

Newsletter



EASTER EDITION | APRIL 2022

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



**St Edmund's
Catholic School**



On Thursday 31st March 2022 following delays due to the COVID pandemic, the school celebrated the official opening of the Wright Building.

This new building represents a further cornerstone in the continued development of Catholic education here in Portsmouth. Indeed, it is hard to believe that it is actually situated **on the site of the old Caretaker's Lodge. This, like many parts of the school had over the years fallen into disrepair and condemned. Now it is a symbol of the rise of St Edmund's and the pride that all our families and friends both current and past have in the school. The fact that we are now an outstanding school, oversubscribed and have such an amazing learning environment for our children is testimony to those that built the foundations of St Edmund's before us.**



THE WRIGHT BUILDING GRAND OPENING

Dedicated in honour of Barry Wright, Headmaster 1988 - 2001



The Block is dedicated to Mr Barry Wright who was Headteacher here at St Edmund's for thirteen years. Mr Wright also served as Chair of Governors and a member of the Governing Body for over thirteen years. His faith in the school was unwavering, he was fiercely loyal and his strong morals and beliefs is what help to guide the school to it's OUTSTANDING status. So much so, it was fitting to name this new teaching block that houses Dance, Modern Foreign Languages and Religious Education after such an iconic man.

We were blessed to have his Grace, Bishop Philip Egan to officially open and Bless the building with the Holy Spirit and welcomed **Mr Wright's family, staff and students to join in the celebrations.**



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

Caelum Dives Ingredi



HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS

Whilst driving home from work, listening to the radio, I became engrossed in a report from Ukraine on how a Headteacher was trying to maintain education for the families displaced from Mariupol. The school had nearly seven hundred students, good facilities and committed staff. Having relocated and families fled, they now had around two hundred students and fifty percent of the original staff. Yet still they were striving to deliver some education in a variety of different ways. Sadly there had been several known losses from the community.

It really made me reflect on how lucky we are. Especially when you read through the Newsletter and the amazing things that have taken place this half term. The trips, clubs, shows, rehearsals, learning in lessons, sports events, competitions and normality of school life are a gift. Life for many families can be difficult, however, we are **blest to have such a wonderful education each day at St Edmund's.**

This was reflected in the Blessing and opening of the Wright Block by his Grace, Bishop Philip Egan. Although **slightly delayed by COVID, the naming and blessing of the block will be a key part of learning at St Edmund's** for many years to come.

As we approach the end of term we look forward to our Easter liturgy and the opportunity to re-charge our batteries. Year 10/11 will be preparing for exams which start just three weeks after our return. Please spare a thought and pray for them.

Thank you for the support you give your child and St Edmund's. We will be having uniform checks on the first day back and each week focussing on some of our base expectations.

Students and staff have raised money for Bamenda and Cafod (walking against hunger). A special well done has to go to 8 John Paul who raised £206 for Bamenda with a sponsored silence.

Prayers have been linked to Ukraine and difficulties others are experiencing and Pope Francis has been encouraging us to pray during lent to the Queen of Peace to end war. As we do so, we join in praying for the concluding prayer of the Angelus; especially for the people of Ukraine:

Pour forth we beseech you O Lord,
your Grace into our hearts
that we, to whom the incarnation
of Christ your son, was made known
by the message of an angel,
may, by the passion and cross,
be brought to the gateway of his resurrection
through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen

We wish all our families a Holy and restful Easter.

God bless



Mr Simon Graham
Headteacher



HOMework

Every term we are amazed with the fantastic pieces of homework that our students create. Well done to everyone and keep up the good work!



CHAPLAINCY

Our journey through Lent began with Ash Wednesday Services which took place in our Chapel. Key stage 3 supported 'Walk Against Hunger', the CAFOD appeal for this Lent. Each student either walked or ran a few kilometres during their PE lessons. In so doing they were uniting themselves with people all over the world supporting this charitable venture. The money raised through sponsorship will be sent to CAFOD and the kilometres covered totalled 2119 which is a fantastic achievement. These numbers will also be sent to CAFOD to add to the kilometres walked by many peoples across the world.



Our Reconciliation Liturgies helped us to focus on areas in our lives which we need to change and let go of. We also connected with the CAFOD theme of 'Walk Against Hunger', to see where in our own lives we hunger and how we can nourish our souls with the goodness of God in our everyday lives. We then spent time looking at the gifts of The Spirit and each person wrote down the gift of The Spirit they were going to pray for to help nourish them during this season of Lent. These were collected and will form part of our Liturgy of the 'Stations of the Cross' at the end of term. Six of our local priests came to the Services and after the Liturgies offered an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to those who wished to partake.

Part of the requirements for the Year 8 Spiritual Badge is to raise funds for Bamenda. During RE lessons students spent time learning about Bamenda and the school that we are twinned with, John Paul II. Each student created a pamphlet and each Tutor Group have been raising funds through cake sales, sponsored silences, making and creating items to sell and many other ventures. Once all the fundraising activities are completed, we will present a cheque to the Bamenda Committee.

Staff and students have had opportunities to pray for peace for our world, especially in the Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Year 8 have continued with their weekly Tutor Masses and have enthusiastically and prayerfully entered into the celebration of the Eucharist. St Vincent De Paul and our Rosary Group are faithful to their weekly meetings.

The highlight of our term was the blessing of the Wright Building on March 31st. Various people attended the blessing including Mr Wright's wife and family, staff, students, governors, architects and builders and our special guest Bishop Philip and Fr Leo, the Bishop's secretary. Chaplaincy Captains, St Vincent De Paul



students and Senior Prefects welcomed our guests and took them on a tour of the Wright Building. Our guests were treated to a beautiful song led by the choir. Then Mr Graham formally welcomed everyone and gave a speech, sharing about the impact Mr Wright had made on our school over the years. Bishop Philip followed with a blessing and the unveiling of a plaque. Our Head Boy and Girl gave a memorable speech and then the Bishop Philip was presented with a cheque and for himself a bag of treats for after Lent. Everyone was then invited to refreshments. A wonderful testament to Mr Wright and a wonderful celebration for Mrs Wright and her family to remember.

Our 'Stations of the Cross', take place at the end of term and we have been busy rehearsing and preparing for those liturgies. It will be wonderful to be in the Cathedral and to finish the term uniting our prayers, the prayers of our local community and the prayers of the global community, with Jesus, through 'The Stations of the Cross'.

United in prayers during Holy Week and wishing you many blessings during the Easter Season. God Bless.

Fiona, Chaplain

YEAR 7 TERESA & STEIN



It has been so much fun since I started in Year 7. I cannot believe I have been here for two terms already! I have made lots of new friends like Meron, Erik and Yosief in my tutor group. My tutor, Miss Bartoszek is really nice and helpful as are all of the other staff at the school.

So far, my favourite lessons have been Textiles, Food Tech and swimming. We are so lucky to have our own pool here to use not only in PE lessons, but also after school in swimming club.

My experience at St Edmund's so far has been really enjoyable and I would recommend it to anyone who is thinking of coming here.

I have really enjoyed my time at St Edmund's so far. At the beginning I was quite shy and worried that I would get lost. I was also a bit anxious because none of my primary friends were in my tutor group. There were so many people and much bigger buildings and ground which was at first, quite intimidating but it was amazing how quick I settled and found my way around that there was nothing really to worry about at all. The lessons are really interesting especially the practical ones. St Edmund's has offered a variety of opportunities through clubs, sports events and extra-curricular activities.

St Edmund's is AMAZING when it comes to spirituality. I am part of the Chaplaincy group and I love joining in with all of the religious events. Altogether, St Edmund's has welcomed me into their family with wide open arms and I am so proud to be part of it.



One of the best things I like about being part of St Edmund's is the way in which all students are treated like young adults and we are expected to act in a mature way and everyone is treated with respect.

I love the wide amount of choices that we are given to allow us to experience any clubs or sports that we may like. I especially like that we are able to play basketball, table tennis or football during break and lunchtime.

I really enjoy being at St Edmund's and I am so happy and have made lots of friends.

I really enjoy the variety of clubs that St Edmund's has to offer all students. There really is something for everyone to enjoy! I also like that there are diverse and different ranging subjects from Citizenship, Religious Education to Art and Technology that make up our timetable. Each one offers something different and enjoyable. The teachers are also really helpful too and make sure they help us if we are stuck or upset.

I really enjoy catching up with the many friends I have made at break and lunch time. There is a wide variety of delicious food available from the canteen including vegetarian and vegan options. It is always difficult to decide what to choose!



YEAR 7 Miss Hammond



WOW! What a busy half term this has been. It has only been 6 weeks but Year 7 have amazed me with their attitude and effort they show towards their learning. They have finished this half term having now completed 2 whole terms at St Edmund's. I know for some the transition from Primary school is still on-going but for others I am sure it feels like they have been here an eternity.

We have not had any Year group events this half term as the focus has been on students and their lessons but I would like to say well done to all the students for their hard-work. Lots of students have still taken part in extra-curricular clubs both in and out of school which has kept them very busy also. We had our Year 7 boys football team play a match against Milton Cross which was very hard fought and the students who played in this should be very proud of themselves.



'We went to Milton Cross school to play a match.'

We were very nervous as they are a very strong team who play for the county! We drew 4-4 in normal time but sadly lost in penalties 5-4. We were very proud of ourselves as it was our first game as a team and we know we are going to win in the future. Mr Salter did not stop shouting from the side-line and we hope to play another match soon, hopefully beating Trafalgar.'



We have also had a busy term with the Inter-tutor competition. This has been a hard-fought competition of Football, Dodgeball and Bench ball with the final games to be played after half term. I know students have loved getting involved in this and at times the Sports hall seems to have every single member of Year 7 in there supporting their tutor group. I am looking forward to seeing who comes out victorious.

'I have been playing Bench ball for my tutor group.'

We have 5-minute matches and it is a lot of fun. We have won all our games so far, except for one which is a shame but we still hope we win overall. We all support each other in the Sports Hall when the games happen which is very noisy!'



As we move towards our final term of Year 7 we have many exciting things to look forward to. We have Parents Evening on the 10th May which will be a perfect opportunity to see how students are progressing in their subjects and in school life. We also have a transition trip to look forward to which students will receive more information about after Easter.



I am very much looking forward to a summer term hopefully with normality and am looking forward to seeing Year 7 enjoy a full year at school. Students will have assessments in their last term in which they must ensure they continue to work hard for and spend time revising at home.

I hope Year 7 use their Easter Holiday's wisely, ensuring they complete their History homework but also have a well-earned rest. Thankyou as always for all your support and I look forward to seeing you all for our final term of Year 7.

YEAR 8 Mrs Feliks-Matthews

As this term certainly seems the shortest, it feels odd to be writing another newsletter entry so soon. I look back on this term and I am amazed by how much Year 8 have managed to fit in to such a short time.

As always, please let me start by saying how beautiful you are on daily basis. Your attendance, behaviour, impeccable manners are only a few factors that contribute to the reputation of an amazing year group. Thank you to all Parents and Carers for their ongoing support and making sure your children do practice all those great values you instil in them.

Your willingness to participate in everything the school encourages you to do Year 8, as well as your many gifts and talents are truly humbling. From school tour guides, to Chaplaincy Teams, Choir, events ,office duty and daily jobs you help out with , naming just a few!

Our Year 8 Retreat was one of my personal highlights; seeing you all engaging well, so very respectful and prayerful was a beautiful experience. You certainly made the most of this special event by staying behind either for confession, or just to have a chat with our guest Priests. As always, a huge thank you to Fiona for organising and accommodating for us all.

By far the biggest success so far this term, for the whole year group was the fundraising campaign for Walk Against Hunger organised by CAFOD and Bamenda. It was lovely to see you running/walking a fair few miles during your PE lessons! To be honest, not many complaints and even some smiling faces. The stalls with cakes, gifts and other handmade items for sale also looked nothing short of professional, great effort and superb enthusiasm, as always!

Year 8 Parents Evening was also a great success and another opportunity to show your parents how hard you do work in your lessons. Of course, there are always pupils who can do better, especially by boosting their Personal Qualities. Please do remember it is your effort, behaviour, being prepared for learning and homework that count, not your academic ability!



94% of Year 8 parents booked for Parents Evening appointments, which clearly shows how highly motivated and supportive your parents are. For this alone I am very grateful to all Parents/Carers, as I do believe home school liaison is one of the key factors that contribute to every child 's success.

Short, yet busy term, hence I do think we are all ready for another break! I hope you all have a restful half term, I will see you all back ready to face the summer term on Monday 25th of April 2022.

Wishing you all a very blessed Easter Break!



SCHOOL COUNCIL

MAKE YOUR MARK

In February the School Council and Senior Prefect Team were delivered an assembly informing them about Make Your Mark 2022.

Make your Mark is led nationally by the British Youth Council, aiming to give young people a say on what matters to them. School council representatives then cascaded the information to their peers during tutor and each student then completed an individual ballot paper, voting for the topic they would most like to see campaigned for nationally by the youth parliament.



SCHOOL RESULTS	
TOPIC	VOTES
Education & Learning Improved Climate Education, Free University, Better Mental Health Education	180
Health & Wellbeing - Improved access to mental health support, end food poverty, banning gay conversion therapy	163
Environment - Climate Change, Plastic Pollution	154
Jobs, Money, Homes & Opportunities - More training and apprenticeships, ending homelessness	132
Poverty - End child poverty	103
Our Rights & Democracy - Votes at 16, freedom of speech, building a better relationship between young people and the government	50
Covid -19 Recovery - Including young people in the recovery plan	22

In total 804 students from across years 7-11 voted, below is a breakdown of our school results & the national results. In addition to feeding into the national results, much more importantly I think, the results will be analysed at a local level AND a school level. They can then act on the priorities for young people in different areas of the city and we can have a much clearer view as a school to be able to help us inform student voice work.



Student Leadership Network

Five members of our Year 11 Senior Prefect team, including our Head Boy & Head Girl have enjoyed participating in a Three part Student Leadership network event. Focusing on the skills needed to fulfil student leadership roles & working on challenges and how to overcome them.

The event has provided further opportunity for some, who have utilised links with Destiny Kennedy, Member of Youth Parliament for Portsmouth, to become involved in her focus groups looking at racial discrimination and Inclusion & Mental Health.

Young Person's Mental Health Event

On the 25th March students from our Student Council, Trinity Ambassador Team & Young Carers, attended an event at Portsmouth Guildhall, looking at how schools and external services can improve young people's mental health and well-being support across the city. The hope is that it will increase joint working between young people and Mental Health Support Teams at a school and city-wide level.

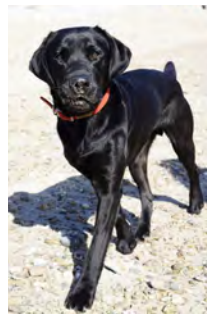
The event was co-produced by students and professionals and planned alongside Destiny Kennedy & Ella Reilly, members of the youth parliament for Portsmouth. Adetola & Beth, two of our year 11 students, were integral in the planning of the event and are now valued members of a 'mental health focus group' run outside of school. On the day Beth presented the event alongside Destiny and was a complete natural, not fazed one bit by the audience of around 70+ people.

Caleb in Year 9 also prepared and presented information around what support is currently in place at St Edmund's, showcasing our Trinity Suite and the various avenues of support available for our students. We appeared to be one of the only schools at the event to have access to an area such as the Trinity Suite and our students expressed throughout the day, just how valued it is, alongside the ongoing support they receive from Miss Yunghok, our Well-being Co-ordinator.



Children's Mental Health Week 7-14th Feb

Recently, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week! At St. Edmund's, we view every week as looking out for the well-being and mental health of our young people, but we have had some special events on as a reminder to everyone at St. Edmund's. Throughout the week, each day had a different mental health related theme to follow. Each theme came with a tutor time prompt to get pupils thinking about their own mental health and wellbeing. We also had a number of activities going on outside of tutor group to raise awareness about mental health and wellbeing. One of these included having a dog named Samson in Trinity. Pupils from all year groups were able to sign up to come and spend some time with him, and look after their wellbeing while they did so. Having a fluffy companion can certainly make your day, even if you are feeling low. Samson proved to be a big hit with the children and an even bigger hit with some members of staff (looking at you Mr Hughes and Ms Bartoszek!)



We aimed to raise awareness for Trinity, so that pupils were aware of where they could go for some support in school. We did this by having a mental health stand by the LLRC at break and lunch time. This was led by our Ambassadors and included a large range of wellbeing resources that we use in Trinity. Pupils were free to take these resources for their own use and were able to have a chat about what we do in Trinity and what mental health means to them. To round off the week, the Trinity Ambassadors ran a bake sale on Friday lunchtime to raise money for local children's mental health charities. This proved to be a massive hit – thank you to everyone who came up to buy a cake or donate their time!

Overall, Children's Mental Health Week 2022 has been a roaring success. As a school, we aim to continue to spread the message of just how important it is to look after your mental health and wellbeing. We hope this week has reduced the stigma surrounding talking about mental health in school and has empowered our pupils to take care of their wellbeing. Thank you for all your support! The Trinity Team – Miss Yunghok, Miss Layburn, and Miss Mason.



Monday Theme: Speaking Out and being kind - Prompt: One way to leave a positive impact on individuals and the world, is to undertake random acts of kindness. As a tutor group, think and write about some acts of kindness you can do this week at school, home and in the community.

Tuesday Theme: Looking after your wellbeing - Prompt: What does wellbeing mean to you? Discuss what wellbeing means to you and come up with 5 ways that you can look after your wellbeing

Wednesday Theme: Self Care - Prompt: Think of 7 different ways to practice self-care

Thursday Theme: Building Trust - Prompt: Having someone you trust enough to go to in your time of need is so important. Think of someone you would trust enough to speak to today if you felt like you needed to.

Friday Theme: Finding Happiness - Prompt: If Covid has taught us anything, it is that finding joy in even the smallest things in life is so important. Take 5 minutes to think about what makes you happy and share them.

YEAR 9 Miss Tudor



I say this every time BUT I cannot believe we are at half term already, time really does fly when you are having fun!

Firstly, a huge well done to all the pupils for the GCSE Options process. I know that the approach to Key Stage 4 can be daunting at times but the pupils were so mature in their approach **to selecting their GCSE's. We threw so much information at them from the showcases to the market to the interviews and I'm sure** they are excited to see their final selection around the end of May. So, a big pat on the back for the focus that has gone into this term.

Secondly, I am so proud of Year 9 in their approach to behaviour, attendance and participation. Any pupil will tell you how I love **the word 'resilience'** but I do honestly see them showing such determination every single day. As we move into the Summer term we can only keep going up and showing the rest of the school how beautiful we all are.



A big achievement this half term was the fundraising campaign for Walk Against Hunger organised by CAFOD. It was lovely to see every single pupil running (and some walking) around the entire school campus racking up a fair few miles during your PE lessons! Smiling faces even on some of the coldest days showed such great effort and superb enthusiasm. Well done for all your monies raised!

Finally, I hope everyone has a fantastic Easter break 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 Summer term.



YEAR 10 Mrs Brand & Mr Poxton

Year 10 are still doing amazing, they have completed their English Literature mock which they all coped with really well. I am looking forward to seeing their progress through, not only English, but exams in general, thank you to the English Department for making this happen so smoothly.

We will be starting revision clubs after Easter to enable our students to excel to the best of their ability. I appreciate some students struggle more than others. As parents/carers what I would ask is that you support them and address any concerns you may have directly to me.

We do run a homework club on a Friday to help and support our students, I would ask you to support your children in engaging with this.

We have some exciting things coming up. Firstly, we have The Stations of the Cross at the end of this term, this is such a lovely service that brings the whole year group together.

I know some of our students are going on the Ski trip and Rome trip soon, I am sure they will have an amazing time. I was lucky to go on the New Forest **Geography trip, which I thoroughly enjoyed, we had a great day out and didn't** get too wet or cold, we measured a river from source down to the end, the children really engaged in the finding of results, they made me very proud.

Another exciting thing coming up is our College Taster Days, all pupils will visit Portsmouth College and with regards to Southdowns and Havant college, students got to pick their preferred location. These will be happening in the Summer Term, information will be sent out to parents and carers.

We have our Parents Evening on 28th April, this is an invaluable experience for you to know how your child is progressing in KS4, so please make the time to attend this and encourage your child to attend as well so the teachers can give them advice moving forward. School and parent communication is crucial.

Although attendance is rising, it could still be better at this crucial time in your child's education. Can I ask that you support them and send them to school everyday. Otherwise they might miss out on exciting opportunities like the Geography trip we have pictured here.

Have a peaceful Easter break and I look forward to the summer term.



PERFORMING ARTS DAY



On Friday 4th February, students from Years 8 - 10 took part in a Performing Arts Day. The students attended workshops in Dance, Drama and Music and learnt excerpts from the musical 'Hairspray'. At the end of the day, the students performed a mini show to Year 7 students in the hall. Everyone performed with enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism and presented a brilliant performance on the day. Well done everyone who was involved!



FRIENDS OF ST EDMUND'S

Thank you to students and staff who purchased tickets for the Valentines Day Raffle. Congratulations to our winner!

We hope you enjoyed all of the goodies that had been kindly donated by Tesco.



CONGRATULATIONS

We have some really talented students here at **St Edmund's Catholic School**.

Well done Connie, for your recent Dance competition wins.



As we break up for Easter I would like to congratulate you all on another fantastic half term. This has been one of real hard work and effort in finalising coursework and controlled assessments so that we are solely preparing for the final upcoming exams. It has also been a half term with some worries and stress – something of which we are all now experiencing in one way or another. It is crucial that we continue to pull together and support each other in the best ways possible as we approach the end.

It has been a busy half term for a select number of pupils that have been working hard to complete an extra language GCSE qualification. A fantastic additional achievement for the following individuals who have achieved results ranging from 9-5! So impressive in such a short space of time – well done to these pupils for a great set of results: Alyssa , Ciara, Patrick, Joshua, Alessia, Anna, Francis, Maciek, Kamil, Matalia, Eryk, Dominika, Karol, Szymon, Wiktoria, Victoria, Eric, Kacper, Oskar, David and Dovydas.

I would also like to congratulate the Year 11 BTEC Dance class for their Component 2 exam and final show performance as a company and as a class! I was so proud and impressed, but knowing it was your last ever performance really brought it home!

This half term has also seen many “behind the scenes” activities for our Leavers events coming up. Prom Committee have been working hard with their fundraising and making important decisions for the event! Next half term all pupils will be completing their own individual year book entry, tutor group leavers photographs will be taken, and we as a year group will also be filming our year groups very own “walk through” video! I am so excited for the Leavers events that we have coming up, even though it will of course also be upsetting to see you all coming to the very end of your St Edmund's journey.

Important dates for those leavers events are as follows:

Friday 29 th April	-	Leavers Mass 2pm (all students, parents invited)
Friday 13 th May	-	Leavers Tea p5 (all students)
Friday 24 th June	-	Leavers Assembly PM (invited students/parents only)
Thursday 7 th July	-	Leavers Ball (invited students with paid tickets only, parents invited to Watch arrivals 6-6.30pm)

A reminder for those that have already received their Leavers Ball invites that the next deadline to secure their tickets is Friday 29th April. The third wave of Prom invites will be handed out when we return after Easter for all those pupils that are now at 90% attendance or above and are not behind in exam preparation or classwork, as well as meeting behaviour expectations.

The Easter holidays holds lots of potential for Year 11 – time to really relax, unwind, recharge batteries and spend time socialising with friends and family. This should of course be balanced with revision. We hope that

your child takes the opportunity to revise and prepare for upcoming exams over the 2 week break.

I wish you all a wonderful Easter that is well deserved.



Reading Week and World Book Day

Wow! What an amazing week was had by all! The students took part in several Literature based activities during week. The highlights for many was the opportunity to read for ten minutes at the start of every lesson, taking part in the Tutor Group Literature Quiz and on World Book Day itself Staff and students dressing up as their favourite characters. But don't just take my word for it, read the students views.

Year 7 Winner of the Dressing Up Competition 'I dressed up as the Big Friendly Giant (BFG) by Roald Dahl. It's one of my favourite books ever and I never get bored of reading it again and again! I felt overjoyed winning the Competition. '

'I really enjoyed reading during Reading Week and helping others created their own Manga or comic characters.' Jagoda Year 7

'I really liked Reading Week because we were able to dress up as our favourite book character. I also liked reading at the start of every lesson.' James Year 7

'Reading Week was amazing because we got to Dress Up and read at the start of each lesson. I managed to read 2 whole books! I was really glad that I finished them, as one of the books I read helped me with my homework.' Enrico Year 7



The results of the 'Reading Week Survey' revealed that the students also thoroughly enjoyed Spotting the Staff Dressed up around school and the Tutor Group Literature Quiz'.

Reading Week Survey:

- ◆ 84% of our students declared that reading at the start of the lesson was their favourite part of the week, as it made them feel 'more relaxed' and 'ready to learn'.
- ◆ The majority of our students prefer reading Fiction and paperback, rather than e-books.
- ◆ Most of our students (229) thought that it was important to read regularly to help expand their vocabulary, followed by 176 students who found 'it relaxing'.
- ◆ Nearly 80% of our students surveyed read every week.

Reading really is good for our mind and our mental health and well-being, according to the students at St. Edmund's Catholic School.

So, chill out and relax with a good book this Easter.

Year 8 Winner of the Dressing Up Competition said 'I dressed up as Charlie Bucket, as I really love the book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. I like the book so much and Charlie is my favourite character because he is so kind and was really surprised when he won a ticket.'



Portsmouth Literature Quiz 2022

This event was due to take place on Thursday 28th January, 2022 but unfortunately the School Library Service had to postpone this event until Thursday 28th April. We are all prepared and raring to go and pit our Literature knowledge against other schools.



It is a fantastic opportunity for our students to also meet four well known authors at the event and ask them questions about being an author. The authors attending this year will be Eve Ainsworth, Kathryn Evans, Andrew Norriss and Bali Rai. We will keep you updated in the next 'Newsletter' how successful we were. However, in the meantime, let's hear from some of our Book Club members who will be taking part this year.



I have enjoyed broadening my knowledge of other authors. The Literature Quiz is an event for dedicated and avid readers, who have read all four books of the visiting authors and enjoyed every second. It requires commitment, knowledge and remembering facts to triumph. Wish us luck at the quiz.

'The Literature Quiz is a great way to improve your Literature skills and general knowledge. It's a lot of preparation but fun in Book Club and meeting the authors.'



Portsmouth Book Award 2022

We began reading the Longlist back in November 2021, we reviewed the books on the Longlist and voted. The scores were amalgamated with other schools votes to finalise, which books should be on the Shortlist.

'The PBA is where you get a list of books, which you have to read and review them. You then give each book a score out of 25. At the very end we vote on our favourite book and see which one wins. My favourite book so far is 'Memory Thieves' because it is all about family and caring for each other. Remembering the good times, they had together. I would recommend that you read this book because it's amazing!'

'My favourite book in the Portsmouth Book Awards is 'Memory Thieves'. All the characters are amazing, and the twist was quite shocking. I also loved the ending! It was fun to read the four books, they're all quite different and enjoyable.'

Take a look at the four Shortlisted books, maybe you would like to read them yourself? Which book would you choose to win the Portsmouth Book Award 2022?



Wishing you all a very Happy Easter! How about instead of giving chocolate, give a great book instead?

Mrs Edwards



CHILD DEVELOPMENT



Building on from the 'Child development' observations which took place last term, we have been fortunate enough to establish some 'work-experience' links with local nurseries and pre-schools. This has enabled pupils to visit the weekly for one afternoon and see the fantastic work of the local childcare/education provision. This has been immensely enjoyable and given the students the opportunity to put some of their learnt theory into practice. Visits have taken place weekly for this half-term.

Huge thanks to the providers for hosting our students for the five afternoons: The Haven (Michelle/Ashleigh/Mia), Brambles (Fran/Jenevieve), Tops nursery Roko (Millie Read), St Clare's Havant (Megan), Leapfrog (Peace, Jasmine, Wiktor, Nikola), Highbury College (Jennifer/Charis) and St John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School (Freya and Grace)



For my work experience placement, I went to St Clare's preschool. I chose to go here as it is close to home, and this is also where my little sister goes to nursery. I asked to learn about speech and language, so once I had started the placement, I was being taught sign language to popular children's rhymes like "wheels on the bus". This was good because it showed me how to do it and it was nice to see that the children had learned the sign language even if they didn't need it. I really enjoy doing my work experience as it gives me an insight on how children act, play and teaches them how to nice to one another.



Being able to go and help within a nursery setting has been such a wonderful experience! It has given me knowledge about a nursery setting and it has taught me some very valuable lessons that I can apply going forward in different aspects of my life. Making each child smile and helping them to learn new things lit up my day. As I had been coming to the nursery for a few weeks the children began to feel safe around me and opened to me which helped me to build a relationship with each child. I was able to support their needs and gain a better understanding of the children. I can't express how rewarding it is to work with children and how much enjoyment I get from watching a child come out of their shell and develop new skills. I have loved doing work experience at Highbury as I got to learn more about the development of children and had the experience of working with different age groups seeing how each child's needs differ from one another. I was able to gain critical management and communication skills on how to interact with children and the nursery workers. This experience overall has been very worthwhile for me and has taught me many new skills to apply to the future.



As part of our Child Development course, our class got the exciting opportunity to try out work experience within a nursery environment. I currently go to the Honeypot Nursery in Highbury College and my initial visit was really interesting. So far, I have absolutely enjoyed it as we get to play various fun activities. For example, dress-up and singing. All the children are so lovely and respectful, and they particularly enjoy dancing! Post Year 11, I am hoping to get into the medical field and by doing work experience in a nursery and I think it is a fantastic way of understanding the basis of childcare and how the different ages of children behave within a social environment. I think this opportunity will benefit me in the future when applying into the healthcare sector.

Year 10 are working on their RO19 coursework which requires them to Compare breast feeding, bottle feeding and a combination of the two to enable them to make informed choices, make a bottle feed suitable for a 0 to 6 month old baby and consider nutrition and two other factors in the investigation. Miss Holt kindly helped with this activity and students learnt about hygiene practices, how a microwave sterilizer works and the differences between first and follow on baby milk.



MUSIC

After two years of restrictions it is an absolute joy to hear the pupils singing and playing instruments again this year.

OPEN MIC

This term we launched an 'Open Mic' performance evening for Years 7 & 8. Students were given the opportunity to showcase their talents to their friends and staff. There was a varied programme of singers, pianists, guitarists and drummers. So much talent that I cannot wait to see grow and develop over the next few years.



Well done to Greicy, Chloe, Sophie, Isabel, Nicole, Betti, Nessi, Sean, Olivier, Chidera, Katelyn, Ben, Leo, Libby, Elsa, Cadence, Alex, Celia, Bietel, Victoria, Liliana, Josh and Amelia.



Grade 1 Theory
Congratulations to Years 10 & 11 pupils who recently sat their Grade 1 ABRSM theory exams. We were thrilled with the results with 100% pass rate and 72% achieving a distinction. Well done to Ingrid, Herlie, Adam, Emmanuel, Vivian Rafaela, Lennon, Jacob, Anto and Maciej. However, a huge congratulations must go to Meyeiwa who scored a fantastic 74/75 marks!

Soundsational

On Wednesday 16th March, fifty students from St Edmund's took part in the Soundsational Concert at the Portsmouth Guildhall. In the first half, a group of students formed a band and performed the song 'Riptide' by Vance Joy. All of the students were amazing, but a special well done has to go to Rafaela, for a fantastic lead vocal. The group then performed an energetic piece of Samba which is Brazilian Carnival music. The School Choir then joined in with choirs from other local primary and secondary schools for the finale. They performed 'I Believe in Me', 'How Far I'll Go', and 'The Wall in My Head'. All were inspiring, motivational songs. Their energetic performance was a fantastic end to the show. Well done to everyone involved.



This year the Music Hub asked schools to nominate pupils for Soundsational Awards. Faith was nominated for outstanding contribution to Performing Arts.

Isobel and Nicole won the Special Recognition Award for their enthusiasm that is infectious in all aspects of performing arts at school. They have taken part in every school event in music, dance and drama since joining the school and their enjoyment and dedication is a joy. They work phenomenally hard in lessons and produce the most creative outstanding pieces of homework. I cannot wait to see how they flourish and their talents are used in their time at school. They were presented with a certificate and badge by Suzy Horton, Councillor for Education in Portsmouth.



GRAPHICS

Some fantastic Graphics work has been created this term!



Antonio



Christian



Emilia



Evie



Ruth



Eric



Gabriel



Nana



Nicola

Wow - simply wow! Take a look at these stunning illustrations of Jesus created by art students Lara and Elodie in Year 7. Their beautiful work will be used in the Easter service booklet and on the school Easter card.

Thank you for all your hard work, girls!

Mrs Brown



Year 7 Curb Appeal

Pupils have been working with enthusiasm to create their own model houses. They have developed their cutting and folding skills to create the 3D shape from a card net, researching different styles of architecture and looking at local houses to inspire their ideas. Here are some of the proud model makers.



Greetings from year 8

In the Year 8 graphics project, pupils make

everything themselves out of paper. They make a customised folder to keep all their work in, a greeting card and envelope, and a fun pop-up page. Using a spectrum of coloured paper and lots of imagination, pupils in year 8 have created these stunning and vibrant greetings cards using the technique of collage. No details were allowed to be drawn on to the final card and every single piece of the design had to be cut out of paper - even a freckle. The cards weren't supposed to be self-portraits, but I'm sure I've seen some of these faces around school J. Maybe you recognise someone!



Year 9 Logo Design

Pupils from Year 9 have been busy coming-up with a range of unique and quirky names for a new healthy food company. They also had to compose a catchy slogan to promote the new brand, and design an eye-catching logo to meet the client's brief.

GCSE Graphic communication

Year 10 - The Shape of Things to come. Year 10 have got off to a flying start with their line and shape project. They have completed some excellent homework tasks as well, which really compliment their classwork. They are developing their use of Photoshop and understanding just how important it is to explore and experiment with a range of approaches and ideas. They are learning to create their own original work instead of always using found images on the internet. Here is some amazing work from the Line and shape project.



Year 11 - Into the Homestretch.

It's all go, go, go in Year 11 as pupils are preparing their final portfolios for submission.



Lara



Elodie



Enzo

ASTRONOMY



Astronomy Observation

Stars are a striking astronomical phenomenon, the sky is saturated with them, yet we often do not take notice of the luminous balls of gas, right above our heads. During December, the GCSE year 10 Astronomy class had the privilege of observing the night sky on the top playground. On the night of that December, the cold was biting, and an ominous darkness had filled the school site, but fear not, this is not the opening to a gothic novel but rather the perfect seeing conditions of the night sky.

In preparation of viewing the stars, we took time to become adapted to the darkness around us. Despite attempts to eradicate the lights surrounding us, we did not quite achieve the desired Cimmerian darkness, but rather the best we could in the centre of a city flooded by light. After around fifteen minutes of waiting for our pupils to dilate, and allow our rod cells to achieve the sensitivity to detect the delicate glow of stars, familiar shapes began to unfold in front of our eyes...



Dark adaptation complete, we armed ourselves with binoculars and began viewing the sky. At first, we were greeted by Orion, with the Orion Nebula encased in a perceptible faint glow. Orion had led his life deluded in self-confidence as a Greek hunter, however it was his self-aggrandising nature that caused him to be attacked by a scorpion, the empathetic Zeus then plastered him into the night sky to be admired by all.

A student present at the observation told the St Edmunds newsletter team "the observation was an amazing opportunity to get a personal experience with the content which we have been learning during lessons". Now the expectation is that I begin to talk about the magnificence of the Big Dipper the asterism that comes to everyone's mind when thinking about stars. However, the Plough was not visible that night, this gave us the time to appreciate the other asterisms that clutter our sky but do not receive the same amount of street cred. One of which is the Cassiopeia asterism, housing the class's favourite star, Schedar. We also saw the Summer Triangle, with avid gamers being able to recognise the names of Altair and Vega who are stars in the asterism. Neighbouring the Summer Triangle was Pegasus, the name of which is extraordinarily misleading as it bears a greater resemblance to an octopus rather than a horse.



The viewing of the stars was incredible, but it was our intimate experience with the surface of the Moon that left our jaws dropped. The telescope which Mr Fairey had set-up gave a detailed picture of our lunar neighbour, so much so that with the detail produced it felt as if our eyes could graze upon the craters of the near side and glide across the maria.

The night sky observation was most definitely an experience which will have left a prominent mark on curious minds for a long time to come and the skills which can be obtained from Astronomy are Undoubtedly indispensable.





Portsmouth Young Carers Service:
Offers FREE access to support for Children and young people living in Portsmouth who are young carers.

Our current offer:

A monthly young carers and family email with information and ideas Opportunities for young carers between the ages of 5 and 18 to have a break from their caring responsibilities through:
Holiday activity programmes (for 5 to 18-year-olds)
Regular groups (for 8 to 25-year-olds) supporting different age groups across the city.
Time bonded one-to-one support for more vulnerable young carers who are not specifically being supported by another professional, with a focus decided with the young person.
Young Carer representation for a young person at multi-professional meetings.
Young carer's awareness raising, including training for organisations and school assemblies for young people.
Team Around the Worker support for professionals working with young carers.

The electronic referral form can be found here:
<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/health-and-care/carers/young-carers>

HOLIDAY
ACTIVITIES AND FOOD

Department
for Education

Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL



THIS
EASTER

11 - 22 APRIL 2022

Open to all children from 5 - 16 years old
and FREE spaces available for those eligible.

The programme includes a fantastic range of activities from sports clubs, cooking classes, climbing, tech workshops and drama groups, plus good, tasty food is also provided. Family days are included too, so everyone can get involved!

For more information and details on how to book,
visit www.pycportsmouth.co.uk/haffunpompey
email HAF@portsmouthcc.gov.uk or scan the QR code!

Keep up to date by following us on social media:

f i d @portsmouthcitycouncil @portsmouthtoday #HAF2022



ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS PROUD TO PRESENT.....

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY 29TH JUNE - SATURDAY 2ND JULY
2022

TICKET PRICES AND MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE NEXT TERM!

IT WAS RED AND YELLOW AND GREEN AND BROWN AND SCARLET AND BLACK AND OCHRE AND PEACH AND RUBY AND OLIVE AND VIOLET AND FAWN AND LILAC AND GOLD AND CHOCOLATE AND MAUVE

AND CREAM AND SILVER AND ROSE AND AZURE AND LEMON AND RUSSET AND GREY AND JADE AND WHITE AND PINK AND ORANGE AND BLUE

BACK TO SCHOOL MONDAY 25TH APRIL - WEEK A

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.