

# Newsletter

AUTUMN EDITION | OCTOBER 2021



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

**St Edmund's  
Catholic School**



On Wednesday 13th October a group Year 9 & 10 pupils had the privilege of taking part in Project Orpheus which is run by Portsmouth City Council.

"It was an absolute pleasure and privilege to work with your students and staff on Tuesday. Thank you for being so welcoming."



The purpose of the sessions was to allow young people the chance to discuss and air their views on the topics or issues that interest them, fascinate them or anger them. Essentially they were given a voice and an opportunity to discuss controversy in a safe setting that would allow for agreement and respectful disagreement.

This work is part of a 3 year funded project named Orpheus, working in partnership with other coastal cities and universities within France, Belgium and Netherlands. Our students were looking to trial engaging activities using innovative approaches to consider methods of conflict resolution.

This project is supported by local charities and schools, in addition to the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who will distribute the findings when they become available. The students had a chance to debate, discuss topics which were of interest to them.

Jon Nicholas is Head of Curriculum at Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation- with an interest in Drama and peace processes, his active engaging approach was the perfect antidote to remote learning.



"I was really impressed with the students on an individual level, but also how they developed into a cohesive group throughout the day. The continuity of working with the same students meant that secure relationships were created between each other and with Jon, the facilitator. You could see them grow in confidence throughout the day."

John Webster

## IMPORTANT DATES

### NOVEMBER 2021

Wed 3rd -	Year 9 Portsmouth Football Club Careers talk
Thurs 4th -	<b>Year 10 Parent's Evening</b> online
Sat 6th -	Year 11 Drama rehearsal
Mon 8th -	Year 11 Citizenship trip to Parliament
Wed 10th -	Year 7 Mindsets trip
Fri 12th -	Portsmouth University Climate Festival Choir Historic Dockyard Year 9 Bovington Tank Museum

Tues 16th -	<b>St Edmund's Day</b> Year 11 Mock Interview Day
Wed 17th -	<b>Year 11 Parent's Evening</b> Online
Fri 19th -	Year 10/11 Ancient History Trip British Museum

### FRIDAY 26TH NOVEMBER INSET DAY

Tue 30th -	Year 8 Tutor Evening
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### DECEMBER 2021

Wed 1st -	Year 9 Tutor Evening
Thurs 2nd -	School Production - Our Day Out
Fri 3rd -	School Production - Our Day Out
Tues 7th & Weds 8th	Reconciliation & assemblies all years
Thurs 9th -	Year 7 & 8 Disco
Mon 13th -	Carol Service Year 7 only
Fri 17th -	Emmanuel Celebration Christmas break starts

### JANUARY 2022

Tues 4th -	Back to school
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# HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS

This first half term has passed by at lightning speed and has been much more like normal life at St Edmund's. Overall attendance has been high (94% this half term) and after a spike in Covid cases upon returning (picked up through testing), the numbers have remained relatively low. This has meant less disruption/loss of learning for the vast majority of students and allowed for more consistency.

Over the summer holidays and into this half term we have continued to improve the facilities for our children. The Learning Resource Centre (Library) has been totally refurbished and modernised including updating ICT facilities for students. The boys and girls toilets have been upgraded and given that 'hotel standard' makeover.

We have upgraded our catering systems to speed up the efficiency of students paying and have more time to enjoy their lunch. Our out of date telephone system has been upgraded. One new feature of this is that all conversations are recorded and stored. This will be a fantastic new safeguarding feature and allow parents and staff to ensure the accuracy of all verbal communications.

Our final ICT improvements involved adding soundbars to all classrooms to improve the sound and audio quality. This should now give better consistency of experience when video/film clips are being used as part of a lesson.

After a lengthy wait for materials, we have just completed our installation of a new bike shed by the Eagle Gate. This was a key area identified by the students as a provision they wanted expanding and will ensure that all bikes can be left covered, safe (as possible) and accessible.

During our recent Open Morning a number of visitors commented upon not just the facilities but the quality of the provision and spaces for our children. Students look after these incredibly well and know that chewing gum (and energy drinks) are the key food items not allowed in school.

Our Year 7 students have settled in fantastically and adapted well to 'Big School'. This in part due to our transition and the summer school as well as the support of the whole of the St Edmund's family.

We have been blessed by being able to hold retreats for both Years 7 & 9 this half term, as well as singing again in assembly. Our spirituality and faith are central to daily life here at St Edmund's. Not just in moments of prayer but in all our interactions. This is something to always remember when dealing with our differences or resolving issues/problems. Many of these continue to arise from the use of social media. As is our policy, we will always deal with these issues within school. Our support in terms of well-being often can be 'fuelled' by social media and the grounding parents, friends and staff provide is very important within the world we live in.

Looking ahead to next half term we will be building upon learning, progress and spiritual growth. There will be a mixture of online and face to face meetings/events. Having had direct advice from the Local Authority and feedback from parents, e-scooters will no longer be allowed on the school site. A new Governors Policy relating to bikes/e-scooters can be found here: <https://www.saintedmunds.org.uk/home/school-policies> Having looked into this, there is an issue regarding the legality of their use. Whilst this is a parental matter, Governors have agreed with the Local Authority/parents that these should no longer be permitted on the school site. Having witnessed students leaving school on them (often with friends on the back), this I believe will be a positive step to keep children safe when travelling to and from school.

Finally, my thanks for all of your support and the constant encouragement you give. We have seen some amazing homework continue this half term.

Have a restful half term.

God Bless,



Mr S Graham  
Headteacher





# TRINITY

Hello all! It is so lovely to have everyone back in school after the summer break. It is wonderful to have finally settled back into our school routines. We have had lots of lovely changes to Trinity; including new ambassadors and members of staff! Trinity has also been working with UNLOC and the Mental Health Support Teams, to have an all-round better support for pupils at St Edmund's.

Some of this has included our ambassadors to be involved with the new Mental Health Champions Scheme, which selects pupils to have exclusive training on support mental health with other pupils.

As well as this, we celebrated things such as Non-School Uniform days for raising mental health awareness, informative assemblies as well as being able to support pupils' transition back to school. We are excited for the upcoming year and hope everyone will stay safe and well.

A reminder that if any pupil requires emotional support, Trinity is located upstairs above reception. Also, the WELLBEING email is as follows: [wellbeing@saintedmunds.org.uk](mailto:wellbeing@saintedmunds.org.uk) or Teams messaging if your type in 'WELLBEING'. A member of the trinity Team will assist you as soon as possible.

Miss Yung

Here is a short hello from our new member of staff Miss Mason for this year:

Hi Everyone! I'm Miss Mason. I'm a third-year psychology student from the University of Portsmouth. I am currently on a year-long placement with Trinity, working as a wellbeing support worker. I am extremely passionate about mental health and providing support to those who need it. Working in Trinity allows me to apply this passion and gain valuable experience while doing so. In Trinity I provide 1:1 support for pupils and I am hoping to start up some break and lunch time clubs for pupils to attend as the year progresses. As well as this, I am also working alongside Miss Yung to start up a group for pupils that are Young Carers to attend. In the short time that I have been here I have already learnt so much and I have really enjoyed getting to know the pupils and being able to support them where they need it. I am really looking forward to seeing where the year takes me.



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The Trinity suite is a quiet area where everyone is welcome to talk about any worries or troubles filling their mind. Trinity Ambassadors, chosen by Miss Yung, are there to listen and help you. Our mental health is something we should all take care of but it is often forgotten about and can be overwhelming at times. The Trinity team are here to help.

Maria, Trinity Ambassador and Mental Health Champion

Trinity Ambassadors and Mental Health Champions: Melody, Skye, Josie, Deshna, Olivia, Maria and Xander.



# CHAPLAINCY

It has been wonderful to be back at school and to be able to do so many live spiritual activities. The activities have been based on our Spiritual Theme for this year:

**‘Meanwhile these three remain: faith, hope and love;  
and the greatest of these is love  
(1 Corinthians 13:13)**

## Faith & Action Inspired Through our Heart

We have been nourishing our **faith** through our prayers and singing at assemblies, through our time in Tutor Prayer, Chaplaincy meetings and through our Retreats.

Year 9 were the first to have their Retreats. The buses transported us to Park Place where we had time **in the open air to enjoy God's creation as well as various workshops to help us meditate, team build,** have fun, sing, dance, play games and spend time with God and one another in a reflective and peaceful environment. Well done Year 9, you all entered into the Retreat beautifully.

**Year 7 followed with their Retreat time in St John's Cathedral, where students spent time learning** about the Cathedral, experiencing various ways of praying, meditating, Team Building, sharing a picnic with friends and concluding with a beautiful Mass. Year 7 have certainly entered into the family spirit of St Edmund. At the moment each Year 7 Tutor Group are raising money to buy their Tutor Prayer Icon, well done to you all.

**Hope is a beautiful gift to offer to one another and here at St Edmund's we do that each day by our** positive words and actions. During the term Year 7 have been having their Tutor Masses and the prayers that they have said for the school, community and world have indeed been prayers of Hope.

Faith and Hope need Love; we have shown that love during this term through our prayers but also through our **actions**. Each Tutor Group has been collecting Harvest to donate to a local Church to share with people who may need support in the area. During October we also held a non uniform day, organised by pupils to support Childline.

**We are already preparing for our Mass Celebrations for St Edmund's Day as well as planning for our** Carol Service and Emmanuel Services in December. St Vincent De Paul have been eagerly putting ideas together for the Christmas fundraising appeal.

So, as you can see we have been trying to live out our Spiritual Theme:

**Faith & Action Inspired Through our Heart  
during this term.**

Many thanks for your continued support.

Fiona, Chaplain



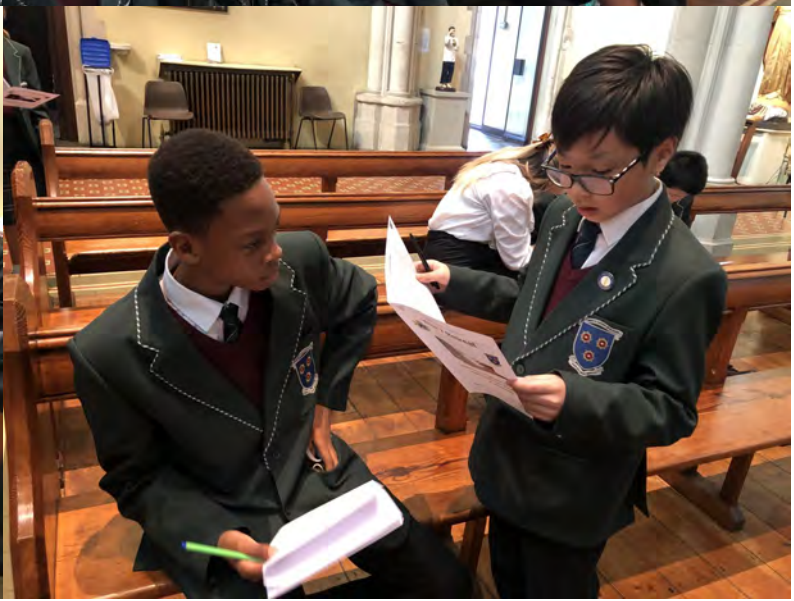
'A journey of faith'



# St Edmund's Catholic School Our Spiritual Journey 2021 - 2022



'Meanwhile these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love; and the greatest of these is love.' (1 Corinthians 13:13)





# YEAR 7 Miss Hammond



WOW! What a busy half term this has been. I cannot believe that Year 7 have only been with us for seven and a half weeks, it feels like we have done so much. I would like to start by saying what an excellent start Year 7 have made to their life at St Edmund's. I know in the first week it was tough for the students, the changes of having to move around school, finding classrooms, new friends and all their uniform which seemed to go missing but they did it. I have to say I am very grateful for the many labels in items of clothing, making it much easier to reunite lost property.

Year 7 have settled not only into the main school day brilliantly but have flourished at clubs after school also. Seeing many of them playing football, the weekly queues to get into the swimming pool and even the enthusiasm for homework club has been a delight. I hope they continue to attend clubs and enjoy trying new sports and hobbies and meeting new friends. All clubs can be found on the school website for students to look at.



All of Year 7 have now also taken part in their retreat at the Cathedral. These two days were a lovely way for the Year group to enter into the spiritual journey at St Edmund's and led by Fiona. We had a tour of the Cathedral, time to reflect and pray, some fun games and a lovely mass to end each day. A big thankyou to parents and visitors who joined us for our masses. The students now all have a Year 7 retreat badge to wear with pride on their blazers. Some of the students also have a chaplaincy badge as they have represented their tutors groups in chaplaincy and will continue to do so throughout their time at St Edmund's.



We have also started our tutor masses this half term, with students leading mass in the chapel with Fiona and a priest that has come to join also. This has been a time for students to support each other as a tutor group and learn more about the running's of a mass and spend time reflecting and praying. A big well done also to all the students who have been busy raising money for their tutor icons! I cannot believe the generosity of the year group as a whole.

I know students are probably very tired following a busy seven and a half weeks and will enjoy their week off. I would like to say thankyou so much to all parents and carers who have supported with the smooth transition of Year 7 into our school family. They are a very hard-working year group who I am sure will flourish over the 5 years.

Have a lovely half term everyone!







# YEAR 8 Mrs Feliks-Matthews

It is with a great pleasure that I welcome Year 8 back in this very first newsletter of our new academic year!

Despite the fact, that the students all have had quite an unsettled start to their secondary education, they still somehow remain resilient and incredibly successful as they ended Year 7. Their last Celebration Assembly and Sports Day were a great testimony to them with countless certificates, badges and medals collected during both events.

The beginning of this academic year has been a real joy as students have transitioned into Year 8 in the most calm, mature manner ever! What a start, and long may it last!

So far, so good. Their attendance has been really good despite the colder weather, runny noses, coughs, and forever present Covid isolations and tests. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support in sending your beautiful children to school every day and on time. I can see clearly that you, just like the school, promote high expectations/classroom learning, and just like us, believe that great attendance goes along amazing academic progress.



This just brings me to commending my Year 8 pupils on a fantastic behaviour for learning in almost all subjects. I have had a great pleasure of visiting quite a number of Year 8 lessons, and I must say that the teacher's feedback was nothing short of glowing in a vast majority of classes. Thank you again!

We have not had many events this term, however I am very excited about the forthcoming months as things look like they are pretty much back to normal. It is so lovely to see the students beautiful, smiley faces without masks, and to hear them all excited about future school events. I do hope that we will manage to celebrate our **St Edmund's/PSHE Day, as well as attend Year 8 Disco and Christmas events.**



There is a lot going on in school already; countless sport clubs, debate clubs, auditions and much more. I cannot wait to see Year 8 settled and participating fully in the school life.

I know I do repeat myself sometimes, however I am happy to say again, how incredibly proud I am of Year 8 all. They are indeed a year group of not only beautiful, talented and highly motivated individuals, but also kind, considerate and caring young people.

Finally, it just leaves me to wish you a happy, lovely and restful half term. Enjoy, but please stay safe.





# YEAR 9 Miss Tudor



Wow, what a start to Year 9! The year group have returned exceptionally well and ready to kick start the new school year. Their enthusiasm for learning is fantastic, and every day they have made me so proud.

We were so pleased we were able to rearrange the Year 8 Retreat for the beginning of September to ensure that the pupils did not miss out.

**A day of spirituality at Wickham's Park Place saw groups taking part** in meditation, poetry in the garden, song & dance as well as a hilarious blindfold challenge. All activities centred around The Journey we take through faith, mind & body, nature & environment and relationship & trust. We had glorious weather and the feedback was a fantastic day had by all. Here is a poem written by a pupil that I **just found so beautiful...**



Sunlight shedding its glittering rays,  
Paints a beautiful picture in mysterious ways.  
**It's quiet here, still, majestic and calm.**

The waves of peace flow silently, with love,  
arm in arm.

Radiance is abundant, flowers grow proud,  
Life and death, a cycle all around.

At the start of term it was announced that the school would be taking part in the Dance Live challenge at The Guildhall as well as hosting our first school play in quite some time. The buzz around the school with auditions taking place over the past week has been electric.

For Year 9 it has been so wonderful to see lots of pupils auditioning and just how talented a year group we have. An extra special shout out to Margot of 9 Romero who has been cast as one of the leading roles in Dance Live and Sophia also of 9 Romero who has been cast as a lead in the school play. I cannot wait to see the finished productions with all our rising stars.

Finally, just to say Year 9 is a year of tough decisions as we approach options. Therefore, a big focus on attendance, resilience and performing to the very best of our abilities. Year 9 will determine our final 2 years at St Edmunds and potentially the rest of our lives.

Therefore 100% is required every single day.

I cannot wait to see what the year has installed for us, with this year group I know it will be great things!







# YEAR 10 Mrs Brand



I have been so proud to welcome back Year 10 this year, they have been amazing, and they look so smart in their new black uniform, a real credit to themselves and the school. They have come back with an incredibly positive, determined attitude, ready for KS4.

The students have now started their option choice classes, which they are all thoroughly enjoying, and doing well in. I would like to say thank you to all the staff for their hard work in this process. Any final option group changes have now taken place, so it is full steam ahead.

I hope you all had a lovely summer and got to enjoy some quality time with friends and family. I want to say a huge well done to Rachel who I saw on stage at the

**Victorious Festival in Southsea. I am incredibly proud of her, as I'm sure this wasn't an easy thing to do, she was amazing!**

I am looking forward to our PSHE day on the 16th November, St Edmunds Day, where we will attend Mass in the morning and then have three lessons based on the PSHE curriculum once back in school. You will receive a letter with more details shortly.

As we are now in KS4 the students can earn commendations, which the teachers give out in lessons for classwork, contribution, or homework. This enables the pupils to earn badges from bronze up to platinum and they can even get rewarded with a shield. I am pleased to say we have already given out multiple bronze badges, so well-done Year 10. Students who wish to become prefects or apply for other leadership roles must have earned at least their bronze award.

We have had a work experience assembly, and all students came home with a letter a few weeks back to organise this amazing opportunity further on through the school year.

**If anyone needs another letter or any parents/carers has any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.** This is a valuable experience for our children. We have work experience evenings running on the 8th and 9th of November, where the students can come into school and we can help and support them booking somewhere that would be of interest to them.

We have our first Year 10 Parents evening on the 4th November, this will again be virtual and you will be receiving letters with details. As your children are now in KS4, it is important that both you and parent/carer attend.

Every time I speak to students, I find out amazing things they do outside of school, please encourage your children to share this good news with us, we love to celebrate their success. Finally, homework has **been to a high standard this year, well done Year 10, let's keep it up.**





# IT TEAM

Another Busy Summer for the IT team preparing the schools IT infrastructure for another year ahead.

We focused on 4 main projects this summer, a new cashless catering system, new telephone system, installing new soundbars into the majority of classrooms and the Library refurbishment.

## Catering System

We have had our current catering system for many years and it was becoming difficult to maintain with aging hardware and an old database. The new Catering system required us to enroll all staff and students again but with a new snappy interface and brand new up to date hardware we are already starting to see a reduction in queue times for students!



## Telephone System

Although our old telephone system used digital handsets instead of traditional analogue BT phones, the system still used old BT lines out of the school which are due to be switched off nationally in 2026. We decided to move this Summer to a full VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) solution moving away from the old BT lines to fully internet-based phone lines. This has brought a whole host of new features to the school which will improve the way we can communicate with parents.



## Sound Bars

We upgraded the sound facilities in most classrooms moving away from old big Amp and speaker sets to nice new sound bars which are better suited to delivering effective sound throughout the classroom.

## Library Refurbishment

This year saw the refurbishment of the Library including an upgrade to the IT Facilities available to students. We replaced the old projector and pull-down screen with a State of the Art 86" Touch Screen, a new Digital interactive information totem so students can check our stock of books with a swipe of their finger, new laptops and computers with 27" screens!



## Outdoor Banners

Every year the IT department produces a series of new outdoor banners for the school. This year we produced two, one for the area near the Wright Block, and a second near the Pond/ Quiet area. This is on top of the window artwork that has been created for the school this year.



This is just a small sample of the work carried out each Summer in preparation for the start of the school year, we constantly look for ways to exploit current technology and trends to improve teaching and learning in St Edmund's Catholic School.



Mr I White, Network Manager





# GEOGRAPHY

## Crack to Stack Project

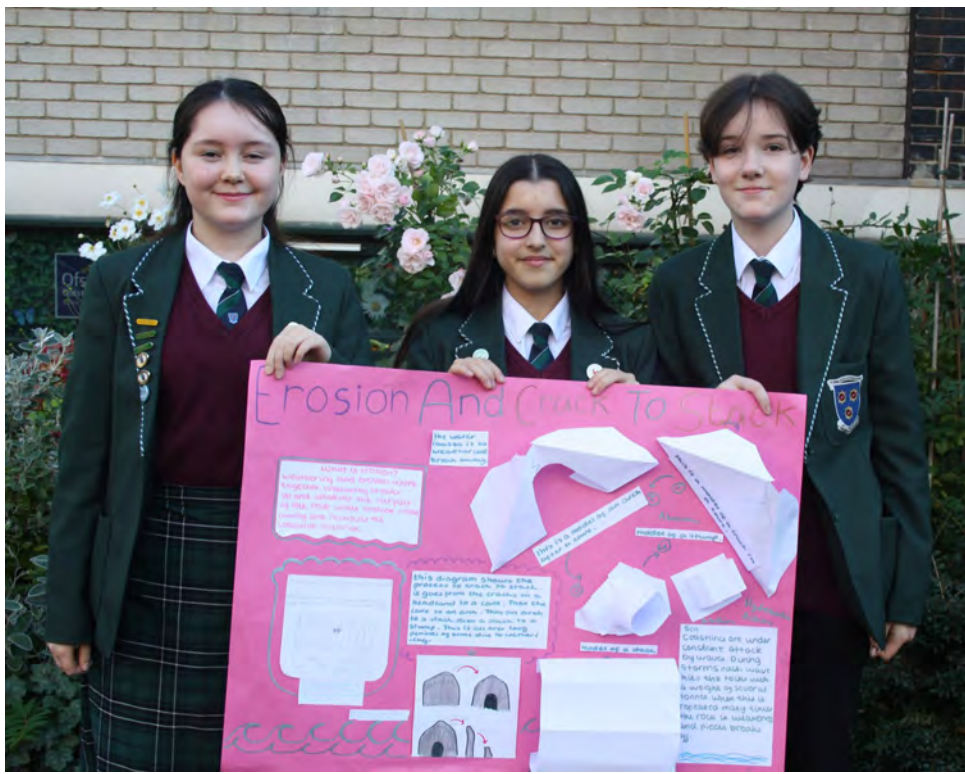
Each year as part of our coastal topic we give our pupils the opportunity to be creative in showing how the crack to stack erosional process occur along a headland occurs. These are a couple of examples of our outstanding **pupils' pieces this year. One group took to using origami skills to visually represent the process whilst another** created a wonderful poem, both are equally impressive!

Mr Bonken, Head of Geography

### Crack to Stack poem

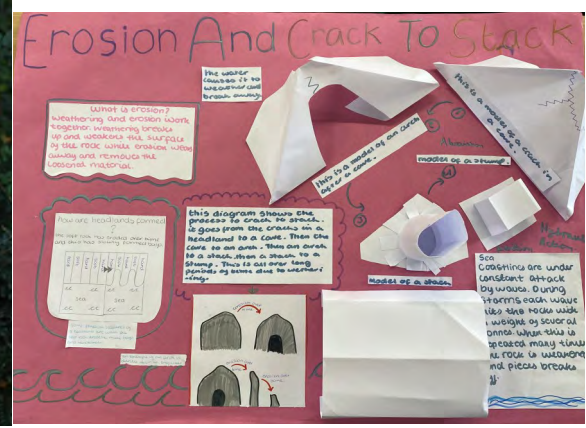
Hydraulic action is the wearing of the land  
It takes away but does not expand  
It starts with a joint that becomes a crack  
Then after this the sea starts to attack  
The crack is widened into a cave  
The cave gets destroyed, wave by wave  
This creates a fragile arch  
This means the sea is not left parched  
The top slowly starts to crumble  
And then continues to stumble  
Very gradually it falls into the sea  
Now all that is left is a lonely old stack  
That the sea, enjoys to smack  
Then it is turned into a lump  
This is called a stump  
And this is the process of erosion.

Paula, Elissa, Darcy & Nicola



We made this project as part of our learning about the 'crack to stack' process, in geography. We decided to make the paper models to represent this. We made separate models to show a crack, cave, arch, stack and stump.

Thank you for reading about our poster.  
Lily, Alisha and Millie





# STUDENT CITIZENSHIP in ACTION

## School Council

Being a school councillor is a very responsible position and the chance to play a very important part in the life of Saint Edmund's.

The School Council has many responsibilities including:

- **Listening to the views and ideas of other children.**
- **Representing these ideas during our school council meetings.**
- **Coming up with ideas to help improve the school.**
- **Making decisions that affect school life.**



This is also a great opportunity for those wanting to become a member of the prefect team in Year 11 and an amazing way to build confidence when speaking. You will be in charge of reporting back to your senior prefect, representing your year group with any issues or changes that you and others think could be made to the school to make it a better environment for everyone.

We hope to see some of you soon!



Some of our School Council members



With our wallpaper art, we wanted to raise awareness about the problems of food waste and what people within our school could do to reduce food waste within our community.

As a part of our citizenship project, we spread posters all around the school that highlighted the issues that food wastage brought globally (e.g. 1/3 of all food is wasted, how it the amount of food that is wasted cost a collective of trillions and release copious amounts of Methane and Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere and contributing to global warming). We have convinced Mr Cooper, The School Business Manager, to order a new bin that will be placed in the canteen. We are planning to utilise it to turn the vegetable waste into compost instead of ending up in landfill and doing nothing. We believe that food waste is an immense issue that is not discussed enough among other large topics, even though it is not the most difficult or impossible task to accomplish. If even a minority of people within the school choose to reduce their food wastage with the influence that we have raised, it is still a positive change within the world that will satisfy us. Our goal is to spread just a little bit of positive change - however small it may be.

Darren & Zack





# YEAR 11 Mrs Tuffnell



What a welcome back this term has been for year 11! With everything being so unsure in the past year, we have been **very lucky to have a 'normal' return to the new school year** and to see the students look so smart in their uniforms, raring to go for their final year has made my transition as their current Head of Learning a pleasure.

One of our main focus for this term has been Post 16 information and guidance. Kicking off we had our Post 16 evening with many colleges coming in to showcase and give information to our students. We had an excellent turn out and I was very proud of how our year group were proactive in taking responsibility for their further education. For those that need more sign posting, we have also had colleges coming into our assemblies which students have also found useful. A reminder that they need to get applications for colleges ready by Christmas with at least two applications made.

With exams in past years changing to fit the climate we have been in, we have also had a very successful Exam information Evening where parents and students received the most up to date information regarding their upcoming examinations – this will help them plan and revise effectively in the coming months.

As we move towards the Christmas term Year 11 will have another busy half term with our Mock interview day and also the final applications being made for Colleges. Students also have mock exams before Christmas which will be very important as this will play a big part in their revision leading up to their GCSEs and may be used as evidence, if needs be.



I hope Year 11 use their October Half Term to have a break but also ensure they are up to date with all their work ready to hit the ground running for their **final Christmas term here at St Edmund's**. I hope you all stay safe and look after yourself and look forward to seeing you back in November!





# CAREERS



On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 13 groups of representatives from local colleges, Universities, training providers and Armed Forces came together to promote themselves and their courses to our Year 11 students. This was our first face to face event in school for over 18 months and I think the electric atmosphere in the Sports Hall showed just how much we have all missed those opportunities.

With a 98% turn out from our incredible Year 11s and their families it was a very busy, but very successful evening.

There are lots of Careers events and interventions due to take place for Year 11, and this was a great way to kick start their final year at St Edmunds and hit the ground running with regards to their college applications.

Mrs Halford



**'Post 16 evening was great. It was a fantastic experience with different colleges presenting the variety of courses that they offer. We were able to approach the college representatives for more information if we wanted to'** Joy



**'I found Post 16 evening very useful and interesting to be able to see all the different Post 16 options in one place. It gave me the chance to explore ideas that I hadn't previously thought of and made it really easy to compare and contrast different colleges and training providers'** Katie

**'I found Post 16 evening very interesting and I found out how many different options there are, like BTECS, T Levels and Apprenticeships. It was also good to speak to the colleges and find out all the different courses they offer'** Efrem



Doctors Live is a team of doctors passionate about inspiring the next generation for students into a career in Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Allied Health Professions. They run a weekly interactive anatomy club covering live virtual dissections of the human body, discussing how the systems of the body work and what could go wrong.



The club for this academic year starts in November. The sessions are fun, interactive and accessed online and each sessions will cover an organ system to delve into and follow these main points: **How the organ system works, what could go wrong, live virtual operations, live practical examinations and reviewing anonymised real-life cases and scans.**

The sessions are perfect for students aged 14+ who is interested in a career in healthcare and run live every Thursday from 6.00 - 8.00 pm and the complete programme runs for 12 weeks. Places are limited to a first come first served basis. To learn more about the club and to sign up please visit: [www.doctorslive.co.uk](http://www.doctorslive.co.uk)



# PSYCHOLOGY

Another busy year has started within Psychology. After 4 years of being delivered, Psychology has become fully integrated into St Edmund's. After disruption to the practical side of the course due to Covid it has been fantastic to see pupils being able to apply their skills and knowledge.

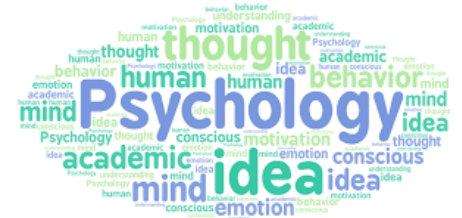
Year 10's have been busy learning about the development of the brain and how this effects learning. They have been able to apply their knowledge to experiments to see how praise affects our learning. They had to take on the role of experimenter and participants and it was great to see them applying all the skills they have been developing. It turns out process praise is the way to success.



Year 11's have continued their excellent work from last year. They have been looking into the topic of Social Influence and what can guide and change our behaviour. This has been a very hard-hitting topic with applications made to riots and the Holocaust which the year 11's have been able to deal with in a mature way.

Some of the main questions covered were: Who is your real self? Why do we change for other people? Should we always do what we are told?

After a fantastic start to the year there are many exciting times ahead. Year 11 will start to study Criminal Psychology and Sleep and Dreaming whilst the year 10's look at Memory, Psychological Problems and Neuropsychology. Well done to all the students studying Psychology over the last couple of years.



# ENGLISH



**What would Harry Potter be like if he came to Saint Edmund's? Would his character change at all?**

One thing unites us all; we attend Saint Edmund's Catholic School. In Catholicism in English club, these are the kinds of questions we'll explore as we dive into what makes our school and our catholic values so special.

We'll use our favourite stories, poems and plays to improve our hypothetical thinking skills and our ability to discuss new ideas in a safe space. Everyone will get the chance to have their say, put forward their ideas and explore stories they love.

Make your prefect application special by showing you know the values of our school. Work towards earning your badges in literacy and community by getting involved. Come and join the discussion!

Thursday Lunchtimes, Room 133 with Mrs Jackson - Week A- Years 7,9,11 - Week B- Years 8,10



Teresa has written the following about Debate Club which takes place:  
Wednesdays Week A, 3.10-4pm in 214:

'In Debate Club we are given a statement that we debate over, split into 2 x groups ('For' and 'Against') Often we argue for the opposite side, which is great for broadening your understanding of other people's opinions on topical issues. In addition to this, it helps to build your confidence with public speaking. It's a great opportunity to have your opinions voiced and to think from different perspectives, rather than just your own. It can also help to widen your vocabulary. Therefore, it not only helps you develop academically, but also personally.'

(Teresa attends every Debate Club session!)





# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



The aim of the school attendance campaign is to raise awareness about the importance of school attendance for children's attainment, achieving aspirations and general wellbeing. The coronavirus pandemic has not gone away, but the government's emphasis is now on minimising disruption to children's education and encouraging full attendance.

If your child develops a habit of regular school attendance from the beginning, they'll have a positive attitude at school and beyond. Evidence shows that children who attend regularly are more successful, not only in school, but in all areas of life. Missing school means not only missing out on lessons, but also friendships, clubs, trips and all the other opportunities that school has to offer.

As parents, you have a very important part to play in encouraging and supporting your child to ensure they understand the importance of regular attendance from an early age. You can help them to maintain that attitude throughout their school life and into their work life.

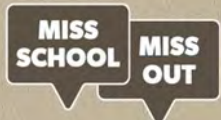
We are committed to ensuring that every child gets the chance to go to school to help them to get the best possible start to life. Please speak to us if you have any worries about getting your child in to school.

## Top tips to help prevent absence

- talk to your child about how important it is to attend school
- inspire them to think about what they would like to be when they grow up, and how school can help with that
- ask regularly about how school is going
- ensure they have a good sleep routine, eat healthily and exercise regularly
- help them to get everything they need ready for school the night before
- use the NHS guidance on illness
- reassure them that the school has plans in place to reduce the spread of infections and encourage them to stick to the school's guidance for infection prevention – find out more from your school's website
- book all holidays outside of term time
- book medical and dental appointments outside school hours if possible – and if not possible, ensure your child attends school before and after the appointment
- if your child complains of boredom, contact their class teacher, form teacher or head of year to find out more
- provide a good environment for study at home and ensure they have time set aside for homework
- find out if your child wants to avoid school for a reason that they're frightened to tell you about – perhaps they're being bullied.
- work with the school to address any attendance issues to ensure they don't miss out

Reasons for absence (planned or illness) must be communicated to the school on every day of absence by telephone or in writing by 09:30am. **Call the school on 023 9282 3766 and at the prompt, dial 1.** Please state your child's full name, tutor group and the reason for their absence. If the Attendance Officer is unavailable please leave a message with these details. When your child returns to school please send a letter explaining their absence, mentioning clearly the date(s) of their absence. You can text your child's absence to: **07624 816830** Alternatively please email: [Kimberley.green@saintedmunds.org.uk](mailto:Kimberley.green@saintedmunds.org.uk) stating your child's full name, tutor group and the reason for their absence.

**WHAT  
COULD THEY  
BECOME?**



**WHAT  
COULD THEY  
BECOME?**







This leaf dress was created during our Open Morning on Saturday 2nd October in Textiles by visitors.

Mrs Harding, Aya & Jasmine, some of our Year 10 textiles students did a great job at encouraging the visitors to create and decorate a leaf for the dress and this was the outcome! Well done everyone involved!

Mrs Lindsay



## BOYS DANCE WORKSHOP

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October I took part in a dance workshop for boys. It was very fun and entertaining because we got to learn a street dance taught by year 11 pupils. We also got to **see other people's strengths, for example my friend Callum was able to do a backflip and that was incredible to watch!** I definitely recommend boys dance to others because it is funny and **the year 11's teach you top-notch choreography** and go through it with you. It is on every Friday week B in W1 at 3.15pm- 4.15pm if you want to join us!



I also took part in the Boys Street Dance Workshop. I really enjoyed it because we got to learn a new dance and learnt some really cool new movements! My favourite part was when I got to work with other boys from different year groups and add on our own section at the end of the dance, I really liked this because we were able to be creative and free. I am really looking forward to taking part in more Boys Dance events at school!



# GCSE Photography

Year 11 have truly been amazing with their photography skills from Year 10 until now. Looking and analysing the style's of photographers work you can really see that they have been influenced and inspired to take some really great shots. I have selected some of the best for you. Well done everyone!

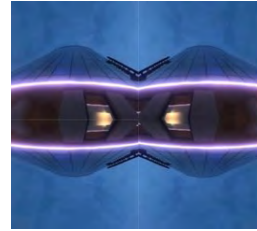
Mrs James



Yuniss



Szymon



Lennon



Molly



Malakai



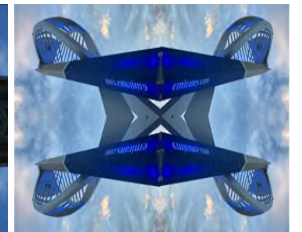
Maya



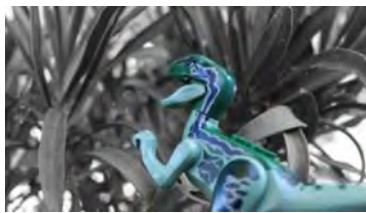
Sam



Tayla



Alessia



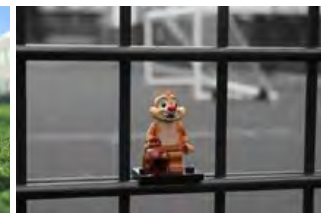
Paige



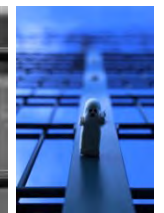
Victoria



Kyie



Asia



Breeze



Nicole



Estelle



Tareel



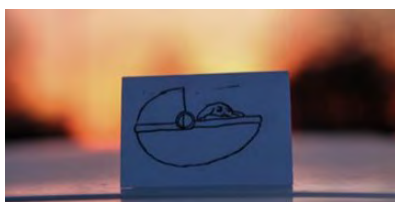
Mia



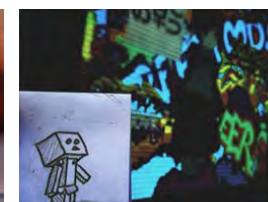
Sam



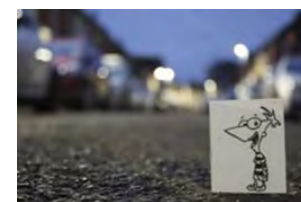
Alex



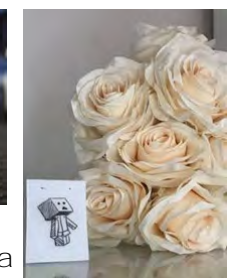
Maya



Forest



Paige



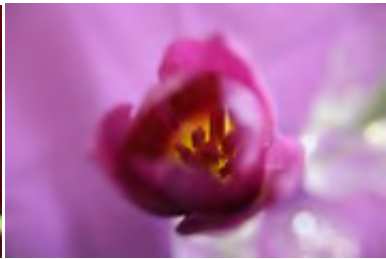
Cassandra







Elina



Lucia



Phoenix



Anna-May



Paige



Mia



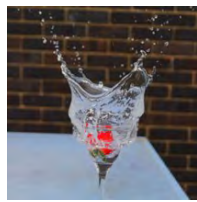
Cassandra



Freya



Jenevieve



Isabelle



Teri



Alessia



Enzo



Tareel



Phoenix



Victoria



Forest



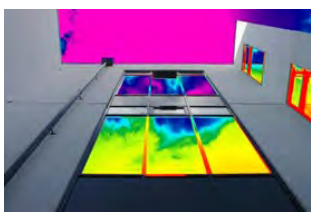
Jasmine



Tayla



Tyler



Nicole



Victoria



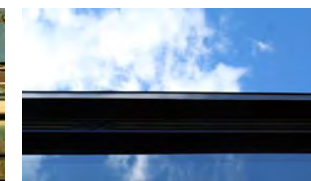
Alex



Forest



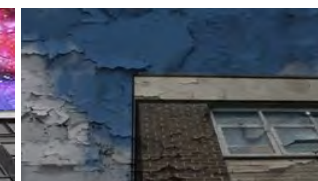
Elina



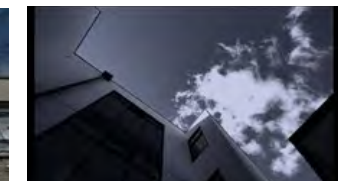
Millie



Molly



Estelle



Finlay







# CYBER AMBASSADORS



During our training day we went through a range of topics from Digital Citizenship to Emotional Manipulation. It was very informative and engaging, offering forwards lots of new knowledge, as well as being a good opportunity to learn about each other's personal experiences and share ideas.

A big thank you to all the teachers and staff that made it possible for us to participate in the Cyber Ambassador course, and we hope to be able to have a positive impact on school life and student mental well-being.

Emily, Tristan & Noah.



During our time on the Cyber Ambassador course, we learnt so many new things and had a blast!

With the help of Marcia (a teaching instructor for the course) we learnt new facts and different things such as what different problems can occur online, and then how to solve the problems when they occur. We learnt all about the things to do, and check online to stay safe and also keep others safe.







# SAILING

**"It was a fun experience getting the opportunity to sail. It was something I'd never done before and it was fun.**

**I made some good memories with my friends. The instructors were kind as well. It was surprisingly easy to understand but I did get stuff mixed up a lot. I would definitely do it again if I get the opportunity."** Liana





Year 7 were asked to report on how they have **settled into the St Edmund's family since September.** In each edition of the newsletter two tutor groups will report on their time at the school.

# Year 7

My first few weeks at St Edmunds were great. However, in the first week it was hard to find all my classes. It only took me two weeks to memorise where all my lessons were. All the teachers here are really nice, you can always ask for help with anything like to get to a class or with any type of work. If you do need any help with homework, you can always go to the library during break, lunch and after school, as long as there isn't a class or a meeting going on. It was really easy to settle in especially with all the help from peers and teachers. The subjects I like most are Math and Food. I think Pizza is the best food in the canteen. I am not doing any clubs but I will be starting them next week.



Here at St Edmund's, there are lots of ways you can earn rewards and badges, one way is with merits, which are stickers and stamps that you earn from your teachers throughout your five years here at St Edmund's. Depending on how many merits you have you can earn different prizes three of the prizes you can win are either a free pizza slice, a swim in the school pool or even a non-school uniform Friday for you however if you have enough it can be for you and a friend. There is also an assembly on every Monday unless you are told differently. In the last three weeks over half of the year sevens have already gotten over twenty-five merits. You earn these by being focused, completed homework and participating in every lesson.



On the first day of school, I barely knew anyone, so I hung out with some friends I know from my junior school. When I heard they were going to basketball club, I thought I would **tag along, especially as it's my favorite sport!** When I got there, I started to meet new people and make new friends.

**I'm also really looking forward to what we are going to study next in art, especially as it's my favorite subject,** I love getting to draw loads of fun things.

**I now feel better about secondary school, as I'm more settled in now and I have made new friends. I'm looking forward to the rest of year 7!**

## 7 Damien & 7 Devereux

On my first day at St Edmunds I wasn't as nervous as I normally would have felt because I went to summer school and had made lots of friends already but if it weren't for that I would have been extremely nervous. Now, I have even more friends and am even more familiar with the school. My favourite subject is English because you get to write lots of short stories with different genres. Out of all the teachers, it is impossible to pick a favourite since they are all so nice and are all so good at teaching. There is one food in the canteen I would really recommend and that is the pizza panini it has to be my favourite food I have tried so far. I am looking forward to other lessons we get to do later on in the year because I know they will be fun. There are so many clubs you can try in the school and one of the first homework they set is to attend a P.E. club.



**I am really enjoying going to St Edmund's.**

**On the first day I was very nervous about not knowing where my lessons are but now I've been here a while it's been really easy to find my way round with the help of my tutor and friends.** My favourite subjects are English and History because I love writing and reading **as well as art as I like drawing too!** I've made lots of new friends at breaks and clubs. My favourites so far are basketball and Catholicism in English club both of which I hope will continue! I usually have a packed lunch everyday but if I ate at the canteen I would love the pizza! I am looking forward to going on more retreats and seeing what else there is to do at school!





# Child Development



We have had so much to celebrate about with all the staff who have had new additions to their families and what beautiful babies they are too! This extension to our school family has also been very useful for the



Child Development class who have been able to carry out observations 'on' some of the 'new arrivals' as part of their RO20 coursework

Thank you to Mrs Stannard and Teddy, Mrs Maguire, Isaac and Oscar, Mrs Deacon and Olivia, Mrs Jones Jacob and Max, Mrs Chapman and Owen and Miss Holt and Ralph

We look forward to the follow up observations to see how the children have progressed in their Personal, Intellectual, Emotional Social skills around Christmas.



As part of our coursework for Child Development, we are working on our own play activities to help observe the different types of development in children from 0-5 years with a focus on physical, intellectual, social and emotional development. Recently, we were given the exciting opportunity to carry out our own observation of two lovely little boys

For our first observation, we gave them a selection of toys to play with and books to look at with us. It was really interesting to observe the way they communicate and act around different people in a social environment. They showed lots of curiosity of how different objects worked and loved to share with others. After half term we will be doing a second observation and to see if any developmental progress has been made.



In school sports news, the Year 9 and 10 boys football team beat Springfield 6-0! An outstanding performance by all and a great way to represent the school. In other football news, the KS3 girls football team played in their first tournament. Sadly they didn't win, however they played and represented the school well. We also recently held a school badminton tournament, congratulations to the KS3 team who were overall winners.



In Sports Captain news, there have been great numbers at Year 7 football which is held after school. The students are really showed their talent. Although ultimate frisbee cannot carry on after the October half term, the students have shown great improvement since starting and we hope it has inspired them to do more clubs in school.

After the half term the Sports Captain's will still be running Year 7 football and acting as managers, however, we will also be running Circuit Club in the gym, and we welcome you to come along, have some fun, exercise and enjoy yourself.

We as sports Captains have also created a Sports Council. This is an opportunity for you to represent your year group proudly as a member. One boy and one girl will be elected from each year group. If you are interested please either see your PE teacher, the Sports Captains, or collect a form from the PE department and hand back in with your name, year and tutor group.

The most attended sports clubs in September were Swimming and Boys football. In year 7 the tutor group with the most club appearances was 7 Romero with 98 appearances! 7 Newman came 2<sup>nd</sup> with 90 appearances and Stein just taking 3<sup>rd</sup> with 80 appearances. In year 8, Kolbe had the most appearances in clubs with 85! 8 Devereaux came 2<sup>nd</sup> with 77 appearances and John Paul taking 3<sup>rd</sup> with 64 appearances. In year 9 Teresa and Newman came joint 1<sup>st</sup> with 31 appearances, followed by John Paul and Damien who both had 22 appearances.

Well done to the tutor groups that had the most in their year, and keep appearances up after half term!



## Examinations

Key Stage 2 SATs were cancelled along with the GCSE examinations this summer. This means that we have a very limited amount of information regarding your child's performance from primary school. As a school we use Key Stage 2 data to set appropriate targets for all subjects from Year 7 to Year 11. This is tightly linked to Government expectations regarding student progress and the Progress 8 measure. Setting these targets has ensured that students maximise their progress in each year and is the reason why St Edmund's has sat in the **top 8%** of **schools nationally** for the last 5 years.

In order to supplement data we have, we are intending to run GL CAT4 tests (Cognitive Ability Tests) over three weeks from the week commencing 1st November. The CAT tests are made up of three 45 minute tests that are taken online and they assess a student's reasoning abilities. There is no revision or preparation to be completed by the students in advance. We do not want the students to be worried about these tests, we will be supporting them through them.

The result of the CAT tests will be utilised by the school to support the target setting process and also provide some accurate information regarding reading and spelling ages.

## Timetable - CAT Tests (3x 45 minutes) YEAR 7 ONLY

Week Commencing: 1 November 2021

	MON A	TUE A	WED A	THU A	FRI A
P1		Damien 117 (hi) <sup>1</sup>	Stein 117 (dr) <sup>1</sup>		Devereux T2 (dr) <sup>2</sup>
P2	Newman 117 (it) <sup>1</sup>			Romero 117 (re) <sup>1</sup>	John Paul 117 (dr) <sup>2</sup>
P3		John Paul 117 (hi) <sup>1</sup>	Teresa 117 (se) <sup>1</sup>		
P4	Devereux 117 (re) <sup>1</sup>		Kolbe 117 (it) <sup>1</sup>		CATCH UP 117 <sup>1</sup>
P5					

Week Commencing: 8 November 2021

	MON B	TUE B	WED B	THU B	FRI B
P1		Stein 117 (sc) <sup>2</sup>	John Paul T4 (it) <sup>3</sup>		Stein T4 (it) <sup>3</sup>
P2			Damien 117 (it) <sup>2</sup>	Newman 117 (dr) <sup>3</sup>	
P3	Newman 117 (ge) <sup>2</sup>			Romero T1 (it) <sup>2</sup>	
P4	Devereux T1 (it) <sup>3</sup>	Teresa 117 (dn) <sup>2</sup>	Kolbe 117 (hi) <sup>3</sup>		Teresa T2 (it) <sup>3</sup> Damien 117 (mu) <sup>3</sup>
P5	Kolbe 117 (re) <sup>2</sup>				

Week Commencing: 15 November 2021

	MON A	TUE A	WED A	THU A	FRI A
P2	Romero T2 (mu) <sup>3</sup>				
P4	CATCH UP 117 <sup>2</sup>				

## LANGUAGE EXAMS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER YEAR 11 ONLY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>15</b> AM	<b>16</b> AM <b>Portuguese</b> Listen/Read 1H 45m/1h	<b>17</b> AM <b>Arabic</b> Listen/Read 1 F 35m/50m	<b>18</b> AM	<b>19</b> AM <b>Italian</b> Writing H 1h 20m 1
PM <b>Italian</b> Listen/Read 1H 45m/1h	PM	PM	PM	PM
<b>22</b> AM	<b>23</b> AM <b>Portuguese</b> Writing H1h 20m 1 <b>Arabic</b> Writing H 1h 20m 1	<b>24</b> AM	<b>25</b> AM <b>Russian</b> Listen/Read 1 F 35m/50m	<b>26</b> AM Inset Day
			PM <b>German</b> Listen/Read 2 H 45m/1h	PM <b>Polish</b> Listen/Read F 35m/45m 2 H 45m/1h 12
<b>29</b> AM	<b>30</b> AM <b>Polish</b> Writing F 1h 05m 2 H 1h 20m 12	<b>01/12</b> AM <b>Russian</b> Writing F 1h 20m 1	<b>02/12</b> AM	<b>03/12</b> AM
PM	PM <b>German</b> Writing 2 H 1h 20m	PM	PM	PM