

Newsletter

HALF TERM EDITION|FEBRUARY 2020



St Edmund's
Catholic School

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



A wonderful day was had by a group of Year 11 students who attended a Retreat Day in Portchester organised and run by Chaplain Fiona and Mrs Feliks – Mathews. It was filled with laughter, times of prayer and sharing. A fantastic spiritual atmosphere was apparent throughout the whole day.



"The Retreat was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, where we took some time out from GCSEs to pray, meditate and engage in fun activities deepening our relationship with God and enjoying the fresh air at Portchester Castle." Lydia



Caelum Dives Ingređi

Tel: 02392 823766 Web: www.saintedmunds.org.uk



IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 2020

Wed 26th: Ash Wednesday
Thurs 27th: Year 9 Speed Networking
Mon 2nd: Dry Ski Slope trip

MARCH 2020

Tue 3rd: Year 10 Citizenship Roleplay
Portsmouth University
Wed 4th: Dance show Tech/Dress
Rehearsal
Thurs 5th: Year 10 Geography Field trip
Fri 5th: Dance Show Performance
Year 10 Geography Field trip

Tue 10th: Year 10 Create Your Career
Conference
Wed 11th: Reconciliation
Dry Ski Slope trip
Soundsational Concert
Portsmouth Guildhall
Thurs 12th: Year 10 Globe Theatre trip -
Macbeth
Fri 13th: Dry Ski Slope trip

Mon 16th: Year 10 English trip -
Jayne Eyre
Tue 17th: Year 7/8 BAE Systems
Education Roadshow
Year 10 History trip -
Whitechapel
Wed 18th: Hindu Temple trip
Thurs 19th: Year 8 Parents Evening
Year 10 Kintbury Retreat
Fri 20th: Dry Ski Slope trip

Tue 24th: Marginal Gains Female
Cohort Workshop
Year 8 Geography trip - IOW
Wed 25th: Year 10 English GCSE
Masterclass Ports University

Tue 31st: Year 8 Geography trip - IOW

APRIL 2020

Thurs 2nd: Year 10 Solomon Theatre
Company Performance
Fri 3rd: Ski Trip Departs
Stations of the Cross - St Mary's
Church.

Back to School
Monday 27th April - Week A

HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS

This half term has flown past and has been packed with learning, homework, activities, prayer, experiences and fun. The newsletter once again gives an insight into the daily life here at St Edmund's. This has been something we have shared with many visitors to St Edmund's including other schools as part of our supporting role, Governors, parents and a whole host of other individuals/organisations. All have commented on how wonderful our children are and the high standards of behaviour/uniform and the amazing level of teaching and learning.

These were all celebrated during the reward assemblies earlier in the half term. A wonderful event which filled myself and parents who attended with a sense of pride. Whilst we often need to remind students about the standards they signed up to, the vast majority of our day includes praise, opportunities for prayer and reflection and wonderful learning experiences.

Our focus for this term has been the use of planners by students and staff. All are expected to use these for homework, communications relating to issues and permission to leave the classroom. We will continue with monitoring this, as well as uniform; particularly 'skinny' trousers which are not permitted. I would urge parents to check the uniform policy prior to buying trousers. The length of some trousers and skirts are becoming excessively short and tight fit, issues which we will deal with upfront at the start of next term as a whole school focus.

Finally, you may be aware of an article in the news reflecting the decline in standards of GCSE performances within Portsmouth and into South Hampshire/Gosport. This obviously does not apply to how well our children achieve in GCSEs and throughout their time at St Edmund's. We remain the top performing school with standards judged massively above average on a national basis. This is only achieved as a result of our fabulous support from parents, insistence on monitoring students and our spirituality. Our reflection, prayer and the additional opportunities for our faith to grow is our soul at the centre, next to our heart of learning and achievement.

I pray that you all have a restful and healthy half term break.

God bless



Mr S Graham, Headteacher



On Tuesday 4th February, 60 Year 9 students visited the Imperial War Museum in London to see first-hand artefacts from World War One all the way up to the present day. A session was delivered by a Holocaust specialist who focused on simple everyday objects such as teddy bears, glasses and shoes in order to gain an insight to personal stories of the Holocaust which can sometimes be lost in the scale of the horror. This added a great deal of emphasis on smaller items when going around the Holocaust exhibition. Students also visited the World War One, World War Two and Cold War to Modern Day exhibits which gave a wide range of historical artefacts ranging from trenches, tanks, planes and even part of the wreckage from 9/11.

"I enjoyed the trip because there was lots of interesting things!" – Victoria

"I really enjoyed the trip. It gave me an insight into what actually happened in WWI & WWII. I especially found the Holocaust exhibit moving. I would recommend a trip to the IWM to anyone who is interested in this event and wants to know more." – Jeslin



International Mother Language Day is a worldwide annual observance held on 21st February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity. Here at St Edmund's we celebrate this at every opportunity. It is this cultural diversity that makes St Edmund's such a special place.

Mother language day has been observed since February 2000 to promote multilingualism. However, did you know that at least 43% of the estimated 6000 languages spoken in the world are endangered. Every two weeks a language disappears, taking with it an entire cultural and intellectual heritage.

Share the Good News to everyone you meet
Celebrate, Live, and Share God's Word.



Our Spiritual Theme of 'POP' (Power of Prayer), creating a 'SPACE for Prayer to take place', has blossomed during this term with the introduction to 'The Year of the Word', our Year 11 Retreat, Year 8 Tutor Masses, various activities put on by the St Vincent De Paul Group and plans for our Parent Prayer Group. We have also been planning and organising for next term for our Year 10 Retreat to Kintbury and 'The Stations of the Cross'.

In our Diocese, the theme for this year is 'The Year of the Word'. During this year we are encouraged to celebrate, live and share God's Word. As a school we have creatively looked at this through 'Lectio Divina', 'Divine Reading' which means reading scripture passages, meditating and praying with the passage and then seeing what it is calling us to do in our everyday lives. In Tutor Prayer students have had the opportunity to look at a relevant Scripture passage, to read it, meditate on it, say a prayer and then to come up with an action. This also took place during assembly so that the students listened to a chosen Scripture passage and then reflected upon what the reading was saying to them in their lives. Our Year 8 Tutor Masses began this term and Tutor Groups have spent time with the Gospel passage that was used at their Mass. In reflection, they have seen how it speaks to them in the context of their lives and how they can share that Good News in everyday life.

Our vibrant St Vincent De Paul keeps on growing in numbers, confidence and enthusiasm. They were instrumental in coming up with our new Spiritual Theme of 'POP' for the next two years as well as helping to develop various activities. One of those ideas was inviting guest speakers into our Chapel on a Wednesday lunchtime to talk on various topics, issues and faith. Our first speaker was a past student who came in to talk about his life since leaving St Edmund's school, going to college and then on to university. He shared about his faith journey and life as a student. The event was very well supported and our speaker was very inspiring and well received by our students. Our next guest speaker to be giving a lunchtime talk will be in March on the topic, Fair Trade.

Another new venture next term is our 'Parent Prayer Group' which begins on Wednesday 4th March at 9 am in the Chapel. A number of parents have said to me that they have really enjoyed the prayer times at the beginning of Celebration Assemblies and so from there the idea came to have a time of prayer for parents, whose children attend our school. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 4th March at 9 am in the Chapel. We will have refreshments followed by a time of prayer. If you are interested please contact me, the Chaplain, either by email or by phone (please see poster).

Next term, during Lent we will have our Ash Wednesday Services and our Reconciliation Services. We are also organising our liturgy of 'The Stations' which takes place at St Mary's Church. It is always a beautiful and reflective liturgy which both staff and students prepare.

So, as you can see, the 'Power of Prayer' is alive and active within our school. Thank you to staff and students for your continued support and enthusiasm, as well as governors and parents. I am looking forward to all that we have planned for next term.

Have a great half term.

Fiona, Chaplain

CHAPLAINCY

PARENT
prayer
at St Edmund's Catholic School

First Meeting
Wednesday 4th March
9.00 am in the Chapel

All parents whose children attend the school are welcome to join us for refreshments followed by reflection and prayer.

For further information or to register your interest please contact: Fiona, Chaplain on 02392 823766 xt: 213 or email: chaplain@saintedmunds.org.uk

Play together



SCIENCE LIVE!

Year 10 had the exciting opportunity to travel to the Brighton Dome on the 27th January to hear five of **Britain's top scientists who are all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms.**

The objective of the day was to generate a greater enthusiasm for Science amongst GCSE students and help improve their GCSE Science results with top tips from the experts.

'It was great to engage with students from other schools and discuss lots of different topics including climate change.' Tabitha

'It was great to gain an insight into how the examiners view our exams as well as how to answer specific questions. I enjoyed looking at the philosophical questions such as: What is the possibility of time travel with a scientific approach?' Georgia

'The trip was fun, lively and exciting. I learnt all sorts of interesting things That will help me understand us and the universe we live in. It was a truly educational trip full of inspirational people. I would highly recommend it to any student if they have the opportunity to go.' Lila



APPRENTICESHIP BUS

On Thursday 6th February, as part of National Apprenticeship Week, St Edmunds was visited by the National Apprenticeship Bus!

On board there was a variety of local Apprentices ready and willing to tell our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils all about their job roles and how and why they embarked upon an apprenticeship.



We had 21 pupils onboard and all of them were thoroughly engaged. They were able to chat 1-1 or in small groups to the apprentices who were working in industries they were interested in. There were even two ex- St Edmund's pupils there! One is now an apprentice at Portsmouth City Council and the other at Hover Travel! It was a fantastic hour and I was so proud of our pupils, as always.

Mrs Halford



FOOD & NUTRITION

Year 7 – Have been learning about what it means to have a healthy diet. Making lots of progress in their cooking skills.

Year 8 – Expanding their horizons with international cuisine. Cooking everything from fajitas to spring rolls – lots to get those taste buds tingling.

Year 9 – Have been introduced to Food preparation and nutrition through their mini GCSE module. The students have really engaged with the course. Who is going to be our next Mary Berry or Jamie Oliver?



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 'Valentines Day' and have been producing some exciting and creative dishes from cheese souffle to sticky toffee pudding.



**YEAR 7
PASTA**



**YEAR 8
FAJITAS**



**YEAR 9
BURGERS**



**YEAR 10
PIZZA**



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, pizza and samosas.

PORTSMOUTH LIT QUIZ

Yet again we pitted our book knowledge against other schools, University students and visiting Authors at the Portsmouth Lit Quiz. We had all worked really hard, researching the authors websites and read four books, several times!

It was a wet and dreary morning but we did not let it dampen our spirits or excitement. We were as ready and prepared as we could **possibly be.....**

During the quiz we managed to face tie breaker questions against other schools and we had won!! Yippee! But, would we win the quiz again this year? Would we manage to retain our title as the current 'Lit Quiz Champions'?

Unfortunately, despite trying our very best and pitting ourselves against more than 20 teams, we just missed out and came 2nd place to Springfield School. Our students were all amazing and should be extremely proud of themselves. They were a real credit to themselves and our school. All 3 teams finished in the top five! Absolutely, incredible!! Well done to you all!

In the afternoon we were lucky enough to listen to a Question and Answer session by the visiting Authors: Sita Brahmachari, Stewart Foster, Andy Mulligan and Ali Sparkes. It was fascinating to hear that they all start to write differently.

For example, Ali Sparkes likes peace and quiet in her 'Pod of Dreams', Sita prefers to write in the hub bub of her noisy household, at the kitchen table and Stewart Foster just 'writes' and doesn't edit what he has written until he has finished. Stewart said he liked his writing to just 'flow'. Thus, proving that everybody is different and that there is no one way to start writing a book. However, they all agree on one thing'just write'! All the authors were extremely inspirational!

'It was so much fun and, in the end, it didn't matter who won! We'd all had a fab day!' Oscar

'It helped us learn and develop our understanding of books. It was really fun!' Bethany

'It was really nice to meet all the Authors.' Charlotte

'We were able to buy books or exchange our book tokens from the Bookshop, which was very good!' Romance

'The Literature Quiz was an amazing opportunity to meet some fantastic authors and get books signed! I had so much fun!' Juliet

'I loved meeting Stewart Foster because he was very fun and comical!' Tania

'I was very happy and excited about going to the quiz, as I got to meet four authors!' Hannah



Our amazing Lit Quizzers:

Marinela, Dulcie, Hannah, Tania, Romance, Bethany, Charlotte, Julia, Oscar, Lucy, Lukasz, Juliet and Gleb.

**ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
CAELUM DIVES INGREDI



READING WEEK

Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March 2020

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

Monday- Bookflix - Write a book trailer for your favourite book!

Tuesday- Winners of the 'Fair Trade Story Competition', will share their stories.

Wednesday - Book emoji's Competition

Thursday - World Book Day - Spot the Book Characters around the school.
Dress up as your favourite Children's book character **Year 7 & 8 Only**.

If you want to take part in World Book Day you **MUST** get a ticket from Mrs Edwards in the LLRC for £1 donation.
This is **NOT** a non-school uniform day. If you are taking part, you **MUST** come dressed as a character, no ordinary clothes allowed.

Friday - Book Quiz - Get a team together and try and beat the staff at Bookie Knowledge!



Year 7 Miss Holt



Well, that first half of the spring term has absolutely flown in and again Year 7 have been very busy. We kick started the term with our first ever celebration assembly. Thank you to all parents and carers who came, I hope you enjoyed it as much as the students and I did. I want to take this opportunity to stress again that I am incredibly proud of every single student and those who did not win an award this time round will have plenty of opportunity to moving forward! St Ed's are fantastic at acknowledging achievement and celebrating success.

This half term we had our Year 7 Inter Tutor sports competition which was led brilliantly by our Year 11 sports leaders. Students competed within tutor teams in various sports to win points for their tutor groups. The students demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship and it is great to see them working so well together and relationships/friendships being formed across the year group. The event concluded with a celebration ceremony where the scores were revealed. Well done to everybody but especially to the following tutor groups:

2nd: 7 Damien **1st: 7 Stein** **3rd: 7 Romero**

Students fundraised in the Autumn term to raise money for their tutor icons. These icons will take pride and place in their tutor rooms and will stay with them all the way through to year 11 as a spiritual symbol for their tutor family. On the 31st of January each tutor icon was blessed in the chapel by Father Anthony. The icons will eventually be offered back to St Edmund's during the students Year 11 leavers mass and will be added to the prayer wall in the school's main hall.

Year 7 attendance has dipped significantly since returning this term. There have been some nasty viruses doing the rounds and lots of colds and sore throats. I am hoping to see this improve and would appreciate your support in encouraging our young people to come into school and build their resilience where possible. Thank you as ever for all of your support.



Congratulations to all of our winners!



Congratulations to everyone who recieved a nomination!

Year 8 Mrs Brand



Lord, help me to remember that
Nothing is going to happen to
me today that You and I
together cannot handle.
Amen.



Wow, we are already into our second term of Year 8, time is certainly going fast! I have to say I am very proud of our year 8 children in how they are maturing and focusing on their learning.

We had a lovely Celebration Assembly in January, where we got to showcase the effort and achievement of lots of our pupils. The children were very well behaved and celebrated everyone's achievement, even if they didn't get an award themselves this time, which shows how good we are as a year 8 family. I would like to announce our top 3 Personal Qualities pupils, as they have worked exceptionally hard to achieve this.

Just as a reminder Personal Qualities scores are given to pupils for: Prepared for Learning, Effort, Homework & Behaviour. Pupils are scored from 1- 4, with 4 meaning excellent and 1 meaning unsatisfactory. The totals are then placed in numerical order creating a ranking system within the year group. Using the Personal Qualities scores enable us to reward pupils who consistently give 100% to their studies whatever their academic ability.

Well done to our top PQ students:

1st: Jacob & Adrian

2nd: Nadia 3rd: Julia, Marinela, Hannah & Gugulethu .



Well done to all pupils as we have had great Personal Qualities scores throughout the year group.

This week is Mental Health week so pupils have been able to take part in a number of activities that are running in all year groups during break and lunch times, including drama workshops, colouring, games etc. We also have our new Trinity Wellbeing Suite, where students can go at break and lunch for different activities.

By the time you have received this newsletter Year 8 would have hosted our Annual Senior Citizen Party. This is a great opportunity for Year 8 students to cater for, serve and entertain our local senior citizens. This year the theme was of a traditional street party. A full report will be in the next Newsletter.

Attendance unfortunately has been down slightly this term as a year group. I am sure this will improve once spring arrives and drives out all of the winter bugs and viruses. Please remember every day counts. However, if your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please report this to our Attendance Officer, Mrs George on ext: 211.

I look forward to all the opportunities we will have as a year group in the future. Have a great half term!



Year 9 Mrs Were



I feel as if this first half term of 2020 has simply flown by! But yet here we are having seen in the first two months of 2020 already, and it has of course been an exceptionally busy time! Early on we had our first Celebration Assembly of Year 9, a very special event where we rewarded and celebrated the achievements of a huge number of individuals within the year group. I find every opportunity like this extremely special as I end up reflecting on us as an entire year group and it always reminds me how proud I am to call myself your Head of Year. There are of course moments where we have our ups and downs, but its times like that that allow us to have the opportunity to forget about all the other stresses and pressures of the year, and focusing solely on the positives. It reminds me how proud I am of each and every one of the pupils in in Year 9. Each year comes with new changes, new challenges to face, new tasks to tackle, but it has been a fantastic start to what is our toughest year yet. We are now facing all sorts of additional stresses and pressures that we didn't have to face in year 8. But it's important to take opportunities to reflect on enjoying our time at school and to recognise everything we have achieved.



I had the opportunity to name a huge number of individuals in our celebration assembly, but extra special mentions go to these individuals for their achievement and effort:

Scoring 4 (outstanding) in every piece of homework so far: Natalia, Thomas, Anna-May, Grace & Charis

Head of Learning Awards: Nikita, Jack & Olivia

Tutor Awards:

9 Damien: Dovydas & Bethany

9 John Paul: Jamie & Megan

9 Newman: Lily & Zak

9 Stein: George & Ingrid

9 Devereux: David & Jessica

9 Kolbe: Terri & Robert

9 Romero: Cassandra & Freddie

9 Teresa: Oran & Mia

Top Personal Quality scores in the entire year group:

5th place: Tyler , Zaara , Katie

4th place: Molly , Marci

3rd place: Thomas

2nd place: Dalia, Ethan, Anna-May, Grace

1st place: Charis

This half term we have also held our Year 9 Options Market on Thursday 23rd January, an evening of extremely important decision making! Pupils, parents, guardians and carers in Year 9 attended the Options Evening at St Edmunds where all GCSE Option subjects as well as Colleges and Universities were laid out to support pupils in their Option choices.

Both staff and visitors commented on the maturity and focus of the Year 9 pupils at St Edmund's. I would like to congratulate all pupils that attended Options Evening and wish pupils all the best as they complete the final few terms of Year 9 now they have completed their Options forms and have made perhaps the most important decisions in their school journey so far. The choices they have made will set them up for their future.

My final mention this term goes to 9 Stein who won the inter tutor mystickers merit competition! All tutor groups had the opportunity to earn as many merits as possible from October till December, logging their tutor mystickers on the website to achieve as many milestones as possible. It ended up as a very tight result, but 9 Stein were our winners winning themselves and their tutor Miss Chapman a cinema afternoon at Vue, Gunwharf Quays in March!

Have a safe half term!



Year 10 Miss Hammond



Another half term has passed and wow how quickly it has gone!

Year 10 hit the ground running on the very first day with their English Literature mock. So many staff told me how impressed they were with the maturity Year 10 showed that day and I myself was blown away with how they took it in their stride. They have another mock after half term and with some steady revision over the half term and moving towards Easter I am sure they will all achieve their potential. I would also like to say well done to the Triple Science pupils this half term who also had their Science mock just before Christmas and also the PE Btec students who completed part of their GCSE exam. It is a shock to the system to think the GCSE exams have already started but the scariest part is how quickly the rest of them will follow!



It is always a pleasure to celebrate the successes of the year group and to be able to do this in my first ever Celebration assembly was an honour. Students experienced something a little different this year to previous years with the Eddie's known for its humorous videos and students walking away with trophies. I would like to say a special congratulations to the top 3 PQ winners; Alexia and Theo who came in 3rd, Fiona who came 2nd and Emmanuella who beat everyone in the year group to have the top PQ's. Also, a special mention to my Head of Year award winners Cameron and Claudia. Well done to all the winners and those of you who were nominated, you should be very proud and remember there is another opportunity to win at the end of the year. Lets hope you don't feel the need to walk as slowly as Angelo and James across the stage though!

When this is read I know several students will have been on trips for Astronomy to Greenwich with Mr Fairey and myself, fingers crossed we have seen a planet or maybe even an alien and students will also have been to see the Woman in Black on a Drama trip. I saw this when I was at school and was without doubt one of the scariest plays I have ever seen. I hope everyone enjoyed their trips and I know there are lots more to come this year.

Thankyou once again for all the hard work this half term Year 10 and I would also like to thank all parents and carers who have supported the students this half term. A special mention must also go to the tutors who work tirelessly to ensure students are prepared and can achieve their best. I hope you have a lovely week off and get some rest because I am sure next half term will be even busier! Have a great half term!



Year 11 Mrs Feliks-Matthews



As another Year 11 half term is drawing to a close, I cannot help but to feel sad, that the last 5 years have gone so quickly! This half term has been the quickest yet, and still we have managed to squeeze different events, revision sessions, celebrations and everything in between.

As with St Edmund's tradition, we started the new year, and the term, with the final Celebration Assembly "The Eddies". Congratulations to the pupils who managed to come away with an award for your continued effort, achievement and commitment to the school ethos, clubs, or recognition from your Head of Year! It was a fantastic event, and my huge thank you goes to you all for exemplary behaviour throughout.



On the 24th January our Year 11 Mock Assembly took place with Mr Graham. Each pupil was given an envelope containing their mock results, just as they will in August.

Some pupils were also given another envelope containing a Prom Invite, which will take place on the 25th June at the Queens Hotel, Southsea. For those who have not received it yet, there is no panic, because if you continue attending daily and on time, working hard in school including revision sessions, avoid Detentions, there will be more invites going out in the second and third wave very soon.



Straight from our Celebration Assembly a group of 16 students had a great opportunity to attend our last Year 11 Retreat in Portchester. We are a very spiritual Year group, and all our Retreats have been absolutely amazing. I feel very blessed, and grateful to Fiona for organising and leading most of them, as well as for the super tasty pizzas! A huge thank you on the behalf of all Year 11s.

A huge thank you to all parents who were able to attend our 2nd and final Year 11 Parents Evening on Thursday 6th 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.



On 28th January we had our final ever school photos taken, including our Year 11 group photo. You know me, I do not need much to get overwhelmed or emotional, so I must say, It was a very humbling experience to see our Year group all together, and a chance to reflect on how much you have changed over the years.

The time is flying, we all need rest at some point, but please remember, work hard now, as you will have plenty of opportunity to rest. You will finish earlier than any other year group after your GCSE exams.

Have a lovely half term!



What's going on in ART?

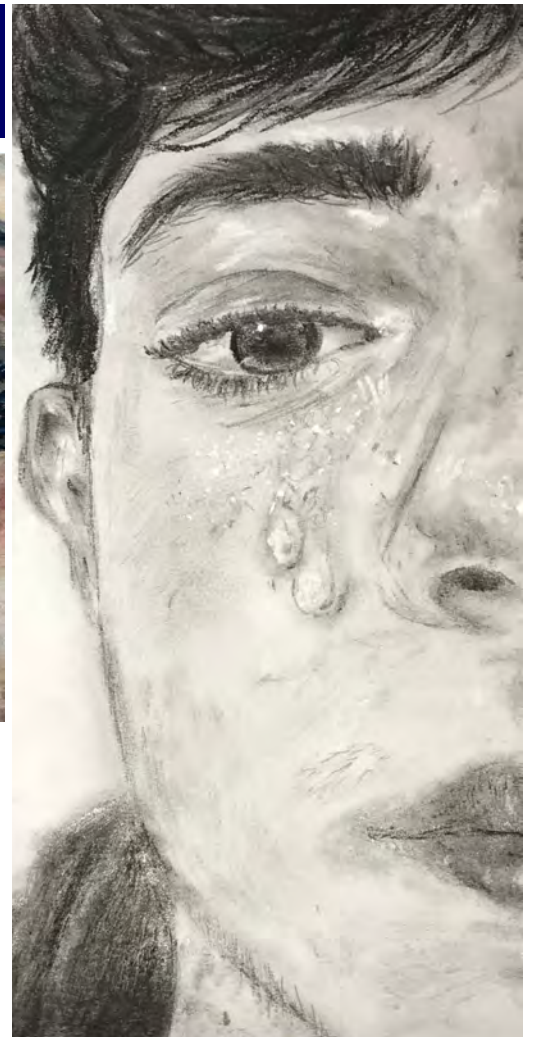


Pupils have been working very hard in art. Year 7 completed the Toy project in December and have moved onto the Abstract Art project. Year 8 have completed the animal project and are now working on advanced drawing skills. Year 9 successfully completed the Day of the Dead project and have started studying portraits from different times and places.

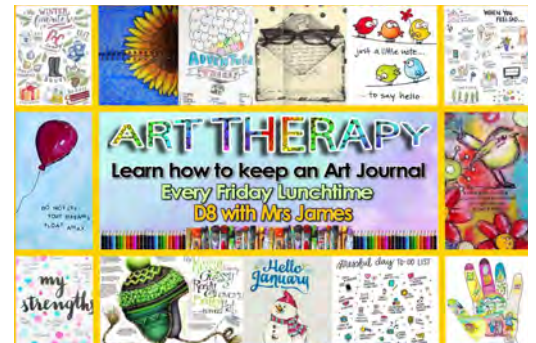


Well done to the GCSE Fine Art year 10 pupils, as they are working brilliantly on their Identity/portrait project.

A massive well done to GCSE Fine Art year 11 Students who started their exam preparation in January; ready for the big 10 hour practical exam in April.



Thank you to Mrs James, for a successful start to the Friday lunch time, Art Therapy club. The pupils are really enjoying it and find it very relaxing.



MARGINAL GAINS

On Tuesday 28th January, 20 Year 9 girls began an exciting new pilot for Marginal Gains. We have seen great success through this project with some Year 10 and Year 9 boys, but this time it was being aimed at girls. The theory behind the programme remains the same – by making small, manageable changes you can have a much bigger, overall positive impact.

We welcomed Chloe Giles in from the Southern Universities Network who delivered an engaging and informative 2 hour workshop introducing the girls to the Marginal Gains concept. I was so proud of them all. They all gave 100% and were enthusiastic and polite throughout. Chloe said she was really impressed with the whole group **and is looking forward to returning to St Edmund's in February and March to deliver a further two sessions of the programme.**

Mrs Halford



As part of our RE lessons this term we have been examining the evil and sufferings of the Holocaust. Students reflected on the lives lost during the Holocaust and the life of Saint Maximilian Kolbe.



Saint Kolbe gave his life in place of another prisoner facing death in the concentration camp. In doing so, he demonstrated Jesus' teaching of:

"There is no greater love than to lie down one's life for a friend."
(John 15:13).

The students looked at some example of poetry influenced by the Holocaust and crafted their own.
Below are some examples of their work:

Prisoner No. 16670

Screams, gunshots being forced,
These are the sounds of the Holocaust.

Ribs are showing,
Tears are flowing.

Yet he still takes the back,
Whips are lashing,
Canes are cracking.
Yet hope he still believes in.

Piles of bodies grow,
Scars on their skin show,
Yet his food he still gives out.

Rights are taken,
Children are shaken,
Yet calm he remains.

Deafening silence in the dead of night
Torture arises, it's not a pretty sight.

Dreams and lives were taken away,
The Nazis are forever to repay.

Help me Mother Mary, I deserve to live
But what is my saviour supposed to give.

Horrors of the Holocaust embedded in their
minds,

A lesson this must leave, a lesson to
mankind.

Holocaust, Maximilian Kolbe

Maximilian was a loving and caring boy.
His mum told him to love Jesus and Mary
before anyone.
Then he studied in Rome and taught the
people in Japan to be priests.

When he returned he was taken
during the Holocaust.

He would put people before him when
they imprisoned him, he would pray and
sing hymns, he was the last one dead in
1941.

The Holocaust

They were just kids.
They were loved.
Parents killed and tortured.
We had a future.
We had dreams, but then no hope.
Our dreams and lives were killed and stolen.
We hope this would never happen again.

We thank Maximilian
Kolbe for what he had
done during this
torturous time period
in the Holocaust.
He is what we call a hero.



Mental Health Week



At St Edmund's we are continuing to build up our understanding and appreciation for the importance of supporting emotional well being. We



have had a keen focus on mental through staff training, listening to the pupils and parents and considering resources. The focus on mental health and well being dovetails in so well with our core beliefs linked to Gospel values, the importance of spiritual enrichment and the power of prayer theme. In September we opened our Trinity Centre a fully staffed, dedicated space for pupils to relax, work and be supported in times of emotional difficulty such as stress, anxiety or bereavement.

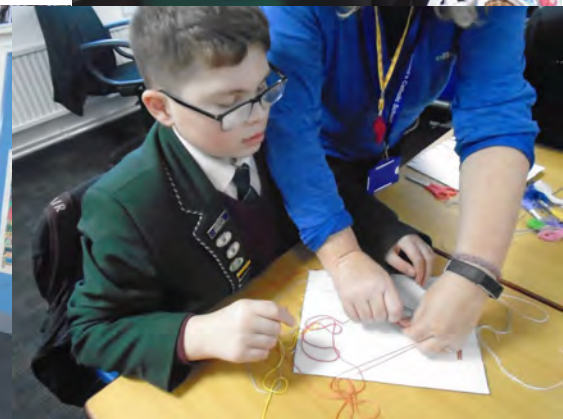
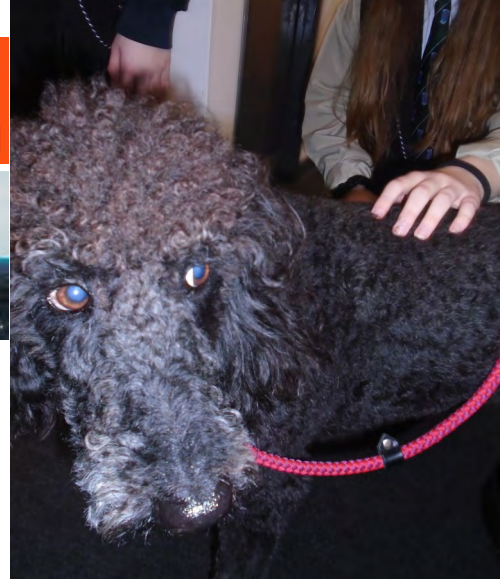
The week beginning 3rd February was our focus week for Children's Mental Health awareness as highlighted by the Place2Be charity.

During the focus week we laid on lots of activities which were available for staff and pupils to take advantage of. Our great favourites are Lola and Charlie who visit weekly. Family pets are fantastic additions to our families and help to bring a lift in our lives. We see this in school when Mrs Meades, our Senior Science technician, is kind enough to bring her two dogs in to school for a visit. Mrs Meades of course loves to see her dogs in the middle of the school day and the pupils are delighted to see the dogs too!! Pupils have the opportunity to ask questions, listen to stories about the joys and responsibilities of owning a dog and hopefully see a few tricks. Our two school guinea pigs also had a visit to the staff room this week! A cuddle with Pickles or Lainard made the lunch break all the more enjoyable.

Away from the 'pets', pupils enjoyed 'drama for confidence building' with Miss Butler on Monday a club - where I have to say confidence was running high! The pupils have now persuaded Miss Butler to run this session every week (moved to a Wednesday, all welcome!) Miss Layburn, who is becoming an expert in origami, laid on a session in the Trinity Centre, the pupils enjoyed art therapy with Mrs James, meditation and relaxation in the chapel with Fiona and Friendship bracelets with Mrs Candlish. There are also regular lunchtime colouring sessions, board games, Lego and puzzle activities laid on by support staff in the Trinity (Thank you to Mrs White and Mrs Simmons too for their help with this). As well as all these activities at lunchtime, there were the usual sporting activities for staff and pupils throughout the week as well as focus in tutor time with clips and questionnaires.

The week refocused us again on the importance of ensuring a good work life balance, looking after our emotional health and well being and making time for relaxation.

Watch this space for more developments in the Trinity Centre, the appointment of 'Trinity Ambassadors' - pupils who will champion mental health and well being to be appointed after half term. Keep your eyes and ears open for more details in assemblies.



The key stage 4 boys and girls teams travelled to Westgate School to play in the County finals.

The girls progressed though their groups well with only losing one of the 19 games played. In the semi finals they met tough opposition however managed to win 5-0 and reach the final. The final was their toughest game however all the girls raised their games and were triumphant and now go through the next stage in London. The boys also manage to progress through their group with some very close games. In the semi final they had very tough opposition and managed to win some very tight games with only a couple of points settling some games. In the final they were up against a team with 2 England level players and even though they battled well were unable to win but a well deserved second place was a fantastic achievement. Well done to both teams!

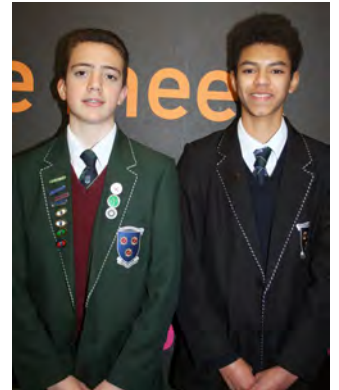


Sports Corner



Sam and Cameron recently competed in the Portsmouth School Cross Country competition.

It was a tough course, Sam and Cameron took their places and represented St Edmund's for Portsmouth schools. This was the qualifier to take themselves and the school forward to represent Hampshire.



Sam ran hard and performed incredibly well but was unable to go through to the next round. Cameron ran his 5k with a tremendous performance, comfortably reaching 5th place which saw him go through to represent the school and Hampshire.

Cameron has competed in the next round which took place on Saturday 1st February in Chelmsford, Essex where he came in 16th place overall and is now through to the English Schools Cross Country Championships which will be held in Liverpool.

We wish him every success.

Gooooooooo Cameron!



As part of a series of staff v students events, year 11's took on the teachers in a competitive and intense game of water polo. Each player put in 100% effort, the competitiveness was out of this world, and the teamwork within both teams was undeniably strong. We, as the student team, were grateful to have a supportive group of peers who paid to come and watch the match, cheering for us and boosting our confidence which ultimately helped us win the match with a close score of 3-1. At the end of the day, there were no hard feelings due to the great sportsmanship of all players as we ended the match with a friendly handshake and a great photo.

We are excited for the upcoming staff v students matches and can't wait to see who will be the overall winner!



NOTICES

PORTSMOUTH YOUTH DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2020

Under the Leadership of Bishop Philip Egan

15th - 19th July 2020 | 5 days

£545

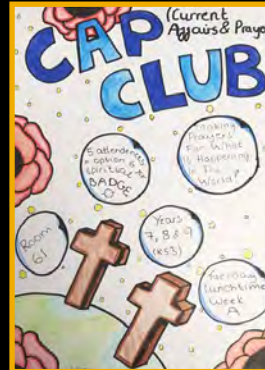
per person sharing

Open to students in Years 10 & 11.
For further details contact Chaplain Fiona or Fr PJ Smith, St John's Cathedral.
Email: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Y11 Maths Exams
FRIDAY 20th March
WEDNESDAY 25th March
Y10 English Lit Exam
WEDNESDAY 25th March
Y10 Triple Science Exam
TUESDAY 24th March

MOCK EXAMS



CAP Club
(Current Affairs & Prayers)
Years 7, 8 & 9
Welcome Room 61
Tuesday Lunchtime
Week Ave to see you there!

BACK TO SCHOOL
MONDAY 24th FEBRUARY
WEEK A



Parent Governor vacancy has arisen for a Parent Governor to join our current Governing Body.
Expressions of interest to be made to the Clerk of the Governing Body c/o St Edmund's Catholic School, Arundel Street, Portsmouth, PO1 1RX by Monday 24th February 2020.



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



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