

Portsmouth's *biggest* Anti-Bullying Conference 2018



I was lucky to be chosen to represent the school and attend the 2018 Anti-Bullying Conference that took place at the Guildhall, Portsmouth on Monday 30th January.



This was a great experience as we were able to work together and discuss any experiences we had and what to do to resolve problems. One workshop was particularly interesting as we had to complete a survey on what we thought was more important; hate crime, cyberbullying or unhealthy relationships. I chose to write about unhealthy relationships as they can lead to domestic abuse. The day was really informative. Thank you to

Mrs Scriven for organising and taking us.



"The trip was an inspiration for any person who is a bully, a victim or a bystander as we heard different sides to every story."

STOP BULLYING

"It was great to spend the day connecting with other schools in the community and sharing our thoughts and ideas to stand against bullying."



"It was a great experience to take part in the activities and workshops and learn about the reasons not to be a bully."

"Sharing our thoughts and ideas with other students from different Primary and Secondary schools a good activity to take part in. I really think everyone got the message"



NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mr S Graham BSc, NPQH

Tel: 02392 823766



Headteacher's Address

Although a very short half term, we have managed to pack in a huge amount of learning, activities and events. The recent reward assemblies were exceptional and a chance to celebrate the many achievements from the Autumn term. We were particularly pleased with the high personal quality scores of students which reflects their commitment to learning on a 'day in, day out' basis. As you will see from the newsletter, there has been a good deal of sporting success both for teams and individuals. The recent 'gifted' day in Performing Arts reflects the amazing talents of our children.

Year 11 are currently working extremely hard in school, with less than 10 weeks until their GCSE examinations. A recent assembly allowed previous students to give 'real time' advice on both what the future holds and the key to being successful. The publication of the recent DFE tables www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk reflects the fantastic achievements of the St Edmund's family. Whilst achievement is at the heart of our learning, spirituality is our soul and our mission for our children. The blessing of the Icons for Year 7 marking the start of this journey. Well done to all the tutor groups for raising money towards this and choosing their Icon. This will be used in morning tutor prayer and is a symbol of each child's faith journey.

In the last newsletter you may recall that we were having a real focus on the expectations of all students when changing for Dance/PE. Our zero tolerance approach here has definitely brought the 'culture' in line with that of the rest of the day here at St Edmund's. This will continue into next half term as we 'cement' learning behaviours into established routines/expectations.

Finally, as you may be aware, we plan much of our improvement work to the school site into the summer term, as a result of having more time available. However, in recent years this has been difficult to manage and fit in (as a result of the amount that we do). Hence whilst continuing to use this time, we will also now start to use other holiday periods and in school time where we can. This half term we will be widening the doors on the first floor (to aid student movement), painting the staircase bannisters and continuing to improve signage of rooms.

Have an enjoyable week and I look forward to students returning in the journey towards Easter.

God bless,



Mr S Graham, Headteacher



Students celebrating 100 years of women's right to vote at The Hard.

The Power of Words - Holocaust Memorial Day 2018

On Thursday 1st February, ten students from Year 9 were chosen to represent St Edmund's at the Holocaust Memorial Day Service at the Portsmouth City Museum. We all gathered around the Anne Frank Memorial Tree and listened to the service and speeches made by the Lord Mayor and many other speakers from the diverse community of Portsmouth. We listened to a life story about a man called Sedin and how his father was killed during the Bosnian massacre at Srebrenica by the Bosnian army. It really made us think that we need to learn the lessons from the past to make a safer and better future. We were then asked to complete a postcard to respond to the life stories of someone who was persecuted during the Holocaust or genocide and these will be sent on to Sedin. One student wrote:

"The story of your life truly touched me and I think you and your family were incredibly brave. You are a true role model for future generations by having the capability to forgive and accept. Thank you for sharing your story with the world." Another wrote:

"Every story made me think about the terror and sadness some people have gone through. The thing that made me think of the most was the reasons for committing the genocide and the excuses and propaganda used to cover up the Holocaust. The service really opened my eyes, and affected me emotionally, thank you for sharing your stories."





It is important for us at St Edmund's to grow in our spirituality by encouraging everyone to be the best person that they can be and by remembering that, **'I can do all things with the help of God who strengthens me.'**

Over the past two years we have taken The Beatitudes as our spiritual and prayer focus. During the rest of this year we will be looking at the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit; trying to understand what they mean through prayer and various activities. We all have many gifts and talents and we encourage our staff and students to share them in service with others.



During this term there have been a number of things that have happened that have revealed the many gifts and talents that are abundant within our school family.

We had our celebration assemblies for each year group, where we took time to thank God for all our achievements, abilities and blessings. It was wonderful to see how everyone works hard and tries to do their best in all their subjects, in various community events and in the spirituality of the school.

Year 7, 8 and 9 Chaplaincy Members came together for their term Chaplaincy meetings. It was wonderful to see our students growing in their faith and also encouraging the community spirit. Students entered into various activities of drama, song, writing prayers and working together to reveal how they see the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. They wrote prayers to be used for the rest of the school. Their enthusiasm, growing in confidence and commitment is wonderful to see.

Our St Vincent De Paul group is thriving and is always full of creative ideas. We meet Monday after school and this group suggests many of the Charity Appeals and is the drive and ideas behind the various spiritual activities that take place within the school. At the moment the students are helping to plan our Stations of the Cross Liturgy which will be taking place before we break up for Easter. We are looking forward to celebrating our liturgy in St Mary's Church at Fratton. Wonderful ideas for the walk to the Church, the charities we will be supporting and the liturgy are all underway.

The Year 7 students and their Tutors spent last term raising money to buy Icons for their classrooms. During a Year 7 assembly, Canon David Mahy came into school and blessed the Icons which now take pride of place in the Year 7 classrooms. These Icons will be with the Year 7 Tutor Groups right through until Year 11, when the students will attend their Year 11 leaving Mass and present their Icons back to the school during the offertory procession. The Icons will then be placed on our Icon wall at the back of the hall, where each Tutor Group will be remembered and prayed for.

It has been lovely to have Fr Ansel and Niall Farrell (a Seminarian) coming into school each week and giving support in different ways.



We had our Year 10 Retreat afternoon which comprised a number of workshops. The students appreciated the quiet, reflective, quality time.

So, you can see we have been busy with various happenings in the Chaplaincy; all revealing the many gifts and blessings that are present in our lives at St Edmund's School.

Thank you to all Staff and Students for their continued support in Chaplaincy.

Fiona, Chaplain

CHAPLAINCY



What a quick Half Term! I can't quite believe it is already time to write our February Half Term newsletter article! But what a busy Half Term it has been!

My personal highlight has to be our wonderful Celebration Assembly. It formed such a fantastic morning where we were all seated in the Hall together; pupils, staff, parents, and feeder primary schools to celebrate the achievements of a huge number of individuals within the year group. It really highlighted what a fantastic first term all pupils in year 7 have had – the huge number of pupils that came away from that assembly with

effort, achievement or merit milestone award badges was incredible. Particular congratulations go to my Head of Year award winners for such a fantastic transition to St Edmunds with a huge amount of effort put into every single lesson. These pupils were:



Ethan



Bethany



Adam

In addition, how can I forget our Personal Quality Scores countdown! Personal Quality scores are given to each pupil for criteria such as being prepared for learning, effort, homework and behaviour. Scores are given for each between a 4 for outstanding, and a 1 for unsatisfactory. These scores in each subject are added together to provide an overall total, and put into numerical order creating a ranking system. I look forward to displaying this countdown on our year 7 noticeboard after Half Term to give the year group a real



competitive streak as we build up to the next Attainment point in the year – can pupils improve their score from Attainment 1?!

A very special mention has to go to Emily in 7 Teresa who is 1st place in the entire year group for Personal Quality scores – a real achievement and I am so impressed!

Another highlight to this half term was the wonderful assembly for the blessing of our tutor icons by Fr David Mahy. Congratulations to all of you for your hard work and dedication fundraising for your icons.

It looked like a number of year 7's also had a fantastic time at an Anti-Bullying Conference this half term – you can see what the pupils thought about the day on the font cover.

Thanks to all parents and family for your on-going support; this Half Term sees us at the half way point through year 7! I hope you all have a safe and restful Half Term and come back ready to continue working at the high standards you have already set yourselves.

Miss E Johnson, Head of Learning



YEAR 7



Half way! It always comes as a surprise to me when we get to this point in the academic year. Everyone has worked so hard and I must praise the students in Year 8 for their continued effort and energy. It's been a short half term and as I write this we have only had four weeks and yet we still manage to pack a lot in!



We started back with our first Celebration Assembly to which many parents came. I would like to say a big congratulations to **Mylena Pacheco** who having only been in the school a short time won the Head of Year award for the positive impact she has made, for her mentoring of a new pupil who joined her tutor group from Brazil and for being nominated for so many effort and achievement awards. It was great to see so many pupils being nominated and winning a host of subject awards, tutor, Library and PE colour awards. As part of the Celebration we list those pupils who have worked exceptionally hard to reach the top of the Personal Qualities list. **Jodie Fan** came top in the year group for her outstanding scores for being prepared for learning, completing amazing homework pieces, putting in a huge amount of effort into her work and for being a role model in her behaviour. Well done to those that came in joint second: **Aneena Aneese** and **Lila Clemas** and joint third: **Annika Asuncion, Shaneia Ford, Georgia Love** and **Agata Hendzel**.



Sport plays a large part of what the year group get up to with events such as their inter-tutor competition and the amazing girls football team who competed in the U13 EFL Regional Finals in Oxford. Well done to **Lily Stephenson, Ruby Saunders, Gwen Walters, Yara Yesef-Sako, Lily Manchip** and **Michelle Among**.



We also have successful table tennis players. **Shaneia Ford, Maureen Tagum** and **Annika Asuncion** who took part in the Portsmouth School's Tournament. Shaneia and Maureen will go through to the county finals in Testwood.



Three year 8 girls went to the 2018 Portsmouth Literature Quiz and came second. Certificates have been given out in assembly to **Tabitha Hazlewood, Madeha Zaman** and **Radeyah Siddiquir**.



We will be raising money this week for the annual Senior Citizen's party, which takes place in March. During period 5 on our PSHE day pupils will be running around the playground in fancy dress hoping to complete as many laps as possible. The party is a lovely event for senior members of our local churches. They have food, drinks and entertainment provided by year 8 pupils who have planned it, chosen the theme and who will help prepare the food and serve on the day. Their involvement will go towards the Community Badge, which will be awarded later in the year.



I hope that all year 8 students have a good break at half term and come back refreshed and ready to keep up their excellent attendance as well as their commitment to do the best that they can. Looking forward to the Spring!

Ms H Jerrard, Head of Learning



YEAR 8

Five week term, what is there to write about one might say? Not at St Edmund's! A five week term and we have been filled to the brim with events.



As per every year we started the term **THE** Saint Edmund's way with our Celebration Assembly, recognising the effort, achievements gifts and talents of Year 9 individuals. It is always an amazing event to witness, purely due to the sheer volume of pupils coming up on the stage collecting their certificates and prizes. Congratulations to all pupils who were nominated, and a huge well done to the winners. Remember, if your name has not been mentioned this time, the opportunity is there for the next Celebration Assembly in the summer.



Straight after the Celebration Assembly, we all attended our Year 9 Options Assembly delivered by Mr Wilkinson, followed by the Options Market on Thursday 25th January. I am absolutely blown away by the pupil and parent support for the evening, and would like to extend a further thank you to all those who attended. The Hall was buzzing and almost overflowing with pupils, parents and visitors.

As career and options choices are our main focus in Year 9, I am confident that all our pupils have made sensible choices, as they had plenty of support prior to making this important decision. I would like to pass a huge thank you to Mr Wilkinson, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Halford for all their support during the option choice period. Not an easy task to get it right; even more difficult to keep everyone happy, trust me.



On the 30th January I had great pleasure in taking 30 pupils to Chichester University Campus for an Options and Choices Day trip. During the course of the day pupils were shown around the university campus by student ambassadors, and learnt about post 16 pathways. All of the pupils represented our school in the best way possible, and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



On the 31st January, we continued looking ahead as a year group and attended the Get Inspired Portsmouth event at the Portsmouth Guildhall. Year 9 had the opportunity to gain a real understanding of the broad and exciting career paths that the diverse businesses in and around the city of Portsmouth have to offer, again, a very inspirational afternoon.



We finished our term with our second PSHE day with a focus on Speed Networking, bringing in a huge range of professionals for our Year 9s to talk about different careers and qualifications needed to get there. A very useful and informative day, however, Year 9 need to remember that with all the guidance and support we, as a school provide you with, we still need your determination and hard work to achieve your full potential.



An unbelievably busy term for us all. Have a lovely break and enjoy whatever you are doing, just please stay safe!

Mrs T Feliks-Matthews,
Head of Learning Year 9



YEAR 9



Firstly, a warm welcome back to a very cold start to the term, I hope all families had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed the time off with their loved ones. Year 10 have really been hammering away at the first half term and I am very proud of what we have accomplished.



Hitting the ground running on the second day back, Year 10 completed their first English Literature Mock Exam on January 9th and I was very impressed with the way



our year group conducted themselves. I firmly believe that we are ready for the challenges that GCSEs will bring.



With early entry in English literature for all Year 10 pupils, and Physics for all Triple Science Pupils, it is important (now more than ever) that support surrounding revision and homework is a collaborative effort from both home and school. All pupils will be receiving an English revision task to



complete over the half term via the post; triple Science pupils will also receive an additional task. These pieces of work will be available on the school website and Tutors will be checking work on pupils' return to school. This task will be a milestone leading into our prefect applications and will be a requirement to become a member of the senior prefect team.



Thursday the 18th January held host to our first Year 10 celebration assembly: "The Eddies". Pupils were treated to a plethora of clips and music as we recognise our year group's accomplishments in their subjects and around school so far this year. Particular congratulations to **Molly and Le Jia** for being rank 1 in our Personal Qualities score, **Dean, Josh, Daisy and Alex** for hitting our Silver



commendation milestone (70 commendations), 10 Damien for the highest attending tutor group and 10 Newman for most commendations logged by a tutor group this term (over 800!!). A huge well done to all pupils who took home our achievement and effort trophies for their subjects, and badges for their half colour awards in our sport department! Support from parents was fantastic and I look forward to seeing you at the next one in the Summer.



Our Year 10 retreat took place on Friday the 2nd February and the pupils were treated to a selection of workshops covering different aspects of worship. Our three workshops covered meditation, prayer through music and an activity around current societal issues. Pupil response has been fantastic and their involvement in the day was refreshing. Our year group always pray so beautifully and really highlight their spiritual nature. A Special thanks to Fiona our Chaplain, Mr Nichol, Mr Maguire, Bryn Jenkins and Molly Stevenson for their time and help in running the day's activities.



Finally, Year 10 participated in their 2nd PSHE day on Wednesday 7th February which included extra English revision for their upcoming mocks and exam focusing on Poetry, a double session with volunteers from Explore focusing on marriage and relationships, and finishing with a session on managing self-esteem during KS4. Pupils as always were fantastic and their involvement in the day is always brilliant.

Have a great half term!

Mr J Brown, Head of Learning



YEAR 10



Firstly, Happy New Year, I hope you all enjoyed your break and have all settled in well to this new term.



Year 11 have come back to school ready to complete their final few months with us at St Edmunds. There have been many events alongside the year 11s continued hard work, that have kept them busy this term. For example, we had our whole year group photo morning. This was a very emotional event for many, including ourselves as it was the first major event to celebrate and prepare for year 11 leaving us. The photo looks fantastic and all year 11 pupils can purchase their copy via the Yellow School Photos website.



Additionally, we celebrated all the fantastic achievements and efforts of our pupils in our celebration assembly. All pupils received at least one nomination from their teachers and at least 2 pupils were chosen as winners of either achievement or effort per subject.



Additionally, we presented some special commitments awards. For example, **Thomas** received the commendation shield. Thomas achieved this amazing award by collecting over 310 Commendations - the highest in the year group. Furthermore, the top personal qualities score was revealed. The personal qualities scores are based upon pupil's effort, behaviour, homework, being prepared for learning and progress across all subjects.



A huge well done and congratulations goes to **Arlene** who achieved the top personal qualities score for year 11! Finally, we awarded four head of learning awards to pupils who have contributed positively and shown tremendous progress throughout year 11. The winners of this award were; **Kevin, Benjamin, Stephanie and Julija**.



Many congratulations and well done to all the nominees and winners throughout this celebration assembly.



Finally, the prom committee members have been hard at work this term raising money for their leavers Prom in June. A special thanks and well done to **Lily and Rosie** for their running of a cake sale- with their fantastic sales skills resulting in raising just over £50. Look out for the next cake sale, being held on the 2nd March.



We can now also reveal that the main theme for the leavers prom will be.... the Oscars!

Keep up the hard work year 11 and enjoy the half term break.

Miss Evans and Miss Howard, Head of Learning



YEAR 11

LLRC Literature Quiz 2018

On Thursday 25th January, 2018 twelve pupils from Years 7 and 8 took part in the School Library Service Portsmouth Literature Quiz 2018 at Fratton Park. This included stiff competition from all Secondary Schools in Portsmouth.

The pupils had several different rounds, from the 'Welcome Round' identifying the faces of authors, 'General Knowledge', visiting 'Authors' and 'Visual' rounds. The pupils had to read all four books, written by the visiting authors and look at their websites. They had all worked really hard preparing for the quiz, with some pupils standing in at the last minute as reserves.

They all did exceptionally well and should be extremely proud of themselves, as we finished in 2nd Place overall. Just pipped to the post by the winning team Mayville High School, in Southsea. However, many of the pupils enjoyed the afternoon so much, they have already signed up to take part again next year! The names of the pupils who took part were: **Rahwa Mulugeta, Ebenezer Abraha, Milli Gebremariam, Zak Glanville, Jennifer Motunbo, Anna-May Lines, Jamar Johnson, Jamie O'Farrell, William O'Shea, Madeha Zaman, Radayah Siddiquir and Tabitha Hazlewood.**



Read some of the comments from the pupils below:



"The quiz got us to think and use our memories" Jamie



"It was a great chance to meet four authors!" William

"I loved it! It was filled with competitions, challenging questions. This is one of the best competitions I've ever been to!" Jennifer



"Exciting questions and amazing authors. I'm definitely participating again next year. Thank you Mrs Edwards for helping us prepare for the quiz. It helped us a lot!" Milli



"I absolutely loved the Literature Quiz, educational and book inspiring. Simply everything I could ask for from a Lit Quiz and more!" Ebenezer



"It was fun meeting the authors and reading different genres of books, that I wouldn't normally have read." Anna-May



"It was an amazing experience, both reading all the books and also being able to compete against other schools. We collaborated amazingly well as a group and we performed fantastically as individuals." Rahwa



"It was an amazing encounter with the authors, getting our books signed. It was also a great challenge to try and beat the other schools, with our knowledge of books. I would love to go again next year." Jamar



26th Feb – 2nd March.

Pupils to have a book to read for the week.

#WORLDBOOKDAY 2018
THURSDAY 1 MARCH

Celebrate stories. Love reading.



NEWS

Congratulations to Isabel for being awarded with the Best Junior Cadet of the Year Award by HMS Excellent Base Commander Mike Dreelen RN at the Portsmouth Sea Cadets Awards.



I had a great time working with the Languages department from Portsmouth university. They provided me with more insight to languages and how useful it is to speak another language.

During the Workshops that they had arranged we worked in either groups and or pairs and it was a great opportunity to try out our new language skills and the strategies that they taught us to support with memorisation will be a great help during the examinations.

It was a great opportunity to attend and it was interesting to find out how languages can enhance your career pathway.

Molly



Following our success in the Girls Football EFL Cup this year, I was asked to send a write up for two star players. Ruby was chosen and appeared in the official Match of the Day magazine



Ruby has really taken off in her football career since starting St Edmunds what with Hampshire County and Southampton Football Club trials. Well done to Ruby and to all the girls football team.

Miss Evans

REVISION DAY

Portsmouth University

I was so pleased to be chosen to attend the Modern Foreign language Revision sessions that were being held at the John Pounds Centre by Portsmouth University. I was a great opportunity for us to learn strategies for revision and memorisation techniques. Sessions I found to be most useful included communication and visual aids.

Overall, the day was a fantastic experience and I hope that it is something that can be offered to future Year 11 students before they undertake their Language examinations.

Cheryl-Ann



St Edmund's Fencing Club



The fencing lesson that I took part in was a great learning experience. We were shown different types of fencing moves and learnt the rules of the game. Fencing is a very competitive and active sport as you are constantly moving around trying to tag your opponent. I loved it! and I am really looking forward to my next PE lesson.



Do you know anyone who has supported the community , raised money for charity or has a success/achievement/good news story you feel everyone should know about. Please contact Mrs White on ext 231 or email: nwhite@saintedmunds.org.uk

COMMUNITY LINKS

It was great to see our Year 11 Leavers back for a visit to our Year 11 assembly to talk about their educational experiences and aspirations. We were all delighted to hear how well they are getting on at college and the feedback will have been very motivational for Year 11s and will hopefully help them to think about their own preparations for GCSE and college. We look forward to them keeping in touch with us and informing us of their successes!!



Harry
Currently Studying at
Havant College
Courses:
Maths
Further Maths
Drama
Aspires to be:
**University Lecturer with a
PHD in Mathematics**



Bonnie
Currently Studying at
Portsmouth College
Courses:
Health & Social Care
Sociology
English Literature
English Language
Aspires to be:
Councillor for PTSD patients



Mbire
Currently Studying at
Portsmouth College
Courses:
Law
Government & Politics
Biology
Aspires to be:
Solicitor in Commercial Law
**Following studying Law at
Oxford University**



Tanya
Currently Studying at
Portsmouth College
Courses:
Biology
Chemistry
Psychology
Aspires to:
**Study Science at
Oxford University**

Ebony-Jane
Currently Studying at
Portsmouth College
Courses:
Performing Arts
Religious Education
Aspires to:
**Attend Drama School and
pursue a career in
Children's Entertainment**



**WORK HARD AIM HIGHER DREAM BIGGER
NEVER GIVE UP!**

U15 Team make St Ed's History!

Although it ended with a 4th round defeat, the Class of 2018 made history for St Edmunds in reaching the 4th Round of the National Cup! Victories included beating Whitgift, a well established private school that have produced International professionals in recent years. The boys conducted themselves in all matches impeccably and represented the school in superb fashion. The defeat was suffered at the hands of Hampton Private school, London. Hampton have their very own Director of Football, who once was involved with the likes of Brighton FC and Southampton FC. The Eddies boys kept up the pace and held Hampton until the later part of the second half where fitness got the better of them, and tired legs couldn't keep the ball out of our own net. Overall a fantastic achievement and something to never forget for a school which is usually the underdog in such competitions!



NEWS

2018



2018 Paschal Candle for St Johns Cathedral

The 2018 Paschal candle is now finished and will be on display at St Johns Cathedral from Easter.



Year 10 - Art



Congratulations to year 10 GCSE art students for completing their first coursework project on "Food". Since starting the course in September they have worked extremely hard. Well done.



Year 11 - Art

Congratulations to all year 11 GCSE Fine Art students for working so hard in their mock exam in December. Pupils worked to produce a final piece in a 5 hour exam. Well done for producing some stunning work.

Year 7 - Art

Congratulations to the year 7s for a brilliant start to the year. Pupils learnt basic drawing and painting skills whilst studying the theme "Teddy Bears".

A fantastic start year 7 well done and thank you.



ART



With Key Stage 4 comes a new range of options. It is the chance to pick the subjects you are interested and focus on subjects in more detail. The new GCSE's have led to the introduction of a range of new subjects. Psychology is one of the new subjects with a newly accredited specification starting in 2017.

The first St Edmund's cohort consists of 42 students who have been working hard for the last 5 months covering the first few topics.

Over the 2 year course students cover a range of different psychological topics and issues. So far the students have covered Developmental Psychology focusing on how our brain and behaviour develops as we go through childhood. This then lead in to the next topic of memory where students were shocked to find out how most of our memories are false and made up on the spot. The current topic is psychological problems where students are investigating the symptoms and causes of depression and addiction and the impact this has on society.

Future topics yet to be covered are neuropsychology looking at how the brain works and, social influence, looking at how 'good' people can display negative and poor behaviour in the right circumstances. This leads to a high level of application to historical events such as the holocaust.



On a sunny, hot day in North Uganda, 27th July, there was a Komodo Dragon, eating a leaf and reading the Merchant of Venice. It was enjoying itself until an evil geographical researcher called Davon, discovered it and captured it with a net. He flew it back to America by helicopter to observe its species and the study it in the Science Tech Lab.

So far students have applied their skills to a range of different experiments through either replicating psychological studies or creating their own. The main focus of the experiments has been memory and can we really trust our memories. Students had to create their own stories and see how the story got changed from person to person.

Students are most looking forward to studying the optional topics of criminal psychology and sleep and dreaming which will be covered in year 11.

The course requires a lot of hard work and dedication from the students however the course and content are extremely applicable to everyday life and students are finding it very easy to explain and apply their knowledge to everyday situations. Their greater understanding of psychology has led to students asking 'Sir why are all our assemblies based around psychology?' It safe to say that the students have made a great start to Psychology in year 10 and hopefully they and future year groups will continue to enjoy psychology, the current students are saying:

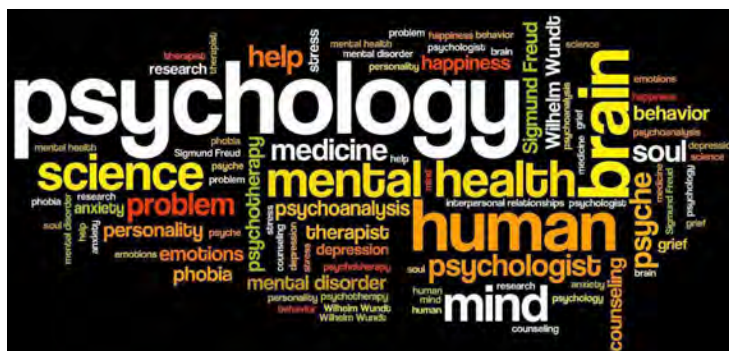


'I really enjoy psychology and I have learnt a lot of studies and theories'

'Very, very interesting, completely brand new subject, I am enjoying it'

'I am able to understand everything although I still can't read minds!'

'Psychology is an interesting topic and about more than just the mind'



PSYCHOLOGY

St. Edmund's Carol Service 2017 was, as always, a joyous evening filled with Christmas music. We could not enjoy such an event without the dedication of many pupils and the hours of rehearsal that they put in to Choir, Band and other groups. Thank-you to all involved - what a brilliant evening! - Mrs Deal

This year's carol service was very fun. My favourite song was 'Good News.' This was my second time singing at the carol service. I love choir because I love singing.



This year was my third Carol Service, and it was the best one yet! It was great to see that everyone was involved and the music was stellar.

My favourite piece was 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing.' Overall it was an enjoyable evening.



Christmas Carol Service December 2017



Interview with a Guitar teacher:

What is your name? **Matt Lake**

What instrument do you teach at St. Edmund's? **Guitar**

What other instruments can you play? **Bass and ukulele**

Where else do you work and what ensembles do you work with? **I work at Cams Hill School, Dorset House School, Churches College, Upham Primary and Fair Oak Junior School. I currently am the guitarist and bass player for 2 function bands – 'The DLB' and 'Big Love Soul.'**

Who is your favourite instrumentalist? **John Mayer, Eric Clapton, Stevie Wonder, Nile Rogers, Vulfpeck – the list is endless!**

What is your favourite piece of music? **My favourite album at the moment is 'The beautiful game' by Vulfpeck**

Why do you love your instrument? **The guitar can occupy every space between classical, through to hard rock and metal music. You can make it sound however you want. I love all the extras that go along with it too like pedals and amps.**

What do you love most about teaching? **I really enjoy sharing my passion and love for guitar and music with my students.**



MUSIC

St Edmund's has acquired a fish tank after students liaising and working with BAE systems for over a year.



Finally have fish!

The fish tank is located in the library; if in the unlikely event that you haven't come across it yet. After some initial problems with algae growth, we have now successfully established a sustainable community of plants which is a stable habitat for our resident fish (Guppies).

The growth of algae was resolved by changing the feeding regime and adjusting the cleaning rota. A dedicated team of pupils from Year 7 to Year 11 give up their time during break, lunch and after school to maintain the fish tank.

Due to the students hard work and perseverance, we have created suitable conditions for the guppies to breed and produce a new and much larger population. The students have also established a close link with the Arundel Fisheries nearby, we have an exchange programme where they have taken some of our young guppies and exchanged them for a breed of fish called Neon Tetras which adds a variety to our tank. In addition to the Tetras, we have also added a catfish and some bottom feeders to help us control the algae and waste generated in the fish tank.



The group is currently working on a project to acquire live foods to enhance and supplement the diet of the fish. All years are welcome to come along and find out more. We meet every Thursday 3.10-4pm in room 409; we hope to see you soon!

Mr D Ghosh



Fishy Fun with the STEM club! This year so far has been very eventful with the STEM club welcoming new members and new Guppy fry. We also introduced three new species to our Aquarium of exotic species. The club and school now own catfish, bottom dwelling fish and our ideal species for the tank...Neon Tetras! We have all been very patient and our hard work and determination has paid off, we now have more fish than we bargained for as our guppies have produced offspring!

Now try our Quiz: 'Survival of the Fishiest!'

What does AFES stand for?

2. What do you call a baby fish?

Now have a go at the crossword:

Across:

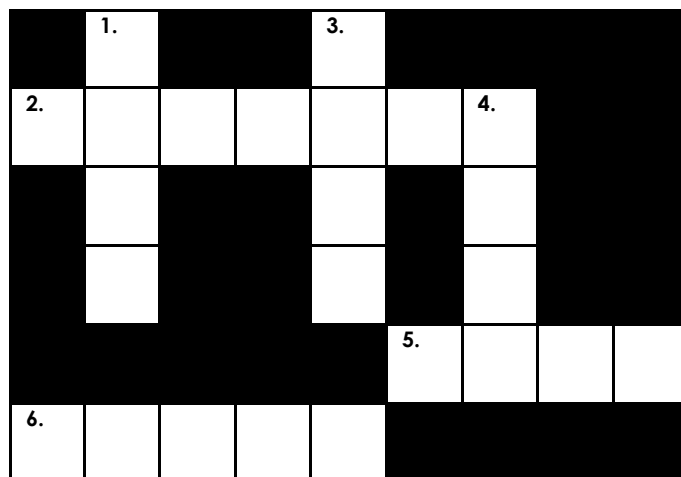
2. One species of fish we keep.
5. Type of Tetra.
6. Type of small fish.

Down:


1. What you keep fish in.
3. The things we keep.
4. Descriptive word for the size of catfish.

The answers will be available in Student Services after half term.

Tyler Birch and Adam Jones




SCIENCE



St Edmund's Catholic School

**A
Chance to
DANCE
2018**


Friday 2nd March 7.00 pm



TICKETS ON SALE FROM MONDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2018 IN THE DRA ENTRANCE

Adult £3 ★ Child £2

Featuring:
 Year 10 and 11 examination performances
 Year 7 Dance Club Year 8 Dance Club Year 9 Dance Club
 Boys Street Dance Crew




St Edmund's Catholic School
 Students of Year 8
 warmly invite you to our

**Annual
SENIOR CITIZEN
Party**

Wednesday 7th March 2018
2.00 - 4.00 pm

at St Edmund's Catholic School Arundel Street
 Portsmouth PO1 1RX

Please RSVP by Friday 23rd February 2018
 Miss Tamzin Cormican 02392 823766 ext: 230
tcormican@saintedmunds.org.uk
 LIMITED TRANSPORT AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Parent Governor Vacancy

The Governing Body (GB) for St Edmund's Catholic School are looking to appoint a Parent Governor. The role of Parent Governor is the same as any other Governor. You will be charged with the responsibility under the Schools Standard and Framework Act of 1998 to: "conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of education". There are 3 key strands to the role:

- Take a strategic view
- Act as a "critical friend" to the school, the staff and students
- Ensure accountability, especially in terms of finance.

The GB consists of 12 Governors: being a Voluntary Aided Catholic school, 7 are Foundation Governors appointed by the Bishop; two are from the staff, including the Headteacher; two are Parent Governors and 1 represents the Local Authority.

The members of the GB have a range of skills and experiences which enables them to undertake their key duties. Training is offered to broaden skills eg to improve awareness of financial matters. There are 2 meetings of the GB each term. In addition, each Governor will serve on a sub-committee, for example, the Finance and Personnel Committee. Each Governor is also expected to be a "link governor" where they take a special interest in several subjects, visiting the school on behalf of the GB, formally and informally on a rotating basis. If you are interested in being considered as a Parent Governor, please collect a nomination form from Reception; the form will explain the process and, once completed, should be returned to the school by 4pm on Friday 9th March 2018. Should there be several applications it will be necessary to hold a ballot. (For more details of the role of a parent governor visit www.gov.uk/parent-governor.)



We're offering a free two-night stay with meals in our Youth Hostels in England and Wales to families struggling with financial hardship, disability, long-term illness, bereavement, homelessness or other challenging circumstances, to enable them to have some quality family time. Up to two adults and their children can apply to the Family Breaks programme for a short break.

Our Breaks Programme aims to reach young people and families with the most challenging lives and provide them with life changing experiences.

For more information visit: www.yha.org.uk/special-offer/free-breaks-families

family breaks

