



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term, it's wonderful to look back on what has been a busy and rewarding few months. Students and staff have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, and the sense of community and ambition across the school has really shone through.

This term, we've focused on making sure our curriculum is both challenging and relevant, helping students build on what they already know. One exciting development has been the introduction of the Embedding Formative Assessment programme. This is all about making assessment part of everyday classroom practice so teachers can better understand how students are learning and support them effectively. Staff have worked together to share ideas and improve techniques, and we're already seeing the benefits in students' confidence and independence. This will continue to be a key focus for us moving forward.

Beyond lessons, there have been so many fantastic enrichment opportunities. Our KS4 students saw Blood Brothers live, bringing their English studies to life. Trips to Kew Gardens combined art and science with a focus on sustainability, while the EDGE programme took students to Paultons Park for hands-on STEM and business activities. Just before half term, students gained a deep appreciation of history through the Battlefields trip.

In November, we were thrilled to welcome Ele Fountain, author of Boy 87, who spoke to Year 8 about her writing journey and led creative workshops. Students also enjoyed theatre visits to see Emma and A Christmas Carol, and experienced live music from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, a real highlight!

We also hosted our annual Careers Fayre in the sports hall, welcoming 35 different employers, apprenticeship

providers, and universities. Every student had the chance to visit the fayre and speak directly with representatives from a wide range of industries, helping them explore future pathways and opportunities.

Sport and Performing Arts continue to thrive, with a wide range of clubs and fixtures taking place. It's inspiring to see so many students actively participating, developing teamwork, resilience, and having a genuine passion for physical activity and the creative arts.

As I mentioned in my September letter, the partnership between school and home is a real strength, and I want to thank you for your continued support. As we return in the new year, we'll maintain a strong focus on standards, including our school dress code. If purchasing uniform is difficult, please contact us, we're here to help.

Our mission is to ensure every young person in our school is 'educated for life in all its fullness.' This is something we are reminded of at this time of year. Christmas is more than just a joyful season, it's an opportunity to reflect on values that shape our lives. The message is one of hope and fullness of life, and that continues to inspire our work as a school. Jesus came at Christmas to bring life in all its fullness.

As we enter this special season, we look back with pride at all that has been achieved and look forward with excitement to the journey ahead. On behalf of all our staff and governors, we wish every family a very happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.

Mr C Barnett
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.



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

We were saddened to learn that one of our valued and loyal Foundation Governors, Francoise Sharpin, a former member of staff at St Edward's, had passed away. We will miss her and her contribution to School life.

Congratulations to Kathryn May on her election as Parent/Carer Governor. She joins two other Parent/Carer Governors, Claire Stonier and Kerry Houston-Kypta.

We are blessed at St Edward's to have a committed and talented Governing Body who work hard for the benefit of the School. The Governors wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Mr Wyn Jones
Chair of Governors

Acclaimed Author Visits St Edward's

On 18 November, Ele Fountain, author of *Boy 87*, visited St Edward's for a day of workshops, talks and activities. Students were excited to meet the writer behind the novel they have been exploring in class, and Ele's warm, engaging approach made the day both inspiring and memorable.

Presentation to Year 8

Ele began the day by speaking to the whole of Year 8 about what it's like to be an author - sharing what inspires her to write, where she works, and how her books make the journey from first draft to publication. She showed students the various phases of designing a book cover and surprised many by revealing that some of her characters don't receive names until she has finished writing the entire story. Ele also talked about her personal experiences of living in Ethiopia and how these shaped the creation of *Boy 87*. Students were fascinated by her insights and asked a range of questions, including the ever popular "Will there be a sequel to *Boy 87*?"



Book Signing in the Library

At break, students in Years 8 and 9 had the opportunity to buy a copy of one of Ele's books and have it signed. The queue stretched through the library, and every student had the chance to chat with her and ask questions about writing. The atmosphere was warm and enthusiastic, especially when one student arrived carrying all six of her books - each of which Ele happily signed.



Creative Writing Masterclass

A group of 30 students then took part in a creative writing masterclass, where Ele guided them through developing characters, settings and plot ideas before challenging them to write the first line of their own story. She commented on how inquisitive and imaginative the group were. One participant, Gabriele, said that she began the session with no idea what to write, but by the end she had an entire story forming in her mind.



This was a unique and inspiring experience for Year 8, and we are extremely grateful to Ele for visiting us and sharing her passion for storytelling.

If students are feeling creative, they are warmly invited to join Mr Toop's creative writing club in E5 on Wednesdays after school.



Standing With Others: A Call to Conscience

On 9 December, St Edward's launched *Standing With Others*, a student-led initiative dedicated to raising awareness about genocide. This project engages with a difficult reality: that mass atrocities do not emerge suddenly, but develop through recognisable stages that begin long before violence occurs.

We chose this date deliberately. It marks the 1948 adoption of the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, a framework created through the tireless work of Raphael Lemkin, who lost forty-nine family members in the Holocaust. Lemkin understood that preventing such tragedies required formal international recognition and collective responsibility.

Our Approach

Standing With Others combines education with tangible action. Our inaugural podcast, shared across tutor groups, explores historical case studies and examines how individuals transformed tragedy into hope. We feature stories like that of Eric Murangwa, a football player who survived the Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda and went on to found an organisation using sport to teach reconciliation and conflict prevention.

Yet we recognise that awareness alone is insufficient. Our first fundraising project will support a pineapple farm in the Central African Republic, providing employment alternatives for young men who might otherwise join local militias. This reflects our understanding that prevention requires addressing the conditions that make violence possible.

Our Mission

What defines our project is our refusal to treat genocide as a distant historical concept. We approach this work understanding that these atrocities begin with language, stereotypes, and the gradual normalisation of dehumanisation.

This is not about presenting simple moral lessons, but rather exploring how individual actions can disrupt trajectories toward violence. We believe that understanding these patterns equips us to challenge them when we encounter similar rhetoric and division in our own contexts.

Looking Forward

Standing With Others welcomes students from all year groups interested in engaging meaningfully with questions of discrimination, persecution, and human dignity. Further details about upcoming projects will be shared in January.

For more information, speak with Mrs. Sinaguglia, Maisie, Andreea, Niko, Ayo, Jana, Dallas, or Dot.

Understanding genocide means recognising our responsibility: to speak up, to challenge, and to ensure that all human lives hold equal worth.



Key Stage 3

Throughout this Autumn Term, students in Key Stage 3 have engaged with a rich selection of novels that have encouraged curiosity, imagination and reflection.

Year 7 have been exploring *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo, a moving story set during the First World War. The novel has prompted students to think deeply about loyalty, family and the effects of conflict, while also helping them strengthen both their analytical and creative writing skills. Alongside their reading, Year 7 have studied a selection of war poetry and taken part in imaginative activities such as performance poetry and blackout poetry as part of our Remembrance Day work. It has been a brilliant start to English for the whole year group.

In Year 8, students have been reading *Boy 87* by Ele Fountain, which follows the journey of Shif, a young refugee who must navigate a series of life changing challenges. His story offers powerful lessons about courage, compassion and global responsibility. We have been genuinely impressed by the thoughtful and mature conversations this book has inspired. We were very fortunate to have an author visit by Ele Fountain, who answered some of our burning questions. One of the most popular was "Will there be a sequel to Shif's journey?". For anyone who enjoyed it, Ele Fountain has written several other engaging novels and *Melt* would make an excellent next read.

Year 9 have engaged with the world of gothic fiction through *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill. Its unsettling atmosphere has given students the chance to examine how writers build fear, tension and mood and they have used these insights to develop their own gothic writing. Their creativity has shone through in the unnerving and sinister stories they have produced.

Across the whole of KS3, students have also continued to excel with Sparx Reader and it has been wonderful to celebrate so many

achievements. Well done to everyone who has earned a Gold Reader badge this term. A sincere thank you as well to our parents and carers for your ongoing support. Your encouragement plays a vital role in helping us maintain the positive and nurturing learning environment we are so proud of at St Edward's.

Key Stage 4

This half-term has been a busy one, especially for our Year 11s as they prepared for their recent round of mock exams. Between dutiful attendance of our after-school revision sessions, their application in lessons and their own independent revision, our Year 11s have bolstered their understanding of, and readiness for, optimal exam preparation as they continue their journey towards the culmination of their GCSEs at the end of this academic year. In these recent weeks, they have shown thoughtfulness and reflection in response to the feedback on their mocks responses, further reinforcing their understanding of how to make the most effective progress in each English GCSE.

On Friday 21st November, fifty Year 11 students had the opportunity to see one of their set literature texts on stage at the local Palace Court Theatre in Bournemouth. We had a true experience of cold Victorian England owing to the lack of heating in the theatre! Despite the cold, it was a fantastic production by students from the Arts Institute in Bournemouth that brought this timeless tale of redemption, hope and the true spirit of Christmas alive for students.



Students enjoyed watching Ebenezer Scrooge, a cold-hearted miser, journey through Christmases past, present and future. As a result of ghostly visitations Scrooge is forced to confront the impact of his choices and discover the joy he had long forgotten and a reminder to all of us that it is never too late to change. Giving these students the chance to enjoy this text in a whole new medium, this trip was a valuable way for our Year 11 students to reinforce their understanding of this key element of their English Literature GCSE.

Year 10 have, similarly, continued their progress through the Literature GCSEs, advancing to the second of the qualification's core texts: A Christmas Carol. Building on their knowledge of the gothic, begun in their Year 9 work on The Woman In Black, our Year 10 students have engaged thoughtfully with A Christmas Carol's characters, themes and ideas, especially given their relevance to the upcoming celebrations which follow this half-term! In doing so, they continue their progress in analysis of language, tracking shifts and developments in characterisation through a text, and forming cohesive and personal responses to a text; all of these will serve them well as they continue to progress through both their English Literature and Language GCSE journeys.

Key Stage 5

A Trip to See Emma at Lighthouse, Poole

Our recent visit to the touring production of Emma with year 12 and 13 Literature students was a wonderful way to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. This lively adaptation of Austen's 1815 novel, written by Ryan Craig for Theatre Royal Bath, brought the Regency world to life with elegance and wit.

The play follows Emma Woodhouse, a spirited young woman determined never to marry, yet endlessly meddling in the romantic affairs of others. On creating Emma, Austen commented: "I am going to take a heroine whom no one but

myself will much like". Students were captivated by the clever dialogue and the timeless themes of love, friendship, and self-discovery.



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 programmes:

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

Congratulations to Year 11 and Year 13!

A huge well done to all our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have recently completed their mock examinations. Students will soon receive personalised RAG sheets via their school email addresses, outlining how they performed on each topic. These sheets are a fantastic tool to help identify strengths and areas for improvement, and can be used to guide focused revision in preparation for the summer exams.

KS3 Feedback and Careers Focus

Our Key Stage 3 students have been completing a feedback cycle following their end of term assessments. This process helps them reflect on their progress and identify areas for improvement. As part of this cycle, students have also taken part in careers-focused lessons, exploring how maths is used in real-world professions. This term, the spotlight was on a freelance photographer, where students discovered the mathematical skills involved in photography such as ratios, scaling, angles, and personal finance. These sessions aim to show the practical applications of maths and inspire students to see its relevance beyond the classroom.

Senior Maths Challenge Success

This term, our Year 12 students took part in the Senior Maths Challenge, showcasing their problem-solving skills and mathematical thinking. Congratulations to the following students who achieved Bronze Certificates:

- Daisy Davis
- Laura Holt
- Alan Malczewski
- Benjamin May
- Ava Sollazzo

After Christmas, we look forward to seeing our Year 11 and Year 8 students take on the Intermediate and Junior Maths Challenges.

Girls in Maths Participation Group

We are proud of our top-performing Year 8 and 9 female students who have been actively involved in our Girls in Maths initiative, encouraging more girls to explore STEM subjects. This term, they attended two inspiring workshops:

- Why Study Maths?
- Where is the Maths in That?

We are excited to announce that an Architect will be joining the group for the next workshop on 16th December, providing further insight into careers in architecture.

Equipment Reminder

A gentle reminder to all students should attend every maths lesson with a scientific calculator and a complete maths set (including a ruler, protractor, and compass).

Being fully equipped allows them to make the most of their learning time and develop essential skills for exams and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to an exciting and productive term ahead!



This term, our new Year 7 students have been developing the essential skills for safe and effective practical work and learning how to conduct scientific investigations. They've explored the basics of laboratory safety, including identifying common hazards, managing risks, and using Bunsen burners correctly. Alongside this, they've learned about variables, how to control them, and the best ways to collect and analyse data to draw reliable conclusions. Students will now put these skills into practice as they work towards their Science Proficiency Awards—Bronze, Silver, and Gold—throughout Key Stage 3.

Year 8 classes have been diving into hands-on chemistry in the Acids and Alkalis topic. They've created homemade indicators using red cabbage to test the pH of everyday liquids and produced stunning blue copper sulphate crystals through a series of careful steps—one of our favourite practicals!

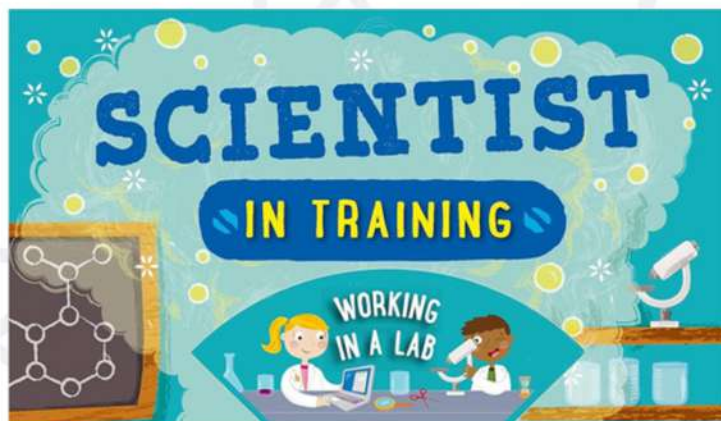


Meanwhile, Year 8 and Year 12 students enjoyed an inspiring visit to Kew Gardens in London. This Science-Art collaboration gave them the chance to explore one of the world's most diverse plant collections within a UNESCO World Heritage Site. From walking among the treetops on the 18-metre-high walkway to discovering over 50,000 living plants across ten climatic zones, the experience sparked ideas for future plant projects back at St Edward's.

Our Year 9 students have begun their GCSE Combined Science Trilogy course, starting with the fundamental topics of Cell Biology, Atomic



Structure and Energy. They've been uncovering how cells form the basis of life, how organ systems keep us healthy, how elements combine to create the substances that make up the Universe and have also explored how energy is stored, transferred, and conserved through application of these ideas to real-life scenarios. These key ideas are designed to build strong scientific knowledge, critical thinking, and practical skills—hopefully inspiring the scientists of tomorrow!



Year 11 and 13 students have been deeply engaged in enquiry-based learning through required practical activities and have shown exceptional commitment in preparing for their recent mock exams. Their hard work and determination deserve huge praise.

A big thank you to all our science staff and students for their effort and enthusiasm this term. You've certainly earned a well-deserved Christmas break. Wishing everyone a merry and restful holiday!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Once more, the second part of the Autumn term has been full of activity and excitement in the RE department. In Key Stage 3, all of our units of study have been centred on an exploration of various aspects of 'identity' and 'tradition' as students have explored the origins and development of the Abrahamic faiths and their place in society today. Students have also been encouraged to reflect on their own spiritual and moral development and the various influences that act upon them.

During the first half term, Year 7 studied the story of St. Edward and the history and development of our school, particularly the values that underpinned its transformation into a joint church school. All Year 7 students also enjoyed an RE lesson spent in our school chapel with Fr. James where he spoke about the main features of a Christian place of worship and reminded students that the school chaplaincy team is there to support them if they ever need it. Since half term, Yr 7 have been studying a brand new unit called "Why is unity important?" that builds on the theme of 'togetherness' that was introduced before half term as we studied our school's mission statement "may we be one". This unit has centred around various forms of prejudice and discrimination, religious responses and exploring ways that we can promote equality throughout our society.

After completing a unit that focused around the concept of vocation (featuring guest appearances in lessons by the PACE team and Fr. James!), Year 8 students have moved onto to learn about the key beliefs and practices within the Jewish tradition, with a particular emphasis being placed on the concept of 'covenant' and how the relationship between God and humans has developed over time.

In the first half term, Year 9 found the study of a range of both religious and secular ethical theories particularly engaging and have since been reflecting on how best to solve moral dilemmas in their own lives. They have now moved onto an in-

depth study of Islamic beliefs and practices where they are learning how to challenge some of the negative and untrue stereotypes that are sometimes associated with this world view.

Our Year 10 students have made an excellent start to their study of GCSE Religious Studies, having completed their first unit on Judaism Beliefs and Teachings and Practices and are now working towards the completion of the second unit which focuses on Christianity. The whole year group benefitted from a huge session on a practical demonstration of Christian Worship delivered by the PACE team and Jamie Pritchard, a worship leader in a local church. The session focused on the importance of worship and exploring the differences between liturgical, informal and individual worship.



Congratulations to our Year 11 students for completing their mock exams! Since then, the PACE team have been visiting Year 11 lessons to deliver a session aimed at debating the compatibility of Christianity and Humanism and that has featured a guest speaker from Humanists UK.

At Sixth Form level, the students that have chosen to study Religious Studies at A Level have made an

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

enthusiastic start to the course and have found taking ideas that they thought they knew a lot about much deeper! Year 13 students have completed their mock exams successfully and are now turning their minds to the final topics of the course and revision for the mock exams in March.

Many thanks to Mr Farrow who has been working very hard on breathing fresh life into the Personal Enquiry lessons. Year 12 sessions have been focusing on how we make moral decisions in a sequence of lessons that are entitled "The Only Way is Ethics", with the highlight so far being a sessions where all of the classes were grouped together to make decisions on hypothetical situations where they had to decide which hospital patients should or should not be treated with limited resources. Year 13 sessions have been based on "The Paranormal and Metanormal", presenting students with a wide range of slightly unusual situations as a stimulus for discussion and debate. This has also included the rearranged visit from the 'Many Faiths Together' panel, that was cancelled in the summer, which gave the whole of the Year 13 cohort an insight into how members of different religious traditions and worldviews can come together as friends to discuss a wide range of issues. A number of students commented how much they enjoyed these sessions and that they wish that this session could have gone on for longer!



Thank you to all students and staff in RE for their hard work this term and we wish you a very Happy Christmas!

CHAPLAINCY

As we come to the end of a full and joy filled term, the Chaplaincy Team at St Edward's School would love to share some highlights of the ways we have seen our community grow, serve, reflect, and encounter God together since September.

Beginning the Year in Blessing

We began our school year with the cherished tradition of the Annual School Blessing. Joining with students, staff, and members of the wider school community, we dedicated every area of our school site into God's hands, praying for protection, peace, and purpose for the year ahead. Moving around the school grounds as a community of blessing set a powerful tone for all that followed.

Pilgrims of Hope – Faith in Action Gold

Our Faith in Action Gold students took a leading role early in the term as they prepared and delivered their Pilgrims of Hope Assemblies to all year groups. Their message encouraged every student to make their own 'pledge' during this Jubilee Year. Calling us to proactive social action rooted in the character and compassion of Jesus. Their leadership, courage, and creativity have truly inspired the whole community.

Student-Led Prayer and Reflection

We were incredibly grateful for the Year 9 tutor group who partnered with the Chaplaincy Team to help create this term's School Prayer Diary. Seeing students write prayers, craft ideas, and shape the spiritual rhythm of the school has been deeply encouraging.

Year 7 Retreat Days – A Journey of Faith

One of the standout moments of our term was welcoming all Year 7 students to St Mary's Catholic Church for our annual retreat days. With the support of Harry Vincent, Fr James, Rob Sallis, and Marcus Hanna, students engaged in creative and biblical workshops on the theme 'Journey'.

Reflecting on where they have come from, where they are now, and the future paths ahead of them. These days were marked by fun and a wonderful sense of new beginnings.

Remembrance and the Chapel Garden

For Remembrance, the Chapel became a sacred space of stillness and honour. Students helped prepare a beautiful 'Garden of Remembrance', and many visited to participate in reflection activities and remember loved ones past and present. It has been a privilege to hold this space for our community.

The Virtual Advent Calendar

This Advent we relaunched our Virtual Advent Calendar, featuring daily reflective videos created by staff and students from across the school. Each reflection focusing on an Advent theme. Encouraging, blessing, and challenging us to slow down, look up, and prepare our hearts during this special season.

Assemblies, Eucharist, and Mass

Our regular programme of assemblies, Eucharist and Mass services has continued throughout the term, grounding us in shared worship, scripture, and the rhythms of the Christian faith.

Open Chapel

Our weekly Open Chapel lunchtime sessions continue to thrive, running across three days with support from local youth pastors and ministers. Students keep showing up in impressive numbers to explore faith, ask questions, build friendships, and hear about Jesus in an open, lively, and welcoming space. Seeing such engagement has been one of the term's greatest joys.

Student Art Transforming the Chapel

We also commissioned several of our talented Art students to create new large scale pieces for the Chapel. Their work which is both deeply reflective and stunningly creative now shapes the atmosphere of the space and stands as a testament to our young people. It has been moving

to witness how their gifts are helping form the physical and spiritual environment of our school.

Shaping the Future of Youth Resources

A group of students of faith also had the exciting opportunity to join a national Research and Development project contributing to the creation of a new youth edition of the Bible, in partnership with Dorset Youth for Christ. They offered feedback, shared their hot topics, discussed what helps them grow spiritually, completed design surveys, and contributed ideas for interactive features and aesthetics. Their insights will help shape a resource that will impact young people across the country.

As we look back on these past months, we are grateful not only for the activities and events, but for the spirit in which they were embraced. Our young people continue to inspire us with their faith, creativity, leadership, and compassion. We are excited to see how God will continue to shape and guide our school community in the months to come.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Joyeux Noël! Frohe Weihnachten!

As the Autumn term comes to an end, we are delighted to reflect on a really successful first term of Languages this academic year.

As always, we started the school year by celebrating European Day of Languages. Alongside activities on the day, this coincided with our annual Baking Competition. Students were invited to bake a dessert from any European country, and we had a wide range of outstanding entries, with bakes from Germany, Poland, France, Italy and Spain. The winners were Florence with her Schwarzwälder Kirchtorte, Rafael with his Frankfurter Kranz, and Lila with her Crème brûlée. As I write, the December Christmas card competition is well underway, and we are really excited to see this year's entries.



We are pleased that Language Lounge, our lunchtime club, is still going strong, and we have welcomed many new Year 7 members this year. So far, we have learnt about India, South Africa, Poland, Japan, Día de los Muertos, and how Advent is observed in different countries. The highlight for me was making origami frogs during Japan week, although the students really enjoyed making crowns in Advent week to celebrate Sweden's St Lucia Day. We are always happy to welcome new members, and it's a great opportunity for students interested in different languages and cultures to meet and learn in a fun and relaxed setting.



Our A level German students have just returned from a study day at the British Film Institute in London, exploring peaceful revolution and the legacy of East Germany in film, linked to their A level studies. They really enjoyed the day and made the most of this fantastic opportunity. Our A level French students can look forward to a similar trip later in the school year.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



Progress in the MFL Classroom

- Year 7 French students are currently learning about hobbies and free time, while Year 7 German students are learning about school.
- In Year 8, our French students are enjoying their topic of media—reading, internet and TV—while the Year 8 German students have been learning about food and healthy living. They got very creative when they prepared and acted out scenes in a restaurant.



- Year 9 French students have been learning about health and fitness, whilst the Year 9 German students have been learning about their home, town and tourism.
- Our Year 10 and Year 12 students have settled into their new courses very smoothly. Year 10 are currently learning about health, whilst Year 12 are studying Volunteering in French and Media in German.
- Well done to Years 11 and 13 for completing their mock exams. We know how hard they have worked, and we are immensely proud of them all. Year 11 are continuing on their topic of Media whilst Year 13 French and looking at the Francophone criminal justice systems, whilst our Year 13 German students are studying Racism and Integration.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are really excited about the French Exchange. Mrs Pawley and Mr El Yauti are taking a group of our students to Cherbourg in March, and their exchange partners will visit us in June. As one of the few schools still offering exchanges, we are very proud of our long-standing partnerships with schools in France and Germany. The German exchange will be launched later in the school year.

We wish all of our families a restful break and look forward to welcoming our students back in January.

Joyeux Noël et bonne année!

Frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr!

PSYCHOLOGY

Year 12 have settled very well into the demands of studying a new subject at A Level. Having grasped the key principles behind carrying out psychological investigations, students have designed and carried out a range of practical assignments, including an investigation into gender-determined adult interactions. These observational studies enabled students to observe the differences in quality, nature and frequency of adult interactions with different genders.

Meanwhile, Year 13 have been enjoying their Biopsychology and Schizophrenia topics which has enabled students to feed their curiosity about the complex workings of human behaviour. In Biopsychology, students have been exploring the extent to which specific areas of the brain are responsible for specific functions and marvelling at case studies of individuals who live perfectly normal lives following damage or removal of areas of the brain, thanks to the concept of plasticity and functional recovery. In Schizophrenia, through their practical assignments, Year 13 students have confirmed that many stereotypical views of the disorder still exist within society, which need and should be challenged.

SOCIOLOGY

It's been a busy and exciting term for the Sociology department as we have seen our numbers increase significantly. We welcomed two groups of Y12 students, including several students joining us from other schools. They have settled well into the rhythms of sixth form life and are exploring the familiar topic of Education through a sociological lens. They've examined a range of perspectives on the purpose of education, the impact of government policy on schools, and how factors such as gender, ethnicity, and social class influence educational outcomes. We are starting to look more closely at the importance of relationships and processes within schools. Students have had the chance to put their research skills to the test by sending brief questionnaires to a variety of subject leaders about gender and A-level subject choice. This exercise always provides fascinating insights into our local picture.

Year 13 are engaging with the demanding yet ever-popular Crime and Deviance unit. We were delighted to welcome local magistrate Rachel Small JP for our annual session. She explained the role of a magistrate and guided students through sentencing using a real case study, an invaluable experience and excellent preparation for our trip to Poole Magistrates' Court in the new year. These trips will give students the chance to see justice in action and gain a deeper understanding of the roles within the Criminal Justice System. We can't wait to share their reflections after what promises to be an inspiring experience.

Another highlight this term was taking a group of 15 students to Ringwood School for a conference exploring the concept of social mobility. The event was hosted by Lee Elliot Major OBE—the world's first Professor of Social Mobility. He shared his expertise on tackling class divides in contemporary society and improving life chances for young people from under-resourced backgrounds. Students engaged in thought-provoking discussions, gaining valuable insights into inequality and strategies for change. It was an inspiring day that connected classroom theory with real-world issues and current policy debates.



In September we welcomed Miss Gaynard to the Technology department to lead textiles. Coming from a background in industry and working on shows such as, Eastenders and the hit Netflix show, Stranger Things, Miss Gaynard is already bringing her knowledge and skills to the classroom to help develop Textiles.

Miss Gaynard has recently been a part of the EDGE program by running a textiles workshop revolving around costume design for the sequel of Wicked. This involved the students sketching an idea, choosing the fabrics and making the costumes for their scaled mannequins.



At the start of term, Year 12 Engineering students visited Lush Manufacturing in Poole. The visit was part of a national manufacturing initiative where local companies opened their doors to showcase potential careers and jobs on offer within the manufacturing sector. Students were able to observe how Lush products are made and participated in various activities across the company.



Our Year 10 and 11 graphic design students were joined by the head of design at Passenger, Katie Hayes, who has had over 25 years of experience in the industry. She has worked with a wide range of talented illustrators and designers who have contributed across various aspects of the brand and visual development for Passenger, some of which she was able to share with our students. They also had the chance to use her knowledge to produce some Passenger inspired designs.



In Food Technology the Year 10 GCSE students have been cooking with fresh seafood. The Fish Heroes scheme kindly provided us with rope grown mussels from South Devon for the students to cook. They produced excellent Moule Mariniere which after some encouragement nearly all of them tried and enjoyed. The programme works with the seafood industry to donate fish to schools so that all students have the opportunity to try it. Their dishes were excellent.



TECHNOLOGY

The Greenwood Talent Award recognises a consistent level of excellence across Technology each term. The technology teachers nominate as a department, one student across each key stage. To achieve the award, the students must demonstrate a high ability, a great skill set and ultimately producing work of an exceptional standard. This term the award goes to Ida (KS3), Eden (KS4) and Aleksa (KS5). A huge congratulations from the whole of Technology.



**DID YOU ATTEND
OR WORK AT ST
EDWARD'S?**

**SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW
TO JOIN OUR ALUMNI
MAILING LIST!**



**St Edward's
School**

Postcard exchange

Year 12 and year 10 Art students have participated in a creative postcard exchange project on the theme of Friendship. The project has been funded by The British Embassy in Ireland, The British Council in Ireland and The National Library of Ireland and St Edward's school is one of over 60 schools to participate in this year's project. The theme of Friendship was explored through the literature and letters of Jane Austin and Maria Edgeworth and some of the students also participated in an online workshop run by the National Library of Ireland on 'Blackout Poetry'.

Students could create their postcard using any media they wished as long as it was a response to this year's theme. The artwork created will now be exhibited in The National Library of Ireland to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen. The work created was incredibly varied and imaginative and we would like to say well done to all the students who participated.



Art & Science Competition for KS4 & KS5 Students

Students were invited to create digital or physical artwork that raises awareness about responsible antibiotic use and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The competition was organised by e-Bug, UKHSA's award-winning education programme that has supported teachers and students in infection prevention and antibiotic stewardship since 2008.

This topic is covered as part of the Science curriculum and students were able to use their art skills to try to communicate their understanding of

understanding of the issue and raise awareness of responsible antibiotic use. This is important because Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria and other microbes evolve so that antibiotic medicines no longer work against them. This makes infections harder to treat and increases the risk of disease spread and severe illness.

We would like to say well done to all the students who participated as there was some outstanding work. The science department selected the following winners of our internal school competition and their prizes will be given out in our celebration assemblies.

- **Year 12:** 1st Antonio P, 2nd Charlotte M, 3rd Ava S.
- **Year 10:** 1st Leanne DC, 2nd Holly O, 3rd Kaitlyn DO. Highly Commended: Oliver K & Phoebe S.
- **Year 9:** 1st Sienna M, 2nd Nadia D, 3rd Ala S, Highly Commended: Jayke F & Hanna L





Our Year 12 Art students had the opportunity to visit Salisbury Cathedral to view the exhibition 'Living Water' first hand. The Bible speaks of 'Living Water' and the artists in the exhibition explored water as a force of nature that sustains life, creates landscapes and carries stories across generations.

As well as viewing the exhibition our students were also able to respond the architecture, stained glass and sacred space of the cathedral through photography and drawing. On our return to school the students created their own work which allowed them to respond to the cathedral and to our school. The large scale and ambitious work created by the students is now on display in the Chapel or around our school site.

Year 8 and Year 12 Art & Science trip to Kew Gardens

In both the art and science curriculum our year 8 students study nature. In art our students respond to a range of different artists who are inspired by nature and in science in year 8 students learn about plants and photosynthesis. It was a pleasure to explore the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew with some of our Year 8 students and some of our Year 12 artists and scientists. The students explored the park through the lens of both art and science, in the famous glass houses, by seeing artwork first hand in the galleries and in the 'Hive' an installation designed by artist Wolfgang Buttress and inspired by scientific research. There are lots of exciting developments being planned in school to make students more aware of the

importance of biodiversity and to make our site more biodiverse and as part of this work the art department looks forward to working with the year 8 students who participated in the trip on a practical response. Our Year 12 artists have already created some very exciting work in response to the visit.



Lectures in Art

Our students have recently been invited to join two lectures offered by Winchester School of Art and The University of East Anglia.

The first lecture, for Key Stage 5 students, explored how Graphic Design could drive positive and progressive change. The lecturers discussed how creativity has the power to inspire people to make thoughtful choices that benefit both the society and the environment. Students at Winchester School of Art had been working on a live brief with Kew gardens as part of the Kew gardens manifesto for change. The lecturers shared how the students used the gardens, its archives and their own work to discover forgotten histories and tell stories to bring about change.

The second lecture was for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students and asked Do you really know anime?

The lecture was given by Mika Brown who is Associate Professor of Japanese Language in the School of Media, Language and Communication Studies at University of East Anglia.

Mika took students beyond the screen to explore how anime reflects Japanese culture and values before examining the hidden world of subtitles. Mika interactively examined the extent to which English subtitles really match what the characters

are saying in Japanese and illustrate the meaning that subtitling cannot fully capture.

The art department staff were amazed at the knowledge our students had of Anime and by the end of the lecture we all wanted to learn Japanese!

Year 11 and Year 13 students are working hard to complete their Portfolio work or Personal Investigation before the January deadlines and are busy preparing lots of exciting outcomes for their mock pieces that will be completed by year 11 in the week before Christmas and by year 13 just after Christmas. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour.

Art at St Edwards achieves the PTI Subject Mark for 2025

The art department have continued to work with the PTI to develop our curriculum and opportunities for students and we were delighted to be awarded the subject mark again in 2025. Thank you to all the art staff and of course to all our students for their work in the department.



A Great Start to the Year

We have had a fantastic start to the academic year, with outstanding attendance across all PE clubs. Badminton and basketball continue to attract large numbers, and both have been split across Week A and Week B to ensure every student has the opportunity to attend (see timetable for details). Netball remains extremely popular, despite some interruptions due to weather, and our trampolining club has reached record levels of participation, with up to 40 students taking part. As a result, this club has also moved onto a two-week rotation.



Fixtures and Competitions

Over the past three months, more than 300 students have proudly represented the school across a wide range of sports.

Football – Over 20 fixtures across boys' and girls' teams

- Year 11 secured an excellent win against Lytchett in the PEDSSA Cup, triumphing on penalties with Logan scoring the decisive penalty.
- Year 9 B Team beat Purbeck B.
- The Sixth Form performed strongly at their recent tournament, finishing 4th overall after reaching the semi-finals.

Basketball

All basketball teams have now played three fixtures, with KS3 leagues scheduled to start after Christmas. The Year 10 and Year 11 leagues have

have provided tough competition, but all players have gained valuable court time and experience.

Cross Country

We have completed three races so far this term, with more to come in the new year.

Several runners achieved exceptional results, with Ava, Joey, Matt and Jessie all finishing in the top five of their events.

Netball

Netball leagues and county qualifiers have been running since the start of term. St Edward's was proud to host the Year 10 and 11 leagues, welcoming 14 competing teams. We were delighted to enter two teams into each league, giving every student the opportunity to play nine matches.

The Year 9 league at QE offered another excellent experience, with two St Edward's teams again taking part and gaining valuable match play time.

Our Year 7 and 8 squads have also been training hard in preparation for their leagues, which begin after Christmas.

A huge thank you goes to our dedicated student helpers – **Megan, Elysia and Charlotte** – who manage the scoreboard during league events. Their support is vital in helping us organise and run fixtures smoothly.





- Year 9 qualified for the County Finals, with impressive wins over Talbot Heath and Sherborne.
- Year 9 also placed 2nd in the PEDSSA League.
- Year 10 and Year 11 boys' and girls' teams continue to perform strongly in their respective leagues.
- Year 10B are currently on track for a 2nd-place finish (at time of writing).

A special congratulation to the Year 9 netball squad — **Rosie, Lyra, Izzy, Stella, Abi, Josie, Lexi and Charlotte** — for their dedication and contribution to both the league and the county finals journey.

Inter-Team Competitions

As Christmas approaches, we are excited to begin our Inter-Team Competition. All students will have the opportunity to represent their team across a range of sports, with Year 7 taking part for the first time.

A Thank You to Our Staff

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all staff who volunteer their time to support after-school clubs, fixtures and events. Their enthusiasm and commitment help us provide the wide range of sporting opportunities enjoyed by students at St Edward's.

Key Stage 4 (GCSE)

- Recently completed their mock examinations.
- Continuing to develop practical skills ahead of their GCSE practical assessment. By attending extracurricular clubs including basketball, volleyball, netball, badminton and trampolining to further enhance their practical grade.
- Many students are also involved in sports outside school such as boxing, dance and tennis where they have produced video evidence to support further enhance their practical grade.

Key Stage 5 (A-Level/OCR Level 3)

- Deep into preparation for their examinations in May.
- Actively leading and running sports events for lower school students as part of their course.
- Focused on coursework and filming evidence for their practical performance assessments
- A special thank you to our student helpers Megan, Elysia and Charlotte for helping run the score board for when we host netball leagues. Without these dedicated students we would not have enough staff to complete all the paper work that goes in to hosting events.



**Have a
Blessed
Christmas!**



St Edward's
School



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

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