

NOVEMBER BEDE'S NEWS





Mrs M Kemp Headteacher

"And when great souls die, after a period of peace blooms, slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill with a kind of soothing electric vibration. Our senses, restored, never to be the same, whisper to us. They existed. They existed. We can be. Be and be better. For they existed."

- Maya Angelou.

Dear parents,

November's virtue of the month is respect. The College, inspired by Remembrance Day and our faith, has remembered and prayed for those who have left us and we have tried to live the virtue throughout the day in how we treat each other.

I am extremely proud of our students who have been sitting their 10 week assessments and their mock examinations with responsibility and ownership of their work. Sharing their achievements and our support through the parent teacher meetings has been a superb opportunity. I know that, working together, we give your children the best chance for success.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas Fair and the different carol services.

Kind regards,

Maria Kemp



Mrs C Hunt Head of Prep

I hope our latest edition of Bede's News finds you all well. Our virtue for November was Respect. Throughout the month, our pupils were encouraged to reflect on these values and consider their significance in their daily lives.

We believe that teaching respect fosters a positive and inclusive school community, where everyone feels valued and appreciated. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these important values at home. We also demonstrated respect for those who died serving our country with our Remembrance Day Assembly. Prep 6 were delighted to be invited to join the senior part of the college for their Remembrance Service.

In line with our commitment to promoting a safe and nurturing environment for all, we participated in Odd Socks Day on Monday, 13th November, as part of Anti-Bullying Week. This light-hearted event aims to raise awareness of the importance of accepting and respecting individual differences. We encouraged all pupils and staff to wear odd socks on this day to showcase their uniqueness and support this worthy cause.

As you are aware, in Prep we fully understand the significance of transition, particularly for our Prep 6 students. To facilitate a smooth transition to the senior part of the college, Mrs Kemp is conducting interviews with each pupil individually. These interviews provide an opportunity for the pupils to make a presentation to Mrs Kemp and discuss their thoughts and aspirations. We believe that these conversations will greatly contribute to a successful transition and ensure that our pupils feel supported during this important phase of their education.

We are delighted that our annual Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 2 December. This event promises to be a fantastic opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate the festive season.

I thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a successful conclusion to the term.

With my best wishes for December and the season of Advent,

Claire Hunt



Dr A McMonagleActing Head of Sixth Form

This month, the Sixth Form had a special remembrance service in the chapel,

gathering together for a quiet service of prayer, and lighting a candle for loved ones who have died. It was a peaceful moment in a very busy month which saw Upper Sixth students begin their first set of mock examinations. Our Lower Sixth students recently completed their applications for positions on the Perfect team, and those competing for the roles of Head Boy and Head Girl gave inspiring presentations to their peers. The outgoing prefect team are looking forward to one of their final tasks: having fun putting up the Christmas tree and decorating the Common Room!

Best wishes,

Anne McMonagle

Virtue of the month:

Respect

Respect: 'We will remember them'

Each November we practise the virtue of respect. Pupils lived this virtue in various ways this month. We had our annual whole school Remembrance Service where we paid our respects to the fallen Bedians of The Great War and World War Two. As is tradition, U3 CFA pupils dressed as soldiers and led the procession to the war memorials outside the Maher Library where we had the laying of wreaths and the Last Post followed by the two minute silence.

Form groups also attended services in the Chapel, lighting a candle to remember a loved one and pray for them. Mrs Hibbert commented that the candles were a visual representation of our prayers, 'If you could see all your prayers as a candle, imagine how bright the world would be.'

Anti-Bullying Week allowed the pupils to show their respect to one another. This year's theme was Make A Noise which encouraged pupils not to stand silently by and to speak up if they witnessed any unkindness towards others.

Elsewhere the U5 and U6 showed respect to themselves, their teachers and their parents by undertaking plenty of revision for their mock examinations and all pupils had a focus on being respectful of the classroom and school environment by ensuring they tidied up after themselves, showing respect to those around them.

Finally, pupils continue to show respect for themselves by always trying hard in lessons and being proud of the Bedians they are, helping us all to live in an environment of trust, safety and wellbeing.



Safeguarding

Make A Noise: Anti-Bullying Week

School assemblies in the week beginning 13th November were on the theme of Anti-Bullying. This year the focus was on 'Make A Noise.' Pupils were encouraged not to stay silent about bullying if they witness it, not to stay silent about the hurt bullying can cause and not to dismiss bullying as just banter. Pupils were also reminded that bullying is repetitive and intentional, as opposed to the odd unkind comment as a one off. They were given tips on how to tell the difference between banter and bullying. It's not banter if:

- 1. You would be upset if someone said it to you.
- 2. It's hurtful.
- 3. You're not friends.
- 4. Someone's asked you to stop.
- 5. The target isn't laughing.
- 6. It focuses on someone's insecurities.

Finally, pupils were reminded about who they can talk to in school if they are concerned they are being bullied or have concerns for a friend.

Vicky from the L4 interviewed Dara from the L6 about Anti-Bullying Week which is celebrated annually in November. This year's theme was Make A Noise, which encourages us all to talk about bullying and not stand silently by.

Mrs C Boylan, Assistant Head (Safeguarding & Ethos)





New Prep Hall Space

Prep pupils and staff are delighted that they now have their own 'mini' Academic Hall located in the former college music room, V1.

Prep assemblies, music lessons, performance rehearsals, choir, and some after school activities including ballet are taking place in this magnificent space, with plans for many more activities. Mrs Hunt has said, "We cannot thank Mrs Kemp enough for listening to the needs of the Prep and working with us to secure this beautiful space which will benefit our pupils and teachers. The acoustics are incredible, the views overlooking Alexandra Park are stunning and we have already made great use of the space in preparation for our Christmas events."





Inspired · Committed · Grateful



Each year, we come together as a Bedian family to honour the memory of those men of this College who laid down their lives during both World Wars. Each year, we try to pick out individual servicemen and their stories so that the staff and students of today can, each in their own way, form a closer bond with those who gave their lives to make our existence today possible.

Our Sixth Form Executive excelled in recounting the stories of those Bedians killed whilst on active service with the navy, as well as paying a very special and poignant tribute to three Bedians who fell during the year of 1943, to mark the eightieth year since their deaths. Our orchestra and choir performed astonishingly and movingly throughout the service and more than a few eyes were moistened by Mr Stillburn's haunting performance of Are My team Still Ploughing. At the end of the service, six of our younger CFA students proudly led our procession to the War Memorials where we said the dedication, laid the wreaths and, signalled by Mr Davies' stirring last post, observed the two minutes' silence.



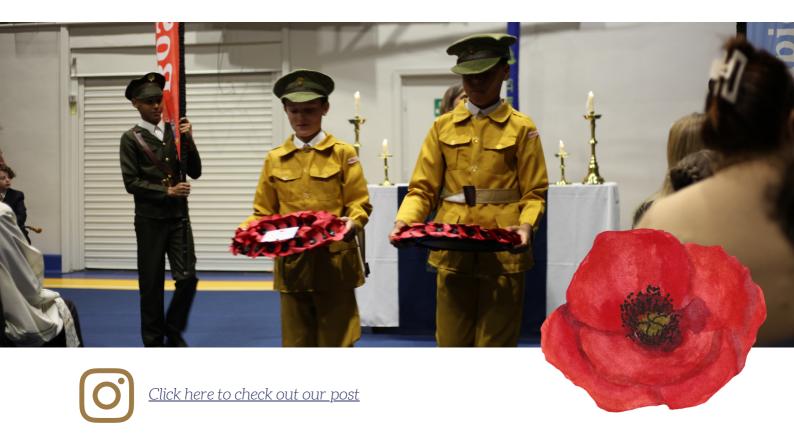




The younger generation's apparent ignorance of the meaning and importance of Remembrance has been mentioned more than once in the news of late. Whatever the national picture may be, I think it is fair to say that, based on their grateful and solemn observance during our service, the students of St. Bede's understand their responsibility to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. They wore their poppies and they paid their respects beautifully. I am grateful to every single member of staff who makes this event happen each year but I am even more grateful to belong to a school which remembers. I will leave you with our College Prayer to the Fallen.

Bedians they were and Bedians they are. They were Our Boys then, they are Our Boys still and, as long as this College stands, we will remember them with honour, gratitude and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Mr A Power, Head of Department History, Politics, Classics and Latin





Stars of the Week











Class of the Week







Class of the Week







House Points







House Points









Other Awards and Recognitions





Gymnastics level 5 award



Raising money for Maggie's charity



Irish dancing awards



Other Awards and Recognitions





Cross Country certificates



Poetry certificates



Lacrosse team award



Headteacher's award for kindness and looking out for other children



Virtue Winners



October - Friendship and Loyalty



Bedian Ambassador

October - Friendship and Loyalty



U3 Amelia O Safa I Archie G Daniel P Harris A Charlie G

L4
Iria C
Paul B
Panashe N
Cleon N
Amelie N
Shazil S

U4
Jaxon S
Gabriel O
Lulu T
Clinton N
Ally N
Harry S
Jack D
Rafa R

L5 Ryan Vu Connor D-G Julia Y Basima B Melissa J Imogen W Selisha N Tom O U5
Pranav M
Shriya N
Georgia B
Faith T
Aaron R
Lily A
Jack KF

L6 Abdullah U Fergus C Jacob M G Maria G

U6 Cormac G Isaac McK Jessica W Kian N

Happy Birthday!

Reception - Ottie

Prep 2 - Ozzy

Prep 1 - Hanna

Prep 3 - Miriam

Prep 4 - Sommie, Alvaro, Sylvie-Rose, Saif

Prep 6 - Faith, Victor





Trip to Jodrell Bank Observatory

Despite the rainy conditions, Prep 5 were incredibly blessed to enjoy a fun and informative day at Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire. The day began with exploration in the Planet Pavillion where the children worked a clockwork model of the solar system called an orrery and found out fascinating facts about the universe, galaxy and our solar system.

After an interesting workshop session, the rain eased and the children were able to enjoy some outdoor exploration around the magnificent Lovell telescope. They learned about the history of the telescope via the outdoor exhibits. The students could experiment with gravity just like Galileo and wonder at the ever-popular Whispering Dishes.

They discovered even more about the science of Jodrell Bank in the interactive Space Pavillion. In the state of the art First Light exhibition, they could even dress up as war time spies or see how a marshmallow man would expand on Mars. The children were fully engaged and their curiosity was evident throughout. The brand new Space Dome session was truly captivating. As the children looked up, their heads in the stars, staring into space, they were guided through the night skies in a breathtaking show that I am sure they will never forget. A great day was had by all.

Mrs C Casson, Prep 5C Class Teacher & Mrs H Whipp, Prep 5W Class Teacher







SCIENCE

The Case of the Missing Chocolate Biscuit

At Prep STEM club today pupils used Chromatography to solve the case of the missing chocolate biscuit. They compared the results they gained to the note left at the crime scene to solve the mystery using Chemistry - we definitely have some budding Scene of Crime Officers in the making!

Mrs R Prince, Head of Science and Chemistry



<u>Click here to check</u> <u>out our post</u>

Biology Week

In celebration of Biology Week, students were challenged to complete a quiz testing their knowledge of Biology trivia. Congratulations to the following students who were winners from each year:



Miss Kane, Head of Department, Biology











Black History Month

October is Black History Month, which St Bede's celebrated with the launch of an exciting new campaign to promote diversity and cultural appreciation across the college: the Bedian Diversity Initiative (BDI). This initiative was founded and is co-chaired by Jeanne B and Dara S (both L6) who introduced it to the College via engaging and comprehensive Black History Month assemblies.

Their assemblies placed particular emphasis on celebrating lesser-known Black History figures whose stories and contributions often go unrecognised. They explained that the more we learn about these figures, the more inclusive our understanding of history as a whole becomes, and we acquire the ability to challenge traditionally-centred narratives.

Dara and Jeanne gave an overview of 350,000 years of black history, starting with the first homo sapiens that originated in Morocco; Mansa Musa of the Mali Empire, the wealthiest person in history; Blackamoores in Tudor England and their role in society; Queen Nzinga of Angola, 'The Warrior Queen'; the Fulani Conquest and how it established Islam in Nigeria; and the formation and dissolution of the Zulu Empire. The assemblies ended with a prayer inspired by Simon of Cyrene, a man from Libya who helped Jesus carry his cross, reminding us of the importance of the virtue of friendship and loyalty.

Jeanne B and Dara S (L6), Co-Chairs of BDI



GEOGRAPHY

Lovely Llandudno

The whole of our Lower Fourth had a wonderful opportunity to enrich their Geography classroom learning with a day at the seaside in North Wales. Having split the year group in halves, we had two great days out. The first day's students were particularly lucky with beautiful blue skies; the second day was a little greyer and windier but enjoyable nonetheless. Our students spent the day in Llandudno practising fieldwork data collection techniques and identifying both physical and human Geography.

We started at the quieter West Shore where pupils were able to identify coastal management strategies which protect people's homes and businesses from erosion and coastal flooding. They then had the opportunity to conduct an environmental quality survey on the area before a short walk to move onto the North Shore area for a comparison survey. The North Shore is the main tourist area of Llandudno Bay, situated between the Great Orme and the Little Orme. Here we were able to show and discuss geographical processes with our students, such as the formation of headlands and bays. This gave us an opportunity to stop on the promenade for lunch and then walk towards the Little Orme to see some human geography, including the largest offshore wind farm in the UK and the fifth largest in the world! With fieldwork photos annotated, diagrams labelled and data collected, we found 30 minutes spare to enjoy a spot of souvenir shopping.

The students were engaged, well behaved, and hopefully enjoyed a wonderful day of geographical discovery at the seaside.

Mrs C Smith, Geography Department Teacher



MODERN LANGUAGES

Spanish Immersion in Sierra de Gredos

On Friday 27th October, an excited group of L4th students set off from Manchester with Mrs Reid and Mr Morgan, to embark upon a Spanish adventure in the mountains of Sierra de Gredos. After a stop-off at the UNESCO Heritage city of Ávila with its impressive city walls and cathedral, as well as the students' favourite, the cobbled shop-lined streets with local food treats and human statues, we made our way to Gredos Centre.

At a staggering 2,592 metres, higher than any peak in the UK, the Sierra de Gredos offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside and was the perfect setting for the Spanish immersion course that the students were to follow. Understandably nervous at first, they soon found themselves fully immersed in the language. From communicating with the kitchen staff and each other at mealtimes, to enjoying a variety of activities such as treasure hunts, T-shirt





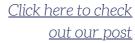


painting, cooking a Spanish omelette, archery and more, they were soon functioning without needing a word of English! All of the students had great fun and learnt a lot, going outside of their comfort zones and being very proud of their achievements.

Natalie was awarded 'Inspired' for her wonderful choreography when leading other students in dance and aerobics activities and her confidence to 'have a go' at answering lots of questions and to read fluently aloud in Spanish to the group. Cleon was awarded the trip prize for 'Committed' due to his enthusiasm for every activity and impressive recall of new vocabulary throughout the five days, plus winning several prizes for participation from the Centre staff. Sophie and Belle were awarded 'Grateful' for their agreeable and smiley attitude to all tasks, being quick to do as staff asked them, and their kind attitude to other students, ensuring that everyone was included in games and activities.

Everyone felt at home at Gredos Centre and we are already looking forward to our next visit!

Mrs M Reid, Head of Department, Modern Foreign Languages









Visiting Theatre Troupe

St Bede's College played host to The Three Inch Fools: a travelling theatre group which brings Shakespeare to schools. The Upper Fifth was treated to an atmospheric performance of Macbeth which skillfully incorporated live music to enhance the dark atmosphere of the play. This was followed after lunch by a series of drama workshops which explored the staging and characterisation of Macbeth - for example, to what extent Lady Macbeth could be viewed as a powerful woman.

We really enjoyed the energy with which the Fools brought Shakespeare to life and feel confident that this will have enhanced the students' understanding of the text for GCSE.

Mr S Howes, Head of English







BEDIAN TALENT



We are incredibly proud of **Annie from Prep 5** who performed live in the studio on the BBC television programme 'Children in Need' on Friday 17th November.

Annie is a member of the Halle Youth Choir and they performed 'You Raise me Up' to raise vital money for Children in Need. Annie's choir was joined by youth choirs from all over the UK and it was a truly heart-warming performance. Annie was part of this very special evening that, this year, saw the UK public going above and beyond to support children and young people across the UK to thrive and be the best they can be. £33.5 million pounds was raised during the three hour appeal show. A huge congratulations to Annie and everyone that took part!



Click here to check out the video





BEDIAN SPOTLIGHT

What Gifts are you Giving this Christmas?

As November draws to a close and December looms, the word Christmas can be heard all around. Many of us have started to draw up our Christmas lists. Whether we are asking for a new phone, TV, DVD Box-Set, Make-up, clothes etc, we are all hoping for some exciting gift to open on Christmas Day morning. However, for many people around the world, their Christmas wishes are a little different. CAFOD is an aid agency which works with some of the world's poorest communities and each year runs the World Gift initiative. Instead of buying a materialistic gift for someone we know,

we can use our money to buy an essential gift for someone we have never met. Our Justice and Peace society has challenged every form at St Bedes to raise money so they can purchase one of these gifts. We have organised a Christmas Jumper Day on Wednesday 6th December, for which pupils are asked to bring in £1 in exchange for wearing their best Christmas Jumper. This money will be used towards their chosen World Gift.

We have reviewed a few of CAFOD's World Gifts to give you an idea of the difference your money can make.

Holly E. L5

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The Goat that gives-£28

This charity gift pays for a goat, goat feed, and training, so that a family living in poverty can generate a steady income and have a healthier diet. This gift is good value for money as goats are extremely versatile animals; they are easy to care for, provide up to twelve pints of milk per week, produce dung that can be used as fertiliser and can eat almost anything. The goats' offspring and milk can be sold, which can allow entire families to become more socially mobile.



Impact:

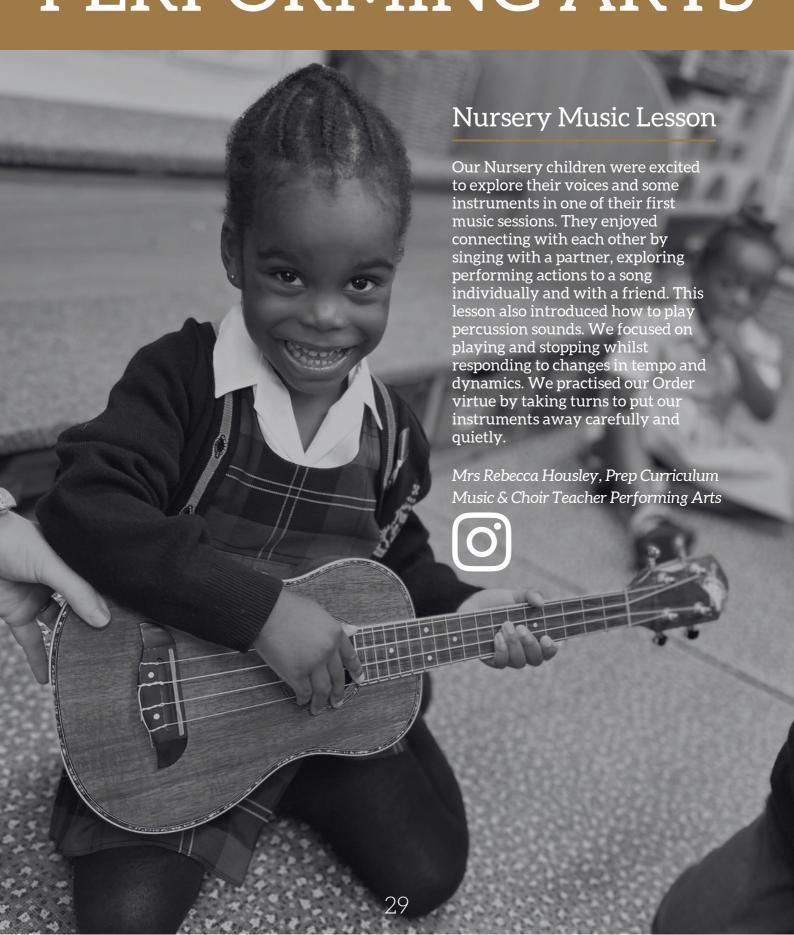


BEDIAN SPOTLIGHT



PERFORMING ARTS

MUSIC &



MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS

GCSE and A Level drama at the 'Metamorphosis' performance

GCSE and A level Drama students were treated to a trip to see a theatre production of Franz Kafka's 'Metamorphosis'.

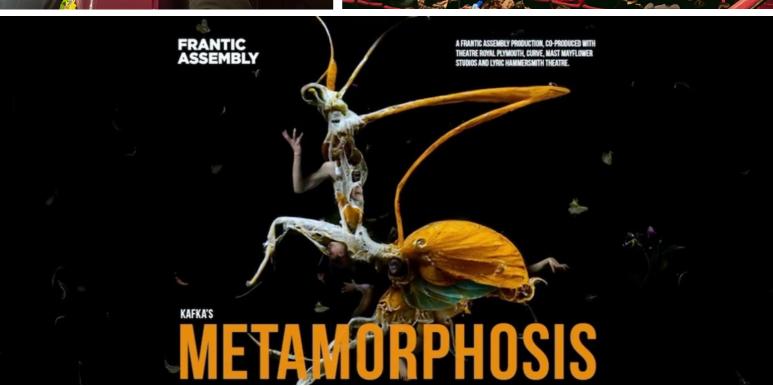
In their first commission since 2019, Frantic Assembly and Lemn Sissay O.B.E. collaborated on this thrilling new adaptation. The fluidity and lyricism of Sissay's adaptation and Frantic Assembly's uncompromising physicality truly made it an original and unforgettable experience. This tale of cruelty and kindness was a visceral depiction of humans struggling within a system that crushes them under its heel.

This wild physical theatre performance defied gravity and allowed our students the opportunity to see one of the country's best physical theatre companies in action.

Mr J Dickson, Director of Performing Arts









University Update

It is an exciting time for our Upper Sixth students as they complete and send their UCAS applications. The process started for them in the Lower Sixth; they are supported in researching courses and providers, editing their personal statements and completing all of the activities that make them stand out as applicants. This, combined with highly personalised references, means that their applications are of excellent quality.

This is evident in the number of offers already received. Among these are: Law at the University of Manchester, Economics and History at the University of Leeds, Psychology at Durham University, Neuroscience at the University of Manchester, and Politics with International Relations at the University of York. Our Oxbridge candidates are now being prepared for interviews.

Dr A McMonagle, Acting Head of Sixth Form



SIXTH FORM

Prefect Process

Lower Sixth students have applied for positions on the Sixth Form Prefect Team, including Head Girl and Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy, House Captains and Senior Prefects. Candidates for Head Girl and Head Boy are preparing to give presentations to the Lower Sixth, which will be followed by two rounds of SLT interviews as well as staff and student votes. We can't wait to introduce our 2024 Prefect Team at Celebration Assembly on 15 December.

Dr A McMonagle, Acting Head of Sixth Form





First round of mock MMI

Now that UCAS applications have been submitted we are turning our attention to interview preparation. Our Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry applicants took part in the first round of mock MMI (or multiple mini interviews).

Pupils' communication skills were thoroughly tested through creative tasks such as guiding the blind-folded interviewer through a maze or completing a puzzle while answering multiplication questions. This was all to help them become more confident and improve before the real interview offers arrive in due course.

Dr A McMonagle, Acting Head of Sixth Form



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SIXTH FORM

Degree Apprentice Speaker - Defence Aerospace Engineering

Our Sixth Form students benefited from an engaging and insightful talk from Daisy Bolton, who is in her second year of a degree apprenticeship with Rolls Royce in Defence Aerospace Engineering. She talked through the process of choosing to do a degree apprenticeship, how she applied for it, and life as an apprentice. Many of our Lower Sixth were intrigued by the idea of earning money, building skills and experiencing student life at the same time.

After the talk, Daisy gave a masterclass in project management to our Engineering Club. The students are taking part in the Formula 1 Challenge - learning fast about the practical skills needed to build and test a mock up mini Formula 1 car. Daisy talked them through the various stages of planning, designing and marketing. She even advised on how to set an agenda, take meeting minutes, and how to make decisions in meetings. Developed to introduce students to STEM subjects in the most engaging way possible, F1 in Schools is an educational project like no other. Informed by engineers and endorsed by F1, this programme sets students on the fast track to STEM success.

Dr A McMonagle, Deputy Head of Sixth Form





SIXTH FORM

Can you offer our students an insight into your company or career?

On 8th February 2024 (6-8pm) we're holding our next University and Careers Fair and are keen to share a wide experience of different jobs and courses with our students. As in previous years, the Fair will take the format of a central exhibition with a number of talks taking place through the evening.

We would love you to come along and give our students an insight into your career, what it involves and how you got there. We are also keen for companies that are offering apprenticeships to exhibit and help our pupils understand why they might apply for one, and how best to prepare for the application process.

To find out more, please contact Mr Hepburn on shepburn@sbcm.co.uk.





<u>Click here to</u> <u>check out</u>





England Senior Debut

Rico Lewis made his England Senior Debut on Monday 20th November against North Macedonia and was awarded Player of the Match.

Rico joined St Bede's in September 2016 and completed his GCSEs in Summer 2021. The 18 year old was part of Man City's treble winning team of 2022-23.

Mr Charlie Woan, Assistant Head (MCFC)











Book Buzz 2023

The BookTrust runs a programme each year, Bookbuzz, which allows students to choose a book to take home and keep. This means they start off the year on a high about reading!

The students have now started to receive their copy of the Bookbuzz book which they selected earlier this term. Each form comes to collect their new books and their enthusiasm permeates throughout the year group. It has been a great way for tutors to get to know what their students enjoy reading, and for the students to start reading their books in the Maher Library.

We have copies of the books on the Maher Library's bookshelves, which anyone can come and borrow. There is plenty of choice between fiction and non-fiction, with a wide range of topics. Once the students have finished their chosen book, a great way to keep the buzz is to swap their book with their friends. Who can read the most Bookbuzz books?

Let's get talking about what we're reading! Parents: find out what your child's book is about, what their favourite part is, if the book was about what they expected, why or why not?

Miss M Pocas, College Librarian

Finished with your current read?

Time to return those overdue Library Books

Feel free to renew if you aren't done



CHAPLAINCY

All Saints' Day

We celebrated All Saints' Day with a moving mass at the College where we remembered all those who are no longer with us and commemorated the triumph of the saints.

Saints were ordinary people that, because of their heroic way of living the virtues and love of God, are now enjoying eternal life at His side and interceding for us.

In his homily, Fr. Alvaro reminded us that we are all called to be saints in the midst of the activities and occupations of our daily lives because being a saint is not about doing extraordinary things, but doing ordinary things with extraordinary love.

Mrs. C Hibbert, School Chaplain

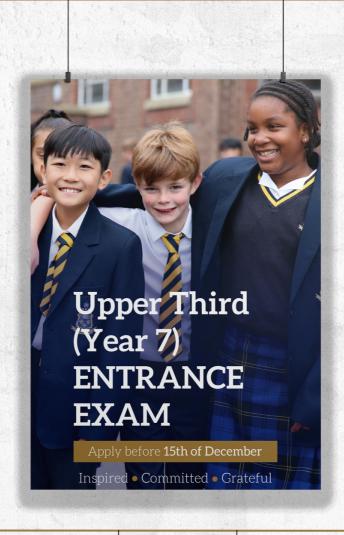
Fr. Alvaro Tintore Espuny arrived at St. Bede's at the beginning of this academic year. In his letter of introduction, he tells us more about his origins and the story of his vocation to the priesthood.







REMINDERS



Preps Christmas Events



Colleges Christmas Events



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Friday, 1 December

9.30am, Feast of St Edmund Campion

Saturday, 2 December

9.30am, Christmas Fair

Tuesday, 5 December

9am, L4 Taster day 2:50pm, Prep 3 Advent Assembly

TICKETS

Wednesday, 6 December

The College Christmas Jumper Day
11:30am, U4 Business Christmas Fair
6pm, Machinal - Sixth Form play
TICKETS

Thursday, 7 December

2pm, Prep EYFS KS1 Nativity
4:30pm, Upper Fifth Parents Evening

Friday 8 December

12pm, Prep Panto Trip

Monday, 11 December

12:30pm, Carol Service at the Hidden Gem 2:30pm, Prep Parent Reflection TICKETS

Tueday, 12 December

The Prep Christmas Jumper Day

12pm, Christmas Dinner

7pm, A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

TICKETS

Wednesday, 13 December

2:30pm, Prep Carols by Candlelight TICKETS

Thursday, 14 December

7pm, College Carols by Candlelight (Refreshments from 6:30 pm)

TICKETS

Friday, 15 December

9am, Mass and Celebration Assembly12:15pm, Upper Sixth Christmas Dinner

CLICK HERE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



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