

St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College



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ARETÉ SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

On Monday, 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 240 guests, pupils and parents came to visit the college.

Mr Strange, Director of Sixth Form, hosted a question and answer session with six 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. Areté is now in its third year and we have seen huge improvements since we opened in 2013. Ms Hughes said: "Areté is relatively new, full of energy and ambition; each of which are strengths."

The deadline for internal applicants is **4th January 2017** and application forms can be obtained from the sixth form reception. Any internal candidate that secures the required grades is guaranteed a place.

It is clear from the turn out on the evening that Areté will be full to capacity in September 2017 and will go from strength to strength if the large numbers of our current year 11 stay with us for A levels.

Any enquiries can be emailed to sixthform@stbedesc.org.

With only 100 places available for September 2017 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 grade 5 in both English and Mathematics**.



ARMISTICE DAY

We were delighted that so many of our pupils wore their service uniforms on Armistice Day today in memory of those who died fighting for their country. At 11.00am each member of our college community were respectfully upstanding in silence to mark the occasion. The generosity of our pupils during this time, has been outstanding with money being 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

16th NOVEMBER 2016

Year 11

Meningitis Vaccination

17th NOVEMBER 2016

Year 10

Parents Evening
4.30pm—7.30pm

24th NOVEMBER 2016

Year 12

Certificate evening
6.30pm—8.30pm

27th NOVEMBER 2016

Beginning of Advent

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the following pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Declan at **Holy Family RC Church** on Tuesday, 8th November 2016.



Megan Baber, Isobel Clothier, Isaac Dean, Pietro Di Lecce, Jacob Feurtado, Denise-Jade Freeman, Jessica Harrison, Nathan Hodges, Jessica Loud, Ewan McNamara, John McNamara, Panashe Mhungu, Diana Nithyanandam, Giovanna Oliviera, Catherine Rolls, Ester Sukenikova, Blanka Szantho, Hanna Szantho, Emily Wilson and Kayleigh Wilson.

Our Congratulations also to:

Aleena Benny, Amelia Manning, Anchilla Francisco, Ancy Bazil, Angel Binoy, Anjaly Binu, Ann Maria John, Arvin Rodolfo, Ashley Bazil, Bethany Bacasnot, Calan Fitzgerald, Cara Freeth, Chelsy James, Elita Fernandes, Emily Gilbert, Gabriella Rozario, Jasmine Varghese, Jeffymol Joseph, Jett Dacara, John O'Driscoll, Johnas Binoy, Joshua Taturan, Josie Morgan, Kundai Vurayayi, Lander Taturan, Lara Mae Asuncion, Liyana George, Maegan de Rama, Marielle Vasquez, Nathalie Canvin, Niamh Bailey, Noel Stephen, Paolo Diego, Shanaz Sharonsenthil, Snaha Joy, Steven Jangcan, Vanessa Diaba, Wiktoria Szymanska, who were confirmed at **St. Teresa's RC Church** yesterday evening, Thursday 10th November.

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Corinthians 13:14

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

Ten Sixth Form students took part in the UK Senior Maths Challenge Competition on Tuesday 8th November, and enjoyed solving the mathematics problems and puzzles. We await their results with anticipation!

BATTLEFIELDS TRIP 2017

There are still a few places left for the Battlefields trip. If any pupils in the current year 8 group wish to go when they are in year 9, see Mrs Lewis in D13 for a letter. Deposits must be paid to Mrs Gates in the Finance Office by 18th November 2016.

PLAY YOUR PART WORKSHOPS

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, Young Offenders, Knife Crime, Stand against Violence and Fire Safety. Pupils agreed that the day was very interesting and hugely enjoyable.



REMINDER FOR PARENTS

Could parents dropping off or picking up children do so on the Long Cross, in the interest of the safety of all our children.

Please also remind your children of the need to exercise great care crossing the road. Under no circumstances should they walk/run out between the buses. It would also be appreciated if parents are respectful of our local residents and under no circumstances park in such a way as to limit their access to their homes. Thank you.

ELEVATE SEMINAR

On Wednesday 2nd November, Year 11 pupils attended 'Ace your Exams' seminars with Elevate Education. The pupils were given hints and tips on how best to 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.

OFSTED

As you know we had a monitored visit from Ofsted last week to confirm that the college was continuing to maintain its status which is "Good with Outstanding" features. We have yet to receive the letter confirming their judgement. Thank you to all parents and pupils who completed the online surveys. The parent one is for public viewing and can be seen at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/24567/current>. We do not see the results of the pupil survey but I am sure it will have mirrored the response of the parents. The pupils love their school and the vast majority are very happy here. When the letter is received, I shall make a copy available to parents.

WISE WORDS

*Be whatever you want to be.
But be it with all your heart.*

David Wolffsohn

PAST PUPIL SUCCESS

Congratulations to past pupil **Nithin Thankachan** (2007-2012) who recently achieved a Foundation Sports Therapy Degree at University College Birmingham. We are always delighted to hear of the successes of our past pupils. Please do share them with us by emailing contact@stbedescc.org

YEAR 11 PARENTS

The Year 11 Prom will be held at the 'M Shed' next year and will cost £28. Payment can be made by cash or cheque. Please ensure it is paid by **Friday 18th November**. Thank you.

VACANCIES

We are looking to recruit a number of **Invigilators** to provide support in supervising examinations within the College. The hourly rate of pay is £9 which includes payment for a proportion of accrued holiday entitlement. Please visit our website www.stbedescc.org for further information

RISE Theatre, a professional Christian touring theatre company are performing 'White Rabbit' on 27th November at the Southbank Club, Bristol. For further information please visit www.risetheatre.co.uk

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFEGUARDING

drinkaware

Alcohol affects our bodies in a number of ways and can impact both short and long term health. Here are some important facts about the impact of alcohol;

Alcohol poisoning: Anyone who drinks a lot in a short space of time can suffer alcohol poisoning. The level of alcohol gets so high that the brain's vital functions, which include breathing control, are blocked. Nearly 4,000 under-18s were hospitalised in the UK with alcohol poisoning last year (2015).

Brain development: During childhood and teenage years, the brain is still developing. It can affect memory, reactions, learning ability and attention span – all especially important during school years.

Mental health: Research shows that alcohol misuse and mental disorders are closely related. Young people who drink excessively may be more likely to have disturbed mental health or even self-harm.

Liver damage: Young people who drink regularly are equally at risk and start to damage their livers without realising. The trouble is, the warning signs only show after a few years.

Appearance and side effects: Research shows that underage drinkers are more likely to suffer from a range of health issues including major weight gain or weight loss.

More useful guidance is available here : www.drinkaware.co.uk

Award winning author and our First Patron of Reading, Chelsey Flood visits St Bede's

Hi St Bede's, and thanks for another wonderful visit in October. I think I met all the Year 7s, a gorgeously enthusiastic bunch, who helped me to create the St Bede's Rights of the Reader, as well as signing up for my reading challenge, and making me very happy. I have built my life around books, and there's nothing I love more than to see youngsters sharing in my passion. I was incredibly impressed, too, with the poetry that Year Nines came up with using their memories as a resource, and it was an honour to hear about the different lives and times of a variety of St Bede's students. Finally, a big thank you to the Year 9 girls who shared their ideas about feminism, healthy body image and successful friendship with me, and helped me to understand more about what it's like to be a teenage girl in 2016."



Today in English we were expecting to be doing a spelling test but surprisingly the door opened and in walked Chelsey Flood our Patron of Reading! She had come to school to work with our class on our current unit of work which is Poetry. She taught us ways in which we can make poetry in an enjoyable accessible way. It was really fun.

We worked on creating poems based on our memories, some were sad, some were happy, some bizarre, some shared. It was surprising to be reminded of things that other people

remember from years ago which then popped into our minds as if it was only yesterday!

Our poems really impressed Chelsey and we hope to see them on display in the school library soon.

9A English Class

Last week our Patron of Reading Chelsey Flood came to speak to some of the girls in year 9 about feminism and equality. She told us about her book 'Night Wanderers' and how that linked to the way she was treated differently to her brother and other boys of her age. She gave us several questions to talk about and helped us to remember past experiences linking to ideas concerning feminism. It was a very constructive lessons and left all of us feeling positive about women's rights.

Niamh Fullerton and Emily Pritchard, Year 9

It was fun contributing and listening to Chelsey Flood. The fact that I was meeting an award winning author was phenomenal.

James Morris, Year 7



ST BEDE'S RUGBY



Whilst the half term break offered a brief respite for the Rugby players of St Bede's, term 2 has seen it resume with renewed energy and optimism.

Our year 10 were straight back in the saddle with a well-earned victory against Orchard School. Having lost to Orchard in the final of last season's Bristol School's Cup it was a game that meant a little bit more than most. The boys put in a very disciplined and skilled performance and were worthy winners on the night.

The first week back also saw our promising year 7 cohort compete in the boys inter-house Rugby competition. Having been very fortunate with the weather leading up to the tournament we were able to invite students and staff on to the field to support their houses which made for a great atmosphere.

The boys held up their end of the bargain by producing some outstanding rugby across all three houses. The final game and what turned out to be a 'final' of sorts saw Bell Burnell take on Descartes. The standard of the game was excellent with both teams contributing equally. Bell Burnell were just a little too strong in the end and powered their way to a deserved victory. Our year 9's will contest their version this week with updates to follow!

Week 2 of term has seen no let-up in intensity. Our year 10 team continued their impressive form and saw off a spirited challenge from Ashton Park. The victory should all but assure them of passage through to the semi-finals of the competition.

Our year sevens face a challenge of their own and by the time this goes to print they will have competed in a festival against Bristol Free School and Bristol Metropolitan. Bristol Met aren't usual visitors to this side of town as we are often in opposite sides of the draw. They do however, like us, have a strong crop in their year seven this year and they have looked outside their bracket for some competitive fixtures, which is great. Hopefully our boys will oblige.

Our final exciting bit of news from the opening fortnight of term is the resumption of girls' rugby club. Thursday night (3.30-4.30pm) will see some girls return and some girls get their first taste of the sport. All ages and abilities are welcome from year 7 to year 10. We will be running a junior and senior girls team this year with a view to starting fixtures after Christmas.

Lastly we look forward to an exciting day for the College's rugby programme. Wednesday 16th November will see the visit of Marling School, Stroud to compete in the 2nd round of the NatWest Plate. The national competition has been a wonderfully positive experience so far and the boys will be playing their hearts out to make sure it doesn't end here. If you are a parent of a player in the team; please feel free to come and support the boys. Kick-off is at 2.30pm.

ST BONAVENTURES CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

The confirmation programme at St Bonaventure's RC Church starts on 8th January 2017 and is open to young parishioners aged 14-18 who attend Mass regularly. There will be a registration meeting for those interested on Sunday, 11th December from 11.00am—12.30pm.

CREATION POEM

From the basin of abyss
Came a being of pure light
It, he, was compassionate
And he saw what our world was.

Layer upon layer, day upon day
Like a paintbrush elegantly stroking the canvas
They spiralled from His fingertips
As he created our world.

Day the first
Light came to be
It was separated from the darkness, day and night
That was the first day.

Day the second
He made a dome
Crossing the watery expanse, sky
That was the second day.

Day the third
He formed dirt, mud and stone
And separated the waters into divisions, earth and sea.
That was the third day.

Day the fourth
He created the celestial councils
Brilliant figures dancing across the ink black sky, sun, moon and stars
That was the fourth day.

Day the fifth
Creatures from all walks of life
Celebrating existence, beings of the sea and sky
That was the fifth day.

Day the sixth
We came into this world next
Caretaker of His work, the curators, Man
That was the sixth day.

On the final day
He saw what he had made
One final glance, "It is good." He proclaimed.
He took to bed and rested after his week of creativity.