

Newsletter

Issue 387 2nd May 2025

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

We are delighted Bishop Bosco was able to join us for our annual Prize Giving last night as our guest speaker. He spoke to the students about how he discerned God's calling him to the priesthood and how the students must look to the future and the potential they all have. It was a wonderful occasion for our college, providing a chance to celebrate the many God-given talents, gifts and skills of our young people. Over 150 students were recognised through the event, though we know there are so many more that could have been rewarded. The vast majority of our students work daily to live out the St Bede's Way and we are proud of them all.



We also enjoyed welcoming two inspectors to complete a monitoring visit of the college on Monday. This is a supportive activity designed to help the college to maintain its high standard across the Catholic Life of the college. The inspectors identified large amounts of excellent work and a few areas for us to further develop. The full inspection is likely to be in the 2026/2027 academic year.

Lord God

Thank you for the opportunities provided to Year 11 and Year 13 to learn new skills and stretch their understanding.

Thank you for guiding these students through this time of study into the final exams.

We lay before you all the hopes and fears they have about the exams, the results, and the future.

Thank you that they are all safely held in your love. Amen

PRIZE GIVING 2025

As Mr King mentioned above, we welcomed Bishop Bosco MacDonalld as our special guest at the 29th Annual Prize Giving ceremony on yesterday. Prizes were presented to over 150 students who were awarded for high achievement, excellent attitude and public spirit within the community. Although the names of many of the prize winners were known before the evening, there were surprise awards announced at the ceremony itself:

Congratulations to **Flora Carr** and **Samuel San Pedro** (Vice Principals' Awards) and **Emily-Anne Che** and **Robert Korejwo** (Principal's Award)

A huge number of children received nominations from staff and a scrupulous effort to be fair, resulted in the final list. We hope that pupils deserving of an award, but who did not receive one this year, will be recognised at Prize Giving celebrations in future years.

A copy of the Prize Giving programme is on our website.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

2nd May

Year 13
Leavers' day

5th May

BANK HOLIDAY

6th May

Year 12 Mock
Examinations
continue

8th May

GCSE and
A Level Exams
written exams
commence

15th May

UCAS Parents'
Evening Launch



POLITE REQUEST

As the warmer weather approaches please ensure your child has a refillable water bottle to fill up from the water stations.

REFLECTION – 4 May The English Martyrs

Next week, we celebrate the feast of the English Martyrs.

The English Martyrs are a group of Roman Catholic martyrs executed by English authorities during the Reformation, most during the reign of Elizabeth I. An act of Parliament in 1571 made it high treason to question the queen's title as head of the Church of England—thus making the practice of Roman Catholicism an essentially treasonable act—and authorized the confiscation of the property of Roman Catholics, many of whom fled to the European continent. In the ensuing persecution, 183 English Catholics were put to death between 1577 and 1603; altogether, some 600 Catholics died in the persecutions of the 16th and 17th centuries.



Forty of these victims were canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970 as representatives of all the martyrs, including St. Margaret Clitherow, St. Cuthbert Mayne, and St. Edmund Campion.

In 1987 Pope John Paul II beatified an additional 85 martyrs who died between 1584 and 1689 in England, Scotland, and Wales. Many were priests or members of religious orders, but 59—including seven of those canonized—were lay Catholics.

Reflection: "I am a Catholic man and a priest; in that faith I have lived and on that faith do I intend to die. If you esteem my religion treason, then I am guilty; as for the other treason, I never committed any, God is my judge." St Edmund Campion, one of the Martyrs

Prayer: Almighty God, who in our country raised up martyrs from every walk of life to vindicate the authority of Your Church in teaching and worship, grant through their intercession, we pray, that all our people may be gathered once again to celebrate the same sacraments under the one Shepherd, Jesus Christ Your Son. Amen.

EXAMS INFORMATION

Please refer to our college website for the most current information regarding summer exams 2025.

<https://bit.ly/4hUnaml>

POPE FRANCIS — REST IN PEACE

Loving Father, we ask you to welcome Pope Francis into eternal life, rewarding him for his selfless devotion and service of your Church.

May his example live on in our Church as we see to be ambassadors of Christ in our daily living.

*May he rest in peace.
Amen.*



St. Bede's: Faith in Action

Eucharistic Minister Training Day

Thirty one Year 10 Pupils have put themselves forward to be commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (Eucharistic Ministers) and spent the day at Clifton Cathedral exploring what it means to carry out this important ministry.

The day began with Mass, celebrated by Bishop Bosco and then continued with an exploration of our own faith and what it means to us and the importance of passing on our faith to others. We then looked at the practical aspects of being a Eucharistic Minister. To end the day, we were able to see the door designated as the Jubilee Door which is decorated with 2 olive trees.



THE BELL BURNELL CHARITY ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE

As the ice bucket challenge has been resurrected, Mr Johnson and some of his brave tutors have volunteered to go under the bucket to raise money for St. Peter's Hospice. The event will run very similar to the Easter raffle. Students can pay 50p (for 1 application) or £1 (for 3 applications) over scopay. Payment will allow the student to watch the event and applicants will be chosen at random - if selected they can choose the member of staff to pour water over! The event will take place in the last week of this term.

A big "THANK YOU" to those of you who supported the Easter Raffle. It raised £127 for St. Peter's Hospice. Elliott, I hope you shared all of the chocolate with your family and friends?



SPORTS FIXTURES

Wednesday 7th May	Year 8/10 Boys Athletics	Yate Sports Complex
Friday 9th May	Year 7 Girls' Cricket Picnic	Bedminster CC
Wednesday 14th May	Year 7/8/9/10 Rounders	Blaise School
Thursday 15th May	Year 9/10 Athletics	R.G.S

RUN FOR STUDENT MINDS CHARITY

Mr King and numerous other members of the St. Bede's staff body are taking part in the 10K Run, or the half marathon on 11th May and are hoping to use this opportunity to raise both awareness and some funds to go towards Student Minds. Student Minds is the UK's student mental health charity transforming the state of student mental health so that all in higher education can thrive. We recently heard that Alanna O'Reilly, former Head Girl is trekking to Everest base camp to raise money for Student Minds.

If you would like to donate to this cause, please refer to the link below:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/stbcc?
utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=015](https://www.justgiving.com/page/stbcc?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=015)

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

YOUNGMiNDS

It is normal to feel stressed and on edge about exams. Stress is your body's natural response to pressure. It can help you focus and get things done, but sometimes it can all get a bit much.

Whether you feel stressed right before your exams, or it builds up over time, the Youngminds website can offer helpful advice: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

UK FINAL OF SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS – NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!

A huge congratulations to year 8 student **Eseose** and year 7 students **Wirgiliusz** and **Obehi Venisa** who proudly represented Avon Schools at the UK Final of Sports Hall Athletics in Stoke.

The Avon U13 Boys team, which included Wirgiliusz delivered an outstanding performance, coming out on top against eight other regional champions. Wirgiliusz played a key role in securing the win in the 4x1 lap relay, earning the title of UK Champions, and also took home silver in the demanding 8-lap paarlauf.

In the U13 Girls events, Eseose was unstoppable, dominating both the heats and final in the 2-lap relay. Her efforts also helped lead the 4x2 lap relay team to a national title.

Obehi Venisa participated in the 4x1 lap relay delivering a great performance which saw her team come in at 4th place.

We are incredibly proud of all three athletes for their dedication, teamwork, and fantastic achievements on the national stage. Well done!

YEAR 8 STRIKING AND FIELDING: BUILDING SKILLS ON AND OFF THE FIELD

This term, Year 8 pupils have been developing their striking and fielding abilities through engaging cricket and rounders sessions. But beyond the physical skills, these lessons have also been an opportunity to explore key areas of personal development, including communication (Social Me) and decision making (Thinking Me).

In both cricket and rounders, effective communication proved vital—whether calling to a teammate when running between wickets or posts, or working together in the field to anticipate and react to the game's fast pace. Pupils were encouraged to speak clearly, listen actively, and use non-verbal signals to support one another and improve team coordination.

We also explored the importance of quick decision making. In high-pressure moments—such as deciding whether to run, throw or hold the ball—students practised thinking on their feet. These split-second choices mirror challenges we face in everyday life, where being able to make calm, confident decisions can have a big impact.

By combining physical activity with personal growth, Year 8 have shown fantastic progress not only in their game play, but also in their ability to work as a team, communicate under pressure, and think strategically. These are skills they will take well beyond the pitch.



ST BEDE'S DANCERS SHINE AT SOUTH WEST REGIONAL COMPETITION

On Tuesday 29th April, students proudly represented St Bede's at the South West Regional Schools' Dance Competition. Competing in the highly competitive Key Stage 4/5 category, the team delivered an outstanding performance that earned them an impressive **3rd place** finish.

This is a remarkable achievement, especially considering the vast number of schools taking part from across the region. The dedication, creativity, and teamwork shown by our dancers truly stood out on the day.

A huge well done to all the boys involved – we are incredibly proud of you!



RUGBY NEWS

The Year 9 boys and girls took part in the inaugural T1 rugby competition this week. This competition has replaced the Touch to Twickenham Competition which we have entered for the last few years.

We travelled to Melksham for the South West competition and played against Newton Abbot College, Broadlands Academy, Leweston School and Malmesbury School.

The mixed touch competition always brings out the best in our girls and boys, and this year's fixture was no different. The team spirit was fantastic and they played some excellent rugby. We were comfortable winners against Leweston and Broadlands and had two extremely close games against Newton Abbot and Malmesbury. Newton Abbot beat us by a single try so we finished second in our group, and progressed to the semi final against the winners of group 2. Our game against Ivybridge was very competitive but they were the stronger team and progressed into the final. We then played Wyvern St Edmunds in the 3rd / 4th playoff game and beat them by two tries. So a successful afternoon, finishing 3rd.

Many congratulations to **Bertie, Matt, Sam, Ollie, Henri, Peter, Eva, Amy, Cami, Erin, Isla** and **Imogen**.

You were all fantastic and Mr. Johnson was very proud of you!



ST BEDE'S RECOGNISED AS A 'LISTENING SCHOOL'

We were delighted to receive the news last week that St Bede's has been officially recognised as a 'Listening School'. This recognition celebrates our ongoing commitment to creating a supportive environment where student voice is truly valued.



LIBRARY NEWS

Our Four Book Challenge is up and running. See poster for details. All students are encouraged to read broadly and giving the challenge a go is a great way to read out of your comfort zone. Mrs Nicks is taking part too and will report back on her challenge journey.

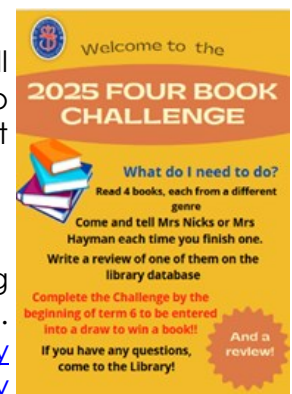
The Year 7 Carnegie Illustration shadowers' book group is continuing throughout this term. We are really enjoying the illustrators' challenges. So far we have created cheeky animal characters ([I love books by Mariajo Ilustrajo](#)) written letters unseen in the story ([Letters In Charcoal by Irene Vasco and Juan Palomino](#)) and explored the use of light and shadow to show feelings ([Wolf and Bear by Kate Rolfe](#)). Click on the poster for more information about the shortlist and on the titles to see more information about the books and challenges. If any more Year 7 students would like to join us, we meet in the Library on Thursday lunchtime.

What we've been reading

We are very excited that Carnegie award shortlisted author Nathanael Lessore is visiting St Bede's to talk to our Year 8s next week. Nathanael's books fill that difficult gap between 'Middle Grade' and Young Adult discussing, addressing topical issues with humour.

You can read the first few chapters of his books below, and they are all available to borrow from the Library

[Steady for This](#) [King of Nothing](#) [What Happens Online](#)





UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACTS OF SMARTPHONES ON BRISTOL'S CHILDREN

**TUESDAY MAY 20TH 7-9PM
REDLAND GREEN SCHOOL, BS6 7EH**

Smartphone Free Childhood has received global press and now has over 100,000 parents who have joined the community. So why not join us and explore not only how smartphones are affecting our children, but the ideas and solutions to decreasing or delaying smartphone use.

We'll hear from Doctors, Police, Academics, Headteachers, Child wellbeing and activity practitioners plus some younger people too.

This is a large-scale event and a chance to ask questions and hear from other parents.

[Click here for tickets](#) or papayaparents.com



OUR SPEAKERS INCLUDE



Clare is Ferryhough is Co-Founder of Smartphone Free Childhood and is leading the charge on building a UK-wide network of schools who are on the journey to becoming smartphone free. Clare's passion lies in helping parents and schools work together more effectively to tackle the issue.



Dr Susie Davies is a Bristol-based GP with a special interest in adolescent mental health. She's the founder of PAPAYA author of recently published *The Healthy Selfie*, a book for teenagers to help them thrive in the digital age.



Dr Paul Redford is an Associate Professor, Chartered Psychologist and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Paul specialises in positive learning through engagement, creativity, confidence and well-being.



Dr Ben Knight is a researcher and educator at UWE and Senior Fellow of Higher Education whose doctoral research explores small-group learning through Complexity Thinking and social network analysis. Both Dr Redford and Dr Knight recently conducted a study on smartphone use among adolescents in the Bristol region.



Rose Brown is a Police Officer with 23 years experience. Her role focuses on Adult and Child Sexual Exploitation, and she has recently won National Award for innovative work in tackling Violence Against Women and Children. Her work also recommended nationally as Best Practice.



Nicola MacDonald is a Resilience Coach and Author of the non-fiction book, *Resilient Teen*. She is the founder of My Resilient Mind and runs resilience workshops and talks for schools, parents, and adults in the workplace. She is also the representative for PAPAYA in the Bath area.



SOUTHMEAD REPAIR CAFE

LAST SATURDAY
OF EVERY MONTH,
GREENWAY CENTRE,
12 - 3 PM



Bring your items to fix, or volunteer to help
others to fix theirs. Donations welcome.
Refreshments available.



for monthly details follow
us @greenwaycentre

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We are a member of International
REPAIR CAFE
Foundation

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