

St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College



Issue 207 17th December 2015 T: 0117 377 2200 E: contact@stbedesc.org W: www.stbedesc.org



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

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Our Advent service took place on Wednesday evening. Pupils presented a wonderful evening of readings, music and prayer. The service, which was attended by hundreds of families, was both prayerful and joyous. The collection at the end raised **£189.24** which will go towards the two Kenyan boys whose education we have committed to pay for the next 5 years.

MENSA

Thirteen of our pupils have been invited to become members of Mensa, the well known "High IQ Society". After a recent test, the pupils from Years 10, 11 and 12, were awarded **IQs of between 148 and 160, putting them in the top 2% of the population.** The average IQ score is 100.

This is obviously a phenomenal accomplishment and we are very proud of their achievements!



Congratulations to **Matthew Latino, Declan Kelly, Samuel Brady, Ignatius De Pedro, Ba'Lint Hargitai, John Estopen, Matthew Ball, Howard Fish, Abigail Gordon, Eva Clothier, Amara Fordham-Viscaino, Joe Holbrook and Jack Burns.**

EXCELLENT ATTITUDE REWARD



Year 7 pupils receiving their awards this morning

One of our college aims is to 'secure and celebrate achievement' and to ensure our young people know the importance of having a positive attitude to learning. I recently asked teachers to nominate pupils who, in their opinion, deserved some formal recognition for excellent attitude towards their work this year. Huge numbers were nominated and the top 15+ in each year were put forward. I met them today, told them how pleased I was with their excellent approach to their studies and gave them each a small gift as a reward.

ROTARY YOUNG CHEF OF THE YEAR AWARDS

On Wednesday 9th December, Year 11 pupils **Rhian Greenaway** and **Sam Mcgreevy** represented St. Bede's in the **Rotary Young Chef awards**. We are delighted to inform you that **Rhian** was awarded **1st Place** and **Sam 2nd!** **Rhian** has qualified for the regional competition which takes place in January. Sam has recently been accepted onto a professional cookery apprenticeship which will commence after his GCSE's. Congratulations to you both and good luck to Rhian in the Regional competition.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18th December 2015
END OF TERM 2

Pupils finish at 2.00pm

4th January 2016
START OF TERM 3
WEEK B

Year 12 & 13
Mock Exams begin

6th January
Year 11
Meningitis
Vaccinations

13th January
Year 9
Curriculum Evening
6.30pm

NETBALL RESULTS

Year 7 Netball
v Colston's 1 - 6

Year 9 Netball
v St Bernadette's 14 - 13

Year 11 Netball
v Colston's 22 - 9

SHAMAS KENYAN RUGBY TOUR

Following the successful Shamas Rugby tour, we received a letter from Mr Townsend, Bristol Academy Development Manager at Bristol Rugby. Mr Townsend said that *'the care, concern, love and effort made by the staff and students at the school assisted in making this a fantastic tour, with many of the boys naming their time at St. Bede's as one of the highlights.* He continued to say how impressed he was with *'the maturity, friendliness and collaboration of those students assigned to partner boys through their time at the school. They were great ambassadors for the culture and ethos of the school and made a favourable impression on all concerned.'* We know that the experience has been hugely grounding for our youngsters and the memories made during this visit cherished for a long time.

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Friday 4th December, Year 8 pupils **Freya Sawyer** and **Megan Baber** competed with their 13-14 years synchronised swimming team at the **ASA National Synchronised Swimming Championships**, winning the prestigious title of **2015 Recreational 13-14 years Combination Champions**.

Their 12-strong team scored 58.6667 for their expressive routine, matching their score from last year's Championships, securing their second consecutive 13-14 years title and another gold medal.

The girls have worked very hard again this year, become great friends and look forward to another successful year in 2016. Well done.



CLOTHES FOR A CAUSE

There will be a collection for Clothes For A Cause in the first 2 weeks after Christmas. If you have any unwanted clothes, shoes or books please send them in.

AIRBUS UK—FLYING START CHALLENGE

The Flying Start Challenge is an exciting opportunity designed to allow students to develop their knowledge of flight and gain some hands-on manufacturing experience. Miss Scadding invited Airbus UK to the St Bede's Design and Technology department with the intention that pupils develop and understand basic engineering used in the aviation industry and to inspire our next generation of engineers!

Year 9 pupils, **Hannah, Laura, Marielle and Sneha** said: *"The most enjoyable part was the designing and making of the glider, we really came together as a group and enjoyed every aspect of the activities".*



PASTEUR HOUSE 'SIGNATHON'

On Thursday 3rd December, over 30 members of Pasteur house took part in the sponsored 'Signathon' to raise money for our house charity The Bristol Family Centre for Deaf Children.

Over £150 was raised on the day towards this wonderful cause that gives help and support to families across the city with deaf children. Pasteur members learned and used 40 different British Sign Language signs over the course of the day.

Thank you to all involved.



MOVEMBER

A group of St Bede's staff once again put away their shavers for the month of November; in the name of charity.

Movember continues to raise funds and awareness in order to improve men's health. This year our pupils helped by buying chocolate and biscuits from the staff involved. The final total was an impressive £200. If you would like to find out more information (or donate) please visit - the Movember website (<https://uk.movember.com/>).



SCIENCE CLUB

We are coming to the end of our first term running Science club for years 7, 8 and 9!

So far we've held fiery methane bubbles, watched a thermite reaction, made bath bombs and designed, created and launched our own rockets!

This week we have been making our own wrapping paper to take home for Christmas as well as making some fake snow!

Science Club takes place on Mondays at 1.35pm in Lab B1 and will commence again in the new year.



SHOW MY HOMEWORK

Show My Homework has been upgraded and you will notice a few changes to your home page when you next visit the site.

These updates have been made because Internet Explorer Version 9 is no longer being supported by Microsoft from January.

Please can you make sure that if you use Internet Explorer at home you have upgraded to Version 10 or above. You can also access via Google Chrome and Safari.

If your computer logs you in automatically you will be required to log back in as a result of these upgrades.

ANIMAL ETHICS CLUB

On Tuesday 1st December, our Animal Ethics club was visited by Natalie Davies, a volunteer from the pressure group 'Animal Aid'. During the talk, we discussed how we value animals in society, and why some in particular are deemed more significant than others. Perhaps most enlightening was the impact that the huge demand for meat was having upon the lives of animals and the environment. All members of the group were invited to share thoughts, and most of us left with the intention to seek more ethical lifestyles! We are all aiming to make changes to our lifestyle, however small they may be, particularly in light of Pope Francis being announced as PETAs (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) man of the year, thanks to his commitment to animal and environmental conservation.



CATERING CLUB

Pupils have had the opportunity to make a variety of dishes including Profiteroles and Festive tartlets at Catering club this term. Last week pupils made Reindeer Cupcakes. Catering club will continue in Term 3. If pupils wish to participate, please see Mrs Walker.



ST JOHN'S CADET OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to year 10 pupil **Ann Rose Biju** who was recently awarded the Regional title of **St. John's Cadet of the Year!** Ann, who has been a member of St. John's Ambulance in Bradley Stoke for 7 years had to be interviewed, prepare a presentation and be assessed on discussion tasks and team activities.

Ann will now participate in the **National Finals** in April. Good Luck!



BAG A SMILE CAMPAIGN

Year 7 tutor groups have worked together to donate very generously to the Bag A Smile campaign. Last week, representatives from the charity were delighted that we had collected and filled 88 bags with essential items for refugees in camps in Europe. A special thanks to **St Mary's Catholic Primary** in Bradley Stoke for also donating so generously.



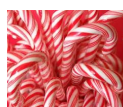
BOOK HAMPERS

As part of our literacy strategy this year we presented our 'Book hampers.' Fifteen lucky families were selected and each received a book hamper to enjoy over the Christmas holidays—Food for the mind?



FAMILY HAMPERS

Ten St Bede's families are enjoying the treats they have received following this year's hamper draw. Best wishes to all recipients.



STEM AWARD

We are delighted to hear recently that we have received an award for STEM Engagement. The award has been given in recognition for our commitment in enriching **Science, Technology and Maths (STEM)** provision.

A variety of STEM enrichment activities have already taken place and we look forward to continuing this engagement within the Technology department in Term 3.



ADMISSIONS POLICY—ACADEMIC YEAR 2017- 2018

The Governing Body of St. Bede's is consulting on the Admissions Policy for the Academic year 2017-2018. The proposed policy can be found on the school website www.stbedescc.org. The consultation period runs from Friday, 4th December 2015 to Friday, 22nd January 2016. If you have any comments you would like to make about the policy please e-mail them to Mrs Walker at contact@stbedescc.org by Friday 22nd January 2016.

Similarly, the Governors of St. Bernadette Catholic Secondary School are also consulting. Their proposed policy can be found on their school website www.stberns.bristol.sch.uk. If you require a paper copy please contact Mrs Nunnerley on 0117 3772050. The consultation period runs from Friday 4th December 2015 to Friday 22nd January 2016. Any comments should be addressed to Mrs Nunnerley at St. Bernadette's.

AUTHOR VISIT



On Friday 11th December, **Tracy Alexander** visited St Bede's to tell us about her new book **Alias**. This is her second book in the Hacked series and is the story about the bad person called Angel, who appears in Hacked. It was really enjoyable and we all helped suggest things Tracy Alexander needs to think about when she writes a book.

James Davies, Year 8

Creative writing club also had the privilege to meet Tracy Alexander. We had lunch with her and she was a pleasure to speak with. She asked us about our favourite genres of books and what we liked writing. She was very interactive with us and we had a proper conversation not just a question and answer interview. She gave us tips on writing and how to have fun while doing it! She told us of her little habits and her jokes and was such fun. She was very lively and personable and I can honestly say she was one of the most interesting people I have ever met.

Shanaz Sharonsenthil, Year 9



PRINCIPIA MISSION—INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

On Tuesday 15th December at 11.03am, pupils watched the launch of the Principia Mission that took British Astronaut Tim Peake to the International Space Station (ISS). Pupils counting down to the launch could be heard from many classrooms, as they learnt about space flight. The mission is called Principia, after Isaac Newton's great work, the Principia Mathematica. Published in 1687, it spelled out Newton's law of gravity and his three laws of motion - widely held to be the greatest work of science ever published. Whilst on the ISS, Tim will complete experiments and educational activities designed to get young people interested in science. We will be following his mission closely and you can also get involved by signing up for Destination Space. This is a website filled with exciting and hands-on activities linked to astronauts and adventure for families and schools. It allows children to get to know the crew and also complete missions such as learning about pressure, building rockets and the science behind hovercraft and how they help astronauts get into space - lots of great activities for the Christmas Holidays. To sign up for email updates and missions go to <http://www.destinationpace.uk/>

ST BEDE'S YOUNG ENTERPRISE TEAM SUCCESS!

This year's team is called **Vitae**. Vitae means 'life' and we have one simple aim: 'Putting the Life into Music'. So far, we have created timetable printing service for Year 7 **and** created our product. Our product is called **Rapz**. It is a kit which enables you to wrap your earphones into a unique and bespoke item. The kit contains two colours of high quality 100% pure Egyptian cotton: enough to wrap up to 2 pairs of earphones. We also provide full colour, photographic instructions which show you how to wrap your earphones in 6 simple steps. We also sell high quality earphones.



We recently took part in the St. Nicholas Market competition, where the team was judged the **BEST TEAM in the West of England!** The team was praised for their excellent branding, product design, professionalism and marketing. I was thrilled to have members of the public, as well as the Deputy Mayor of Bristol, approach me to express how our pupils were a credit to the school. In particular I was told how polite, confident and mature in sales technique they were. We will continue with our business in 2016. Miss Hancock

RUGBY UPDATE

The final couple of weeks of term have seen every year group from St Bede's contest semi finals in the Bristol Schools League competition with varying degrees of success.

Our Year 7 team, which have come on enormously throughout the year, was narrowly edged out by Ashton Park School. The boys tenacity in the tackle and willingness to try and move the ball deserved greater reward on the day. They can all hold their heads high and be confident that they have the foundations for a great team for the rest of their time at St Bede's.

The Year 8's faced a sterner test still, in the form of Oasis Academy Brightstowe, who are particularly strong in that year group. Despite huge improvement over the course of the second term they were unable to overcome a very big and fast team. There were some standout performances of huge commitment and never say die attitudes though, that again, should provide great hope for next year's competition.

Our Year 9, 10 and 11's enjoyed a little more success and have all ensured safe passage through to the finals, after Christmas, unfortunately, not without cost. Mention should be given to **Charlie Johnson** and **George Holland** who both broke their collarbones in the last couple of weeks. Both players were enjoying fantastic games at the time and have both contributed significantly to their team's success, over the season so far. We wish them both the very best with their recovery.

On a brighter note, our boys were excited to welcome their new sets of jerseys this week. After a slightly longer production time than anticipated, the shirts have arrived for the business end of the season and look fantastic. A massive thanks once more to the people and companies that took the opportunity to sponsor the shirts. Namely; **C&M Services, Way Forward Recruitment, The Barbering Emporium** and **Plantspeed**. The jerseys truly reflect the positive direction rugby is heading in at St Bede's and you can see the boys' chests puff out just that little bit farther when they are wearing them.



Year 9 Rugby Captain **Will Laino**,
Year 10 Captain **Moniee Wilson**
and Year 11 Vice Captain
George Kloska in the new kit.

YEAR 10 TEXTILES TRIP TO NEC, BIRMINGHAM CLOTHES SHOW LIVE

Last Tuesday, 14 GCSE Art/Textiles students had the opportunity to attend the Clothes Show live exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to witness 'textiles in action' - where artists, designers, universities and businesses come together to showcase some of the best and most original fashion and textiles products. As well as the catwalk show, the students had the chance to walk around the exhibition and see the products first hand.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

Congratulations to year 8 pupil **Stuart Sprackman** who has been awarded a **Distinction** in his Grade 5 Guitar Examination.

Congratulations also to **Eoin Condron**, Year 11 who received a **Distinction** in his Grade 8 Singing Examination and **Ellie Condron**, Year 9 who also gained a **Distinction** in her Singing Examination.