



ST. BEDE'S
COLLEGE
1876

FEBRUARY BEDE'S NEWS



Mrs M Kemp
Headteacher

Dear Parents,

I am thrilled to share some wonderful news with you – our school inspection report has been released, and I am so pleased with our feedback!

The report reflects the dedication and hard work of our incredible students, teachers, staff, and the entire school community. I am proud of the positive and nurturing environment we have cultivated together. It is particularly fitting that this news comes to you in a month dedicated to focusing on the Virtue of Joy.

I encourage you to take the time to review **the report**. Your support, involvement, and commitment to your child's education have played a significant role in this accomplishment, and we are immensely grateful for it.

During Lent the church calls upon us to embark on a journey of hope; through self reflection we can learn to own ourselves and be able to say sorry. Preparing to accompany Christ through the Passion can help us understand the depth of God's love for us and how we can love each other imitating his example.

Please come and join us for Mass and adoration on Fridays at 8:20am or email the chaplain if you can't attend but would like to College to pray for a special intention.

Kind regards,

Maria Kemp

Dear Parents,

I hope our latest edition of Bede's News finds you well

Our Virtue of the Month was Joy, and it has been a delight to witness our pupils embracing this wonderful virtue. Joy has been visibly present throughout our school during the month of February. To mark the start of Children's Mental Health Week on Monday 5th February, we organised a special event that brought together our entire Prep community. The day started with a vibrant 'Dopamine Dressing Day', where both our students and staff were encouraged to dress in bright colours. This visually uplifting event set the tone for the day and created a joyful atmosphere.

We then kicked off our whole school dance of 'Jerusalema', which brought smiles to everyone's faces. It was heartwarming to see our pupils and staff embracing the joy of dancing. We were thrilled to see so many families joining us at the Wellbeing Walk in Alexandra Park to experience the positive impact of being outdoors in nature. Walking in the park not only allowed us to connect with the beauty of our surroundings, but it also provided a great opportunity to bond with one another and strengthen our sense of community.

We were privileged to host a Kindness Workshop for our Key Stage 2 pupils on Friday 23rd February. This workshop was inspired by the charity 52 Lives, which aims to change someone's life every week of the year. Through acts of kindness, we can not only make a difference in the lives of others, but also improve our own wellbeing. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed this workshop and gained valuable insights into the power of kindness.

During the season of Lent, our faith focus in the coming weeks will be on our journey through Lent and the Easter story, so that our pupils can deepen their understanding and appreciation of this significant time in the Christian calendar. We also look forward to our Prep 4 Easter play, which will be presented in our chapel on Wednesday 6th March.

As we continue on our journey through the school year, fostering joy, promoting wellbeing, and encouraging kindness will remain central to our educational mission.

With my very best wishes for March,

Mrs C Hunt, Head of Prep



Mrs C Hunt
Head of Prep



Dr A McMonagle
Head of Sixth Form

Dear Parents,

In the Sixth Form, we have been focused on study and revision during February, with Upper Sixth students completing their second set of mock examinations.

Lower Sixth were given a presentation on how to study by Mr Sanders, who emphasised the difference between 'being busy' and effective revision.

An interesting point raised was that research shows that students who revise in quiet environments perform more than 60% better in exams than their peers who revise while listening to music.

Our Sixth Form Quiet Room provides an ideal environment for concentrated work and it is wonderful to see so many of our students taking advantage of it. Lower Sixth students will also receive a specialised session on how to study from Elevate Education next week. The company has also advertised this **free webinar** on how to help your child prepare for exams.

Best wishes,

Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form

Virtue of the Month:

Joy

Discover the true magic of joy

In the hustle and bustle of life, joy often becomes a fleeting emotion, sought after but rarely understood. True joy is not found in grand gestures or material possessions; rather, it lies in the simplicity of gratitude, the warmth of connections and the beauty of embracing the present moment.

Joy is not a destination, but a journey, woven into the fabric of our everyday experiences. It thrives in shared kindness, in the echo of laughter and in appreciation for the small wonders of life. It is a state of heart and mind, an authentic appreciation of the richness of our human existence.

So let us redefine joy, not as a search for the extraordinary, but as an appreciation of the ordinary, for in these simple moments we discover the true magic of joy.



January Virtue Winners

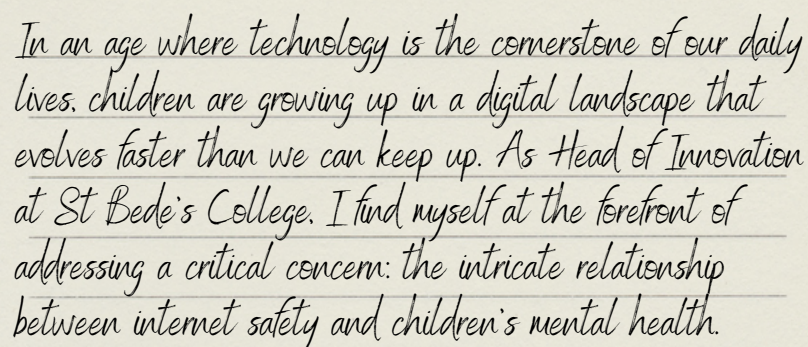
Fortitude



SAFEGUARDING

Mindful Clicks: Safeguarding Children's Minds in the Online World

On the very week of Children's Mental Health Week, Francisco Javier Calmaestra, our Head of Strategy & Innovation explains on a HMC (The Heads' Conference) new blog, how by teaching responsible digital citizenship, we can empower children to thrive and preserve their mental health in the digital age. **The blog begins:**

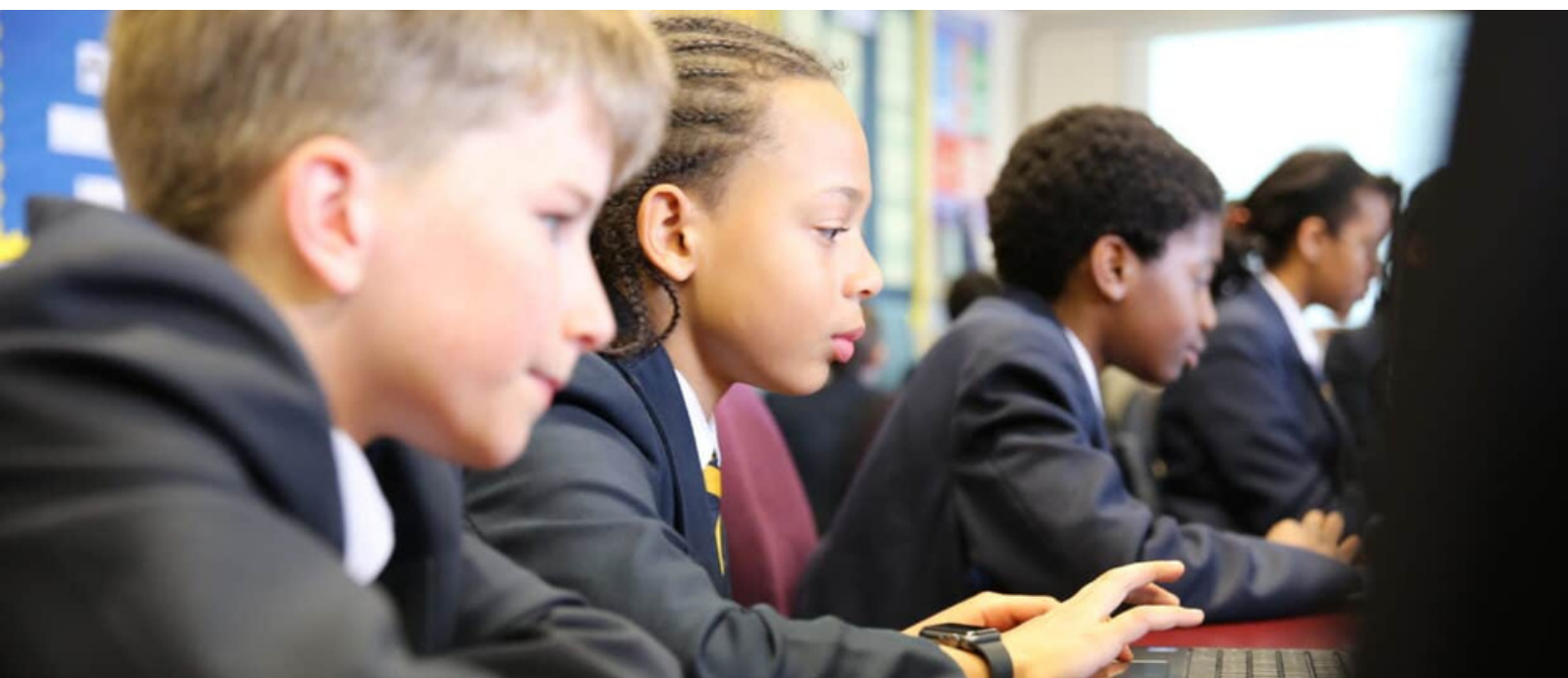


In an age where technology is the cornerstone of our daily lives, children are growing up in a digital landscape that evolves faster than we can keep up. As Head of Innovation at St Bede's College, I find myself at the forefront of addressing a critical concern: the intricate relationship between internet safety and children's mental health.

Mrs C Boylan, Assistant Head (Safeguarding & Ethos) & Mr F Calmaestra, Head of Strategy and Innovation



[Read the full blog here](#)



SAFEGUARDING

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week kicked off in spectacular style on Monday as the whole school tuned into an online assembly which was beamed all over the UK, Europe and as far away as the USA!

It introduced themes around mental health and understanding how kindness can have a positive impact on everyone. The children and staff enjoyed a dopamine dressing day and raised over £170 to donate to the charity **52 Lives**.

Following a quick practice, the whole school came together again to dance together to Jerusalem, it was energetic, joyful and judging by the happy faces, it was a mental health boost for everyone who took part!

The rain held off in the afternoon as we welcomed many parents to join in our wellbeing walk in Alexandra Park. Children were encouraged to do mindful breathing, sky gazing and to appreciate nature.

The week continued with some year groups teaming up together. Reception and Prep 4 joined to do a balloon experiment and Prep 1 and Prep 5 did mindfulness colouring and a team dance.

It has been a fantastic week to celebrate theme **"My Voice Matters"** well done Prep team!

Mrs C Hunt, Head of Prep





Stars of the week





House Point Winners





Dance Certificate



Congratulations Aoife for your
IDTA dance certificates

Bedian Ambassador

Virtue of the Month: Fortitude



U3

Xander E
Alice I
Dara S
Shatia G
Theo F
Harvey C

L4

Batista M
Maxwell T
Archie S
Rafael S
Allura U
Jayden S

U4

Azariah H
Edson D-S
Sienna-
Maya K
Noella M
Zuleka A
Maisie S
Sheriff O
Davi C

L5

Jacob W
Horace L
Joseph D
Martina T
Niquain M
George H
Jacob M
Isla A

U5

Ruben M
Harry D
Reigan H
Zuri A
Charles S
Harry H

L6

Kofi F
Lyndon M
Ross C
Brandon G

U6

Lucas D
Isaac M
Lucas W
Lewis A

Breakfast with the Headteacher

Pupils with the most house points of the half term enjoyed breakfast as a reward for their efforts.



Happy Birthday!

Prep 1
Jessica
Franklin

Prep 2
Si Dong
Charlotte

Prep 4
Robyn
Ellie

Prep 5
Gabrielle
Leah
Patrick
Tuhina

Prep 6
Joseph
Fia
Romilly



Prep Library News

Preps 4, 5 and 6 are writing to Spanish students in Palencia.  



Prep 5's Alexis created a Christmas Reading Challenge and so many of our Prep children took part. It involved taking home a mystery gift-wrapped Christmas book and writing a review. Pictured above are Alexis and the prize winning competition entries.

Mrs G Leyden, Prep Librarian & MFL Teacher

SCIENCE

Upper Fourth Geographers Out and About in Salford Quays and Didsbury

The Upper Fourth GCSE Geographers enjoyed a great day out in the field and were not put off by the cold January conditions. The students (and teachers!) spent a very chilly Wednesday morning investigating the significant changes that have taken place in Salford Quays following deindustrialisation and globalisation, and the subsequent decline of Manchester Docks. The students readily engaged and took full advantage of the opportunity to practise fieldwork techniques, at various locations around the Quays. The focus was to investigate urban regeneration in a central location in Greater Manchester. This included the collection of quantitative and qualitative data, such as environmental quality surveys, pedestrian counts and making judgements on the apparent success of the regeneration.

Practising these skills is good preparation for the students' GCSE fieldwork examination. The later part of the day was spent in Didsbury. The focus here was to understand how Didsbury has grown and changed over time, and how its character and 'feel' has evolved as it has become a busy, in-demand, suburb of Manchester. The students conducted questionnaires and surveys to investigate aspects of Didsbury that are not immediately obvious to the casual observer.

Students' attitude and behaviour was excellent throughout the day, and, considering the cold conditions, a lot of good quality work was completed. Another successful trip from the Geography Department!

Mr D Parkes, Head of Department Geography



HISTORY

Second Edition of History Buzz is Out Now!

The focus of this edition is a special compilation of U6th essays recently submitted for the Versus History Essay Prize. Within the pages of the History Department's magazine, you will discover compelling articles delving into the nature of democracy and various political regimes. Additionally, there are ethical and philosophical reflections on historical matters.

This volume has been curated by editors Aaron A and Charlotte C, featuring contributions from Niav E, Kathryn K, Arran C, Cormac G, James T, and Sonny F. We trust that you will thoroughly enjoy these outstanding essays.

Mr A Power, Head of History Department



[Read the History
Buzz here](#)



BUSINESS

Sixth Form trip to Land Rover Jaguar Factory

Design Technology and Business Sixth Form pupils recently visited Land Rover Jaguar in Solihull for a fascinating factory tour.

We visited the body shop and saw their state of the art production line with its mix of robot and human assembly. This part of the factory has over 300 robots in it; at one stage of the process we witnessed a group of robots putting hundreds of rivets into one car in just 90 seconds!

We were driven around the site to various parts of the factory complex in custom-made safari-style Land Rover vehicles. When visiting the museum the guides discussed the design process and the evolution of the Range Rover, and at the end of the talk pupils were given the opportunity to sit in the latest limited edition Range Rover. The tour guides were extremely knowledgeable and friendly. We were shown many processes and working practices that feature in the course's content, making it an excellent learning experience.

It takes 36 hours for a Range Rover to be made and one is completed every 90 seconds. We watched the end of the production line, witnessing the very latest Range Rovers taking their first steps (wheel spins).

The pupils' behaviour was exemplary, they asked pertinent questions and gave excellent answers.

Miss S Manning, Teacher and Subject Coordinator Design Technology



MATHS

Mathematics Study Weekend

On Friday 9th February, 11 Upper Sixth students accompanied by Mrs Collard and Mr Wright set off for a weekend of Mathematics in the Peak District! We stayed in the YHA Castleton and had exclusive access to a meeting room which was perfect for our study sessions. The students did extremely well in the Mathematics study sessions, completing over 11 hours of Mathematics in two days! They had revision sessions on calculus, trigonometry, parametric equations and completed past examination paper practice.

As well as Mathematics study sessions, we walked into Castleton to sample one of the local cafes where we enjoyed hot chocolate and ice-cream. Evenings were spent playing competitive games of pictionary, getting quizzical and watching a film with plenty of sweet treats!

The Upper Sixth students were fantastic company and we are sure these concentrated mathematics sessions proved very useful and beneficial to all pupils in the run up to their February mock examinations.

Mrs A Collard, Head of Mathematics Department



ENGLISH



Catenian Public Speaking Competition

Dara S kept up the tradition of St Bede's being represented in the regional Catenian Public Speaking Competition with characteristic style. She spoke about her worries for the future, chief among these the state of health care in the United Kingdom.

Dara had a wonderful presence on stage and was highly praised by the competition adjudicators for her warmth and ability to engage the audience. She was awarded second place in the contest and advised that she would have a future in national - or even international - speaking competitions.

The English Department and the College are very proud of Dara's performance and her willingness to participate in such a high-pressure competition. She invested considerable time in preparing for and attending the competition on a Sunday afternoon.

Mr S Howes, Head of English Department

BE BEDIAN

Bedian Talent: Rosie performs in Cinderella

Huge congratulations to Rosie in Prep 5 who shone in her performance of Cinderella. The pantomime which took place at the Contact Theatre, Manchester took place over several weeks and Rosie was a dancer and singer in the show. Her effort, commitment and talent were remarkable and she was a complete professional throughout - a bright future in performance awaits her! Well done Rosie - you shone like the star you are!

Mrs H Whipp, Prep 5W Class Teacher



Bedian Spotlight: Alumni Ellis Simms

Congratulations to our #BedianAlumni, Ellis Simms, for achieving his first senior hat-trick in the FA Cup!

Ellis Simms, who once graced the halls of St Bede's and is now a key player for Coventry City Football Club, departed from our school a couple of years ago. Witnessing his remarkable professional and personal development since then fills us with immense pride.

Here's to Coventry! Here's to Simms!



BE BEDIAN

The Science of Kindness with 52 Lives

KS2 had the pleasure of hosting Krish from **52 Lives**, who delivered a captivating talk. He enlightened us about the science of kindness, illustrating how acts of kindness can enhance heart health, strengthen the immune system, and even decelerate the ageing process!

Additionally, we took some time to create a little special gift, aimed to spread kindness to someone dear. The session concluded with students presenting Krish with the funds collected from our Dopamine Dressing Day—a remarkable £186.30! Congratulations to everyone, and thank you for your kindness!

Mrs H Whipp, Prep 5W Class Teacher and RE and Curriculum Co-ordinator



[Click here to check out our post](#)



SIXTH FORM

Christian Leadership Formation Programme

Stefan Kaminski, Director of the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst, visited our Lower Sixth Students to tell them about an amazing opportunity they can apply for. The charity runs a Leadership Formation programme which offers philosophical, ethical, spiritual and practical formation of tomorrow's leaders.

The course consists of three residential modules in Stonyhurst and London; they are delivered during school holidays and consist of academic lectures and group work, team-building, liturgy, socials, and skills workshops. Bursaries are available, so nothing should hold students back from taking this chance! The course will look very impressive on UCAS applications and is accredited by St Mary's University, London. The Centre has kindly extended their deadline into the first week of March for students of St Bede's. [Click here for more information.](#)

Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form

[Click here for more information](#)



SIXTH FORM

Bedian Diversity Initiative (BDI)

The Bedian Diversity Initiative (BDI) is a student-led campaign aimed at fostering diversity and cultural appreciation through education and events. Originally founded as the African Caribbean Bedian Society (ACBS), the BDI has evolved to become a central platform supporting various cultural societies within the College.

Celebrating cultural heritage is crucial for several reasons: it fosters a sense of identity and belonging, contributing to a person's overall wellbeing and self-esteem; it promotes mutual understanding, dismantles stereotypes, and encourages empathy; it is an essential component of building a rich tapestry of diversity, and it contributes to the vibrancy of human experiences.

The BDI consists of multiple branches: the International Club, Asian Bedian Society (ABS), ACBS, and Hispanic Bedian Society (HBS), each run by Sixth Formers and open to all. The BDI hopes to expand the initiative and continue to develop an increasingly inclusive atmosphere.

Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form

Meet the team



Dara

"Hi, I'm Dara and I am the co-founder and co-chairwoman of the BDI. I take great pride in my Nigerian heritage. Taking inspiration from 'Young, Gifted and Green', a discontinued annual celebration of Irish culture, I founded BDI with Jeanne to extend that sense of pride and community to all cultures represented in our student body. Looking ahead, my future plans for BDI include expanding our initiatives, facilitating more conversations to promote understanding, and ultimately cultivating a community where authenticity is celebrated and where every student feels seen, valued, and proud of their unique cultural heritage."



Ndirira (Jeanne)

"Hi everyone, my name is Ndirira (Jeanne) and I'm the co-founder and co-chairwoman of the BDI. I am ethnically Congolese and I find cultural empowerment to be significant in my life. Constantly going by 'Jeanne', since it is easier to pronounce than Ndirira, meant that I was hiding behind a different identity and pushing away an aspect of myself. However, I now recognise that our names are significant as they carry deep personal, cultural, familial and historical connections. That's why I, alongside Dara, started the BDI, so that we can be prideful and embrace our heritage(s). It's allowed me to be more grounded and confident in who I am and realise that our names alone carry value."

SIXTH FORM

Siena



"Hi, I'm Siena and I am the president of the Asian Bedian Society (ABS). Being Hong Kong-Taiwanese, I am proud to share my traditions and cultures with other people. For me, being part of the Bedian Diversity Initiative, and more specifically the ABS, is to take pride in and celebrate various Asian cultures and traditions. Last year, we spread awareness of Asian culture by selling traditional Asian snacks at the school Christmas Fair and, in the future, I am looking forward to having assemblies about significant Asian Cultural events."

María



"Hi everyone, my name is María. One's culture is a major part of who one is, and it is important that our pupils feel free to share this important aspect of themselves. As President of the Hispanic Bedian Society, I aim to share Spanish and Latino-American culture with people in our community, displaying the outstanding talent and beauty of our traditions. This will not only inform students but also give them an open mind to learn about others' cultures, as well as feel free to express their own. I look forward to sharing the immense culture that the Hispanic community holds."

Shula



"Hello, I'm Shula. I am ethnically Ghanaian and it has been a huge part of my identity and has shaped who I am as a person, which motivated me to join the BDI and share African culture with the Bedian community. As president of the African-Caribbean Bedian Society (ACBS), I am very excited for the opportunities that we have lined up for this year. As senior members of the school, we encourage all lower school students to be active and involved with our clubs."

How to get involved

Our societies aim to amplify diverse voices through collaborative events and projects, encouraging students to become cultural ambassadors. They can join existing societies or establish new ones reflecting their culture. As ambassadors, students actively contribute by organising events and taking the lead on initiatives such as assemblies or fundraising campaigns. We encourage students to join the BDI for opportunities to enhance their university applications, develop leadership skills, broaden perspectives, establish meaningful connections, and actively shape a diverse and welcoming school community.

SIXTH FORM

Past projects

In recognition of Black History Month in October, the BDI launched a comprehensive campaign highlighting the historical significance of the month in promoting diversity and inclusion. The BDI was unveiled through a series of engaging Black History Month assemblies for each year group, sparking excitement and discourse among students and teachers. The focus was on shedding light on lesser-known Black History figures, enriching our understanding of history, and challenging traditionally centred narratives.

The assemblies provided a thorough overview spanning 350,000 years of black history, exploring topics such as the origin of the first homo sapiens, Mansa Musa of the Mali Empire, Blackmoors in Tudor England, Queen Nzinga of Angola, the Fulani Conquest establishing Islam in Nigeria, and the rise and fall of the Zulu Empire. Each session concluded with the introduction of the BDI and a prayer inspired by Simon of Cyrene.

Our successful cultural food stall at the Christmas fair showcased a diverse selection of delightful treats from around

the world, including flavorful Nigerian meat pies and refreshing horchata.

The enthusiastic response generated over £400! This success highlighted the significance of cultural exchange and celebration during the festive season.

We also advocated for inclusive head microphones in school productions as the beige-coloured microphones drew unnecessary attention to black actors. Following our inquiry, positive changes have been made. In the recent Legally Blonde production, non-white actors had the option to use dark head microphones, reflecting our commitment to addressing visibility and representation.

The BDI is a catalyst for change, promoting inclusivity within our school community. These societies provide a platform for students to celebrate, learn, and share, weaving a tapestry of understanding that strengthens community bonds. The BDI is more than an initiative; it is a testament to the power of student-driven change, shaping a more inclusive and vibrant educational environment at St. Bede's.



SIXTH FORM

St Bede's University and Careers Fair

Students from Upper Fourth to Lower Sixth and their parents were invited to St Bede's University and Careers Fair on the evening of February 8th. Despite a handful of institutions having to pull out of the event due to severe weather warnings, the Sports Hall was nevertheless full of representatives from the Universities of Liverpool, Manchester Strathclyde, Stirling, Bangor and Salford as well as Bangor, Lancaster, Edge Hill and Manchester Metropolitan Universities, plus more.

This year, we were delighted to welcome UA92, which offers a range of qualifications, including apprenticeships. The Fair also featured representatives from TUI, McHale & Co Solicitors, the Army and AJ Bell. Attendees listened to speakers from a range of sectors sharing their experiences and advice on various career paths.

Adam Richards from TUI talked to students about his experience as a pilot on the B737. He also introduced the industry-leading Airline Multi-Crew Pilot Licence Cadet Programme delivered by TUI, giving advice on how best to tackle the competitive application process.

This was followed by a presentation from McHale and Co Solicitors, offering insight into the various routes that can be taken to achieve a career in law. The evening was then closed by Malaika Nisbett, a student at the University of Manchester pursuing a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering with Nuclear Engineering. Malaika made attendees aware of the challenges that those wishing to embark on an Engineering course may encounter, and offered guidance on how to overcome them. We are grateful to these speakers for giving up their valuable time for our students.

Miss K Brown, University Admissions Coordinator



SIXTH FORM

PwC & ACEN Event for Black Students

Students of African/Caribbean heritage in Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth recently travelled to PricewaterhouseCoopers' office in Spinningfields to gain a better understanding of apprenticeship schemes and working in professional services.

PwC hosted the event in collaboration with ACEN (African Caribbean Education Network) to raise awareness of various early careers opportunities within their organisation, highlighting their in-person graduate scheme to students of African Caribbean heritage, noting their underrepresentation on these programmes and in these environments nationally.

A guest speaker shared his inspirational journey of moving to the UK from South Africa; after becoming an accountant he

rose through the ranks of PwC where he is now in a successful leadership role.

We also had the opportunity to speak to five students currently enrolled in various in-person PwC graduate programs; we learned about their experiences, asked questions and gained insight into the day-to-day lives of an apprentice.

The event provided a valuable opportunity for students to connect with professionals, engage in meaningful conversations, exchange contacts, and build relationships that could lead to future collaborations. It successfully fostered a supportive and inclusive environment for black students to thrive in the business world.

Dara S and Shula S, Lower Sixth Students



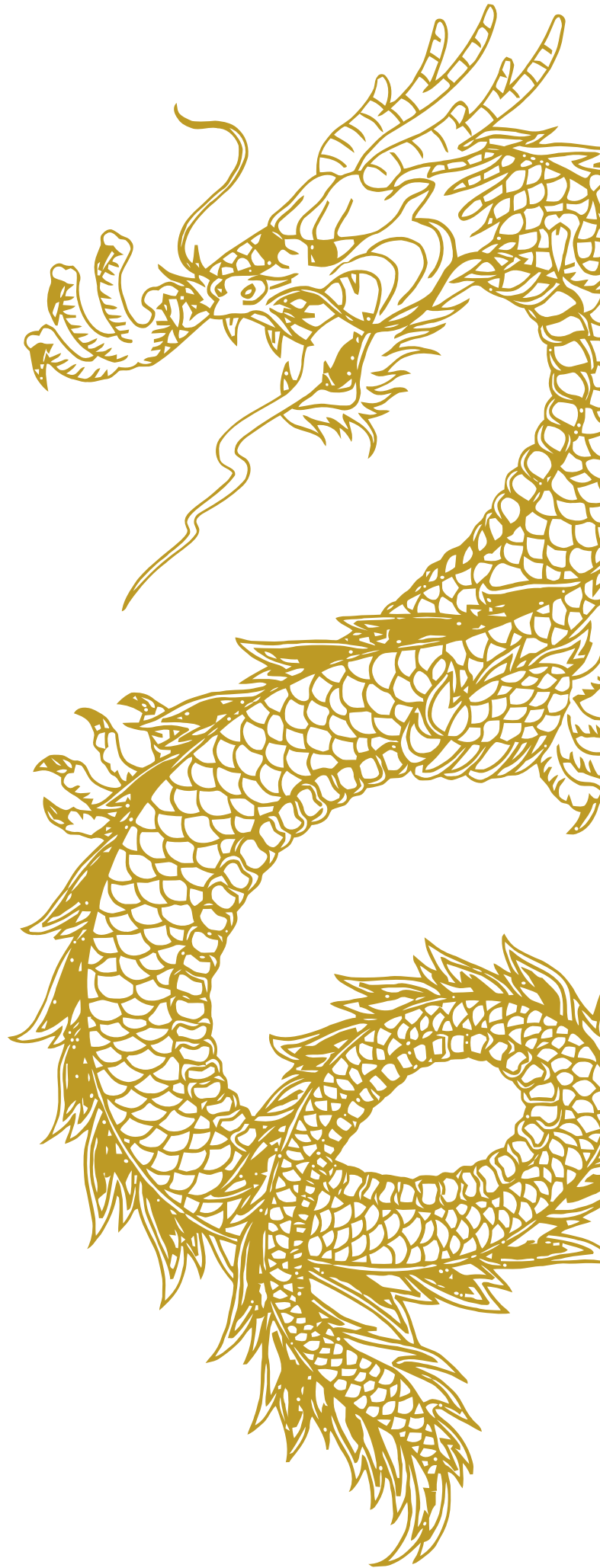
The Year of the Dragon

As part of the Bedian Diversity Initiative, we aim to share the pride of our cultures to both educate and celebrate. Lamie, as the president and vice president of the Asian Bedian Society, and I have been delivering assemblies to pupils from U3 all the way to L6 to welcome the coming of one of the most culturally significant festivals – Chinese New Year.

This year's Chinese New Year runs from the 10th to 25th February and 2024 is the year of the dragon. Different dates have different meanings, such as on the 5th day we stay at home for the God of Fortune to come around and receive his blessings. Food such as rice cake and steamed fish are served during the New Year's Eve dinner.

Dragon dance is performed and red decorations are put up (we also put these up around the College campus with the help of some pupils!). This year, I am so grateful to have been given this opportunity to share my culture and show how Chinese New Year is celebrated in action. We hope everyone learned a little bit more about this deeply rooted tradition from our assemblies and had fun! It is not just about celebrating the first day of the year, but a way to bond and hold on to who we and our ancestors are, especially being far, far away from home.

Siena H, Lower Sixth student



SIXTH FORM

Manchester High School's 10th annual MUN conference

Students from Lower Fifth to Upper Sixth attended the Manchester High School's 10th annual Model United Nations conference, where they debated a wide range of issues and topics that are currently prominent within the world's political sphere. Model United Nations is a co-curricular club whereby students replicate the real life United Nations by debating current affairs from the perspectives of their allocated countries. The countries that we represented within this conference were Sudan and Canada.

As part of the Bedian Diversity Initiative, we aim to share the pride of our cultures to both educate and celebrate. Lamie, as the president and vice president of the Asian Bedian Society, and I have been delivering assemblies to pupils from U3 all the way to L6 to welcome the coming of one of the most culturally significant festivals – Chinese New Year.

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It was a brilliant conference and a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to meet like-minded people and to make long-lasting friendships. The students even received a personalised video of well wishes from the Deputy Secretary General to the United Nations: Amina J. Mohammed. She wished pupils at the conference good luck, and inspired them to think about the further impact of their participation and interest in MUN on their lives and future selves.

If your child would be interested in attending the next conference with us, please contact Miss Moore (mmoore@sbcm.co.uk) for more details and information on this. Model United Nations is open for students from Upper Fourth all the way through to Upper Sixth.

Miss M Moore, English Teacher and Head of House for Siena



Deputy Secretary General
to the United Nations:
Amina J. Mohammed

SPORTS



Ski Trip to Andorra

In the early hours of the 10th February, 27 St Bede's College students along with 6 members of staff headed off to the snowy mountains of Andorra for our annual school ski trip. Andorra is a beautiful country nestled in the Pyrenees between Spain and France.

Day 1 demanded an early start as the students needed to be fitted for skis and ski boots before meeting their instructors and hitting the piste. The students all took to skiing with ease and, before long, were happily gliding about the mountain. Fortunately for us the sun shone nearly every day. In the mornings, on the bus to the ski area, awards were given out for various achievements on the previous day; a pink tutu was worn by the most elegant skier while a hi-vis jacket was awarded for the best wipe-out (Mrs Brewer was the first to wear the jacket).

The fun did not stop when we came off the slopes: we went bowling, had a pizza night and visited a famous local spa where we could swim outside under the stars. On the final evening we had a quiz followed by an awards night where everybody received an award. These included top skiers of the trip (Elise and Sol), most improved skiers on the trip (Olivia and Joe D) along with Prince and Princess of Andorra (Harper and Kitty). It would be fair to say by the end of the trip every single student had made significant progress in their skiing.

The staff would like to thank all the students for being awesome holiday companions and this was echoed by the ski instructors who said that they were the best behaved students they had taught.

Mrs C Brewer, Mathematics Teacher & Mr D Piskorz, Physics Teacher and Head of Champion House



[Click here to check out our reel](#)

Maher Library

The Sixth Form Review is Out Now!

In the fourth issue of The Sixth Form Review, our students bring us an engaging journey through college life. From reflections on the transition to adulthood, and the latest events at St Bede's to updates on different initiatives such as The Bedes Diversity Initiative (BDI); a student-led project that has been in the spotlight during Black History Month.

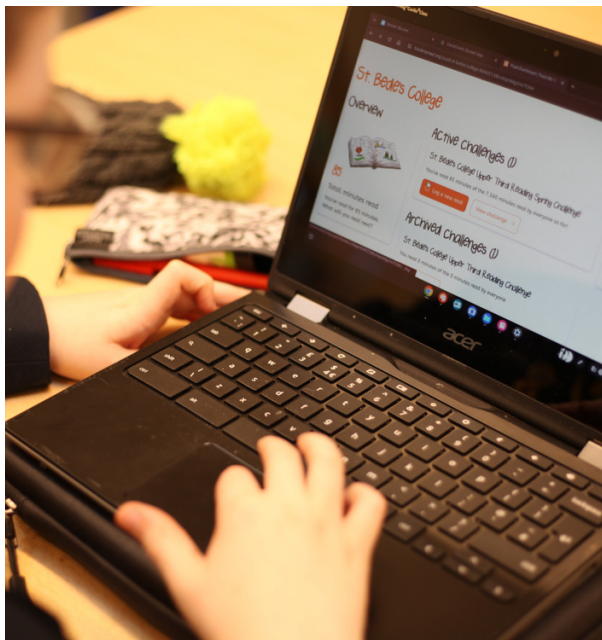
Don't miss any of this news and much more, all told by Sixth Form students.



[Read the Sixth Form Review here](#)



Maher Library News



Track My Read

February 2024 in the Maher Library has seen the start of new initiatives. It started with the launch of **'Track My Read'** in St. Bede's College, which is a free tracker to help engage children and young people in reading for pleasure. It's easy to set up; children log what they choose to read, the time spent reading and then rate their enjoyment.

Upper Third forms are competing against each other and looking at the results, which is exciting! The form to reach 1,000 minutes by the 22nd March is the winning form. Good Luck Upper Thirds!

Blind Date with a Book

The next new initiative was 'Blind Date with a Book'. Students chose books for their peers and wrapped them up in Valentines-themed wrapping paper. The wrapped books had a label with the genre, the age rating of the book and three word description of the book.



Mary's Meals

Our most recent initiative is Mary's Meals Sponsored Read. Thanks to your generosity, we have managed to raise almost £815. Please continue supporting our readers and help us to reach our goal of raising £2,000 for Mary's Meals.

[Donate here!](#)

Miss M Pocas, College Librarian

HOUSES

Campion House Valentine's Fundraiser

Selling over £350 worth of Valentine's Rolos is an incredible achievement for Campion House, showcasing the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of our House Captains, Eviemae C and Jolie S.

This achievement not only signifies our commitment to supporting our chosen charity, but also highlights the unity and determination within our House community.

Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser by buying Rolos. The question is do you love anyone enough to give them your last Rolo?

Mr D Piskorz, Head of Campion & Teacher of Physics



[Click here to check out our post](#)



CHAPLAINCY

Lent

Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, it is a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal. As we journey through Lent, Mrs Hibbert will issue a weekly Lenten reflection of scripture and prayer, enabling us to embrace the opportunity for self-examination and growth,

as we draw inspiration from the teachings of Christ. The three pillars of Lent - prayer, fasting and almsgiving - allow us to deepen our relationship with God in preparation for Easter, and the fullness of life promised by Our Lord's resurrection.



Third week of Lent (26 Feb-1 March)

Scripture Passage

The Lord says: I will cleanse you from all your sins. I will give you a new heart and put a new Spirit inside you. I will take away your stony heart and give you a heart obedient to My will.

Ezekiel 37

Prayer

Through Baptism You cleansed me from my sins and gave me new life. Through my Lenten practices, heal the wounds which my sins and selfishness have caused. Purify my mind and heart so that I might always be obedient to Your will. I ask this through Christ Jesus. Amen

CHAPLAINCY

Fourth week of Lent (4-8 March)

Scripture Passage

The Lord is my Shepherd. He gives me everything I need. He gives me strength and guides me. His goodness and His Love will be with me all the days of my life.

Psalm 23

Prayer

*Heavenly Father, open my heart to Your love. Help me to treat others as Your Son has taught us. Help me to be merciful, kind, patient, and forgiving. I ask this through Christ, Your Son and our Lord.
Amen.*

Fifth week of Lent (11-15 March)

Scripture Passage

Show me Lord, Your ways and lead me on the straight path. I believe that I will see Your goodness, Lord, in the land of the living. I will wait for You with courage.

Psalm 27

Prayer

*Heavenly Father, help me to turn away from bad and to live in Your Grace. Inspire me by the love of Your Son and guide me by His example. I ask this through Jesus our Lord.
Amen*

Mrs C Hibbert, School Chaplain



CHAPLAINCY

Two years ago, I organised a surprise birthday party for a school friend who, for many years, has been suffering from a very serious degenerative illness.

I spoke to his wife, arranged the cake and candles, venue and menu, and invited some other friends, but could not think of anything to give him as a birthday present.

It was then that another of my friends suggested buying him “an experience”. At first, I didn’t understand what “buying an experience” meant until my friend told me about the different vouchers offered online ranging from a message or an escape room to skydiving, bungee jumping, or going skiing on sand dunes in Africa.

We live in a society where more and more people seek strong sensorial experiences. And whereas there is nothing intrinsically wrong with it, we run the risk of turning our life into a succession of superficial and sensorial experiences and so becoming “experience junkies”; and what is worst, by doing so we can neglect or miss the greatest experience we have all been called to: the experience of our faith.

During the period of Lent, the Church invites us to another type of experience, one of repentance and conversion. This spiritual experience, unlike the sensorial and superficial one, can become when we welcome and embrace, with an open mind and heart, a transforming and healing experience.

At the core of this experience stands the sacrament of reconciliation. In this, we are given the opportunity to recognise our sins and ask God for his pardon and forgiveness but, above all, we are presented with the love and mercy of God. No Gospel scene portrays better the essence of this sacrament than The Parable of the Prodigal Son. This Gospel passage narrates the embrace of the father to his younger son who, poor, sad and dressed in rags, returns home after having squandered the father’s inheritance.

It is precisely this healing and paternal love that we encounter in the sacrament that empowers us to restart our Christian struggle again, aided by the help and grace of God. And so during this time of Lent, we want to invite you to live the strongest and the most transforming experience of all, that of experiencing the love and forgiveness of God in your own life. A fresh start for our journey of faith!

Fr. Alvaro Tintore



*During this term, at St Bede's we have dedicated one of the year group assemblies to explaining the beauty and healing power of this sacrament and have given the opportunity to students to go to confession. **We want to make this experience available to parents, so we will be offering confessions after the 8.20am and 9am Masses on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.***



REMINDERS




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Please join us for our first PFA

BEDE'S & BRUSH

EVENT 'SUNFLOWERS & BUBBLES'

Friday 8th March 2024
7.00pm until 9.30pm
at St Bede's College

Paint whilst enjoying a drink, some nibbles and time with friends. This event is for mothers and daughters, who are welcome to invite mothers and daughters of friends and family. Each attendee will need a ticket each. Take away your work of art as a perfect gift for Mother's Day or just for yourself
Ticket price : £15 (available on FIXR). Price includes all materials

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Monday, 4 March
U5 & U6 Mock Examinations

Tuesday, 5 March
9:15am Open Morning
6:00pm Scholars' Dinner

Wednesday, 6 March
2:30pm Prep 4 Easter Play

Thursday, 7 March
4:30pm U5 Parents' evening

Monday, 11 March - Friday, 15 March
STEM week

Thursday, 14 March
4:30pm L6 & U6 Parents' evening

Thursday, 21 March
9:00pm House point winners breakfast
4:30pm L4 & L5 Parents' evening
7:30pm Prep 6 Play

Friday, 22 March
3:50pm Term ends

[Click here for further information](#)



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