



# St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

# WINTER NEWSLETTER

## *In This Issue*

**The term's round ups  
from our subject leaders**

**A word from our Governors**

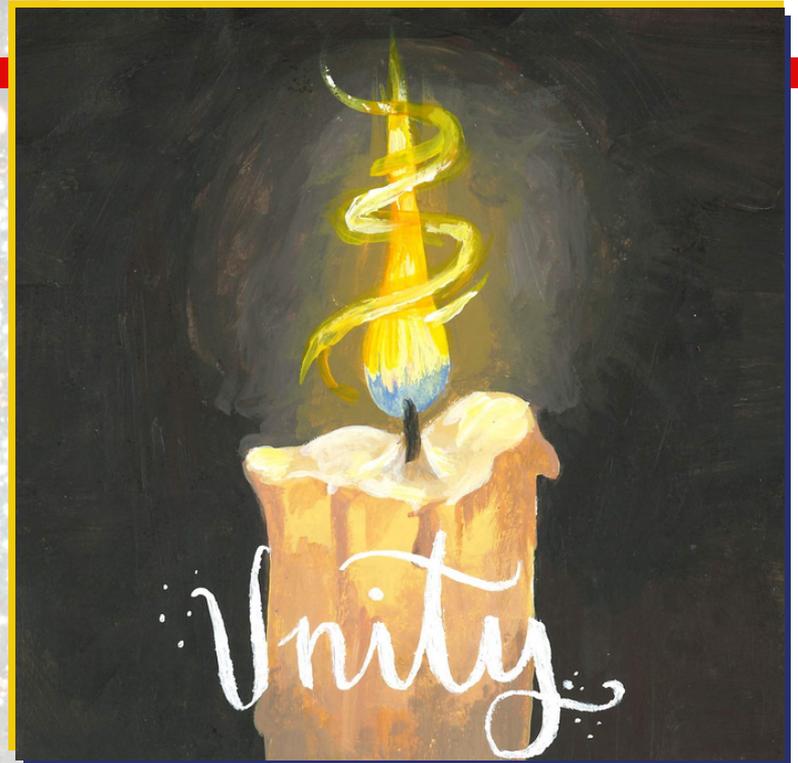
**Christmas messages**

***Introduction from Mr Antram***

Dear Parents and Carers,

We began this term with a celebration of 60 successful years as a school. It is our uniqueness as a joint-church maintained school, and our philosophy of learning, that makes us the most over-subscribed school in BCP year on year. Whilst earlier this year I had to set aside plans for a new dining hall due to rising material costs, we nonetheless have a strong capital position, and are busy developing plans for the transformation of various parts of the school campus, sustaining it as a happy and well-resourced centre for the flourishing of our students and staff. In the new year we will begin by implementing plans to transform the hall into a new performance space as part of our commitment to placing creativity at the heart of our provision for learning. A range of other exciting projects are planned.

Our staff team have continued to give their time and expertise to ensuring a rich and varied curriculum. We are unique in continuing to offer foreign exchange visits, and these, together with World Challenge opportunities, the full suite of Duke of Edinburgh award



programmes, and a host of other extra-curricular opportunities, make the St Edward's curriculum rich, varied and exciting. We always remember that we are educating for life, and not just examinations.

As Christmas approaches, I look back with great pride, and thankfulness for all that we achieve together week by week. I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



*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.



### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

The end of this term will see changes to the Governing Body. Fay Perrins has been elected as parent governor, Mark Halling appointed as a co-opted governor and we hope to confirm the appointment of a new foundation governor soon.

Governors at St Edward's have skills, expertise and experience in many areas and are supportive of the school as well as having the capacity to challenge when required.

We wish the staff, students, parents, carers and all supporters of the school a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2024.

*Mr W Jones*  
Chair of Governors

## Introduction from Mr Barnett

Dear Parents and Carers,

It doesn't seem like long ago that we were welcoming students back from their summer holidays and, as always, the term goes by so quickly. We have had so much to celebrate and to be thankful for this term with students and staff throwing themselves into everything they do with such enthusiasm and determination.

Our new Year 7s have settled into school so well and it's been lovely to see them making new friends, building strong relationships with staff, and embedding themselves into the school community. Year 10 and Year 12 have also had an excellent start to their courses and with Term 1 of 5 now complete, I'm sure they will build on the knowledge and skills they have gained over the past fourteen weeks.

St Edward's remains a special place to learn, develop and work. We are still heavily oversubscribed, with waiting lists in every year group which is a testament to our students when they are both in and out of school, and to our staff who work tirelessly to make St Edward's the place it is.

This term has been extremely busy with a large number of whole school and year group events. In November we hosted 31 different employers as part of our Careers Fayre held in the sports hall. All students were able to visit the fayre and have conversations with a range of businesses, apprenticeship providers and universities. We have had trips go out to Bournemouth University, AFC Bournemouth, Southampton Mayflower, Exeter Racecourse (Physics Challenge) and Lush, as well as hosting 25 German students as part of our exchange programme, to name just a few.

We have also seen large numbers of students participate in extra curricular activities this term with 33 different opportunities for students to access. This is such an important part of our offer, as we educate our young people to live a life in all its fullness. To date we have seen 404 boys and 507 girls attend clubs with many names appearing more than once due to students attending multiple sessions. This is an amazing number of students making the most of the activities on offer. Please do encourage your young people to take advantage of the many opportunities provided outside of the normal curriculum. It enriches them so much and allows them to interact with different people and experience different things.

At the start of October, we were honoured to be asked by The Bishop of Salisbury to design the Christmas card

that he will be sending out this year, based on the theme of 'May We Be One.' Entries were opened to all year groups and we had some brilliant designs submitted. Due to the quality of entries, the Bishop selected 5 winners and these designs have been included in a montage and can be seen in many churches, offices and homes around the Diocese.

As I mentioned in my September letter, the relationship between school and home continues to be a real strength and I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for that. As we come back in the new year, we will continue to ensure we have a high focus on standards and ask for your ongoing support with our school dress code. We will continue to help those who may find purchasing uniform more challenging, and I would ask that you contact the school if this is the case. We will be continuing to lend students laundered uniform and shoes if they have been unable to wear the correct uniform. As a reminder, it is important that your child is in black school shoes and not black trainers.

In our Mission statement, we commit to ensuring all the young people in our school are 'educated for life in all its fullness.' We are reminded of this particular aspect at this time of year. As we celebrate Christmas, take a moment to remember that this is meant to be more than simply an enjoyable season of our year, but instead, an experience that shapes every part of our lives. 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 forwards with excitement and anticipation as we continue this journey together. All the Staff and Governors wish all our families a happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

*Mr C Barnett*  
Headteacher



## JOYEUX NOËL! FROHE WEIHNACHTEN!

We are delighted that, following a 3-year hiatus, this term marked the return of our school's valuable and successful exchange programmes. In October, we were visited by staff and students from the Gymnasium am Kaiserdom school in Speyer for the first leg of this year's German Exchange. Then, on 30th November, our students flew to Frankfurt airport, with coach travel to Speyer, for our return trip to Germany, giving our students the opportunity to spend time with their exchange partners and their families, and to fully immerse themselves in the life and culture of Europe's largest country.

During the trip students spent time in Speyer, a historic medieval town that sat at the heart of Holy Roman Empire, and also visited the beautiful city of Heidelberg and the state capital, Mainz. They experienced lessons in our partner school, and had plenty of opportunities to enjoy the incredibly warm welcome on offer in what is a very anglophile country, as well as to sample many of the local culinary delights, especially at some of the wonderful Christmas markets that can be found in every population centre in Germany at this time of year. Particularly stunning was Mainz due to heavy snowfall whilst we were there.



Whilst our exchanges were put on hold during the pandemic, we were determined to maintain our links abroad, so Mrs North began a letter exchange with our German partner school, with students in

Year 7 exchanging hand written letters with counterparts in Germany. Although our full exchange is now back up and running, this has continued, and it was wonderful for Mrs North to be able to hand deliver the latest set of letters to the German students whilst we were in Speyer. As the photos below show, the students were delighted to receive their letters.

There are very few schools in this area, especially in the state sector, who offer full exchange experiences to their students, and we are very proud that we continue to do so despite the significant challenges involved. No other trip abroad offers the full cultural and linguistic immersion that exchanges provide and it has been a delight to watch our students thrive in Germany. We now look forward with real excitement to our French Exchange, which is taking place in March and June of 2024.



SCENE II.] This is the sergeant, fou  
who, like a good and hardy soldier, fou  
Mal. like a good and hardy soldier, fou  
who, like a good and hardy soldier, fou  
Must the king the knowledge of the b  
at leave it. Doubtfully it sto  
that do clin

## Autumn Term English Curriculum

At **KS3** students have all been studying a variety of novels this term. In Year 7 students have been enjoying 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo, a novel based on World War 1 and have also studied some war poetry. In Year 8, students have been enjoying the novel 'Boy 87' which tells the story of a young boy called Shif. Set in an unnamed country this novel tells of the realities of life as a refugees. Students have also studied some poetry on the theme of refugees. In Year 9 student have been enjoying the scary and gothic text 'The Woman in Black'. Students have also had a go at writing their own gothic stories.

At **KS4** Year 10 have started their English GCSE courses with a literature text, studying the Post-1914 play 'An Inspector Calls'. Students have enjoyed taking on the role of characters and reading their parts in the play. Most recently they have been introduced to some aspects of the Language Paper. In Year 11 students have studied their final literature text which is Shakespeare's play 'Macbeth'. They have also studied some more of their anthology poems and obviously been busy preparing for their mock exams. Year 11 Revision was launched this term and the Year 11 team are really pleased with the commitment shown from Year 11 students to these sessions. Well done Year 11!

## SPARX Reader

This term has seen the launch of SPARX reader across the whole school. the English team have been delighted with students' participation and engagement with this new platform which we are using for home learning. In every lesson teachers regularly review their classes progress with their SPARX reading and issue virtues accordingly. Thank you to you to parents and carers for your support with SPARX too. It is so important that students can read fluently and accurately in order that they can make the best progress they can in all their subjects so we know it will benefit our students. It has been great to see so many

gaining their 'Gold Reader' status.

## Key Stage Five

Our KS5 Literature students have been exploring their drama texts this Autumn term. Year 12 have been reading Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' and year 13 have been reading Goldsmith's comedy 'She Stoops to Conquer'. Literature students took part in a workshop with Charmaine K, a director of a local theatre company, 'SISATA', who had just directed 'The Tempest' at The Lighthouse as well as a re-telling of the play on Portland. The students had the opportunity to explore acting techniques, perform parts of the play and try on costumes. Year 13 Language have been exploring language change over time and considering different perceptions of our language from its very beginnings. Year 12 have been exploring how context affects meaning and language and gender, including debating such questions as 'do women really talk more than men?'



# 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. We have also witnessed some of our students in Years 8 and 9 being awarded their Bronze badge as part of the Faith in Action reward scheme, the first students in our school to have achieved this!



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. This provided a particularly poignant moment as the school also celebrated its 60th Anniversary during that unit of study. 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 there to support them if they ever need it. After completing a unit that focused around the concept of vocation, 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. Year 9 found the study of a range of both religious and secular ethical theories particularly engaging and

since been reflecting on how best to solve moral dilemmas in their own lives and have started an in-depth study of Islamic beliefs and practices. By the time this newsletter is published, Harry Vincent (our School Life Pastor) will have guided our Year 9 students through an Advent Reflection and will have been given the opportunity to think about the importance of hope, peace, joy and love in their lives.

A new RE curriculum has been launched in Year 10 with an aim of maximising progress in lessons and removing repeated content from overlapping units. We would like to particularly thank Miss Cooper for all of her hard work with this (it has been far from an easy task!) We would also like to thank Mr Farrow for speaking to the whole of Year 10 to explain the historical complexities of the Israel-Gaza conflict so that students are more able to understand the events that have taken place in that region over the last few months.

Once again we have been privileged to benefit from visits from the PACE (Programme for Applied Christian Education) team in a variety of RE lessons. A particular highlight was a series of Year 11 lessons that debated the compatibility of Christianity and Humanism and featured a guest speaker from Humanists UK.



In the Sixth Form, a relatively large class of Year 12 students have made an enthusiastic start to their study of A-Level RE and have already started to evaluate a number of high-level concepts such as Rationalism, Empiricism, Utilitarianism, Kantianism and Augustinian theories concerning human nature. Planning is also under way to repeat the residential trip for Year 12 RE students to Quarr Abbey on the Isle of White during the Summer term.

As we wrap up an eventful and festive term, we're excited to share some highlights from our bustling maths department. The spirit of the season has truly infused our halls with joy, determination, and a touch of mathematical magic!

## Maths Challenge Clubs: A Triumph Led by Sixth Formers!

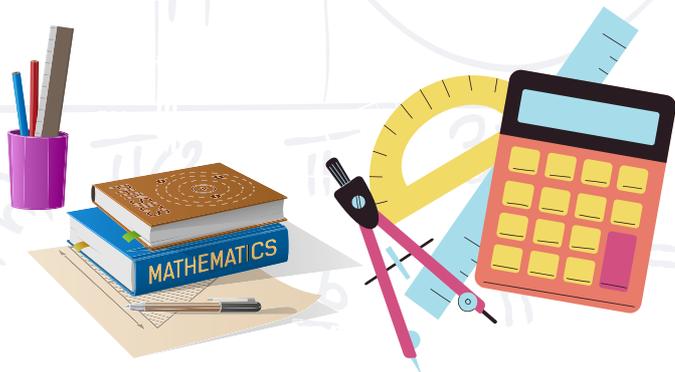
Our dedicated sixth formers have been running Maths Challenge Clubs, where students delve into the world of problem-solving and logical thinking. It's heartwarming to see the senior students fostering a love for mathematics among their peers.

## Year 7: A Stellar First Term!

A resounding cheer goes out to our incredible Year 7 students who have made this term truly special. Thriving in their sets, they've embraced the challenges of secondary school with enthusiasm and determination. Their academic achievements have set a high standard for the rest of the school to follow.

## KS4 and KS5: Triumphs and Trials in Mock Exams

Our older students in Key Stages 4 and 5 have navigated the sea of mock exams with resilience and determination. While some complaints about the challenging nature of the exams have reached our ears, we commend our students for facing adversity head-on. These experiences will undoubtedly prepare them for success in their future exams. Pupils in years 11 and 13 have received support documents via email to support with revision.



## Thank You, Parents and Carers!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the parents and carers who have supported our students and staff throughout this term. Your involvement, encouragement, and partnership are invaluable in fostering a positive learning environment.

## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

As we approach the festive season, the entire maths department wishes you a joyous Christmas filled with warmth and laughter. May the holidays bring you moments of relaxation and reflection, surrounded by the love of family and friends.

## Looking Forward to 2024!

The maths team is eager to welcome our pupils back in 2024 for another exciting term of learning, growth, and discovery. We anticipate a year filled with new challenges, achievements, and the joy of mathematical exploration.

May your holiday season be merry and bright!

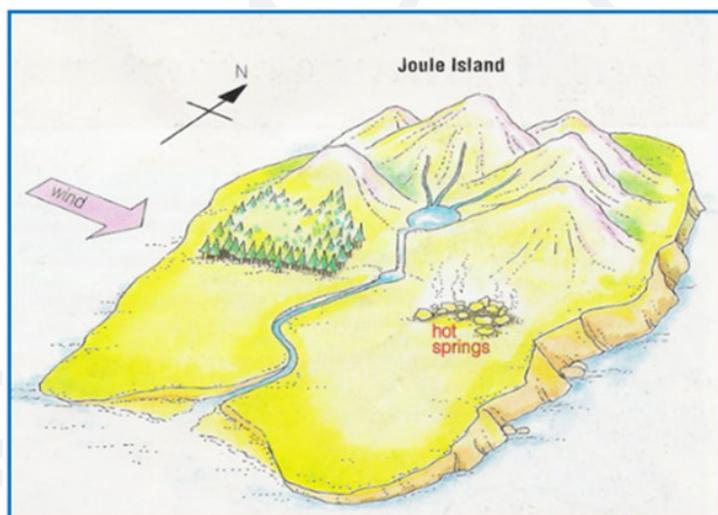


In Science this term our new Year 7 students have been acquiring the skills for safe and effective practical work and learning how to conduct a scientific investigation. This involves learning the basics such as the common hazards and risks in a lab, using Bunsen burners safely, as well as what variables are, how to control them, the best way to collect scientific data and analyse it to draw reliable conclusions. They will now be putting their new-found skills into practice by working towards their Science Proficiency, where they use these techniques in their lessons to earn their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards throughout Key Stage 3. To assist in this process, we have our newly recruited Science Mentors. A group of Sixth Form science role models who have offered to lend their skills and expertise to enhance the science capital of the youngest students new to the school. They will soon also be involved in the running of extra-curricular Science Club in the next half-term.

Many Year 8 classes have been getting stuck into some hands-on chemistry in the acids and alkalis topic. They have learned how to make their own indicator at home using red cabbage, which can then be used to test the pH of various household liquids. Others have been making their own beautiful blue copper sulphate crystals by heating sulphuric acid, adding copper oxide and then filtering out the excess. They then gently heated the mixture using a water bath to evaporate any water to leave the crystals behind. One of my personal favourite practicals!



In the first Half Term, Year 9 learned about Respiration and its role in energy transfer in animals and microorganisms. This included a Great British Bake-off themed investigation to find the optimum temperature for a proving drawer when making dough for bread. Students loved seeing how the messy, bubbly albeit slightly smelly, yeasty mixture rose as it respired and released carbon dioxide making it rise before their eyes. They have also been working on the “Joule Island Project” where they were presented with a challenge to provide sustainable energy for a camp for a period of three year. This would involve considering how to provide energy to heat the huts, supply hot water, cook food, light the buildings at night, produce electricity to run equipment and keep the medicine stocks cool in an electric fridge.



Our GCSE and A-Level students have been heavily involved in enquiry-based learning, through the required practical activities that feature frequently throughout their courses. They also have worked tirelessly to achieve highly in their recent mock exams for which all students deserve praise for such diligence in preparing so well for these.

Mr Keene and Mrs. Ruby recently took two teams of A Level physics students to battle it out against 18 other schools and colleges across the South West in the Key Stage 5 Physics Challenge hosted by the Exeter Mathematics School. Both Teams performed really well and all participants showed

# SCIENCE

many of the virtues we promote in our school community, but especially creativity, resilience and teamwork. One of the teams was awarded the “Ogden Award of Excellence” in recognition of their engagement and achievement throughout the day. Well Done to all involved! In other news, at least 3 of our Year 12 students have been accepted onto the STEM SMART scheme, which will hopefully lead to an offer to attend a residential course at The University of Cambridge, giving them an insight into what it is like to study a STEM subject at a top university. We’ll keep our fingers crossed and hope they gain this hugely valuable opportunity that could help shape their futures.



My thanks go to all science staff and students for all their hard work this term. They have certainly earned their Christmas Holidays this year! Well done to all and have a very merry and restful Christmas!

# DRAMA

In September, St Edward’s Shakespeare Society performed a modernised version of *The Tempest*, directed by Ms Sinnott and Hope Greetham. Originally an outdoor performance, the crew made last minute changes to move everything inside the school hall due to a torrential rainstorm... Typical! Although this meant that most scenes had to be completely redirected, they now had access to the lighting and sound equipment to bring the theatrical illusions to life! The cast performed over two nights, bringing humour with comedic duos, adventure with the noblemen and a destined romance. The performance was a huge success and every member, either cast or crew, should be very proud of what they achieved in the limited time they had!

Year 11 Drama Students performed their devised



pieces in November, in front of an audience of parents, carers and friends. We were all blown away by their innovative ideas and their performance skills. This is the first time we have showcased examination work, and it was so successful, we will definitely repeat this in coming years.

Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 Drama Students were all treated to a terrifying performance of *Woman in Black* at Lighthouse, Poole on 23rd November. This gave the opportunity for the students to experience a professional production, which was not only invaluable for their written work on evaluating live performance, but also to experience the skills of a professional actor.



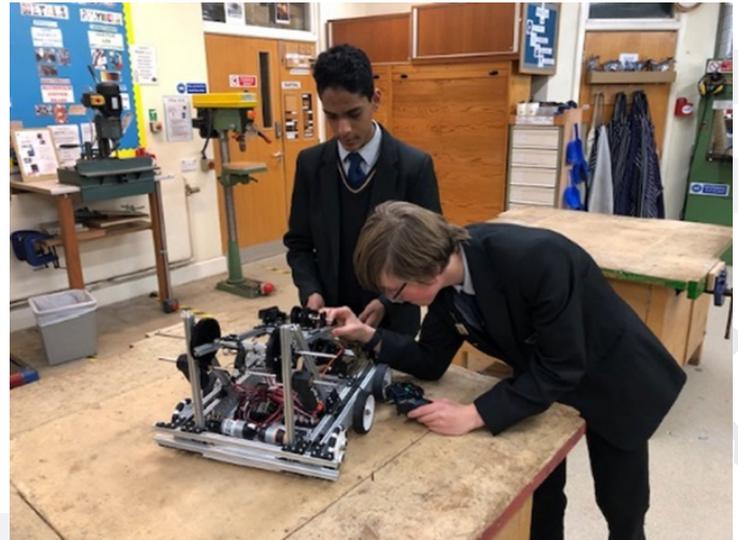
In September we welcomed Miss Duke to St Edwards to lead Graphics in the department. Miss Duke brings a wealth of skills to our team, and we are already seeing Graphics grow and develop within the department.

September saw the re-introduction of A Level Product Design with a cohort of 6 students starting the course. The students have recently been involved in a workshop with AUB organised by Miss Duke which taught the students how to use different design strategies and to encourage divergent thinking. The skills they have learnt from this workshop will help develop their design ideas when their NEA is launched in the new year.



It's been a busy term in the department and on Friday 17th November the KS4 Food students took part in the National Fish Heroes program. We successfully bid for £80 of fresh mussels which were delivered to school and students spent the day cooking with them. The opportunity gave the students the experience of cleaning, preparing, and cooking a range of new dishes. The students learnt about sustainability, nutritional content, and the versatility of mussels. They made Thai Green Curry Mussels, Moule Mariniere and Italian Mussels with the delivery. The students did really well, it was a new experience for many of them and a lot of them overcame their concerns over trying shellfish and really enjoyed them.

Mrs Scott has taken over the reins in Robotics this term and Year 7 and 8 groups have been learning how to program BBC Microbits. A group of Year 7 enthusiastic coders have also been attending a new Year 7 Robotics' club introduced on a Thursday after school. They have been exploring how to use the Microbits to program radio-controlled cars and have enjoyed taking part in their own robot battles as well.



The robot theme has continued across the department with the school joining the First Tech Challenge. The challenge is designed to enable students to explore the fascinating world of robotics and automation. Through the year students will be encouraged to discover their potential, develop valuable skills, and make lifelong memories. The WeR1 team is made up of Year 8 and 9 students and having built their robot will be competing in the regional "Cosmic Collision" scrimmage at the end of this term and the regional competition in March.

This term also saw BTEC Level 3 students visit Bournemouth University for an Engineering taster day. Students took part in a lecture and were shown how to test materials in the Universities material testing lab.

The day gave the students an insight into a career in engineering as well as giving them an opportunity to enhance their understanding of material properties by seeing first hand the role testing plays in material selection.



## Set props for the St Edward's production of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, created by Art students.



## AUB talk on how to Develop your Portfolio

Year 11 and sixth form students who wish to follow a creative pathway were invited to attend a talk given by staff and students from The Arts University Bournemouth on how to develop your portfolio. The students were given top tips, shown lots of examples and given an explanation of what creative universities and creative industries look for in a portfolio. Two student ambassadors from the Arts University then shared their own portfolio with the students and took questions, these were Emrys a 3rd year animation student and Manali a 2nd year fine art student.

## Careers insight with Thomas J Price

Thomas J Price is a contemporary sculptor who is currently exhibiting his work at the V&A gallery. Our sixth form students were able to hear Thomas talk about his work during a career's insight organised by the V&A. The event also featured an introduction to the V&A sculpture collection by the curator Laura Chase. After talking about his work, his ideas and his career path he took questions. We were delighted when he answered questions from two of our A Level students, George Large and Tash Ellis.

## Postcard Exchange Project

After the success of the Postcard exchange last year we were delighted to hear that the British Embassy Dublin and British Council in Ireland had agreed to support another creative postcard

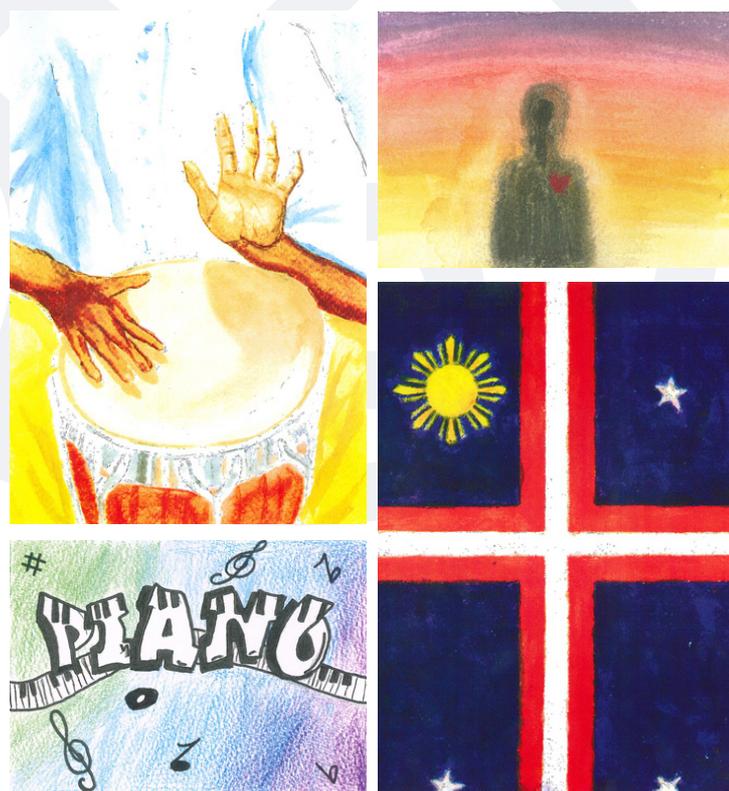
exchange this year. Because the time frame was shorter this year the number of participating schools needed to be reduced so we were delighted when we were again invited to take part. The theme for this year's exchange is **'Identity'**. Our Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 artists all created designs exploring this theme in different ways and produced postcard size work. Twenty postcards have now been selected to be part of the exhibition in The British Embassy in Dublin.

We would like to congratulate the following students whose work was selected:

From Year 9: Elsie Redgwell, Lilly Sykes, Logan Dixon, Harvey Jebb, Ava McCarthy, Nathan Underwood, Jamie-Leigh Arnold, Adam Kubicki, Zack Boyle, Alice Eames, Scarlett Sutcliffe, Tia Clarke, Mia Zengarini, Ash Short, Chloe Manundo, Olivia Robinson, Alice Washbrook, Freya Sheldon-Cox, Isabella Sinclair, Eden Hayes and Menna Aly.

From Year 10: Woody Harris, Charlotte Moyes, Ebrima Bah, Pawel Sabat and Hattie Brazier.

From Year 12: Mary Bielousova, Wes Brodie, George Large and Riley Parfitt.



After the exhibition the postcards will be 'exchanged' and our students' work will be sent to a student in a participating school and we will receive postcards from other schools in return.

## Christmas Art Competitions

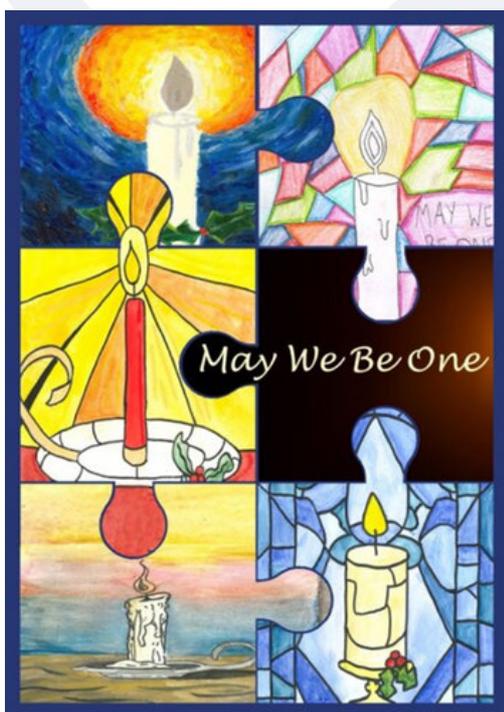
### Episcopal Christmas Card 2024

Each year the Bishop of Salisbury sends Christmas cards to clergy, lay leaders, schools, community groups and many more throughout the Diocese. This year we were delighted to be asked by the Bishop of Salisbury, Stephen Lake to design the Episcopal Christmas card.

We would like to thank all the students who submitted entries. The standard was exceptionally high and we had hundreds of entries.

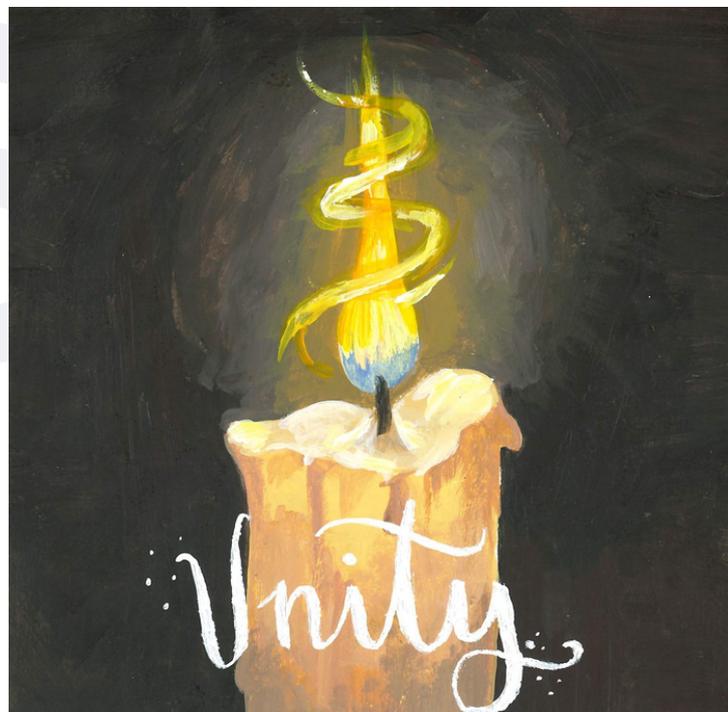
The Christmas card, selected by the Bishop of Salisbury shows the work of five students. Congratulations to the following students:

- Sophia Crago - Y7
- Eva Lake - Y8
- Lacey Jackson - Y10
- Ava Farbridge - Y10
- Ava Sollazzo - Y10



### School Christmas Card Design

The Executive Headteacher has also selected the winning design for our school Christmas card. Congratulations to Lilia Catford in Year 11!



### School Concert Poster Design

Congratulations also do to Gabriella Malczewski whose design was selected as the design for our Christmas Concert.

As already mentioned, the standard was incredibly high this year and the following students were all very highly commended for their entries: Lucas Carpenter, Tash Ellis, Amy Cox and Jenna Peters-Simmons.



Music has been bustling with energy, creativity and spirit this term as students settle into what is a busy and active department. With a revitalised extra-curricular timetable, an amazing sign-up of instrumental lessons and some fantastic performances for the Christmas concert, we are very excited about the upcoming opportunities for our young people.

We started the term with some African Drumming with Year 9, who all had an opportunity to participate with Cheik Diop, a renowned percussion musician, creative mind behind 'Rhythm Generation'. It was evident that all students thoroughly enjoyed their workshops and the knowledge and experience really helped them accelerate their progress in later lessons.



'PraisEd' is a brand new worship band which has been rehearsing various worship songs and is sounding amazing. A big thank you to the students involved and we are excited to see where we get to perform, we're hoping some of the future liturgies, or school celebrations who would like a musical act of worship!

Both choir and the school band has grown by the tens and we proudly have a 40+ strong choir and 30+ strong orchestra, including guitars, trombones, trumpets, clarinets, violins, to name but a few! If you are interested in starting an instrument or joining the choir or band please get in touch!



We proudly performed in the Poole Schools Music Association's Christmas Concert this year at The Lighthouse on Thursday 7th December. Music took 25 students (singers and musicians) to perform on the stage of the Concert Hall along with 10+ other secondary and primary schools. It was the first time in 3 years that the PSMA have got together to perform back at the Lighthouse so it was really exciting to bring that Christmas spirit to a 1500-strong audience.



The St Edward's Christmas Concert was a little different this year as we were hosted by St Mary's Church on Wimborne Road. In the past, our concerts were at St George's Church, Oakdale, so a change of scenery was exciting! It was a lovely celebration of carols and students' talent, and our students did us proud.

We do hope all of our valued musicians enjoy a pleasant Christmas break, and Ms Stacey and I (Mrs Keene) look forward to welcoming them back for a new term of rehearsals, workshops, performances and of course, the Belgium Music Tour!

Do you know that fast fashion is a major contributor of global emissions? Are you aware that most of the clothing we buy from clothing retailers such as Zara and ASOS use planes to transport their ranges of clothing?

These are some of the issues Year 13 Business and Year 9 Geography students will be investigating next term. Year 13 Business students been given the challenge of investigating the clothing industry for their final examination. This involves the clothing retail market and manufacturing of clothes.

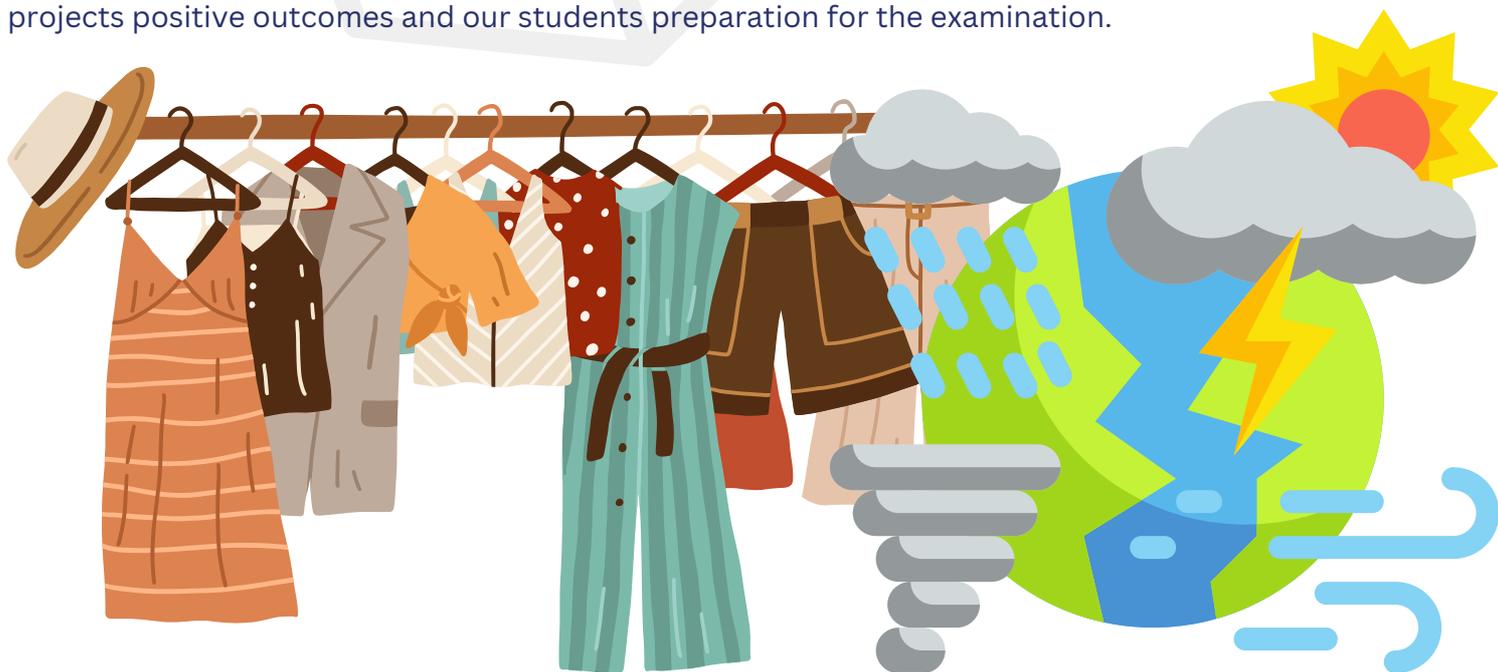
Businesses today in the apparel market must operate in rapidly changing conditions. They can no longer rely on a constant stream of customers, the same production process or selling the same product over a long period. They must constantly be aware of, and be prepared to respond to, change in several areas.

Global multinational companies currently being investigated by the students include SHEIN, Benetton, Versace, Jimmy Choo, Zara, Next, and Ted Baker. They will have to consider manufacturing methods, distribution, financial performance, and the key entrepreneurs within the industry. In addition a comparison and contrast will be made with smaller independent clothing companies in the local Dorset area. Hopefully we can encourage local companies to support the students in their research.

As part of the research the Business Department will be collaborating with the Geography Department. Geography undertakes a unit of study in Year 9 on clothing with a particular focus on the environmental and ethical issues. The ethical side will be a key element of focus for both Year groups within the clothing industry.

Business and Geography students will deeply understand how a company can not only work for profit but also work environment. They will analyse the importance of ethical sourcing and its positive impact on the climate change crisis. In this aspect, they will also investigate several ethical independent fashion businesses such as People Tree and Level Collective.

As a parent or carer, if you are involved in the fashion industry or would like to contribute to our project, please let us know. We believe local community, parent and carer participation will strengthen our projects positive outcomes and our students preparation for the examination.



# 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 their first practical assignment in the topics of Social Influence and Psychopathology, specifically investigating if there is a gender, culture or age difference in obedience levels and finding out the extent to which people experience fears. Meanwhile, Year 13 have been enjoying their Biopsychology topic which has enabled students to feed their curiosity about the complex workings of the brain. 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.

This term, students have also been taking advantage of the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom and gain a true insight into University life. At the end of October, Year 12 and Year 13 students visited the Psychology department at Bournemouth University where they enjoyed a campus tour, as well as talks about student life and the merits of studying at Higher Education. The highlight of the trip was a series of mini lectures delivered by professors from the Psychology Department focussing on topics such as Forensic Psychology and Perceptions, including a discussion around 'that' infamous dress!



# SOCIOLOGY

It's been a busy term for the Sociology department. Our Year 12 groups are settling well into the rhythms of sixth form study as we explore the familiar area of Education but from the new sociological angle. Students have looked at a range of different perspectives on the purpose of education, the impact of government policy on schools, the different educational outcomes for students based on gender, ethnicity and class and the importance of relationships and processes in schools. Students had the opportunity to pose questions to subject leaders about gender and A-level subject choice and attainment which gave us some interesting insights on our local picture.

Year 13 have reached the end of the popular Crime and Deviance unit. We were fortunate enough to have the (now annual!) session with local magistrate, Rachel Small JP. She explained the role of a magistrate and gave students guidance on sentencing for a great case study. The session was excellent preparation for our trips to Poole Magistrates' Court where we spent the morning watching justice in action! Our hosts, three serving magistrates over the two days, were generous with their time and in sharing their knowledge and passion for their role. They explained the fascinating processes as they were happening and the various roles of the people within a Magistrates' Court. The trips provided a great insight into just how engaging and wide-ranging careers within the CJS really are.



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

It has been a fantastic start to the year in Computer Science and it has been a pleasure to both welcome and give our best wishes to Mr Marshall who has joined us as a trainee teacher for the Autumn term. All the students have come back this year with such positivity towards their studies and we have really enjoyed working with them this term so far and look forward to continuing on this journey with them throughout the year.

## Key Stage 3

The highlight of Key Stage 3 so far this year has been the annual Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. This challenge is run in conjunction with Oxford University and all our Key Stage 3 students participated over a 2-week period in November.

The students were excellent in their attitude and showed great resilience when completing the challenge, which centres around problem-solving and logical thinking.

Special congratulations to Rhys Woldon and Ben Adams who were best in school in Year 7 and Years 8-9 respectively.

## Key Stage 4

It has been really positive to see Year 10 and Year 11 both start out on and continue their GCSE learning journeys respectively. Year 10 have started out well with their studies with a different exam board to the Year 11s, Edexcel in place of OCR. They have so far been working through the Data topic, along with a number of elements of the Programming and Computational Thinking topics. Year 11 are sitting their mocks at time of writing, which will be a great chance to see where they are currently and what they need to work on to further improve. I have been really impressed with their attitude towards the exams, so a massive well done to them!



## Key Stage 5

Year 12 have started out excellently in their A Level studies and I have been really impressed with the commitment and dedication that they have shown so far this year. They have covered a number of new programming concepts, Binary and Data Representation so far and are now moving onto Algorithms and Theory of Computation. Year 13 have also just sat their mocks and will now be focussing on their NEA Programming Project, learning all about the new Skeleton Code for this Summer's exam and revision of theory content for the rest of the year.



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

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

As always, the PE department has been extremely busy. Here are just some of the many, many headlines from this term!

## Netball

- We hosted a Year 11 Netball tournament, and had 3 teams participating. Various schools attended from around the local area, and it was a great success
- We have 4 teams involved in an ongoing Year 10 Netball tournament, including a boys team
- Year 9 are also involved in their own Netball tournament, with St Edward's being represented by both A and B teams.
- Students Eva Harris, Cassie Wilkinson and Amelia Spaulding are now playing regional netball and thriving!
- Years 7 and 8 won their fixtures against Magna Academy this term, and are due to start their leagues in the new year
- We competed in the PEDSSA Y11 and Y9 Netball tournament. Our teams showed a lot of grit, but unfortunately weren't able to progress
- Our Sixth Form Netball team also played in their PEDSSA tournament at Canford School, and came in 4th

## Exceptional Success

One of our students, Charlotte Purchase, is a Trampolinist at the national level, and recently achieved Gold in the South West, qualifying at Level 4. She also won Gold at Double Mini Tramp at Level 3.

## Girls Football

Our Year 8 Girls have progressed to the next round of the County Cup after beating Magna Academy. Year 7 are due to play their games in the new year

## Boys Football

- Our Sixth Form team won their first round of the County Cup, and are awaiting to play the next round



- Our Year 7 Boys put up a valiant effort, but ultimately lost to Poole Grammar
- St Edward's Year 8 Boys beat Magna Academy and are in the 2nd round of County Cup
- Year 10s are also in the second round of County Cup against Gryphon School
- Our Year 11s were tragically knocked out of the County Cup by Bournemouth Grammar

## Rugby tournament

We held a Year 7 & 8 Rugby tournament, where students were encouraged to get involved and learn the game, and develop their confidence.

## Basketball

We have all sorts of Basketball fixtures lined up for the new year, against Corfe Hills among various other schools.

## GCSE/OCR

We would like to say a huge congratulations to the Year 10s who have made an excellent start to their exam courses, with large amounts attending clubs and representing the school excellently.

## Sports Leadership

We look 5 young ambassadors to a Sports Leadership day where they were lead by elite athletes, and accompanied by a group of dancers.

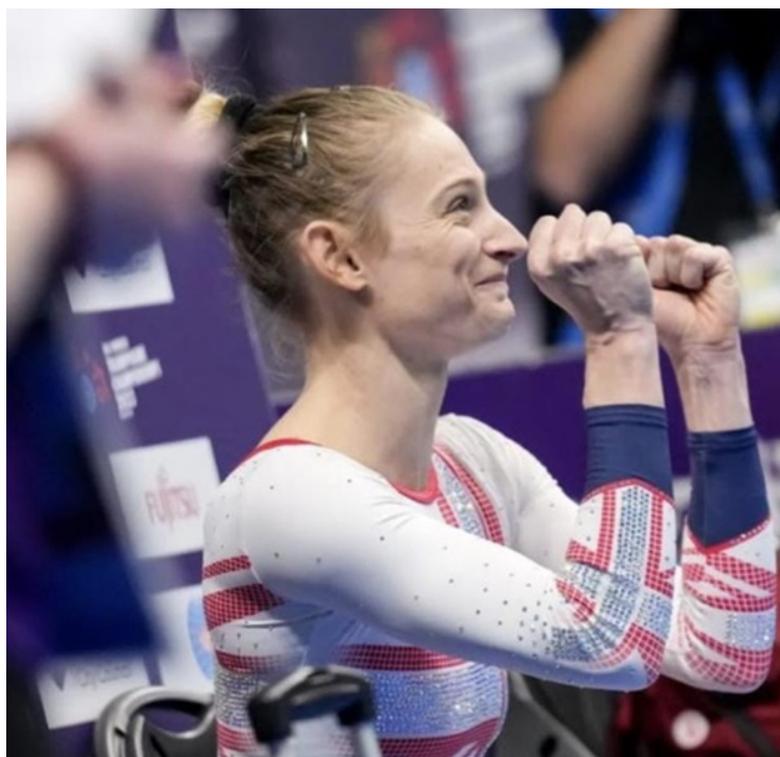
# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Sports presentation evening

Bryony Page, the Guest Speaker from our 2023 Sports Presentation Evening, won Gold medal at the 2023 Trampoline Gymnastics World Championships in Birmingham, making her the World and European Champion.

## Clubs

We have been blessed with an overwhelming number of students attending a whole range of clubs this term, with Netball, Badminton, Basketball and Volleyball having well over 40-60 students in each session. Thank you so much to all our dedicated students, and the parents and carers who spur them on to keep achieving!







St Edward's  
School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

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