

Newsletter

EASTER EDITION | APRIL 2023

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



**St Edmund's
Catholic School**



CULTURAL APPRECIATION DAY

St Edmund's celebrated our diversity on Tuesday 28th March with a non-school uniform day raising money for the charity Motiv8. Students were invited to come in wearing their cultural dress or in green to represent our St Edmund's culture. Well done to everyone that got involved!



Headteacher: Mr S Graham BSc, NPQH

Tel: 02392823766

Web: www.saintedmunds.org.uk

Caelum Dives Ingreddi



HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS



As we approach the end of term, you can see from the Newsletter that there is lots to celebrate, enjoy and reflect upon. The learning has been fantastic this term and I am always impressed at how hard our children concentrate and work in their lessons. The quality of their participation, reflection and involvement in learning is outstanding. Our children are a beacon of light for the 'youth' of today.

At St Edmund's, learning is never confined to just the academic curriculum. There have been many wonderful extra-curricular events and trips this term, with massively high numbers of students involved. This week we performed at the Guildhall with 'Soundsational', a venue we visited a few weeks earlier and won the heats of 'Dance Live!' (Good Luck to all for the Final on Wednesday 26th April!). Shakespeare in schools at the New Theatre Royal, 'The Merchant of Venice' was another stunning performance of talented, confident and brave individuals. There have been a huge number of sporting opportunities, with students showing real determination, skill and resilience. Congratulations to all, and my thanks to staff who give so much extra time for these events.

Our spiritual development has been interwoven into all aspects of what we do, with numerous events and our daily acts of prayer and worship. Observing tutor group assemblies and tutor group prayer has been at times very moving and a truly soul warming experience. These moments of prayer really reflect student's faith, and its importance to them in their daily lives and interactions. Assemblies during this Lenten Season have given students the opportunity to pray, reflect and think about the wider society and their place in it. This week we have focused on preparing for Palm Sunday and Holy Week and we will be celebrating Easter during our Stations of the Cross service on Friday. During this service we will walk with Jesus, and by uniting in his suffering, become stronger Christians, and have a better understanding of suffering across the wide world.

We have been talking with students about how Lent is not just about giving something up but about positive change. Improving our lives and that of others with love, understanding and spiritual resilience. Pope Francis said 'Lent comes to us at a time to change course, to recover the ability to react to the evil that always challenges us. Lent is a time to turn away from sin. Allowing that some focus and resilience to enter our daily life and work.'

The Cultural Awareness day this week was organised totally by students with a number of events / activities taking place throughout the day. An incredible achievement and uplifting (although wet!) day.

Finally, thank you to parents for your incredible support this term. All these little things make a huge difference and allow our children to flourish academically, socially and spiritually. Governors during their visits have commented on all of these aspects and the quality of the environment within the school. We remain committed to giving our children the best education, opportunities and spiritual journey possible. Over Easter, we will be once again working on the school site on general 'housekeeping' jobs and some small improvements projects. We are looking forward to the final summer term and bringing all that year long hard work to fruition.



God Bless
Mr S Graham
Headteacher



'This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.' Psalm 117 (118);24

YEAR 10

A-LEVEL TASTER SESSION

Over the course of the week, from Monday 20th – Friday 24th February Year 10 were able to experience a plethora of A Level subject Taster sessions delivered by tutors from The City of Portsmouth College.

Each session was really well attended by keen and engaged Year 10 students. We had Performing Art, Politics, Science, Visual Arts and Geography. A huge range of subjects and opportunities that will be available for this year group to choose from when they come to apply to colleges in December of this year!



"I definitely want to study Performing Arts at college now. The shows they do are great and they have a full size stage with dressing rooms available! Sign me up!"



"I really enjoyed the Geography session. We had to imagine that we were trying to evacuate a disaster zone. What would we pack? What we do if we lost our bag that had ALL our belongings in it! Geography is much more than just knowing where each country is, it's about humanity and the survival of our planet!"



T Level Nursing Masterclass

On the 14th March 2 lovely Nurse Tutors came into St Edmund's to deliver a 2 hour T Level Nursing Masterclass to some of our lovely Year 9 pupils.

The class was brilliant. The pupils learnt how to listen for a pulse (MUCH harder than you think it is going to be!), how to bandage a leg/foot/hand or arm injury and how to take a reading of someone's blood oxygen levels. The also looked into testing (fake!) urine samples and by reading the results on the litmus test were able to make informed judgements about what a possible diagnosis may be.

-Mrs Halford Careers Advisor



"It was interesting finding out that I could do a T Level in Nursing and go onto University with that to do a Nursing degree. I don't have to take A Levels if they aren't the right route for me and the T Level would provide me with a lot more practical experience"

CHAPLAINCY



'And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.' (John 13:34-35) The above Scripture passage comes to mind when I think about this term. I look at how God's love has worked through the staff and students of the school and reached out to others.

Our Bamenda Day for Year 8 was a wonderful experience for all. Staff and Students were involved in a day of activities focused on learning about the situation in Bamenda and the school with which we are twinned, John Paul II. The whole concept and theology of Catholic Social Teaching was reinforced and students learnt more about how, 'The Church has always had the duty of scrutinising the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel.' (Gaudium et Spes #4) This we did by being aware of the needs of others, writing postcards to John Paul II school and raising money for their school by a sponsored Fun Run. Well done Year 8.



We launched our Lenten CAFOD fundraising. Each Tutor Group put forward ideas to raise money. Our fundraising will support all of CAFOD's endeavours to help our global family. There were so many activities such as: sponsored silences, cake selling, entertainment at break times, football competitions, guess the teacher, to name but a few. Well done to all students and staff for your time and generosity. The proceeds from this will be sent to CAFOD.



Each Year group had their own Reconciliation Services. It was a beautiful, prayerful and reflective experience. Students and staff had time to reflect upon their lives and to give thanks for many things as well as seeing areas in their lives where they could make a few changes to become their best selves. During the Service, students were given an opportunity to write a card to someone who they felt may need cheering up, or to say thank you to, or to say they were thinking and praying for them. It was lovely seeing those cards being passed to staff and students. At the end of the Service, students had the opportunity to attend individual reconciliation. Thank you to our priests from the Cathedral Parish, who came to hear confessions

“He has Risen, have faith in Him and he will always be there for you.”



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

We had several Chaplaincy Meetings this term and it is amazing to see the creativity, prayer and fun that takes place during these workshops. Students worked on conveying a message of faith through cartoon form, they were indeed very good. As well as thinking about developing further Prayer Stations around the school, some new ideas emerged.



Our Saint Vincent De Paul group and Rosary Group are faithful to their weekly meetings and are a fantastic support for the spirituality, fundraising and various faith activities that take place within the school, well done!

During Lent, every Wednesday lunchtime there has been opportunity for Adoration in the Chapel. Various students visited the Chapel to pray during the season of Lent.

Parish Ambassadors have been relaunched and we now have 15 students representing their local parishes. They were commissioned by myself and Mr Graham and we are looking forward to further developing these ties with our local parishes.

Our Parent Prayer Group took place again and it was wonderful to welcome parents into the school, to pray and reflect on the Word as well as praying for our school, community and world. Thank you for your support.

We are preparing The Stations of the Cross which will take place at the end of this term. It is always a prayerful, reflective and thought-provoking liturgy, in the lead up to the Easter Triduum. Staff and students volunteer to enact the last few hours of Jesus' life through The Stations, music, prayers and reflection. Thank you to ALL who give of their time and make these Services so meaningful.



I wish you all a peace-filled and joyful Easter full of many Graces and Blessings.

Thank you, Chaplain Fiona, and all involved in Chaplaincy.

"Blessed are those who have not seen and have yet believed." John 20:29



YEAR 7

Mrs Were

Another term has flown by and Year 7 have really settled into our St Edmund's family, ways of life, and have really found their feet.

In particular during our season of Lent, this half term has seen the ongoing kindness and generosity amongst the year group with our CAFOD fundraising activities. We have seen sponsored silence, cake sales, inter-tutor football matches as well as a sponsored song and danceathon (involving 7 Devereux singing and dancing for a full 25 minutes despite the rain!).

Special mentions go to the following individuals:

- Rebecca 7 Devereux; who was like our resident Chaplain Fiona during the sing and Danceathon, leading all the pupils with encouragement and full enthusiasm!
- Sammy 7 Devereux ; who raised a whole £25 of sponsorship money on his own!
- Dakotah, Lydia, Elsie, Elisabetta, Adrian, Jewel, Hannah; who all kept up the energy high for the entire breaktime!
- Sartaj 7 Newman (and her mum!); for homemade cupcakes for the bake sale!
- Tomasz, Connie and Sam from 7 Stein for baking some delicious cakes and cookies!
- Nathan, Edryd, Emilia, Lottie, Annabel, Fernando, Carter & Josh who gave up their entire break time to man the bake sale stall!
- The 7 Newman & 7 Teresa football team that played despite the horrible weather and showed brilliant sportsmanship!



This term we have also completed some exciting filming as a year group, individually stating the career that we are interested in when we grow up. This footage will be kept safe and will be used in 5 years time as part of our Year 11 Leavers Assembly to reflect on our memories of Year 7, as well as seeing how much we may have changed in 5 years!

I would also like to take this opportunity to make you aware of our very first Year 7 Parents Evening coming up after Easter! This will take place on Tuesday 25th April from 4.00 – 6.30pm and it will be an online Parents Evening. Please take a look at the letter and support documents that have gone home and are on the school website and Edulink App for information on how to book appointments with your child's subject teachers.

I wish you all a happy, safe and restful break, well deserved after such a successful term. On our return this will see us experience our final term of Year 7 – another busy one as we build towards the end of the year and a very exciting reward trip for many pupils in Year 7!

Mrs Were - Head of Learning Year 7

Miss Hammond

YEAR 8



WOW! What a busy half term this has been. It has only been 6 weeks but Year 8 have amazed me with their attitude and effort they show towards their learning.

We have had a busy half term with Parents' Evening, reconciliation service and our Bamenda Day. Reconciliation gave us all an opportunity to reflect and take some quiet time to think about ourselves and how the time of Lent is a time to support others where possible. Year 8 behaved beautifully and entered into prayer as they always do with calmness and respect.

Bamenda Day was an amazing event which Year 8 entered into beautifully. The array of Red, Yellow and Green clothing to show our support to Cameroon was heart warming. Students learnt lots about Bamenda, how to budget to support Bamenda, praying for Bamenda and finishing with a "Fun" run! Well done to all students for taking part and showing perseverance during the run.

'We had a memorable day on the 2nd March 2023. It was Bamenda Day which was a day we performed different activities to show our solidarity in a place in the Cameroon called Bamenda. I enjoyed the day exceedingly because I learnt a lot and boosted my knowledge.

We started the day by learning further about Catholic Social Teaching. This is a significant teaching that involves the learning and understanding of the different aspects of Catholic religion. After that we went to different IT rooms in order to complete a fact file that contains features about Bamenda.

Later on we had an amazing breaktime when we had the school to ourselves!

We ate and laughed and shared different things we learnt about Bamenda. We also talked about the devastating civil war that is occurring between Francophone and Anglophone parts of the country which resulted in the crucial effect that is affecting the different areas of life amongst the people in Bamenda. We talked about different ways we can fundraise other than what the school has planned to help them.

We went back to the hall and saw an opportunity to recreate Bamenda in a way that will solve their problems both short and long term. We used our mathematical, financial and creative skills to design Bamenda. When we finished that we all went outside and did our fun run! I found it interesting we all ran as many km as we could according to our capabilities. It was tiring but fantastic!

I really enjoyed Bamenda Day, we also sent postcards to our twinned school St John Paul II in Wum. It was a wonderful experience that we all enjoyed as a Catholic family and I would recommend it for all students in years to come.' - Isabella E, Year 8

I would like to say a HUGE THANKYOU to all parents/carers who booked appointments and logged on for Parents Evening. We had 96% attendance on the night which was amazing and some very positive comments back from parents. I look forward to the opportunities next year for Parents to gain more feedback on students and to speak to teachers. This will be especially important given option choices that will need to be made in Year 9. Should any parents want to still speak to teachers due to being unable to get an appointment you can do this via email or phone.

I hope Year 8 use their Easter Holiday's wisely, ensuring they complete their Tech homework but also have a well-earned rest. Thankyou as always for all your support and I look forward to seeing you all for our final term of Year 8.

Miss Hammond





YEAR 9

Miss Feliks-Matthews

Easter break is well and truly upon us, to be honest, this term has gone so quickly, that I can barely remember February half term, it seems ages ago!

Another successful term, good attendance, behaviour and effort from my lovely Year 9s!

Firstly, a huge well done to all pupils for making the GCSE Options process a super smooth one. I think, we all must agree that the support for you all regarding option choices in St Edmund's School is second to none.

From your options showcases, which were very well attended, to the individual interviews, to online presentation from Mrs Lunn, as well as our Year 9 Options Choices Evening held on the 9th of March, you have been guided and supported all the way through. Seeing so many of you with your parents/carers/families on the night, made me a very happy Head of Learning. Your attitude, motivation and ambition to do well, never cease to amaze me. So, a big pat on the back for the focus that has gone into this term in general.



My huge thank you goes to all teachers, Heads of Departments, Mrs Lunn and Mrs Halford for all the preparation and support.

On Friday 10th of March we had our Year 9 Reconciliation service organised by Fiona and attended by Father Nishan. Again, your participation, reflection and enthusiasm just highlighted what a beautiful year group you really are. Please keep it up for the rest of this academic year and may it continue to KS4. Thank you Fiona.

My huge thank you also goes to Miss Playle who organised and supervised the "Flame" trip to London, Wembley. The theme of Flame 2023 – which is exactly 150 days before World Youth Day in Lisbon – takes the WYD Scripture "Mary arose and went with haste" and crystallises it into the theme, "Rise Up!" Rise up after the pandemic, Rise up as young Catholics, Rise up – as Mary did – for the surprising and beautiful adventure that is our Catholic faith. The feedback I have received was just amazing, you prayed, reflected and sung your hearts out throughout the day!

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all Year 9s who were successful in securing a part in this year school production "The Adam's family". For those who got the part- you can be very proud of yourselves already, as you were chosen out of 180 pupils auditioning! Well done, I cannot wait to see it!

Finally, I hope everyone has a fantastic Easter break. Please do spend some quality times with your lovely families and have some well-deserved rest! Enjoy whatever you love doing and stay safe.

Wishing you all a truly Blessed Easter.

Mrs T Feliks-Matthews
Head of Learning Year 9

Miss Tudor

YEAR 10



How are we at Easter already? I've said it before, and I'll say it again... time really does fly when you are having fun! We've had an absolute jam-packed term and I'm delighted to tell you all about it.

We had the most beautiful Reconciliation service on the 10th March, lead by Chaplain Fiona. A time of reflection, prayer, mindfulness and embracing our spirituality. An opportunity for our pupils to take time out of their busy days and focus on their spiritual growth.

Parents evening was another roaring success, this year group goes from strength to strength and I was so proud to hear the feedback shared by teachers and parents alike. This was a vital time for ensuring clear goal setting and discussing strengths and weakness ahead of the upcoming early entry GCSE exams and as we head into our final year in September.

Since September our early entry prefects have really stepped up to fulfil various tasks and roles around the school. From tours of the school to daily canteen duties our 32 pupils have been nothing short of excellent. I am super excited to see who will be going for the year 11 roles in the coming weeks especially our candidates for Head Boy and Head Girl!

Outside of school this year group has certainly been busy, and gosh does it feel good to win! We started with Dance Live! In February where we WON our heat division. So much dancing talent in our year group alone it was the most exhilarating experience. Then standing in the pouring rain as our Year 10 boys football team took on the Semi Final Football Cup against Milton Cross and WON with a fantastic 4-1 final score. Here come the finals! Then finishing up the month with Soundsational where our Year 10 GCSE music class put together the most diverse band of musicians and again I was just totally blown away by their confidence and talent, seeing them up on the stage at The Guildhall fills me with excitement.

The year group saw more success with their second English GCSE mock exam and they are well and truly in the countdown for their early entry GCSE exam in May. They should be so proud of their hard work and dedication they have shown not only to themselves but to the subject. It just goes to show when you put your mind to something you CAN achieve.

I'm exhausted just recapping the major events, a well-deserved rest for all is needed! I hope everyone has a fantastic Easter break and just to say I appreciate all of your ongoing support and look forward to continuing to work together with you during the remainder of Year 10.

Miss Tudor



YEAR 11

**Mr Poxton
& Mrs Tuffnell**



Spring is in the air and the countdown to revision and exams has well and truly started for Year 11. I want to start by saying that despite the huge amount of pressure that the students have been under, as deadlines to coursework and Controlled Assessments have loomed and then passed, the majority have remained calm, resilient and determined to do well.

What feels like the longest term ever has included a vast amount of activities and events including tutor photos, two Maths Mock Exams, Dance Live, 11 Teresa Cinema trip, GCSE PE Moderation, Food Tech Exam, the Music Exam and the Drama Exam.

To help students to revise, each one will have a personalised timetable for the Easter break which the students have completed themselves. This will also have the dates and times when staff will be in school to offer targeted revision sessions. We expect every pupil to complete between four and five hours a day. It is important however that students take breaks and get some physical activity in fresh air too. The GCSE exam timetable is on the school website as well as the catch up times that staff lay on after school.

On the last day of term the Year 11 Reports will be sent home to parents with the students. It is hoped that pupils will sit down with their family to look at all the comments that teachers have made on how targets can be reached and exceeded. Tutors and teachers alike have taken time to congratulate students on their hard work, comment on poor attitude and behaviour and wish each one all the best for their upcoming exams.

The Catering Group completed their practical exam over a three hour time period. They had to prepare an international meal consisting of two courses. I went to see and taste the finished results and they were amazing. What talent! Dishes ranged from Flapjacks, Burgers, Mexican and homemade Ice Cream. The whole class need congratulating.

The second wave of leavers Ball invitations has been sent out, and to get that invite, students needed to have 95% attendance and a good behaviour record. This has slipped recently due to some illnesses, but everyone must now make sure that they attend school even if they feel unwell, to access the range of revision lessons that will be delivered, ready for Wave 3 after Easter.

Well it just leaves me to wish every student in Year 11 a good Easter break – with a balance of rest and solid revision. Do your best!

“There is no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure”

Mr Poxton

Head of Learning Year 11.





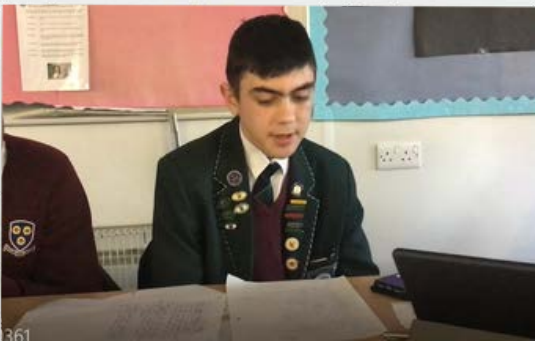
ENGLISH

Schools Library Service Rap Writing Workshop.

18 Year 9 pupils were given the opportunity to work with some local rap artists in a series of three workshops - the pupils produced some amazing work!

"We found the rap workshop to be very useful and really enjoyable. We were taught how to rhyme, how to express our feelings through music and at the same time we were able to communicate with our friends whilst learning these new skills. The workshop was a brilliant chance to experience a new learning environment. We were able to work with people we felt confident with and were able to have creative freedom over what we wrote and the beat we wanted to use. We were able to choose beats that brought out our personalities and imagination. At the start, we were all really nervous but working with our friends and having the amazing professionals helped us fight through that. In the end, we were able to share our raps and we were really impressed with what everyone had been able to produce. This was a brilliant workshop, and we would love to see this become a part of our English lessons."

-Jay, Mikey and Darron - 9 Romero



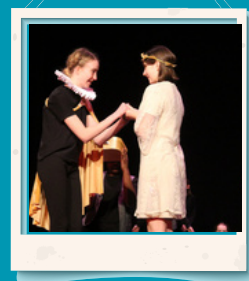
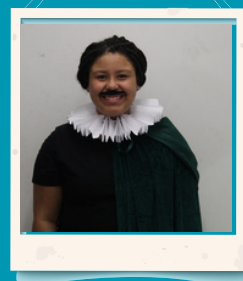
Shakespeare Schools Festival

After a long time off for covid - Shakespeare Schools is back! This year's production of The Merchant of Venice was a triumph. The students worked incredibly hard and took on more responsibilities than any other year. We had cast members designing props and costumes, directing scenes, planning the lighting and more!



"I really enjoyed auditions because it built my confidence and (although I felt quite nervous) I think it has helped me for future auditions. Rehearsals were fun and it was a unique process bouncing ideas off each other and making new friendships. We were also given the chance to lead parts of rehearsals which was brilliant. Then came performance day! The other schools were so funny to watch and I loved getting the costumes on and getting into character! I am glad we all got to showcase our hard work in front of a real audience. Learning Shakespeare is really going to help me in my English Literature GCSE as well as providing me with the opportunity to perform."

Faith - 9 Romero



YEAR 7

GRAPHICS



Pupils have been researching different types of houses and looking at the details and materials used in architectural structures. They have been developing their cutting, folding and measuring skills, learning about 3 dimensional shapes and of course using lots of artistic imagination.

Model houses made by Year 7 pupils.

YEAR 8

Year 8 pupils have been making faces - nothing new there you might say, but these faces are made out of colourful paper collage with skill, glue, precision and individual flair. One of the challenges was that no drawing lines were allowed to show on the front of the face; all detail had to be shown in paper alone. The funny face was then added to a hand-made greetings card with an envelope. Pupils also had fun learning how to make different pop-up techniques to go inside the card.



YEAR 9

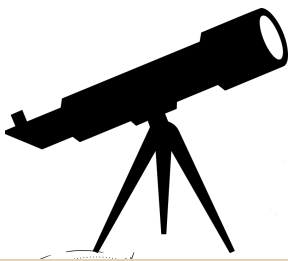


Year 9 have been creating and unique name, slogan and logo design for a company that sells nutritious and organic food designed to help people lead a healthy lifestyle. Here are some of their stunning designs:

GCSE Coursework and exam preparation
GCSE pupils have been working hard developing their graphic design skills in order to submit their coursework and exam project folders. The graphics exam for Year 11 is on the 20th & 21st April. WISH THEM LUCK.



YEAR 10 & 11



Astronomy

"On the 3rd of March the Year 10 Astronomy students gathered in the evening cold along Eastney seafront to observe the stars as part of their Astronomy GCSE. In groups of 10 we looked through the huge Saint Edmund's telescope and astrobinoculars! The Moon looked amazing, super bright and detailed, and every student who saw it gasped at how different it was! After checking out the Moon, we looked over various constellations and asterisms; The Big Dipper (spotting Mizar and Alcor), Orion (seeing the different colours of Rigel and Betelgeuse) and Cassiopeia. We then practiced our averted vision on the Pleiades (looking halfway between the Seven Sisters and Aldebaran) and practiced our pointers to navigate the night sky too. It was a great session and excellent practice/revision for all pupils!



"Inspiring!" - Sol D.



"It was a very good learning experience whilst also practical." - Spencer - 10 Romero



"It was a mindblowing experience! It was really different seeing the stars in more detail than normal!"

Religious Education

During the Spring Term, Year 7 have been learning about CAFOD and how they help people in need. As part of this topic they had a visit from Mrs Humphreys, who volunteers with CAFOD. She delivered a lesson showing the students how CAFOD provide important aid to countries in need, particularly at this time Turkey and Syria. She then got the students to play a climate change game, which got them thinking about the different ways in which we can help the environment.



"On the CAFOD day, Mrs Humphreys came and showed us the importance of CAFOD and how we can help people in need and in poverty. We played a little game to test our knowledge and then she tested us at the end of the lesson to see what we had learnt." - Aryan

At the end of the lesson we wrote on a postcard, about what we had learnt in the lesson, on mine I wrote about the six R's – Recycle, reduce, repair, rethink, refuse and reuse. Overall, I really enjoyed the lesson and learnt lots of new facts about CAFOD." – Lydia

Cultural Appreciation Day



St Edmund's Celebrates it's diverse cultures!

Last term I attended student voice meetings to obtain feedback from students on what they would like to see included in a school culture day. I used all of their ideas to then plan, along with a subcommittee of senior prefects, our school 'Cultural Appreciation day' where we would celebrate the diversity within our school.



This took place on Tuesday the 28th March and was a very special day, made possible with the help of many students and staff.

During the last week of term, In the canteen, a tailored menu allowed us to travel the world and its gastronomy. In the morning, around the school, tutor time entailed fun and educational activities where students got the opportunity to discuss culture, appropriation and appreciation, and how we should celebrate our cultures.

Motiv8 :
A Local Charity who provides support for vulnerable children, young people and adults to strengthen their emotional health and well-being

On Tuesday, a non-uniform day allowed us the chance to come into school displaying an array of colours, patterns and styles of cultural dress from around the globe. The school playground was filled with colours, football kits, and beautiful outfits that captured the cultural diversity of our school.

We hope you enjoyed our Cultural Appreciation Day celebrations. All of the money raised from Non-Uniform day will be going to Motiv8, a local, Portsmouth Charity that creates safe communities and inspiring opportunities for young people and their families.

Student Voice, Ashik- Year 11

YEAR 9

SPEED NETWORKING



On Friday 10th February Year 9 were joined by 23 local professionals for their Speed Networking Event.

Each group had 5 minutes to spend with each professional. They had the opportunity to listen to that person's professional journey and then had the chance to ask some questions.

There was a real buzz in the room all morning. The whole year group seemed totally engaged and enthralled by each of the visitors. We even had an ex-pupil join us who is now working successfully with Network Rail. Events like this are so important for the pupils and really can give them an idea of the variety and opportunity that awaits them once they leave St Edmund's. I would like to extend my sincere thanks too all the professionals who gave up their day to join us and to Year 9 for being absolute stars, as always!

• Mrs Halford Careers Advisor



"This was a great event –I was quite tired by the end as I asked lots of questions!"

"I really loved talking to the CID Officer – I really want to join The Police when I can"

"It was amazing to meet so many different people with different jobs! I loved it"



LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY SHOOT



Year 11 -Light photography shoot, in Old Portsmouth, with long exposure harbour lights and light painting in the historic alleyways of Spice Island.

We started at The Point, the photographers set up their cameras and tripods whilst receiving guidance on setting up exposure, shutter speed, ISO and many other settings needed for the evening's photography. We used the blue/purple lights of The Spinnaker Tower for our first composition, with the colourful reflection clear in the smooth harbour water due to the long exposure.



With an ear open for the next arriving Isle of Wight ferry, we moved our attention to the harbour marker with a green flashing marker light. With a backdrop of Gosport lights we worked on focusing at night and composition. As a ferry arrived we aimed to capture the passing lights behind the marker and still have time to move our cameras around to capture the ferry passing by the Spinnaker Tower. With some great results!



Photos taken by Juliet, Finlay,
Jakob,Eva, Abby & Freddie

Time to move to a narrow alleyway tucked away off the cobbled street to begin to experiment with light painting. We started with simple single light source, then on to multiple lights and finally on to how you can 'pop' ghost-like figures in to your frame.

Our last spot was by The Round Tower, with a wide open space where everyone could grab a light and get creative, building images where we all collaborated in painting a colourful chaos of light trails. Time flies when you are having fun, and it was soon 9pm and time for us all to go home.

A huge thank you to everyone for coming out on a cold March evening! (Special Thank you to Mrs Butterworth for your support & help).

SPORTS CORNER



Despite the miserable weather the Year 10 boys were in high spirits against Milton Cross and played **EXCEPTIONALLY** well. So well, they are now through to the finals against Admiral Lord Nelson at Fratton Park!!!



Mubin had a beautiful save in the first minute as MX pushed hard on the attack.



Royal scored a belter of a first goal, quick in the first 2 mins to the bottom right corner.



Manuel came through with a second goal bottom left that just snuck in past a clump of defence.

Players:

Royal, Madiba, Oscar
 , Antonio, Charlie M, Manuel
 , Lucas DP, Kasper , Sterling , El
 hadji , Sam , Faithful , Jude , Mubin
 - GK

Well done boys, we can't wait to watch you in the FINAL!



Excellent
 Badminton
 performance
 Year 9



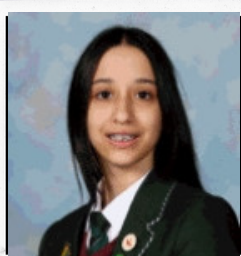
Miss Evans hosted a Girl's football match against Admiral. The overall score was 3-0 to Admiral. St Edmund's were very unlucky not to score but they had great support from others in their year group cheering from the side lines. The girls had no subs so did amazing to last the full game and show resilience. Player of the match was Victoria in 8 Stein. Well done girls!!

DANCE LIVE



It gives me great pleasure to announce that St Edmund's came 1st place at Dance Live last night! This was against eight other institutions - some of which were Colleges! Proud doesn't even cut it! So if you teach or see the pupils involved please congratulate them, both as dancers, crew, hair/make up & tech team . It is one giant team effort and it would not have happened without each individuals input.

We now move on to the finals!!!! - Mrs Were



“ I really enjoyed Dance Live because you get to show off your talent of dancing, expressing your emotions through the dance and you also get to make lots of friends. I am looking forward to the finals! - Erika ”



“ Dance Live has been a great experience it has helped me to become a better dance and develop my performance skills. Moreover, it has enhanced my confidence and social skills. - Khloe - Ann ”

“ We were part of the Dance Live Technical Team. We made so many new friends and enjoyed our time together in such a friendly competition! There was so much to learn and do, including all the editing and use of green screen. It was great to see all our hard work as editing crew on the big screen. Despite some challenges we had lots of fun, and bonded! ”

By Agatha, Adobea and Bijanu
(Year 11 Tech Team)





Congratulations to the St Edmund's Dance Live Crew!

Their Outstanding performance placed them 1st in their heat and are now through to the Final!

Well done to all involved and Good Luck!



Prom Committee

“

The prom committee has been rallying together every other Friday from 3-4 pm to discuss, plan and organise the forthcoming prom in the Summer term.

We have exercised skills like communication, teamwork and problem solving and have come up with a lavish red carpet event themed : the 'Met Gala.' Our team is working hard and are committed to making this a memorable event and a time to truly look forward to and so we spend meetings discussing, deliberating and voting on what we want for our prom. Our Heads of Year are very supportive and allow us to take control of meetings and help us put our plans into practice so that our prom can come out the way we envision it to. Already we have organised multiple successful fundraisers like bake sales, non - school uniforms and even a car wash! We were lucky enough to be supported by a vast amount of teachers who paid for the prom committee to wash their cars during break, lunch and after school. Many teachers gave very generous donations and altogether we raised an impressive £215 which will go towards our prom fund. The prom committee worked hard despite the cold to get a large number of cars, washed and dried to a professional standard and so we hope that many happy costumers will return when we do it again.

We invite you to join us in upcoming fundraisers like Easter bake sales and activities as well as some friendly competition throughout the school to see who can raise the most in a penny jar challenge where all proceeds will go to the success of our leavers ball.

Recently we took a trip to the Queens Hotel as part of our prom committee deliberations to see how our ideas would come to life. It was very beneficial to visualise the final outcome of how our prom would come together and it allowed us to think about seating arrangements, car entrances and decorations for both inside and outside the venue. The colour scheme for the leavers ball is gold and white and so we discussed how we could decorate with this and arrange the hall to fit this scheme. We were given a tour by the hotel manager who was lovely and answered our many questions- some of which will be asked in upcoming questionnaires which we hope to get responses from the rest of Year 11 to put the final touches in place. The Queens Hotel has a beautiful outdoor space which will be amazing to utilise for our summer prom and so we're putting plans towards decorating it. These are already in motion as we are networking and consolidating our vision by getting quotes from numerous manufacturers and decorators. We plan to be very extravagant and thorough in detail so that it will truly be a night to be remembered. Visiting the Queens hotel made prom become real and we are all very excited to end the 5 years we have spent together as a year group in the most memorable way! ”



Portsmouth School Library Service Literature Quiz 2023



It seems a long time ago now when we took our four teams to the Victory Suite, at Fratton Park to take part in the Lit Quiz, back in January. However, the excitement of the quiz still lingers, as we begin to prepare for next year.



'After the quiz we got to meet Dan Freedman, Patrice Lawrence, Stewart Foster and Patrice Lawrence. We even got a book signed by our favourite author. We will have a go again at winning the quiz next year'



'When we arrived, we felt nervous but excited to be taking part in such a big event. There were lots of rounds with challenging questions, but we pushed through and had fun. We were grateful for this opportunity. '

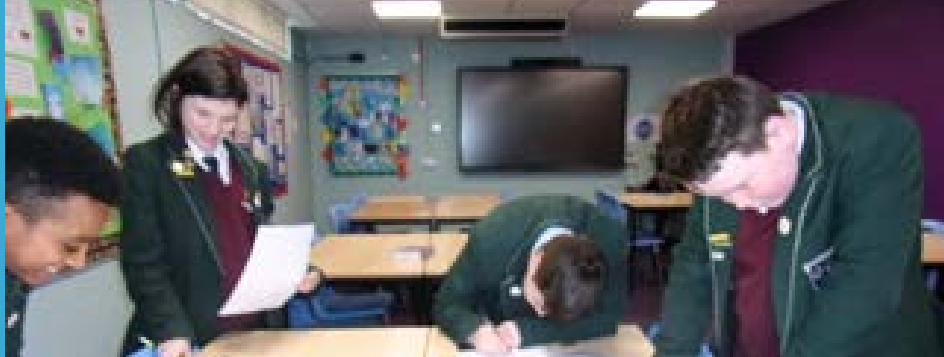


This was an amazing opportunity to work as a team and share book knowledge. We did incredibly well, as this year had the largest turnout of teams for a very long time. At the end of the quiz with finished as Runner-Ups.....maybe next year? I know that the students thoroughly enjoyed the event and meeting four authors.



Reading Week and World Book Day 2023

Wow! What an amazing week was had by all! The students took part in several Literature based activities during week. The highlights for many was the opportunity to read for ten minutes at the start of every lesson, taking part in the Tutor Group Literature Quiz and although we were unable to dress up on World Book itself this year, we did use our 'Character Photo Booth'. Staff and students dressed up as their favourite characters, using the available props. Everybody had a fantastic time, but don't just take my word for it, read the students views.



Bag a Free Book:

We began the week with a 'Bag a free book!' They all went so quickly, that there were no books left to bag within twenty minutes. We wanted the students to have the opportunity to get a free book of their choice.

Did you know that the National Literacy Trust states only one in five own their very own book?

Please, don't forget to use your electronic World Book Token, by 26th March, and claim a free book or £1 off a book of your choice.

'I think more people should do the Lit Quiz because its great fun and you basically get free books!'

'The literature quiz was a fun part of my day. It thoroughly educated me'

'The 10 Minutes of silent reading really helped me'

LLRC Lending Portal

Please take a look at our Library Lending Portal, where students can search our Library catalogue, find recommended reading lists, access eBooks and have quick web access to help with homework. They can even renew their Library books by signing in using their Library Pin, no password required.

You can access the LLRC Lending Portal by going to our school web home page. Click on Menu, then scroll down and click on 'Pupils' and finally select 'LLRC Lending Portal'.



God Bless.
Mrs Edwards
Library Manager



YEAR 7

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

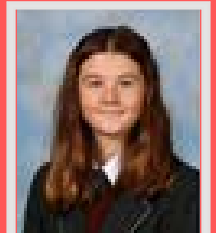
In each addition of the Newsletter, two tutor groups will report on their time at the school so far.



When I first started at St Edmund's it felt really big, because my primary school was very small. It took a little bit of time to find my way round school at first, but now the school feels much smaller because I know where I'm going all the time. I didn't know many people when I first arrived so I have made lots of new friends. When I started school I went to an audition for the Merchant of Venice, which was part of Shakespeare Schools Festival. Me and my sister were some of the youngest to audition, however, surprisingly, we got in to the cast. Most of the students were older than us; however, all of them were really nice and AMAZING actors. It meant that we were able to perform at the New Theatre Royal, along with some other schools who were participating. If anyone reading this would like to try to do a drama related club then I would urge you to try it. It's a great way to meet new people from other year groups.

Since joining St Edmund's it has been very different from primary school. The work is harder, you have to concentrate more and there's a lot more work to do. Although it has been difficult at times, the teachers always help you through it. And all the people have helped me settle into school and now it's amazing.

Recently I competed in a dance competition call Dance Live! with the school. We rehearsed every Wednesday after school until the big day arrived. There were loads of students from the other year groups too. After we had performed there was only one other school left to perform. They were amazing! But finally, after the long wait to find out the results, our name was called out as the winners of Dance Live! When we got back to school everyone was congratulating us and they were so kind. This was another way that helped me settle into school so well.

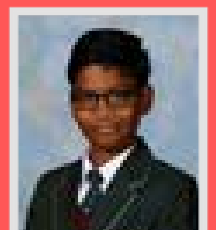


"Learning at St Edmunds has been a fantastic experience and altogether fun. My favourite subjects are PE and Maths because PE is fun and Maths is very educational. One of my favourite teachers is my tutor Miss Berry.

On my first day at St Edmund's I was very nervous and I didn't know what to expect but now that I have accommodated I know that St Edmund's is a safe learning environment." –

"My favourite subjects at St Edmund's is Maths and Swimming. I like these subjects because they are really fun to do and are entertaining.

My favourite teacher at St Edmund's is Mr Commerford. On the first day I was nervous and excited to join my sisters school and now I feel settled in and comfortable."



Pompey Military Kids

Sailing dates 2023

BOLEH are delighted to be able to offer more sailing dates this year for SPP pupils.

This is aimed at Year 6 and above and spaces are limited to a maximum of 6 pupils and 1 adult.

Dates for 2023:

1-5th May

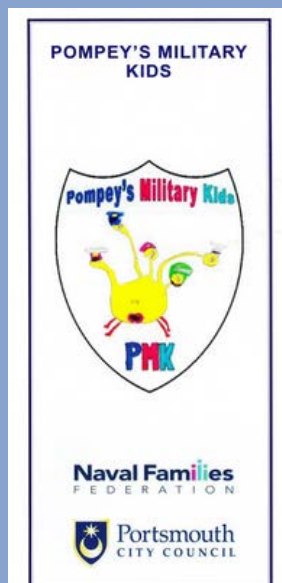
15,16 &17th May

18-22nd September

9-13th October

23 & 24th October

To secure your place, or more information please email katie.white@aggies.org.



IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 2023

Easter Holidays : Monday 3rd April
2023 - Friday 14th April 2023

Friday 21st April - Staff VS Students
Badminton

Tuesday 25th April - Year 7 Parents evening

Wednesday 26th April - Dance Live Final

Friday 28th April - Year 10 Dance trip to see
Swan Lake

MAY 2023

Monday 1st May - Bank Holiday

Thursday 4th May - Year 8 Day Trip to Belgium

Wednesday 10th May - Year 10
Geography Field trip to New Forest

Thursday 18th May - Ascension Day, Year 8
Tutor Mass

May Half Term -
Monday 29th May -
Friday 31st May



Please note: Diary Dates - subject to change. Any link/advert contained in this Newsletter does not imply a recommendation.

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