

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

Thank you all for your support in making Term 1 such a success at St Bede's. As our children's first educators, we know what a great responsibility you hold and we want to continue to work with you to ensure every child flourishes. One of our college priorities this year is for all students to benefit from the fruits of education. We want to work to reduce barriers to success, including low attendance, special educational needs, and financial disadvantage, so that every child can reach their God-given potential. If you feel we could offer further support to your child, please contact their tutor in the first instance.

I hope you all have a restful half-term and I look forward to continuing our work to the benefit of the young people in November.

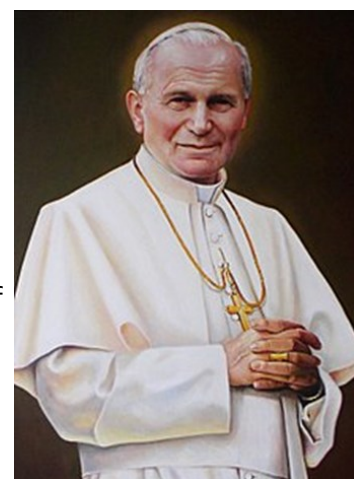
Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of education. We are grateful for the knowledge we gain, the skills we develop, and the opportunity to grow in understanding. Thank you for the teachers who guide and inspire us, and for the classmates with whom we learn and share. Bless the fruits of our labour, that we may use them to serve you and to build a more just and loving world. Guide us to be wise stewards of all you have given us, always seeking to put your love first. Amen

REFLECTION – 22 October - St John Paul II

Pope John Paul II was the head of the Catholic Church from 16 October 1978 to his death in 2005. He was the second longest-serving pope in history. As a Pole, he was the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

He travelled more than any other pope before him, visiting many of the countries of the world. He is also famous for starting the annual World Youth Day.

John Paul II was canonized by Pope Francis on April 27, 2014 which means that the Polish Pope is now known as **Saint John Paul II**.



Reflection: *"I plead with you, never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid."* St John Paul II

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, we are inspired by St John Paul II, who brought Your love and Gospel to many people and nations. We pray that we too can bring You to our friends and family. He comforted all children of the Church in times of chaos and uncertainty. Grant us, through his intercession, a love for all mankind and the radiance of Jesus.
Amen

ST BEDE'S ST BEDE'S WAY SPOTLIGHT

Work Hard, Be Kind and Do the Right Thing

The St. Bede's Way Spotlight identifies children who stand out as exemplifying one of our three St Bede's Way principles of "**Work Hard. Be Kind. Do the Right Thing.**"



Congratulations to Areté students **Aurelia, Julia, and Deetya**, who showed wonderful kindness and care last week helping a member of our community who had fallen. Your kindness exemplifies our St Bede's Way principles.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

24th October
INSET DAY
END OF TERM 1

3rd November
START OF
TERM 2

6th November
SIXTH FORM
ARETÉ OPEN
EVENING

6.00pm—
8.00pm

17th November
The Great St.
Bede's Bake
Off

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

On Thursday 16th October, students visited Bristol Beacon to attend a concert by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Students listened to Baba Yaga by Anatoly Liadov and Symphony No. 7 'Leningrad' by Dmitri Shostakovich.

It was brilliant to see the conductor, Vasily Petrenko, lead the orchestra of over 90 players. An enjoyable evening was had by all!



NEW COLLEGE WEBSITE!

You will see from today that the college website has been updated.

It can still be found at <https://www.stbedesccl.org/> but it has been modernised.

The website still has all the important information you will require to support your child at St Bede's, but it should now display much better on mobile devices.

CAN YOU HELP? LEGO BRICKS NEEDED!

Our Year 7 pupils are taking part in the First Lego League Innovation Project, where they are exploring the fascinating theme of Archaeology. As part of their project, the team will be recreating the Kingweston Roman Villa — and they need your help!



If you have any spare LEGO bricks or pieces at home that you no longer use, we would be very grateful for your donations. All colours, shapes, and sizes are welcome — every brick helps bring the Romans back to life!

Donations can be brought to Mr Hirani in E9 or Mrs Powers in B11

Thank you for supporting our young archaeologists and engineers as they build, design, and innovate!

Introducing Team Pilgrim

Netball

We have had a flying start in the Netball League for all our year groups having played 13 fixtures already. Last week we played St Mary Redcliffe with our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 girls playing at home.

Year 10's played a particularly tall and dynamic SMRT team showing great resilience and teamwork but unfortunately succumbing to the loss after a fantastic win last week.

Pilgrim of the Match: Isla

Not to be outdone, the Year 9 girls delivered a ruthless display having been up against it in the first 3 quarters, but producing a great defensive display to see out the win. That sees them currently undefeated this season.

Pilgrim of the Match: Thea

The Year 8 girls were under real pressure throughout the game but they kept their cool and didn't panic. With lots of goals it ended in a draw which also leaves them currently undefeated this season.

Pilgrim of the Match: Maria

And finally, the Year 7's played their 3rd match this season and have shown some excellent progress and ability. It's been great to have so many different Year 7's playing. They unfortunately lost this game but have shown great intent winning 2 games already.

Pilgrim of the Match: Ilaria

Congratulations to you all, we are very proud of you.

Cross Country

Well done to all our pupils who took part in Tuesday night's Cross Country event! The course was tough, featuring steep hills and muddy patches, but every runner showed incredible determination and resilience. Competing against 15 other schools, our athletes pushed themselves to the limit and represented St Bede's with pride.

It was inspiring to see pupils encouraging each other throughout the race and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship. Whether it was their first cross-country race or they were experienced runners, everyone gave their best and showed real commitment to the team. A special mention goes to **Damian B**, who was crowned **Bristol Schools Champion**, winning the Inter Boys competition in a thrilling close finish, an outstanding achievement and a proud moment for St Bede's!

Well done also to those who achieved personal best times, as well as our top finishers, who helped St Bede's achieve a strong overall performance. Events like this not only challenge pupils physically but also build confidence, perseverance, and teamwork – all qualities we celebrate at St Bede's.

Congratulations to everyone involved, your hard work and determination.

Rugby

Both year 9 and 10 rugby teams are progressing really well in the Bristol State Schools Competition. The year 9 team beat BFS this week to secure their place in the finals, to be held at North Bristol on 28th November. Congratulations to all in the team.

The year 10 team are still unbeaten and will progress to the finals as well but have a tough game against RGS in the first week back in term 2. RGS won this competition last year and this game will determine who will finish top of the pool league. Best of luck boys!



FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

Eight enthusiastic Year 7 pupils recently visited Kingsweston Roman Villa on Tuesday 21st October, as part of their First Lego League Innovation Project, which this year focuses on the theme of Archaeology.

During their visit, the students had a fantastic time discovering how the Romans once lived and imagining what the villa might have looked like in its prime.

They explored the site, learning about Roman architecture, daily life, and the artefacts that tell the stories of the past.

The group also had the chance to ask plenty of questions about the fascinating work archaeologists do — from excavation techniques to how ancient finds are preserved and interpreted.

This experience has given the pupils valuable insights that will inspire their next step in the project: identifying and tackling a real-world problem connected to archaeology. It was a fun, hands-on morning of learning that brought history to life and sparked plenty of innovative ideas for their upcoming challenge!



CAREERS FAIR

On Friday 17th October we held our annual careers fair, university and apprenticeship talks for Year 11 students. The morning of events was a resounding success providing students an opportunity to explore their next steps after Year 11. The event brought together representatives from local businesses, colleges and universities. In attendance this year was the **British Army, Boomsatsuma, Burges -Salmon, City of Bristol College, Bristol School of Acting, SGS College, St Bede's Areté, St Brendan's Sixth Form College, Weston College, University of Bristol, Robins Foundation, NHS Severn Pathology** and **SoMax**.



LEAD PARTNER SCHOOL—ALLIANCE OF BRISTOL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

We are proud to announce that St. Bede's, along with St. Bernadette's and St. Brendan's, has been accepted by the Department for Education as a Lead Partner for Bristol University's teacher training programme. Together, we form the Alliance of Bristol Catholic Schools and Colleges.

This partnership strengthens our reputation, attracts high-quality teachers, and offers exciting professional development opportunities for our staff. Our first PGCE trainees joined us in September 2025, and applications for September 2026 are now open.

If you know someone interested in becoming a teacher, please share this link: [Find Teacher Training Courses](#)

EXAM TIMETABLES

Students are advised that both the Mock Exam Timetables and the Provisional Summer Exam Timetable are now available for viewing. These schedules are essential for planning study time, managing workloads, and preparing effectively for upcoming assessments.

To access the timetables and for further information, please visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/3J5BqgJ>

We are now recruiting Invigilators to help with the exam process. For further information and to apply please click the following link: bit.ly/3LosR1e

ADMISSIONS FOR YEAR 7 SEPTEMBER 2026

To apply for a place for a child currently in Year 6 please complete the common application form for the local authority in which you live before 31st October. You should also complete the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) online at <https://stbcc.applicaa.com/year7>

If you do not provide the information required in the SIF and submit it by 31st October together with any supporting documentation, providing evidence of your child's religious faith for example, it is likely to affect your child's chance of being offered a place.

To see how places at St. Bede's Catholic College were allocated in September 2025 according to the Admissions Policy, please click here: [Allocation of places September 2025.](#)

A polite reminder that parents still need to fill in the supplementary information form even if they have a child already at St Bede's.



NOVEMBER 17TH

Category 1 - Six decorated fairy/cup cakes

Category 2 - Six decorated biscuits or pastries

Category 3 - Brownies or traybakes

Category 4 - Large cake/Showstopper cake

Category 5 - Bread

Category 6 - Savoury items

**COLLECT AN APPLICATION FORM
FROM THE FOOD AND DT DEPT.
DELIVER YOUR BAKED ITEMS TO
THE DANCE STUDIO FROM 8.30 ON
NOV 17TH.
Prizes and House points to be won!**

CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Areté student **Stan**, who has been named **Gloucestershire Under 16 Cricketer of the Year**.

Stan's hard work and dedication have also earned him selection for the Gloucestershire Under 18 squad.

We look forward to following his continued success and development in the game.



LIBRARY NEWS



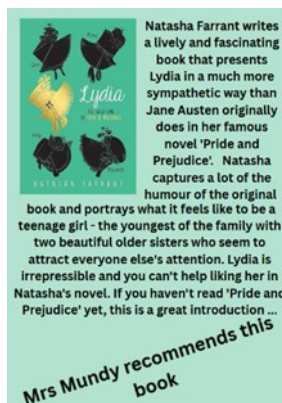
We have plenty of options for our half term reading in the Library. Two big boxes of new books have arrived and are ready to borrow. If chills are more your thing as the nights draw in, we've got you covered with our ghosties and horror selection. Finally, we think we've reached peak pink to support Wear it Pink Day! (Thank you to our pupil librarians for all their hard work creating our displays and prepping our new books)



Our BTBA 2026 shortlist shadowing group is up and running, look out for their reviews in future newsletters. There is still plenty of time for more students in year 9 (and upwards) to take part.

What we've been reading...

You can find the first few chapters online by clicking on our reviews



Coming Soon: Get caught reading term one winners...

The jar is so full we may have to pick out a few. Good luck to everyone 'caught' this term. We will continue catching reading next term too.

TASSOMAI SUCCESS – OUTSTANDING EFFORT ACROSS YEARS 7–11!

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic engagement our students from Years 7 to 11 have shown with Tassomai this term. It's been wonderful to see so many pupils taking responsibility for their independent learning and using the platform to strengthen their knowledge and revision skills. Tassomai is the home learning website we are using to support students learning science.

Our Year 11 students in particular deserve a special mention — they have collectively answered an incredible **107,240** questions correctly, which equates to an impressive 585 hours of active revision!

Looking ahead, we're encouraging all students to spread their Tassomai activity across the week by completing four daily goals rather than saving all their work for one session.

Research shows that this approach helps to optimise learning and significantly improve recall. By spreading their weekly goals into daily chunks, students also benefit from discounts, headstarts, and around 25% less overall work, while gaining far more from each session. It's a simple way to make learning smarter, not harder!

A quick reminder that the Tassomai week runs from Monday to Sunday each week — so please take a moment to check in with your child and see whether they've completed their weekly goal. Your encouragement makes a real difference! Well done to everyone who's been engaging so positively with Tassomai — let's keep up the great work!

YEAR 7 AND 8 END THE TERM ON A HIGH IN SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

To round off a fantastic term, our Year 7 and 8 pupils have been showcasing their energy and enthusiasm in Sportshall Athletics. The lively indoor competition has given pupils the chance to test their speed, strength, and teamwork across a variety of events — from sprints and standing long jump to obstacle races and relays.

Throughout the unit, pupils have been developing every aspect of their learning through our “Me in PE” framework, which encourages them to reflect on how they grow and improve in four key areas:

- * **Physical Me**
improving fitness, coordination, and athletic technique in a range of events.
- * **Thinking Me**
setting targets, analysing results, and learning how to use feedback to get better.
- * **Social Me**
working as part of a relay team, supporting others, and celebrating everyone's effort and success.
- * **Personal Me**
showing determination, confidence, and resilience when faced with new challenges.

The pupils have shown excellent teamwork, sportsmanship, and commitment, making this a brilliant way to end the term. We've seen real progress in both performance and attitude — and plenty of smiles along the way!

A big well done to all our Year 7 and 8 pupils for finishing the term strong and playing their part in developing all their MEs through Sportshall Athletics.



THE UK BEBRAS CHALLENGE

The Bebras Challenge introduces computational thinking to students worldwide. This exciting challenge takes place in schools, under the supervision of teachers, over a two-week period every November. Last year, over 3 million students from more than 80 countries participated!

In the UK, the challenge is open to all young people aged 6 to 19 and is generously supported by the Raspberry Pi Foundation. Each participant has 45 minutes to tackle a series of interactive tasks, designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving skills appropriate for their age group. The challenge is conducted online, and tasks are marked automatically by Bebras's competition system.

The tasks are designed to allow every student the opportunity to showcase their potential, whether they excel in maths or computing, or not.

At St Bede's, the ICT department allows all our Year 7 and Year 8 ICT students and all our Year 9 Computer Science students to participate in the Challenge which runs from Mon 10th to Fri 21st November.

All of our entrants will get the opportunity to tackle the 2024 UK Bebras Challenge as a practice challenge before sitting the 2025 Challenge. However, if any of our students would like to have more practice please try the challenges that can be found at this link: https://www.bebas.uk/index.php?action=user_competitions

The practice challenges are free to participate in and do not require any log in details. Please note Year 7 students will be entered at the "Juniors" level and Year 8 and 9 students will be entered at the "Inters" level. Good luck and have fun!

Leroy Bogle, ICT Department



UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge

ST. BEDE'S GOT TALENT!

Get ready, — St Bede's Got Talent is back! Any act goes: comedy, magic, music, dance, poetry, juggling, or something totally unique.

New for 2025: Groups can now include students from any house. Every audition earns house points, and if you make the live show, you'll win even more!

Open to all years, including sixth form. Send your audition video (max 2 mins 30 secs) to talent@stbcc.org by Monday 3rd November. Costumes, music, and lighting are encouraged but optional.

The live show is students only, with £1 tickets raising money for house charities — and don't miss some surprise staff acts!

So grab your camera, showcase your talent, and you could be crowned the St Bede's Got Talent 2025 winner! See Mrs Shaddick for further details.

A vertical poster for St Bede's Talent Show. The background is a red curtain with two spotlights shining from the top corners. The text is centered and reads: 'St Bede's' in white, 'TALENT SHOW!' in large white letters, 'Audition deadline Monday 3rd November - email your video to talent@stbcc.org' in white, 'NOV 19TH | 4 PM' in white inside a yellow-bordered box with lights, and 'Tickets will be on sale online nearer to the show! Just for students, no parents.' in white at the bottom.

St Bede's

TALENT SHOW!

Audition deadline Monday 3rd November - email your video to talent@stbcc.org

NOV 19TH | 4 PM

Tickets will be on sale online nearer to the show!
Just for students, no parents.

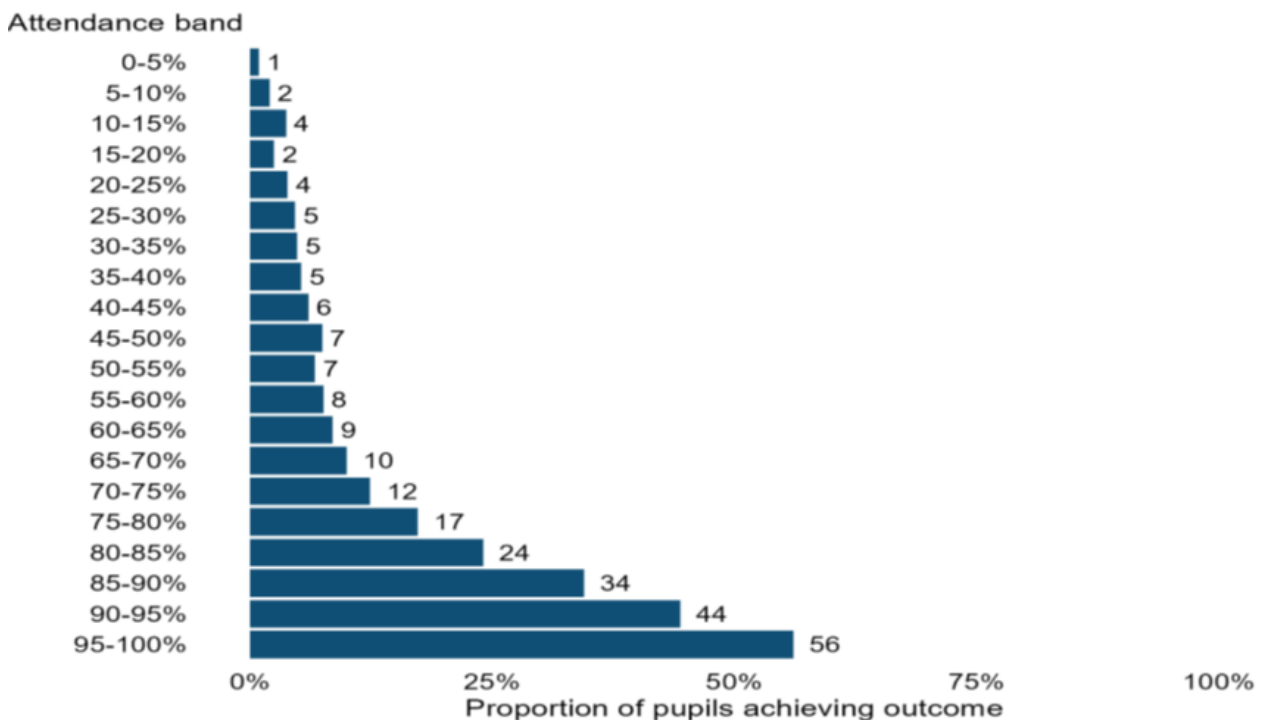
ATTENDANCE UPDATE AND INFORMATION

We would like to thank all our families for supporting the attendance of our students throughout this term. Attendance at school has an impact on not only a student's attainment but they are also learning the skills to move on with the next stages of life after school. Just a few of the skills that a child may miss out on if they have lower attendance could be missing out on making relationships or learning about how to manage relationships, learning the skills needed to deal with different situations including following rules and guidelines and managing emotions. To gain a full understanding of the impact of attendance you will find a table and graph below from a study reported by the Department for Education (The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment Year). One shows the number of days and weeks lost depending on the overall attendance figure for the Year and the other shows the figures on attainment for Year 11 students.

The below table shows the possible days and weeks missed by a pupil with different attendance bands over a full school Year.

Attendance Band	Range of possible days missed	Range of possible weeks missed
95-100%	0 – 9.5	0 – 1.9
90-95%	9.5 – 19	1.9 – 3.8
85-90%	19 – 28.5	3.8 – 5.7
80-85%	28.5 – 38	5.7 – 7.6 (approx.. half a term)
60-65%	66.5 – 76	13.3 – 15.2
55-55%	85.5 – 95	17.1 – 19
Less than 50%	More than 95	More than 19

The below graph shows the proportion of students in each attendance band for Year 11 achieving Grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSE at the end of KS4.



Arriving at school on time

Arriving at school on time is not only essential for the student's own learning, it encourages habits of good timekeeping and lessens any possible classroom disruption. When a student arrives late, they miss important events like assembly, teacher instructions and introductions; this can seriously disadvantage them.

Students can arrive from **8:25am**

All students are expected to arrive at school in good time for the start of the school day at **8.45am**

If a student arrives at school after **8:50am** they will be marked on the registers as late if they have more than one late mark in a two-week period, they will be given a lunchtime detention.

Morning registers close at 9:15am. If a student arrives after this time, they will be marked with an unauthorised code for the morning session.

Parents may be contacted by a member of staff to discuss the reason for lateness and possible solutions if they are arriving late on a regular basis.

Illness

For any child to maximise their potential it is extremely important that they attend school every day as the learning in one lesson will provide the basis for the next. It is understood that from time to time a child will be too unwell to attend and we ask families to inform us on each day by 8:40am with specific details of the reason for absence, stating unwell or sickness will not be authorised as these do not provide the information required for the principal to consider authorising the absence. You can do this by either:

- Sending us a notification via the Mcas app (My Child at School)
- Ringing the main school line on 0117 3772200, selecting option 1 (Main school) or option 2 (Sixth form) and leaving a voicemail.
- Sending an email to absence@stbcc.org

If you do not contact the school regarding your child's absence in one of these ways before 8:40am you may receive a message advising you that your child is not in school. You may be asked to provide supporting evidence for extending periods of illness or if your child's attendance is in the persistently or severely absent categories and welfare checks may be completed. When looking at illness the school follows the NHS guidance is my child too ill for school, <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

This is a reminder that it is at the discretion of the principal if a student receives an authorised absence mark when not in college. If a child attends college and displays as unwell to Student Support they will be encouraged to stay in college if possible. If the first aid coordinator is unable to encourage them to stay in college, then the Senior Leadership Team will be notified and they will make the decision if the student is to be sent home as unwell based on NHS guidance. If a student contacts home directly and is collected from college the absence will not be authorised, and following college rules the student will receive a detention for using their mobile phone.

Appointments in School Time

We expect any routine appointments for your child to be made outside of school hours where possible. Please let us know in advance of any appointments that your child will be attending.

If you are only offered an appointment during the school day you are required to provide proof of the appointment, this needs to confirm the date and time of the appointment along with the student's name. Students are expected to attend school before and after appointments if they are during the school day. If they are leaving school for the appointment, please collect them from reception if you are unable to do this you will need to provide written confirmation that you take full responsibility for them leaving and what time they should leave.

Planned or Emergency Absences

We would like to remind parents that requests for absences for holidays in term time are not permitted including the days before and after main school holidays. This is not a policy that schools have made but is a government guideline. Absence requests for reasons other than holidays are only able to be authorised in exceptional circumstances. The Principal will make a decision based on the guidelines set out by the government. Absences may not be authorised for the full amount of time that is requested or at all. Any absence request that is not authorised may be subject to a penalty notice referral. You may be asked to provide supporting evidence for the request, for example confirmation of when the travel was booked.

Other Updates

Please note that for any absence, the Principal will make the final decision on whether the absence will be authorised or not. This includes illness and appointments made in school time.

If you do wish to check your child's overall attendance figure, please go to the MCAS app, and choose attendance. This will bring up a colour coded calendar. If you click on a date on the calendar it will bring up a list of the lessons and what the teacher has recorded. Please contact absence@stbcc.org if you believe your child has an incorrect mark for the daily registration periods (tutor/lesson 4). These are the only marks that have an impact on your child's overall attendance figure. If you believe that your child has an incorrect mark for any of the other lessons, please send us an email and it will be passed on to the teacher to decide if they need to amend it.

All students are to return to school on **Monday 3rd November 2025**. Please ensure that your child is ready to return to school with all the required uniform and equipment. The school day starts at 8:45am, doors open at 8:25am.



EXTRA CURRICULAR TERM 2

LUNCHTIME CLUBS (12:35 – 1:05)
MONDAY - YR 8/9 ELITE NETBALL CLUB
TUESDAY – BOYS STRENGTH CLUB
TUESDAY - KS3 BADMINTON CLUN
WEDNESDAY – SIXTH FORM BADMINTON
THURSDAY – YR 10 & 11 BOYS FOOTBALL LEAGUE
FRIDAY – YR 7, 8 & 9 BOYS BASKETBALL

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS (3:30 – 4:30)
TUESDAY – YR 7 & 8 NETBALL
TUESDAY – YR 7 & 8 RUGBY
THURSDAY – YR 9, 10 & 11 NETBALL
THURSDAY – YR 9, 10 & 11 RUGBY

⚡ GET INVOLVED, STAY ACTIVE, AND REPRESENT YOUR SCHOOL! ⚡

SMAD (Sea Mills Amdram) Presents

Rapunzel

THE PANTOMINE

Suitable for all the family

At The Rock Community Centre, Ridingleaze,
Lawrence Weston, Bristol, BS11 0QE
Sat 13th Dec 2025 show starts 2pm
Sat 13th Dec 2025 show starts 7pm
Sun 14th Dec 2025 matinee show starts 2pm
Doors open half an hour before show

Tickets are free for this show

For tickets and information please call
Nick on 07502 788111 or
Email: seamillsamdram@gmail.com

 <https://www.facebook.com/seamillsamdram>



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

ALLERGY ALERT: A REMINDER

In the interest of those pupils with serious allergies to various types of nuts, please may we remind parents not to send pupils into school with nuts or nut based products, e.g. Nutella, peanut butter or cereal bars containing nuts.

Pupils with allergies can become seriously unwell just by being near these products, without actually consuming them.

Please do not bring any products containing nuts into the college.

Thank you for helping to keep the children safe.

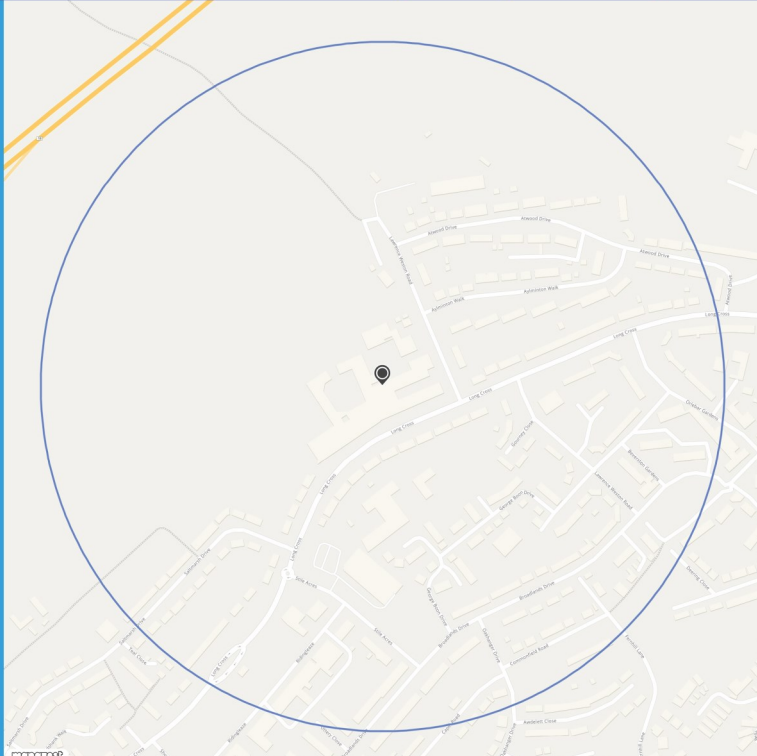
SUPPORTING A SAFE AND HEALTHY JOURNEY TO COLLEGE

As part of our continued work on providing a safe and healthy environment for our students, please drop and collect your children outside the 5-minute walking bubble when they travel to and from college in a car. This will reduce the traffic on Lawrence Weston Road and provide a healthy short walk for the children.

Many thanks for your support.
Mr King

5-MINUTE WALKING BUBBLE

#StaySafeGetActive on your journey to school



#Stay Safe
Get Active

St Bede's
Catholic College

MODESHIFT
STARS
EDUCATION

Protect our children

If possible, walk, cycle or scoot to school

If you have to drive, park at least 5-minutes away

Supported by the
Department for Transport

For more hints, tips and information please visit www.modeshiftstars.org/staysafegetactive

This 5-minute walking zone represents a distance of 400m measured as a straight line, based upon an average walking speed of 3-miles per hour