



St Edward's
School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

Summer Newsletter

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A message from our Chair of Governors

On behalf of the governors, I want to thank Mr Antram and his staff for navigating us successfully once again through an extraordinary year. In particular, we want to thank all staff, led by Mr Barnett, for the immense amount of work that went into producing the teacher assessed grades for years 11 and 13. Governors were able to monitor the process which has ensured that our students achieve the grades they deserve.

We welcome a new governor, Claire Stonier, recently elected by parents/carers. I am sure she will settle in quickly with us. We now have a full complement of governors at St Edward's.

We wish you all an enjoyable and safe summer break.

Wyn Jones (Chair of Governors)



Mr Antram reflects on the school year

This has been my 5th year as headteacher, and I do not ever remember a year like it. I look back with gratitude for the brilliance of our staff who have navigated some of the most complex and volatile arrangements for sustaining learning ever experienced by schools, during the past three terms. Despite the knowledge that an invisible virus cannot be prevented from coming on site; and that the management of children beyond our gates is outside of our control, all of our staff have worked so hard to ensure that everything that is within our control has been managed with great precision and care; always seeking to balance risk reduction with the need for children to experience normal routines and care, in their daily lives.

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There are too many staff to thank individually, but each team of staff, whether it be the teachers, administration, site, catering, learning support, pastoral teams, examinations, cleaners, technicians, governors; all have played a part in getting us safely through this year; and that includes you, our families. Thank you from all of us, for your support and encouragement, as we have done our level best to maintain high quality learning and care, come what may.

There are so many markers of progress through an academic year that we have missed – carol concerts, Easter liturgies, Sports Day, and many others; and we hope that Academic Year 2021-22 will enable us to reinstate the wider life of our school. There have still been highlights – both individual triumphs, and community celebrations. School life has continued! It was such a pleasure to welcome Bishop Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, as he made his farewell visits around the Diocese. This happy event was attended by various representatives from across the school community past and present. In a subsequent letter to me he wrote; “A school the size of St. Edward’s is very much a team effort... On this occasion, as I say farewell, St. Edward’s represented the schools of the diocese. It was all the better for being a joint RC/CofE school which is a strong witness to underlying the unity of the Church”. A testament indeed to the community of people; staff, students, Governors, parents, and more, that make our special school stand out.

At this time of year we say farewell to staff who have been part of our journey as a school. Mrs Percy has taught Computer Science here for a number of years, and joined the school in 1997. She leaves us to take up a new post at Moyles Court School; and we wish her every success in this new chapter; and send her thanks for her commitment to our school. Mrs Cannings leaves us to begin a senior role at Linwood School. She has been a tireless advocate for children who need additional support with their learning; and we owe her a great debt of gratitude for all that she has done here at St Edward’s. She will be a great asset to her new school, and we will miss her greatly. Mr Matthews and Mrs Registre have worked here for the past year as TAs, and leave us to take up teaching posts. TAs work especially closely with individual students, and we know that these two colleagues will be excellent teachers.

The role of cover supervisor is never easy, and covering the lessons of absent teachers can be very demanding; but for our students to see familiar faces is a great advantage over the use of unfamiliar supply teachers, and so we thank three of our cover supervisors, who are also moving on to teaching/teacher training posts: Mrs Slaughter, Ms Osborne and Ms Acott have been excellent in this role, and have shown great resilience, combined with genuine care for our students. Our thanks go with them, as they take the insights they have gained with us into their new roles. We wish them every success.

It is also a time of year to look forward. The recent national recognition of yet another member of staff, Dorota Hall, who is now a finalist for TA of the Year, as part of an event being screened by the BBC in the Autumn; demonstrates the importance of investing in brilliant staff.



Dorota Hall, Silver Award for Teaching Assistant of the Year

We are so pleased to be welcoming new colleagues this September. Mr Dawson joins us as SENCO, having worked in this capacity in his previous school. He joins our larger team of excellent professionals, and we look forward to seeing him build on the excellent foundations laid by his predecessors in the years ahead. Ms Jones joins us as Computer Science teacher, working alongside Mr Prince, in this fast growing subject. Ms March and Ms Phenix join us as cover supervisors, and we look forward to them getting to know our students as they settle in. Mr Bridges, Ms Bland, and Ms Watson join our brilliant SEND team as TAs, and we look forward to welcoming them when they arrive with us in September.

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*May we
be One*

In September we will be implementing some of the new practices that lockdown enabled us to consider and develop, such as moving most of our learning resources to the Cloud; and also implementing revised approaches to securing excellent behaviour in lessons and around the campus. More details will be forthcoming in the Autumn term. Our Legacy Chapel now stands prepared to be a central memorial to students who demonstrate our St Edward's virtues to the fullest extent during their time with us; and we look forward to celebrating the achievements of our Year 11 and 13 students in September. Plans for the new dining hall continue to build, and I hope to be able to update you about these as we move through the year ahead.

There is much to look forward to, and immediately ahead is the summer break. I know how much staff and students need this time of recovery and refreshment. Whatever you are doing, I hope that this is a great summer for you; and all of us look forward to seeing you, and our students, at the start of September.

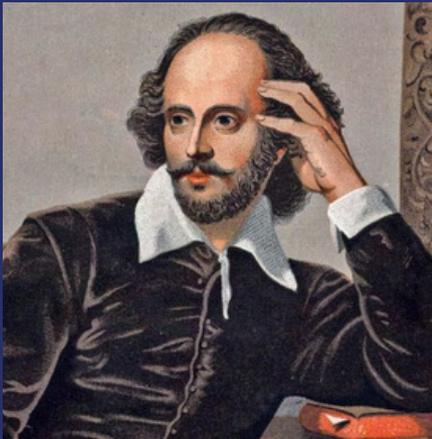
Mr M Antram, Headteacher

Cherry Tree for St Edward's First-Ever Headteacher

On Friday 9th July the school was honoured by a visit from Mr Len Matthews, the first ever Headteacher of St. Edward's school. Having been present at the opening of our school in 1963, Mr Matthews, now 93, was amazed at the ways in which St. Edward's has grown since its humble beginnings. It was such a pleasure to listen to Mr Matthews reminiscing about those early days, and to appreciate that the special ethos of our school was present from its conception.

A cherry tree once stood outside the Headteacher's office, planted in memory of Mr Matthew's wife and son. It perished due to disease many years ago; and so we were thrilled to be able to reinstate a cherry tree, near to the original location; so that generations will remember this special man and his family.



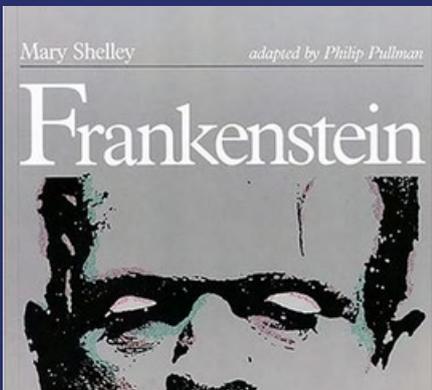


This term our Year 7 students have been studying *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We have enjoyed watching them read and perform (from their seats) the text with confidence and clear delight in Shakespeare's use of humour.

Year 8, in their unit 'Trapped', have been reading Philip Pullman's dramatic version of *Frankenstein* and have also been developing their persuasive voice in writing.

Year 9 have been studying *Romeo and Juliet* and have been looking, in particular, at Shakespeare's use of rich imagery.

Year 10 have been exploring an anthology of poems on the theme of Power and Conflict. As I write this, they are preparing for their speaking presentation on a challenging topic of their choice. This will be for an external qualification awarded as Pass, Merit or Distinction.



Mrs Mottaghi, English Subject Leader

Year 7 Reading Club

Having finished 'No Ballet Shoes In Syria', a young adult book about a refugee girl making her way as an aspiring dancer while seeking asylum in the UK, Year 7 Book Club are now on to our next book: 'Girl of Ink and Stars' by Kiran Millwood Hargrave. 'Girl of Ink and Stars' is an adventure story about a map-maker's daughter living on a remote island, who ventures into dangerous forgotten territories to save her friend. Alongside reading we have been playing navigation games, introducing each other to our favourite books and writing our own creative stories.

Year 8 English

Mr Lee has explored the theme of being trapped in a wider sense, linking a creative task to a global issue, with his two year 8 classes:

'My year 8 classes are preparing, writing and recording voiceovers for a documentary on environmentalism and how humans can reverse the damage done to the environment. They have explored a variety of problems, including their impact on animals and wildlife, and potential solutions to those problems. They are now in the process of writing and performing scripts which will be compiled into the finished recorded documentary, which will then be edited together and screened to the classes involved.'

Religious Education

As ever, the summer term has been a very busy one in RE. Year 7 students have completed their study of "Who are the people of God?" which focused on a range of Old Testament figures and they have now moved on to learn about a selection of 'Social Justice Heroes'; considering what impact they have had on the world and what further changes we would like to see.

Year 8 has been focused on an exploration of various types of relationships, thinking particularly about different forms of 'love' and how they can be exhibited and have now progressed to a series of lessons that encourage them to explore the religious concept of 'the sanctity of life' and consider how this can be applied in a number of contexts.



As COVID-19 restrictions have been loosened slightly, we have been able to welcome external speakers back into RE lessons and this Year 8 unit of study has featured a visit from PACE (Programme for Applied Christian Education) where they spoke about the Christian response to abortion and the advocacy of adoption as a possible alternative in some circumstances.

Year 9 have completed their in-depth study of Sikhism and are now busy preparing for the commencement of their GCSE in September; they have particularly enjoyed their introduction to the 'Issues of Life and Death' GCSE unit showing a high level of insight as they have developed compelling arguments both 'for' and 'against' reintroducing capital punishment in the UK.

Year 10s have been busy preparing and then completing their end of year exams and many of them have done very well in RE, some even achieving and surpassing their GCSE target grade. Well done to them! Of course, we wish Year 11 well as they have now completed their course and had their leavers' day earlier in the term. We would like to thank them for all their hard work in RE over the last few years.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German Lutheran pastor and theologian

In the Sixth Form, there were some notable performances in the recent Year 12 RE exam and students are now focused on completing the Year 12 RE course, they have found the focus on the arguments for and against the legalisation of euthanasia and a focused study of the life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, particularly engaging.

In Personal Enquiry, Year 12 students have enjoyed the recommencement of their course and have relished the opportunity to discuss controversial issues such as 'Should animals have the same rights as humans?' and 'Are we always responsible for our own actions?'

Year 13 RE students have, of course, completed their course and have had their leavers' day too. We would also like to thank them for their dedication to the subject and wish them well with their future endeavours.

Mr Willis, RE Subject Leader

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Despite being such an extraordinary year, we have been impressed with Year 7 and the way they engaged with class teaching and remote learning which is new to most of them. A small number of students had the opportunity to work with Talent-Ed Education and their Maths Masterclass. One student will be working with them next year.

Year 8 took part in the UK Maths Challenge, the results of which were a credit to the students involved, one student even made it to the Junior Kangaroo Level.

Year 9 have taken part in Realistic Maths Education through Manchester Metropolitan University.

Year 10 and 11 showed tremendous efforts, which has been inspiring, they have had to adapt and keep going so many times over their KS4 journey. We are looking forward to welcoming a record number of Year 11's to Core Maths, A-Level Maths and A-Level Further Maths next year in Sixth form and wish all the very best to students following new pathways at different educational settings.

Sixth Form have had a challenging start transitioning into year 12, having missed out on their end of year exams in Year 11, the adjustment back into learning was tricky for some. However, students have once again shown amazing resilience and drive to succeed.

Year 13 deserve my final words; they have endured two years of interrupted learning whilst studying Maths to an incredibly high level. They come in every day wanting to learn and really brought joy to the department and school. We know that they are prepared for their next steps and wish them all the best.

We have a fantastic team in Maths at St Edward's, and I felt it important that they shared their highlights too.

Mr Hegarty, Maths Subject Leader

From Miss E Menzies:

This year we have started a Mastery course, working with Teaching for Mastery specialists from the Jurassic Math Hub. This involves collaborating with other schools to enhance the effectiveness of mathematics teaching. We are beginning to include these new teaching ideas into year 7 lessons and are already seeing the benefits. Over the next couple of years, we should see our students acquiring and developing a deep and lasting understanding of mathematical procedures and concepts.



From Mrs Newton:

We were lucky enough to receive funding to provide some key year 10 students with catch up tutoring after the lockdown with an experienced Maths tutor. Four students successfully completed a 15-week online course in their own time from home, they found the course enriching, building their maths confidence and the feedback from the Tutors about the students was exceptional.

From Mr Burke:

Resilience, adaptation, and more resilience. The whole St Edward's family have shown that in times of adversity, we pull together, look after one another and consider the safest options for all. No one is left alone or behind. The sense of togetherness is palpable and the desire of the whole community to negotiate the 'storm' bode well as our journey continues and we set sail for our exciting destination.

Maths continued...

From Miss Parris:

This year has been harder than normal for our sixth form students, with disruption to their A level's and for some also their GCSE's last year. The core maths students have been working incredibly hard throughout, with many students studying this course alongside 3 A levels. They have shown their interest in maths and in particular 'real life' maths through parts of the course such as Tax and National Insurance, estimation and more recently The Normal Distribution.

From Mr Prince:

It has been a successful year for Key Stage 5 Maths, despite the disruption! We have had our first cohort of A Level Maths and Further Maths students reach the end of their studies with a new structure and we are so proud of their hard-work, passion, and dedication to the subject over the last 2 years. We have also had students successfully reach the end of their studies in A Level Maths and in Core Maths, who have equally shown their hard-work and dedication through a tough year, and we are immensely proud of them all.

Year 12s have hit the halfway point in their studies for all courses and I hope the resilience and discipline that they have worked on over the course of this year grows even stronger next year and we look forward to seeing them develop further.

Miss Du Cros:

Maths Club twice a week was a big success leading up to the year 10 mocks. Over a third of the class arrived at each of these sessions voluntarily, with lots of enthusiasm and hard work from students. Those that joined in felt better prepared for their mocks and they (and we!) are looking forward to more of this next year, so watch this space!

Thank you to all our students and thank you to all the support from parents and carers at home.

Have a great summer – The maths team!



Modern Foreign Languages

The summer term has been another busy one in the languages department, although we have missed the exchanges and university visits that usually take place at this time of year. In their absence we have been working to bring elements of cultural learning into the curriculum to help students to learn about the history and culture of some of the countries whose languages they are learning. This has included teaching new units to students in Year 9, including a German unit centred around the Cold War and the film "Ballon", which tells the true story of the Strelzyk family who escaped East Germany in a hot air balloon in the late 1970s. Students studying French have been learning about the Normandy region and have studied the classic French film "les choristes". Further units that examine the culture of relevant countries and regions will continue to be added to the curriculum in the coming years.



In other MFL news, I am pleased to report that for the third successive year the MFL Department has been awarded the Prince's Teaching Institute Subject Leadership Mark which recognises excellence in learning both within and outside the taught curriculum.

We hope all students have a fantastic summer and look forward to seeing them again in September.

Mr Lenarduzzi, MFL Subject Leader

Firstly, I must announce the sad news that Mrs Percy will be departing St Edward's at the end of the year. Mrs Percy has made such a positive impact upon so many students and staff alike during her tenure here and I will be truly sad to see her leave. On behalf of everyone at St Edward's I would like to thank Mrs Percy for everything she has contributed to school life here and wish her the best of luck at her new school.

I would also like to say how immensely proud I am of all the students, who have returned to school in a positive and engaged manner in Computer Science. It really has been great to see students back in a room, that was only refurbished last Easter, learning Computer Science.

Key Stage 3 students have been engaging in a variety of topics over the last term, all of which have culminated in something new and a bit different for us – an art competition! This is an event I am planning to hold every year going forward for Key Stage 3, where they need to use a Python drawing package to program some artwork of their choosing. There will be a small prize for one piece of art in each year group and I am looking forward to seeing what they come up with!

Key Stage 4 saw the Year 11s depart us earlier this term. I can't begin to describe how proud I am of their achievements and the resilience that they have shown over the last 2 years. I would like to wish them all the best of luck in whatever their next steps are.

Year 10 have just completed their end of year exams following a very successful first year of an updated specification and I am excited to work with them next year and see what they can achieve!

Key Stage 5 has also seen a departing year group in the Year 13s. In the same way as the Year 11s, I am beyond proud of the effort they put into their studies and the way they responded so positively to any changes that came about. It has been a real pleasure to teach them and I wish them every success wherever their next destination may be.

Year 12 have completed their end of year exams recently as well and I hope this has been a constructive experience to focus their studies further. They have also started the NEA Programming Project recently, which forms 20% of their grade and have some really creative ideas for projects, which I am looking forward to seeing come to fruition!

Mr Prince, Computer Science Subject Leader



Sensory Garden

The campus has been greatly enhanced by a beautiful new sensory garden this term. Pam's Memorial Garden has been totally redesigned into a wonderful new outdoor space for both students and staff to enjoy for quiet reflection and contemplation. Mr Ricketts, our site manager has worked extremely hard to bring the garden to life in time for a rededication ceremony where Bishop Nicholas Holtam visited the garden and planted a new 'Tranquility' rose bush in June.

The woodland area behind the garden has also been redesigned to allow for an outdoor woodland educational space. We're hoping students will get to use the area next year to learn new skills in an inspiring setting.

It has been such a pleasure for students to engage more with music and live performance this term than they have for a long time! We have been able to run a number of extra-curricular instrumental bands and vocal ensembles in year group bubbles after school and give opportunities for students to develop their playing and singing in a collaborative context.

Despite continued restrictions, the students were able to perform to staff and students in the canteen in a series of lunchtime performances. It was lovely to have the school alive with students' musical performances once again.



Around 100 students have also been partaking in instrumental and singing lessons this term, many of whom have been working on graded exams.

Our peripatetic staff provide excellent teaching for all abilities of students and I would encourage you once again, to consider your son/daughter taking up instrument/singing lessons as it is so beneficial for the formation of a child in every aspect of life.

Within the classroom we have had some brilliant student performances in year 7 samba, year 8 blues, year 9 song writing and war music as well as a whole array from the year 10 and 12 students taking music.

We are excited to build on all these recent performances into next year!

Mr Sloan, Music Subject Leader

Technology

This year the department has undergone many exciting changes that have enhanced the learning experiences of our students. Three of our teaching spaces have been developed and we now have the provision of two computer facilities within the department to support our delivery of Computer Aided Design (CAD). The graphics and textiles rooms have been restructured to enable students to engage in both CAD as well as practical work, with designated areas for each. The workshop has undergone a transformation with a streamlining of resources which has given students greater access to the equipment we have.

Changes have also been made to our curriculum content with KS3 providing a broad foundation for KS4 and beyond; in Resistant Materials the subject has developed to cover wood, metal and plastic at

KS3 and as we move into the next academic year, will be rebranded as Product Design to ensure a greater emphasis on the design process and the development of ideas with a view of producing outcomes with purpose and vision.

At KS4 we are preparing to introduce two new courses from September; BTEC Level 2 Home Cooking Skills and the NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Graphic design which will focused on graphic applications and will enable the students to work within a wide range of both practical and digital mediums.

Mrs Morris, Technology Subject Leader



Our Sociology students have enjoyed another busy and successful term. We have been so impressed with the way in which the Y13 students approached the Teacher Assessed Grade tasks. The determination, resilience and sheer hard work of the students made us very proud. Having taught some of the students all the way through from KS3 RE it was emotional to see them leave. We wish them every success and happiness in their future.

The Y12 students engaged well with the fast pace of our study of the sociological perspectives on the family. We have looked at changes in family patterns and the government policies that have shaped and resulted from these changes. We have examined changing gender roles in partnerships and students have been amused by the opportunity to pose questions to Mr and Mrs Farrow about the division of labour in their own family! In addition to the entertainment factor, the session served as a useful introduction for Mr Farrow who will be teaching the Beliefs in Society unit to the students next year. He was very impressed with the quality of the questioning from the group. The students have also prepared diligently for their final exams and the progress made by some students, in an extremely difficult year, has been fantastic. We are now exploring the first section of the Y13 Crime and Deviance unit; always a popular part of the course.



It was exciting to have almost standing room only for sixth form induction week. Sociology has again been an extremely popular choice for the current Y11s and we look forward to seeing who will join us in September. The Y11 students explored the concept of social change, different types of inequality, the place of religion in society and the importance of choosing the right research methods. It was great to be able to explore a wider range of material with the students so that they can make more informed choices about their courses in September.

Mrs Farrow, Sociology Subject Leader

Student wellbeing support

This last half term we have launched something in school called the Sharp System, which allows students to report any wellbeing or safeguarding concerns they might have about themselves or a friend. It is an online platform and students can either send an email or complete a form via the website. Whilst student voice indicates that most students are confident in talking to an adult in school, it is always good to provide students with a range of ways to report any concerns they might have.

The SHARP System



Parents and careers can also make use of the system and use it to pass on any information or concerns they might have and this can be done through visiting [this page](#) of the website.

Please note, the system will not be monitored over the summer break.

The Summer term has continued to be productive and purposeful for students of history at St Edward's. We are particularly proud of our year 10 and 12 students, who, despite the disruption to the first year of the GCSE/A-level study, approached their summer examinations with stoicism and determination. We look forward to supporting them further over the coming months in achieving their full potential.

Building on our year as a Beacon School for Holocaust education with the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education, our year 12 historians contributed to a project raising awareness of genocide.

Students researched and wrote six entries for the book *'Unremembered Days'* – a vital history of modern genocides told through the true stories of tragically unforgettable but unremembered days. The students then participated in the 2021 conference *'Empowering Young People to Change the World'*. Speaking live, via Zoom to over 300 educators worldwide, they shared their experience of the project and articulated the importance of Holocaust and genocide education in schools, embodying the very essence of a Beacon School.

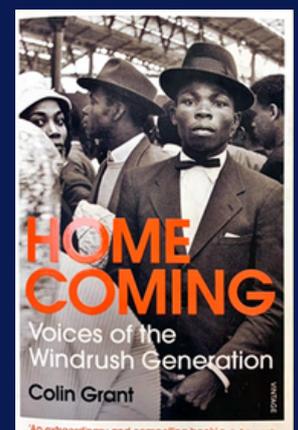


Having remembered the life and work of Holocaust survivor, Leon Greenman, in December and the inspirational survivor talk with Henry Schachter in February, our year 9 historians have been trialing our new Holocaust scheme of learning. This has been carefully designed, together with the Centre for Holocaust Education, to address common misconceptions. The year 9s have been superb in their focus and maturity with challenging enquiries such as 'What was the Holocaust by bullets?' and the personal stories of individuals in ghettos and concentration camps.

Looking ahead to 2022, we are hoping to involve students in more exciting and enriching activities, not least the Historical Association's 'Great Debate 2022'. The question for the debate is 'The 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II has seen global and widespread changes including in: societal infrastructure, industry, rural life, the environment and ideas: Which changes of the last 70 years have affected your local area the most? This opportunity will be open to all year 12 and 13 students and we look forward to working with them in preparing their entries.

In other areas of the curriculum, our A-level students enjoyed a personal audience with historian and author, Colin Grant. as part of our course 'The Making of Modern Britain', our students consider immigration to Britain 1951-2007 with a particular focus on the Windrush generation.

Colin's book *'The Homecoming: Voices of the Windrush Generation'* is a valuable source of first-hand interviews, archival recordings and memoirs by the women and men who came to Britain and the West Indies between the late 1940s and the early 1960s.

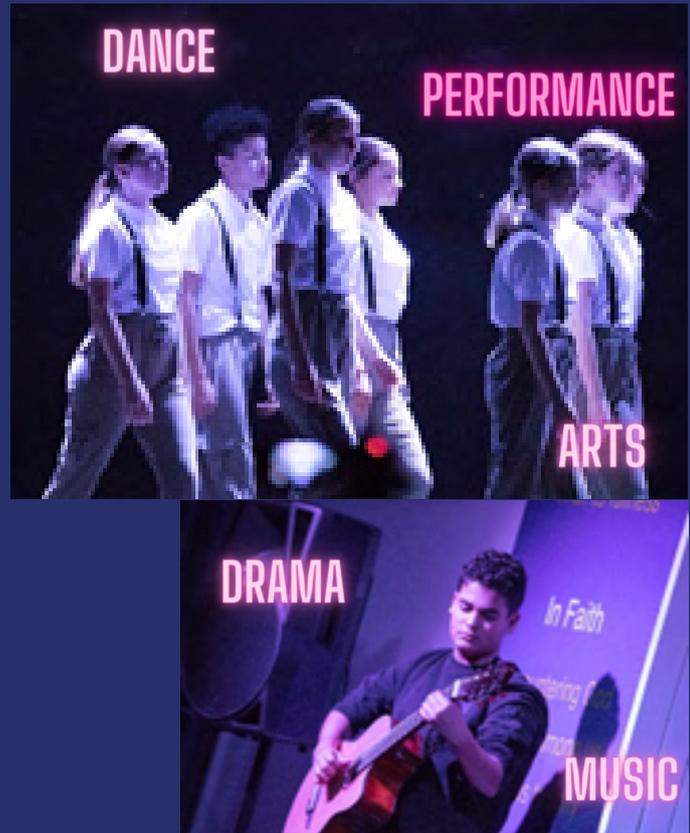


Mrs Sinaguglia, History Subject Leader

Performing Arts

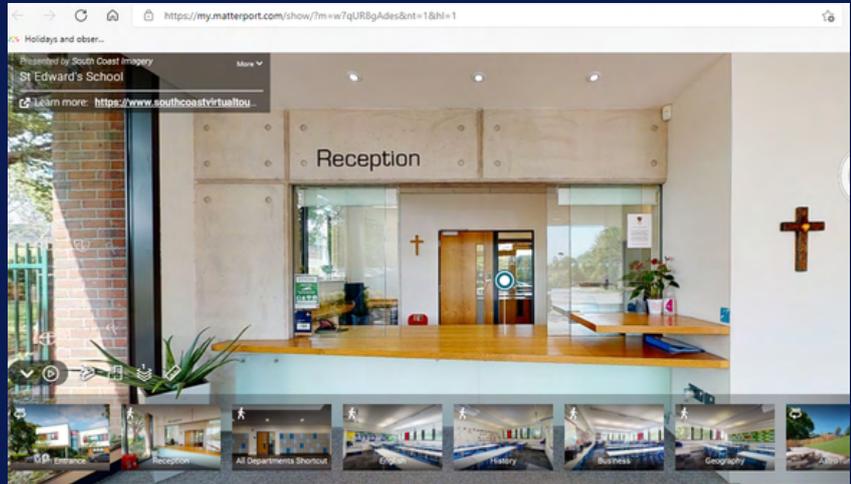
The Drama, Dance, Music and Arts departments are working more closely together than ever in order to promote the performing arts further at St. Edward's school.

We believe that the creative arts has a huge benefit in allowing our students to express themselves creatively throughout the curriculum. Participating in a creative subject can help students develop skills like resilience, grit and growth mindset which can therefore be transferred into other subjects. Recent research has also found that studying in a creative subject can 'improve verbal memory, second language pronunciation, accuracy and reading ability' (*Frontiers in Neuroscience*). With this exciting change happening within the curriculum, your child will start to learn how each performing arts department will link their learning, making the content transferrable and creating a richer curriculum for more opportunities.



Check it out

NEW HOME PAGE NOW LIVE!



A banner for St. Edward's School. On the left is the school's crest, a shield with a red cross and a gold chalice. To the right of the crest, the text reads 'St Edward's School' in a large, bold font, followed by 'Unity - Achievement - Faith' in a smaller font. Below this, it says 'Est. 1963'. At the bottom, it reads 'A joint Roman Catholic and Church of England 11 - 18 School'. There are two buttons: 'ADMISSIONS' and 'SIXTH FORM'.

Have you visited our website recently? Our fresh new home page is now live. [Click here](#) to navigate to all our latest news, information and also to find the link to our new virtual tour!

The virtual tour will give new students the opportunity to explore the campus due to missing out on our usual open evenings and inductions during the pandemic. Further enhancements to the tour will be coming later this year so, watch this space...

Key Stage 3

Well done to all of those that took part in the online learning offered by WWF about the threats being presented by climate change. I hope that it has inspired you to the possibilities afforded by the COP26 Climate conference that is going to be attended by world leaders in Glasgow in the Autumn. Please keep an eye open for more opportunities to explore this over the coming months.

Key Stage 4 & 5

Firstly, may I start with a congratulations to our A level and Year 11 students for the huge amount of time and effort they put into their preparation and revision for the evidence to support the grading process for this year's results. Myself and Mr Kemish were very proud of them.

Recently, our Year 10 and 12 students have also conducted themselves in an exemplary manner and completed their first PPE (mock examinations) for their respective courses. I hope that most should be pleased with the results they receive, can I draw your attention to the support that is offered to students below via our SharePoint resources and remind all that students have been given CGP revision guide and workbook for that corresponds to the course, where students can fill in any gaps they may have:

GCSE

<https://sted365.sharepoint.com/sites/geography/SitePages/GCSE.aspx>

A Level

<https://sted365.sharepoint.com/sites/geography/SitePages/A-Level.aspx>



Whilst opportunities for school based fieldwork has been limited by the restrictions imposed by COVID, if you get the opportunity to visit different places such as the coast, cities or countryside, that you try to get the students talking as much as possible about what they have learnt about in school, for example, how sediment moves along a coast, why the coast has been protected (or not), to help reinforce their learning.

Please look out for an email from me with suggested locations and activities (with supporting information) if you are fortunate enough to be able to plan a day out in London.

Mr Major, Geography Subject Leader

Finding a way forward...

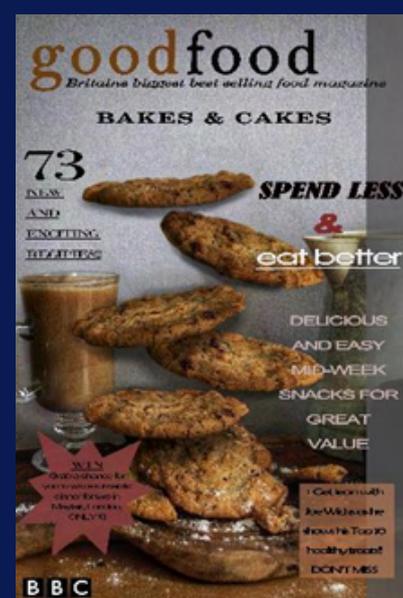
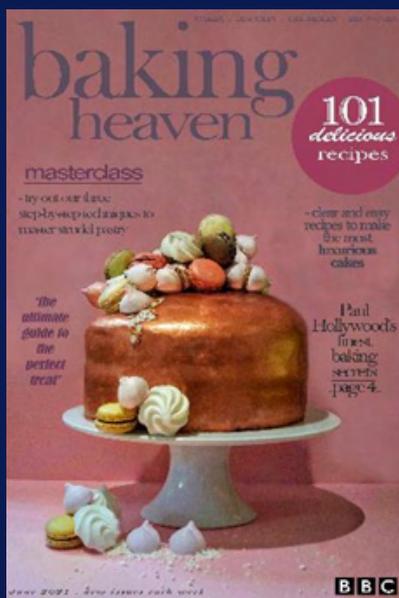
Ordinarily we would have offered a programme of retreats to all students during the course of the year, but with the nature of the disruption we have experienced and with the elevated risks involved in going off-site we just haven't been able to do it this year. However, keen to make the most of what we can do, we organised a retreat day for Year 9 students in collaboration with the team from the St Cassian's Centre in Kintbury. The team of young people, that would normally be welcoming students to their retreat centre in the heart of the countryside instead came to us and ran a series of workshops for all Year 9 students in June. Later in June, a group of staff including both teachers and support staff worked together with Rob Sallis from St Mary's, Longfleet to offer a retreat day experience to Year 7 students.



We look forward to restarting the retreat programme as soon as we are able to and are very grateful to Rob, the Kintbury team and everyone who has helped us this year.

Art and Photography

We would like to congratulate our Photography and Art students for their hard work and preparation during their recent mocks. The photographers were the first to complete their A level mock exam and the students produced some excellent work, using their own images to create an impressive range of work including time lapse, moving image photography, record covers, fine art and sewn images to fashion and life-style magazines such as the work shown here by Charlotte Turner. Charlotte's work shows how she has taken her own food photography and then experimented with using her images on a variety of types and layouts to create potential food magazine covers.



The A level artists completed a range of work in their mock including drawing, print making, collage and painting without using brushes under timed conditions.



Each student produced the work based on their individual theme and we were amazed at the creativity of the students and the range of the work produced.

The examples here are mono prints by Ella-Mae Barnes Noorooya

Art and Photography



Sculptures by Cyan Norman and Yasmin Bromby Phillips



The final examination group to sit their practical mocks were the GCSE artists. The students were able to develop ideas for either a 2D or 3D piece of work. We were highly impressed with the way the students prepared and organised their time to create some excellent work for their portfolio. The photos show just a few of the large scale food sculptures created.

At Key Stage three it has been wonderful to have students back in the art rooms to enable them to work with a wide range of media and to a range of scales that are not always easy to do at home.



They examples here show some of the A2 work produced by year 9 on their theme of African masks, some of the year 8 work based on Picasso and some of the year 7 cherry blossom paintings.

Photography Competition

We were very impressed by the creativity and standard of the photographs submitted for the Photography competition. The students responded to themes associated to lockdown including Daily Exercise, Bubbles and Space. We would like to congratulate the following pupils in particular; Maisy Houlton Y7, Grace Metcalfe Y8, Amandine Biwole Y9, Daisy Holloway Y9, Lucy Gibbs Y9, Dylan Bhatt Y12, Daniela Montenegro Y12.

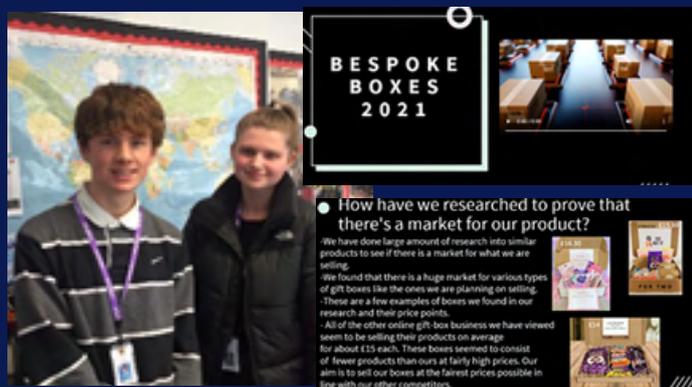


Mrs Morris and Mrs Biggs, Joint Art Subject Leaders

Young Enterprise

Congratulations once again to all those 6th Form students who took part in the Young Enterprise competition this year. Young Enterprise is an international competition where students set up their own Private Limited Company and run it from October until April. It allows students to practice entrepreneurial skills such as creativity, initiative and determination. This year we had one company which has been working with their adviser, Darren Dyer from Barclays.

The final presentation was held online and the Feedback for Bespoke Boxes presentation was quite excellent. Well done to all.



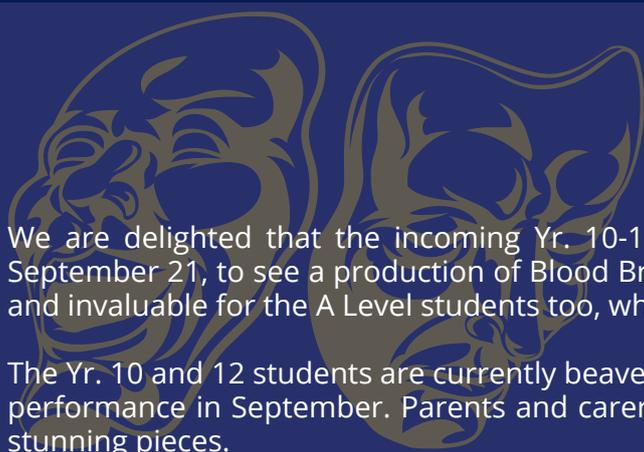
Destinations

This year's Year 13 Business students are moving on to the next stage of their lives with many going to University. Many are staying in the field of business and management including Oliver Chissell, Heabel Byju, Mia Lloyd, Kitty Cleary-Mursell and Samantha Milton. Their courses range from Marketing and Management to Finance.

Apprenticeships are also an attractive option for our leavers and others in recent years. Last year, Lauren Newman achieved a position at Mazars as did Helena Johnson in 2019. We have also seen recent St Edward's Alumni achieve fantastic Apprentice positions at JP Morgan and Francis Clark such as Cole Merton and Tom Robinson. Keeping up to date with their progress, they are all well on their way to achieving professional qualifications in the discipline of Accountancy with world class employers.

The Year 12 students are well under way with their research into University and Apprenticeship positions for 2022. It is exciting to talk to students such as Clelia Landi about her intention to study Fashion Marketing in London, and Isobel Coole who is leaving no stone unturned in her pursuit of an Apprenticeship at JP Morgan.

Mr Kilpatrick, Business Studies Subject Leader



Drama

We are delighted that the incoming Yr. 10-13 Drama students will be returning to the theatre on 9th September 21, to see a production of Blood Brothers at The Mayflower Theatre. The play is a GCSE set text and invaluable for the A Level students too, who may wish to use it for their evaluation of live theatre.

The Yr. 10 and 12 students are currently beavering away on their own devised plays, which will be ready for performance in September. Parents and carers will be invited, Covid permitting, to what I am sure will be stunning pieces.

The Drama Department welcomes Mr. Carl Christopher who joins us for the next academic year. We are super excited at the new expertise he will bring to the department.

Ms Sinnott was recently privileged to see Michael Sheen in Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood* at The National Theatre. It was a moving, poignant performance, with some subtle nods to the current pandemic. Although the audience was half the size, due to social distancing, the atmosphere was electric and the audience undeniably appreciative. With so many theatres under threat at the moment, we would wish to encourage families to see some live productions, after all, 'the show must go on'!

Ms Sinnott, Drama Subject Leader

Science

A return to practical science lessons has been the key feature of the summer term in science. Students have been; investigating the rate of photosynthesis using pond weed, neutralising acids and alkalis, investigating how springs behave when forces are applied and many more. Students find that the practical science lessons provide the opportunity to develop other skills alongside scientific knowledge such as teamwork and communication and many students regard practical science as fun. It is through these lessons that students gain a better working understanding of the world in which they live and can apply their learning to situations beyond the classroom.

We wish Mrs Horman well as she has recently started her maternity leave and await the good news with eager anticipation. Mrs Horman's classes have been taught by Mr McCabe who continues to support us following the return of Mrs Borda from her maternity leave and as such we have no new staff within the department for September.

One notable achievement this year has been the opportunity to run Bee Club and this year restrictions has resulted in even more students visiting the bees with 24 students rotating through the club. Students have taken it in turns, and groups of up to 7 students have been involved in; hive inspections, making frames and adding foundation, making candles and learning about the lifecycle of the honeybees here at St. Edward's. It has been a tough season for the bees in stark contrast to the amazing weather of lockdown. With cold spells, heavy rain and strong winds throughout spring and summer, it was very slow to get going and only now, do we have the first real indication that there will be a honey harvest this year. My grateful thanks to Mrs Rustell for her support of Bee Club in her second season as a beekeeper.

Mr Keene, Science Subject Leader



POLITICS

The Politics students of 2021 have had an incredible year; from taking part in a range of opportunities to engaging in challenging political debates, they have really stepped up to meet the demands of studying politics at A level.

This half term, we have begun our study of US politics, starting with looking at the 2020 election of Joe Biden, and the US Constitution. We have also had the privilege to share our class with a number of international students from Germany, Spain, and Italy, who have been able to bring and share their knowledge of other systems of government across Europe. This international element, alongside starting our study of US Government and Politics this term, has given a wider world perspective to all the students in our class.

The politics students have also begun their study of ideologies, which has sparked a number of debates on human nature, the role of society and the state, and human rights. This has brought our classroom to life, and we are excited to continue these into the next academic year. We have an exciting year planned for our Politics students and for the wider study of politics across the school, and we are all very much looking forward to the next academic year.

Ms Elms, Politics Subject Leader



Physical Education

Every year we present awards to students at St Edward's School for the time and effort they commit to sports at school. Before half term, we awarded our Junior and Senior Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year awards.

The students awarded have all demonstrated a commitment, effort and enthusiasm in all PE lessons and the clubs they have been able to participate in this year and over their time at St Edward's. Each student has become a role model of those qualities that we pride ourselves on at St Edward's school and demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship in all that they do. We would like to recognise their contributions and congratulate them on their achievements.

Top left to right: Lucy - Y9 Junior Sportswoman of the Year 2021, Gianluca - Y9 Junior Sportsman 2021, Stanley - Y11 Senior Sportsman 2021, Christie - Yr 11 Senior Sportswoman 2021.



Every student at St Edward's school is placed into a house which is represented by a successful athlete from the previous Olympics event. The houses are usually voted for by the students and currently are; Team Farah, Team Adams, Team Whitlock and Team Trott.

Over the past three weeks students have been taking part in inter-team competitions within their PE lessons, where they compete against opposing houses. They have been competing in various activities such as rounders, vortex, relays and tug of war.

All results are collated and points are given to all teams which are then added to the sports day results to give us a final house winner for the academic year. The current standings are as follows;

Year 7
 1st Whitlock
 2nd Farah
 Joint 3rd Adams
 Joint 3rd Trott

Year 8
 Joint 1st Adams
 Joint 1st Trott
 2nd Whitlock
 3rd Farah

Year 9
 1st Trott
 2nd Farah
 3rd Whitlock
 4th Adams

Year 10
 Joint 1st Trott
 Joint 1st Whitlock
 3rd Farah
 4th Adams



On Friday 16th July, we hosted our St Edward's sports day but with slight alternations to ensure the safe participation of students in every event. We ran our sports day throughout our normal school day but hosted the events in year group bubbles. This meant that students were able to participate in a number of events and gain as many points as possible for their house in any event they complete. We were fortunate with the glorious sunny weather and the engagement from students was amazing. Students showed pure enjoyment throughout the day and it was a joy to see so many students get involved.

The final total of the inter-team and sports day points are as follows;

Year 7

1st Whitlock
2nd Farah
3rd Trott
4th Adams

Year 8

1st Trott
2nd Whitlock
3rd Farah
4th Adams

Year 9

1st Trott
2nd Farah
3rd Whitlock
4th Adams

Year 10

1st Whitlock
2nd Farah
3rd Adams
4th Trott

The winning house for the academic year 2020/21 is;

Team Whitlock

Congratulations to team Whitlock on a successful sporting year!

Thank you to all students, parents and carers for supporting our department this year. Although it has not been an easy year for everyone, our students have shown a real resilience and determination to push through and hope it will continue to thrive in the coming years. We hope you have a restful summer break.

St Edwards PE Team

Dance Dept.

Well done to those students who have just finished the dance course this year. They are the first cohort of students to complete the course since running Dance at St Edward's school in 2019. We know it has been a challenging year but all of you have worked so hard and deserve every success in the future.



Dorset Lyrical Dance Competition

Congratulations to Lola and Hannah in year 8 who have both received joint second place for their dance entry into the Dorset Lyrical Dance Competition. This was an event run by Active Dorset which was aimed to help promote Mental Health Awareness week. Students could enter the competition as a soloist or small group of students with a choreographed dance based on the theme of mental health. Lola and Hannah will receive medals for their success and efforts in the performance - congratulations!