

# Newsletter

HALF TERM EDITION | FEBRUARY 2022



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

**St Edmund's  
Catholic School**

## FARADAY CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS

On the 31st January 2022 Mrs Halford accompanied six **Year 8 students to take part in 'The Faraday Challenge'** at the new Technology Centre based at The University of Portsmouth. The challenge was sponsored and run by the Institute of Engineering and Technology. The students were **briefed and asked to create "a product to make a child or parent's stay in hospital that little bit easier"**. The students were up against five other schools and were assessed throughout the day with the final assessment comprising of a five minute presentation to the Judges and other participants,



Our final score totalled 88% which not only meant we had won on the day but **also places St Edmund's as second on the National League Table which is an amazing achievement**. The students won a fantastic trophy and each received a voucher for £10. If the students remain in the top five by the end of the competition, they will be invited to take part in the National Final in Liverpool with an all expenses paid trip and a chance for their prototype to be **created and installed in the Alder Hey Children's Hospital and win £1000 for the school**.

**Mrs Halford said: 'the students were absolutely brilliant.**

Their behaviour, teamwork and tenacity was outstanding and I am so proud of them. When they were announced as the winners, I was overjoyed as the level of the other competitors was **extremely high.'**



Great fun! Would recommend anyone to go if they get the chance. The challenge allowed me to show my skills **and brain power. I knew we would win. I can't wait to see if we make the finals.** Jeswant

The Faraday challenge allowed us to showcase our interest for STEM and show all of our ideas. I really hope we get the opportunity to go to the finals in Liverpool as that would be amazing! Thank you Mrs Halford for giving us the opportunity to attend we all had an amazing time.

Jessica



## IMPORTANT DATES

### FEBRUARY 2022

Mon 28th Back to School - Week A  
Book Sharing Week

### MARCH 2022

Weds 2nd Ash Wednesday  
Year 11 Parents Evening

Mon 7th Reading Week

Tues 8th Year 9 Options Market  
Science Live

Fri 11th Dance Show Performance

Weds 16th Soundsational Concert  
6.30 pm Portsmouth Guildhall

Mon 21st Macbeth - Globe Theatre

Weds 23rd Year 8 Online Parents  
Evening

Fri 25th Youth Parliament Meeting  
Portsmouth Guildhall

Weds 30th Year 9 Portsmouth University  
Trip  
Year 10 New Forest Trip

### APRIL 2022

Weds 6th Year 8 Isle of Wight Trip

Fri 8th Stations of the Cross  
Ski Trip departs  
(return 15/04/22)  
Tue 19th Rome Trip departs  
(return 22/04/22)

Easter Break  
Monday 11th April - Friday 22nd April

Back to School  
Monday 25th April - Week A

# HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS

As we reach the end of this half term it finally feels like we are almost back to normal. The celebration assemblies really set the tone for this term with lots of students receiving certificates/badges/nominations. A really positive reflection of their work last term.

I am really pleased with the quality of teaching and learning as a whole across the school. We are now all settled into our routines and it continues to be a joy to see our children working so hard. I have once again had the opportunity to see some amazing pieces of homework and fantastic learning/participation within lessons.

We had a real growth and return to the extra-curricular activities/events across the school. Many of these can be seen throughout the newsletter. Most recently we had our amazing participation in Dance Live at the Guildhall. We had the largest number involved with a real diversity of students from all year groups. I was so proud of them all with their commitment and enthusiasm.

The Year 9 Kew Gardens trip, Faraday challenge and PE competitions have been enjoyable and educational experiences for all those involved. I know that there are many more opportunities being planned both for this year for students to get involved in.

The spiritual life of our family has been strong and was recognised by the achievement of the second **level of the Romero Award and the Chaplaincy input for Pope Francis' Synod. We are one of the few** secondary schools to achieve the award which involves a real examination of our faith in action in all aspects of school life. It is fantastic that the things we do here in school can be externally recognised **and the value they add to our children's spirituality bore witness to.**

**Finally, thank you as always to parents/carers and your continued support. St Edmund's continues to** be a thriving and popular school. With 506 requests for a place, there will be many fingers crossed and **prayers said in the hope of gaining a place within the St Edmund's family.**

**After half term I will be revisiting students standards/expectations as well as celebrating the 'search for truth.'**

**Parents will be aware of the school's zero tolerance in relation to phones and illegal substances on the** school site. Students face severe sanctions for bringing illegal substances onsite with the Governors Policy being a permanent exclusion. Students who cause disruption will be suspended and support put into place. Our students are beautiful and work hard each day to be tremendous citizens and members of the **St Edmund's family.**

Have an enjoyable and restful half term.

**"May the God of hope fill you all with joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13**

God bless



Mr S Graham  
Headteacher





# PLATINUM JUBILEE

Elizabeth travelled out on the Commonwealth Tour a Princess and returned the new Queen

On February 6<sup>th</sup> 1952, Princess Elizabeth received the sad news that her father George VI had died. The princess was representing her father who was too ill to travel on the Commonwealth Tour, she was in Kenya at the time and received the news from Treetops (an animal reserve) and had to make the sad journey home again

In the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> February, pupils were reminded of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Queen's succession to the throne. Pupils arrived to the assembly to Zadok the Priest (Handel's Coronation Anthem) and stood for the National Anthem. Representatives from each tutor group 'pitted their wits' against each other to see who would be crowned Royal Mastermind as part the assembly.

Winners: Ben, Kimi and Faye



All pupils in the school were gifted a Jubilee badge as a reminder of the Queens 70 years of faith and service to our country and the Commonwealth and the Canteen served delicious helpings of celebratory food and the chance to find a golden ticket to win instant prizes. St Edmund's certainly celebrated in style!



**Did you know that..... The Queen has met 6 of the 7 Popes in her 70 Year reign, has been served by 22 Prime Ministers and presided over 22 Commonwealth games.**



## 70 Years of Faith & Service





# CHAPLAINCY

## Year of the EUCCHARIST



**I would describe this term as being 'Life -giving' because so many wonderful things have taken place to enhance the life of our school.** It is good at times, to stop and reflect upon the blessings of life and so here are some of the Blessings of our Spiritual Journey during this term.

Our Year 8 Tutor Masses started this term. It has been wonderful preparing for our Mass by engaging in Lectio Divina; reflecting and praying with the Gospel of the day. Students shared many insights and I look forward to the Tutor Masses next term.

We have two St Vincent De Paul groups which meet on a Monday during the various lunchtimes. The meetings have been vibrant and it has been up-lifting spending time praying and sharing ideas in preparation for the season of Lent. Our Rosary Group meet every Tuesday lunchtime and lead the Rosary each week. During this time, we pray for the needs of our school, families, local area and our world.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the Chaplaincy Meetings this term. We have a large number of students in Chaplaincy and therefore had 3 separate meetings, one for Year 7, Year 8, and Year 9. We spent time in prayer and **reflection as well as putting our prayer into action. We looked at the video from CAFOD on 'Walk Against Hunger'.** Students then got into pairs in order to walk a kilometre around the school while being sponsored. In pairs they **chose a prayer that they said together as they walked; The 'Our Father' or 'Hail Mary'.** They then chose a name for themselves e.g., 'Prayer Partners, 'Prayer Companions' etc., A student led the way with a candle as we all walked and prayed. This 'Walk Against Hunger' will continue as our Lent Charity next term and will connect with our liturgy of 'The Stations of the Cross'.

**'The Year of the Eucharist' was the theme for a week of assemblies. We spent time looking at the five hopes that the Bishops have for this 'Year of the Eucharist', as well as praying and singing and celebrating being 'Eucharistic People'. Our Journey is about being a praying community; drawing strength from Jesus and reaching out to others.**

As you may be aware Pope Francis has asked the whole Catholic Church worldwide to engage in a process of discernment under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (2021-2023) A Synod is a gathering of Church leaders from across the world who discuss the journey, and the future, of the Catholic Church. Pope Francis is asking Catholics across the world to listen to each other and to reflect deeply and prayerfully on what we have heard. We are being asked to consider, "What changes need to be made - in myself, in our parishes, and in the diocese - to make the Church's mission today more vibrant and effective?" All the responses from gatherings like this across the world will be discerned at various levels and finally be presented to the Holy Father when he meets with the Bishops of the Church at a large Synod meeting in October 2023. So, a number of students from Year 8 - Year 11 met with me, in the Chapel to fulfil this process. It was a dynamic discussion and amazing to see our young people entering passionately into this discussion.

And finally, the fantastic news of the term was that we were awarded our second Level of the Romero Award; the Developer Level. The award shows how Catholic Social Teaching permeates all aspects of our school life at **St Edmund's. Much evidence was gathered and sent off as part of the application. On 12<sup>th</sup> January, two Validators came into visit the school to validate our application. They met with me, a Governor, Senior Management, a number of staff as well as having a Tour with some of our St Vincent De Paul Group. So, we are delighted to end the term on such a positive note. Wishing you all my prayers and blessings. Fiona, Chaplain**



As part of the Year 8 RE curriculum on evil and suffering, students have been learning about the Holocaust. The students were given a very personal and unique learning experience using TikTok. Miss Berry made a compilation of content that had been created by Holocaust survivor Lily Ebert. We asked some students to give their review on the videos made by Lily and to share their thoughts about her and what they found most **interesting. As part of Mr Maguire's lesson, he encouraged 8 Damien to create pieces of poetry reflecting on Maximilian Kolbe's sacrifices during this time. The students looked at two pieces of Holocaust poetry to help inspire their own pieces.**

During these last lessons we have learnt a lot about the Holocaust, for example: We have learnt that the Holocaust was a huge mass extermination of the Jewish community. In larger amounts the Jewish Germans, Jewish Dutch and Jewish Polish were taken to two main types of camps; firstly, labour camps; horrible places where the Jewish were forced to work making ammunition, clothes, food, bombs and more. If you were sent to one of these camps you were seen as lucky compared to the next camps. The other camps were extermination camps. In these hell pits, you would be stripped of any dignity you had left, forced to live in tiny **cramped housing with very little to eat and dirty water to drink. If you didn't die of hypothermia, hunger or illness you would be dragged into the chambers which were pumped full of Zyklon B gas, which would cause a long and painful death.**

In modern day, we can see that the chambers are filled with scratches, a sign of desperate cries for help; further more huge piles of shoes lay as a sign of the mass murder which took place all those years ago. There was a third type of camp called the ghetto. These were small communities where the Jewish could live and work (but conditions were very bad). They would be forced to wear a Star of David on their arms (a sign to all that saw them). However, you were still not safe in these as at any time you could be taken out and killed on the street. Holocaust Memorial Day is a day all around the world on which we remember all that was lost **during the Holocaust and all who were lost. As we've never experience anything like this we must learn about it so it never happens again and no one ever forgets the lives lost during that horrible, hellish time. The Jewish were not the only people targeted; black people, homosexuals, gypsies and those who were disabled were also rounded up and sent to the camps as they did not fit in to Hitler's Germany.** Hugo

**"We learnt about what life was like in a concentration camp from someone who experienced it first hand. By watching the video we got to feel her true emotions on what she had felt.**

Learning about the horrors that the Jewish community lived through although it was quite disturbing was interesting, but we need to learn **about it to ensure that it never happens again."**

Joseph & Alina

The Priest from Block 14A

Auschwitz, 1941. My hopes and dreams  
Are long gone. The Nazi bullet always hits its target.  
Three prisoners had found their salvation,  
While me and nine others are about to meet  
starvation.

But then, the Priest from Block 14A offered to take my  
place. This man was truly a saviour, and I will  
remember him when my time has come. Daniel

The Holocaust

My number is 16670, I'm Maximilian Kolbe  
I devoted my life for someone else, I'm a Catholic who  
was imprisoned during the Holocaust.

Dying of starvation, cramped in a bed (plank of wood)  
Stripped of free will, being treated like objects.  
My legs are giving up, my ribcage is visible  
My stomach sunken in, my arms floppy and tender.

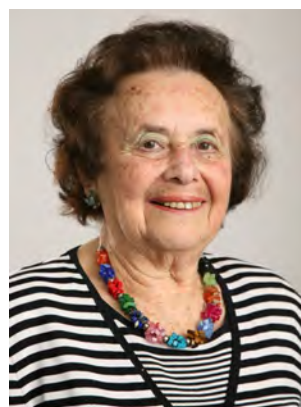


Tokenised into groups, I don't feel  
human more like an animal,  
what's the point in living?

I'm drowning in sorrow, I can't  
find the surface It's like I'm in a  
cell and the key has been thrown  
away. I'm trapped... Let me out!

I'm proud of who I am, I got the  
better of Hitler. I was belittled, but  
now I am greater than ever  
I'm with God, free of suffering  
The Key is found, I'm let out.

Olive



**"We thought Lily was**  
amazing, she is such a  
strong woman and brave.  
What we found interesting  
was that the Jewish com-  
munity stayed so strong,  
even after everything that  
**had happened to them."**

Susannah & Salvina



# YEAR 7 Miss Hammond

What another busy half term it has been! 7 weeks have flown by with so much going on for all of Year 7! We started the term with a staggered start full of testing and making sure everyone was safe before they returned to school. A big well done to all of Year 7 who behaved very maturely during this process and to staff and parents who supported us with this. It is not something two years ago we ever thought we would have to do but it is now part of our daily life. A big thankyou also to all families supporting us by testing at home regularly to minimise the spread in school.

Following a few days back in school year 7 were then treated to their first ever Celebration Assembly. This was a chance to celebrate the great successes of our year group and the hard work and commitment shown to their learning since joining St Edmund's. A huge well done to Milan for being the student with the highest personal quality scores, a huge achievement in a year group of 229 students. A big thankyou also to Ben for his jaw-dropping piano performance and our spectacular dance performance from an array of students.

**St Edmund's is a very unique and exciting school. When it was the celebration assembly I had lot of fun. Your heart starts to frantically beat when you get nominated and it gets even worse when you have to walk onto the stage to claim your prize. It was very unlike primary school where you only won a certificate. Overall the celebration assembly was crazy, joyful and astounding. – Milan**



Students have also been busy this term with a Shakespeare workshop for two classes provided by a West End team.

I enjoyed the Shakespeare workshop a lot because it helped me understand the language of Shakespeare in a fun and entertaining way. I also **understood a Midsummer's night dream a lot more because of the workshop.** I liked the acting parts the most as we got to practise our skills. – Eric



Congratulations to Sylwia who recently competed in her first Junior Ballroom competition. No only did she achieve a Gold medal in Solo Ballroom dance, she also received several awards in Latin dance. Well done!

Creative arts talent has not been short this term either. Lots of students took part in the Year 7 Open Mic with piano performances, singing, guitar and drums. I am looking forward to seeing a Year 7 band hopefully form very soon. Lots of Year 7 have also taken part in Dance Live which was a delight to see, involving themselves and showing lots of dedication having attended many after school rehearsals. The performance in the Guildhall was spectacular and I am so proud of all involved from the dancers, to make-up artists to the tech team.



Dance Live has been an amazing opportunity for **St Edmund's to experience. Thanks to all our hard work we are able to produce an outstanding dance. It has been an amazing time for so many of St Edmund's to come together and do something very unique. – Marcelina**

Finishing the term with PSHE day I am sure will be a perfect end to a busy half term. Thankyou as always to all parents and families who continue to support us and the hard-work and time I know you have to put in. Making sure students have all their uniform, equipment, homework and come to school every day on time I know is not easy but I really do appreciate all the support you give to us.

Have a lovely and restful half-term and see you all in a week.





# YEAR 8 Mrs Feliks-Matthews

## Half term already? Time flies when you enjoy it, as the old saying goes....

First things first. Let me start this newsletter with my huge congratulations to all year 8 pupils for a superb start to the new year, and a huge thank you to all wonderful parents and carers for their ongoing support in so many ways. Attendance. Our attendance is still really, really good considering the times we live in. Forever present Covid, the usual winter blues: colds, coughs, flu. So proud of all of you trying really hard, even though there are days you do not feel like it!



Academic Progress. Very unfortunately at the end of last term I have missed our Parent Tutor Evening. Having looked at our attendance and feedback statistic, I can clearly see how very supportive your families are, doing all they can to make sure you come to school prepared, attend, behave and complete your homework. On this note I have to congratulate some of you for some outstanding pieces of homework that simply blew me away with its quality and time invested!



**Every year, in January, with THE Saint Edmund's tradition, we start a new term with** our Celebration Assembly, recognising the effort, achievements, gifts and talents of all Year 8 individuals. It is always amazing to be part of this celebration, purely due to the sheer volume of pupils being nominated and coming up on the stage collecting their certificates and prizes. Congratulations to everyone nominated, and a huge well done to all the winners. Remember, if your name has not been mentioned this time, the opportunity is there for the next Celebration Assembly in the summer term.

I feel privileged and incredibly blessed with a year group full of not only beautiful individuals, but also highly motivated, driven young people.

I am also aware that some of you had a wonderful opportunity to attend a Faraday Challenge at University of Portsmouth. Quoting Mrs Halford, who **organised and took you to the event....** *you represented our school beautifully; your behaviour, teamwork and tenacity were outstanding and I was so proud of you all.* **And now the best bit.... A huge congratulations to the team who attended:** Jeswant, Alina, James, Jessica, Isabel and Bethany as they **WON** against 5 other schools! Well done to all and a huge thank you to Mrs Halford who took you there. Dance live also took place this term with another showcase of the beautiful talents in our Year group! It never ceases to amaze me how many of you are so gifted in so many ways! An absolute joy to watch. A huge thank you to the Dance /Drama department and all who supported the show in different ways. Well done to all participants. You are simply the best!



I learnt how circuits work and it was such fun to learn how to design and create a new invention for hospitals. The other schools that we were up against, their designs were also good but not as good as ours as **WE WON!** I hope we reach the finals and have the opportunity for our prototype to be made and installed at the hospital. Alina

Your involvement in the Spiritual aspect of our school life is also outstanding! This term we have already started our Year 8 tutor Masses, I cannot wait for our special Retreat in the summer term. It is lovely to hear that your beautiful spirituality shines through you every single day, through being kind to each other, helping Fiona in Chaplaincy Team, being enthusiastic in everything you do here. Thank you.

We finished our term with our second PSHE day on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. Another day of fun activities focused on differences, feelings, Identity, respect, and substance misuse. Thank you to all my Year 8s for a wonderful participation and engagement in lessons. You are so mature in so many ways, which has been reflected in very productive debates throughout the day. Unbelievably busy term for us all. We all deserve a restful break. Have a lovely half term. Enjoy whatever you are doing and stay safe!





# YEAR 9 Miss Tudor



I cannot believe we are at half term already, we really have had a fantastic start to the new year!

Firstly, on January 26<sup>th</sup> we had a fantastic opportunity for pupils to take part in the CAFOD sponsored walk around the school as part of their chaplaincy. 21 pupils took part, partnering up to pray and walk. Prayers were said for peace, cures for world hunger and for those near and dear to us. Chaplain Fiona sponsored all the students who took part with 20p to start them off, and despite the cold it was a thoroughly enjoyed morning. For those that may not be familiar with CAFOD they are an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Reaching out to those living in poverty with practical help, whatever their religion or culture.



Secondly, we have truly kickstarted the Year 9 options process. Starting with the Options Showcase which began on January 31<sup>st</sup> and is ongoing till the 15<sup>th</sup> March. This has given pupils an opportunity to sign up to 6 subjects over the 6 weeks and attend a short presentation on what to expect from that subject during KS4. Further to this a huge thank you to all those who were able to attend parents evening on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>, this was the last parents evening prior to options decisions being made and has played a vital part in giving both students and parents a further opportunity to ask any options-based questions.



Finally, our last event will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. We will be hosting an Options Market in school during the course of the evening, where subjects, colleges and careers opportunities will be displayed and represented ready to help you make your final choices. After this event is completed the online process will be officially opened and pupils will have 10 days to make their selections virtually. Throughout all this time myself, Mrs Lunn, Mrs Halford and other members of staff will be able to help and guide pupils should they need it.

I hope everyone has a fantastic half term and just to say I appreciate all of your ongoing support and look forward to continuing to work together with you during the remainder of Year 9.





# YEAR 10 Mrs Brand & Mr Poxton



I hope you are all well, we have had a great start to 2022 with lots to celebrate.

**We had an amazing Celebration assembly recognising our pupils' efforts and achievements.** As they are now in KS4 they get to bring a trophy home for their award, which was a new experience for them. Unfortunately, not everyone can win something, however we do have another Celebration Assembly in July where they may. All pupils, whether they won or not, celebrated for their fellow year 10 students, which I was really proud of.

We had two intervals during the assembly and I would just like to say a massive well done to them, it is not easy to get up on stage in front of the entire year group. Firstly, we had a music performance from Rafaela, Jacob, Meyiwa, Maciej, Vivian, Anto and Lennon. They performed so well, it was a joy to watch, Rafaela was singing and had a beautiful voice. Secondly, we had an amazing dance performance from Megan Beynon, it was super brave of her to do a solo performance on stage, it was stunning.



Also, this term we have had a goal setting assembly, delivered by a guest speaker, he spoke about refining your goals, connecting to a purpose and setting yourself realistic goals. It was very motivational and will help our students in their upcoming years through education and into careers. Thank you to Mrs Halford, our careers advisor for organising this for us.



Recently we have had a Performing Arts day where some students spent the day learning scripts, dances and singing to perform a short performance to the year 7's, **I was lucky to be able to watch it and it was amazing how much they learnt in just one day.** On the performing arts side we are also taking part in Dance Live, which is performed at the Guildhall. Again, I have watched a rehearsal which was amazing, let's keep our fingers crossed we get through to the next round.

Our year 10 early prefects have started now, they had to apply and were then interviewed. They are controlling canteen lines, queues and generally checking on pupils on their duty. I have been so impressed as this is such a step up for them to be doing. Year 10 are really maturing.



We have another PSHE day coming up on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, I will forward to telling you all about that in my next Newsletter.

Lastly, please remind your children to keep up their attendance, every school day counts, continue to collect the commendations for their hard work in lessons, contribution in class and homework. Importantly as well, please make sure they are revising for their GCSE's they are taking this year and the mocks ready for year 11, it really does make a difference.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break.

Lord, help me to  
cherish the last time I really laughed,  
value the last thing that I achieved,  
respect the last time I did something  
that scared me.

Lord, be by my side so that I can  
find joy in the smallest things,  
appreciate the wonder of your creation  
And live my life to the full.

Amen.

# 新年快樂

Chinese New Year is a year when Chinese people gather together and celebrate with their family. They have dinner together and celebrate this day. They also have a lot of traditional Chinese foods for dinner like dim sum and sweet dumplings. The food has a lot of meaning in China.



Chinese people also give out red pockets. This tradition is where people give out red pockets to the young families and friends but only if they are married, they (the younger family's) usually goes up to the elder and say words that wish them luck, wealth and health before the elder gives them their red pocket. Red pockets (like an envelope) are used because its meaning is to give the young ones luck and riches.

The Chinese Zodiac is made up by lots of animals . There is a mouse, cow, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, chicken, dog and pig. This year 2022, is the year of tiger.

A lot of people may ask why is red the main colour in Chinese New Year? It is because the colour red in Chinese tradition represents the symbol of prosperity and a great fortune. The colour red is also used in a lot of things and places like the Red Pocket and Fai Chun.



There is also a Chinese story of Nian. In ancient times, there was a monster called "Nian", that was created from the lion and unicorn. It lived in the mountains and would come down harm people and livestock and people have no way or method to defeat the Nian. One time a Nian entered a village, and the villagers coincidentally were wearing red, burning bamboo poles which were making crackling and explosive sounds, and bright light. The Nian was frightened and channelling panic. From then on the people knew how to beat the monster. Nian is actually the Chinese word for year.



During the Nian, each and every family furnish their door to their home in red, and burn firecrackers to drive Nian out. People that have the Nian, beat gongs and sound drums, and call to each other "Congratulations," "have a happy Spring festival". What is Fai Chun? A Fai Chun is a red poster that is put up everywhere in a Chinese home or where people are celebrating. On the Fai Chun there are words in Chinese that represent luck, wealth, health, money and wishes to people. We celebrated the Chinese New Year here at St Edmund's. The canteen served a delicious Chinese banquet of food and students worked in the LLRC with our Chinese bi-lingual assistant from EMAS creating an amazing display.

Christy, Year 7



On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 15 x Year 8 pupils spent a day at The University of Portsmouth discovering what the English and Communications Department had to offer. Their first session was all about Journalism and specifically, what does it take to be a great one! Each pupil had to write 8 questions to a famous person of their choice, this ranged from Elon Musk to Boris Johnson! Their questions were varied and insightful and the tutor was very impressed. They then had to write their own headline, again the creativity from Year 8 shone through.



The next session was all about Linguistics and the Joke Factory. The pupils learnt about where our language had started, how it has progressed to what we now use and also how words can sometimes have many different meanings. They even got to write some of their own jokes ... some were funnier than others!



Finally Year 8 took part in a lecture on the character of Sherlock Holmes. They examined a piece of writing from one of Arthur Conan Doyle's first books and discussed how Holmes' character was being described as well as the relationship between him and Watson. All pupils seemed to really enjoy the day and especially loved seeing what it might be like for them one day at University. They were impeccably behaved and I was, as always, very proud to be there with them.

**"I really enjoyed the English Taster Day at Portsmouth University. My favourite part was the joke workshop, I loved making up my own jokes and also finding out more about the English Language. I also really enjoyed being in a lecture theatre and talking about Sherlock Holmes. It has made me think I definitely want to go to University one day"** Charlie





It hardly seems that long ago that we were all settling into our tutor groups back on the first day in Year 7, or selecting our option subjects in Year 9! But here we are with Year 11 working extremely hard as we build and progress towards their Summer GCSE Exams! Where does the time go?!

This term saw our last ever Celebration Assembly, celebrating achievements of a huge number of pupils in the year group across all subjects. My particular congratulations go to Sullivan for 1st place Personal Quality scores in the year group, as well as **Jessica & Tony for their achievement of the Mrs Tuffnell's Head of Learning Award.**



I also want to mention our Year 11 pupils that took part in this years Dance Live! performance and competition at the Guildhall! It was a fantastic opportunity to perform in front of an audience and with a huge number of pupils from other schools, **something we haven't had the opportunity to do for a significant period of time!** All pupils worked extremely hard for months and it all paid off on the day. I am so proud of the individuals in Year 11 that took part and showed such incredible professional behaviours.

Having returned from maternity leave, I look forward to continuing to work closely with the year group, parents, carers and their teachers to celebrate all of the hard work that Year 11 have put in over the last 5 years.

At the end of January we saw the first wave of Prom invites go out to pupils that have achieved specific criteria and earned their place at this very special event in the summer on 7th July 2022. A reminder for those that have already received their Summer Ball invites that the initial deadline to secure their ticket is Friday 18th February 2022. The second wave of Prom invites will be handed out in March for all those pupils that are now at 90% attendance or above, are not behind in coursework, controlled assessment or classwork, and have not received any behaviour sanctions resulting in inclusions or exclusions.

When we return after Half Term the hectic pace of Year 11 continues with our Period 6 Evening Prep after school sessions, as well as exams for some practical subjects. Half Term will be a fantastic opportunity for Year 11 to recharge their batteries and get some well earned rest, while still ensuring their keep up to date with any homework or revision set by their teachers. With the exams looming pupils need to balance out their crucial revision with some rest and relaxation.

I will leave you all with a final thought that I think is crucial at **this point in our journey ...**

**"The only real failure in life is the failure to try ... Try and your half way there!"**

Have a restful but productive Half Term break!







Our talented artists have really worked hard and I am pleased to showcase some of their outstanding pieces of Art that has been created so far this year. Well done to everyone!  
Mr Waddington

Year 7 have been creating life drawings of teddy bears and colourful paintings in the style of Romero Britto.

Year 8 have been responding artist Henri Rousseau by copying his work and painting their own animal portraits.

Year 9 have been exploring the Day of the Dead festival through sugar skull paintings and polyblock printing.

Year 10 have made an excellent start to GCSE Art and have been producing high quality works in response to **their 'Distortion' project.**



This fantastic set of illustrations by KS3 artists are displayed in the Art corridor and depict our patron Saint, St Edmund and our School motto.



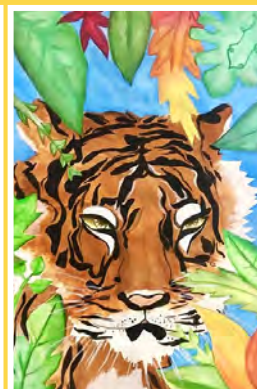
Marcelina



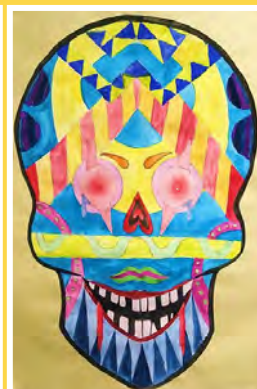
Nicole



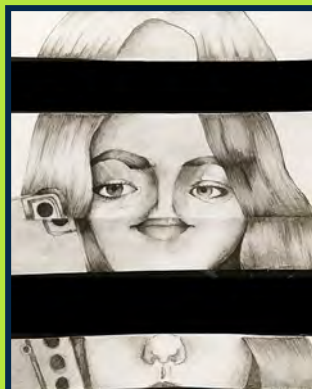
Darcy



Julia



Legina



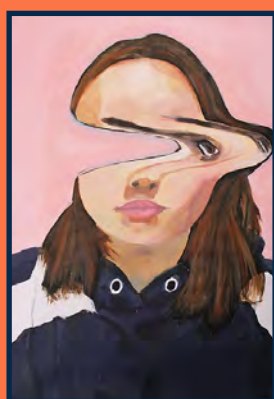
Nadia



Chloe



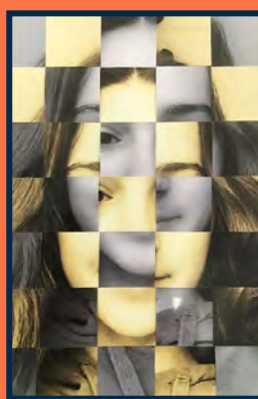
Hannah



Coral



Ashik



Julia



Kiara



# 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 Newman and Romero had to say.



**At the beginning I was very shy because it's secondary school; new people, harder work, getting lost as it is bigger than primary school. There seemed like there were multiple other things I was worried and scared about when starting at St Edmund's.** Especially as I unfortunately missed the first two days of term and worried that everyone except me would know their way around and made new friends, but this was not the case. I did get lost a few times and I found some of the work a bit tricky, however I soon got the hang of things and became an expert at finding my way and even helped other students find their way to class. The work; some of it I have found easy, with some points that have been challenging, but there is always a teacher to help, all you have to do is just ask. So that is my story about when I first started at **St Edmund's. Now I fell totally at home and part of our big family.**

**I have really enjoyed my time at St. Edmund's so far.** Right from the start, I felt comfortable and happy. One of the things that helped that was summer school. It was a fantastic opportunity to get a feel for the school, learn my way around (a little bit!) and to meet some of my tutor group. Another thing that also encourages and motivates me is the school reward system. Collecting merits and getting badges makes me feel part of the school and makes me want to do my best. Wearing the badges on my blazer makes me feel proud and inspired as well. I think there are also **lots of opportunities to involve yourself in St. Edmund's through clubs and other** extra-curricular activities. I have tried a wide variety of clubs from football to music to chess. You get to meet people from outside your normal classes and have fun. **Finally, I've clearly felt the spirituality of the school.** It is everywhere and I particularly enjoyed the retreat. It is great to be able to pray daily. **Overall, I think I've settled in well to St Edmund's, thanks to the school's opportunities and welcoming atmosphere.**



Although secondary and primary school are both sites of education there are still many differences and things to get used to. There are so many more people and a much bigger campus which can be a bit daunting. It is your responsibility to arrive on time and manoeuvre around school quickly and sensibly. Another big thing is Homework as you have a lot more subjects to work on but there is a booklet on the website that everything is explained what to do and when it needs handing in. One of **the things I have enjoyed being at St Edmund's so far is having more freedom,** however, this comes with more responsibility, but it is good to be trusted and treated like young adults. Secondly, the school also offers so many more opportunities to make a difference and encourages all kinds of creativity and making me learn things about myself for example, I am now capable of cooking. If I could give my year 6 self any advice it would be to enjoy every minute with friends and make new ones, be **organised but throw yourself into ever opportunity St Edmund's gives to you.**



There are so many differences between primary and secondary school. One of these is you get to work in different groups for your lessons and you are set according to your ability. However, some lessons are taught within your tutor group and your teacher will have a seating plan which is good as you get to sit next to other people within the group. Lessons are really interesting as there are so many subjects and a lot of them are interactive and the teachers make learning so much **fun. I have really enjoyed St Edmund's so far, I have made lots of new friends and re-**connected with some old ones. Another thing I like is everyone is so kind to each other, there is no bullying and no racism. It is true that we are one big happy family. The advice I would give to my year 6 self would be to focus on your Maths, English and handwriting. I would also say that I should set my own personal targets higher so I can achieve the best!



In Room 206, every Thursday week B, Ms Bartoszek holds a fascinating Cosmetic Chemistry Club where students across year 10 experiment, explore and explode with bath bombs! The students who partake in this fun after-school club get to make, customise and test out a self-made bath bomb using real scientific ingredients!

The cosmetic chemistry club offers a fantastic opportunity to gain a CREST award for all the students who participate and send in an application, presenting their use of science to create something to use, such as a bath bomb!

In the club, we get given a recipe with specific ingredients that we can add to enhance fragrance, fizz and foam and a huge variety of colours. Also, once we have made the bath bomb, we can try it out and see the beautiful colours it creates in the tub.



The CREST award is highly recognised by many colleges and would distinguish you from others if you would like to go into STEM when you are older. The CREST award also provides you with new challenges and experiences that further develop your understanding of science and technology.

Looking forward, after we complete our bath bomb project, we plan to experiment with something else... perhaps a bubble bar, or lipstick? If you are in Y10 and interested in joining the Cosmetic Chemistry Club, please speak to Ms Bartoszek in room 206.



# GCSE CITIZENSHIP

Q&A session with local MP Stephen Morgan

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of January this year, our GCSEs Citizenship classes had the exciting opportunity to meet Steven Morgan our MP for Portsmouth south. We had previously been learning about parliament and through his experience we were able to further strengthen our knowledge and ask someone that had been in parliament through several years about the extensive process he went through to achieve the position that he has now.

We were able to touch on things that we brought up as a concern almost young people like our exams and vaccinations. Personally, I really enjoyed it as we were able to get a first-hand account of what actually happens in parliament and it was fun to see how open and happy our MP actually towards. Steven Morgan made sure to always ask us for our opinions on situations and on what young people in Portsmouth would benefit from making the majority of us feel like we had a voice in what was happening in Portsmouth.

Over all, the experience was incredible and he provides us with enough knowledge to build on what we already knew. It was a really enjoyable experience.





Year 8 became Detectives looking at the Jack the Ripper case and created their own theory as to who the elusive perpetrator was.

I believe that Jack the Ripper was Aaron Kosminsky. The evidence I have to support this is that he could have been skilled with a knife as he was a barber. This would explain why Jack was able to make such precise cuts. He hated women and that is why he targeted them.

Aaron Kosminsky was identified by a victim. However, he did not match some of the other witnesses descriptions. One witness who had a good view of Jack refused to comment if it was Aaron Kosminsky as he did not want to speak about a fellow Jew.



In conclusion, Aaron Kosminsky seems a likely suspect as he was considered insane and did what the voices in his head told him to do, hated women and was skilled with tools. Isabel

In my opinion I believe Jack the Ripper was Francis Tumblety because he was a trained doctor from America and he would have had links to other doctors who perhaps needed organs. He could also walk down the street with blood on him. The murders stopped when he was arrested but was bailed by the American's so he could transfer the body parts. Thomas



Who was to blame for Jack the Ripper not being caught?

It can be argued that the police were to blame for Jack the Ripper never being caught. This is because during the time of three murders, police were dealing with over 300 false confessions from people claiming to be Jack. This would mean they would spend a lot of time reading every single statement and wasting the little time they had to catch him before the next attack. This shows they were to blame because after reading through hundreds they still didn't find anything or how could they believe it to be true if they did. On the other hand there are other factors as to why he wasn't caught. During this time period there was not enough technology to be able to take DNA tests and clues into further examination would not have been that far advanced. For example; if they had visible hair or fingerprints of the murderer, they could not test to see who it belonged to. Another factor was Jack always had a way of escaping. He was in the process of seizing another victim but was interrupted by the police. This was the same night that he first killed two of his victims, by the time the police got there he was gone. This was important because if the police had been more aware and more back up he would have been caught. Liliyah



History Club travelled back to ancient Egypt and created their own Anubis or funeral masks.



**Make Your Mark**

**FREE creative drop-in event for adults and children**

Help us make the artwork for Belmont Path...

And name the brand-new housing development that will replace the Somerstown tower blocks

**Saturday 26 February**  
Drop-in 11am to 3pm  
Somerstown Central Café  
(first floor of the Hub)  
Winston Churchill Avenue  
PO5 4JJ

Join us for

- FREE craft activities to take home
- FREE advice from professional artists as you make
- FREE drinks and cakes

www.portsmouth.gov.uk

## Young Carers February Half Term Activities 2022

Portsmouth City Council

- Pick 1 activity, Zoom sessions and family sessions can be extra. You may be able to come to more sessions, depending on the number of other young carers booking on.
- Before half - term please email [youngcarers@portsmouth.gov.uk](mailto:youngcarers@portsmouth.gov.uk) or call/text one of the mobile numbers below to book sessions. When booking, please include a mobile contact number and the young carers name and age and ensure you have received confirmation of your booking.
- During half - term please use Becky, Mandy or Billie's mobile (Their numbers and working days are at the bottom of the page) to contact us with any questions. To book activities or to cancel any sessions (as we can offer the place to another young carer). When delivering activities, if it may be difficult to respond immediately to calls or texts, however we will respond as soon as we can.
- If you are interested in any extra sessions, please book them as 'reserves' and contact us before the activity is due to take place to see if there are any free spaces.
- Clip and Climb numbers are limited. Priority will be given to those young carers who have not been to a session before. If you have climbed with us before, you can request to go on the reserve list.
- Some activities have age guidelines that may be flexible. Please talk to us about these if you're interested.
- If there's anything stopping you from coming to an activity, please contact us and we will do our best to support.
- Please read the Zoom and Group Session Guidance before attending your session, for yours and others safety.
- Some Covid restrictions will still be in place. We ask everyone to wear a mask when walking inside and to socially distance. If there are any unforeseen circumstances, we may need to provide alternative activities or may have to cancel sessions.
- Please bring a drink. If the weather is sunny, please wear or bring sun-screen to the session. You can also bring a snack for yourself.
- We ask parents/carers to complete a 'Consent' form before you attend your very first activity with the service. If you have attended and completed one before recently - we will have this copy. Consent forms can be either electronically through this link <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/youngcarers> or a parent/carer must please complete a paper form when arriving at your first activity and before you join the session.
- Please call our Monday, Wednesday and Saturday groups continue to be offered to some young carers. Please contact us if interested and we can discuss this more with you. Currently there are waiting lists.
- We look forward to seeing you soon. Please contact us if you have any questions.

### Addresses for the activities

- Buckland Family Hub, Turner Rd, Portsmouth PO1 4PN
- Cairns Centre, 117 Orchard Rd, Southsea, PO4 0AD
- John Pounds Centre, 25 Queen Street, (access via Aylward Street), PO1 3HF
- Mountbatten Leisure Centre, Alton Way, Hove, Portsmouth PO2 9QA
- Northern Parade Family Hub, Hove, Portsmouth PO2 9NE
- Paulsgrove Family Hub, Chichester Rd, Portsmouth PO6 3PL
- Somerstown Family Hub, Omega St, Southsea, Portsmouth, PO5 4LP 023 92821816 (this is in Omega street, not the hub across Winston Churchill Ave.)

**Adventure playgrounds (6 to 13 year olds)** - If you would like to attend a playground session, please contact the site directly. If you need any support with this, please contact us.

- Buckland adventure playground, Mair Road PO2 7BA 023 9283 2611
- Liphrook adventure playground, Auribus Street PO1 1RH 023 9282 4571
- Paulsgrove adventure playground, Mandon Road PO6 4JB 023 9222 1527
- Portsea adventure playground, Aylward Street PO1 3NE 023 9275 5337
- Somerstown adventure playground, Wilton St PO5 4HS 023 9287 3230
- Stanshaw adventure playground, Western Terrace PO6 8AX 023 9289 0241

Mandy: 07454 529837 (Full-time), Becky: 07534 922680 (Mon Tue Wed), Billie: 07958 010155 (Mon Wed Fri), Jayne: 07985 397970 (Saturday), Email: [youngcarers@portsmouth.gov.uk](mailto:youngcarers@portsmouth.gov.uk)

## Young Carers February Half Term Activities 2022

Portsmouth City Council

Date and location	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
<b>Monday 21 February</b> Somerstown Family Hub	10 - 10.45am Fun Games Zoom session	11am - 1pm Picnic, Art and Games	2pm - 4pm Art and Games 14 - 18 years Monday Group Contact Becky
<b>Tuesday 22 February</b> Buckland Family Hub	Book to get log-in details.	Please bring lunch and a drink	Please bring a drink 2.30pm - 4pm Art and Games Please bring a drink
<b>Wednesday 23 February</b> Paulsgrove Family Hub	10.30am - 12.30pm Art and Games	Please bring a drink	2pm - 4pm Art and Games Early evening Wed group Paulsgrove 8-18yrs Email or contact Billie (There is currently a waiting list) Contact Mandy for details
<b>Thursday 24 February</b> All activities at Mountbatten Leisure Centre	10.50am - 12.05pm Short tennis (inside) Please wear suitable clothes and shoes Meet outside terrace (Not the tennis centre)	12.40pm - 2.15pm 12+ swimming Fibra - Fun Mountbatten Leisure Centre By attending this you are agreeing young carers are under 18 and are able to swim (not in water) Meet outside entrance	2.50pm - 4.05pm Clip + climb session Please wear suitable clothing/shoes and complete a form (see below) Meet outside entrance
<b>Friday 25 February</b> Northern Parade Family Hub	10.30pm - 12.30pm Picnic, Art and Games	Please bring lunch and a drink	Sat Mobile: 07985 397970 For use on this morning.
<b>Saturday 26 February</b> John Pounds Centre, Portsea	Morning Saturday Young Carers group 8 - 14 years Please email us if you are interested - there is a current waiting list.		

Mandy: 07454 529837 (Full-time), Becky: 07534 922680 (Mon Tue Wed), Billie: 07958 010155 (Mon Wed Fri), Jayne: 07985 397970 (Saturday), Email: [youngcarers@portsmouth.gov.uk](mailto:youngcarers@portsmouth.gov.uk)

**FRIENDS OF ST EDMUND'S(FOSE)** We would like to thank everyone for their generosity in the donations made for our Easter Raffle. We would especially like to thank Morrison's and Tesco's and their Community Champions for their amazing donation of chocolate gifts. These were very much appreciated and will enable us to create a fantastic raffle prizes. Further details on our raffle and how to purchase tickets will be made available after half term. The raffle is in aid of raising funds to purchase lockers for students to use and store their equipment during the day. We do hope that you will support us and look forward to working with parents and staff on this venture.

Introducing... **edulinkone**

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**CLICK NOW FOR INFO!**

**CLICK NOW FOR INFO!**

Parental & Student Engagement App

EduLink-One is our new Parental & Student engagement App.

EduLink-One will replace our current MyEd App on the **7<sup>th</sup> March 2022**.

**We do not advise removing MyEd until we go-live with EduLink-One on that date.**

Details will be sent to parents with new login details in due course, however in the meantime it is imperative that the school holds an up to date email address and/or phone number for all parents. Please email: [school@saintedmunds.org.uk](mailto:school@saintedmunds.org.uk) with your current email address and/or phone number if it has changed since you last contacted the school (along with your full name & child's full name).

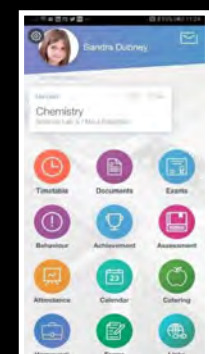
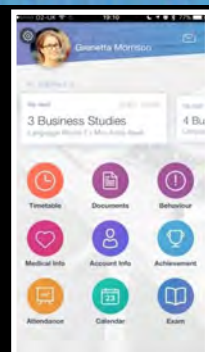
**Why are we making this change to EduLink-One?**

Following much feedback from stakeholders including parents & teachers it has been determined that MyEd can no longer fulfil all of our requirements going forward at this present time.

**Some of EduLink-One's Key Features Are:**

- Free Messaging to the school via the App.
- Report Absence and view attendance for your child.
- View Homework tasks for your child
- View extra-curricular clubs
- View School-Reports for your child.
- View School timetables.
- View Lesson timetables (for students)
- View cashless catering balances.

Further information about the EduLink-One App may be found on our website along with download links so that you can install the EduLink-One App in advance or try the web-demo version!



Please note: any link/advert contained in this Newsletter does not imply a recommendation.

St Edmund's Catholic School accepts no liability for any linked or advertised sites.