

# St. Bede's Catholic College

*Specialist Science and Sports College*



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## CERTIFICATE EVENING – THE GREAT ACHIEVERS, FUTURE LEADERS

Yesterday evening, a significant number of last year's Year 11 pupils and their parents came to the celebration at college to receive their GCSE Certificates. Ms Hughes told the pupils they had excelled and their results overall were the best yet achieved at St. Bede's and that it was fitting that our celebration was taking place on Thanksgiving Day.

Presentations were made on behalf of Governors, Heads of Houses and staff following a service of prayers, readings and hymns. The Annual Governors Awards to the **Best Girl and Best Boy in College** were presented this year to **Alexander Conway** and **Julia Hlond**. Two other Governor Awards were presented to **Francis Jackson** and **Laura Odemwingie**. The **Bell Burnell House** awards for achievement went to **Luca Hargitai** and **Joe White**, **Descartes** awards to **Martha Eustace** and **Andrew Nelson** and the **Pasteur** awards were presented to **Finlo Heath** and **Thandikire Madula**.

The new **Areté Sixth Form** awards for the highest achievers within the Areté Sixth Form were awarded to: **Abigail Gordon**, **Sophie Stretch**, **Tigimol Makkiel**, **India Gay**, **Howard Fish**, **Georgina Easton**, **Thomas Holbrook**, **George Curnock**, **Joshua Taturan** and **William Kane**.

It was clear from the response that the recipients of awards were extremely well received and were worthy of such recognition. The **Principal's Award** was presented this year to **Tobias Olds**.

Those attending tackled a great spread of food including a celebration cake and enjoyed catching-up with friends and acquaintances, some of whom they had not seen since July. The Certificate Evening is always a highlight of the College's year, giving us a chance to acknowledge hard work and celebrate success with students and families. Twenty seven awards were made and Ms Hughes said she regretted not being able to give every single student an award. She reminded students that better people make better doctors, dentists, plumbers, lawyers, bankers and priests and that "It is not what you take from here in the way of results that will shape your future. It is the person you are and what you do with your talents and gifts, that will shape your future."



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**30th November**

Beginning of Advent  
Year 11 Mock Exams  
start

**1st December**

Year 7 Tutor/E-Safety  
Evening  
5.00pm—7.30pm

**2nd December**

Ski Trip  
Parents Evening  
6.00pm

**4th December**

INSET DAY

**7th December**

Week of Year 10 end  
of term exams English,  
Maths and Science

**8th December**

Year 10 Clothes Show  
Live, Birmingham  
Year 8 Parents  
Evening  
4.30pm—7.30pm

**11th December**

Year 11 Mock Exams  
end

### 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.

## KENYAN CHARITY RUGBY TOUR

We were delighted this week to welcome to St. Bede's our Kenyan visitors. They have had an incredible week. As well as playing in rugby tournaments and matches against local independent schools, the boys have been ice skating, visited Bristol Zoo, visited local sites such as the Clifton Suspension Bridge, joined pupils for their lessons and have had specially designed lessons in science, art and design, food and technology.



This evening, the Kenyan side will play a floodlit match against St. Bede's Year 8s at Gordano Rugby Club and watch Bristol's first XV take on London Scottish at Ashton Gate.

Mr Luke, Head of Rugby and sports coach at St. Bede's, said: "Rugby is the fastest growing sport in Kenya and its sevens team has been very successful in recent years. We are delighted to have welcomed the boys here. It is humbling when you hear their life stories and this will be the first time any of them has been abroad."

This week has been hugely beneficial in all sorts of ways not only for the Kenyan boys, but also for our young people. Working with and learning from a group of contemporaries who are growing up in very different circumstances will be hugely grounding for our youngsters. We are particularly grateful to our families who have opened their homes to the boys during their stay in Bristol. This generosity is enormously appreciated.



### RUGBY RESULTS

Our year 8s enjoyed their first victory on Tuesday. Clearly learning from the Shamas boys, they played some great rugby to beat Bristol Free School. A well deserved victory after a difficult day on Monday where they pitted themselves against some of the strongest independent schools in the area. Our boys got a good measure of where we need to go and will only benefit from such fantastic exposure to the game.

Monday was the first of many opportunities that Mr Luke will be pursuing to get our players exposure to the game at this level. "There is no better learning tool than showing the boys, first-hand, how effective it is when the ball is moved into space and run on to at depth. One short game can often teach the boys more than several lessons of drills and playing against each other. We will aim to keep pushing our players levels through fixtures and festivals."



## SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE RESULTS

We were delighted to hear this week that our Sixth Form mathematicians gained great results in their most recent **Senior Maths Challenge**. The Senior Maths Challenge is a national competition aimed at 16-19 year olds. The top 60% of students nationally receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate. Congratulations to: **Ashley Hicks, Sophie Stretch** and **Cameron Dudd** who received **Bronze**, **Howard Fish** who was awarded **Silver** and **Thomas Holbrook** who achieved a **Gold** and **Best in College**. Thomas will now go through to the next round. We wish Thomas the very best of luck.

## YEAR 7 BOYS CROWNED BRISTOL & SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE 5 A-SIDE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the Year 7 football team who were crowned **Regional Champions** on Wednesday night at Downend. They had qualified the week before at Patchway beating Patchway 6-0 and Fairfield 10-1 at their qualifying tournament. The final saw a marked improvement in the quality of football and despite a narrow defeat to Redland Green 1-2 in their first game, St Bede's improved to beat Ashton Park 3-2, Hanham 2-1 and Downend 5-0 to finish overall winners! They now will represent Bristol & South Gloucestershire at the **South West Championships at Torquay** in January.

Well done to all of the boys over the two events who were **Jason Soodeen, Joe Lewis, Callan Smith, Sam Parsons, Dylan Kadji, Louis Bateman-Morgan** and **James Craddock**.



### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

If you have any queries please contact Mrs Turri, Head of Year 7 or Mr Gompels, Lay Chaplain.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Mr Toffolo and his Sixth Form tutor group have taken part in the 'Operation Christmas Child' appeal. The students have organised 20 boxes and raised a total of £80.00 so that they can be shipped to children in need, including children in war torn Syria. A worthy cause and a way of bringing some happiness into the lives of many children that simply have nothing. Well done.



### CAFOD YOUNG LEADERS

On Wednesday, 25th November a number of year 10 pupils participated in a CAFOD Young Leaders workshop. The focus of the group was influence and ideas in campaigning. Pupils now look forward to sharing ideas with other pupils on issues going on in the world today and ways in which we can help.

### AUTHOR VISIT—CHELSEY FLOOD

Pupils were excited to attend an inspirational talk with author C.J. Flood last week. The author spoke about her experiences which led to her publishing her first novel. Pupils had an opportunity to ask questions—she told us it is possible to succeed when pursuing a less common career path if you are motivated to do so. The name of every pupil who asked a question was put into a bag and at the end of the talk the winning name received a signed copy of 'Infinite Sky.'

The lucky winner was **Isabel Lunson**, Year 7.



### Mr Alan Boniface RIP.

It was with regret that we heard about the death of Mr Boniface who passed away peacefully last Saturday 21st November at St Peter's Hospice aged 85 years. He taught at St Bede's from September 1965 until his retirement in the mid 1980's. Although his main subject was History, he also taught French and some Music classes being an accomplished Musician.

We send our sympathy and prayers to his wife and family.

### PRIMARY SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

On Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th November, 13 local primary schools attended the North Bristol Sports Hall Athletics finals at St Bede's. During the two afternoons **over 300** year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the event and represented their schools in an attempt to qualify for the county sports area finals. The children participated in a host of track relay events and field events such as standing long jump, standing triple jump, vertical jump, chest push, speed bounce and soft javelin. This competition is part of the **National School Games programme for which St Bede's hosts**. Congratulations to **Henleaze Juniors** who were the overall winner narrowly defeating **St Bonaventures** and **Elmlea Juniors** into second and third respectively. The other schools that took part were **St Peter & Paul, St Teresa's, St Johns, Bishop Road, Oasis Long Cross, St Ursula's, Henbury Court, Westbury Park, Littlemead Academy** and **Badocks Wood**.

### ROAD SAFETY

Cycling is a healthy and enjoyable activity and many of our pupils cycle to school. As the winter months approach it is important to make our young people aware of the risks and provide them with strategies to take positive action to remain safer.

- Always wear a helmet
- Wear visible clothing and check front and back lights work
- Do not wear earphones to listen to music on your journey
- Regularly maintain your bike
- Don't trust that drivers will spot you and be able to stop in time – some drivers may be going too fast and may not pay enough attention, so anything you can do to protect yourself is a good thing.

If you would like to find out more information please visit <http://think.direct.gov.uk/education/secondary/parents/cycle-safety/>

### PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Our Photography club is proving really successful with more members joining each week. In the last issue we showed you examples of the wonderful photographs taken by our pupils.

If any parents have old digital cameras, lenses, tripods or lighting equipment they no longer need we could certainly make use of them in Photography club. Thank you.

### AN INSPECTOR CALLS

On Wednesday 18th November 40 year 11

Pupils attended a production of J. B. Priestley's classic thriller 'An Inspector Calls' at the Theatre Royal, Bath. The pupils are studying the play as part of their GCSE English Literature course. A gripping production led by the mysterious protagonist, Inspector Goole. His startling revelations challenged the other characters and the audience to examine their consciences.