

Newsletter



CHRISTMAS EDITION | DECEMBER 2019



**St Edmund's
Catholic School**

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

On Wednesday 6th November, 28 pupils from Years 8-11 had the chance to perform on The New Theatre Royal stage as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Auditions took place back in July and it was fantastic to see lots of new faces wanting to take part this year.

Rehearsals started in September and the cast worked really hard for 4 hours a week, getting their performance of 'Twelfth Night' ready for the big day. It was so impressive to see how well the cast worked together as an ensemble throughout the performance, which was something that we were praised for on the day. We had the opportunity to work with a professional actor a few weeks before the final performance, to gain inspiration and advice on how to improve what we had done so far. This was such a brilliant opportunity for the pupils and we gained a lot from it.

Not only did we have pupils take part onstage, but we also had two pupils controlling the lighting and sound on the night of the performance, and they did a great job.

On the night, audience members approached the cast and staff from St Edmund's to praise them for such an exciting, interesting and well polished performance.



One audience member even said that it was the best performance that she had seen within the Shakespeare Schools Festival and she has been watching them for a few years – fantastic praise!

All in all, it was an experience that was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Mrs Deacon



IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 2020

Mon 6th:	Yr 10 English Lit Mock
Thurs 9th:	Yr 11 Child Development Exam
Fri 10th:	Yr 11 IT Exam
Mon 13th:	Yr 8 Celebration Assembly
Tue 14th:	Yr 7 Celebration Assembly Science Study Day - Chemistry
Weds 15th:	Yr 9 Celebration Assembly Business Studies Engagement Opportunities
Thurs 16th:	Yr 10 Celebration Assembly Yr 11 Kintbury Retreat
Fri 17th:	Yr 11 Celebration Assembly
Thurs 23rd:	Science Study Day - Biology Yr 9 Options Market
Fri 24th:	Science Study Day - Chemistry

Mon 27th:	Science Live, Brighton
Tue 28th:	Yr 11 Photographs

FEBRUARY 2020

Tue 4th:	Yr 10/11 Apprenticeship Bus Yr 9 Imperial War Museum trip Yr 10/11 Drama Theatre Trip - 'Woman in Black'
Wed 5th:	Yr 11 Drama Theatre Trip - 'Blood Brothers'
Thur 6th:	Yr 11 Parents Evening
Fri 7th:	Astronomy Trip Greenwich
Mon 10th:	Graphics Exam
Tue 11th:	Safer Internet Day Graphics Exam
Wed 12th:	Graphics Exam
Thur 13th:	Graphics Exam Senior Citizens Party Yr 9/10 Speakers Trust Workshop
Fri 14th:	Non School Uniform Day Yr 9 Geography Trip - Eden Project

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HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS

As Christmas approaches we light our third advent candle; the Shepherd's candle. This candle reminds us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, which we look forward to celebrating, and reflect on what has been a fabulous Autumn term.

The events during the last week allow us as a school to really celebrate our faith, with an incredible Carol Service and our Emmanuel celebrations on the last day. Combined with our KS3 Disco and Christmas lunch, it has been a great combination of spirituality, reflection, fun and learning.

Last week all students had the opportunity to participate in our own 'Mock elections', mirroring the parties and issues represented nationally. It was good to see so many students participate and discussing issues they felt relevant, or for others, voting on names/personality. Whilst the result was somewhat different from the national, students learnt a great deal about our democratic system. Our own hope from the elections is that we will see the promised increases in funding and that we do not need to consider cuts to our rather stretched provisions.

As you may have noticed when passing the school, our new building is progressing on schedule and should be available for use next year. The additional space will result in some movements for departments and allow option subjects to have a teaching space. This is especially important as the school is now at capacity with long waiting lists in all year groups. Creating more 'space' for students is important, as we play highlights the confinement of our environment.

Our recent Certificate evening for Leavers 2019 was a chance to say a final bon voyage and congratulations on their incredible results. It is a privilege to have been part of the journey that they have had and see the exciting next steps into adulthood.

Many thanks to staff across the school for all the support, learning, care and guidance given to our children. I have seen some outstanding lessons this term with high levels of engagement and effort. These will be celebrated in our reward assemblies which will start the second week after we return in the new year.

Please can I remind all parents that the School's Uniform Policy does not allow 'skinny' trousers, piercings (earlobe only), coloured unnatural hair or haircuts below grade 2. These are the key reasons why students are required to work within the inclusions room and are issues which parents can avoid for their children. We will continue with our 'away for the day' policy which has worked really effectively this term. We check that all mobile phones are turned off each morning, removing the temptation for students to use their phone (or watch) during the day. There will be a focus on uniform when we return, particularly length of skirts and jewellery. Many thanks for all your support and the 'constant reminding' that takes place.

I would also like to give a special note of thanks to the Friends of St Edmund's for our recent 'Prom evening' to raise funds for the school and provide financial alternatives for this expensive event. The money raised from this has bought two new water dispensers within school, located in the hall and dining area. We hope to push forward with more students carrying water bottles and re-filling their own whilst staying hydrated.

Finally I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and pray that all our students return after the Christmas holiday refreshed and rested.
God Bless,



Mr S Graham
Headteacher



The Nativity

Angel Gabriel came down to a lady,
Mary, her name, she's about to have a baby.
Mary was shocked yet she was very pleased.
So, went and told Joseph who
hadn't believed.

Off to Bethlehem they had to go, riding on a
donkey, it was very slow.
They went to find an Inn but
no one was available.
Luckily one generous man let them use
his stable.

There they had the baby, Jesus was his name.
A very rare place, for a King to start his reign.

The shepherds and their flock were
startled by a light.
A voice of an angel spoke through
the dark of the night.
The voice directed them to the place, they
packed up their things and soon made haste.

Off in the east three kings followed a star,
bearing some gifts they
travelled afar.
All gathered together for this
child, that's why every
Christmas someone has
SMILED!



The winning Christmas Poem by Milly & Kirsty

CHAPLAINCY

We have seen 'POP', 'The Power of Prayer' continue to be alive and active in our school this term. 'POP' is about continually creating spaces for prayer to take place in our everyday lives.

ADVENT

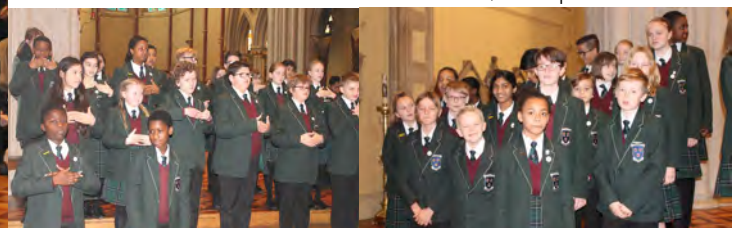
We have done this in so many ways, through our **St Edmund's Day Masses, our Tutor Masses, our assemblies, daily Tutor Prayer, Staff Prayer and reflection, Chaplaincy meetings and workshops.** During Advent we have been preparing ourselves for Christmas with our Reconciliation Services, Carol Service, our Christmas Charity Appeal, our end of year Emmanuel Celebrations and Christmas Play.

We all need time in order to reflect upon life; time to relax, rest and regenerate. We all need time in our everyday lives to appreciate our environment, family and friends and to feel a sense of gratitude. Let us invite and recognise God in the ordinary events of each day and pray for the needs of our world and our own needs. Thank you to both staff and students as they continually embrace the spiritual side of the school and are very much involved in trying to live this out each day.



Advent is a time to stop and reflect; a time to put Jesus back into Christmas. That is what Christmas is all about; the gift to us of Jesus. It is remembering His birthday. Perhaps we can reflect upon the gift we can give to Jesus on **Christmas Day; Jesus' birthday.**

Fiona, Chaplain



The Big Ceilidh!

St Edmund's hosted a day of ceilidh dancing and music on Wednesday 23rd April in conjunction with Folk Active and Portsmouth music Hub.

Pupils from St Edmund's joined professional musicians to form a band playing a selection of folk tunes. 6 Primary schools visited throughout the day to perform the dances they had learnt along with the live musicians as well as helping out with some of the dances.

The day was a great success, the band played brilliantly and the younger children had a great time dancing to live music. Well done Lydia, Isabel, Milly, Kirsty, Tenzin, Giulia, Karolina, Aidan, Euan, Sullivan, Jeslin, Jevin and Ethan.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3LI7eddGfY&app=desktop#menu>

Vocal Workshop & Rock the Room

On Thursday 17th October a group of singers attended a Vocal Workshop Day. The day was led by David Lawrence, a nationally renowned choral conductor. Throughout the day pupils learnt a variety of music from folk songs, pop classics and classical pieces. The music was challenging but the pupils rose to the challenge and learnt all the songs and harmonies with real enthusiasm. At the end of the day the pupils performed a mini concert of the songs learnt. The school choir will be learning and performing one of the songs learnt next term.

The Year 10 GCSE class have formed an ensemble this term and have already played at Open Evening and St Edmund's Day. The pupils had their first public performance on Thursday 12th December at 'Rock The Room' an event for bands from schools around the city hosted by Portsmouth Grammar School. The pupils formed a 7 piece band and performed the songs 'Say It Ain't So' by Weezer, 'Snow' by The Red Hot Chili Peppers and 'Misery Business' by Paramore. We look forward to hearing this performance again at Celebration Assembly next term.



HOUSES of PARLIAMENT

Portsmouth Music Hub wrote a series of songs this year for an environmental awareness project entitled 'One World'. One of the songs recently won a national award at the 'Green Apple' environmental awards. A group of pupils from St Edmund's were invited to go the Houses of Parliament to the awards ceremony and perform the song 'One World'. This was a prestigious, corporate event and the pupils performed beautifully and really sold the message of the song to the invited guests. Thank you to George, Milo, Milly, Kirsty, Lucy, Laura, Maria, Guilia, Rizz, Karolina, Tenzin, Charlotte, Louise, Grace and Lydia, for representing the school and singing so beautifully.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPgayxT3ttk>



ENGINEERING DESIGN

The students have already started to show their creativity and skill in Engineering Design and have just completed the first rotation of the subject.

Year 7 have had a great start using decoupage and self-adhesive vinyl to embellish their wooden desk tidy. They have learnt how to safely work with timbers and manufactured boards to mark out, cut, shape, smooth and finish the materials accurately.

Year 8 have had their first rotation, and first experience for most, of working with Acrylic. They have generated their ideas through prototyping and have developed their ideas to produce a functional mobile phone holder.

Some designed the items for themselves and some produced them for others which is great to see they are starting think about different users. The project is designed to encourage students to understand more about plastics, how we use them and their end of life considerations. They build on their knowledge from year 7 with some different tools being introduced to work with plastics. Congratulations to the students who have all produced some lovely examples that demonstrate a high level of accuracy and skill.



CAD DESIGN



The Year 9's have begun to work with CAD (Computer Aided Design) software to design their own keyring that can then be made by the process of CAM (Computer Aided Manufacturing). They also produce a keyring, made by hand, to help them to understand the differences between one-off and batch production methods. I'm excited to see what the new groups will go on to make!

Media Studies

This half-term has been hugely successful for both KS4 classes.

As Year 11 complete their coursework, Year 10 have already cycled through the newspaper topic and are beginning to look at the 'Spectre' poster - as part of the industry surrounding 'James Bond.' Thankfully this means that they can leave the conversations regarding Brexit behind them...

For Year 11, I would like to extend a huge congratulations to all students who have worked tirelessly on their NEA material, allowing them to produce some outstanding final products.

007 SPECTRE

Within Media Studies, we have been researching and analysing various sources of media. For example, the representation of age, ethnicity and gender within newspapers.

We have now moved on to look at film posters, with our exam set product being 'Spectre.' We have identified the predominant codes and conventions and utilised this knowledge in order to produce our own live action film posters in class. We also took some polaroids which allowed us to analyse each others posters in an exam style response.

Luke

007



Year 7 Miss Holt



It has been another jam packed half term for year 7, so much to acknowledge and so lovely to see our students really settling in **and embracing life at St Edmund's.**

This half term we experienced our first PSHE & St Edmund's Day together. It was a fantastic day which began with a Mass at **St John's Cathedral and included many Year 7 students** undertaking various roles within the service.

Students also completed a 'Kindness in the Classroom' activity using the 'String Theory' to give other students in their tutor groups a compliment about a positive quality or characteristic trait they have.

This half term students have been continuing to attend their own Tutor Group Masses on site in our school chapel. This helps solidify the family values within tutor groups and has been lovely to witness. Each tutor group have also successfully raised funds to purchase their Tutor Group Icons.

It was anti bullying week WC 11TH November and students were informed throughout the week via tutor period, assembly and **the PSHE day of the focus this year 'Change starts with us'. Circle** time activities & group discussions enabled students to think about what they can do as young people to change and reflect upon the things they do which can impact negatively on others. We talked a lot about the impact of social media and this is something I would like to reinforce. Regular checking of your **child's devices is important to ensure they are being safe online** and are not a victim of any online bullying or abuse.

Year 7 have produced some fantastic pieces of homework and I am so impressed with their efforts and enthusiasm. It is important to keep on top of this and I recommend students take advantage of their planner to record deadlines and key information. It is also a useful way for yourselves as parents to keep check of what your child has been asked to complete **and when it is due in. As well as this there's lots of information on** the school website.

In November a cohort of students attended a trip to the University of Portsmouth to take part in a workshop around **'Transition Mindsets'. The students were phenomenal and the** course leaders were so impressed by their considered questions and enthusiasm to understand Higher Education and the different pathways they could potentially take in the future. I was immensely proud of them.

I would like to finish by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!



MERRY
CHRISTMAS



Year 8 Mrs Brand



Last week I had the pleasure of taking 25 year 8 students to Portsmouth University for a taster day. It was a great day and all the children made me so proud, with their behaviour, respect and knowledge. We had a lecture on International Relations and Politics and another on English Literature. After speaking to the children, it was clear how much they enjoyed the day too.

Some of our year 8 children have had an amazing opportunity to go sailing weekly. The children have loved learning this new skill. Here are a few quotes from some of the pupils that have attended.

"I believe that sailing is a fun and inspiring experience for all people. It is interactive and creates a bond with the instructors and peers. I would recommend it to anyone." Elliott

"It is a good learning experience and it is a lot of fun." Padme

"It is fun, we put up the main sail and Jib and we are learning how to use the rudder." Cohen

On the 15th of November we had our St Edmunds day celebrations as well as our first PSHE day for Year 8. The pupils were very respectful during our service at the Cathedral. When we returned to school they had the tradition of a doughnut!! We then had a range of activities for the children to take part in. Year 8 focused on Careers, Stresses and worries and positive/negative attention.

We have recently had a very powerful assembly from 8 Romero all about making the peace. During this assembly it was highlighted that we all make mistakes and all have bad days but what's important is learning from these and having resilience to try again.

Have a super Christmas and see you all in the New Year!



Year 9 Mrs Were



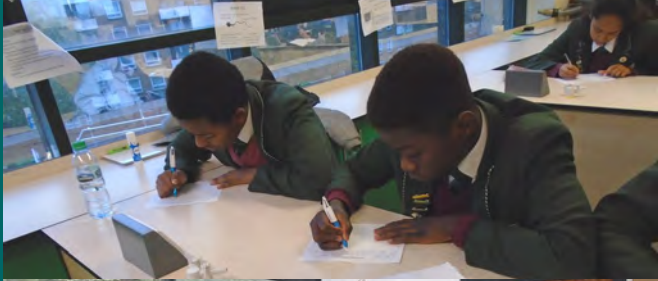
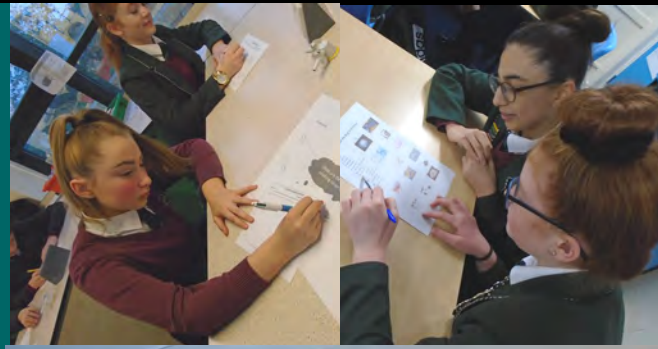
Here we are already breaking up for Christmas! The first term has flown by; it has also been an extremely busy one!

One of my personal highlights was St Edmunds Day which we paired with PSHE day. Sessions were focused on: *the dangers of smoking*, getting the opportunity to see a Scientific experiment where all the dangerous components within a cigarette were drawn out for us to physically see, *Body Image*, identifying the effect that social media has on unrealistic body images and our self-esteem, and finally *Drugs and the Law*, classifying drugs, and learning about what the law states regarding drugs, punishments, criminal sentences and fines. We attended a very special Mass to celebrate St Edmunds Day, along with doughnuts at break time as part of the feast day! Huge thanks go to the Year 9 pupils in Chaplaincy and Choir that helped out at the Mass.

I would also like to take the opportunity to mention this year's Variety Show on Friday 29th November. Within this fantastic evening we saw a selection of pupils showcase their array of talents including Year 9 pupils; Tayla Kimber and Skye Rogers dancing, Cameron Hiron and Harvey Griffiths performing comedy, as well as Enzo Boarer, Ethan Egan, and Alex Tyrrell in the Technical Team running the sound and lights on the evening. I was so proud of all the Year 9's for performing and helping with the event. Exceptional talents displayed, besides the fact that everything was created by the pupils themselves – no input from staff. Well done to all!

This term has also seen a visitor from Portsmouth City Council to talk to Year 9 about Road Safety, something of which was a crucial reminder, specifically at this time of the year when it is so dark in the mornings and afternoons when our pupils are travelling to and from school. The assembly involved some rather shocking facts and video clips, things that have stuck with me since, and has acted as a vital reminder of keeping ourselves safe, including the importance of wearing a cycle helmet, being aware of our surroundings when we are travelling and not being distracted by phones, music, headphones etc.

Next term will be a crucial one for the pupils in Year 9 as we continue to progress towards their final GCSE options choices. All pupils will have an options assembly on the afternoon of Wednesday 15th January 2020 delivered by Mr Wilkinson to explain the GCSE option choices that are available to pupils for Year 10 and 11. We will then invite parents, carers and pupils along to an Options Market on Thursday 23rd January between 4.30-6.30pm, which allows the opportunity to find out more about each option subject, finalise decisions, and ask any questions. This should hopefully allow all pupils to make that final informed decision about their Option choices, with parents and carers involved along the journey, and involved in the final decision. I hope to see you all at the Options Market in January. Have a lovely restful Christmas holiday, and a Happy New Year.



Year 10 Miss Hammond



Year 10 have had another great half term. It was a very busy start after half term with Parents Evening but with 96% turnout from students and parents it was a very successful evening. Speaking to students and parents I could feel the positivity and excitement many students have shown towards their new GCSE subjects. Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to come and meet the teachers.

We have had some amazing successes this half term with Romero winning the award for least behaviour points and enjoying a Pizza evening! We are still waiting to see who will win the award for highest attendance and most quiz wins but I have a feeling Damien may be in the running. Not only have we had group successes though we have also had personal ones.

Watching Tenzin, Charlotte and Giulia singing at the St Edmund's day mass and Aidan in assembly was an honour. To stand up in front of strangers is an accomplishment in itself but to do so in front of your peers and the entire school is beyond what I could ever do. Congratulations to these students!



I would also like to mention some students this term who just simply make me smile everyday for the kindness they show to others and the support they give, often without realising. Sometimes a simple smile in a day can **change someone's whole mood and I feel Tabitha, Georgia and Lauren are three girls that encompass this.** I always see them happy and giggling and they never have a bad word to say about anyone. Thank you, girls, for being you!

I am very proud to be Head of Year 10 and the year group remind me daily why I wanted this job. The joy I see around school in all aspects, from their option choices, to competing weekly in the tutor quiz to the endless questions I have waiting for me every break and lunch. It makes everyday unique much like each and every student in the Year group.

I hope everyone has a restful Christmas break as I am positive we all need it. It is important for students in Year 10 to be studying and preparing for their mock examination as well as taking a break themselves. They can only do their best!



Have a Great Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Year 11 Mrs Feliks-Matthews



Oh my! Christmas edition of a newsletter already , it feels like only few weeks ago we started the Autumn term of Year 11, and here we are Really, really busy, but then, when is it not, here at St Edmund's?

I am very positive that Year 11 with all its challenges, will be a very successful year. Everyone, as the current attitude towards revision, and mock exams shows, deserves a huge commendation! The mock exams are well on the way, and the last week of this term is study leave. I am eagerly awaiting the results, but I am also looking forward to celebrating the successes during our last ever Celebration Assembly in January. There is always lots to reward, as the Year 11 are such a gifted and talented year group. Congratulations to everyone for all their hard work and the positive attitude.

I am very pleased with all Year 11s who have listened and completed their college applications, as well as attended their college interviews already. They have been very well organised, and I am sure this will put them in a good position amongst other applicants.

On that note, I would like to mention our last PSHE/Mock interview day organised by Mrs Halford. The feedback from the day was unanimously positive, with everyone appreciating our visitors and their comments. I must also say, the emails we have received about the way Year 11 students conducted themselves on the day, were nothing but complementary: polite, well mannered, mature, it was all that I could wish for! Thank you.

I would like to thank everyone who attended our first Parents Evening on the 22nd November this term. Again, great attendance on the night, lots of positive comments and happy parents /carers leaving the event. An advanced reminder to you all, our second Parents Evening will be on Thursday 6th of February 2020. This will be the final opportunity to find out what needs to be done for the final push towards the GCSE exams. A huge thank you to Year 10 future prefects, who have been helping out with the school and the community and were very helpful on the night.

As you are aware by now, all your efforts and hard work are always rewarded at St Edmund's in one way or another. We have had some fantastic events led and assisted by Prefects including Christmas Carol Service, multiple Parent's Evenings, Information and Option evenings, assemblies, services etc and as a thank you we had a special Prefect Christmas Lunch. I look forward to sharing more cheer and joy with you next year when we return on Monday 6th January 2020. We have a lot to look forward to including our final Celebration Assembly on January 17th which all parents are welcome to join. Year 11 photographs and finally the first wave of prom invites! How exciting!

After a term of hard work, comes time for rest. Please do enjoy your break, however do not forget about the forthcoming GCSEs! I hope you have a very restful, blessed Christmas break and enjoy the time spent with your loved ones. I look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 6th January 2020!

Merry Christmas

Literary tour of London



Our Literary Tour of London trip was really enjoyable. All aspects of the trip were fun and educational; The London Dungeons gave us a close-up insight into life as a part of History.

Visiting Shakespeare's Globe also helped to put into perspective the fact that the writing we are analysing is performed, something - we learned - that can affect how the text is analysed and read.

On the Sherlock Holmes Tour there were some exciting scenes linking to some of the texts we have studied over the years (e.g. The Picture of Dorian Gray). Although the tube was cramped and stressful, all in all it was a great trip.

Logan

Religious Education

As we enter the season of Advent, a time of expectation and preparation for the birth of Jesus, we are continually reminded to think of others. In Religious Education, however, thinking of others is not limited to this time of year.



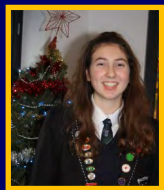
In year 7, where most pupils have been baptised as an infant, we have been considering why some choose to delay.

In Year 8, we have been discussing how the Old Testament prophets must have felt in delivering God's message, even if they did so alone.



In Year 9, we have been discussing how the disciples must have felt in the time between Jesus' death and resurrection.

In Year 10, we have been looking into why the Church seems to be growing in numbers in some parts of the World, and yet declining in others.



In year 11, we have been debating how the world began, as well as why some people think that wars must be started, and if these reasons are ever just.

"It is important to help one another as our school represents a diverse family. God has taught us the importance of loving our neighbour, and the school has shown that through the staff and students' devotion to helping the less fortunate."

Georgia



Textiles

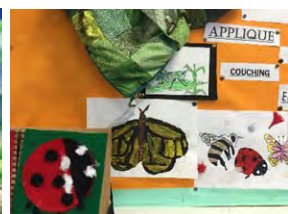
The GCSE Textile students are currently in the middle of their Food Textiles project and are preparing for their Mock exam in December. The students have been working hard to produce some fantastic quality samples using techniques such as fabric manipulation, wax resistance and lino printing. Preparation has begun to design and make a final piece showing a collaboration of all their samples within the project.

Within KS3 Textiles we have just started our new tech roundabouts. The past roundabout showed high levels of skills and creativity within the new Textiles projects that were introduced in September.



Currently year 7 are working on a Bugs and Insects themed Cushion Cover and have been introduced to techniques such as Tie Dye, Applique and Hand Embroidery.

Year 8, students are currently working on their Marine Panels where they are able to develop their sewing machine skills and include techniques such as Couching and Applique.



Year 9 textiles students are developing previous skills such as sewing and printmaking to design and create a fairs and carnivals themed pencil case or tie.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in our recent Variety show. This is an annual event and it was yet another opportunity to show

Variety Show

off the many talents of students here at St Edmund's. The students played to a packed hall and everyone worked so hard on their performances, all of which were OUTSTANDING!



St Edmund's General Election



On Thursday 12th December, as the country went to the polls, students at St Edmund's took part in our own electoral process. Candidates from the four main parties, Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats and the Brexit Party had previously canvassed each year group and promoted their party's election manifestos. Students then had the opportunity to vote for their chosen candidate. Congratulations to Tabitha who was the overall winner with 178 votes.



Year 7 & 8 Disco

An evening of fun and dancing was had by all who attended the Year 7 & 8 Christmas Disco on Thursday 12th December.



The 'Orpheus Project.'

This half term, a group of Year 9 pupils were selected to give their opinions on keeping safe in Portsmouth with the Hidden Harms Education Officer, John Webster, from Portsmouth City Council.



We discussed our Year 9 Citizenship curriculum and the resource we use 'Extreme Dialogues' which John had also worked with. This is a fantastic resource which is intended for use in schools and communities to build resilience to extremism and enhance critical thinking. Our young people also answered key questions which are part of some research which the City is involved with. The project 'Orpheus' has the aim of finding out what young people know about safe spaces e.g. how/when/why young people gather together either formally or informally. The questions that were used are also used across our European partners for consistency. Watch this space for an update!

Road Safety

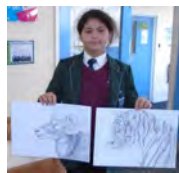
In the week beginning 25th November we had a visit from Phil Rennie, part of the Safer Travel Team who delivered assemblies to Years 7-10 on keeping safe on the roads.

Of course the usual topics of safer cycling and the use of cycle helmets was an important thread running through all the assemblies as well as the distraction that mobile phone use can cause when crossing the road or walking along the pavement.

We will remember the key message of not crossing between parked cars and if this is absolutely essential then checking and double checking it is safe to cross. The talk was made very engaging by the use of video clips and question/answer session.



Outstanding Work!



Andrew Simpson Charity

Our wonderful partnership with the Andrew Simpson Charity continues.

A small number of Year 8 pupils enjoy sailing and powerboating in the Solent on a Monday afternoon.

This activity will be replaced after Christmas with a 6 week RYA First Aid course which the students are really looking forward to. This qualification will be a great addition to their CVs in the future.

We will have more reports from the team about this in the New Year.



So what do we actually do in Film Studies? Watch films all lesson? Well yes, occasionally, but it's much more detailed and interesting than that...

Film Studies

I love this GCSE option choice as I have learnt so much. Before I really only watched big budget blockbusters and Hollywood films but that was because they were heavily marketed to me as a teenager but now I have studied independent films that are really good quality but made from much smaller budgets. They are always about interesting issues such as Tsotsi – a South African film which shows the reality of growing up as an orphaned teenager from HIV in the slums of Johannesburg and trying to survive in a dog eat dog world. When you realise that the slum setting is not a set design or created by CGI and the main actors are not professional but actually grew up there, then the film is even more amazing. It doesn't matter that the film is subtitled because the acting and directing just help tell the story. I also loved the soundtrack of kwaito rap music. Although it's a really gritty film, at the heart of it is a hardened teenager and a baby (he's a brilliant actor – cries on cue especially when covered with big, biting African ants)! Tsotsi turns from a life of crime and undoes all his wrongs to become a better man- it's a story of hope, it's a story about salvation – a sort of Christmas Carol but set in modern South Africa (and without the ghosts).



I've also enjoyed understanding the history of film and how technology constantly changes it, so when sound, then colour, then special effects, then 3D, CGI and now drones change our experience of watching film. We laughed at the alien pods in the 50s film Invasion Of The Body Snatchers, cooed over the cuteness of E.T and have been fascinated by the amazing life like spaceship and aliens in District 9. Even more interesting is that we have had to learn about the history shown in these films such as the Cold War of the 50s, the Space exploration of the 80s and apartheid. I've also enjoyed the creativity of the subject and showing what I've learnt about camera shots, sound, mise en scène in the creation of my own horror film extract which I think was really good!

I would really recommend it as a GCSE option, it's interesting, fun and creative and there are so many college courses and job opportunities in the film industry!

Abby

Congratulations to Liam who took part in the Matt Fiddes International Marshal Arts Championships. He won bronze in the Kickboxing category.



Congratulations to Shannon for her recent win at a Dancing competition. Shannon came first in Solo Disco Freestyle and 2nd in Pairs.



Year 8 football Portsmouth Cup Semi Final - St Edmund's 2-2 Springfield St Eds win 4-3 on Penalties

After a hard fought match against Springfield in the Portsmouth Cup Semi Final, ended 2-2, the year 8s showed courage and composure with their spot kicks, and booked themselves a place in the final. The final will now take place in April and could potentially be at Fratton Park. Stand out performances in the match go to Jacob, JJ, Louie and Sterling.



Congratulations; Sam, Louie, Cameron, Enzo, Jacob and Ethan who represented St Edmunds by running the cross country. They ran well in freezing conditions to complete the 3.5km distance. An extra congratulations goes to Sam who has been asked to represent Hampshire.

NOTICES

Celebration Assemblies will be held in January 2020 to celebrate pupil's successes so far this year. Prizes will be given for Achievement and Effort in all subjects. There will also be prizes for pupil's contributions to the wider school such as Chaplaincy, Library, sports and tutor group. Parents are invited to come and be part of the celebrations.

Monday 13 th January	8.30am – 10am	Year 8
Tuesday 14 th January	8.30am – 10am	Year 7
Wednesday 15 th January	8.30am – 10am	Year 9
Thursday 16 th January	8.30am – 10am	Year 10
Friday 17 th January	8.30am – 10am	Year 11



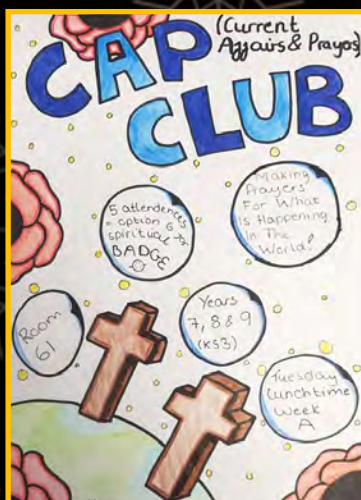
If you wish to attend an assembly please contact the school by **Thursday 9th January 2020** so that we know numbers.
Mrs Lunn Assistant Headteacher

Year 9 - currently during morning registration pupils have had the opportunity to visit Option Showcase sessions, delivered by subjects and departments to give the pupils important information about that specific option subject at GCSE level. Pupils have selected these themselves based on what they are interested in and what they are considering selecting as their option subjects. We have advised pupils to attend approx 4/5 different subjects, but they are more than welcome of course to attend more. These sessions will be continuing in the new year:

Film Studies – 6 th January	Child Development – 7 th January
Textiles – 9 th January	UTC – 10 th January
Media – 13 th January	Photography – 14 th January
Graphics – 16 th January	Spanish/French – 17 th January
Engineering Design – 20 th January	History – 21 st January
Geography – 23 rd January	Citizenship – 24 th January
Ancient History – 27 th January	



All sessions of which happen during registration, meaning punctuality to school in the morning continues to be exceptionally important.



CAP Club
(Current Affairs & Prayers)

Years 7, 8 & 9
Welcome

Room 61
Tuesday Lunchtime
Week A

We would love to see you
there!



To stay up to date with all the News and Up-coming events follow us on Facebook and Twitter. We regularly post news, updates, photos, achievements and information which we are sure you will find useful and interesting.
www.saintedmunds.org.uk



Saintedmunds Portsmouth



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