

St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College

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Newsletter

Issue 364 1st March 2024

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

What a wonderful start to the term! It was great to see so many children attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Wednesday as part of their Lenten observance. We were very lucky to welcome three priests from across the Diocese to listen to confession from students and staff.

As many of you will know from attending last week, the college's musical, Matilda, was a fabulous success. I was so proud of the students that performed on stage, provided music and helped behind the scenes. We are so lucky to have such amazing staff that helped prepare the students and support the events on the night.

MATILDA

"Never do anything by halves if you want to get away with it. Be outrageous. Go the whole hog. Make sure everything you do is so completely crazy it's unbelievable..." **Roald Dahl**

This is definitely the attitude that our amazing students and staff have had this year in putting on another fantastic show. Students performed **Matilda Jr** to a primary school audience on Monday morning before three packed evening performances the rest of the week.

The whole production looked and sounded incredible. We have been so impressed with the wonderful talent of all our hard-working and dedicated students, and would like to acknowledge and thank the incredible efforts of the staff involved in the musical since rehearsals began in September. A huge WELL DONE to all!



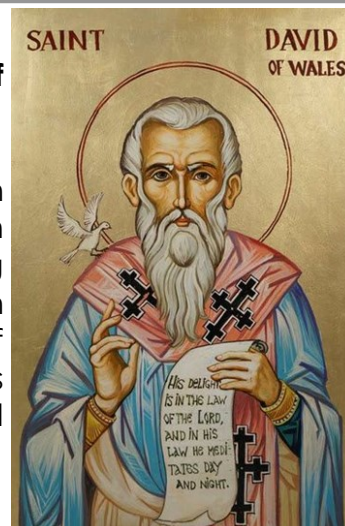
REFLECTION

This week we celebrate the feast day of St David, the patron Saint of Wales

St David was born in 500 and died on 1 March – St David's Day - in 589. He is the only native-born patron saint of the countries of Britain and Ireland. Apparently his mother, St Non, gave birth to him during a storm! St David was the greatest figure in the 6th century Welsh Age of Saints. He travelled far and wide, and founded scores of religious communities across Wales and England. St David's remains are buried in St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire, where he had eventually settled and established a religious community.

St David was canonised by Pope Callixtus in the 12th century.

David was a great church leader, he was a prophet and a teacher, a man of prayer and a miracle worker. He was the heart of the monastic community he founded in St David's.



Reflection: During his last sermon, his words to his followers were: "Be joyful and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about".

Prayer: Prayer to St David

God our Father,

you gave the bishop David to the Welsh Church to uphold the faith and to be an example of Christian perfection.

In this changing world may he help us to hold fast to the values which bring eternal life. Amen.

CHAPLAINCY

Members of the Chaplaincy teams from Years 7, 9, 10 and 12, joined pupils from Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School in a Litter Pick in our local area of Lawrence Weston.

Litter grabbers, bags and gloves in place and enthusiastically used by all, saw 12 bags of rubbish being collected, leaving our local area looking a little tidier than before!

With nearly 40 young people involved we were able to cover a large area and hopefully make a difference to our local environment.

It was great to see our 2 schools working together in what we hope will be the start of many joint projects in our local area and beyond.



CREATIVE ARTS AMBASSADORS

Congratulations to Year 10 and 11 students who have been awarded Creative Arts Ambassador ties and badges. This is in recognition of their regular commitment and support to the Creative Arts Faculty over the years.

They have been regular attendees and participants in events such as the college shows, choir, as well as showing amazing commitment and talent in these subjects at GCSE.

We are very proud of them and thank them for adding value to our college community.



SKI TRIP 2024

In the February holiday, 45 students travelled to Kitzbühel, Austria for the annual ski trip.

The snowy conditions and poor visibility made the skiing tough on the first couple of days but that didn't stop the group progressing.



By the time the sun appeared at the end of the week, all of them were skiing from the top of the mountain and showing excellent technique. All of the instructors commented on how their groups displayed a great approach and attitude and one even said that he had had the best days skiing with a group of students in all his years of being an instructor. The advanced group even skied down sections of the world famous Hahnenkamm downhill race track. The fun continued off the slopes with a busy evening entertainment programme which included Austrian skittles and watching an all stars ice hockey game. Lifelong memories were made!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

7th March 2024

Year 9
Progress Evening
(virtual)

14th March 2024

Year 11
Exam Preparation
6.00pm—7.00pm
Main Hall

REMINDER

A reminder that students should not be contacting home whilst in college.

If your child feels unwell please ask them to go to Student Support.

ADMISSION POLICIES 2025-2026

St Bede's Admissions Policies for 2025-2026 are now available on our college website:
[https://
bit.ly/49zpBHw](https://bit.ly/49zpBHw)

SUMMER MOCK EXAMS

Year 10 and Year 12 Mock Examination timetables have now been published:
[https://
bit.ly/3uHj5Q8](https://bit.ly/3uHj5Q8)

YEAR 9 RUGBY SUCCESS

The Year 9 Rugby team recently travelled to play in the South West finals of the state schools rugby competition at Millfield. 8 teams were invited from across the South West.

We played Penrice from Cornwall in the opening game and after a close and hard fought game won 10 - 5.

St Peters from Devon beat us 10-5. Frustratingly they scored a try against play, with the final move of the game.

In the final group stage game, we played Trafalgar from Wiltshire, and won 20-5. The results meant that we finished second in our league and so we went on to play Brymore from Somerset for the 3rd/4th place play off.

The boys had to dig deep as their energy levels were fading and the weather ensured that the pitch was turned into a mud bath! With some spirited play they moved the ball around amazingly well, in such appalling conditions. They thoroughly deserved the 35 - 20 win.

Mr Johnson was extremely proud of the way the team conducted themselves and the standard of rugby that they produced.

A massive congratulations - 3rd in the South West, what an achievement!



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

AGE Restrictions

Children's books versus Young Adult books – and beyond! A guide for the bewildered



It has come to our attention that children may be gaining access to material that is not appropriate for their age group. Please take a moment to read the guidance here about how to check the content of a book first before recommending to a child.

As the world around us has got more complex, the world of young people's books has evolved to reflect the reality of life for many of our children. This is how it should be - it is very important for all young people to see themselves reflected in the books they read, and also to gain an idea of what life might be like for those around them. Books can be a safe space to explore feelings or actions before being confronted with them in real life. However, issues covered aside, some books might be more explicit than parents might expect and there is no official film rating equivalent for books to help us.

Publishers define young people's books as either Middle Grade (MG) which is aimed broadly at those aged 8-12 or Young Adult (YA). Please don't discount a Middle Grade book for your Year 7 or 8 child or even above, thinking they are aimed only at Primary School pupils. They can be great stories, well written and with real depth.

Young Adult is variously described as aimed at 12-18 or 14-18 and either of those definitions is problematic. The first one gives us a very broad age range which might cover feelings/emotions/activities we might not want to expose a 12/13 year old to, and the second ignores them completely. Publishers seem to discourage writers from aiming books at this in between market which is very annoying!

'New Adult' is a completely different age range – technically marketed at 18 plus, it can be very explicit but might present as aimed at younger people from its cover.

Here in the Library at St Bede's we have age restrictions on our books at Year 8 and Year 10 (pupils in Year 9 can ask for a parental permission slip to read in the Year 10+ collection or you can email us at librarydesk@stbcc from your email address registered with the College).

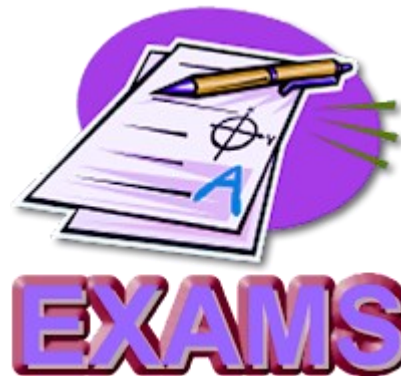
When making our decisions we start off using some online age ratings. For example, <https://peters.co.uk/> (who supply our books here at St Bede's) <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

Other people's opinions can vary quite dramatically so. If we are in any doubt, we read the books ourselves. This obviously isn't an option for parents so we would suggest asking the bookseller if you are purchasing from a bookshop, or you are welcome to contact us on librarydesk@stbcc.org if you feel we can help.

(Please make sure that the books your children are bringing into school are age appropriate)

Mrs Hayman and Mrs Nicks

EXCITING CASUAL JOB OPPORTUNITY AT ST BEDE'S



Exams Invigilator

St. Bede's Catholic College is looking to recruit Exams Invigilators to provide support to the examination process within the College.

Employment is offered on a casual, sessional basis and the hours of work are based on morning and afternoon sessions, dependent on the length of exams.

8:30am—12:00 noon

AM Session

12:30pm—3:30pm

PM Session

The hourly rate of pay is £11.50

Dates of public examinations

GCSE & A LEVEL

***Essential to be available on these dates**

Monday 13th May

Wednesday 26 June

*A training day will be held in March 24
(date to be confirmed)

Successful candidates will be required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service check before starting work.

A job description and application form can be downloaded from the website or a hard copy can be posted to you upon request.

If you have any queries, please contact Miss Mendez (Examinations Officer)
exams@stbcc.org

Come and join the team!

COLLECTION OF GCSE AND A LEVEL CERTIFICATES

GCSE and A Level Certificates from the Summer 2023 season are available for collection

All the certificates are kept securely in the exams office and need to be collected in person.

We do not post, as they are confidential documents and expensive to replace.

Please click the following link to our website for more information: <https://bit.ly/488W99S>

LIBRARY NEWS

As ever, February has been a busy month in the Library.

This has been the month when we read a book with a friend. Mrs Nicks and Mrs Hayman have been reading *Artichoke Hearts* by Sita Brahmachari (who was our February author of the month). Mrs Hayman said, "this is a great book, empathetic but firmly rooted in real life. I loved 'reading it together' so we could share our opinions as we went along." Mrs Nicks found *Artichoke Hearts* 'really moving' and has been delighted with the opportunity to make book choices with friends and read out of her comfort zone.



Afrofuturism – 'A History of Black Futures'

There seems to be an amazing exhibition on this at the Smithsonian in Washington DC – if you can't get there in person you can visit virtually at <https://www.searchablemuseum.com/afrofuturism>, or there is always our much smaller display in the Library!

Year 7 Science book Club



After much deliberation the Year Seven science book club have voted and 'Am I made of Stardust' by Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock is the St Bede's pick for The Royal Society Young People's Book Prize. Check out their beautiful display in the library. The shortlisted books are available to borrow. The winner is announced on the 19th March.

Congratulations to Grace in Year 7 who was our Get Caught Reading winner for term 3

Happy Birthday to all Leaplings who celebrated yesterday!

Coming in March – Yoto Carnegie book award shortlists ... World Book Day.... Womens' History Month..... British Science Week....





English Department: Bedrock Learning Update

In Years 7 and 8 all students have access to Bedrock Learning, an online platform for improving students' vocabulary and grammar skills. Home learning each week in English is 30 minutes (or more) on Bedrock Learning and 30 minutes (or more!) of reading.

As a parent/guardian you should have received an email with an access code allowing you to log in and track your child's progress. Please do talk to your child and see how they are getting on.

Lots of our students are doing brilliantly on Bedrock Learning and making excellent progress!

Year 7

Huge congratulations to **Serah Joseph** who has achieved an amazing 1796 points so far this academic year, followed by **Kamilla Bodi** on 1034 points!

Well done also to **Aarna Shirkar, Dominik Grzelak, Zofia Frapane Essex, Kate Lindsay, Sean Chandler, Mario Wolk, Zofia Karazej, Thea Griffiths, Antonia Leszczynska, Nancy Ridd, Eabha McGarry, Ruth D'evelyn** and **Max O'Neill** who have all earned over 450 points!

Year 8

Massive congratulations to **Ralph Dacara** who has achieved an amazing 1671 points, followed by **Maya Malinowska** on 970 points!

Well done also to **Dell Shelly, Yohannan Lobela, Dhiya Denny, Joshua Mahood, Marcel Hedrych, Katelyn Noel, Anwin Padayatil, Jeslyn Noel, Grace Dilloway, Gregory Thomas Kurian** and **Merin Shaji**, who have all earned over 400 points this year!

We are so proud of all the students for demonstrating the St Bede's Way of Working Hard.

ALLERGY ALERT: A REMINDER

In the interest of those pupils with serious allergies to various types of nuts, please may we remind parents not to send pupils into school with nuts or nut based products, ie; Nutella, peanut butter or cereal bars containing nuts.

Pupils with allergies can become seriously unwell just by being near these products, without actually consuming them. Thank you for your kind co operation.

Please do not bring any products containing nuts into the college.

Thank you for helping to keep the children safe.



RESEARCH SHOWS CLEAR LINK BETWEEN GCSE SUCCESS AND FUTURE LIVES

Recent research from Developmental Psychology has shown that GCSE grades have an excellent track record in predicting the future lives and careers of young adults, and are even more crucial for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The predictive power of GCSE results outstripped those of gender or later qualifications, including university degrees, in charting the development of young people from the age of 16 into their early 20s. Alexandra Starr, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of York and one of the study's authors, said "The main message I would say is that GCSE grades are important in real life. We always talk about whether exams are only important within the education system, to climb the next rung in the educational ladder. But it's also important beyond that."

This research tells us what we have known at St Bede's for many years. Education and examination success has value for developing young people, preparing them for success as young adults and beyond.



New Date **YEAR 11** **EXAM PREPARATION** **EVENING!**

Thursday
14th
March

6pm - 7pm

- Top Tips for Revision
- Advice from Heads of English, Maths, Science and RF
- How to manage stress
- Where to access support



Please complete the form to register

<https://forms.gle/Pj5SHddtaXVEEfL48>

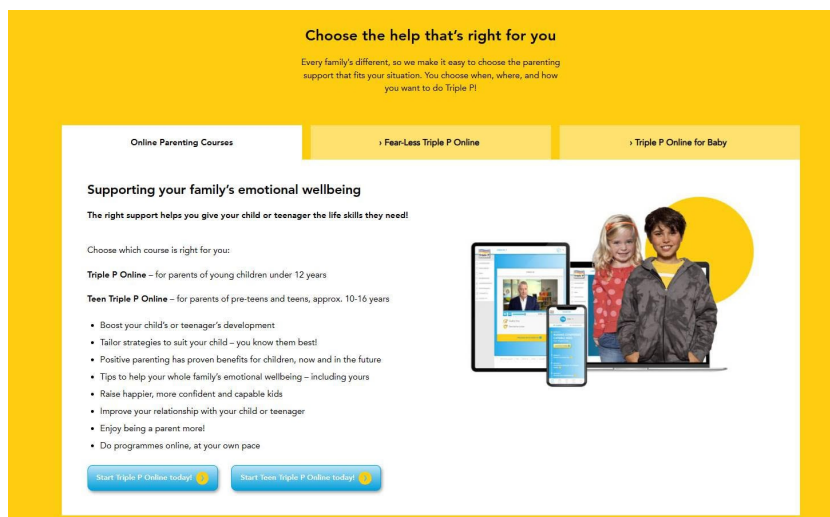
EXTERNAL AGENCY



This company has come to our attention so we would like to share **The Triple P Positive Parenting Program** with you. It is a commercial organisation so St Bede's are not endorsing it on an individual level but wish to signpost it to you as a potentially valuable resource that could meet your family needs. As described on their website:

The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program® is designed to build parents' skills so they can raise confident, healthy, happy children and teenagers, enjoy stronger family relationships, and create protective, safe environments for their families. Triple P gives parents simple and practical strategies they can adapt to suit their own values, beliefs and needs. The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program® has been delivered in the UK & Ireland more than 15 years offering more than 25+ evidence-based interventions such as small group sessions & online self-help through to more intensive group & individual support.

Please see the website for full details [Successful kids, happier families | Triple P \(tripleparenting.uk.net\)](https://tripleparenting.uk.net)



EXTERNAL AGENCY

Off The Record run various projects across Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

If you would like to find out further information or sign-up to resources or courses, you can do so here: [What we do - OTR \(otrbristol.org.uk\)](https://otrbristol.org.uk)
[Downloads - OTR \(otrbristol.org.uk\)](https://otrbristol.org.uk)



EXTERNAL AGENCY

Schools and Colleges Early Support Service have produced a series of parent and carers webinars. Further information can be found here: <https://www.stbedesc.org/page/?title=Parent+Zone&pid=312&action=saved>

EXTERNAL AGENCY

POP UPS FOR PARENTS

Join our Link Forward team, along with specialists from the **NHS** and **Off The Record**, for support sessions to help parents and carers of secondary school age young people.

At: Greenway Centre, BS10 5PY

WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH

9:30am - 11am

Emotionally Based
School Avoidance in
young people of
secondary age

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH

9:30am - 11am

Talking to young people
about LGBTQ+ themes
and an introduction to the
Freedom Project



SCAN ME

Sign up using the QR code

Or get in touch with Vicky



0117 950 3335



vickywall@southmead.org