

# The Venerable Bede News



HOLY ISLAND PILGRIMAGE 2023 - PAGE 3

ART EXHIBITION  
PAGE 3

TRANSITION  
PAGES 6&7

DERWENT HILL  
PAGE 11

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2023

### CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

One of the England women's football team's younger lionesses celebrated their GCSE results this summer.

Sixteen-year-old Emily's hard work at our academy reflected her impressive achievements as a midfielder in the national Under-16s squad, as she collected an impressive collection of results following her exams.

Emily has played six games for the lionesses, including matches in Portugal and Sweden! Her next step is to attend Bede College, to study law, psychology and criminology at A level.

Venerable Bede Headteacher David Airey said:

"We are incredibly proud of the achievements of all pupils in the GCSE class of 2023.

Their GCSE results reflect the hard work that they have put into school, and we hope that they are pleased with their achievements.

We know that all pupils are ready to move on to the next stage of their education or into employment, and we look forward to hearing about their continued success.

We wish them good luck."

Among the school's successful pupils and shown here jumping for joy, are, from left, senior prefects Megan, Jack, Andrew and Erin.

Megan is heading next to Bede Campus at Sunderland College to study English literature, law and criminology, while Jack will be studying maths, physics and chemistry at Durham Sixth Form Centre. Andrew is to study physics, maths and chemistry while Erin is also heading to Durham Sixth Form Centre.

We are so proud of all of our pupils and wish them good luck for the future!





## A FAREWELL FROM MRS BOOTH

After 13 years of service at Venerable Bede Church of England Academy, firstly as Headteacher from 2010, and, more recently, as Executive Headteacher, I am moving on to a new role this month as Interim Director of Education for the Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle. Fortunately, this role means that I will still be in regular touch with all of our Church Schools and Trusts, including Venerable Bede, and I am really looking forward to taking on a new challenge.

Thank you to all of our pupils, past and present, their families and all of the staff across the trust. I am very proud of you all and will miss seeing everyone on a daily basis; however, I am

looking forward to hearing all about your future accomplishments and achievements in my new role. I wish you all every success and feel confident that you will all "Soar to the Heights Together."

With best wishes



Mrs Booth



## A WELCOME BACK FROM MR AIREY

Welcome to the latest edition of our newspaper!

We hope that you enjoy reading the articles about our pupils and their achievements, and hope that you will get an insight into the everyday work we do at Venerable Bede CE Academy. I am always amazed at the talents which our pupils have and are able to share. We try to encourage all pupils to try new things, both in school and at home. I think that you can see from the news articles that our pupils keep themselves really busy.

I would like to take this opportunity to say well done to our

Y11 pupils. We are incredibly proud of the achievements of all pupils in the "Class of 2023". We are confident that they are ready to move on to the next stage of their education or into employment, and look forward to hearing about their future success.

We hope that you enjoy reading about our school and our pupils – thank you for taking the time. If you have any comments or questions about us, please know that we can be contacted through our school website ([www.venerablebede.co.uk](http://www.venerablebede.co.uk)).

Best wishes



Mr Airey  
Headteacher

## NORTHERN LIGHTS LEARNING TRUST UPDATE

## CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III - PUPIL COMPETITION



It's over 70 years since our last monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, was crowned.

On 6 May 2023 His Majesty King Charles III was coronated.

Venerable Bede CE Academy helped to mark this historic event by taking part in a trust wide pupil competition

The Trust plans to plant a tree in the autumn installed next to which will be a special plaque.

Students at each of Northern Lights Learning Trust's seven schools were invited to use an outline of King Charles' head as a starting point for something creative!

They were encouraged to colour it in using pens or paint, or to make a collage using pictures or fabric, to write a poem, or compose a new piece of music with lyrics (if this type of entry won a QR code linking to the artwork would be added to the plaque).

The best entry from each school, in the opinion of the judges, will have their work preserved forever on a special plaque!

Below is Venerable Bede's winning entry and contribution to this momentous occasion! Well done Hannah!



## AN INTRODUCTION FROM MRS HEATON, NORTHERN LIGHTS LEARNING TRUST

I am privileged and proud to welcome you to Northern Lights. We support our schools to shine stronger together. We know they are an essential part of their community and we want our schools to remain distinctive and central to the communities they serve.

The values of community, pride, support, integrity and the voice of the child are the foundations of our Trust. It is our mission to ensure they are embedded in everyday life, underpinned by Christianity in our Church schools. Every decision we make recognises that these values can be lived out wholeheartedly across our schools.

Children and young people are at the heart of everything we do and we believe that our pupils and students are integral to how we achieve our values and aims.

I feel honoured to be the leader of Northern Lights. It is our aspiration that pupils, students, schools, families and communities get the best opportunities and outcomes.

We believe we are stronger together and are proud to have a

Teaching School and a National Support school in our Trust because they emphasise our ethos and culture of support. We are proud of everyone in Northern Lights and all that they achieve, and we do it through integrity. We understand the need for the greater good. Our legacy will be that the pupils, students, schools and communities we encounter continue to thrive and to be forward-thinking.

We operate on a culture of respect, always mindful of the quote from Maya Angelou: 'People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.'



Mrs Jo Heaton,  
OBE  
Chief Executive  
Officer



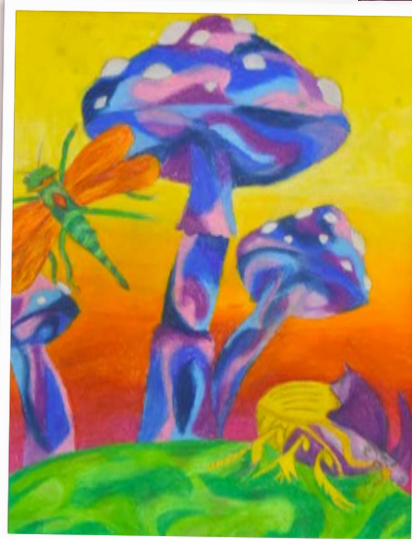
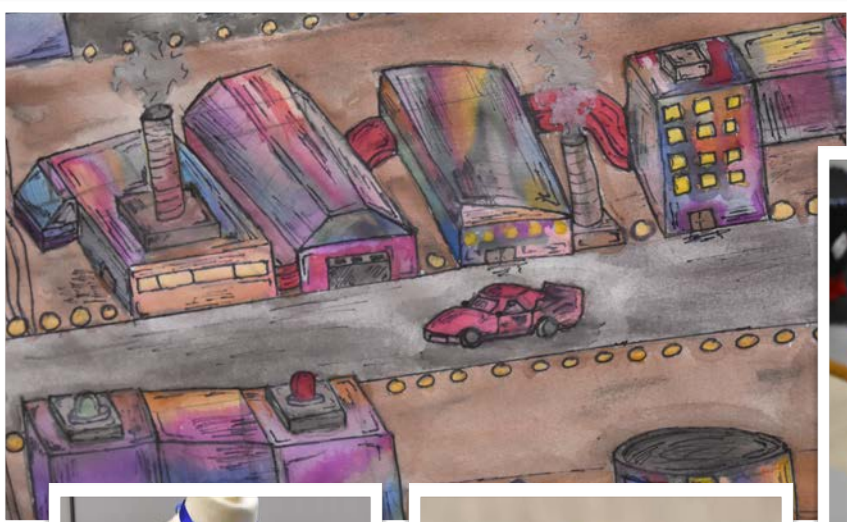
**Northern Lights**  
LEARNING TRUST



# GCSE Art, Design & Technology Exhibition 2023

The Art, Design and Technology department were delighted to once again to be able to hold an exhibition of pupils' work undertaken over the duration of their GCSE studies. Work on show was created by pupils who completed their Art & Design, Art Fashion, and Resistant Materials

GCSE courses this year and it was a wonderful opportunity to view, appreciate and celebrate the pupils' talent, creativity and hard work. The event, held in the school hall was extremely well attended by pupils, their families, friends and other guests.





## BISHOP VINNIE VISIT



It was a great pleasure for our Trust to welcome Bishop Vicentia of the Lesotho Church of England Diocese on her most recent visit to the UK.

As the first female bishop of Lesotho; Bishop Vinnie, as she prefers to be known, is a remarkable lady, and we were delighted that she was able to take some time from her busy itinerary to spend an inspirational morning talking with pupils from Ian Ramsay Academy and Venerable Bede Academy.

Bishop Vinnie was keen to share with our pupils anecdotes from her life and experiences growing up in Southern Africa, during the time of apartheid. Having grown up in Soweto, a township in Johannesburg, Bishop

Vinnie studied hard at school and earned a place at university studying Law. She later decided to dedicate her life to the Church and become a female priest. Bishop Vinnie pointed out to our pupils that this was unusual in Southern Africa at that time, and yet despite her father stating that,

"Women do not become priests"

she was undeterred in her belief that this was her calling in life.

The position of Bishop of Lesotho is a very prestigious post, in a country known for its strong Christian beliefs. The appointment of a female Bishop illustrates the progressive nature of this beautiful country. Nevertheless, Bishop Vinnie has faced numerous challenges

and shared some of her stories with pupils. Leaving them in awe of this incredible and inspirational lady.

Our trust has worked with a number of organisations in Lesotho since 2006, when staff visited with a view to finding a global project that pupils could support. Venerable Bede Academy has been running an annual visit to Lesotho since 2008, until the COVID Pandemic prevented foreign travel for school trips.

Opportunities such as these are important for so many reasons: they offer a unique chance for students to learn outside of the classroom, for them to form new friendships, to push themselves and see their teachers in a different light. But our project does this and so much more as well. It empowers our students to help those less fortunate than themselves, it offers a unique experience which at times can be quite daunting when you're

only 14 and teaches them they can achieve more than they realise. It demands team work, patience and resilience to raise the funding to go and enables pupils to reflect upon their lives, to review the simple things that they sometimes take for granted such as, their education, their home life, and their faith.

The experience of Bishop Vinnie's visit to our trust has left pupils and teachers with excitement and optimism at the chance of relaunching our Lesotho visit in the very near future.



## DIOCESAN SYNOD HOSTED AT VENERABLE BEDE

It was our privilege, once again, to host the Durham Diocesan Synod meeting, here at Venerable Bede CE Academy.

It was a day filled with lively discussion and engaging presentations all centred around best practice for engaging with children and young people.



The day began with an act of Collective Worship which was planned and delivered by staff and pupils from our academy.

Our Worship focused on the combined themes of 'Love' and 'Engaging Children and Young People'.



Participants of the Synod were welcomed into our main hall with reflective music played on piano by Venerable Bede pupils Alex and Sam which deftly set the tone for the day.

The Worship was then opened by

former Executive Headteacher for Secondary Education, Northern Lights Learning Trust, Mrs G Booth who spoke on how Worship and Eucharist have evolved over the years here at VB and the many strategies we employ to engage as many members of our community as possible.

Mrs Booth then handed to our Associate Chaplain, Canon Dave Tolhurst, who explored the themes and welcomed contributions from some of our pupils who took part in reflections and readings via pre-recorded video and audio recording. he then introduced Senior Prefects, Erin and Andrew, who led us in both some rousing congregational singing (a deeply effective performance of 'Glorious Day' which the pupils had arranged and rehearsed themselves) and in our Prayers of Intercession.

The Worship garnered several comments of positive feedback with many of the facilitators mentioning the contributions of our pupils in particular, as a highlight of the day and a wonderful, inspiring way to begin the proceedings.

The reflection video and prerecorded reading were included in a post on the Diocesan website ([bit.ly/VBCEP](https://bit.ly/VBCEP)).



Bishop of Durham Paul Butler delivered his presidential address ([bit.ly/VBCEDSPA](https://bit.ly/VBCEDSPA)) during which he thanked our academy and our pupils for delivering the opening Worship, spoke about the recent Coronation of HM King Charles III, and also provided several interesting points for discussion.

We extend our gratitude to all those involved, for their hard work and for representing our academy so impressively!

## BISHOP'S PRAYER WALK 2023

Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, visited us here at Venerable Bede CE Academy on Friday 19 May. Bishop Paul is very child centred and relished the opportunity to speak to pupils and staff alike.

The visit was part of the Bishop's Prayer Walk 2023.





## PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ISLAND

The Holy Island of Lindisfarne lies just off Northumberland's north coast, close to the border with Scotland, and reached by a causeway, Holy Island is totally cut off from the mainland twice a day when the tide comes in.

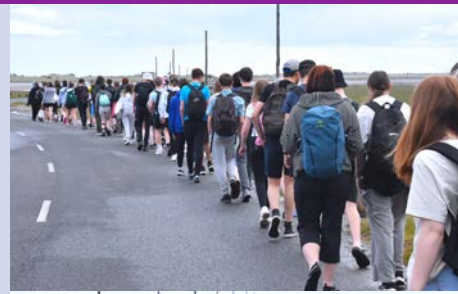
With strong connections to both St Aidan and St Cuthbert, Lindisfarne is one of England's most important centres of early Christianity, hence the name, Holy Island. The island became a popular pilgrimage site and, as a group Year 9 pupils and staff did in July, it's still possible to walk in the footsteps of the early pilgrims to reach Holy Island, following the line of poles that can clearly be seen in the sand.

The Celtic saints often referred to somewhere as a 'thin place' when the spiritual atmosphere of a location made it easy to connect with God, almost as though there is no barrier between heaven and earth.

Year 9's and staff had an amazing experience when we

had a day trip to Lindisfarne (Holy Island).

During the trip the weather was beautiful as we followed the steps of former pilgrims along with young people from other Anglican schools in the North East. The three-mile pilgrimage was followed by a church service on the island and some free time in the village.



## DURHAM DIOCESE YEAR 6 LEAVERS CELEBRATION

In June, eleven of our amazing Year 9s helped out at the Year 6 leavers celebration at Durham Cathedral. They helped hundreds of Year 6 pupils from around the North East of England engage with Prayer Spaces activities in the Cathedral throughout the day. Many people from other schools and organisations commented on how amazing our pupils were and how they were fantastic ambassadors for our school.







### TRANSITION 2023

This year transition for our Year 6 pupils was held on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th of June 2023.

All of our new starters were invited to spend a full two days at Venerable Bede Academy for their first ever experience of our school. Pupils were able to experience school life with a jam packed two days of lessons and events. Pupils began each day with their new tutor and tutor group, allowing them to get to

know each other and meet new friends.

Pupils were able to sample a range of lessons including Geography, Technology, IT, Spanish and Maths. On the first day, pupils also gathered in the school hall for a fantastic musical performance from our Music department. Pupils were able to see what extracurricular activities they could get involved in, as well as being able to sing and dance along. They thoroughly enjoyed this and there was certainly a buzz by the end of the first day. At the end

of the day we also celebrated the pupils' successes with certificates and prizes - it was so great to see such enthusiasm amongst the pupils as well as community spirit supporting each other - a massive well done.



Transition is such an important part of school life, and at Venerable Bede Academy we know that these days help pupils, and parents, transition from their primary school life, to embark on their new journey in secondary school.

We are so excited to see you all back here at 8:30 am on Wednesday 6th September. Stay safe and have a well-deserved rest over the summer.

### YEAR 5 SCHOOL VISITS

Mrs DaGama and Mrs Pallas visited some of our feeder primary schools in the area and spent some time with the Year 5 classes. "It was wonderful to meet our local Year 5 pupils and spend an afternoon getting to know them and telling them a little more about the Venerable Bede."

Pupils completed a short task describing how they would embody the school motto 'Soar to the heights together'.

Ava said "I would represent the school motto by encouraging others to try their hardest and I would also try my hardest as well. I would help others when they are struggling to soar to the heights together."

It was a pleasure being able to visit the pupils in their schools. We can't wait to do this again next year and to continue to work with our primary schools, to ensure a smooth transition for our pupils.

## SUMMER SCHOOL 2023

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

Our Summer School traditionally offers an opportunity for pupils to come in during the holidays, before they join us at the academy.

Places are limited and the summer school is often over subscribed.

It is a valuable time for pupils to familiarise themselves with the academy building and some key members of staff.

This year, pupils and staff took the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including an acting workshop, a visit from the always popular 'Zoo Lab', and an expedition to Flamingo Land!



I really enjoyed Summer School. I was able to meet some of the teachers and support staff who were really kind and helpful!

One of our Summer School Attendees

Zoo Lab was brilliant! I loved learning about all of the different animals that had been brought in and getting to hold a snake!

One of our Summer School Attendees





## CLASS OF 2023 LEAVERS CEREMONY

Year 11 pupils sat their final exam on Monday 19th of July 2023 and now have a long sunny summer ahead to relax and recuperate. Their conduct throughout was a credit to them and we wish them the very best of luck with their new adventures ahead.



All Year 11 pupils were invited back into school on the afternoon of Monday 19th of July with their parents and carers to celebrate their time at Venerable Bede Academy. This special event marked the end of their secondary school journey before pupils start their next adventure.



Pupils were able to reminisce on their school journey looking at photos that had been taken over the years that brought back so many special memories. The afternoon was filled with speeches, band performances and was a true celebration of the time our pupils had spent with us, as well

as all they have achieved. Afterwards, pupils along with parents and carers were able to gather together to say their final farewells to each other and the staff at Venerable Bede Academy. Overall, a fantastic celebration enjoyed by all.

Mrs Osmond (Head of Year 11) said, "I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud we are of Year 11. They have worked incredibly hard, building the skills and knowledge that will form a strong foundation for their futures.

Their journey over the last five years has not been a straight road, there has been twists and turns and a few bumps along the way. Year 11 have persevered, overcoming personal challenges, not just in preparing for their GCSEs but in planning for their futures.

Goodbye and good luck. What happens next is up to you."

## LEAVERS' BALL 2023

The Class of 2023 Leavers' Ball took place at The Ramside Hall Hotel and Golf Course on Friday 30th of June.



Pupils have had an amazing opportunity this year to use their Class Charts points to redeem money off their ticket. Some pupils have been able to buy three vouchers giving a £30 discount which is fantastic and a real credit to the hard work and positive attitudes of those pupils.

Pupils and their families arrived early for photographs. We had an array of vehicles arriving at the venue and the pupils certainly didn't disappoint with their attire - the girls looked beautiful and the boys extremely smart. We were lucky that the bad weather held off until we entered the building.



The evening started with a two course meal, followed by a prize draw for pupils to celebrate their successes. For the first time, we were also able to have our school band perform for us, 'Vennerz'. They kicked off the night with some fantastic song choices and certainly got everyone on the dance floor. Well done to everyone that was involved, they were a real credit to the school.



May I personally take this opportunity to thank you for supporting school and your child during the time that we have spent together; we will certainly miss our Class of 2023. Wishing you every success for the future.



## REFLECTIONS FROM CLASS OF 2023

We asked some of our outgoing pupils about their memories of their time here at Venerable Bede here's what they had to say:

What is your fondest memory of your time at Venerable Bede?

"Making lots of new friends for life"

Calum

"The teachers for believing in me, being kind and making lessons memorable."

Imogen

What advice would you give pupils starting Year 7 in September?

"Make the most of school before the years start speeding up"

Ava

"Just keep going. Never give up. Never let your dreams go."

Andrew



## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

## YEAR 7 POETRY COMPETITION

Pupils in Year 7 were set a poetry writing competition with the theme of Joy in honour of World Poetry Day. We asked Year 7, as their next topic of study is World Poetry.

The competition was set upon an original poem, 'A Song of Joy' written by Walt Whitman. We used his poem to explore the meaning of joy and how this may feel, look like, or sound like to each individual.

We had a vast collection of submissions, however, there can only be one winner! Our winner, who has dedicated their creativity and passion into their wonderful response, is Lydia!

Their poem, 'A Song of Joy' by Lydia, captures the essence of what joy may truly feel like to the individual, using an array of vocabulary and techniques. We can see how much thought and effort went into their personal response and it reads delightfully.

## WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day is a global event that is celebrated every year designed to promote reading and the love of books. The day is a celebration of literature that is in over 100 countries around the world.

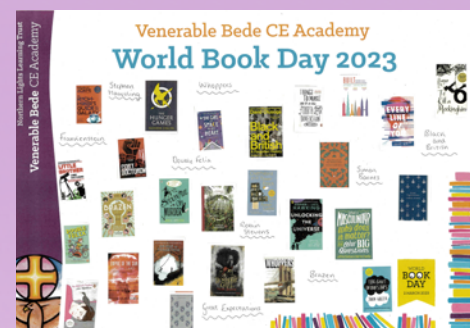
The aim of World Book Day is to encourage pupils to read more and build a lifelong habit of

reading. It is a day when children are introduced to new books, authors and genres. They are encouraged to explore and enjoy the world of literature. The idea of World Book Day was first proposed in 1923 by the Spanish writer Vic Clavel Andres.

On World Book Day, we decided to share in the love of reading as a whole school community. All teachers were given the same short story to read, 'The Lottery' by Shirley Jackson (1948), with all of their classes where they would read a page at the beginning of each period. This meant that, as a school, we were all enthralled in where the plot of the story would take us. It encouraged us to consider the message behind the story and students were eager to discuss their opinions at the end of the day.

Form classes were also asked to create World Book Day posters to display on the doors around the school with their most enjoyed and liked books that they have read. Some groups decided to share their love for one book with a

review about what they enjoyed about it, whilst others printed book covers as suggestions or recommendations for their peers.



World Book Day is a day that celebrates the love of books and promotes reading as a lifelong habit. By engaging with books, we expand our minds, develop our imagination and find a new perspective on life. It is this that encourages children to embrace the written word and discover the joys of reading, which is an essential skill that provides knowledge, enlightenment, and entertainment. We hope that our students can be encouraged to continue their reading and explore adventurous journeys!

## MATHS DEPARTMENT

## YEAR 10 MATHS FEAST

On Wednesday 29th March, four Year 10 pupils, accompanied by Miss Manning attended the Year 10 Maths Feast, hosted by AMSP at St Wilfrid's School in South Shields.

Whilst there, they took part in three rounds of Mathematical challenges,

which required them to call on their metacognitive skills to be able to solve a range of problems.

The challenges culminated with a relay round, where teamwork was essential to be able to advance to the next question.

We would like to say a huge well done to Jessica, Grace, Layla and Matthew who not only are fantastic mathematicians, but are also a credit to the school with their impeccable behaviour and interpersonal skills.

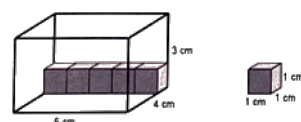
As a bit of fun, see if you can complete one of the challenges that the pupils completed at the Maths Feast.



## AMSP Maths Feast 2023 Relay Round – A1

A 3 by 4 by 5 cuboid constructed from unit cubes, sits on the flat surface of a table.

W is the total number of square unit cube faces that are hidden when the cuboid is sat on the table.



(The diagram doesn't show all of the cubes)

What is the value of W?

## MATHSPLOSION

On Monday 10th of July, ten Year 10 pupils, accompanied by Miss Manning and Miss Gourlay attended the Mathsplosion event at The

Centre for Life in Newcastle.

The day consisted of four different workshops, which explored Mathematical contexts in real life. All workshops were interactive and required pupils to draw on their Mathematical knowledge, whilst taking part in fun activities.

The workshops ranged from exploring the Maths behind card tricks to the effects of climate change on the environment.

All pupils enjoyed the event and were a credit to the school, not only for their behaviour, but their enthusiasm and participation in tasks throughout the day.





## SEARCH FOR A STAR 2023

On Tuesday 25th of April we took our girl band, Identity, to Sunderland College to compete in the Search for a Star talent show competition. What a night and what a fantastic showcase of talent in Sunderland. There were 12 secondary schools participating. The girl band performed the song Edge of Midnight by Miley Cyrus. Mrs Bonner, Head of Music, said

"Although our band didn't win this year, it was great to see such a variety of talent from across many different art forms and the performers clearly really enjoyed seeing all 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. It has been a very rewarding experience."



## TEACHING GADGET COMPETITION

In April, pupils in the music department took part in a competition to try and win an electric drum kit for the school. The quantity of entries we submitted was amazing - a number of students also engaged in competing at home to try and improve their highest scores. Students had to use their knowledge on notation to click on the correct notes as fast as they could to try and gain their highest possible score in 60 seconds. Some of the music staff took part in the teacher round. Although we did not win, our highest score was 57 correct answers in 60 seconds - well done to Hannah in Year 7.

## Y6 TRANSITION PERFORMANCE



On Wednesday 28th of June we put on a live performance for Year 6 pupils who were visiting the Academy for their transition days. The event featured a variety of musical performances that promoted year group singing and showed the pupils some of the extra-curricular activities they can choose to get involved in when joining the Academy in September. There was a real buzz in the atmosphere and pupils fully engaged and participated in the singing with great enthusiasm.

## COMMUNITY SUMMER CONCERT



On Wednesday 5th of July we held our annual community summer concert which featured



performances from our local feeder primary schools as well as some of the primary schools from the NLLT.

The evening featured a variety of vocal performances from each school and promoted large group singing. The choirs performed some popular songs including Shake It Off, We Go Together, I Want It That Way and Never Gonna Not Dance Again. We also had the opportunity to give two of our rock bands, Vennerz & Identity, the chance to play a few pieces they've been rehearsing in their clubs. There has been a lot of positive feedback from parents, pupils and colleagues. The younger pupils especially enjoyed singing to a live band for the night.



## Y11 PROM BAND PERFORMANCE

For the first time ever, there were numerous requests for the Year 11 band, Vennerz, to perform at the school prom. On Friday 30th of July we set up our stage in Ramside Hall and the band performed several classic hits including Livin' On A Prayer, Summer of '69 and Don't Stop Me Now. The Year 11 musicians performed amazingly well in front of their peers and the staff. Everyone got up to dance and sing along. Feedback from everyone has been extremely positive - well done, you did an amazing job and we are extremely proud of how far you have come as musicians during your time at Venerable Bede Academy!



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Once again, small group music lessons have continued to be extremely popular this summer term. Due to popular demand we now have 5 rock bands running before and after school and the school choir. Should you wish your child to get involved in peripatetic music lessons or an extracurricular club, please watch out for the letter coming out in September to sign your child up for lessons for next term or email Mrs Bonner directly for further information.





## CAREERS DEPARTMENT

## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIPS WEEK 2023



During the week of February 6th to 10th, we introduced pupils across the school to apprenticeships as part of National Apprenticeships Week 2023. During this week, tutors shared with their tutor groups what it means to be an apprentice, areas in which apprenticeships are offered and stories from apprentices about their experiences.

Throughout school, we have displayed information for pupils around the apprenticeships available that are linked to particular subject areas and encouraged them to follow links to find out more information.

Our Year 11 pupils have had the opportunity to listen to presentations from representatives of local companies such as Nissan, Cummins, BAE Systems and Gentoo. As part of this event, pupils had the opportunity to find out more about the work each company does, as well as the various, local apprenticeships available; ask questions about the necessary skills and qualifications and even apply for apprenticeships right then and there.

## YEAR 10 NISSAN EVENT – TRY-Z



During work experience week, 16 pupils had the fantastic opportunity to take part in 'Try-Z', an event run by Nissan Employees in school.

Pupils started by building a model car out of 70+ parts, throughout the week they focused on improving the quality and performance of their cars. In groups of 8, they produced 15 cars by Friday. The aim of the challenge was to beat the other team for the best cost per production run, focusing on continuous improvement, problem solving, safety and team work.

The pupils have worked really hard at this challenge all week and have had a fantastic time. Thank you to Nissan for running this challenge in school and well done to the pupils for their effort and engagement!



## YEAR 9 NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

At the beginning of June, a group of Year 9 girls attended the National Council of Young Women's Conference at Durham High School. The focus for the day was 'Moving On Up' and included some inspirational talks from Sophie Milliken, an award winning entrepreneur and CEO at Moja Group, and Fran Ratcliffe, Head of Client Services at O – a company that has won over 60 awards! After an enjoyable lunch, the girls took part in a workshop run by Stacey Wagstaff of The Girls' Network where they could explore their own strengths and consider pathways to achieve their goals.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and found the day interesting, motivational and inspiring.

## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

In the penultimate week of the term, Year 10 pupils went out on work experience. Pupils organised their own placements in a range of settings including Nissan, Hays Travel, Nexus, Sunderland City Council and a range of primary schools and nurseries across the city.

Pupils have had a fantastic experience of the world of work and behaviour, enthusiasm and engagement have been exceptional.

Mrs. Carr visited pupils at East Herrington Primary, New Silksworth Primary, Wearside Plumbing Supplies, Busy Bees Nursery and more. The feedback from staff was fantastic and the pupils have all thoroughly enjoyed the experience with many now having a clearer idea of the pathway they may take when they leave secondary school.

The next step for Year 10, as they move into Year 11, is to find out more about the possible options and pathways post-16. More about these options will be shared through talks from a range of colleges and sixth forms in Year 11 as well as through personal Careers Interviews with the school Careers Adviser.

## YEAR 8 CAREERS CAFÉ



On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> of June, all Year 8 pupils took part in a Careers Café in the school bistro. Pupils enjoyed a drink and a snack whilst engaging in conversation with a range of representatives from different businesses including Nissan, Bowmer and Kirkland, Penshaw View, Cummins, Gentoo, Waterstons, the RAF, Advanced Electric Machines and the Foundation of Light.

The enthusiasm and behaviour of all Year 8 pupils involved was exceptional and we had a fantastic morning. Pupils felt they had learnt a lot about the businesses, careers and the world of work. Some pupils even felt they now had an idea of what they would like to do once they left school. They only wished they had had more time to spend talking to our visitors!

Both staff and the visitors were full of praise for the pupils.

## YEAR 10 ASK APPRENTICESHIPS TALK

At the end of June, Jodene Aspinall, a representative of ASK Apprenticeships delivered a talk to our Year 10 pupils about what apprenticeships are; how and where to apply for apprenticeships and some of the areas in which apprenticeships are available. This is the beginning of preparation for our Year 10 pupils making their post-16 choices at the end of Year 11. We hope this has given them some food for thought and something to learn more about in the coming months and at the beginning of Year 11.

If they wish to find out more about apprenticeships, they should speak to Mrs. Carr, Careers Lead, in room 16.

## YEAR 8 AND 9 TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

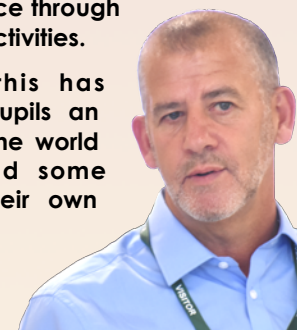
On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of July, Year 8 and Year 9 pupils went out to work for the day with their parents, close family members or family friends. Pupils had the opportunity to experience the world of work and to begin thinking about their own choices for the future. This experience helped pupils to develop skills in team work, problem solving, communication and resilience.

Work settings included primary schools, hair and beauty salons, hotels, travel agents, GP surgeries and many more.

## YEAR 10 VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Those pupils that were not able to secure a placement for work experience have been working on a range of virtual work experience tasks in school during the week. These have included virtual tours of work places; listening to the experiences of other teenagers on work experience and business challenges. They also took part in a workshop run by Kevin Jones, the school's Enterprise Adviser, entitled 'Why Do We Follow Instructions?'. Pupils explored the importance of following instructions in the work place through interactive activities.

We hope this has given the pupils an insight into the world of work and some ideas for their own futures.





Some of our Year 7 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. This is a trip that the PE department has run for many years and this year was a huge success with all pupils having positive experiences. The nature of the activities allowed our young people to develop their self confidence, social, and team work skills and provided physical and mental challenges.

Mr Atherton said,  
*'the pupils had a superb week in a beautiful part of the country. They really worked hard and pushed themselves out of their comfort zone and gained many essential skills from their time at Derwent Hill'.*





## ENGLISH SCHOOLS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

### 2<sup>ND</sup> IN THE COUNTRY!



Star Performance from Celine in Year 8. Celine competed in the Girls Inter County competitions where she finished 1st in her 100m Race, with an outstanding time, breaking a record of 50 years. Celine qualified for the National competition in Birmingham where she finished 1st in her heat with an outstanding new PB of 12.19 seconds. Celine, who was competing in the under 15 event, finished the competition in 2nd place at the age of thirteen. An amazing achievement and a massive congratulations to Celine. Everyone at VB is very proud of you.

### YEAR 7 ATHLETICS COMPETITION

Exciting news to share with you all regarding the Athletics Competition. We took a group of Year 7 boys and girls (pictured



bottom left) to a competition at Silksworth. All pupils chosen were fantastic. We had some great individual performances. Both Katie and Jake finished 1st in the Shotput. Josh finished 1st in the Long Jump. Jude finished 3rd in the boys 1500m. Emily finished 4th in her 100m race and Kayden finished 3rd in the 200m race. Matthew also finished 2nd in his 200m race. Both boys and girls Relay teams ended the day on a high, finishing 2nd in both races. Well done to all, a great day and great performances.

### GYMNASTICS COMPETITION NEWS!



Lily in Year 8 competed in a Gymnastics competition this weekend at Seaham Gymnastics Club. She secured 2nd place in her first ever competition. Big well done to Lily! Exciting times ahead for Lily.

### WORLD'S GYMNASTIC COMPETITION

Macey represented GBR in the Scalabis Cup, the competition was held in Portugal. Macey

came 4th competing against very talented Gymnasts around the world, who were also two years older than Macey. This is phenomenal and a well earned achievement. Macey has a very bright future ahead of her and we look forward to seeing her career develop further. Well done Macey, we are enormously proud of you.

### DANCE COMPETITION

Gracie and Lucy competed at a Dance competition which was held at Silksworth Youth and Community Centre. The girls both came 1st in their lyrical and trio. Gracie also came first in her modern dance competition. This is amazing ladies, we are very proud of you both. Keep up the hard work!

### LIONESS UPDATE



Emily, our year 11 England football player has recently participated in the UEFA Development Tournament which took place in the Algarve, Portugal. Emily and her fellow England players played games against Germany, Netherlands and Italy. Emily described the competition as 'an amazing experience'. In the three games England drew 2-2 with Germany, lost 2-1 to Netherlands and won against Italy 2-0.

### COUNTY NETBALL TRIALS

Venerable Bede are very proud to announce that Ruby has been selected to play for the County Netball team. This is a superb achievement. Ruby has been

working very hard and training endless hours, the hard work has paid off Ruby! Ruby has also represented VB at many different Netball tournaments, she is an inspiration to many. We are excited to be part of your journey playing for the county.

### SUNDERLAND SCHOOLS CRICKET WINNERS



A team of very talented VB cricketers participated in the Sunderland school cricket festival. They competed against seven other teams from schools across the city and came out as champions. In the morning group games, team VB won all group games convincingly. In the afternoon, we met St Aidans in the final who finished top of the other group. Batting first team VB set a formidable total which St Aidans failed to chase down. This was due to some superb bowling and fielding from all members of the team. A great team performance.

### YEAR 7 GIRLS 5-A-SIDE

The girls competed in the final competition of the season, the under 12 futsal tournament. The girls were in a group with Kepier, Castle View and Dene Academy. Unfortunately, it was not to be the girls' night and they did not progress to the next stage of the competition although the girls showed great determination and spirit throughout. The team have had a very good start to schools football and are looking forward to the new season in September.

### SHOW JUMPING COMPETITION

Heidi competed in a show jumping competition which was held at Highfields. It was a very competitive field, Heidi finished 2nd place. Big well done to Heidi, keep up the hard work.