



"The Rome trip was so much fun. On the first day we went to the Piazza Navona, which is a square that is built on the site that was once a stadium in the 1st Century AD.

The second day we were off to the Vatican City, where we saw the Pope give a blessing to the crowd. The Colosseum was one of my favourite places to visit and seeing the ancient ruins."



"I really enjoyed our trip to Rome this year, and the many exciting places that we visited. One highlight was seeing the Pope at the Vatican City, but the diverse culture and a mixture of old and new was so interesting to explore.



My most favourite part of the entire trip was when we visited the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill because the scenery and gardens were breathtakingly beautiful. The Hard Rock Café, well what can I say, the food was delicious!"



ROME Pilgrimage 2019



On Tuesday 9th April at 03:00am 43 students left St Edmunds for an exciting adventure in Rome! Whilst in Rome the students were given the freedom to experience Italian food and culture as well as taking in many famous sites. We visited the Vatican, Sistine Chapel, Trevi Fountain and the Roman Forum. Whilst on pilgrimage we also took the opportunity to reflect on our own lives during moments of prayer and reflection. If you are interested in attending the Rome trip in the future, then speak to your RE teacher today!

Mr Maguire



"The most memorable part of the whole trip was when we visited the Colosseum. I have always wanted to go there and it lived up to all my expectations. It is an oval amphitheatre and the building dates back to 70 AD and it could hold 50 - 80,000 people. It was truly amazing to see. I made so many new friends on this trip, and it is a memory that we all share together.



I would like to thank Mr Maguire, Miss Hammond, Mr Nicol and Miss Cormican for accompanying us on this unforgettable trip to Italy."



NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mr S Graham BSc, NPQH

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Headteacher's Address

It definitely feels like summer! The exams have started, events for the final half term are being finalised and even the sun is shining.

Well done to all Year 10 and 11 students who have worked so hard towards their GCSE examinations. I am incredibly proud of the level of maturity shown and the amount of preparation that has taken place. We can now only cross our fingers and hope that our prayers helped.

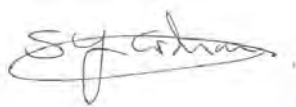
There have been some amazing individual successes this term, both within school and from individuals' hobbies/interests/sports. Once again I have seen some fantastic pieces of homework that students (and parents I suspect) have spent hours working on.

As we approach the final half term, we will be aiming to cement learning and progress ready for the next academic year. For Year 9, this will involve some students being unable to transition into KS4 with their year group. Students must be as they progress through the years and able to cope with the challenges ahead.

Finally, I must unfortunately share some sad news with you all. Earlier this week, Mr Barry Wright, (a School Governor) passed away. Mr Wright was previously Headteacher here at St Edmund's from 1988 to 2001 and then led the school as Chair of Governors, dedicating himself to the school for over thirty years. We are all extremely saddened and shocked by this news. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time, as they are with other families within the school who I know have suffered their own losses this year.

I hope you have a restful half term and look forward to continuing the hard work afterwards.

God bless



Mr S Graham
Headteacher



I am part of the Southern University Network young researchers team, which is a group of students who have chosen to research the best ways to inform younger students about higher and further education as well as apprenticeship schemes that are available to them. As part of the scheme, we also look into how to make work experience accessible to all.

After months of research, meetings and discussions, Martina, Rosin and I were invited to present our findings to a group of education professionals at Southampton University on the 15th of May. The presentation was very well received

and we are now hoping that we will help to make a change for the better and support schools in delivering information more efficiently. I can not wait for the next meeting where our team will be presenting to the Board of Education with the view to change younger peoples lives.



'Energy' is the word that comes to mind when I think of this term, as it has gone so quickly and the school seems to have been doing so many things.

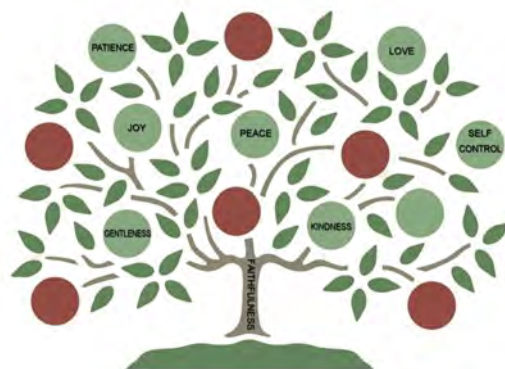
In the area of Chaplaincy; we had our Year 11 Leavers Mass in St John's Cathedral. A group of Year 11 students put a lot of energy and time into preparing for their Leavers Mass.

'You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last.'



This was part of the Scripture passage that they chose for their Leavers Mass and the part of Scripture that they chose to go on their Leavers plaque at the back of the hall.

Year 11 were asked to remember this quote, and to remember that Jesus has indeed chosen each one of them; He has chosen to love and care for them each and every day. And to remember that: **'I can do all things with the help of God who strengthens me.'**



This term we had a wonderful Year 9 Vocation Morning. Year 9 had previously spent time looking at their choices for subjects in Year 10. Year 9 are continuously making choices each day in their life; their friends, what to wear, what they would like to do with their life in the future and who they want to be. So an opportunity was given to Year 9 to **STOP** and to look at how they live their lives, how do they enable others to live their lives. We can all ask **'Do we live our lives to the fullest?'** As well as looking at how we can appreciate our world, one another and at the same time grow into the best people that we can be.



A number of people who have chosen a path to follow; a vocation, came in for the morning to share their experiences with Year 9. These people have chosen a certain vocation or path that is one of service to others and a path that enables them to share their gifts, their faith and themselves with others. We hosted the Dominican Sisters from Sway, Anthony a Seminarian, Dominic and Rachel Deboo, our



Portsmouth University Chaplain and two local Street Pastors. It was a very good morning as Year 9 were placed in small groups and listened to the speakers as well as having time to ask questions. The aim of the morning was to enable Year 9 to see that what we do in our lives is important but also how we live our life is important; in terms of faith and actions.

Next term we have our Retreat Days for Year 8, Year 10 and for the Staff so much preparation is going into these events. It is good for all of us to have time to stop, reflect and renew.



At the moment myself, our Chaplaincy and St Vincent De Paul are meeting to plan and prepare our Spiritual focus for the next academic year. This year our Spiritual theme was **'Encouraging one another on our journey to Holiness'** which has been a great focus for the whole school and various faith events that have taken place and still to take place. Next year looks equally exciting for all who attend our school, here at St Edmund's.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a great half term.

Fiona, Chaplain



CHAPLAINCY



It is hard to believe that we are already in our final term of Year 7; it really has flown by. I have been so impressed with Year 7 and how they have fitted so well into our St Edmund's family.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you who attended the first Year 7 parents evening, we had a good turn out and it was nice to hear all the positive comments about the children and staff.

We have many exciting things to look forward to, including our Celebration Assembly next half term and our reward trip to Paulton's Park. The invitation letters for the reward trip will be coming out soon. Just to remind you the criteria for receiving an invite is:

- **Above 90% attendance**
- **No internal or external exclusions**
- **No more than 6 behaviour detentions**

If your child has failed to meet these expectations, please help to encourage them to think about their choices and aim to improve to enable them to receive an invite next year.



On the subject of behaviour expectations, I would like to give massive congratulations to our top three Personal Qualities pupils for attainment 2. Although we do not have a celebration assembly at this time, the children who are performing the best in homework, effort, prepared for learning and behaviour, will be rewarded, with the top three receiving a special PQ badge and the top Personal Qualities child also receiving a trophy. I am very pleased to announce our top three PQ pupils are:

1st – Dulcie

2nd – Kiara and Julia

3rd – Elena and Marinela



Well done, I am very proud of you all.

This half term, 7 Teresa had the privilege to be taught a Tactile Science lesson by Portsmouth University, called 'Tactile Universe'. A blind lecturer, who explained about galaxies whilst the pupils could feel what the galaxy looked like delivered this lesson. I was lucky to be there with them; it was very inspiring and worthwhile.



Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom! Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance. Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion. This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever. Amen.

Have a great half term, stay safe and see you on the 3rd June!



Mrs Angela Brand, Head of Learning Year 7



YEAR 7



This Half Term has flown by, cramming in a huge amount into only 5 weeks!

Year 8 have continued to focus on their spirituality with Education links in other countries. Our Year group are linked with supporting Bamenda and the continued deterioration of certain physical, emotional, economic and political issues. The situation there continues to be a matter of great concern and in these difficult times they rely on our prayers and financial support. As a year group we have written prayers, prayed as tutor groups directly for the situations in Bamenda, and will soon be kicking off our fundraising. Each tutor group will have the opportunity to plan their very own fundraising activity, then in July we will be in a position to hand over a cheque of financial donations knowing we have worked hard to raise that money.



All our actions obviously also contribute towards achieving our spiritual badge too! Pupils have until 28th June to complete all relevant criteria on their spiritual badge card in order to receive this badge in the Summer – this badge is specific and special just to the Year 8 year group. Criteria is as follows:

Attending St Edmunds Day Mass and celebrations (November 2018)

***Attending Easter Service (April 2019) Attended and participated in own Tutor Group Mass
Led tutor prayer Education links and contribution to Bamenda project***

Attended the Year 8 retreat (June 2019)

Completed/attended one of the following: Carol Service (December 2018), Rosary Prayer Session, Education Sunday, Primary Celebration Evening, Diocesan Mass, Lunchtime Mass,

The Angelus or attended another Religious Event e.g. Eid, Ramadan, Church service etc.

Once we have attended our Year 8 Retreat on Monday 24th/Tuesday 25th June, pupils can then get their completed Spiritual Badge cards to their tutor before the deadline on Friday 28th June.

As we progress towards the end of the year, we have to remember that everything we do currently has an impact on the end of the year activities, celebrations and trips! We have recently issued invites to our end of year 8 Reward Trip to Chessington! These invites have gone out to pupils that meet the set criteria and as spaces are limited it is obviously first come, first served. There will be an opportunity for pupils to receive invites at a later date for those that don't quite meet the criteria, but are showing us a marked improvement in key areas. I am very much looking forward to our day out at Chessington – it will be a lovely opportunity for us to celebrate everything that has been achieved this year! A reminder that any pupils not invited on the Reward trip or not attending the Reward Trip are expected to be in school as normal on that day.



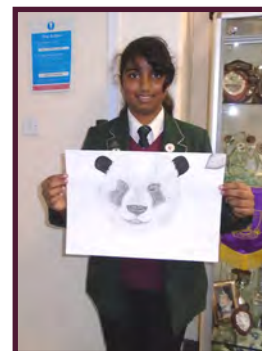
I would like to take this opportunity to remind all pupils and parents of a few key areas that seem to keep cropping up. Pupils are made aware of these areas on a daily basis, but we would appreciate your support at home in ensuring the following:

- **No chewing gum,**
- **Mobile phones are switched off and are not out during the school day,**
- **Jewellery is kept to a minimum;**
- **Hair cuts and colours are not excessive (hair cuts not below a grade 2, hair colours must be natural).**

I am so excited for our final term in Year 8. It will conclude with a fantastic last week of term with various events, trips and activities, as well as our

yearly Celebration assembly – a great opportunity to celebrate the year, as well as the success of individuals within the year group. As always we would love for parents, carers, guardians and family members to join us as we celebrate – please note the below date for Year 8's Summer Term Celebration Assembly – Monday 15th May 2019. I look forward to seeing some of you there!

Miss E Johnson, Head of Learning – Year 8



YEAR 8



Another half term over and although it has been a short half term, still Year 9s have been busy.



Mrs Edwards took Ben, Fiona and Tamar to the Central Library for the Portsmouth Book Awards Voting Event. They had to read four books and write book reviews. This gave them an opportunity to discuss the books with pupils from other schools and vote on the one that they thought should be the winning book for 2019.

Fiona, our Chaplain, organised an inspirational Vocations morning, where groups of students spent time listening to and talking to people who have chosen a vocation in their lives whether that was as a Nun, a Priest, a long time married couple, two street pastors or the Chaplain from Portsmouth University. They all

told stories of how and why they chose to work in their particular field and how they were called by God. The students were really engaged, asking sensible questions and Fiona praised them for making the event one of the most enjoyable we have had.

Lila, Martyna and Roisin have been taking part in a Southern University Network project called Young Researchers. They have undertaken some research with a focus group in school about access to Higher and Further Education, they have already presented their results and have one more presentation to do.

Mrs Halford took a group of students to the National Apprenticeship Show at Fratton Park. Her feedback was that the event was fantastic and that the students got a huge amount out of it – getting contact email addresses and talking to employers in both the areas of work that they would like to get into and new possibilities. They came back with bags of information and freebies.



Congratulations to Georgia for reaching the 9th Milestone with her merits this half term, Nvar the 8th, Khaled, Katy, Bercem, Lauren the 7th, Hekim the 6th, and Martyna also the 6th milestone, Thierno the 5th, Oussman and Niamh the first.

Students will have received their letters now inviting them to the Year 9 Rewards trip to Thorpe Park in July. Students will have had to have excellent attendance and no more than 6 behavioural detentions, inclusions or

being on-called to attend. Well done to those students who have come into school even when they don't feel too well and those that have consistently behaved well and managed to complete their homework tasks.

After the half term break the students will be undertaking their SATS exams in English, Maths and Science starting on the 10th June. They will have revision books and a timetable for them to fill in, to aid them in planning their revision time. In tutor time they are going through revision techniques which will hopefully set them up in the future. For these exams I wish them all the best.



A brief reminder about students wearing the correct school uniform. Skirts are on the rise, with girls rolling them up so they are too high. Some are being sewn up to make them shorter. Make up too is becoming an everyday occurrence for some pupils with very long false eyelashes, fake tan and eyeliner. Pupils will be asked to remove this by their tutors if they come into school with it on.

Have a good Whitsun Bank Holiday everyone – let's hope for some good weather!

Ms H Jerrard, Head of Learning Year 9



YEAR 9





It is hard to believe that only 6 weeks ago, we had our Easter break and enjoyed a wonderful 2 weeks off! Not sure if you remember as I certainly cannot, since we returned, life in Year 10 at St Edmund's has been very fast paced. To say that we were busy, is a little bit of an understatement! The majority of students have worked their socks off to complete controlled assessments, preparing for the first English Literature, Physics exam, and for some of you for a language exam as well.

We also had our second Parents Evening this term, which again, was very well attended, and for that reason I would like to thank all parents/carers for their ongoing support. With our English, Science Physics, Astronomy GCSE exams for some being taken this year, it is vital, that we keep up a strong home-school partnership. I perfectly understand, that sometimes, due to the work commitments, it is impossible for some parents to attend on the night, that is why you are always welcome to contact me, so that I can liaise with the relevant departments for an update.

I would like to congratulate the 82 pupils who have applied to become a prefect. I have had the pleasure of reading their application forms, and interviewing each and every one. I was very impressed with their responses, and super mature attitude. I know that a lot of them committed themselves to the extended hours, supporting Parent Evenings, Year 11 Leavers Tea and New Year 7 Transition meetings already! I would like to thank them all very much for always willing to help, and for being very proactive at all times!



After half term, we are going to continue with the interviews/presentations for the Senior Roles. As I have said many times before, Year 10 are a very gifted and highly motivated Year group. This has been reflected in the huge number of applications for the Head Girl/Head Boy and Senior Prefect Positions. Good luck to you all!

Year 10 have been working incredibly hard towards their English Literature GCSE exams, and I could not be prouder. The same goes for Triple Science and Astronomy, ICT pupils. After school revision sessions, Saturday revision sessions and morning prep have been very well attended, which just goes to show that

Year 10 are very mature in their attitude to learning. I wish you all the very best in your results, and I look forward to sharing their successes in **August 2019!**

Finally, as we look forward to next term, Year 10 have lots to be excited about. We have two College Taster days to Southdowns'/Havant and Portsmouth College. We will also have our Year 10 Retreat on the 10th July. Thorpe Park is also on the horizon, and invites have been sent out to those meeting the school's expectations. Our Celebration Assembly will take place in July, and soon after, a majority of our Year 10s will get a real world experience of work via our Work Experience during the last week of the summer term.



Thank you Year 10, for all your hard work this term. I wish you all the very best in your exams!

Have a lovely holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 3rd of June.

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



YEAR 10





We started the half term with a Year 11 spotlight which all pupils engaged with. It was a pleasure to see so many pupils being nominated for hard work in every subject, and all staff really struggled to suggest just two names per lesson! After three weeks of hard work Aleks was crowned as the top achiever with 16 nominations and had her efforts rewarded in assembly. A huge well done also goes out to Olivia, Joel, Toby, Marek, Wiktoria, Blake, Le Jia, Yasmine, Kerry, Owen, Moussa, Rebecca, Jolie, Angelo, Chloe and Sharda who all achieved 10+ nominations.

The end is drawing closer and with each of these newsletter entries I'm reminded of how far Year 11 have come. Their school journey at St Edmund's is coming to an end and I couldn't be prouder as their Head of Year. The attention has been focused on exams and coursework from the moment pupils came back as we had GCSE PE moderation prep on Tuesday 23rd April, Wednesday 24th with full moderation on Thursday 25th. Pupils were impeccable and the standard of sport seen was fantastic, so well done all!

From Monday 29th April saw our Year 11's tackle their MFL speaking portions of the GCSE course and both French and Spanish speakers rose to the challenge. It's reassuring to see so many pupils come out of their exam with a smile on their face and a confidence in their step.

It wasn't all GCSE related though as our Year group celebrated their spiritual journey through St Edmunds with their Leavers Mass on Friday 3rd May. The tone of the day was set from our very memorable assembly with much of the credit going to Mr Nicol for providing musical entertainment like no other. The service at St John's Cathedral was beautifully conducted. A special thanks must go to Fiona our Chaplain, the Choir and musicians who were angelic and all the pupils who helped shape our spiritual send off. Each Year 11 was provided with a spiritual St Edmund's coin as a lucky reminder of their journey. The Tutor icons from Year 7 were blessed and will remain with us as a piece of this Year Group at St Edmund's.



As we approached the weekend before the bulk of GCSE exams Year 11's were rewarded with a Leavers Tea on Friday 10th May. This was a time for pupils to reflect on their hard work, laugh at their old photos and get stuck in to some lovely cakes and food/drink. It was a fantastic way for staff and pupils to come together and celebrate, reminisce, joke and enjoy the time shared so far. But don't take my word for it, judge for yourself!

This half term has seen Year 11 dive into GCSE exams with an incredible enthusiasm and maturity.

These are demanding times for all pupils but I am very impressed with how our year group are approaching this challenge. The help and support of parents to engage Year 11 and maintain our strong attendance to revision before, during and after school is key to success at this stage. Thank you for all of the support so far. I would like to take this time to remind parents/carers that the GCSE revision timetable has been provided to all pupils, and is available on the school website. If you require any further copies or information, please get in touch. Here's looking forward to the Leaver's Ball!

Mr J Brown, Head of Learning Year 11



YEAR 11

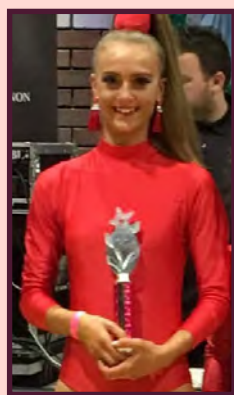
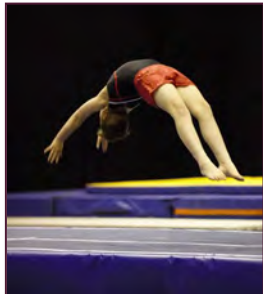
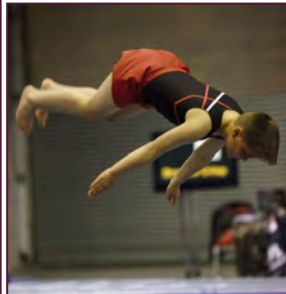


St Edmund's has TALENT!

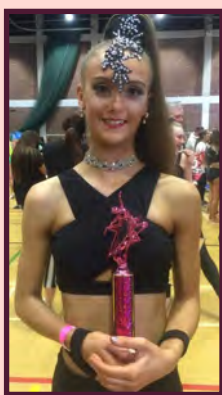


We have so many talented students here at St Edmund's, from dancers, singers, sports achievers and amazing academics.

Did you know we have a Gold Medalist here at St Edmund's? Ethan not only won Silver at the recent Tumbling Championships, he also won Gold in the NDP Level 4 Under 13s. He is number 1 in the UK for his age and level. This is such an amazing achievement. Well done!



Shannon is such a talented dancer and she has shone again during a recent competition with wins in the categories of pairs and slow dance. Keep up your hard work and well done!



We also have to say a huge Congratulations to Kimberley who recently won a Silver medal in the SKFB - SKDUN Open Belgium Cup 2019 Karate Championships.



Congratulations also to Claudia who recently won the 100m, 200m and 300m at the Portsmouth Schools District Athletics Trials at the Mounbatten Centre.



National Apprenticeship Show

On Wednesday 15th May Mrs Halford took 17 Year 9 pupils to the Portsmouth Careers and Apprenticeship Show which was being held at Fratton Park. The Show was a one stop destination for careers and apprenticeships in Portsmouth. It provided a unique opportunity for local employers and training providers to showcase their services – particularly their job and Apprenticeship vacancies – in an interactive and young person friendly environment. The pupils got the chance to speak to representatives from Hampshire Constabulary, The Army, The Royal Navy, EBP, Airbus and many more local employers. They even got to speak to two Border Force Officers and were shown a display of various items that have been confiscated over the years, including a stuffed komodo dragon! The pupils were a credit to our school, they were professional, engaged and inquisitive. **Mrs Halford**



"I really enjoyed this amazing experience to meet people who had lots of information about jobs that I could potentially be looking at in the future. It has given me some valuable information about the Hampshire Constabulary which has confirmed my decision to become a Police Officer. I would like to thank Mrs Halford for organising the trip as it was so interesting to hear about other jobs that would be available to me and has made me more confident in my choice of career."

NEWS



Years 10 and 11 have both been working hard towards their forthcoming GCSEs of late. Year 10 in particular have been learning and revising one Shakespeare play, one 19th century novel, one Modern Novel and fifteen poems. Although it may seem like a hardship, having the initiative and motivation to do well now will help pupils in later life, particularly if they get the grades they want. It will help pupils to apply for college courses and jobs next year and mean they are well on the way to achieving their goals and aspirations - all because they have tried their hardest in both Years 10 and 11.

Mr Were



'The Picture of Dorian Gray'

The Oscar Wilde trip absolutely reigned. Everyone had a great time and really enjoyed the experience. I'm sure that the theatre loved hosting our gracious school in a play of hidden depths and secrets. First off, I would like to say thanks to Miss Mittens for organising this trip for us, we all loved it and had a fantastic time.

I would also like to say an even BIGGER thank you to the people who came and made it possible. We took the train up to Winchester after-school, which in itself was an experience!



Upon arriving in Winchester, we took a short walk up to the theatre. At the theatre, the play was surprisingly good, and I actually really enjoyed it. It was effective when they used split screen to create tension. We had previously learnt about Wilde in 'The Picture of Dorian Gray,' although I still found even more detail in the play. During the interval, we went and bought an ice cream the size of my dance talent. I really liked how they used the exact quotations to provide even more accuracy.

University Trip

On the 3rd of April, some of year 10 attended A Portsmouth University Lecture on Shakespeare's Macbeth and Dickens' A Christmas Carol to aid our GCSE Literature exam. I attended as I thought it would be helpful to gain higher level knowledge, on the text, although I thought it would be a lot harder than it was but it still had a lot of in-depth analysis.



Overall, I found it useful – especially A Christmas Carol as we learnt about the omniscient narrator and how punctuation is used to create meaning. It was also interesting to hear a lecturer's thoughts on Dickens not being the narrator of the novel but another ghost. The Macbeth section was useful but not as structured – it was more of a debate but it was interesting to hear other people's opinions. If this comes up again next year, I would highly recommend attending. Especially if you are aiming for a higher grade.



Poetry Event 2019

I was lucky enough to be invited to a poetry event that took place at our school, hosted by self-published poet Sam. Starting with one of his own sprightly works, he continued to have us engaged throughout the next two hours. He taught us a great deal about performance poetry, and by the end most in the class were confident enough to present their own poems. A few weeks later, some of our poems even made it onto Sam's Facebook page (credit to Sam for being great!)

During the afternoon, we first introduced ourselves in an interesting (but exciting) fashion, putting ourselves in different scenarios. Later, we brainstormed everything about us, as the theme for our poems was to be 'identity'. Later on, we came up with lines that we could put into our poems, before finally structuring our final product. Overall, it was a brilliant afternoon and was well worth it.

Thank you for the opportunity!



NEVER BEEN A BAD GUY
I FOUND FOOTBALL AGE 8
AND STILL FEEL I'M INCOMPLETE
I'VE WANTED TO SEND ALL THE GOOD
GIRLS TO HELL

FEEL LIKE A HOSTAGE
AND RAN THROUGH CITIES OF PAPER
BUT STILL I LIVE IN PORTSMOUTH
BURY A FRIEND ON THE BLUETOOTH

HAD MANY REALLY ODD STRANGE
ADDICTIONS
QUICK, LISTEN BEFORE I GO
BUT THE DAY NEVER MEETS THE NIGHT





Just after returning to school in April, the Year 10 Child Development class took part in a practical assignment for their coursework. Students were expected to prepare, cook and present either a dish for a 9 -12 months old child and compare that dish with commercially produced dishes, or students could prepare, cook and present a 2-course meal for a 4 year old child. The students are working extremely well.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT



Boys G&T Street Dance Workshop! with professional dancer – Machi



"I thought the Boys Street Dance workshop was amazing! It was a great experience learning a new style of dance and new moves! The instructor was amazing and very supportive towards us. It was so much fun and definitely made us sweat! It has inspired me to work harder in dance as these opportunities could come round more often. It was the highlight of my day and probably lots of others too".



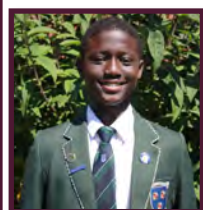
"The street dance workshop was extremely fun and enjoyable. We learnt a fun, tricky and mentally challenging phrase. It really inspired me to keep dancing and not waste my talent. We learnt some dance moves like the one called the 'reebok', the 'wham' and we also learnt a fun routine".



"I personally thought that the workshop was amazing and I tried new moves which I had never done before. The workshop inspired me to practice my break dancing moves so that I can be even better".



"When I did the boys street dance workshop I really enjoyed it and it studied the basics and the foundations of Hip-Hop. Because I do street dance outside of school I tried to focus on my grooving and learnt even more from the workshop. It was different to anything else we've ever done in school and was so enjoyable".



"I recently took part in a dance workshop in school. I got to meet a professional dancer and learnt some new dance moves. It was really fun and I would live to do it again one day. I think if everyone took part they would love it!"

"I attended the street dance workshop for boys. I learned a fun dance and also go to meet a dancer that performs for a job and gets paid for it. It was really fun and I would love to do it again. I know other people would too if they were given the chance!"



"I recently took part in a Gifted & Talented Boys Dance Workshop. We learnt a challenging street dance, which I was happy about. I learnt some new moves and also learnt their names. The workshop leader was very engaging and made the class fun by telling jokes and had interesting ways of teaching which was new. It had the balance of being difficult as well as not too challenging. He told us what it was like being a professional dancer, he also told us what it was like to grow up being a dancer. Hearing what his life was like as a dancer was very interesting and how his job allowed him to travel the world was mind blowing".



"I joined in with the Boys Street Dance workshop – I really enjoyed the experience as it enabled me to develop my skills as a dancer and develop my ability to specifically do a 360 degree round off! The session was exciting as I got to use my practical dance skills in a different environment".



"Recently, many boys at school took part in an amazing workshop. A professional dancer turned us all into even more talented dancers! We learnt a set phrase and amazing skills. I know everyone enjoyed it from how excited they were and the look on their faces!"



DANCE

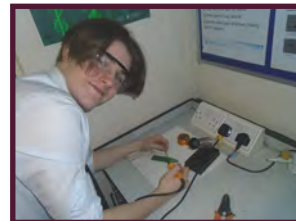


STEM Day – Small Piece trust



I personally loved the STEM day, there were plenty of fun and challenging activities. I learnt a lot about careers in STEM, it was very educational and interactive.

Our task was to fully design and make a functioning water tank with a filter (to remove debris), a water detector (to recognise when the tank is filled) and a pump (to empty the container). My favourite thing about the project was how hands-on it was and how much creative freedom we had. We were free to choose our role within our groups, even if we weren't very keen engineering, we could be in charge of designing the product. Overall, I defiantly think that I learned a lot about careers in STEM and the day made me consider one.



7 John Paul Solar System studies!

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 really enjoyed doing our research and presentations. It turned out well as we worked hard to make sure that we had a good presentation to teach the rest of the class about Venus."

"It was great fun working as a team and being creative. My groups presentation went a lot better than we expected too!"



SCIENCE



Hindu Temple trip

Our trip to the Hindu temple was magical, the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir's sheer beauty left us speechless. Every inch of the Mandir has been designed specially to home their revered gods.

After an arduous coach ride through realms of traffic we finally came upon this grand marble structure; we found it standing proud and bold between rows of terraced houses. Before we entered the main prayer hall we took our shoes off, in order to show respect to the gods. Hindus have a single, universal God known as a supreme being or a brahma. At the time when Hinduism began to evolve, people walked in sandals as the roads were dusty, feet were one of the most gruesome parts of the body. People would wash their feet before entering a Mandir, but in the modern day, this has become unnecessary.



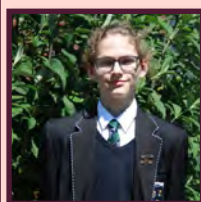
The prayer hall was outstanding, each piece of marble had been chiselled to perfection, each statue had been painted with such detail that they looked as if they were alive. Each god had a gold leaf terrace over their head to show their power and status in the Hindu religion. After a bewildering and captivating session in the prayer temple- we went on to visit a museum embedded in the temple.

There we learnt how Hinduism originated and stories that have shaped this cherished religion. Each story had a moral that shone out: never hurt a living being (Hindus are either vegetarian or vegan) respect one another and each one of your actions whether good or bad will reflect in you through karma.

After a short stop at the gift shop, we concluded our day at the Mandir with an informative session with a guide. There we learnt that it used 5,000 tonnes of Italian Carrara and Indian Ambaji marble and the finest Bulgarian limestone, it was hand-carved in India before being assembled in London. No steel structure was used to hold up the Mandir, it relies purely on amazing architecture. Building for the temple began on August 20, 1995, and was funded by people across the globe. The guru at the time insisted that a taste of real Hinduism should be brought to London, sadly he died shortly after- it was up to the Hindu followers to ensure that his final wish was granted.

Once the day had finished we went back on the coach, our eyes opened to a culture so contrasting to Christianity, yet it still has the same teachings: harm no one and love all.

Globe Theatre Trip



After our first 2 lessons we walked to the train station, for our 2-hour train journey to London! London was very nice and we walked to the Shakespeare Globe. We had to stand up in the theatre (which was beautiful), but it wasn't that bad as the play was really good. I enjoyed the play so much, the performers were spectacular and it helped me to better understand the plot and characters for the exam. It was so much fun going to London with my friends, and I was able to sleep on the 2-hour train back again!



What I enjoyed about the Romeo and Juliet trip was being able to watch the play in Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, as it gave me some understanding on how an Elizabethan audience would watch plays in the 16th Century.

This experience has also helped me to remember the events of some of the scenes and learn different quotes from all the characters.



NEWS



Miss Hooker's "Miles For Mind"

Throughout the month of May Miss Hooker has pledged to run 100 miles to raise money for the charity mind.

This is a huge challenge, even with Miss Hooker being a experienced runner! She is running distances much further than she has ever run before, all for a great cause.



Mind is a charity that supports people with mental health issues and ensure that no one has to face anything alone. Running is a powerful tool to benefit mental health, in particular in combating stress, which is what inspired Miss Hooker to take part in the challenge. Any spare pennies you have will be greatly received!



On Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th Food and Nutrition pupils took part in the NEA2 food practical and Mrs Lunn and Mr Brown had the pleasure of sampling some of the fantastic creations.



A huge well done to all pupils involved, the standard of work really was inspiring and we look forward to seeing where their talent can take them.



Alongside the food practical Year 11 GSCE PE took part in their practical exam and showed a similar strong work ethic with the PE Dept being particularly impressed with how professional pupils approached the day.



Our prefects have now handed over their duties and signed off with an End of Year Quiz and BBQ.

This is a special event of trivia, fun and fantastic food that is put on to thank the prefects for their continued hard work and dedication with their school duties and representation of the school at events.



The Quizmaster was none other than Mr Graham, who had sought some extremely hard and bizarre questions to intrigue and really make the groups think. Well done to everyone who entered and to the overall winners.



NEWS



St Edmund's Catholic School Presents



SISTER A DIVINE MUSICAL COMEDY ACT

Tickets on Sale!

From Monday 3rd June

**Wednesday 19th -
Saturday 22nd June 2019
School Hall 7.00 pm**

Wednesday £2.50 all tickets

Thursday & Friday £3 child £5 adult

Saturday Gala Performance £5 child £7 adult

(Price includes a programme, welcome drink & canapés on arrival)

Family tickets available (2 adults, 2 children) for

Friday (£14) and Saturday (£22)