

# Newsletter



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

St Edmund's Catholic School

## St Edmund's Day Mass

A celebration of our Patron Saint.



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**Caelum Dives Ingressi**



# HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS



The last seven weeks have flown by and as always, we have managed to pack in lots of learning, trips, clubs, activities and hard work. As always students continue to shine and have seen (and tasted) some wonderful homework tasks.

Our St Edmund's mass and the recent carol service was beautiful, spiritual celebrations. We celebrated St Edmund's day, honouring our Patron Saint of the school with reflection, prayer and a sense of family gathering. We are grateful that St Edmund's commitment to education and passion for learning continues in the nurturing family environment our children learn in.

This half term the school has received the 'official' contextualised examination data, comparing us against schools in the rest of the country. Unsurprising, the exceptional dedication of students and staff is clear to see, with St Edmund's continuing to be ranked as one of the top schools in the country. As always, my gratitude to our committed staff and governors, as well as my thanks to our wonderfully supportive parents. This terms newsletter allows a glimpse into daily life here in school, and some of the things students have been involved in.

In this Advent season it was wonderful to see the choir singing at The Royal Albert Day Care Centre, as well as the recent community project in Year 9 giving out hot chocolates and mince pies.

Congratulations to the Duke of Edinburgh silver award students who completed two expeditions in freezing conditions. This alongside their volunteer work is an amazing achievement.

Next term students return almost immediately after New Year on the 3rd January 2024. We will be checking for uniform (i.e., Hair/ Nails etc) and will expect the same standards as always. We will be having a spotlight on equipment during this half term so I am praying that Santa may replenish some supplies in students' stockings. We will also be holding our fun Celebration Assemblies, this will be a wonderful way to start a New Year, by celebrating and reflecting upon the hard work of last half term.

So, as we reflect on the successes and challenges of this term, let us turn our hearts and minds to the spiritual aspects of our journey. We must thank God for the gifts we have received and endeavour to share those with others.

During this Christmas season, may the love, compassion and understanding that exists within our school family touch all those we encounter.

The Gospel of Matthew reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas 'Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.' -Matthew 1:23. Let this message of hope and joy guide us and the light of Christ illuminate our hearts with joy, peace and gratitude during this Holy Season.

God Bless  
Mr S Graham  
Headteacher



Caelum Dives Ingressi

# CHAPLAINCY



*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head*



I would sum up this term as being a mixture of hustle and bustle, quiet and reflective, reaching out to others in the local community and awareness of God's presence in our daily lives.

The hustle and bustle have been our preparations for our Year 7 Carol Service at St John's Cathedral, as various Tutor Groups have been preparing dramas, dances, singing carols, the Nativity, sharing moments of Christmas around the world and signing to a Christmas song, as well as reading Scripture passages and the winning Christmas poem.

Rehearsals for our Emmanuel Services scheduled for the last day have been great fun. The Services, begin with a time of reflection and prayer, followed by our Christmas Play 'Elf Esteem', performed by both Staff and Students; brings Christmas cheer to all who watch and participate.

Our quiet and reflective moments have been our Year 7 Tutor Masses and our Reconciliation Services for all the Year Groups. A reflective liturgy was prepared by our Chaplain; which included looking at how we build up community and areas in our lives where we break down in our relationships. Every student was invited to reflect upon their lives and to see where they need to perhaps say sorry, change and therefore continue to grow into the best person God calls them to be. Students then had an opportunity to write a Christmas Card to someone in their community, who they felt would be happy to receive some Christmas hope and joy. Our local clergy were part of our liturgy and after the service students had the option to attend Confession or if they just wanted a chat, they could chat to one of the priests. It was wonderful to see so many students availing of this opportunity.

Our outreach to the local community this term was our Advent Charities. We have been collecting for 'Comfort and Joy', a project lead by a number of churches working together to support various charities within the city. Our students have been raising funds by participating in various fundraising activities and have raised a significant amount to donate. Well done.

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



Students from Year 9 did various fundraising activities to raise money in order to take Christmas cheer to Commercial Road. Students and staff visit Commercial Road and provided hot drinks and mince pies for anyone who wished to partake. A wonderful community spirit was felt. Many people took the opportunity to have a hot drink and a chance to talk to our students and staff.

The presence of God in our daily lives is continually expressed through our time in Tutor Prayer and assemblies. This term we have spent time looking at Advent and God's presence among us. Year 7 have been raising money for their Tutor Icons, which will be placed on their Tutor Prayer tables. The various Rosary Groups that meet in the Chapel at break and lunch have spent time praying for the needs of our school, local community and our world. Our St Vincent De Paul Groups continually provide support in all charitable events and various activities.

Our Parent Prayer group and Staff Prayer group are a further outreach of prayer; where time is spent reflecting and praying for our school, the local community and our world.

All our prayer activities continue to nourish and sustain us in so many ways and are the source of what gives life to our St Edmund's Community.

I wish you ALL a Christmas full of hope, peace and blessings. May it be a time of rest and a time to stop... and reflect upon what Christmas is all about; Emmanuel – God with us.

Many thanks

Fiona, Chaplain



*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*





# YEAR 7

As we bid farewell to the first term, it's time to look back on the incredible experiences that made these past months unforgettable. From a fantastic Year 7 retreat to a heart-warming Carol service and a groovy school disco, our journey together has been nothing short of amazing.

Our Year 7 retreat was a remarkable adventure, filled with team-building activities, self-discovery, and new friendships. Students immersed themselves in a range of exciting challenges, learning not only about each other but also about themselves. It set the tone for a year of growth, camaraderie, and shared experiences.

The air was filled with joy and harmony during our Carol service. The beautiful voices of Year 7 students and their families echoed through the halls, spreading the spirit of the season. It was a heart-warming celebration that brought the entire school family together, reminding us of the magic that music and unity can create.

The term ended on a high note with the much-anticipated school disco. Glittering lights, energetic music, and dance moves that will be remembered for years to come – the disco was a perfect way to let loose and celebrate the achievements of the term. Laughter, smiles, and the sound of music filled the school as students danced into the night.

Special mentions for this term go to everyone who has hit a milestone on your achievement ladder, an amazing number of merits collected! Also well done to all those who have represented the school in activities including sports, music and dance!

As we pause for a well-deserved break, let's carry the spirit of camaraderie, joy, and discovery into the next term. Year 7, you've shown us that this is a class of energy, talent, and enthusiasm. Here's to more adventures, more laughter, and more shared moments in the upcoming terms!

Wishing you a restful break and looking forward to creating more memories together.

Mr Poxton - Head of Learning Year 7



# YEAR 8



Even though we are only a third of the way through the school year, this term has already seen Year 8 pupils attending and taking part in a huge amount of trips and events, inside and outside of school. Personal favourites of mine were PSHE day and St Edmund's Day on 16th November. We attended a very special Mass to celebrate St Edmund's Day, followed by Doughnuts at break time as part of the feast day! PSHE day sessions then focused on developing our understanding and knowledge of the dangers of alcohol & smoking, kindness & prejudice, as well as the signs and worrying strategies that some individuals use to exploit children and young people. A day that covered some sensitive but crucial topics.



Chaplain Fiona also held for us a very special reconciliation service, in which a whopping fifty six pupils remained behind for confession, so many that they had to stay during part of their lunchtime!

I look forward to welcoming you all back to St Edmund's in 2024 following your Christmas holiday. We have many more events to look forward to, including Celebration Assembly where we will be celebrating as a year group and rewarding pupils within the year group for effort and achievement within each individual subject!

I would like to thank you all for your on-going support so far in Year 8. Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

A huge congratulations to Lydia in 8 Devereux who supported in the planning and delivery of Mr Bennett's assemblies last month on Black History. She recruited additional peers from the year group who joined her in performing a dance to further showcase their research on Black History. I was so very proud of them, not only does it take a huge amount of courage to get up and speak/perform to their own year group, it took even more courage to do this for all other year groups! Huge thank you to: Lydia, Isabelle, Tamyra, Mitchell, Bolu.





Last year one of our Year 8 pupils secured some funding in partnership with Portsmouth Mediation Service to make a Film about the annual summer challenges around the Hotwalls & Camber Dock in Old Portsmouth where tensions can sometimes arise between local people and the young people who visit the neighbourhood.

“ Steve Rolls, Service Manager at Portsmouth Mediation Service said; “It’s been a great privilege for me to see Leo’s growth and social development over this past year, he has an amazing talent and passion for film making and is a huge credit to his family and to St Edmund’s School.” ”

The film premiered On Wednesday 22nd November, it was an extremely successful evening and Leo who helped host the proceedings was a huge success.

Please take a look at Leo's film on the below weblink:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RywpXWI5gZs>

8 Kolbe  
 In the class of 8 Kolbe, where friendships are formed,  
 We laugh and we learn, a classroom transformed.  
 With teachers who inspire, guiding us each day  
 In 8 Kolbe, we're growing in every way.  
 From maths to art, and all subject between,  
 We explore new ideas, like a vibrant scene.  
 Together we collaborate, as a team we thrive.  
 In 8 Kolbe, our spirits come alive.  
 So let's celebrate this class, so full of Grace,  
 In 8 Kolbe we find our special place.  
 With memories to treasure and bonds that will last.  
 In 8 Kolbe, we create a future so vast.



As the extension task for the English HW, the students had to write a poem inspired by the one they had analysed. This is a lovely Poem written by David.

Mrs Were - Head of Learning Year 8



# YEAR 9

**WOW WOW WOW!** Year 9 have had another great half term. It was a very busy start after half term with Year 9 straight back into lessons and settling back into school life. Speaking to students after the half term they enjoyed the break but were eager to see friends again and get back to school!

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

We have also had lots of other events this half term with the Year 9 Tutor Evening. A huge thank you to all parents and carers who attended this and it was lovely to hear all the positive comments being shared by staff. We have had many trips to Lifelabs for Science, careers events and an Aviation Day thanks to Mrs Halford. We also had our Christmas Dinner and I have to say I have never heard so many bad jokes told in one place! We recently raised a lot of money for our Year 9 Community project in which we went and spread some Christmas joy to some of the homeless people in Portsmouth. A real act of selflessness and care from the year group.

This term we have also been busy with Sporting events with the boys Year 9 Football and Basketball teams taking parts in matches and tournaments with great success! Fingers crossed this continues as we move into the new term.

I am very proud to be Head of Year 9 and the year group remind me daily with their infectious smiles and constant jokes and comments about everything. The joy I see around school in all aspects, from their lessons, to competing weekly in the tutor quiz to the endless questions I have waiting for me every break and lunch. It makes everyday unique much like each and every student in the year group.

I hope everyone has a restful Christmas break as I am positive we all need it. I would like to take this opportunity to thanks all parents and carers who have supported myself and the school this half term with Year 9.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Miss Hammond



# YEAR 10



Can you believe we are here at Christmas already?

What a wonderful Autumn term this has certainly been. I have been very impressed by how the year group has settled into Year 10 so far.

Firstly, I want to say a huge well done for the step up into KS4. I cannot say it has been an easy journey. Year 10 pupils have faced an increase in responsibility, homework, revision and preparation for upcoming mock exams and much more. But despite the big jump, students have shown incredible maturity, resilience and determination to be successful. They never cease to amaze me as a year group, and you make me very proud every day.

I really would like to reiterate one thing though. If students ever find themselves struggling in completing coursework or homework, please do contact me so that we can arrange a computer for access after school.

Secondly, as always, with the St Edmund's tradition, we have had quite a few events taking place this past half term. I hope all our students enjoyed our First PSHE/ St Edmund's Day. I was overjoyed to see so many of you playing a pivotal role during our Mass. From readings, to ushers to our very own choir. You were all fantastic.

On the 6th and 7th of November we also had our work experience logging in sessions hosted by EBP, where pupils have made applications for their work experience, it has been so exciting to hear your plans for the future. As a reminder, work experience will take place on Monday the 15th July till Friday the 19th July. A big thank you to Mrs Halford for organising and supervising the process!

My huge thank you also goes to all parents and pupils who attended our first Year 10 Parents Evening. A fantastic opportunity to be able to share the great work the pupils have been doing across KS4, especially in so many new option subjects. Thank you for leaving your feedback, I have enjoyed reading through and sharing your comments. The next Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 21st March 2024.

As previously mentioned, preparation for our first English mock examination has been well underway. On the 3rd of January 2024 pupils will be sitting Paper 1 of their English Literature mock in the afternoon. We have already shared a letter to all parents and carers, on how this day will look. It is absolutely paramount that over Christmas holidays you continue with the work and preparation ahead of this crucial time.

By visiting the AQA English Literature website(<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>) pupils will have access to past papers, model answers and mark schemes that will help support their revision.

Finally, I would like to end by wishing you All a Very Merry Christmas, and I hope you get to spend time and celebrate with your loved ones.

I really appreciate all of your ongoing support, and look forward to continuing to work together with you and welcoming all my Year 10 students back in 2024!

T Feliks-Matthews

Head of Learning Year 10





# YEAR 11

Christmas.... already? What a jam-packed Autumn term we have had.

Firstly, I want to say a huge well done for all the hard work that has gone in to the mock exams. From catch up lessons, homework and revision it has been fantastic to see all the hard work paying off. As a reminder, if students ever find themselves struggling in completing homework or finding the right revision techniques, please do contact to me so we can arrange a computer after school for access and feedback from teachers.

Secondly, we have had lots of lovely events take place this past half term. I hope all our students enjoyed St Edmund's Day. I was delighted to see so many of our year group having a pivotal role to play in mass. From readings to ushers. They were all fantastic. Well done to all those in the fundraiser for leavers events, you worked so hard for the bake sale and that really was a massive success.

Finally, I would like to end by wishing you all a very merry Christmas and I hope you get to spend time and celebrate with loved ones. Enjoy these few weeks away from the books and come back ready and raring to go in January. I appreciate all of your ongoing support and look forward to continuing to work together with you and welcoming the students back in 2024 for their final few months.

Miss Tudor

Head of Year 11



# Year 11 MOCK INTERVIEW DAY



On Thursday 16th November 33 local professionals, some of whom were St Edmund's School Alumni!, gave up their mornings to interview pupils in Y11.

This is always a very important date in the Careers calendar, as for many pupils, this will be their first opportunity to see what an interview may feel and sound like. With all of them in the thick of college applications, it comes at a perfect time in their educational journeys

"I spoke to an ex-pupil who is now a Marine. That's exactly what I want to do in the future, I honestly think my conversation with him today has changed my life" - Caleb Year 11

"I was interviewed by a retired Police Detective and he gave me loads of amazing advice about starting off in the Police - I'm really excited to start college now and work my way towards my career goals" Amelia, Y11.

“

"As part of St. Edmund's Catholic School's careers programme, Year 11 pupils had the opportunity to talk to people from different spheres of employment about what it is like to work in their particular sector. As a school, we are fortunate to have strong bonds with our local community and in particular our former alumni, and were lucky enough to host James Rafter from Blackfield Associates. James, who left St. Edmund's in 2011, was one of several former pupils who came back to put the current crop through their paces and ask them about their future goals and aspirations. We would like to thank James and his colleagues at Blackfield Associates for giving our pupils the opportunity to utilise their expertise on a rewarding and enriching day."

Mr Were



James Rafter  
Ex Pupil of St Edmund's Catholic School

## How did the pupils do?

The overall attitude, respect and behaviour from the students was first class. They came open-minded, albeit a little nervous! They took the feedback really well, were asking some thought provoking questions and were keen to listen. Definitely some great characters there in the mix!

## What was your highlight?

I think the stand-out moment for me was how many of the students were interested in STEM areas. This was an area that never interested us or was pushed as a career focus when I was younger. Aware as I am of the shortage in the industry, it was really positive to see how many want to go down this route.

## What was it like visiting your old school?

I would say it was a bit nostalgic, however, where I left 13 years ago now, my memories are a little hazy! In all honesty, it was great to be back and to see the improvement to the school's infrastructure was brilliant. Seeing some of my old teachers and speaking to them as an adult was fantastic too, a real full-circle moment! I think when you're younger you're naive as to how big an impact they can have. It certainly brought back some good memories and it was great to have the opportunity to give back.

# Year 9 COMMUNITY PROJECT

For Year 9's community project this year we set our sights a little closer to home than our chosen charity of Bamenda last year and wanted to help those who live in Portsmouth. As a year group we raised money in order to buy mince pies and hot drinks to give out for free before Christmas. Over two days students went down to Commercial Road and spoke to the local community, offering them a warm drink and some of their time. Money left over was then given to Chaplain Fiona to support local families in the run up to Christmas. As a year group we are very charitable and following the huge success off Bamenda day last year wanted to have an impact. The local community were very appreciative of our time and could not believe a school would come down and pass out drinks and food just to be kind. The students were extremely respectful and humbled by the experience, very pleased to have been able to help in any small way. Many wanted to do it again so we will be aiming to do something similar after Easter! - Miss Hammond, Head of Learning Year 9



'It felt really nice to help people out and make conversation so they weren't lonely. I think this makes the world a better place.'

'I think it made people feel appreciated, and we spread Christmas spirit. It feels great to help people, especially at this time of year.'



Year 9 raised £150.83 towards comfort and joy, the money given to Chaplain Fiona, separate to what we did in town!



# TRANSITION MINDSETS



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

Students were encouraged to think about all the important skills that are required when starting Secondary School. They looked into fixed and growth mindsets and what resilience meant to them.



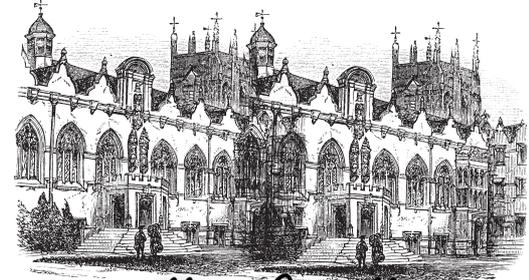
'I enjoyed the trip to the University of Portsmouth, because we got to learn about what the possibilities of going there could bring. We had a tour of the campus, and all the staff were really nice.' – Liam 7 Devereux

'On Tuesday 17th October we went to the University of Portsmouth on a school trip. I learned what they do, and what some of the careers were. I realised that I really want to be a doctor when I group up because I want to help people in need. I had so much fun doing workshops including; building the campus, lectures, and we also learned about having a fixed or growth mindset. I loved it there and I now have a key idea on what I want to do when I am older.' – Boglarka 7 Devereux

'What I liked about the trip was, the staff were reliable and helpful. Most of all, I liked the activities – one activity was building blocks, where we had to make something about the university that we liked. I liked this the most as It brought out our imagination and it was creative.' – Alfred 7 Stein



# OXFORD TRIP



*Somerwille College*

'Me and a group of my Year 11 peers were fortunate enough to be chosen to attend a trip to Oxford's Somerville College. This was an amazing opportunity as it enabled us to experience firsthand what it is like to attend one of the world's top universities. We arrived at the university, where we began attending a workshop that focused on Post-16 choices, which was valuable as it is relevant to the college choices we are making now. After, we had the opportunity to speak with two current students at the university, and a tour of the campus that I greatly enjoyed. I overall believe the trip was a great experience as it allowed me to gain insight into university life, and showed me the exciting further education opportunities that are available in my future.' - Olivia Year 11



# OPERATION SCEPTRE

On 13th November 2023 we welcomed our local PCSOs Chloe and Owen to talk to pupils on the playground at breaktime about the government focus on reducing knife crime. This is the bi-annual national knife crime awareness campaign and week of action for police forces across the UK.

The initiative which is co-ordinated by the National Police Chief's Council is aimed at raising awareness of knife crime.

Our local police are visiting local schools in a bid to highlight the laws, to help reduce knife crime and discourage people from carrying knives.



# SPORTS CORNER



Mr Commerford has been extremely busy this half term with Basketball. The results for these fixtures are below. Well done Boys!!



Year 10 - 1st team 1st place! 2nd Team 7th Place.  
Year 9 - 1st place! (Year 9 Portsmouth basketball Champions!)



Year 7/8 – 2nd and 3rd Place



On Friday the 8th December we had our first Staff V Students event which was Netball. The students put up an incredible fight, but unfortunately had their first defeat to the teachers. Can they beat us in Football and Volleyball? Watch this space.....

# badminton

Mr Potts hosted the KS3 Badminton tournament here at St Edmunds. Mr Potts said that "players contributed by winning games in all the matches. They won the tournament overall meaning we now go on to represent Portsmouth in the county finals". This is an **AMAZING** achievement. Well done all who were involved and **BRING ON THE COUNTY FINALS!**



'Another big 3-1 win this week at TPA for the Year 9 Boys Football Team! You will all be pleased to know I now fully know the offside rule and even learnt a new one about a keeper catching the ball outside his box, progress is being made! Milton Cross is our last game of the term on the 27th November so fingers crossed!' - Miss Hammond



## #BEEWELL CAMPAIGN

This term St Edmund's has been excited to take part in the #BeeWell Campaign supported by Portsmouth City Council and the University of Manchester. This involved Year 8 and Year 10 pupils anonymously carrying out an online questionnaire about their school life, friendships, and emotional wellbeing. The results of our pupils' surveys will help target government funding for young people in our local area. 10,000 pupils from across the south region have taken part and we're delighted to say over 400 of those pupils were from St Edmund's!



## WORLD KINDNESS DAY (MONDAY 13TH NOV)

Monday 13th November was World Kindness Day and we celebrated this amazing day with our monthly Trinity Takeover on the upper playground. The Trinity Ambassadors prepared leaflets, posters, positive affirmations, and creative activities to share with the whole school at break and lunch time.



"I wandered around handing out little pieces of paper to remind everyone to do something nice and pay it forward on World Kindness Day"



"World Kindness Day was a fantastic opportunity for us to show gratitude to one another. Handing out positive affirmations and pay it forward cards during break and lunch made a huge impact because it got us more involved in activities which spread more awareness. The day couldn't have been better and I look forward to it next year."



## 'YOUR BRAIN EXPLAINED' THEATRE PRODUCTION (MONDAY 20TH NOV)



Trinity was thrilled to host the TheatreForLife's production of 'Your Brain Explained' this half term. The group transformed the gym, using a giant inflatable tent, into the inside of a brain. Using lights and props the group explored the story of a pupil making positive lifestyle choices and learning how the different parts of their brain interact to make decisions. Pupils were able to engage with the actors and ask questions about the show.



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On Thursday 7th December the choir and band visited The Royal Albert Day Care Centre, a centre for people suffering with dementia. The choir performed Christmas songs that they have prepared for the school Carol Service with a lovely solo performed by Elsie in Year 8. The residents then enjoyed a Christmas sing-a-long of our favourite carols and popular Christmas songs accompanied by the band, we particularly enjoyed keeping up with the actions in The Twelve Days of Christmas! We really enjoyed this opportunity to meet people in our local community and share our talents with them, we look forward to visiting again in the future.





# YEAR 11 PREFECTS

Over this term, our Year 11 Prefects have put on a Bake Sale fundraiser to raise money for Year 11 Leavers events, as well as prepping & guiding our current Year 10's on their Prefect interviews ready for next year.



A Huge Well Done to our Prefects who raised **£232** at the Bake Sale!



## PREPARING OUR FUTURE PREFECTS

Kieran, one of our prefects, liaised with Student Services, slips for each Year 10 who was interviewing for a prefect role. Each slip had their times for their appointments on and where they had to go. There was a huge amount of thought and organisation from the Prefect team to ensure the Year 10's had the support and preparation they need.



## AMAZING HOMEWORK!

KS3





# THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

## Silver Expedition



We spent three days walking routes in the new forest on our DofE Silver Expedition, we enjoyed our furthest walk on the first day and a freezing cold night in our tents that night! The perfectly constructed fire by Mr Commerford and our toasty hot water bottles helped a lot! The next two days were thankfully shorter walks (around 10 to 12km) that our group enjoyed with musical accompaniment from our trusty DofE playlist plus one more night that wasn't as horribly cold! We had a great time and (of course) won overall against the boys!

• Abbie Year 11



As part of the Year 9 curriculum, students have been learning about Christian and Muslims beliefs about life after death. Students have been discussing: What will happen after death? What could my funeral look like? Should hell exist? As part of their learning, they have designed and tested their own boardgames to show their new knowledge and understanding of beliefs about the afterlife.



'I really enjoyed this lesson, I enjoyed the teamwork and the creativity. It was a fun way of doing revision.'



'I liked seeing everyone getting creative and the teamwork they have shown to create and play their boardgames.'



## Trip to the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation Synagogue

On Thursday 23rd November 44 Year 10 students went on a visit to the Bournemouth Hebrew Congregation Synagogue to learn more about the Orthodox Jewish faith.

During the visit the students got to meet a prominent member of the community, Adrian, who explained the key features of the Synagogue and how Shabbat is celebrated by Jews. Students then had the opportunity to ask him questions about the Jewish faith and practices, which gave them all a better insight into the religion and culture. The students asked amazing questions highlighting their knowledge and understanding of what they had been taught in lesson, which Adrian was then able to develop further from a practicing Orthodox Jewish perspective.



"It was very good. I thought it was nice to see what you're learning in real life rather than the classroom."



# Engineering

## YEAR 7

This term Year 7 have been designing and making personalised wooden boxes. They have been learning to use 2D design in the computer room to create their personalised lid. After making their box students produced very complex isometric drawings and 3rd Angle Orthographic drawings of their designs using a drawing board to British Standard conventions. Well done Year 7!



## YEAR 8

This term Year 8 pupils have been making their wooden push pull vehicles. They have been designing their own product and learning the following skills: cutting, shaping, drilling, and smoothing. Their numeracy skills have really been tested as Year 8 were required to do a lot of measuring too. Well done Year 8!

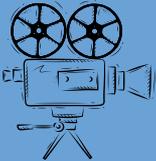


## YEAR 9

This term Year 9 have been learning about CAD / CAM and technology drawing. They used computer aided design to design a clock and our laser cutter manufactured their product. Well done Year 9!



# Film Studies



'I'm really enjoying the Film GCSE because it's creative and in the first few weeks I learnt a lot about the history of film since 1895 and how a lot of the technology has changed. I also learnt about the cinematography (which is the camera shots and angles), different types of diegetic and non-diegetic sound in film and the importance of costume, props, facial expressions and body language to show a character.

After we had this introduction to film, we then had the task of filming and editing the opening of a horror film in 3 lessons- we planned our ideas and storyboarded it first and then went out and took lots of different shots such as a wide shot of a moody sky or a close up of a terrified face or an extreme close up of a (pretend) weapon or blood stain and then began the process of editing it and adding sound.

I took responsibility for the editing and the first thing I created was the title 'One by One' as it gave the audience the idea that victims would be picked off which is what happens. By using lots of low angles of feet we can see the killer is tracking their victim but we never reveal the character fully so that it creates more tension as no one knows who the serial killer is as they are masked. We learnt that using a high angle can make a character look more powerful and a low angle makes them look smaller and weaker. The high angle looking down at a pile of 'pretend' bodies (everyone kept very still!) was chilling and I added sinister music to make this more tense.

In the editing I used some slow motion and added jump scares with sound effects to make the audience jump. I also sped it up so at the end the tension and suspense grow.

We were proud of our finished piece and got some great feedback from the rest of the class and the teacher about how we had very effectively used our knowledge of camera work, sound and editing to create the opening of a horror genre. Everyone said the music was really creepy and as it got faster the audience felt more fear 😊

If you look on the website you should see our film....enjoy! '- M.M Year 10



# FRIENDS OF ST EDMUND'S

Have you heard of us? We're FOSE, St Edmund's Parent Teacher Association. Our aim is to fundraise and run events that enrich student's learning. With school budgets tighter than ever, we hope that we can provide some of the extras that can bring a smile. Here are some of the highlights of 2023.

• **School Uniform Exchange** - using donations from families, we sell on second-hand uniforms at massively reduced prices. Just as the name suggests, you can exchange uniforms for no cost. So whether it's due to a growth spurt or a misplaced tie, come and find us. We attend most parents' and open evenings. We advertise all our dates on the school website and on our Facebook page.

• **Double disco** – The new summer disco in July was a huge success! 185 students came along and let there hair down. They even got to cheer on Mr Graham's dance moves . The Christmas disco is being held on the 14 December and 220 tickets are already sold. Candy floss and popcorn at the ready...

• **FOSE badge** – We know how much St Edmund's love a badge! Well there is now a new one – the FOSE community badge. Voted for by students for students, it is awarded to the student who has shown school community spirit in the year.

• **Wellbeing raffle** – at the Y9 Options evening we sold raffle tickets full of wellbeing goodies. From serums to gym memberships – it had it all. We raised enough to fund the prom and school production requests – see below.

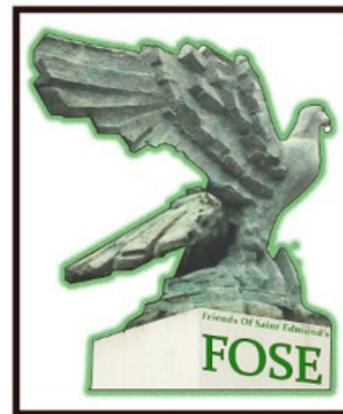
• **Prom** – we normally provide a sweet cart for prom, but this year's committee requested money for fun props for prom. I wonder what this year's Year 11 will request?

• **School Production** – we were happy to support the Drama and Music department's request to fund the extra staging required for the summer production.

• **Victory Suite and Playground equipment** – FOSE donated £1,000 to provide break time activities for students.

• **New basketball uniforms** – We understand that money is tight, so we are trying different approaches to fundraising instead of always asking students and parents. We applied for sponsorship grant from CGI and I'm delighted to announce we have been awarded £500 towards our school basketball team uniforms. It wasn't quite enough to cover all the uniforms, so FOSE has supplemented it and we now have two teams of uniform

• **Christmas chocolate** – thank you to Morrisons Community who provided boxes and boxes of celebrations for Santa to give out at the Christmas lunch!



# WONDERFUL WINTER

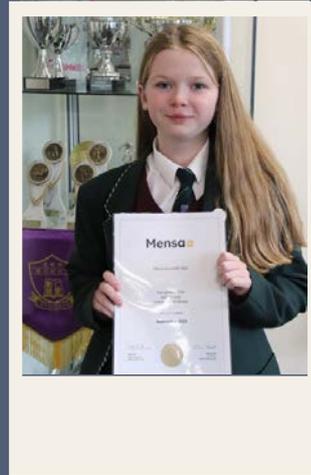
HAF  
FUN  
POMPEY

16-23 December  
Throughout Portsmouth

**YUMMY FOOD AND FANTASTIC ACTIVITIES**  
**FREE AND PAY-AS-YOU-GO SPACES AVAILABLE**

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- 📺 Follow Family Life Pompey for updates
- ✉ Email [HAF@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) if you have any problems

# MENSA MEMBER!



'Hi, i recently got accepted into Mensa. Mensa is an organisation of people with a high IQ(top, 2% of the population). Mensa helps its members, challenge themselves and meet others around the world. They have special interest groups to further peoples interests in certain subjects, such as space writing and evolution.'

FOR 11-16 YEAR OLDS

HAF  
FUN  
POMPEY

YOUR FREE

# FESTIVE FLEX

## 16-23 DECEMBER

SPORTS, FOOD AND FANTASTIC EVENTS

- 📄 Go to [www.pycportsmouth.co.uk/haffunpompey](http://www.pycportsmouth.co.uk/haffunpompey)
- 📺 Follow Family Life Pompey
- ✉ Email [HAF@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)



## UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

### Sailing, Archery & Tower of Terror

Andrew Simpson Centre  
18, 19, 20 December, PO5

### 3 x 3 Basketball

Chain Net Apparel  
19, 20, 21, 22 December, PO2

### Solve a Crime Scene with Head of Forensics

CM Foundation  
21 December, PO1

### Swimming & Christmas Craft

CM Foundation  
19 December, PO5

### Boxing

HoP Boxing Academy  
18, 19, 20, 21, 22 December, PO5

### Panto & Scavenger Hunt

Kings Theatre  
19 December, PO5

### Ice Skating

Motiv8  
19, 21 December, PO2

### Rock Climbing

Motiv8 - Rock Up  
20 December, PO2

### Climbing, Archery & Laser Tag

Peter Ashley Centre  
19, 21 December, PO6

### Cook a Christmas dinner

Pompey in the Community  
18, 19, 21 December, PO4

### Put on a Panto!

The Young Creatives  
18 to 22 December, PO4

### Film and Music Night

The Young Creatives  
21 December, PO4

### Football, Basketball, Obstacle Course & Dancing

URBOND  
20 December, PO5

### Ice Skating

URBOND  
21 December, PO1

# YEAR 7

Year 7 were asked to report on how they have settled into the St Edmund's Family since September.

In each addition of the Newsletter, two tutor groups will report on their time at the school so far.



I have really enjoyed my time here at St Edmund's so far because I have made new friends, and I enjoy all of my lessons. I have enjoyed the experience, and I like the responsibility of being the Tutor Captain!

So far at St Edmund's I have really enjoyed my time, even though it was scary at first, St Edmund's has exceeded my expectations. It has made my life much easier in terms of learning and making new friends. Being Student Voice, I can air out the concerns of the tutor group and I feel like im helping people.



On my first day at this school , I was petrified when I saw everyone standing there looking all official and important. I thought my heels were too high, my tie was too short and I so desperately wanted to turn around and jump back into my Mum's Honda. I soon learnt this was simply not true. Within the first 4 weeks, I quickly got accustomed to the quick pace of Saint Edmunds. My friends are my family, and I know they would never let me down and that's why I love St Edmund's.



I am so ready for the next couple of years of learning at St Edmund's, which switches our brains on in lessons. Our timetables are so specific, helping our punctuality. The teachers are so kind and are here to help.



Dear Parent/guardian, the school has been given a donation of Colgate toothpaste. If you would like to receive a free tube, please email: [nwhite@saintedmunds.org.uk](mailto:nwhite@saintedmunds.org.uk) with your child's full name and tutor group by Friday 5th January 2024. Should there be more requests made for the number of tubes available, the toothpaste will be distributed on a first come first serve basis and will be issued to students week beginning 8th January 2024.



# CHRISTMAS LUNCH!



## BACK TO SCHOOL

### WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2024

## January 2024

Tuesday 2nd January - INSET DAY

Wednesday 3rd January- Return to school

Monday 8th January- Year 11 Celebration Assembly

Tuesday 9th January- Year 10 Celebration Assembly

Wednesday 10th January- Year 9 Celebration Assembly

Thursday 11th January - Year 8 Celebration Assembly

Friday 12th January- Year 7 Celebration Assembly

Tuesday 16th January- Triple Science Day

Tuesday 23rd January- Brighton Dome Trip

Monday 29th January- Dance Live tech & rehearsal day

Tuesday 30th January- Dance Live Competition Day

Wednesday 31st January- HSDC College Interviews

**Have a safe and restful  
Christmas Break!**