



St Edward's  
School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

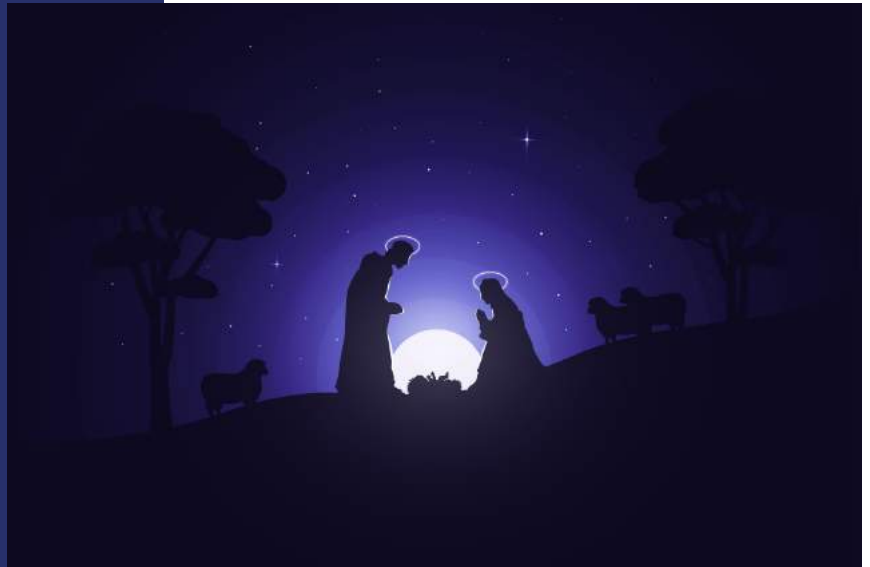
# Christmas Newsletter

## *In This Issue*

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

**School attendance review**

**Shoebox Appeal**



Dear Parents and Carers,

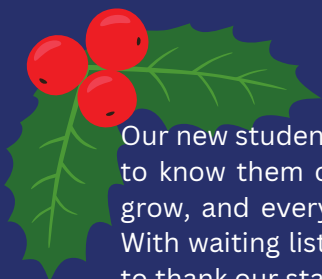
There is much to be thankful for as we near the end of the Autumn Term and approach Christmas. This time last year we were evaluating the return of students to school after two years of disruption due to the pandemic; and whilst the spectre of Covid hasn't entirely faded, it has not dominated decision making to the extent that it had done in recent years. That said, we could not have foreseen that we would end this year with the presence of refugees from the Ukraine among us, and sometimes it seems that the world swaps one form of instability for another. We try, though, to ensure that our school is a calm and focused place of learning amidst all that surrounds us beyond.

At the end of the Autumn term we say farewell to several staff, including Marie Lane, who has served us so faithfully in her role as School Business Manager for many years. We owe much to her prudent stewardship of resources as the school has navigated through a challenging financial context for education in our country, through times of school closures and staffing shortages.

She has also been so instrumental in securing the school opportunities and resources to improve the experience of students and staff alike. Whilst Marie will be stepping aside from her role, she will remain with us for a time, to ensure that our new School Business Manager, Gordon Staines, settles in well. Mr Staines joins us in January.

Also joining us will be Lucy Lumber, our new library assistant; Iain Clark, Maths teacher; and Jessica Napper, teaching assistant, returns from maternity leave. Lucy Ralph leaves us to join Canford School, and we thank her for all that she has brought to the Maths department. Charlie Eastwood, who has worked here for over 10 years in a range of roles, is moving to a new career, using her many skills; and we also bid farewell to Adam Rustell who has helped us in the admin team. We are always fortunate to have the staff that we do, and our thanks go with colleagues beginning new chapters elsewhere.

**Continues on p2**



Our new students have settled in well to years 7 and 12 respectively, and it has been a pleasure to get to know them over the past term. Life in school is always changing and evolving as young people grow, and every child brings their experiences, their potentials and aspirations to our community. With waiting lists in every year group, St Edward's remains a school in high demand, and I would like to thank our staff team for all that they do to make our school such a special place. In the year ahead we will be celebrating 60 years as a school, and there will be various events to mark the occasion, culminating in a special service in September, as we remember the opening of St Edward's as a small school for 500 students, in 1963.

Our work as a school came under scrutiny from Ofsted last month, as parents are aware, and we await the draft of their report with interest. We do not set out, as a school, to serve any particular framework, preferring, rather, to grow a school that we instinctively feel benefits both the educational spiritual and personal formation of young people. With a Section 48 inspection expected in the new year, we will always benefit from external visitors sharing thoughts about how we might improve further as a school; seeking always to prepare students for life, rather than solely for exams or the workplace, though both have their important place within our provision. If we build a school where young people are equipped to live life to the full, rather than merely being prepared to make an economic contribution to society, then our success will be evident in the long-term, and the value of our work will be expressed in different terms and measures than the frameworks currently available to school inspectors.

With Christmas before us, how we as a people long for light! Perhaps we help young people best by teaching them to look for it, amidst worries and preoccupations. Counting blessings, recalling good times, making light of things, strengthening resilience, spelling out our uniqueness; these are all part of life's curriculum that together home and school try to teach.

All of us at St Edward's wish our families and friends a happy Christmas; and I hope that as you read this newsletter, you will share our gratitude for all that we have given and received this term.

Mr Antram, Headteacher



*May we  
be One*

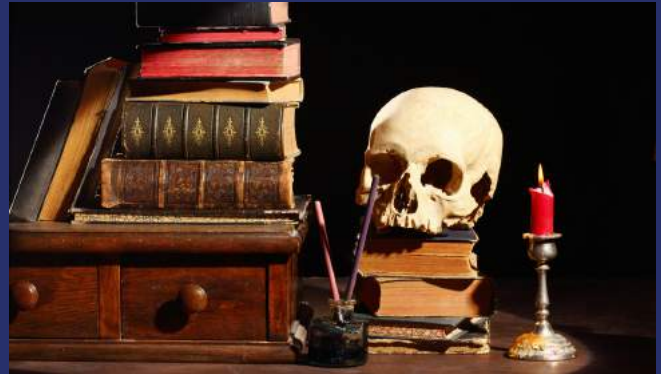


## Key Stage 3

In English this term, Year 7 students have been studying the novel *'Private Peaceful'* by Michael Morpurgo. As part of this, they have learnt about the changing relationships of young people as they grow up and have been exploring the context of World War I including patriotism, propaganda and the experiences of the soldiers. As part of St. Edward's Armistice Day events, students were guided through the poem *'Dulce et Decorum Est'* by Wilfred Owen. Students were set the challenge of interpreting the text through a performance reading. Our students took on this challenge with zest and the teachers in the English department were touched by the amount of thought and preparation that our students displayed during the activities. Students have also learnt about the themes of war by studying other poems such as *'Flanders Fields'* by John McCrae and exploring ideas about propaganda through poems such as *'Who's for the Game'* by Jesse Pope.

Our Year 8 students have been studying the novel *'Boy 87'* by Ele Fountain. This has been hugely popular with students and has put them on an emotional learning journey to a deeper understanding of the effects of war and resulting migration.

The focus for our Year 9 students this term has been dystopian fiction. Students have read a range of dystopian texts, exploring the language and structure of this genre. This is now culminating in students writing their own dystopian narratives.



## Key Stage 4

The English Department has been hosting additional Masterclasses as an opportunity for our Year 11 students to dive into ideas surrounding the texts that we study in lessons. Sessions have included an introduction to literary theory, approaches to further reading and themes in *Macbeth*. Students are invited to join in discussion and debate and are given some ideas for further exploration to take away with them.

*An Inspector Calls* took over the department in November for an afternoon. Many of our Year 11 students went to the Mayflower to see the show live, whilst some took part in a live workshop hosted by Box Clever Theatre Company. Both experiences gave students a chance to engage with the show in performance, considering representations of characters and engaging with how they delivered Priestley's message about social justice.

## Literacy and Oracy

Our school library has been refurbished and is now an even more inviting and practical room for quiet reading and study. Students are welcome to use the resources at lunchtime and the end of the day. Key Stage Three students also have reading lessons in the Library as part of their English curriculum.



Newly refurbished library



Outside of the classroom, EDGE students have taken part in oracy driven sessions on public speaking and performance poetry. Year 10 students have started their exploration of public speaking by looking at and evaluating speeches by Winston Churchill and Greta Thunberg. Year 8 students did a fantastic job of performing *Television* by Roald Dahl in a lively and entertaining manner. Perhaps one to read together over the Christmas break? It is a fun one to perform!

Appeal

families who filled shoeboxes for Essex appeal to help support displaced children in Albania, Romania.



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



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

During the first half term, Year 7 studied the story of Saint Edward and the history and development of our school, particularly the values that underpinned its transformation into a joint church school. We have since moved on to learn about why there are different Christian traditions and the major similarities and differences between them. Each Year 7 group also enjoyed a session in our school chapel with Fr. James where he spoke about the main features of the chapel, its importance for our school community and the various facets of Christian worship.

Year 8 has enjoyed the completion of their unit of study that delved into the meaning and importance of vocation in the lives of Christians and have now moved on to learn about the key beliefs and practices within the Jewish tradition, with a particular emphasis being placed on the concept of 'covenant' and how the relationship between God and humans was first established and has developed over time. Year 9 found the study of a range of both religious and secular ethical theories particularly engaging and have since been reflecting on how best to solve moral dilemmas in their own lives and have started an in-depth study of Islamic beliefs, teachings and practices.



In Key Stage 4 classes, Yr 10 has been focused on Jewish beliefs, teachings and practices whilst Year 11 has been learning about 'Issues of Good and Evil' (including crime and punishment) and considering how successful attempts have been to reconcile the existence of God with the existence of evil and suffering in the world. These topics have resulted in a high level of in-class discussion and debate. Many Year 11 students have also recently enjoyed an A Level RE taster lesson to help them to make informed decisions about what they might like to study next year.

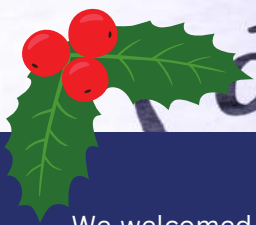
Once again, we have been privileged to benefit from visits from PACE (Programme for Applied Christian Education) in a variety of lessons. A particular highlight was a series of Year 11 lessons that debated the compatibility of Christianity and Humanism and featured a guest speaker from Humanists UK.

In Sixth Form, a relatively large class of Year 12 students have made an enthusiastic start to their study of A Level RE and have already started to evaluate a number of high-level concepts such as Rationalism, Empiricism, Utilitarianism, Kantianism and Augustinian theories concerning human nature. We are also currently planning a residential study trip for Year 12 RE students to Quarr Abbey on the Isle of Wight which is scheduled for May 2023.

Year 13 students have been working hard in preparation for their examinations and have enjoyed debates surrounding topics such as Conscience, Religious Pluralism, Gender Roles and Religious Experience as well as revising all of the content that they covered last year.

Along with the Quarr Abbey trip that has already been mentioned, there has been lots of activity with Advent reflection sessions delivered to Year 7 classes by Harry Vincent (a member of the school Chaplaincy team), more sessions from PACE, a video link lesson for Year 12 students with a business manager from the Co-op on the theme of 'ethics in business', planning for the Easter Rome trip, EDGE sessions on the theme of St. Francis and a review of our KS3 and KS4 curriculum all due take place between the time of writing and the Spring half-term. Never a dull moment!

Mr Willis, Subject Leader for RE



We welcomed two new staff members to the team in September: Miss Tranter and Mr McRill, wonderful additions to the department. Sadly one of our teachers, Mrs Ralph, will be leaving us to teach at Canford School. We wish her all the best for the future and we know her students will miss her unparalleled enthusiasm for Maths.

This term has seen the introduction of a maths revision club, where students can practice papers with the support of maths teachers. Students have engaged with this very well and we are looking forward to next term where Maths revision will be run every Monday after school for Year 11 students.

January will see Southern Universities Network (SUN) joining us in school to work with selected Year 11 students on revision skills and targeted topic revision.

Trips have been affected massively over the past few years. 2023 will see the maths department re-introduce school trips for KS3 with a focus on STEM in the real world. Please watch this space for more information. A group of Year 10 maths students have already attended the Advanced Maths Support Program (AMSP) Maths Festival at Bournemouth University where they got to experience maths and careers with talks, demonstrations and activities from Chiropractors, Sound Engineers and Energy conservation specialist. Our sixth form students have also visited JP Morgan for their "open door" event to understand the world of merchant banking and possible careers.

All the team in Maths hope you have a fantastic Christmas and we look forward to welcoming students back in January.

Mr Hegarty, Subject Leader for Maths



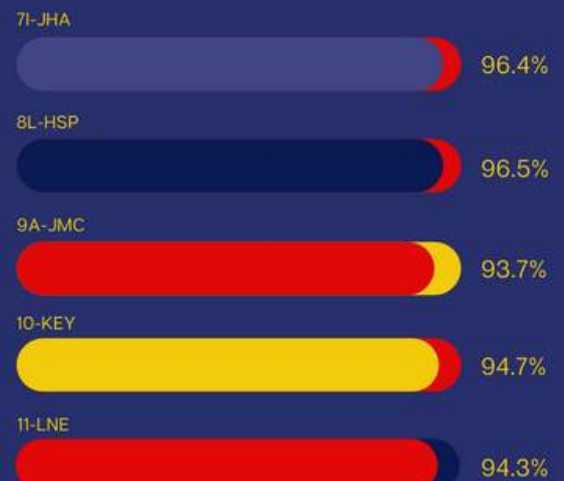
Maths Paper Club held after school to support students' practise with maths papers

## School Attendance News

We'd like to start sharing our attendance figures with parents and carers to provide a benchmark as to where we currently are as we come out of the other side of the pandemic and review the impacts this had on school attendance figures. Our current attendance figure as a school is 92.9% for Years 7-11.

Congratulations to each of the tutor groups below who achieved the highest attendance figures in their year group.

### HIGHEST ATTENDANCE IN EACH YEAR GROUP



**SUN** SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITIES  
NETWORK

J.P.Morgan

**BU**  
Bournemouth  
University





*Joyeux Noël!*  
*Frohe Weihnachten!*

This has been a busy term in the languages department, with lots happening both in and out of the classroom. Perhaps the best news as we approach Christmas is the launch of our French Exchange, resurrected this year after a 2-year hiatus caused by covid.



Our exchange is offered to all students studying French in years 9-13, with our students exchanging with peers from our partner schools in Cherbourg – the Collège Charcot-La Buaille (years 9-10) and the Lycée Alexis de Tocqueville (years 11-13). The exchange is taking place in March and June 2023 and letters regarding how to apply for a place have been sent to eligible students this week. Our school also has a partnership with Gymnasium am Kaiserdom in Speyer, Germany, with whom we successfully ran exchanges for over 20 years prior to the pandemic. We plan to run this year's exchange in June and July 2023, with letters likely to be distributed in early January.



We always visit Mont St Michel when in France

## Modern Foreign Languages



Speyer is a beautiful medieval city

Whilst they will have to wait until Year 9 before they can participate in the exchange, our Year 7 students have been in touch with peers in Speyer through our year 7 letter exchange, which involves each student writing to a student of the same age in our partner school, showing their skills in the language. In lessons our students have been studying vocabulary relating to schools so we have been comparing our timetables to those of students their age in Germany. Students were really interested in the differences (especially the 1:05pm finish to the school day!)

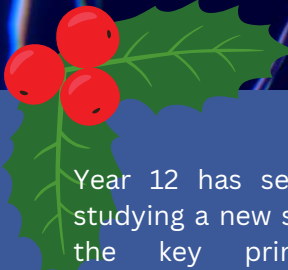
As I write we are running a Christmas card competition alongside UK partner schools we have worked with through the Prince's Teaching Institute. Prizes will be awarded for winning entries in each year group.

Lessons have progressed at their usual pace this term and students in all year groups have impressed us with their commitment, engagement and positivity.

We wish all of our students and their families a very... Joyeux Noël et bonne année / Frohe Weihnachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr.

Mr Lenarduzzi, Subject Leader for MFL





Year 12 has settled well into the demands of studying a new subject at A Level. Having grasped the key principles behind carrying out psychological investigations, students are now designing and carrying out their first practical assignment which is centred around their next Social Influence topic of Obedience.

We excitedly await the results of their studies which have attempted to find out if there is a gender difference in obedience levels and to what extent cultural differences exist in the obedience of students, to name but a few titles.

Meanwhile, Year 13 has been enjoying their Biopsychology topic which has enabled students to feed their curiosity about the complex workings of the brain.



Stanford Prison Experiment

In October, a number of students participated in an online conference with Dr Philip Zimbardo to hear him talk passionately about his infamous 'Stanford Prison Experiment', which remains one of the most controversial psychology experiments in history. One student commented that "getting [Zimbardo's] first-hand perspective on the study helped me to learn why he was encouraged to begin the study, why he chose to end it and what we wanted to do after the study ended".

The term has ended with two further events to reinforce and extend learning beyond the curriculum with several students taking part in a 'Crime and Deviance' conference at Corfe Hills which was run by individuals who have committed a variety of crimes in the past, served a period of time in prison, and who now educate students across the country by sharing their experiences of crime and the criminal justice system. This was a great opportunity for those students who are looking to study Criminology or Forensic Psychology for Higher Education. Finally, Year 12 and 13 have just taken part in a testing workshop at AECC where they have participated in a range of experiments including memory tests, the Stroop effect and the stress response using polygraph testing.



Year 12 & 13 conducting tests

Students have been exploring the extent to which specific areas of the brain are responsible for specific functions and marveling at case studies of individuals who live perfectly normal lives following damage or removal of areas of the brain, thanks to the concept of plasticity and functional recovery.

This term, students have also been taking advantage of a range of opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

Mrs Dell, Subject Leader for Psychology





It has been a fantastic start to the year in Computer Science and it has been a pleasure to welcome Mr Lawler to the department who has joined us to teach alongside me. All the students have come back this year with such positivity towards their studies and we have really enjoyed working with them this term so far and look forward to continuing on this journey with them throughout the year.

## Key Stage 3

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

At the time of writing, I do not yet have confirmed results but look forward to celebrating every success with the students who were excellent in their attitude and showed great resilience when completing the challenge, which centres around problem-solving.



## Key Stage 4

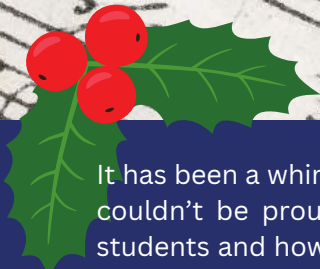
It has been really positive to see Year 10 and Year 11 both start out on and continue their GCSE learning journeys respectively. Year 10 has started out well with their studies on Systems Architecture, Memory and Data Representation and are now heading towards the Networks topic. Year 11 are sitting their mocks at time of writing, which will be a great chance to see where they are currently and what they need to work on to further improve. I have been really impressed with their attitude towards the exams, so a massive well done to them!

## Key Stage 5

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



Mr Prince, Subject Leader for Computer Science



It has been a whirlwind of a term in Music so far and I couldn't be prouder of the resilience in our Music students and how they have adapted to a brand new department.

With the sad departure of both Mr Sloan and Ms Foster-Mitchell in the summer, I have had some big shoes to fill, but the students of St Edward's have made this a very easy task indeed. It has been my pleasure to run the department with the extra help of my new Music Prefects, who are there every Monday to give me a helping hand, setting up for various Open Evenings, rehearsals, etc. so firstly I wanted to share my gratitude to each and every one of them.

This term in KS3, we have been learning and revising the Musical Elements and how they apply to Film Music, Dance Music and Pop Music and students have had the opportunity to compose and perform in those styles on both digital audio workstation and live instruments. It's been enlightening to see how quickly students pick up the logistics of music software and nurturing their creativity with the assistance of music technology, which is particularly enjoyable to see in students who otherwise wouldn't call themselves 'musicians'.

Year 10 BTEC have been learning a brand new course which involves looking at different genres including Britpop, Reggae, Jazz and Blues, Film Music and Dance/Trap Music. We've been working on Cubase to support our music scores and participating in live bands working on 'Don't Look Back in Anger' by Oasis.

Composition has been a big part of this term, with Year 11 working on original compositions for television adverts and Year 13 on original compositions based on their own musical tastes and analysis. It's been really exciting to listen to their creations and how unique each of their creative taste is. Year 12 has been learning all about the Music Industry, Music Theory and how to successfully run an ensemble band, which has been a challenging but rewarding task in team skills.

To learn more about the Music Industry, we headed to Absolute Music in Bournemouth with some BTEC and musically committed Year 9 students, which was an absolutely brilliant experience and really insightful morning. Students really enjoyed learning about the different aspects of the industry, including experience of a professional recording studio, rehearsal rooms, composition using DAWs and being 'let loose' on the shop floor! Students found it a fun and insightful morning.



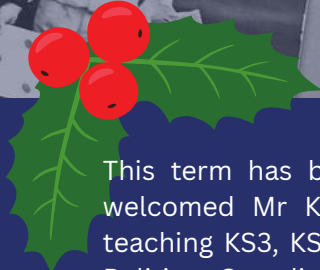
The PSMA (Poole Schools Music Association) finally performed together on Friday 2nd December for its first live concert in two years. Several other primary and secondary schools in the area performed at the concert held at Poole High School. A big thank you to our very dedicated choir who performed brilliantly after lots of rehearsals learning the music and lyrics in preparation.



Our final live performance of the year will be 'Evening of Christmas' as a joint Music, Drama and Dance collaborative at St George's Church, Oakdale. This will be taking place on Wednesday 14th December at 7pm and promises to be an absolutely fantastic evening of music, drama and dance. Students are rehearsing away and hope to bring together pieces which they have been working on for some time. We would love to see you there!

Mrs Keene, Subject Leader for Music





This term has been an exciting one, as we have welcomed Mr Kelley into the department. He is teaching KS3, KS4 and taking on the role of A level Politics Coordinator. We have also successfully begun the process for the return of the Battlefields Trip which will take place on the 22nd June 2023. Forty year 10 students will be travelling to Ypres and the Somme, to enrich their studies of history, as well as support their understanding of the lasting impacts of the Great War.



Within the Politics department, we have also taken 19 students on a trip to the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court. The sixth form students were a joy to take; we had compliments from all of the people we encountered, stating that not only were our students brilliantly behaved, but also showed analytical and evaluative skills that reflect the ability that we see every day. The students had the opportunity to act out a real Supreme Court case in the chamber where key constitutional and legal decisions have been made. The students were even able to sit in the Supreme Court Justices chairs to deliver their verdict!

Students then had a tour of the Houses of Parliament, where a number of students were wished a 'good day' by Lindsay Hoyle, the Speaker of the House of Commons. They then took part in a session where they had to make their own political parties and work out how to pass a law. We thoroughly enjoyed the day, and we look forward to making the trip a yearly event.



Our students have engaged in their learning well throughout the term; we are particularly proud of our year 11 and year 13 students who have sat mock papers this half term. We have seen excellent progress in these, and we look forward to the continuation of their hard work.

We have also welcomed our new year 10 cohorts, who have nearly finished their first module on the First World War. They have impressed all of us with their commitment to study and transition to GCSE. Our KS3 students have continued to develop key skills; year 7 have completed an introduction unit, as well as a study of the Islamic Golden Age. Year 8 has been studying the Renaissance, and looking at the developments in art, science, technology and travel that shaped our world. Year 9 has shown immense maturity as they have tackled the challenging topics of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the growth of Empire.



The next term is an exciting one; we look forward to watching our year 11 and 13 transition into the challenge of the examination period, as well as the restarting of the history revision sessions afterschool.

We also have a number of exciting projects in the planning stages which we know our students will find enriching and allow us to increase their understanding of both local, national and international history.

Miss Elms, Subject Leader for History





## Lagos, Nigeria

Key stage 4 students have been learning about this 'megacity'



### Key stage 3

Year 9 students have been taken to Boscombe on virtual fieldwork as part of a new scheme of learning that explores how places change over time. We would like to extend our appreciation to the many parents and other adults that supported the students with first-hand accounts of experiences they had enjoyed of Boscombe through the ages, it really helps to bring the students learning to life, and reinforces the learning we are encouraging in class. The next topic considers climate change, and starts with exploring past climate change based around natural causes, studying ice age (glacial) during these cold and dark few weeks will give all students a chance to reflect about the ever-changing Earth.



### Key stage 4

We would like to congratulate our Year 10 students for making the transition to GCSE Geography. Having finished their Natural Hazards which is our first Physical Geography topic, they are currently studying Urban issues and challenges, which is allowing them to learn about Lagos, a megacity in Nigeria, and tipped to be in their lifetime the largest city in the world. Following the successes of last year, Year 11 has been getting to grips with the issues generated by the oil industry in Nigeria, having studied a pre-release document in advance of their Paper 3 PPE, before we commence studying UK Rivers landscapes as the final topic of the course.

Not long to go now until the joint trip (with RE) to Italy. We share the student's excitement, and know that the time will fly by quickly until they are exploring (hopefully) sunny Italy.

Mr Major, Subject Leader for Geography

## The Creative Postcard Exchange Project

As a school we are delighted to be participating in the creative postcard exchange project, along with 45 other schools. The project is being funded by the British Embassy in Ireland and the British council. Students from Years 8, 10 and 13 have been creating postcards for the project after being given the title, 'Climate Change' as the starting point for their work. The British Embassy in Dublin will host an exhibition of student work at the end of the project. After the exhibition, the postcards will be 'exchanged' and our students' work will be sent to other students at a participating school and we will receive postcards from other schools in return.

Our Year 10 students who are exploring a theme of 'Water' have referenced their previous study in Year 9 Geography to explore how climate change has been affecting our oceans.

Our Year 8 students have been exploring the topic, 'Artists inspired by Nature' and have created postcards by responding to the artist Banksy and exploring themes such as deforestation and the decline of the coral reefs.

Due to our participation in the project, some of our Year 11 and 6th form students were able to participate in a live webinar provided by The National Gallery of Ireland called 'The Sun is God' which explored how the artist, Turner, recorded early atmospheric changes resulting from the industrial revolution in his work.

We are also looking forward to being one of just six schools to participate in an online 'climate action' workshop with the Rediscovery Centre which is due to take place just before we break up for the Christmas holidays.

It has been wonderful welcoming our new year 7 students into the art department. They have been experimenting well with mark making and media whilst researching artworks as varied as the drawings and paintings of Van Gogh and Chinese Landscape paintings.

The Year 9 students demonstrated excellent creativity when using a range of tonal media to create a number strip in response to the work of Jasper Johns.

Year 11 have been preparing for their art mock and will use the time to create a final outcome on their theme of 'Collections'.



Postcard designs





## Christmas Card Competition

We would like to thank all of the students who submitted cards to our Christmas card competition. This year we asked students to produce images in response to a particular Christmas carol. Our Year 7 students responded to 'We Three Kings', our Year 8 students responded to 'The Holly and The Ivy', our Year 10 students responded to 'I Saw Three Ships', and students from other years could select a carol of their choice. Mr Antram selected the winning designs and we would like to congratulate our winners; Lilia Catford, Charlee Warren, Alessia Boghitoi and Annaliese Love.

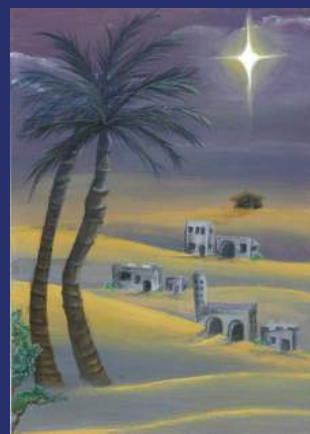
The selection is always incredibly difficult and we would also like to congratulate the following runners up; Aliyah Underhill, Zoe-Beth Petrauskas, Lydia Herbert, Izabel Yeatman, Isabel Kemp, Gabriella Malczewski, Elizabeth Taylor, Asia Toronczak and Fleur Moxam.

Catherine Warn's painted response to the carol 'In The Bleak Midwinter' was selected by Mrs Keene for the St Edward's Christmas Concert poster and ticket design.

Mrs Biggs, Subject Leader for Art



A winning design by Catherine Warn selected for our Christmas concert poster



## Christmas Card Designs





# Technology

This term the Technology department has welcomed Lynn Scott to the department to teach Graphics as well as Frances Herridge as a trainee teacher in Food this term. This was Frances' first placement, and she has been working with students in years 7, 8, 9, and 10; we wish her well as she moves on to Lytchett Minster School for her second placement in the new year.



Engineering continues to flourish within the department and thirteen 6th Form students visited Ultra Energy in Wimborne earlier this term as part of their Level 3 Engineering course. The students were shown around the manufacturing facility and spoke to engineers from a wide range of disciplines to understand the role that they did and the career pathway they had taken to get there. Students really valued the visit and felt that the morning gave them an insight into real life applications of their learning in a modern engineering company. Thank you to Clara Norman, one of our parents, for organising the visit! Later in the term the group visited Southampton University to look around the engineering department. Students were shown around the Innovation Centre by the centre manager and were given a talk by Dr Nigel Garland on the role of engineering in society.



Ultra Energy in Wimborne

Engineering has also featured in our extra-curricular clubs with a new Let's Build It Engineering Club joining our existing cooking and woodworking clubs on a Wednesday after school. The engineering club has been completing a series of challenges from bridges to planes and has seen some wonderfully inventive builds. The club is open to students in Year 7 and 8.



The theme for Cooking Club this year is multicultural dishes and is open to all students in KS3 with ingredients being supplied for students on the pupil premium list.

The woodworking club is open to KS3 students and has seen students making a whole range of items including tealights, sweet dispensers and the latest project, windchimes.





The department is keen to promote engineering to our students and we have enrolled in the WES Lottie project which is an annual campaign that takes 'Lottie' to many different locations accompanying lots of different engineers who show Lottie the work they do in engineering and related careers. Thank you to the parents who have already supported us with this, and we would love to see many more of you joining us. If you work in an engineering related role please contact [jmorris@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk](mailto:jmorris@st-edwards.poole.sch.uk) and let's see what we can get Lottie involved in this year!

Students in Year 11 have been working hard to complete their NEA assessments across the department. In Food the topic this year was starch based sauces for NEA 1 and they will soon be starting work on NEA 2 where they will be planning, preparing, and presenting 3 plant-based dishes suitable for teenagers. The marks for the NEA form 50% of the students final GCSE grade.

At KS5 the department is preparing for the reintroduction of A Level Product Design to run alongside Level 3 Engineering from September 2023. This is an exciting expansion of our 6th Form provision, and we look forward to welcoming the first cohort next year.

Mrs Morris, Subject Leader for Technology



## Business



Year 12 Business students applied their marketing knowledge when they visited April 6 advertising agency in November. They were given the opportunity to learn about careers in the industry and then pitch a campaign to the Creative Director. They were challenged with how best to raise awareness of a new method of charging electric vehicles which allowed the driver to park over the charger and then the car “snacked” on electricity. A fantastic new invention was brought to life by the students by their imaginative and varied promotional methods.

It was a successful visit, enjoyed by all and we would like to thank April 6 for being wonderful hosts and treating us to pizza at lunchtime.

Mr Kilpatrick, Subject Leader for Business



In the Science Department we have loved having a “normal” Autumn Term this year with no limitations on delivering science learning through experiments, as it should be. The students clearly did too, as they have begun the year exceptionally well, engaging in all the opportunities offered in their Science lessons. We have welcomed Mr Lawson to the Science department who has been co-teaching with Mrs. Borda in the lead up to her maternity leave.

Our new Year 7 students have been acquiring the skills for safe and effective practical work and learning how to conduct a scientific investigation. This involves learning the basics such as the common hazards and risks in a lab, using Bunsen burners safely, as well as what variables are, how to control them as well as the best way to collect scientific data and analyse it to draw reliable conclusions. They will now be putting these into action by working towards their Science Proficiency Scheme where they use these techniques in their lessons to earn their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards throughout Key Stage 3.



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

Our GCSE and A-Level students have been heavily involved in enquiry-based learning, through the required practical activities that feature frequently throughout their courses. They have also worked tirelessly to achieve highly in their recent mock exams for which all students deserve praise for their diligence in preparing so well for these. Our Key Stage 5 Physics Team were visited recently by the moderator from their exam board AQA. They were scrutinised in their lab skills and the evidence gathering in their Practical Endorsement Qualification and initial feedback was very positive. My thanks go to all staff and students involved in that process. They have certainly earned their Christmas holidays this year! Well done to all and have a very Merry Christmas.



Mr Dell, Subject Leader for Science



We have had an overwhelming start to term in the PE Department with clubs at an all time high in attendance. As a result, we've had to adjust and split some year groups, across week A and B, to accommodate such high numbers attending badminton and basketball club.

Participation in Netball is always on the rise and thanks to our excellent sports leaders in Sixth Form, we are able to maintain high quality learning with a focus on sporting values. The values we instill into our students when they win, lose or draw are always evident on the way our students conduct themselves when representing the school.

This term we have also managed to fulfil many fixtures and ran a number of tournaments. We have also managed to take various students on trips and learning experiences such as the most recent Sports Leaders training at Bryanston School where 16 students were selected to take part in some workshops in a variety of leadership categories including: Young Sports Ambassadors; Young Sports Leaders; Senior Sports Ambassadors; Sports Commentary and Dance workshops.

The students used this opportunity to develop their understanding of how to be an effective sports leader or event organiser. Some of our Year 8s and 9s have been part of PEDSSA sports leaders training. After their training we hosted a local schools sports festival where the students would run and organise the entire event themselves, this was done seamlessly so very well done to them.

Year 7s have also made a positive start to clubs with a high level of attendance. This has been followed up with a unbeaten start from both the Yr 7 and 8 netball in a friendly competition. They have shown excellent commitment in Netball, Football, Basketball, Volleyball and Badminton.

Year 7s won their County Cup Football match 4-1 against Highcliffe School. So we wish them all the best in the next round.

We once again ran our annual year 7 and 8 rugby festivals, where we help educate and develop our students understanding of full contact rugby. This has been an excellent experience for our students and they showed great potential.

Our Year 11 Netball team are very committed and we manage to put forward an A,B and C team. This shows excellent commitment from our students. The Year 11 A team made it into the county cup at Budmouth School but unfortunately lost. We have also had a Year 11/10 basketball friendly where we won convincingly, we look to build on this after Christmas.





# Physical Education

The Year 10 football team were successful in the first round of the County Cup beating Bournemouth Grammar convincingly and are waiting for the next round.

Lexi, a Year 10 OCR Sport Student, won Gold in the National Boxing Championship recently. This is an outstanding achievement and we want to congratulate her on her achievement.

Luca, a Year 11 student came 2nd place (silver medal) in the English Swimming Nationals at Sheffield. It was a close race but Luca just missed out on 1st place to Frederick Jones, another great achievement from one of our rising stars at St Edward's. Luca went on the the British Nationals, where he competed against all 50m free styles swimmers across Great Britain. Luca said; "I did not perform my best and a bout of illness has not helped". Luca came 7th, which is still a great achievement.

We are always looking to enrich our students with experiences that can help shape, inspire or develop their love for sport. This has been no different this term where we have taken Yr12 students to experience Real Tennis at Canford School.

We also gave the opportunity for our Yr13 examination students to attend the AECC University where they took part in a biomechanics lab. This was a worthwhile experience for our students to see first-hand how a specialist in health and rehabilitation could be a career path they could look into further.

Mr Pope, Subject Leader for PE



Luca, Yr 11 swimming silver medallist

# Drama



## Year 7

Year 7 students have been creating amazing Greek masks and using them to explore the origins of the theatre. We have explored how comedy and tragedy developed and used all of the elements of Greek theatre, to create our own contemporary versions. Some students were even lucky enough to avoid the rainy or frosty weather, and perform in our own amphitheatre on campus.

## Year 8

After getting to know what conventions we might see in a Melodrama, students are now embarking on a seasonally appropriate, pantomime (oh yes they are!). We look forward to filming extracts after Christmas and sharing them with parents and carers.

## Year 9

We have had great fun exploring Physical Theatre inspired particularly by a recent workshop and interview Ms Sinnott was privileged to attend with its founder, Scott Graham. Students worked on a range of their methods, and completed the unit with their own ensemble piece, using 3 of Frantic's devising methods.

## Year 10

Our amazing GCSE students have been working on developing character and performing monologues, using a range of practitioners, including Stanislavski. Having just embarked on their study of Blood Brothers, they are working towards performing an abridged version, which will culminate in a performance to parents and carers in February.

## Year 11

We have finally completed our devised pieces of theatre, which students tailored around a range of different practitioners including Katie Mitchell and Bertolt Brecht. February/March will see the visiting examiner coming to our school again, after a period away, due to Covid restrictions.

## Year 12

We have welcomed three international students this year, and it has been a pleasure to work with them. The class has been working on unit 1 of their A Level, worth a hefty 40% of their entire grade. Students have been experimenting with different techniques and strategies, applying them initially to published plays, and are now on the journey of working on developing their own piece. This lengthy process, will see them finally performing their piece in the next half term, and in keeping with tradition, they will perform to an invited audience. I am really excited about this, as their endeavours so far, have been outstanding.

## AUB

St Edward's Drama Department are delighted to be forging close links with AUB, and have been awarded the GOLD School status. This will allow us to see performances and participate in both site-specific and school based workshops. Yr 12 students took the opportunity to see AUB's first showcase event on 8th December, *The Belle Strategem*, a contemporary perspective on the original play of 1707, *The Beaux Strategem*.

