the support of acclaimed composer Will Todd. Gaudete has the support of the National Liturgy Office, and can be used by our schools and our parishes.

The Celebration of Mass brings together our communities. We wanted to create a Mass Setting that our pupils and our communities had the opportunity to contribute to, so that it was both inclusive and familiar. Helping everyone join together, and feel at home during the Sacrament.

Composer, Will Todd, worked with the Trust and composed the music for the Gaudete Mass, he said: "It's been an amazing project to be part of. I started off with listening to lots of ideas that the children had, inspired by religious texts, artwork, poems, bits of music, stained glass that they designed, which was incredibly inspiring.

"Then we did a series of five workshops in schools and we wrote music together. Each school created a completely different piece of music which was another layer of inspiration for me. I was particularly pleased that one of the pieces of music that we created in a session at the schools is used in the final Mass Setting.

"Finally, I listened to a lot of songs that the children said made them rejoice, because Gaudete means rejoice. I had playlists from all the schools. It was very upbeat and very positive music and that's what I tried to do with the Gaudete. Hopefully, people will sing it for a long time."

The first public use of Gaudete was at the Catholic Leaders and Clergy Conference in November. All our schools and parishes have free access to download the finished musical score to use any versions or parts they wish in their Mass Setting. For more information on how to access please contact Liz Boylan our Lead Chaplain by emailing [chaplain@bccet.org.uk](mailto:chaplain@bccet.org.uk).

## JOY in my Heart



In November we held the finale of our three year Journeys of Hope project - JOY in my Heart at Rainton Arena. It was a wonderful entertaining evening of community unity, celebration and, of course, singing. Over 300 students and members of our community, including a community choir, guest singers, Mike McGrother, and his band the Wildcats of Kilkenny, took part in the rousing performance.

“Our Journeys of Hope project culminated with this special event, an unforgettable night of singing, connecting and rejoicing,” said Brendan Tapping, Trust CEO.

“It was wonderful to see all our pupils working together with our parishes and wider communities to share their Joy, and most timely ahead of the festive season. Thanks must go to everyone involved in this wonderful event, in particular our Creative Director, Mike McGrother, and his band.”

Siersha Mason, age 9, from St. Leonard’s Catholic Primary School in Sunderland said, “I was really excited about the event, we have been rehearsing for a while. I was really looking forward to it. I liked singing ‘Join the Caravan’ best. It has been fun to work with the other schools.”

The performance included excerpts from our new Trust Mass Setting - Gaudete written in collaboration with renowned composer Will Todd.

Journeys of Hope was a Trust-wide, community project consisting of a series of creative collaborations across Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust enabling pupils and staff to explore their identity and spirit of community and providing students with an opportunity to celebrate the creativity and talent of our students.

The project included We’ll Meet Again for VE Day in May 2020, sung by the Trust’s virtual choir; Angels We Have Heard on High in December 2020, written by Bishop Chadwick and sung by the Trust’s virtual choir; and Footsteps into Paradise in July 2022, held at Durham Cathedral. For more information, please visit [www.bccet.org.uk/journeys-of-hope](http://www.bccet.org.uk/journeys-of-hope)



We’ll Meet Again for VE Day, May 2020  
Sung by our virtual choir



Ioh Christmas Choir  
Angels We Have Heard on High, December 2020  
Sung by our virtual choir



Footsteps into Paradise, July 2022  
Durham Cathedral

## Inspection Round-up

We are proud to share that currently 100% of our schools are rated good or better by Ofsted and by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI). Below are the results of inspections so far this academic year:

 <b>SS Peter &amp; Paul, South Shields</b> <b>Ofsted: Remains Good</b>	 <b>St. Cuthbert's Primary, Seaham</b> <b>CSI: Outstanding</b>	 <b>St. Mary Magdalen's Primary, Seaham</b> <b>CSI: Outstanding</b>
 <b>St. Mary's Primary, Wingate</b> <b>Ofsted: Remains Good</b>	 <b>St. Gregory's Primary, South Shields</b> <b>Ofsted: Good</b>	 <b>St. Joseph's Primary, Jarrow</b> <b>Ofsted: Good</b>
 <b>St. Patrick's Primary, Sunderland</b> <b>Ofsted: Good</b> <b>CSI: Good</b>	 <b>St. Bede's Primary, South Shields</b> <b>Ofsted: Pending</b>	 <b>St. Wilfrid's College, South Shields</b> <b>Ofsted: Remains Outstanding; CSI: Good</b>

## Our Buildings

### RAAC Update

Mitigation work is underway in both our primary schools affected by RAAC (St. James and St. John Bosco Catholic Primary Schools) and we should have pupils back in school before the end of May. Both schools have also been added to the national school rebuilding programme, which is wonderful news.

St. Bede Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form has three blocks affected by RAAC and works began in late April to carry out roof replacements on these blocks.

### School Rebuilding

The Trust now has six schools currently in the national School Rebuilding Programme. Work is progressing with St. Aidan's Catholic Academy now in the tender submission stage of procurement. St. Patrick's Catholic Primary is expected to start the procurement stage in the coming months.

St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Sunderland and St. Aloysius Infants are also in the early stages of planning for rebuilds, plus we have had St. James Catholic Primary and St. John Bosco Catholic Primary added to the scheme for future rebuilds. So exciting times ahead for all of these schools!



St. James pupils visiting site in April



## Chadwick Celebration Awards 2024: Finalists

We are delighted to announce the finalists in this years Chadwick Celebration Awards - this is just one of the ways we are able to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our wonderful staff right across our Trust. Nominations are made by other staff, governors and directors, with the exception of the Inspirational Award category which is voted for by our pupils.

We are indebted to our sponsors who allow us to fully fund this event – for a full list of this year’s sponsors please visit [our website](#). Thank you to everyone who made a nomination. The winners will be announced on **Friday 12 July 2024**.



### SCITT Trainee of the Year Award

- Stephanie Fleetwood, St. Bede’s Catholic School and Byron 6th Form, Peterlee
- Anthony Maratty, St. Bede's Catholic Primary, South Shields
- Emma Shackleston, St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland

### Mentor of the Year Award

- Charlene Hawkins, St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn
- Christine Johnson, St. Bede’s Catholic School and Byron 6th Form, Peterlee

### New Teacher of the Year Award

- Ellis Brickle, St. Leonard’s Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Katie Searle, St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Sarah Tait, St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland

### Staff Member of the Year Award (Support/Central Team)

- Lisa Gillis, St. James Catholic Primary, Hebburn
- Tom Johnson, St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn
- Jan Vickers, St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary, Seaham

### Staff Member of the Year Award (Classroom Based)

- Georgia Hall, St. Mary Magdalens Catholic Primary, Seaham
- Audrey Mahan, St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Annette McTavy, St. Gregory's Catholic Primary, South Shields

### Community Engagement Award

- Cycling Project, St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Jarrow
- Community Choir (Journeys of Hope)
- Litter Picking Project, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, Peterlee

### Governance Award

- Rachel Cameron, St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Kevin Nicol, Federated LGC: St. Mary's and Our Lady of the Rosary
- Karen Shek, St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland

### Gospel Value Award

- Mark Hurst, St. Bede’s Catholic Primary, Jarrow
- Kasia Szczepanska, St. Aidan’s Catholic Academy, Sunderland

## Chadwick Celebration Awards 2024: Finalists



### **Leadership & Management Award** (Education)

- Andrea Goodwin, St. Mary's Magdalens Catholic Primary, Seaham
- Marie Graham, OLOR, Peterlee / St. Joseph's, Sunderland / St. Mary's, Jarrow
- Clare Sutherland, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, Peterlee

### **Leadership & Management Award** (Support /Central Team)

- Rachael Bowman, Central Team
- Alan Dean, St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron 6th Form, Peterlee
- Carolyn Dent, Central Team

### **Teacher of the Year Award** (Secondary)

- James Hutton, St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland
- Helen Moran, St. Anthony's Catholic Academy, Sunderland
- Emma Robson, St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron 6th Form, Peterlee

### **Teacher of the Year Award** (Primary)

- Georgina Lawrence, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, Peterlee
- Rachael Oliver, St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Maddy Wiblin, St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow

### **Team of the Year Award**

- St. Anthony's Catholic Academy Catering Team
- St. John Bosco Catholic Primary Team
- St. James Catholic Primary Team

### **Healthy Lifestyles Award** \*NEW for 2024\*

- Ruth Donnelly, St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary, Seaham
- Ria Knox, St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn
- Susan Smith, St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Jarrow

### **Achievement Award**

- Gillian Carmichael, St. Bede's Catholic Primary, Jarrow
- Carole Godfrey, St. Aloysius' Catholic Federation, Hebburn
- Lalietha Palayam, St. Oswald's Catholic Primary, South Shields

### **Everyday Hero Award**

- Noreen Haley, St. Patrick's Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Jan Kennedy, St. Oswald's Catholic Primary, South Shields
- Deb Mollon, Central Team

### **Inspirational Staff Award** (Nominated by Pupils)

- Dr Gillian Emery, St. Anthony's Catholic Academy, Sunderland
- Lucy Forbister, St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Sunderland
- Lianne Peart, St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland



**Our Vision:** *As a family of Catholic schools inspired by Christ, we aim to enable each individual to fulfil their God given potential. Excellence for everyone through learning, respect and partnership is at the heart of our Trust.* **Our Mission:** Better Schools, Better Communities, Better Futures in Christ.

## Our Diocese

We are proud to be part of the [Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle](#) and are supported by the Diocesan Department for Education (DDfE).

We work with the Diocese to ensure that pupils continue to receive the very best educational opportunities and life fulfilling experiences, within communities which have the teachings of Christ and his Church at the very centre.

The Diocese is led by Bishop Stephen Wright, the Fifteenth Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle.



St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle

## 2024: Year of Prayer



**In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer.**

**The Holy Father has asked that 2024 be year of prayer, as a preparatory year for the Jubilee. This will start in Advent 2023.**

**In preparation for the Jubilee, the Dioceses are invited to promote initiatives to remind people of the centrality of both individual prayer and community prayer. The Lord's Prayer offers us a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer.**

In each issue we will be talking to one of our Parish Priests. This time it is **Fr. David Russell** who looks after North Sunderland which consists of **Sacred Heart, St. Benet's, St Hilda's and St. John Bosco parishes**. He works closely with two of our primary schools English Martyrs and St. John Bosco.

**How long have you been a priest ? And how long have you been at your current parishes?** 34 years in November. I have been in my current parishes since 13 September 2019.

**What led you to your calling as a priest?** My calling to ministry as a priest was a long journey. As a teaching student in Leeds, I lodged with a family who suggested I should become a priest, and I'd laugh. In my final year I had some mental health issues, during recovery the thought of being a priest resurfaced. I talked to the college chaplain who encouraged me to apply. After two years at Ushaw seminary I thought about leaving, it was then I became aware I was totally free to leave, that God wouldn't think the less of me and would always love me whatever I'd choose in life. I imagined both options and discovered that if I stayed on the path, I would be happy, fulfilled and stretched and life would be an adventure.



**What is a typical day like for you?** I don't know about other priests, but I struggle to define what is typical apart from prayer, daily Mass and meeting and being with people. Plans are regularly blown out of the water by unexpected visits or emergency situations. Often you find yourself in new situations which challenge and stretch you. You really do need to depend upon God to help and guide you. Talking to Jesus about all sorts of things during the day is a constant.

**What do you enjoy most about your role and what is your biggest challenge?** I enjoy being with people, getting people together, enjoying people's company in laughter and conversation. There's something unique in each person reflecting a particular aspect or characteristic of God in a way no one else does. The biggest challenge is to help people realise for themselves that they are unconditionally loved by God, that they can accept that we are all loved not because of our looks or what we do or achieve but because we are sons and daughters of God, and God's nature is love.

**What is your favourite time of year?** I find the change of seasons and yearly celebrations like Christmas, Easter and so on all have their particular attractions and interest.

**What do you enjoy most about working with schools and young people?** I have my parishes to look after, but still find some time to visit schools, though not as often as I would like. I feel for young people who are under enormous pressures to conform, particularly the 24/7 world of social media, plus the pressure of issues of climate change and environmental damage.

**What are your hobbies?** Gardening – I love to grow plants indoors and outdoors: my office/sitting room is a jungle of tropical plants – all I need is a parrot, a monkey and David Attenborough to complete the scene! I enjoy cycling, walking and all sorts of music. I love the US drama 'The Chosen' which depicts the last 3 years of Jesus through the experience of those who met him.

**What advice do you have for our young people?** I dare you to switch off your smart phone for one hour each evening. If that sounds shocking, or impossible, or insane – you're addicted to your phone, or your phone possesses you and not the other way round. Be radical, be different – you can survive without what seems to be essential but only you can find out for yourself.



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 **St. Wilfrid's RC College student Luke Hall**, 18, who is Member of Youth Parliament (MYP) for South Tyneside Young People's Parliament (STYPP). Their campaigns have included free school meals and child health.

**What year are you in and what are you currently studying?** Year 13 studying A levels in computer science, politics and English literature.

**What have you enjoyed most about your school and college experience?** I love the sense of community at St Wilfrid's. Overall, I have had the time of my life and they have brilliant facilities and teaching staff.

**Why did you join the Young People's Parliament and what do you enjoy about it?** I have always been interested in helping others so when I attended a STYPP event, I knew it was for me. I was elected in March 2022 and my two-year post has recently finished. The role has definitely developed me as a person.

**You had the chance to visit Westminster - what was the experience like?** I have had the chance to speak twice in the House of Commons in November 2022 and November 2023 to debate the issue of free school meals. I think I would have been pretty scared talking in Parliament if it wasn't something that mattered so much to me.

**What are your aspirations for the future?** I am excited to be going to University College London to study politics and international relations. I am a member of Bite Back, a youth activist group, and we're campaigning for school food to be accessible and nutritious. I think the Trust does this well but so many others don't. I recently appeared on BBC Politics to talk about this. Long-term, I want to become an MP or go into policy.

**Why is it important for young people to have a voice and be heard?** It's important now more than ever. Young people are facing unprecedented issues. When people meet me, what is often said is 'He is an extraordinary young person' but I'm not the only one; so many of my peers are driving positive change for young people and it's important that our voices are heard.

If you are a pupil at a Trust school and would be interested in featuring next issue, please get in touch with your Headteacher.

Our schools are at the heart of their communities and are keen to get involved with community activities. Over the next few pages we share some of their stories from this academic year so far...

In the Spring term Bishop Stephen Wright visited **St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Blackhall**. Pupils celebrated Mass with their Parish in church then the Bishop came in to school. He was asked questions by pupils all morning. Pupils said, "He shared how important our world is and why we need to look after it.", "We feel very lucky that Bishop Stephen came to visit our school.", "We learned about the Bishop's mitre and crosier."



Bishop Stephen Wright and Fr Ian Jackson with St. Joseph's pupils



In the Spring term Bishop Stephen also visited **Our Lady of Lourdes, Shotton**. A lovely Mass was held in the Parish then the Bishop shared information about his life and his calling to his vocation and what it was like to be asked by the Pope to become a Bishop.

The visit coincided with the Feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11th February so it was a very special occasion for everyone connected to the school community.

The Bishop was presented with a special book with pages made by each class in school and a prayer card with a medal of Our Lady, the school Mission Statement and a tea light to show that we always try to let our light shine.



Bishop Stephen also visited **St. Cuthbert's and St. Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary schools in Seaham**. He celebrated Mass in St. Cuthbert's with Y5/6 from St. Cuthberts and Y6 from St. Mary Magdalen's. He then had a tour of each school, taking questions from the children in each class.

In March Martin Scott, Author (and the Trust's Assistant Estates Manager) visited **St. Gregory's, South Shields**, as part of their World Book Week celebrations.

He talked to pupils about his book, *The Stuttering Coach* and read his book to the pupils. Two Year 6 pupils interviewed Martin using questions from their classmates.

Adam, Year 4 said, "Mr Scott is just like me. I saw he had a stammer before anyone else noticed. I liked his story about the stuttering coach."

Cherry-Bo, Year 6 said, "I think Mr Scott is really brave to write this about himself and to share it and read it in front of the entire school. It was brilliant."



**St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy, Sunderland**, Thomas House, selected Tiny Lives Trust to be the recipient of their Christmas Fundraising activities.

Tiny Lives Trust support premature and sick babies at the Neonatal unit at the RVI in Newcastle. The girls led by their House Captains and Vice Captains organised a raffle, sold Christmas cards and had a cinema club to raise funds. In total they raised £316.75.

Louise Carroll from Tiny Lives visited the school in February to talk to students about their work and what the funds raised will be used for. She also told them about , who attended St. Anthony's and has been a supporter of Tiny Lives since the day she was born! After being born over 23 weeks early, weighing 1lb 6oz. Sophie, now 27, is a Neonatal Nurse at the RVI.



Sophie Proud

In the Autumn term pupils at **St. Bede's Catholic Primary, South Shields** had a 'virtual' visit from award-winning author, Hannah Gold.

She talked about her bestselling books *The Last Bear* and *The Lost Whale*. And her highly anticipated third book, *Finding Bear*. Hannah spoke about her exciting work and the background to her latest book, as well as answering pupils' questions in a Q&A session.

Hannah's books are inspired by her love of the planet and she is a proud ambassador for the Whale and Dolphin Conservation charity.



Paul Howell, MP, visited **St. Godric's Catholic Primary School, Thornley** during the Autumn term. He had a tour of the school, then Q & A session with Year 3 and 4 pupils.

Staff and pupils were happy to learn about the day in the life of a MP, and Paul shared his mini model of the Houses of Parliament. Executive Headteacher Julie Hill said, "Paul was very approachable and welcomed the children's questions. What a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to experience meeting a Member of Parliament and to learn about the difference that they make."



Before Christmas Bridget Phillipson MP for Houghton and Sunderland South (and shadow Secretary of State for Education) visited **St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary in Seaham**.

She had a tour of the school and spoke to Brendan Tapping, Trust CEO, Andrea Goodwin, Headteacher and Amanda Ball, Deputy Head. The focus was on the importance of Early Years Education and the current issues schools are facing.

**St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow** had visits in December from both Catherine McKinnell MP for Newcastle North and Kate Osborne, MP for Jarrow.

Catherine visited to have a tour of the school and speak with the Headteacher and Mr Tapping about the issues schools are facing at present. Pictured are pupils Harvey and Layla Daniels with Catherine.



Kate visited to present Year 5 pupil Jacob Sheridan with his prize for winning her annual competition to design her official Christmas Card featuring a favourite Jarrow landmark. His beautiful design beat more than 1,000 entries.

"My design was based on the Boldon swans, which are famous in our local area," said Jacob. His prize was a House of Commons water bottle, a selection box and a copy of the Christmas card.

Headteacher Eve Alderson said, "We so proud of Jacob and our runner up, Mandy Voong, and all the children who entered this exciting competition this year."



All of our schools have a keen interest in charitable endeavours, here are just a few...

Students from **St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn**, have been working with local charities to support some of the most vulnerable people in their communities. In the run up to both Christmas and Easter, students have the chance to collate care packages containing essentials and goods such as tea, chocolates, biscuits, warm items of clothing, books etc. These items are then made into care packages and donated to elderly parishioners within the Hebburn community. They are often gifted to individuals who are residents in local care homes and who may struggle with loneliness, bereavement, or dementia.



**St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Jarrow** regularly show their support for their local community. Their RE Ambassadors delivered donations to Bede's Helping Hands Food Bank.



**St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary, Sunderland**, Year 6 pupils reenacted The Stations of the Cross for their parishioners during Lent.

It was a very moving and emotive service which brought many of parishioners to tears as they relived the journey Jesus took.

This followed the weekly Mass which parishioners, and the school community are invited to attend each week.



**SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary, South Shields** supported CAFOD Big Lent Walk. The Catholic Aid Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) provides aid to a range of countries around the world. Many of our schools supported this years Big Lent Walk. SS Peter and Paul had many of their classes getting involved. Everyone who took part had a thoroughly enjoyable time raising money, walking and talking.



Despite pupils at **St. James Catholic Primary School, Hebburn**, currently being split over three sites for their education due to RAAC. They have worked together to demonstrate that they can “live simply, sustainable and in solidarity with the world’s poorest communities”. Achieving a Live Simply Award from The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).

Special thanks to deputy headteacher Joanna Scott, the Faith in Action Group, Mini Vinnies and to all those who have donated to the many fundraising events, most recently, CAFOD’s big Lent Walk which raised £2,000.

Students at **St. Wilfrid’s R.C College, South Shields**, we are proud to be supporting *Key Project* by become Advent angels.

*Key Project* is a local charity set up to prevent youth homelessness.

Each tutor group worked together to help raise money to donate Christmas gifts to young people in the local community who would otherwise go without gifts.



**St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary, Jarrow** have a very active school council. Pupils often combine raising funds for school with supporting their community.

In the Spring term they organised a cake sale in school. The event was very successful but they had some cakes and biscuits left and decided to give the left over goodies to people in their community. They visited Deneside Court and Hagan Court Care Homes and residents were most grateful for the sweet treats. They also left some at the local Community Centre.

The School council visited Deneside Court again, this time they were distributing charity bags to get donations for recycling.



## OUR SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES

In the Spring term pupils from **St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Jarrow** School Council visited Cafe Beam in Newcastle. Smile for Life charity runs the café alongside a team of young people with a variety of disabilities and learning difficulties.

Pupils had a wonderful morning helping out. They took orders, had a look inside the kitchen and even had a go on the till. They finished off the day with a visit to the farm, to see the guinea pigs, rabbits and a bearded dragon!

Izzy, aged 9, said, "We had an amazing morning, learning how to use the ipad to order and how to use the till. We talked to the people who worked there. They were lovely. The animals were amazing, but the snake was a bit scary."



Year 2 pupils from **Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, Peterlee**, were exhausted in March after a busy day picking up litter at Crimdon Beach and planting willow trees at Crimdon Dene.

They were astonished at the amount of litter, in total 6 black bin liners full! They also heard from Louise from Explore SeaScapes about the impact of litter on both our marine environments and our wildlife.

Pupils at **St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Sunderland** earned environment stickers for their dedication to keeping their school and surrounding area clean and tidy by litter picking.

Pupils undertake regular litter picks and take great pride in ensuring their school and the local area looks good for everyone.



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Many of our schools have also had cause for celebration for example...

In November pupils from **St. Joseph's Catholic Primary, Sunderland** helped celebrate 150 years of their parish church St. Joseph's. St. Joseph's RC Church first opened its doors in Millfield on 16 October 1873. The grand opening of the building was celebrated by Bishop Chadwick who also laid the foundation stone.

The Church doubled as a school and chapel and had seating for 500 people. To mark the anniversary, the school community held a Celebration of the Word in church led by children in Key Stage 2, followed by a celebration in school.



In January **St. Bede's Catholic Primary, Jarrow** celebrated its 110th anniversary. The site originally housed a hospital and once a school, it was divided into separate infants and junior schools.

An exhibition was held in school which included old photographs, newspaper cuttings and even logbooks from 1914.

Some of the school's former pupils are now members of staff at St. Bede's, this includes Monica Relf, who has worked at the primary school for more than 20 years as a teaching assistant.



"I have always been involved with St. Bede's school and the church," she said. "It was immensely special to return as a member of staff having enjoyed being a pupil here," she said. "The inside of the school has dramatically changed.

Charlotte Newbrook, aged 10 from Year 5, said: "It was good to compare what life was like in the past at St. Bede's to what it's like today."

**St Oswald's Catholic Primary, South Shields** will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary this summer. One of the very first pupils got in touch with school and they are working together to organise a special celebration event in June 2024. They are hoping to invite pupils from the first ever class back in to school to meet current pupils and perhaps have a coffee morning and further celebrations.

If you attended St. Oswalds and would like to know more please get in touch [enquiries@bccet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bccet.org.uk)



Our schools organise regular opportunities for families to come in to school, here are some examples...



**St. Aloysius Catholic Junior School, Hebburn** hosted a festive afternoon tea for grandparents, parishioners and governors.

Their Mini Vinnies ( youngest members of the St Vincent de Paul Society, an international Christian voluntary organisation) did a fantastic job of serving delicious treats (made by Chadwick Kitchen).

The school choir serenaded everyone with Christmas tunes before a game of bingo and a free raffle.

As the school is currently hosting Year 5 and 6 pupils from St. James, due to RAAC, their grand parents were also delighted to be invited to join in with the festive spirit. A great time was had by all!

At **St. Matthew's Catholic Primary, Jarrow** children absolutely love story time at the end of each day.

Throughout the year, parents, carers and grandparents of pupils of all year groups are invited to attend this story time to share wonderful stories with their children. The events are always so well attended and enjoyed.



Pupils at **St. Leonard's Catholic Primary, Sunderland** helped organise their first Well-being Cafe in the Spring term. The event was so popular that it is now held on the first Wednesday of every month.

The Cafe brings parents and children together as a community to get to know one another and meet other parents from different year groups and chat to school staff. It also provides an opportunity to see pupils interacting with one another. Refreshments were available and, if attendees were able to, they could make a small donation to cover these costs.



**St. Gregory's, South Shields** held two Mother's Day Afternoon Tea events to thank God for the special women in pupils' lives. Over 150 mums, grandmothers, aunts and carers attended. Pupils sang, and class captains served refreshments, provided by Chadwick's Kitchen. They also played a game of bingo with Mother's Day hampers as prizes.

Isabella James, a Year 4 pupil, said: "I loved wearing my apron and hat like the cook. It was such a fun afternoon - I enjoyed watching the mums get their bingo prizes - they were so happy."

Year 7 pupils and parents from **St. Bede's Catholic School and Byron Sixth Form College, Peterlee** joined together to pray and mark the Stations of the Cross in a service in the school chapel.

The Fourteen Stations of the Cross are points along the Via Dolorosa, the route Jesus took through the streets of Jerusalem from his condemnation to crucifixion. Each one of the Stations signifies where a particular event took place.



Pupils at **St. John Bosco Catholic Primary, Sunderland** held a special Christmas service in December to thank all those people that have supported them since they had to leave their school building in September due to RAAC.

In particular, the Sisters of Mercy Convent in Sunderland, the Sisters of Mercy say no thank you is needed. Reverend Mother Sister Adrienne said: "Nobody could have envisaged this, but it has been a huge blessing for us as well as for them. We love having them around. They fill us with joy with their singing and their running around the garden."

The families of Class 1 at **St. Mary's Catholic Primary, Wingate**, were invited in to school to make Christmas crafts.

It was a lovely morning and those attending got to decorate biscuits, make baubles and wreaths and decorate Christmas trees. It was great to see so many families coming along and getting involved.



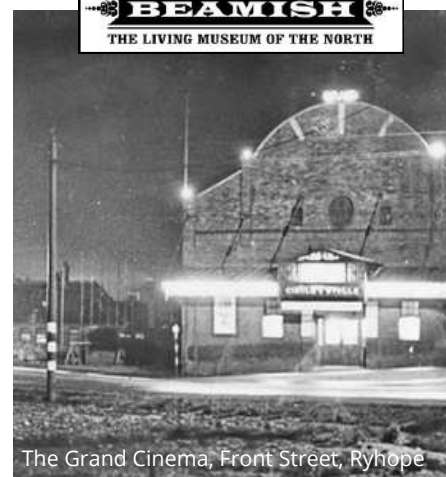


In the Spring term pupils from **English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, Sunderland** visited Highcliffe Care Home to celebrate National Floral Design Day with residents as part of their Faith in Action. The pupils worked with residents on a range of creative activities e.g., painting, colouring and drawing to make floral designs. They even had a bit of a sing-along. Both residents and pupils had a wonderful time.

**St. Patrick's Catholic Primary, Sunderland** are getting involved with local history. Beamish Museum are using salvaged materials from the original building 'The Grand Cinema', Ryhope, which was located close to the school building, to create a 1950s Town cinema at Beamish.

There's a special grand opening of the cinema in July, the whole school will be attending along with guests from their local community centre and nursing homes.

The school are hoping to work with local community partners and make this into a wonderful project, and are working with Beamish learning team ahead of the visit. The Grand originally closed in the 1960's and later became a bingo hall. It was donated to the museum by Angela and Gary Hepple.



The Grand Cinema, Front Street, Ryhope



**St. Aidan's Catholic Academy, Sunderland** has its very own allotment, which is not only used by its pupils to grow vegetables for the school kitchens, it is also used by the wider community.

RE teacher Anna Armstrong has been co-ordinating the project, she said: "Our allotment is thriving and we are building cross-generational relationships by working with local nurseries, primary schools and care homes. We have hosted a number of community events.

It's helping us work towards our sustainability goals, creates lovely fresh produce and our students and the community can get involved - so it's a winner all round."

As a Trust we are very much aware of the importance of ensuring our pupils get the best meals to allow them to get the most from their education. That is why we made the decision to bring all our catering in-house, here we talk to our Trust Catering Manager, Karen Reiling.

"It is vitally important to us as a Trust that we provide freshly prepared, healthy and nutritionally balanced meals for our pupils to ensure that they are fueled to get the most out of each school day. We use fresh ingredients and the majority of our meals are homemade by our chefs in our kitchens. We have a fantastic team of staff right across the Trust who are all enthusiastic about providing our pupils with the best school meals."



Pupils enjoying lunch at St. Joseph's, Blackhall

"Our menu planning always starts with the School Food Standards - so we can ensure our meals are fully compliant. It is really important to us to provide quality food, so where possible, all of our dishes are homemade from scratch. We limit the amount of processed food we have on our menu's and we don't add salt during the preparation process. All of our desserts have 30% less sugar in them and a third of our dessert choices are fruit based each week.

As part of the Trust's commitment to sustainability, we regularly review food miles and continue to work to reduce food waste. We are also beginning to develop sustainable kitchens where we grow our own produce to mitigate the impact of rising food costs. For example, St. Aidan's Catholic Academy in Sunderland has a thriving allotment, pupils regularly gather produce that is used by the kitchens in school meals."

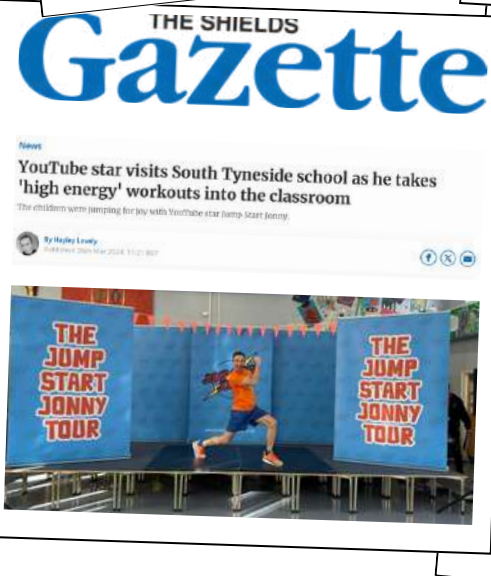
More information including our menu's and information on support available for pupils with medical diets are available at [www.bccet.org.uk/chadwicks-kitchen/](http://www.bccet.org.uk/chadwicks-kitchen/)

**We are keen to encourage any families that are entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) to apply for them even if your child is in Key Stage 1 and can currently receive a free school meal anyway. School does not receive the additional funding that accompanies FSM unless you make a formal application.**

**If you are able to claim FSM even if your child is in Key Stage 1 please do so by contacting your local council via their website. Thank You.**

# HITTING THE HEADLINES

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 this academic year to date...





To find out more of our news visit [www.bccet.org.uk/news](http://www.bccet.org.uk/news).

Our schools are an integral part of their parishes and wider communities and we rely on the wonderful people in these communities to support our schools and the education of the next generation. There are lots of ways you can get involved....



## Become a school governor

We currently have a number of governor vacancies across our Trust.

*"Young people are our greatest asset. As a governor, you actively contribute to shaping the educational experience of the next generation. While being enthused by the energy and excitement of students, in their desire to learn and achieve."* Tony McCourt, Chair of Governors, St. Bede's School & Byron Sixth Form, Peterlee.

Being a school governor is a really rewarding experience giving you the opportunity to use your skills to give back to your community and support the education of the next generation. It also provides you with the opportunity to experience leadership at board level, and enhance your negotiation and teamwork skills. You can find out more about the Role of a Governor by visiting our website or [clicking this link](#). For more information on current vacancies please email [governance@bccet.org.uk](mailto:governance@bccet.org.uk)

We provide a Governor CPD programme which helps equip our governors with the tools and knowledge to confidently approach governance matters. Our latest version brochure can be found on our website [www.bccet.org.uk/governance](http://www.bccet.org.uk/governance)



Volunteer in school to listen to pupils read, support with trips, or join your schools parent teacher or friends of association and help organise fundraising events.

Our schools are always looking for wonderful people to give up their time to help out in school (subject to necessary checks). If you are a family member of a current pupil please contact your school for more information. All our school contact information can be accessed from the [Our Schools](#) page on the Trust website.



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# OUR FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

## English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School



Redcar Road  
Sunderland  
SR5 5AU  
0191 548 8330  
englishmartyrsunderland.org.uk

## Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School



Fleming Field  
Shotton Colliery  
DH6 2JQ  
0191 526 1531  
ourladyoflourdes.durham.sch.uk

## Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School



Westway  
Peterlee  
SR8 1DE  
0191 586 2264  
ourladyrosary.org.uk

## SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School



Olive Street  
South Shields  
NE33 4RD  
0191 455 2862  
sspeterpaul.co.uk

## St. Aidan's Catholic Academy



Willowbank Road  
Ashbrooke  
Sunderland  
0191 520 0333  
staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk

## St. Aloysius Catholic Federation



Argyle St,  
Hebburn,  
NE31 1BQ  
0191 483 2274  
st-alloysius.co.uk

## St. Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy



Thornhill Terrace  
Sunderland  
SR2 7JN  
0191 565 8904  
st-anthonys-academy.com

## St. Bede's Catholic Primary School



Claypath Lane  
South Shields  
NE33 4PG  
0191 456 0108  
stbedessouthshields.co.uk

## St. Bede's Catholic Primary School



Harold Street  
Jarrow  
NE32 3AJ  
0191 489 8218  
stbedesjarrow.co.uk

## St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School



Mill Road  
Seaham  
SR7 0HW  
0191 581 3090  
stcuthbertsprimary.com

## St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School



Grindon Lane  
Sunderland  
SR4 8HP  
0191 528 5094  
stcuthbertsprimarieschool.co.uk

## St. Godric's Catholic Primary School



Thornley Road  
Wheatley Hill  
DH6 3NR  
01429 820 333  
st-godrics.durham.sch.uk

## St. James Catholic Primary School



Solway Road  
Hebburn  
NE31 2BP  
0191 483 2672  
stjameshebburn.co.uk

## St. John Bosco Catholic Primary School



Bradford Avenue  
Sunderland  
SR5 4JW  
0191 536 8090  
stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk

## St. Joseph's Catholic Academy



Mill Lane  
Hebburn  
NE31 2ET  
0191 428 2700  
stjosephs.uk.net

## St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



St Joseph's Way  
Jarrow  
NE32 4PJ  
0191 536 4311  
stjosephsjarrow.co.uk

## St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Coast Road  
Blackhall Colliery  
TS27 4HE  
0191 586 4308  
st-josephsrc-pri.durham.sch.uk

## St. Leonard's Catholic Primary School



Tunstall Village Rd  
Sunderland  
SR3 2BB  
0191 521 0300  
stleonardsprimary.org.uk

## St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Ayr Drive  
Jarrow  
NE32 4AW  
0191 489 8336  
stmarysjarrow.co.uk

## St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Meadowside  
Sunderland  
SR2 7QN  
0191 522 8787  
smrc.school

## St. Matthew's Catholic Primary School



Alnwick Grove  
Jarrow  
NE32 5YT  
0191 489 8355  
stmatthewsrc.org

## St. Oswald's Catholic Primary School



Nash Avenue  
Whiteless  
NE34 8NS  
0191 536 7922  
st-oswaldsrcsch.co.uk

## St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Primary School



Dene House Road  
Seaham  
SR7 7BJ  
0191 581 3055  
st-marymagdalens.durham.sch.uk

## St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School



Smith Street  
Ryhope  
SR2 0RQ  
0191 523 5050  
stpatrickstryhope.co.uk

## St. Bede's Catholic School & Byron Sixth Form College



Westway  
Peterlee  
SR8 1DE  
0191 587 6220  
st-bedes.durham.sch.uk

## St. Wilfrid's R.C. College



Temple Park Road  
South Shields  
NE34 0QA  
0191 456 9121  
st-wilfrids.org

## St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Rutland Street  
Sunderland  
SR4 6HY  
0191 510 8484  
stjosephssunderland.school

## St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School



Harton House Road East  
South Shields  
NE34 6DZ  
0191 455 2909  
st-gregorys.co.uk

## St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Wingate  
County Durham  
TS28 5AN  
01429 838 294  
st-marys-pri.durham.sch.uk



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