



GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK YEAR 11

We wish all of you good luck as you take your GCSEs, you have all worked extremely hard. All the best for your future adventures at college, university and careers. It has been a pleasure to have you as part of the St Edmund's family.



NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mr S Graham BSc, NPQH
Tel: 02392 823766



Headteacher's Address

As you are aware, we began this half term with year group assemblies to grieve for the loss of Mrs Thompson, Head of English, who sadly passed away during the Easter holiday. This was undoubtedly a low point in the term, reminding us of the importance of our time together here at St Edmund's. As the half term has progressed, we have celebrated the life and achievements of Mrs Thompson and our students have shown true dedication through their perseverance and work focus. I have seen some incredible homework and amazing pieces of classwork from students in all year groups. We are incredibly proud of students in Years 10 & 11 who have worked extremely hard in preparation for their GCSE examinations. It is strange to think that in a few weeks Year 11 will leave and move on to the next stage of their journey through life. It has been fantastic to watch them grow up and mature into such well rounded young adults. We continue to pray for all our students who are sitting some intensely lengthy and difficult examinations.

There have been some exceptional sporting achievements this half term, with victories in Handball, Cricket and Table-tennis at various levels. The girls upper and lower football teams were both crowned Portsmouth champions for the second consecutive year. The pupils continued commitment and team spirit is to be commended. We have also completed the refurbishment of one of the changing rooms and repainted the Hall entrance.

Next half term will be equally as busy, especially as we welcome the future Year 7 on their induction days. Following 3 days of appeals, we are now significantly above capacity and St Edmund's remains the most popular school in Portsmouth. With that comes the need to maintain our vision and commitment to the standards and practices which have led to success for our children. Hence, next term, we will be focussing on progress (linked to Personal quality scores) and uniform. Jewellery is becoming a particular low level issue for the school. Students who wear incorrect uniform, including jewellery will have this confiscated. We will be checking each day and issuing the appropriate sanction. Many students wish to wear their rings/Pandora bracelets etc which are not appropriate for school and are at risk of being lost. I would appreciate your support in reinforcing this at home.

I look forward to the final half term and to see the rewards of such industrious behaviour from our pupils reach fruition.

God bless



Mr S Graham, Headteacher



In it to win it!

A new team of 'hat trick' boys have been put together for this term with the aim of increasing their personal quality scores in Attainment 3.

These boys have excellent leadership potential and as part of this programme, they are looking to tap into their talents. On the mornings of April 26th and May 10th they met their team leaders:



Mr Durbin (Former Naval Warfare Officer and author)

Mr J Cooper (Former Warrant Officer in the British Army and School Business Manager)

Mr Tindal (Senior NCO/Aircrew RAF/Cover Supervisor)

Mr Collison MBE (Former Commander in the British Army and now working for DSTL in Military resourcing.)

The boys are in 4 teams of three competing for a top prize at the outdoor centre. They were put through their paces with teaming building exercises

and observation skills.

Next half term there will be a follow up session.

Mrs M Howorth





On 9th May, we had a Memorial Mass for Mrs Thompson, in St. John's Cathedral. It was a time to gather to celebrate the life of Mrs Thompson and all that she gave to our school. We remembered especially Mrs Thompson's family, friends and all of the staff, students and past staff gathered at the Mass. Mrs Thompson died in the Easter holidays which was a shock to all of us. Staff gathered in Mrs Thompson's classroom for a prayer service on the Friday before school resumed in order to pray for Mrs Thompson and her family as well as supporting one another in our loss. On the first day back at school each year group had an assembly and a prayer service. During the services each person was given a paper flame to hold and then everyone spent time praying for Mrs Thompson and her family. Those flames of prayer were gathered and placed in our chapel. Larger flames were left in the chapel for staff and students to write their memories and prayers on. Those flames were collected and were brought forward in our offertory procession during Mass and were then given to the family at the end of Mass as a memory from our school. It was a beautiful Mass and those students and staff who took part in the Mass through reading, offertory procession, serving and the choir as well as all the people who were gathered made the occasion a celebration of Mrs Thompson's life.

Lord, we pray in remembrance of Mrs Thompson's life and all that she gave to our school.

We especially remember her kindness and generosity to many students and her support for causes such as the protection of whales in our oceans.

May we too be inspired by her generosity and kindness of spirit.

We also pray for her family.

**May they feel supported by family, friends,
and the family of St Edmund's.**

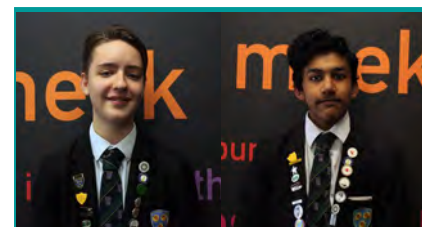
**May they feel Your love
and compassion for them in the coming months.**

Amen



Our Year 11 Leavers Mass was a wonderful celebration of the five years spent at St Edmund's school. It was fantastic to see the students enthusiastically entering into the preparation for their Mass. The **'Footprints'** song that they chose after communion, spoke of Jesus being there to walk with every person and at times to carry them through out their journey. We encouraged our Year 11 to remember this as they go through life; that Jesus is **ALWAYS** there for them.

My special thanks to the Year 11 for all their help and support in Chaplaincy. Many of the students had been involved in Chaplaincy in various ways over the past five years and helped to make the spirituality of our school more vibrant and life-giving.



It was a real joy to work with our Chaplaincy Captains: Lewis and Joseph. Enthusiastic, joyful, generous, organised, kind and very spiritual are words that come to mind when I think of them both. It was really uplifting to conclude the Mass with everyone singing and clapping to 'Saviour He can move the mountains'. We wish Year 11 all the very best in their future.

Our prayer for Year 11 at this phase of their life's journey

We pray that as Year 11 prepare for and sit their GCSE examinations they may be graced with a faithful memory of all that they have learnt and that they may go on to achieve their best results.

May they feel the continuous support of family, friends and our school during this time.

We are thankful that Year 11 students are a part of the St Edmund's School community.

As they travel through life may they believe in themselves and their giftedness, always giving their best in the knowledge that they are deeply valued.

Amen



Have a lovely half term. Many thanks for your continued support.

Fiona, Chaplain



CHAPLAINCY



As I am writing this half termly newsletter I am actually waiting on my next Year 6 transition appointment to arrive. It blows my mind that this time last year that was you! You were all attending your transition appointments, talking through the key aspects of your new secondary school, asking any questions or worries that you had, finding about your two transition days to really prepare you for the big step to secondary school! And here you are – having nearly completed your first full year with us at St Edmunds!



This half term we enjoyed a “mini” celebration assembly – part way through the term, in between our big celebration assembly’s that we hold in January and July, I felt it was crucial to once again celebrate the achievements of the year group! A huge number of pupils had special mentions in a number of subjects. I was particularly proud of the entire class of 7T3 Maths. Miss Hammond wanted to give the whole class a special mention – all 29 of them – she has been so impressed with them as a class all year and recognised how hard they are all working.



In our assembly we also counted down our next set of Personal Quality scores ...

Personal Quality scores are given to each pupil for criteria such as being prepared for learning, effort, homework and behaviour. Scores are applied for each from 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. A very special mention has to go to Emily who not only placed in 1st place for our first round of Personal Quality scores back in November, but she continues holding strong in 1st place once again! A real achievement and I am so impressed! These scores are currently displayed proudly on our Year 7 noticeboard for all pupils to identify where they are currently placing within the year group.



As we build towards our final Half Term of Year 7 we have a huge amount to look forward to. One of my favourite of events of the year is our Reward Trip. Year 7 are heading to Paultons Park in July as an exciting day to celebrate everything achieved across the course of the year. This obviously does stand as a “reward” trip, therefore invites are sought after. Our Key Stage 3 requirements for the end of year reward trip include:

- 1. All pupils to remain above 95% attendance for the academic year (medical exemptions accepted).**
- 2. Received no exclusions from St Edmunds during the academic year.**
- 3. No inclusions during Year 7.**
- 4. No more than 3 homework detentions/3 behaviour detentions during Year 7.**

Pupils have begun receiving their invites, and I look forward to issuing further invites to additional pupils who have shown us a clear, marked improvement across the course of the year. I wish you all an enjoyable Half Term break as we build towards our final 7 weeks of Year 7!

Miss E Johnson, Head of Learning – Year 7

REWARD TRIP!



YEAR 7





Well we have reached the summer term and so quickly! There is no letting up though with many activities and events still to come. On the 25th and 26th June all the Year 8 students will be attending their Retreat at Park Place. This is a fun day of reflection, team building and a chance for the pupils to have a day just for them.

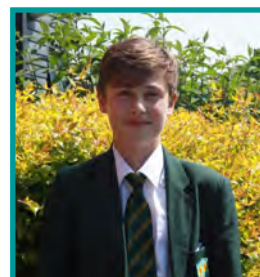


At the end of the school term we will be going out on our Rewards trip to Legoland. Again this is a great opportunity for those with excellent attendance and behaviour to spend a day together and enjoy some time away from school. Let's hope for the sun that day!



There is also a mini reward trip for the tutor group who has logged the most merits from the start of the summer term. In December, 8 Stein got to go to Vue and watch a film of their choice. Merits go towards a variety of rewards including badges, an early lunch pass, a non-school uniform day with a friend, lunch queue buster passes, drinks vouchers and a free panini or pizza slice. Merits are given out in lessons for outstanding classwork, effort, behaviour, assessment results and homework. Congratulations must go to **Martyna** and **Amanda**, who, despite joining our year group late, have already collected a large amounts of merits. Congratulations also to **Madeha** for gaining the most merits again, **William** for the second highest and **Mylenna** for the third highest.

Also well done to the group of boys who are taking part in 'Team Hatrick'. Their determination has really shone through in their pursuit to increase their Personal Qualities. Keep up the good work boys!



Later in the summer term we have our final Celebration Assembly and during that event pupils will receive their Spiritual Badge and their Community Badge. To gain the Community Badge, pupils can have been involved in some sort of community event in school, community involvement outside school, charity work and partake in clubs and hobbies. To gain the Spiritual badge they must have taken part in a number of events which include leading the tutor prayer, attending the Carol Service and attending the Easter Service. Some pupils will have a blazer full of badges at the end of the year!



Along with our final PSHE day we also have the annual Sports Day to look forward to – which tutor group will win this year?

Every week the year group receive a Powerpoint from me informing them of a variety of news items, including their attendance, the quiz winners, recorded merits and milestones, the homework that is due and the tutor time activity. This half term the pupils have been looking at

Social Justice and how they can make a difference. Along with the daily prayer, Ninja maths, silent reading, notices and assemblies, their registration time is full!



Sadly during this term 8 Devereux said goodbye to Mr Pogson who had been their tutor since the start of Year 7. We thanked him for all his hard work and the tutor group put together a surprise party for him and engraved a lovely glass with all their names.

It just goes for me to say keep up the hard work Year 8 and make sure that you improve on your Personal Qualities for Attainment 3. Have a good half term break – and hopefully you will have some sun to enjoy!

Ms H Jerrard, Head of Learning, Year 8.

YEAR 8





The last six weeks as per usual have been very busy for us all in Year 9. Although we had our Easter half term break only 6 weeks ago, I, personally cannot remember that it actually happened! It was lovely for the first time ever to attend a school trip in half term, and to see so many of you enjoying skiing. I must say, everyone did extremely well despite the bruised limbs! Behaviour was exceptional, just as the skiing skills.

On Wednesday 25th April we had the pleasure of welcoming some very special guests, who travelled all the way from Alabama, USA to visit the Family Church in Portsmouth, but

who also agreed to deliver our Year 9 Assembly. I am sure, that the majority of my students will agree, that it was one, amazing and inspirational event for us all.



We loved their performance so much, that we invited them again at lunch, and what a lunch break that was?! The Hall was not only buzzing, but also bursting with St Edmunds pupils from across all Year groups, joining in this deeply moving and charismatic experience. Thank you to **All** pupils from across **all year groups**, for representing our school in certainly the best way I have ever seen in my last 9 years here.



On Friday 4th May Year 9 had yet another spiritual opportunity to attend the Eucharistic Congress in the New Theatre Royal alongside other Catholic Schools from the Diocese. The day was packed with inspirational talks, singing and prayer, and I must say all of our students yet again entered beautifully into this special event. Thank you very much Year 9s, it seems, that regardless of what we do, and where we go, you always stand out from the crowd for the right reasons.



On a slightly different note now. In preparation for KS4, all year 9 pupils have been given a letter reminding everyone about our forthcoming SATS following this half term. I would like therefore to take this opportunity, to ask all parents for your support in encouraging your children to revise during this break. I do realise that it does sound like a mammoth task, especially in this weather, however we need to remember, that the pupils' results will be a testament to the work they will put in.



Finally, it is that time of Year when the letters for the Year 9 Reward trip to Chessington on Tuesday 18th July have been sent out. For those who have been offered a place on the trip, I would like to remind you that the deadline for payments is **Thursday 21st June**, if you are planning on using your bursary, please make sure you complete all the paperwork on time. As with all school excursions, attendance on the trip remains subject to good behaviour and attendance for the remainder of the Academic Year, and I must remind parents that pupils who persistently fail to meet the school's expectations will be at risk of losing their place on the trip.



Thank you to all pupils for being fantastic this term. Wishing you all a lovely holiday. Enjoy and please stay safe.

Mrs T Feliks Matthews, Head of Learning Year 9



YEAR 9





Year 10 is drawing to a close as we enter the first half term of the Summer. We have as always been extra busy with a whole host of activities across the previous six weeks. Year 10 have been on their toes with their second parents evening, prefect applications in full swing, preparation for GCSE exams and the excitement of the Thorpe Park invitations coming out. Not to mention some standout individuals going above and beyond for both our Year group and the school.

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm thank you to all the parents/carers who supported Year 10 during their second

parents evening. With our English and Triple Science GCSE exams being taken this year it is vital that we keep up a strong school-parent partnership. I was thrilled to see so many pupils and parents on the evening, and many leaving with smiles on their faces (and relief on the pupils!). Should you wish to have an update on your son/daughters progress please do not hesitate to contact myself, and I will liaise with the relevant departments.

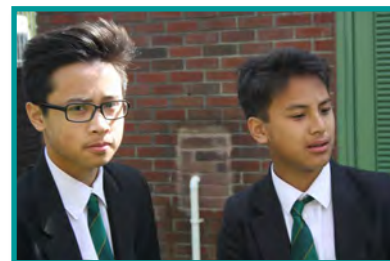


Congratulations needs to be given to all pupils who applied for a number of roles within our Prefect team, with special consideration going out to the 18 individuals selected to interview for our senior roles including Head boy/girl Deputy Head boy/girl and the senior prefect team. So well done to Rohan Alexandru, Alfred, Thomas, Aidan, Syeda, Freya, Ruth, Rebecca, Daisy, Samantha, Alba, Molly, Denzel, Isabelle, Molly, Cecile and Hollie. Best of luck to you all. We will announce your prefect team after half term.

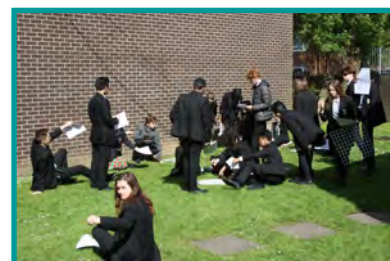


Year 10 have been hard at work all year working towards the 22nd and 25th May for their English Literature GCSE exams and I could not be prouder. I have seen pupils produce incredible revision resources, attend after school revision sessions, give up their weekends and days in their holidays to extend their own learning and strive for the best results possible. I wish them all the best in their results and look forward to sharing in

their successes on **Thursday 23rd August**. Further admiration has to be given to those pupils also completing their Triple Science GCSE exam on the 23rd of May with the final exam on 15th June.



Finally, as we look forward to next term Year 10 have lots to be excited about. Thorpe Park is on the horizon and invites have been sent out to those meeting and exceeding expectations. The date of the trip is Friday 13th July and I expect absolutely nothing could go wrong... Year 10 also have their PSHE day visit to Havant and South Downs Campus coming up on June 22nd along with a visit to Portsmouth College on June 28th. Soon after a majority of our Year 10's will get a real world experience of work via our Work Experience with EBP from July 16th -20th.



Thank you for all your support this term. Have a lovely holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone back here on Monday 4th June.

Mr J Brown, Head of Learning Year 10

YEAR 10





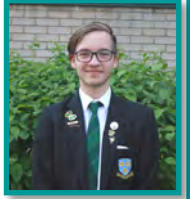
'Although this term has been exceptionally busy for us in the English department getting ready for the GCSE's, it has also been tinged with sadness following the passing of Mrs Thompson. Having worked closely with Mrs Thompson for nearly ten years, it was devastating news to receive over the Easter break, but I have been amazed by the strength of character shown not only by the department as a whole, but by the pupils within Mrs Thompson's classes too. Every pupil has been a credit to her and the way she taught them. Although Mrs Thompson is now gone, we will never forget the huge contribution she made to the school and countless lives during her 14 years.' Mr Were

English Literature GCSEs. How do you prepare for them?

One of the first things you thought about was hours and hours of reading the same notes over and over again, right? That's boring. Why not make it more fun so that you can remember things more easily? "How?", you might ask. Well, by being creative! There are many ways in which you can make your revision fun. Here are some of them.

- Make small colourful revision cards. This way you can always have them with you and you could colour code them to correspond to a certain theme, poem or character. On this little piece of card you can write quotations, contextual notes or links to other characters / themes / poems.
- Associate quotations with movements. An easy way to remember some quotes is by associating quotes with bodily movements. This way you will make your body remember something even if your mind forgets it. This will help you during the exam as the stress can get to us all. This easy way of remembering can therefore be a life saver in exams. With these in mind, what other techniques can you come up with? What other ways do you make your revision easier and more fun?

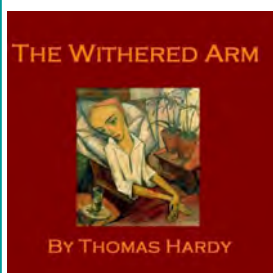
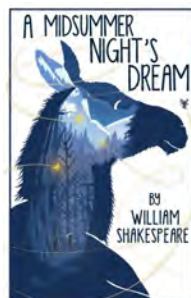
Alex



A Year 7 perspective on English

"I think that working with 7M1 has been an enjoyable experience so far this year. We have learnt a wide range of technical terms, these can vary from foreshadowing to pathetic fallacy!

One of the topics that I found engaging was the Shakespeare play, A Midsummer Night's Dream. I can remember quotes from it like 'The course of true love never did run smooth'. Learning about English in secondary school, my class especially, seems an enjoyable experience. I can guarantee that you will learn something new every lesson!



My all-time favourite book novel that we have been learning about in class is the Victorian book named 'The Withered Arm'; (Such a blood-twist at the end!).

I have strengthened my skills of writing PETAL paragraphs in this class and have found it one of the most interesting subjects in this school. Overall, working in 7M1 is absolutely fantastic. I feel stretched and challenged in a way I never found at Primary school.'

Ebenezer

Gender in Film

We are really enjoying learning about gender representation in film, in particular 'The Male Gaze.' It is more engaging than topics such as Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About

Nothing' as these studies are applicable to today's society and, in our opinion, we enjoy learning things like this because it is something that we do in our everyday lives – learning about it has opened our eyes to how the media subconsciously controls how we view celebrities.

Gender in film links back to the patriarchy of the past, where women were seen as inferior and often portrayed as objects of pleasure. This is something that is still present within modern media consumption. During lesson time, we feel more included. This is because it is something that we as a class can relate to. We are more involved in our learning and as a result feel more enthusiastic towards our overall learning experience.

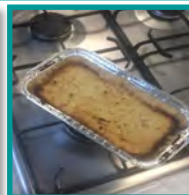
Logan & Luis



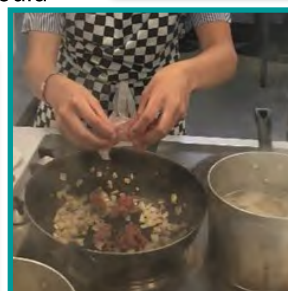
'Currently in English we are investigating 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' a classic detective story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The protagonist, Sherlock Holmes, an intellectual detective and Dr John Watson, his loyal sidekick, adventure to Dartmoor to uncover the legendary hound. Our lessons have been a balance of reading and writing, as we gradually advance through the book to further our theories. We have gone in depth to each character and investigated the mysterious moor. We have created descriptive writing pieces and analysed certain quotes. Using our knowledge of tension and anticipation we can often predict later plot points. Although we are all familiar with the stories of Sherlock Holmes, we also anticipate the thrilling climax...' Ben

ENGLISH





In Unit 2, students gain knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children and an understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing appropriate equipment to meet all of these needs. They will also gain knowledge of nutrition and hygiene practices and will be given the opportunity to evaluate dietary choices. Evaluation skills are transferable skills which would be of use in further studies in most areas.



Year 10 Practical Work

Year 10 pupils had to prepare bottle feeds for 6 month old babies and produce dinners for both 9 month old's, using the appropriate 'weaning' stage, and 4 year olds. The foods had to be healthy and highly nutritious.

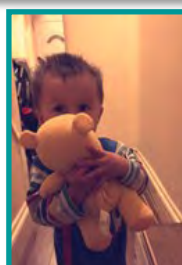


Year 11 child Study

The Child Study carries 40% of the assessment for the GCSE. Pupils have to study a single child under the age of 5 years **by the end** of the study. It involves observations of the child through an investigative/problem-solving approach, carrying out specific planned activities with them.

The investigation then evaluates the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of a child and how it changes over time.

Maria made Christmas decorations as part of creative play, this looked at physical and intellectual development. **Lilly** created autumn animal collages with a 3 year old. **Olivia** read books with a 3 year old and **Darcy** looked at water volume and mass as part of intellectual concepts.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT



Stein, Science and the Solar System!

Throughout our science lessons we have been studying physics in particular the solar system. We have discovered many facts about the planets through our research.



Miss Hooker split us into 9 research groups; 1 for each planet! We had a lesson to create a poster including the criteria we were given and any other interesting facts we could find. We then presented these to the rest of the group next lesson and made top trump cards for each of the planets from the facts of



each other's presentations. Here are some pictures of us during our research and what two of our class had to say about our task...



"I thoroughly enjoyed researching about Pluto and hearing the rest of the classes presentations!"

Jeslin

SOLAR SYSTEM



"During this topic I have learnt so much about the solar system and all its mysteries!"

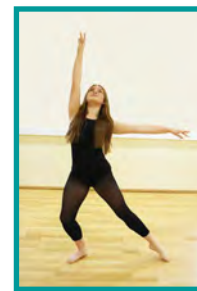
Christian



SCIENCE



This half term has seen the year 11 BTEC Dance class complete their final Dance exam. This involved all pupils creating a solo choreography and performance lasting 1-2 minutes based on a choice of two challenging exam questions and stimuli; *Contradiction* or *Youth Issues*. Myself and Miss Meade were so impressed with all pupils and how maturely they approached the exam questions and how effective their final performances were. Well done to all!



Both the Year 10 and 11 classes also performed in *A Chance to Dance 2018* for their company exam performances, alongside club performances from our Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 Dance clubs, as well as our Boys Street Dance Crew.

It was a fantastic evening with a packed out audience of friends, family, staff and other pupils! The Dance department were so impressed to see all pupils, of all ages really step

up their game when it came to performing on the night of the show to the audience!

We obviously know what a talented bunch of dancers we have while we are rehearsing in

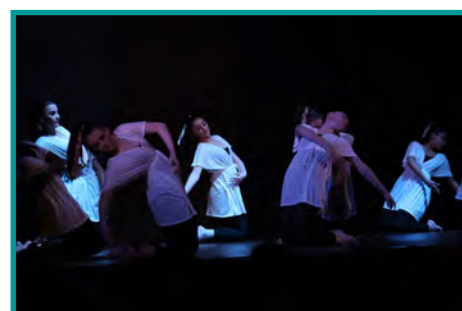
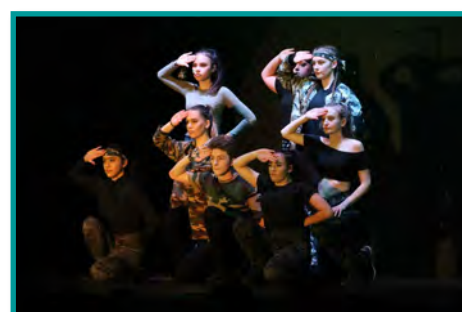
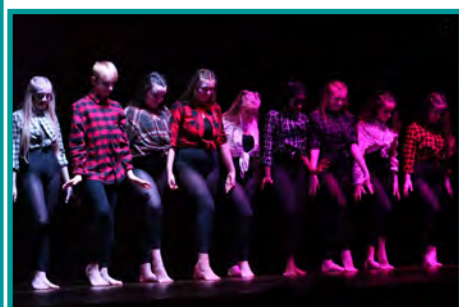
lesson time and at after school clubs, but when placing our dancers on stage, in costume, under the lights, everyone stepped up their performances even more! We were so proud of another fantastic show.



Charlie in the Year 10 BTEC Dance class has reviewed how she felt the Dance Show went as part of her first ever company exam performance:

"We had worked so hard in lessons and rehearsals in the build up to the show, but that didn't mean we weren't nervous! It was so different performing it to our friends in lessons, compared to performing on stage under the lights to an audience! The show ran really

smoothly in the end and everyone did really well in their own individual performances. Some of my favourite parts of the show was the getting ready and the excitement backstage! As a class we were so proud of what we achieved in our first exam performance! Keep an eye out for our next!"



DANCE



**SCHOOL HALL
7.00PM**



**ST EDMUND'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PRESENTS...**



THE NEXT GENERATION

SCHOOL of ROCK

THE MUSICAL

**TICKETS ON SALE
FROM MONDAY
4TH JUNE!**

**WEDNESDAY 20TH - SATURDAY 23RD
JUNE 2018**

TICKET PRICES:

WEDNESDAY: ALL TICKETS £3

THURSDAY & FRIDAY: ADULT £5 CHILD £3 FAMILY £14

SATURDAY GALA PERFORMANCE: ADULT £7 CHILD £5 FAMILY £22

(GALA TICKET PRICE INCLUDES PROGRAMME, CANAPÉS AND A DRINK ON ARRIVAL)

(FAMILY TICKET - 2 ADULTS 2 CHILDREN)

BASED ON THE PARAMOUNT MOVIE WRITTEN BY MIKE WEBB

MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER LYRICS BY GLENN SLATER SCRIPT BY JULIAN FELLOWES

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