



# St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

## *In This Issue*

**French Exchanges, Jazz Workshops  
& Public Speaking Success**

**Recognition of Artistic Excellence**

## *Introduction from Mr Antram*

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Spring term always passes by swiftly, and yet there is so much to achieve within it. Whilst the emergence of spring colour lifts the spirits, there is an increasing seriousness of focus in school on those students preparing for final examinations, ensuring that they have all of the support on the final approach that they need. Our thoughts and prayers are with them, and with our staff who do so much to inspire and encourage day in and day out.

St Edward's Day on 18th March signalled the approach of the end of term, and this year it had a special significance in our 60th year as a school. The liturgies held throughout the day enabled reflection on our story as a school, and reminded us, in the person of Edward the teenage king, of the infinite potential of our young people. The occasion included the blessing of our new seating, and the distribution of over a thousand slices of celebration cake to students. The new seating has created space for an additional 150 students to eat inside when it is cold, as well as saving the site team many hours of setting chairs out and replacing them every day. Whilst we cannot achieve at this time the additional building that we so desperately need, plans for a covered seating area for students are well underway, alongside other exciting developments on campus. We will keep our families informed as we go forwards.

# SPRING NEWSLETTER



Student, staff and parent voice continues to indicate high levels of satisfaction with the education that we offer, and I am pleased that as we end the second term of the academic year, the new leadership arrangements are going well. I continue to work closely with Mr Barnett and the SLT each week and would like to thank them for their hard work, and for the great care that they invest in preserving the unique spirit of St Edward's School. In flitting between Plymouth schools and Poole, my time at St Edward's is always the highpoint of my week. We are so lucky to have the wonderful students and staff that we do.



This Easter, we might think especially of the Middle East, the cradle of our faith. We pray for peace, for an end to violence, and for the Kingdom of God to come. I wish all in our community the peace and joy of Easter.

*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

As well as full governor meetings, much of the hard work of governors is carried out by our committees and we are grateful to the Chairs of the committee for their commitment and skills. Governors also make regular visits into school as part of our monitoring process.

It's been encouraging to see new governors settle in so well this term and we can be assured that the Governing Body will continue to be unwaveringly supportive of St Edward's in our strategic role.

We wish everyone connected with the school a happy and blessed Easter. As well as enjoying our Easter eggs we can remind ourselves and celebrate the fact that Jesus isn't a dead historical figure but someone who is very much alive.

*Mr W Jones*  
Chair of Governors

## Welcome from Mr Barnett

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

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

The term has been extremely busy with a wide range of events and activities happening across all year groups. From residential such as the ski trip to Austria, our French Exchange, and the Belgium Music Tour to our many sporting achievements and public speaking events, I am so grateful to the staff who give up their time to enrich the opportunities our young people have available to them.

We celebrated the Feast of St Edward as part of our 60th anniversary programme just before the end of term, with all students attending liturgies, focussing on key milestones and artifacts from past years. It was lovely to welcome back Rev Jeff Adams, a former teacher who is now Curate at St James' Church in Poole. On the same day Mr Keene, Harry Vincent and Rob Sallis took 9 brave students to complete the full length of the St Edward's Way, which follows the 30-mile route taken when the body of St Edward the Martyr was moved and reburied. Leaving at 6.30am and finishing at 7pm, there were some very tired members of our community who completed this impressive walk from Wareham to Shaftesbury Abbey.

The event coincided with the completion of our new tiered seating which has been installed in the main hall. This new seating creates further opportunities for additional events hosted by both our school and the local community and with a new stage area being installed over the summer term, we are excited about the new opportunities this will bring our students.

During Lent we set students a challenge to complete random acts of kindness, both in and out of school. It was lovely to see students actively and purposefully going out of their way to help others, speak to people they may not normally speak to or looking for ways to contribute to the school community. I do hope that you noticed these random acts at home as well.

This term our Art department were nominated for the Prince's Trust, Bernice McCabe Award, a national award recognising departments who promote excellence at the heart of their classrooms. This was in recognition of programs run within and across other departments including Geography and History. Congratulations to Mrs Biggs, Miss Perks and Mrs Coles for being one of three national finalists - a fantastic achievement.

After Easter, our thoughts turn to our Year 11 and 13 students who will be starting their GCSE and A Level exams. Staff and students have worked hard in the build-up to these important exams, and we wish them all the best as they venture into this challenging season. We will also continue our drive on standards, ensuring students wear their St Edward's uniform with pride and are fully prepared for their learning. The break is a good opportunity to check that your sons and daughters have the correct uniform and equipment ready for the new term ahead.

Over Easter, we enter a season which underpins the Christian faith and is based on our trust in a living hope. We are reminded of this as we are surrounded by new beginnings and a fresh sense of optimism. As Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans, 'neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation can separate us from the Love of God' (Romans 8: 38-39).

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

*Mr C Barnett*  
Headteacher



# FUTURE CHOICES: CAREERS

## INTRODUCTION TO CAREERS JOURNEY AND MEET THE TEAM

At St Edward's the Careers department consists of the Head of Careers, Mr Keene, and the Careers Manager, Mrs Ruby. Mrs Ruby is based in the Careers room within the EDEN Centre. Students can drop in during break or lunch time. Drop-ins are also offered in the sixth form area on Monday and the Library on Wednesday lunchtimes.

The Careers programme is designed for Years 7-13 and involves activities to help develop their self-awareness, decision making and knowledge of the opportunities available when leaving school and future careers. All students are offered a careers guidance appointment during Year 11 and Sixth Form to allow them to make informed choices about their next steps.

More information about Careers in the school can be found on the Careers section of the school website.



Mrs Ruby - Careers Manager



## TRIP TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY

A group of Year 12 students paid a visit to Merton College, Oxford University. They were given a tour of the college and heard from both students and staff about what make Oxford unique as a place to study and tips and advice on making an application.



## GATSBY BENCHMARKS

The Gatsby Benchmarks are a framework of eight guidelines that define the best careers provision in schools and colleges. There is an expectation that all schools work towards achieving all 8 benchmarks below:

1. A stable careers programme.
2. Learning from career and labour market information.
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil.
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers.
5. Encounters with employers and employees.
6. Experiences of workplaces.
7. Encounters with further and higher education.
8. Personal guidance.

# Gatsby Benchmarks



At St Edward's School we are working towards achieving all 8 benchmarks by Summer 2024.

## ASDAN Trip - 7th February

A small group of year 10 & 11 ASDAN students visited Kingston Maurward College on their open day. They learnt about the range of courses available to them post-16 and had a chance to look around the facilities and visit the farm to see the large variety of animals on site. This was a big hit!

## Sixth Form Speakers

We welcomed a variety of speakers to speak on a range of different topics this term including learning how languages can help in a career, a career in financial services from an ex-student and learning about the wide range of careers in the NHS.

Southampton University spoke to Year 12s about applying to university and how to make informed choices. The apprenticeship service came in to speak to both Year 12 and 13 about the opportunities apprenticeships can bring as an alternative routes after A levels and delivered an application workshop.

## J.P. Morgan Open Doors visit

A group of Year 12 students attended the open doors event at J.P. Morgan to learn about careers in the financial services and technology sectors. The day consisted of some group team building exercises and a tour of the Chaseside site with a chance to speak to current apprentices about the apprenticeship programme.

## Careers and Apprenticeship Show

The whole of Year 12 attended this event held at the BIC to learn more about local careers and apprenticeships. There was a wide range of employers and sectors represented.

## Careers Breakfast

All years were invited to a careers breakfast talk by Rockley College in January. Many attended from across the year groups to learn more about the outdoor adventure course and apprenticeships available. Rockley College shared information about the many career paths available within sport and the outdoors. It is hoped that more careers talks will be on offer this year.

## Year 10 work experience update: 13th - 17th May

Year 10 are due to go out on work experience week 13th-17th May. If your son or daughter has a placement confirmed please make sure the employer details are passed to Mrs Ruby. The school will need to send out employer forms before the placement can start. If they haven't secured a placement yet please email Mrs Ruby: [nruby@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk](mailto:nruby@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk).

For those students not placed there will be some work related activities in school.



## Key Stage 3

In a nod to our local heritage, this term **Year 7** have been 'Sailing the creative seas' exploring sea shanties, Treasure Island and created their own sea monsters as well as exploring various non fictions texts linked to this theme. They have engaged with the national competition, 'Poetry by Heart', which celebrates poetry through performance. We have seen some excellent performances and students have approached this task with real passion. A huge well done to all Year 7 classes for their participation with this event!



In **Year 8** our students have been studying the 'Who Dunit' unit of work reading Sherlock Holmes and reading and analysing other short stories and poems linked to crime. This half-term they are focusing on their creative writing and including elements of crime writing in their own stories.

This term has been all about love for **Year 9!** They have studied one of Shakespeare's most popular plays 'Romeo and Juliet' and at the end of this half-term are exploring love through the ages by reading and analysing love poetry dating from modern day back to the 1800's.

## Key Stage 4

Students in **Year 10** have been studying their 19th century novel this term for English Literature. For some classes, Christmas has been extended with our study of A Christmas Carol. For those in Mr Lee's class, they have been exploring duality and the theme of good and evil in the study of Jekyll and Hyde. Now that we have finished these texts we will be focusing on revision and preparation for their Year 10 exams which take place very early in the Summer term.

Year 11 have had their second round of mock exams this term and we are pleased with all their efforts in preparing for these. We hope that

students can make further progress as they revise and prepare for their English exams next term. At the end of this half-term a group of Year 11 students will be travelling to the New Royal Theatre in Portsmouth to see a production of Macbeth - more about this in our next newsletter!

## Key Stage Five

A Level Literature students have been reading Chaucer's 'The Merchant's Tale' in their best pronunciation of Middle English. We've noticed the lives of these characters aren't as far removed from life today as we initially thought. We've been comparing the tale to Oliver Goldsmith's laughing comedy 'She Stoops to Conquer', exploring how themes in literature have evolved through time. Ideas of gender, marriage, fortune and foolery have been explored in our discussions and we're enjoying watching how the National Theatre brought the characters to life. You may recognise the phrase '*ask me no questions, and I'll tell you no fibs*', which comes from the play's own Tony Lumpkin (on the surface a bumbling layabout) who ironically sets the scene for the mistakes of the night that the characters spend the rest of the play unravelling from.

## Youth Speaks

A team of students entered a local public speaking competition, 'Youth Speaks: A Debate', where they explored the idea of paying politicians the average national salary. The students spoke eloquently about this challenging and thought provoking topic. It was great to see a huge variety of topics spoken about by students in the local area. We are continuing to develop public speaking opportunities at St Edward's as we know the positive effects this can have on confidence and communication skills. A huge congratulations to Luca, Lucy and Sidney!



We are thrilled to announce the remarkable achievements of our students in Mathematics during the Spring Term. It has been a period of dedication, resilience, and outstanding performance across all year groups.

First and foremost, we extend our congratulations to our **Year 11** and **Year 13** students for their exceptional success in completing their Spring Mock exams. Their commitment and perseverance have truly paid off, and we are immensely proud of their achievements as we prepare for their summer exams.

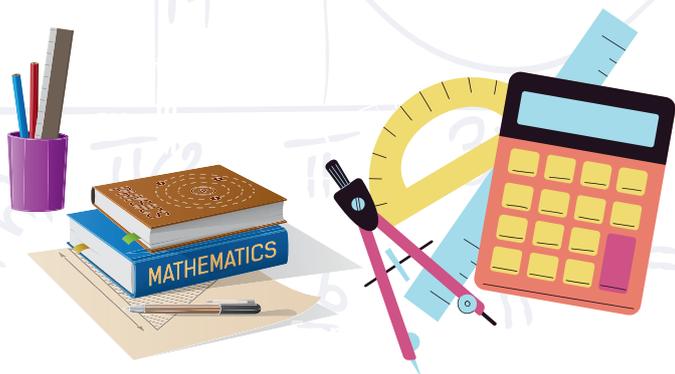
Moreover, we commend Mrs. Newton's **Year 10** maths group for their performance in sitting their first Functional Skills Level 1 exam this term. Functional Skills Level 1 Maths offers a practical, real-world approach to mathematics education, laying a solid foundation for future success, including GCSE examinations. Additionally, several students from Miss Menzie's **Year 11** group also undertook this qualification, showcasing their dedication to mastering essential mathematical skills.

Our **Year 12** Further Mathematicians have been pushing their limits by engaging in MAT (Mathematics Admissions Test) questions during Tuesday lunchtime sessions with Mr. Parkin. The MAT serves as the entrance exam for institutions like Oxford University and other top universities. Whether preparing for applications or simply relishing the challenge, these students exemplify a commendable spirit of intellectual curiosity and determination.

In the realm of competitive mathematics, Mr. Hegarty's **Year 11** class excelled in the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, achieving notable success with several Silver Awards. Luca Thompson was awarded Best In School, an accomplishment he is very proud of. The Furthermore, we are delighted to announce that **Year 7 and 8** students in Set 1 will be participating in the Junior Maths Challenge on Thursday, April 25th. To support our younger students' preparation, several sixth form students have generously volunteered to organise a lunch club dedicated to extra revision sessions.

In an exciting enrichment opportunity, a select group of **Year 10** students had the privilege of attending an AMSP Mathematics Enrichment Day at The Bourne Academy on March 6th. Our students joined students from The Bourne Academy, Bournemouth School for Girls, Glenmoor, Winton and Poole High. The session kicked off with an inspiring talk by mathematician Ben Spark on the "The creation of Number". Following that they explored "Taking Maths Further with insights into post-16 pathways and opportunities. We look forward to the opportunity to attend further enrichment trips across the key stages in the summer term.

Once again, we extend congratulations to all students and express our gratitude to our dedicated staff for their unwavering support and commitment to excellence in mathematics education.



In the Science Department this term we have welcomed a familiar face back to the team. Mrs. Phillips has re-joined us in the role of Science Technician and she has already been a regular feature of many lessons, performing demonstrations and helping with experiments to ensure they run smoothly. We look forward to much more of her expertise in the future and know that she will make a huge difference to learning through practical experiences for many of our students in Science.



In the classroom, **Year 7** students have been learning about heating and cooling, chemical reactions, in-particular combustion, as well as movement of the human body. All topics get students to think hard about cause and effect through use of their investigative skills and developing their ideas through modelling. Students did this by comparing the movement of a marionette puppet with themselves to see the similarities and differences in how movement is achieved.

**Year 8** classes have been comparing the ways in which animals and plants gain the nutrients they need with a focus on energy transfers, as well as going on a journey into space to explore the importance of satellites and the advances in space technology and exploration in recent times to see if it would be possible to inhabit another planet in the future. This challenge has involved calculating the volume of a space rocket to ensure all



passengers and equipment will fit. How they would grow their own food in the challenging conditions of a planet like Mars and experimenting as to which fuel would be best for the journey.

**Year 9** students have begun their learning in the first GCSE topics. These Biology 1 - Cells, Chemistry 1 - The Periodic Table and Physics 1 - Energy. Students are taking to the new challenges maturely and making an excellent start to the course.

**Years 11 and 13** students are underway with their last set of mock examinations before their final GCSEs and A-Levels in the Summer. As always, Science has a particularly heavy burden for them, with students sitting the full suite of 6 exam papers of 1 hour and 15 minutes each. Undoubtedly the pressure and stress will build in the weeks ahead but we are here to offer our full support every step of the way.

Finally, Mr Harris's green fingers are at it again! He has started taking cuttings of the many plants in his room in preparation for Spring. The engagement with many of our students last year with his plants was hugely inspiring! Over 100 cuttings were given away and he would like this to continue. Any student is more than welcome to come and get a free plant to nurture from his collection in S7.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Yet again, it has been a busy term in the RE department!

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

**Year 8** students have deepened their understanding of religious and moral teachings regarding intimate relationships in their "What is love?" unit of study and have since moved onto a unit where they are learning about the meaning and importance of Jesus' parables. Year 9 students were captivated by their unit on "Why is there suffering?" as they were presented with various attempts that theologians have made to reconcile the existence of God with the existence of evil and suffering in the world.

As we approach Easter, **Year 9** are now finding out about the various reasons why political and religious leaders of the day wanted to kill Jesus and how this came to pass. The GCSE and A-Level classes have been continuing with their examination courses with **Year 11 and 13** now busy revising preparing for their final examinations in the summer.



Beyond the curriculum, we have once again benefitted from visits from Dave Pegg and Lisa Stuart and the team from The PACE Trust, they have been into school and have delivered lessons to **Year 7, Year 8** and **Year 9** RE classes on the themes of "Does God Exist?", "The Parable of the Two Lost Sons" and "Who killed Jesus and Why?". In addition, Year 8 students have enjoyed getting out of the classroom and have benefitted from the knowledge and experience of Harry Vincent, our resident School Life Pastor and Forest School practitioner, as he has been using our Forest School area to guide them through a time of reflection based on the theme of "What does Lent mean for me?"

We are delighted to have such a strong link with St. Cassian's retreat centre in Kintbury. This term, a groups of students from both **Year 10** and **Year 11** have enjoyed a weekend residential retreat there. The 'Kintbury experience' is always hugely enriching and it was great to take a larger group of students who had so enjoyed their 'mini-retreat' in Year 9 and were keen to return. We are grateful to the staff from across the school (Mr Farrow, Miss Elms, Miss Cooper, Miss Perks and Mrs Newton) who supported the trip and gave up their weekends to enable to students to have a thought-provoking, reflective and engaging experience.

# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## French Exchange 2024 St Edward's School - Collège La Bucaille

The absolute highlight of this busy term in MFL has been the return of our annual French Exchange, following a hiatus enforced by the pandemic. We are immensely proud to be one of very few schools who offer full exchange experiences to our students, with no other trip abroad offering the full cultural and linguistic immersion that exchanges provide. It has been wonderful this year to see the buzz that the French and German exchanges have generated in the school.

On Tuesday 19th March, after a 24-hour delay for repairs to the ferry, 29 students set off with Mrs Pawley, Mr El Yauti and Miss Meads on the Barfleur, bound for Cherbourg. As ever they were warmly welcomed by host families and staff from our partner school, the Collège La Bucaille. Whilst in Cherbourg our students have experienced life in France to the full; attending lessons at school, exploring the local area through trips to the planetarium at Ludiver, the Mont St Michel, the Cité de la Mer, and a restaurant to eat an authentic French crêpe. But the true value of exchanges is in the time spent with families, fully immersed in French culture (and cuisine!) The students have reported very positive experiences, and it is clear that some lasting friendships have been formed between our students and their French partners. As usual our students have been fantastic ambassadors for our school, their families and our town. In June we will welcome the group from La Bucaille to St Edward's and to Poole.

Both of our exchanges will run again in the next school year, with the German Exchange scheduled for October and December 2024.



**CHERBOURG-OCTEVILLE. Au collège Bucaille-Charcot pour une semaine**

### Vingt-neuf correspondants anglais en visite

ILS sont tout fraîchement arrivés : 29 collégiens anglais sont reçus pour une semaine dans les familles de leurs homologues français. C'est l'un des volets du jumelage historique entre Cherbourg et Poole. « J'ai repris depuis septembre dernier le jumelage entre notre collège et celui de Poole : cela fait vingt ans que de tels échanges existent », indique Coraline Dubost, professeur d'anglais et responsable de l'opération.

Après leur avoir donné la bienvenue, Valérie Isard, au nom de la Ville, souhaite « aux jeunes qui viennent nous rendre visite un excellent séjour. Ce type d'échanges est primordial pour votre avenir, car si ça vous permet, outre le côté linguistique, de vous ouvrir au monde et trouver en vous des facultés d'adaptation ».

Elle est rejointe dans ses propos par Pascal Marie, qui note que « ces échanges vont permettre aux élèves des deux pays de se confronter à un langage moins scolaire, en sortant des formules grammaticales imposées à l'écrit, grâce aux échanges oraux : à la fois apprendre à casser les codes, oser s'exprimer et faire des phrases même si elles ne vous semblent pas parfaites ».

De son côté, Coraline Dubost souligne « l'entière implication, depuis la rentrée, des élèves français qui ont énormément travaillé pour préparer ce jumelage. Il faut également remercier les familles qui toutes donnent à nos amis anglais des conditions d'accueil de très haute qualité. Merci aussi à la Ville de Cherbourg qui s'est investie dès le début du projet ».

Pendant leur semaine de séjour, les jeunes collégiens anglais, accompagnés par leurs correspondants français, visiteront Luciver, la Cité de la Mer et le Mont-Saint-Michel. Puis, au mois de juin, ce sera le tour des collégiens de la Bucaille-Chercot de traverser la Manche pour être accueillis à Poole.

**Un langage moins scolaire**

Mercredi soir, une petite réception informelle s'est déroulée à la base nautique, en présence de Valérie Isard, mairesse adjointe en charge de l'enseignement et des jumelages et du proviseur du collège, Pascal Marie.

**La Presse de la Manche** - Vendredi 22 mars 2024



The **Level 2 BTEC** Home Cooking Skills completed their final practical exam at the end of February. They were asked to produce a two-course meal suitable to celebrate the end of term, The dishes they produced were of a very high standard, showing a wide range of practical skills that they have mastered during the course. The dishes they produced included Sea Bass on a bed of braised vegetables, Lasagne, Calzone, Fajitas, Banoffee Pie, Lemon Cheesecake, Profiteroles and Fruit Crumble & Custard. The students worked hard and were deservedly proud of the standard of their finished dishes.

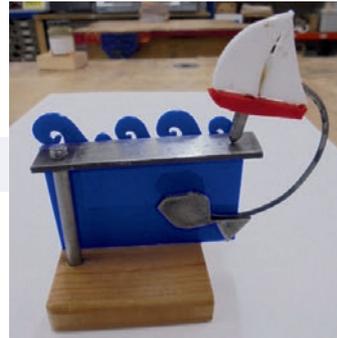


Graphics continues to develop at a pace this year and this term Miss Duke has focused on developing the projects in both Year 8 and Year 9. In **Year 8**, the new graphics project of designing a promotional product for a restaurant is teaching students how to use Adobe Illustrator and 2D Computer Aided Design. The students have been learning about branding so they can design their very own logo for a restaurant of their design with a particular chosen target market in mind. Feedback from the students has been overwhelmingly positive and the outcomes have allowed the students creativity to develop.



In **Year 9** the sustainable living project continues with a twist! Miss Duke has challenged students to research a designer and portray that designer's work in their design. The students learn about sustainability and must creatively repurpose a shipping container, or two. The outcomes have seen some really creative designs.

Resistant Materials has also been underdevelopment at KS3. **Year 8** have been making balancing toys with students designing and making their products predominantly from metal. The project has enabled students to develop exciting new skills and techniques along the way and the outcomes have been really creative with students adding additional materials to enhance their ideas.



**Year 9s** they have been involved in a lighting project. In doing so students have been able to produce a wide array of both creative and original products in response to the idea of holding a tea light in a safe and decorative manner.

And finally, a KS4 trophy has been produced to celebrate excellence in Technology. It will be used in the summer term to celebrate high degrees of skill shown by students in both **Year's 10 and 11** across the department.

The award will be named; the 'Robin Greenwood Award for Excellence' in honour of the man who made it, and we look forward to awarding the trophy next term.





## Year 7 & Year 10 Workshop visit to the Arts University Bournemouth

On Thursday 8th Feb, 20 year 10 students and 19 year 7 students visited The Arts University Bournemouth to take part in practical workshops delivered by specialist staff from the university. The year 7 students worked on architectural models and the year 10 students took part in a heat transfer textiles workshop. The work created by both groups of students was excellent and the specialist staff praised the engagement and creativity of the students. All the students on the trip also had the opportunity to view the Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize which was being exhibited in the on site gallery.



## Latest News on 'The Creative Postcard Exchange Project'

We mentioned in the Autumn newsletter that the work of 30 art students from Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 had been selected as part of the creative postcard exchange 2024, an art showcase featuring the work created by students from 20 schools in the UK and Ireland. The work was first exhibited in the Irish Museum of Modern Art Dublin before being exhibited in the F.E. McWilliam Gallery, Banbridge, Co.Down. As part of the exhibition at the F.E. McWilliam teachers were also asked to create work. Miss Perks, Miss Biggs and Mrs Cole all created artwork for the exhibition and the teacher's work has been exhibited alongside the student work.

## Art Lecture on 'Hidden Canvases, Street Art and The City'

On Tuesday 23th January our A Level Art students, Miss Biggs and Mrs Cole met at The Lecture Theatre of Arts University Bournemouth to attend the annual Arts Society lecture. This year the theme was street art and the lecture was given by Doug Gillan. It was a fascinating lecture illustrating the developments and range of street art. The lecture then inspired some exciting street inspired work back in school.





## 6th Form life drawing workshop and gallery visit at Arts University Bournemouth

Our sixth form students have also had the opportunity to participate in a workshop run by the specialist staff at the Arts University Bournemouth. Our students completed a life drawing workshop and also had the opportunity to view the on site exhibition and tour the campus.



## The Bernice McCabe Award

Our art department were delighted to be nominated for the PTI, Bernice McCabe Award. We were nominated for our art curriculum and the cross curricular work developed with the History and Geography departments. It was wonderful to have our department celebrated at the PTI, VIP dinner where we were awarded a certificate of commendation in recognition of the work demonstrated by our department.



## Biodiversity Matters Competition

Earlier this term our year 10 students completed a home learning task on the theme 'Biodiversity Matters'. Student's had the opportunity to submit their work to a national competition on this theme being run by the Columbian Missionaries. We were delighted to hear that Charlotte Moyes came 3rd in this competition and will be awarded prize money and has been invited to a winner's day presentation. Her work will also be shared with the UK's negotiators for the upcoming COP processes. We agree with the judges that Charlotte has created an outstanding piece of work.

## Year 11 & Year 13

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



Music seems to be everywhere at the moment. From the modern acts being recognised for new talent at Brit Awards to some classics being brought back remixed on social media platforms, there's no getting away from the fact that for us and our young people, music is one of the few things that unites us. You may catch yourself bopping away to an old favourite, with your child looking at you in awe, wondering how on earth you could possibly recognise something from the current charts!

We embrace this in Music and as a generally newly staffed department, we are passionate about making music accessible for all, whatever age, talent or ability.

This term we introduced our 'free lessons initiative' to the brass section and we have been thrilled to see some students take on 'rare' instruments like the trumpet and trombone and showcase what they're learning in the school band. This is so special because it means students have the rare ability to trial an instrument before committing to it full time.

Sadly, the truth of it is, music can be thought of as an 'expensive' hobby, but with our initiatives and trial opportunities, we hope it allows students to experiment with music in a way they may not have had a chance to do before. Next term, we plan to

introduce this initiative to wind instruments, so if your child is interested in learning the flute or clarinet and borrowing one of these instruments to trial and have lessons, please get in touch.

We're really lucky to have such a talented team, and our very own Ms Stacey had been really busy arranging music for our much anticipated music tour to Belgium. Thanks to her, we can select any piece of music we want, and Ms Stacey uses her powers to ensure every music student of any ability, can take part in playing their instrument for that piece. Their very own, tailor made part - it goes without saying that not every school has the ability to do that, so huge appreciation to Ms Stacey and to everything she does.

Whilst mentioning our incredible team, our peripatetic department is growing bigger than ever. More and more students are signing up to our singing, brass, woodwind, piano, drum, guitar, bass and ukulele lessons. What other school employs three guitar teachers to keep up with demand?! My heart is filled with adoration for these staff members because they really do give their all to these students, and the relationship between an instrument teacher and their student is very special. It takes a lot of trust, respect and intuition during these lessons and our students taking examinations are passing with flying colours which speaks volumes. If your child wishes to learn an instrument, please get in touch.

January to March is a quieter time for us as a department (and when I say quiet, I do not mean volume wise, what with every break and lunchtime the practice rooms fill with symphonies of Seven Nation Army or Smoke on the Water!) but students are working away preparing for their final examinations and coursework. Y11 and 13 approach the last unit of their course, which is always bittersweet. We are so proud of their efforts and don't want them to leave... but we are also so excited to see where the unique skills they've learnt in this subject will take them next.

At the beginning of this term we welcomed

Thokozile to come and take a jazz workshop with some selected students. Thokozile are an established African-Jazz fusion band who stormed Poole schools over the space of 5 days and hosted their very own album debut at the Lighthouse. Ms Stacey and I were honoured to go along and enjoy their music and it was an experience I will remember for a long time- it was such a joy seeing some of the students who participated in the workshop come and enjoy the music too. Thokozile's album will be released on music platforms soon, so check out what we've been enjoying listening too as well.



Over the past few years in Music Education there has been a real shift in moving toward Music Technology so we are really lucky to be getting some new computers in our music room. The DAW (Digital Audio Workstation), Cubase, which we use requires a lot of power so we are grateful that our computer systems will be able to keep up. Key Stage 3 students have spent the last half term learning how to use GarageBand on some hired iPads which they have taken like a duck to water. It amazes me how much their minds are used to such advance technologies that I find that some are even teaching me a new thing or two! It still blows my mind that our current students have never known a world without the mobile phone with internet on it. The way apps are put together, especially GarageBand, meant that students were making amazing sounding music after one lesson- such great potential if we had them for longer!

Next term we celebrate our children's musical talents with the Summer Music Concert near the end of term, and after a few years off, we will be welcoming back, yes you are reading this right, Battle of the Bands!

We can't wait!



## Key Stage 3

Can you live forever? Year 9 students have been exploring factors that influence morbidity and mortality around the world. They have particularly impressed with the quality of their understanding during presentations about 'Neglected Tropical Diseases'. Year 8 have been studying about the growing world population, and are finding out that whilst the population has exceeded 8 billion, one of the biggest issues facing countries in the 21st Century may be the fact that their populations are set to decline and age. Year 7 have enthusiastically grappled with the UK cities topic; the majority of the students are now able to relate what has been learnt in class to what they see on a daily basis around their home area.

## Key Stage 4

Year 11 are diligently working on their preparations for Paper 3 Geographical Investigations examination. Early March saw them braving the showery weather experienced at Swanage Beach, undertaking a piece of field work that allowed them to test whether longshore drift moved beach sediment towards the centre of the bay – as the theory suggests should happen. They are currently looking forward to the publication of pre-release material, as well as the field work investigation considering if regeneration has been successful at Boscombe. As I write this Year 10 have been preparing for their mock examinations having recently finished studying about tropical rainforests and hot desert ecosystems.

## Key Stage 5

Year 12 students are preparing for their first attempts at mock examinations, getting used to the structure of the examination paper. This will be quickly followed by introductions to several field work investigations in both near and distant places that will allow them to chose their course work title.



This term **Year 12** have been studying the topics of Attachment and Memory, which has involved exploring the reasons why we form attachments to our primary caregivers, and critically analysing models which have been proposed to explain how our memory works. To help deepen their understanding, students have been conducting experiments to test the validity of the Working Memory Model, which has involved recruiting participants to carry out a dual task (completing a reasoning task whilst simultaneously completing an additional task). The student's results are consistent with previous research which has shown we are able to conduct some dual tasks well, but not others, especially if the two tasks are competing for the same part of Working Memory. The results have led to an interesting discussion challenging the way many students like to work as it seems it is not beneficial to listen to music whilst completing your homework! Beyond lessons, many Year 12 students have already started to explore their options in higher education, with a number looking to study Psychology.

Meanwhile, **Year 13** have been studying Schizophrenia and Aggression, with both topics exploring the extent to which the behaviour is due to nature or nurture. Whilst studying the different explanations for aggression, students have been introduced to the theory of Deindividuation; the idea that when we are part of a crowd or have a degree of anonymity we lose our personal identity and with it the restraints on our behaviour to conform to social norms. Students have been involved in replicating research by Dodd (1985) which posed the question: 'If you could do anything humanly possible with complete assurance that you would not be detected or held responsible, what would you do?' We have had an array of interesting responses, including both prosocial acts, and ones slightly less so, with the most popular response being to 'rob a bank', as was seen in the original study. As the final exams draw ever closer, Year 13 are preparing well and we are here to support them every step of the way.



## 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!

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

This term **Year 7** have looked at algorithms (making an origami penguin!) and how computers represent numbers using binary. **Year 8** have been looking at how computers represent sound, encryption and networks.

This term **Year 9** have been looking at systems architecture (how the computer actually works!) and built on their Year 8 knowledge of networks to focus on network hardware, how the internet works in more detail and threats to network security. We have also seen a number of programming rotations for Technology start and finish and hope students enjoyed learning more about programming.

**Year 10 Computer Science** have been working well through the Edexcel GCSE specification, now deep in the 'Computers' topic for the theory side of the course and exploring concepts of repetition, 1D data structures and iteration on the programming side.

All students have now been given a Pearson Revision Guide to borrow, which we hope students will find useful if they are struggling with a concept or as part of their revision for topic tests. This will be followed up in Year 11 with a Revision Workbook to borrow that will form a part of their homework.

**Year 10** students doing **BTEC DIT** have been working on their Component 1 Pearson Set Assignment, focussed on Designing User Interfaces and Project Planning, which is now complete. They have done this assignment under exam conditions and we have been really impressed with the maturity that have shown whilst doing this. They will now be moving onto Component 2 which is focussed on how we can use IT to display and manipulate data, especially in spreadsheets.

**Year 11** are now well on their way to their actual examinations. I have been really impressed with their dedication to revision and how they have engaged with the structure we have put in place for them. They have been answering exam questions regularly with teacher feedback on these along with a number of other varied revision activities.

Homework for Year 11 is based out of the ClearRevise Exam Tutor book. It is published on Teams what they are expected to do from this book but we are here to support if they have any issues. Please can I take this opportunity to request that all revision guides (just bigger than A5 size) are returned after their last exam, which is before the May half term, as these were lent to students.

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



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Well done to all the students who have attended sports clubs this term. It's been a really successful and exciting term, and we look forward to seeing you all for Summer clubs after Easter! Here are just a few of the highlights from the Spring Term:

## Basketball

- Our Year 7 and 8 teams attended an amazing basketball festival and had a great time
- The Year 10 and 11 teams are still playing in their league, and playing some really impressive basketball

## Girls Football

- Our Year 7 girls made County Cup semi-final, a fantastic achievement
- Year 8 girls team made the PEDSSA Cup final!
- Our Year 9 and 10 teams have had lots of fixtures and experienced some highly competitive football

## Boys Football

- Our Year 7 boys made the quarter finals of PEDSSA Cup
- Year 9 had a successful run in both of their cups
- The Year 10 boys also reached the quarter finals of the PEDSSA Cup

## Netball

- Our Year 7 team came 4th in their PEDSSA tournament
- Year 8 did a fantastic job in their PEDSSA tournament
- Year 10s came 3rd in their PEDSSA tournament, an amazing success

## GCSE PE

GCSE moderation is in full swing, and will be completed by the time you're reading this! We wish the best of luck to all our GCSE PE students.

## Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form students have been off trekking in the Purbecks this term as part of their examination course.

## Summer Sports

The sun's shown its face a little more as the Spring term comes to a close, which means Summer sports are soon approaching! Don't forget to put our **Sports Presentation Evening on Thursday 20th June** in your diaries. We'll see you there!





St Edward's  
School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

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