

Newsletter



CHRISTMAS EDITION | DECEMBER 2021



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

**St Edmund's
Catholic School**

'Ain't no PARTY like a St Edmund's PARTY!'



On Thursday 8th December, Year 7 & 8 partied the night away at their Annual Christmas Party. It was a record breaking turn-out with 193 students attending and everyone had fun. The award for best dressed has to go to Miss Hammond who danced the night away as an inflatable turkey and to Mr Graham for his fabulous moves on the dance floor!



"I really enjoyed the Disco because it was full of joy and everyone was having fun. The songs and music were great to listen too and I mixed with friends in Year 7 and 8!" - Billy



"I loved the Disco because I spent lots of time with friends and having fun, plus I got to mix with some old friends from my old school. Thank you to the staff and Friends of St Edmund's for arranging this great evening!" - Libby



IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY 2022

Tues 4th	School Closed to students.
Weds 5th	Yr 7&11 Back to School - Week B
Thurs 6th	Yr 8&10 Back to school - Week B
Fri 7th	Yr 9 Back to school - Week B

Please see website for further confirmation of return dates and times.

Mon 10th	Year 7 Celebration Assembly FOSE PTA Meeting LLRC 6.15pm
Tues 11th	Year 8 Celebration Assembly
Weds 12th	Year 9 Celebration Assembly
Thurs 13th	Year 10 Celebration Assembly
Fri 14th	Year 11 Celebration Assembly
Mon 17th	Year 11 Urban Fieldwork
Weds 19th	Year 9 University trip
Thurs 20th	Year 8 Fort Purbrook trip
Weds 26th	Year 8 & 9 Careers event
Thurs 27th	Lit Quiz
Fri 28th	Year 9 Imperial War Museum trip



Please note: Any events in school are held within the Government's guidelines and subject to change as the school will follow guidance issued by the Government in light of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Tel: 02392 823766

Caelum Dives Ingre

Web: www.saintedmunds.org.uk



HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS

The end of this term has had a much more positive and 'upbeat' feel to it, especially compared to this time last year. We have remained fully open and managed to run most events/activities and everyday life has been almost normal. This second half to the term has followed the same pattern to the start of the year. We have been **fortunate to have experienced a much smaller number of Covid cases amongst the whole of the St Edmund's family.**

Many of our problems and issues have focussed around access to supplies/services and being able to offer things consistently. This has been especially difficult for catering and meal provision. Suppliers have not been able to fulfil orders or on one occasion deliver anything at all. This obviously impacted on the menu and choice/quantity available.

Positively, all delays in work to the site have now been completed and we have reached our ambition of **providing ample cover/security for bikes as well as 'hotel' standard toilet facilities for our children. I will continue to** re-emphasise the importance of looking after these. Any deliberate damage will always result in a serious sanction, as would be the case in our own homes.

Throughout this term we have been working hard at re-energising the spirituality of our family. Fiona, our Chaplain, has enthused us all and I have been delighted with how much we have been able to do. There has been some great charity work for both our wider community and members of our own family. As we head towards 2022, there may be further struggles for families. Please do let us know if there are problems, especially in regards to uniform and activities. We want all of our children to have the same opportunities and to let that God-given talent shine out. I see that talent everyday in the hard work students put into their lessons and learning. Having recently observed teaching across the school, it was a pleasure to experience such a range of learning opportunities and an exceptionally high quality of education. We should be very proud of our children and the work they do. We will have a chance to celebrate this next term when we have our reward assemblies.

There have been a huge number of extra-curricular clubs and activities this term including some amazing sporting success in badminton, football, basketball and table tennis. We have a number of students who compete at a national level in an array of sports including swimming, boxing, football and basketball to name just a few. Amazing dedication and a great deal of support makes this happen.

Further talents were seen during the school production of 'Our Day Out.' This has been the first time we have squeezed in a production into the autumn term. Some terrific acting and a fantastic confidence builder for all those involved. Thank you to all those who came to watch and support.

Finally I would like to thank staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment. Congratulations to Mrs Edwards and Mrs Dale who received their 25 years of service for working within Portsmouth. A terrific achievement. Thank **you to parents for all your support and hard work. So much of our children's success is as a result of that wrap around support they get. Please be mindful of the school's expectations on uniform, especially hair cuts/styles (no** shorter than grade 2 or coloured hair), piercings (only 1 pair of small studs or sleepers) and jewellery. We try to be as consistent as possible and ensure that our learning arrangements/ethos remain as was shared with you on **selecting St Edmund's.**

Hopefully you are now aware of the school plans for re-opening in January 2022. Whilst it is undoubtedly a burden on the school/staff to test students upon return, it will ensure as safe a return as possible. So although our children **may not be 'straight back', we can have the reassurance that we are ready to continue our learning for the Spring** term.

May the love of Christ fill your home and family with the divine presence of Jesus Christ. Let this Holy season be peaceful, joyful and may God looks down upon you with much love and fortune.

"In his name the nations will put their hope."

Matthew 12:15 - 22.

God bless,



Mr S Graham
Headteacher



CHAPLAINCY

'What good is it that Christ was born 2,000 years ago if he is not born now in your heart?'
(Meister Eckhart, Theologian)

Throughout this term, especially during the season of Advent, we have been preparing for Christmas in various ways. We found time in our busy lives to stop... and think of the Christ Child, who came down to earth to be with us, during our Advent Liturgies; where everyone reflected upon their own lives and the times when we have not been as loving and caring as we could be in our words or deeds. We looked at what we needed to change in our lives in order to be a more loving and caring person, by focussing on the words of St Paul:

St Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 tells us:

'Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill mannered or selfish or irritable; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.'

Whilst reflecting upon this passage we listened to some Christmas carols and took time to write a Christmas card to someone we know that may need some seasonal hope, love, and joy.

Our Christmas Charity supported 'Churches Homeless action'. The project this year was called 'Comfort and Joy'. The aim was to 'share some love in Portsmouth' this Christmas. Donations were collected in Tutor Groups in order to purchase vouchers for the various charities.

We have enthusiastically been preparing for our Christmas Carol Service; through dance, drama, scripture readings, our Christmas poetry competition and Christmas card competition. Thank you for the lovely entries.

Staff and students have been rehearsing our Emmanuel Services; prayer and reflection along with our Christmas Show, 'OO Heaven'. Lots of fun and energy has gone into the show.

So, I can say that Jesus has been in our hearts in so many ways; through our Harvest charity, our Year 7 Tutor Masses, our Chaplaincy and St Vincent De Paul Meetings, our Rosary Ambassador group and our Year 9's praying the Angelus on behalf of the school, our application for the second level of the Romero Award, our Christmas Charity, our Carol Service, our Emmanuel Services and so much more. Many thanks to Staff, students and families who continue to support all the wonderful happenings that take place within our School.

I would like to finish with a prayer:

Faithful God,

We long for the coming of Jesus and the peace and hope he will bring.

Be especially with us, our families, communities and our world, during this Christmas season.

Wishing you all a peace-filled Christmas.

God Bless, Fiona, Chaplain



After half-term Year 9 began learning about the Afterlife. One of the topics they have been looking at is Christian views of Heaven and Hell and how different Christian denominations may have different beliefs on this. As part of their work they have been producing a board game base on the different Christian views that they have learnt about.

Before they started to make their game, Year 9 were given time to plan and prepare what they would need in order to build their game. They started by bouncing ideas off each other in order to come up with the best design for their game board and what to include on their challenge cards, what would you need to do to reach heaven or what would prevent you from reaching there.

After this time planning, the students began to make their game. All of the groups have worked well together, coming up with new ideas or adapting their original plan in order to produce the best game.

Once the games were constructed the students had time to go around the room to play each other's games where they got the chance as a group to rate the game they had played. The game with the best rating was: Heaven VS Hell, with a score of 109 out of a possible 125. This game was made by Reece, Lucy, Zofia, Thomas and Patryk.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



"I enjoyed making and designing the game and also working on the board game with others." – Marek

"I have enjoyed making and creating pieces and parts to the board game and seeing everyone playing it." – Reece



"Our game was a Heaven and Hell version of snakes and ladders and to get up the ladders and get out of hell you had to answer a religious question correctly." – Leila

"I have enjoyed the game making as it is fun to be creative and learn at the same time." – Abby

"I enjoyed making the factual cards for the game by using the Bible. I learnt about many parable and religious teachings." – Lucy

St Edmund's is Ready to Roam Rome!

In April next year, forty lucky students will be taking part in our bi-annual pilgrimage to Rome. The highlights of this trip include visiting the Vatican and Sistine Chapel where the election for who becomes the next Pope takes place. Whilst at the Vatican we will also be involved with an audience with Pope Francis who will extend his blessings over all of us and encourage us to be better people. As well as developing a greater understanding of our spiritual identity we also have the opportunity to grow in knowledge through historical trips to the Castel Sant' Angelo and the Colosseum, the ancient arena where men once fought lions under the watchful gaze of the Roman emperor. We have asked some of those attending the Rome trip of what they are most looking forward to:



'I am really excited to see all the landmarks like the Vatican and the Trevi fountain. I can't wait to try lots of Italian food and go into the city with my friends. I'm really looking forward to going to the Hard Rock Café too. I hope we'll see the Pope and maybe listen to him speak, and see the Cathedral.'

'I cannot wait to go to Rome, as it is going to be a great experience. I am especially looking forward to seeing the Colosseum. Also, I am excited to eat lots of pizza and pasta. I have never been to Rome, but it is going to be amazing, especially seeing the Cathedrals!'

'I am looking forward to seeing the landmarks and all the beautiful buildings, especially the Colosseum and churches. I'm also excited to eat lots of delicious food, and to go on the trip with my friends; to be free from school and my family, to visit the Hard Rock Café, and to see the Vatican for myself.'





On Tuesday 16th November 39 professionals from a range of businesses and vocations joined us for the morning to support our Year 11 Mock Interview day.

After 2 years of being unable to host this important event, it was wonderful to see and hear the gym bustling with energy and enthusiasm.



The Year 11s, although nervous, were incredible. The feedback from our interviewers was overwhelmingly positive, with many saying, despite the difficulties our young people have faced the past 2 years, that their resilience and determination to succeed shone through.



CAREERS



I am very proud of you, Year 11, and know that this important life skill that you practiced at this event, will set you in good standing for the future.
Mrs Halford, Careers Adviser

Year 7 Tutor Evening

Year 7 Tutor Evening on the 21st October 2021 was an amazing opportunity for us as a school to welcome the families of our new Year 7 students into our school community. I would like to say a huge thankyou to every parent/carers who found the time to attend and hopefully the opportunity to meet your child's tutor proved helpful. I know the student's were very proud to share their achievements and for their families to know how well they have all settled into life at St Edmund's. As you can see from the information below the transition to St Edmund's seems to have been very smooth and I am very impressed with the mature attitude the students have shown.

1. I am happy with my child's transition to St Edmund's. **84% Strongly Agree** - 16% Agree
2. My child feels safe at St Edmund's. **79% Strongly Agree** - 20% Agree - 1% Unsure
3. My child is happy at St Edmund's. **78% Strongly Agree** - 22% Agree
4. I would recommend St Edmund's to other parents. **84% Strongly Agree** - 16% Agree

I am very much looking forward to celebrating the Year 7's achievements further in our Celebration Assembly after Christmas and for parents to have another opportunity to hear all about their child's achievements in our Parents Evening in the summer term. Once again thankyou to all parents and carers for your support as without this the transition to St Edmund's would not have been as successful.
Miss Hammond



PROJECT 23

A Year 9 student has received the amazing honour of being selected for an international Scouting project known as Project 23. He is the only Portsmouth Scout who will attend.

He applied to be selected for the World Scout Jamboree, a worldwide event for 40000 Scouts which takes place every 4 years. To do this, he signed up for a weekend with 400 other Hampshire Scouts where he underwent a rigorous camp weekend with multiple different skills base activities. Only 144 were lucky enough to be offered a place on that event unfortunately he was not lucky enough to be selected. However, he has been offered a place on Project 23, a 3 week camping and adventure trip across Europe.

His Scout leader at 5th Portsmouth said 'I am so proud that he will represent Portsmouth at this international Scouting event.' He will now undergo an 18-month training and fundraising journey where he will get to know his Project 23 unit and raise money to be able to go. Huge congratulations from everyone here at St Edmund's and we wish you all the best on your journey!





YEAR 7 Miss Hammond

WOW WOW WOW! Year 7 have had another great half term. It was a very busy start after half term with tutor Masses continuing and Year 7 settling back into school life. Speaking to students after the half term they enjoyed the break but were eager to see friends again and get back to school!

We have had some amazing successes this half term with Devereux winning the award for least behaviour points and enjoying some doughnuts on the last day of term! We are still waiting to see who will win the award for highest attendance and most quiz wins at the Celebration Assembly after Christmas **but it's going to be tight. St Edmund's day showed me just how fond of** Doughnuts the year group are and the weekly sweets for quiz wins always seem to go down well. The Year group behaved fantastically taking part in the PSHE day activities and learning a lot about themselves and others around them.

We have also had lots of other events this half term with the Year 7 and 8 Disco with a record number of tickets bought, mainly by Year 7! I loved every second of it, even dressed as a huge turkey! I am very much looking forward to roping some of the students on stage the next time Chaplain Fiona needs some dancers in assembly, those moves could not be rivalled. We also finished the last week of term with the Carol concert which was a wonderful event with a big thankyou to Chaplain Fiona and other staff who supported. I would also like to thanks all parents and families who attended and **supported our Year 7's. The image of every member of Year 7 taking part in** some way to celebrate the birth of Jesus made me very proud.

I am very proud to be Head of Year 7 and the year group remind me daily with their infectious smiles and constant jokes and comments about everything. The joy I see around school in all aspects, from their lessons, to competing weekly in the tutor quiz to the endless questions I have waiting for me every break and lunch. It makes everyday unique much like each and every student in the Year group.

I hope everyone has a restful Christmas break as I am positive we all need it. I would like to take this opportunity to thanks all parents and carers who have supported myself and the school this half term with Year 7 settling in. They have made a fantastic start and long may it continue.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



YEAR 8 Mrs Feliks-Matthews



What a difference a year makes!

Another day, another week, another term and here we are..... getting ready for Christmas Celebrations, this year to celebrate together face to face. Last year was so very different and I feel we got robbed of some very special celebrations and events.

Time has certainly flown here at St Edmund's. I do believe that we have truly embraced every opportunity given to us, and managed to have some fun, especially during our Year 7/8 disco!

Let me start this newsletter by commending Year 8 all on a few things, actually.



First of all, attendance, which has been very good, considering the circumstances: time of the year, weather, forever present Covid, and anything else we usually blame for not attending. During my whole professional career, I have never had a year group with such high attendance. I do know however, how hard it is to come to school sometimes when you are not feeling well, but Year 8 has shown an incredible resilience and motivation by attending so beautifully every day and on time. My huge thank you goes to all parents and carers who ensure the children are in every day.

Secondly, homework. Year 8 have produced some fantastic pieces of homework and I am so impressed with their **efforts and enthusiasm. Some students have been called to the Headteacher's office to share their outstanding** work with Mr Graham. Well done to all!

Remember Year 8, if you are struggling to complete homework, please remember that on Wednesdays after school, there is Year 8 homework club, which you are all welcome to attend. Also, writing your homework tasks and deadlines in your diary, will certainly help you with organisation and handing it in on time.

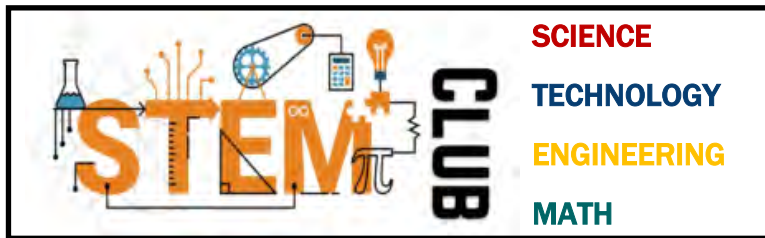
Please remember that your homework score plays a huge part in your Personal Qualities total, which contributes towards the overall year group ranking revealed during our Celebration Assembly. The other criteria are: Effort, Being Prepared for Learning, and last but not least, Behaviour. I am already very excited for our second face to face Celebration Assembly, where no doubt a fair share of badges, certificates, prizes will be given out. Please remember, you are a beautiful year group full of gifts and talents, which I cannot wait to see grow over the next few years.

I am also very pleased to say, that as the time goes on year 8s are maturing into well behaved, caring and considerate young individuals. As you are aware by now, Mrs Feliks -Matthews forever goes on about kindness **and respect, and you have certainly showed plenty of it this term. Your participation in our first ever St Edmund's Day Mass, PSHE day and in every day of your school life, proved just that. On that note, I hope you have enjoyed our St Edmund's Day treat-DONUTS! I think you all have judging by the photos Our Year 7/8 Disco was quite a success too, lovely to see so many of you dancing the night away, enjoying yourselves. Great moves... both** pupils and staff! Our Chaplain Fiona cannot praise you enough for your participation in her Chaplaincy and St Vincent De Paul groups, Carol Service. Your enthusiasm and generosity are also much appreciated. On this note a huge thank you for your Harvest donations last term.



I am immensely proud of you all Year 8. Thank you for being wonderful and making my job a pleasure.
Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!
Please enjoy and stay safe!





Our project this term in STEM club has been focussed on fizzy drinks and the processes on how they are made. Commercial fizzy drinks are fizzy because they have carbon dioxide pumped through them. However, you can also make them through Fermentation using yeast. The students had great fun making their own drinks and compared them to what can be bought in the shops.



"During STEM club we discussed how to make fizzy drinks and then had the fantastic opportunity to make our own. I really enjoyed the end result when we made lemonade. It tasted amazing and the ingredients we used were interesting and unusual. The whole process was great fun! STEM club is great and I cannot wait to see what we are up to next Term!"

"I enjoyed making the fizzy drinks as we were able to see each stage of the process from cooking and developing to tasting them. I now know and understand the different stages and processes. I am definitely looking forward to the next topic."



St Edmunds Pupils Prepare for Confirmation

There are currently a number of St Edmund's pupils preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation at St John's Cathedral through weekly Friday night sessions.

Confirmation is a special process that allows each candidate to learn more about the Christian faith and develop a stronger relationship with God.

In May next year, each candidate will make their Confirmation by being anointed by Bishop Phillip Egan, who will confer the gifts of the Holy Spirit down on each candidate. Please can you keep all the candidates at the Cathedral in your thoughts and prayers over the coming months.

Mr Maguire

ART DEPARTMENT

Donation Request to Staff, Pupils & Friends of St Edmund's

Please save any used wrapping paper, magazines, stamps, old books, tissue paper etc and bring it to Mrs James Art room D8 for an exciting new Collage Art project Creating Cup Cakes

Exciting New Art Project

NEEDS YOU!

Congratulations to Rachel, Honor, Meyiwa, Jess, Luisa, Esta, Libby, Dylan, and Olivia for your recent 10 - 0 win over Priory! Well done girls!



On Wednesday 4th November we attended a Dance Live! Workshop about using the LED screen and creating videos as the backdrop for the dance. We spent 2 hours coming up with ideas for the Dance Live! backdrops that we wanted for each section of the dance. We had a video specialist come in and help us, we learnt a lot from him and had lots of fun! We also learnt a lot about animation and filmography as he showed us how to use a variety of programmes where we can edit footage. The year 11 and 10 pupils focused on the editing while year 7 and 8 pupils came up with ideas for the filming. We are really excited to work on this with our new knowledge!

Joel & Jeswant

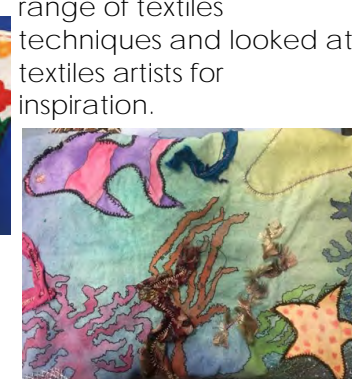
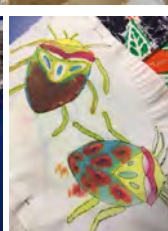


TEXTILES

The Year 10 GCSE Textile students are currently in the middle of their Architecture project and are currently experimenting with textiles techniques inspired by the theme Architecture. Just before Christmas the students will start planning a final piece which they will finish in January.

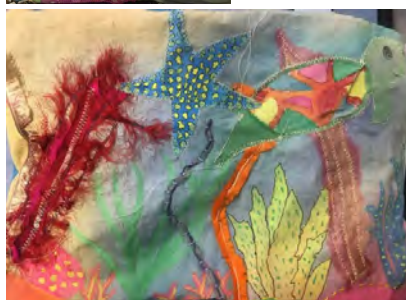


The Year 11 GCSE Textile students are preparing for their mock exam and completion of their final piece of the project - The Natural World. This project was started in January 2021 and the students have produced outstanding work. Within their sketchbook students have experimented with a wide range of textiles techniques and looked at textiles artists for inspiration.



Within KS3 Textiles students are currently on their second technology roundabout.

Year 7 are currently working on a bugs and insects themed bunting and are experimenting with techniques such as foam print and heat transfer. Students have shown excellent understanding of design theory and created some creative and colourful foam printed flags.



Year 8 students are currently working hard on their Marine Panel's. They are currently learning Textiles techniques such as Applique and Couching to add embellishment to their work.

Within year 9 students are currently adding textiles techniques to their fairs, carnivals and circus themed cushion cover. They have just completed the technique Batik where they have learnt how to draw with wax.





On Friday 12th November, a group of pupils from the choir attended the 'Portsmouth Climate Festival' held at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. The choir joined with pupils from St John's Catholic Primary School to sing a song called 'One World'. This song was written and produced by Portsmouth Music Hub and has one national and international awards for it's clear message about our responsibilities to the world we live in. The choir opened the festival with the song to a large audience including local MPs and council leaders.

The performance can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7hnlKYe6Po>

The same group of pupils then ventured to Portsmouth Guildhall on Wednesday 1st December to entertain the Lord Mayor, Frank Jonas and his invited guests at a Christmas lunch. The pupils performed a song to the guests and then led them in some festive carol singing. The pupils were rewarded with 'Mayor Bear' badges to add to their growing badge collections on their blazers!



Well done Ameila, Elsa, Jagoda, Jojo, Sylwia, Nicole, Faith F, Bethany, Isabel, Taylor, Olivia, Faith C and Meyiwa.

One world, treat it with respect. One world. It's our duty to protect.
For the sake of future generations, make a change right now.

Unite together for one world.



oneworld



FILM STUDIES



A huge thank you to Mrs Thomas who organised a local trip to Vue for our Year 10 Film GCSE students to enhance their knowledge of the Bond Genre and watch the latest epic in the 50 year old Bond franchise- and the experience didn't disappoint!

From beginning to end it was full of action and spectacle that kept us all riveted to our seats for nearly 3 hours as we went on 100 mph journey with Bond through Norway, London, Italy and Japan. There were the usual elements we all expect; the guns, the girls, the gadgets and of course those spectacular chase scenes.



I was pleased to see the iconic opening shot of Bond in the barrel of the gun with my favourite Bond, Daniel Craig. I knew this film would be emotional, knowing it was to be his last Bond film ...and it was.

The opening scene was not what I expected, I won't give it away but it was actually more thrilling, more chilling and actually quite terrifying – a real 'wow' moment.

The delay caused by Covid meant a rewriting of the script and they cleverly incorporated into the plot, a weapon of mass destruction with a robotic Nano virus that potentially could wipe out countries and continents.

The villain played by Rami Malek was superbly sinister and bonkers which we expect. What we didn't expect though was THAT END! We always know that Bond must battle and kill the villain and he did but (without spoiling it for you too much) just to say, Mrs Thomas and I were seen wiping away a tear as the credits rolled and the lights came up!



The big question we were all asking as we rushed back to school was: who will play the next Bond? Can't wait to find out!
Mrs O'Neil

'The film, **'No Time to Die'** was a classic example of a Bond film and is a big part of the Bond timeline, as we know that this will be the last Bond that will be played by the renowned- Daniel Craig. It is also a great example of the kind of film Hollywood is loving in 2021 after 2 years of sitting around – the action film. We, Year 10 Film Students, were deeply immersed in the bespoke visuals of this almost three-hour film (the longest film in the Bond franchise) **and I can safely say that this was a trip to remember!**

On Wednesday 10th November 14 intrepid Year 7 pupils accompanied Mrs Halford to the University of Portsmouth for a 'Transitions Mindsets' activity day.

Effort and persistence are important skills when starting secondary school. On this day trip, Year 7 students were encouraged to think about all the wonderful skills they already have, but also ones they hope to develop during secondary school, and beyond.



Over the course of the day they developed some team work and resilience skills, carried out a clue hunt around the University library, had a campus tour and even got to visit a full size replica court room. Their behaviour was outstanding throughout. They were a credit to themselves, St Edmunds and their families.

'It was a fun and eye opening experience. I really learned a lot about myself and what University would be like'
Isabella

'I learnt so much at Portsmouth University. It is all over the city and so massive! I also learnt that there are different ways of getting to University and if you don't succeed at something first time you must keep trying' Jayden

'At Portsmouth University I learned a lot and it was so much fun. We played games and learnt about Teamwork'
Tiyanna-Mai



This beautiful poem was written by a Year 8 student. The brief given was to write a love and relationship poem using poetic language and structure.

This is such a thought-provoking and moving piece and he managed to stand up in front of the entire class and read it aloud which took a great deal of courage as it meant a great deal to him.

I remember the way we went on walks.
I remember the party we had, only you
weren't there, but yet - it was your party.

I remember scattering you under your
favourite tree but there is one thing I forgot,
your voice.

I remember visiting you and you still weren't
there.

Tears flood from my eyes like a cloud bursting,
I'm forgetting the way we went on walks, your
face is a blur.

Goodbye, Grandpa.

ENGINEERING



Well done Years 11 and 8 for making your wooden vehicles. They have been designing, cutting, shaping, smooth and measuring.

Also well done to Year 9 who have been making their LED lamps and learning about CAD/CAM.

Finally, well done to Year 7 for making their animal pencil holders - you have all worked extremely hard this term.



Lest we forget

Beautiful poppies painted by Year 7 in Mrs Brown's Art class for remembrance day to honour those who have died in battle.

Well done!



Thank you to everyone who purchased a poppy during our Poppy Appeal. We haven't received the official amount raised from the British Legion, but the collection pot was incredibly heavy when it was handed over!



HOMEWORK

For my Art homework, I decided that the animal I will design will be a giraffe. I made my giraffe using an application on my laptop called Paint 3D. I made my background first. It was supposed to replicate an African sunset and I made a gradient of red using the oil brush tool on the application. It ended up looking something like this:

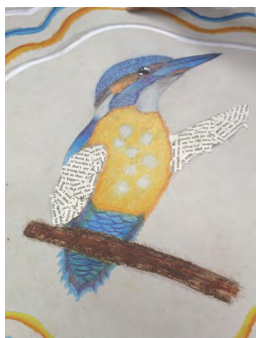
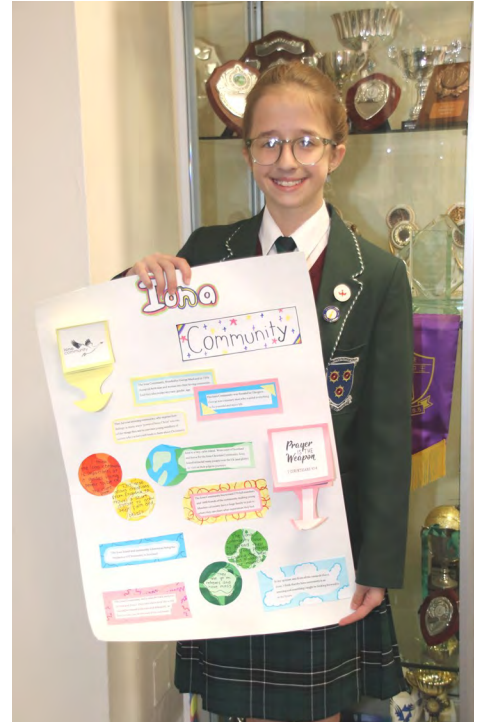
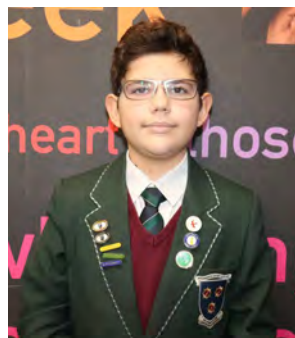
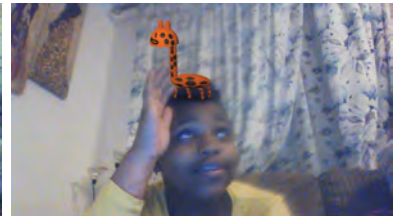
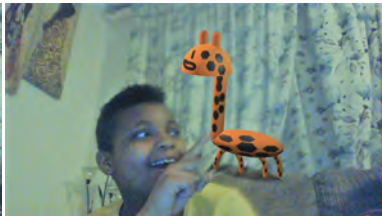
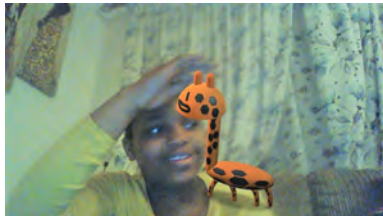


Cool right?

Then I drew a tree for the giraffe to graze on. I used the marker tool. Firstly, I drew the tree by changing the marker to a brown colour then filling it. At first, I used the fill tool, but that made my tree too thick and uneven in some places, so I did it manually with the marker tool. Then I made the bushy leaves by doing the same process, except this time the marker was green, but I still filled it manually.

Adding that to the background made the picture look like this. The giraffe was the most difficult part. I switched to the 3D shapes tool and used a 3D oval for the giraffe's torso. For the neck I used the 3D capsule and for the head I used a 3D hemisphere. I decided to have my giraffe's legs squatting so I used a 3D curved cylinder which I think made it a bit more realistic. Then I coloured each part of the giraffe a matching orange. For the spots on the giraffe, I switched to 2D shapes and used a dark-coloured hexagon. I placed those hexagons around the giraffe's body to make it look like an actual giraffe.

I think my work would have been better if I made the tree 3D like my giraffe, but oh well. I have created a photo album dedicated to my homework. To make animals as close to realistic as possible, I took various photos of myself in real life and edited it in. The bendy giraffe legs also helped it look like it was walking on my shoulder (though it obviously was not). I was able to transform the giraffe into real life by switching to mixed reality when I was taking the far-out shots of the giraffe and its habitats. I knew how to do this as I had used it before when I was messing around a couple of months ago.





YEAR 9 Miss Tudor

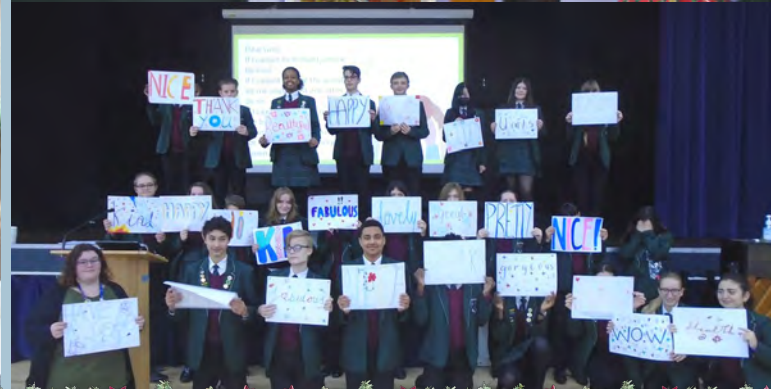
Can you believe we are here at Christmas already? What a wonderful (nearly) full term this has certainly been. I have been so impressed by how the Year group has settled into Year 9 so far.

Firstly I want to say a huge well done for homework. Year 9 have produced some fantastic pieces of homework and I am so impressed with their efforts and enthusiasm. Some students have been **called to the Headteacher's office to share their** outstanding work with Mr Graham so a big well done to all! As a reminder, if you are struggling completing homework, please remember that on Thursdays after school, there is Year 9 homework club, which you are welcome to attend. Also, writing your homework tasks and deadlines in your diary, will certainly help you with organisation and handing it in on time. Even more so as we gear up for KS4!

Secondly, I hope all our students enjoyed St Edmund's Day. My first Mass with the school and I was again so impressed by their involvement and enjoyment of the whole day. Those that sang and had a pivotal role to play you made me so proud. An extra big shout out to Lucy who lead the choir as well as the rest of the Cathedral, you blew me away with your confidence and singing.

A big thank you to all those that could attend our recent Parent & Tutor evening. It was great putting a face to so many names and being able to share in the great work the pupils have been doing. Thank you for giving feedback, I have enjoyed reading through and sharing your comments. One for the diary, our next parents evening will be February 16th 2022.

Finally, I would like to end by wishing you all a very merry Christmas and I hope you get to spend time and celebrate with loved ones. I appreciate all of your ongoing support and look forward to continuing to work together with you and welcoming the students back in 2022



YEAR 10 Mrs Brand & Mr Poxton



Firstly, I would like to say how well Year 10 are doing in their option subjects as well as core subjects, their maturity has grown and I often see pupils revising at break and lunch, to help them in end of topic tests and mocks, these pupils are taking charge of their learning, which is such an important skill moving forward.

We had our Year 10 Parents Evening in November, the support from parents was great and the pupils engaged well, these are so important for the pupils and parents/carers to know how they are doing. The Progress Reviews went out last week, I am pleased with the progress that your children are making, especially since we have had a difficult couple of years before reaching KS4.

We had our Christmas Lunch this week, which the children really enjoyed, it is so nice to see happy smiley laughing children with their friends.

A request to you all is that, if your child has not completed the Work experience form, this needs to be done ASAP, any questions about it, please contact Mrs Halford. Work experience is so worthwhile, so please try and encourage your child to take part.

We have our Celebration Assembly in January, this is one of my favourite things to do, as I love rewarding the pupils for their continued hard work.

I hope you all have a fabulous Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Mrs Brand

In the word of a famous Christmas movie character from a great Christmas film – **“Faith is believing in things when common sense tells you not to.”**

Take this quote and dissect it Year 10, think about its meaning and its purpose for you. Faith is believing in things, things that are important, wise, emotional, cultural and inspirational. Your faith is what glues us, us as a Year group. Believe in things, of course, but most importantly believe in yourself. With your mind you can accomplish anything and this is what I want us to hold onto throughout the rest of Key Stage 4. Its been a tough long term with many highs and low. Keep the high moments fresh, look back on them and replicate. Remember the lows, learn from them, grow stronger from them and evolve. These moments are what defines us, makes us the people we are today and are going to be tomorrow.

Tomorrow I want us to be better as a year group, respect each other, support each other and show everyone that you can be mature individuals. So many amazing moments. Commendations are unbelievably high, some of you have hit gold already – outstanding. Success in sport through football, badminton and basketball. A great PHSE day, with lots of maturity shown. Work experience prepped for a lot of you, very exciting. St Edmunds days, what a moment in that Cathedral, if only we could actually move mountains Year 10. Finally, parents evening, some great feedback from parents and teachers, keep up the amazing work.

With the highs come the lows, behaviour must improve in areas, please justify the Key Stage 4 tag and be role models. Remember COVID, its not going away is it. Masks are mandatory, wear them! Follow the movement systems and respect the **rules. Key Stage 4 comes with many rewards, earn these, don't lose them!**

I'll finish by saying Year 10 I have loved this first term, supporting you, laughing with you, frowning at you (some) and giving you an opportunity to experience some of my lovely quizzes. Ill finish as I started, with a quote to take away with you -

“That's what Christmas memories are made from. They're not planned; they're not scheduled. Nobody puts them in their Iphone. They just happen.” If you haven't seen Deck the Halls, then you should, it's a great film.

Your friendly neighbourhood Head of Year – Mr Poxton





As I write this Christmas newsletter, Year 11 have started their Mock GCSE exams. Their teachers have prepared them well and they are taking this as an opportunity to revise carefully and get an idea of what it will be like in May, June and July 2021. As we are still living in uncertain times, these Mock exams are as important as ever. Even with Exam prep in full swing this half term, we have had other events taking place that have seen our year group flourish.



Our first PHSE day took place on the 16th of November with pupils completing a Mock Interview day organised by our Careers Advisor Mrs Halford. We had around 25 different employers from different work sectors interview each pupil in year 11 and give personalised feedback. The volunteers were very impressed with how seriously the year group **approached the interviews and how well prepared they were. One interviewer's feedback included that we "had the next Prime Minister amongst the year group"** – high praise indeed.

Our Head girl **Nadia said: "The mock interview day was a good opportunity to practice talking about yourself and things you enjoy partaking in. I also appreciated having the benefit of getting to meet someone in a similar field that I was interested in. Additionally, it was also as good insight into other potential areas I may want to go into and other ways I could further my education in them."**

Further we also had session on Consent which allowed for very mature conversations and a safe space for the students to have guided discussions. One of our senior Prefects, **Paige, said "I thought the consent session was engaging especially with the different activities that we did like the true and false; it opened people's eyes to those sorts of things by using statistics"** Pupils also had an opportunity to evaluate what makes a good CV which pupil found very useful and helpful for work experience.

We have had many further education providers give information in assemblies this term as pupils have been told to apply for college places before Christmas. I know that Mrs Halford has helped pupils to apply on line or to complete their paper applications. Many who have applied have already had their interviews and lots have received their offer of a place. Congratulations to those who have been successful. There are a lot of opportunities in the local area to not only apply for a variety of college types but also to start in the workplace and get an apprenticeship.

Attendance has been good this year but to be able to go to the Prom in June, students will only be invited if their attendance is 95%. The first wave of Prom tickets will be sent out at the end of January 2022. Please be reminded that in accordance to the Local Authority and **the School's Attendance Policy, school must be informed of a child's absence daily by 9 am to the school's absence line** and a note with supporting medical evidence is provided on the **pupil's** return to school. Mock exams and the real exams always start at 8.25 when they are in the morning and students need to be lining up at 8.20 to be ready to go into the exam hall at 8.25. GCSE exams cannot be moved under any circumstance. Please can you ensure that your child arrives on time for school EVERY day.



The spring term is crucial for pupils to give 100% effort so that can reach and exceed their target grades. Departments will begin revision sessions after February half term, after school, and it is essential that students use all the support and help that teachers are organising to give them. As we prepare to welcome back Mrs Were next term from maternity leave, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for being so welcoming and supportive in my role. Our students are very lucky to have such caring guardians. I have felt very privileged to be the pastoral lead for year 11 and I hope to see them around school continuing to grow as the year goes on.



Finally, I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Finally, the curtains are open and our actors have been able to tread the boards again. Some of the students at St Edmunds have just put on an amazing production of 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell. They auditioned back in September and after three months of hard work in rehearsals, performed on stage to an audience on 2nd and 3rd December. All of the students involved



worked very hard especially Year 9's Hannah and Year 8's Noah and Tsion who were the lead roles in this production and had so many lines to learn! All the students in the cast and crew of 'Our Day Out' were so committed to all of the rehearsals and productions after such a long time away from the stage.



Some of the students from the production put forward their own comments after the show:

Tsion (Year 8) – “I played Carol who was one of the children in the play. Rehearsals were fun and I had lots of lines to learn but thanks to Miss Vobe and Mrs Deacon I learnt them before the show”.

Emily (Year 8) – “I played a waitress and student in the play. Rehearsals were fun and I enjoyed the show. I was worried that I wasn't going to be loud enough in the show but I was fine”.

Noah (Year 8) – “I performed in the 'Our Day Out' show as Mr Briggs. It was interesting and exciting, and I made some new friends, even some from Years 9 and 7. When part of the production, I especially enjoyed the backstage experience and having fun with other cast members”.

Kiean (Year 9) – “Performing in the show felt like a proud moment which helped to get some more confidence out of me in front of audiences and large crowds. It is something I will definitely do in the future.”

Sophia and Rebeca (Year 9) – “We've really enjoyed the school play (Our Day Out). It was a wonderful experience for everyone involved. We were so glad to get great roles. Well done to Mrs Kay (Hannah) and Mr Briggs (Noah) for learning all of those lines. And well done to everyone for making it such an enjoyable experience. Can't wait for next time to make more memories”.

'Hannah (Year 9) - 'Our Day Out' was such a fun play to be a part of. I have enjoyed playing Mrs Kay, a teacher who tries to make sure that all of her students have a good day out. I have very much enjoyed meeting new people, making new friends and rehearsing with the whole group. I would highly recommend to anyone to take part in a school production, you will most certainly learn new things. I will also like to take this opportunity to thank the Drama teachers, Miss Vobe and Mrs Deacon, for making the play possible to happen. This is very much appreciated.



Miss Vobe and Mrs Deacon are so proud of all of the students and their efforts towards this show. Well done!

A reminder to all students at St Edmunds please don't forget to use your student voice on the school website to share your ideas for the next school musical and **don't forget to audition in March 2022.**

Miss Vobe and Mrs Deacon

OUR DAY OUT



YEAR 7

We asked more of our Year 7 students how they have settled into the St Edmund's family now that they have been attending for a whole term. Here is what some students from Kolbe and John Paul had to say.

On my first day at St Edmund's I was really nervous, but as I had some friends from my primary school starting as well I knew I would be fine. I was also quite worried about making new friends and I didn't think that I would, but on the first day I met George. He introduced me to his friends, and I introduced them to mine and we all have now become great friends together.

I really like coming to St Edmund's. the lessons are great and the teacher's really push you to becoming your best, plus they make the lessons interesting and fun.



I have enjoyed St Edmund's so far, especially the clubs; there is such a variety to choose from. There are PE clubs, from Badminton, Table tennis, Football, Dodgeball, Netball and Swimming, Book Club, Homework club where you can go to get help and support, Science club, Debate club, History club, Dance club, Computer club, the list seems endless and I am really going to try and go to them all!

Lessons can seem hard at first, as they are quite different to primary school lessons, but once you get into them and begin to understand, the teacher's try to make it as much fun as possible and before you know it, you have learnt something new. Some of my favourite lessons are Art, Music and Science. I think I like these the most as they are quite practical lessons where you get to try things out and then learn from experience.

Here at St Edmund's the thing that I have experienced and like the most is the kindness and compassion displayed by not only the staff but the students too. No matter who you ask, someone is always willing to help you.

I also like how everyone is always encouraged to do their best and try their hardest to achieve. I love the extra-curricular clubs but I especially like the Chapel as it is a place to pray and be closer to God. Chaplain Fiona is always so welcoming.

I have made so many new friends since I started and it is true what Mr Graham told us at our Transition meeting, we are one big happy family here at St Edmund's.

Lessons are great, especially Science and everyone fully engages in the subjects and we all give our best, I do even when I find it hard as I want to learn. All of my teachers are very nice but I have to admit that my favourite place in the whole school is the canteen, the food is so good!



I would like to tell you about my first term at St Edmund's. I HAVE HAD SO MUCH FUN! One of my favourite lessons is PE because we get to do lots of physical activities including team building and swimming. Another of my favourite lessons is IT. We have a great computer suite that we get to use and I especially like making power point presentations using the equipment.

At break and lunch time I like playing table football with my friends, some who I met on my first day here. I really enjoy being with them in school and they make me happy to be here. I must admit I was very worried when I first started St Edmund's, but I soon got used to the school and the teachers. I like learning new things everyday.



NORTHERN LIGHTS *A celebration of winter*

- Mon 20th - Wed 22nd December
- 11am-5:15pm
- Fratton Community Centre
- Includes a hot lunch!
- Ages 11-16

3 DAYS OF FUN FILLED CREATIVE EXPERIENCES

Snow, twinkling lights and festivities - join us in celebrating the magic of winter with three days of creative activities leading to a performance for friends and family. You will create your own winter wonderland of 3D igloos which will then form the backdrop of a performance piece specially created by you working with professional artists who will support and guide you as you develop your show.

Have fun, make new friends and laugh (a lot) during the process! A hot lunchtime meal will be provided each day. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis so make sure you book today to avoid disappointment.

FREE for any child in receipt of free school meals. Make sure you book in ASAP to avoid disappointment!

To book your place, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/haf-northern-lights-a-celebration-of-winter-tickets-212487695417> If you have any questions, please email info@artswork.org.uk, quoting 'HAF Portsmouth Winter booking query' in the subject line.

**BRING A FRIEND ALONG FOR FREE!!
NO MATTER THEIR ELIGIBILITY**



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Is alcohol having a negative impact on your family life?

Has yours or your partner's drinking increased as a result of the pandemic?

If yes, then the project could be just for you. We are a support service for families affected by parental alcohol use.

What we can do:

A family worker can meet with you and your family to understand what changes you want to make. Once you have a family plan you can agree how often your family worker meets with you and what support is most useful to you, and your family members.

There are no waiting times and a referral is as simple as making a call, text or sending an email.

If you would like more information please call or text: 07584563004 or email: family.support@ssj.org.uk



CM YOUTH DAYS OUT WINTER PROGRAMME 2021

FREE project for young people in receipt of benefit related free school meals secondary school aged in the Portsmouth area #HAF2021

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**STREET COOKING
&
CLIMBING GYM**

SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER

**STREET COOKING
&
ICE SKATING**

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including a meal and snacks
Drop off and collection point at Somerstown
Community Centre OR meet us at John
Pounds Community Centre.**

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Gift card to
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The Staff, Governors and Students would
like to wish you a
peaceful Christmas and a
Happy New Year.

