

# St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College

T: 0117 377 2200

E: [contact@stbcc.org](mailto:contact@stbcc.org)

W: [www.stbedesccl.org](http://www.stbedesccl.org)

Tw: STB\_Bristol



## Newsletter

Issue 365 15th March 2024

### MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

Last week I received correspondence from Felix Ochieng. Felix was the captain of the boys rugby team from the Kenyan Shamas Rugby Foundation that St Bede's hosted back in 2015.

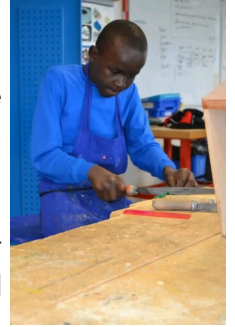
He wrote to express gratitude on behalf of all the boys, to all the families that hosted them and the entire St Bede's community for their support and encouragement. Through fundraising, the college was able to provide for a group of the boys, including Felix, a full high school scholarship from 2017-2020. He is now in his final year at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya and will be graduating in December.

I am delighted to hear that Felix is flourishing. I remember the boys' visit to St Bede's fondly and am pleased that the fundraising helped him and his teammates go on to a successful education. I promised I would pass on his thanks to the staff and families that hosted them.

*Gracious Father, we thank you for all visitors to St Bede's, those who know you and those who do not yet know you.*

*We pray that you would bless them with your presence as they visit us, that you would inspire them with hope,*

*and that you would guide their hearts towards you. Bless them and those they love, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



Next week is Neurodiversity Celebration Week. This is a week to change the narrative and celebrate neurodiversity, and we will be doing our part in college. There will be lots of information in lessons and around the school to broaden awareness and Mrs Parry will be running drop-in workshops at lunchtimes.

### CATENIAN PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

On Sunday, 10th March two of our Areté students performed admirably in this year's Catenian speech competition. The competition has been running for over forty years and is held in the Newman Hall, Westbury on Trym. Five Catholic schools from the area were represented.

**Peter** spoke about 'How worried should we be about future developments in artificial intelligence?' and **Lillian** spoke about 'Why do so many people support the death penalty?'

We are sure that this experience will help them with future speaking opportunities at University and beyond. Well done.



**REFLECTION 19 March –**  
**St Joseph, the husband of the Virgin Mary**  
**Next week we celebrate the solemnity of St Joseph**

St Joseph was the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. Not a great deal is known about him other than he was a carpenter.

What we do know is that, Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame or cruelty. However, when an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him,

"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins," he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife. **(Matthew 1:19-25)**



**Reflection:**

St Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families.

**St Pope John Paul II**

**Prayer:**

**Prayer to St Joseph**

Saint Joseph, patron of the universal Church, watch over the Church as carefully as you watched over Jesus, help protect it and guide it as you did with your adopted son. Amen

**VISIT TO UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**

On Friday 1st March three year 12 Geography students, **Eleri, Toby** and **Sebastian** visited the University of Bristol to spend the day with geography students from other schools in the region.

The day was based around the Regeneration of the Temple Quarter Region. They listened to talks from university lecturers on the regeneration and resurgence of Bristol, and the importance of this to the area we live in. There was also an interesting presentation from a representative of the Temple Regeneration Scheme.

All schools were then tasked to create a presentation on what they thought should be built on the Temple Quarter Island. Eleri, Toby and Sebastian's plan was to build a conference and restaurant facility with unique shops located below, with the development surrounded by green space.

Their plan, poster and presentation won them the competition. Overall the three students learnt a lot about Geography at university and the many different career paths it can lead to.





## VISIT TO PARLIAMENT

On Thursday 29th February, thirty Areté students took part in the annual London Trip to Parliament.

When we arrived, students had a photo outside the Supreme Court of Justice before making our way to Parliament.

Students were taken on a guided tour around the Palace of Westminster including watching a heated live debate in the House of Commons regarding the Angiolini Inquiry (about the safety of women after the death of Sarah Everard)



We also visited Westminster Hall, which is 1000 years old. You may have seen this part of Parliament on TV as it is where the Queen was laid in state.

Students then took part in a workshop on how laws are made and had to follow the protocols that MPs and Peers use when in debates in each house. We finished the day by visiting the Victoria and Albert Museum, which is the world's largest museum of applied arts, decorative arts and design, housing a permanent collection of over 2.27 million objects.

## STUDENTS EXCEL ON THE RUGBY PITCH

The Under 14 Bristol Combination Finals took place at the start of this month and we are delighted to share that **Avonmouth RFU** won the Plate final against **Clifton RFU**. Four of our students played for the Avonmouth team. Congratulations to St. Bede's students **Sol, Ryan, Sam** and **Luke** on your success.



In the main final, **North Bristol** narrowly beat **Old Bristolians** in a fantastic game.

Congratulations to **Augustine** who was in the winning team.

On Monday 11th March, the **Under 14 Bristol Schools Combination team** played **Stroud** and four of our students proudly wore the Bristol shirt.

It was a highly competitive game but unfortunately Stroud proved to be too strong on the night. However, **Sol, Ollie, Tiago** and **Victor** should gain a lot of satisfaction knowing that they have played for this team which represents the oldest and largest rugby combination in the country. Congratulations!



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024**

**18th March 2024**

Art & English trip  
to London

**21st March 2024**

Year 12 Progress  
Consultation  
Evening

**25th March 2024**

Cambridge  
Residential HE+  
trip

**27th March 2024**

Year 9  
Vaccinations

**27th March 2024**

Spring Concert

## **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)

## **BRISTOL BEACON**

On Monday 4th March, fifty students visited the newly refurbished Bristol Beacon to attend a talk and to watch a London Symphony Orchestra rehearsal conducted by the renowned Sir Simon Rattle.

During the rehearsal, students listened to excerpts from pieces of music by George Gershwin, Roy Harris and John Adams. Very excitingly, John Adams was present during the rehearsal to hear the orchestra perform his latest orchestral work, 'Frenzy.' He even chatted to and shook hands with a number of our students and staff.

Fifteen students had the opportunity to stay for the evening concert and were wowed by the brilliance of Sir Simon Rattle and the London Symphony Orchestra.



## **GCSE FOOD AND NUTRITION EXAMINATION**

Well done to Year 11 Food and Nutrition students who completed their practical food examination earlier this week.

The task to make three dishes was tackled with maturity and flair as students prepared and presented some wonderful meals.



## SPORTS NEWS

Recently the Year 8 - 11 Rugby teams took part in the Bristol Schools rugby 7s competition. This is always a great way to see how far the teams have progressed over the year as the competition is against both the state and private sector. All the teams are placed into pools and their finishing position determines who they play in the following round.

### Year 8

The boys were placed in a pool with Collegiate, Bristol Free and QEH B's. After some close and exhilarating rugby we topped the league and progressed to play the winners of the 2 other pools; Ashton Park and QEH As. They drew with Ashton Park but narrowly lost to QEH A's. With a better try total, they finished second! Many congratulations to the whole team.



### Year 9

The boys had a tough opening game against BGS but beat Westonbirt to finish second in their pool. We then progressed to the plate final and played Castle in the opening game. A good victory had the boys feeling confident for their second game against Clifton College. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be and Clifton College won the final by three tries. Congratulations to all the players for their determined approach in all their games.

### Year 10

The boys had a tough opening game against Clifton College, who reminded them that they were playing 7's and not 15-a-side! However, they then played superbly and pulled off some excellent wins against Bristol Cathedral and BGS. Their 45-5 win against BGS ensured that they finished best runners-up on tries scored, and they progressed into the semi-final against Collegiate. After a hard fought and very even game they unfortunately lost 5 tries to 4. They should be proud to finish 4th against such tough opposition. Congratulations boys!



### Year 11

The boys were placed in a pool with Clifton High, BGS, Bristol Cathedral and QEH. As always they demonstrated a lot of heart and determination, and produced some excellent flowing rugby. Against some tough opposition they finished 3rd in the league - congratulations. Unfortunately, only the top four teams progressed to the finals.

This was an occasion full of mixed emotions as this competition was to be the final time the year 11 boys were to represent the college in rugby. The team has developed and progressed so well over their time and should be very proud of their achievements, including several players securing their place in the Bristol Bears Excel programme.

Mr Johnson will never forget their 49-7 victory over Clifton College in Year 10! He wishes them all the best in their future rugby careers.



## **SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT—EXTERNAL AGENCY**

Teen Tips believe in early intervention. By providing those looking after children and young people with access to up-to-date professional advice and practical tools. For further information:

<https://teentips.co.uk/club/>



## **CASHLESS CATERING**

Could all parents/carers of students, who use the canteen at lunch or break, please log into SCOPAY to see if their child(ren)'s account are in arrears please? Especially those parents of year 11 students as they will be starting their exams shortly after Easter and will then leave for the summer. If their account is in arrears there will be a minus sign in front of the figure. Please bring their account up to date by the end of the Easter break.

If you cannot remember your password, please use the Forgotten Password Option, if you can't remember the email address used please contact the finance team on Finance@stbcc.org, giving the name of your child(ren). Thank you

## **A RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY FOR ST BEDE'S PARENTS**

Are you the parent of a Year 7, Year 8 or Year 9 student that would like to be involved in a psychological study?

Marley Dark, an undergraduate at Manchester Metropolitan University, is conducting a study with the parents of children who have transitioned from primary to secondary school in the last 3 years.

The study is exploring the impact parenting can have on this transition and Marley would like to speak to parents who are willing to discuss their experiences of this important stage in their children's lives. The interview will be held via a 20-30 minute Zoom video call and you will receive a copy of the ethics and data protection guidelines that govern the study in advance of the interview. If you would like to be one of the 4 or 5 local families invited to take part please contact Marley on either MARLEY.DARK@stu.mmu.ac.uk or 20036306@stu.mmu.ac.uk to get further information and to arrange an interview.

Leroy Bogle, ICT and Digital Media.



## **Starting Secondary School**



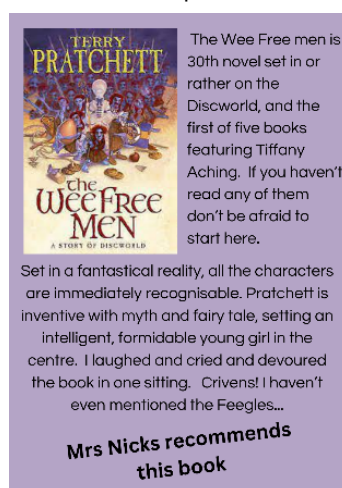
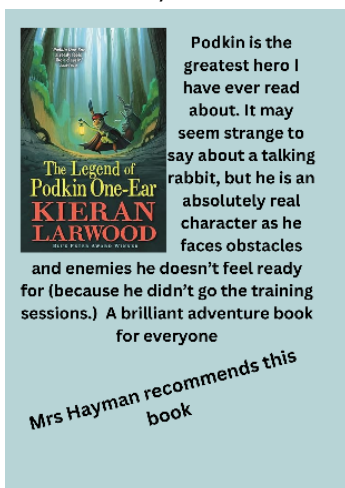
## LIBRARY NEWS



Staff celebrated their love of books on World Book Day last week, honouring Terry Pratchett, Lewis Carroll, Roald Dahl and Shakespeare amongst others.

Congratulations to **Milo** and **Abel** who were our winners of the various WBD quizzes around College.

See Mrs Nicks' and Mrs Hayman's reviews of the books that inspired their costumes below:



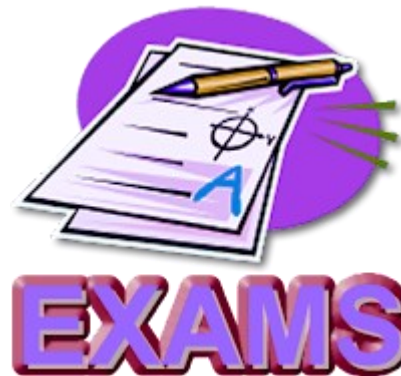
In the Library this week we've been marking British Science Week and Women's History Month



We were very excited to receive our copies of the shortlisted books for the Yoto Carnegie awards. If you are in Year 7 or 9, and would like to be part of the shadowing groups, please come to see Mrs Nicks or Mrs Hayman in the Library.

Coming soon: Neurodiversity Celebration Week and the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize winner!

# 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>



# CREATIVE CODING CHALLENGE DAY!

STE  
MET  
TES

Thursday 11 April  
Bristol and online  
10:00-17:00

Age  
11+

Always free, we  
have fun and  
include food.  
Win prizes!  
Goody bags  
while stocks last.

Spring into STEAM -  
Science, Technology,  
Engineering, Arts,  
and Maths with the  
Stemettes.

♥ ★ # ● +

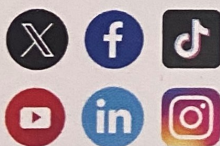
Create.  
Experiment.  
Solve.

SIGN UP! ★



♥ ★ # ● +

Scan here or go to  
[bit.ly/bristol-coding](https://bit.ly/bristol-coding)



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[stemettes.org](https://stemettes.org)

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# FLORA

(Families, Local Offer, Resources and Advice)



## Unsure where to get support?

**FLORA (Families, Local Offer, Resources and Advice) provides information, advice, signposting and support for Bristol families. From the early stages of identifying that their child may have additional needs and navigating the services and support available to them, to accessing inclusive short break support in their local community.**

**If you have any questions, contact the team**

**Call: 0117 352 6020**

**Email: [FLORA@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:FLORA@bristol.gov.uk)**

**Local Offer: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/bristol-local-offer/advice-and-support-for-parents-and-carers>**



**Bristol's SEND  
Local Offer**

