



Participating in the Literature Quiz was an amazing opportunity. Everybody has collaborated and worked exceptionally hard to get where we are now. I would also like to thank Mrs Edwards, who has been with us during the whole thing and we wouldn't have been the winners without her. So thank you Mrs Edwards.

Doing the Lit Quiz was an amazing experience, everybody at the quiz was very friendly and welcoming. It was such a surprise when one of our teams won. My team won a round and we got free book tokens to spend, which was incredible. You could even get your book signed by one of the visiting authors.



## 2019 Lit Quiz Winners

St Edmund's are the Champions once again! This was a fantastic achievement for our Lit Quizzers who not only displayed a great passion for literacy by reading and researching the four books but also shared their enthusiasm by attending sessions in the LLRC to test and share their knowledge.

What an amazing afternoon it was on Thursday 31st January 2019. All the schools in Portsmouth met and went head to head to reveal how much they knew about books and to compete for a chance to win the coveted prize, the 2019 Lit Quiz Trophy, a prize that had eluded us for the past two years.



Our teams started well and as the afternoon progressed, the tension and excitement built. Who would be crowned the 2019 Lit Quiz Champions? A cheer resounded around the room when it was revealed that the St Edmund's Team A were the overall winners. To add to this, our Teams B & C won individual Book Rounds which is also a fantastic achievement. Congratulations to all our Lit Quizzers, you were an OUTSTANDING and AMAZING team and a real credit to the school. **Mrs J Edwards, Librarian**



I loved the Lit Quiz! It was an educational and inspirational experience. I will never forget Ali Sparkes signing my book. It was like meeting my hero!

I loved the Literature Quiz. It was a great afternoon. I was so happy when they called out St. Edmund's Catholic School as the winners and that we had won. I also managed to get three free books. It was an experience of a life time.



Amazing! It was so fun and you got to meet four authors in one afternoon and free books if you win, which we did. Although we couldn't have won it so spectacularly without Mrs. Edwards encouraging and preparing us.



My favourite part of it was winning the whole thing and lifting the trophy!! My team were amazing and we worked really well together. My favourite book by far was the book written by Alex Wheatle; 'Liclle Bit', about a young guy who gets caught up in the wrong crowd by accident. The authors signed all my books, which was very nice.



# NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mr S Graham BSc, NPQH

Tel: 02392 823766

[www.saintedmunds.org.uk](http://www.saintedmunds.org.uk)



As we near the end of the first half of the Spring Term, students have been working extremely hard with their learning and despite a lot of unavoidable illness over the past couple of weeks, attendance and punctuality remains consistent for this time of year. Your support in ensuring students attend school is essential if they are to be successful learners.

During this term we have had time to reflect on our journey so far in the light of 'encouraging one another on our journey to Holiness'. Last week we completed our Eucharistic Prayer and Adoration allowing us all to take time to stop, pray and reflect; for when we do our journey becomes easier when we know God is with us and we are supported by one another.

Running alongside this we have our 'Catenian Badge of Kindness' which is awarded to students who have:

- **Consistently shown kindness, respect and care within the Tutor Group.**
- **Have extended that kindness and care into the school community and lived out the Beatitudes throughout the year.**

This special badge is awarded at the end of the year during celebration assemblies.

Our current Whole School Focus is 'Manners' and trying to reinforce our expectations around behaviour and standards whilst in school. One area of increasing concern which we have seen amongst students is the amount of unkindness being communicated through social media outside of school time e.g. through group chats, Facebook, WhatsApp, Snapchat etc.

Unfortunately these issues have been brought into school and can cause considerable upset for our children. Whilst we will always seek to resolve these issues (and apply school sanctions where relevant), it can become a major distraction to learning and have an emotional impact on the children. The school policy and child/parental agreement I believe provides clear guidance for families and highlights the importance of using this valuable tool wisely. **"I will ensure that my online activity, both in school and outside school, will not cause my school, the staff, pupils or others distress or bring the school into disrepute"** is an extract from the Governor's E-Safety Policy which all students sign up to when they join St Edmund's Catholic School. Any student not conforming to this or found to be bullying another student will receive a sanction in accordance to our Behaviour for Learning Policy.

There has recently been much coverage on the impact of social media use on our young people and their emotional/mental well-being, as well as focus on excessive time spent gaming/using tablets. As I am sure you are aware, there are clear legal guidelines as set out in the Malicious Communications Act 1988, Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and Communications Act 2003 for the use of apps/social media platforms e.g. Facebook, Messenger, YouTube, WhatsApp, Tumblr, WeChat, Edmodo, Twitter, Snapchat etc. There are also age restrictions linked to the use of some Apps. For example, Snapchat/Facebook/Twitter/Tumblr/Instagram is 13 and above, whereas WhatsApp is 16. Although students are keen to use such platforms, I would strongly recommend that these safety guidelines are applied. More importantly, I would urge you to ensure that these are monitored and checked on a regular basis. Teaching our children the importance of appropriate use of social media is a key part of educating young people. We will focus on this in assemblies over the remainder of this half-term and across the school.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the hard work, time and effort, in ensuring that our students look so smart and come prepared ready for learning.

I wish you an enjoyable half-term.



Mr S Graham  
Headteacher



## Headteacher's Address

### OUR HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOU!

Do you have a piece of history hidden away in the depths of a cupboard or stowed away in the attic that has not seen the light of day for Years? If yes, we are currently looking for donations of artefacts from any period of History to fill our cabinet and help improve our students better understanding of history by bringing the subject to life. If you have an artefact you think may be suitable, please contact the History department on ext: 220. All donations gratefully received.

# Bring our History to life.





At the start of the Year we introduced our new Spiritual Focus for the Year, 'Encouraging one another on our journey to Holiness'. Since September we have lived this in so many ways: through our charity work of collecting Harvest Foods for a local church, raising money for the homeless for St Vincent De Paul, filling Christmas sacks for The Roberts Centre. We have had our lunchtime Tutor Masses, our Masses on St Edmund's Day, Reconciliation Services, Carol Service, praying together in Tutor and Assemblies, our First Communion Program began, Year 7 Tutor Groups raised money for their Icons for their prayer corners in their classrooms. We have supported one another in many ways. We have spent much time doing things and so we decided to take time to stop, reflect and pray. During the week beginning 28th January – 1st February



we had the opportunity of a week of Prayer and Adoration. In preparation for the week, the students heard about Eucharist Prayer and Adoration during assembly and in some of their RE classes.

**'I am the light of the world, anyone who follows me will have the light of life.' (John 8:12)**

*Stop...Pray...Reflect*

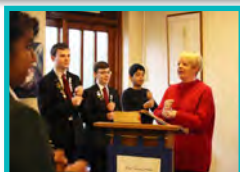
We were truly led by Jesus through our week of prayer and adoration before his presence in the Blessed Sacrament. It was wonderful to have so many classes coming down to the chapel for quiet and prayer, as well as students and staff signing up for prayer slots throughout the day. St John's Primary School came to join us on two days for prayer workshops and time for Adoration. St Swithun's Primary School also joined us for a workshop and Adoration on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of all those who participated, as well as sensing the prayerfulness around the school.



May we continue to be mindful of the presence of Jesus each and every day in our lives. Let us continue to encourage one another to try and take time to stop.... pray... reflect, for when we do, our journey becomes easier when we know God is with us and we are supported by each other.

**Have a lovely half term,**

**Fiona, Chaplain**



**CHAPLAINCY**



Happy New Year to you all, it's hard to believe we are already in February. We have had a lovely start to this new calendar Year, with lots to celebrate.

As many of you are aware, in the first 2 weeks back after Christmas, we had a focus on all Year 7 classes. This was to enable us to highlight exceptional behaviour for learning in the classroom, but also to identify any behaviours that were not acceptable. For 2 weeks, every Year 7 class was visited by a senior member of staff. The teachers were asked to name 2 children that were currently behaving exceptionally well and working to the best of their ability, but also to

name anyone who was a behaviour concern, allowing us to deal with and monitor any issues to improve the behaviour across the Year group where needed.

It was lovely to see so many children named in a positive way, over 170 children were highlighted for doing the right thing and they will all be receiving a postcard home from myself to say well done. As well as this, all names given positively were put into a hat and we drew out some prizes in assembly, these included non-uniform days, free cakes, early lunch passes and a free chicken sub! I also awarded the two children with the most positive mentions, who were Ava and Bethany, well done girls, hope you enjoyed your chocolates! The tutor group with the most positive mentions was 7 Damien, well done. I feel the two weeks were very worthwhile and it was lovely to be able to reward children for their excellent behaviour. Below is a list of the top person from each Tutor Group.

**7 Damien: Nikol**

**7 Devereux: Bethany**

**7 John Paul: Charles**

**7 Kolbe: Dulcie**

**7 Newman: Ava**

**7 Romero: Maddie-Mae**

**7 Stein: Jack**

**7 Teresa: Hudson**

I have been concerned recently about some of the issues we have had in Year 7 with regards to social media. There have unfortunately been a number of cases where there have been unkind messages, within group chats, and I have also been made aware of some children taking other people's photos, without their consent, and posting them on these social media sites. Another



worrying concern is that there has been a case where a fake account has been set up using the child's photo and details. This account was closed down by the social media site, however then a second one was set up hours later. Our children need to be made aware of the severity of these actions and the harm it can cause. As parents or carers I urge you to keep a close eye on your child's phone. As I am sure you are

aware, most social media sites require users to be at least 13, meaning the children in Year 7 are not supposed to be using them. The decision as to whether the child has access to social media is of course the parents and carers, but together we need to make sure they understand the risks and also have the maturity to handle the use of these sites. Our children need to know about the digital footprint on line, anything that is posted can potentially be copied, changed or passed on and all posts will potentially stay on forever. There is a great website for advice and guidance: [www.thinkyouknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkyouknow.co.uk) Please take a look and share with your children.



Can I take this opportunity to express how proud I was of the whole Year group, they displayed great respect and maturity by applauding every nominee and winner, even when some of them didn't get awarded a prize on this occasion. A special thank you do all the children who performed in the celebration assembly, they were all

rewarded with doughnuts at break on the following Friday. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support and communication, together we can achieve the very best for every child in our Year 7 family.

**Mrs Brand, Head of Learning Year 7**



# YEAR 7







Wow – I cannot believe how quickly this half term has sped by! This half term and past week has seen our biggest and one of the most important events of the Year 8 calendar – our annual Senior Citizens Party! It was held on Valentine's Day this Year and we had 70 senior citizens from our local community join us for afternoon tea, a showcase of performances, bingo and our raffle of gifts. I have been so impressed with our Year 8 committee that have shown excellent skills in planning and preparing for the event.

On top of our committee, each tutor group had the task of fundraising for the Senior Citizens Party so that we had a budget to work with! There were some fantastic fundraising events happening such as sponsored silence, guess the teachers baby photo, cinema afternoon, inter tutor sports matches, various bake sales as well as SPLAT THE TEACHER!! Congratulations have to go to our top 3 tutor groups for fundraising and raising the most across the Year group:



**1st place – 8 Damien raising £158.21**

**2nd place – 8 Newman raising £90.61**

**3rd place – 8 Kolbe raising £70.56**

Everyone's time and effort has meant, not only we were able to run a fantastic Senior Citizens Party for the people in our local community, but we have all also ticked off another criteria towards our Community Badge! Don't forget these have to be completed and handed in to your tutors by 7th June in order to be able to achieve your Community Badge in our celebration assembly!



Last Year 8 newsletter article we talked about merits ...! We know have a winning tutor group that have won themselves a tutor group afternoon at the cinema after half term ... the winners were 8 Devereux!



Congratulations to all in Devereux – I hope you enjoy your prize when it comes around! We will be holding another inter tutor mystickers merits competition later on in the Year – can another tutor group top 8 Devereux next time?!



On a slightly different note – attendance has been a bit of a worry this half term – lots and lots of illnesses going around – it is so important to keep ourselves as healthy as possible, lots of sleep, fruits, vegetables, fluids, as well as keeping ourselves warm with enough layers (our school jumper and coats being a good start!). Every day of school missed, every hour of lessons missed are valuable learning time that you will never get back. Be in school as much as possible! I hope you all have a restful and safe Half Term.



**Miss E Johnson, Head of Learning Year 8**



# YEAR 8





Another dominant display by the St Edmund's Table-tennis team. On the 29th January 2019 they took part in the Portsmouth Area Individual Competition. The team was made up of 11 players who all managed to triumph. This time more schools attended with over 50 other competitors. Results:

#### Boys under 16:

1st Alfred Mathew  
2nd Sarwan Sabir  
3rd Oli Matthews  
4th Joe Coates

#### Girls Under 16

1st Jolie Rowe  
2nd Maureen Tagum  
3rd Annika Asuncion



#### Boys under 13

1st Jackson Tran  
2nd Eric Palacz

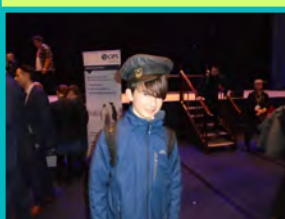


From the categories entered we won all the medals apart from one. The top 2 in each go through to the next stage in February. Well done everyone!

Mr M Potts, PE Department

### Get Inspired

I want to thank so many parents, carers and pupils who attended the very successful Options Market at the end of January. I was pleased to see that students were asking mature questions to the colleges, training providers and Universities who were present. It has been an important time with students having interviews and attending option showcases during morning registration, leading up to making their choices for Year 10.



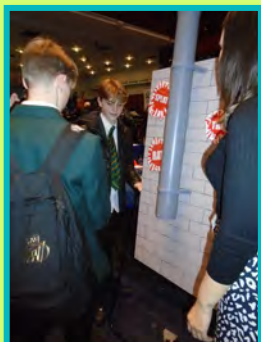
To help in this process, Year 9 took part in a Get Inspired Day at Portsmouth Guildhall – organised by EBP. Pupils were able to visit a host of employers, organisations and companies who put on a



very interactive afternoon of activities.

The event provided “have a go” tasks, students taking part in a wide range of activities, giving them exposure to many diverse roles, from the armed forces, to the public sector to local employers.

Ms H Jerrard



GET INSPIRED

GET INSPIRED

GET INSPIRED

NEWS

What a wet and windy start to the New Year, there doesn't seem a day I haven't stepped in puddles on my way to work. Having said that it hasn't dampened the spirits of Year 9s and they have been busy since I last wrote in the newsletter.

This half term has seen the first Celebration Assembly of the Year where so many pupils received certificates for achievement and effort in their subjects. It was a really lovely way to share in the student's success. It was good to see how many were rewarded. I would like to congratulate Annika who came top in the Personal Qualities – she had made a huge effort to get there. Nicole came second with Lila and Maureen third. Congratulations must again go to 9 Damien who came top for their attendance. Also praise goes to Roisin who received the Head of Year award for having the second highest nominations for the celebrations, and for being so involved in lots of extracurricular activities. Toby won the award for the most Triple P nominations, well done. Thanks must also go to the 9 Kolbe and 9 Romero musical students who performed their "recycled" music mix – it was amazing, as well as the girl's drama performance. Their short piece was focused on understanding why people bully and seeing another side.



A group of Year 9 boys have been taking part in interactive workshops to inspire them to make small positive changes for long term lasting positive effects. They will be visiting the university and have had a visit from someone who came from a very difficult background and who is now a successful business man and entrepreneur. He believes that small changes can have big effects.



A lot of Year 9 pupils spent the day in London visiting the Imperial War Museum, from pupil feedback it sounded a really interesting and fun day out for them. Thanks to the history department for taking them.



Congratulations goes to Madeha who has the most points for our Mystickers rewards, with William and Tobias in second and third place. Keep going – this is the last Year that the students can collect these badges.



I am looking forward to seeing some great progress towards our end of Year targets as Attainment 2 draws near. Keep working hard Year 9. Attendance is still an issue with some pupils and I must stress how important it is to come to school. Even if you feel a little under the weather. Please remember that every lesson lost you won't get back again.

There has been sadness in Year 9 over the last few months with a number of pupils suffering from personal loss and bereavement. I have been really touched by the support they have received from their friends and to see how they really care for each other. With our focus last week on Mental Health, it is a good time to remind everyone that there is a lot of support in the school for students if they need to talk to someone: their tutors, Heads of Year, Fiona and any member of staff.

Have a good half term rest everyone and aim to do your very best in all aspects of school life for the rest of Year 9.

**Ms Jerrard, Head of Learning**



# YEAR 9





Firstly, a very warm welcome to you all following the Christmas break, which, I am sure for many is just a very distant memory! I do hope you all managed to get some rest, as well as lots of quality time with your families.

This term, although a very short one, started full on from the very first day back with our English Literature mock exam on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. For a majority of students, it was the very first, unless you were one of those who sat the Physics exam in December. Whilst these can be a very stressful experience, that I was very impressed with the way our Year group conducted themselves and coped with the pressure. Punctual, prepared and well organised it was all that I asked for!



I would like to believe, that having a taste of the formal set up, and the mock exam itself, helped students all to understand how things will work on the day. Our English Literature mock exam was also followed up with a special assembly delivered by Mr Were, Head of English, with lots of useful tips on how best to prepare for the requirements of the exam with the new specifications. Consistent, well-paced revision and completion of all homework I think you agree, was the main message from that morning. The support provided by the school during the preparation for exams is second to none. However, it is only one part of the deal, the additional work at home will be a key deciding factor whether students reach their true potential. Please remember, all tasks/homework, assignments are on the school web-site, which I would strongly advise all Year 10 students visit regularly for updates; if unsure, please do ask class teachers, who will be more than happy to help.



Students in Year 10 are a very responsible and mature Year group. As the Prefects applications will commence soon, the qualities that they have shown including maturity, good organisational skills and hard work will definitely help with the process. Good luck to all who are applying!

On top of all this, there are the many gifts, talents and academic achievements, which we celebrated on the 17<sup>th</sup> January during our first Year 10 Celebration Assembly - The Eddies. It was so lovely to see so many students being rewarded for hard work and effort in so many subjects. We are very lucky to have such varied curriculum at St Edmund's, and I can very clearly see how much the students are enjoying learning the subjects that they have chosen. A huge congratulations to our six pupils who were ranked number 1 in Personal Qualities for our

Year group: **Lydia Adie, Lateefa Ayodeji-Chilver, Eloise Borrett, Pip Collins-White, Bethryn Keysell, Aaron Quinlan and the Head of Learning Award winner Kiana Moxon.**



Also, a huge well done to all pupils in **10 Romero** contributing to the best overall attendance for the term, and the highest amount of Commendations, 808 exactly! I am intrigued to see who is going to take home our achievement/effort trophies, and badges in our summer term Eddies Assembly, I cannot wait! Good luck to you all.



I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you about the wonderful 3 day Retreat to St Cassian's Centre, Kintbury from 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> March 2019 that has been offered to Year 10 pupils. St. Cassian's Centre belongs to the De La Salle Brothers (a Religious Order of Brothers founded in France 300 Years ago by St. John Baptist De La Salle) and the Retreat at St. Cassian's is run by "The Kintbury Team", a group of people who live and work at St. Cassian's. The team also includes some younger members who spend a Year in residence there, usually before or after University. As you know, even at your age, it is so easy to get overwhelmed by the amount of work we have to do, life circumstances and everyday events, hence it is so important to stop, reflect and just to take a break to think. This is a fabulous opportunity Year 10! Please make the most of it. Should you need to discuss the retreat, financial contribution, or anything else, please do not hesitate to speak to either Fiona or myself.

Have a fantastic break Year 10s. Stay safe!

**Mrs T Feliks-Matthews, Head of Learning Year 10**



# YEAR 10





# SMASHED PROJECT

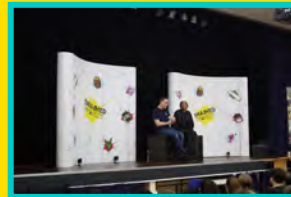
breaking underage drinking

## The Smashed Project

The Smashed project is an educational theatre initiative with a vision – to break the culture of underage drinking and reduce alcohol related harm amongst young people around the world. 'Smashed live' tours around schools to deliver their message with a fun and interactive performance. On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, Smashed Live performed to Years 7 & 8.

If you would like to know more The Smashed project a parent's guide, is available by visiting their site:

**The Smashed Project:** <https://indd.adobe.com/view/f835dee1-5f80-4644-ab3d-729f268b50ef>



## Imperial War Museum visit

The History department arranged for a group of Year 9 students to visit to the Imperial War museum in London. The students had a fantastic day interacting with the displays and getting a 'hands on' learning experience.



"I really enjoyed the trip to the museum. Seeing all of the tanks, aeroplanes and other military items was really interesting, especially seeing how things have developed over the years."

"To see items that belonged to people throughout the ages was amazing. It really told their story and how they used to live. Some of it was really quite moving."



"It was so interesting to find out more about World War 2 and how significant the holocaust was. To see how the Jews were treated by the German army was truly horrifying."



"Following the trip to the Imperial War Museum, I now have a better understanding of the holocaust and what happened in World War 2. I truly hope that something like this does not happen in the future."



# NEWS



As each newsletter entry is written by myself I feel a bittersweet sensation as Year 11 is drawing to a close after five fantastic years. This half term has been the quickest yet, and still we've managed an abundance of events, revision sessions, preparation, celebrations and everything in between.

Starting the year off how we mean to go on was our Year 11 final Celebration Assembly "The Eddies".



Congratulations to the pupils who managed to come away with an award for your continued effort, achievement, commitment to the school ethos, clubs, or recognition from your Head of Year! It was a fantastic event and a huge thank you for the vast amount of help goes out to all the admin staff, Mrs Lunn, and Samantha Todd for performing a wonderful piece called "La Chappelle".



Year 11 were straight back to it the week starting the 28th January as they had their Year 11 Mock Assembly with Mr Graham. Each pupil was given an envelope containing their mock results as they would receive it on that fateful day in August after their GCSE exams. Pupils who were lucky enough to receive another envelope were treated to a wave one invite to our Prom on Thursday 27th June at the Village Hotel. Fear not however, because wave two invites are just around the corner.



Thank you to all parents who were able to attend our 2nd and final Year 11 parents evening on Thursday 7th February. These are always fantastic opportunities to see how your child is progressing in the lead up to the



final GCSE exams. Please do keep checking the school website for additional resources, revision timetables, and information regarding upcoming exams and assessments. This linked in well with Attainment two data coming home which provides a further insight into the progression of each pupil in Year 11.



Immortalising our year group as part of the St Edmunds family we had our final ever school photos, including our Year 11 group photo. Your child's proof copy of this will have come home and is available to purchase online using the details included in the proof



alongside any individual photographs you wish to purchase. It was a very humbling experience to see our Year group all together and a chance to reflect on how far they've come.



Year 11 pupils are also taking ownership of their own events this term with the start-up of both the Prom and Year book committees and I'm excited to see what they have in store. A whole host of events are upcoming to raise money for Year 11 including bake sales, valentine's deliveries, hot chocolates on the cold mornings and more!



With this in mind I look forward to continuing the final steps of our Year 11 journey on Monday 25th of February and wish you all a restful half term.

**Mr J Brown, Head of Learning Year 11**

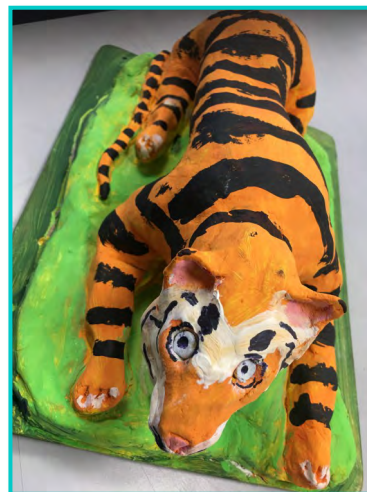
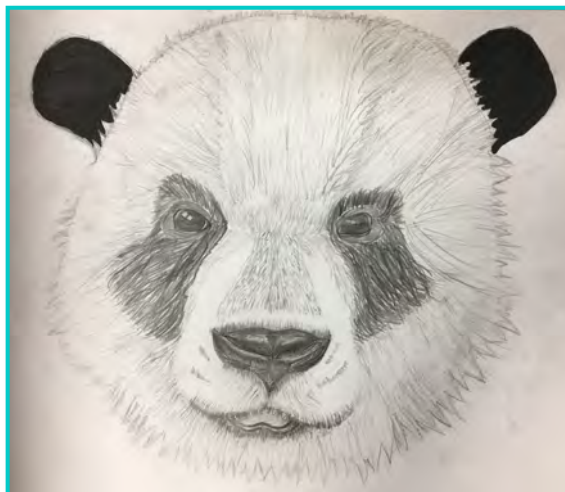
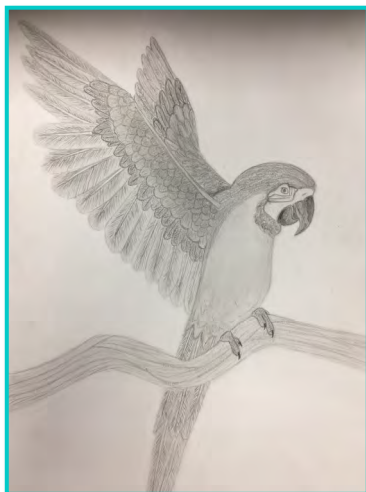


# YEAR 11





Well done to the year 11 Art students for submitting their GCSE coursework in, in January– your work is stunning!



**Online Gallery:** Don't forget to visit the school website and check out our online gallery. It is full of outstanding Art created by our students (some samples of their work is shown below):

<https://www.saintedmunds.org.uk/the-school/photos/art-design-tech-portfolio>



Due to the Art workshop being so popular during our recent Mental Health week, the Art department have decided to continue with this fantastic workshop every Wednesday lunchtime in D8. for more information please see Mrs James.



# ART





### Year 11

Huge congratulations to Year 11 who have been working hard on completing their recipe trials for their upcoming Controlled Assessment. This year, the students have been given the topic of 'Street Food' and have been producing some exciting and creative dishes from sushi to churros. I wish them the best of luck for their upcoming assessment.



### Year 10

Very proud of the clear progress that has been made by the Year 10's so far this term. Focusing on Cereals as their current module we have created a wide range of dishes such as hand shaped pasta, focaccia and samosas.



### Cross Curricular

The Year 10 photography student have been working on their food photography projects this term. A perfect opportunity for the food department to support by teaching 'fake' food hacks and plating techniques. We think the photos turned out fabulous!



Year 7 - Pasta



Year 8 - Fajitas



Year 9 - Burgers



### KS3

Year 7, 8 and 9 have been working hard at creating some tasty dishes with our design plan and make challenge. We have a huge amount of creativity and flair being shown during practical lessons as well as focus and enjoyment during theory lessons, creating raps, poems, presentations and songs.





## Trip to Parliament

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November a group of singers were privileged to represent St Edmund's and Portsmouth at a performance in Parliament Square to Commemorate 100-Year anniversary of the suffragette movement. Pupils sang 3 original songs composed by Portsmouth teachers on the themes of the suffragette movement at the statue of Millicent Fawcett.

We were met by our local MP Stephen Morgan who gave us a tour of Parliament including some detailed history of the suffragette cause. Well done to Giulia, Danny, Jeslin, Lydia and Molly for all their hard work and fantastic performance on the day in the pouring rain!



## Soundsational 2019

Wishing good luck to Tristan, Aiden, Lydia, Anton, Shaneia, Giulia, Molly and Aidan who are representing St Edmund's on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at Soundsational concert at Portsmouth Guildhall. They are performing arrangements of 'I Dreamed A Dream' from Les Miserables and Since You've Been Gone by rock band 'Rainbow'. The choir will also be performing at the event alongside other schools and colleges from Portsmouth. Tickets are available at the Guildhall on the night priced £8 adults / £6 concessions. The concert starts at 6:30pm.



## Portsmouth Music Festival

Good luck to Emily who is competing in 3 vocal classes at Portsmouth Music Festival this month. Congratulations to Molly who recently was awarded 'highly commended' in a jazz and classical class at Portsmouth Music Festival and also won the 'Young Brass Player' trophy.



## Celebration Assemblies

Huge congratulations to all performers who took part in this Year's celebration assemblies. There were approximately 140 performers throughout the week and the standard each day was very high. The choir started each morning with the upbeat Justin Timberlake song 'Can't Stop The Feeling'.

Year 7 sang a special song about their Year group

accompanied by selection of instruments played superbly by 7 Teresa. 8 Damien provided a lively African Drumming performance created during their music lessons and Isabel played a flute solo, 'Starlight Express', one of her recent Grade pieces. In Year 9 a group of musicians from 9 Kolbe and 9 Romero created a piece based on the idea of recycling music and arranged a fantastic mash up of songs ending with Bohemian Rhapsody! The Year 10 music GCSE played a beautiful rendition of 'Say Something' with some lovely vocal harmonies and Year 11 were treated to an incredible piano performance by Samantha who is currently working towards her Grade 8.



## Yolanda Brown

Pupils attended a concert at Portsmouth Guildhall by world renowned saxophonist Yolanda Brown, Chair of Youth Music and BBC Music Ambassador. Pupils were treated to a lively, interactive concert that showed incredible performance skills.

After the concert, the pupils took part in recording of a world premier of the song 'One World' on the Guildhall steps alongside hundreds of children and Yolanda's band.



# MUSIC



### PRESTIGIOUS TRAINING CONTRACT FOR FORMER ALUMNI

Former student Tafadzwa has recently secured a prestigious training opportunity with Clyde & Co LLP London during his second Year at The University of Surrey where he is studying Law.

Tafadzwa left St Edmund's in 2013 after gaining a fantastic achievement in his GCSE examinations. He then went on to achieve further excellent qualifications at Portsmouth College gaining A levels in English Language (B), Geography (B), Criminology (Distinction), Sociology (A) and Law (A).

With regards to his journey up to this point he said: "Securing a training contract before graduating has perhaps been the highlight of my time at university so far. I cannot thank St Edmund's enough for all their help and support that set me up for my journey into further education and beyond."

Training contracts are extremely competitive, often exceeding seventy applications per place. We wish him the best of luck for the future.

### ATTENDANCE INITIATIVE

Did you know that 1 in 5 pupils in Portsmouth average one week of unauthorised absence from school in a Year?

Here at St Edmund's we are currently working closely with the Attendance Team who are based at Portsmouth City Council. The campaign; that was launched last October, aims to encourage students to attend regularly and to look at what they could become in the future if they attend regularly and work hard.



Our attendance for the whole school last term was an amazing 96.48%, which is the highest in the city. The city average for last Year was 93.8% and the overall UK average was 94.6%. Our Year groups individually were also in the high 90s range: Year 7 96.8%, Year 8 97.25%, Year 9 96.9% Year 10 96.68% and Year 11 94.27%.

Congratulations to 7 Kolbe who were the overall winners of attendance for the autumn term with 98.68% attendance. Keep up the good work, but remember, there is always room for improvement.

Mrs Howorth



## YEAR 7 ICONS & BLESSING

As you are aware our Year 7 students have enthusiastically entered into the spirit of St Edmund's family by participating in their Year 7 Retreat, collecting food for Harvest, entering the celebrations on St Edmund's Day, singing beautifully at the Christmas Carol Service, filling Christmas sacks for a local charity and many are involved in Chaplaincy.



As part of their Tutor Prayer time, students take turns leading Tutor Prayer. Every year, each Year 7 class raises money to purchase a religious icon that they then put up in their classrooms and this stays with the tutor until they leave in Year 11. These Icons will then be placed on an Icon wall and the various tutor groups who have left are prayed for and remembered. Each tutor group is asked to raise the money and choose their colourful Icon. So a wonderful array of colourful icons were blessed by Fr. Ansel at the start of the term and are now housed in all the Year 7 classrooms.

Well done Year 7.

Fiona, Chaplain



**SCHOOL NURSE CLINIC** Every week our School Nurse, Jenny Hardwick, holds a clinic at the school. This facility has been proven to be very popular with our students as they can take time out to speak to her in confidence about anything medically that is worrying them. If you think your child may benefit from meeting with her, please **contact Mrs Halford on the school number, ext: 229** who will arrange for them to be seen.

## Foundation Governor Vacancy

A vacancy for a Foundation Governor on the governing body has arisen and expressions of interest are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry. The term of office is for 4 years from the date of appointment. Foundation Governors are personally appointed by Bishop Philip, Bishop of Portsmouth to diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole.

The governors of a Catholic school work as a team, in close co-operation with the Headteacher and all the staff. Foundation Governors share the responsibilities of all governors ensuring: **clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction, holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff and overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent. In addition, governors are appointed specifically to ensure: that the religious character of the school is preserved, that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed and that the religious education curriculum is in accordance with the Bishop's policy for this diocese.**

Anyone interested in the mission of Foundation governor should not be put off by lack of experience as appropriate training is available during the period of service. Nomination forms are available from:

<http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/schools/governance.php> or email:

the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Clare Royston on: [clare@royston01.plus.com](mailto:clare@royston01.plus.com) for more information.

**Closing date for applications: Friday 8th March 2019**

## Book Sharing Fortnight

Book sharing fortnight will take place between

4th and 15th March.

Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 will be able to take their books home to give parents the opportunity to look at the learning that takes place in lessons.

A letter with full details will be sent home during the first week back after half term.

## NOTICE

### INSET DATE CHANGE

It has been necessary to change one of our scheduled Inset days during this academic year as a result of specific training requirement for staff.

The Inset day originally scheduled for Friday 28th June will now take place on **Friday 21st June 2019.**

As a result of this change we will require a slightly later start on Friday 28th June 2019 (9.25am) as a result of the Year 11 Leavers' Ball. The Year 11 Leavers' Assembly will be on Wednesday 19th June 2019.

Thank you





St Edmund's Catholic School

*A chance to dance*

**Dance**

2019

Tickets on SALE from Monday 25th February  
entrance to the DRA!

**Friday 8th March**

**7.00 pm School Hall**

**£3 Adult £2 Child**

