



BISHOP BEWICK

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

SUMMER 2024



St Mary's Catholic School

One Trust, One Family
A great education has the power to transform lives

An update from the Chief Executive...



Anita Bath

Summer 2024 marks the second year of Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust coming together as one community of 39 schools. It's certainly been a very busy time and there is much to celebrate. When the decision was taken to bring all our Catholic schools together, we agreed that we would work together to support all our schools to provide the very best education and opportunities for our children. There are so many examples of how this has been happening and the impact of schools working together as one. Many of the articles in this edition of our newsletter highlight some of the wonderful work being done in BBCET schools.

Since 2020 and the inception of our Trust, we've worked closely with schools needing support. We've developed really effective systems

to share and embed the very best practice into these schools, and the last year in particular has highlighted how well this is working. One way to see this in action is through the lens of Ofsted. We've had 25 inspections so far and the great news is that schools who were previously judged as Requires Improvement or Inadequate have now all moved to Good, some with Outstanding features. This work is ongoing and we will continue to work with all schools so that all Bishop Bewick schools provide truly transformative education that enables all our children to thrive and develop their unique skills.

All children deserve to attend schools where the buildings and environment are of great quality and show that their education is valued. Sadly, this has not always been the case with underfunding of the school estate over many years. However, as a result of being in a large Trust, our schools have had access to extra funding for their estates and many improvements have taken place. For example, many schools have had essential works carried out such as double glazing, or new boilers fitted. Other schools have benefited from extensive redevelopment of external areas or internal improvements. Hopefully, this funding will continue into the future and so many more children will see their school environments improve. I am delighted to add that our two schools that were impacted by RAAC are now in the process of being rebuilt.

Finally, one great advantage of being in a Trust is the opportunities provided for staff to develop their skills and work with colleagues. Again, over the past two years we've worked very creatively to provide many opportunities for staff. Across our schools, curriculum leaders meet regularly to improve their subject areas and develop resources for staff. There is now a very high-quality bank of CPD and curriculum resources available to staff that can be accessed through the Trust website. Our SENCOs have attended network meetings where they can share the best and most up to date advice on supporting children with additional needs. In July schools are sending their Teaching Assistants and HLTAs to a professional development event which will be a fantastic day for all concerned. This will be a great opportunity to meet colleagues from other schools for the first time. Finally, high quality middle and senior leadership courses are on offer that are preparing the next generation of leaders.

There is still much to do, but we believe our coming together is an exciting opportunity to harness the best of us and embed this within our schools. Ultimately, we want to inspire our children and their families with a real sense of opportunity about the education they are experiencing, and fill them with expectations for exciting futures, where they can thrive and become the people they are meant to be.

Anita Bath

Message from our Chair of Trustees...

Bishop Bewick Trust has 39 schools with over 1900 staff, 350 governors and 13,000 pupils, which means we have access to a huge wealth of resources and potential that help improve education and opportunities as we integrate and continue to work together. Our breadth and depth of talent and diversity across each school leads to a dynamic, successful and continuous model of improvement. Trustees witness this success in various ways, either through board meetings, school improvement support, Ofsted visits, as well as when we get to see the amazing work of pupils directly, for instance, the recent Catenian Public Speaking Competition.

Trustees not only have high expectations for school outcomes but also for our school buildings to ensure pupils and staff are working in the best possible conditions. We have emerging projects that aim to advance the teaching profession within our Trust and we are looking to support governance in a more engaging way. Whilst we are still only a young Trust, each step we take helps consolidate what we have already learned to build a more cohesive community that will benefit pupils in all of our schools for many years to come. I would like to offer a huge thank you, on behalf of the Trustees, to our families, pupils, governors, senior leaders, teaching staff and support staff who are bringing our vision to life day by day.



David Harrison

Update from our Speech and Language Therapists...

Nicola Head, Ellen Fleetwood, Gemma East

We are the Speech and Language Therapists for the Trust and we are enjoying this new and exciting role. Speech, Language and Communication skills are important life skills. They are the foundations for literacy, learning, and social and emotional development. Lots of children need help with these skills, particularly in the Early Years, and on average 10% of children will need longer term support in this area.

During the Spring and Summer term we have been busy visiting schools to build on the support and actions agreed in the first part of the year, delivering training sessions for staff, and supporting them to choose screening and targeted interventions that would work well in their school. We are already noticing an impact in schools who are using screening tools to assess children's understanding of spoken language. Early identification in this area helps to ensure the best support and outcomes for children. We are developing family workshops to promote opportunities to share information alongside our schools. Families have already asked us about book sharing at home.

Here is a link that you might find useful if you are interested in this area.



Nicola Head, Ellen Fleetwood, Gemma East

We presented our, 'Using Visual supports in the Early Years' alongside school staff to showcase examples of excellent practice in our schools. As a result, schools are planning to strengthen their use of visuals such as objects, pictures, gestures and signs which we know will have a huge impact in the classroom.

Below is a link to further information about why visual supports are so useful.



We have also enjoyed opportunities to deliver bespoke training sessions in several of our schools, supporting staff to identify and support children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs and raising awareness of Developmental Language Disorder.

We are looking forward to continuing our work with schools next academic year where we will celebrate Developmental Language Disorder awareness day, No Pens Wednesday, focus on bilingual and multilingual learners and supporting children in Key stage 2.

Estates Project: St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy set for a new Sixth Form Block...

We are thrilled to announce that the construction of our new £2.4m Sixth Form building is set to start on site this summer. This innovative building has been designed by Howard Litchfield Architects, delivered by Brims Construction, will provide an exceptional educational experience, enhancing both the academic and personal development offer at St Benet's.

The new building will have two state-of-the-art classrooms that double as assembly and conference spaces. These multifunctional rooms will provide a versatile environment for high-quality teaching, large gatherings, and special events.

There is also a dedicated study area, providing a conducive environment for revision, research, and collaborative projects,



together with a café space and pastoral offices. Our new Sixth Form building aims to create an environment where students feel a genuine sense of belonging and is the next milestone in our ambitious plan to grow and strengthen St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy.

The Sixth Form is due for completion by Easter 2025.

Ofsted Updates: Secondary...

St Cuthbert's Catholic High School celebrates its latest inspection: Good in all categories



In February 2024 St Cuthbert's was inspected by Ofsted. We are delighted to report that all the work undertaken by our staff and pupils was formally acknowledged and our school has now been judged to be 'Good' in all areas of the Ofsted framework.

As Ofsted rightly recognised, the school has been through a period of intense change and the response from the boys has been one of positivity and pride. 'Pupils are proud of the journey of improvement since the last inspection.' Staff across the school, both teachers and support staff, have helped to improve the school for the benefit of the boys. From the relentless focus on improving the curriculum to a carefully planned bespoke personal development programme, from the development of a strong pastoral team, to personalised interventions for pupils; it is clear that significant improvements have been made. A transformation has truly taken place.

These improvements received further recognition in April, when the Catholic Schools Inspectorate visited the school

and staff were praised as '...exceptional witnesses to the gospel within a vibrant Catholic community.' The report affirmed that 'Pastoral care and inclusion are exemplary. Staff go the extra mile for the most vulnerable and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Every decision is made in service to and in the best interests of the boys.' Inspectors were able to witness and affirm that 'St Cuthbert's is a joyful community, rooted in faith where staff live out the mission to form great men.'

The central and supportive role of the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust in the school's improvement journey cannot be underestimated. The Trust's vision that we intend to be 'greater than the sum of our parts' has led to a powerful and transformative collaboration. The school has improved and the whole school community is the better for it.

Reflecting on the inspection outcome and the impressive progress that the school community has made, Mr Murray, Headmaster said: "It is a moment of great pride to have the dedication and determination of every member of the school community formally recognised. A lot has changed in the last few years and



there are undoubtedly more changes to come. However, a vision comes first, and I am delighted that the inspectors were able to clearly see and acknowledge that the boys benefit from the school's vision of 'forming great men!'



Primary...

Ofsted inspections have been a regular occurrence across Bishop Bewick schools this year. Whilst they are always extremely challenging, they are also opportunities to validate and celebrate the work of our schools. Our most recently published reports from 2024 describe schools where all children thrive as individuals and are taught by highly skilled staff who deliver a carefully crafted and ambitious curriculum.



ENGLISH MARTYRS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

English Martyrs' continues to be Good...

'Children experience a very positive start to their education in the early years at this school. They settle into the routines and rhythms of school life quickly. Their language skills blossom under the guidance of the welcoming staff. Pupils are happy at work and play in this calm, orderly and caring school.' 'The school has developed curriculums in which the knowledge and vocabulary that pupils must learn are sequenced carefully. Many curriculums, such as those for mathematics and geography, are well established.'

'Pupils thrive at English Martyrs'. They benefit from the many roles of responsibility, such as librarians, school councillors and house captains, that they hold.'



St. Mark's PRIMARY SCHOOL ST MARK'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Mark's continues to be Good...

'St Mark's Catholic Primary School is a happy and caring community. Relationships between staff and pupils are a strength. All staff model behaviour expectations consistently. Pupils understand these expectations.' 'Leaders are passionate that all pupils have the best possible start in education.'

'There has been a period of rapid change in the last academic year to improve standards in all areas of the school. These changes include more ambitious curriculums for mathematics and phonics. The guidance for teachers in these subjects is making teaching more consistent. It is improving the quality of pupils' education.'



ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Paul's continues to be Good...

'Pupils at this school exemplify the school's 'RESPECT' values, which include resilience, empathy and positivity.'

'Pupils are proud to be part of the school family. They are happy and confident.'

Pupils have positive attitudes to their learning. Pupils enjoy lessons and engage well with their learning. Leaders have crafted a curriculum tailored to the local area. This helps to make pupils' learning relevant and exciting.'

'Leaders at St Paul's have very high expectations of pupils.'



St. George's CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St George's graded Good with outstanding features...

'Pupils thrive at St George's...They are happy and kept safe. The culture of the school is built on kindness.'

'Classrooms are calm and focused places to learn.'

'Leaders have improved the curriculum across the full range of subjects. The curriculum sets out what pupils will learn from the Early Years to Year 6. The knowledge and skills that pupils will learn, and revisit, are mapped out in well defined steps. Pupils learn important vocabulary that they can use in context when talking about the subject.'

'The curriculum supports pupils to be confident, resilient and independent. Pupils have many opportunities to broaden their understanding of the world around them.'



ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Bede's graded Good in all areas...

'The school strives to make all pupils and families feel welcome as valued members of the school community.' 'The school supports pupils well, so that most pupils meet the high expectations set by the school. Pupils typically achieve well in most subjects.'

'Subject curriculums set out the important knowledge and vocabulary that pupils must learn from Reception to Year 6. The school's approach to developing language through reading, enables pupils who speak English as an additional language to access the ambitious curriculum.'



ST ALBAN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Alban's continues to be Good...

'St Alban's Catholic Primary School is a safe and happy place for its pupils. Pupils relish coming to school.'

'The quality of pupils' education is a high priority in the school. The school commits to enhancing pupils' life choices. Pupils experience learning across a broad range of subjects. Pupils are also taught to read effectively. This helps them take advantage of the ambitious curriculum the school provides.'

'Teachers and support staff ensure that they teach the curriculum well. In lessons, teachers provide clear explanations for pupils.'

'Leaders make sure pupils experience a wide range of enrichment activities.'



ST JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St John Vianney graded Good in all areas...

'St John Vianney Primary School prepares pupils to be confident, lifelong learners. It effectively supports pupils' social and emotional well-being, which ensures pupils are ready to learn.'

'The staff who lead curriculum improvements are passionate, knowledgeable and equipped to develop their subjects further.'

'The school ensures each subject is well planned and sequenced. The school has considered the essential knowledge and skills that pupils need to know from Nursery to Year 6.'



STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Star of the Sea continues to be Good...

'Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School is an inclusive and welcoming school. Relationships between pupils and staff are caring and strong.'

'The school has carefully constructed a broad and ambitious curriculum for most subjects, based on the national curriculum...learning is carefully planned so that pupils build their subject knowledge and skills sequentially over time.'

'The school promotes pupils' personal development very effectively. Pupils benefit from the many enrichment activities offered by school.'

Meet a Chair of Governors...

Sarah Bell



My Governance Experience...

I have been a foundation governor for 19 years for St Teresa's Primary School in Newcastle. My background is as a university lecturer and solicitor. I became a governor because the parish priest asked me to, although I had no experience of governance at all. My experience of primary education was my own education, and then my children's attendance at the same primary school.

In the beginning, I was very confused by educational jargon and the purpose of meetings, and confused about what I was actually contributing. I went on as much Newcastle City Council governance training as I could, which I found really helpful in de-mystifying education terminology and enlightening me as to the purpose of meetings.

What motivates me as a governor is the belief that a good education can make a significant difference to a child's life. Whilst our recent Ofsted report described the governor contribution to the school in two very understated lines, I believe that good governance is, in fact, absolutely essential for the flourishing of the school, which makes that significant difference.

Whilst there is a lot of giving as a governor, I wouldn't do it if I didn't get something back! I have been challenged to grow and develop as a governor in many ways. I have learnt a great deal about strategic planning, budget scrutiny and staff development; as well as a real appreciation for the strong foundation which a good primary school education provides – something that it is too often taken for granted. St Teresa's was judged Outstanding in their recent Ofsted report.

If you are interested in becoming a governor, please contact enquiries@bishopbewickcet.org

We have lift off at St Paul's...

Earlier this year pupils from St Paul's (Alnwick) and St Stephen's (Longbenton) enjoyed an out of this world experience when they got to spend time with a former astronaut Charles (Sam) Germar.

The space themed STEM programme which

took place over three days place at St Paul's was organised by the schools science lead, Donna Newton. Pupils enjoyed taking part in interstellar activities including designing robot arms, making space helmets, eating space food and a Q&A session.

"Great fun was had by all, but the lasting message was 'Huge dreams and commitment'," added Mrs McInnes. "Sam inspired everyone to aspire to outsized,

remarkable ambitions, but also instilled the work ethic and dedication to the required work to achieve those dreams."

Sam ended with the question, 'Which one of you is going to be the first one to walk on Mars?' and all the hands shot up in answer.

You can read more about the visit here, diocesehn.org.uk/news/alnwick-pupils-over-the-moon-at-astronaut-visit



And we shall teach Rock...to the world!

St Thomas More Catholic High School

On Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th March, pupils from St Thomas More returned to the stage for the first time since Covid, with the epic tale of Dewey Finn and his class of misfits, battling to stick it to the man through the medium of Rock & Roll.

Brooke Pyle, Year 13, reports:

"School Of Rock is our first musical production since Covid. Despite this, the spark and energy injected into the entire process by the staff and continued through the students has been truly exciting.

The musical has allowed students from Year 7 to Year 13 to unite in the school community through a joint love and passion for singing, dancing and acting.

Weekly after-school rehearsals have formed new friendships, allowed for musical and acting development but most importantly, a drive to come into school every day and engage with opportunities offered. The motivation and energy beacons from School Of Rock has been extended into other studies within school, positively impacting the students and their engagement with school. Individuals involved have truly shone, highlighting the immense talent of the students. The dedication from those involved is something to be recognised and has been reflected by the positive reaction from the audience, and praise from each other. Staff including Mrs Sinclair, Ms Hodgson, Mrs Gleeson, Mr Jones, Mr Chidambaram, Mrs Diamond and Michael must be praised for their time and hard work to support our new multi-year group extended family."



"I've discovered that I love acting and being on stage. The whole cast have grown so close to the point where we are like one big family! This experience has shown me what my true potential is, and I take pride in this. I had an amazing night!"

- Helena Cameron

"Being on stage is exciting and scary, but when everyone feels the same it makes it so much better. I know the friends I have made will stick, and the growth in my confidence will always be a reminder of School of Rock!"

- Daisy Bamford

"It was an emotional rollercoaster with its ups and downs, but I have made plenty of new friends and most of them aren't even in my year group! I can't wait to see what will happen next year!"

- Max Milburn



School Collaboration: Bishop Bewick Primary Choir. *Stacey Riley*

In an exemplary demonstration of talent and unity, 16 of our primary schools collaborated to perform and record a song, *A Prayer for Humility*, for use across our schools during the Lenten period. This extraordinary event highlighted not only the exceptional musical talents of our students but also the exceptional results that collaborative projects can achieve.

The preparation for a successful day was a testament to dedication and teamwork. Students diligently learned their individual parts at their respective schools, culminating in an extraordinary morning which allowed everything to come together seamlessly. The children exhibited remarkable discipline, self-control,

resilience, bravery, concentration and behaviour. Their engagement was exemplary and commitment palpable, resulting in a performance that exceeded all expectations.

The rehearsals and recording took place at St Alban's. The day began with a series of welcome games and singing activities designed to break down barriers and ease any initial awkwardness among the children. This approach fostered an atmosphere of joy and laughter that continued throughout the day, creating a warm and inclusive environment. The initial sing-through evoked a strong emotional response, eliciting goosebumps, a few misty eyes from those listening and smiles and excited chatter from the children themselves.

The exclamation, "This is the best day of my

life!" was heard from several children, with staff commenting, "I cannot believe how professional and beautiful it sounds already!"

After lunch, the children were able to experience the professional recording process by North Shields recording studio, Traxx, who ensured a polished and professional final product. The outcome was nothing short of spectacular, a testament to the high standards and quality our students are capable of achieving.

The benefits of communal singing extend far beyond the immediate joy of music-making. Research consistently shows that singing together fosters positive relationships, a sense of connection, and an inclusive community spirit. It instils a profound sense of satisfaction, capability, and the thrill of achievement. Moreover, the mental health benefits are substantial: communal singing reduces stress by lowering cortisol levels while boosting oxytocin, which enhances feelings of trust and bonding, reducing anxiety. Music is a vital component of a well-rounded education, offering far more than just an artistic outlet. It nurtures creativity, enhances cognitive abilities, and fosters emotional well-being. Investment in musical opportunities is an investment in the future of our children within the Trust, equipping them with skills and experiences that will serve them throughout their lives.

The success of this Lenten song project is a shining example of the extraordinary potential of our students when given the opportunity to shine. We are immensely proud of their hard work and dedication, and the outstanding performance they delivered. You can view the performance via the Bishop Bewick website: www.bishopbewickcet.org



School Collaboration: St Oswald's pupils brush up on their Spanish and French as well as their cookery skills at Sacred Heart High.

Children in Year 5 from St Oswald's visited Sacred Heart High School on Thursday 2nd of May for a fantastic Modern Foreign Languages and Food Technology 'taster' day!

They took part in lots of different workshops, including a general knowledge and culture class for both France and Spain. A particular highlight for many of the children was when we worked in the Food Technology classrooms. The children made a traditional French meal, and took part in a 'Cuisine from around the world' taster session, in which they were able to explore different countries' traditional dishes, expressing their opinions on them all. Their culinary expertise was tested to the limits when they were asked to produce a 'Croque monsieur'!

The children were made to feel at ease and engaged brilliantly with all of the staff, both asking and answering a number of probing questions! The children loved exploring and enjoying elements of the curriculum that we are not always able to experience in a primary school setting and were keen to share all that they had learned when they came back to St Oswald's.

"I loved the cooking because it was one of the first times I've used an oven and it tasted amazing!" Poppy, Year 5.



School Collaboration: Heritage Heroes at St Cuthbert's, Kenton and St George's, Lemington

Alasdair Bright
(History and Geography Subject leader at St Cuthbert's, Kenton)

Gillian Ellin
(History and Geography Subject Leader at St George's, Lemington)



In the Autumn term of 2022, St Cuthbert's (Kenton) and St George's, were brought together successfully in partnership under the leadership of our Executive Headteacher, Anne Bullerwell.

At the heart of our success lies the ethos of striving for excellence in everything we do through our school-to-school partnership work. As part of our Quality of Education focus, our subject leaders have worked tirelessly to support each other in developing and improving teaching and learning across the whole curriculum at both schools. Through regular meetings, the sharing of expertise, ideas and resources, and fostering a culture of creative initiative and innovation, we have cultivated a beneficial partnership which has impacted positively on both our schools.

One such initiative is the introduction of our 'Heritage Heroes' student leadership teams. These teams of students, drawn

from both schools, have taken on the responsibility of championing our local heritage through various projects and initiatives, including joint school trips, local heritage-focused activities, and partnerships with national organisations such as English Heritage and more locally, Newcastle Libraries' Heritage Department.

Crucially, the work of our Heritage Heroes has been mainly about improving the learning experiences in History and Geography in both schools. As such, our Heritage Heroes actively contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of History and Geography in both schools, taking the lead in activities such as learning walks and pupil conferencing.

Through our partnership work we have also developed local heritage topics for each class at both schools, enriching the curriculum with meaningful and relevant content giving the children a real understanding of their historical and cultural heritage.

Our schools have worked together more recently to focus on St George's in its pursuit of English Heritage's prestigious 'Heritage School' Accreditation, an award which St Cuthbert's proudly achieved in July 2023. This not only reflects our commitment to promoting local heritage education but our goal to achieve a world class education at both schools.

We are looking forward to building more partnership work in other subjects and providing children across both schools with many opportunities for personal development and growth.



School Success Story: St Robert's back in the National Gallery in London for the Take One Picture campaign!

Alice Butler, Art Lead

Take One Picture is the National Gallery's programme for primary schools, which aims to inspire a lifelong love of art and learning. Every year, they select a picture from the collection to inspire cross-curricular work in primary classrooms.

At St Robert's we have embedded the Take One Picture Project in our curriculum and all classes respond to the chosen artwork during our Art Week in September. The 2022-2023 picture was 'Surprised' a painting by Henri Rousseau.

Children in Year 1 found the tiger in the painting fascinating. They closely examined his face and tried to decide how he was feeling. The children considered whether he was being hunted or if he was the hunter. In the end they decided he was being hunted. They wanted to hunt their own tigers in the playground so they made binoculars out of toilet roll tubes and set about looking for wild animals outside! Once they had enjoyed a good look around, they thought about how it might have felt to find a tiger prowling in the yard. They then used crayons to draw faces onto templates to try and show how they might have felt if they had actually found a tiger. We used plastic cups to add the binoculars to our pictures.

This year the gallery received an extraordinary number of submissions from schools hoping that their work would be considered for the annual exhibition in London, so we were extremely proud to have our work shortlisted. We were both surprised and delighted when we found out that we had been selected to be part of the exhibition. 12 of the children's artworks are now at the National Gallery in London and will be exhibited during August as part of the gallery's Take One Picture exhibition.



School Success Story: St Stephen's

St Stephen's Premier League Football Stars

It's been a great season for the girls' football team at St Stephen's Catholic Primary School with many successes to be proud of, none more so than representing Newcastle United at the Premier League Primary Stars competition, after qualifying from a pool of 96 teams across the North East.

The reward for their efforts was a trip to London and to play in the national finals at the home of premier league side, Brentford FC. The team travelled in style there and back using the Newcastle United team coach which also involved an overnight stay in a hotel. However, the 'pampering' didn't stop there as the girls were provided with the brand new Adidas Newcastle United kit to wear in the final ties.

In terms of the football, St Stephen's were drawn in a group with teams representing West Ham, Burnley, Aston Villa and Fulham. The standard of play was high and extremely competitive but, after winning three ties and drawing one, our team topped their group along with Burnley, which was a fantastic achievement. Sadly, instead of a penalty shoot out, we were eliminated on the 'fair points' rule which was desperately disappointing. Nevertheless, the girls had a tremendously enjoyable experience, returning home unbeaten and with lots of happy memories having flown the flag for Newcastle United and St Stephen's.



School Success Story: St Michael's

United Kingdom Task Master Champions

The Year 5 pupils at St Michael's have been working with the Law School at Newcastle University on a School Tasking programme, in association with the Channel 4 comedy show Taskmaster. 30 universities from across the UK and Ireland participated in the project.

In School Tasking, the participating Year 5 class were split into teams of six pupils to compete against each other and other local schools from across the region. During the in-school sessions, the pupils were introduced to some of the most interesting areas of law and were tasked with activities to practise key skills, such as teamwork, communication and lateral thinking. Just as in the TV show, Taskmaster, School Tasking provides the opportunity for all children to shine based on their own talents and skills.

Two groups from St Michael's made it through the qualifying rounds at Newcastle University to the School Tasking regional final, with one team winning the North East competition. The St Michael's winning team travelled to Warwick University to compete

against other regional winners at the national finals. Despite the high standards across all areas and phases of the competition, St Michael's were crowned as the United Kingdom Task Master champions in front of a crowd of over 1,000 people.



Catenian Public Speaking Competition 2024

Bishop Bewick pupils took part once again in this year's Catenian Public Speaking Competition. This is a great opportunity for children to learn about the important art of public speaking and to push their own personal boundaries. To enable as many children as possible to benefit from public speaking we held two internal rounds of judging for the Year 6 competition.

The first round consisted of pupils submitting their speeches on a video. The panel then selected six pupils to present their speeches in front of live audience which included pupils, family and friends and representatives of the Trust. These pupils were Florrie from St Oswald's, Fin from St Columba's, Summer from St Paul's, Shyheim from St Lawrence's, Flynn from St Teresa's and Darcey from St Mary's, Cullercoats. It was a tough decision for the judges as all six pupils displayed confidence and passion, but after much deliberation Flynn with his speech Care Givers was chosen to represent Bishop Bewick in the Catenian Grand Final to be held in Hartlepool.

Flynn thought of the idea for his speech Care Givers, having been inspired by a family member - his Grandma. Flynn delivered his speech with maturity on the day of the final, showing great calmness in front of a large audience. His passion for the subject shining through. Flynn was chosen as runner-up, a remarkable achievement and one he, his family and the school are very proud of - well done Flynn. Commenting on the experience, Flynn said, "I really enjoyed representing my school in the speaking competition, it was a little scary speaking in front of so many

people, but it gave me the confidence to know that I can do it."

St Teresa's Headteacher, Vinny Turner, commented, "The public speaking competition is a great opportunity for many children to test themselves and really push themselves out of their comfort zone, whilst also giving them the chance to work on key skills at a young age, hopefully taking great confidence in the process."

We also enjoyed success in the post 16 category with Poppy Watkins from Sacred Heart Catholic High School winning first place with her speech, Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Women in Political Leadership around the Globe. Poppy is now heading to the Nationals in Manchester in September.

Well done Poppy!



Apprenticeships at Bishop Bewick...

Bishop Bewick prides itself on providing the best start in education for all of our pupils, and over the last three years we have also supported a number of apprenticeships within our Trust, with numbers doubling between 2023 and 2024. Apprenticeships are a form of work-based learning where individuals, known as apprentices, combine on-the-job training with a structured learning programme.

Generally anyone over 16 can apply for an apprenticeship and it can be used for people early in their career, someone wishing to change their career or to upskill existing staff. We have seen a number of apprentices across the Trust successfully completing qualifications for many different roles including Early Years Practitioner, Senior Leader, Teaching Assistant and Business Administrator.

Apprenticeships are advertised via the following websites, www.bishopbewickcet.org/vacancies, www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/jobs-and-careers/all-jobs, and www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship.

Schools will also include apprenticeships on their individual school websites.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my first six months on the School Business Professional Apprenticeship Level 4. The monthly workshops have provided me with a deeper understanding of business operations and project management within the educational context, covering all areas of school business. The structure of the apprenticeship has enabled me to bridge the gap between theory and practical application in school business, and the support I have received from my academic tutor and line manager, Anna Hall, has been invaluable thus far. Furthermore, this apprenticeship fosters my professional growth and networking, as I collaborate with other professionals who share my passion for educational excellence and innovation, and I would highly recommend this apprenticeship to any other school business leader."

Rachel Dawson, Trust Central Team

"I am grateful to have been given the opportunity of a Level 3 Early Years Apprenticeship at Our Lady and St Anne's. Before I started my course, I was enrolled on a Health and Social Care course at Newcastle College. Whilst studying, I decided to volunteer as a Teaching Assistant at Our Lady and St Anne's and I found the ethos of the school to be extremely welcoming. My voluntary work was mainly based in Early Years, and I began to consider a change in my studies to work towards a qualification that would enable me to become an Early Years practitioner. My apprenticeship has equipped me with a range of new skills which I can use in my future employment. I have found that the mix of both practical and academic studies has enabled me to develop in both areas. I have particularly enjoyed the 'on the job' element of my training. I am pleased to say that I have recently applied for a Teaching Assistant role within Our Lady and St. Anne's and I am awaiting the outcome of my application."

Libby Justice, Our Lady and St Anne's



St Cuthbert's Catholic First School



BISHOP BEWICK

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST

Sacred Heart Catholic High School
Fenham Hall Drive, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE4 9YH
(0191) 816 3700 • enquiries@bishopbewickcet.org



St Cuthbert's Catholic First School