



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the summer term and another successful academic year, there is much to celebrate. Our students have shown resilience, commitment and maturity throughout the year, supported by a dedicated staff team focused on helping every child succeed.

This year we have continued to strengthen teaching and learning, particularly through improving how we assess progress. This enables staff to better identify where support is needed and ensure all students make strong progress. Inclusion remains central to our work, with a clear commitment to ensuring every student feels valued, supported and able to achieve their potential.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have approached their exams with determination and positivity, and we look forward to celebrating their results later this summer. Our Sixth Form continues to grow, with more students choosing to stay on and benefit from an expanding range of opportunities. We are also pleased to see increasing numbers of families choosing our school, and it has been a pleasure to welcome new students through recent transition events.

Enrichment remains a real strength, with a wide range of trips, visits and activities helping to build confidence, broaden horizons and strengthen our school community. We now look forward to end of term events such as Sports Day and the Fringe Festival, which bring us together and celebrate our shared values.



At this time, we also say farewell to our Chair of Governors, Wyn Jones. Wyn has served on the Governing Body for 9 years, including 8 as Chair, giving generously of his time to support and guide the school. A strong advocate for our students and families, he will be greatly missed. We thank him for his dedication and commitment over the years.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It makes a real difference to our students and our school. I wish you a very restful break and I look forward to welcoming our students and families back after the summer holidays.

Mr C Barnett
Headteacher



May we be One

ST. EDWARD'S PRAYER

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

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



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

After eight years as Chair of Governors at St Edward's, I've decided not to stand for re-election from September. We are blessed to have a strong, supportive Governing Body and it's been my privilege to Chair at a time that's seen the school awarded a good Ofsted inspection and an outstanding Section 48 inspection. I'm pleased to have chaired the Governors panel in the appointments of Mr Barnett as our Headteacher, replacing Mr Antram, and Mrs Sinaguglia, our Deputy Headteacher, who are proving to be visionary leaders and we continue to be heavily oversubscribed as a school.

My two grandsons have attended St Edward's during my time as Chair and I'm proud of the support and encouragement they've been given by our outstanding staff.

I'm delighted to announce that Mrs Janet Morris has been appointed as the new Chair of Governors from September. She has a long connection with the school and I know that the Governing Body will continue to move forward under her leadership.

With best wishes,

God bless

Mr Wyrn Jones
Chair of Governors



FUTURE CHOICES: CAREERS

UPDATES FROM THIS TERM IN OUR CAREERS DEPARTMENT

Career Appointments

Following completion of the Year 11 Careers guidance appointments, the Careers Department has had a busy and productive term supporting our Year 12 students as they begin to think seriously about their plans beyond sixth form.

Over recent weeks, students have been attending individual 1:1 careers guidance appointments, providing them with the opportunity to discuss their interests, aspirations, strengths, and future pathways with a qualified careers adviser. These personalised meetings are designed to help students explore the wide range of options available to them, whether that be university, apprenticeships, employment, gap year opportunities, or other post-18 routes.

Following each appointment, a summary of the discussion and agreed action points is uploaded to the student's Unifrog account. Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss these notes with their child, as they provide valuable guidance and practical next steps to support future decision-making.

Work Experience

This summer term has also seen both Year 10 and Year 12 students successfully complete their work experience placements. We are delighted to hear such positive feedback from students, many of whom have described the experience as invaluable in helping them gain a real insight into the workplace.

Work experience provides students with the opportunity to develop essential employability skills, build confidence, and explore career areas that interest them. For many students, their placement has helped to confirm the career pathway they wish to pursue in the future, while others have gained a greater understanding of the qualifications, skills, and experience required for their chosen profession.

We would like to thank all the employers who generously supported our students by providing placements and helping to inspire the next generation as they consider their future career aspirations.

Evaluation

As part of our ongoing evaluation of the careers programme, we regularly seek student feedback to help us assess its impact and identify areas for development. This term, our Year 10 students completed the Future Skills Questionnaire, providing valuable insight into their career readiness, confidence and future aspirations.

The findings will help us further strengthen our careers provision, and next year we plan to extend the questionnaire to additional year groups to gather feedback from an even wider range of students.

Careers Fair preparation

Planning is already underway for our Careers & Apprenticeship Fair, which will be held on Wednesday 14th October from 5.00pm to 7.30pm. We encourage all students and parents/carers to attend this valuable event, offering the chance to speak directly with employers, apprenticeship providers, universities and training organisations about the wide range of opportunities available after school and sixth form.

We are delighted that a growing number of employers and education providers have already confirmed their attendance, making this an excellent opportunity for students to explore future pathways and gain first-hand careers advice. Be sure to save the date in your diary.

If you work for an organisation that would like to exhibit, or if you run your own business and are interested in supporting the event, please contact Mrs Jones at hjones@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk for further information.

Key Stage 3

The summer term has been another exciting one in KS3 English, with students exploring a diverse range of texts, ideas and creative challenges.

Year 7 have stepped into the enchanting world of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, discovering Shakespeare's play through performances in our own school woods. Using the outdoor setting has helped students immerse themselves in the play's atmosphere as they brought scenes of mischief, magic and mistaken identity to life. Inspired by Shakespeare's fantastical characters and settings, students have also developed their own creative writing, crafting imaginative worlds filled with mystery and wonder. In June, some of our students enjoyed a fantastic trip to London's Globe Theatre. Students took part in an engaging workshop based on the play and enjoyed a guided tour of the iconic theatre, where they discovered fascinating facts about Shakespearean theatre. They learned why the groundlings were known as "penny stinkards", how everyone escaped unharmed when the original Globe caught fire (apart from one unfortunate man's trousers!), and even experienced how Shakespearean actors warm up before a performance through a range of improvisation activities. We were also delighted to receive recognition in the national Poetry By Heart competition, with both 7-A1 and 7-A2 being awarded "Commended" in their category. Congratulations to both classes on this fantastic national achievement.



Year 9 have travelled into the unsettling worlds of dystopian fiction through our Dystopian Discoveries unit. Drawing on a range of dystopian texts and extracts, students have explored how writers imagine societies shaped by environmental disasters, technological advances and oppressive governments. These discussions have encouraged students to think critically about the world around them before applying their understanding to their own original dystopian narratives. We have been incredibly impressed by the imagination, ambition and creativity shown in their writing, with students producing gripping openings, memorable characters and vividly realised dystopian worlds.

It has been wonderful to see our students embracing opportunities to perform, debate and write creatively throughout the term. Thank you, as always, to our parents and carers for your continued support in encouraging a love of reading and writing beyond the classroom. Students who have enjoyed this term's topics are encouraged to speak to their English teacher or Mrs Keeling for recommended reading linked to each KS3 unit, helping them continue their literary journey over the summer.

Key Stage 4

Our Year 10 students have been hard at work finishing the last of their three core texts for their English Literature GCSE: *Macbeth*. Students have been engaged and thoughtful regarding its ideas as they work to familiarise themselves with the richness and complexities of Shakespeare's language. It's also been a busy time for our Year 10 students with the completion of their Speaking &

Listening presentations. Students have shown admirable passion and preparation in sharing with us their thoughtful and detailed perspectives on a range of issues about which they are passionate. They've brought a verve and personality to their presentation, ably utilising prior learning on persuasive writing to full effect, whilst also ensuring a deeply human and personal quality that has really helped their individuality shine through. Delivering on a wide range of topics, it's always an exciting opportunity for us as teachers to see our students elucidate on their varying interests as they grasp the opportunity to show off their genuine mastery and rich knowledge of their chosen topics.

We want to extend an enormous congratulations to our Year 11 students for all their hard work and dedication in the completion of their exams. Balancing the dual needs of English Literature and English Language is no mean feat, with different skills and bases of knowledge to bring to each discipline. Students showed their dedication in their attendance to after-school revision and the morning briefings in the hall prior to sitting their papers. Appearing to leave their papers with a real sense of confidence and security in the responses they'd produced, we share in their hopefulness as we await their results!

Key Stage 5

In English Literature, we have been reading and watching *She Stoops to Conquer* by Oliver Goldsmith. The National Theatre production is a lively and playful take on the 18th century 'Laughing Comedy' and we've been taking advantage of the lovely weather by reading outside and up in the forest school theatre. We've been learning about theatre in the 18th century and the evolution of tastes and preferences in entertainment amongst social classes. Students have also begun to prepare for their coursework by engaging in their coursework text *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. The contextual study of the play has led to some fascinating cross-curricular links with American politics and students have been engaged in debates over scapegoating and cancel-



culture making insightful parallels to our own society today.

In English Language, we have been learning about language change. We have looked at how language evolves and studied some of the key figures and events that have been pivotal in its development. We created a timeline of these key dates as a whole class and have started looking at how texts represent their linguistic contexts. First, we looked at how advice around parenting has changed over the past 150 years, and now we are reading texts about theatres, contrasting how the language of persuasion has changed from the Restoration period to today.



Books Mean Business!

Students from Year 7 to Sixth Form, along with staff, came together to celebrate 'World Book Day 2026' as part of our year-long celebrations for the National Year of Reading.

Annual surveys by the National Literacy Trust show that the number of children and young people who say they enjoy reading, and read daily in their free time, has declined, with just 1 in 3 people aged between 8 and 18 saying they enjoy reading in the past year.

With a range of literary-themed activities that took place throughout the day, 'World Book Day' at St Edward's truly brought the whole school community together. The celebrations began in tutor time with a football-themed book quiz, which proved to be a great start to the day. During each lesson, we read aloud part of a story. The students loved the twist to the ending. At break time, our Library Ambassadors helped distribute the free World Book Day book tokens to students, while others took part in the #BookTok Scavenger Lanyard Hunt around the school.

The book sale and swap were also a huge success, with many pupils taking the opportunity to purchase books at a low cost or exchange a book for free.

Thank you to everyone in our school community who helped make World Book Day 2026 such a memorable occasion. Here's to even more reading in 2027!



The Next Chapter

This term, the library launched a Yoto Carnegie Book Shadowing Group, which students named 'The Next Chapter'. The group brings together fifteen dedicated readers from Years 7-10 to participate in the nationally recognised Carnegie Medal for Writing.

The Carnegie Medal is one of the most prestigious awards in children's literature. Judged by professional librarians, the medal is awarded to a book that demonstrates outstanding literary quality, engages readers deeply, presents authentic and non-stereotypical characterisation, and offers a rewarding and satisfying reading experience.

Since beginning in February, members of The Next Chapter have met weekly in the library to read and discuss titles from the 2026 Longlist. Students took their first books home over half term and have engaged thoughtfully with themes, structure and character development. As part of the shadowing process, the group predict the official Shortlist before casting their own votes for a winning title ahead of the national announcement in June.

Our shadowing journey came to an end on Tuesday 23rd June when we were joined by Lytchett Minster School shadowing group to watch the Carnegie Awards ceremony online. As we waited for the winners to be announced, snacks were on hand, of course, and we were delighted with Wolf Siren being crowned with the top spot. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and the dedication to make this year's Carnegie Shadowing a huge success.

It has been another busy and successful term in Mathematics, with students across all year groups demonstrating resilience, enthusiasm and a willingness to challenge themselves.

Junior Maths Challenge Success

Earlier this term, students in Years 7 and 8 took part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Mathematical Challenge, a national competition designed to encourage mathematical reasoning, problem-solving and independent thinking. The challenge consists of 25 multiple-choice questions that require students to apply their mathematical knowledge in creative and unfamiliar situations, rather than simply using routine methods. This was our first year entering Year 7 students, with the aim of giving them valuable experience of the competition before competing again in Year 8. The results were outstanding:

Year 7

16 Bronze Certificates

4 Silver Certificates

2 Gold Certificates

Year 8

17 Bronze Certificates

10 Silver Certificates

4 Gold Certificates

We are especially proud of Davin L, Florence S, Sam A, Emma C, Kacper D and Cheryl L, who all qualified for the Junior Kangaroo competition. The Junior Kangaroo is a follow-on competition for students who achieve particularly high scores in the Junior Mathematical Challenge. Qualification is a significant achievement and reflects exceptional mathematical talent and problem-solving ability.

An extra special congratulations goes to Sam A and Kacper D, who both achieved Silver Certificates in the Junior Kangaroo – a fantastic accomplishment.

Mathematics Student Community

We are delighted to announce that Emily C D S and Davin L in Year 7 have successfully gained places in the Mathematics Student Community (MSC). This prestigious programme, run by Exeter Mathematics School, provides opportunities for students who show both enthusiasm for and achievement in mathematics. Participants explore mathematical ideas beyond the standard school curriculum alongside like-minded students from

across the region. They join Oskar P in Year 8, who has been participating in the programme over the past year.

Learning Across Maths

Throughout the summer term, students have continued to build their mathematical knowledge and skills. Our Key Stage 3 students have been studying the following:

Year 7: Lines and angles – Sequences and graphs – Transformations

Year 8: Calculations with fractions – Straight-line graphs – Percentages, decimals and fractions

Year 9: Graphs – Probability – Comparing shapes

All KS3 students have completed their end-of-year assessments and are using the final weeks of term to revisit areas that classes found particularly challenging. During our careers-focused lessons, students have also explored Net Zero, carbon footprints and the important role mathematics plays in understanding environmental data and supporting sustainable futures.

Following their mocks, Year 10 students have shown excellent focus and determination as they continue their GCSE preparation.

Foundation students have studied: Graphs – Averages and range – Ratio and proportion – Right-angled triangles – Probability

Higher students have studied: Equations and inequalities – Probability – Multiplicative reasoning – Similarity and congruence – Trigonometry

Meanwhile, our Year 12 students have successfully completed the first year of their A Level course and have already begun Year 2 content, including further algebra Sequences and Series and Moments, giving them a strong start for next year.

Congratulations to all our mathematicians for their hard work and achievements this term. We look forward to celebrating even more success in the year ahead.

It takes more than a bit of heat and a power outage to prevent all the great learning that students have been doing this term in Science!

Year 7 students have been learning about fuels and combustion. They have especially enjoyed conducting practical investigations into which fuels have the highest energy content using spirit burners. This has provided a valuable opportunity for students to recognise that the need for more efficient and sustainable fuels is more important than ever.

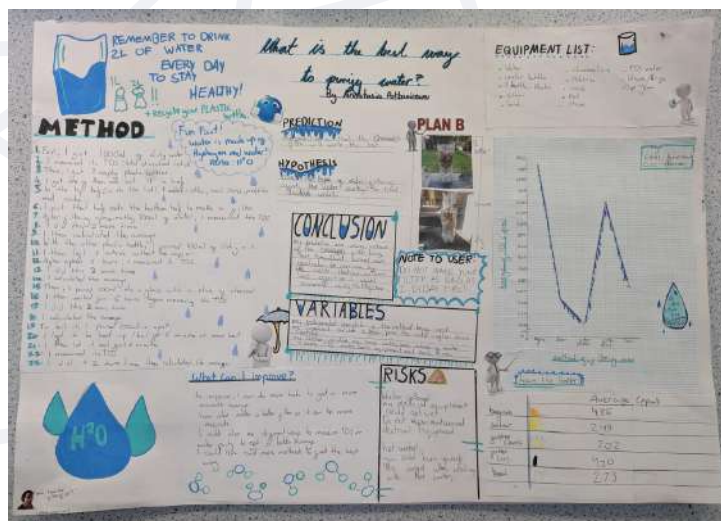
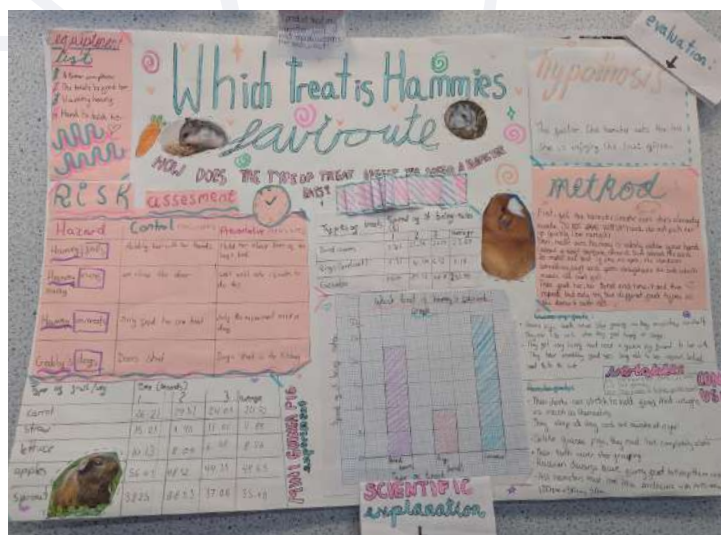
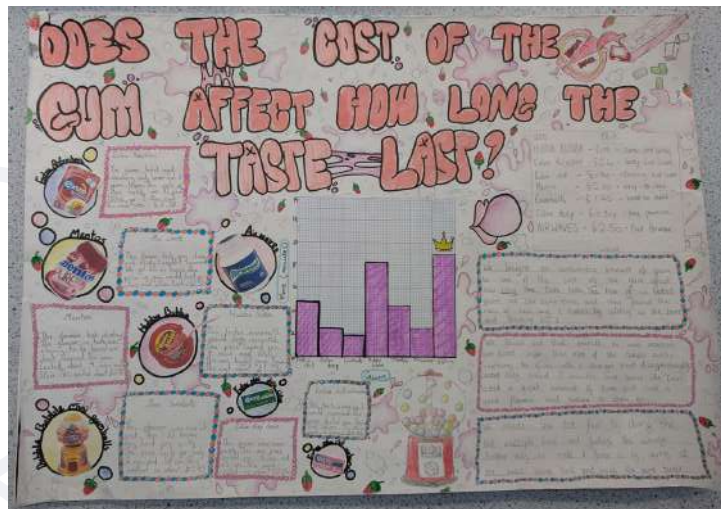
The GCSE course will commence in September for our Year 8 students, and it seems only right to celebrate all the knowledge and skills they have gained during their time in Key Stage 3. The Curiosity Show, an event led by Mr Harris, took place last week and the standard of entries was exceptionally high. There were remarkably few entries investigating the effect of Mentos in Coke!

This year, the event could easily have been renamed the Creativity Show, as many of the entries demonstrated real originality in both their ideas and investigations. The overall winners showcased excellent scientific curiosity and skill in highly creative ways.

Congratulations to the winners:

- **Student Vote:** Cheryl and Olivia, for investigating whether the cost of the gum affects how long the taste lasts.
- **Staff Vote:** Gabriele and Amira, for their work on which treat was Hammie the hamster's favourite.
- **Science Leadership Team Award:** Anastasia, for her excellent investigation into the best way to purify water.

A big thank you to Mr Harris for all the hard work that went into our final celebration of Key Stage 3 Science and for making it such a success.



Many of our students have also spent this term preparing for examinations in Science. Years 11 and 13 have now completed their GCSE and A-level examinations respectively. Year 10 students have also completed their internal examinations and are eagerly anticipating the pathways they will follow in Year 11.



Regardless of the outcome, there have already been some outstanding achievements that would be worthy of many superlatives if they were final GCSE results, let alone being achieved a year early!

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank every student for their hard work, determination and resilience, as well as all parents and carers for your continued support and guidance during what can be a challenging and stressful time for everyone involved. I hope you all enjoy a restful summer and have the chance to recoup some valuable family time together.

Mrs Horman and I accompanied a group of Year 10 students who had been invited to attend the Year 10 Biophysics Impact Day at the University of Oxford's Department of Physics. The event provided a fantastic opportunity to explore how physics helps us understand life through hands-on activities, interactive sessions with leading scientists and visits to state-of-the-art research laboratories. Students enjoyed making mini robots from batteries and tiny motors, and explored how physicists use the concept of active particles—living things that move using their own energy—to explain phenomena ranging from the movement of structures within cells to the spectacular murmurations formed by flocks of birds. A particular highlight of the day was learning how fluorescence microscopes can be used to make specific parts of cells glow, allowing scientists to track movement and investigate cellular processes



in real time. It was a fascinating example of how advances in physics continue to transform our understanding of biology and medicine. The day provided a real insight into how scientists from different disciplines work together to answer some of the biggest questions about life.



While the visit itself was a tremendous success, the journey home was made challenging by significant rail disruption. Despite the delays, our students were exceptional throughout. They demonstrated remarkable resilience, maturity and good humour, adapting to the situation admirably. Many even turned the unexpected waiting time into a productive revision session, making use of the delayed trains to prepare for their remaining Science examinations.

The students were a real credit to themselves, their families and the school. Their positive attitude, resourcefulness and exemplary behaviour were evident throughout the day, and they represented the school superbly. It was a privilege to spend the day with them.



Year 12 Biology students recently enjoyed the annual rite of passage that is the kidney dissection practical. Armed with scalpels, gloves and varying levels of enthusiasm, they set about exploring the intricate structure of this remarkable organ.

The warm weather added an extra dimension to the experience, creating what can only be described as a particularly memorable aroma in the laboratory. While opinions differed on whether the smell enhanced the learning experience, there was unanimous agreement that it was one of the more immersive practicals of the year!

Despite the challenging olfactory conditions, students worked brilliantly throughout, demonstrating excellent practical skills, curiosity and resilience. They successfully identified key structures and gained valuable insight into how the kidneys perform their vital role.

A huge well done to all involved, and a special mention to those who managed to eat lunch afterwards without hesitation! Thankfully, by the next lesson, the windows were wide open.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the Science teachers and support staff for everything you have done throughout this year. The experiences you provide for our students create a fantastic learning journey, and I am proud to be part of such a dedicated and talented team. Enjoy your well-earned rest over the summer!



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!



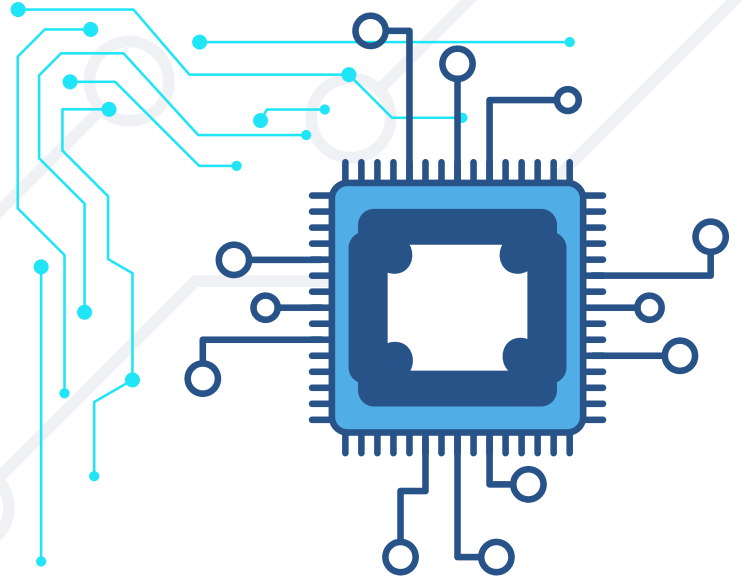
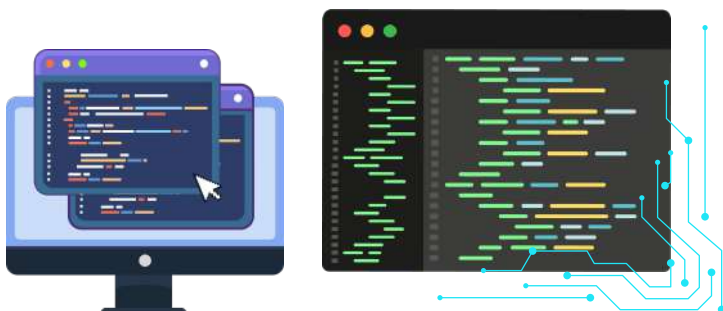
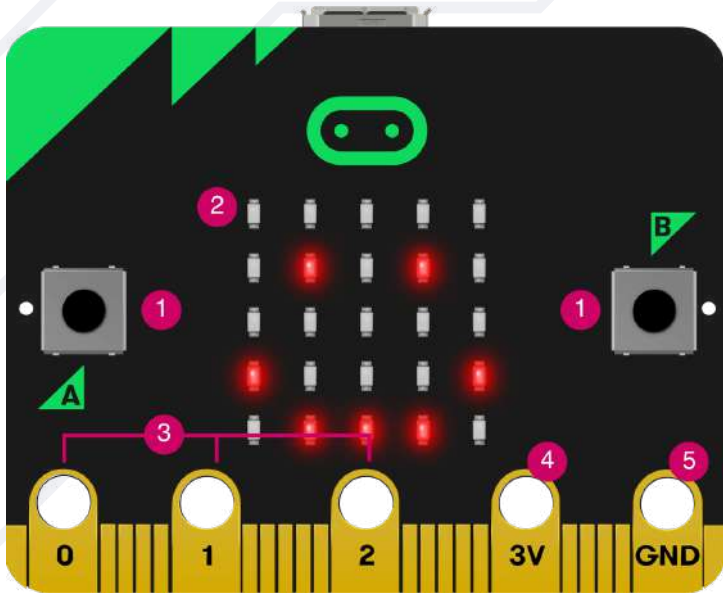
COMPUTER SCIENCE

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

Key Stage 3

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

For other year groups, we look forward to continuing your journey with us into next year. There will be more opportunities to develop practical skills next year as the tech rotation that was Robotics is becoming Programming for Year 8, the same as Year 9 have had the last few years. This will involve more use of Micro:Bits and then a move into Python programming using the Turtle library in Year 8 and for Year 9 a move to text-based programming and a number of short games to program throughout the rotation.



Key Stage 4

In Computer Science, the GCSE Year 11 cohort finished their exams, despite a misprint on one of their papers! The exam board has acknowledged this error and assured us that no-one will be penalised because of it. We look forward to results day and seeing how you have achieved! The Year 10 groups are progressing nicely with a lot of practical programming to finish the year!

In BTEC IT, the Year 11s finished the course on the 1st of May and we hope it has helped them develop some skills that will be useful in their future studies and careers. The Year 10s are now in the process of their 2nd controlled coursework and we look forward to seeing how they get on when we return after the summer, where they will do the remaining 2 tasks.

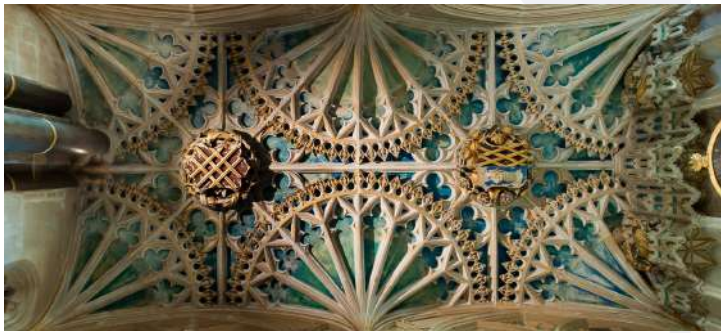
Key Stage 5

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

Year 12 have completed the majority of the course content now and are starting their NEA Programming Projects – some of the ideas are excellent and we look forward to seeing them progress to working programs!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Usually at this time of year, we begin the RE section of the newsletter by celebrating the success of the Salisbury Cathedral Trip! Unfortunately, this trip was postponed due to the extreme heat that we were experiencing on the days that we were due to be in Salisbury with Year 7. Planning is now well under way to run this trip near the beginning of Year 8 so that students will not miss out on this 'rite of passage' at the beginning of their time at St. Edward's. We would like to thank parents and students alike for their patience and flexibility as we prioritised the welfare of everyone involved in the trip.



In the Summer term, Year 7, 8 and 9 classes in RE focus on the themes of Diversity and Justice. After finishing their study of "Who are the people of God?" (which focused on a range of Old Testament figures), Year 7 students moved on to explore a brand new unit of study which guides them through the process of comparing and contrasting the three Abrahamic Faiths. Students have found this new unit both interesting and challenging and have been surprised to find so many similarities between them. In the last few lessons of the year, Year 7 students will be learning about various 'Social Justice Heroes'; considering what virtues are required to be such a person and how we might follow in their footsteps.

Year 8 have focused on the concept of 'Dukkha' through their study of Buddhism and have been considering the Buddha's response to what causes suffering and what the cure might be. Towards the end of term, they have been focusing on "Does all life have value?", looking at the distinction between the Sanctity and Quality of Life and applying these concepts to modern day issues such as Animal Rights and the Euthanasia Debate.

Year 9 have completed their in-depth study of Sikhism, with an emphasis on the importance of equality and the oneness of God (Waheguru).

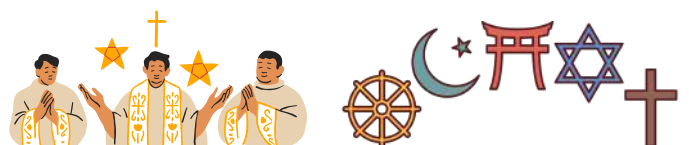
Year 7, 8 and 9 RE classes have all benefitted from sessions led by Harry Vincent, our School Life Pastor, giving them opportunities to reflect on the direction of their lives and their relationships.

Having completed their internal examinations, Year 10 students are now nearing the end of their first year of GCSE study. We are currently studying 'Issues of Relationships' and students have thrown themselves into discussing a wide range of issues surrounding the nature and purpose of marriage. Year 11 have now completed all of their final GCSE examinations in RE; we would like to thank them for all their hard work in RE and wish them all the best for the future. We are delighted that a large number of these students have already expressed their intention to study RE at A-Level!

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

We would like to thank Mr Farrow in particular for the planning and resourcing of Year 12 and Year 13 Personal Enquiry lessons this year, the engagement and positive feedback from students this year has reflected how much work has gone into this. Throughout the year students have enjoyed moving through the series of lessons that are intriguingly named: 'The Only Way is Ethics', 'Deep Thought' and 'The Paranormal and The Metanormal'; it is not hard to see why students have found these topics so interesting!

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



CHAPLAINCY

As another busy and inspiring academic year draws to a close we have been incredibly thankful for the many opportunities our school community has had to grow in faith fellowship and service. Here are some of the highlights.

Spiritual Development in the Wilderness

This term, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in bespoke RE lessons in our Wilderness Area, placing spiritual development at the heart of their learning.

Each year group experienced activities carefully designed to meet their stage of development, creating opportunities for students to grow individually, strengthen relationships within their class and reflect more deeply on their own faith journey. Activities included outdoor reflection stations, team building challenges inspired by the natural environment, den building, and reflective walks that made use of the wider school site.

Away from the classroom, students were encouraged to slow down, notice God's creation and consider the importance of their choices, their journey and how to build upon it. These sessions provided valuable space for reflection and reminded us that some of life's most meaningful learning can happen outdoors.

Faith in Action Awards

Our Bronze Faith in Action students were formally presented with their Bronze Awards by Deacon Nick Johnson on behalf of the Diocese of Plymouth. Each student received a certificate of achievement alongside their Bronze pin badge in recognition of their commitment to serving others reflecting on their experiences and living out their faith in practical ways.

We are incredibly proud of every student who completed the award and are delighted that they are now beginning their journey towards the Silver Award. We look forward to seeing the many ways they continue to serve both our school and wider community during the Autumn Term.



Open Chapel

Our Open Chapel continues to provide a space at the heart of school life. Throughout the week students regularly make use of the Chapel to engage in the Word, spend time in fellowship, and catch up with local Youth Pastors and visiting guests.

Student Chaplaincy Supporting Mini Vinnies

Members of our Student Chaplaincy Team from Years 9 and 10 were honoured to support the Mini Vinnies group at St Mary's Church by planning and delivering a series of engaging workshops.

Mini Vinnies, the younger branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), encourages children to live out their faith through service, kindness and practical action. Our students demonstrated outstanding leadership and enthusiasm throughout the day, sharing their experiences while encouraging younger pupils to explore what it means to serve others.

Their contribution was highly praised by both the hosting parish and the British SVP National Manager, who happened to be visiting on the day. It was wonderful to see our students representing St Edward's so positively whilst strengthening our partnership with the local Church community.

Covering Our Students in Prayer

As students prepared to begin the exam season,

parents, staff, clergy and members of our local parish community gathered together for a special evening of prayer.

Held in the Sports Hall amongst the examination desks, the service created a powerful opportunity to pray over the very space where students would soon sit their exams. Together we entrusted our young people to God's care, praying for peace, wisdom, courage and confidence throughout the examination season.

It was a moving reminder of the strength of our wider school community and of the importance of surrounding our students with encouragement and prayer during significant moments in their lives.

Year 9 Kintbury Residential

Following the success of the Year 10 residential earlier this year, our Year 9 students also enjoyed an unforgettable visit to St Cassian's Centre in Kintbury during May.

Over the course of the residential, students participated in a variety of team building activities, discussion and personal reflection. The experience provided valuable opportunities to strengthen friendships, deepen faith and discover more about themselves in a supportive Christian environment.

Exploring Vocation with Sister Teresa

We were delighted to welcome Sister Teresa from the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, who is also a former St Edward's student.

Sister Teresa spent time with students sharing her own story of faith, vocation and calling before opening the floor to an honest and engaging Q&A session. Students asked thoughtful questions about religious life, discernment and what it means to dedicate a life to serving God.

Her visit offered a valuable opportunity for students to encounter a lived expression of Christian vocation while helping them understand the richness and diversity of ministry within the wider Church. It was an inspiring reminder that

God calls each of us in unique ways to live lives of purpose and service.

Walking the St Edward's Way Pilgrimage

Students from across the year groups once again took part in our annual St Edward's Way pilgrimage.

Throughout the walk, students experienced opportunities for discussion and time to appreciate the beauty of God's creation while supporting and encouraging one another along the route. The route challenged students both physically and spiritually, helping them to recognise that faith is often strengthened through perseverance, community and shared experience.

Our sincere thanks go to Mr Keene for organising another outstanding event that continues to be one of the highlights of our school calendar.

Looking Ahead

As we prepare for another exciting academic year, we are already looking forward to a number of opportunities that will continue to nurture the faith and wellbeing of our school community.

Our postponed Year 7 visit to Salisbury Cathedral will now take place during the Autumn Term, when students will have begun Year 8. Although the visit had to be cancelled, we are delighted that students will still have the opportunity to experience one of England's most beautiful cathedrals while exploring its rich Christian heritage.

In September, we will once again be partnering with the 24-7 Prayer movement as part of the National Week of Prayer for Schools. Our Chapel will remain open throughout the school day and will be providing creative and engaging prayer stations where students and staff can spend time reflecting, praying and responding to God's call.

Building on our existing programme of Catholic Mass and Anglican Eucharist, we are also excited to introduce a new ecumenical service. Planned

CHAPLAINCY

and led by our Student Chaplaincy Team this gathering will provide another opportunity for our Christian community to worship together in a spirit of unity.

Our commitment to serving others will continue through the Wessex Rotary Shoebox Appeal. Every tutor group will be invited to prepare and donate at least one shoebox filled with gifts for children and families in need, offering practical support and hope to communities beyond our own.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students into the St Edward's family. Early in the Autumn Term they will attend our annual retreat at St Mary's Catholic Church, Poole which promises to be a day filled with fun, reflection and opportunities to begin building lasting friendships. The retreat introduces students to the Christian ethos of our school, encourages them to begin thinking about their own faith journey and reminds them that we are deeply committed to supporting not only their academic success but also the people they are becoming.

As another school year comes to an end, we would like to thank our students, families, staff, clergy and wider community for their continued support of Chaplaincy at St Edward's. It has been a privilege to witness our young people growing in faith, compassion and service, and we look forward with great hope and expectation to all that God has in store for the year ahead.

With every blessing,

The Chaplaincy Team
St Edward's School



Key Stage 3

Our Key Stage 3 students have been working hard across a range of engaging and relevant topics. Year 7 students have been studying our local coastline, which has been particularly timely as the warmer weather encourages visits to the beach with friends and family. Students have explored coastal processes, landforms, and the importance of managing our coastlines sustainably.

Year 8 students have shown great enthusiasm while studying tectonic hazards, demonstrating a strong understanding of earthquakes, volcanoes, and how communities around the world respond to these events. It has been particularly rewarding to see students engage with real-world examples and develop a growing awareness of global challenges.

Year 9 students have recently been completing their conflicts geography topic, examining how resources, politics, and the environment can lead to tensions both locally and globally. They are now beginning their transition to GCSE Geography, and we look forward to supporting them as they take this important next step in their studies.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, we say a fond farewell to our Year 11 students, who have worked incredibly hard and successfully completed their GCSE examinations. We are extremely proud of their efforts and wish them every success in their future pathways.

Year 10 students have been exploring the diverse physical landscapes of the UK, including rivers, coasts, and upland environments. Their growing understanding of how physical processes shape the world around them will provide a strong foundation as they move into Year 11.

Key Stage 5

We also say goodbye to our outstanding Year 13 cohort, who have consistently demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience, and commitment throughout their time studying Geography. They

leave us as confident and capable individuals, and they will be sorely missed by staff and students alike.

Our Year 12 students are beginning to focus on their coursework, an important component of their A Level studies. They have already engaged in the fieldwork process, including an exciting trip to London. During this visit, students investigated locations within the bustling tourist centre as well as a regeneration site in the East End, comparing how different areas of the city function and develop. A particular highlight of the trip was the opportunity to visit the Bank of England, where students even had the chance to hold a bar of gold – a memorable experience that brought learning to life.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Reflecting on a Spectacular Year in MFL!

As the academic year draws to a close, we take a moment to look back on this past year.

The French Exchange

A highlight of our year was welcoming students and their teachers from our French partner school Collège Bucaille-Charcot in June. Our students had previously visited them in Cherbourg earlier this year, and this time it was their turn to visit us. A highlight of their stay was a day trip to Bath, along with their exchange partners from St. Edward's. An exchange offers the full experience of life in a different country, and we are very proud of our long-standing partnerships with schools in France and Germany.



The Photography Competition

Our annual European photography competition returned this term and invited students to share their pictures from across the continent. We were very pleased with the high standard and variety of submissions. We are delighted to announce the results: Hadessa (Yr7) took third place with a beautiful image of Albania, Lucy (Yr9) secured second place with a beautiful picture of Switzerland, and first place went to Liddy (Yr7) for her stunning photograph taken in Portugal. The winners received certificates and small prizes, and we extend a big thank you to everyone who participated. All submission entries are now proudly displayed in the MFL corridor, and they are getting a lot of attention!

Language Lounge

Our Friday lunchtime club, Language Lounge remains popular. Highlights this term include

learning about K-Pop, Reunion Island, la fête de la musique and of course, the Eurovision Song Contest celebration where we enjoyed the music as well as learning about the city of Vienna. Language Lounge is an informal space for students with an interest in language to connect and learn beyond the classroom.



Academic Progress in the MFL Classroom

Year 7 linguists have successfully split their year between French and German. They can now

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

confidently discuss themselves, talk about their families, and their schools and hobbies in both target languages.

Year 8 French students focused on the themes of talents and role models this past term, while their German counterparts mastered the language needed for going out and making plans with friends. To wrap up the year, all Year 8 students completed a cultural film study, analysing characters and writing summaries. The French classes watched the comedy *Le Petit Nicolas*, following the chaotic adventures of a mischievous young boy, while the German classes explored *Fritzi-Eine Wendewundergeschichte*, which is set against the backdrop of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Year 9 students have officially reached the end of their Key Stage 3 language journeys. This final term saw the German classes focus on the topics of childhood and school, while the French classes explored the region of Normandy. Our lessons concluded with a highly popular cultural and historical project centered around cinema. German students studied the film *Ballon*, the gripping true story of two families escaping East Germany via a hot air balloon prior to reunification. Meanwhile, French students studied the classic *Les Choristes*, a moving tale of a teacher transforming the lives of troubled boarding school boys by founding a choir.

Year 10 linguists have continued to make excellent strides in their GCSE courses, recently wrapping up their unit on festivals and celebrations.

Year 12 students are now halfway through their A-Level courses. They are truly thriving in their literary studies, diving deep into character analysis, core themes, and the socio-political contexts of their text choices across both spoken and written French and German.

A huge congratulations goes out to both our Year 10 and Year 12 cohorts for crossing the finish line of their first formal year of examination study. Having navigated mock exams and their very first

official speaking assessments, they should be incredibly proud of their resilience. We certainly are!

Finally, we wish you all a restful and sunny summer break, and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the department in September.

Bonnes vacances! Schöne Ferien!



**DID YOU ATTEND
OR WORK AT ST EDWARD'S?
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW
TO JOIN OUR ALUMNI
MAILING LIST!**



PSYCHOLOGY



This term, Year 12 students have been embracing the changes to the Psychology curriculum with the new emphasis on Clinical Psychology and its application in the real world. This has led to a number of students seeking work experience in this area and we look forward to supporting these students with UCAS applications into a greater range of courses.

Students have also been developing their mathematical skills in Psychology with an introduction to statistical analysis which has enabled them to draw conclusions about the significance of research findings. We began looking at this with a simple experiment on mind power to see if a coin would land on tails more when we willed this to happen compared to when we didn't. Although there was an increase in the number of times the coin landed on tails in the mind power condition compared to the control, this difference was surprisingly found to not be statistically significant!

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

SOCIOLOGY



As we prepared to say goodbye to our Year 13 students, it was pleasing to see so many of them engaging positively with the directed revision sessions held in school after the official Leavers Day. Students actively participated in reviewing key topics, discussing exam strategies and clarifying areas of uncertainty. We hope that this preparation enabled them to approach the examinations with confidence and wish them every success as they await their results. They have been such a lovely cohort to teach and we will miss them!

Year 12 students have thoroughly enjoyed their introduction to the Year 13 modules; Beliefs in Society and Crime & Deviance. The engagement and enthusiasm demonstrated in class discussions have been really encouraging. The Crime & Deviance unit offers a unique opportunity to analyse social norms, deviant behaviour and the complexities of crime in society. We encourage students to continue exploring the topic through real-world case studies and current events that bring sociological theories and concepts to life. This will be particularly important over the long summer break, when we encourage students to read/listen/view the news and relevant documentaries regularly and alongside their revision of key sociological concepts.

Congratulations are owed to the Y12 students who have shown they can engage fully with the follow-up work and revision activities designed to address gaps identified through the April examinations. Continuing in this vein will support a strong start to Year 13. If students need any further guidance, they can contact staff via email.

Sixth Form Induction Day saw two groups of students enjoy a taster of a subject that most of them have not studied before. Students explored the difference between positivist and interpretivist approaches to research before beginning to scratch the surface of conflict theory and its explanations of society. They have also been provided with an extensive list of suggested reading, viewing and listening materials which will provide an engaging and enriching introduction to Sociology over the summer, regardless of whether they ultimately choose the subject in September.

In Food, Year 7's favourite practical has been making fruit cheesecakes. They produced an impressive range of attractive outcomes. This practical helped them to learn to use a range of pieces of electrical equipment safely, manage the hob successfully and further develop their knife skills.



We took three Year 8 boys to AUB to participate in the "Being A Boy" program and during the workshop, the boys collaborated with a fashion lecturer to explore creative approaches to fashion communication. They began by investigating how ideas can be expressed visually, considering the meanings and emotions associated with colour as they built their own mood boards. The workshop continued with a hands-on design task, where students experimented with transferring images to create their own t-shirt and hat designs, reflecting their identity. To conclude, the boys produced a "flat lay" composition, carefully selecting and arranging objects that represent who they are.



In Year 10, the Graphic Design students have recently been working on a brief to design a t-shirt graphic for Passenger, based on the theme "slow down and connect". They have been experimenting with different techniques to create their graphics, whilst developing their understanding of visual identity. Katie, a senior designer at Passenger, was kind enough to come into school so they could present their ideas to her and receive real client feedback – a valuable experience for our students.



Key Stage 3

In Art our Year 7 students have finished the year exploring the theme of Japanese Art. Students have experimented with print making after studying Hokusai's Great Wave, they have looked at Sakura, Kimonos and are exploring their own ideas in the style of Manga.

Our Year 8 students have explored a wide range of artists who have been inspired by nature, including Peter Randall-Page and William Morris. They are finishing their Year 8 course by responding with their own paintings inspired by both Georgia O'Keeffe and William Morris.

Our Year 9 students have explored African Art and Textiles and their own Identity in art this year. They have finished the year with some very exciting work exploring their date of birth, their name and themselves through portraiture. We look forward to teaching lots of the Year 9 students in their GCSE groups next year and we wish all those who will no longer be studying Art every success with their GCSE options.

Key Stage 4 & 5

Year 10, "Being A Boy" workshops

A small group of our Year 10 male artists participated in two full day workshops at The Arts University Bournemouth. The students completed the 'Snapshot' workshop which allowed them to explore masculinity through photography and the 'Reclaim' workshop which explored graphic design by creating pictograms and personalised notebooks. We would like to congratulate the boys that participated as the feedback on their maturity and participation was excellent.

Year 10 visit to The Arts University Bournemouth Summer Shows

The Year 10 artists visited the Undergraduate degree shows at The Arts University Bournemouth. Students had the opportunity to view a range of work in textiles, model making, architecture, fine art and illustration. The visit allowed students to see a wide range of inspiring work in a range of media and also introduced our students to the



wide range of creative courses on offer at degree level. The students will also use the visit to inspire their own GCSE Art Portfolio.

GCSE & A Level Art Exhibition

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

A diverse range of imaginative and creative work has been produced and every student who sat the GCSE and A Level Art ESAs had work exhibited at the summer Art show. Staff and students were extremely disappointed that due to weather warnings and the heatwave the event had to be cancelled. The exhibition was therefore recorded digitally by our wonderful PR lead who is now making a video of the work which looked stunning in the exhibition. We will share the reel of the exhibition in the Autumn term, after the summer results. We are unable to share this before the summer due to AQA requirements.

The Josh Taylor Memorial Prize

We would like to take this opportunity to announce the winner of The Josh Taylor Memorial Prize. The Prize was set up to commemorate the life of Josh Taylor, a talented artist and former A Level student. The prize celebrates both Josh's artistic talent and the talent of students at the end of their A level course. This year we would like to thank Lauren Keene, Head of Performing Arts at St Edwards, for selecting the winner. Congratulations go to **Enya Ji Walls** who is this year's winner of The Josh Taylor Memorial Prize.

Year 12 Art Mocks

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



PERFORMING ARTS

What an incredible year it has been for Performing Arts at St Edward's School. We have celebrated creativity, resilience, collaboration and talent across our whole community, and it has been wonderful to see so many students take to the stage, develop new skills and discover their confidence.

This year marked a very special moment for our department as we produced our first whole-school musical in four years: Sister Act. The show was a huge success, with several sellout performances. The energy, commitment and joy from the cast, band, backstage teams and wider creative crew made this a truly memorable production. Seeing so many students come together to create something so special reminded us all of the power of Performing Arts.



We have also continued to develop our dance provision through exciting workshops in association with Pavilion Dance South West, exploring movement, creativity and performance. A key focus has been raising the profile of boys in dance and ensuring that our department remains an inclusive and welcoming space where every student feels able to participate, regardless of experience or background. We very much hope to introduce the Dance GCSE back into the curriculum next year!

Our students have also had the opportunity to experience professional theatre first-hand, with a trip to London to see Les Misérables. Alongside watching this incredible production, students took part in a workshop that allowed them to explore performance techniques and gain insight into the world of musical theatre.

One of the highlights of our year was our annual Fringe Festival, which once again showcased the incredible breadth of talent across St Edward's.



PERFORMING ARTS

With over 150 students involved, the festival celebrated drama, dance, music, art and public speaking. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to share their creativity, take risks and support each other in a vibrant celebration of the arts.

We are also incredibly excited for our upcoming Performing Arts residential trip to Paris, where students will perform in both Disneyland Paris and the heart of Paris city. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to represent St Edward's, perform in new environments and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce our next whole-school musical: *Guys and Dolls*! Please save the date: **2nd-5th February 2027!** We cannot wait to bring this classic production to the St Edward's stage and see our students take on another exciting challenge.

Finally, we would like to take a moment to say a heartfelt farewell to Mrs Keene, who has been such an important part of the Performing Arts department for the past 12 years. Mrs Keene has inspired countless students, created unforgettable opportunities and helped shape the department into the thriving creative community it is today.

After many years of dedicated teaching, Mrs Keene is taking a step back from full-time teaching to spend more time with her family. However, she will not be disappearing completely! She looks forward to returning to celebrate Performing Arts with us at events such as our Christmas concerts and next year's musical; this time as a member of the audience.

The students she has worked with hold a very special place in her heart, and we know they will join us in thanking her for everything she has given to St Edward's.

What a year it has been, and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for Performing Arts at St Edward's School.



It's been another fantastic term for sport at St Edward's, with so many of our students displaying outstanding teamwork, determination and commitment across a wide range of competitions.

Our volleyball teams enjoyed an excellent season, with the Y7 Boys and Y8 Boys both finishing as runners-up, while our Y7 Girls secured an impressive third-place finish. These results reflect the hard work and dedication shown by all of our players throughout the year.

In rounders, our students continued to excel. The Y7 and Y8 Boys were crowned champions, finishing in first place, while our Y8 Boys and Y9-10 Mixed teams also celebrated gold medal-winning performances, making rounders one of the standout sports of the season.

Our Y10 Cricket Team produced a thrilling performance in the Stokes Cup Semi Final, narrowly losing to QE by just one run. It was a closely contested match, with Stan producing an outstanding bowling display and taking several key wickets. Meanwhile, our Y7 and Y8 cricket teams have enjoyed fixtures against local schools, with many students experiencing competitive hard-ball cricket for the very first time, an exciting milestone in their sporting journey.

As a reward for their commitment to representing St Edward's in netball and basketball, 22 students will be visiting Millfield School for a special enrichment day. The experience includes high-level coaching sessions, educational seminars, a fun swim and competitive fixtures against another school, providing an invaluable opportunity to develop both their skills and confidence.

We also hosted our annual Sports Presentation Evening, celebrating the achievements of our student athletes throughout the year. The evening was made even more special by the attendance of Olympic medallist Izzy Songhurst, who inspired students with her experiences and achievements. Hundreds of awards were presented, recognising the dedication and success of students across all

year groups. Congratulations to our major award winners:

Jr Sportswoman: Abi (Y9)



Jr Sportsman: Joey (Y9)



**Sr Sportswoman:
Charlotte (Y11)**



Sr Sportsman: Noel (Y11)



Their names will now take pride of place on the Sports Alumni Board in the PE foyer, recognising their outstanding contribution to sport at St Edward's.

Our athletics team enjoyed an exceptional season, with 9 students qualifying for the County Finals across a range of events including the 100m, 200m, 800m, 1500m, javelin, long jump and high jump. Congrats to Harry and Efe (Y7), Theo (Y8), and Rhys and Percy (Y9), alongside their fellow qualifiers, on reaching this outstanding level of competition.

These achievements are a testament to the enthusiasm, resilience and sporting excellence demonstrated by our students throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of everyone who has represented St Edward's School, whether competing for medals, trying a new sport for the first time, or supporting their teammates. We look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.