



St Edward's School

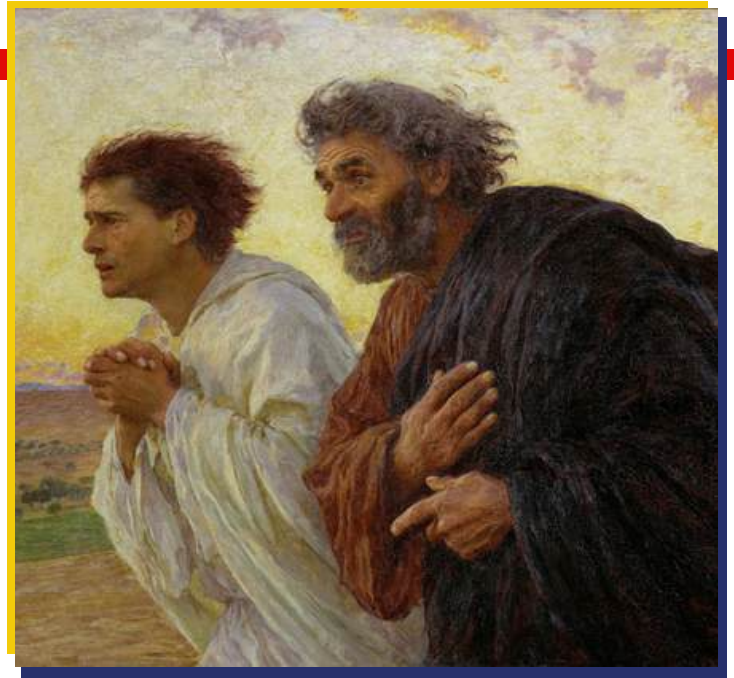
Unity - Achievement - Faith

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Sometimes it is easy, as we anticipate the end of Lent, to just focus on Easter and look past Holy Week. Holy Week contains events that are difficult to look at, and yet it is these events which are the source of Easter hope. We learn from Jesus about humility as he enters Jerusalem on a colt, about friendship as he prepares the disciples for the future, about service as he washes their feet, and about love as he gives his life on the cross for all.

If we are to prepare the young for the future we cannot ignore those aspects of life, and of the world, that are not easy to look at. Rather we accompany the young as they learn resilience and perspective. To wrap the young in cotton wool is to do them a disservice – life is real, life is not always easy, and the difficult parts of life must be lived as much as the rest. Resilience is not something that can just come from a book, it is not something that is just said in a lesson. Rather it is learning about how to journey through the difficult parts of life, sustaining a perspective, and keeping our eyes on the horizon of hope.

I wrote some weeks ago to inform you of the sad death of our former headteacher Pola Bevan. On Friday 28th March I was notified of the death of Mr Alan Murphy. Alan Murphy was the second headteacher of St Edward's. Alan oversaw the formation of St Edward's as a joint-church school, having taken over from the founding headteacher of St Edward's, Len Matthews. Alan was the instigator of our links with Kintbury and the La Sallian movement, which our students still enjoy so much today. It was my great privilege to meet with Alan on various occasions, and to walk around the school that he loved so dearly, listening to



his memories. He retired to Wales and lived a happy retirement until his death last week. We keep this great man in our thoughts and prayers. May he rest in peace.

Having reflected on former headteachers I now turn to the future. It is such a source of joy for me that Mr Barnett has been appointed as the sixth headteacher of St Edward's from September. Mr Barnett has been my deputy since I began as headteacher in 2016, and I have been so fortunate to benefit from the support of his many skills. The future of our school is safe in his hands.

Ahead is Easter, via Holy Week. We cannot avoid life's challenges and suffering, but we can look to the horizon where there is always hope. Hope that everything passes, and light is ahead.

Mr M Antram
Executive Headteacher



May we be One

ST. EDWARD'S PRAYER

HOLY ST. EDWARD
AS WE GATHER EACH DAY
UNDER YOUR NAME
INSPIRE US TO SEEK THE
KINGDOM OF GOD
IN ALL THAT WE DO.

MAY OUR EYES BE OPENED
TO THE RICH POTENTIAL
WITHIN OUR WORK;
AND AS WE SERVE GOD,
AND ONE ANOTHER,
MAY WE BE ONE
AMEN.



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the second term, we have so much to be thankful for.

I would like to thank you again for the support you have shown over the past term. The working relationship between school and home is so pivotal to our whole community moving forwards and I am so grateful for relationships we have with our families.

As we start to look towards the summer term, we reflect on a busy and productive Spring term, with numerous achievements and events that have brought our school community closer together.

In February, our Year 8 retreat days took on a new format. Through our partnership with Youth for Christ, we welcomed Jon Jackal, a Christian musician, who led workshops alongside our Chaplaincy Team. These sessions provided opportunities for discussion and reflection with a focus on faith in action. The workshops included interactive activities, group discussions, and creative exercises designed to deepen students' understanding of their faith and its application in daily life. The retreats concluded with a live performance by Jon, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the students.

On 13th of March we welcomed the Mayor of Poole, a former student, to our school. Following a tour, he met with a group of students to hear about their experiences both in and outside the classroom, sharing anecdotes from his time at the school and offering words of encouragement.

We were very proud when a group of students had the opportunity to perform at The Poole Lighthouse as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival, presenting an excerpt from Macbeth. The students worked so hard in the build up to the performance and were able to perform to some of our own students in the same week, showcasing their talents to their peers. This was a prestigious event that showcased our students' talents alongside other schools, providing them with valuable experience.

Earlier this month, we commemorated the life of Pola Bevan, a former headteacher, on St. Edward's Feast Day. Former staff, governors, and Pola's family joined us for a short service of remembrance. It was a lovely afternoon filled with heartfelt memories and reflections, providing a meaningful way to honour her legacy.

As we celebrate Easter, let us reflect on the profound message of hope and renewal that this season brings. Easter is a time to remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a powerful reminder that light can overcome darkness.

In our school community, let us embrace the spirit of Easter by showing kindness, compassion, and love to one another.

As we look back over a term with pride at all that has been achieved and look forwards to the summer term which will bring with it bright, new opportunities, I wish you a restful and refreshing Easter break. I look forward to welcoming all our students back into school at the start of the new term with a fresh energy and excitement for what's to come.



Mr C Barnett
Headteacher

FUTURE CHOICES: CAREERS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS TERM IN OUR CAREERS DEPARTMENT

Year 10 Work Experience Week: 12th - 16th May

Students have been preparing to go out on work experience in May. Their placement details are on Unifrog. Please encourage them to log on and check these. They have been given the details on how to access Unifrog. For any questions please email Mrs Ruby. We hope they have an enjoyable and rewarding week.

Year 12 Career Experience Week: 2nd - 6th June

Many Year 12s have secured placements for the week. All students are expected to participate. Once a placement has been confirmed please remind them to put the details onto Unifrog for the forms to be completed.

Sixth Form Talks

Throughout the term there have been a number of speakers who have come into share their career experiences. These have included talks on a various number of routes into healthcare science & medicine, apprenticeships in finance & technology as well as an application workshop for those applying for apprenticeships.



Year 10 Employer Mock Interviews

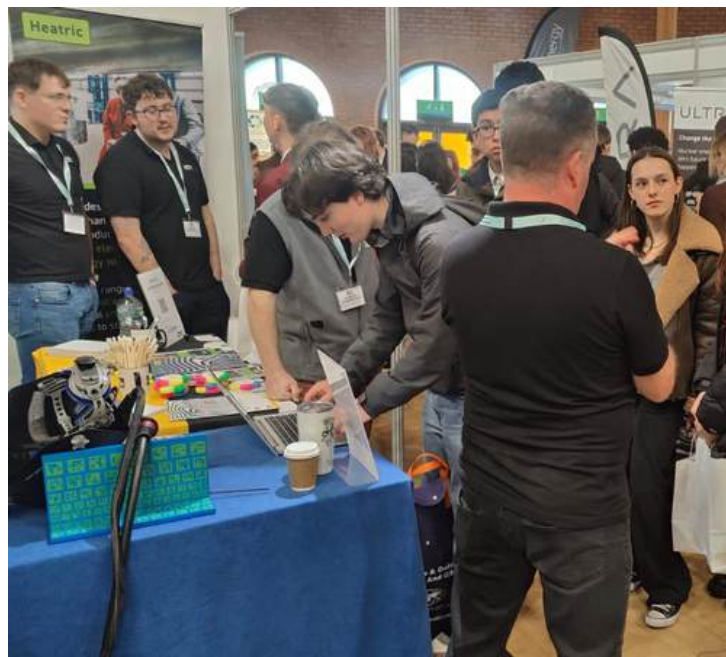
A group of Year 10 students were given the opportunity to have a mock interview to help them practice their interview skills in a safe place. Several local employers came into school and the feedback from both the students and employers was very positive, with both found it a very worthwhile experience and has helped them feel more confident when they have a future job interview.

University of Southampton Visits

Claire Bolton from University of Southampton spoke to the sixth form about how to choose a course, where to study and what life is like at university. Current students also delivered a talk about studying Economics at Southampton.

Careers and Apprenticeship Show

Year 12 attended the Careers and Apprenticeship Show at the BIC. This is the biggest regional event for students to meet with local employers and learn more about apprenticeship opportunities in the area. It was a very busy event with many students also attending in the evening when it was open to parents.



ASDAN Kingston Maurward College Visit

The ASDAN group visited Kingston Maurward College in early February. They had a tour of the college and saw lots of varied species including snakes and spiders. They learnt about the wide range of courses available post 16 for land-based studies.



For more information on careers, visit the **National Careers Service**, **ASK Apprenticeships**, **Success at School**, or **UCAS** websites. If you have any queries about careers or work experience please email Mrs Ruby at nruby@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk

Key Stage 3

This Spring Term, our KS3 students have been engaging in exciting and enriching English lessons, developing their reading, writing, and analytical skills through a range of creative and literary topics.

Our Year 7 students have embarked on a literary adventure with our unit '*Sail the Creative Seas*' where they have explored the rhythm and storytelling of sea shanties, developed their critical thinking through a play review of '*Treasure Island*' and have been taking on the role of a writer to craft their own creative pieces. Well done to all of Y7 who took part in the national poetry competition, '*Poetry By Heart*'. The English team saw some brilliant renditions of pirate sea shanties as students memorised and performed their sea shanties, the best performances have been put forward to a panel of judges- so fingers crossed for good news in the next Newsletter!



Year 8 have been sharpening their detective skills in '*Who Dunnit?*', delving into the world of mystery and suspense. They have been reading '*The Speckled Band*' by Arthur Conan Doyle, a challenging 19th century text, and have been developing their reading and analytical skills. Students have also been learning how to craft intriguing narratives, characters and settings in order to create their own creative crime stories. Some students may now think of themselves as Sherlock Holmes—so don't be surprised if they start scrutinising your every move for 'suspicious behaviour' at home!

Year 9 have been tackling the timeless themes of 'Love and Loss', beginning with '*Romeo and Juliet*' and moving on to a comparative study of love poetry. The English team have been very impressed by the enthusiastic way Year 9 students have approached Shakespeare as we've delved into a world of love, conflict and dramatic brawls in the streets of 16th century Verona. Whether it's the feuding families, impulsive sword fights, or Romeo's questionable decision-making, students have had plenty to discuss. Through analysis and discussion, students have also explored how different poets have expressed love across time, strengthening their ability to interpret and compare literary texts.

It has been a fantastic term of creativity, critical thinking, and literary exploration. We encourage students to continue their love of reading and writing beyond the classroom! A reminder that we have book suggestions tied to every topic at KS3, please ask your teacher or Mrs Lumber if you would like to know more.

Key Stage 4

Our KS4 students this term have enriched their knowledge of English both in and out of the classroom.

Our Year 10 students have been continuing their exploration of the English curriculum, delving into new texts and skillsets. They have expanded their knowledge of poetry in their work on the Unseen Poetry component of their GCSE course, building their confidence in dealing with new texts and interpreting them with detail and assurance. They have also gained useful experience with the skills and format of the language papers, familiarising themselves with the most effective means of approaching each question so as to produce the most efficient and productive responses. Alongside these writing questions, students have also had the opportunity to be creative as they have practised their descriptive writing, showing verve and imagination as they build their descriptive skills.

Year 11 have been deep in preparation for their GCSE exams. They have completed their recent round of mocks and the English team would like to congratulate many of our students for the depth and commitment of their revision for these. The students have since had the opportunity to reflect and build on their responses through thorough GRAFT work, which will serve them well in continuing to grow and develop their exam skills in English.

Beyond the classroom, several members of KS4 have been enthusiastic and involved in a number of extracurricular opportunities around Macbeth, one of their GCSE core texts. Some have travelled to Portsmouth to watch a performance of Macbeth at the New Theatre Royal, an exciting opportunity to experience live theatre as well as a valuable chance to revise a key text. Others have taken part in the Lighthouse's Macbeth workshop, rehearsing and performing the play. Both Years 10 and 11 have then benefitted from their committed and creative work, having watched their performances back in school; we are thrilled to have our students bolstering and supporting one another's learning in such a collaborative way.

Key Stage 5

Key stage 5 have been working on their coursework this half term. Year 13 students have submitted their final drafts of their coursework, with Literature students writing a comparison between 'The Catcher in the Rye' and 'Death of a Salesman' and Language students exploring a style of writing and producing their own texts using the conventions of that genre; style guides included sports and political journalism, spy-fiction and comedy. Year 12 Literature students are close to finishing Orwell's '1984' and have been reading Philip Larkin's 'The Whitsun Weddings' poetry collection in preparation for completing a close reading of their chosen poem. Year 12 Language students have been exploring child language acquisition by analysing written and spoken data and applying relevant concepts and theories.

Library

This has been a busy term for the library with lots of fun events taking place to celebrate books and reading. We started with the introduction of Tranquil Tuesdays, a chance for students to take a bit of time out of the busy school day to enjoy a more peaceful breaktime in the library. We have been playing restful music and asking students to engage in quiet activities so that everyone can enjoy the calm for a while.

We have also launched a new reading challenge for students to get involved with, encouraging them to read 12 books by the end of the summer term and build a book stack of titles they have enjoyed. Those who complete their challenge bookmarks will be rewarded with a space themed pin badge and we already have 8 students on our wall of fame!

In March we celebrated World Book Day by running The Big Book Swap. Over 100 books were donated and swapped over the five days, meaning brilliant and well loved books were given a new home with students looking for something new to read.

Book club continues every Monday and we have been loving our current book 'Such a Good Liar' by Sue Wallman, it is full of deception, twists and secret identities and keeps us guessing every week!

As the term came to a close we also took part in the National Reading Champions Quiz, run by the National Literacy Trust. This saw our fantastic team of 7 reading champions from years 7 and 8 take on the South West heat of the competition on the 28th March. It was a tough 2 hours of quizzing with 8 rounds of questions on all things books and reading. Our training sessions paid off as we came 7th out of the 26 teams who took part. We couldn't be prouder of our team and look forward to taking part again next year!



Final Push Before Exams

For our Year 11 students, we continue to run weekly revision sessions after school to ensure you are well-prepared for the upcoming GCSEs. Please find the timetable below for all the session details.

Foundation	
Date	Topic
1st April	Speed, distance, time
29th April	Surface Area
13th May	Ratio
3rd June	Exam Paper Questions (Higher and Foundation)
10th June	Exam Paper Questions (Higher and Foundation)

Higher	
Date	Topic
25th March	Area/Volume similar shapes
22nd April	Rationalising surds
6th May	Equation of the tangent
20th May	Graph transformations
3rd June	Exam Paper Questions (Higher and Foundation)
10th June	Exam Paper Questions (Higher and Foundation)

Year 13 students are also encouraged to attend our A-Level support sessions every Tuesday after school.

Year 10 Mock Exams

Our Year 10 students are gearing up for their mock examinations, where they will experience full GCSE papers. Miss Parris, our KS4 Coordinator, has added revision lists to SIMs to help guide their revision.

Intermediate Maths Challenge

A special mention to Miss Menzie's Year 11 group, who participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. This is a 60-minute, 25-question multiple choice challenge designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision, and fluency. We are thrilled to announce that several of our students received Bronze and Silver certificates, with Joe Drissell achieving the highest score in the school! Well done to all who participated!

Supporting Girls in Maths

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving participation and achievement in maths, we are beginning a department-wide initiative to better support girls in maths and work towards closing the gender gap in the subject, which remains a national concern. As part of this, we are asking all female students to participate in a survey to understand their experiences and gather valuable student voice data. This will inform the exciting initiatives we will be introducing for girls in Maths next term.

Sparx Homework

Thank you to everyone for your continued support with Sparx homework. As a school, we expect all students to complete 100% of their Sparx homework every week. Teachers are available to support students who are having difficulty during break and lunch. Please remember that this is a vital part of your learning and progress. We would also like to celebrate those students who have achieved the most XP this term:

- **Year 7:** Amelia Jarvis
- **Year 8:** Praise Fajana
- **Year 9:** Asia Toronczak
- **Year 10:** Olivia Bojarojc
- **Year 11:** Mihnea-Vlad Voicu

We wish all students the very best of luck as we enter the final phase of the academic year.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

It has been brilliant to see the progress of students in Computer Science this academic year so far and I have no doubt this will continue into the warmer and lighter Summer Term.

Key Stage 3

This term Year 7 have started looking at binary and how fundamental it is to the workings of computers, and Year 8 are looking at the fundamentals of networks. Year 9 have looked built on their previous binary work to expand it into binary arithmetic and hexadecimal and are now moving on to look at the underlying hardware in a computer that makes it all happen!

KS4 Computer Science

Year 10 have been working well through their GCSE content and have just finished the 'Computers' topic on the theory side and are working on iteration and repetition in the programming side. They have been being set homework that usually consists of 2 tasks – one paper-based and one on the SmartRevise platform.

Year 11 are now very much in exam preparation mode and have been doing regular past exam papers to help their exam technique both on the theory and practical programming side. They are now typically being set homework on the SmartRevise platform and from the Edexcel Revision Workbook. Please can I take this opportunity to ask that Revision Guides and any borrowed Revision Workbooks are returned after their last exam, which is before the May half term, as these were lent to students and will be re-used for the next cohort. Thank you for your support with this!

KS4 BTEC DIT

Year 10 have been working on their Component 1 Pearson Set Assignment, focussed on Designing User Interfaces and Project Planning, which is now complete. They have done this assignment under exam conditions, and we have been really impressed with the maturity that have shown whilst doing this. They have since started

Component 2 which is focussed on how we can use IT to display and manipulate data, especially in spreadsheets.

Year 11 students are now done with both their Pearson Set Assignments, leaving just the examination component to do, which we are nearly finished with in terms of content. They are being set 2 weekly sheets of topic-based practice and a previous exam question to ensure they have experience answering these as much as possible. As with the Computer Science students, please can I take this opportunity to ask for the loaned A5 ClearRevise revision guides to be returned after their exam on the 1st of May. Thank you for your support with this!

Year 12 and 13

Year 12 are progressing well through their A Level specification and we are now heading towards the end of year exams. For Computer Science, they will be sitting slightly reduced full A Level papers to enable them to get the most practice at exam techniques (particularly for the paper 1!). If you have any questions over this then please get in touch. Year 13 are now finished with their NEA Programming Projects, which are looking very impressive, and heading towards their final exams. We will now be focussing on skeleton code and theory topics till the end.

DID YOU KNOW?

St Edward's students get access to the full suite of **Microsoft Office** apps for **FREE**. They can use them at school **or** at home by following these steps:

- Go to **Office.com**
- **Log in** using your student login
- On the homepage, click **Install apps**

Get instant access to the following:

- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Outlook
- Teams
- OneDrive
- OneNote
- ...and more!

This term, we bid a fond farewell to one of our beloved science technicians, Mrs. Phillips, who has moved on to a new position at a nursery school. Mrs. Phillips has been a regular feature in many of our lessons, performing demonstrations and assisting with experiments to ensure they run smoothly. We wish her all the best in her new role and know that her care and expertise will make a huge difference to the learning of younger students. Her efforts will undoubtedly inspire a love for science early in their lives, which is vitally important.

A huge thank you to Mr. Payne and Mrs. Phillips for their hard work in bringing British Science Week into the classrooms of our Year 7 students. This year's theme was "Change and Adapt," and our students put their investigative skills to the test by exploring how the temperature of water affects the reaction time of bath bombs. Naturally, they made the bath bombs themselves using citric acid, sodium bicarbonate, food colouring, glittery sparkles, and a sprinkle of chemistry! Students also researched the adaptations of unique animals, such as the cave-dwelling blind salamander, to understand how they survive in strange habitats. The students had a fantastic time and are already looking forward to next year's event!

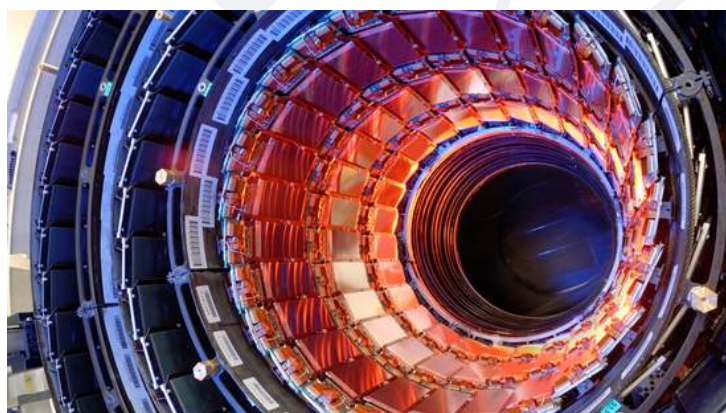


Some of our Year 8 classes have been busy comparing how animals and plants gain the nutrients they need, focusing on energy transfers. They also embarked on a journey into space to explore the importance of satellites and recent advances in space technology. This challenge involved calculating the volume of a space rocket to ensure all passengers and equipment would fit, figuring out how to grow food on Mars, and experimenting with different fuels for the journey.

Several students in Years 9 and 10 recently attended the GCSE Science Live event in Bath! This exciting event brought together some of the brightest minds in science to inspire and educate our students beyond the classroom. They had the unique opportunity to hear from renowned scientists, engage in interactive sessions, and explore the latest advancements in various scientific fields through seminars such as "The Chemistry of Everyday Life", "The Quantum World", "The Physics of Fusion", "The Science of Nutrition" and "The Neuroscience of Communication". The event aimed to ignite a passion for science and encourage critical thinking, creativity, and curiosity. We hope they found the experience enriching and motivating, and we look forward to seeing how it will positively impact their science learning journey.

Sixteen students from our Sixth Form physics classes recently returned from an exciting trip to the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva with Mrs. Horman and Mr. Keene. The 27km circumference ring contains two beams of particles traveling at over 99.99% the speed of light, colliding to

convert energy into matter and produce heavy unstable particles for scientists to investigate. This ongoing experiment is a triumph of international, peaceful collaboration. Our students toured the facility with a CERN scientist, completed a workshop to make their own simple particle detector (a cloud chamber), and explored Geneva, including boat tours of the lake and a visit to the history of science museum. My thanks go to Mrs. Horman for all the time invested into organising this amazing experience for our students and to the students who went on the visit who were excellent ambassadors.



Mr. Harris is at it again! After bringing a plethora of flora into his classroom over the years, he has now diversified by introducing pond life indoors. He has created a habitat for aquatic plants, freshwater shrimps, and snails to aid in teaching Key Stage 3 concepts such as photosynthesis and food chains. Any student is welcome to come and get a free plant to nurture from his collection in S7 or help look after his aquatic homes and minibeasts.

The Clean Air Project in partnership with SusTrans took the campaign for clean air to the next level with "Clean Air Week", from 17th to the 21st March.

The students leading the cause in Year 9 created a presentation to all tutor groups about their research findings, with a clear message about the impact of increased traffic flow and specifically idling (not turning off) engines at school pick up and drop off times, which raises the average levels of Nitrogen dioxide levels in the air significantly. They also incentivised students to increase their active travel in this week by reward students that scoot or cycle to school with entries into a prize draw to win a place in a BMX workshop with Guinness World Record holder and Team GB rider Matti Hemmings in the Summer Term, and also a free bike safety check to ensure that students commute to school on two wheels is a safe one. It clearly worked as the demand outstripped supply, but the next Clean Air Week isn't far away and takes place from Monday 16th June where more bike safety checks will be given to students that didn't get one in the first event.

Years 11 and 13 students have completed their last set of mock examinations before their final GCSEs and A-Levels this summer. Science has a particularly heavy burden, with students sitting six GCSE exam papers of 1 hour and 15 minutes each. Undoubtedly, the pressure and stress will build in the weeks ahead, but we are here to offer our full support every step of the way. Good luck to all, and we hope your efforts and hard work pay off!

Warmest regards and have a happy Easter!



PERFORMING ARTS

This term has been an exciting and busy one for the Performing Arts Department at St. Edward's. Our students have had fantastic opportunities to engage with professional artists and showcase their growing talents across a range of disciplines.

We were delighted to welcome Cheikh Diop for an African drumming workshop with the whole of Year 8. The energy and enthusiasm were incredible as students explored traditional West African rhythms and techniques, creating a vibrant and powerful sound together.



Students in Years 8 and 9 also had the chance to participate in a workshop with Pavilion Dance South West. This inspiring session encouraged creative expression and physical storytelling, helping students to develop their confidence and performance skills.

Our GCSE Drama students impressed in their practical exam performances, delivering powerful and moving extracts from *Woman in Black*, *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Top Girls*, *Girls Like That*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Their hard work and commitment were clear to see, and the standard of performance was exceptional.

A highlight of the term was our students' performance of *Macbeth* for the Coram Shakespeare Festival at the Poole Lighthouse. Their powerful and engaging interpretation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy was met with great praise and showcased the depth of talent and dedication within our school. Students then had the opportunity to perform the show another 4 times in a row to English classes from Year 10 and

Year 11 to enrich their understanding of the play which also serves as a studied GCSE English Literature text.

We were also proud to see Prais'Ed, our school worship band, leading the music in our Easter liturgies. Their beautiful performances created a reflective and uplifting atmosphere for the whole school community.

Extra-curricular Performing Arts is thriving, with a wide range of clubs and activities on offer. A new timetable will be published after Easter, and we encourage students to get involved. We are always expanding our extra-curricular opportunities, but to mention a few to get involved with: Guitar ensemble, Choir, Orchestra, Brass Ensemble, Music Theory, Music Technology and Function Band.

A reminder that the following instrumental and LAMDA lessons will also be available after Easter – please contact the Performing Arts department for more details:

- Piano and Strings
- Keyboard and Woodwind
- Singing
- Guitar (Electric & Acoustic)
- Guitar, Bass and Ukulele (Electric & Acoustic)
- Guitar (Classical, Electric & Acoustic)
- Drums
- Brass
- LAMDA

Thank you to our teachers within the Performing Arts for all of the effort that goes into developing this thriving department and thank you to our committed students, without whom, our wonderful work would not be possible. We hope you enjoy a blessed Easter break.

Mrs Keene

Head of Performing Arts

PERFORMING ARTS

Here is what our students have been doing in the curriculum this term, by our Music and Drama coordinators:

Y10 Drama

Our new GCSE cohort have been working diligently on their devised performances and have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the success of these pieces. We look forward to inviting parents and carers to celebrate their hard work in the Summer term.

Y9 Drama

Year 9 have been exploring the capabilities of technical theatre and how this can enhance meaning in performance. This knowledge has effectively supported them as they study the main elements of Shakespeare's Macbeth and understand the themes and symbolism embedded within the play. Next term, we look forward to starting our new Events Management unit which will prepare students for a multitude of career opportunities in their futures.

Y8 Drama

Year 8 have been focusing on the role of the theatre-maker and developing skills to devise their own original work, considering how they can create a clear message for their piece. Students have thoroughly enjoyed devising through stage combat this half term and we hope that their superb acting skills have not caused any realistic combat at home!

Y7 Drama

Year 7 have been on a journey through time discovering the history of theatre. Starting with the Greeks and moving through the world of Commedia Dell'Arte to reach our current topic: Shakespeare's Theatre. In particular, we have investigated the key characters in A Midsummer Night's Dream and maintained a focus on developing vocal and physical skills to become a character.

Mr Christopher
Coordinator of Drama

KS3 Music

This term, Year 7 students have explored the exciting world of Samba, testing their percussion skills and creativity by playing a variety of Samba instruments. This has been a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their musical talents and boost their confidence through whole class and smaller ensemble performances.

Year 8 students have been immersing themselves in African drumming and early blues music. They've tapped into their inner jazz musicians, learning and creating their own versions of the 12-Bar Blues. Additionally, students have been taking part in whole class African drumming sessions, mastering the techniques of playing the djembe. Students were also fortunate to participate in an African drumming workshop led by an expert practitioner.

Year 9 students have been introduced to Cubase 13 and tasked with creating their own piece of film music. This project has allowed them to learn the essential techniques for composing impactful film scores while adding their own unique sounds to a video clip. This has provided a valuable insight into the world of film music production.

It's been a term full of creativity and exciting opportunities for all our KS3 students.

KS4 Music

What an exciting term for our GCSE Music students. They have been studying popular music and began to look at their first set work Africa by Toto. As well as this the students have now begun their next area of study (Aos3) Film Music. This has introduced them to how musical elements are used to create atmosphere and emotion in films. Through extensive listening and appraising, they are building essential skills in preparation for their upcoming mock exam at Easter.

Students have also made fantastic progress on their free compositions, which are developing well and will put them in an excellent position for Year 11. Throughout the term, they have continued to

PERFORMING ARTS

perform both solo and in ensembles, receiving regular feedback to refine their skills in preparation for their performances next year.

To further support their learning, we have been compiling resources and revision tips, all of which can be found on the Year 10 Music Teams page. It has been an outstanding term with significant progress. Keep up the great work.

Miss Stacey
Coordinator of Music



CHAPLAINCY

The Chaplaincy Team has had a busy and uplifting term at the School. Recently, we hosted musical evangelist Jon Jackal from Youth for Christ, who delivered a series of workshops and assemblies for Year 8 during their annual retreat days. Jon encouraged students to build on positive foundations through resilience, and both students and staff responded with enthusiasm and enjoyment.

This opportunity was made possible by Dorset Youth for Christ, in collaboration with St Mary's Longfleet church.

The experience culminated in the entire school being invited to join Jon Jackal at the RESOUND event on Saturday evening. As a school community, we are incredibly fortunate to collaborate with a local church that provides various opportunities for all St. Edward's students to explore their faith in a contemporary way. Additionally this term, groups of students from both Year 10 and Year 11 have enjoyed weekend residential retreats at St. Cassian's retreat centre in Kintbury.

The Kintbury experience is always hugely enriching and we are grateful to the staff from across the school (Mrs Farrow, Mrs Newton, Mr Willis, and Mr Cockwell) who supported the trip and gave up their weekends to enable students to have a reflective and engaging experience.

We are eagerly anticipating the largest Year 9 retreat planned for May and will continue to encourage students to take time for reflection and spiritual growth.

May we all be inspired to spend time in His presence during this season of Lent.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As ever, it has been a busy term in the RE department!



Since Christmas, Year 7 have really enjoyed debating the existence of God as they completed their 'Does God Exist?' unit, this included a variety of arguments from a wide range of key scholars and helped students to understand how challenging your own beliefs can help to make them stronger. They are now coming to an end of looking at a series of Old Testament figures as they move through a unit entitled "Who are the 'People of God'?" which focuses on the special relationship between God and His people.

Year 8 students have deepened their understanding of religious and moral teachings regarding intimate relationships in their "What is love?" unit of study. Many students were particularly interested in discussing the meaning and importance of 'true love' and coming to a realisation that we must first love and respect ourselves if we are to form healthy relationships with others. Students also had a lot to say about the ingredients for a successful marriage and whether getting married is still important in our modern society. Year 8 RE classes have since moved onto studying a series of lessons where they are learning about the meaning and importance of Jesus' parables; realising that the lessons contained within them are as relevant today as they were 2000 years ago!

Year 9 students were captivated by their unit on "Why is there suffering?" as they were presented

with various attempts that theologians have made to reconcile the existence of God with the existence of evil and suffering in the world. As we approach Easter, Year 9 are now finding out about the various reasons why political and religious leaders in and around Jerusalem at the time of Jesus wanted to kill him and how this came to pass.

Well done to students in both Year 11 and Year 13 for completing their Mock Examinations, there were some notable performances in RE in both year groups. Year 10 and Year 12 are now busy preparing as it will be their turn after the Easter Holiday. Year 11 students are also continuing to take advantage of the offer of after school revision sessions in RE on Thursdays. Best wishes to Year 11 and Year 13 for final examinations in the summer!

Beyond the curriculum, we have once again benefitted from visits from Dave Pegg and Liz Wesley-Barker from The PACE Trust, they have been into school and have delivered lessons to Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 RE classes on the themes of "Does God Exist?", "The Parable of the Two Lost Sons" and "Who killed Jesus and Why?"

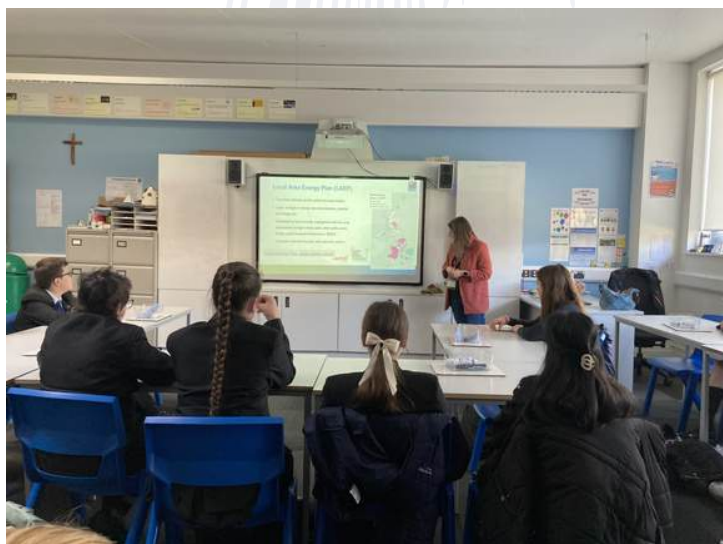
The RE team would like to thank everyone for their hard work this term and we hope that Easter will be a meaningful time of reflection for us all.



As we approach the Easter break, we reflect on an exciting and productive term for the Geography Department. From engaging Geography Club activities to enriching fieldwork experiences, it has been a fantastic time for our budding geographers.

Geography Club Successes

Our Geography Club has gone from strength to strength this term, with students participating in a range of interactive and thought-provoking activities. Highlights include the Guest lecture on Jurassic Coast, 'Modelling famous landmarks' challenge, where students explored famous built environments, and the presentations which saw some brilliant student lead presentations on global issues. Well done to all involved!



Year 11 Field Trip to Swanage

Our Year 11 students had the opportunity to visit Swanage as part of their GCSE fieldwork studies. They explored the stunning Jurassic Coast, investigating longshore drift. Despite the chilly weather, students demonstrated enthusiasm and excellent fieldwork skills, collecting valuable data for their coursework. This hands-on experience has deepened their understanding of the processes shaping our coastline.

Boscombe Regeneration Field Visit

Another exciting excursion saw students studying urban regeneration in Boscombe. With a focus on economic development and environmental improvements, the visit allowed students to

critically assess regeneration strategies in action. Data collection allowed first-hand insights into the impacts of redevelopment. This fieldwork has been instrumental in helping students link theory to real-world applications.

Looking Ahead

Next term, we have even more exciting events planned, including Dorset Coast hands on study, competitions, and additional fieldwork opportunities. Geography Club will continue to meet weekly, and we encourage all students with a passion for the subject to join.

Thank you for your continued support. Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable Easter break!



This term Year 12 have been studying the topics of Attachment and Memory, which has involved exploring the reasons why we form attachments to our primary caregivers, and critically analysing models which have been proposed to explain how our memory works. To help deepen their understanding, students have been conducting their own research within each topic. In Attachment, students have planned and undertaken observational research looking at interactional synchrony in adults, measured by their non-verbal communication, and whether this increases during conversation.

In the topic of Memory, students have been using the dual-task paradigm (completing a reasoning task whilst simultaneously completing an additional task) to test the validity of the Working Memory Model. The student's results are consistent with previous research which has shown we are able to conduct some dual tasks well, but not others, especially if the two tasks are competing for the same part of Working Memory. The results have led to an interesting discussion challenging the way many students like to work as it seems it is not beneficial to listen to music whilst completing their homework! Beyond lessons, many Year 12 students have already started to explore their options in higher education, with a number looking to study Psychology at degree level.

Meanwhile, Year 13 have been studying Schizophrenia and Aggression, with both topics exploring the extent to which these behaviours are due to nature or nurture. Whilst studying the different explanations for aggression, students have been introduced to the theory of Deindividuation; the idea that when we are part of a crowd or have a degree of anonymity we lose our personal identity and with it the restraints on our behaviour to conform to social norms. Students have been involved in replicating research by Dodd (1985) which posed the question: 'If you could do anything humanly possible with complete assurance that you would not be detected or held responsible, what would you do?'

We have had an array of responses, including both prosocial acts, and ones slightly less so, with the most popular response being to 'rob a bank', as was seen in the original study. However, the most interesting response being 'To steal Mr Farrow's 10th green apple', linked to a student's observation that Mr Farrow appears to always be seen eating an apple! As the final exams draw ever closer, Year 13 are preparing well and we are here to support them every step of the way.

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MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Celebrating Another Successful Term in MFL!

As we reach the end of another fantastic term, we take a moment to reflect on and celebrate our students and their achievements.

This year, we introduced the Language Lounge, a relaxed space where students explore different languages and cultures every Friday lunchtime. This term, we have enjoyed a variety of activities, including celebrations for Lunar New Year, International Women's Day, St. Patrick's Day and the start of Ramadan. A particular highlight was making crêpes for 'La Chandeleur' (Candlemas in France)—a delicious and fun experience for all! We have a lovely group of regulars, and we are always delighted to welcome new faces. It's a fantastic opportunity for students passionate about languages to connect and learn in an informal setting.



One highlight this term has been the fantastic success of our Year 7 German letter exchange with our partner school, the Gymnasium am Kaiserdom in Speyer, Germany. This program gives students the opportunity to practice their language skills by corresponding with a pen pal, and it's been wonderful to see their excitement when receiving a handwritten letter from abroad! We're thrilled to continue this tradition, and next term, we will be launching the next round of exchanges.



Progress in the MFL Classroom

Across our Modern Foreign Languages lessons, students continue to impress us with their enthusiasm and progress.

- Year 7 students recently switched languages, moving from French to German (or vice versa), and are now learning to introduce themselves and talk about family and friends in their new language.
- Year 8 French students have been describing their home and local area, and learning about Carnival traditions, while German students have explored film, television, and reading preferences.
- Year 9 French students have been describing their holidays, while German students have focused on ambitions and future careers.
- Year 10 students are rising to the challenge of GCSE study, recently learning about free time activities while also preparing for their upcoming mock exams.
- Year 12 students are excelling in their study of a film, analysing characters, themes, and the social and political context of their films in both spoken and written French and German.

Meanwhile, our Year 11 and Year 13 students are in the final stages of preparing for their GCSE and A-Level exams. We are here to support them every step of the way and wish them the very best for their upcoming examinations.

Finally, we would like to wish all our students and their families a joyful Easter:

Joyeuses Pâques! Frohe Ostern!

The spring term has been busy for Year 10 students studying the NCFE Graphic Design course with visits from representative from 2 companies to talk about graphic design.

February saw a visit from Hayden, a plumbing and gas engineer, who set the Graphics students a challenge to design new brand identity and marketing for his new business "Flow Tech". The students worked with Hayden to understand the nature of his business and his design requirements. They all created a set of designs for Flow Tech and were given feedback on their design ideas by Hayden. This experience gave them valuable insight into what being a free-lance graphic designer might look like. At the end of the project the successful designer was presented with a £15 Amazon voucher.



In March the Graphics group were visited by Amanda from The Nothe Fort in Weymouth to gain an understanding of the roles of an in-house designer. The presentation helped them understand how charity funded businesses manage their brand identity and marketing.



In Food the Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition students have now completed all of their final practical exams for their NEA's. In one week 90 different dishes were made following a brief which was to cook healthy dishes suitable to be sold in a school canteen. The students were amazing and worked calmly and efficiently. The results spoke for themselves; a huge well done to them all.

At the end of every Food practical session throughout the school a Star Baker is selected. This can be awarded for any combination of independent work, demonstrating an excellent skill level, focus & independence throughout a task, great attitude to learning or a high-quality outcome.



Winners have their dishes displayed on our star baker board in the food room and the students' names are added to the weekly star baker chart in the classroom window with each winner receiving a certificate to take home. Here is a selection of the winning dishes this term showing plenty of potential bakers for future GCSE courses!

This term also saw BTEC Level 3 Engineering and A Level Product Design students visit Bournemouth University for an Engineering taster day. Students took part in a lecture and were shown how to test materials in the Universities material testing lab. The day gave the students an insight into a career in engineering as well as giving them an opportunity to enhance their understanding of

material properties by seeing first-hand the role testing plays in material selection.



In Resistant Materials the Year 10 students have been working on a woodworking project to design and make a small table using traditional joinery methods. The project enabled them to develop their hand skills and practical knowledge in the subject. The use of the laser cutter and the vinyl cutter, provided an opportunity for the students to customise the work they produced.

And finally, this term's 'Robin Greenwood Award for Excellence' goes to Jayke Frampton, Liam Moody, Renee Stroud. All 3 students have demonstrated excellence in Technology this term at either KS3, KS4 or KS5, congratulations!



Art Lecture on Lee Miller given by Antony Penrose

On Wednesday 29th January our A Level Art students, Miss Biggs and Miss Perks and Mrs Cole met at The Lecture Theatre of Arts University Bournemouth to attend the annual Arts Society lecture. This year the lecture was on the life and work of Lee Miller who is the subject of the current acclaimed film 'Lee'. The lecture was given by her son and told the story of her life including being a muse for Man Ray, being an artist in her own right and her documentary photography, as a war correspondent during WW11, recording the London Blitz, the Liberation of Paris and the concentration camps at Buchenwald and Dachau. It was an incredibly moving and thoughtful lecture and when one of our students commented; 'Wow, the power of Art' as we left the lecture hall they put into words what we were all feeling.

Live Lecture with The V&A gallery, Jan 30th *Career Insights with The Blue Skies Projects'* **Anton Kusters and Ruben Samana**

As part of our Holocaust Memorial Day understanding this year students joined staff in the art room to listen to a live lecture given by Anton Kusters a Belgian visual artists. For the Blue Skies Project, which was prompted by his family's own history, Kusters researched locations of Nazi camps of detention, persecution, forced labour and murder. He travelled to a total of 1,078 locations in Europe, Kusters then made three unique 8 x 10 cm Polaroid photographs of the sky as close as possible to each site. Kusters explained how recording these locations over a 5-year period was important so that the past would not be forgotten but also explained how looking up and recording the blue sky was symbolic of how we could look to the future and learn from the past. The photographs create the artwork 'The Blue Skies Project' which can be seen at the V&A London. Anton Kusters and Ruben Samana spoke insightfully about how art can be used to promote social justice and understanding.

Live Lecture with The V&A gallery, Feb 27th *Careers Insights with Aardman Animation Studios* **director Gavin Strange**

We were delighted when students from year 7 to year 13 joined us in the art studio to listen to Gav Strange talk about his animation work with Aardman studios. Gav explained his career journey, shared examples of his work and of course some of his collaborative animations, including the famous Wallace and Gromit. We all felt entertained and inspired by his live presentation and the art department particularly liked his message to; JUST DO!

He told us all to worry less about perfection or failure and do more, explaining his approach as 'Less thinking and more tinkering'.

Year 11 & Year 13

Year 11 and Year 13 are both now in the final stages of their art courses. Both these exam cohorts are now responding to starting points set by AQA. They are producing a wide range of exciting work in preparation for their final controlled test days. We wish them every success with these final weeks and look forward to seeing the fruits of their hard work after Easter and the art exhibition of their work is always a highlight.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This term has been a busy one, as ever, in the PE department. Here are some of the highlights!

- Our Year 8/9 Girls' football team have made the quarter final of the County Cup, beating Highcliffe School 8-2! The player of the match was Fleur, incredible performance!
- We have had loads of basketball fixtures against schools such as Poole Grammar, Ferndown and Poole High, across Years 9, 10 & 11.
- In a similar fashion, there have been plenty of amazing boys' football matches this term!
- Year 7 & 8 Netball leagues have taken place with our players doing brilliantly. Stella and Izzy in Year 8 have put on fantastic performances throughout the term, with Isla gaining player of the match on several occasions along with Rose in Year 7.
- Our Year 10 boys' football team gave an excellent effort against Poole High in the semi-finals, but unfortunately lost in a close match.
- The Year 8 boys' football team performed valiantly against Ferndown Middle School who had a very strong team.
- All years have had plenty of friendly football matches, including the Year 7/8 girls' team.
- GCSE Year 11 students are in the middle of their preparation for external moderation from the exam board. We have every confidence in their ability to showcase their talents.
- Volleyball Club has allowed many players to develop further, playing some excellent volleyball. This will be used in our upcoming Summer Games.
- Trampolining Club has also been a huge success with many students taking the opportunity to see what an international trampoline feels like!



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Here's what we're looking forward to in the Summer term!

- The after-school sports clubs will change to summer sports after Easter. This will include our highly participated rounds clubs. Tennis, softball, athletics and cricket.
- We look forward to welcoming all students who wish to attend and play in our teams if they want.
- We also look forward to the Volleyball tournaments that occur during this time. Which we have been highly successful at for the last few years.



Have a blessed Easter!



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