

St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College

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Newsletter

Issue 357 10th November 2023

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

Term 2 has begun well with students respectfully reflecting throughout our All Saints and Remembrance events. Students also enjoyed the Viney Hill retreat, a wet Geography field trip, and visits from two authors and Darren Jones MP.

We were delighted to welcome so many students, both from St Bede's and beyond, to our Areté Sixth Form Open evening. Students and their families were met by knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff and current sixth form students, offering guidance on next steps. The deadline for applications to Areté is January 2024.

I am delighted by the commitment shown by staff and students to the understanding and application of Catholic Social Teaching. To help families support their children at home with this, please see the new short document on the college website outlining the six pillars: <https://bit.ly/3u0m853>

God of love and justice, we remember all men and women who died in defence of our country and its freedom.

Help us to honour their sacrifice through our prayers and actions for peace in our world.

Send your Spirit to help us to let go of misunderstandings, hatred and prejudice, so that we may grow together as one family.

Guide our steps in the way of peace.

We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

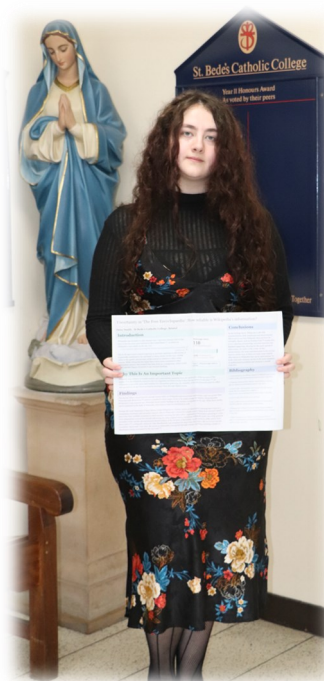
Amen.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY COMPETITION FINALIST

Daisy, Year 13 student, has been invited to a ceremony at Cambridge University with her poster entry for the university's HE+ programme. Daisy's poster is one of the finalists selected from 286 entries in the competition. Her study into the reliability of the information on Wikipedia caught the attention of the judges with its breadth of research, clear presentation, and relevance to contemporary society.

St Bede's Sixth Form manages the nine schools in south west hub of Cambridge University's outreach HE+ programme, offering our students the opportunity of wider challenge and academic exposure, supporting their applications to higher education.

Daisy has applied to read Ancient and Modern History at Oxford University and we wish her well in her next steps towards achieving that goal.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2023

15th November

Dry Ski Session 3
3.30pm—6.30pm

20th November

Year 11 Mock
Examinations start

22nd November

Dry Ski Session 4
3.30pm—6.30pm

23rd November

Year 10
Progress Evening
(virtual)

29th November

Dry Ski Session 5
3.30pm—6.30pm

WET AND COLD WEATHER

We are now into winter which unfortunately means the likelihood of cold and wet days increases.

Please encourage your child to wear a warm and waterproof coat every day.

To help us return items to students if they are lost, please label all clothing.

ARMISTICE DAY WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

We were so pleased that some of our students wore their service uniforms to college today in memory of those who died fighting for their country.

At 11.00am, each member of our college community were respectfully upstanding in silence to mark the occasion. The generosity of our students during this time, has been outstanding with money being raised for the Poppy Appeal.

The students who are part of the Army Cadets, Scouts, Senior Leaders and Guides wore their uniforms with pride throughout the day.

REFLECTION ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON

Next week we celebrate the memorial of St Edmund of Abingdon, on November 15.

St Edmund is one of our Diocesan saints. The Newly created Pastoral Area of North Bristol is dedicated to St Edmund.

St Edmund was born in 1175. He was a merchant who became a monk.

He has links with our Diocese as he was appointed vicar of the parish of Calne, in Wiltshire and later appointed treasurer and Canon of Salisbury Cathedral.

In 1233 he became Archbishop of Canterbury, where, he advised King Henry III for a while, but resigned in 1240 due to a dispute. He died, the same year, in France on his way to see the Pope.

Edmund's life was one of self-sacrifice and devotion to others. From boyhood he practised self-discipline; such as fasting on Saturdays on bread and water, and wearing a hair shirt. After snatching a few hours' sleep, most of the night he spent in prayer and meditation.

Reflection: "Therefore learn as if to live forever; live as if to die tomorrow."
Quote from St Edmund

Prayer: Prayer of St Edmund of Abingdon

Into Thy hands, O Lord, and into the hands of Thy holy angels, I commit and entrust this day my soul, my relations, my benefactors, my friends and my enemies, and all Thy people. Illuminate my heart with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit; grant that I may ever be obedient to Thy commandments; suffer me not to be separated from Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.



DARREN JONES MP

Our local MP, Darren Jones, brought his 'Speak like you own the room' oracy campaign to St. Bede's this morning talking to some of our pupils from Years 10 and 11 and Sixth Form, sharing his experience in public speaking.



Our English Department enter students in the English Speaking Union (ESU) debate competition each year, and Darren gave our students some brilliant advice on the skills they should use and how important public speaking is in building success, not only in politics but also for campaigning, advocating for others and generally in all walks of life.

Some top tips were to: use logic; use an emotion angle; be confident; and speak slowly (if it feels too slow then it's probably right!)

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE

As you know, there is wide agreement among health professionals and educational professionals that school attendance is vital to the life chances of children and young people. Being in school improves health, wellbeing and socialisation throughout the life course. The greatest benefits come from children and young people attending school regularly. This is seen in our own children at St Bede's with strong correlation between academic outcomes and attendance.

The NHS has provided guidance on how to decide whether to send your child to school. It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

IMPORTANT: Please refer to the NHS ['Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which provides information to help families to decide whether or not a child should attend school.

CHARITY PINK DAY

On the last day of term one, pupils and staff enjoyed rounding off a busy term raising money for Cancer Research with their 'Wear it Pink' campaign.

A Great day was had by all with some amazing variations of pink on display!

The total amount raised for a fantastic cause was **£563.91** Well done!



THIS IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please do not bring any nuts or nut products to school



Work Hard * Be Kind * Do the Right Thing

WATER BOTTLES

Please could you ensure students come to college with a refillable water bottle that they can top-up during break and lunchtime.

LIBRARY NEWS

We have rushed headlong into November in the Library. We were very excited to receive our BookBuzz order. All the books have now been sorted by English class and distributed to their new Year 7 owners. We hope you enjoy reading them (and have remembered to put your names in them!)



Our displays this month are for Remembrance and for our annual Non Fiction November Department Slamdown.

This year we have gone large and are pitting the STEM faculties against the rest of the College. Students can get an achievement point every time they borrow a non-fiction book from the Library and bring us a fact. At the time of writing STEM is lagging slightly in the competition but there is plenty of time to turn it around!



Author visits

We have been lucky enough to have two amazing author visits this week to each half of our Year 10 cohort.

On Wednesday we hosted **Kalynn Bayron**, the New York Times bestselling author of feminist retellings of fairy tales and myths (as well as a brand new horror story) as she talked to us about the importance of representation in books.



On Thursday, **Josh Silver** talked to us about the power of books to help us when we are stressed and anxious, either through reading or through our own creative writing, as well as the importance of being our own true selves.

All these books are available to borrow in the Library.



PRIMARY SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

On Wednesday 1st November, St. Bede's hosted the Primary Sportshall Athletics Qualification round for Year 5 and 6 pupils. From North Bristol, six schools entered. Congratulations to **St Bonaventure's** (1st) and **Westbury Park** (2nd) who both qualified to represent North Bristol in the Level 3 West of England School Games event in February at UWE. Throughout the event, there was lots of positivity and pupils giving great efforts to achieve personal bests.

During the event, a small number of Year 10s and 11s helped lead the event and were all superb! Thank you to those pupils who gave up their time to support and encourage the primary pupils to engage in this event.

Lastly, big thanks to the PE department for supporting at this event with setting up, running stations and tidying up too!



PRIMARY MIXED FOOTBALL

We were extremely grateful to have ProStrike Events sponsor one of our primary football events this year!

On Monday 6th November, we hosted 8 primary schools to take part in a Year 3 and 4 Mixed football event, targeting those children who do not currently play football outside of their school. During the event, ProStrike set up their inflatable speed radar goal for pupils to test out their striking speed when they were not on pitch playing. In addition, they provided every school who participated with a team kit and medal for their participation. This event was a great experience for all pupils to try out a competitive sport with the emphasis of fun and enjoyment.

Big thank you to the Year 10 referees; **Christian, Hector** and **Toby** who ensured the competition ran swiftly and encouraged fair play throughout the event!



FOUNDATION GOVERNOR

We are looking for someone with enthusiasm, passion and a belief in Catholic education who is keen to support St Bede's in being the best it can be.

You do not need to be an expert in education; our board is made up of governors with a range of experience and expertise and we are looking for a diverse range of people to contribute to this. We would particularly welcome candidates with legal, personnel, financial or marketing expertise.

St Bede's has a superb reputation locally, within the Diocese and nationally. We are recognised by the Diocese as an Outstanding Catholic College.

Full Governing Body meetings and committee meetings are held 3 times a year, during the day.

Further information about being a governor in a catholic school can be found here: <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/governance>

If you wish to support the college by becoming a foundation governor, please complete the application form which can be found here: <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/form-2>

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

"ON SITE, OUT OF SIGHT"

Reminder

As you are aware, our college policy on mobile phones, recognises the safeguarding benefits of young people having mobile phones for the journey to and from college.

The policy is "on site, out of sight", meaning students can bring mobile phones to college but they must be kept out of sight when in college – either in their bag or in their locker, switched off. Bringing a mobile phone will be at the student's own risk and the college will not accept responsibility for damage or loss of any such item. A failure to keep mobile phones, in any area of the college including Reception, "out of sight" will result in them being confiscated. Collection of confiscated items by parents from the college reception can be arranged by appointment.

Therefore, under no circumstances should children be phoning or texting home to report any discomfort or illness. Children who are feeling unwell must report to First Aid in the college as directed by a member of college staff.



PRE LOVED UNIFORM

We want to continue to raise the profile of our pre-loved uniform shop. This shop holds pre-loved uniforms, donated by other families as their children grow out of school uniform. Please can we encourage more families to donate clean items such as blazers, trousers, skirts, and PE kit via our college reception.

These items are then available to purchase at a much reduced price, with all proceeds going towards college charities.

The pre-loved uniform shop is also good for the environment with less waste and less energy used to make more uniforms.

Thank you for your continued support.

As part of Anti-Bullying Week next week, we will be raising awareness by wearing odd socks on **Monday 13th November**.



FINANCE OFFICE SUPPORT VACANCY AT CLIFTON DIOCESE

The Finance department based in Alexander House, Bristol, are looking to recruit a team administrator to strengthen its central Finance Office function.

The role is part-time, 12 hours across three days. Attention to detail, flexible can-do attitude, and the ability to be well organised are important. Experience in a similar role and knowledge of Microsoft Outlook, Word and Excel would be highly beneficial.

For further details please go to <https://cliftondiocese.com/diocese/working-for-us/>

Closing date: 24th November 2023

BRISTOL PARENT CARER FORUM

Are you a parent of a child with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), looking for support, information, and a friendly community to connect with? Look no further! Bristol Parent Carers warmly invites all families to our monthly SEND Coffee Morning at the Greenway Centre in North Bristol.



Southmead Greenway Centre
9:15-10:30



7th Sept
5th Oct
2nd Nov
7th Dec



Doncaster Rd,
BS10 5PY
Free Parking
Buses: 2 & 76

