



As we enter the season of Lent, our school community is invited to reflect, pray, and prepare our hearts for Easter. Lent is a time when we focus on simplicity, prayer, and acts of service. You will notice that our liturgical colour has changed to purple, symbolising penance, reflection, and hope. In our Lent collective worship this week, we listened to the account from Matthew's Gospel of Jesus' 40 days in the desert. As Jesus spent time in prayer and overcame challenges with faith, our pupils were invited to reflect on their own journey. We ended with a powerful question for each of us: "Who are you serving this Lent?"

This spirit of service was beautifully demonstrated by our CAFOD Young Leaders, who organised and ran a Shrove Tuesday pancake sale to raise funds for their chosen project. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and commitment to supporting global communities in need were truly inspiring. Thank you to everyone who supported the event, your generosity will help make a real difference

At the same time, we recognise that some members of our school community have also entered the month of Ramadan, a sacred period of fasting, prayer, and generosity for our Muslim families. Both Lent and Ramadan, though different in practice and belief, invite people to pause, reflect, and grow spiritually. They encourage acts of kindness, self-discipline, and care for others, values that unite us as a community built on respect and compassion.

As a Catholic school, we cherish opportunities like this to celebrate what makes our community diverse and to recognise the shared values that bring us together. Thank you for supporting your children as they take meaningful steps on their Lenten and for some, Ramadan journey.

Mrs Whitten Headteacher

>>> PUPILS OF THE WEEK

Cycle 2 Week 8

James Iley (7A)

James is a key member of our History Club and brings along his excellent own knowledge to each and every session. His enjoyment for the subject, along with his ever-growing confidence, is a true testament to his endeavour to learn.

Alfie Newcombe (8C)

Alfie, this past week you have been exceptional. You are involved in everything going on in the class and your positivity is giving others the confidence to be their best.

Dindu Anagboso (9A)

This year, Dindu has absolutely thrown himself into History. His enthusiasm and commitment to improving has demonstrated a true fulfilment of our St Aidan Standards.

Donald Odiwanor (9C)

Donald has displayed excellent passion for History within lessons and continues to produce an excellent standard of work. Well done!





>>> PUPILS OF THE WEEK

Cycle 2 Week 9

Evan Delaney (7B), Shiloh Onimole (7B)

Nominated for delivering a wonderful examen to 7B.

Efan Oakley (7B), Aaron Browell (7B)

Nominated for leading fluency Friday with intent and confidence.

Milo Harbord (8F), Victory Amadasun (8C) and Cooper Dolman (8F)

Nominated for their excellent production of WW1 propaganda recruitment posters in history. Well done – hard work pays off.

ACHIEVEMENT POINTS TO DATE: 45319 (AV: 49.2 PER PERSON)

>>> WORD OF THE WEEK

Cycle 2 Week 8:

Advocacy (noun). Ad/vo/ca/cy

Etymology: From Latin *advocare* meaning “to call to one’s aid.”

Definition: Public support for or recommendation of a cause or policy.

Example: Malala’s advocacy for girls’ education changed global perspectives on equality as seen in ‘*I am Malala*’.

Cycle 2 Week 9:

Apparition (noun). A/ppa/ri/tion

Etymology: From Latin *apparitio* meaning “appearance.”

Definition: A ghost or ghostlike image of a person.

Example: The apparition in ‘*The Woman in Black*’ haunts Arthur Kipps relentlessly.

>>> YEAR 11 GCSE EXAMINATIONS COUNTDOWN

81

DAYS UNTIL

**GCSE EXAMS
BEGIN**





Cycle 2 Week 8

Make a list of new things you want to do this month, add something positive to your routine.

Cycle 2 Week 9

Share with a friend something helpful you recently learned, help them to be better.

NATIONAL CROSS COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Three of our boys travelled to Essex for the NABGC National Cross Country Champions and they all delivered an excellent performance!

Ryan Britton came 1st in the U13 group, Theo Paxton came second in the U13 group, and along with another, they won the national team award for Durham County U13s.

Aidan Owens was 1st in the U15 group and with two other boys, won the national team award for Durham County U15s.

Well done to all of the boys!



>>> GT CUP CHAMPIONSHIP RACING



CATHOLIC LIFE

Congratulations to Charlie Benson (11B) who has signed a contract with 24/7 Motorsport to drive in the GT cup this year.

This is a huge achievement as Charlie will also make series history as the youngest competitor to race in the GT Cup Championship. He is driving in the Ginetta class in a V8 engine car, completing race rounds including Silverstone and Brands Hatch.

We would like to wish Charlie the very best of luck!!



>>> YR 8 SCIENCE - STATIC ELECTRICITY

Our Yr 8 students have been learning about the science and sometimes hair raising effects of static electricity!!



>>> CYBER-BULLYING AWARENESS APP



CATHOLIC LIFE

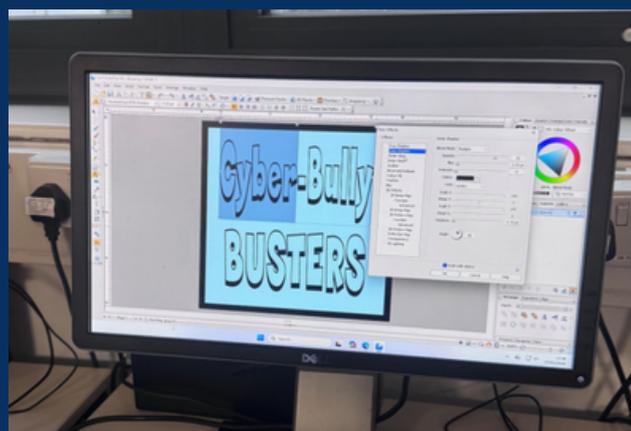
Students are designing their own professional-looking icons and logos to be used in the cyberbullying awareness app they are developing

Using graphic design software, they are experimenting with colour gradients, text effects, shadows and layouts to make their designs eye-catching and easy to recognise.

The images below show students:

- **Choosing bold colour schemes** to make their logo stand out on a mobile device.
- **Adding typographic effects** such as shadows, outlines and highlights to give depth and impact to their lettering.
- **Positioning and aligning text** to ensure their icons are balanced and readable.
- **Exploring different design ideas**, such as “Cyber-Bully Busters,” “NBA – No Bullying Association,” and “Cyber Safe,” reflecting the aims of their app.
- **Developing branding skills**, thinking about how an app icon communicates purpose, identity and message at a glance.

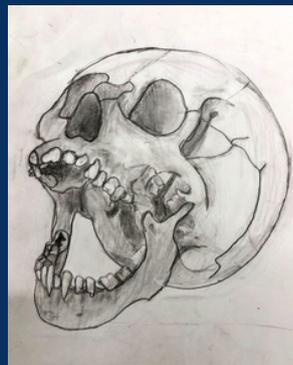
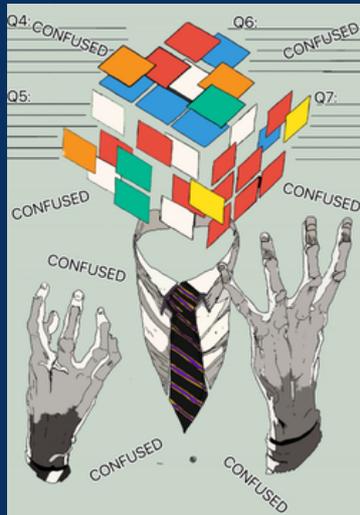
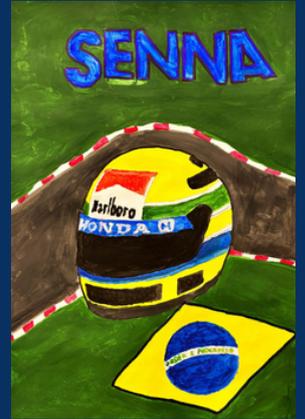
These icons will later be exported and placed into the final app interface as part of their digital product development work.



ARTBYTES COMPETITION



Our Y9's submitted work for this years ArtBytes Competition and we have had some fantastic work submitted, demonstrating the creativity and hard work or students are capable of. This is a little sneak peak of the finalists who will have their work on display in our online gallery. Keep an eye out for the link to our school page which we will be sharing as soon as it goes live. Well done Y9, amazing work!



ST AIDAN'S ROBOTICS TEAM



CATHOLIC LIFE

The STACA robotics team competed in the regionals at Nissan Washington.

Their preparation was evident as they won the driver skills part of the competition and came third overall out of nineteen schools competing.

They were outstanding ambassadors for the school and made friends on the way. Well done boys!



THE FUTURE IS YOURS - SKILLS PROGRAM



CATHOLIC LIFE

VACANCY - EXAM INVIGILATORS

We have an opening for Casual Exam Invigilators. We are seeking reliable, calm and professional individuals to join our team of Exam Invigilators.

This role is essential to ensure that examinations are conducted in accordance with school and awarding body regulations, helping to create a supportive and fair environment for all candidates.

To apply please complete the application form and accompanying forms which are available from the school or trust website.

<https://bccet.org.uk/job-vacancies/exam-invigilator>

Closing date: 30th March 2026





CAFOD Young Leader are raising awareness and fundraising for floating gardens in Bangladesh.

We are raising money to support the Floating Gardens project in Bangladesh.

In some parts of the world there is too little rain; in Bangladesh, there is often far too much. The result, however, is the same: seeds fail to grow, crops are destroyed, and families go hungry.

With the support of charities, communities in Bangladesh are creating floating gardens—special beds that rise with the floodwaters. These gardens allow families to grow enough food to eat and to sell, helping them earn a stable living. Each year, new floating beds must be built so they do not rot. Once the seedlings are strong enough, they are planted into these beds, which are then guided down canals into the wetlands.

We are asking for your help.

Please consider making a donation through Arbor payments (CAFOD) so we can buy seeds for the floating gardens. The payment system is open to all parents and carers.

Thank you for your generosity and support.
CAFOD Young Leaders

➤➤➤ **SUNDERLAND CITY SEARCH FOR A STAR COMPETITION**

We are delighted to announce St Aidan's second entry into the Sunderland City Search for a Star Competition. The boys pictured have committed to early morning rehearsals each week in the lead up to the competition and are sounding great!



»»» GENERAL REMINDERS



CATHOLIC LIFE

ABSENCE REPORTING

Parents are required to call the student absence line each day to report any absence. Please dial the main school number and select Option 1.

Please ensure that you provide your child's full name, form group and a reason for the absence.

PASS OUT REQUESTS

Pass Out requests should be emailed to contactus@staca.co.uk. Please include your child's full name, form, date, reason for the Pass Out and collection/leaving time.

Parents will receive an email to confirm that the Pass Out has been completed.

Students need to collect their Pass Out slips from the Student Support office prior to their appointment. They should present the slip to their class teacher at the time stated on the Pass Out and make their way to the Main Reception.

»»» DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 23rd February 2026 to Friday 27rd February 2026

Half term holiday.

Monday 2nd March 2026

School re opens - 08.25am.

Friday 6th March 2026

Anti-Bullying Team Coffee Morning (9-10am)

Tuesday, 17th March 2026

Yr 9 Pathways Evening

Thursday 2nd April 2026

School closes for Easter holidays - 12pm

Friday 3rd April 2026 to Friday 17th April 2026

Easter Holidays

Monday 20th April 2026

School re-opens - 08.25am

