

Newsletter

'I can do all things with the help of God who strengthens me.'



St Edmund's Catholic School

OUT AND ABOUT!



Exploring new horizons!
Fieldtrips, retreats, Valencia, Berlin,
Iceland, London, Stratford-upon-Avon, and
various sports activities!

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Caelum Dives Ingredi



HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS



The first half term of the year has started with a real bang. Having said goodbye to the class of 2023 last summer, we were delighted for them with their amazing GCSE results they achieved. It is no surprise that St Edmund's is again the top performing school in Portsmouth and Hampshire south. Students overall level of progress was incredible and we remain one of the top performing schools across the country. An incredible testament to the students, staff and our parents. We wish them a wonderful future.

Our new Year 7's have quickly filled the vacuum and adapted well to family life at St Edmund's. A superb positive start with the year group really getting involved in clubs, retreats and the spiritual 'soul' of St Edmund's.

It has been terrific to watch the other year groups 'move up' and adapt so quickly to the challenges that a new year brings.

This half term we have several trips for KS4, to Stratford, Valencia, Berlin and Iceland (half term). These have given some wonderful memories and enriched the learning experience for more students lucky enough to attend. The school offers bursary for activities, so please do get in touch if your child wishes to attend a trip and there is a financial issue.

Performing Arts students are working hard towards Dance Live, and Shakespeare in Schools. Already giving an incredible amount of time and showing great commitment.

Learning in lessons has been a joy to behold. Behaviour, engagement in learning, participation and progress has been exceptional. Our children continue to rise to the high expectations and standards demanded of them. I have seen some great use of ICT, debates in History, drama pieces, practical work, sporting skills, artistic talents, creative writing and fabulous burgers cooked (I only wish I was able to have tasted them).

Looking ahead at the next half term we will continue to check/insist on full uniform and phones 'away' for the day. We (unfortunately) have had to suspend students for vaping in school. Students found with a vape will always be placed into inclusion immediately, and parents informed. This continues to be a growing 'problem' for children, so worth checking rooms/drawers etc; as temptation seems to hold no boundaries.

Thank you as always to staff for all their hard work and parents for their support. Open Morning was extremely popular and the school will be again, oversubscribed. We have waiting lists in all year groups, with families desperate to move schools. We are truly blessed to have our school, and all of the St Edmund's family.

God Bless
Mr S Graham
Headteacher

'In everything he did he had great success, because the Lord was with him.' Samuel 18:14

CHAPLAINCY



Rays of sunshine seemed to permeate the whole of the first term. Bright beams of enthusiasm, kindness, prayerfulness and a feeling of belonging are words that come to mind as I reflect upon the start of the new academic year at St Edmund's.

Our new Year 7 students have been so full of energy and have wanted to achieve as many Spiritual Badges as they can by attending their Retreat and other events. We had two wonderful days where students spent time at St John's Cathedral learning all about the Cathedral and filling in their Cathedral Booklet. They enjoyed their workshops of prayer and activity, a picnic in the park and finished with their Mass, prepared so beautifully by the Year 7 Chaplaincy Team. At the end of Mass, they were presented with their first Spiritual Badge; the excitement was palpable.

Year 7 Chaplaincy Reps were commissioned as well as the Chaplaincy Team. Many students from Year 7 signed up for the Chaplaincy Team. They came together for their time of prayer and workshops and received their Badges. So, now we have a vibrant Year 7 Chaplaincy Team. Chaplaincy is a key element within our school and many thoughts, ideas, charitable works come from these gatherings across the various Year Groups.

This term we have been collecting HARVEST; tins, dried food items and various foods to give to 2 local charities in the city. This has been supported by Chaplaincy, some of the Year 11 students during their Citizenship lessons, our Tutor Groups and staff.

We have 2 lively Saint Vincent De Paul Groups, who meet at lunchtimes every Monday, and are currently making plans for various activities within the school to raise money to provide packs for the homeless through the St Vincent De Paul Society. Both groups were re-commissioned during assembly to work on the school's behalf in this area.

Our Rosary Ambassador Groups have expanded. We now have 3 Rosary prayer Groups who meet at the various breaktimes and lunchtimes on a Tuesday. It is wonderful to see so many of our students praying for the various intentions that are sent to our groups. These intentions come from staff and students. We take time to pray for one another, our school, wider community and the world. Students take turn leading the Rosary. Students were presented with their Rosaries and cards and Rosary Badge and were

commissioned in assemblies to pray on behalf of the school. A truly power house of prayer, reflecting the light of Christ to others.



'I can do all things with the help of God who strengthens me'



We have students who are Parish Ambassadors, who represent their local parishes and are a link with their parishes. They were all commissioned at their first meeting and presented with their Parish Ambassadors Badge. They meet every second week on a Friday, during Tutor time. They come up with initiatives and ideas to link school and parish and encourage students to share their gifts and talents both in school and in their various parishes. This continues to flourish as more students want to join to represent the various churches that they attend.



On a Wednesday morning, before school, staff are welcome to come into the Chapel for a Staff Prayer gathering. A time to stop... pray... reflect...and pray for various intentions.

Our Parent Prayer Group resumes on November 6th, at 9 am in the Chapel. A time for parents of students in the school, to come together for a time of prayer and quiet. All are welcome, just contact the Chaplain to register.



Next term we will be preparing for our 2 Masses for our Feast Day of St Edmund. Our students are so enthusiastic to be involved in reading, prayers, altar serving, ushering, offertory, singing and participating in whatever way they can. It is a time to thank God for the blessings that we daily receive within our school community.

Next term we will have our Reconciliation Services for each year group, to prepare us for Advent and Christmas. Students will help to prepare the liturgy and our local priests will be available to provide the opportunity for students to attend Confession.



Fundraising will take place in Tutor Groups to help provide vouchers for various charities within the city. We work together with churches in the city to do this.



Our Carol Service is a highlight for Year 7 as they take time preparing this service and sharing their gifts and talents on a lovely evening in St John's Cathedral. A delightful way to prepare for Christmas.

The Emmanuel Services on the last day include a reflection on the Nativity, singing of Carols as well as our school pantomime. Staff and students enable

such a celebration due to their commitment to rehearsals after school. The celebration is full of and fun, energy and prayer.

Have a wonderful half term.



Thank you for your continued support. And thank you to all Staff and Students for their commitment to the vibrant spirituality that is so evident within our school.

Chaplain Fiona



YEAR 7

35 Days, 210 hours, 12,600 minutes...what do all these have in common? Well, its how many days, hours and minutes you have been in school since our first day. How quickly has this first term gone?! Well done to the year group for completing it, another hurdle overcome, what stars Year 7 are!

This first term has been like a rollercoaster ride; ups, downs, fast corners, slow climbs. We've had already some amazing moments including the two outstanding Retreats to St Johns Cathedral, the behaviour and application were superb from both M Side and T Side. The mass was a true reflection on what our school is all about – values, family, community and love. We have also had some individual 'ups' including representing the school in fixtures, Dance Live, music or becoming a tutor rep/being part of the chaplaincy team which are both excellent achievements.

However, with ups come downs and our main focus as a year group is respect. We have had some moments where some of you have not shown respect by calling each other unkind names. This is not tolerated in St Edmund's Catholic School and must stop. Let's show respect and be kind to each other like Jesus has taught us. The bible tells us Luke 6:35. "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil." This means care and respect everyone no matter who they are to you, if they are not a friend then you still show the kindness and respect, please.

I have been super proud of how Year 7 have started their transition into secondary education and well done to every single member of the group who has overcome a hurdle in these first 6 weeks. Even overcoming the smallest of hurdles can have a huge impact, so well done. Keep this amazing start up and continue to thrive at St Edmund's, be the best person you can be. I have been so chuffed with all the interest shown in Chaplaincy, the numbers have been amazing. I have also been so happy with the application and effort shown in lessons – it's great to hear how wonderful we can be as a year group.

A special mention to Jonah who competed in an English Road Running Championship and achieved 3rd place – AMAZING! Any other talents or achievements you have please come and tell me.

I always finish my newsletter articles with a movie quote and one of my favourites – "Books and cleverness! There are more important things: friendship and bravery". This is from the first Harry Potter film and something to think about over half term. Take care and be the best version of yourself.

Mr Poxton



YEAR 8



Well it has already been a busy start to the new academic year for Year 8 pupils! They have returned after the summer and have been briefed on the importance of Year 8 – a big step up from last year, where pupils are now setting examples and acting as role models for our new Year 7's!

There has been some fantastic effort from a huge number of Year 8s, and I particularly want to mention the pupils that supported with our Open Morning on Saturday 30th September. These pupils opted to support departments in showing prospective parents and pupils the very best from our school, giving up their own time on the weekend! It was a fantastic event. Huge thank you to the following pupils:

Althea A, Mumbi M B ,Christine C, Oakley D, Kacper D, Amelia G, Muhammad J, Samuel K, Connie M, Jayden M, Andrew N, Tyrone O, Charles P, Oscar R, David T, James T



A big thank you to our Year 8 office runners who have helped us ensure Student Services has run smoothly for the first term back!



I would finally like to congratulate the below tutor groups for holding the top 3 positions for the highest attendance across all tutor groups so far this Half Term:

3rd place – 8 Teresa – 97.41%

2nd place – 8 Kolbe – 97.47%

1st place – 8 Stein – 98.05%

Attendance will continue to be a real focus for next Half Term with prizes being awarded every Half Term for the highest tutor group attendance! Who will receive the next prize ...?!

Mrs Were - Head of Learning Year 8





YEAR 9

WOW! What a busy half term this has been. I cannot believe that Year 9 have been back for seven weeks already! I would like to start by saying what an excellent start Year 9 have made to their third year with us. They have settled into their normal routines again and welcomed our six new pupils that have joined the year group also.

Year 9 have once again thrown themselves into extra-curricular clubs, something which will go towards their PE homework. Seeing many of them playing football, the weekly queues to get into the swimming pool and even the enthusiasm for homework club has been a delight. I hope they continue to attend clubs and enjoy trying new sports and hobbies and meeting new friends. All clubs can be found on the school website for students to look at.

Students have a busy year ahead in terms of spirituality with the chance to earn another Spiritual badge. This will require them to attend our spiritual events throughout the year and go above and beyond in their own spiritual journey. They also have the opportunity to earn new badges within the Chaplaincy team which I am looking forward to them learning about and seeing them gain.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our new student representatives for each tutor group who will be part of the school council. This is a real honour and was voted for by their tutor group. Students will have the opportunity to have their voices heard and hopefully make the changes they want to see.

Our focus as a year group this term is "Personal Qualities" with our hope that students achieve their highest scores ready to go into their Option choices. Students will have a large selection of subjects to choose from but need to show the correct attitude to learning for this to be the case.

I know students are probably very tired following a busy seven weeks and will enjoy their week off. I would like to say thankyou so much to all parents and carers who have supported with the smooth start to Year 9. They continue to be a very hard-working year group who always want to get involved in school life.

A reminder that on the 22nd November we have our Year 9 Tutor Evening which we hope all parents/carers will attend.

Have a lovely half term everyone!

Miss Hammond



YEAR 10



...And just like that, we entered the KS4 journey on the 5th of September 2023.

Wow, what a start to Year 10! I am not only talking here about the heatwave we experienced in the very first week of school year, but also about how students have embraced the challenge of the new academic year, with the most positive approach ever.

The enthusiasm for learning from a vast majority of you is absolutely phenomenal. I had lots of positive feedback regarding students new option choices, and lots of comments about how much they are enjoying them. I am very grateful to Mrs Robinson for making all the last-minute changes for the pupils who have decided to move on to different subject recently.

I would also to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity during the Harvest festival collection, participation in all Chaplaincy events, and volunteering for future prefect duties during different school events. All Year 10 pupils who have helped out during the Open Morning were very highly praised for their impeccable manners and helpfulness on the day.

This term we have also had a fantastic assembly from EBP (Education Business Partnership) who organise work experience for the St Edmund's pupils in July. It is an exciting opportunity for all pupils as they may just start thinking about their future career paths during their work experience.

I have also heard from the Performing Arts Department, that it has been an absolute pleasure to see so many talented pupils auditioning for Dance Live! Exciting few months of rehearsals ahead so good luck to you all.

Finally, just to give you an advance warning about the forthcoming mock exams in the new year, as well as our early entry English Literature, Triple Science and Astronomy exams in the Spring.

Good attendance, being prepared for learning, showing effort in lessons, completion of all homework will certainly contribute to less stress, and your success in the future.

But for now.... I just wanted to say well done for the very first half term, enjoy your week away and please stay safe.

T Feliks-Matthews





YEAR 11



Wow, what a start to Year 11! I cannot quite believe we are at the end of our first half term already. I know I say it every newsletter but time really does fly.

The year group have returned exceptionally well and ready to kick start our final year (yikes). Their enthusiasm for learning is fantastic and every day they continue to make me so proud.

Some fantastic events have taken place already including the Post 16 Evening. Hopefully this gave you a real insight into which college is best for you - remember you have to apply for at least two. As well as our Exam Information Evening which provided students and parents with their predicated grades and discussion around revision expectations.

We have also been fortunate to invite local colleges and apprenticeships in to our assemblies every week, which as I always say, are super important even if it's the college you know you are not attending. Getting a feel of college values is essential.

We really have hit the ground running and now have to maintain the high standards. Keep working hard and think every mark matters. Focus in lesson and revising at home could be the difference between a whole grade. Who knows what you can achieve if you apply yourself, but what I can guarantee is that those who focus 100% of the time, always achieve their full potential.

Have a wonderful half term break, refresh and we go again next half term; preparation for college applications, parents evening and MOCKs. I cannot wait to see what the year has installed for us; with this year group I know it will be great things!

Miss Tudor
Head of Year 11



"Hi" from your prefect team! We are very excited to be supporting you alongside the teachers from a student body perspective, to welcome everyone back to St. Eds this autumn. We have been busy at work with our duties, helping control the buzz of the canteen to make break and lunch run as smoothly as possible. We've also been discussing charity fundraisers and other events such as confidence workshops, new badges, getting ready to welcome Year 10s to the team, and much more! Our thoughts and prayers go out to the schools in Liverpool, to the families and friends of those affected by the bus crash there. We are so grateful for our safety, and pray for all to have safe journeys on their way to and from school. We're looking forward to half term, and to see you all in a week!

With love,
The Prefect Team



Results Day



"...And the results are innnnn! Congratulations to our previous Year 11 who experienced the classic rollercoaster ride that is results day in the summer. With emotions ranging from happiness, sadness, apprehension, joy, and relief all pupils who got the results they desired deserved it. As always with these sort of things, learning curves are made and some who were disappointed will now reevaluate their future and hopefully make the right choices. Just remember as our old friend George McFly once said "If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything" .- Mr Poxton



'Congratulations on your outstanding results! We are extremely proud of each and every one of you for the hard work, dedication, and determination that you have shown throughout your time at St Edmund's. Remember to take a moment to celebrate this incredible accomplishment. All those late-night study sessions, endless revisions, and sacrifices were worth it. Your success today is a testament to your abilities as well as your faith, the support from teachers and family who stood by you every step of the way.' - Mrs Tuffnell



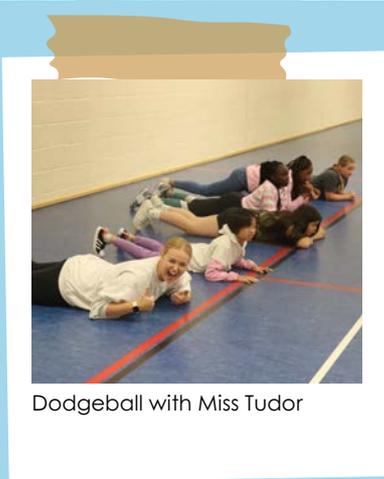
SUMMER SCHOOL



During the summer holidays, we invited our upcoming Year 7's to attend summer school. It gives them a chance to get familiar with other pupils in their year group, as well as get a taste for the school. Fun activities took place over the two weeks; cooking with Mr Farnell, Football with Mr Bonken, Dodgeball with Miss Tudor, and many more!



Football with Mr Bonken



Dodgeball with Miss Tudor



PE with Mr Maguire



Dodgeball with Miss Tudor





Beading with Miss Hammond



Beading with Miss Hammond



Beading with Miss Hammond



Careers



"I found it inspiring to go and talk to people about their career because it opened my eyes to how many opportunities there are for me. It helped me narrow down what I might like to do when I'm older for example, I found speaking to the NHS really interesting" Diana

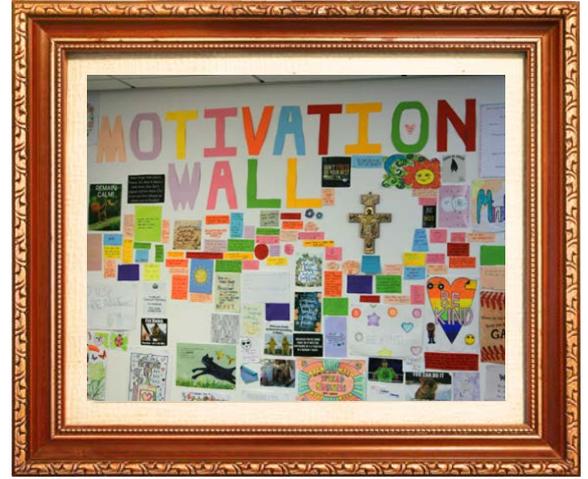


"I found the careers trip very helpful and pleasant. We were free to talk to everyone and we got to see a lot. We were able to speak to specific people about what we wanted to do in the future, and we were also able to see all the different options like HSBC, plumbing, the armed forces and much more. If you're not sure about your career I would recommend this trip to you!" Jordan

On Wednesday 27th September 42 Year 9 pupils visited the Careers & Apprenticeship Show at Fratton Park. It was a fantastic event, showcasing the vast amount of job opportunities and apprenticeships there are on offer for the young people of Portsmouth as either their post 16 or post 18 education. The pupil's behaviour was exemplary. They were all focused and engaged and asked some really pertinent questions, I was extremely proud to be visiting with them.
Mrs Halford, Careers



TRINITY



Hello! Welcome to the Trinity Wellbeing Suite or Trinity for short. Trinity is a relaxing and safe space that you can come to if things ever get a bit much, or if you would like to talk to somebody about what is on your mind. We are always open during breaktimes and lunchtimes for drop-in chats. During lunchtimes we often get people come up just to chill out and have a natter with each other!

World Mental Health Day 10th October 2023

Let's Meet the Trinity Team!



Miss Layburn

'I'm Miss Layburn and I have been at St Edmund's for the past six years. I'm a Specialist Teaching Assistant and an ELSA (no, not the Disney character). I help pupils to learn how to understand their emotions and communicate their thoughts with others. I'm always up for a chat about anything that may be going on in a pupil's life. It's my job to keep the biscuit jar topped up and to care for our Trinity pet Toothless the Axolotl. You can find me leading the Trinity Ambassador meetings on a Monday and Friday.

Hello! I am Mr Ford. I'm a university student who studies in Bristol, and I will be spending this year working in Trinity. I chose to do this because I love doing what I can to help other people (I know how much of a difference it can make having the right support) and I hope to learn as much as I can about how I can do this better!
I'll be available in Trinity if you ever fancy a chat about anything. I also run the Young Carers sessions alongside Miss Hammerton as well as partaking in Taekwondo after school!
Feel free to pop into Trinity and say hi any time!



Mr Ford



Miss Hammerton

Hi, I am Miss Hammerton, one of the new members of staff working in the Trinity Suite this year. I am here on a year-long placement while studying psychology at the University of Portsmouth, for me to gain work experience as a wellbeing support worker.
I am a super positive, friendly person who is really looking forward to meeting everyone this year, and I would love to help support students with their wellbeing! Also, I will be running Self Care Club this year, which runs on a Monday Week A after school until 4pm! Feel free to pop up to the Trinity Suite to say hello!

What's on offer this term!

Trinity is available before school, break, lunch, and after school for all pupils to drop in and have a chat with a member of staff. We have a selection of self-help resources pupils can access such as mindfulness guides, sleep tips, revision guides, and prayer cards to decorate.

We are going to be running some separate activities for people to partake in too! What are these?

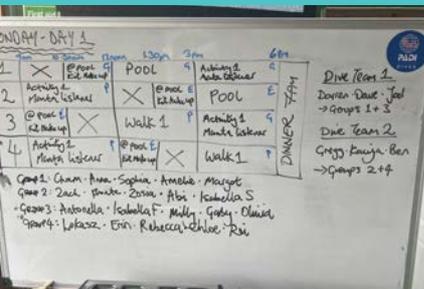
- Young Carers- An opportunity for pupils who have caring responsibilities at home to play some games, chill out, socialise with other young carers, and talk to a member of support staff if they need a chat! Led by Miss Hammerton and Mr Ford.
- Mind and Mood- Sessions dedicated to helping to achieve personal goals (chosen by you) in a way that ensures you feel good while doing so! Led by Miss Layburn.
- Self-Care Club- A fun, relaxing after school club where we focus on our emotional, physical, social and practical self-care through a range of activities. For example: colouring, board games, tips for time management, breathing exercises and meditation. Led by Miss Hammerton, Monday Week A, 3pm-4pm.
- Dove Body confidence workshop- An opportunity to learn about common things which have a negative impact on our bodies, and how we can lead the way in making change- so ourselves and others can feel more comfortable in our own skin! This workshop will be starting after October Half Term with Miss Hammerton and Mr Ford. Keep an eye out for upcoming announcements!

DIVE PROJECT CORNWALL

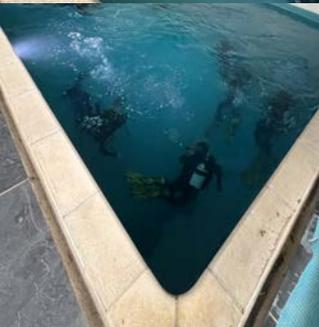


From extremely testing weather conditions to become Ocean Influencers our group of 20 Year 10's had the **BEST week.**

- Three days in the pool to learn all their diving skills ready for open water
- Marine Conservation Charity talks, beach cleans and looking at micro organisms under a microscope to see how the start of the food chain really looks
- Hikes to find goats, coves, rock pools and a seal
- Countless games of UNO
- Then finishing with Ocean dives where all but 3 passed their Open Water PADI course



'Seeing how upset the pupils were to leave, (one pupil in floods of tears), really made all the bad weather worth it!' - Miss Tudor



LONDON

On Thursday 7th September, some of the St Edmund's School Choir were invited to sing at a prestigious event in The Palace of Westminster - part of The Houses of Parliament. The event was organised by Portsmouth South MP Stephen Morgan and The Mary Rose Trust to launch the new legacy project for The Mary Rose Museum and conservation in Portsmouth. Our pupils were joined by pupils from St John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School and we travelled to London, first taking in the sights of Parliament Square and rehearsing on the green. The choir then performed two songs, 'Heroes of the Mary Rose' that details the incredible work the divers carried out to find and restore her and then 'Living On The Mary Rose' with lyrics about life on board ship as a sailor. A fantastic opportunity to perform in such an historic setting and to represent Portsmouth, a great time was had by all.

We walked through a part of the Houses of Parliament, it was so nice and fancy inside. Then, we got to perform two songs about the Mary Rose to a big group of people at an event. It was great to have the chance to sing for people there!

Isabel 10 Teresa

After having a short rehearsal with the St John's choir we head off! Once we arrived we practiced our songs and headed inside. We were lead to the room where the event was being held and we were greeted with big smiles! Everyone seemed to enjoy our music and so we headed home, happy we what we had achieved!

Connie 8 Stein



'Some of my wonderful Year 11's (Evie Kate, Shona and Melody) stayed behind on Friday to clean up the guinea pig area to make it look nicer for our new year 7's 😊

They did a fantastic job!'

-Miss Tudor

*We go to and from school everyday,
And through the office is our way.
But we never stop to thank our staff,
who for only them we could write a paragraph.*

*Whether you're bruised or you're sick,
or you're feeling blue
come down to the office
they'll make you feel brand new*

*Words cant express
How many they renew
Thanks so much for all you do.*



-Student Services

- Lovely poem from Mitchellle

ENGLISH

Stratford-upon-Avon trip



Day 1

On the first day of the Stratford-upon-Avon trip, as soon as we got to the town, after setting our bags down in the hotel, we went off to the Holy Trinity Church. We worked together and found definitions on various Catholic values and then we tried identifying them in some of the Shakespeare plays we've studied at school. We learnt about the school system back then and a few words in Latin, and then we were able to try on some Tudor style clothes and write with quills! Overall, the trip's first day was an educating and relaxing experience.



Day 2

On day two we visited Anne Hathaway's cottage, and they showed us where she grew up and the farmland she lived on. After the cottage we went to an open field to write sonnets (after reading one of Shakespeare's). We had to write about nature or something you loved because sonnets are traditionally about love. My Favorite bit about day 2 was the sculptures because I liked how they were designed and had to guess what play they were based on their design.



The Theatre Trip Reviews

"It was very intriguing and had good character development"
David Tagum



"There was amazing live music and it made it really thrilling"
Sammy Carter



Day 3

On day three we travelled to the castle of Warwick. After the tour of the inside of the castle we had a person tell us about the war of the roses. At one point King Edward IV was taken to Warwick castle and placed on top of the tower as a prisoner. We went through an exhibition of different jobs in the castle with life like mannequins. After all of that we had lunch and during that time we went onto the castle walls. There was a lot of steps. At the top there was a stunning view of the castle and its surroundings. After reaching the bottom we regrouped and took a photo with everyone and encountered a peacock! At the end, we got on the bus for a 3 hour journey. Surprisingly it was quiet.



GEOGRAPHY



On our Geography fieldwork we explored the wonders of Portsmouth High Street. Our hypothesis was Portsmouth's high street is losing purpose with a rise in internet shoppers and retail outlets so we went to see whether this was the case. We collected primary data at 3 sites: Gunwharf, Commercial Road North and Commercial Road South.

We walked to Gunwharf and inspected what kind of shops were there: high end, low end charity etc. we additionally did a head count for a couple of minutes to see how busy it was during the time. Afterwards we ventured to Commercial road and repeated our steps. We checked how many vacant shops there were and how many charity shops then compared them to Gunwharf to answer our hypothesis. Interestingly, we found out that Gunwharf has 60 high end shops whereas commercial road had as little as 2/3 in comparison.

Now in class we are working through the results, creating graphs and analysing our data. We had a good day and the weather held out! - Harrison 11 Romero

My favourite piece of coastline:

Sinmorets, Bulgaria

A wave of light dust followed us down the winding path. Stands packed with beach toys and ice creams were plopped all around. Past the carpark and just beyond the chestnut trees the Black Sea stared straight back at me. I was hit by the suffocating scent of seaweed and salt. The golden sand burned my feet as I rushed around to try and help set up my umbrella. I could hear the waves lazily overlapping the sand as the lifeguards began to scream at a group of teenagers. I watched my Grandfather make his way down the slightly chalky cliffside before returning my gaze to the vast variety of beach toys that I owned. As my Grandmother fussed over me and the sun cream (accidentally getting a bit of sun cream in my mouth, it tastes like expired milk and flowers) she pointed out how the broad cliffs and rocks clashed with the whitish, soft sand. At long last, I slipped away into the water that chilled me to a normal temperature. Summer had finally begun.

-Ellie, 8 Kolbe

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



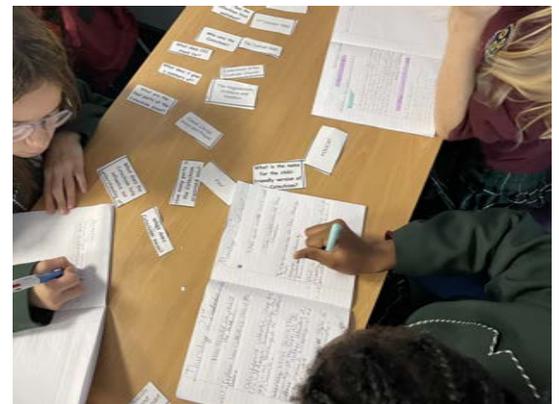
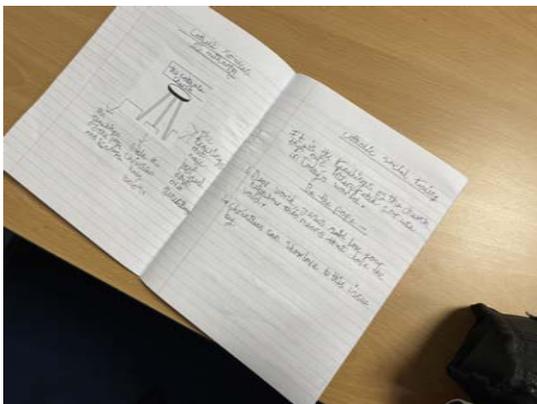
This half-term, Year 7 have been studying a new unit called 'Covenant to Creation'. We started out the unit by exploring what makes a religion and what Catholicism is, exploring the Bible and the life of St Edmund as our Patron Saint. We then began to unpack creation, looking at the two creation stories in Genesis as well as some of the scientific theories on creation, and the Catholic response to these.

As part of this unit, Year 7 students have created their own piece of artwork, reflecting what they have understood about creation, as well as researching the life of Sister Dorothy Sang and her role in stewardship. Students had a lesson to plan their piece of artwork and a lesson to put it together.

"In RE I have enjoyed our topic about creation immensely. This is because we get to learn and experience both sides of God creating the world and the scientific explanation. I have learnt a lot of new information that I've never heard of before and I'm really excited to continue learning in RE"- Ilektra



"My favourite lesson so far in RE is when we learnt about what makes a religion because it was quite active and fun. I think it is one of the lessons I have learnt the most from."- David



PSYCHOLOGY



Year 11 Exam Results

Another amazing year of results from the St Edmund's Psychology Students. Grades at 9-5 were 14% above the national average which reflects the hard work and determination shown by the students who took the exams.

Year 11 – Social Influence

The current Year 11 are learning about the impact that people around them have on their behaviour. Students have been discussing whether it is better to be correct by yourself or wrong as part of the crowd, whether it is better to always put yourself first or think of others and whether it is ever ok to not do what you are told by authority.

Students have been working really hard and applying their knowledge to their own lives creating some fantastic examples and discussions. As the year progresses, as a department, we wish them luck with their studies, revision and exams and know that all the hard work they are putting in will benefit them and allow them to achieve their best grades.



Year 10 – Developmental Psychology

The current Year 10's have made a fantastic start to their learning. They have been picking up the key skills they need to complete the course. They have also been extremely focused in lessons learning about how children develop and how we can ensure children have the best opportunities in life. We have been discussing is it best to try everything or only work on what you are good at, whether the way you praise a child impacts their thought process and where do we get our understanding of morals from.

As you can see from the photos students have had a chance to apply their knowledge to studies. Here they were looking at the effect of praise of on motivation and student perceptions of success. They participated incredibly well and produced some interesting results!

With the work they are putting in we know they will achieve great success in Psychology.

'Recently Oxford University (specifically Somerville College) came in to talk to a group of high achieving students which I was lucky to be part of. They came in to talk to us and show us the different options and opportunities we can take as we begin to think about our futures and GCSE. They discussed what it was like to go to university and went into depth about the different courses we can take. I learnt there are over 65000 to choose from surprisingly enough! They told us what we should expect from university, from lectures to sports and social skills even talking about the different financial help we can access. They created an open environment where we were free to ask as many questions as we liked, and get to know whether university was right for us and where we can find extra information. Personally what I took away from the experience was a more open mindset towards university as they cleared up lots of question I had and have allowed me to more openly think of what's right for my education and what path I would like to choose for my future. As university can feel like a very intense, stressful event, I was very thankful to have this cleared up and discover that it doesn't have to be like this and is a place of education where I can study the subjects I love in further detail with lots of support.' - Ed K, Year 9

HIGH FLYERS



IT

TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

Windows 10 Cloning

Over the summer, the IT team upgraded Windows 10 across all school computers. The goal was to ensure a consistent and efficient computing environment for both students and staff.

This upgrade has enhanced system performance, improved security features, and provided a more user-friendly experience. We are excited about the increased productivity and convenience this will bring to our school community.



New Laptops: Empowering Students in Design Tech, and Engineering

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming arrival of two sets of 32 laptops, specially allocated for our Design Tech, and Engineering departments. These state-of-the-art laptops will empower our students to explore their creative potential, engage in innovative projects, and develop their digital skills.

The new laptops will be equipped with the latest software and hardware, providing students with the tools they need to excel in class. We can't wait to see the incredible projects that will come to life with this new technology!

Connect the Classroom Project: Exciting Wi-Fi Upgrades Coming in November

Starting in November, we are embarking on the "Connect the Classroom" project, a significant initiative to upgrade our Wi-Fi infrastructure. This project will provide faster and more reliable internet access to support the ever-increasing demand for digital learning in our classrooms.

The new Wi-Fi infrastructure will enable seamless online collaboration and access to online educational resources, ensuring that our students have the best tools available to enhance their learning experience. We appreciate your patience and support during this exciting upgrade!

Open Morning Posters: Showcasing Our School Spirit

Our school was buzzing with excitement as we geared up for our Open Morning event. To make this day even more special, the IT team created a series of eye-catching posters for many departments to showcase the vibrant and inclusive atmosphere of our school.

These posters beautifully capture the essence of our school community, highlighting our commitment to academic excellence, creativity, and diversity.

Promo Video: A Drone Ranger Collaboration Based on Ms. Tudor and Ms. Holt's Poem

Last but certainly not least, we were delighted to premier our brand-new promotional video at the open day, a collaborative project with the Drone Rangers. This stunning video is based on a heartfelt poem created by Miss Tudor and Mrs Holt, two of our talented staff members and voiced by 16 of our students from Year 7 to 11.

The video beautifully captures the essence of our school's values and aspirations, showcasing our commitment to excellence, community, and innovation.



We hope you enjoyed reading about these exciting developments at our school. As always, your support and involvement are integral to our continued success. If you have any questions or would like more information on any of the topics covered in this piece, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for being part of our wonderful school community!

Sincerely,

Mr I White – Network Manager and the St Edmund's IT Team.



Photography

Year 10



45 Day Photo Challenge

1. Sunrise	1. Style	1. Peace
2. Ice Cream	2. Reading	2. Kiss
3. Beach	3. Sundaes	3. Reflect
4. Sunglasses	4. Music	4. Chips
5. Cool	5. Grass	5. Game
6. Splash!	6. Shopping	6. Ride
7. Clouds	7. Crush	7. Fun
8. Bubbles	8. Street	8. Picnic
9. Golden	9. Sea	9. Pet
10. Flowers	10. Sparkles	10. Friends
11. Heat	11. Happiness	11. Kiss
12. Year	12. Sunset	12. Feet
13. Relax	13. Selfie	13. Seagull
14. Nature	14. Blue House	14. Hat
15. Adventure	15. Bubbles	15. Socks

Summer Season Homework

45 Day Photo Challenge



Photo by:
Michalena

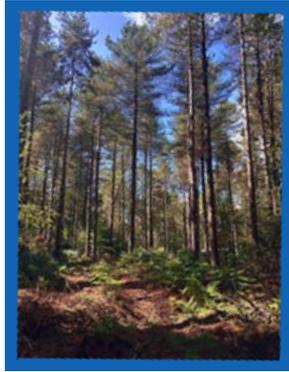


Photo by:
Nicola

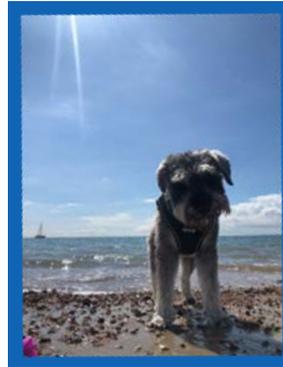


Photo by:
Noah



Photo by:
Michalena



Photo by:
Chloe

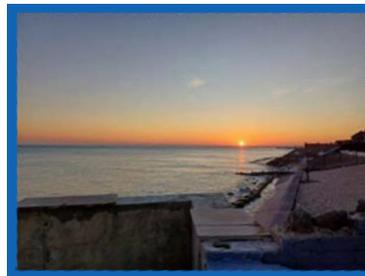


Photo by:
Charlie



Photo by:
Nate



Photo by:
Nicole



Photo by:
Ella



Photo by:
Daniel



Photo by:
Elissa



Photo by:
John



Photo by:
Caitlin



Photo by:
Olivia



Photo by:
Isabel

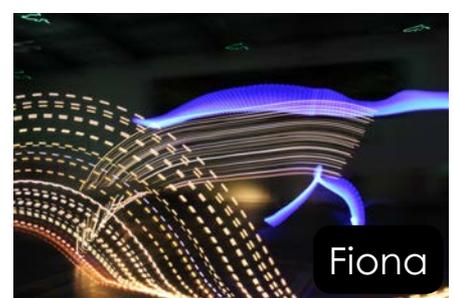
Year 11



Photography



Just a small selection of Photographs from my amazing current Year 11 GCSE Photography pupils. Various photo Shoots using shutter speeds, including pupils favourite praticals: balloon Pop, Strawberry Drop & light drawing. Also still life Photography, Photoshoot trip at The Natural History Museum, loads of fun & experimenting before they complete and hand in their completed coursework in December and start their exam in January. Time goes so fast! I am so so proud of each and every one of them. - Mrs James



SPORTS CORNER



This half term students have had lots of exciting clubs to attend. The clubs available to attend are: Badminton, boys/girls' football, basketball, netball, volleyball, water polo, swimming and the most popular club: dodgeball, with 173 appearances in September. Congratulations to the three tutor groups below who had the most club appearances:

7 Romero 

8 Newman 

9 Newman 

Fixtures

Miss Hammond is the newly appointed Year 9 boys football manager. She took the boys to a league game at Castle View Academy. Her match report is shown below:

'We assembled a team and headed to Castle View Academy to play for the league and also to be counted for the Cup draw. I am pleased to announce the boys pulled out a very convincing 4-0 win which puts us through to the next round of the cup and starts our league off nicely.'

Oscar B noted "This is the first time we have won, normally we lose like 15-0!"



We have been very lucky in the PE Department this half term to have the external company TKD Academy deliver Taekwondo sessions with our Year 11 students in their core PE lessons.

A quote from one of our Year 11 students was 'It is a valuable life skill that everyone should learn because it teaches you self-defense'.





VALENCIA



“



'It was probably the best trip I have been on. My favourite part was seeing the caves, I really recommend this trip!'

• Rebeca

”



“

'It was nice to have a change in environment, its so cold in Portsmouth so it was amazing to be in Valencia. My favourite part was the football stadium, it was very interesting.'

• Kasper



”





BERLIN



'What an interesting trip! Berlin is a beautiful city with such welcoming people. As I was looking around, I didn't know what to say – it was breath taking. I really enjoyed the Jewish Memorial and Museum. In the museum there was individual stories from those who suffered in the Holocaust. Visiting Sachsenhausen was surreal.



Our visit to the Stasi prison gave us an idea about the treatment of political prisoners. The torture methods were like nothing we had imagined. The sleep deprivation and questioning techniques were truly bizarre.



I thoroughly enjoyed seeing different parts of the Berlin Wall. We saw parts at Bernauer Straße and the East Side Gallery, the largest open-air art gallery in Europe.



I recommend this trip, and I believe it will help me with my GCSEs as I now can see it from a better perspective.'

-Kieran Year 11

YEAR 7

Year 7 were asked to report on how they have settled into the St Edmund's Family since September.

In each addition of the Newsletter, two tutor groups will report on their time at the school so far.



I've settled into St Edmund's really well and I'm finding my way around school a lot easier than I expected. At first, I was excited but nervous. Now, I'm really enjoying my time at school. - Isabelle

When I first thought about going to St Edmund's, I thought it would be a confusing maze I would struggle to navigate. I also thought it would be scary jumping down to the bottom of the school, but the system is easy to navigate, and everyone is friendly - Matthew



My first few weeks at St Edmund's have been wonderful. I have enjoyed all the lessons and I have made lots of friends. I have high hopes for the years to come in this school. I feel welcomed and loved here. -Chiara

My message to any future Year 6 students transitioning to Year 7 is, remember that every person is in the same position as you. Simply get out of your comfort zone and spread your wings by making new friends, participating in activities you enjoy and most importantly be yourself. I hope this will aid any Year 6's transitioning into year 7, with our journey as one big school and even better as one great family.-
Oluwajuwonlo





Parents Parking/Dropping off/Collecting Students.

It has been brought to our attention that a number of parents are parking outside of Reception to drop/collect students and/or reversing onto the dropped pavement. This contravenes the Highway Code and can place students and members of the public at risk. We have had a number of near misses where students have narrowly escaped being involved in a collision because of this. Students should only be entering/leaving via the Eagle and Wright gates and we ask that you use the spaces provided opposite the Reception entrance or those in Upper Arundel Street. Thank you.

**Monday 23rd-Friday 27th
October Half term**

BACK TO SCHOOL

MONDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2023

November 2023

Wednesday 1st Nov - All Souls day.
Yr 10/11 Parliament trip.
Photography Graveyard Shoot

Wednesday 8th November - Oxford
University High Flyers Trip

Tuesday 21st November-
HSDC College Interviews
Year 8 Tutor Evening

Wednesday 22nd November- Year 9 Tutor
Evening

Friday 24th November - INSET DAY. DofE Silver
(qualifying) Expedition departs

Thursday 30th November- Year 10 Parents
Evening. Reconciliation Services

December 2023

Friday 1st December 2023- Reconciliation
Services

4th - 7th December - Year 9 Community
Project

Monday 11th December 2023- Carol service
at St John's

Thursday 14th - FOSE Year 7 & 8 Disco

Friday 15th December-Emmanuel Service.
Break for Christmas Holiday

**Have a safe and restful
half term!**



OCTOBER HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

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