



ST CUTHBERT'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Quies in Caelo



“strive to make a difference in the lives of others”

Thank you for your interest in St Cuthbert's Catholic High School. When looking for a school for their child, every parent or carer seeks academic excellence, a wide range of vibrant co-curricular activities and a place where their son can truly belong. St Cuthbert's is such a place.

For over one hundred years, St Cuthbert's has been nurturing fine young men, preparing them to take their rightful place in the Church and in the world. We have provided our pupils and students with a challenging yet supportive environment within which to discover and develop their own God-given gifts. One of our distinguishing characteristics is the fact that we are a boys' school. We know from research that boys learn differently than girls, and we strongly believe that we are ideally situated to meet our pupils' learning needs through a balance of tradition and innovation, reflecting best practices in boys' learning.

At our centenary in 1981, the then headmaster wrote:

“The story of St Cuthbert's is an exciting and fascinating one. It has never been an ordinary school nor will it ever be so. It is no mere organisation but a living entity, changing and adapting when circumstances require it, holding firm and steadfast when a principle is at stake. The strength of its traditions does not lie in antiquated rituals or oft rehearsed anecdotes but in promoting a certain outlook on life, in firmness of purpose and in dedication to hard work, the pursuit of excellence and to the Catholic Faith. St Cuthbert's was founded by the clergy to offer a Catholic education to the boys of Newcastle and the surrounding area. It has performed this duty since 1881 under the leadership, guidance, and direction of Catholic educators both lay and cleric alike.”

We continue to offer a high-quality Catholic education to boys of all faiths and none.

The St Cuthbert's experience is so much more than a comprehensive education. We strive to challenge our pupils to become young men of integrity, educated in faith and for justice. In keeping with the finest traditions of Catholic education, we strive to form young men of competence, conscience, compassion and commitment. Above all, St Cuthbert's prepares young men to find their God-given calling and answer it with energy and passion. In our school, in our local community and around the world, our young men serve, lead, and strive to make a difference in the lives of others.

I look forward to welcoming you to St Cuthbert's Catholic High School.

Daniel P. Murray
Headmaster



*“In a gentle way, you
can shake the world”*

Mahatma Gandhi





Educating boys since 1881

The history of St Cuthbert's is a cause for genuine pride. Academic achievements and sporting successes in abundance are on record. Our former pupils grace all the professions and make a very valuable contribution to the life of the Church in many parts of the world. However, what is even more important is the number of our Old Boys who have become priests. Tribute must be paid to the many priests, some long passed, for the sacrifice and devotion they showed in their teaching careers at St Cuthbert's.

On the 16th August 1881, the Rt. Rev. James Chadwick, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, entered the premises of 62-64 Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, and proclaimed the opening of St Cuthbert's Grammar School. Because of its reputation and pleasant atmosphere, many notable personalities took an interest in the school. Sir Walter Selby, Col, Sir Francis Blake, Sir George Lunn, Sir Henry Newton, Lord Armstrong and even the Duke of Norfolk, were invited as guests of honour on Prize Days. In 1901, the Grammar School was favoured by a visit from Cardinal Vaughan. The school soon out grew its central location, the search begun for larger more suitable premises to the west of the city. Benwell Hill House, the home of the Westmacott family, came up for sale and was bought together with the grounds which extended to 28 acres. The new school was officially opened by Cardinal Bourne in September 1922.

From 1958 to 1972 Fr Cassidy became headmaster, under his leadership the school began a period of academic and site expansion such as it had not seen for over forty years. This period was one of outstanding sporting successes. Indeed, the dominance of St Cuthbert's in nearly every field of sport in these years gave it a reputation which it continues to uphold. Pupils, too numerous to mention all by name, represented the City of Newcastle or the County of Northumberland in the various branches of sport. Fr. M. Walsh was appointed as the next headmaster of the school. Like most of the priests there he was a Cambridge graduate. His main task as headmaster was to develop the academic potential of the school. By 1977 St Cuthbert's had a population of 1400 boys who were taught by over ninety staff.

In 2012, the school converted to Academy Status and on 1st December 2020, it joined the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust. The school continues to strive for a balance of tradition and innovation. The school has a proud history and an exciting future. It continues to build on the many successes of old Cuthbertians and prepare the young men in its care to take their rightful place in the Church and in the world. The school's motto 'Quies In Caelo' encourages all members of the school community to work for the greater glory of God and the common good. After all, you can 'rest in heaven' but for now, there is plenty of work to do.

"The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future"

Wendell Phillips



Ad majorem Dei gloriam

The life of St Cuthbert, the patron of our school and Diocese, inspires our Catholic life. As both a Prior and a Bishop, Cuthbert taught us that leadership involves showing care and commitment to those who you meet and also service of others.

Our Chapel is truly unique. It's circular design, based on Christ the King Cathedral, creates a sense of togetherness and equality, the stained glass windows take us through the eventful life of St Cuthbert and our officially documented reliquary contains the relics of saints such as St Philip Neri which bring the reality of sainthood into the present and serve as a focus for prayer and inspiration.

Pupils lead the prayer life of the school. This includes daily collective worship based on the liturgical calendar, regular Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and working with Blackfriars Partnership for sacramental preparation. pupil-led liturgies are celebrated weekly in our beautiful chapel alongside times of quiet reflection. We enable our pupils to be confident in their spirituality.

Faith in action is at the heart of our catholicity. We have recently sent donations to a parish in Zambia to buy Bibles for evangelisation, we regularly collect items for local foodbanks and we work closely with a local homeless charity 'The People's Kitchen.'

St Cuthbert was an environmentalist and is widely regarded as the world's first conservationist when he passed laws to protect the Eider ducks (or Cuddy ducks) on the Farne Islands. Our school's Green Team keep alive these principles in their care of nature and the poor. Our Green Team have recently achieved CAFOD's Live Simply Award for their dedication to living out the values of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*. Alongside this, the team grow fresh produce which is donated to those in need and have a partnership with The Little Sisters of the Poor care home. Sixth Form collect items for local foodbanks and support the work of CAFOD. All pupils in Years 7 and 8 will attempt to achieve St Cuthbert's bespoke Award in Catholic leadership, the Fortis Dux Award, which is based around the Gospel values of caring and commitment and has featured in the international Catholic magazine *The Tablet*.

We run a vibrant retreat programme for all year groups, including youth camps, youth festivals and national conferences. Each summer pupils undertake pilgrimages to Lourdes and Holy Island and a number of our pupils sit on the Diocesan Youth Council.

We work for greater glory of God.



*“Our Northern land of
changing skies which
blossomed in your care, is
blessed in your memory and
strengthened by your prayer”*

*From the hymn 'For St Cuthbert' written by priest,
poet and Old Boy, Mgr. Kevin Nichols.*



*“Community is where
humility and glory touch”*

Fr. Henri Nouwen



St. Aidan

STAND TALL
ACHIEVE GREATNESS



St. Bede

FORTES IN UNITATE
(Strength through Unity)



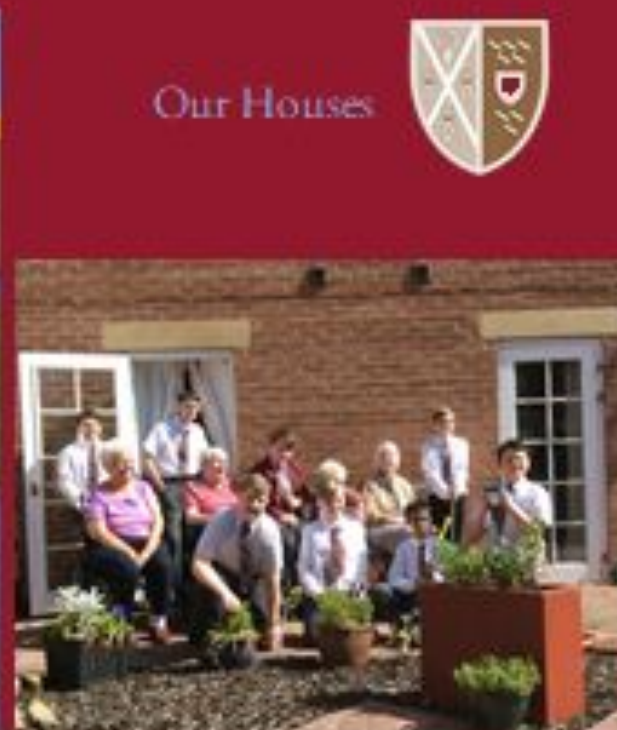
St. Hild

ALWAYS AIMING HIGHER



St. Oswald

'ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
IF YOU BELIEVE'
(Mark 9:23)



Our Houses



Our House structure (Aidan, Bede, Hild, Oswald) provides extensive opportunities for our pupils to lead others. Pupils can become a House Captain or Form Captain, develop public speaking skills when leading assemblies and compete against one another in a range of extra-curricular competitions. Pupils are supported pastorally, academically and spiritually through the House system.



Confident, charismatic communicators

Our ambitious curriculum is designed to support academic success, focussing on building strong foundations in the core subjects of Religious Studies, English, Mathematics and Science. Pupils are encouraged to add breadth, exploring languages, Geography and History and a range of creative subjects to build-up their cultural capital.

At Key Stage Three (Years 7, 8 and 9) pupils follow a broad range of subjects including Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, French, Geography, History, Art, Music, Physical Education, Computing, Design Technology and a selection of pupils will study Mandarin.

Pupils are grouped by ability and are placed into tiers. Movement between tiers can occur twice each year following school exams. As well as providing an incentive to work hard, our cycle of exams is excellent preparation for GCSE and A level structures.

At Key Stage Four (Years 10 and 11) all pupils follow a core curriculum of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, the Sciences and Physical Education with a number of pupils taking a Further Mathematics course. The vast majority of pupils will also take one language and either Geography or History. Further optional subjects include Art, Design Technology, Music, Computing, Business Studies and Sports Studies.

Pupils are grouped by ability for the majority of these subjects. In addition they receive a programme of information, advice and guidance to help prepare them for life beyond Year 11.

In the Sixth Form there is a similar range of subjects, designed to allow pupils to progress to rewarding, challenging destinations. Our record with placing pupils at top universities is very strong. In addition to a wide-ranging curriculum we offer an enrichment programme which allows pupils to explore new learning outside of the classroom.

Our broad, well-structured curriculum creates confident, charismatic communicators who are ready for the next stage of education, employment or training.



“Education is all a matter of building bridges”

Ralph Ellison



St Cuthbert's Catholic High School Sixth Form is an outstanding Sixth Form (Ofsted 2016).

We believe that in choosing to study with us you will be making the right choice.

Sixth Form is different from earlier schooling as you will experience greater freedom and, with that, responsibility. Making the right choice at this important time of your life will help you to progress smoothly onto the next stage of your career. By studying with us you will develop the skills needed to enjoy a rewarding and fulfilling future.

We offer extensive opportunities for leadership and participation in the community and are proud of the positive contributions our senior students make. Our pupils are given a context in which they can develop skills to become independent learners and thinkers.

We mainly offer traditional academic A Levels and the majority of our Sixth Form students transfer from school to higher education. The gap between GCSEs and Sixth Form study cannot be underestimated and makes huge demands on students. Academic progress is monitored closely and our pastoral care is strong.

We take an holistic approach to our pupils' progress, ensuring that there are opportunities to develop outside of the academic sphere through our 'strive and thrive' programme.

“Life begins at the end of your comfort zone”

Neale Donald Walsch



Developing tomorrow's leaders, today

Developing the leaders of tomorrow is one of our core aims. Pupils are encouraged to grow into leaders by being given opportunities to develop leadership behaviours. They will become resilient and confident young men.

We actively encourage pupil participation in enrichment activities. Learning outside of the classroom gives pupils an additional way to express themselves, make new friends, go beyond their comfort zone and enables them to discover and develop their interests and talents.

Many of our pupils participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which provides numerous leadership opportunities through both the volunteering and expedition stages. Equally, pupils enjoy the challenges of the Pope John Paul II Award and the National Citizenship Service (NCS) programme, both of which have significant community work elements. We are an NCS Champion School and a DofE flagship school.

Leadership is also available within the curriculum. Our boys are encouraged to become Sports Leaders, STEM leaders and SVP leaders, organising and running events in the region for pupils from other schools.

Team work opportunities abound, through a raft of collaborative (and sometimes competitive) schemes such as Engineering Challenges through our work with the Reece Foundation and Science enrichment.



“A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions and the compassion to listen to the needs of others”

Douglas MacArthur



“Sports are such a great teacher. I think of everything they taught me: camaraderie, humility, how to resolve differences”

Kobe Bryant



In sport we offer something for everyone and help our pupils develop healthy lifestyles and a love of sport that will last well beyond school. Ski trips to the Alps alongside visits to FC Barcelona, Ajax and Real Madrid are popular.

St Cuthbert's has a fine sporting reputation and our pupils are proud to represent the school. We aim to make our boys humble in victory and gracious in defeat.





*“Just play. Have fun.
Enjoy the game”*

Michael Jordan



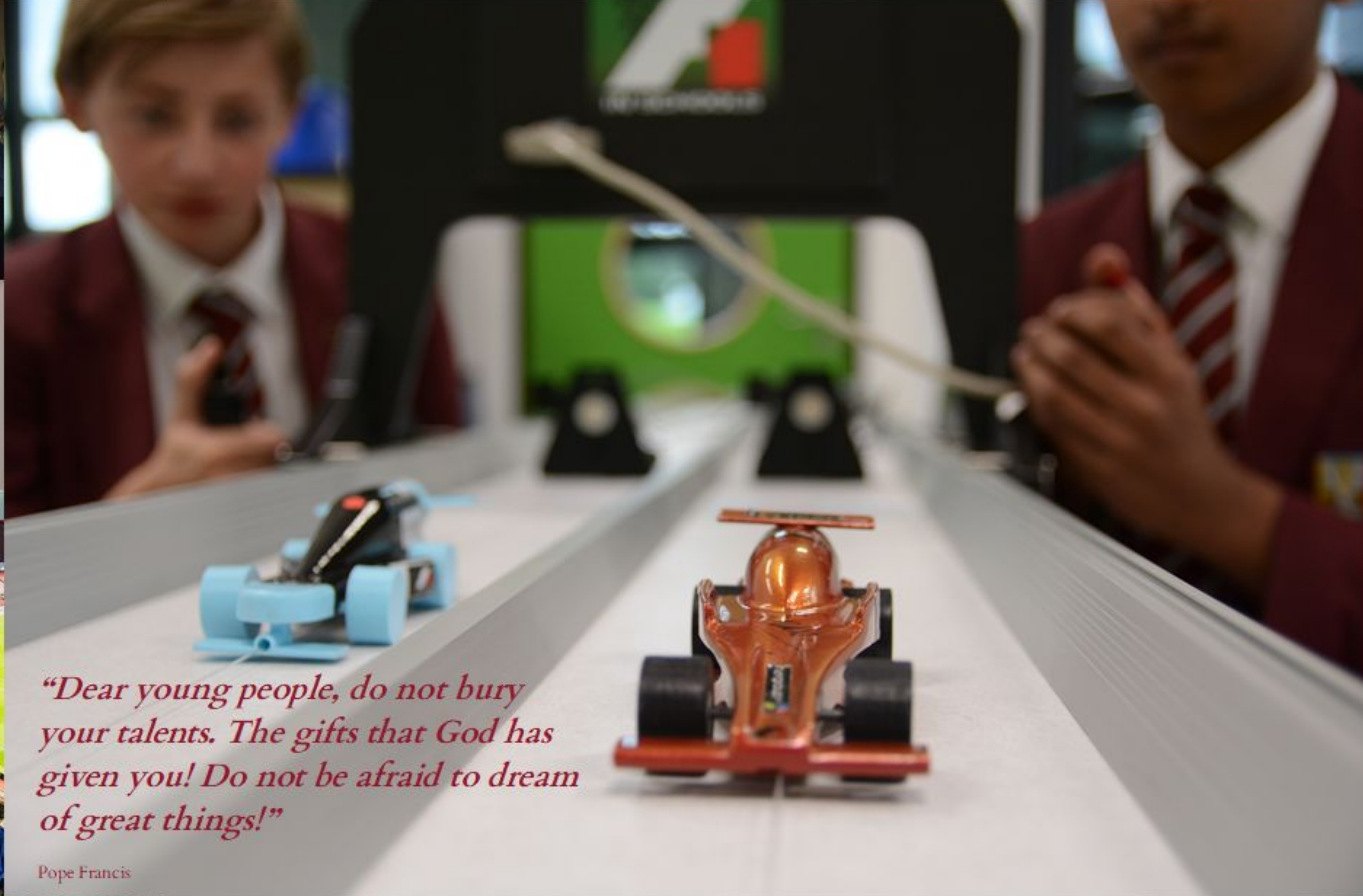
The following sports are on offer at St Cuthbert's:

- Football
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Tennis
- Table Tennis
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Rowing
- Gym
- Rock Climbing
- Dodgeball
- Cross-Country
- Badminton
- Sports Leaders
- Skiing
- Boxing

Some recent sporting successes :

- Football- National Champions 1970, 1981, 2001
- Athletics - Junior National Champions 1999
- Basketball- Year 11 National Runners-up 2013
- Numerous City and County titles in a variety of sports





We aim to develop the 'whole' boy

We offer a wide range of character-building opportunities designed to provide education in its widest sense.

Enrichment takes place across the full curriculum with, for example, art visits to London galleries, theatre excursions around the UK, business workshops at major employers such as Virgin Money and Nissan, history visits to sites of special significance and science workshops at local universities.

Our pupils enjoy participation in the Shakespeare in Schools festival, debating- for example the Oxford Schools debating competition, the Arts Award, the Salter Chemistry competition, the Maths and Physics Olympiads and working with employers on solving 'real life' industrial problems, to name but a few. Field trips enhance our pupils' learning, bringing to life the theory covered in the classroom.

Pupils can also choose from a range of clubs and activities all designed to enrich their educational experience. These include Geogberts, Debating Club, Spanish Club, Excellence in Theology, Coding Club and Enterprise Club among many others.

Many of these activities give our pupils the opportunity to work with young people from other schools; debating with pupils from Newcastle High School for Girls, for example. Others can lead to tremendous opportunities, such as our successful F1 Club and Future Engineers Group.

Our Reece Building offers pupils the opportunity to explore an engineering environment. Boys who demonstrate an intrinsic understanding of Mathematics and Science are given the opportunity to become Reece Scholars and ambassadors to work alongside experienced engineers from local companies and universities - these boys are mandated to study Mandarin to maximise employability opportunities in the future - these courses are funded from the Swire Charitable Trust.



“Dear young people, do not bury your talents. The gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!”

Pope Francis



“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord... to give you a future with hope” Jeremiah 29:11

Beyond St Cuthbert's



St Cuthbert's Catholic High School has an outstanding reputation in preparing our pupils and pupils for future success.

Careers guidance at St Cuthbert's leads to destination outcomes that place us amongst the top schools in the North East both in terms of university entrance and apprenticeship take up- this consistent achievement meant we received the accolade of North East School of the Year 2018-19 from the Sunday Times Parent Power survey.

Year on year we have increased the numbers of Sixth Form students moving on to study at Oxbridge, at research-led Russell Group universities, reading medicine or dentistry and winning high level paid apprenticeships.

Our careers strategy seeks to help pupils and pupils understand the range of opportunities available to them in today's economy and acquire the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in the workplaces of the future. Our partnership with the Esh Group allows pupils to receive market-leading advice from an array of successful local businesses through mock interviews, presentations, visits and more. Our partnership with the Skills Builder programme enables St Cuthbert's boys to learn the soft skills required to succeed in the workplace and beyond.

By excelling in the delivery of the Gatsby Benchmarks, we aim to mould fully-rounded young men who are ready to leave St Cuthbert's and make a positive contribution to society.

Notable Alumni include:

- Gordon Summer, CBE Musician
- Neil Tennant, Musician
- Declan Donnelly OBE, TV Presenter
- Kenneth Allott, Poet
- Mark Wright, Artist
- Admiral Sir Nigel Essenhigh, Navy
- John Nichol, RAF Pilot, Author, Broadcaster
- Paul Kennedy CBE, Historian
- Rt Rev Hugh Lindsay, Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle from 1974-92
- Rt Rev Joseph McCormack, Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle from 1937-58
- Rt Rev Joseph Thorman, Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle from 1925-36
- Lawrence McMenemy MBE, Football Coach
- Edwin Kite, Scientist
- Sir Terry Farrell, Architect
- Shaun Custis, Journalist
- George Gandy, Athletics Coach
- Trevor Davison, Professional Rugby
- Nicholas Pyle, GB Swimmer



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