

# St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College



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## Newsletter

Issue 307 17th December 2020

*Wishing our families and  
parishes a Happy, Holy and  
Peace filled Christmas*



### Message from Mr Maher, Principal

As we move from Advent into the Christmas season, I am sure that everyone is looking forward to meeting up safely with family members who we have not seen for several months now.

I hope that this will again bring a sense of normality to the Christmas period even though our celebrations may be curtailed and not quite the usual we have enjoyed in previous years.

I am immensely proud of the work of both my colleagues and of the students since we returned in September – time has certainly gone very quickly! Everyone has shown resilience and determination to overcome the challenges we have all been faced with.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support.

May we all look forward to 2021 with a true sense of hope and a continued spirit of the very special community which is St Bede's.

On behalf of everyone, may I wish you a safe, happy and Holy Christmas.

### ADVENT SERVICE

On Thursday 17th December our college community came together for our virtual Advent Service. Parents are invited to view the service by clicking here: [https://youtu.be/tsfx5s\\_ILnY](https://youtu.be/tsfx5s_ILnY)

It was a beautiful way to start the Christmas break.

Thank you to our pupils and staff for their hard work.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**18th December 2020**

### END OF TERM 2

Inset day—pupils will  
not be in college

**4th January 2021**

### START OF TERM 3 Week B

**11th January 2021**

Year 13  
Mock Exams  
commence

**11th January 2021**

Week of Year 12  
classroom exams

**14th January 2021**

Year 10  
Parents' Evening  
4.30pm- 7.30pm



## CONGRATULATIONS

This year an unprecedented number of Year 13 students have been invited to interviews at Oxford and Cambridge. So far, at least ten students will be interviewed over the coming weeks, which represents around 10 percent of the year group. Their subject specialisms include Economics and Management, Engineering, English Literature, Geography, History, Law and Medicine. The offer of an interview is a tremendous achievement in itself, which is down to hard work and dedicated preparation on the part of these young people as well as their subject teachers. We would also like to recognise the hard work of Mr Goodman, Ms Kirkbright, Mr Sutton and Mrs Lindsay in their roles supporting students with their applications.

## INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to Bell Burnell who have won both the 4 house and 3 house competitions.



## CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Year 8 pupil, Aaron Winward who together with his rugby team, Gordano Sharks RFC, has been raising money for CHSW.

During lockdown, they were set fitness challenges which will finish off by completing the 'Santa's on the run'.

Aaron has raised £250 through sponsorship which contributes towards the group total of nearly £10,000 and it's still rising!

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS

The annual Christmas food hampers were organised differently this year due to Covid19 restrictions.

Ten lucky St. Bede's families won a £30 supermarket voucher and some chocolates.

Thank you to Mrs Derrick for organising these.



## FOOD LESSONS

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 enjoyed creating 'socially distanced snowmen' in their Food lesson this week.



Whilst, Year 9 were successful with their 'jam jar butter' and their iced Christmas cake toppers.



## Covid-19 Reminder

### From Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December

If your child receives a positive Covid-19 test result you will need to contact the college via [contact@stbcc.org](mailto:contact@stbcc.org) so that track and trace can be completed and those affected can be contacted and advised to isolate.

### From Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

NHS Track and Trace will complete the contact function. However, you will need to inform the college on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January that your child is isolating and will not be returning until the period of isolation has been completed.

**Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.**

## SAM Learning

We are pleased to let you know that your son/daughter now has 24/7 access to SAM Learning - an online practice/revision resource.

SAM Learning contains thousands of practice/revision activities, across many KS3 and GCSE subjects - and is particularly good for quick review checks on learning. Subjects will use SAM Learning to set practice and revision tasks, as well as encouraging students to work on any areas they feel necessary.

To login, your child needs:

The website address: [www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com)

Our school centre ID: BS11SB

Their username: their date of birth followed by initials, in the format DDMMYYII

Their password: if they have not yet logged in, this is the same as their username.

Please encourage your daughter/son to log in and do some revision activities - taking around 15 minutes each, they are ideal to be done in small time gaps. Research has shown that this really can help with GCSE results.

## Post 16 applications – Final reminder

Year 11 students should have already made at least one application to their chosen post 16 provider. Applications can be made to more than one sixth form, college or training provider before making a final decision. Applications should be made as soon as possible to avoid disappointment as courses become full.

Parents and students can access information on some of the post 16 providers on our website [www.stbedescc.org](http://www.stbedescc.org) → Careers Information → Download.

Useful websites for careers information:

[www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16) and [www.unifrog.org](http://www.unifrog.org)

### SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Digital Safeguarding is an important factor to consider at this time of year. As Christmas draws near, many children may be looking forward to receiving new electronic devices or games, so we feel that this is an appropriate time to highlight some straight-forward online safety tips to help parents/carers make safer choices and support their children online.

#### Top Tips

- Continue to take an active interest in your child's online life and engage in the digital world with them.
- Remind children that they can tell an adult if something happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable, without being told off or punished.
- Agree as a family, how the internet and technology will be used in your home; encourage children to use the online safety messages they learn in school and adapt these into your own family rules.
- Discuss online boundaries too; if your child loves to socialise online, talk to them about what is and isn't appropriate to share with their friends online.
- Always check the PEGI age rating and descriptors on games before buying them for your child and carefully consider whether the content is appropriate for them.
- Remember to role-model positive behaviour online; consider asking your child's permission before posting photos of them on social media this Christmas and empower them to have control over their 'digital reputation'.

Further information can be found here:

<http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation>

### MESSAGE FROM MRS CARMICHAEL, HEAD OF YEAR 7

Hi Year 7.

WOW! What a term we have all had! I'm sure all those fears and worries you had about starting here in September have long disappeared and it is lovely to see you all making new friends. I bet you can't quite believe you have already done 2 terms here.

I know this has not been a particularly easy time for us in many ways but I have been impressed with you "can do" attitude and how enthusiastically those of you who have had to self-isolate this last week, have been logging into classes. Keep up the excellent work everyone.

I wish you and all your families a wonderful Christmas and hope that all stay safe and well.

MERRY CHRISTMAS





Merry Christmas from the Library!

Mrs Hayman is hoping for lots of books under the tree this year. While we wait, impatiently, can you name the books these quotes are from....?

- 1) "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents"
- 2) "One can never have enough socks. Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn't get a single pair. People will insist on giving me books."
- 3) "Always winter but never Christmas."
- 4) "Then (he) thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"
- 5) "At one time, most of my friends could hear the bell, but as years passed, it fell silent for all of them. Even Sarah found one Christmas that she could no longer hear its sweet sound. Though I've grown old, the bell still rings for me, as it does for all who truly believe."
- 6) From "Bah humbug" to "God bless us, every one"  
"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

Plus, some literary online festive treats

<https://bit.ly/2WdepfU>

<https://bit.ly/34dMiRU>

#### Answers

- 1) Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*
- 2) J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
- 3) C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
- 4) Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*
- 5) Chris Van Allsburg, *The Polar Express*
- 6) Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*