

St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College

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Newsletter

Issue 325 4th March 2022

MESSAGE FROM MR KING, PRINCIPAL

I hope you all had a restful half-term. The students and staff have returned in good spirits and the college atmosphere is positive and warm, and we are all intent on making this term another success.



This week marked the beginning of Lent, one of my favourite times of year. The Ash Wednesday services helped the students and staff focus on the period ahead and how we might prepare for the upcoming Easter season. We were all asked to consider new opportunities to pray, give something up and offer time or money to others. I encourage everyone in the St Bede's community to commit to these things with us over the next 40 days, though if you are like me you will need to concentrate on each day as it comes.

The dreadful conflict in Ukraine has further focused our attention on today and trying to worry less about tomorrow. As Matthew's Gospel reminds us: "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" We have prayed daily for the people of Ukraine and hope for peace and reconciliation in the near future.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind families that in order to keep all children safe, under no circumstances, should any child record or share photographs or video of another member of the college community. Please reinforce this message at home and remind children that mobile phones are permitted on-site but must be out of sight.

St Bede's Way Spotlight: Work hard, Be kind and Do the right thing

The St. Bede's Way Spotlight identifies someone who stands out as exemplifying one of our three St Bede's Way principles of **"Work Hard. Be kind. Do the right thing."**

Congratulations to **Amy**, who raised **€868** for LauraLynn Children's Hospice which provides specialist palliative and supportive care services to meet the needs of children with life limiting conditions and their families in Ireland.

The Little Princess Trust provide real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment and other conditions.

Amy donated 32cm of her own hair towards the Trust during half term, determined to try and make a small difference to children in need and with a hope to be able to grow her hair and do this again in 3 or 4 year's time. She is very grateful to everyone who has contributed so generously to her fundraising efforts.



Amy, your kindness exemplifies our St Bede's Way principles. We are proud of you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7th March

Year 11 & Year 13
Photographs

Week of Year 13
Classroom Exams

8th March

Scholars
Programme
Celebration

10th March

Year 10 Kintbury Trip
depart

Year 11 Parents'
Information Evening

13th March

Year 10 Kintbury Trip
return

14th March

High School Musical
Production week

21st March

Week of
Year 7 & 8 Exams

22nd March

Year 9 Kintbury
Enrichment
(Off-timetable)

23rd March

Year 8 Kintbury
Enrichment
(Off-timetable)

Year 9
Duke Of Edinburgh
Hike (Day 1)

24th March

Year 9
Parents' Evening

REFLECTION—7th March Ss Perpetua & Felicity



Both St. Perpetua and St. Felicity were martyred during a time of great persecution. They were put to death in the year 202 in the games which made public spectacles of those who refused to renounce their faith.

St. Perpetua was a well-educated noblewoman living in North Africa. Her mother was a Christian but her father was a pagan. Perpetua was 22 when she was arrested and imprisoned. She kept a diary of her sufferings and the nature of the torture she endured. She continued to care for her child in spite of the torture she was forced to endure.

St. Felicity was a pregnant slave girl who was imprisoned at the same time as Perpetua. She also was tortured and condemned to die. Several days before the games began she gave birth to a baby girl. The baby girl was secretly taken away to be raised by Christians.

Reflection: "When my father in his affection for me was trying to turn me from my purpose by arguments and thus weaken my faith, I said to him, 'Do you see this vessel—water pot or whatever it may be? Can it be called by any other name than what it is?' 'No,' he replied. 'So also I cannot call myself by any other name than what I am—a Christian.'"

St Perpetua

Prayer: Prayer to Ss Perpetua & Felicity

Lord God, grant that I may love and serve You as faithfully as Your martyrs Saints Perpetua and Felicity, so that I may someday join them to praise You in Heaven.

Pray that I may also choose to be as steadfast in my own faith against the influences of the world as they were, no matter what it may cost me. Amen

PRAYER LIST

This week we invite our college community to pray for:

Carmen L and Nick A

We welcome your suggestions for people to pray for in our next newsletter. Please follow the link below:

<https://forms.gle/qq5Te9HiCgtPgKMU7>



PSYCHOLOGY CLUB

Psychology club is open to anyone in Year's 9-13 (you do not need to have taken psychology at GCSE or A Level). It runs on Wednesday lunchtime during week B. Please do join us on Wednesday 16th March in Omega 6 (eat lunch before or bring it with you).

Hope to see you there! Mrs Tuffon

CASHLESS CATERING

We are pleased to announce that in July 2022 we will be introducing Cashless Catering. The benefits of the system will be to avoid the use of cash, maintain anonymity to Free School Meals students and to reduce queue times.

The launch will begin with current years 7-10 and year 12 being signed up to Biometric Fingerprint recognition or Personal Identification numbers.

Next step:

- We shall write to all parents and carers to request consent to proceed before Easter 2022.
- It will then be possible for SCOPAY accounts to be set up to a daily spend for children and families will be able to view what has been purchased. There will be an option to top-up with cash if necessary.
- In addition to the cashless system, we are planning in October to enhance the lunchtime service with the launch of an App that will enable students to order and collect cold food at break time and to order in advance of lunchtime. The App will be trialled with years 12 and 13 in September 2022.

We have envisaged that the planned developments will enhance the expression for students and will keep families informed of the process.

MESSAGE FOR YEAR 7 PARENTS AND CARERS

Year 7 parents and carers,

We have noticed an increasing number of problems coming into college that have stemmed from the students interactions with each other over the social media apps they are using on their mobile devices at home.

Some of the content being shared and the language being used about and towards each other is upsetting and is affecting the well-being of the children. We would urge you to sit down with your child and talk about appropriate use of their mobile devices if they have them and perhaps discuss the messages they are sending and receiving to make sure that you are happy with what is being shared and posted.

Another great tip to keep children safe when using their mobile device is to make sure it is turned off and kept out of their bedrooms before bed and over night.

We are currently raising money for Lepara by trying to walk the length of India, this might be a great opportunity for the mobiles to be put to one side and get out of the house for a nice long walk this weekend! Students can let their tutor know how far they get!

Further advice on Keeping Children Safe online can be found later on in this newsletter in the Safeguarding Spotlight.

Mrs R Carmichael
Head of Year 7

DUKE OF EDINBURGH—GOLD AWARD

On Wednesday 2nd March, eleven year 12 students undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award took part in a training hike in the Brecon Beacons to locate the 1953 plane crash site of Vampire VZ106. Despite the terrible weather conditions of ice cold wind, rain and deep fog, both teams successfully navigated to the top of the ridge and one team found the crash site! This is the first time a team has found the crash site in the 3 years of running this hike!

Well done to both teams and we hope your infectious enthusiasm continues during your expeditions this summer!

Dr Walsh and Mr Sutton

PASTEUR PANCAKES: TEAM WORK

It was great to be able to work together, after the experience of the last few years, in order to fundraise for our House Charity. Students from Pasteur House worked as a team with support from staff across the Houses and faculties. It was like a scene from 'The Apprentice' as we hurriedly organised our conveyor belt to meet the demands of our happy customers and supporters. We are delighted to be able to donate £80 to UNICEF to help protect children in the Ukraine. Ms Sharp, Head of Pasteur House



BLIND BOOK DATE

On Valentine's Day this year, the staff at St Bede's embraced the opportunity to share our favourite books secretly. We covered our book and provided a few clues about the genre or setting etc. It was a lovely experience with lots of people intrigued by the different novels, recommendations and by who their original reader could be!



VACANCIES

The Governors of St Bede's, wish to appoint:

- **An inspiring Teacher of Mathematics with responsibility for Key Stage 4**

The closing date for applications will be noon on **Wednesday 16th March 2022**

- **Cover Supervisor**

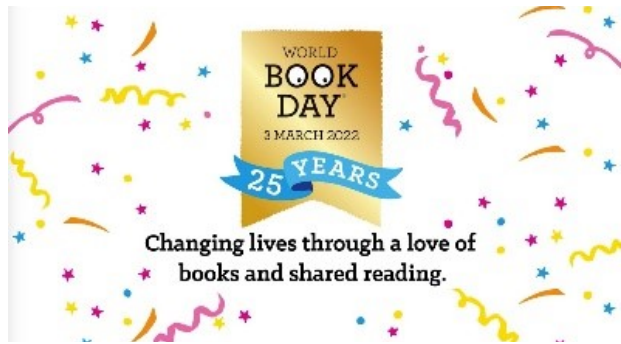
The position is 31.25 hours per week (08.30 – 15.30, Monday to Friday, 15-minute morning break and 30-minute lunch break), term time only including 5 in-service training days.

The annual salary for this post is St Bede's Grade 8, point 12-18 - £16,253 - £18,303.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.stbedescc.org/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=12>

Library Newsletter



We think that every day is World Book Day here in the Library but St Bede's has had fun celebrating its 25th anniversary.

We challenged students to complete a treasure hunt around College to identify a book from each of those years by its cover.

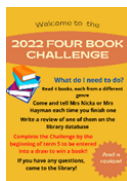


We are showcasing Musical Theatre and performance to honour our talented High School Musical cast and crew. We've got books that have been turned into musicals, books that are literally about high school musicals, books about taking the plunge in stand up, talent and reality shows.

New in the Library - we have a selection of books from EmpathyLab's Read for Empathy 2022 including novels, non-fiction, verse novels, poetry and graphic novels. All chosen to help young people aged 12-16 develop real-life empathy.



Are you doing the Four Book Challenge?



Read four books from different genres this term (you get the Easter holidays too!) and review one of them on the library database. Complete the challenge and be entered into a draw to win a book shaped surprise!

February Book Resolutions update

Click on the covers to read the first chapter online...

Mrs Hayman managed two new authors in February. **Amy Wilson's A Girl Called Owl** is new into the Library. It's a magical winter story, but with a protagonist facing very real world problems as well.



Knights of the Borrowed Dark by **Dave Rudden** was languishing unloved on the shelves and I don't know why! Billed as ideal for fans of Rick Riordan and Derek Landy, it is the usual story of an orphan discovering unsuspected magical powers. However, it's darker than others in its genre and its descriptions of the costs to be paid for using magic chilled me!



Non fiction – I am reading a music memoir – **Nothing is Real** by **David Hepworth** – but slowly!

Mrs Nicks is continuing her journey into the millenium library with **Utopia** by **Thomas Moore** first published in 1516! The language is quite different but there is a wonderful glossary at the back which gives you an explanation of the more unfamiliar words including a couple of tudor insults!



The Broken Raven by **Joseph Elliott** is the second book in the Shadow Skye series. I loved the first book 'The Good Hawk' (which is currently a nominee for the Bristol teen book awards.) I am nearly at the end. It is as fast paced and exciting as the first. You can find reviews of all the books I have finished on the library catalogue. Students can login and upload reviews there too. <https://u013370.microlibrarian.net/>



Remember to come into the Library to let us know how YOUR resolutions are going

ENERGY DRINKS

Energy drinks are to be actively discouraged at St Bede's.

Recent research, as shown in the article below highlights, these drinks are being consumed too frequently by teenagers and this is having a detrimental impact on their health. Please join us in encouraging your children to drink water or squash instead.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-60287062>

REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLES

We are pleased to inform you that the bottle filling stations are now installed.

Please do encourage your child to bring in refillable water bottles for break and lunch, as we no longer provide plastic cups.



HELP FOR TEACHERS AND FAMILIES TO TALK TO PUPILS ABOUT RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE AND HOW TO HELP THEM AVOID MISINFORMATION

The recent invasion of Ukraine has of course been hugely concerning to us all and explaining what is happening is difficult. The Department for Education has prepared information on the below link to support teachers and families discussing this issue with their children. We hope it helps with conversations in your family.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/02/25/help-for-teachers-and-families-to-talk-to-pupils-about-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-and-how-to-help-them-avoid-misinformation/>

BARKING MAD WELLBEING ACTIVITY

One fresh and sunny day at the end of Term three, a number of St Bede's staff, accompanied by their furry friends, went for a pleasant and fun walk at Ashton Court. There was a lot of running around and bonding - the staff enjoyed it too! We felt it was good for the soul and an opportunity to 'paws for thought'. We are looking forward to the next one.



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Adult Control for online activity – NSPCC advice

Research recently published by the UK Safer Internet Centre* highlighted that 78 percent of 8-17-year-olds have received a friend request from someone they don't know, and 68 per cent have experienced offensive or mean comments from other players and social media users.

Setting up controls and individual safety settings on a child's favourite app or game, is one of the ways that parents and carers can help to keep children safe and stop unwanted contact from people they don't know.

The NSPCC have provided some very useful advice on how to keep children safe. The guide can be found here;

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>