

ALWAYS MOVING FORWARD



Such a valuable experience." Matthew

"I'm so

Eva

grateful, for so much."



"I've learned so much." Annabel



"It's been a great opportunity to help." Travis



WELCOME ...

TO OUR INCOMING SENIOR PREFECTS!

Welcome to our Autumn 2022 Newspaper!

"At the end of last term we had the honour of being appointed as Senior Prefects. It is our deepest hope that we will be a key part of creating a cohesive learning environment in which we can all 'soar to the heights together'.

This year, we are looking forward to working with the team of prefects, other pupils and our wider community, as well as being ambassadors for the school."

FAREWELL...

FROM OUR OUTGOING SENIOR **PREFECTS**

"The past five years are filled with memories and a mix of strong emotions, from laughing together as we ticked off each of our 'last times' to supporting each other as we undertook our exams.

We cannot thank the school enough for the support we have received, especially during the unprecedented challenges both the school and the world have experienced these recent years."



"I'm looking forward to supporting community."



"I hope we can be a great example for others.



"Such a great opportunity to be of service."



"I can't wait to get started." Jack



Editor - Andrew Irvine

In memory of



Supreme Leader of the Church of England

AN UPDATE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the Autumn 2022 edition of our school newspaper.

We hope that you enjoy reading the articles about our pupils and their achievements, as well as gaining an insight into the everyday work we do at Venerable Bede CE Academy. I think that you would agree, our pupils keep themselves really busy both inside and outside of school. We try to support and encourage all pupils to develop their skills, abilities and talents in whatever they do.

There is no doubt that the last few years have been

turbulent for us all. I would like to sing out the praises of our class of 2022. They are the first year group since 2019 who have sat a whole set of written GCSE Exam papers. They worked very hard in preparation for their exams, and we commend them on their achievements. We all wish them every success as they move on into education, employment and training.

We hope that you enjoy reading about our school and our pupils.

Best wishes



uniform or school name. Do

contact us via the enquiries

office if you have any

IMPORTANT & EXCITING INFORMATION: TRUST GROWTH

Some exciting news for the autumn term:

Dayspring Trust – which consists of our two secondary academies, lan Ramsey in Stockton-on-Tees and Venerable Bede in Sunderland – is looking to merge with Northern Lights Learning Trust and Teaching

School Hub in this academic year.

Both trusts have been identified by the Durham Diocese for growth and currently serve either primary or secondary pupils in either Stockton, Hartlepool or Sunderland. This is an exciting opportunity to grow the trust and to develop

opportunities for both our pupils and our staff. Further information will follow in due course. Please be aware, however, that there will NOT be any changes to our

Dayspring Trust





questions.



DAYSPRING TRUST WORKING TOGETHER AT DURHAM CATHEDRAL

In June as some primary schools in our diocese prepared to bid farewell to their Year 6 'Class of 2022', pupils from both Ian Ramsey CE Academy and Venerable Bede CE Academy were invited to take part in a 'Farewell' event at Durham Cathedral.

Our pupils facilitated various 'Prayer Space' activities and supported the primary pupils and staff.

We are incredibly proud of how they conducted themselves, what brilliant ambassadors for their academies. They really modelled our shared values of Hope and Joy.





REMEMBERING OLIVER

It is with deepest regret that we must share the very sad news that one of our Venerable Bede family members, Oliver Graham Y9, has sadly died whilst on holiday in Turkey. We have been in touch with the family and have expressed our support not only as a school and Trust, but as a whole community. We know that I speak for everyone when we say that we are united in their grief.

Opportunities to light candles, say prayers and reflect have been available after school.

We would like to invite our readers to read the words of the following prayer and to take a moment to peacefully remember Oliver.

God of hope,
we come to you in shock
and grief and confusion of
heart.
Help us to find peace in the
knowledge
of your loving mercy to all
your children,
and give us light to guide us
out of our darkness
into the assurance of your
love,

as we grieve over the loss of Oliver and struggle to understand his death, Draw him to yourself and give him fullness of life in Christ Amen.

If anyone would like support, please contact us.









YEAR 10 WORK ON WISDOM

Pupils at Venerable Bede focus on the study of each of our five key Christian Values (See right and left) as they progress through school.

Our Year 10 pupils focus on the theme of Wisdom throughout every aspect of school life. They consider what being wise and using wisdom truly means.

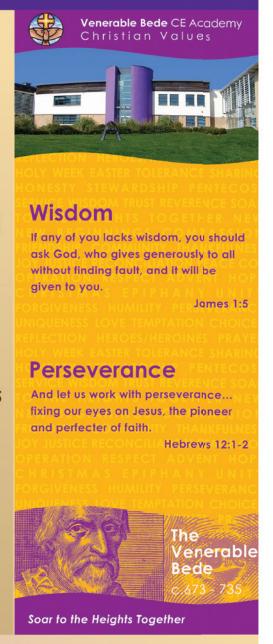
These studies mostly take place during tutor time, Worship and Personal Development lessons where pupils complete activities, including writing poems and prayers.

As they begin this journey across Academic Year 22/23 we offer them this bible quote to help guide their thoughts:

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

James 1:5





We have been lucky to welcome back into the school several speakers and performers who have helped us to deliver key parts of our PD Curriculum to our pupils.



We have been fortunate to welcome back Northumbria Police who delivered a presentation and Q&A about issues around the selling of drugs, organised crime and the devastating effects these are having on young people in our region.



HE KNOWS SHE KNOWS

Pupils were treated to a musical performance and mental health talk. The band performed some well known songs and then spoke about their experiences including managing stress at school, coping with peer pressure, bullying and grief. There was also a Q&A.

TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN

A presentation on Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) was given, offering advice on caring for our bodies, effective use of contraception and protecting against STIs. Pupils were also informed about external agencies who offer further professional care and advice.



RIOT ACT

Year 7 had the opportunity to view a Theatre in Education performance by theatre company 'The Riot Act'. The piece focussed on sustainability and health when it comes to getting 'from A to B'. Could we use our legs or bikes instead of the car?



NHS ROADSHOW

Pupils from Years 7 and 8 were given the opportunity to take part in a carousel of workshops provided by the School Nursing Service.

Discussions and presentations on a range of topics on physical and mental health proved highly engaging for our pupils.

One facilitator said - "It's been wonderful to work with Venerable Bede. The staff and pupils have really connected with the messages we're hoping to bring to our young people"

A Year 8 pupil said -

"The information given in each of the presentations was really interesting, I was able to ask a few questions of my own which was great!"











FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT 2022

For two weeks every year, thousands of schools come together to learn from the people who grow what we eat, drink and wear! Unfortunately, many of the people who do

these jobs are often exploited and underpaid. That's why Fairtrade is so important, it allows the workers to be paid fairly for their work.

This year's theme for Fairtrade fortnight is all about standing up with farmers and workers to seek climate justice.

We provided an opportunity to think about the future, to look into the work Fairtrade does and its impact on those who need their help.

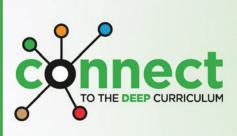
In August Venerable Bede CE Academy was recognised with the Fairtrade Award for our work in this area!

Pictured: Our Fairtrade Tree and the winners of our quiz completion!

Well done everyone!







CONNECT TO THE DEEP CURRICULUM

Our 'DEEP curriculum' has been designed to ensure we have a clear, well-sequenced curriculum across all subjects that supports all pupils, both in class and remotely where needed.

Teachers use every opportunity for individual and collective recognition and positive affirmation to build a sense of place and purpose so that pupils can fully connect with the curriculum. Time is

taken to revisit agreed principles for effective learning and the routines that accompany them. Oracy is also a key focus - lessons promote lots of purposeful opportunities for talking and listening. Above all, we want all children to experience success in their learning as consistently as possible, building their confidence, regularly re-igniting motivation and providing rich challenge for them within our DEEP curriculum.



Mrs Burgess Deputy Headteacher #CurrentlyReading 'To Kill a Mocking Bird' by Harper Lee



Mrs Da Gama
Assistant Headteacher
#CurrentlyReading
'Closing the Vocabulary
Gap' by Alex Quigley







RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Encompassing vibrant, respectful discussion, debate and research, Religious Education is a fantastic subject of study at the core of our provision here at Venerable Bede CE Academy.

We make use of visiting guest speakers and mixed rich media to bring the content of our DEEP RE curriculum to life!

Our style of learning is pupilcentric: we meet the pupils where they are in their journey to understand the complexities of other peoples views of our world, religious or otherwise, and then guide them on the expansion of their learning. We are privileged to have at the heart of our department a highly skilled team of specialists comprising three subject teachers, the head of department and the Senior Leadership Team link, Mr. Goodman.

The syllabus is designed to support the school in developing and delivering excellence in RE. The syllabus sets out an approach to teaching and learning, supporting teachers to help pupils encounter core concepts in religions and beliefs in a coherent way, developing their understanding and their ability to hold balanced and informed conversations about religions and beliefs.



DEPARTMENT LEADER:
Mr Johnson

Head of Department
#CurrentlyReading
'The Wisdom House' by Rob
Parsons

FAVOURITE QUOTE:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord..."

Colossians 3:23

"Simply brilliant!" We Fare Yorse, nather of New hot Trans besensite THE SHACK
the
wisdom
house
Because you don't always have to learn the hard way
Dala Daniana
Rob Parsons Bestelling author of The State Mount Settler & The Mount of Security

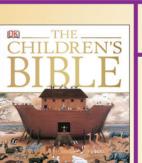
Title: Author Genre Suggested Year Group

'The Wisdom House' Rob Parsons Christian Literature All ages

Review:

On the spur of the moment, the morning after the birth of one of his grandchildren, Rob Parsons wrote the baby a letter.

And then Rob began to think about how he hoped he'd have the chance to talk with all his grandchildren as they grew. He imagined them coming into his study, settling into one of the two comfy armchairs in front of the fire and opening up about the challenges they were facing.



Title: Author Genre Suggested Year Group
The Bible God Religious Text All ages

Review:

As the comedian Lee Mack said on BBC Desert Island Discs... When musing on having the Bible to read on his Desert Island:

"I'm glad you get the Bible, because I would read the Bible. I think it's quite odd that people like myself, in their forties are quite happy to dismiss the Bible, but I've never read it. I always think that if an alien came down and you were the only person they met, and they said, 'What's life about? What's earth about? Tell us everything,' and you said, 'Well, there's a book here that purports to tell you everything. Some people believe it to be true; some people [do] not believe it [to be] true.' 'Wow, what's it like?' and you go, 'I don't know, I've never read it.' It would be an odd thing wouldn't it? So, at the very

TRANSITION IN

SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

A highlight of Venerable Bede CE Academy's transition programme has always been our Summer School.

Our Summer S c h o o I traditionally offers an opportunity for pupils to come in during t h e holidays, before they join the academy.

Places are limited and the summer school is often over subscribed. This year, pupils and staff took the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including sports, an acting workshop, a treasure hunt and a visit from the always popular 'Zoo Lab'

On the Friday, we shared our experiences with the Parents/Carers and family members of those who took part with a video presentation and lively chat over light refreshments.

I really enjoyed Summer School. I was able to meet some of the teachers and support staff and the treasure hunt helped me to get to know the layout of the school!

> One of our Summer School Attendees

> > 77



One of our Summer School Attendees



WELCOME TO YEAR 7

We have welcomed our newest cohort of Year 7 pupils and, as they begin to

settle in, we asked how things were going...

In my last school we pretty much stayed in one place. I really enjoy moving around the different areas of the school and taking part in all the different lessons.

Matthew

I was a little nervous before starting at
Venerable Bede, but I really feel like it's taken
no time at all to settle in! My favourite subject at the
moment is English!

Emily

It feels like I've been coming to the school for ages! I've made loads of new friends already! My favourite subject is Art.



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Chloe

I was excited about making new friends! It's different to my last school but I've become familiar with VB really quickly!



Josh

TRANSITION ON



ALLUMNI CATCHUP

For all of us here at Venerable Bede CE Academy, transition is a key part of the work we do. Not only transition from Primary Education to Secondary, but also from 'Leavers' to the wider world.

We reached out to some of our past pupils and asked them to share their story so far...





Lauren Ross Class of 2012

It's hard to believe that it's been 10 years since I left Venerable Bede.

I cherish the memories that I made and some of the people I met are still lifelong friends.

I am so grateful for the lessons I learnt: they definitely helped shape me into the woman I am today.

After discovering my passion for performing while playing in the school band, I went on to work as a musician and I have been lucky enough to play at venues and events all over the North East.

I spent two summers working with underprivileged children in New York where I was able to make friends from all around the world.

I attended Sunderland University where I got my bachelors degree in Primary Education. Now I work as a primary school teacher and the Music Lead at New Silksworth Academy. I hope that as a teacher I can inspire my children like my teachers inspired me. It really does feel like I've come full circle and I am so proud that I am able to be a part of the next generation's journey.



Jaymee Groves
Class of 2009

I studied at Venerable Bede until 2009. My first school production was 'We Will Rock You!'. I then attended Newcastle College to Study Musical Theatre for 2 years then Mountview Academy Of Theatre Arts to study Technical Theatre.

My professional credits include -

- Sound No.4 on Mamma Mia London
- Sound No.4 on Billy Elliot London
- Sound No.3 UK & Ireland Billy Elliot Tour
- Sound No.2 Harry Potter & The Cursed Child London
- Sound No.2 on Annie London

- Deputy Head Of Sound on War Horse UK
 & Ireland Tour
- Deputy Head Of Sound on Les Miserables
 UK & Ireland Tour.

It takes a lot of people to make a show work, its not just the actors that keep the show going...

Every now and then people come to the sound desk at the end of the show and will say "Well Done" and it honestly makes my night! I love my job so much.

Work doing something you love, because you'll never work a day in your life!

YOUNG SONGWRITERS

Sunderland Music Hub are launching "Young Songwriters", a project aimed at pupils from years 9, 10 and 11 who have a passion for music and might want to have a go at writing and recording their own songs in a professional studio!

GCSE Music pupils in Y9-Y11 participated in a free one-hour taster session. During the session, they had to work in groups to plan and create a catchy jingle associated with a brand or product. Pupils were then able to express an interest if they wished to take part in the 3-day event which

will run during the half term Jack said, 'The recording holidays.

6 Venerable Bede pupils were selected to attend the 3-day event which ran from 23rd-25th February.

During the course, pupils had to analyse Sam Fender's song, 'Hypersonic' and look at song writing lyrics.

Pupils had to complete a group task and write a song based on the style of The

For a second task, pupils opted to write a song based on a specific genre - sad pop bop.

session has really changed opinion on song writing and opened my eyes to the ways the songs are actually written.'

Trinity commented 'It was a fun 3 days as it gave me a chance to work with different pupils.' Pupils also got a

tour of the music and performing arts facilities

available at Sunderland College. They had a great time working in smaller groups to write and record an original



DOUBLE SUCCESS AT SUNDERLAND SEARCH FOR A STAR!



On Wednesday 6th April, we took 2 acts to Sunderland College to compete in the "Search for a Star" talent show. What a night and what a fantastic showcase of talent in Sunderland. There were 12

participating.

Venerable Bede acts were awarded 2nd and 3rd place a fantastic achievement! In 2nd place, the Runner-Up award went to Matthew, our Head Boy, who sang an arrangement of "I'm Still Standing" from "Rocketman".

In 3rd place, the Rising Star award went to Vennerz, one of our rock bands. They performed a rendition of "Love Story" but with a twist - our talented drummer completed 2 Rubix cubes during the band's performance!

secondary schools Mrs Bonner, Head of Music, said, "It was great to see such a variety of talent from across many different art forms and the performers clearly really enjoyed seeing each other schools' performances, as well as feeling a great sense of achievement about their own performance. I am so proud of our pupils – they are extremely committed and talented and have worked hard to prepare for this event. To secure 2 of the top 3 places is an amazing achievement and we are all delighted with the results. It has been a very rewarding experience."

Mr Exley, Assistant Headteacher, said, "The wealth of talent attending Sunderland Search for a Star is incredible. Given this high standard, we are incredibly proud to have not one, but two acts finish in the top three for the evening."



VB'S GOT TALENT 2022



We were able to hold our first live musical performance with an audience in a long time!

Our annual talent show. "VB's Got Talent", took place on Friday 1st April 7pm at Silksworth Comrades Club.

The evening was a huge success and it was great to perform live music to an audience again after so long!

The evening featured a variety of musical performances from our rock bands, choir and a variety of other acts and soloists. The pupils were an absolute credit and the performance standard was extremely high.

"What a great night."



FAREWELL CLASS OF 2022 MUSICIANS

This term we said goodbye to Matthew and Charlie who have shown complete commitment and dedication to the music department during their 5 years at VB. We are extremely proud of their successes and wish them all the best for the future.



Y6 INDUCTION PERFORMANCE



We re-launched year group singing with a full hour of live music for our Y6 pupils during their transition day.

Pupils got to watch a selection of performances from the rock band, school choir and staff team.

We then all sang several hit songs including "Mamma

Mia", "This Is Me", "Livin' On A Prayer" and "Dance Monkey".

Pupils engaged in body percussion performances and call and response vocal activities.

The atmosphere was amazing and the pupils enjoyed the experience.



COMMUNITY CONCERT

We were proud to host our community concert which featured a variety of musical performances from Venerable Bede musicians, and choirs from local primary schools: Benedict Biscop C.E. Academy, St Paul's Primary School, East Herrington Primary School and New Silksworth Academy.

The performance was a welcome return to public performance and to be able to share it with pupils and colleagues from some of our local primary schools was an absolute joy!

"How lovely to come together in this way."





MUSIC WEEK 2022



Music got off to a flying start in Venerable Bedethis academic year!

We run small group instrumental and singing lessons and currently have over 200 pupils taking lessons each week, alongside our





extra-curricular singing club and rock bands.

We re-launched music to our new year 7s through our Music Week event on Monday 12th September. Aimed at re-invigorating music in schools post COVID-19, the Music Hub gave funds to schools to enable us to have our peripatetic music teachers deliver a bespoke event featuring a range of musical performances, teacher demonstrations, question and answer sessions and a relaunch of singing together in worship.

Ruth Bonner, Head of Music at Venerable Bede CE Academy, said:

"Music Week at Venerable Bede has not only raised the profile of instrumental teaching and extracurricular opportunities available within the department, it has also given pupils a sense of excitement about their curriculum music lessons and promoted large group singing.

The positive feedback from pupils since the event has been overwhelming with uptake to lessons increasing rapidly. Our Music Week event has been the highlight of the academic year so far. Music tutors and departmental staff put on a live performance

together, playing songs such as "This Is Me", "Footloose", "Don't Stop Believing" and "Thinking Out Loud". Our new year 7 pupils loved listening and joining in and there was a real buzz in the atmosphere with lots of positive comments from both pupils and staff. We will continue to run assemblies like this in the future."

Our Senior Leadership Team added:

"We are incredibly lucky to have such a talented and dedicated team of musicians working at Venerable Bede Academy to educate our



young people. Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed seeing the Music Team doing what it does best. The atmosphere was such that it left our pupils in spired to learn an instrument"







MENTAL HEALTH GUIDANCE

Children's Mental Health Week was launched in 2015 to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. Now in its eighth year, it is hoped that more people than ever are encouraged to become involved and spread the word.

The theme for Children's Mental Health Week this year is "Growing Together".

"Growing Together" is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow.

Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt; trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential.

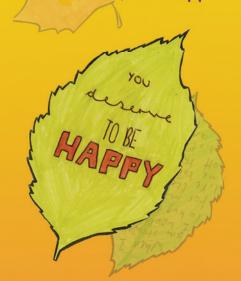
However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'. For Children's Mental Health Week this year, we encouraged pupils to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. Pupils completed activities with their t u to r and were asked to consider the

question: what w o u I d you like someone to do or say if you were struggling?

Pupils decorated leaves with their responses which will be displayed in school.

Nationally, around five children in every classroom have a mental health difficulty and many more struggle with challenges from friendship issues to bereavement, School provide a range of support for pupils that may be struggling. This support includes Kooth online counselling and referrals to the school counsellor,

CAMHS, CYPS, ELSA and our **Emotional Resilience Nurses.** If you have any questions, please contact our Lead Practitioner for Physical and Mental Health, Mrs Chipp.



MEET OUR NEW YEARGROUP LEADERS

Beginning September 2022 our Pastoral team will change to include 5 non-teaching Heads of Year. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce them to you...



Ms C. Atwater

Head of Year 7



Miss T. Willets

Head of Year 8



Mrs H. Kelly

Head of Year 9



Mr R. Gray

Head of Year 10



Mrs S. Osmond

Head of Year 11

VB ANTI-BULLYING & SCHOOL COUNCIL

ANTI-BULYING

Members of our "Bully Buddies" recently went into morning Worships to discuss the results of the "Safe to Learn" surveys completed by all pupils in school during form time. Pupils answered questions from the survey around what their perception of bullying is, if they felt they had ever been bullied, where it had happened, by whom and how we, as a school, can address these issues moving forward. The Bully Buddies also spoke about how pupils can be "upstanders" to acts of bullying and not "bystanders."

SCHOOL COUNCIL

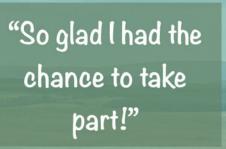
Members of the School Council also took part in worships to introduce themselves to the whole school community. A survey has recently been carried out during form time (through the form council), about potential ideas pupils would like to see improved in school. Ideas have been put forward to Mr. Airey through a meeting with the School Council. The School Council are currently working on fundraising ideas in order to achieve some of these improvements. Watch this space...

DERWENTHILL EXPEDITION

After a long break, our Derwenthill trip has relaunched! Fifty Year 7 and Year 8 pupils attended the Derwent Hill Outdoor Centre in Portinscale, Keswick to participate in a range of outdoor activities including gorge walking, kayaking, hill walking and high ropes/swing challenge. The trip was a huge success with all pupils having a positive experience and developing their self confidence, social, and team work skills. We are already looking forward to next year's trip which will take place in the summer of 2023.



"So many new experiences"













"l'd go again in a heartbeat!"

DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

Three groups of intrepid Year 11 pupils undertook our Duke of Edinburgh expedition this year!

Honing and utilising skills learned throughout the year, pupils experienced a range of activities including; orienteering, outdoor cooking and camping.

The expedition to Hadrian's Wall took place over a one night stay and was thoroughly enjoyed by all with one pupil saying:

"This has been one of those experiences that I will keep with me for the rest of my life!"

"A great opportunity"

"First time I've ever camped out"

"I won't forget this in a hurry"

"l've never cooked outside before!"



MMA TITLE WIN



Mia from Year 9 competed in the kickboxing British title fight. In 3 rounds of 3 minutes, Mia at 49kg won the British Kickboxing title!

Mia fights for Spartans MMA club and has lost no fights to date.

YEAR 8 FOOTBALL TEAM

After a two year break from schools football, the Sunderland Schools' League and Cup competitions resumed. Venerable Bede Year 8 football team had a fantastic season and were winners of the Under 13 league. The team went unbeaten in the league competition. A number of the players were given the opportunity to attend Sunderland Schools trials to represent the city. I am delighted to report that two of our players were successful

and Daniel C and Daniel B will be part of the City squad for the 2022-23 season.

Some players were absent on the day of the photograph these include; Jack G, Leon M, and Oliver Graham.

Mr Atherton and the Year 8 Team would also like to mention the phenomenal contribution Oliver made to both the team and the season. He will be deeply and sadly missed.



SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS INDOOR ATHLETICS **COMPETITION 2022**

Year 8 boys and girls represented the school eagerly took part in Sunderland Schools Indoor Athletics competition, competing against several schools across the city. There was a variety of athletic events, including a number of track, field and relay events. All students

fantastically with the boys winning the competition overall. Well done!



Y11 PUPIL GAINS PLACE ON NATIONAL TEAM!

CONGRATULATIONS TO **OUR VB LIONESS!**

Emily, Year 11 pupil, who represents both Sunderland academy and Durham County Schools FA, was invited to attend England School girls' trials.

After completing the trial process, she was successful in gaining a place in **England School Girls U16's** sauad!

Emily attended a number of England training camps and has played international fixtures against other countries. She captained both games against Scotland and Northern Ireland which is a testament to her commitment, attitude and level of performance.





