

St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College

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Newsletter

Issue 336 21st October 2022

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

As we continue to drive the improvement agenda at St Bede's, I am looking to speak to and listen to all members of our college community. I already have plans for staff involvement and new student focus groups and the new College Council will both begin in the next few weeks.

I am also keen to hear from our families and so would appreciate your feedback on what you might like to be involved in. I would like to offer opportunities for families to visit the college to hear about our ongoing development work, to start a Parent Teachers Friends Association (PTFA), to begin an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion steering group, and offer opportunities for adults that want to support the college to be involved as Foundation governors. If any of this appeals to you, please complete the survey below. I will then look at the levels of interest and plan accordingly.

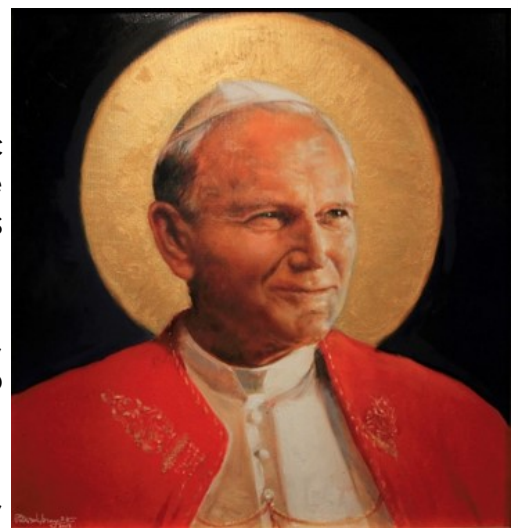
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REFLECTION – 22 OCTOBER - ST JOHN PAUL II

Pope John Paul II was the head of the Catholic Church from 16 October 1978 to his death in 2005. He was the second longest-serving pope in history. As a Pole, he was the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

He travelled more than any other pope before him, visiting many of the countries of the world. He is also famous for starting the annual World Youth Day.

John Paul II was canonized by Pope Francis on April 27, 2014 which means that the Polish Pope is now known as Saint John Paul II.



Reflection: "I plead with you, never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid." St John Paul II

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, we are inspired by St John Paul II, who brought Your love and Gospel to many people and nations. We pray that we too can bring You to our friends and family. He comforted all children of the Church in times of chaos and uncertainty. Grant us, through his intercession, a love for all mankind and the radiance of Jesus.
Amen

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."

This week our spotlight highlights year 10 Bell Burnell student **Gabriel**. Gabriel was so kind in supporting a younger member of the college who was upset having missed the bus on the way to college.

Gabriel, waited with the student until her family arrived to collect her, and then proceeded to walk to college.

Gabriel, your kindness exemplifies our St Bede's Way principles.

We are very proud of you! Well done.

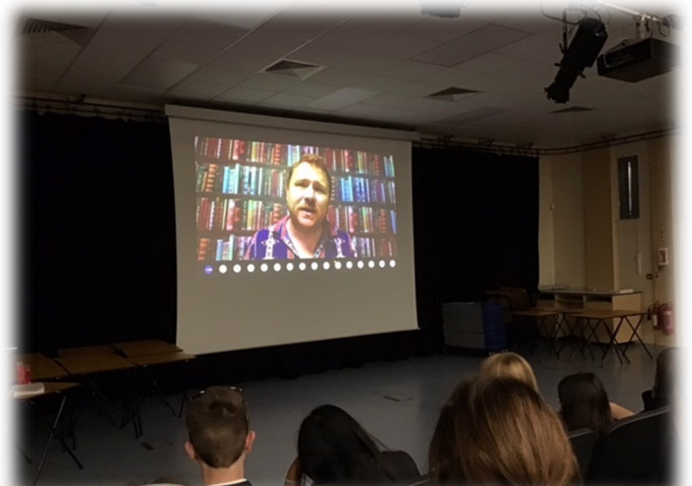


Thank you for allowing us to print your photograph

NATIONAL POETRY DAY—6TH OCTOBER 2022

Last week we celebrated National Poetry Day across the school and in our English lessons. Some of the Year 10s were lucky enough to attend an online workshop with poet Mark Grist, who talked us through how to write a powerful poem and read us some of his own poetry. The students really thought about engaging themes they could discuss, poetic techniques they could use, and had a go at writing some of their own poetry. Other classes engaged in poetry activities created by the current Waterstones Children's Laureate, award-winning poet, playwright and author Joseph Coelho. Well done to all of the students involved! If you'd like to learn more about the national event- take a look at the official website: <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/>

St Bede's English Department



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2022

31st October

START OF TERM 2 INSET DAY

Deadline for
applications to
St. Bede's

2nd November

Areté Open
Evening

3rd November

6th Form Kintbury
retreat departs

10th November

Year 8
Progress Evening

11th November

Armistice Day



Please follow

St. Bede's
Catholic
College
on Twitter



YEAR 10 NETBALL CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to the year 10 Netball Team who played 3 fantastic matches in their netball tournament in order to regain their North Bristol Netball Champions title. They fought hard against RGS. They were 2-6 down at half time and the final score was a 6-6 draw. They beat OAB 18-2 and held their nerve in their final match against BFS as 3 out of the 4 schools still had the chance to win.

The girls sealed the championship with a 13-11 win.

They were a credit to the school and themselves! Well done girls, we are very proud of you!



SENIOR STUDENTS

Congratulations to Arété students **Brian, Lottie, Peter** and **Reuben** who have been elected as Sixth Form Senior students.

We look forward to sharing with you the good work they have pledged to do within Arété.



RUGBY SUCCESS

Congratulations to year 11 student **Harry** who was recently selected to represent **Bristol Schools District and Bristol Bears Academy**, at Cheltenham RFC.

Harry was commended by Gary Townsend, Manager at Bristol Bears Junior Academy as being '**a great ambassador for the school on and off the pitch.**'

Well done, Harry!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is an opportunity to ensure that all young people, no matter their background, learn about Black history, the achievements of Black Britons and their contributions to British society.

Students have been taking part in a number of events to commemorate Black History Month, including a chance for students to educate themselves about prominent black Britons, with displays in our Library, IT and Computer Science, English and History corridors.

In English, students have been studying the work of writer's Imtiaz Dharker, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman as part of this terms curriculum.

In Science, year 7 students have explored the contribution of black scientists and produced posters for display.

Year 8 and 9 science students have been exploring a number of black scientists from a careers perspective. They have received a presentation in class followed by a home learning assignment to explore their chosen scientist.

In IT, year 9 ICT and Computer Science students will be watching Hidden Figures (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4846340/>)

The History department will be launching a new club after the October break, called Bridging Histories. The plan is to encourage students and staff to share their family's traditions and culture through a mixture of oral history interviews; photographs, stories and recipes etc. in order to trace and record the rich diversity of backgrounds, which exists within our special St Bede's Catholic College community <https://bridginghistories.com/>



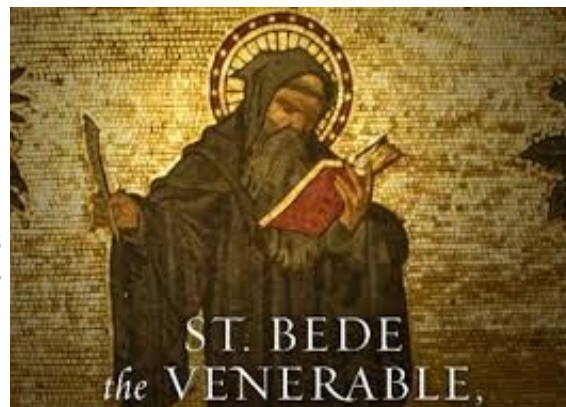
**MONDAY 31ST OCTOBER IS AN INSET DAY
TERM 2 WILL COMMENCE FOR STUDENTS
ON TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2022**



St Bede Academic Think Piece

You were never bad at Maths!

This week we have been working with students on how they can develop and employ a 'growth mindset' with their learning. In this fortnightly parents think piece we will explore how we can create the conditions for our children to develop their own 'growth mindset'.



Every day children come home from school and we may ask them how their day has been, what they have enjoyed and what they have been learning about. Once we have got past what they ate for lunch there might be a comment around how they found something hard, normally it's an element of Maths, and now and again there are comments around how they are not good at Maths.

Parents and Carers can find this challenging as they know that they are good at Maths, but in fact they are finding it hard because it's challenging, and that they are thinking hard. It can be a constant battle to keep them trying hard even when they are finding it hard work. By increasingly praising their effort and will to try rather than the outcome, children have a good chance of doing well.

After neuroscientists found out that the brain is flexible, a new trend in educational science emerged: Growth Mindset. The growth mindset is based on the belief that people can change their intelligence or ability through hard work, practice, effort, and using the right strategies. Therefore, it is important for students to understand that the ability to learn is a skill that continues to grow over time.

Students with a growth mindset believe that intelligence can be developed. These students see effort as the key to success. They believe that ability can change as a result of effort, perseverance, and practice. They are more interested in learning, more eager to take on challenges, and more academically successful. They:

- Ask more questions
- Seek out challenges that allow them to learn something new.
- Spend more time on difficult schoolwork.
- Try new strategies.
- Seek help from other students or the teachers.
- See mistakes as ways to learn and grow; so, they are not afraid of making mistakes. They realise that mistakes are a part of the learning process.

Students with a fixed mindset, on the other hand, believe that people are born with a certain amount of intelligence, and they can't do much to change that. For example, they might say "I just can't learn Maths." These students typically worry about not looking smart, get upset by mistakes, and give up sooner on difficult tasks. When they are faced with a challenge, they give up easily.



Continued overleaf...

St Bede Academic Think Piece... continued

You were never bad at Maths!

The most recent educational research on growth mindset suggests:

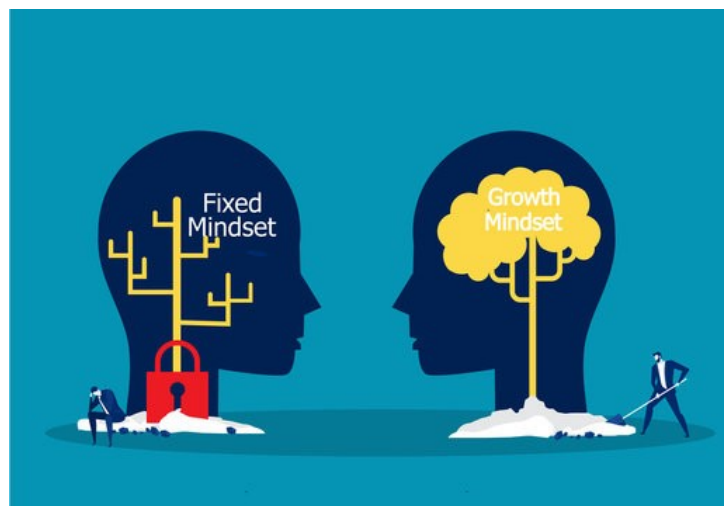
1. Children who are praised for their intelligence are more likely to choose easier tasks that would make them look smart. Whereas children who are praised for their effort are more likely to choose tasks that will help them learn new things.
2. Children who are praised for their intelligence are less likely to persist on a task compared to those that are praised on their effort.
3. Children praised for outcomes of tests are more likely to perform worse on future tasks than children praised for the effort they put into a test.
4. Parents who view failure as debilitating are more likely to have a child with a fixed mindset.
5. Parents who view failure as enhancing are more likely to have a child with a growth mindset.

Parenting Support Tips

Watson and Bush, 2022. A Parents Guide to the science of learning. Routledge. London

- Avoid praise statements like. "you are clever!", "you are talented". Instead, praise the effort that went into the high achievement; "Well done. I am proud that you spent last Friday evening revising so well for that test".
- Use failure as an opportunity for growth. Support your child in finding out where they went wrong and what needs to be done to improve. Don't accept that failure in one area will remain that way. A few tests with lower marks in a subject doesn't mean they are bad at it. It's an opportunity for growth.
- Avoid statements like "I was never good at Science at school". Children may think they will also be bad at Science as a result.
- When challenges arise as a parent, model how to use perseverance and practise to overcome the challenge.
- Foster a shared family value that everyone can learn and improve in all areas.

Hopefully some of these ideas will help us all to continue to promote a growth mindset.



EMAIL ETIQUETTE

We have been working with the students this week on email etiquette, and especially on the use of emails when contacting teachers and other college staff.

Email is a fantastic technology that allows us all to work more efficiently and effectively.

Please support your children in their use of college email and to understand that staff are not expected to respond to email after 6.00pm weekdays, or at weekends.

Students should always be polite and courteous, even when raising their concerns or worries.

VOLUNTEER GROUP

The Year 10 Young Volunteer group joined other schools from across the Diocese, virtually, to begin this new programme focussing on different Catholic charities.



Life-Changing Pilgrimage Holidays
hcpt

The day was hosted by St Augustine's Catholic College in Trowbridge, and we were joined by Andy from HCPT, who explained what the charity does, providing pilgrimage holidays to Lourdes for disadvantaged children. Andy encouraged the school groups to get involved by raising awareness or fundraising in school. The challenge was set and the group came up with some great ideas so watch this space!

PRAYER LIST

This week we invite our college community to pray for: Tim E and The Bryant family

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



<https://forms.gle/Vk8MLcT2yLxuNgpeA>

PARKING

Please could we ask all parents and carers to refrain from parking outside the railings on Lawrence Weston Road. These spaces are reserved for the college coaches.

Thank you for your cooperation.

CO CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

The Co Curricular timetable for students has now been finalised and published. The timetable can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/3s6gaeA>

REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENCE

Please could we remind all parents that student absences should now be reported via the MyEd app.

CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to all our Cross Country runners who participated in the Bristol School competition on Wednesday evening.

All students tried their best and worked very hard on a course with many hills (and Dinosaurs) at Ashton Court. We had lots of top 10 finishes and await the final results.



The first round of the House Cup is now complete. Over 300 students participated in Cross Country over 2 days. After adding the position points to the participation points, **Descartes** house is leading after the first event.

	Pasteur	Descartes	Bell Burnell	Seacole
Cross Country	144	155	144	130

LEGO CLUB

We have just finished the first term of Lego club and it has been a fun filled. We have appointed 2 new year 10 Lego mentors; **Ella** and **Bella** who join our year 11 mentors; **Mikolaj**, **Lisandra** and **Pawel**. They do a fantastic job of making students feel welcome; helping them talk through their ideas and turning them into such interesting builds.

Every term the students are given a design brief and at the end of each term, our panel of judges have the extraordinarily difficult job of picking a winner.

Their brief this term was to build a structure that would be really fun. Competition was fierce with some lovely and intriguing builds. After careful consideration, the judges decided that **Bella**, **Ruth** and **Grace** deserved the 1st place prize.

Even though they have just finished one challenge, the students are already thinking of what the next one might be. Is it too early for a Christmas theme?

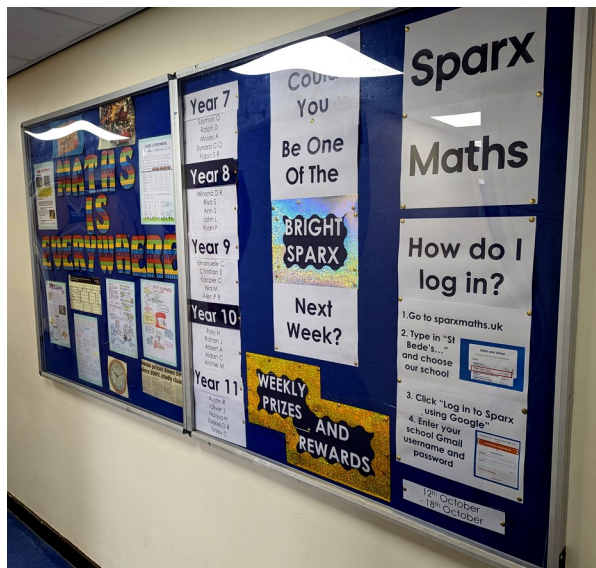
Lego club is held on Monday lunchtimes from 12.35 – 13.05 with Mrs De Castro



SPARX MATHS

Students this term have embraced Sparx Maths, which the maths department have been using to set weekly home learning tasks each Wednesday since 21st September.

As well as the compulsory home learning task, students have the opportunity to complete XP Boost and Target tasks, as well as find topics to work on themselves using the Independent Learning option. Every question a student answers earns them XP, and Miss Power updates our weekly leaderboard on the corridor every Wednesday morning.



So far this term, students have answered **over 100,000 maths questions** correctly on Sparx. We are setting the target of reaching 1 million questions answered correctly by next July... to be on track we will need to reach 300,000 by Christmas. I will let you know our progress next term.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

On Monday, 10th October we celebrated World Mental Health Day.

Students and staff reflected on how to boost their positive mental health and how to support others. Staff and students received a green ribbon to raise awareness and support good mental health for all.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES OF YEAR 6 PUPILS

The closing date for making an application for Year 7 admission in September 2023 is **Monday 31st October 2022**. All families of Year 6 pupils should make an application by the closing date.

For families living in Bristol, the quickest and easiest way to make an application is online at: [Apply for a new year 7 secondary school place](https://bristol.gov.uk/apply-for-a-new-year-7-secondary-school-place) (bristol.gov.uk)

The Supplementary Information Form for St. Bede's should also be completed [online](#) by 31st October 2022.

Families living outside Bristol apply for a Year 7 place to their home Local Authority, but applications can include preferences for Bristol schools such as St Bede's.

LIBRARY NEWS



October has been a busy month in the Library. We have celebrated Black History Month, World Mental Health Day, Anti-Slavery Day and Dyslexia Awareness Week

Over 500 Get Caught Reading tickets have been issued - a new record! We have loved seeing so many keen readers in our College. As a result, we have picked 2 winners out of the jar this time - congratulations to **Gabriella** and **Tobias**!



Mrs Hayman is reading....

I am late to this party – I am not a horror reader by any means but so many people came back and said they had enjoyed this, that I thought I'd give it a go and I am loving it (although I am a bit worried I might not be able to sleep after reading it!) Click on the cover to hear the author talking about it.



Mrs Nicks is reading...

I was quite excited when this book arrived in the Library this month. I enjoy adventure novels with a superhero twist and Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun by Tolá Okogwu did not disappoint. Unfortunately for me, it was borrowed almost immediately. However as a member of my local library I had the delight of listening to the audio book (which was brilliantly narrated by Nneka Okoye) through the **Librarieswest audiobook app Borrowbox** which gives library members free access to their great collection. Click on the cover to read the first chapter.

Reminder

The Library is open until 4.30 Monday to Thursday,
but is not open after school on a Friday

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Important notice:

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.

PRAYER GROUP

All students are welcome to pray in the Chapel with Mrs Zielinska on Monday's at 12.45pm. Everyone is welcome.

DONATIONS

The Food department would be grateful to receive donations of forks. Please bring them to reception.

NUT-FREE SCHOOL

Please can we remind our community that St. Bede's is a **NUT FREE** school. We have a number of students with airborne nut allergies, and any product containing nuts brought into college can cause them to go into anaphylaxis.



For further information on the wide range of items containing nuts can be found here:

<https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/fact-sheet/peanut-and-tree-nut-allergy/>

Thank you for your continued support

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES DURING HALF TERM

Bristol City Council has put together a booklet of fun activities throughout North Bristol over the half term. For further information: <https://bit.ly/3TjklzF>

Head to Blaise Museum for some family fun this October half term.

To book your free place visit: What's On - Bristol Museums

BRISTOL'S WELCOMING SPACES

The first of Bristol's Welcoming Spaces are now open. As the cost of fuel and food continues to rise, a network of warm, Welcoming Spaces has been set up for people to go to, to alleviate cost of living pressures this autumn and winter. Each venue will be responding to community priorities which means what happens in each space will vary, but is likely to include Wi-Fi, access to electrical charging points, activities and community meals. There will also be support and practical advice provided by city-wide organisations.

More information about Welcoming Spaces and [where to find your nearest one is available on the Bristol City Council website](#). More spaces will be added over the coming weeks.

If you need advice or guidance for yourself or someone you support, [we have also launched a cost of living support hub](#) on the Bristol City Council website. The cost of living support hub is a useful directory to access information on housing, bills, benefits, employment and skills and mental health and wellbeing.

COMMUNICATIONS TO AND FROM THE COLLEGE

Please find details below of the three apps we are now using for communications:

MyEd app - All communications to school including absence. Download the app from your app store and register using the email address and mobile number we have on record. If your contact details have changed, please let us know.

Parent Portal - Academic Reports will be sent through the Parent Portal. You have been emailed a link and instructions on how to register. A direct link to the Portal can be found on the College website under Our College/Parent Portal

Class Charts - Home Learning portal
Parents and pupil logins are available from the college.

Next term, Ms Mitchell will be forming a parent focus group re: communications with the college. Further details to follow.

PINK CHARITY DAY

Students and staff were invited to accessorise their uniforms and 'Wear It Pink' today to raise funds for Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

Well done to all who participated. Students and staff had so much fun and all for a worthy cause.





ARETÉ OPEN EVENING

AT ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Wednesday, 2nd November
6.30pm - 8.30pm

To book: <https://bit.ly/3CDD1D6>

"Students in the sixth form say the school has high expectations of them." Ofsted 2021