

## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

I have spoken to all our young people this fortnight about what makes a good man, and particularly a good Christian man. In the context of rising misogyny in our society, it seems a good moment to stop and reflect on the model set for us by St Joseph, the patron saint of fathers, families and workers.

We considered the quote from Proverbs - "The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!" - and the quote from Ephesians - "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

The college is fully committed to supporting you at home to ensure our boys grow up into the men we need. A national initiative, below, may be of interest to some fathers in our community.

### Letter to our sons

Adolescence star Stephen Graham and psychology lecturer Orly Klein are working on a new project inviting fathers to write a letter to their sons about what it means to be a man. Following the impact of Adolescence, Stephen says that he realised there was a greater need for communication between fathers and sons. The letters will be included in a book called Letters to Our Sons, to be published in October 2026. Information here.

Dear Lord, we thank you for giving us your word which is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Father, may our sons experience your divine guidance and direction. Lord, lead them in the way that is right. Guide their thoughts and actions and let them hear you when you say to him 'This is the way, walk in it'. 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.**"

Congratulations to **Leo**, year 11 who recently took part in the Cadet Inter-Services Skill at Arms Meeting (CISAM) with the Air Cadets.

CISAM is an event which brings together over 200 of the best cadets from across the UK to test their skills in leadership, teamwork and marksmanship. This was Leo's first time competing, and he finished 8th overall out of more than 200 cadets.

Following this, he was selected to represent the Royal Air Force Air Cadets in the Inter-Service competition, where his team went on to achieve first place.

Leo, congratulations. Your hard work exemplifies one of our St Bede's Way principles. We are proud of you.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

### 17th November

The Great St. Bede's Bake Off

### 19th November

St. Bede's Got Talent!  
4.00pm  
(Students only)

### 27th November

Year 7-11  
Flu  
vaccinations

## POLITE REMINDER

The NHS guidelines for sickness or diarrhoea are to stay off school for 48hrs, 2 days after the last episode to stop the spread of infection.

## REFLECTION – St Edmund of Abingdon

On 15 November we celebrate the memorial of St Edmund of Abingdon.

St Edmund is one of our Diocesan saints. The Pastoral Area of North Bristol is dedicated to St Edmund. St Edmund was born in 1175. He was a merchant who became a monk. He has links with our Diocese as he was appointed vicar of the parish of Calne, in Wiltshire and later appointed treasurer and Canon of Salisbury Cathedral.

In 1233 he became Archbishop of Canterbury, where, he advised King Henry III for a while, but resigned in 1240 due to a dispute. He died, the same year, in France on his way to see the Pope.

What stands out most in Edmund's life is his unwavering commitment to prayer and moral discipline. He lived simply, gave generously to the poor, and treated his responsibilities not as positions of power but as opportunities for service. His example reminds us that faith and intellect are not opposed, but together can guide us toward truth and compassion. In a world still struggling with pride and division, St. Edmund's life calls us back to humility, integrity, and the pursuit of peace grounded in faith.

**Reflection:** "Therefore learn as if to live forever; live as if to die tomorrow.  
Quote from St Edmund

### Prayer:

O holy St. Edmund,  
faithful servant of God and wise shepherd of souls,  
you sought truth with your mind and lived it with your heart.  
Teach us to unite faith and reason, so that our learning may lead us closer to Christ.  
You stood for justice with courage and compassion,  
defending what was right even when it brought you hardship.  
Grant us the strength to follow your example—  
to speak truth with love, to forgive without measure, and to serve others with humility and joy. Amen



## 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/3J5BaqJ>

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](https://bit.ly/3LosR1e)

# Introducing Team Pilgrim

## Bristol Schools Cross Country

We had 21 students take part in the 2nd round of the Bristol Cross Country at BGS on Monday 10th November. On what turned out to be a wet and windy day, our students did exceptionally well up against students from BGS, Collegiate and Clifton College.



The top 8 athletes in each event automatically qualify for Avon Schools on Saturday 17th January at Kingswood School in Bath.

A big congratulations to the Inter Boys (Year 10/11) who came 3rd in the age category and to **Damien B** who is currently on standby for the Avon Schools competition.



## Year 8 Team Pilgrim Football

The Year 8 Team Pilgrim footballers bowed out of the National Cup after a 5–1 defeat to a strong Beechen Cliff side. Trailing 3–0 at half-time, the boys showed great determination after the break, pulling one goal back and pressing hard for a second. However, while pushing forward, they were caught on the counter and conceded against the run of play, which effectively killed the game off. Despite the result, it was a battling performance full of effort and resilience.



Pilgrim of the Match: **Francesco F**

## Sportshall Athletics Success!

On Wednesday night, our pupils represented Team Pilgrim brilliantly at the Sportshall Athletics competition. Despite several late withdrawals, every pupil stepped up and gave it their all — with some even competing in three events back-to-back!

Their determination, teamwork, and resilience were fantastic to see. Each and every one of them should be incredibly proud of their performances. They were a real credit to Team Pilgrim, demonstrating our school values throughout the evening.

The Year 8 teams shone brightly, claiming victory in both the boys' and girls' competitions. The Year 7 boys secured a brilliant 2nd place, while the Year 7 girls finished 3rd, showing great promise for the future.

A massive thank you to all pupils who took part — especially those who answered the last-minute call-ups to fill in events.

Pilgrims of the Match

Year 7 Boys: Ebuka N

Year 7 Girls: Lauie P

Year 8 Boys: Hugo A

Year 8 Girls: Vensia O

Well done, Team Pilgrim — what an amazing effort all round!

## ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE CELEBRATE SECOND IN BRISTOL FOR ATTAINMENT!

In a year where there are no national figures for progress, we can only focus on the attainment of our young people. The 2025 national figures were published just before half-term and show the Year 11s at St Bede's achieved the second-highest attainment of any mixed secondary school in the city. This is a fabulous achievement for the students and the staff that worked so hard for these fantastic results.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LIZ WHITE

A short memorial service for Liz White, our former Vice Principal, will be held at the college on Wednesday 26th November at 5.00pm.

This will be a time for us to come together as a community to remember Mrs White and to celebrate the many ways she contributed to school life.

If you would like to attend please click the following link:

<https://forms.gle/Fz9CFoH97ktJFRCNA>

RSVP by Monday 17th November.

## RUGBY TOUCH TOURNAMENT

This week, our Year 8/9 girls took part in an Intro to Rugby Touch tournament at North Bristol RFC, competing against schools with more rugby experience, including Castle School, Oasis Brislington, and Winterbourne.

Despite facing strong opposition, the girls showed incredible determination and teamwork throughout all three matches. They played some outstanding rugby, demonstrating great skill, resilience, and sportsmanship from start to finish. Their positive attitude and effort were a true credit to Team Pilgrim.

Although we came just short of a win in each game, it was a fantastic first taste of competitive rugby for most of the team and they should all be extremely proud of their performance.

Our two try scorers were **Natasza** and **Lauren**, with Lauren earning the well-deserved title of **Pilgrim of the Tournament!**



## YEAR 9 STEP UP AS LEADERS THROUGH FOOTBALL

This week, our Year 9 students have kicked off their leadership block — using football as the perfect way to explore what it means to be an effective leader.

Throughout the block, pupils have been discussing and identifying the key qualities and skills of leadership — such as communication, confidence, teamwork, organisation and empathy. They've then been putting these ideas into action by leading small groups of their peers through football-based drills and activities.

It's been fantastic to see so many students demonstrating all areas of the PE MEs — showing confidence and control in their Physical Me, motivation and resilience in their Personal Me, teamwork and encouragement in their Social Me, and thoughtful planning and reflection in their Thinking Me.

This leadership experience is helping Year 9 not only improve their performance in sport but also develop the wider life skills needed to work with others and lead with confidence.



## ST BEDE'S CELEBRATES EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE AWARD FROM FFT

We are delighted to announce that St Bede's has achieved the FFT 2024/2025 Excellent Attendance Award, recognising our students' outstanding commitment to learning and consistent attendance throughout the year.

This award places St Bede's in the top 25% of all FFT secondary schools across England, a remarkable achievement that reflects the dedication of our pupils, families, and staff in supporting regular school attendance and engagement.



### National School Attendance Award

2024/25 Academic Year



*St Bede's Catholic College*

*Top 25% of all FFT Secondary Schools in England*

## BEDROCK LEARNING- OCTOBER UPDATE

Last month saw Year 7 and 8 students at St Bede's making excellent progress with their Bedrock Learning.

Well done to **7K/En** who were the top performing class and scored **1559 points**.

A huge congratulations to **Francis L** who scored 426 points - the most in the school!  
**7N/En** made the most progress this month, with 43% improvement. Great work!

And finally, a massive congratulations to **Moses C** for making the most progress with **167%**.

Here are some of the words students have been learning this term:

subsidy commodity  
languish idyll  
embargo enigma  
ideology tangible  
formidable mercenary

Please keep supporting your Year 7 and 8 children to earn 20 points each week on Bedrock Learning for their English homework. Thank you!

Mrs De Hondt (KS3 English Lead) and Mrs Glyn-Jones (Literacy and Oracy Coordinator)

## 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 2 December 2025



## **MAMMA MIA AT THE BRISTOL HIPPODROME**

On Thursday 13th November, a group of students from all year groups and staff went to see the musical Mamma Mia at the Bristol Hippodrome.

We had great fun watching such a brilliant show live on a professional stage.

We hope to continue to provide more opportunities to take our students to such performances in the future!

# MAMMA MIA!



### **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!**

## **BRITAIN'S BLACK HISTORY AND ENGLISH FOLK SONG**

On the first day of Term 2, a group of KS3 and 4 students attended a talk and workshop at Bristol Beacon, focused on Britain's Black History and English Folk Song.

We had the chance to see new tapestries of important and influential Black Britons on exhibition in the Bristol Beacon foyer, and took part in a singing workshop with folk musician and academic Angeline Morrison.

It was very inspiring to learn more about Britain's Black History, and hear how this history linked with England's traditional music.

The students sounded fabulous singing acapella folk songs, too!



## SCIENCE TASSOMAI SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

This year, the Science faculty are using Tassomai for home learning. If your child has ever said, "Tassomai's just quizzing!" or "It keeps asking the same questions!", they're not alone — and they're not entirely wrong. But as Tassomai's creator Murray explained in a recent webinar for parents, those frustrations often mean the system is working exactly as it should. "Quizzing is the best way to learn anything — it's retrieval practice that builds knowledge."

Tassomai's questions aren't there just to test recall. Many are written in a way that teaches as well as tests. There are also links to tutorials and "Mai Explains" to provide guidance and support learning. Every response, right or wrong, helps the algorithm adapt the next quiz uniquely for that learner. And yes, it can sometimes feel repetitive but that's part of the learning process. Students will see a question until the algorithm is confident they've mastered it. Once they start answering a question correctly the interval between each repetition increases until we're confident not only that the student can get it right, but that they can remember it weeks and months after they last saw it. That's how real learning works: practice doesn't make perfect, practice makes permanent.

Some students also notice questions about things they "haven't been taught yet." Murray explained that this can actually help — it's called the pre-testing effect, where exposure to new ideas before formal teaching primes the brain to remember them later.

Finally, when students feel disheartened by mistakes, remind them that Tassomai's quizzes are designed for learning, not judgement. Errors are the most powerful part of the process. "Winners practice until they get it right; champions practice until they can't get it wrong." Parents... try this with your child: open Tassomai together and look at their Tree — the colourful map of what they've mastered and what still needs work. Clicking red or orange leaves lets them revisit questions and use Mai Explains to see detailed guidance. It's a great way to turn frustration into progress.

To see the Tassomai tree in action visit this page: <https://bit.ly/47Vr3ok>

## BRISTOL SIXTH FORMS TEAM MATHS CHALLENGE

On the evening of Tuesday 11th November, 18 of our sixth form students across Year 12 and Year 13 took part in the Bristol Sixth Form Team Maths Challenge at Bristol Grammar School. The event saw 240 students from across the city come together to compete to answer challenging maths problems against the clock.

St Bede's entered one Maths team, and two Further Maths teams, with all teams achieving respectable scores. Our Maths team came 5th out of 15 teams.

A big congratulations to:

**Adam B, Paulo M, Jamie T, Evan W, Adam Z, Brendan F, Niamh A, Chinomso E, Emily J, Tereska P, Sara S, Milo W, Jonah B, Josh O, Theodora S, Liana S, Timothy T and Oliver T.**



## ARMISTICE DAY

We will remember them.

We were so pleased that some of our students wore their service uniforms to college on Tuesday 11th November in memory of those who died fighting for their country.

At 11.00am, each member of our college community were respectfully upstanding in silence to mark the occasion. The generosity of our pupils during this time, has been outstanding with money being raised for the Poppy Appeal.

The students who are part of the Army and Navy Cadets, Voluntary Police Cadets, St. John's Ambulance Cadets, Scouts, Senior Leaders and Guides wore their uniforms with pride throughout the day.

Year 12 Art Enrichment group brought creativity and reflection together in a beautiful new display for Areté. Inspired by the symbolism of remembrance, the students designed and crafted a striking collection of poppies.

The finished installation has become a focal point within Areté.



The college is proud to celebrate former student **Dan White**, who is now serving in the **Royal Navy**. At the weekend, he took part in the Festival of Remembrance 2025 at the Royal Albert Hall and represented the Navy at the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph.

Dan's participation is a moment of pride for his family and the whole college community. We congratulate him on this remarkable achievement.



Former St Bede's student Daniel White,  
back row, last on the right

## LIBRARY NEWS

This week we have been marking Remembrance Day and Anti Bullying Week.

In addition, we have celebrated our first **Get Caught Reading Winners of the Year**. We had so many entrants that we have given away four books this term. Congratulations to our winners!

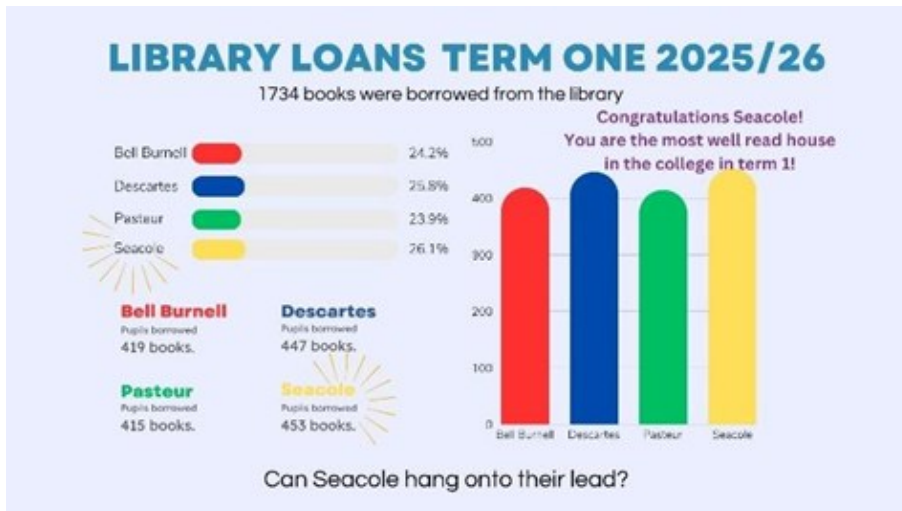


You can get caught reading anywhere around the school. If you do, don't forget to fill in your ticket and put it in the jar in the Library, and it could be you we are celebrating next term!

### Record breaking borrowing from the library in term one!

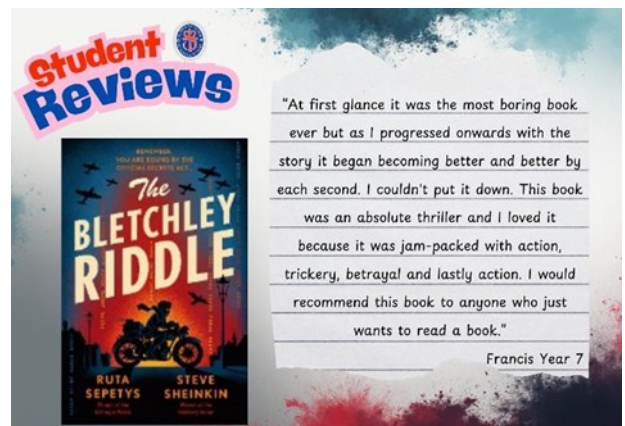
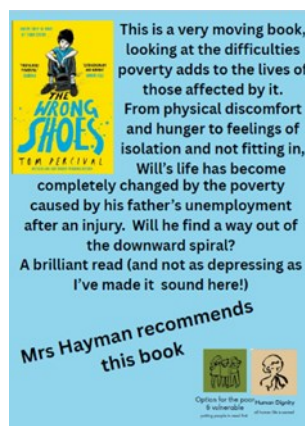
A staggering **1734** books were borrowed last term across the College. Keep it up!

If you want any help choosing your next great read, please pop into the Library. We are very happy to help.



### What we've been reading

As we may all know by now, Mrs Hayman doesn't read horror! She did enjoy Jennifer Killick's Crater Lake though (but not Dread Wood – that was too creepy for her). If you're not as timid as Mrs Hayman come into the Library and check out our Author of the Month.





Tickets are now available  
on MCAS for the

# TALENT SHOW!

**NOV 19TH | 4 PM**

Come to the cheer on student  
acts, see the judges give  
their scores and maybe watch  
a few surprise staff acts too!

## SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

### A reminder for all parents and carers - Child feeling unwell?

Please discuss with your son or daughter the importance of following the correct procedure in the unusual event of feeling unwell in college.

Students who are not feeling well must alert a member of staff who will notify student support to assist.

Under no circumstances should a student attempt to use their own methods to speak directly to a parent or carer.

College staff will medically assess the student and make a decision whether to call an emergency contact parent/carer or not.

If a student needs to leave the college due to illness, they are not permitted to do so alone. Children must be collected by a named person, verified by details on the college administration system.

## ABSENCE AND LATENESS

Dear families,

*I am writing to clarify the college's approach to absence and lateness in connection to issues with buses.*

*The guidance for the college from the government is clear that we can only mark a student present if they are in college for the register at 8:50am. If they arrive after this time, but before the 30 minute cut-off they are marked late. If they arrive after 9:15am, they must be marked absent, irrespective of the reason.*

*This means that students that are late to college in the morning because of issues with a public bus, a college bus, or any other mode of transport have to be marked absent if they arrive after 9.15am.*

*We can authorise these morning absences if the student is late to college because of a legitimate reason connected to issues with the public or college buses. The student will not be sanctioned or penalised in other ways for this absence. Afternoon absences linked to transport issues will not be authorised.*

*With particular respect to the college buses, students are expected to wait until the bus arrives at the bus stop. If there are delays, students and their families can track the bus through the new app so they can see it is on route. The college and/or Bakers Dolphin will send a message to explain how late the bus is likely to be to help manage expectations.*

*As in all things at St Bede's, we try to take context into account and there may be a small number of fringe cases where I can make an exception, but this approach is the one the Attendance Team will be implementing going forward.*

*Many thanks for your support,*

Rob King  
Principal

## VACANCY

St. Bede's Catholic College are seeking an School Meals Supervisory Assistant to help supervise and support pupils during lunch break. Closing date for applications is noon on 28th November 2025. Please click here for further information:

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

## ATTENDANCE UPDATE

### 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.

### Other Updates

Please note that for any absence from school it is up to the principal to make the final decision on if the absence will be authorised or not. This includes illness and appointments made in school times.

If you have any non-urgent attendance queries like questioning attendance marks, updates on request for absences please email [absence@stbcc.org](mailto:absence@stbcc.org) and these will be looked into as soon as possible.

Please can we also remind all families to check and update their personal information ie, contact number, email address and home address. This can be done on either the app or website it is very important that we are kept up to date on any changes in order for us to contact you.

We have recently had a number of enquiries about how to pay a penalty notice, if you have been advised that a referral has been made or may be made by the school for planned/unplanned leave or school non-attendance/lateness, it is the local authority who will contact you with the information about how much the fine is, how and when it needs to be paid by to stop it escalating. The College does not receive any money from Penalty Notices fines but is monitored to ensure that we are completing correctly and in line with Government and Local Authority guidance.

# Your Holiday HUB Bristol

Hundreds of  
holiday activities  
are available  
in Bristol

\*Eligibility criteria apply



## Do you know about Your Holiday Hub?

If your child receives benefits related free school meals, they can join in with lots of fully-funded activities taking place during the school holidays!

## What's included?

- A meal with every session
- Activities from sports, crafts, drama, gardening and much more!

*It's a great way to stay active, meet friends, have fun and learn new things.*

To book visit:  
[yourholidayhubbristol.co.uk](http://yourholidayhubbristol.co.uk)  
or contact your school. Any questions?  
email [haf@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:haf@bristol.gov.uk)



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Making Childcare Count



PLAYFUL  
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