

St. Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College





A community newsletter

Contacting the School:

www.strobertofnewmin ster.co.uk/

Address:

Biddick Lane, Biddick, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE38 8AF

Tel: **0191 7161700**

Mass times in our Partnership:

Saturday Vigil Mass St Bede's - 5.00pm St Joseph's - 5.00pm

Sunday Morning Mass St John Boste - 9.30am Our Lady Queen of Peace - 10.00am Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - 11.00am Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of the School

As we near the end of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for all your support this year, both of the School and most importantly our young people. Our students have enjoyed many successes over the last year, and we know that your support has been integral to these achievements. I would like also to extend my thanks to all members of staff who have worked so hard with our students across all age groups in many different ways.

I would like in particular to congratulate our students who have been involved in public examinations this term. They have worked extremely hard and will fully deserve the success we all hope the summer will bring to them. We wish them the very best and every happiness in their future endeavours, be they at our sixth form, university, further study elsewhere, or training and employment.

As some students come to the end of their time at St Robert's, we also enjoyed meeting the incoming Year 7 students recently during their transition day from primary school. We look forward to welcoming them properly in September as they begin their secondary school career.

It remains for me to wish all of you, and all our students, a very enjoyable and safe summer, whatever form that might take. I do hope you all find it possible to rest and enjoy some time with family and friends.

With very best wishes

Mr D Juric Headteacher

Scholars Programme

We are thrilled to have completed three rounds of the Scholar's Programme this year with 36 students in Year 9 and Year 12. The Scholars Programme helps pupils develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to progress to the most competitive universities. Students involved are given the opportunity to complete a challenging course on subjects beyond the normal curriculum taught in school and work with a world class researcher on their specialist topic.

This year, the topics included:

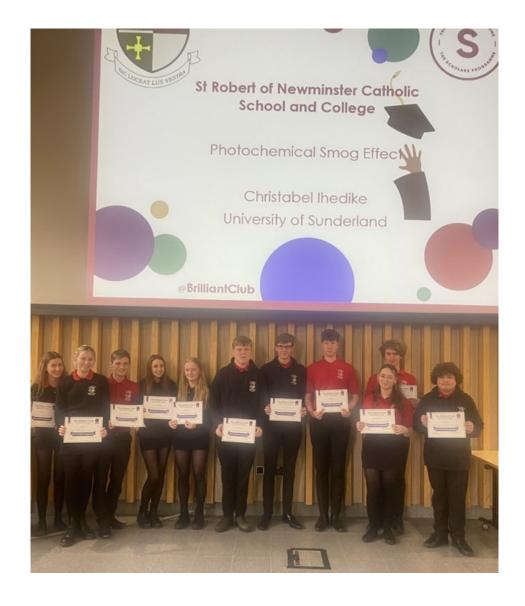
- 1. Photochemical smog and the effects of air pollution
- 2. Countering Counterfeits
- 3. Anti-Primitivism in the Ancient World

All students who completed the programme were invited to a graduation at Newcastle University where they were given a tour of the campus and a chance to speak to existing students about different courses and life at university.

Our students did exceptionally well but a special mention to Maddelena Corsi who has been nominated by her PHD tutor for publication in the Brilliant Club's annual magazine. Also, an additional well done to Connor and Madeleine in Y12 who volunteered to represent the school by giving a speech at their graduation about their project and the skills that they had learned by taking part. A fantastic achievement by all!



The Scholars Programme



FairAware Award

As a school we have achieved the FairAware award (Fairtrade). Students took part in a Fairtrade lesson and completed a questionnaire on their understanding of "What is Fairtrade?". Staff also shared information about the use of Fairtrade products and teaching of Fairtrade in their departments.

All this information aided our award application so thank you to everyone involved. I will be setting up a new Fairtrade group in school and we will now be working towards the FairActive award, developing out use of Fairtrade product in school and planning Fairtrade events.

This will be advertised in school for students but if anyone would like to get involved or would like further information, please email me



Bishop Wilkinson Team Maths Challenge



Eight of our Year 8 students recently attended the first (hopefully) annual Bishop Wilkinson Team Maths Challenge event at St Bedes, Lanchester.

Students were competing against other Year 8 exceptional mathematicians from across the academy trust in teams of four, battling it out over a series of maths-based challenges and problem solving tasks. The culmination of the event was the fast and furious final relay round, which was a physical as well as mental challenge!

Both teams of St Robert's students did fantastically well, with one of our teams (Liam Watkins, Olivia Marshall, Sam Gallagher, Kosisochukwu Owuneme) finishing in third place and claiming the bronze prize. Our other team (Selina He, Arron Haugh, Thomas Hattersley, Maggie Cockburn) led the competition in early rounds, before falling out of contention for the prizes in only the last round.

We wish to thank the students for their brilliant effort and enthusiasm, along with the staff of St Bede's for hosting the event. We hope to return next year to claim top prize!



YMT Summer Festival (God Camp)

Students from Y10 and Y12 journeyed together to the Youth Village for 3 days exploring the theme of "The Unknown" whilst joining with 400+ other young people for the annual Diocesan Schools Summer Festival. It is now commonly known as *God Camp!*

The students took part in a range of activities which helped them come together and celebrate their faith after the Pandemic. We had music from Faith Child, and Adenike who made it through to the semi-finals of TV programme *The Voice* under Team Will.I.AM. She is a practising catholic, a singer and a youth worker in her church. Her witness was powerful.

Students also got to meet some amazing nuns, Sisters of Divine Charity, who led them all in the Jerusalema dance in the main marquee whilst also leading students in prayer and a Q&A session. These nuns were made famous by the Channel 5 TV programme *Bad Habits*, *Holy Orders* and have since opened up a restaurant called Nundos.

We were blessed with amazing weather, lots of smiles and very happy young people and we look forward to the next adventure that awaits us. Students said they couldn't wait to go back next year, which is always a good sign.





A-Level History: Durham University Day

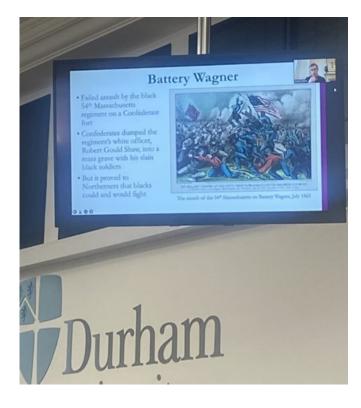
Year 12 History students were invited to attend an undergraduate style seminar series at Durham University in May. Students were given the chance to visit the campus and to attend a lecture held at the Palace Green about the American Civil War, the abolition of slavery in the US and Reconstruction period. The lecture was given by Dr Kevin Waite who is a renowned academic on the American Civil War.

The lecture was part of the "History For Schools" programme designed by Durham University to "allow pupils to gain a range of invaluable skills which will help their progression towards highly academic institutions like Durham. Lecturers will introduce the topic through a sample lecture, before providing a range of historiographical interpretations and source material for small-group discussion. Pupils will thus gain key skills in source analysis by examining a diverse range of primary sources, as well as insights into how historians begin to construct arguments based upon this evidence."

After the lecture, students worked with a current Durham University student and were able to ask them about all aspects of life at university. We thank Durham University for hosting us and will look forward to working with them again next year.







Holy Island

The long awaited Y7 Holy Island trip finally returned this year with a bumper two weeks of pilgrimages of students from their associated houses.

While there, students stayed at the SVP Camp. They visited the Priory and learned about ancient monastic life. They took part in a treasure hunt around the island and walked to most of the beaches that the island has to offer.

It was a very special trip for our students as for many of them, it was their first experience away from home with their friends. They didn't just make a physical journey there, but a spiritual one as they connected with the sacredness of the island and its rich heritage of saints and prayer. This usually happens very naturally when in such special surroundings.

Students were delighted to see wildlife such as unusual birds, seals and deer.

We are grateful for each student who responded to the invitation to go. Current Y7 will soon be invited to go on their next trip which will take place in November for their Y8 Retreat at the Youth Village. Watch this space!









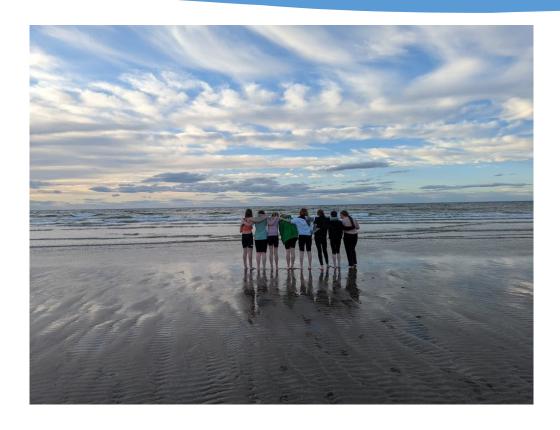














Music & Drama Summer Show

Well done to all the performers who took part in the Music and Drama Departments Summer Show 2022. It was wonderful to experience live performance again, with students excelling in front of a full house of family and friends. There was singing, drama, instrumental performance, orchestra, and even some audience participation! Thank you to everyone who supported the students and school. We have many more events lined up for next year so will see you again soon.



Partnering with The Girls' Network

The Girls' Network aims to inspire and empower girls from the least advantaged communities by connecting them with a network of professional role models who are women. Their work is driven by the fact that:

- Only 16% of girls surveyed in 2018 reported feeling "very happy"
- There are more than 106,000 more girls than boys who are NEET (not in education, employment and training)
- At age 16, 50% of girls from the poorest homes achieve no GCSE's above a grade 3

At St Robert's we have partnered with the Girls' Network to deliver a programme of workshops to Year 10 and Year 12 girls. The workshops are themed around the following:

- Workshop 1: <u>Owning Your Potential Personal Brand</u>, getting young people to begin to explore their values, strengths, passions and how this can support their development and career choices.
- Workshop 2: <u>Owning Your Potential Confidence</u>, what does it mean to be confident? Thinking confidently and behaving confidently, body language, affirmations and how this links and support your personal brand
- Workshop 3: <u>Careers Round Table</u>, three mentors from The Girls' Network will attend the session, young people will be split into three groups and get to ask each mentor questions about their career, how they started in their careers, what skills they have developed and how their advice around becoming successful. The following pictures were taken during this session.







Year 12 Sociology Visit to Newcastle University

Year 12 Sociology attended a field trip to Newcastle University in which they were given a "University day" to experience what it was like to be a student at the University. The trip was specially created for St Robert's students with all of the work completed on the day tailored to match the OCR specification. Pupils first attended a lecture in which they got to see what current research is happening within the university.

The lecture looked at Sociological and Psychological theories, participant observation, and social prescription within the NHS. After this, students were given a seminar by a professor of sociology at the university which focused on identity theory surrounding age and disability. After this seminar and lunch students went to a tutorial to discuss an academic article and the use of young people within research. In the final part of the day pupils received a talk on what life is like at the University, different methods into university, student finance and the partners programme that can reduce entry requirements.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and now have additional specialist knowledge to take them forward into Year 13. We look forward to this trip becoming an annual event and working more closely with the Newcastle University Sociology department in the





Year 8: World War One Trench Project

When completing their studies of World War One, students in Y8 were challenged with producing the most realistic model trench possible in a shoe-box! Students had to try to include all of the key features of a trench including the dug-outs, firing steps, duckboards and barbed wire. The challenge was to make the trenches as realistic as possible and to be able to explain all of the different features and how they were used. Students then went on to study particularly significant trench warfare battles such as the battle of the Somme. There were over 150 shoe-box trenches brought to the department and History staff were blown away by the quality of the projects which were produced! Well done to all involved!

Students who were chosen by their History teacher for their outstanding work include:

Korey Wright
Morgaine Baxter
Zuzanna Gruenwald
Dominic Lister
Jimmy McGee
Joseph Irwin
Connor Snowdon





Theology, Religion & Ethics Conference

Year 11 had a fantastic time at the Ethics and Philosophy conference hosted by Our Lady and St Bede's, Stockton in April. A day of thought-provoking debate and critical thinking. Mrs Ross and Mrs King want to thank you for such brilliant engagement!



ReCreate Student Group

Our newly established RE co-curricular have continued to mark important events on the religious calendar. The group have celebrated Buddha Day by making lotus flower candle holders, they marked the end of Ramadan with paper bag Mosques and created paste eggs to mark Easter. Thanks to Miss Hetherington for giving the pupils this wonderful opportunity to embrace different faiths and cultures.







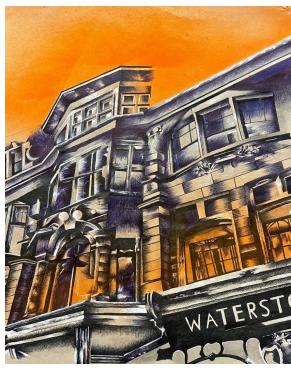


Showcase of Art @ St Robert's











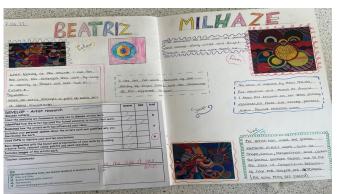




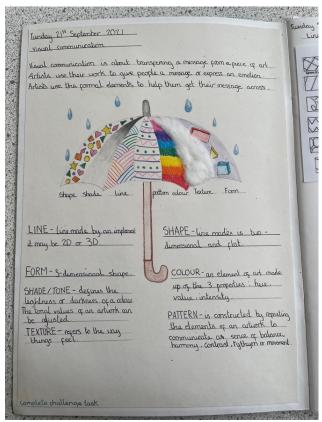
Mental Health & Well-Being



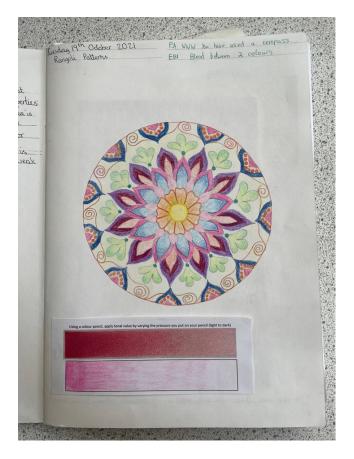


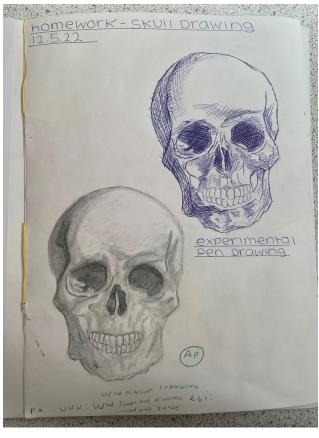


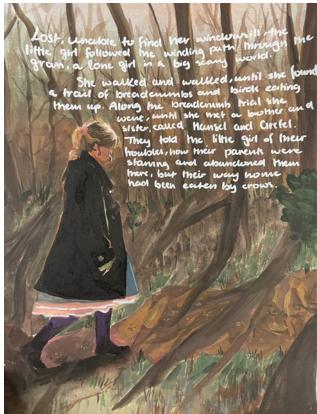




Team St. Robert News









Science visits to the Centre for Life









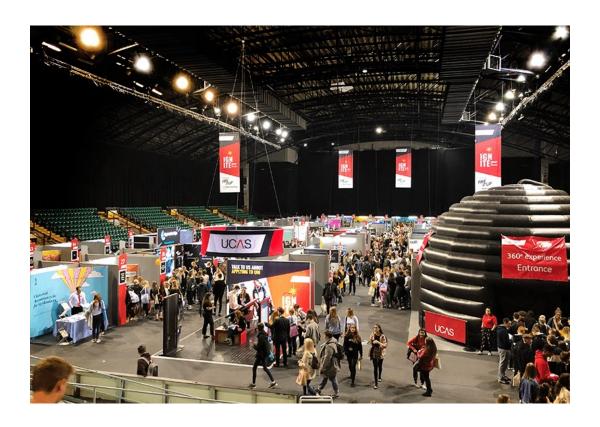






6th Form Careers & Higher Education

As part of their preparations for life after Sixth Form, all Year 12 students visited the UCAS Exhibition held at Newcastle Arena. Students were able to visit over 110 universities from across all parts of the UK. There were also representatives from a number of employers and apprenticeship providers. In addition to this, a large number of students visited Open Days at the universities of York, Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds. Year 12 students are currently working on the first draft of their personal statements for their university applications.



Year 13 Leavers Celebration

Year 13 students started the countdown to the end of their two years with us as they attended their Day of Celebration at St James' Park in Newcastle. Students spent time with their tutors reflecting on their time in Sixth Form. Guest of

honour, Isaac Hayden, spoke to students about his career in football and the challenges he has faced. Isaac described the importance of resilience and preparing yourself for all eventualities.



Year 13 students marked the end of their exam period with a fantastic Leavers' Ball at the Royal Station Hotel in Newcastle. Smart suits and glamorous dresses were the order of the day. 200 students and staff celebrated over the evening sharing a wonderful hot buffet followed by a DJ and photobooth. We wish all Year 13 students success when they receive their results in August.



Year 11 Prom

Year 11 students marked the end of their exam period with a fantastic Leavers' prom at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland. Smart suits and glamorous dresses were the order of the day. The Year 11 Prom is always a wonderful occasion and it was fantastic to be able to offer this opportunity once again following the COVID pandemic.



Team St. Robert News







Mental Health & Well-Being







Team St. Robert News



St Robert's Sports Award Evening

The PE department celebrated their annual St Robert's Sports Award evening on Monday 18th July. This was a showcase of the many wonderful young sports women and men who have been involved in the sporting successes throughout this academic year.

Bronze Award for contribution to school sport:

Kieran Richardson Harry Gittins Millie Rivers Ben Ord Oscar Hancill Emma Shorttle Isabelle Doran Olivia Marshall Ruby Lamming Isobel Smith

Silver Award for contribution to school sport:

Jimmy McGuire Georgia Massey Scarlett Palmer Oliver Marshall Adan Harris Lilly Ella Ross Faith Barrass



Gold Award for contribution to school sport:

Brandon Pye
Jonathan Luke
Josh Donaldson
Mia Gibson
David Race
Lucy Scothern
Caitlyn Turnbll
Ruby Cuthbertson
Jessica Walsh



Boys Team of the Year:

Robert Hewitt Matthew Dey Zach Larsen Jimmy McGuire

Girls Team of the Year:

Eve Gordon Katie Grey Olivia Steadman Rebecca Madden Annabelle Eales Jenny Taylor Olivia Atherton Emily Dodd



Female Sport's Personality of the Year

Olivia Metcalf



Male Sport's Personality of the Year

Brandon Pye



Team St. Robert News







Core Values

In September of this academic year we launched our new school values. These are based on the values of the Bishop Wilkinson trust. Students have been introduced to these values through their interactions with staff, through their daily prayers and within assembly.

From September 2022 these values will be displayed front and centre of the school and in the student planners. We hope that all students in our school will aim to live out these values each and every day:



Core Values Awards

The following pupils have been nominated by their teachers for the core value awards:

Faith	Respect	Vocation	Excellence	Aspiration	Integrity
Adam Nicholls	Emma Rice	Abbie Baker	Francesca Allen	Adam Nicholls	Ellie McCarthy
Lily Glendenning Greenwood	Jack Kerry	Caitlyn Turnbull	Harry Gittins	Jerrald Lo	Emma Keers
Maddelena Corsi	Jimmy McGee	Ethan Richardson	Isabelle Beattie	Luke Shevlin	Maddelena Corsi
Michael Herbert		Isabelle Wong	Isabelle Wong	Ronela Ebere	Millie Rennison
Nathan Vargese		Nathan Vargese Ajith	Joshua Golding	Ronnie Chan	Sophie Leonard
Ajith		Taruni Martinez	Kate Davies	Simapreet Pandal	
			Mirella Ebere		
			Poppy Furey		
			Ryan Softly		



Kooth is here, year round. Even when schools are out.



Find support for your mental wellbeing, no matter what's on your mind.

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Kooth's Wellbeing Summer Checklist

Why not try one of these support options for each week of the summer holiday period. Visit kooth.com to get started.

Join a discussion board with our Try a wellbeing activity in Kooth's supportive community of young mini activity hub. people. Visit kooth.com to get started. Have a chat with a member of our team. Our team of counsellors and wellbeing Listen to a Kooth podcast - You can practitioners are online between find us on Spotify and Apple Podcasts. 12pm and 10pm on weekdays and 6pm - 10pm on weekends. Try journalling to understand and track how you've been feeling. You can do this Read an article on Kooth written by a by logging into kooth.com and getting young person or a member of our team. started on the homepage.

Mental Health & Well-Being

Summer Holiday Support

The holiday period can be difficult for some. If you need support during the summer holidays, Kooth is still available.

Go to go.kooth.com/sRw9 to chat to a practitioner today.

You can still access free, safe and anonymous mental health support on Kooth support during the summer holidays!

Visit go.kooth.com/sRw9 for more.

You're not alone - Kooth are still available to access during the summer holiday period.

If you or someone you know needs extra mental wellbeing support during the holiday season, Kooth are here.

Go to go.kooth.com/sRw9 for more.

We can all feel a little lonely now and then. It's ok to reach out for support!

Find resources, podcasts and articles on Kooth during the holiday season or speak to a practitioner.

Go to go.kooth.com/sRw9 to find support today.

The team at Kooth are still available during the holiday season to provide mental wellbeing support.

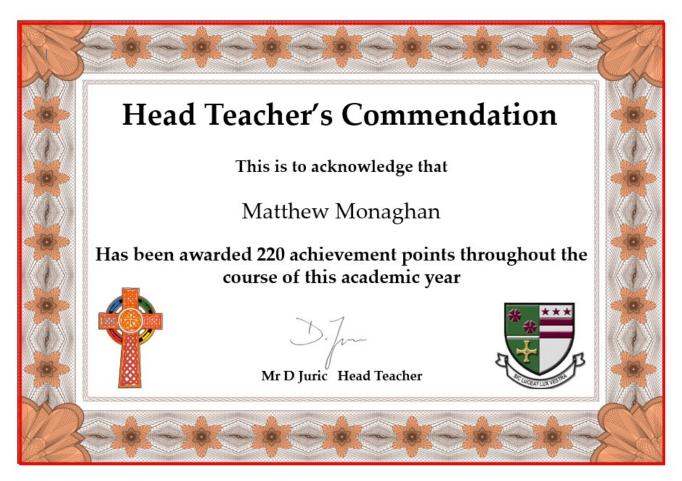
If you or someone you know is struggling to cope, visit <u>go.kooth.com/sRw9</u> for free and anonymous support.



You are not alone this summer

Find support on kooth.com





Matthew Monaghan in 8W3 has been awarded 220 achievement points throughout the course of this academic year. This is a superb achievement from Matthew.

The House totals up to Monday 18th July 2022 were:

St Cuthbert Durham: 10305

St Godric Finchale: 12515

St Aidan Lindisfarne: 11428

St Hilda Whitby: 12462