

St. Bede's Catholic College



Specialist Science and Sports College

Issue 205 13th November 2015 T: 0117 377 2200 E: contact@stbedesc.org W: www.stbedesc.org

ARETÉ SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

On Tuesday, we opened our doors to prospective sixth formers who wanted to gain an insight into what life is like at the **Areté Sixth Form** at St. Bede's Catholic College. Over 100 pupils with their parents came to visit the college.

Mr Strange, Director of Sixth Form, hosted a question and answer session with five pupils, who gave an honest and frank insight into why they chose St. Bede's, and their opinions on what is offered to them here, both academically and beyond.

The deadline for internal applicants is **5th January 2016** and application forms can be obtained from the sixth form reception. Any other enquiries can be emailed to sixthform@stbedesc.org.

As we have only 100 places available for September 2016 it is important that not only are applications received on time, but also that pupils work hard this year to secure the exam results to meet the **entry requirements of 5A*-B with minimum of C in both English and Mathematics.**



ARMISTICE DAY

We were delighted that so many of our pupils wore their service uniforms on Armistice Day this week in memory of those who died fighting for our country. At 11.00am each member of our college community respectfully marked the two minutes silence. The generosity of our pupils during this time, has been outstanding and we estimate that over £300 has been raised for the Poppy Appeal.

The pupils who are part of the Army Cadets, Sea Cadets, Air Training Core, Scouts, Senior Leaders and Guides wore their uniforms with pride throughout the day.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17th November
Dry Slope Ski Training

19th November
Year 10
Parents Evening

23rd November
Year 11
Mock Exams start

24th November
Year 12
Parents Evening

26th November
Year 12
Certificate Evening
6.30pm—8.30pm

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

Nine Sixth Form students took part in the UK Senior Maths Challenge Competition on Thursday 5th November, and enjoyed solving out of the ordinary Maths problems and puzzles. We await their results with anticipation!

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Photography club started in Term 1 where we covered basic photographic skills such as understanding how to use aperture/shutter controls, depth of field and composition. This knowledge has been put to good use in these few examples taken by some of our regular attenders. The full size versions along with other examples will be on display in the ICT corridor. The club runs during Friday lunchtimes. This Term we will be covering Portrait photography. All welcome.



Josephine Morgan, Year 9



Anna Harris, Year 7



Isobel Clothier, Year 7

50P FRENZY CAKE SALES BY YOUNG ENTERPRISE!

There was a frenzy of selling last week by **Vitae, the Young Enterprise team** representing St Bede's Catholic College this year. Young Enterprise is the UK's leading charity that empowers young people to harness their personal and business skills. Each year St Bede's enters a team of around 10-15 Year 10 pupils, the team then creates a business and makes a product to sell within school and beyond. Last year's team successfully made it to the **regional finals**. This year we are hoping to repeat their success and go even further! We have started our business by raising funds through our '50p Frenzy' sales. We had 3 days of 50p sales devoted to either doughnuts, cookies or crisps. We have also successfully launched our in-school timetable printing service. For a small price we will print individual pocket sized, double sided and laminated timetables! This is initially open to Year 7 pupils, but will be expanded to all years in due time. We are very much looking forward to using all of the money raised to create our product ready for the St Nicholas Market Christmas Fair. So please keep supporting our business and we will reveal all about our exciting new product very soon.

HAIRSPRAY PRODUCTION

This year's auditions for Hairspray are underway! Pupils from years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been acting, singing and dancing in preparation to wow the casting panel. Throughout the week we have seen some wonderful performances and are going to find it incredibly difficult to decide on roles. The news of this year's production has created a tangible buzz around the corridors and we are extremely excited to get rehearsals started. Thank you for your continued support. The Production Team.



VISIT TO THE THEATRE ROYAL, BATH

On Wednesday 21st October, 44 year 10, 11 and 12 Drama pupils travelled to Bath to see the play "*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*" at the Theatre Royal.

The play was written by Simon Stevens (who visited St Bede's earlier this year) and adapted from the best selling novel by Mark Haddon. It tells the story of a boy with autism dealing with great upheaval in his life as his parents break up.

The play was fantastic with the stylised movement and interesting set design real talking points.

The pupils are all studying this play as part of their GCSE Drama course and will be using this performance as a basis of their written coursework.

YEAR 7 ARE SUPPORTING THE BAG A SMILE CHARITY EVENT

Year 7 are collecting essential items which are desperately needed by refugee children. Items such as soap, tooth brushes, tooth paste, hats, scarfs and small toys are welcome. A full list has been given to the children. Please note that no food or drink items are allowed. Please can any donations be brought into school by Thursday 3rd December. If you have any queries please contact Mrs Turri, Head of Year 7 or Mr Gompels, Lay Chaplain. More information can be found at <http://bagasmile.moonfruit.com>



CAREERS FAIR

On Friday 6th November we held a careers fair of over 20 exhibitors including Bristol University, Avon and Somerset Police and a range of training providers and FE Colleges. This event forms part of the Independent Advice and Guidance given to our Year 11 pupils as they consider options for study Post 16.

ELEVATE SEMINAR

On Wednesday 4th November Year 11 pupils attended 'Ace your Exams' seminars with Elevate Education. The pupils were given hints and tips on how to best prepare for exams in order to get the best possible grades. Feedback from pupils has been very positive and they now have the chance to put these strategies into practice in preparation for their summer examinations.

PAST PUPIL SUCCESS

We were delighted last week to hear that past pupil **Alex McGettigan**, brother of our very own English and Drama Teacher Mr McGettigan, has been named a finalist in the Londoners' Choice Award at the London Restaurant Festival Awards. Alex, along with the other three finalists, beat stiff competition in the Choice category from the likes of Jamie's Italian, OXO Tower Restaurant and The Savoy Grill. A wonderful achievement. We always look forward to hearing of the success of past pupils so please do contact us.

YEAR 11 PARENTS

A polite reminder that the Year 11 Prom will be held at the 'M Shed' next year and will cost £28. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or on-line. Please ensure it is paid by 14th December 2015. Thank you.

SKI 2017

There are 3 places left on the 2017 ski trip. The proposed resort is Sansicario, Italy and it is part of the massive area known as the Milky Way. This area boasts 400km of piste. We will also have a chance to ski in France for a day. If you would like to know more information please contact Mr Johnson ASAP.

RUGBY UPDATE

We have some great news this week as we can confirm that all the boys from the Shamas Rugby Foundation have been found host families for the duration of their stay. We can now look forward to a fantastic eight days with our Kenyan guests.

There are still plenty of opportunities to help enhance the Foundation's time with us. One kind parent has already offered free eye tests for all the Shamas boys. I'm sure that this is just the start of many wonderful examples of generosity and compassion we will see from the parents and pupils of St Bede's throughout the Kenyan's stay.

On the field our boys came back refreshed and energised from half term and enjoyed a stellar week. Our Year 10 team played away to Orchard on a miserable Tuesday evening and was able to pull through with a wonderful length of the field try from **Laurent Ngunjoh** providing the highlight.

Wednesday saw our Year 7 charges head around the corner to a festival at Oasis Academy Brightstowe. All thirteen players that were called upon performed extremely well and their commitment in defence and never-say-die attitude saw them finish with an unblemished record from their four games and progress to the next stage in the competition. The schools youngest representatives gave a wonderful account of themselves and displayed all of the values of the game we try so hard to promote within St Bede's. Teamwork, Sportsmanship, Respect and Enjoyment were to the fore throughout.

Thursday evening rounded off a busy week for the College's rugby players as the Year 9 boys took on their Bristol Free School counterparts. After a very close first half the St Bede's boys managed to get a grip of the game and ultimately take it away from the opposition. It was a terrific performance and thoroughly deserved victory from a committed and skilful team.

PRIMARY SCHOOL FOOTBALL LEAGUES

The Primary School Football League taking place at St Bede's Catholic College commenced this week. Twenty local primary schools will take part across ten dates over the next three terms. The schools are split into two divisions, the Championship and the Premiership. This is the fourth year in a row that St Bede's has hosted, as part of the National School Games sports competition calendar.

The leagues are coordinated by the School Games Organiser for North Bristol who is based at St Bede's Catholic College. In the championship **Stoke Park Primary** will be looking to defend its title again whilst in the Premiership, **Henleaze Juniors** will be looking to do the same after narrowly edging **St Bonaventure's** to the title last year.

BATH CHRONICLE SPORTS AWARDS

We were delighted to hear that year 11 pupil **Natasha Soodeen** along with her Team Bath Netball Club Under 16 Regional Team won the **Junior Team of the Year Award** at the Bath Chronicle Sports Awards held on Wednesday evening. The evening, hosted by Broadcaster John Inverdale awarded the team for their highly successful year.

PLAY YOUR PART WORKSHOP

On Wednesday, 11th November, Year 8 was off timetable in order to participate in 'Play Your Part workshops' organised by Avon and Somerset Constabulary. The pupils listened to a variety of guest speakers on issues such as Rail Safety, Drugs Awareness, Alcohol Awareness, Young Offenders and Islamophobia amongst others. Pupils agreed that the day was interesting and enjoyable.

ABRSM

Congratulations to **Jack Burns**, Year 10 who recently passed his Grade 5 Piano Theory examination, with a Distinction.

COOKERY CLUB

This term pupils are making snowy profiteroles, festive tartlets, bakewell tarts and festive cupcakes. If any pupil is interested in coming along, please see Mrs Walker.

Year 11 Information Evening

Independent Careers Advice and Guidance – Calling all Professionals!

We try to ensure that our pupils are fully informed about options open to them for Further and Higher education, so that they make good choices.

The programme in place for Independent Careers Advice and Guidance is fairly extensive and varied. Last week we held a careers fair to which a number of post 16 and apprenticeship providers were invited.

What we would now like to do is to make available an opportunity for pupils to meet with other professionals from a variety of backgrounds. We are particularly interested in representatives from the following professions and the list is not exclusive:-

Medical, Legal, Accountancy, Engineering, Architecture, Finance, Politics, Media and Education.

If you are a parent working in any of these professions and would be willing to come to a Year 11 information evening to talk to young people about:

- what you studied at A level
- why you chose your profession
- routes into your profession
- applicable A levels
- universities
- the rewards for working in your profession
- career prospects

we would love to hear from you.

The evening for Year 11 is **Tuesday 23rd February 2016**. The plan is to have a number of parents from different professions sitting at tables and the young people can move around and talk with you.

This would take place from 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Following this informal event, pupils will then gather in the hall with their parents to learn more about their GCSEs in Mathematics, English and Science and how their parents can help them **“ace their exams!”**

If you are interested in being part of that parent group, please contact me on the school email address contact@stbedesc.org.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Mr D O'Rourke, Assistant Principal

TEACHING VACANCY

Governors at St. Bede's wish to appoint an:

Science Teacher—Chemistry

Maternity leave cover – January to April 2016

Information on all vacancies are available on our website www.stbedesc.org