

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

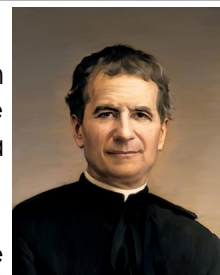
Wow, what weather we have had! I appreciate the resilience and positive energy that the students have continued to bring to their attendance and work in class this fortnight, despite the rain and wind. The hard work in these dark and cold months sets the foundations for future successes in the spring and summer.

The Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, has this week come out to support schools like St Bede's that say schools should be phone-free environments for the entire school day. That includes lessons, time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. She wants schools to have clear policies like our "on site, out of sight" policy and wants parents to back these policies too. Thank you for revisiting this message with your children so they know what the expectation is. Students that do not follow these rules have their phones confiscated and kept in the office. To further support the college, please do not try to contact your children on their phones during the school day. If you have an important, time-sensitive message for them, please contact the main reception who will be able to deliver the necessary information.

Dear Lord, every day, I pray for your strength and courage to face whatever challenges come my way. May I be steadfast in my faith, unwavering in my hope, and unshakeable in my love for you. May everything I do today be done for your glory. Amen.

REFLECTION – 31 January – St John Bosco

This week, we celebrate the memorial St. John Bosco, the patron saint of youth and the founder of the Salesian family. Known warmly as "Don Bosco," he dedicated his life to the education and well-being of young people during a time of great social upheaval.



Don Bosco's approach to education was revolutionary. He didn't believe in the "ivory tower" model of teaching; instead, he could be found on the playground, in the workshops, and in the streets. He famously said, "Education is a matter of the heart," believing that a teacher must first be a friend before they can be an instructor. Don Bosco offers us a refreshing perspective on holiness. He taught his students that being a saint doesn't require long hours of solemn silence, but rather doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well and with a joyful heart.

Reflection: St John Bosco often told his pupils: "Run, jump, shout, but do not sin." He recognized that the energy and vibrancy of youth are not distractions from faith—they are expressions of it.

Prayer: Prayer to St John Bosco

Lord, we thank you for the gift of St. John Bosco.

May we follow his example by being "signs and bearers of God's love" to the young people in our lives.

Grant us the patience to listen, the wisdom to guide, and the heart to always see the best in one another.

Amen

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2026

2nd February

A Level Art trip to
St. Ives depart

5th February

Staff Training
College closes at
2:15pm

11th / 12th February

Year 11 Mock
Interviews

12th February

Year 7 Progress
Evening
(This is a virtual
event)

13th February

END OF TERM 3

23rd February

START OF TERM 4

Year 12 Assessment
week

24th February

Ski Trip Parents'
Information Evening



Team Pilgrim

Team Pilgrim Basketball Update



Team Pilgrim's boys' basketball teams continue to go from strength to strength as the season draws to a close. The Senior Boys' team remain undefeated after a hard-fought victory against a strong Bristol Free School side. The boys were pushed all the way into the fourth quarter in a highly competitive match, showing great resilience and teamwork to secure the win.

Pilgrim of the Match was **Ollie R** for an outstanding performance.

The Junior Boys faced a challenging double fixture. They recorded an impressive win against a strong Orchard team before narrowly losing a closely contested game against Cotham. Across both matches, the boys demonstrated excellent effort, skill, and determination, and they should be extremely proud of their performances.

Pilgrims of the Matches were **Sam D** and **Reian A**.



FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

Please be advised that if you are entitled to Free School Meal Vouchers, these will be issued on February 12th via MCAS (My Child at School)



St. Bede's Catholic College presents...

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

YOUTH EDITION

Music by
Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by
Oscar Hammerstein II

Book by
Howard Lindsay &
Russel Crouse

Tuesday 3rd March
Wednesday 4th March
Thursday 5th March

6:30pm
in the Main Hall



Tickets available on Ticket Source:
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-bedes-catholic-college>
Adults: £8 Children & Concessions: £6 Family of 4: £25



LIBRARY DESK

This week in the Library we have marked Holocaust Memorial Day, and remembered Harry Olmer, survivor of the Holocaust, who has recently died. He was one of a group of boys who were relocated to the Lake District after the War, whose tale is told *After the War* by Tom Palmer. You can read the first chapter [here](#) and there are copies to borrow in the Library. We also remembered Claudette Colvin, whose actions in refusing to give up her seat on an American bus predated Rosa Park's by 9 months. You can read the first chapter [here](#), and borrow the book from the Library.



New Year Resolutions

Mrs Hayman is enjoying exploring new authors and has completed 4 of her 26. Mr Silver is joining in on the challenge so please recommend new authors to both of us. (Mrs Hayman has accepted Mr Silver's recommendation to read a book by Victorian novelist William Harrison Ainsworth so this might be the last you hear from her for a while!)

Mrs Nicks has reached F in her voyage through the alphabet. Don't forget to come into the Library to check in on how we're doing and share your own progress with us.



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT WINTER FLU/NOROVIRUS (WINTER VOMITING BUG)

There has been an increase in cases of flu nationally since Christmas.

The key advice from the NHS is that all staff and children must stay off school if they have a temperature and only return if they feel better and no temperature.

More information can be found on the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

EXTERNAL AGENCY— PARENTAL MINDS

This organisation offers mentoring, support, advice and guidance for caregivers – parents, family members, friends, or colleagues (18+) – supporting someone of any age who is struggling with their mental health or emotional wellbeing.

- How can I support them today? Ideas to try when things are difficult
- How can I cope today? Helping remind you to take care of yourself
- How can we move forward? Planning & improving mental well-being
- How do mental health services work? Navigation through the services
- How do others cope? Blogs from others with lived experience

<https://parentalminds.org.uk/>



PARENTAL MINDS C.I.C.
Mental Healthcare ; Exploring Pathways

SCIENCE REVISION - USING THE TASSOMAI TREE TO UNLOCK PROGRESS

As students move through secondary school, and especially as **Year 11 approaches key examinations**, knowing what to revise can be just as important as how to revise. Tassomai offers a powerful feature called the **Tassomai Tree**, which helps students clearly identify their strengths and weaknesses across each subject. With a little support from home, parents can help their child make the most of this tool.

What is the Tassomai Tree?

The Tassomai Tree is a visual map of your child's knowledge. Each branch represents a topic from the curriculum, and its colour shows how secure your child is in that area.

- **Green** branches show topics your child understands well
- **Amber** branches show developing understanding
- **Red** branches highlight areas that need more attention

Because Tassomai updates this automatically based on your child's answers, the Tree gives an **honest, up-to-date picture** of what they know — and what they don't yet know.

Why is this especially important for Year 11?

For Year 11 students, time is precious. The Tassomai Tree helps ensure revision time is **focused and efficient**, rather than wasted on topics they already know well.

Using the Tree allows students to:

- Target gaps in knowledge before exams
- Avoid last-minute panic by addressing weaknesses early
- Build confidence by seeing progress over time
- Revise exactly what they need for GCSE success

In short, the Tassomai Tree turns revision into a **strategic process**, not guesswork.

How parents can support at home

You don't need to be a subject expert to help. Simple conversations can make a big difference:

Ask your child to **show you their Tassomai Tree**

- Encourage them to explain why certain branches are red or amber
- Help them set small goals, such as "turn one red topic amber this week"
- Praise progress — watching branches change colour is motivating

This keeps revision **calm, structured and purposeful**, rather than overwhelming.

Encouraging independence and responsibility

One of the strengths of Tassomai is that it encourages students to take ownership of their learning. By regularly checking their Tree, students learn to:

- Reflect on their own understanding
- Take responsibility for improvement
- Develop strong revision habits that will benefit them beyond Year 11

Your encouragement helps reinforce these skills and shows that effort and progress matter.

A powerful tool when used regularly

The Tassomai Tree is most effective when students engage with it little and often. Just a few minutes a day can gradually turn weaknesses into strengths — and that steady progress adds up significantly over the year.

By supporting your child in using the Tassomai Tree, you are helping them revise smarter, feel more confident, and approach their exams with clarity and control.

GCSE AND A LEVEL CERTIFICATES – READY FOR COLLECTION

We are pleased to inform you that GCSE and A Level certificates from Summer 2025 are now ready for collection.

Certificates may be collected in person between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

If you are unable to collect your certificates yourself, you may authorise another person to collect them on your behalf. Please note that permission must be granted in advance by completing the authorisation form available on our website.

St Bede's Certificates Collection Certificates Information

Certificates from

Summer 2023 and Summer 2024 will be available for collection until April 2026

As per the exams retention policy, after 12 months from the date of issue, certificates not collected will be destroyed.

VACANCIES

School Meals Supervisory Assistant to help supervise and support pupils during the lunchtime break. The role involves ensuring pupils' safety, wellbeing, and good conduct throughout this period.

- Hours: 12:15pm – 1:30pm, Monday to Friday, term time only
- Pay: Actual annual salary of £3,583 (£12.85 per hour, increasing to £13.45 in April 2026, £3,749 annually)
- Perks: You are welcome to arrive a few minutes before the start time to receive a complimentary school meal or drink
- Probation: All posts are subject to a 6-month probationary period
- Checks: Appointment is subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check

Exams Invigilator

- Pay: £12.85 per hour (increasing to £13.45 in April)
- Casual, sessional basis
- Start date: April 2026

If you have any questions or prefer to receive a hard copy of the application form, please contact Mrs Claire Walker, PA to the Principal at the college

YEAR 11+ INSIDE OUT RETREAT
A FREE WEEKEND OF REST, REVISION AND REFLECTION

St. Cassian's retreat centre are offering a free retreat to students in Year 11 and above. For further information please click here: <https://www.stbedesccl.org/page/?title=Chaplaincy&pid=200> and download the *Inside Out*—2026 application form



KINTBURY
FAITH FUN & FRIENDSHIP

AN
**INSIDE
OUT**
WEEKEND

Renew. Refresh. Restore

Enjoy the
Kintbury Experience
from a different point of view

FREE RETREAT



Wondering if
volunteering
is for you?

Need time to
think about
what is next?



Need time to
study?



Need
rest?



February
20th - 22nd

A relaxed
weekend for you
to explore behind
the scenes of the
volunteers' life



To book or
for further details email
OFFICE@CASSIANS.CO.UK