

Newsletter

HALF TERM EDITION | MAY 2022

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



St Edmund's
Catholic School

IMPORTANT DATES

BACK TO SCHOOL
Monday 6th June 2022

JUNE 2022

TUE 7th	Get Inspired Yr 8 & 9 Trip
FRI 10th	Yr 10 Retreat
SAT 11th	School Production Rehearsal Day 1
MON 13th	Yr 7 Marwell Trip
WED 15th	Portsmouth Book Awards
THUR 16th	Yr10 Houses of Parliament Trip
SAT 18th	School Production Rehearsal Day 2
TUE 21st	Yr 8 M band Retreat
WED 22nd	Yr 8 T band Retreat
THUR 23rd	PHSE Day Yr 10 HSDC Taster Day
FRI 24th	Yr 11 Leavers Assembly Yr 10 Science & Natural History Museum Trip
SAT 25th	School Production Rehearsal Day 3
MON 27th	School Production Technical Rehearsal
TUE 28th	School Production Dress Rehearsal
WED 29th	Yr 10 Portsmouth College Taster Day

Weds 29th - Saturday 2nd
July 2022
School Production
Joseph and the Amazing
Technicolour Dreamcoat



After months of planning and with lockdowns and travel restrictions behind us, St Edmund's students embarked on two trips over the Easter break. A Ski trip to Austria and a pilgrimage to Rome. Both groups had an amazing time and you can 'read all about it' in this newsletter.



HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS

Although a very short half term, it has been packed with a variety of activities, trips, clubs and some amazing class learning. I have witnessed students working incredibly hard in their lessons, seen some fantastic homework and **contribute massively to the life of school. Things here in school have definitely returned to the 'status quo'.**

This half term in particular, we have seen the incredible amount of hard work students in Year 11 and Year 10 have been putting in to their GCSE examinations. If students wish to do the best they can, then there is an enormous amount of revision, learning and practise required of them. The support of staff has been a vital factor in helping our children in their quest to achieve their best. Our aim is to help our young people to the next stage of their **journey with the skills at St Edmund's, qualifications and personal traits required for a successful life. GCSE** examinations are the end point of this. The attitude that students have at this point is developed and nurtured throughout Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9). I am constantly inspired listening to students talk about how tests have gone and whether they are Secure or Advancing in their subjects.

This positive attitude/approach, combined with the skills and experiences gained, create wonderful young adults. Of course there can be bumps in the road and children (like adults) must face these, accept responsibility/ repercussions and learn from them.

Thank you as always to parents/carers for supporting our children (and us) in getting those basics right; uniform, homework, punctuality, no phones/jewellery etc. These foundations and our insistence on these each day ensure that we have the high standard of teaching and learning and supportive family environment.

The 'secret weapon' for us and our children is our faith. The spirituality of the school, prayer, reflection, love and hope are at the core of what we do. The end of term Easter service at the Cathedral was truly moving. During the **recent school Mass (for all Catholic schools in the Diocese), St Edmund's led/played the key role in all aspects of** the Mass. A special mention to the choir and altar servers who were magnificent. The Year 9 Vocations morning was a fabulous experience for our children; seeing the faith journey of others in their lives. Next term we have two Year groups with Retreats (Years 8 & 10). These are spiritual experiences for our children, as we promised parents **would happen and the key reason for choosing to send their children to be part of the St Edmund's family.**

Finally, thank you to staff (and students) for the huge variety of additional things which have taken place this term. Spelling Bee, Catenians Speaking Competition, Sports clubs and fixtures, performances and the preparation for our next school production - Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

As you can see from the front cover, some children had a fantastic experience on the recent Ski/Rome trips which took place over Easter. We have our sports trip/tour of Barcelona this half term which again will develop those skills/experiences and leave lasting memories for our children. For families who struggle financially please **contact your child's Head of Learning if there are any financial** constraints so that we can look into what support we can give and ensure all our children have access to these opportunities.

Finally, I must alert parents to the rise in students vaping and the easy accessibility of these for students to get. Vaping or having a vape on the school site will always result in a severe school sanction. I would advise parents to discuss this issue with students and the dangers **posed to children's health.**

Wishing you an enjoyable half term.

God Bless



Mr S Graham
Headteacher



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS



Three of our Year 8 boys Jed, Charlie and George played at Twickenham stadium in April in front of nearly 60,000 people at the Army v Navy game.

Supported by team mates Jonny and Dominick who unfortunately due to tight restrictions on numbers were unable to be on the pitch, their team United Services Portsmouth represented the Navy in an under 13s tournament.



The boys made it into the final which was played during half time, and they then went on to win with a spectacular performance!

"We had a fantastic time at Twickenham. Although it was a shame that Jonny and Dominick didn't get to play, we were pleased that they were there supporting and to share the enjoyment of our win!"



Congratulations to Sky who was competing in the English Gymnastic Championships earlier in the month where she won Gold!

Well done for this fantastic achievement.



OUTSTANDING
HOMEWORK



**Somerstown
MAY FAYRE**
SATURDAY 14 MAY, 11AM TO 2PM
FREE

On Saturday, year 10 students Ashik Kanani and Coral Denham took part in a live art event for Somerstown May Fayre arranged by Portsmouth City Council. Along with other local artists, they painted on allocated spots on the hoardings around Horatia and Leamington Houses to create "Somerstown Street Gallery". The display will be open to the public until next summer so be sure to check out the amazing floral peace design by two of our own!



CHAPLAINCY



It has been a lovely term with many wonderful spiritual events taking place.

The students prepared for their Year 11 Leavers Mass with hymns, readings, prayers, altar servers, offertory procession and speeches.

'This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.' This is part of the Scripture passage that Year 11 chose for their Leavers Mass and the part of Scripture that they took to go on their Leavers plaque at the back of the hall. They were reminded to remember this quote, and to remember that God loves them as they travel through life. It was a joyous occasion, ending with a medley of songs that the students would have learnt on Retreat in Year 7. Everyone joined in singing as well as doing the actions.

This term we concluded our Year 8 Tutor Masses. Each class came down during their RE lessons to prepare for their Tutor Mass through learning about the Eucharist, spending time looking at the Gospel and seeing how it is relevant in their lives (Lectio Divina) as well as being involved in the various ministries e.g., singing, reading, prayers, offertory, altar serving. Our local priests, then came in on a Friday to say the Mass with the students. All the Masses were unique, with each Tutor Group adding their own gifts and talents as well as being joy-filled and prayerful.



One of the highlights of the term was our Year 9 Vocation Morning. A variety of speakers were invited in to talk about their chosen vocation and to share about their journey in life. We had a young married couple, two Dominican Sisters, two priests, 3 Street Pastors and a young person studying at university. The speakers had a station around the gym and groups of Year 9 students spent time at each station listening to their stories and then had time for questions. Year 9 enjoyed the morning and found the speakers interesting as they talked about the value of faith in the various works they are involved in.

The Annual School's Mass took place this year. It was a real celebration of our Catholicity as it has been a little while since this has taken place.

Our Choir provided the music. Our school also provided Altar Servers and Ushers. Each school was also asked to provide Art Work for an Exhibition and so a number of our students submitted various pieces of lovely art. It was wonderful to see the gifts and talents of our students as well as their generosity in sharing their abilities through service to others.

Each Tuesday lunchtime we have a Rosary Group that come together to pray. The invitation to come and pray the Rosary is open to everyone in school. We invited students to come together to pray for Year 11 sitting their exams. It has been wonderful to see the response of our young students coming to the Chapel during their lunch break to pray for Year 11.

During our assemblies on the last week of term we spent time naming and rewarding students for all their kindness and fundraising for various events over the past months e.g., Harvest Donations, Bamenda **Fundraising, 'Walk Against Hunger' and for** getting involved in various events.

It is very encouraging to see our students sharing their gifts and abilities at the service of others. That sense of giving and serving is very tangible within the school.

Wishing you all a restful half term.
God Bless, Fiona, Chaplain



Congratulations to our students who made their Confirmation in the presence of Bishop Philip at St John's Cathedral on Saturday 14th May 2022. They each have gone through an extensive preparation in their parishes to prepare them to receive this Sacrament.

'May the gifts of the Holy Spirit continue to bear fruit in you all along life's journey. May you feel Christ's presence each and every day.'

Harry, Teresa, Lukasz, Alexander, Emmanuel, Joel, Ruben, Rafal, Alisha, Karol, Annagail, Hugo, David, Antonio, Herlie, Gerry, Oskar, Joseph, Eryk, Andrew, Jayden and Christopher.



YEAR 7 Miss Hammond

Five weeks have flown by! We have had a busy half term with the main event being Parents Evening. I would like to say a HUGE THANKYOU to all parents/carers who booked appointments and logged on for Parents Evening. We had 96% attendance on the night which was amazing and some very positive comments back from parents. I look forward to the opportunities next year for parents to gain more feedback on students and to speak to teachers.

"My child is so happy at St Edmund's it felt right from the minute we had the tour."

"My daughter enjoys being at St Edmund's there is always interesting stories about how she spends her enjoyable times at school."



We have finished the Inter-tutor competition now also which was a hard-fought competition. I have never seen so many Year 7s in one place throwing and kicking balls with such excitement! Students will find out the winner of these competitions at Celebration Assembly on the last week of the summer term. I know students have loved taking part in all the new clubs on offer this term also. A reminder all students must attend 2 PE clubs for their PE homework, if they have yet to do this please encourage them after half term.

"I really enjoyed talking and listening to teachers and getting feedback on how I can improve. My parents enjoyed meeting all the teachers and hearing how I was doing in school. I know I can improve some things to make sure I am making even better progress. Overall my parents and I were all very happy." – Samuel



As we move towards our final half term of Year 7 we have many exciting things to look forward to. We have our reward trip on Monday 11th July, a reminder the deadline for payment of this is the 6th June. We have our Celebration assembly on Wednesday 13th July and then Sports Day on Thursday 14th July. This will be a very busy final week with a half day on Friday 15th July but a lovely way to end the term. Students are expected to attend until the end of term and keep their attendance up. I would like to say a big well done to Year 7 for their attendance as it has been amazing this half term and a big thankyou to parents and carers who have supported in sending their child to school.

"I enjoyed playing inter tutor with my tutor group as we all got to help each other out. It is really good fun and fun also we get to do those sports in clubs. I love going to basketball, Football, Dodgeball and Swimming club. There are so many sports and it is fun to be able to do them after school." –

Sidik



I would also like to take this opportunity to let parents know that students will be having end of year tests in many of their subjects throughout the course of the next half-term. These will be in class and set by teachers but I would encourage students to spend time revising and taking these seriously as they will be used to help set students in some subjects for Year 8. If you have any worries about these please do contact the subject teacher directly.

I hope Year 7 have a lovely half term break and enjoy the Jubilee Celebrations. Thankyou as always for all your support and I look forward to **seeing you all for our final half term of Year 7, I can't believe it has nearly been a year already!!**

Parents Evening Feedback - full report available on our website:

<https://www.saintedmunds.org.uk/parents/parents-evening>

My child feels safe at St Edmund's

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Unsure –

Agree – 44%

Strongly Agree – 56%

100%- Positive

"Couldn't hope for more from his first year at secondary school. School transition was well organised and supportive with everything in place to get him involved and happy in school life. Parents evening brilliant, easy to book and all teachers had lots to say on how he's doing against targets, points to improve on and how he's fitting into classes. Thank you!"

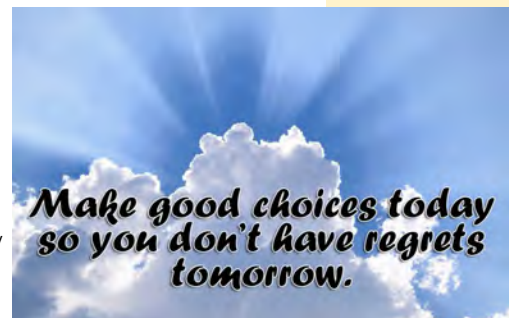
YEAR 8 Mrs Feliks-Matthews



Where has Year 8 gone? I can't believe that in a few short weeks we will be saying "Have a great Summer Holiday – see you in Year 9!"

Before I rush too far ahead, a quick reflection on the **half term that has just gone...**

As per usual, although this term seemed very short, it was still very busy for us all. It does take getting used to getting back on track after two weeks off, but I must say you engaged with the school very promptly and efficiently. Attendance within Year 8 is still very good, but like with everything in life, still room for improvement for some. Behaviour has also been good this term, and I would love you to keep the high standards right till the very end of Year 8, or Year 11 shall say!



You have been brilliant during our Year 8 Isle of Wight trip, STEM roadshow event in school as well as during the Literature Quiz 2022! The same goes for the Aspiring Pupil Event in Guildhall and The Healthy Relationships Workshop run by the local Authority. Well done to all who participated! You were all brilliant !

A huge congratulations to Sky on her incredible achievement winning GOLD in the English championship for gymnastics. Amazing news, well done !

Please do remember the focus word of this term- Positive Choices and try to think of all of those aspects of the school life, and life in general, that contribute to it. Your attendance, effort, behaviour, being prepared for learning, the way you treat others should be always a result of you making positive choices. Remember, whatever you do in life, your success is the end result of your hard work and your choices!



As we are now well in the final Summer term, there is a lot to look forward in the next term. The event I ALWAYS get very excited about, is our Year 8 Retreat. You will have more info following soon, however I can tell you already that the whole year group will go away for a day to a beautiful Pastoral Centre called Park Place.

Sports Day, as well as our final Year 8 Celebration Assembly for this academic year are also taking place next term. It is always a fabulous opportunity to see so many of you being rewarded for your hard work and commitment, and to celebrate your achievements. You still have plenty of time to better your Personal Qualities scores, and perhaps surprise us all with being the new number one for the Year group. Personally, I find the **ranking very fair, as despite of one's academic ability, all pupils have an equal opportunity to be the top of the Year group.** The power is in your hands!

Finally, as we approaching the end of this half term I would like to thank your parents/carers for their ongoing support, and YOU for being a truly amazing Year group. Your enthusiasm, and just the sheer talent of this Year **group never ceases to amaze me. Please keep it up, don't change only because we are approaching the end of another academic Year!**

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate some of the Year 8 boys on their fantastic achievement Jed, Charlie and George played at Twickenham stadium in front of nearly 60,000 people at the Army v Navy game recently. Supported by team mates Jonny and Dominick, their team United Services Portsmouth represented the Navy in an under 13s tournament. The boys made it into the final which was played during half time, and which they then went on to win with a spectacular performance! Huge Well done to All.



Well done to William, Faith and Raya for their outstanding woodwork created during their Engineering lesson.

YEAR 9 Miss Tudor



As we approach half term I sit here and think of what a great five weeks it has been!

As always, please let me start by saying how wonderful you all are on daily basis. Your attendance, behaviour, impeccable manners are only a few factors that make me so proud. Thank you to all parents and carers for their ongoing support and ensuring your child is encouraged to do the best they can not only at home but at school as well. Your willingness to participate in everything the school encourages you to do is amazing. A fantastic year group event this half term for our Vocations Morning. A fantastic experience for all involved as we had members of the local community, street pastors, the Dominican Sisters and Father Emmanuel and Nishan from St Johns Cathedral. All sharing their stories of spirituality and life choices. A great opportunity for our pupils to ask questions and understand different options available to them.



A big BIG focus for us this half term is punctuality, please can I remind pupils that they must be present for 08:25 to tutor time or assembly for a prompt start. Anything past this will be noted as late. During tutor time we have lots of notices, prayer and reflection as well as preparation in **maths and other subjects that will support in the upcoming SAT's exams**, therefore we deem tutor time just as important as the 5 lessons in the rest of their day. Thank you for your support in ensuring that pupils are here on time.

We do have an upcoming PHSE day in June, I included details of our topics in our start of Summer term letter. PHSE will give pupils a wide range of knowledge to equip them in the wider world and we will also have a focus this term on careers as we start to approach KS4.

As you are aware, we are nearing the end of Year 9 and moving into Key Stage 4. This next step will bring new subjects, great challenges, higher expectations and even a new uniform. Transition into Key Stage 4 is essential **if children are to experience success in two years' time. Whilst the majority of students will start Year 10 as normal**, a small number of students will be required to begin a re-integration programme prior to starting lessons. This is to ensure that there is no disruption to GCSE lessons. All GCSE subjects have an enormous amount of content/skills to be covered. Each lesson is vital if students are to cover all of the specification and be in a position to do their best. Hence, there is no room for disruption to lessons/learning. Please refer to the **'KS4 Uniform June 2022' letter on the website for more details regarding uniform.**

Finally, I hope everyone has a fantastic May 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 Summer term.



On Friday 13th May, 15 year 9 pupils joined me for a Higher Education Taster Day at the University of Portsmouth. This was their first chance to see what life at University might be like. There was a money wise workshop where they learnt about budgeting and how to make those pennies last as long as possible (not easy by today's standards!) and then a well-being session where we talked about worries and stress and some of the ways we can support each other as well as all the different people you can go to for support.

After lunch we went on a campus tour (luckily the sun was shining for us!) and we even go to see inside a halls of **residence ... this was a bit of an eye opener! It also dawned on many of them that one day soon they will be** doing all their own cooking and cleaning!! The pupils were thoroughly engaged throughout and their behaviour, as always was outstanding. It was a pleasure accompanying them on this visit.

Mrs Halford, Careers Adviser.

YEAR 10 Mrs Brand & Mr Poxton



A famous sports person once said "Continuous effort - not strength or intelligence - **is the key to unlocking our potential...**"

Summer Term part 1 completed, and what a positive way to finish the year. Improvements left, right and centre...exam preparation has been outstanding! Year 10 are hitting the most stressful and hectic time of your school life, resilience and focus is key. The option picking malarkey seems a right walk in **the park now doesn't it? Remember to keep positive and believe in yourself, 'I can do all things with the help of God who strengthens me.'**

I must congratulate Year 10 on the revision sessions that have taken place during school; attendance has improved, application consistent, and reduced number of behaviour issues. As I write this article, the English exam is tomorrow. I pray that all of Year 10 get the result they desire as they have worked so hard, and remember success opens up new doors with new paths.

With the ups, come the downs and it's been a tough term for the Year 10 football team who lost their cup quarter final to Springfield, a game I feel we could have won. Stand out performances were shown by Woody who was a rock at the back, and Lenny who showed tenacity and passion in centre midfield. We go again next season, just like Liverpool and Chelsea who missed out on that winning feeling on the last weekend of the season.

As we now enter Summer Term part 2 we must remember Year 10, to not take our foot off the gas. Be prepared for MOCKS, they will happen one way or another. Failing to prepare, is preparing to fail, so create a revision timetable and get revising regularly now for your subjects.

Year 10 have work experience to look forward to! It is an amazing opportunity for them to experience the outside world, and how the ways of employment works. It may give them that confirmation needed for the career path they want to pursue when they are older. Alternatively, it may allow them to realise that the experience within the field is not what they thought and they can then look at alternative paths for their future. For my work experience I completed a two week experience with a building company, and look where I am now, although it has allowed me to master changing of a lightbulb or plug socket without any issues!



Year 10 also have two college taster days to enjoy to Havant & Southdowns and Portsmouth College. This is something that every year all Year 10 students really appreciate as it gives you an insight into life after **St Edmund's. But please remember standards and respectfulness must be upheld on at all times on these days.** I have no doubt Year 10 will represent the school well.

Finally, stay POSITIVE Year 10 and give yourself a chance in everything that you do, be kind to each other as we are a community, a team and family. Have a great half term and stay safe!



If you have been given your consent form from Mrs Halford, please make sure you contact the employer ASAP to arrange an interview and to get that form signed. It must be signed by the pupil, a parent/carer and the employer and then returned to Mrs Halford.

Without this form you will not be able to complete your Work Experience.

If you are organising your Own Placement please can you ensure that the form is completed and signed and returned to Mrs Halford as a matter of urgency now. Health & Safety checks have to be organised so having this paperwork promptly ensures that this can be completed before you start your week of work.

Without this form you will not be able to complete your Work Experience.

If you haven't yet had a consent form back please be assured EBP are chasing the employers every day and as soon as there is any news Mrs Halford will be in touch with you.

Please keep logging in and checking your account to see if there have been any changes or messages for you. If you need your log in details, please see Mrs Halford.



Year 10s have been developing their knowledge on the Education unit within Sociology. Students have been understanding how many factors can impact their educational achievement and furthermore their futures.

A huge thank you to two students in Year 10 who have shared their experience of this half term below:

"I have enjoyed learning new topics that I wouldn't be able to in other lessons or subjects. I find Sociology an extremely engaging subject and I love the discussions we have in lesson where we are able to voice our own opinion as well and listen to our peers' views on certain subjects. I've enjoyed learning about the different theorists and their studies as well as getting to apply my knowledge to real life situations"

"This half term I've enjoyed learning about the theorists and theories and Marxists and how certain things benefit society. I have enjoyed the debates and learning about how internal and external factors will impact our educational achievement at school"

Year 11 Sociology

A massive well done to the fabulous Sociology students of Year 11 who have been working hard revising for their upcoming GCSE exams. Students have been engaged within revision lessons inside and outside of school. A variety of revision resources have been created by students including posters, revision cue cards and practice essays. Some amazing examples displayed below. Good luck to you all in your exams!!

Extra-curricular activities

This half term we have seen the launch of a brand-new Sociology Club. This club is a fantastic opportunity for students to catch on their homework; revise with their peers and find out how Sociology is happening in their every day lives and in social media. This club will take place on a Wednesday (only a Week A) in M2.

COME & JOIN THE CLUB!



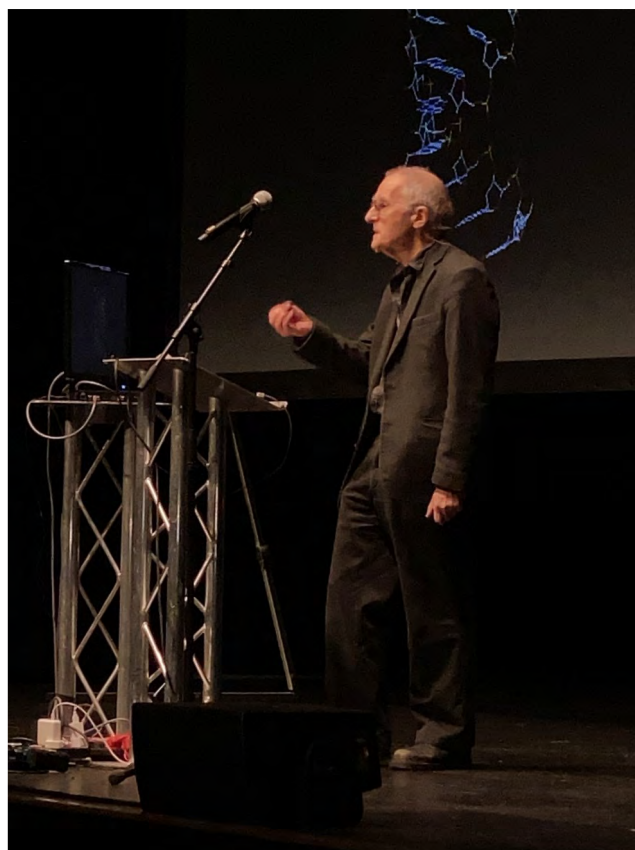
YEAR 10 STEM REWARD TRIP

This reward trip was for fifteen Year 10 students studying for the Combined Science course to recognise their great start to their GCSE studies this year by giving them the opportunity to listen to lectures delivered by world-renowned Scientists at the cutting edge of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) research.

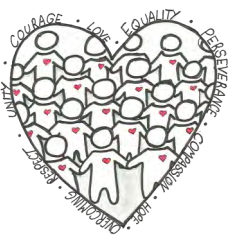
We travelled to the Brighton Dome on the 8th March, excited to learn about the wide ranging topics that would be covered including; the increasing use of 'smart materials' in our lives; changes in human fertility; nuclear fusion and its promise for endless clean energy for the future; and the nature of bubbles in oceans and its link to climate change. Included in the day was a talk from a Chief Examiner about how best to prepare for the GCSE exams as well as how to write appropriate answers for different style of questions.

Overall, it was a worthwhile trip as the students learnt more about topics in their GCSE Syllabus from the experts as well as offering an insight into career paths in STEM subjects.

Mr D Ghosh



YEAR 11 Mrs Were



As I write this Year 11 are currently sitting one of their first GCSE exams **this summer; it's been a long time coming and the students have** worked exceptionally hard in getting to this point. They have attended after school P6 revision sessions, weekend revision, as well as Easter holidays sessions! They only have a short time left and we are sure that all the effort they and staff have put into their revision will have paid off.

In preparation for their goodbyes this summer we have seen a selection of fantastic events. We had a beautiful Leavers Mass at the Cathedral on the 29th April. This was such a special occasion as it was their last. The year group chose everything about their Mass to ensure it was special to themselves as a year group; I particularly enjoyed the hymns that they had chose. Each tutor group came up with their religious icons that were **purchased back in Year 7 (and will be displayed at St Edmund's long after the pupils have** left as a reminder of their spiritual journey). My thanks goes to all the pupils involved, but particularly to Ingrid for her wonderful design on the front cover of the mass booklet, and our three Chaplaincy captains; Edward Holgate, Darcy Hester and Rahwa, for without them **it wouldn't have happened. The pupils all received prayer coins from the school as a** memento and in preparation for their exams.



As a way to relax before the start of their exams, a Leavers Tea was laid on after school on Friday 13th May and the students were able to sit and chat in the hall with a fantastic array of refreshments, music playlist with song suggestions from the pupils, as well as a HUGE photo montage of as many photos as I could cram in, dated right back to our Year 6 transition day!

The Year Book should be available very shortly which the pupils will have the opportunity to purchase. This will stand as a real memento for the students to leave with, remembering **their St Edmund's journey and their friends, teachers and tutors.**

We are all looking forward to celebrating Year 11's special journey at St Edmund's with the Leavers Assembly on Friday 24th June. This is a special event to which selected pupils are invited to, as well as parents, and gives us a chance to say our final goodbyes to the whole year group.

The final event of the year is of course the Leavers Ball which select pupils have been **invited to. This is being held at St Edmund's School on Thursday 7th June** and is promising to be a fantastic event. The Prom Committee have planned hard and fundraised raised an impressive amount in order for us to really put on a special final farewell for the year group. We really hope that it will be a night for them to remember! Please note that pupil arrivals are at 6pm at the Eagle Gate. There will be an identified area for parents to watch arrivals, and for photographs to be taken upon arrival. There is no parking on school site for parents/visitors. Leavers Ball will finish at 10pm.

I have worked with the Year 11 pupils and their parents for five years now and have seen them grow and mature into polite, responsible young adults. I hope that as they move into the next phase of their lives wherever they go, they will grow in confidence and believe more in themselves so that they can achieve what they have only dreamed of. Year 11, please keep in touch and let us know how you are doing in the next phases of your life! Good luck for the remainder of your exams, and for your next steps into college and beyond.

A Prayer for Year 11

Dear God,

One plus one plus one is three, and that's the Holy Trinity.

Two plus two plus two is six, my sins are what I need to fix.

Three plus three plus three is nine, Christianity is so fine.

Four plus four plus four is twelve. into my wings I will delve.

We pray with numbers far and wide, plus subtract, multiply and divide.

We put our hands together in prayer, so we can all love and abide.

Amen

by Harry, Jacob, Dara and Angelo.

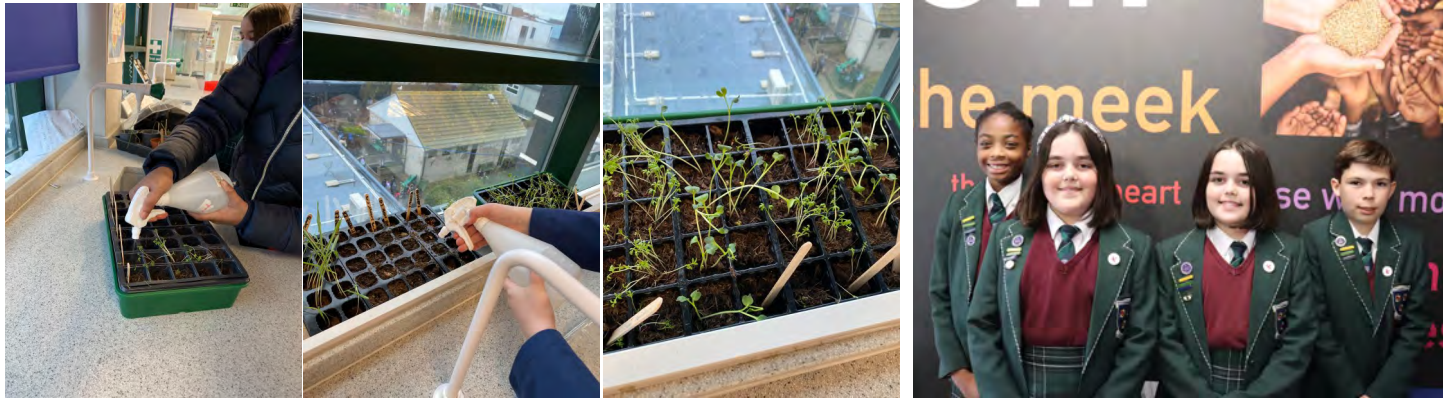


SCIENCE



The STEM club has been engaged in investigating the growth of different herb plants in different conditions over the last 8-10 weeks. They varied the type of soil, amount of sunlight exposure, watering regimes etc to give the best yields of herbs for their kitchen. At the end of experiment, they got to take it home and use in their recipes. The plants grown included micro greens, mint, cress, thyme, barley and wheat.

The students are compiling their reports to submit for the CREST awards as recognition of their dedication this whole year. Key members involved in the investigation are: Hannah, Elodie, Nefertiti, Alejandro & Nait.



STEM ROADSHOW

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS

On the 9th May the STEM roadshow visited St Edmund's to deliver an exciting show to Year 7 and Year 8 students.

The theme of the show was magnetism and electromagnetism in our everyday life. The show was delivered by enthusiastic performers delivering exciting experiments to the students.

The roadshow is possible due to a collaboration with MGA, BAE Systems, The Royal Air Force, and The Royal Navy. During the show uses of magnetism was explored within these organisations and possible future careers.

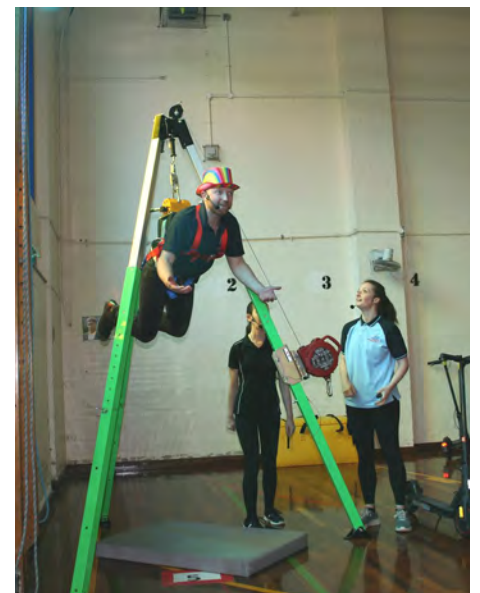


"I enjoyed the show because they taught things in a fun and entertaining way. I learnt about electromagnets and how they work." Emily

"It was very entertaining and informative." Jonah

"I liked it when Matt the performed was lifted by the electromagnets. I learnt about the uses of magnets in aircrafts and ships." Cecilia

"I like it when they performed interesting experiments and I learned more about electromagnets." Yeble





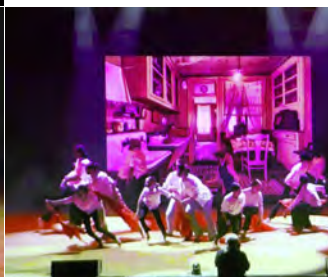
Back to school ... Back to Dance ... Back to normality!

This was such a wonderful opportunity for our Dance department to get back to what we love – dancing and performing! First Dance Show at St Edmund's since Covid so it was a wonderful experience for us and really made it feel like we were back to normality! We had performances from: Year 7 Dance Club, Year 8 Dance Club, Year 9 Dance Club, Boys Dance Club, Year 10 BTEC Dance class and Year 11 BTEC Dance class

Here are some St Edmunds pupils describing their experiences within different roles and different year groups throughout the entire show process:

My First Year In Dance... Hello my name is Vesta and I participated in Dance Live! and the dance show 'A Chance To Dance'. This was my first chance to perform in dance. It was very exciting to get such great opportunities to pursue my passion in dance. The best part about performing was that the audience was really encouraging when we were on stage. The teachers were all really supportive and helped me achieve my goals. Although I was a bit nervous to start with, both performances turned out to be fantastic. I love dancing and everyone involved was really helpful and enthusiastic, so that made it a great experience. In the end everyone loved the performances and we all had a great night.

My role as a Dancer and a Choreographer... I'm a Dance Prefect who's been choreographing for the Boys Dance Company. I have really enjoyed teaching them as it has been a lot of fun and I was very proud of them and their performance during their piece at A Chance To Dance!! I also was able to perform as a dancer in the show, through my Year 11 Set Repertoire of 'Love In The Dark', this meant I had the opportunity to both choreograph and perform. Balancing school and choreographing was a challenge, but I'm glad I did it as I managed to grow through it and I got to help with an amazing performance!! **Here's to the next Show! Don't** forget this summer please come and watch our whole school musical of Joseph and the Amazing Coloured Dreamcoat Weds 29th - Saturday 2nd July 2022. Tickets on sale soon!



BACK-TO-DANCE ... BACK-TO-NORMALITY
The RETURN after LOCKDOWN

ROME 2022

During the Easter half-term 35 students went on an epic pilgrimage to Rome! The students visited many sacred and important places in the Christian faith: St Peter's Square, Pantheon, Sistine Chapel. We also visited the Colosseum which was a place of persecution of Christians and home of the infamous roman gladiators. As well as visiting these sacred spaces we also sampled the finest pizza, pasta and gelato that Rome has to offer! It was a truly amazing experience for all, and the students were all impeccably behaved!

Mr Maguire



Rome was an excellent experience, I enjoyed the freedom we had as well as the many places we visited, overall I say that the Colosseum was by far the most interesting.

Merlin

I quite enjoyed going to the Colosseum due to rich history involved. Another thing was the view points surrounding it, not only did we get to see historical structures, but also great views of the city surrounding it.

Aya

I enjoyed visiting the Castel Sant'Angelo as it had great views all around ancient Rome and over the Vatican making for some great pictures. Additionally I enjoyed learning about the history of the colosseum and its surrounding ruins.

Owen

Going to Rome was an amazing experience! Personally my favourite part was Palestine Hill as the view was amazing as well as the beautiful gardens it had on it. I also particularly liked going to the Vatican City, seeing the Pope preach was incredible and a one in a lifetime opportunity!

Evie

I most enjoyed the Roman Forum as it showcased the amazing Architecture of the Roman times in Rome and it gave an in-depth view on where Rome is located, on the seven mountains. I also enjoyed seeing the Spanish steps because it has a vast view up the stairs and you could see down a very long road with shops, however a even more spectacular view was from the top of Castel Sant'Angelo you could see all the beautiful parts of Rome including the Vatican City. It was definitely a memorable experience going to Rome.

Lucas





The Ski trip to Austria was overall an amazing event. All of us got along and the experiences we shared were something that we have never had before and as a group, will never do again. We were all exhausted by the end of it, but experiencing it all paid off with some fantastic memories.

Austria was so nice, and the instructors were so kind and taught us lots of different skills. I would definitely go back. Throughout the whole experience I became friends with people I would never have imagined to be friends with. The group were such a great group to travel with.

Our teachers were as excited as we were, especially Mr Poxton who kept telling us he had elite skiing skills! I am really glad I had the opportunity to go and loved every moment of it." Over 22 plus hours drive and a ferry journey we arrived in Austria and we took our first steps into the snow.



Skiing was hard to master at first, yet with our instructors help we got somewhere by the end of the day. We couldn't wait for the next day. Come on, Let's go!



We were taught how to snowplough and turn, or as it is called by the instructors 'pizza' due to the shape you make with the skis. Leading on to the evening, we enjoyed a lovely meal made by Maria before setting off to the spa. Looking through the steam at an image of glorious mountains surrounded by the hues of nature was so wonderful and beautiful to be seen and an image I will remember.



The alarm went off at 6:30am every day, and we would hear the voices of teachers telling us to wake up. The delightful flavours of cornflakes every morning were our motivation to get out of bed.



Our lovely bus drivers would then take us all the way to the ski slopes. The struggles of putting on ski boots were unbelievably difficult I can tell you! Once ready to go we hopped onto the gondolas, and made our way up the slopes. Views from up there were amazing. Snow

covered mountain peaks, pierced through the clouds as our instructors led us down the hills. After a long day we took a 45-minute drive to the mountain coaster. With adrenaline running through our veins we raced down. It was exhilarating!

Ski poles trapped in between chairlifts, skis left behind, the days couldn't have been any better! Singing our hearts out on the chairlifts, enjoying the one-time experiences, made us all appreciate the opportunities St Edmund's Catholic School gives us and we are truly grateful for everything. And just like that Friday hits, our last day skiing. The thoughts of us leaving Austria make us enjoy the last moments on the slopes. Our bags all packed, skis away and shoes on ready to leave. We say our last goodbyes and off we go on our long journey home. We will always remember our time in Austria.

Christian and Konstancja





GOOD LUCK CLASS OF 2022



St Edmund's Catholic School

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday 29th June - Saturday 2nd July 2022

7.00 pm School Hall

**More information on Ticket Sales and prices after
half term!**

Lyrics by Tim Rice, Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. An Amateur School / College / University / Church production by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Ltd.

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