

On Friday 17th November a selection of girls from Years 7 & 8 went to the Land Rover BAR in Portsmouth. There were lots of fun activities to take part in such as; rocket building with one of the founders of 'Steam Co', which was quite tricky as putting it all together was really fiddly. The exploration zone was also great to visit as it was great to make Christmas flavoured slime and an experiment to make a gummy bear scream. As well as practical activities, there were talks from inspiring women who had pursued careers and had interests in Science, Technology, Maths and Engineering.



LAND ROVER 

This was a fantastic experience and it really has made me think about my path for future years that I will be taking and career choices. One of the most memorable talks was from Lady Georgie Ainsley (Ben Ainsley's wife) who talked to us about female stereotypes and how most of them are unfair. She also interviewed some of the women who work at the Land Rover BAR, it was so inspiring.

One great lesson we learnt was that you cannot be good at everything, but you can try using what you already know. FAIL is not actually failing but it is a:

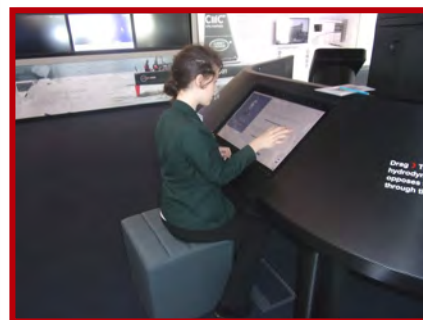
❄ First  
❄ Attempt  
❄ In  
❄ Learning



Chiamaka



Beth



The trip to the Land Rover BAR was both exciting and inspirational, and a day packed full of information. My favourite part was using VR glasses on the Tech Deck to steer a boat. It was so cool! The building is extremely high tech and the staff were friendly and gave us lots of tips on how to learn and set a goal in STEM (science, technology, engineering & maths).

Sumpa



It was fantastic to have an introduction as to how women can influence and progress in the engineering world and how we can contribute to society by making and improving innovative ideas. It was such an inspirational day and we would love to go again.

Lila & Annika



We had such an enjoyable day and experience visiting the Land Rover BAR. Exploring the zone and being able to interact with different technical gadgets was amazing, especially the VR headsets. This trip certainly inspired us and the rest of the girls who attended to look at a career in engineering.



Maureen and Angelina





# NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mr S Graham BSc, NPQH  
Tel: 02392 823766



As the term comes to an end, we are all extremely busy with mock examinations, Christmas events, trips, those last pieces of homework and the daily job of learning. The Christmas break will give time for reflection, the chance to catch our breath and prepare for a new year.

Without question, 2017 has been a great year for St Edmund's. Our academic results have continued to improve, resulting in our students being sought after by colleges. We are currently ranked 94th out of 6400 schools in the country. This is a fantastic testimony to the quality of teaching and the hard work of the young people at St Edmund's, as well as the support of parents. The Year 11 (leavers) certificate evening was a celebration which included the display of the tutor groups' religious icons in the hall. This reflects 5 years of prayer, meditations and individual spiritual journeys. This 'new' tradition will continue each year and we will have another physical memory of all that our students have given to the spiritual life of the school.

As you can see from the newsletter, students have been involved in a huge amount of activities, events, trips and experiences. I have also seen some amazing pieces of homework this term. My thanks to all for the hard work, commitment and time all these things involve.

Looking ahead to 2018, we will continue to drive forward with improving St Edmund's and 'not resting on our laurels', as I promised when we were awarded our Outstanding Ofsted.

So with that, there will be a heavy focus on several areas: Firstly we will be concentrating on the behaviour and conduct of students when in the changing rooms. This is an issue which has been raised by staff, governors and students. During changing the standards and attitudes do not match those shown at all other times, hence staff will be in and out of the changing rooms to monitor/report issues and senior staff will be supporting and checking this area. We will be adopting a zero tolerance approach and **any student** who fails to follow expected standards will be immediately withdrawn from learning for the whole day. Whilst it may all 'appear' to be harmless fun, it is usually at the expense of someone else. We will also be introducing lockers for small valuables which will be available for after school clubs to improve security of personal possessions.

Secondly, we will be looking at punctuality and uniform. Whilst the majority of students are brilliant, there are a few young people who push the boundaries by wearing jewellery/make-up etc. I appreciate all the support that parents give in the reinforcement and constant reminders of school policy.

Finally we will be celebrating in our reward assemblies. These are tremendous events and acknowledge the hard work and achievement of our superb students. May I wish you all a peaceful and holy Christmas. We look forward to the safe return of all students on January 8th and the new opportunities/challenges 2018 will bring.



Mr S Graham  
Headteacher



We have moved to the new Tech block for Electronics, where the facilities and equipment has been updated. Pupils are enjoying learning about Electronic Products and using the soldering equipment, wood work machines and the laser cutter.



We are using the laser cutter for Y7 and 8 to make a topper for their Handy timer (Y7) and the Electronic Game (Y8). This involves using a special software to design their logo, text and images on the template and then sending it to the Laser Cutter. The laser cutter then cuts, etches and engraves on the plastic material. It takes about 30 minutes to do this for the whole class.

Y9 are making the Flashing Alien. Once they have finished the soldering, they design and make the Alien figure on MDF. This will then be cut by using the saw and filed to the required shape. Pupils decide where to drill the eyes where the flashing LED lights can be seen.



Mr Ghosh







The Wise men followed the star to where they found baby Jesus in a stable, they knelt down before him in awe and wonder. This is what our Beatitude,

**‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,’**

has taught us and been leading us to. God sent his Son to be with us, not as some powerful king but as a baby; poor in spirit. God wanted to be one with us and for us to know how much we are loved.

We have indeed been following a star in our spiritual journey at St. Edmund’s School, through the various events of the term:

We had our celebrations and Masses on St. Edmund’s Day. We had to have two Masses to accommodate the growing numbers of students within our school. The two Masses were beautiful and everyone took part in various ways.

Our Reconciliation Services were very prayerful and reflected that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and therefore special. We spent time during the Service looking at letting go of things in our lives, in order to make space for new growth and space for Jesus as Christmas approaches. It was wonderful that we had five of our local clergy at the services for confession or a chat.

Our Christmas Sack appeal was a great success for Tutor Groups and staff filled Christmas sacks full of many Christmas goodies to give to a local charity. The Catholic Women’s League also supported our appeal and contributed some sacks too. Our thanks go to them and to all who have donated.

Our Carol Service at St John’s Cathedral was well attended and as always much effort went into the preparation for the evening. It was a time to stop, sing carols and to enjoy dance and the drama of the readings as well as spending time in front of the Nativity scene in prayer. We concluded with drinks and mince pies in the Discovery Centre.

Our Christmas Emmanuel Services always end the term. This year we started with a reflection on the guiding star that leads us to Jesus; the light that is always there for us. We then had a wonderful production of the Xmas Factor; where staff and students who have worked together over a number of weeks, put on various performances of Christmas songs, drama and dance. Great fun was had as our staff and students entered into the fun and voted for their favourite act.

So our journey this term has indeed been guided by the star; the star that prepared us during the Advent season for receiving Jesus at Christmas time; through our Masses, works of charity, Reconciliation Services, Carol Service and our fun-loving Emmanuel Services on the last day.



Thank you for your continued support.  
Wishing you all the peace and joy of Christ this Christmas.  
May 2018 bring you all many graces and blessings.

Fiona, Chaplain

May Lord Jesus fill your life with lots of  
love & peace &  
his blessings spread happiness around you.  
Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year  
to you and your family.



**CHAPLAINCY**

Well here we are at the end of our first ever term at secondary school! Our first ever term at St Edmunds! I am so proud of the transition and progress Year 7 pupils have made in settling in and finding their feet, it has been a joy to see!



The term has already seen pupils attending and taking part in a huge amount of trips and events, inside and outside of school. A personal favourite of mine was PSHE day and St Edmunds Day on 16<sup>th</sup> November. We attended a very special Mass to celebrate St Edmunds Day, followed by Doughnuts (and fruit!) at break time as part of the feast day! PSHE day sessions then focused on an Anti-Bullying campaign for Anti-Bullying week by designing a Buddy and Peer Support scheme that could be run in schools. I was really impressed with the following pupils work which has been sent off to be entered into a competition for Actionworks Anti Bullying Week 2017:



**Grace Neal, Keira Carnall, Angela McDermott, Alyssa Castor Mbuna, Gio Maglinao, Amber O'Shea, Tareel Keder, Peace Adeleke, Charis Urtal, Tyler Birch, Cameron Hiron, Kate Richardson, Jasmine Martin, Jessica Mbuyi-Kanumuangi, Nikola Dytfeld, Ebenezer Abraha, Kacper Szlosarczyk, Henok Gabrat, Efrem Ghebremedhin, Kyie Wilkinson, Jack Read, Kelvin Ohene-Yeboah, Awet Angosom, Estelle Hobbins, Alice Moroney, Rahwa Mulugeta, Molly Douch, Pheonix Rogers, Jasmine Bilham, Chiamaka Ikeatuegwu, Milli Gebremariam, Adam Jones, Liam Richards, Jenevieve Anderson & Freya Latham.**



A small group of year 7 male pupils also attended a Boys Dance Platform performance and workshop in a professional venue at the University of Chichester. The group performed in front of an audience of other all male dance companies from other schools in the County, and did a fantastic job! They were so professional and focused during rehearsals and workshop, and performed to an extremely high standard! I look forward to seeing many more performances from our Year 7 male dancers! Well done to the following:



**George Cambridge, Sam Foord, Oran Anderson, Ebenezer Abraha, Lennon Baker, Efrem Ghebremedhin, Alex Tyrrell, Harvey Griffiths, Gio Maglinao, Emmanul Ige & Emmanuel Quirk.**

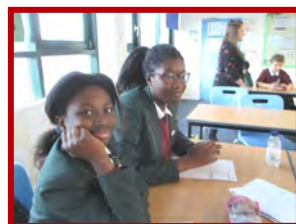


I look forward to welcoming you all back to St Edmunds in 2018 following your Christmas holidays. We have many more events to look forward to, including Celebration Assembly where we will be celebrating as a year group and rewarding pupils within the year group for effort and achievement within each individual subject!

A reminder with regards to attendance and punctuality. Pupils are expected to be in school every single day, and in case of absence parents are required to contact the school as soon as possible. Pupils should be in tutor time by 8.25am each morning. Pupils that are late more than once in a week will be seen by me and sanctions put in place in the new year if no improvement.

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

**Miss E Johnson**  
**Head of Learning – Year 7**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**



**YEAR 7**





Nearly there! What a full and eventful Autumn term we have had for our Year 8s. They have been very busy in and out of school, working extremely hard and contributing a huge amount to St Edmund's school life. There has been a lot to celebrate.

Earlier in the term we held a Spelling Bee and the following Year 8 pupils did really well, with **Sumpa Abbey 2nd Yusef Ahmed 3rd**. Well done too to **Madeha Zaman and Gregory Reeve**. It's not just in the literary world our pupils are doing well, I want to say well done to those who took part in the Shakespeare's Schools

Festival with the production of The Tempest: **Roisin Catlin, Sophia Kenney, Amelia Savage-Reay, Erin Hathi, Eva Agamasu, Guilia Thomas, Lucy Long and Cerys O'Shea**. They were amazing. Pupils have also excelled in performing at the talent show and competing and succeeding in many sporting events, including table tennis and football.



I want to thank the Year 8 Chaplaincy Team for their lovely contribution at our St Edmund's day celebration: **Denis Pokrywka, Alen Raju, William Lunn, Kasper Onysek, Edina Ternovac, Olivia Szczechura, Hekim Yalcin, Tabitha Hazelwood and Roisin Caitlin**.

Year 8 have the opportunity to be office runners for a day – they are out of lessons helping the office staff delivering important messages around the school. Sometimes they don't have a minute to themselves. I have been told by Miss Cormican that some have out-performed themselves with their efficiency, speed and general all round positive attitude. Well done Year 8 - only 8 Stein and Teresa are left to have a turn and then they will start again, with most students getting a second chance.



Pupils have been busy logging their merits onto the Carrot Reward system and the tutor group that logged the most since half term have won a reward trip to the Vue Cinema to watch "Wonder" – **well done 8 Stein**.

A big "congratulations" has to go to **Madeha Zaman and Maciej Wojtasik** who have achieved the highest milestone in the Year Group so far and achieved the tenth milestone, a Purple Badge.



During Year 7, the students raised approximately £720.00 to contribute towards turning a double decker bus into a homeless shelter for 12 people in Portsmouth. They did fantastically well. I want to say a huge thank you to **Tabitha Hazlewood, Rosie Lightfoot and Danny West** who came out on a cold Sunday to see the finished bus and have a tour round it before it was handed over to be located at St Agatha's church.



The big event this year is the Senior Citizens party that will take place in March. During our recent PSHE day the pupils started to plan the event with 8 John Paul coming up with the winning theme, fundraising ideas and entertainment plans. A planning committee will be formed and fundraising will start shortly. If you receive any unwanted Christmas presents that could be used in our raffle – we would receive them gratefully!

I just want to say to all Year 8 students, have a wonderful Christmas holiday, have fun and enjoy the rest. You have plenty of time to get your homework finished, ready to hand in when we return! I look forward to seeing you refreshed in January, with plenty of resolutions to make a positive impact in 2018.

**Ms Jerrard – Head of Year 8**



**YEAR 8**



As the Christmas half term break is upon us, it is also hard to believe that we have just finished the first whole term of this academic Year. I am pretty sure we are all very excited about the forthcoming Christmas celebrations; two weeks with friends and family and the well-deserved break for all. For all in Year 9 it is also a great opportunity to discuss with our families the focus of next term – your future options choices in preparation for KS4.



As usual, I would like to start this newsletter with my thanks. First of all, for the beautiful participation at the St Edmund's Day Mass and our first PSHE day that took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> November. I hope that not only did Year 9 enjoy both, but also the treats (doughnuts and fruit) during the break.

A huge thank you to all tutor groups for the Christmas sack appeal, your generosity, as usual, never ceases to amaze me.

I would also like to thank parents for their attendance at our Year 9 Parents Evening. It was lovely to see so many there. As we progress through Key Stage 3 it is of the utmost importance that we work together to support every pupil to achieve.



Year 9's have had a very good start to the term with superb attendance at the very beginning of the academic year. Unfortunately, this deteriorated significantly at the end of the term before our Christmas break.

Please can I remind you of the importance of good attendance and the impact of poor attendance on the child's academic progress. **All parents are required to report pupil absence to the school by 9 am on 02392 823766 option 1.**



The second most important thing following attendance is progress. I say it is the second, because if students are not in lessons, they will not learn. Attainment 1 performance data is out now, alongside the Personal Qualities score of the year group for last term. As sad as it sounds, I always get very excited about the PQ ranking, just to see who has worked the hardest during the last term. Remember, PQs have nothing to do with how strong a student is in a particular subject, they reflect how hard the student has worked; the quality of homework, behaviour, being prepared for lessons and how much effort a student has put into their learning. The top 10 pupils will have a special mention during our Celebration Assembly on 17th January, and the top 3 pupils will receive a prize. I cannot wait for the big reveal of names in January.



I am also very excited about the Faith and Football project launched last term, and the companies that have been established recently by our Year 9 entrepreneurs. I wish you all best of luck and I sincerely hope that you win. Please bear in mind though, if For Goodness Bakes Cakes, Doughlicious Doughnuts or Chocolate Asylum need anyone to test their products, I'm the first in line!!

Lastly, I wish you all a very Blessed Christmas break, please enjoy but stay safe. Looking forward to seeing you all next Year!

***Have a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!***

Mrs T Feliks-Matthews, Head of Learning  
Year 9



**YEAR 9**





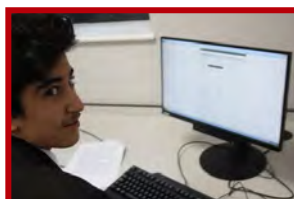
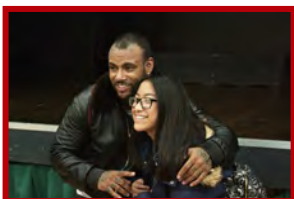
Despite the cold creeping in it hasn't stopped Year 10 having an incredibly jam packed finish to the first term. As you may remember, our first of two parent's evenings kicked off this half term on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Thank you to all in attendance, it was a brilliant evening with lots to discuss and celebrate. Particular thanks to the Year 11 prefect team who helped man our registration area. Looking far ahead into the new year, our final parents evening will be on Thursday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Year 10 celebrated PSHE Day 2 alongside St Edmunds Day on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Our day consisted of a St Edmunds Mass in the Cathedral for P1 and P2 followed by gifts of doughnuts for all year groups! Our year group were then spoken to by Mr Barry Evans from DRED UK covering a range of situations and issues which face all teenagers. Year 10 were then joined by "Yomi" a rapper originally from London whose real name is Yomi Maison Davies. Pupils were treated to a performance and discussion focused around Yomi's inspirational life story. Congratulations to Connie Sneddon for winning a memorable souvenir, and well done to Luiz Conceicao for sharing his talent that rivalled Yomi's.



Year 10's focus then shifted to the upcoming Work Experience with our introductory sessions and application process. These sessions ran on 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November were completely filled so thank you to all parents who joined their sons/daughters in the process. Allocation of places is currently in process and I'm excited to see what pupils will be getting up to on July 16<sup>th</sup> 2018! A small selection of pupils were given the opportunity to watch a film at Vue Cinema on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December following a successful quiz team win in Mr Poxtons 10 Kolbe, so congratulations go to **Rebecca Lee, Anas Sheikh-Maki, Joe Coates, Luke Jewell and Alba Alcani**. They all enjoyed their viewing of The Justice



League (although Mr Poxton and I still prefer the Avengers!).

Finally, Year 10 Triple Science pupils had their first taste of real GCSE exams in their mocks on the 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> December alongside BTEC PE pupils who sat an exam which contributes to their final GCSE mark on 7<sup>th</sup> December. I have to say that I am extremely proud of everyone who sat these exams because their behaviour was impeccable, and the preparation pupils have made has been incredible. After Christmas Year 10 are right back to it with an English Literature mock on January 9<sup>th</sup>. If pupils or parents would like any information, or any advice regarding revision/catch up sessions/work required then please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's Tutor.



Finally, we round off our term with more celebrations and excitement with our Christmas Staff/Student performance on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December where myself and Mr Hughes have joined forces with some Year 10 and Year 9 pupils and formed an epic rap group. Slightly different to the normal wrapping I do around this time of year! Thank you to Daisy Leake, Kian Anderson, Luiz Conceicao and Jabari Ryan for all your hard work, patience and choreography! I hope you have a very restful Christmas break and enjoy the time spent with your loved ones. I look forward to seeing you all back on Monday January 8<sup>th</sup>. Happy Holidays!

Mr J Brown - Head of Learning Year 10



# YEAR 10

## That's it's for 2017!

This first full of term of Year 11 has certainly been jammed packed for our hardworking year 11s.

Apart from their amazing commitment to their studies, including attending numerous revision and catch up sessions, Year 11 have again shone brightly in a range of extra-curricular activities.



An example of their commitment was reflected in the St Edmund's Talent Show. The Year 11 BTEC Dance students not only organised the whole event but also performed during the evening as part of their BTEC course requirements. It was a spectacular event which wowed the audience throughout the evening. A special congratulations and well done to Miss Johnson and her Year 11 dancers: **Erin Bailey, Molly Brown, Eloise Eddy, Tasnim El Jabir, Aleah Hussain, Kinga Jezior, Leah Kimber, Erin Lovegrove, Elsey McCabe, Maisie Newman, Olivia O'Regan, Arlene Pereira, Ila Pescott, Rebecca Punter, Amy Reat, Sarah Rix, Tasmin Stratton, Fatoumatta Touray, Imola Varga.** It really was a fantastic, well organised and entertaining event. Additionally, well done to **Aisha Ahmed, Davina and Vanessa Edosa**, who performed a fantastic routine.



More amazing performances from the GCSE Drama group had the audience on the edges of their seats when they completed the devised performance element of their GCSE to their families, their friends and their peers. It is always hard to excel in front of an audience of this type, but they did. The whole event showcased their talents and had the audience running the entire gamut of emotions. Well done to all involved.

We have also had the Mock Interview Day this term. Each Year 11 student was interviewed by an experienced professional who volunteered their time to support our students in preparing for life after St Edmund's. The nerves were evident as the students arrived to meet their interviewers but once again the students shone. They relaxed and engaged well with the adults despite the daunting prospect of the first formal interview for many of them. We were very pleased (but not at all surprised) by the positive feedback from the volunteers; many commented on how polite and articulate our students were. Some interviewers have even promised to keep an eye out for individuals they met on the day as they would like to support or employ



them in the future. Year 11, we know how talented you are but it is always great to see others recognise it too!



More recently, the year 11s have been studying hard for their mock exams. As we write this article, they are in the middle of a long two and a half weeks but yet again they are making us proud with their focus and the increasing levels of maturity they are demonstrating. We are looking forward to seeing how they perform and the results will be revealed in a special exams day assembly in the new year.



JOY  
LOVE  
PEACE  
BELIEVE  
CHRISTMAS

The students are now due a well-earned rest and we have advised that no work is to be done over Christmas. *Remember the importance of rest and a good work/life balance, Year 11! We hope you will all take this opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends and allow yourselves time to rest ready to put all your efforts into your studies again from January.*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. **Miss Evans and Miss Howard.**



# YEAR 11





I am so proud to be a member of staff at St Edmund's and this is truly down to the incredible pupils we have here. I want to pass on massive congratulations to both Edward and Cecile Holgate for their act of kindness this term in reuniting some very personal belongings to a member of public.

These two pupils found the contents of a bag scattered on the floor on their way to school and retrieved as much of it as possible. From the items they picked up and brought to Student Services we were able to identify the member of public and get in contact with her. Sadly, the lady I spoke to had her bag stolen from her car a few days prior and although she didn't have many items of value taken, she did keep a photo of her late father in her bag and was upset as she believed she had lost this forever. Luckily Edward and Cecile had found this photo (along with some other personal items) and we were able to reunite these with the owner.

I wanted to share such a lovely story as I feel that with the New Year in sight, we could all learn a lesson from these two kind pupils and start our 2018's with others in mind. Thank you Edward and Cecile!

**Miss Cormican – Student Services**

During the month of November, 10 members of staff braved the shave and grew some rather jolly looking moustaches in aid of the Movember charity. Well done to : Mr Wilkinson, Mr White, Mr Were, Mr Tindall, Mr Ghosh, Mr Pogson, Mr Holman, Mr Nicol, Mr Brown and Mr Williams. We look forward to see what you come up with next year!

**£100  
RAISED**

**MOVEMBER**




It was lovely to see our Class of 2017 Year 11 Leavers when they came in to collect their certificates in November. It was a lovely evening spent catching up and finding out all of the exciting things they have been up to. The following students received special recognition awards for their time at St Edmund's. Well done everyone!

**Attendance:** James Baxter, Mert Cebeci **Outstanding Academic Achievement:** Samuel Adie, Shriya Parambi

**Academic Progress:** Enzo Bagmanian, Joanna Jose, Dyana Mwayuma

**Commitment to School Community:** Jessica Hunter, Abraham Kattumattathil, Bonnie Brooks

**Personal Progress:** Leah Fitzjohn, Ousman Touray **Tina Such Award:** Mbire Roberts, Jessica Vence-Gunstane

**Miss Moodie Award:** Paola Kryemadhi **Headteacher's Award:** Kane Denham, Katelyn Hay

**Exam Performance:** Billy Eckworth, Xavienne Buckland



## COMMUNITY LINKS

Do you know anyone who has supported the community, raised money for charity or has a success/achievement/good news story you feel everyone should know about. Please contact Mrs White on ext 231 or

email: [nwhite@saintedmunds.org.uk](mailto:nwhite@saintedmunds.org.uk)

Every year throughout school life you will have very different challenges. As senior prefects we want to help our school family to make each year as fun filled and enjoyable as it can be. A senior prefect is someone different to talk to about any questions you might have or even just for a little chat. Each year group has two senior prefects who have a few top tips and words of wisdom to share.



Year 7 – We are **Rosie Winter and Patrick Brown**, the senior prefects for YEAR 7. We understand that the transition to Secondary School can be difficult at times and hard to adjust to. But as a School community there are so many people around to help you. This could be a subject teacher, your tutor, of course your head of year and a prefect who are all happy to help you if you have any questions.

Year 8 – We are **Alex Saynor and Olivia O'Regan** and we are the YEAR 8 Senior Prefects. Year 8 can be both filled with fun and stress as you begin to work your way up the school and face new challenges. As well as this you might start to meet new people and find different friendships, this isn't a bad thing! Your teachers are always there if you need to speak to someone about any problems or even successes you are having both in and out of school. Don't be scared to ask us any questions as we are always around to help you.



Year 9 – **We are Hanein Osman and Rosie McEvoy**, and we are the YEAR 9 Senior Prefects. Year 9 is a very crucial stage of your school life so far. You are deciding what you want to study at GCSE level. It is very exciting to know you can drop subjects you don't enjoy but it is very important not to decide quickly. All your teachers want you to achieve the best you can, so take time in making your choices. We would advise that you go and

enquire about all the subjects you are interested in taking, by asking the particular teacher about what it is like at GSCE level and if it would suit you. If you would like a student point of view come and ask us about any questions you might have.

Year 10 - We are **Kinga Jezior and Lauran Cox** and we are the Senior Prefects for YEAR 10. Year 10 is a very stressful year but so many students in the past have done it so you can too! All of your teachers are there to support you as you prepare to take exams and complete controlled assessments. As well as this we are both here to support you with any revision tips or any other problems you have.



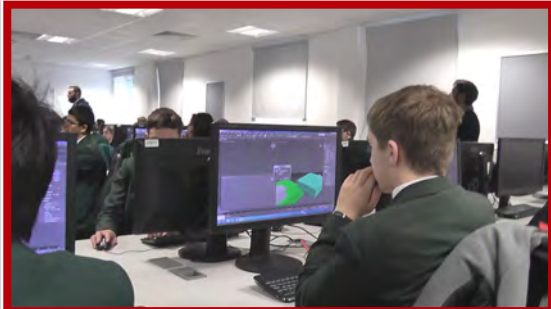
Not only as senior prefects are we there to support you on your journey, we also run the school's student council which is separated into year groups as well as the whole school. The group have shared some great ideas at their first meeting that they can't wait to put into action. If you would like to get involved with this please see your year groups senior prefect at the start of any assembly.

**SENIOR PREFECTS**



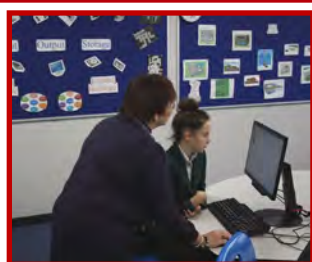


On the 6/12/17 I attended the ICT trip to the University Portsmouth Creative Technologies department, a group of us (34 pupils) from St Edmund's. We met Neil a lecturer from the Computer Games Technology Department who helped us make an animation of a bouncy ball. Once we got settled in the ICT suite, we were introduced to a program which was 3ds Max and got started.



First of all we chose the shape we wanted, this could be any size. Then other detailed steps these were very confusing but we overcame them by the help of the university teachers, overall I really enjoyed the trip and was able to make a video of my animated ball, and got to take it home too!

**Katie Hutton**



### **ICT has left the building!**

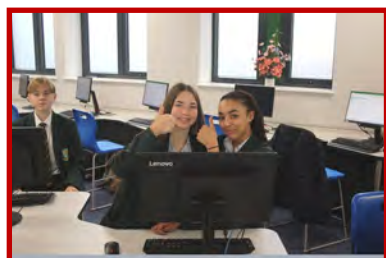
Well, old news you might say, that happened months ago, but it seems like only yesterday that we moved out of the main block into the purpose-built Technology building.

This is the first time, in at least the 10 years that I have been at St Edmunds, that the ICT classrooms have been together.

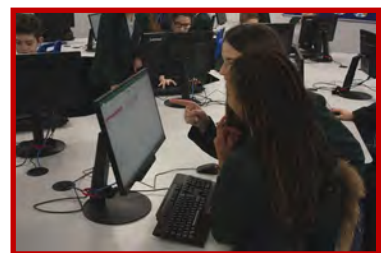
This has made a big difference, making communication and support within the department much more efficient and immediate.

The classrooms have been fitted with 'state of the art' technology, and, the biggest difference from the old rooms, climate control! Many will remember the very warm computer rooms as soon as the outside temperature reached about 18C! Open windows and as many fans as could be borrowed made little difference in the warm weather. Now the air conditioning keeps the rooms at a good working temperature, making the working environment quite pleasant indeed!

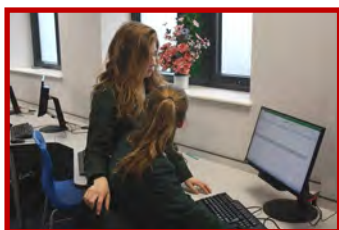
Other differences are the purpose build computer desks, carefully colour coordinated with the carpets and other fittings. The computers themselves are easier to use, with the adjustable monitors. They are fast too!



There have also been changes to the curriculum and schemes of work for all years. Key stage 3 students are learning programming and computational thinking alongside digital literacy – using ICT for everyday life, and especially schoolwork.



Key stage 4 is still studying ICT and Computing, though Business Studies is no longer offered. Both GCSE courses have undergone changes over the last year, with new specifications and assessment requirements. These have made the courses even more relevant to everyday life and both can lead to varying careers in the IT industry, such as programming, analysing, game design, website development, software engineer and many more.



In conclusion, staff and students alike are pleased to be using our new facilities; T block has certainly changed!

**Mrs Durbin**



# *ICT/COMPUTER SCIENCE*

1

Hooray let's cheer,  
Praise God for Christmas is near,  
Giving and receiving,  
Merriness is what we're breathing,  
For smiles will be smiled,  
Songs will be sung: the perfect day for everyone,  
Light demolishes darkness,  
Fireworks will conquer the pitch black sky,  
People shall celebrate with all their might,  
Presents ripped open,  
Children and rosy hugs,  
"I love you Mummy; I love you Daddy!"  
(Not to mention Thus!),  
Bonds to be created,  
Santa and his elves still to meet,  
The delicious Christmas dinner was worth it,  
No doubt a treat!  
Going to Sunday Mass made me remember,  
Jesus, my heavenly Father forever,



4

All those years of Christmas, memories  
and hard work,  
And what have we learnt, nothing!  
Simply presents, money we do yearn,  
Luckily Forgiveness is on our side,  
The blessings will embrace us and the fruit of  
the spirit oblige,  
The things that make Christmas live up to this  
day and each night,  
Love, joy, peace, patience,  
The things that make Christmas be so special  
Kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
Only God could do such miracles!

5

Petunias, flowers, tokens of peace,  
Symbols that make up the typical wreath,  
God's strength and power packed into one day,  
Christmas we chant- the birth of the newborn king,  
Hip, hip, hip hooray, God bless all today,

2

Look your eyes this Christmas,  
To Jesus, the baby born,  
Released into this world of sorrow and scorn,  
God knew we needed a saviour,  
To release us from sin,  
As many say, 'lead not into redemption, but open  
your hearts to him',

The magic of Christmas is not in presents but 100%  
in His presence,

As Christmas doesn't come from a store, in fact, it  
means so much more,

6

So what is Christmas you may ask and say,  
My answer is simply 'everyday',  
For Christmas is all about good deeds,  
This happens just as well as never-ending streaks,  
So what are you waiting for? If Christ is Christmas,  
(That is all about forgiveness),  
Surely you could follow and do the same,  
Go on! Make this a December to remember,  
You can do it, make someone's day.

3

Reflect on this special season  
For presents cannot truly satisfy,  
They are man-made and temporary,  
As they can disappear and die,  
True presents can only come from your heart and soul,  
Love for protection and smiles from God untold,  
Phones and food are only a part of the picture,  
Christ and the cross will guide you to the road of the future,  
Moses, Noah, idols for you and me,  
Memories and stories to light up the Christmas tree,  
The star, the light, marking the way,  
Gabriel, oh Alleluia, we shout, we praise, we say  
No tinsel, no baubles, your star is enough,  
We will follow him at night, a long journey be it right,



By Ebenezer



**Christmas is a special time  
To reflect on Jesus Christ  
The wonder of his lowly birth brings  
meaning to our lives.**

**He knew we needed a savior to set us  
free from sin,  
No other way to remediation  
But open your heart to him.**

**I see the countless Christmas trees  
Around the world below  
With tiny lights like heavens stars  
But remember the true meaning.**

**Remember the Christian season  
Materials can not satisfy  
They are nothing but temporary  
In the end they disappear and die**

**We need to stop and reflect awhile,  
Remembering our precious lord  
His birth, his life, his sacrifice  
And all that he stands for**

**Christmas is important  
And there is no harm in traditions  
But just remember the Christ  
Because he is Christmas  
By Rahwa**



## LLRC Independent Challenge Eagle Badge

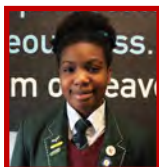
Firstly, may I take this opportunity to congratulate all the pupils, who have achieved their Eagle Badges. They had to complete 10 Independent Challenges all related to the LLRC. Well done! If you still have your booklet and would like to achieve this badge, there still is time to do so.

## Literature Quiz 2018

We have already begun preparing for this prestigious event at The Victory Suite, Fratton Park on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. This is an amazing opportunity for pupils to meet four authors and pit their book knowledge against other Secondary Schools in Portsmouth. We wish all our pupils taking part well and we will let you know how they get on in the next Newsletter.

## Reading Week

We had many exciting events going on in the library for 'Reading Week' such as puzzles, writing festive poems, to a Staff V Pupils Lit Quiz. Everybody said that they had great fun and loved having the chance to read for ten minutes at the start of every lesson, as they normally don't get the time. Just read below some of the comments from the pupils:



**"The best part of the week, was we got to read for 10 minutes before every lesson. It was the best week ever!!!!" Jennifer Motunbo**



**"....It was very enjoyable and was a good opportunity for us who not get a chance to read at home. Many people read new books they enjoyed. It was extra fun." Lucia McGhee**



**"I thought the week was amazing because I had some time to myself to enjoy a book."**

**Sami Mohammad**



**"I enjoyed it because we devoted part of our lesson time to reading."  
Milli Gebremariam**



**"From my perspective I thought Reading Week was fantastic! We were able to read for ten minutes and some individuals wrote poems or listened to stories that had the theme Christmas. We also had a quiz against the teachers. All in all, I think it was fantastic!" Rahwa Mulugeta**



**"I thought that Reading Week was absolutely fantastic!! I enjoyed the feeling of getting lost in a story. Absolutely outstanding! Additionally, the Lit Quiz was challenging, as well as exhilarating, thanks to Mrs Edwards!" Ebenezer Abraha**



## Christmas Reads

Snuggle up with a good book over the festive season. Why not try one of the four Literature Quiz books?

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs Edwards, Librarian



**Well done to our  
Poetry winners  
Luis Rowe & Luiza De Castro  
Camara who received their  
prizes during Assembly.**



# LLRC

Students have studied Judaism as part of their RE lessons this term. They have explored a multitude of different Jewish beliefs and attitudes. Students were also fortunate enough to take part in their own 'practical' RE lesson where they celebrated a typical Jewish Passover meal. **Mr Maguire**



At our Passover meal there were foods laid out on the table: parsley, horseradish, matzah and haroset. Each food has a special meaning. We read Torah passages and prayer together. It was an enjoyable experiences and great way to learns about what Jews do at the Passover meal.



Megan



In our lesson we re-enacted a traditional Jewish meal! We ate the different and unique foods. We also recited the words which thanked God! The foods represented many things, the haroset symbolised the cement used by the Jewish slaves to build the pyramids. I loved it! My favourite food was the Matzah bread. Tenzin



We stood and read a shortened Hagadah. I personally enjoyed trying the unique foods on the Seder plate.

The haroset was an exciting mixture of apples, honey and cinnamon.

Ryan



I really enjoyed trying some of the foods that Jewish people eat, such as: matzah bread, haroset and bitter herbs. They are different foods that are eaten to remember the Israelites fleeing Egypt.

Aneena



Students have studied baptism as part of their KS3 RE curriculum this term. The students were given the unique opportunity to take part in role play of a Catholic baptism. Here are their reports. **Mr Maguire**

The Priest welcomed the parents and God parents after asking them questions he then he poured water over the baby's head three times symbolising the Trinity, I enjoyed the experience because you got to see what really happens at a baptism.

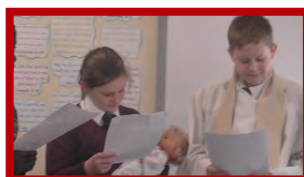
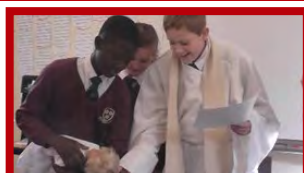
Freya



In baptism the priest will baptise the baby with Holy Water. This was my favourite part because that is the most important and special part of the ceremony.



Kate



The priest welcomed everyone inside the church. The child was baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The part I

enjoyed the most was when the baby was anointed with chrism oil.

Jasmine



In baptism the Godparents have to make baptism promises for when the baby grows up. My

favourite part of the ceremony is when the parents make every lasting promises to raise their child Christian.

Gio



In Mr Maguire's lesson we re-enacted a baptism. People in the class pretended to be priest, parents and parents and we even used a doll dressed in a white garment! I have enjoyed learning about baptism in such an exciting way!



Amber

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



## Folk Active

On Thursday 19th October, a group of musicians joined with the Folk Active group for a day of folk music and dancing at The Irish Club in Southsea. The pupils from St Edmund's provided the music for pupils from 8 Primary schools to dance to throughout the day.



# f ACTIVE folk

This was the first time most of the pupils had played music in this style and despite being thrown in at the deep end played brilliantly all day. The pupils also joined in with the dancing helping the younger pupils with the steps and formations.

Well done to: Lydia Adie, Caitlin Jones, Emily Eckworth, Isabel Allison, Katie Burns, Ethan Egan, Giulia Thomas and Jemma Luddy.  
Mrs C Stevenson



**Congratulations to the U13 girls football team who won the English Football League (EFL) Cup tournament and who have now been invited to play in the regionals in Oxford next year. This is a fantastic achievement for all the girls.**

### Results:

8-0 win against Milton Cross.

14-0 win against Cowplain

3-1 win against Bohunt (who beat us in last year's final)

3-1 win against Farham academy

6-1 win against Petersfield in the final.



Many thanks to everyone for your on going support with girls football. Well done to: Michelle Ampong (Captain), Lily Rose Manchip, Lily Stephenson, Ruby Saunders, Yara Yako-Sako, Gwen Walters, Olivia Wright & Naomi Kafanga-Mafuta. Miss Evans

## Year 8 Synagogue trip

8 Teresa and 8 Devereux visited a local synagogue in Southsea. Upon arrival, we were given a warm welcome and greeted into the place of worship. We were given some information about how Jews pray in a synagogue and the reason behind certain items. All the boys were invited to wear a 'Kippa' as most



Jewish males would. We then went to the main worshiping area, which was very popular for local Jews several years ago but today only 17 families attend.

There was an extra balcony upstairs for women and children, though we were placed in the lower section in which seats lined the sides. We were given a detailed explanation of how the services work and were shown the Torah, the sacred book of God's word, which

every Jew follows. Later, we asked questions which were met by detailed answers. There were many Jewish artefacts and the Sefer Torah Scrolls were presented to us.

Overall, it was a fascinating trip and very educational, it was interesting to see the way of worship in other religions. I would recommend more trips like this as it is an engaging experience and we learned a lot.

**Ben Shotter**



# NEWS



The Catholic Academies & Schools Office (CASO) in Portsmouth are looking to appoint an Administrative Assistant to support their work with the schools in the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. This is a part time post - 14 hours per week (Thursday and Friday). This will be an interesting and varied role and would be suitable for an existing Clerk to the Governors, or those with an interest in school administration. Closing date 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Interviews 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Please contact: Reverend Roger Carr-Jones, **Administration Manager**

Email: [rcarrjones@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rcarrjones@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Tel: 07391416983

The Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, A registered charity number 246871, Diocesan Office, St Edmund House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## Celebration Assembly

Celebration Assemblies will be held in January to celebrate pupil's successes so far this year.



Prizes will be given for Achievement and Effort in all subjects. There will also be prizes for pupil's contributions to the wider school such as Chaplaincy, Library and tutor group.

Parents are invited to come and be part of the celebrations.

**Monday 15th January 8.30am – 10am Year 7**

**Tuesday 16th January 8.30am – 10am Year 8**

**Wednesday 17th January 8.30am – 10am Year 9**

**Thursday 18th January 8.30am – 10am Year 10**

**Friday 19th January 8.30am – 10am Year 11**

If you wish to attend an assembly please contact the Reception on 02392 823766 by Thursday 11th January 2018 so that we know numbers.

**Mrs Lunn Assistant Headteacher**

**BACK  
TO  
SCHOOL  
MONDAY 8th  
JANUARY 2018  
WEEK B**

*The Staff, Governors & Students at St Edmund's would like  
to wish you a very*



**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

**& a happy & peaceful  
New Year.**

## NOTICE BOARD

Please note: any link/advert contained in this Newsletter does not imply a recommendation. linked sites.

St Edmund's Catholic School accepts no liability for any linked sites.