



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write as my time at St Edward's comes to an end to thank you for your support and encouragement over the past nine years of my headship. More than that, for choosing to send your children to our school, as they are such a source of joy and inspiration.

I have been very conscious, particularly in recent months, of the legacy that I inherited from former headteachers, especially as we have been remembering Alan Murphy and Pola Bevan, both former heads of St Edward's. A headteacher receives, and must be careful to hand on, the essence and spirit of a school. The spirit of St Edward's is very special indeed. It was 'The Spirit of St Edward's' that was the title of a weekly source of communication for parents, staff and students respectively, as we navigated the complexities of a global pandemic. Little did I know when I began in 2016 that a situation that had been the stuff of movies would actually happen in real life. I was so proud of our staff when on day one of school closure, parents received a single email containing everything that their child would need for the week ahead. Our school community came together like no other, and our staff team worked so hard to maintain contact and continuity as we all faced a grave and uncertain time. I am aware that many people continue to suffer from the effects of the pandemic in so many ways.

Continuity is so important. I have had various encounters with parents in recent months who have said 'I thought you'd already gone'. I wryly reflected that I must have got the handover right if no-one had noticed any change. To pass the headship of the school to Mr Barnett, who has served so faithfully as my deputy throughout the past nine years is such a source of pride and pleasure. I would like to thank him, the SLT and all of our staff for being just so fantastic to work with. I'm not always sure that people know quite what



goes into making a school like St Edward's work, but it is the relentless optimism and commitment of every single person, regardless of their role, together with a belief in the mission we are trying to advance, that makes our school what it is.

St Edward's School presents a unique educational offer. As a joint-Church school our horizons go far further than exams and universities. Our aim has always been to lay the foundations of a happy life well lived. It is for this reason, I believe, that St Edward's is the most over-subscribed secondary school in BCP. I am confident that the light of St Edward's School, and its special spirit, will burn brightly for many generations to come.

Thank you again, so much. Please pray for me in my new role, as I will remember our school in my prayers also.

Yours sincerely,

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.



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Over the last nine years, we have been blessed at St Edward's with the exceptional leadership, vision and unswerving commitment and dedication of Mr Antram. He has led and developed a positive whole-school ethos and culture in a spirit filled direction, focussing on the wellbeing of every student and driven the school in our pursuit of continuous improvement.

The Governing Body, and all those connected with St Edward's, thank Mr Antram for his immense contribution to our school and wish him well in the new chapter of his life with CAST.

Mr Wyn Jones
Chair of Governors

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look back over the summer term, it's lovely to reflect on the many achievements and experiences that have shaped our school community over the past months. It's hard to believe how quickly the academic year has flown by, and yet, in that time, our students have continued to impress us with their resilience, enthusiasm and commitment – both in the classroom and beyond.

I want to again extend my thanks for your continued support throughout the year. The partnership between home and school is vital to our success and I'm deeply appreciative of the trust and collaboration we share with our families.

We have again had a term packed full of enriching experiences. From residential trips at Kintbury and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to visits to see Wicked in London, Salisbury Cathedral, University discovery days and Chalk Valley to name just a few. We also look forward to a number of students going on a Camps International trip to Kenya during the summer.

Looking ahead to September, we remain committed to high standards including our school dress code. If you anticipate any difficulties with uniform, please do not hesitate to reach out – we're here to help. Attendance and punctuality will also remain a key focus, as we know a consistent presence in school is crucial to student success.

As I reflect on the school year, I'm filled with pride for our students – their growth, their kindness and their achievements. It's a privilege to witness the journey and to play a part in shaping their future.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for an exciting new chapter.



Mr C Barnett
Headteacher



A Fond Farewell to our Departing Colleagues

As we reach the end of another school year, we take a moment to say a heartfelt goodbye to several members of our school community who are moving on to new adventures. Each of them has made a unique and lasting contribution, and they will be greatly missed.

Mr Antram, who has led our school as Headteacher since 2016 and is moving to work more closely with two secondary schools in Plymouth.

After 16 years of inspiring students, **Mrs Hardy-Brown** will be leaving us this year. Her passion, wisdom, and warmth has made a real difference to so many students.

Mr Hegarty, who began his journey with us as a trainee and has taken on a wide range of roles over the past 10 years, is heading to Corfe Hills as an Assistant Headteacher.

Mrs Lee, who has worked tirelessly to support our LAC students, is moving into a new career outside of education. Her care and dedication have made a real difference to those students she has cared for.

We also say goodbye to **Mr Hurley**, who has been acting Deputy Headteacher and an Assistant Headteacher for the past 9 years. He will be taking on a new role as Deputy Headteacher at Twynham School. His leadership and support have been key in the development and improvement within the school.

Mrs Morris, our Head of Technology, leaves behind a legacy of innovation and creativity. Her work has helped shape a forward-thinking department that has inspired many.

Miss Elms, Head of History, is moving on to become an Assistant Headteacher at Highcliffe School where she will be leading the Sixth Form. Her dedication has created so many opportunities for our students over the years.

Miss Sim, one of our wonderful Education Support Workers, is taking up a new role in the student support team at Cornerstone Academy. Her empathy and dedication have made such a difference to our student's experiences within school.

We also thank **Mrs Watson**, who has supported students as a Teaching Assistant over the past 4 years.

Miss McGregor, once a student here and later a Teaching Assistant, starts the next exciting stage of her life as she heads off to University to continue her studies.

Mr French, another valued TA, is joining the Maths department at Corfe Hills. We wish him every success as he embarks on his teaching career.

And finally, **Mr Murphy-Parry**, one of our Teaching Assistants who has made a real difference to our students, leaves with our sincere thanks and best wishes.

To all our departing colleagues: thank you for everything. You've helped shape our school into the special place it is, and you will always be part of our story. We wish you all the very best for the future.

FUTURE CHOICES: CAREERS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS TERM IN OUR CAREERS DEPARTMENT

It has been a busy term with many careers events taking place across the year groups.

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience was the main focus in May and what a week it was! Possibly the best Work Experience week we have ever had with exceptional employer feedback. Students returned to school with greater confidence and a clearer vision of the world of work. Some have been offered part time work and even apprenticeships! Students went to a wide variety of companies in different sectors including engineering, aviation, hospitality and manufacturing. Here is some of the feedback from employers:

"We have been so impressed by how hard working he is, he adapted well to every situation and got involved with everything."

"She was a fantastic student to have working with us, always asking questions and engaged."

"He has been amazing, mature and professional. The best Work Experience student that I have ever had."

Some student quotes:

"It was great, they offered me an apprenticeship in the future."

"I learnt so much and it has helped me think about my future career direction."



If you are an employer and would like to offer a future work placement please contact Mrs Ruby, Careers Manager: nruby@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk

Year 12 Career Experience

Year 12 also completed a week of career experience in early June in a variety of different employer settings. This included solicitors, engineering and Dorset NHS. Some students will be taking the opportunity to undertake a placement at the end of the summer term as well as virtual work experience.

Year 11 & 13 Farewells

As we waved goodbye to year 11 & 13 students as they head off to sixth form, college, university, gap years and apprenticeships. The door is always open for them and parents/careers to talk through their options or ask questions. Mrs Ruby will be available on results days for guidance, support and celebrations.

FUTURE CHOICES: CAREERS

Year 12 Dig Data Day

Mrs Ruby took a group of Sixth Formers to a DigData Day hosted at Magna Academy. DigData is partnered with the NHS to host events to explore data and analytics careers within the healthcare sector. Students completed a career challenge in teams using data to improve NHS services. They were able to see how data skills could be used in careers and showcase the wide range of career opportunities in this area.

JP Morgan Chase Open Doors Event

A group of year 12 students attended the open doors event at JP Morgan at Chaseside, Bournemouth. The day was aimed to raise awareness of the career opportunities in the financial services and technology sectors. The day consisted of talks from current apprentices, a tour of the campus and a chance to network with a wide range of employees about their job roles.



Girls in Maths /STEM Ambassador talk

Girls in Years 7-9 were invited to hear from a STEM Ambassador: a Systems Engineer. The session involved learning about her role, how she uses Maths and STEM and helping them to see the link between their STEM subjects and wider careers.

UCAS Discovery Day

The annual UCAS Discovery Day took place at Bournemouth University on 30 June on a very warm day. The year 12s attended the event where many universities across the UK are represented. They were able to speak to universities directly and attend talks to help them think about their future and the options at university and beyond.



University of Exeter Discovery Day

A large group of sixth formers attending this event at the main campus on Exeter. The day consisted of a tour, talks about how to choose and research courses and speak to the students directly about going to university and in particular Exeter.

Online Careers Resources

As well as students receiving face-to-face Careers advice and guidance in Year 11 and Sixth Form, there are some great online resources available:

Career Pilot: www.careerpilot.org.uk

A careers information website which includes choices at 14, 16 & 18, information about different job sectors and what they are looking for along with careers relating to specific subjects, and information on work and study options including apprenticeships and university.

Apprenticeships: gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

NCS: nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

UCAS: www.ucas.com

St Edward's Students Speak Their Way to Success

We are thrilled to celebrate two outstanding successes as Alice E and Alice W (Year 10) achieved 1st and 2nd place in the **Speak Out Challenge Final**, competing against students from schools across Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight!

We are also thrilled to celebrate two outstanding successes at a regional level. Alice E and Alice W (Year 10) achieved 1st and 2nd place respectively in the *Speak Out Challenge Final*, competing against students from schools across Hampshire, Dorset, and the Isle of Wight.

The final was held at the prestigious New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth and was judged by a panel of expert speakers, with awards presented by the Deputy Mayor of Portsmouth. Over 500 students originally took part in the *Speakers Trust* workshops across the region, so to reach the final was a remarkable achievement in itself- to secure the top two places is simply exceptional.

Both students delivered their speeches live on stage, with no notes, a testament to their preparation, composure, and powerful communication skills. Alice E reflected, *"I loved the Speak Out Challenge. It helped me so much in learning how to share my thoughts and feelings on life. I am so grateful for the opportunity and it has inspired me to do further public speaking."*

Alice W added, *"My confidence has grown so much in the matter of a few weeks. I'm excited to help encourage public speaking skills for students lower down the school to spread the positive impacts public speaking has given me."*

We are incredibly proud of both students for their outstanding achievement, dedication and the courage they've shown to speak out. Their success reflects the strength of oracy education at St Edward's and the potential our students have to inspire change... One speech at a time!



European Evangelical Alliance Representative to Speak at St Edward's

Julia Doxat-Purser is the European Evangelical Alliance's socio-political representative & religious liberty coordinator. (EEA is the family of national Evangelical Alliances and pan-European Christian organisations and networks across Europe.)

Julia will be joining us at St Edward's on **October 8th 2025** from **7PM** to speak about *Threats to Religious Liberty Across Europe and the UK and How to Respond*.

Julia's role is to help Evangelicals engage in the public arena effectively and with solid biblical foundations of how one engages as Christ's ambassadors. Her first priority is to strengthen freedom of religion or belief. She was previously EEA's first Brussels representative, where her most significant work was ensuring the addition of the "genuine occupational requirement" clause in employment law so that faith groups across the European Union could continue to employ people of their faith.

Julia particularly enjoys helping Christians understand how the socio-political arena is a core part of mission and discipleship.

Julia has lived in BCP since 2013 when her husband Alistair came to serve as Faithworks' CEO.

*The event has been organised by **Churches Together in Poole**. To reserve a ticket, email: jpmclmartin@gmail.com. A confirmation email will be sent*

*This is an **open event** and there is **no charge**. St Edward's School can only take a maximum of 220 people so you will need to book to avoid disappointment.*



Key Stage 3

This term, Year 7 have been exploring the magical world of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and what better setting to use than our own school woodland! Using this natural space as a performance area, students have brought key scenes to life outdoors, embracing the play's themes of mischief, magic and mistaken identity. Inspired by the magical themes of Shakespeare, students have also developed their creative writing skills by crafting characters and settings inspired by the play's fantastical elements. We also received exciting news from the national Poetry By Heart competition, both 7-A3 and 7-L2 were awarded Highly Commended! A huge congratulations to those classes- what a brilliant achievement in a national competition!



In Year 8, students have studied the playscript of *Frankenstein* as part of the 'Trapped' unit. Through reading and performing dramatic scenes, they have gained a deeper understanding of

characterisation and the dramatic form. Alongside this, students have explored a powerful non-fiction anthology about animals in captivity which has prompted important ethical discussions. This unit encourages students to reflect critically and write purposefully, with student responses being thoughtful and impassioned. It's been a term of big ideas and even bigger questions- exactly what English should be about.

What would our world look like if things took a very different turn? That's the question Year 9 have been exploring through our *Dystopian Discoveries* unit. From climate catastrophe to tech takeovers, students have delved into the unsettling (and often eerily familiar!) landscapes of dystopian fiction. Students have studied a wide range of dystopian worlds and extracts, before going on to create their own dystopian narratives. The creativity, imagination and insight shown in their writing has been excellent with some outstanding examples of original storytelling, gripping plot twists, and richly imagined worlds- it's clear we have some future authors and storytellers sitting in our classrooms!

We're incredibly proud of the creativity, confidence and curiosity our students have shown this term. Thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support- especially when your children come home talking about fairy feuds, mad scientists and dystopian regimes at the dinner table! A reminder that we have recommended reading linked to each KS3 unit. If students would like to explore their topics further, they are encouraged to speak to their English teacher or Mrs Lumber for book suggestions.

Key Stage 4

We are so proud of all the hard work, dedication and perseverance shown by our Year 11 students before and during their exams. Students have shown remarkable endeavour in so many ways: in their lessons, reinforcing their knowledge and confidence of the texts and skills required; through their attendance of the additional revision

sessions prior to each exam where we've revised the specific requirements of each paper; in their revision, which many have discussed enthusiastically with teachers and has been evidenced in the significant numbers of students submitting additional practise answers to their teachers, seeking feedback and tips to improve in the run-up to that exam. We are very hopeful that, come results day, they will find themselves richly rewarded for their efforts.

In Year 10, we've moved onto our next core GCSE Literature text: Macbeth. Students have begun to build on the strong foundation students had acquired last term through the Macbeth theatre trip visit and the in-school performance to all members of the year group by students who had produced such a fantastic performance of the play through their workshop at Poole Lighthouse. Blending a 'cold-read' of the play with frequent review, compilation of useful revision resources and exam practice, we are confident that Year 10 will end this term with a thorough and comprehensive understanding of this, their last full-length Literature text. Looking ahead, they will begin Year 11 next year with the poetry anthology for Literature and a return to the key skills of the Language papers.

ORACY

It's been a truly exciting term for oracy at St Edward's, with students sharing their voices and stepping into the spotlight- both here at school and on professional stages!

Festival of Speech 2025

We were delighted to host our annual Festival of Speech in June. Thanks to the continued growth of our oracy programme, a record number of students took to the stage, delivering an impressive range of powerful and thought-provoking speeches. Topics explored included everything from communication ethics to whether

children should be allowed to vote; a true showcase of curiosity, critical thinking and courage.

The evening was expertly hosted by Lucy (Year 13), whose opening words beautifully captured the spirit of the event and the heart of our oracy mission:

"If I had to summarise public speaking in one word, I'd say home. Don't let me fool you... I'm not confident. I'm nervous to talk to one person, but standing in front of all of you, I feel safe. Through public speaking, I've made myself proud. I used to have a speech therapist, now I've found something I'm passionate about and I've learned the importance of speaking out."

Thank you to Lucy for hosting this event, she was a real role model for our younger students and has played a huge part in the success of public speaking at St Edward's.

We are also hugely grateful to the Catenian Association, who returned once again to judge the event and provide valuable feedback to our students. Their support makes this evening possible and their thoughtful comments help our young speakers grow every year.

Congratulations to all students who took part in our Festival of Speech! It was wonderful to see familiar faces returning to the stage, with several students now in their third year of speaking. The growth in their confidence, style and delivery has been remarkable and it's clear that regular opportunities to speak publicly are helping our students become poised and persuasive communicators.

For some other news about our young orators, be sure to read the article on p7, titled **St Edward's Students Speak Their Way to Success**. These successes reflect the strength of oracy education at St Edward's and the potential our students have to inspire change... One speech at a time!

As we reach the end of another busy and successful academic year, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on the achievements and highlights from the Mathematics Department.

Farewell and Congratulations to Year 11 and Year 13

We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 and Year 13 students who have now completed their GCSE and A-Level examinations. Their hard work and dedication throughout the year have been commendable. We wish them all the best in their next steps. We are especially delighted that three of our students are planning to study Mathematics at university, with many more pursuing STEM-related degrees. Their passion for the subject has been inspiring.

Encouraging Girls in STEM

This term saw the launch of our new Girls' Participation Group, aimed at encouraging more girls to explore and enjoy STEM subjects. The group, made up of approximately 30 Key Stage 3 students, has taken part in three engaging workshops. One of the highlights was a Q&A session with a retired systems engineer, offering valuable insights into careers in STEM. The girls have represented the school with enthusiasm and maturity, and we look forward to seeing the group grow next year.

Junior Maths Challenge Success

A number of our Year 8 students took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, with fantastic results:

- 20 Bronze Certificates
- 8 Silver Certificates
- 1 Gold Certificate

Special congratulations to Taylor D, who not only achieved Gold but also qualified for the Kangaroo follow-on round—a prestigious mathematical competition that challenges students with complex problem-solving tasks.

Careers in Mathematics

Our KS3 students have been exploring the real-

world applications of mathematics through end-of-year careers lessons. This term, they focused on the role of maths in urban regeneration, learning how mathematical thinking supports planning, budgeting, and sustainable development. We hope this has sparked curiosity about the many paths maths can lead to.

Maths Student Community

Congratulations to Oskar P in Year 7, who has successfully gained a place as part of the Maths Student Community (MSC) run by Exeter Mathematics School. This selective programme offers enrichment opportunities for mathematically talented students across the region, including workshops, mentoring, and collaborative projects. We are excited to see how Oskar develops through this fantastic opportunity.

Staff News

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Mr Hegarty, who will be moving on to exciting new opportunities after many years of dedicated service to the Mathematics Department. His commitment, enthusiasm, and support for students and staff alike have made a lasting impact. We wish him all the very best in his future endeavours. We also look forward to welcoming Mr Askew in September, who will be joining us as our Key Stage 5 Co-ordinator.

We wish all our students and families a restful and enjoyable summer break. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another exciting year of mathematical discovery in September.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Computer Science department would like to thank everyone for their support this year and wish them a lovely summer.

Key Stage 3

For Year 9 students, this could be the last time we are teaching them (unless they are taking GCSE Computer Science or BTEC IT with us), so we hope you have enjoyed your time learning our subject and wish you every success with your Key Stage 4 studies.

For other year groups, we look forward to continuing your journey with us into next year. In Year 8, students will continue to get 1 lesson per fortnight and in Year 9, students get the fortnightly theory lesson and a Technology rotation given to Programming in place of Robotics.

KS4 Computer Science

In Computer Science, the Year 11s have now finished the Edexcel GCSE which was new to us for this cohort. They have all worked incredibly hard and we hope they found the course interesting and relevant to the future. We look forward to seeing your results in August! The Year 10s are now halfway through their time and we are impressed with their dedication and are excited to see them back again next year.

In BTEC IT, the first cohort of Year 11s have finished the course and we hope it has helped them develop some skills that will be useful in their future studies and careers. The Year 10s are now in the process of their 2nd controlled coursework and we look forward to seeing how they get on when we return after the summer.

Key Stage 5

Year 13 students have now finished all their exams – they have shown such a drive and work-ethic throughout the last 2 years, we are so proud of them and looking forward to celebrating their successes in August. Year 12 have completed the majority of the course content now and are

starting their NEA Programming Projects – some of the ideas are excellent and we look forward to seeing them progress to working programs!



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**

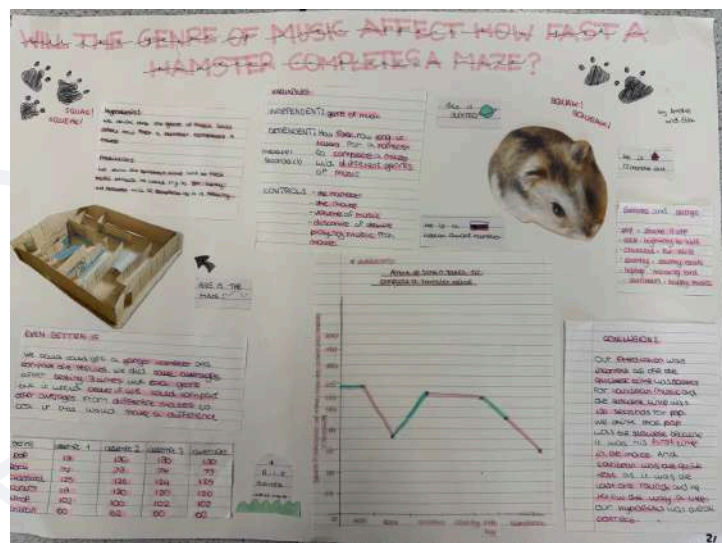
Get instant access to the following programmes:

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

This term in science, we have welcomed a new member of staff to the department. After some lengthy periods of teacher absence for some classes, I'm sure students will be very appreciative to have Mr. Weight guide them through to the end of the year, and hopefully for years to come.

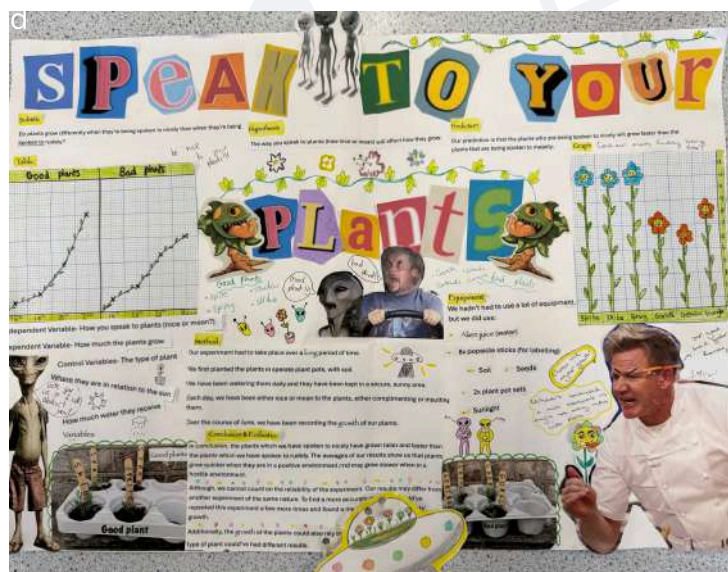
Year 7 students have been learning about fuels and burning. They have especially enjoyed conducting some practical research into which fuels have the highest energy content using spirit burners. This is a very valuable opportunity for students to recognise the need for more efficient and sustainable fuels is now more important than ever.

The GCSE course will commence in September for our Year 8 students and it seems only right to celebrate all the knowledge and skills they have gained in Science during their time in Key Stage 3. The Curiosity Show, an event led by Mr. Harris, took place last week, and the standard of entries was exceptionally high. There were only a minimal number of entries about the effect of Mentos in Coke! This time around, the event could have been named the Creativity Show as many of the entries showed much originality in the subject being investigated. The overall winners of this year's exhibit demonstrated excellent scientific curiosity and skill in a very creative way. Congratulations to the winners of the Student Vote, Amy and Ava for their conclusions that determine if you should speak nicely or aggressively to your plants to make



them grow faster, Amelie and Ella the winner of the Staff Vote for their work whether music genre affects the memory of hamsters, and finally to Lucy for impressing the Science Leadership Team for some excellent work on how temperature affects the speed of a tortoise. All the winners and runners up will be announced later this week.

In addition to this, the Clean Air Project ended with our second Clean Air Week. Students who had made conscious efforts to travel more actively to school or reduce their impact on air quality were rewarded with an opportunity to take part in a BMX workshop run by a Guinness World Record Holder and former BMX Flatland Olympian Matti Hemmings. The students had a great time trying to emulate some of his tricks and stunts! We also asked students to design a banner to ask vehicle users to avoid idling during school pick up and drop off times to try and improve air quality in Dale Valley Road. We had some very creative entries all of which conveyed our message superbly. The winners selected by SusTrans were all in Year 7 and were... In 3rd place – Tristan, 2nd place - Gabriele and 1st place – Ala, who had her banner made into actual size to be displayed as



part of our campaign! Finally, the Clean Air Project wouldn't have been possible had it not been for the hard work and commitment of a core group of Year 9 students. Consequently, they have been awarded with Bronze Crest Awards for their contribution to science! Huge congratulations for this fantastic achievement go to Kali, Kacper, Teddy and Alfie!



So many of our students this term were preparing for exams in science. Years 11 and 13 have now completed their GCSE and A-Level examinations respectively. Years 9, 10 and 12 have also seen completion of their internal exams. I must take this opportunity to congratulate and thank every single one of them for their hard work, determination and resilience, and to all parents and carers for your continued support and guidance in what can be a very challenging and stressful time for all. I hope you all enjoy a very restful Summer and recoup

some of that family time together.

Finally, I'd like to say a huge thank you to all science teachers and support staff for all you have done over the course of this year. The experiences you provide to our students gives them a fantastic learning journey and I am proud to be a part of such a fantastic team! Enjoy your well-earned rest over the Summer also!

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

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



**St Edward's
School**

PERFORMING ARTS

It has been an incredibly exciting and busy term for Performing Arts at St Edward's School! Our students have thrown themselves into a wide range of opportunities, and it's been wonderful to see their talent and enthusiasm shine.

This term, 15 of our Year 8 students took part in a fantastic Physical Theatre Workshop delivered by PDSW, building confidence and creativity through movement. Our students also had the chance to watch the incredible CAGED performance by Linden Dance as part of the Pavilion Dance South West Playground series – a brilliant opportunity to see professional, cutting-edge physical theatre in action.

A huge highlight was our Wicked trip to London, where 45 students enjoyed a workshop with West End choreographers and musical directors, followed by watching the sensational production of Wicked – an unforgettable experience for all involved.



We are proud to share that over 140 students are now taking part in peripatetic lessons, including the newly introduced LAMDA lessons, offering students the chance to develop their performance and public speaking skills. If your child is interested in joining these lessons, please contact me directly – I'd love to help them get involved.

A massive thank you to everyone who supported

our recent Fringe Festival, which welcomed over 500 visitors through the school gates for an evening celebrating the incredible talents of our students across drama, dance, music, art and public speaking. The atmosphere was electric, and the standard of work showcased was exceptional – a real testament to the dedication of our students and staff.



Our Year 9 students who have chosen GCSE Music and Drama enjoyed an inspiring tour of Lighthouse, Poole, giving them a glimpse into the world of professional performance. We're hopeful that Dance will return to the options list for our current Year 8s next year, ensuring all students can access the full breadth of performing arts.

Finally, we were thrilled to welcome our new Year 12s for their induction day – and I'm so excited to officially announce that A Level Drama is returning from September! It's an exciting time for

PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts at St Edward's, and we can't wait to see what the next year brings.

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

Mrs Keene

Head of Performing Arts

DRAMA

Year 7

Embracing the world of Musical Theatre, this term has maintained a focus on different musicals such as Annie, Oliver, Bugsy Malone and more. Students have been applying their understanding of performance and characterisation in a new style, considering how to deliver the same performance integrity through song and movement. Year 7 performed their extracts from their Musical Theatre unit at the Fringe Festival and we loved celebrating their success with audience members!

Year 8

Students have been exploring more styles of theatre: Theatre in Education and Physical Theatre. Consolidating skills learned throughout the year, students have been devising their own scenes and performances in response to a given prompt or theme with a consideration for their intended audience, ensuring that their performance is catered to their target audience. Moving on to Physical Theatre, students have then been challenged to continue establishing meaning in their performance but now without the use of dialogue, focusing on how they can use their movement to communicate their narrative.

Year 9

This term, students have engaged with a brand-new unit exploring Events Management. Through their selected pathway, Performer, Technician, or Organiser, students have been creating and

developing their own concepts for an Arts Festival. Throughout this topic, students have considered the most effective methods of marketing, managing a small budget with big ambitions, and finalising the logistics of the events running through the day before presenting their projects, culminating in deciding a winning festival for each class. As their final unit of study (for some students) in Drama, we hope that the skills developed throughout the project will support them in their future endeavours.

Year 10

Following a successful set of results from their recent mock exams, as well as an enriching and enlightening week of work experience, Year 10 Drama GCSE students return to their Devising projects. Each piece explores different themes, from navigating mental health through challenging family dynamics; exploring the impact of seemingly insignificant choices on the greater narrative of our lives; to the ever-changing landscape of the school experience. We really enjoyed showcasing the highlights of these performances at the Fringe Festival and the students appreciated the support and feedback which they can use to improve their pieces.

Mr Christopher

Coordinator of Drama

MUSIC

Year 7

This term, Year 7 students have been putting their music technology skills to the test with a unit on BandLab. Throughout this unit, they have learned key skills required to create a piece of music using a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation). These skills lay the foundation for Years 8 and 9, when students will be introduced to Cubase an extremely powerful and creative DAW. In addition, students have been learning the ukulele. They have

PERFORMING ARTS

practiced the four most popular chords, explored a variety of strumming patterns, and perfected songs in small ensembles.

Year 8

This term has been all about Cubase and video game music. Students began by learning their way around Cubase through a series of tasks, which enabled them to create their own soundtracks for video clips from well-known games. This included composing and adding their own sound effects, background noises, and musical motifs.

Year 9

Year 9 students have been exploring the evolution of popular music, looking at genres from rock and roll and Beatlemania to Britpop and modern-day pop songs. They have then used their understanding of these genres to create and write their own original pop songs. This process included choosing chords, writing lyrics, and adding a variety of instruments. What an exciting way to conclude their KS3 music journey!

Year 10

Our Year 10 students have been working incredibly hard to meet all of their deadlines whether submitting Component 1 for BTEC Level 2 or completing the first draft of their free composition for GCSE alongside learning all about music for a variety of different ensembles. We are incredibly proud of their dedication, commitment, and contributions to the music department this year. They have certainly earned a well-deserved rest!

Miss Stacey
Coordinator of Music



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Summer term in RE has been packed with all sorts of activities and events!

Once again, the highlight of the summer has been the Year 7 trip to Salisbury Cathedral that we ran collaboratively with the Art and History departments. As well as receiving a tour of the cathedral, it was lovely to see students completing artwork on the floor of the cathedral and for students to experience the world-renowned 'Doom painting' in St Thomas' Church firsthand; the latter being explained with great expertise by our own Mr Henry and Miss Elms. Thank you to all of the students in Year 7 for the fantastic way that they represented our school and to all the staff that accompanied the trip and covered lessons back at school.



In the Summer term, Year 7, 8 and 9 classes in RE focus on the themes of Diversity and Justice. After finishing their study of "Who are the people of God?" (which focused on a range of Old Testament figures), Year 7 students moved on to explore the theme of diversity through an in-depth study of Hinduism which also featured some interesting discussions on the topic on animal rights. More recently, students have been completing series of lessons based on 'Social Justice Heroes'; considering what virtues are required to be such a person and how we might follow in their footsteps.

Year 8 have focused on the concept of 'Dukkha' through their study of Buddhism and have been considering the Buddha's response to what causes suffering and what the cure might be. Towards the end of term, they have been focusing on "Does all life have value?", looking at the distinction between the Sanctity and Quality of Life and applying these concepts to modern day issues such as Animal Rights and the Euthanasia Debate. Year 9 have completed their in-depth study of Sikhism, with an emphasis on the importance of equality and the oneness of God (Waheguru). Year 9 students have also recently benefitted from either a residential retreat at St Cassian's Retreat Centre or from a retreat that was run in school hours by the PACE team at a St Clement's Church; we would like to thank both the PACE team and St Clement's Church for their hard work and their hospitality to make that event possible.

Having completed their internal examinations, Year 10 students are now nearing the end of their first year of GCSE study. We are currently trialling the use of bespoke Learning Booklets for our current Year 10 unit of study (Issues of Relationships), initial student feedback is very positive. We would like to thank Miss Cooper as she has put a huge amount of time into developing these booklets for use in lessons. Year 11 have now completed all of their final GCSE examinations in RE; we would like to thank them for all their hard work in RE and wish them all the best for the future. We are delighted that a large number of

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

these students have already expressed their intention to study RE at A-Level!

Year 13 RE A-Level students have also completed their course and their final examinations; we would also like to thank them for their dedication to the subject and wish them well with their future endeavours.

We had planned for the Year 12 Personal Enquiry students to participate in a multi-faith panel called the 'Many Faiths Workshop'. This was highly popular last year, but unfortunately this event was postponed at short notice due to illness of some of the panel members. We are planning to run the event during the Autumn Term.

We are continuing to develop strong links between our RE curriculum and the Chaplaincy work within the school. In particular, we have been delighted to see participation in the CYMFED (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation) Faith In Action Award growing, with a group of students in Years 9 and 10 recently achieving the Silver Award following the conclusion of their art project that aimed to raise awareness of single use plastic. We would also like to thank Miss Perks for her assistance with the design and completion of the artwork.



Thank you to all students and staff for their hard work throughout the RE department this year, we wish everyone a safe and happy summer!



THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Every year, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award inspires hundreds of thousands of young people to develop skills, resilience and self-belief. Through DofE, they take on their own challenges, follow their passions, make a difference to their communities and discover talents they never knew they had.

This term our Year 9 students who have been working towards their Bronze Award have just completed their Expedition section, successfully camping, cooking, walking and navigating through the New Forest in their teams. A huge congratulations is also in order for our Year 10 students who completed their expedition in July and who have put in so much work this year!



As we approach the end of the academic year, the Geography Department is pleased to share an overview of the engaging and enriching learning that has taken place this summer term. Across all key stages, students have been developing their geographical knowledge and enquiry skills through a wide range of stimulating topics, with real-world relevance and fieldwork connections.

Key Stage 3

Year 7 – The Dorset Coast

This term, Year 7 have been studying coastal processes and landforms, focusing on the Jurassic Coastline in Dorset. Students have explored the formation of features such as headlands, bays, arches, and stacks, and have examined the impact of coastal erosion and deposition. This topic not only enhances their understanding of physical geography but also encourages awareness of coastal management and sustainability—timely as we head into the summer holiday season, and hope that our young people will be able to converse knowledgeably and with passion about the processes and landforms that you encounter on your beach visits.

Year 8 – Glacial Landscapes and Upland Areas

Year 8 have been learning about glacial processes and the dramatic landscapes shaped by ice. Through studies of the Swiss Alps and the Lake District, students have developed a deeper understanding of how glaciers have sculpted our valleys and mountain ranges, as well as the challenges and opportunities these environments present for human activity.

Year 9 – Tectonic Hazards

In Year 9, students have explored the powerful natural forces associated with tectonic activity. By studying earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and plate boundaries, students have gained insight into hazard management, risk reduction strategies, and the social and economic impacts of tectonic events on communities around the world.

Key Stage 4

Year 10 – Coastal Landscapes and Fieldwork Preparation

Year 10 have been focusing on coastal environments, with particular attention to the Purbeck Coast. As part of their GCSE preparation, students have been introduced to key fieldwork techniques and enquiry methods. This work lays a strong foundation for their Year 11 fieldwork investigations, supporting both their academic progress and their understanding of how to apply geographical knowledge in the field.

Key Stage 5

Year 12 – Urban Regeneration in East London

Our A-Level students have enjoyed a valuable field experience in the East End of London, where they examined the processes and impacts of urban regeneration. The visit included studies of the Olympic Park and Stratford, providing real-life context for concepts such as gentrification, inequality, and sustainable urban development. This fieldwork has significantly enhanced their understanding of urban change and its implications for local communities.

We are proud of the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students throughout the term and look forward to continuing to develop their geographical thinking in the next academic year. On behalf of the Geography Department, we wish all students and their families a restful and enjoyable summer.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Celebrating Another Great Year in MFL!

As this school year comes to a close, it's amazing to think back on the amazing things our students have achieved.

This term, we held a European photography competition where students were invited to enter a photo taken in any European country. We were overwhelmed with the high quality and the variety of the entries this year, which made it very difficult to choose the winners. I am pleased to announce the winners are Holly from Yr12 in third place with her photo of Greece, Lucy and Francesca in joint second place, both with photos of Amsterdam and in first place, Lavinia in Year 8, with her photo of Budapest. Congratulations to our winners, who were presented with a certificate and a small prize during the end-of-term celebration assembly. Thank you so much to all the students who took part this year. All entries are now on display in the MFL corridor for everyone to enjoy.



In Language Lounge, our Friday lunchtime club, we learnt a little Spanish and Portuguese. The highlight had to be celebrating the Eurovision Song Contest, learning about Basel in Switzerland, and of course having fun casting our own votes! We can't wait to re-launch the Language Lounge in September, where we look forward to seeing our regulars, as well as welcoming new members to our group. It's such a lovely opportunity for students passionate about languages to meet and learn outside of a formal classroom setting.

A highlight for our sixth form students recently has been the opportunity to take part in the Festival of Languages. The A level French students attended an online lecture hosted by the University of Liverpool and the A level German students attended an online lecture from the University of Lancaster. We really enjoyed being part of the Festival and appreciated the opportunity to get involved in this event.

Progress in the MFL Classroom

- Year 7 students have completed half a year each of French and German and have learnt to talk about themselves, their families, school and their hobbies in both languages.
- Year 8 French students have learnt about talents and role models this last term. Meanwhile Year 8 German students have learnt about going out and making plans with friends. All year 8 language students have completed the year with a cultural film study, where they have watched a target language film and completed character studies and summaries of

- the film. Students learning French watched the French film *Le Petit Nicolas* – a comedy about a mischievous young boy whose idyllic life is thrown into chaos. Students learning German have enjoyed studying the film *Fritzi – Eine Wendewundergeschichte*, set around the fall of the Berlin Wall, again with exercises to accompany the film.
- Year 9 students have completed the Key Stage 3 language courses now. German students have been learning about childhood and school this last term, whilst Year 9 French students have learnt about Normandy. Our Year 9 lessons have similarly had a cultural and historical focus to end the year, where we carried out a historical project and analysed a film in the foreign language, which proved hugely popular with our students. The German students studied *Ballon*, which tells the true story of two families who escaped East Germany in a hot air balloon before the unification of Germany. French students studied the classic French film *Les Choristes*, an emotional story about a teacher who transforms the lives of troubled boys in a strict boarding school by starting a choir. The students enjoyed their film study and the work that went alongside that.
- Year 10 language students have made good progress in their GCSE courses and have just finished the topic of festivals and celebrations.
- Year 12 students have also completed half of their course, are thriving in their literary study, analysing characters, themes, and the social and political context of their texts in both spoken and written French and German.
- Well done to both our Year 10 and Year 12 students for successfully completed their first year of study for their courses, completing mock exams and their first experience of a speaking exam. We are immensely proud of them all.

Finally, we hope you all have a lovely summer, and we look forward to welcoming our students back in September.

Bonnes vacances! Schöne Ferien!

PSYCHOLOGY

This term, Year 12 students have been starting the topic of Issues and Debates, which involves an in-depth look at the big questions of Psychology such as to what extent is our behaviour due to nature or nurture; and how far are we responsible for our actions or is our behaviour pre-determined by biological, environmental or unconscious factors beyond our control. Students have also been developing their mathematical skills in Psychology with an introduction to statistical analysis which has enabled them to draw conclusions about the significance of research findings. We began looking at this with a simple experiment on mind power to see if a coin would land on tails more when we willed this to happen compared to when we didn't. Although there was an increase in the number of times the coin landed on tails in the mind power condition compared to the control, this difference was surprisingly found to not be statistically significant!

Finally, with the exam season drawing to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 13 on their hard work and efforts preparing for the exams. With Psychology being one of the first external exams, we were proud to see how well they coped with their nerves and took it all in their stride.



TECHNOLOGY

This term has seen many new and exciting projects across the department enabling students to develop their skills and understanding through interesting and challenging scenarios.

Year 10 Graphic Design students have been experimenting with a variety of techniques through several small design tasks. These have included designing a book cover with the main feature being lino printed and redesigning an album cover for their favourite band using digital collage.



In Resistant Materials Year 8 have been working with metals to make balancing toys. Students have learnt how to braze and have been enhancing their work with acrylic elements designed and cut on the laser cutter.



In Year 10 Resistant Materials, larger projects were implemented allowing students to build skills and develop knowledge across wood, metal and

plastics. This term the project was focused on wood and students made a small table out of a mixture of different timbers, working with hard, soft and manmade woods. Students used traditional hand cut wood joints with decoration added through Computer Aided Design and the laser cutter.



Year 10 Food students have been seeing their knowledge of food science working in practice by making summer fruit trifle. The practical demonstrated the functional properties of cream when whisked, cornflour to thicken a sauce and eggs to make a foam. The finished results were impressive, especially as they made them on the hottest day of the year; it was a challenging practical session for all involved.

Year 12 Product Design and Engineering students have enhanced their understanding of the wider world of engineering and design by undertaking 2 visits this term. The first was to Bournemouth University where students visited the Festival of Design and Engineering which saw final year design and engineering students from the university present their final year projects. The visit gave the students an insight into what studying these subjects at university might look like.



The second visit they undertook was to Eaton Mission Systems in Wimborne. The students were shown around the shop floor including their testing and firing ranges and were able to see firsthand their manufacturing processes. They also met with several engineers and designers to learn about their roles and find out about their careers and how they got to be doing the jobs they do now. Whilst there they also got chance to try air-to-air refuelling on a flight simulator though none could beat our newest Technology Teacher Miss Gaynard for speed.

And finally, this term's Technology Greenwood Awards for excellence went to, Jacob M at KS5, Scarlett S at KS4 and Fayrouz A at KS3. Well done to all 3 students who have shown excellence in the subject throughout this term.



BUSINESS STUDIES

This term Year 12 Business students have been improving their oracy skills through assessed presentations. The two tasks this term have been focused on applying Porter's Strategic Matrix and Ansoff's Matrix to multinational businesses such as IKEA.

Firstly, the students had to complete a formal presentation on whether IKEA should expand further in India or concentrate on their core markets in developed economies. Not only did the students have to produce an industry standard presentation and speak convincingly to their audience, but they had to add a touch of humour to the proceedings. This helped engage the audience and aided in making a complex topic palatable. Well done to our A Level Business students for some excellent presentations.

Secondly, they had to develop their literacy skills through the production of a display analysing a multinational company using Porter's Strategic Matrix. The display had to convince the viewer that they had presented a clear and coherent analysis of the generic strategy. Their work was thoughtful and balanced and offered prompted some excellent discussions.



GCSE & A Level Art Exhibition as part of St Edward's Fringe

Our Year 11 and Year 13 art students worked incredibly hard to produce their Externally Set Assignment work which is the final component of the GCSE and A Level Art and Design courses.

A diverse range of imaginative and creative work has been produced and it was therefore wonderful to celebrate the student's achievements at the summer art show. The show was an opportunity for the GCSE and A Level students to show their work to their family and friends and for staff to celebrate the amazing art outcomes with the class of 2025. The A level students spend a great deal of time putting their own work up and we would also like to thank the site team and the art department for their hard work preparing the exhibition rooms and screens, the work looked stunning.

In a second art room alongside the exhibition visitors to the Fringe were invited to participate in art activities, such as becoming a living moving art work by letting our students paint you with face and body paint or contributing to a large scale joint artwork responding to the Lubaina Himid piece 'Lost Threads', that all our Year 7 students saw first hand at Salisbury Cathedral.

The Josh Taylor Memorial Prize



An annual highlight of the art exhibition is the announcement of the winner of The Josh Taylor Memorial Prize. The Prize was set up to commemorate the life of Josh Taylor, a talented artist and former A Level student. The prize celebrates both Josh's artistic talent and the talent of students at the end of their A level course. This year we would like to thank Sian Samuel, a former teacher of Art, Photography and Graphics at St Edward's who selected the winner. Congratulations go to Gabriella M who is this year's winner of the Josh Taylor Memorial Prize.

Visit to AUB Summer Shows

The Year 10 and 12 artists and a few year 9 who have selected art as a GCSE option will be visiting the Undergraduate degree shows at The Arts University Bournemouth. Students will have the opportunity to view a range of work in Textiles, Model making, Architecture, Fine art and illustration. The visit will allow students to see a wide range of inspiring work in a range of media and also introduced our students to the wide range of creative courses on offer at degree level.

Year 7 Salisbury Trip

During the Year 7 trip to Salisbury Cathedral all the Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to discuss and respond to the art exhibition and in particular the work of Lubaina Himid or the Prisoners of Conscience Window and the Amnesty International Candle, in the Trinity Chapel. We were very impressed with the engagement and creative response of our Year 7 students, in fact as they worked directly from Lubana Himid's piece in the cloisters a number of members of the public commented on their engagement and on the exciting and interesting work being produced.

Year 10 and Year 12 Art Mocks

Our Year 10 and Year 12 artists have been working hard right up to the end of term as the art mocks are completed later than the other subjects. We would like to congratulate the Year 10 and Year 12 students for their preparation and hard work during their mocks, some excellent work was produced and the students made really good use of the time allocated. Well done!

Have a Spectacular Summer!



St Edward's
School



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

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