

St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College

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Newsletter

Issue 340 16th December 2022

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we approach Christmas and the end of 2022, it is a time for thank yous.

Thank you to all our students for their wonderful efforts and kindness throughout another challenging year. Their enthusiasm and joy continues to give me reason to jump out of bed in the morning!

Thank you to all my colleagues that work so hard to make St Bede's a special place for our young people to come. Their focus on academic excellence and pastoral care and the growth of the whole child is amazing to watch every day.

Thank you to all of our families for your support of your children and the college. Through the cost-of-living crisis you have gone above and beyond to help your children and others to make the most of the opportunities available at St Bede's.

I look forward to working closely with you again in 2023.

God bless,
Rob King

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 the spotlight falls on **Ola**. Ola was nominated by Ellie, Sophie's sister. Ellie said: *'I believe Ola has displayed the school's values of being kind and doing the right thing. When Sophie injured her leg last week, Ola displayed genuine care for my sister. She stayed with her whilst she was upset and waited with her whilst my dad came to get her. She lost some of her lunch break whilst waiting, and made sure my sister was not only okay but had someone to talk to.'*

Ola your kindness exemplifies our St Bede's Way principles.

We are proud of you. Well done.



REFLECTION – 25 DECEMBER

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

What is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards, eating turkey with family and friends? It is all of these things and so much more.

Christmas is a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It is a time of healing and renewed strength. Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.



Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us.

Wishing you a happy and holy Christmas.

Reflection: I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Luke 2: 10-11

Prayer:

Dear Lord

May this Christmas be full of peace within our hearts.

May we be reminded of new birth, and of redeeming love.

May we dwell within each moment and savour all we have.

May we find hope and power to pray for things that make us sad.

May our heart be ever thankful and our faith rise up high in praise.

May we know we're loved and treasured at this very special time of year.

Amen

PRIZE DRAW HAMPERS

Twelve St. Bede's families are enjoying the treats they have received following this year's hamper draw.

Best wishes to all recipients.

CHRISTMAS MEAL

On Wednesday, 14th December students and staff enjoyed a Christmas lunch. Thank you to our wonderful kitchen staff for preparing such a delicious meal.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2022

16th December
END OF TERM 2

Finish at 1.55pm

3rd January 2023
START OF TERM 3
Week A

4th January

College will close
at 2:15pm for
staff training

6th January

Flu Vaccinations
Years 7-9

12th January

Year 11

Progress Evening
4.30pm—7.00pm



Please follow

St. Bede's
Catholic College

on Twitter

stb_bristol

ADVENT SERVICE

On Monday 12th December our college community came together for our Advent Service.

The atmosphere created was truly magical and a beautiful way to start the Christmas break.

Thank you to our students and staff for their hard work and our families and parishes for joining us.



CHRISTMAS CAROLLING AT CLIFTON DOWN

Students and staff members went Christmas carolling after school on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th December, raising money for our college charities in Clifton Down Shopping Centre.

Members of the public heard both our College Choir and College Band singing and playing brilliantly. Very well done to all the musicians who took part!



ARETÉ SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS

Applications for Areté Sixth Form 2023 are now open. If you would like to apply, please do so via the following link:

<https://stbcc.applicaa.com/year12> Closing date 9th January 2023



MATTERS OF THE MIND

Christmas can be difficult for anyone, at any point in their life.

You might be struggling this year for the first time. Or you may have found Christmas difficult in the past, and you're feeling anxious this year. You may also enjoy Christmas, but not be able to celebrate it how you'd like to. Or you might find some parts enjoyable, but other parts stressful.

Some good advice is available here: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/why-christmas-is-hard/>

Get help

If you are struggling to cope and need to talk, trained 'Shout Volunteers' are available for you, day or night.

If your life is at imminent risk, please call 999 for immediate help. Shout 85258 is a free, confidential, anonymous text support service. You can text from wherever you are in the UK.

ART CLUB



Students and staff have enjoyed art club this term making Christmas gnomes!

Thank you to Mrs McCauley for running the workshops, which have been thoroughly enjoyed by all.



BOOK HAMPERS

"The more things that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Dr Seuss - I can read with my eyes shut!

As part of our school-wide commitment to reading, this week Mr King presented book hampers to fifteen lucky recipients for them to enjoy over the Christmas holidays.



GYMNASTIC SUCCESS

Congratulations to year 8 student **Caitlin**, who recently competed in her club gymnastics competition. Caitlin received 2nd place for her floor routine, 2nd place for vault and 3rd place on bars. She also came 2nd place overall for her age group - a great achievement! Well done.

CALENDAR 2023

We have a few remaining St. Bede's Charity Calendars 2023, featuring 'highlights' of the last academic year available to purchase for £5.00 via scopay.

All proceeds will go towards our college charities.

UNIVERSITY INTERVIEWS

We have been busy in the Sixth Form in the last couple of weeks supporting our Year 13s with the first wave of university interviews.

We have been fortunate to call on outside organisations, supported by a number of colleagues, to run practice interviews providing challenging questions and reflective feedback, to give our students the best chance of success.

Universities are offering both face to face and online interviews this year, and we are able to support those online with rooms and IT support at school.

Best wishes to all of our students attending interviews this year. If any parents would like to offer practice interviews please contact Mr Sutton.

TREATS FOR CHARITY

Well done to year 11 students **Jaycob** and **Joseph** who held a cake, cookie and hot chocolate fundraising sale last week.

They planned the event with precision, sharing the tasks between them and produced delicious treats—raising a fantastic £63!

All proceeds will be shared between the Bristol Down Syndrome Trust and Bristol Autism Support charities.



ADMISSIONS POLICY 2024-2025 FOR CONSULTATION

Governors of St Bede's Catholic College are consulting on the main school Admission Policy for the academic year 2024-2025.

The proposed policy and a map of the catchment area can be found on the school website: <https://www.stbedescc.org/page/?title=Admissions+Policy+2024%2D2025+%2D+For+Consultation&pid=340&action=saved>

If you require a paper copy, please contact the school office on 0117 377 2200.

You are invited to comment on the proposed arrangements by 31st January 2023. Any comments should be sent for the attention of Mrs Claire Walker and can be emailed to c.walker@stbcc.org, or posted to St Bede's Catholic College, Long Cross, Lawrence Weston, Bristol, BS11 0SU.

CULTURE WEEK - 23RD JANUARY 2023

St. Bede's is happy to announce that we will be hosting a Culture Week in the new year to celebrate the diversity within our college. A variety of events, planned and organised by our students, will be featured throughout the entire week including a **Taste of the Nations**, in which students have the opportunity to bring in desserts from their home countries and share them with their peers, and a **fashion day** where pupils will be able to dress in traditional clothing. Below is a plan of the themes for each day:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Theme	Food	Music and Dance	Languages	Arts, Games and Sports	Fashion

To commemorate culture week St. Bede's have decided to create a cookbook involving traditional recipes from our families. Over the Christmas holidays we encourage families to send in their favourite recipes for our cookbook to cookbook@stbcc.org

In conjunction with this, students are invited to submit a design for our cookbook cover. The best design will be chosen and used on the front cover of the official St. Bede's Families Cookbook. Please submit design entries through cookbook@stbcc.org

Students may also create designs for our official logo for Culture Week. Submissions of designs for our logo can be sent to cultureweek@stbcc.org



**TERM 3 WILL COMMENCE
ON TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2023
WEEK A**

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Families in Focus Support

The [North FiF Bulletin](#) is packed with signposting information, services and training opportunities for both Practitioners and for Families. Please take the time to have a look through to see if there are items of interest for yourselves or the families that you support. Particularly in the light of the rise in the cost of living and hardships faced by so many families this winter, it would be good to get this information out as far and wide as possible through websites and social media.

There are many Welcoming Spaces within communities, offering activities, warmth, signposting and food and a variety of food support opportunities. See below:

Welcoming Spaces [Find a Welcoming Space \(bristol.gov.uk\)](http://bristol.gov.uk)

Food services - use this QR code for further information about what is available.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS VOUCHERS

Parents and carers who have children eligible for Free school meals will be issued with the information on how to claim the £30 in Government vouchers in the next few days. These will be with you before Christmas.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Cheshire on 0117 2355623.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to year 11 student **Matilda** who recently competed in the Qualifiers for the world Irish Dancing championships.

Matilda qualified in 3rd place and will now head to the World championships in Montreal next Easter.

Good luck!



LIBRARY CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Congratulations to **Mae** who won this term's Get Caught Reading, and **Oliver** who was our Christmas Quiz winner.

