

# St. Bede's Catholic College

*Specialist Science and Sports College*



Issue 218 17th June 2016 T: 0117 377 2200 E: [contact@stbedesccl.org](mailto:contact@stbedesccl.org) W: [www.stbedesccl.org](http://www.stbedesccl.org)

## HAIRSPRAY

Over 120 pupils were involved in our college production of the musical Hairspray on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Pupils have been rehearsing for months and their singing, acting and dancing talents were on full display. Pupils were involved in band, art direction, set design, stage management, lighting and sound. The audience on both evenings congratulated the entire cast and crew for a wonderful performance—indeed there were two standing ovations last evening from a hall packed with proud parents, friends and staff.



## ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE COMMENDED FOR EXCEPTIONAL GCSE RESULTS

We are delighted to have received national recognition for the exceptional attainment of our pupils in the 2015 GCSE examinations. SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers Network, recently undertook its annual in-depth analysis of official Department for Education data on all state-funded schools in England and identified St. Bede's success. We have been awarded for being in the **top 10 per cent of non-selective schools nationally** for high average grades achieved by students. Some 75 per cent of last year's year 11 pupils achieved at least 5 A\*/C grades including English and Mathematics, which was an excellent performance. What makes the college stand-out within the top 10 per cent nationally was the fact that 36% of students each secured at least 5 A\*/A grades and that 34% of all grades were at A\*/A grade.

Ms Hughes, Principal said: "This award is a reflection of the talent, hard work and dedication of last year's Year 11 students and of our staff. We are very hopeful for those who are currently sitting exams. The A-Level students who are now in the middle of their exams are the hardest working group we have witnessed for some time."

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT, added: "It is my great pleasure to commend St. Bede's Catholic College on their excellent 2015 performance, and to have the opportunity to highlight and share their great work at the SSAT Educational Outcomes celebration evening. I have the privilege of visiting a lot of schools and I am always impressed by the creativity of teachers in engaging and inspiring their students.

"I hope that SSAT's Educational Outcomes awards will highlight the professionalism, commitment and hard work of the leaders, teachers and students at St. Bede's Catholic College. Recognising and sharing successes like this is at the heart of SSAT's mission, so I'm delighted to congratulate St. Bede's on their achievement."

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**22nd June 2016**  
Key Stage 3  
Literacy Day

**23rd June 2016**  
Battle of the Bands  
6.30pm

**27th June 2016**  
Week of Year 10 Written  
Exams

**28th June 2016**  
Final Day of GCE/GCSE  
Exams 2016

**30th June 2016**  
Key Stage 3  
Numeracy Day

**1st July 2016**  
Year 11 Leavers Day  
Year 11 Prom

## ARTiculation SPEAKING COMPETITION

Congratulations to Art students **Kundai Vurayayi** and **Lily Woodland** in Year 10 who are both through to the final of the ARTiculation Speaking competition! ARTiculation is an annual national speaking competition for sixth form students and this year is the first the contest has been extended to GCSE pupils. Their presentations on their favourite piece of Art or Architecture were fantastic and judges commented on the students' interesting content and professional delivery. Well done!



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

31 pupils, our largest cohort yet, successfully completed the expedition section of their award last weekend, despite continuous heavy rain and foggy conditions last weekend. All performed exceedingly well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Congratulations also to Mr Marshall and Miss Bassett who also successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Assessors Accreditation over the weekend.

## ST. BEDE'S AWARDED GOLD MUSIC CERTIFICATE BY THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS

St. Bede's Catholic College has been awarded the Incorporated Society of Musicians; Gold certificate in GCSE Music. This means that more than **20% of all its GCSE students achieved an A\* - C in Music GCSE in 2015, putting the school in the top 87 schools nationally.**

Ms Hughes said: 'Music is thriving at St Bede's with nearly 300 young people either playing an instrument or taking singing lessons; evidence that they enjoy participating. Music appreciation will stay with these children long after school and enhance their lives. It is great to see those who take the subject forward for examination being so successful but music to St. Bede's is about much more than grades.'



## PATRON OF READING CHELSEY FLOOD VISITS ST. BEDE'S



On Monday 13th June our Patron of Reading, Chelsey Flood kindly visited school and conducted a talk in Theatre Benedictus. She was here to discuss her second novel 'Night Wanderers' the story of friendship put to the ultimate test. Chelsey began her talk by describing her inspirations and influences behind the new book, as well as reading a few extracts. During her talk Chelsey answered the burning questions of St. Bede's next generation of writers and poets. Our Patron of Reading concluded her talk by encouraging us to take part in the reading challenge. She kindly signed copies of her two new novels and left us inspired and motivated to read and write. Thank you Chelsey!

**Megan Baber and Niamh Bailey 8B**

## CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

We were delighted earlier this week to present 24 pupils with awards for their creative writing. Pupils were invited to write a story, no longer than 1000 words entitled: *Last Person on the Planet*. Competition winners and extracts from the winning essays will feature in our next newsletter.

## BATTLE OF THE BANDS

On Thursday, 23rd June at 6.30pm the Music department and Descartes house are hosting Battle of The Bands, a fundraising event for Debra, Doctors Without Borders and Dementia UK. Tickets are available from the Music Department and the Blue Area at break time. There are 14 bands performing with an 'X Factor' Panel of judges. We are asking for a small donation for tickets. As always, your support would be most appreciated.



## YEAR 9 PUPIL FEATURES ON EURO 2016 SONG



Congratulations to year 9 pupil **Senna Weeks** who has featured as lead guitarist on Euro 2016 charity single "England for Glory." Senna, along with Darren (Daz) Sims was interviewed at St. Bede's by Verity Geere from BBC Radio Bristol at the end of last term. The recording was aired on the Breakfast show last Monday, 6th June  
link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03w6bql>

Senna is such a talented guitarist, it's a pleasure to hear him play. His peers are always highly appreciative when they get the chance to hear his music in assemblies. The Euro 2016 Single featuring Senna can be downloaded at iTunes, Amazon, and Google Play.

## UNIFORM INCREASE

There has been a slight increase to the cost of college uniform this year. We have not passed onto parents the full price increase and have tried to absorb it within college finances. Order forms can be downloaded from our website or collected from Reception.

## LIBRARY BOOKS

A polite reminder to Year 11 to return any Library books by **Friday 24th June**. Thank you.

## SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Around 20% of children may have either a behavioural or emotional problem at some time whilst growing up. All young people are different. They have different rates of growth and development and have had different experiences that contribute to this. A change in a child's behaviour or emotional wellbeing may be noticed at home. Sometimes difficulties may only become noticeable at school or when the child is with others of the same age. Parents who are concerned about their children's mental health and wellbeing can go on the MindEd for Families site for good quality, practical information free of charge. MindEd for Families offers relevant, practical information that parents and family members and professionals can trust. It includes top tips and helpful advice from parents with the lived experience of supporting a child with mental health problems. [www.minded.org.uk/families](http://www.minded.org.uk/families)

## SCHOOL MEALS

We can confirm that School Meals will **remain at £2.40** for the next academic year.

## VACANCIES

Governors wish to appoint an **Design Technology, Art and Music Technician**

**Closing date for receipt of Applications:**

**Monday, 27th June 2016**

Further information can be found at: [www.stbedescc.org](http://www.stbedescc.org)

## KS3 LITERACY DAY

**Next Wednesday, 22nd June is Key Stage 3 Literacy Day.**

Please could all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 bring a book and a towel to college. Thank you.

The Junior Leadership Team

## WISE WORDS

*Our words do matter.  
Our actions matter more.  
The legacy of our words and  
actions matters most.*

Deb Lewis