



Newsletter

Issue 398 28th November 2025

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

The theme for this week has been Christ the King. Heads of House have spoken to their students about the kingly nature of Jesus, and how he turns upside down what we think of when we think of a king. Not someone focused on power and might, but on service, compassion and forgiveness. This should act as an inspiration for us as we navigate school life and our interactions with each other.

I commend the intensity and focus I have witnessed in our Year 11s and Year 13s as they begin their mock exams. Students have their exam timetables and are working hard on their preparations. We know this can be a time of stress and we are doing all we can to ensure students know that the staff are here to help them. Please talk to your children about the process of navigating an exam fortnight and help them develop a balance of hard work and time for wellbeing. We hope students will be successful in their exams, to help them in their next steps in life, working towards being able to serve their communities through their work.

Lord God, thank you for giving us Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve. Forgive me for times when I have been selfish or proud. Soften my heart and prepare me to serve others with humility, kindness, and pure intentions, even when it is difficult. Help me to use the gifts you have given me to serve others and advance your Kingdom, and may my actions point others to you. Amen.

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.**"

This week we are delighted to highlight Year 10 student, **Eva M**, for her incredible achievement on the football field.

Eva was recently selected to represent the North Somerset Regional Football Talent Centre at the East Mallorca Girls Cup. The tournament, which took place last month, brought together top teams from around the world, including Chelsea, Barcelona, and Manchester City.

Over five exciting days, Eva competed in two matches per day, facing off against teams from Norway, Germany, Poland, and Spain. A standout moment for Eva was playing against the renowned Real Madrid squad. Despite the fierce competition, Eva enjoyed the camaraderie that developed off the pitch. Many teams shared the same hotel and coach transport to matches, and there were plenty of opportunities for friendly interactions, including karaoke and games of Uno.

Eva, what a wonderful experience. Your **hard work** exemplifies one of our St Bede's Way principles. We are proud of you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

Monday

1st December

Year 11 and Year 13
Mock Exams start

Friday

5th December

Christmas Quiz
6pm

Thursday

11th December

Year 8 Progress
Evening (virtual)

Tuesday

16th December

Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 17th
December

Advent Service
6.00pm

Friday

19th December

End of Term 2

REFLECTION – 30 November – St Andrew

This weekend we celebrate the feast day of St Andrew



St. Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter. He was a fisherman and a follower of St. John the Baptist. When he heard the call of Jesus, he immediately left everything and followed Him.

Among the 12, Andrew and Peter were especially close to Jesus. After the ascension of Jesus to heaven, Andrew went to Greece to preach the gospel. In the year 70 he became a martyr. He was put to death on a cross to which he was tied, not nailed. It was a cross in the form of an X, which is now called "St. Andrew's Cross" which is shown in the flag of Scotland. He lived for two days, suffering, yet still preaching the gospel.

Although he probably never visited Scotland, it is said that his relics were brought, and the place they visited was later called St Andrews.

Reflection: *"If we strive for goals, relishing in the pleasure of circumstance, nothing is enjoyable, and life becomes purposeless."* Quote from St Andrew

Prayer: Prayer of St Andrew

Creator God, your Son Jesus, called Andrew the apostle to preach the good news.

May his prayers in your presence give us courage to follow you and to be an inspiration to us as we share your good news with others through the actions we take. Amen

ST BEDE'S GOT TALENT!

This year's school talent show was an absolute triumph, showcasing the incredible depth of talent within our student body and staff!

The audience was captivated by a spectacular range of student acts, including phenomenal singers, energetic dancers, brilliant bands, and even an amazing artist creating work live during the show.

The staff also got in on the action, performances from both the staff band and choir and capped off by a synchronised swimming dance routine!

Competition was fierce, 3rd place went to the fantastic musical group, The Frozen Peas (six Year 11 girls), while 2nd place was awarded to the talented Year 7 student Scarlett for her incredible pieces of artwork of the four Judges.

The top prize, however, went to Year 8 student **Lily** for her absolutely breath-taking and unforgettable Adele cover. Thank you to everyone who participated and came to support—it was a truly special evening!



Introducing Team Pilgrim

Football

The Year 8 boys faced Norton Hill Academy this week in what proved to be an exceptionally tense and memorable National Cup fixture. It was a strong performance from Team Pilgrim, who dominated large spells of the match and created numerous chances through hard work, determination and intelligent play.



Despite their control, the boys fell behind early in the second half to a well-worked Norton Hill goal. However, their response showed the true spirit of the team. Refusing to let the setback affect their performance, the boys continued to push forward with great heart and teamwork.

Their resilience was rewarded dramatically with the last kick of the game, when **Zion** struck an excellent equaliser to bring the score to 1-1 and send the match straight to penalties.

In the shootout, **Arlo, Jacob** and **Za'kai** all stepped up confidently, dispatching their penalties with ease. This left goalkeeper **Alfie** to produce some outstanding heroics between the posts, saving two out of three penalties, including the game-deciding spot-kick.

The boys secured a 3-0 victory in the shootout, earning their place in the next round of the competition.

Pilgrim of the Match was awarded to **Zion** for his constant attacking threat and crucial equaliser.



A fantastic performance all round well done, boys!

Rugby

The Year 9 team finished second in their Bristol and Area State Schools pool which meant they faced Oasis Brislington in the semi final. The boys started well but found it difficult to cope with Oasis's front row, who were very powerful. Oasis took the lead but we fought back to level the game. However, Oasis finished the first half two tries the better. We played well in the second half but couldn't close the gap. The final score was 20 - 10. This meant that we then played Bristol Free School in the 3rd / 4th place play-off. The boys were fantastic and were convincing winners with a score of 35 - 5.

After the game a couple of Bristol Bears players spoke to the boys and an ex-St. Bede's student, **George Kloska** presented year 9 student **Tom** with the **Pilgrim of the Match** award.

Both **George** and **James Dun** gave the boys an insight into what it is like to be a professional rugby player. They answered questions and signed autographs. A great end to the season!

Congratulations to all of the boys for having really progressed over the season. To finish third out of the 12 best rugby state schools in the area, is a great achievement.

A fantastic performance all round well done, boys!



Team Pilgrim...

The Year 10 rugby team took part in the Bristol and Area Schools finals this week. The boys met Ashton Park in the semi-final. It was a little tense as Ashton had some extremely fast backs. However, the boys took control in the second half and won the game 25 - 15, and progressed into the final. They met Castle, who had comfortably beaten Mangotsfield in their semi-final. The game was a stalemate until Castle broke loose to score with the last play before halftime. This was against the



flow, as our boys had controlled the majority of the half. Unfortunately the same happened in the second half. Although we lost 10 - 0 the boys can hold their heads high as they played extremely well and dominated large parts of the game. It was an excellent final to watch. The **Pilgrim of the Match** went to **Matt W** who had two exceptional games.

As with the year 9 final, **Sam Worsley** from The Bristol Bears came to talk to the teams and shared stories. He had also played in this competition when he was in school.

Congratulations to all of the team - a great season!

Netball

Despite the bitterly cold conditions, our school's Netball teams delivered a series of truly exceptional performances yesterday, resulting in a clean sweep against Montpelier High School. Every single team, from Year 7 right through to Year 11, secured a victory against their opponents.

Teachers noted the exemplary attitude displayed by all students. The cold weather failed to dampen spirits; instead, it seemed to fuel an impressive level of focus and determination. The victories were hard-earned, demonstrating incredible resilience from the players, with a few students having to step up to play for the year above. Several matches saw our teams having to hold firm under pressure, showcasing their mental toughness and refusal to give up. The victories were built on a foundation of great play across all age groups and the quality of sport on display was commendable.

Year Group	Score	Player of the Match	Pilgrim of the Match
7	5-0 win	Sara K	Karolina F
8	12-3 win	Marinella M	Marinella M
9	13-2 win	Esoese	Ann
10	22-21 win	Jeslyn N	Tabitha
11	12-9 win	Josephine W	Ava-Mai G

Note that in our Netball games, Player of the Match is awarded by the opposition for general excellent play whilst Pilgrim of the match is chosen by the team for a player who shows the St Bede's values of working hard, integrity and discipline.

ST BEDE'S BAKE OFF

St Bede's was filled with the smell of sugar, spice, and plenty of creativity last week as students from across the school took part in our annual St Bede's Bake Off Competition.

The judges certainly had a tough job, judging the creativity, and culinary skills.

Bakers from Years 7–11 wowed the panel with an impressive range of cakes, pastries, biscuits, breads, savouries and showstoppers. Presentation, originality, and flavour were all taken into account, and the standard was nothing short of exceptional.



Congratulations to Our Winners:

	Decorated Fairy Cakes	Bread	Biscuits Pastries	Brownies Traybake	Showstoppers	Cheesecake
First Place	Susanna	Lara	Rafaella	Juno	Remedio	Natasza
Second Place	Aoife	Izzy	Alice	Sienna	Amelia	

The competition was not only a celebration of baking talent but also a wonderful display of teamwork and school spirit.

Thank you to all the pupils who entered, the staff who supported the event, and the parents who helped with ingredients, practice bakes, and moral support. We are already looking forward to next year's Bake Off — who knows what spectacular creations we'll see next.



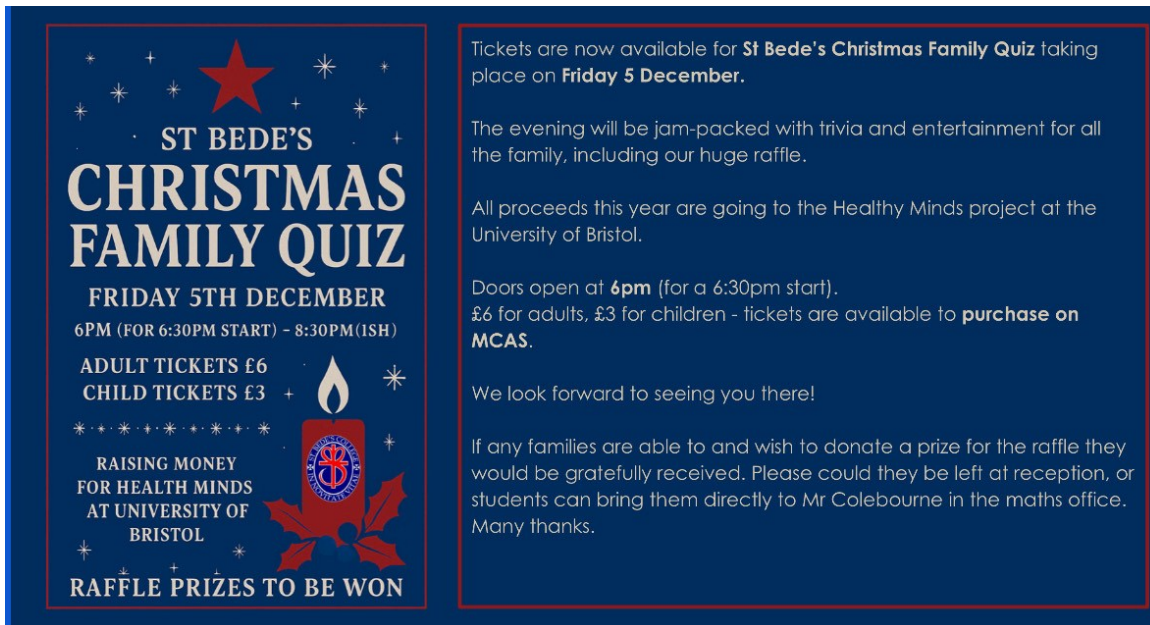
FAMILY QUIZ EVENING

Please come to our Family Quiz evening where parents, pupils and staff can come together for an evening of fun, entertainment and prizes. So many of you have supported this event over the years and it's been super fun!

As you know, our Quiz Master, Mr Colebourne, always delivers an exciting and pacey speed quiz using technology to its best (phones/ipads add to the excitement!). It's exciting that this year we are supporting Mr Colebourne and his charity, The Healthy Minds; he has secured a place in this year's London Marathon.

The Healthy Minds project provides structured support to current students, using a 12-week physical activity programme and 1:1 mentorship to help them manage their wellbeing.

We are looking forward to seeing you there.



The poster is for St Bede's Christmas Family Quiz. It features a dark blue background with white and red text and graphics. At the top, there are stars and a red star. The main title is 'ST BEDE'S CHRISTMAS FAMILY QUIZ' in large, bold, white letters. Below that, it says 'FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER' and '6PM (FOR 6:30PM START) - 8:30PM (ISH)'. Ticket prices are listed: 'ADULT TICKETS £6' and 'CHILD TICKETS £3'. There is a graphic of a lit candle with a flame. Below the candle, it says 'RAISING MONEY FOR HEALTH MINDS AT UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL'. At the bottom, it says 'RAFFLE PRIZES TO BE WON'. To the right of the poster, there is a text box with information about ticket availability, the evening's activities, proceeds, doors opening at 6pm, ticket prices (£6 for adults, £3 for children), and a note about donations.

Tickets are now available for **St Bede's Christmas Family Quiz** taking place on **Friday 5 December**.

The evening will be jam-packed with trivia and entertainment for all the family, including our huge raffle.

All proceeds this year are going to the Healthy Minds project at the University of Bristol.

Doors open at **6pm** (for a 6:30pm start).
£6 for adults, £3 for children - tickets are available to **purchase on MCAS**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

If any families are able to and wish to donate a prize for the raffle they would be gratefully received. Please could they be left at reception, or students can bring them directly to Mr Colebourne in the maths office. Many thanks.

COMMISSIONING OF CHAPLAINCY TEAM

On the 20th November, members of the Key Stage 3 Chaplaincy team visited Clifton Cathedral to be commissioned.

The day began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Bosco. During the service with lots of schools from across the diocese attending, each new member of the Chaplaincy team was presented with a badge and certificate.

Agna, who was on the visit said; *"The trip itself was amazing, and I particularly enjoyed the moment when I received my Chaplaincy team badge. That was a truly special moment for me. The experience has made me feel more connected to the school community and my new role."*

This Mass was particularly important, coming as it did during the Year of Jubilee. Congratulations to; **Evelyn, Elora, Arianna, Agna, Michaela** and **Archie** and thanks to **Sienna, Natalie** and **Lucy** for coming to support.

New members of the Chaplaincy team are always welcome, see Mr Loud for details.

BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

On Thursday 20th November, a group of students visited Bristol Beacon Hall to attend a concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, playing orchestral and vocal works by Sibelius and Shostakovich. An enjoyable evening was had by all who attended.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT - UPCOMING EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES

Wednesday 3rd December

Performance at Southmead Hospital – periods 1-3

Friday 12th December

Performance at Blaise Weston Court during periods 4-5

Monday 15th December

(Band) Performance at Clifton Down Shopping Centre – 2:45pm to 5:45pm

Wednesday 17th December

Annual Advent and Christmas Service at 6pm

Thursday 18th December

(Choir) Performance at Clifton Down Shopping Centre – 2:45pm to 5:45pm

Letters with more details are on the school website: <https://www.stbedesc.org/page/?title=Parents%27+Letters+and+Forms&pid=251>

BOOKBUZZ

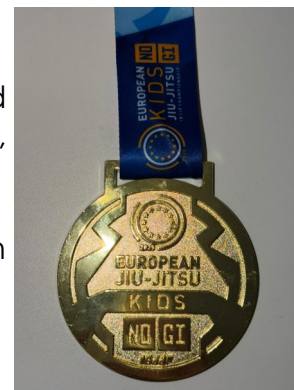
We were very excited to receive the Bookbuzz books last week - these are a gift from the English department to all our Year 7s and will be distributed in English classes. We hope everyone enjoys them, and we look forward to lots of lovely book chat as we all start reading them. Mrs Hayman's favourites (so far) are Reek and Safiyyah's War. Don't forget - all the titles are available to borrow from the Library.

EUROPEAN KIDS JIU-JITSU NO-GI IBJJF CHAMPIONSHIP

A huge congratulations to Year 9 student **Sofia** who recently competed in the European Kids Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi IBJJF Championship in Dublin, Ireland — the first-ever No-Gi IBJJF event in Europe.

Sofia won the gold medal in her category, dominating every match without allowing a single point scored against her.

Congratulations Sofia, a wonderful achievement!



YEAR 10 YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

14 of our Year 10 Young Volunteers met up with 3 other Diocesan Schools at St Gregory's in Bath to hear about the Catholic Charity, The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and to pledge to work towards raising funds and awareness of the charities work.

This was the first of 3 sessions across this year as part of the Called to Action Young Volunteers group that our Year 10's have joined.

The group talked about the work that the SVP does and the importance of small acts of kindness thinking about a See, Act, Do approach to fundraising.

The group were full of ideas and plan to put them in place during Advent and beyond, as a follow up to the great work for SVP.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

On 16th December the school will be providing a Christmas meal to those students that book it. There will be 3 options available on that day, being a Turkey dinner, vegetarian dinner or a sandwich plus a pudding.

Students who have Free School Meals will be asked via their tutor whether they would like a FSM on that day, and what they would prefer, so if you are a parent of a student(s) who has FSM you do not need to do anything.

Students who are not FSM will need to pay via MCAS under the Products option and will need to choose which option is required. The cost will be £2.90 as per a normal meal. If a meal is not booked then there will be no other options available to students on that day, either at break or lunchtime, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Please go to Bromcom> MCAS> Products> Xmas25> then select the dinner required.

Please make your purchase by 2nd December 2025

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

PRIVATE FOSTERING

Families may sometimes arrange for their children to stay with friends or relatives for various reasons, for example holiday childcare or dealing with a family crisis. It is important to be aware that some arrangements may be within a specific legal category called Private Fostering.

Private Fostering is a private agreement where a child under 16 (or under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not a close relative for a continuous period of 28 days or more.

A close relative is defined in law as a parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, or step-parent.

Under the Children Act, parents and private foster carers have a legal duty to notify the Local Authority about the arrangement.

When a family notifies the Local Authority, they will:

- Visit the carer's home to confirm the environment is safe and suitable.
- Provide advice and support to the carer.
- Ensure the child's educational, health, and cultural needs are being met.

If you are a parent or carer involved in (or planning) an arrangement that fits the definition of private fostering, you must contact your Local Authority Children Services department as soon as possible.

Local Authority Contact Details:

Bristol : 0117 903 6444

South Gloucestershire : 01454 868 222.

North Somerset : 01275 888 999

If you are unsure whether an arrangement counts, please contact the LA for confidential advice.

VACANCY

St. Bede's Catholic College are seeking an School Meals Supervisory Assistant to help supervise and support pupils during lunch break. The rate of pay is: £12.85 per hour (increasing to £13.45 in April 2026)

Please click here for further information:

<https://www.eteach.com/careers/stbedescc/job/smsa-1517466/?lang=en-GB>



CLIFTON YOUNG ADULT LIT FEST 2025

The Clifton Lit Fest was an insightful experience into the world of literature; a reminder of the intricacies of both fiction and non-fiction brought to the stage of Clifton High School.



We were lucky enough to hear from acclaimed speakers, authors and journalists. Howard Amos introduced us to his book *Russia Starts Here: Real Lives in the Ruins of Empire* which was shortlisted for the Pushkin House Prize 2025 and it is clear why. Amos took us with him on a journey through Russia, his experiences in Journalism and the less widely known Pskov Region, a provincial area that inspired his critically acclaimed Book.

Rachel Delahaye was our tie to non-fiction with her Dystopian, sci-fi novel: *Electric Life*, following a 'perfect' society experienced 'through the digital medium.' The Lit fest provided workshops for both sectors of literature and I had the opportunity to partake in the Journalism workshop, directed by Peter Leonard who fostered an engaging environment into something perhaps unknown for many.

Being challenged to write a 150 word article, after being tasked to take notes on a false story , allowed me to explore skills beyond fiction writing; embracing the "brevity, concreteness and simplicity" of Journalistic writing which is in a whole league of its own. Overall, the Clifton Lit Fest is a profound event curated to the literary passions of the youth, continuing to encourage a generation of future writers with their dedication.

Carmen B - Year 12 Literature Student

SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BOSCO MACDONALD

Safeguarding is among the most sacred responsibilities entrusted to the Church. It flows from the Gospel itself, where Christ gathers the little ones to his heart and commands his disciples to protect them. To guard the vulnerable is to honour the image of God in every person, and to keep the Church faithful to her calling as a place of holiness, compassion, and trust.

In the Diocese of Clifton, this sacred duty continues to shape and sustain all that we do. As the Jubilee of Hope draws to its close, we carry forward the hope it has kindled, a hope rooted in Christ's healing grace, and in our shared desire that the Church be ever a safe and nurturing home for all. Guided by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency, our diocesan commitment is not only to prevent harm but to foster a culture where every person can grow in the peace and security of God's care.

Safeguarding is never a matter of administration alone; it is a ministry of love and protection. There can be no place in the Church for abuse, harm, or neglect. Where sin has wounded, the Lord calls us to repentance and reparation. Where people have suffered, we must listen with compassion, act with integrity, and walk with them on the path of healing.

I am deeply grateful to all who serve in safeguarding across our parishes, schools, and diocesan ministries. Through your vigilance, patience, and care, you make visible the mercy of Christ himself. I also wish to honour the courage of survivors whose voices summon us to deeper conversion. Through them, Christ speaks again to his Church, calling her to humility, vigilance, and purity of heart.

May the Lord Jesus, who gathers the lost and lifts the broken, bring healing and peace to all who have been harmed, and make his Church a place where every wound is met with compassion, every story is heard with reverence, and every person finds safety in his redeeming love.

Bishop Bosco MacDonald, November 2025



EXTRA CURRICULAR

TERM 3

LUNCHTIME CLUBS (12:35 – 1:05)

TUESDAY – YEAR 9,10,11 BOYS STRENGTH CLUB

TUESDAY - 7,8 & 9 BADMINTON CLUB

WEDNESDAY – SIXTH FORM BADMINTON

WEDNESDAY - YEAR 10 & 11 BASKETBALL CLUB

THURSDAY – YR 10 & 11 BOYS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FRIDAY – YR 7, 8 CRICKET CLUB

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS (3:30 – 4:30)

TUESDAY – YR 7 & 8 FOOTBALL

TUESDAY – YR 7 & 8 FOOTBALL

THURSDAY – YR 9, 10 & 11 FOOTBALL

THURSDAY – YR 9, 10 FOOTBALL

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

EXTERNAL AGENCY

Please find below a short webinar for Winter Wellbeing:
<https://player.vimeo.com/video/877641606?h=7ccb907851>



Journey to Nepal

EVENTS



December 2025 is...Active Advent

Ready to take on a challenge this December while supporting a great cause?

Join the Journey to Nepal team for our Active Advent Challenge!

The Challenge

What: Commit to 12 days of activity throughout December.

When: Any 12 days you choose in December!

Why: Challenge yourself, stay active during the festive season, and help support the Journey to Nepal team.

Any activity whether that is walking, running, cycling, swimming, intense hiking, running a marathon, mountain biking, a gym session it doesn't matter - anything that gets your heart pumping!



Earn Your Reward



Complete the challenge and you will receive a fantastic bespoke medal to celebrate your achievement!

★ **Get Involved & Donate**

Adults £10 Children £5



Our Target

Raise £6000 to build two computer suites at our partner school at **Shree Himalaya School, Singdi**



SCAN HERE

To register:

Scan the QR code or speak to one of us

or email nepal2026wot@gmail.com



PAHAR TRUST
NEPAL

Thank you for supporting Ben, Francis, Danilo, Emily and Hanna

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
[@journey.to.nepalwot](https://www.instagram.com/journey.to.nepalwot)



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