

St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College

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Newsletter

Issue 360 15th December 2023

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



MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

I wanted to write to thank you all for your support this calendar year. It has felt like a year where civic life has become fractured and communities strained. Financial pressures, health concerns and relationship difficulties have hit many of our St. Bede's family over these 12 months. With this all accounted for, I am so proud of our college community and how it looks out for the most vulnerable, whether that be students, staff, families or those in our wider society. I pray that you all have a peaceful and blessed Christmas and look forward to working with you again in 2024.

Dear Lord, don't let us miss You this Christmas season. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and I ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

AMAZING MUSIC SUCCESS

Congratulations to Areté student **Henry** on passing his diploma in Musical Theatre Performance (DipLCM), with such an impressive mark of 92/100!

Achieving such a high score is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and talent in the field of Musical Theatre. Well done, we are so proud of you!



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 fill 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



INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR MISS UNITED KINGDOM TEEN

We recently shared that Areté student **Ariane** was invited to represent the UK in Florida in her role as Miss United Kingdom Teen. Ariane shares her story:

This November, I was honoured to represent the United Kingdom internationally in Orlando, Florida, with over 200 young girls in the teen category. I am so happy to say I placed 3rd in the world which is one of my greatest achievements to date.

The competition consisted of an interview, where I discussed the work I have done in promoting body confidence workshops across the nation and an onstage walk.

I ended up winning 8 trophies and won 8/12 rounds of competition, including spokesmodel.

I am so proud of my year as the reigning international junior Miss United Kingdom Teen and am excited for the future.

Ariane, we are so proud of you, well done!



ST. BEDE'S HAS GOT THE GREAT BRITISH TALENT FACTOR

Recently we saw the return of the inter house talent show: St Bede's Has Got The Great British Talent Factor!

Mr Brookin was an excellent host and the talent shared was astounding, from singing and dancing, to musicians and gymnasts and even a few surprise staff acts.

The contestants wowed the judges Mr Bogle, Mr Osborne, Mrs Owen and Mrs Cannon earning points for their houses.

A big well done to the overall winner **Alecia** for her classical traditional form of dance from Andhra Pradesh, India. The form of dance is known as Kuchipudi, sometimes played with a plate, where you express a drama through dance.

Well done to **Seacole House** who were the winners on the night with 111 points. Thanks to everyone who came and supported the show raising money for house charities, it was a great success and we can't wait for next year!



ADVENT SERVICE

On Tuesday and Friday of this week, 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 pupils and staff for their hard work and our families and parishes for joining us.



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 ten lucky recipients for them to enjoy over the Christmas holidays.



PRIZE DRAW HAMPERS

We hope the eleven St. Bede's families will enjoy the Christmas gifts they have received following this year's hamper draw. Best wishes to all recipients.

WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS

Would you be able to offer our Year 10 and Year 12 students a work experience placement?

We are always looking for a range of placements to give our students good quality work experience.

If you are able to offer a placement to our students, please get in touch via contact@stbcc.org

If placements are specifically suitable for older students in the sixth form, please use sixthform@stbcc.org

Thank you in advance for your support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

2nd January
Start of Term 3

8th January
Year 13 mock
examinations start

11th January
Year 11
Progress Evening
(in person)

BRISTOL ENTHUSE STEM CHALLENGE

On Thursday 7th December two teams of 5 students set out for the Enthuse STEM event. The task for the day was to come up with an innovative solution to help Bristol achieve its goal of being carbon neutral by 2030.

Working collaboratively, the teams researched the Globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) and ways to reduce nett Carbon emissions.

The St Bede's teams had several innovative ideas with one team focusing on trying to encourage supermarkets to be more sustainable and using tax income to fund projects that promote sustainability, and the other team coming up with "liquid trees" as a solution for reducing CO₂ in the atmosphere by using microalgae in tanks around the city.

These ideas were researched in depth and at the end of the day all the teams had to present them, Dragons Den style, to everyone including a team of judges from sponsors Jacobs.

The St Bede's pupils all gave outstanding performances, presenting their ideas clearly and coherently. The liquid trees idea really captured the imaginations of the judges and lead to the team consisting of **Bradley, Finnian, Dominik, Eric and Albert** winning the first round.



Both teams have made it through to the second round where teams will have to develop their principal idea. The overall winners will get to visit the Jacobs Headquarters in July 2024.

Congratulations to all the St Bede's pupils that took part – Not only did they do an amazing job researching and presenting, they also represented the St Bede's values in exemplary fashion.

WINTER WALK FOR SHELTER

Continuing our joint fundraising efforts for Shelter, on Friday, a group of Pasteur and Descartes headed to Wentwood Forest to walk five miles in the mud and the rain.

We showed resilience, determination and great humour as we faced the elements to raise circa **£600!** Helping to motivate us and keep our spirits raised were three furry friends, Norman Sharp, Dotty Johnston and Henry Osborne making it a memorable experience for all!



YEAR 7 AND 8 ART COMPETITION

Your Child's Art is ready - for all students in Year 7 and 8 that completed their recent Art home learning and submitted it to their tutor or teacher.

Order personalised Christmas cards as well as unique gifts and keepsakes printed with your child's Christmas art design! If you are looking for presents for grandparents, aunts, uncles or other family members, these are a great option!

My Child's Art order portal is open NOW until 31st December 2023.

10% off for 2 weeks only.

Use the code **StBedesCollege** at checkout. This offer expires 19/12/2023 at 23:59

St Bede's Catholic College PTA, The Friends of St Bede's, will receive 20% commission on all product sales to go towards resources for our children!

To order at www.mychildsart.co.uk login details for the portal are on your leaflet/sticker and also below:

Username: **StBedesCollege**

Access code: **PDjmTtcu**

Or this link will take you straight there:

<https://mychildsart.co.uk/find-artwork?username=StBedesCollege&access-code=PDjmTtcu>

You will then be asked to enter your child's name and to click to confirm it before viewing and ordering their personalised artwork.

If families have any queries please feel free to contact My Child's Art directly on 01530 887650 or via email customerservice@mychildsart.co.uk - they're here to help!

FOSTERING IN OUR REGION

Unfortunately the number of foster care places in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset is fewer than the number of children needing this care.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in fostering a child please visit:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/social-care-and-health/children-and-families/adoption-fostering-and-private-fostering/fostering-and-short-break-care>

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption/fostering/>
<https://fostering.n-somerset.gov.uk/>

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Free School Meals vouchers have been issued to families. Please check your inbox and/or spam folder.

If you have any issues, please contact Mrs Cheshire on 0117 2355623 or via email cheshirem@stbcc.org Mrs Cheshire will be available until Wednesday 20th December.

Any queries after this time will be dealt with in January.

Wellbeing over Christmas

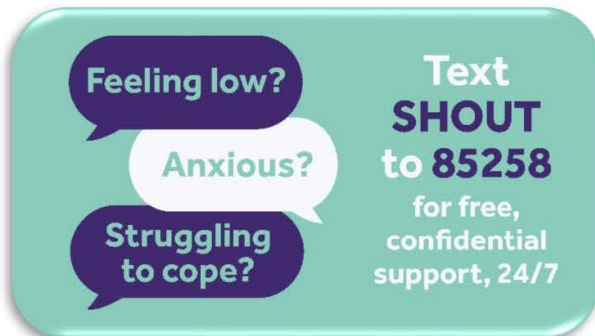
If you are struggling during the festive season, remember that you are not alone;

- Talk to people you trust. Speak to a family member, a friend or use the contacts on this page
- Do things which make you happy
- Remember to have some time for yourself.

Visit the college website for further advice.

www.stbedesccc.org :

Key information- Safeguarding



DfE ATTENDANCE CAMPAIGN SURVEY

Bristol City council would appreciate your completion of the DfE Attendance Campaign Survey: Survey savanta.com

The survey should only take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Your feedback is valuable and will be considered as part of the DfE's thinking going forward.

Your responses are completely confidential, and all data is collected and processed in compliance with all data protection laws and the Market Research Society Professional Code of Conduct.

You don't need to know anything about communications or advertising to respond.

If possible, please complete this survey by Friday 22nd December.

DATE FOR YOU DIARY

The Design Technology and Food department will be hosting **The Great St. Bede's Interhouse Bake-Off** on 29th January.

Students will be provided with further details at the beginning of Term 3.

BLAISE WESTON COURT

Last week students had a lovely afternoon singing Christmas carols, participating in quizzes and delivering personalised baubles made by Year 7, 8 and 9 to the residents at Blaise Weston Court.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On the last day of term, students and staff were invited to wear their Christmas jumpers for a small donation to the college charities.

