

Newsletter



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

St Edmund's Catholic School

EASTER BLESSINGS



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Caelum Dives IngreDi



HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS



As we approach the end of term, Easter provides a time for reflection, renewal and spiritual growth. At St Edmund's we embrace this period as an opportunity to deepen our faith, strengthen our family bonds and reflect on our journey together.

You will see from the newsletter what an industrious and exciting half-term it has been. Several year groups have had progress reports, parents' evenings and/or book sharing week. Giving parents/carers real insight to the brilliant learning our children have been doing, Day in/out here at St Edmund's.

There have been lots of sports events, trips, activities and events, which have involved a large number of students. These include such things as trips to the theatre, Geography fieldtrips, careers events and sporting fixtures. As well as numerous performing arts activities and chances for students to get involved/perform. We have some truly talented individuals who can do anything from Shakespeare to singing/dancing/performing with a huge amount of confidence and maturity. Our children consistently demonstrate the values of dedication, perseverance and excellence that we seek to develop and hold dear at St Edmund's. I am immensely proud of the students and staff for their tireless efforts and commitment.

As you are aware, we have had a real spotlight on punctuality over the last few weeks, as a growing number of students were arriving late, or even missing registration. Not only can this impact on an individual's attendance, but most importantly, they are missing tutor activities, prayer and reflection; an essential part to the start of the day. Punctuality is an important skill in life and can impact on us when we get this wrong. Next term when we return, we will have having spotlight weeks on equipment, phones and focus during learning.

Uniform has been much better this half-term. A huge thanks for parental support. Jumpers will be optional when we return and we will be reminding students of the 'no gum' rules. More students are unfortunately losing break time and in some cases much more severe sanctions are being given, in line with the school policy.

Over the Easter break we will be having a number of improvements made to the school site. This will include the replacement of school bells, some classroom redecoration and new air conditioning in the Kelly Block. Our planning for the summer term improvements is underway. This will include the development of a new Art Block/Technology/Music block with modern state of the art facilities. I will give further details in the summer newsletter once the final contracts have been agreed. This is being developed with the support of the Diocese and Local Authority and represents the penultimate stages of the redevelopment of the school site.

There will also be a number of revision sessions for Year 11 students. Upon returning, Year 11 have only 3/4 weeks respectively until GCSE examinations begin. Spare a thought and prayer for students who will need to work hard and revise thoroughly over Easter if they wish to achieve the success they hope for.

Prior to this the Easter season is a time to embrace the message of hope and redemption this Holy time brings. In the words of Pope Francis 'Easter is the demonstration of God, that life is essentially spiritual and timeless.' Our Easter Service will be another opportunity for us to come together as a family, to celebrate hope, joy and peace in our hearts.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Easter.



**God Bless
Mr S Graham
Headteacher**



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CHAPLAINCY



Lent has been a journey of hope for us this term. During the six weeks of Lent, we prepare for Holy Week and Easter by 'Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving'. Lent is an opportunity to get to know God better by listening to God in prayer, removing some of the distractions that stop us from listening and by helping other people. During Lent this year we are working together to raise money to donate to CAFOD. Our fundraising supports all of their endeavours to help our global family. The cheque will be presented at the end of term during our liturgy of The Stations of the Cross, at St John's Cathedral. We have been rehearsing for our Stations and as always both staff and students are part of the drama for The Way of the Cross as well as the singing, dancing, prayer and reflection. The Liturgy of The Way of the Cross is always very moving, as the quiet of the Cathedral, even through it is full of staff, students and visitors, the atmosphere and the tangible prayer is very apparent.

Our Reconciliation Liturgies helped us to focus on areas in our lives where we need to change and let go of. Four of our local priests came to the services and after the Liturgies offered an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to those who wished to partake.

Pope Francis designated 2024 a Year of Prayer with a particular focus on Our Father. Prayer is such an important part of our identity at St Edmund's Catholic School. During Lent, Adoration and Prayer takes place every Wednesday in the Chapel during both lunchtimes. By joining in it gives you the opportunity to pray and be in the presence of Jesus.

St Vincent De Paul Groups meet both lunchtimes on a Monday who get involved in various activities such as fundraising events. Our Parish Ambassadors who keep us connected with our local parishes and our Chaplaincy Teams in each Year Group. 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. Our last Prayer Group met on the 26th February in the Chapel. It is always so lovely to see the commitment from the many Chaplaincy members who have all participated in the Chaplaincy meetings this term.

Wishing you a joyful and hope-filled Easter and I hope you have some time to rest. Easter is a wonderful time as the weather has started to change and the daffodils are all out and new life can be seen growing and yes, the sun is shining but most importantly it is a time when we can stop, look at our own journey and spend time with the Lord. God bless.

Chaplain

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

CULTURAL

APPRECIATION DAY!



What a lovely, heart-warming day celebrating the cultural diversity of our school! The students yet again truly embraced it with so many opting to come in, in their cultural dress, and a number of students selling food at break time. They raised a whopping **£252.38** from food stalls alone!



The day was a whole-school non uniform day with the option to wear cultural dress or something green to represent Saint Edmund's. You can see from the pictures just how much effort students went to and how vibrant the day was. We had Michelle, Hadassah and Lydia perform an amazing Afro dance in assembly. Students competed in an inter – tutor culture day quiz with winning groups for each year receiving a prize in assembly and in the canteen throughout the week, we had a wide range of different cultural cuisine on offer.

This year our chosen local charity is URBOND who carry out amazing work both in the local community and in Guinea. They will be receiving a donation of over £900!! We are hoping that they may come into assemblies after Easter to share with us how the money raised will be used to help other people.



Mitchelle in 8 Damien wrote the following poem about diversity:

EVERYONE'S EQUAL

Can you just imagine how dull
the world would be
If one single colour was all that
we could be.

We are all born in a different way

How we look and what we say
We're all very different
just spirits in disguise
Sharing our earth
like clouds share skies.

No matter our race
our skin or creed

We are all just humans

And we cut when we bleed

We all stand against injustice

And unite in the fight

We must join together

And speak up for what's right.

So we all need to celebrate

How different we all are

And in some shape or form

We are all a shining star.



YEAR 7



As we reflect on the past term, it's been incredibly heartening to witness our students wholeheartedly embracing the Catholic ethos within our school community. From spirited chaplaincy meetings to dedicated participation in St. Vincent de Paul meetings, our pupils have exemplified the values of compassion, empathy, and service.

One of the highlights has been the remarkable engagement of our Year 7 student body in shaping their school experience. Through our student voice initiatives, our pupils have not only voiced their opinions but also actively contributed ideas and solutions, demonstrating maturity and responsibility beyond their years.

Another area where Year 7s have truly shone is in sports. In the recent cross-country event, we witnessed several outstanding performances from our Year 7 students. Their determination and sportsmanship were commendable, and they represented our school with pride and resilience. A special mention to Jonah, who smashed his event out the park.

In celebrating literacy, our pupils showcased their talents during reading week, by reading 10 minutes at the start of every lesson. Moreover, on World Book Day, our Year 7s impressed us not only with their fantastic outfits but also with their creativity and enthusiasm for literature.

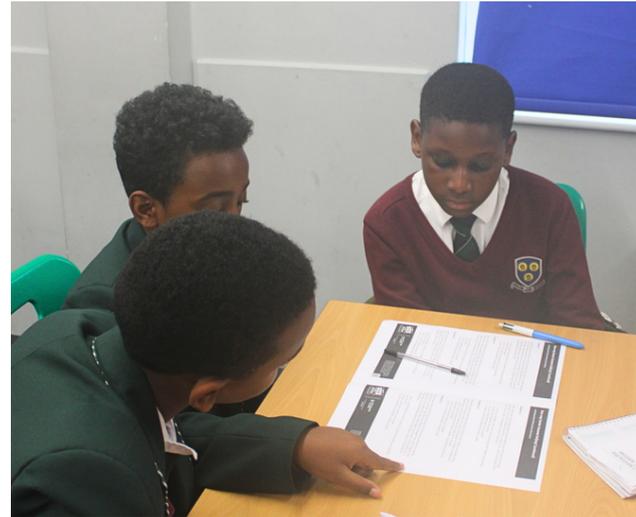
Looking ahead, we have an exciting event planned for next term: our first Year 7 Parents Evening. Scheduled for the 25th April, this event will be held virtually, and parents are kindly requested to book their appointments online. More information will be communicated through a letter in due course, so please keep an eye out for it.

In the realm of academics, our students recently participated in the Portsmouth Schools' Spelling Bee finals, where they showcased their linguistic prowess and represented our school admirably. Their performance was nothing short of superb, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

As we look forward to the upcoming term, let's continue to nurture the spirit of community, excellence, and collaboration that defines our school. Together, we can create a nurturing environment where every pupil can thrive and succeed.

Warm regards

Mr Poxton.





YEAR 8

Another super busy Half Term for the Year 8 year group! We held our Year 8 online Parents Evening recently, which is a key date in the yearly school calendar where parents, carers and pupils get to speak to individual subject teachers about progress, effort and behaviour in lessons. This is generally a compulsory event where we expect all pupils to have a representative to book and attend the online parents evening appointments, but we do understand that this is not always possible due to work/other commitments. Huge thanks to parents and carers that informed us in advance that they were unable to attend. This allows us to arrange alternative form of communication if necessary. I hope the evening provided to be useful and worthwhile in allowing us all to work together to encourage our children to achieve their very best in all areas of school life.

Chaplain Fiona delivered for us a very special Reconciliation Service where we had the opportunity to reflect, reconcile, pray for special people in our life, as well as attend Confession. In the midst of busy Year 8 day to day life, this is something that is very much appreciated, the opportunity to pause and reflect, just for a short while.



Five out of eight tutor groups have had their very own special tutor group Mass. Each tutor group are involved in the planning, preparation and delivery of the mass, with attendance and blessings from Father James, Father Emmanuel, Father Paul from St John's Cathedral. The final three Year 8 tutor groups will have theirs coming up after Easter, it is a wonderful opportunity to spend some extended quality, spiritual time together as a tutor group.



We have also come to the end of our Year 8 Book Sharing Fortnight. This was an opportunity for parents and carers at home to see first hand what pupils have been learning about in lessons. Please ensure stickers inside subject books have been signed. Completion of all of all book sharing stickers; English, Maths, RE, Science, History, Geography, French or Spanish, will be rewarded with 3 merits from your child's tutor! We are also holding an inter-tutor competition to see which tutor group has the highest number of returns! Prize to be issued when we return after Easter!

We have also had the pleasure of watching some of our Year 8 tutor group assemblies. I have been so proud of the confidence and bravery of the pupils to get up in front of our entire year group to deliver presentations, prayer, singing, dancing, sign language and musical performances! Wow!



I hope you all have a restful Easter holidays, and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 15th April. Please take careful note of the school uniform policies ready for when we return so that there are no errors on our return following the break.

Mrs E Were
Head of Learning – Year 8

YEAR 9



As we bid farewell to another vibrant term in Year 9, it's time to reflect on the whirlwind of activities and events that have kept our year group buzzing with energy. From informative Options Evenings to exhilarating football matches and the crucial process of option picking, it's been a term filled with growth, excitement, and community spirit.

Our Options Evening was a resounding success with 96% attendance, providing students and parents with invaluable insights into the diverse range of subjects and pathways available for their future academic journeys. The event was a testament to the dedication of the teaching staff, who offered guidance and support to help students make informed decisions about their educational choices.

The spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie was on full display during our recent football matches for the boys Year 9 team. Our team showcased not only their athletic prowess but also their unwavering determination and teamwork. Whether on the field or cheering from the sidelines, the team came together and have done amazingly well reaching the semi-final of the cup and have made great progress in the league.

With option picking season in full swing, our students have been carefully considering their academic pathways for the upcoming years. It's a pivotal moment that marks the beginning of a journey toward realizing their aspirations and unlocking their potential. I am hopeful all students have made the choices that best suit them and are excited to start KS4.

Mrs Halford also organised and hosted an exhilarating Careers Speed Networking Morning, where students had the unique opportunity to engage with professionals from various fields in a fast-paced and dynamic setting. The event was a resounding success, with eager students eagerly rotating through stations, each offering insights into different career paths. Students were left with newfound clarity, empowered with valuable knowledge to guide them as they navigate their future career choices. The Careers Speed Networking Morning not only provided a glimpse into the vast array of possibilities awaiting our students but also reinforced the importance of proactive exploration and networking in shaping their futures.

As we look back on the events of this term, we're reminded of the strength and resilience of Year 9. Together we've navigated challenges, celebrated successes, and forged bonds that will endure long after the final bell of the term has rung.

As we embark on the upcoming break, let's carry forward the spirit of unity, determination, and passion that defines us as a year group. May the rest of the year be filled with continued growth, achievement, and moments of shared joy.

Wishing you all a restful and rejuvenating Easter break.

Miss Hammond





YEAR 10

Our Easter break 2024 has just begun, how is this possible, when we have just only come back from our February half term?

I have used this statement before, and I will say it again... time really does fly when you are having fun!

We have had an absolute jam-packed term, and I am delighted to share it with you.

We had the most beautiful Reconciliation service on the 10th March, led by Chaplain Fiona. As always, it is time of reflection, prayer, mindfulness and embracing our spirituality. An opportunity for our pupils to take time out of their busy days and focus on their spiritual growth. Amazing attendance and participation from all Year 10s, thank you.

Our second Parents Evening on the 21st of March was another roaring success. Well attended by parents and pupils with some lovely feedback from both. Our Parents Evening was a vital time for ensuring clear goal setting, and discussing strengths and weakness ahead of the upcoming early entry GCSE exams, as we head into our final year of your secondary education.

Since September, our early entry prefects have really stepped up to fulfil various tasks and roles around the school. From tours of the school to daily canteen duties, our pupils have been nothing short of excellent. I am super excited to see who will be going for the Year 11 roles in the coming weeks, especially our future Head Boy and Head Girl!

Outside the usual school activities Year 10 have certainly been busy. Dance Live, Soundsational, auditions for this year's school productions- High School Musical, your individual sports, hobbies and interests that you pursue in your own free time outside the school. I feel tired just typing it!

On Wednesday 7th February Year 10s had a great opportunity to attend their Apprenticeship Bus Session. Thank you very much to Mrs Halford for organising and hosting. It was a truly inspirational event, and even more so, it was amazing to see some past St Edmund's students being incredibly successful and sharing their experiences with you.

I am also pleased to say, that the year group did really well in their second English GCSE mock exam as the countdown for their early entry GCSE in English Literature in May has just begun. They should be so proud of their hard work and dedication they have shown not only to themselves, but to the subject. It just goes to show when you put your mind to something you CAN achieve.

After this short, but super busy term, I do hope that everyone has a fantastic and blessed Easter break with your beautiful friends and family.

As always, I do want to remind you, that 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



Health Care Science T Level Taster Session

'24 budding scientists/healthcare workers from Year 10 took part in a 2 hour taster session with tutors from Havant & Southdowns College who teach the T Level in Healthcare Science. They were able to rotate around 8 different stations trying out all sorts of things from diagnostics, taking blood pressure, learning how to take a pulse and even matching stool samples! (These were fake though, much to the pupils relief!) The pupils all thoroughly enjoyed this glimpse of what a T Level course entails.' - Mrs Halford

HUGE Congratulations to Aurora for her Gymnastics Achievement. Aurora competed recently in the national 4 NDP for southern region under her club Viva Gymnastics.



YEAR 11



Spring is in the air and the countdown to revision and exams has well and truly started for Year 11.

I want to start by saying that despite the huge amount of pressure that the students have been under, as deadlines to coursework and controlled assessments have loomed and then passed, the majority have remained calm, resilient and determined to do well.

What feels like the longest term ever has included a vast number of activities and events including year group and tutor photos, mock exams, GCSE PE moderation and the food tech practical exam.

To help students to revise, we have made available a personalised timetable for the Easter break which the students should complete themselves. This should also have the dates and times when staff will be in school to offer targeted revision sessions. We expect every pupil to complete between four and five hours a day. It is important however that students take breaks and get some physical activity in fresh air too.

The GCSE exam timetable is on the school website as well as the catch-up times that staff lay on after school. You should have received the Year 11 Reports which will have been sent home to parents with the students. It is hoped that pupils will sit down with their family to look at all the comments that teachers have made on how targets can be reached and exceeded. Tutors and teachers alike have taken time to congratulate students on their hard work, comment on poor attitude and behaviour and wish each one all the best for their upcoming exams.

The GCSE food tech class completed their practical exam over a three-hour time period. They had to prepare sweet and savoury breakfast foods. I went to see and taste some of the finished results and they were amazing!! What talent, I really am so proud of you all and if anyone wants to continue to make me French toast, I won't be able to say no!

The second wave of Leavers Ball invitations has been sent out, and to get that invite, students needed to have 94% attendance and a good behaviour record. This has slipped recently due to some illnesses, but everyone must now make sure that they attend school even if they feel unwell, to access the range of revision lessons that will be delivered, ready for wave 3 after Easter. Well, it just leaves me to wish every student in Year 11 a good Easter break. Enjoy the rest but don't put your books down for too long.

Thank you as always for all your support, I look forward to welcoming you all back soon in our final term.

Miss Tudor, Head of Learning Year 11.



LLRC NEWS

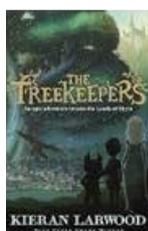


Once again, the students were able to celebrate literature in a variety of ways, from taking part in a 'Lit Quiz' to decorating themselves or a potato as their favourite book character. All students in Key Stage 3 were able to drop everything and read during their lessons across the school curriculum.

It has been proven Scientifically that reading regularly is fantastic, not only to develop the skills involved in reading, but there are huge benefits for our mental health. Many of our pupils appreciated the opportunity to relax and read a book during the week, as they normally read far less at home.

'I enjoyed dressing up as one of my favourite book characters – Darth Maul. It was also very nice to win the best costume competition'. Ernest Year 8

'I enjoyed the week because we got to read at the beginning of every lesson' Daniel Year 7



We had another exciting day at the annual quiz. Pitting our book knowledge against an enormous number of teams from other schools in the city. We did manage to win several rounds and met four authors: **Lou Abercrombie, Alex Bell, Kieran Larwood and Nikesh Shukla!**



'The students were able to exchange their winning book tokens for a signed copy of a book or choose one of their choices. It was amazing to see so many young people sharing their love of literature' - Mrs Edwards



'I am really happy because we won a lot of rounds, including the book knowledge round! I wish I could do it next year! Overall, I had a great time. My team got 10/10 on the Author faces round and 5/5 for Anagrams of Books. Also, I got some books from the Hayling Bookshop.' Jewel Year 8

'I really enjoyed this experience and found it really fun. We won the visual rounds with book covers and books into movies or missing names. We also won the book knowledge section and got prizes.' Rachel Year 8

CAREERS

Mrs Halford

YEAR 8 UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH YEAR 8 TASTER DAY.



'Fifteen Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to visit the University of Portsmouth to experience what being a student there might be like. They had a session on Human Rights and Discrimination from the Head of the Law Faculty which took place in the Universities law court! They then went on to a 'Restart Your Heart' CPR training session with a Paramedic and then a lesson on American History and how this has been played out in Disney films over the years! All the pupils loved their day and learnt so much!' - Mrs Halford

SPEED NETWORKING EVENT

YEAR 9

'On Friday 9th February, 28 local business people came into St Edmund's to share their career path stories with our year 9 pupils. It was a very busy, successful morning where each of the pupils go to speak to at least 18 different professionals from all sorts of industry backgrounds. They were able to ask lots of questions and hopefully gain an understanding that no matter what path you take, making sure you are doing something you enjoy is the most important thing of all! I was so proud of Year 9; their behaviour and engagement were outstanding.' - Mrs Halford



SPORTS CORNER



The following pupils represented Portsmouth in Basingstoke at the Hampshire Schools Cross Country Championships. They all completed a prep walk around the course to ensure that they were focused and knew their way. They were excited but anxious about the event and wanted nothing more than not finishing last. I am pleased to say that no one finished last and everyone did their best throughout on an extremely slippery muddy course. Jonah won the year 7 event and shall now go on to represent Hampshire in the South-East school inter county championships on the 23rd March. The other pupils did not get placed in the top 10 but equally deserve a huge congratulations.

Year 7-
Nikola
Alex
Jonah

Year 8-
Leopold
Adam



YEAR 11 GCSE PE

Well done to the Year 11 students who are working hard towards their GCSE exams. Pupils are working hard within lesson and outside of lesson to get the best outcome possible in their summer exams. Well done to Christina for showing her amazing GCSE knowledge on the white board at options market for Year 9. This is seriously impressive knowledge!

CLUBS

We have had a busy half term for clubs. We would like to say a massive well done to the tutor groups who have had the most appearances in clubs in the Spring Term.

Year 7 – Romero who have had 99 appearances
 Year 8 – Damien who have had 84 appearances
 Year 9 – Kolbe who have had 63 appearances
 The most attended club within February was:
 1st Place – Badminton with 140 appearances
 2nd place – Dodgeball with 118 appearances
 3rd place – Swimming with 115 appearances



Portsmouth Music Festival



Huge congratulations to the choir for achieving a distinction and winning their class at Portsmouth Music Festival!

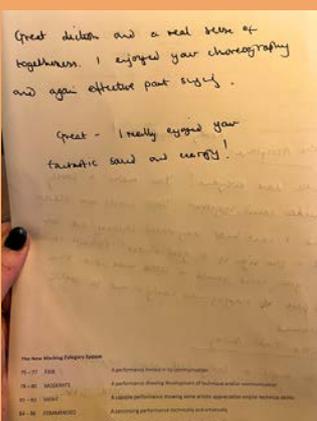
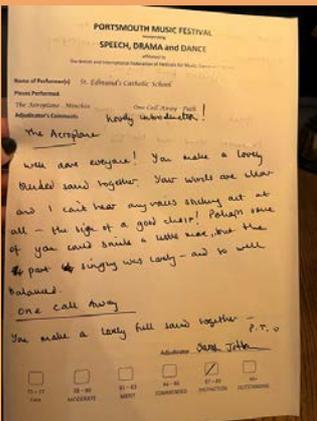


On Sunday 25th February the choir entered the Portsmouth Music Festival Vocal Section for young choirs. The festival was founded during World War I in an attempt to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Portsmouth in 1917. It was affiliated to the newly formed British Federation of Festivals in 1922 and grew in popularity in the ensuing years. The choir were entertained by a number of solo recitals before performing in our class. The choir performed 2 songs, the first was 'The Aeroplane' by Tim Minchin, an emotional ballad about reaching family and friends. The second song was 'One Call Away' by Charlie Puth, a gospel style version of the song about being the friend a person could ask for. The adjudicator gave the choir some really positive comments including having 'a lovely blended sound, well balanced part singing and a real sense of togetherness.' I am proud to tell you the choir were awarded a Distinction grade and won the 'Amon Cup' trophy for their class.

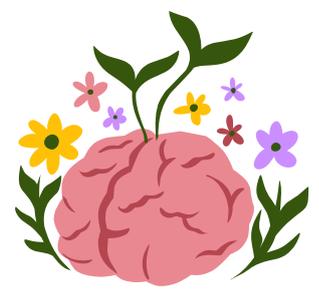
MUSIC FOR YOUTH FESTIVAL

On Saturday 2nd March, 22 pupils from Year 7 -10 joined pupils from St John's Catholic Primary School on a trip to Reigate in Surrey to take part in Music For Youth auditions. The choir, known as 'Cross Keys' to represent the different age groups had learnt 2 songs about the environment to perform, including sign language as part of their performance. After a quick car park rehearsal, the pupils were treated to a Taiko drumming performance, traditional Japanese drumming which was incredible and very loud! The pupils performed with a great energy and enthusiasm whilst clearly getting the message of the songs across to the judges. We are anxiously waiting to find out if we have reached round 2 of auditions in July with the ultimate goal of performing at The Royal Albert Hall in November – watch this space!

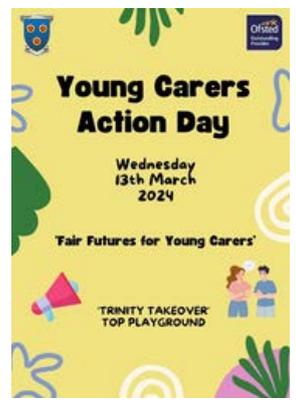
"I was very proud to win a trophy for the school!!"



Trinity



YOUNG CARERS ACTION DAY 2024



This month, Trinity hosted a “Trinity Takeover” during break time on Young Carers Action Day to raise awareness and provide resources around this topic. A Young Carer is anyone under the age of 18, who helps to look after a member of their family or has additional responsibilities in the home.

It is estimated there are around 4,300 Young Carers in Portsmouth, therefore it is extremely important to raise awareness of Young Carers in schools and make sure support for these pupils is accessible.

Young Carers Action Day took place on Wednesday 13th March 2024, and the theme for this year was “Fair Future for Young Carers”. The aim of this day is to raise awareness about what it means to be a Young Carer and what responsibilities they may face. Trinity and pupil volunteers from the in-school Young Carers group provided activities, signposting and resources about this year’s Action Day theme. Lots of students were eager to learn about Young Carers by getting involved with the activities and quizzes! Even staff wanted to take part and learn more!



TRINITY AMBASSADOR APPLICATIONS

After Easter, Trinity will be opening up applications for pupils to become a Trinity Ambassador. Keep an eye out for upcoming announcements in the first assembly back after Easter! Any Year 10s wanting to put their names forward for Trinity Prefect, please speak with a member of Trinity staff.

SOUNDSATIONAL

The annual Soundsational performance evening, including schools and colleges from Portsmouth took place on Tuesday 12th March at Portsmouth Guildhall. The choir and Year 10 dancers represented St Edmund's as well as taking part in the massed choir at the end of the evening. The choir sang an beautiful ballad called 'Carry You' by Tim Minchin accompanied by Skye, Mia and Emily whose wonderful dance really added to the emotion of the performance. The choir then performed 'When We Were Young' by Adele with some challenging harmonies creating a strong performance. The massed choir had a varied programme, a gentle start 'What Was I Made For' from the Barbie film followed by the upbeat 'A World of Your Own' from the Wonka film. The evening finished with an uplifting performance of 'One Call Away' by Charlie Puth. Photos and videos of the event can be found on social media channels of Portsmouth Music Hub.

"I had an amazing time, I'm very thankful I had the privilege to attend."

"The concert was awesome! If I was asked to go again I would immediately accept the offer!"

"I loved listening to the other schools performances and my favourite song was 'When we were young.'"



VARIETY SHOW



The annual show Variety Show took place on Friday 1st March showcasing just some of the incredible talents we have at St Edmund's. Congratulations to all of the pupils who successfully made it through the audition process and then had the hard work of rehearsing their performances for the final show. We were treated to a diverse range of music, dance and even juggling performances with styles ranging from Irish folk songs, to pop music and musical theatre and even an appearance from the Spice Girls themselves! Well done to all the who took part – next stop – Britain's Got Talent!





ASTRONOMY

Exciting times in Astronomy! Our most recent cohort visited Eastney beach in January, braving temperatures of -2°C to carry out their observations of the night sky. Over 30 minutes our students observed some of their GCSE constellations (Orion, Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper asterism), practiced their night sky navigation and found the named stars they've learnt (Rigel, Betelgeuse, Mizar/Alcor, Aldebaran and Deneb!). We also practiced observation techniques (averted vision and dark adaptation), before looking through binoculars and the huge St Edmund's telescope. Using the telescope we looked at a massively zoomed in view of the Moon (cool) and then the moons of Jupiter (also cool), but the night was so clear we could make out the cloud bands in Jupiter's atmosphere too! (super cool).



"Jaw dropping, we could see all the craters on the Moon!"

"Using the telescope was very easy and an effective addition to our observations!"

"An exciting and interesting learning opportunity!"

Graphics

YEAR 7 MODEL HOUSE

Pupils have been researching different types of houses and looking at the details and materials used in architectural structures. They have used their cutting, folding and measuring skills to make a 3 dimensional model house from a card net. Pupils developed a lot of art skills and technical drawing skills to render the house design with as much realistic detail as possible from roof tiles and bricks to door knockers and garden ponds.



YEAR 8 COLOURFUL FACES

Year 8 have been drawing and designing an amazing array of faces full of character. Their final ideas were carefully created using colourful paper collage with precision. Pupils also created a matching envelope for their greeting card had fun learning how to make different pop-up techniques to go inside the card.



YEAR 9 LOGO PROJECT

Year 9 have been creating a Logo and a new name for a healthy food company that sells nutritious and organic food designed to help people lead a healthy lifestyle. The client wanted a company name that was unique and unusual and so pupils came up with a wide range of word combinations and phrases before deciding on their final name. A slogan for the new company was also invented and I think you agree the designs are far from ordinary.



GCSE GRAPHICS

Year 10 and 11 pupils have been busy completing their Line and shape project and developing a range of ideas for their final graphics exam. It takes many hours to master good illustration and Photoshop skills and also deciding on how best to present your portfolio of work. I very proud of all of their achievements.

"Aim High, smile bright, work hard" The Year 11 graphics GCSE exam is on 18th and 19 of April, it is a 10-hour exam and we all wish them the best of luck.

YEAR 7

7 Stein & 7 Teresa

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 liked my first year at St Edmund's because I made nice new friends and met wonderful teachers. I also get to do my favourite subjects, and I also like to play football on the astro!'

'St Edmund's has been good for me, we get to do fun experiments; the teachers are nice, and no one gets left behind. St Edmund's is the best school I have ever gone to in my life.'



"In September even though I didn't know loads of people, I wasn't that nervous because our school environment was very calming. The teachers welcomed us a lot and at first, we did loads of fun activities. Adapting to timetables and homework was hard but I've managed. Since then, I have befriended lots of people. Mr. Poxton and Mr. Graham helped us a lot and so did Miss Wynne - my tutor. I've improved educationally and I really love my time here."

"At first I was nervous to be in a new school that I was unfamiliar with, as most of my class were strangers to me. Luckily, I ended up having lots of friends in my tutor, which made me feel a little more comfortable. I found it very overwhelming at the start of the year as I thought the school was very strict. However, after some time I understood their rules and understood why we should follow them. I now feel comfortable in this school, and I think they do a great job educating children here even when it can be tough."



'A very happy Dominic has claimed the prize... he's promised me he will be sharing with his friends and not on a one man mission to eat it all in one day!' - Miss Tudor



If you are picking up your child from school in a car, please do not park/stop on the Zigzag lines outside the school or in the middle of the road. It is dangerous for all other students who are leaving the site. Thank you for your cooperation.

Year 11 Prep Notice

A reminder to parents/carers that if a pupil cannot attend the period 6 lesson we do need advance warning of this so we can let the appropriate teacher know, alert gate staff and mark registers. An email or call to reception, attendance or head of learning is strongly advised, and this needs to be done before midday of the day of.

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Annual

LOURDES

Pilgrimage 2024

22nd - 26th July 2024



Please can we take this opportunity to remind students they must be in full school uniform and haircuts, make-up and jewellery should be in line with our uniform policy. We look forward to welcoming you back to the St Edmund's family after Easter.

Easter Holidays:

**Thursday 29th March 2024-
Friday 12th April 2024.**

Back to School -

Monday 15th April 2024

Tuesday 16th April /Wednesday 17th April- Year 8 Isle Of Wight trip

Thursday 18th April - 6pm-7:30pm :
Catenian Speaking Competition Final

Thursday 25th April- Year 7 Parents Evening

Friday 3rd May - Year 11 Leavers Tea

Monday 6th May- BANK HOLIDAY

Tuesday 14th May - Barcelona Meeting 4:45pm

Saturday 25th May- Barcelona trip departs, returns 31st May.

**Break up for May Half Term
Friday 24th May 2024, Return
to School Monday 3rd June
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.

