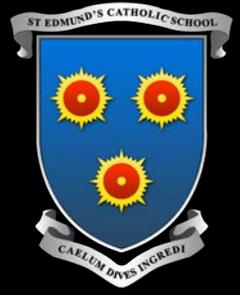


Newsletter



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

St Edmund's Catholic School

Dance Live! 2024

St Edmund's Catholic School, performed in the Dance Live heats at The Portsmouth Guildhall. We were delighted to win the Journey To Dance Live video award and the Costume Award.



'Dance Live this year was one of the best nights of my life. From bonding time and making new friends to glamorous costumes and make up done by the crew. I know I will audition next year.'

- Dancer

'It was an amazing experience as I met so many new people and I got to interact with the dancers when making the LED Screen and Journey to Dance Live.'

- Crew



Headteacher: Mr S Graham BSc, NPQH

Tel: 02392823766

Web: www.saintedmunds.org.uk

Caelum Dives IngreDi



HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS



Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of watching teaching and learning across the school. It has been wonderful to see so much enjoyment, focus and hard work from our children. Staff were working hard to challenge, develop and grow subject knowledge and new skills. I have seen (and heard about) some amazing homework projects in lower school (Year 7 – 9). So much time, effort, creativity and energy have been put into these. A huge thank you to parents/carers for all your support and encouragement. Next term we will be monitoring homework in Key Stage 4 to ensure consistency and quality.

Whilst uniform standards have been very good, we will be having a focus on a 'reasonable skirt length' and students not bringing in and applying make-up during the school day. Whilst wanting to avoid being draconian, this is an area which has become increasingly a distraction to learning and is spilling over into lessons. I would appreciate your support by reinforcing to our children that they should not be bringing in make-up to school. We are not talking about just 'lip gloss' but of lipstick, mascara, foundation etc which does not conform to our school uniform policy that 'make-up, nail varnish and conspicuous hairdressings are NOT permitted. These are not suitable for school'. We will confiscate these and return these at the end of the school day. We fully understand how important appearance can be, especially for young people but need a more 'sensible' approach by some students.

On that colourful note, I would like to particularly praise all students that were involved in Dance Live. Students were amazing and performed to an incredible standard. It has been wonderful to see so many students involved and giving up hours of their time to be part of this. My thanks to all the staff who gave up so much time for students to have this brilliant experience.

The other stand out events this half-term were the Celebration Assemblies. It was incredible to see so many students nominated for their effort, achievement and a variety of other awards. Year 11 celebrated their last rewards assembly and welcomed back members of Year 11 from last year for some special awards. The winners of these awards can be found within the newsletter.

Finally, you may be aware that Pope Francis has declared 2024 as a 'Year of Prayer' in preparation for the Jubilee year of 2025. Pope Francis invites us to pray for Christian unity and for peace throughout the world. Once again, he emphasised to note the time of invoking the Lord for Peace in Ukraine, in Israel and Palestine, and in so many other parts of the world, including Ecuador. This will be a great focus for us all seeking to make our world a better place.

"Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity." Pope Francis

I hope you have a great half-term and we look forward to students returning on Monday 19th February 2024.

God Bless
Mr S Graham
Headteacher

AMAZING RE AND ICT HOMEWORK BY OUR YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 PUPILS!



Caelum Dives Ingredi

CHAPLAINCY



Celebration Assemblies marked the beginning of our school year. A time to celebrate all the wonderful gifts, talents, achievements and spiritual efforts shared within our school community. When stopping to pray and reflect upon our own personal efforts, students realise how much everyone contributes to the life of the school.

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Our Father, and this presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer. Prayer is such an important part of our identity at St Edmund's school. Tutor Groups have Tutor Prayer and each Tutor Group have written their own Tutor prayers as well as having their own prayer tables in their classrooms with various resources to enable meaningful times of prayer. Each Year Group have assemblies which are led by staff and students, following the liturgical calendar as well as global news stories. Every Tuesday at both breaktimes and at a lunchtime we have our three Rosary Ambassador Groups which meet together every week and pray for the intentions sent in by Staff and students by saying the Rosary. Our Year 9 Tutor Groups each take turn to say 'The Angelus' at midday during the week. We pray on behalf of the needs of the school, our community and our world. Staff have the opportunity of Staff Prayer in the Chapel before school begins on a Wednesday and pray the Gospel every Tuesday at Staff Meetings. We have had Parent Prayer group meetings on a number of Mondays at 9 am in the Chapel and the next meeting is on Monday 26th February at 9 am.

Prayer is the energy that helps us to go forward and enables us to get involved in various activities such as fundraising events, our two St Vincent De Paul Groups who meet both lunchtimes on a Monday. Our Parish Ambassadors who keep us connected with our local parishes and our Chaplaincy Teams in each Year Group.

We have so many Chaplaincy members and all are committed and have participated in the Chaplaincy meetings this term. The meetings focused on 2 workshops 'The Year of Prayer' and 'Adelante' (Let's go forward). The 'Adelante' workshop is: 'An artful assembly of unofficial Saints'. The Adelante Gallery is art with its sleeves rolled up. Its four faces were assembled by amateur artist and former CAFOD volunteer Hugh Gibbons,

created to chime with the world-respected Archbishop Oscar Romero becoming an official Catholic saint on 14th October 2018.

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

But most people can point to what you might call unofficial Saints: inspirers, encouragers, uplifters, initiators; nearby or far off; who see things can change for the better; helping others go forwards by words or action, "The Saints Next Door", says Pope Francis – one of the many voices here. The freestanding Gallery's designed to be self-explanatory, places so that anyone can walk around and maybe take something away – for eye, mind, heart or soul. Adelante! Let's go forward'.

So, our students spent time viewing the prayer Gallery in the Chapel. They reflected on unofficial saints in our community and the world; those who stand for what is right as well as coming up with ideas to design our own prayer Gallery. The meetings were vibrant, lively and full of creative ideas.

Year 7 completed their Tutor Masses. Each Mass was unique and reflected the Tutor Group, it is wonderful to see students enthusiastically learning about the format, the symbols, the sacred objects and the history of Mass. It was wonderful hearing them sing so joyfully and pray so reverently.

Year 8 Tutor Masses began just before half term with a very enthusiastic and prayerful 8 Damien, well done.

During half term Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday, on 14th February. On our return we will be preparing for our Lent Reconciliation Services and raising money for our Lenten Charity; CAFOD Staff and students will be spending time rehearsing for 'The Stations of the Cross' which will take place in St John's Cathedral before we break up for Easter.

So many things going on in the area of spirituality.

I wish you a restful half term and thank you all for your continued support.

My prayers, Chaplain Fiona



 **First Communion**

After half term we will be advertising and offering students a First Communion programme. Sometimes students may have missed their lessons and preparation time for First Communion. This may be because they did not attend a Catholic primary school or for some reason they were not present when preparation was being made in their parish. Here at St Edmund's, I will be looking at offering a six week programme for any student who is Baptised Catholic and attends regularly their local parish Mass. I will work with the local clergy to see how best to do this for each student. Preparation time will take place after school on Wednesday afternoons, 3.00 - 4.00 pm in the Chapel. Each student, at the end of the period will then make their First Communion in their local parish.

If a student is interested, you need to:

- Be a baptised Catholic
- Be interested
- Be committed to the Program
- Attend Mass in your local parish
- Fill in a form – parent to fill in
- Turn up to ALL 6 lessons, beginning on **Wednesday 17th April 2024**
- Parents can contact Chaplain Fiona on chaplain@saintedmunds.org.uk or telephone extension 224.
- Any student interested needs to let Chaplain Fiona know by no later than 8th March 2024.



'I can do all things with the help of God who strengthens me.'
Philippians 4:13



YEAR 7



I hope this newsletter finds you well. As we enter the second half of the academic year, I am delighted to share some exciting updates from Year 7.

Since returning from the Christmas break, our Year 7 students have settled into their routines and are beginning to feel more comfortable in their new environment. It's been wonderful to witness their confidence grow as they navigate their way through secondary school life.



I am particularly proud to announce that our Year 7 football team beat Trafalgar 4-3 in a Cup Semi-Final match. They demonstrated exceptional teamwork and skill. Their dedication and hard work have paid off, and I couldn't be prouder of their accomplishment. We eagerly anticipate cheering them on in the upcoming cup final.

I also want to highlight the amazing dedication and success of those Year 7 pupils who participated in Dance Live. Although not placed, the performance was exceptional and every single one of you can hold your heads high. I am very proud of all of you who participated.



As we move forward into the next half term, it's essential to maintain the high standards of uniform and behavior that we expect from our students. Consistency in these areas fosters a positive learning environment for everyone. I urge all students to ensure they have their necessary equipment and are ready to engage in their lessons fully.



Thank you for your continued support in helping our Year 7 students thrive. Together, we can ensure they reach their full potential and make the most of their secondary school journey. - Mr Poxton



Louis in Year 7 has joined Portsmouth's Youth Cabinet. The Youth Cabinet seeks to represent the views of all young people in the city and work with decision makers to drive positive change. Louis has also put himself forward for the forthcoming Member of Youth Parliament elections. The MYP leads the Youth Cabinet and works with MYPs across the country on national matters.

After the success of last year's cultural appreciation day planning is well underway for this years, which is due to be held on Thursday 21st March .



YEAR 8

Every Thursday when Year 8 are lining up and coming into assembly and we greet each other, it strikes me how much the students are growing up. What is particularly noticeable is the level of aspiration in this Year group, the desire to volunteer and take part in everything. Saying 'yes' to opportunities which present themselves compliments the learning experience in the classroom so well. This term, we have seen Year 8 signing up for clubs, delivering assemblies, taking part in Chaplaincy events and Tutor activities, Drama and Dance. An incredible 37 students from Year 8 took part in Dance Live. A huge thank you to Mrs Were Head of Learning for Year 8 and Miss Bird who put in so much of their own time to lead on this event. Events such as these add so much to positive childhood memories of school. We look forward to the Variety Show and Auditions for the School Production after half term, which I know will feature our talented Year 8 students.

School attendance is also key to making progress and achieving our aspirations. Although the national headlines are painting a very gloomy picture in this respect, I am proud to say that Year 8 attendance is 95%, 3.2% above the national average for secondary schools. Remember for every day of absence is 5 hours of lost learning.

The hard work which we have seen from our Year 8 students, came to fruition in the Celebration Assembly at the start of term, where we had the opportunity to celebrate individual success. There is certainly great competition around the placings for the Personal Qualities, which measure behaviour, effort and homework completion. Congratulations to our worthy winners of all the prizes.

I was particularly impressed with the lead that the Year 8 Youth Mental Health Ambassadors took, in delivering assemblies this week, promoting positive mental health messages and overseeing a fundraising activity for Solent Minds. It is not easy presenting and performing in front of your peers, but the Ambassadors did this very well. Keynote presenters for this were Lydia, Michelle, and Lily Mae who shared their motivations for taking on this role. - Mrs Howorth

Lydia Year 8. 'I decided to take on the role of Ambassador, because I noticed that some people have had similar experiences to the ones I have had and might need advice just like I did. I have always been interested in mental health and want to be able to share ideas and resources with other students. In this role, I have been able to encourage those who need to be reminded of the great things in life. I am always here to listen and ready to help in any way I can.'

Mitchelle Year 8: 'I was inspired to be an Ambassador because of my passion for making a difference. I think it offers great possibilities and allows me to showcase my talents and bring out the best in the people I meet. My favourite part is when we go around the school and share out positive affirmations and posters because it is an excellent experience that informs others about. I am proud to be involved in this aspect of the school as it gives me a chance to make the change that I'm striving for.'



Our Youth Mental Health Ambassadors dressed in Pink while we raise money for Breast & Prostate cancer.

YEAR 9



What another busy half term it has been! 6 weeks have flown by with so much going on for all of Year 9! Following a few days back in school Year 9 were then treated to their first Celebration Assembly of the year. This was a chance to celebrate the great successes of our Year Group and the hard work and commitment shown to their learning and wider school activities. A huge well done to Beatrice for being the student with the highest personal quality scores, a huge achievement in a year group of 233 students. A big thank you also to our band and dancers for some excellent performances. Creative arts talent has not been short this term either. Lots of students took part in the Dance Live performance, representing the school and Year group with incredible talent and dedication. I thoroughly enjoyed supporting on the evening and watching all of them shine. I am so proud of all involved from the dancers, to make-up artists to the tech team.

I am looking forward to next term with Year 9 and watching them make some BIG decisions in regards to their options. Thankyou as always to all parents and families who continue to support us and the hard-work and time I know you have to put in. Making sure students have all their uniform, equipment, homework and come to school every day on time I know is not easy but I really do appreciate all the support you give to us. Thankyou also to all parents for logging onto our Year 9 Parent's Evening on the 8th February and supporting your child as we continue through Year 9.

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

Miss Hammond



'I know that St Edmund's are always fantastic when they visit the university - always respectful and polite - but I wanted to give a special mention to the group today because they were so great.

All of them were so polite, so engaged and really threw themselves into the activities - all the ambassadors and the employers mentioned what a lovely group they were so I thought that was worth passing on as they really represented the school beautifully!

-Kim Hill

Outreach Coordinator
University of Portsmouth



YEAR 10

WOW, I cannot believe we are at half term already, Year 10 have had a fantastic start to the new year!

We really kickstarted the new year with the Year Group all sitting their English Literature mock exam on the very first day back following our Christmas break. Needless to say, a stressful experience for many, but I have been blown away with the results. It just goes to show what a hard-working year group they really are. Their Results were truly incredible so early in the term, hence I have no doubt what a success their early entry exam will be in the Summer. As always, for some, this will be a wake-up call, and a moment of realisation, that perhaps some more work should have gone in into the preparation, the results would have been way better to what they currently are.

The next mock exam, for paper 2, is on March 22nd 2024 . Let's keep up the momentum of the hard work students have put in so far!

Every year, in January, it is the St Edmund's tradition, to start our new term with a Celebration Assembly, to recognise the effort, achievements, gifts and talents of all pupils. On the 9th January, new to KS4 we introduced 'The Eddie' awards... similar to The Oscars but WAY more glamorous. It is always amazing to be part of this celebration, purely due to the sheer volume of pupils being nominated and coming up on the stage collecting their certificates, TROPHIES and prizes. This year unfortunately the privilege of hosting the event was completely taken away from me as I have been unwell. Huge thank you to Mr Bennett, Mr Poxton and Miss Tudor for stepping in and saving the day.

Congratulations to everyone nominated, and a huge well done to all the winners. Remember, if your name has not been mentioned this time, the opportunity is there for the next Eddie awards in the summer term.

Mrs Halford has been working super hard to support Year 10 with careers interviews, as well as chasing work experience placements. Those students who haven't yet had a meeting, but would like to speak to Mrs Halford, please use the sign-up sheet on her office door (opposite student services). You can also pop in to see her any break or lunch.

I have been so impressed, once again, with the talent in our year group. From the performance at Eddie's Awards to Dance Live, Talent auditions etc. What an array of different gifts and talents we have in Year 10.

Finally, a date for all your diaries. Our next Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 21st of March 2024.

I hope everyone has a fantastic half term, and just to say I appreciate all of your ongoing support and look forward to continuing to work together with you during the remainder of Year 10.

Mrs T Feliks-Matthews



YEAR 11



We are truly into the new year and although mock exams seem like a distant memory, the momentum from the results is still showing. The pressure is building on the pupils as coursework deadlines have begun to be met and Evening Prep has started after school. At the start of the term, we had an assembly where we looked at counting down the weeks to the first GCSE exam – it's not long! The current GCSE timetable for Summer 2024 is on the school website, please do check this carefully as no time should be taken off during this period. We have celebrated success with the final Eddies – where many pupils received trophies for effort and achievement in their subjects. Although the focus now is on consistent effort on the part of every student for their GCSE exams, there is also time to look forward to our Leaver's Ball. The theme has been set as 'On Cloud 9': a lavish red-carpet event and we have had the first wave of invites go out this week. These students have been consistent with their attendance of 95%, effort and behaviour all year. There is also an opportunity for students to receive their invites in wave two and three – they just need to keep trying in all aspects of school life and focus on their attendance. Fund raising is also still continuing for the Leavers Ball with cake sales and a sponsored car wash in the pipe line. Parents Evening will be going live at 6pm on Thursday 8th February ahead of Thursday 29th February. This will be the last parents evening before exams and is essential parents and guardians make appointments.

Lastly, the leaver's hoodies that were ordered through the school will arrive during half term and will be given to the students in the first week back. This is a wonderful momentum of their time at St Edmund's and they will be allowed to be worn at school, under their blazers, but not during the exam period.

As we reach Half Term, a reminder that all Year 11 pupils need to have a revision plan or timetable for next week making sure that they stick to it.

Keep up the great work Year 11, I'm so proud of all you achieve every day!

Miss Tudor



LEAVERS 2023 AWARDS



Some of our Leavers 2023 attended our Year 11 Celebration Assembly to receive their awards. It was lovely to welcome them back to the St Edmund's family and to hear how well they have been getting on since leaving.



Attendance:

Fortune Adeojo, Adrian Cagape, Meyiwa Fregene

Outstanding Academic Achievement:

Deshna Nagarajan

Hudson Jones

Julia Wisniewska

Academic Progress:

Gerry Dela Pena

Marcus Hodgson

Elen Read

Commitment to School Community:

Marinela Pervataj

Jacob Elliott

Personal Progress:

James Moore Jordan Crockett

Tina Sutch Award - Outstanding Commitment to School:

Ashik Kanani, Eva Badran, Juliet Malbon

Miss Moodie Award – Contribution to the Music Department:

Rafaela Bolani Tomaz, Lennon Williams

Mrs Thompson's Award – Love of English:

Elena Panalova

Headteacher's Award:

Ash Murtagh-Imray

Amber Kryemadhi

Exam performance:

Bethany Quinn

Evie Hext

Andrew Mathew

REGAN POOLE VISITS ST EDMUND'S



What is the talk about?

This year's PFC talk aims to spotlight diverse careers in the football and broader sports industry, linking connections between career paths and higher education opportunities at UoP. It will also emphasise the importance of:

- Educational pathways and next steps for students
- Turning up and being present
- Performing at your best
- Overcome challenges



“Regan Poole made me happy and he was really nice. He spoke to me about how he loves football, and so do I.”



Who is Regan Poole?

Regan Poole is a Welsh Footballer, who plays as Centre back for EFL League one Club Portsmouth and the Wales National Team. He came to do an assembly for our Year 9's, discussing how he got to where he is now, as well as how to overcome any challenges along the way.



MY PROFESSIONAL SELF

Year 9



'On the 18th January, I had the great pleasure of taking eleven of our Year 9's over to the University for a careers day. It was all focused on the pupils being able to identify and share their personal skills and qualities and culminated in them writing and delivering their own five minute speech to the whole group and professionals from the local community. They were all completely brilliant and I was so proud of them.' - Mrs Halford



Year 8 FARADAY CHALLENGE

On the 9th January, 6 aspiring Engineers from Year 8 embarked on this years Faraday Challenge. They had to design and build a prototype which could support one or more groups of road users in our local area OR to support the workers constructing and maintaining our roads. This amazing group of pupils did St Edmund's proud with their teamwork, creativity and resilience. Their final design was focused on supporting workers and road users by repairing pot holes as quickly and efficiently as possible. Their solar paneled glow in the dark design was a brilliant idea and thoroughly impressed all the judges.



'I really enjoyed the trip, it was very informative. It taught me about road safety and maintenance. I would recommend this trip to others.' - Adam Year 8

The trip was good. We made a cone that automatically fills up pot holes in the road. They thought it was a good idea.' - Dom Year 8

CAREERS

Mrs Halford

ART



Year 7

Students have been studying the work of Romero Britto and using his style to create their own Teddy Bears. They have been developing their understanding and colour, shape and pattern. They are now building upon their colour theory knowledge with a Kandinsky inspired project based on music and art.



Year 8

Students have been using animals to develop their drawing skills. They were using a range of mark making techniques. They were given the opportunity to create an animal using materials of their choice. We had a fantastic range of artistic responses, ranging from paintings to crochet!



Year 9

Students have been looking at the Mexican celebration, Day of the Dead. They used inspiration from artists Paul Alexander Thornton, Frida Kahlo and Bryn Perrott to create their own personal responses in biro, paint and lino printing.



FOOD PREP & NUTRITION



Year 11

Huge congratulations to Year 11 who have been working hard on completing their recipe trials for their upcoming Controlled Assessment. This year, the students have been given the topic of 'Modern, International Breakfast Menu' for a modern hotel. They have been producing some exciting and creative dishes. I wish them the best of luck for their upcoming assessment.



Lottie



Nina



Jones



Caleb

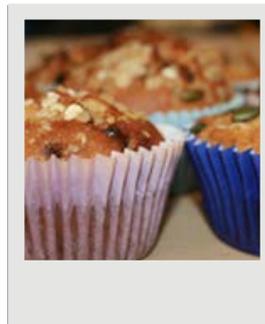
We have been working together to focus on connecting Maths and Food for a new active approach to learning. The students prepared for cooking by scaling up and down their recipes, deepening their knowledge of ratios, and understanding the importance of portion control.

All the students said they really enjoyed the lesson and were inspired. They even made Ezekiel style muffins inspired by The Bible verse Ezekiel 4:9, which speaks of scarcity and the need to gather up whatever scraps can be found in order to survive. The bread is produced by divine inspiration and is nutritionally superior.



Key stage 3

Year 7, 8 and 9 have been working hard at creating some tasty dishes with our design plan and make challenge. We have a huge amount of creativity and flair being shown during practical lessons as well as focus and enjoyment during theory lessons, creating raps, poems, presentations and songs.



Kebabs by Elsa



SPORTS CORNER



The PE Department have had a very busy half term full of extracurricular clubs. The most attended club was dodgeball having 142 appearances!! The most attending Year Group was Year 7! The most attending individual was David in Year 8! Well done! Basketball club recently received some funding from Friends of St Edmunds for the first ever St Edmunds Eagles Basketball Kit. Big thank you to kit sponsor CGI for the stash! The boys are showing off the kit in the image above.

YEAR 11 INTRA TUTOR SPORTS LEADERS EVENTS

Year 11s have been busy over this half term planning their intra tutor events where they have been leading Year 7s and Year 8s. The Year 11 Sports Leaders have gained valuable skills within these sessions including: leading a warm up, organising fixtures, refereeing fixtures, creating score tables and being positive role models to the younger years. The Year 7s and 8s had the opportunity to take part in either dodgeball, swimming, water polo or football.

David in Year 8 said *'I really enjoyed the event; we were able to play against many other tutors in our year group and the Year 11s helped us with the fixtures.'*



EDDIES GIRLS CAN

Miss Wallingford has started a new club this half term with some of our 'High Flying' Year 9 girls. The club aims to give the girls an insight into some of the sports studied at GCSE and BTEC and aim to create a lifelong love for sport. If you are interested in taking part, please come and see Miss Wallingford for more details.



FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Mr Poxton accompanied the Year 7 boys to an away fixture at Trafalgar. It was an extremely close game, with a final score of 4-3. The boys fought incredibly hard and will continue their journey into the next round of the cup. Mr Commerford accompanied his Year 8 boys to an away fixture at Priory and although suffered a tough loss, there was a stand out performance from Rio. The squad suffered a few injuries but hopefully they will be fighting fit for their next fixture after February Half Term.



Mrs Carter hosted a football game against Springfield. It was an exciting game with a match report from Mrs Carter below:
"The girls played really well! They went 2-0 down and then brought it back to 2-2 by half time. Goals from Lily outside the box and Rebecca cushioned in from a corner.

In the second half we went up 3-2 with Megan scoring a good goal from just inside the box. Then Springfield equalised and the full time whistle was 3-3. We lost on penalties, but it was a brilliant performance and lots of the girls made their debut for the St Edmund's Team playing their first game of football."

CITIZENSHIP



Year 7 T side class with Miss Tudor were undertaking a task whereby they had to create a political party. Write a manifesto, come up with a logo, a poster and a speech. All in aid of persuading the rest of the class to join them. Challenged to think of the social issues they wish to support and how they are going to help overcome them. The class then took to ballot paper to cast their vote. From this they have elected a class Prime Minister and a Speaker of the House of Commons for their next lesson where they will begin their debates.

TRIP TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

I really enjoyed the trip to the Houses of Parliament as I felt it was very interesting and intriguing. We went to London where we also saw a main tourist attraction, Big Ben. When we entered the building, we had to take some security measures which was walking through a metal detector where we had to take off our jewellery and accessories. The first room we entered was the Supreme Court. We had a lovely lady talk to us about the duties of the supreme court and what they were about generally. I learnt a lot from that, and we took some pictures to document it. We then visited the House of Commons where we learnt about the duties taken place as well as who does what, what I found interesting was that we were not allowed to sit on the chairs – probably as a safety precaution. We could not visit the house of Lords as we had a special meeting with our local MP – Stephen Morgan. He talked to us about his general duties and how he enjoys his job, and we had a chance to ask him some questions like how long it takes to get through all his paperwork. He said it was a lot of work, but he did not mind it because he finds it fun. In conclusion, the trip was entertaining and educational.

-Tosin



I really enjoyed visiting the Houses of parliament as I felt like what we were currently learning and what we were going to learn about in the future was really put into action. Seeing where such important and life changing decisions are being made really showed me as a young adult how much the voice of the public matters. By meeting our local MP Stephen Morgan, it made me and many other pupils feel heard and seen. Citizenship overall has always piqued my interest even more so since starting the GCSE course in September 2022. Knowing that we can make a difference and significant change not only in our school but in our local areas really puts our school mission statement into action and it has helped me believe that "I can do all things through the help of God who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

-Vanessa

YOUNG CARER TRIP TO VUE CINEMA

TRINITY



On Wednesday 13th December 2023, 10 of our Young Carers alongside Miss Hammerton and Mr Ford, took a trip to Vue Cinema to watch the new Wonka film, which was a great bonding opportunity for the pupils. This was a reward trip offered to all Key Stage 3 Young Carers for their amazing contributions within the fortnightly Young Carer club.

"I really liked the trip, it was so much fun. I really liked how we got popcorn and sweets." – Esther

"The film was really good! Can we go again?" – Ryan

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Children's Mental Health Week took place from Monday 5th February – Friday 9th February 2024 and the Trinity Ambassadors led lots of exciting activities to raise awareness about the importance of our mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The week started with a 'Trinity Takeover' during Monday break times, which involved Trinity staff and the Trinity Ambassadors sharing resources and information about the week. Lots of students got involved in a game of Self-Care Bingo and setting SMART goals! Pupils were receptive to these activities and we saw some new faces that we don't usually get the opportunity to see!



Our amazing Trinity Ambassadors led this week's morning assembly for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, and even created a role play scenario to raise awareness of what the Trinity Suite is and how we can support the pupils in school.

They also talked about their role as a Trinity Ambassador and what pupils can do if they need help.

To end the week, on Friday 9th February, the Trinity Ambassadors ran a bake sale, with all proceeds being donated to 'Solent Mind', a children's mental health charity based in Hampshire. Overall, it was a successful and fun week to raise awareness for Children's Mental Health!



HISTORY



YEAR 9

This term, Year 9 students have been learning about the Berlin Wall. Students have explored why the wall went up, how the wall affected people in Germany and internationally, the role of the Stasi and why the wall came down. As part of their learning, they show how the wall developed using biscuits, strawberry laces and marshmallows to demonstrate how difficult it became to escape to the West and how this would affect those living in East Germany.

Year 11 have been learning in lessons about life in Nazi Germany. Recently, students tried to assess how the lives of The Simpsons characters would be affected. The opinions on Mr Burns proved extremely interesting and how Bart might have enjoyed some aspects of Hitler Youth before becoming disillusioned.

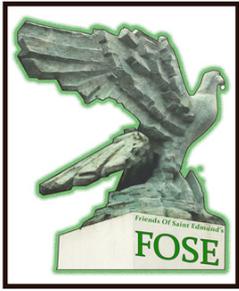


Students have been learning about Crime and Punishment in the Medieval Period. Looking at the superstition nature of trial by ordeal to the development of the jury system and the Magna Carta. In these pictures, they were being introduced to the crimes, punishments, law enforcement and trials during the Early Modern Period.

YEAR 8

This half term, Year 8 have been learning about the British Empire and the impact that it had on the countries that it colonised around the world, giving us the opportunity to contextualise some of the other topics we have recently studied such as the Industrial Revolution and the Trade in Enslaved people, as well as providing the chance to learn about diverse cultures and experiences. We began the topic by looking at the Empire Plate - a contemporary source designed to celebrate the Empire, and then, at the end of the topic, when students had learned about the realities of being colonised by Britain, the students created their own versions of the plate which show more accurately the impact of colonisation on the people who experienced this. The photographs show some of the results of this task.





FRIENDS OF ST EDMUND'S



Why should others volunteer at a school?

I have made some great friends over the years, laughed until I have cried and seen our community come together and thrive. PTAs need more parents and teachers to help develop new ideas and move forward. It can be a struggle getting people to volunteer, especially as lives are so full with work and home life. We are lucky here at St Edmund's as we have some great volunteers who give so much of their time, but we could always use more, even if it is just a spare pair of hands at the school disco! It is great fun to learn new dancing skills!

We align our uniform sales with parents evenings, school introductions and option evenings.



Want to know more about the FOSE or volunteer and become a committee member? Visit the website:
www.saintedmunds.org.uk/parents/fose or email:
friendsofstedmunds@saintedmunds.org.uk

Heather Egan

My role

Hi, I am Heather Egan and I am currently the Chair of the Friends of St Edmund's (FOSE) (Parent Teacher Association, PTA) here at St Edmund's.

What do I do?

I set the agenda and chair the monthly meeting for a team of about ten staff and parent committee members. At the meeting we discuss how we can raise money and organise events that will enrich our students' learning experiences.

The various events that we support ranges from school discos at Christmas and Summer, Valentine's events, quizzes and applying for grants and funds. This year we aim to apply for the Tesco Community Grant, which, if successful, will enable us to improve the outdoor break area outside of the new block which has been built (sun shelter, benches, outdoor games).

Another fantastic venture we run is the school uniform exchange. This exchange was set up approximately a year ago and has been very well received and supported by families. The service provides good quality second-hand uniform at a fraction of the cost. A significant number of families receive pupil premium, and

I have seen first-hand how this service has helped families in need. We align our uniform sales with Parents Evenings that are held at the school. We also attended other events including Transition events for our new Year 7 students and option evenings

How long have i been volunteering?

I have volunteered most of my life in one way or another, but I have been part of a PTA for 13 years. I was a member of the PTA at my children's primary school, and Chair in the final year. I became a member of the FOSE when my children started at St Edmund's.

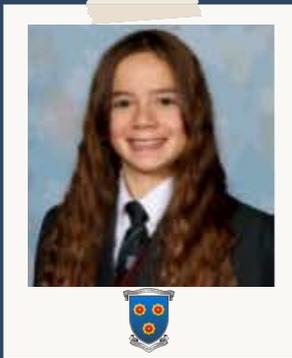
What do I gain from volunteering?

I began volunteering so I could get to know the school, and its community and feel part of it and to give back to the school is my way of thanking the school for educating my children. It has also helped me to put my skills to good use and gain new ones. I used to be an event manager and I have used my social media skills time and again. It also sets a good example to my children, to show them that it is good to give back to the community that you live in.

YEAR 7

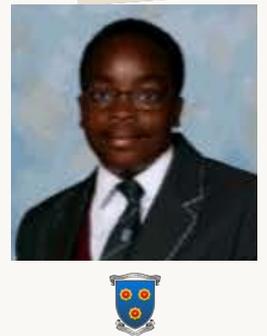
Year 7 were asked to report on how they have settled into the St Edmund's Family since September.

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



'At first, I felt anxious and a bit overwhelmed at the fact that I would be starting in a new school from scratch. I didn't know what to expect. Although St Edmund's welcomed me with open arms, and I settled in within a week. The change was huge but encouraged me to learn, grow and explore new things I had never encountered before in my life!'

'My time so far at St Edmund's has been amazing. We encountered a few problems at the start but with the help of teachers we overcome them. I've been enjoying my time at St Edmund's and made a lot of friends through the help of numerous events and activities. There are lots of things to participate in, whether it be sports or clubs. I have also liked the homework, having to research or create a piece of work from scratch. In general, I believe my time at St Edmund's has been good and it will only get better along the way.'



All the teachers are very nice. The homework is very knowledgeable. The school uniform stands out unlike other schools, and that makes us well known as a community. The facilities are fun: the astro, football and basketball pitches, the ping pong are and the astro. I really like the swimming pool, which is fun and warm. We enjoy it the very best with lots of activities and events to get involved with! I am greatly thankful for all the supplies and PE equipment available to us daily.

My St Edmunds transition was very smooth, they eased all of us into it so nicely that I barely realized anything had changed although it was a big change particularly with the size of the school and the high expectations. The thing I have enjoyed the most is PE as it is a fantastic chance to get some fresh air outside the classroom!



This holiday we are introducing a new way to book onto activities. Please text 07534 922980 with your main and at least 1 reserve carer by **Sunday 4 February**. We will then allocate spaces fairly and confirm which activity your young carer can attend. Any bookings made after this date will be added to the reserve list and we will let you know if spaces become available.

When booking please include the young carers full name, age, and ensure you have received your confirmation text from us by Thursday 8 February.

If you are unable to attend, please cancel the session as soon as possible so the place can be offered to another young carer. When delivering activities, it will be difficult to respond immediately to calls or texts, however we will reply as soon as we can.

There are large numbers of young carers attending the project so to make it fair we need to share out popular and more costly activities during the year. Please bear this in mind when making your choices.

Some of our holiday activities are community based. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer individual young carers extended 1:1 support at these sessions. Please contact us if you would like to discuss your child's individual needs in relation to this.

Please bring a drink & a coat. If the weather is sunny please wear or bring sun-cream to the session. You can also bring a snack if you would like to.

Please can you check we have an up-to-date 'Consent' form before attending activities. We will have blank consent forms for parents/carers to complete at activities, should you need to.

Places at our Wednesday and Saturday groups continue to be offered to young carers. Both currently have waiting lists. Please contact us if you are interested in joining one of them.

Some age guidelines may be flexible, please let us know if you have any questions or if there's anything stopping you from coming to an activity.

Please be aware if there are any unforeseen circumstances, we may need to provide alternative activities or cancel sessions.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you all soon, The Young Carers Team.

Addresses for some activities

- Carers Centre, 117 Orchard Rd, Southsea, PO4 0AD
 - Mountbatten Leisure Centre, (main entrance by car park) Alex Way, Hilsa, Portsmouth PO2 9QA
 - Paulsgrove Family Hub, Cheltenham Rd, Portsmouth PO6 3PL
 - Portsmouth Museum, Museum Rd, PO1 2LJ
 - Somerstown Family Hub, Omega St, Southsea PO5 4LP 023 92821816 (this is in Omega street, not the hub across Winstan Churchill Ave.)
 - D-Day Story, Clarence Esplanade Portsmouth England PO5 3NT/John Pounds Centre, 23 Queen Street, (access via Aylward Street), Portsea, PO1 3HN
 - The Learning Place, 6 Derby Road, PO2 8HH (Entrance to the side of Derby Road Post Office)
- Adventure playgrounds (6 to 13 year olds)** - If you would like to attend a playground session, please contact the site directly. If you need any support with this, please let us know.
- Buckland adventure playground, Mallins Road, PO2 7BA, 023 9283 2611
 - Landport adventure playground, Arundel Street, PO1 1PH 023 9282 4571
 - Paulsgrove adventure playground, Marsden Road, PO6 4JB, 023 9222 1527
 - Portsea adventure playground, Aylward Street, PO1 3PB, 023 9275 3237
 - Somerstown adventure playground, Waterloo Street, PO5 4HS, 023 9287 3236
 - Stanshaw adventure playground, Western Terrace, PO2 8JX, 023 9289 0241



Saturday Group	8 - 14 years Saturday Young Carers group, John Pounds Centre, Portsea Please email us if you are interested - there is currently a waiting list.		Sat Mobile 07985 397970 For use on the morning
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Monday February 12	10.30am - 12.30pm Games and art & crafts session (drawing / painting clay) Meet at: Somerstown Family Hub OMEGA STREET	1.30pm - 3.30pm Family Art + Games at Carers Centre Meet at: Carers Centre	6pm - 8.30pm Monday Eve Group (All Mondays except Bank holidays) Meet at Carers Centre	13 - 18 years
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Tuesday February 13	Morning (time to be confirmed) 6 - 11 yrs Exploria - indoor climbing and slides (Paid by Zurich Insurance) Meet at: Pyramids Centre, Clarence Esplanade, Southsea PO5 3ST	2 - 4.30pm D-Day Story Make your own genuine Air fix model to take home in this exclusive event Meet at: The D-Day Story	6+ years
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Wednesday February 14	10.00am - 12.30pm Cooking - let us know of any food allergies and dietary requirements. Meet at Carers Centre Please bring an empty container for your food.	2pm - 4pm Art + crafts, Games at Paulsgrove Meet at: Paulsgrove Family Hub	Early evening 8 - 18 years Wed group Paulsgrove Please contact us if you are interested in joining this group. Evening NEW DAY for 18-25 years Group Contact Mandy 07464 529837 	6.45pm - 9pm 12 - 17 years Playzone Teen Session Please bring socks + cover arms/legs
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Thursday February 15	9.40am - 11.30am Bowling - Hollywood Bowl Meet at: The side of Marks & Spencer, Gunwharf Quays (vehicle drop-off point) (Please wear Closed toe shoes)	1.30pm - 4pm Ocean Themed Arts & Crafts, art competition, Sea trail + museum Meet at: Portsmouth Museum
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Fri 16 February	Morning (time to be confirmed) Climb + climb session - Mountbatten Leisure Centre Please wear long sleeves, trousers & suitable shoes. Please complete this form before the young person climbs: https://trailer.app/clinclimbportsmouth/watverth/ Meet outside entrance	1.30-3.30pm approx. 1 parent/adult age 18+ & 1 young carer age 8+ Family Cooking - North End Please let us know of any food allergies. Meet at 'The Learning Place, 6 Derby Road, PO2 8HH Please bring containers for your cooking	12.40pm - 2.15pm 12+ years Swimming - Wet & Wacky Mountbatten Leisure Centre By attending this you are agreeing young carers are water - confident + able to swim (staff not in water) Meet outside Mountbatten entrance
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The D-Day Story

Tuesday 13 February
Airfix Extravaganza
Come and make a model at the museum. Regular museum admission applies plus £2.00 per model. Drop in from 11am to 3pm.
theddaystory.com

Thursday 15 February
The Big Drop
Make your own parachute, family-friendly craft activity. Included in museum entry price. Drop in from 11am to 3pm.



Cumberland House Natural History Museum

Saturday 10 to Sunday 18 February (closed Monday).
Minerals in your shopping basket museum trail, £2.00 per person (50p Portsmouth Leisure Card).
portsmouthnaturalhistory.co.uk

Wednesday 14 February, 10:30am to 3:00pm.
Mineral Day, free event.
View minerals from our natural history collections and bring your own minerals for identification by Southampton Mineral and Fossil Society.

Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum Open Days

Dickens' Birthday, Wednesday 7 February, 10am to 4pm, last entry 3:30pm.

Thursday 15 February, 10am to 4pm, last entry 3:30pm.

Wednesday 21 February, 1:30pm to 4:30pm, last entry 4pm.

charlesdickensbirthplace.co.uk



Eastney Engine Houses Open Days

Beam Engine House and Gas Engine House

Sunday 28 Jan, 10am to 4pm, last entry 3pm.

Sunday 25 February, 10am to 4pm, last entry 3pm.

The Gas Engine House

is also open on Wednesday mornings, 10am to 12noon.

Check online for details:
eastneyenginehouses.co.uk

For more information go to
portsmouthmuseums.co.uk

Portsmouth
the great waterfront city

Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery

Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL



Ocean themed half-term fun for all the family

10 to 18 February 2024



Daily:

Ocean-themed craft activities

£2.50 per person (£1.00 Portsmouth Leisure Card).
Drop in from 10:30am to 12noon or 1:30pm to 3:00pm.

Ocean at the End of the Lane trail

£2.00 per person (50p Portsmouth Leisure Card).

Guess the name of our giant sea creature – and win it!

Solent Seas Art competition

Bring in a drawing or painting of your favourite sea creature found around the Portsmouth coastline. The competition will be judged by the Museum's Curator of Art and the top three winners will have their art displayed online. Open to children 16 and under.

Guess the number of sweets in the jar and win the lot!

All three competitions are free to enter, please check the full terms and conditions at:
portsmouthmuseum.co.uk/events



Discover more about Portsmouth's fascinating coastline in our immersive ocean themed exhibition.

OCEAN AT THE
END OF THE LANE

BACK TO SCHOOL - MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2024

Wednesday 21st February 2024-
Year 8 Taster Day, Uni of Portsmouth.

Tuesday 27th/ Wednesday 28th
- Year 9 Vaccinations.

Thursday 29th February 2024 -
Blood Brothers theatre trip.

Friday 1st March 2024- Variety Show.

Monday 4th March 2024 - Reading Week

Tuesday 5th March 2024- School
production workshop.

Thursday 7th March 2024 - World Book Day

Wednesday 13th March 2024 & Friday
15th March 2024 - School Production
auditions

Friday 29th March 2024- Good Friday
Bank Holiday

**FRIDAY 29TH
MARCH 2024 -
MONDAY 15TH
APRIL 2024**

Please note: Diary Dates - subject to change. 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.