



ST. BEDE'S
COLLEGE
1 8 7 6

Save the Date!

Christmas Fair

*Saturday 7
December, 09:30-
12:30*

End of term

*Tuesday 17th
December
12:00pm*

BEDE'S NEWS

November 2024

Dear Parents,

November is truly a special month. Together with the whole country we remember those who fell during combat defending the very British values which define us as a nation. And together with the whole Catholic Church we pray for those who have left us, thanking God for their lives and praying for those they leave behind.

With that purpose we started the month with a special Mass for old Bedians and their families. It is always a privilege to get to know alumni and hear their stories and memories from their time as pupils in the College.

The transition period for U3 students came to an end with their three day retreat and team building trip. It was a great success and they all had a wonderful time.

After a gruelling two weeks of examinations we finish the month with the Scholars' Dinner. This event creates an opportunity for our U5 and 6th Form students to hear directly from speakers about different careers and learn what a networking dinner may look like in the future.

I know in the next few weeks I will welcome many of you as you visit the College for parent-teacher evenings and the different Christmas events the children have been preparing for you.

Kind regards,

Mrs M Kemp, Headteacher



THE PREP

As we reach the end of November, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our virtue of the month: Respect. This theme has resonated particularly strongly during Remembrance Week and Anti-Bullying Week, where we embraced the message of 'Choose Respect'. At St. Bede's, we take immense pride in our unique and diverse community, and fostering respect for ourselves and one another is at the heart of our ethos.

Our Outdoor Learning programme continues to flourish, with an increasing number of lessons being held outside, particularly in Maths and Science. This approach not only enriches our curriculum but also engages our pupils in a dynamic learning environment. Recently, Miss Harrison and Mrs Eddison led our Prep 3 Bedian Rangers on a delightful trip to Marbury Country

Park in Northwich, where the children had a wonderful day exploring and enjoying nature.

Moreover, our Prep 6 pupils have been actively engaging with Mrs Kemp as they prepare for their transition to the senior part of the College. It has been a joy to witness their enthusiasm and creativity during their presentations on a variety of topics.

As we look forward to December, we are excited to welcome our families to our upcoming Christmas events. Your generous donations towards the PFA Christmas Fair on Saturday, 7 December, are truly appreciated and will certainly help create a wonderful occasion for all.

With my best wishes for December,

Mrs C Hunt, Head of Prep



THE SIXTH FORM

November's virtue of Respect is integral to fostering a Sixth Form community rooted in trust, where each person's inherent dignity is recognised. Our Common Room is a place where the diversity of student experiences is implicitly recognised and respected.

Respect extends beyond relationships with others –it also encompasses students' attitude towards their studies, especially in a month where our Upper Sixth students have completed their first set of mock examinations. Respect for studies is shown when students approach their learning with dedication and diligence. By completing assignments on time, actively participating in lessons and striving for excellence, they acknowledge the sacrifices made by their families and teachers to support their education.

Respect in studies also involves an openness to learning. A former Head Girl and Cambridge graduate recently explained to our Sixth Formers that the best thing they can do is to embrace mistakes and stop expecting to have all the answers: curiosity is key. By listening attentively to teachers, seeking help when needed, and engaging thoughtfully with different perspectives, students show a willingness to grow. This attitude acknowledges that every lesson, no matter how challenging, contributes to their development as individuals and their ability to make a difference in the wider world.

Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form



BEDIAN AMBASSADORS

Students who best exemplified October's virtue of the month, *Friendship and Loyalty*

| Upper Third | Lower Fourth | Upper Fourth | Lower Fifth |
|---|--|---|---|
| Caroline K Amelia T-P Luca P Oceanna Y FJ O Dean T | George T Alanna G Bertie E Jakayah S-P Desman N Mikey A | Etincelle M Ehiabhi A Henry P Tino N Alfie O Jacob L | Marco M Nathan A Anna H Olivia J Lily P Azariah H Leo P |
| Upper Fifth | Lower Sixth | Upper Sixth | |
| Ethan K Basima B Tom O Makeda M Jay M Ricardo R Kermani D | Elsie H CJ K Solomon T | Maria G Bridget S Siena H | |



PREP VIRTUE WINNERS

October





UPPER THIRD RETREAT TO ALTON CASTLE

On Wednesday, November 6th, the Upper Third embarked on their annual retreat

This year, we ventured to a new location: the neo-Gothic Alton Castle, nestled in the hills of the Chutney Valley, Staffordshire.

Upon arrival, the pupils were introduced to the castle's Rooted programme, a central theme that would weave throughout their three-day visit. We wasted no time diving into action, participating in fun, team-building activities in their form groups, including archery, trekking, and the low-ropes challenge. By evening time, the pupils were buzzing with excitement to see their rooms in the castle and explore its awe-inspiring architecture.

The day ended with a special moment of reflection: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the castle's church, illuminated by candlelight. The serene atmosphere left a profound impression, and the day concluded with hot chocolate before bedtime—a peaceful end to an eventful day.

Thursday was packed with even more activities! Throughout the day's outdoor adventures, pupils paused to meditate on the natural beauty surrounding them and listened to the group leaders share inspiring testimonies about their faith journeys.



When asked about their favourite activities, the Upper Thirds had this to say:

"I really liked the trek through the woods and the countryside. It was great to spend that time with our forms. Father Alvaro joined us, and Raph and I walked with him. It was so interesting to have a conversation with him. He shared stories about his life as a priest, and it was such a relaxing walk." – Toby

"I thought the low-ropes activity was the most fun. We worked

through an obstacle course as a team to overcome challenges. It was so funny, and Mr. Cank was such a good team leader, helping us!" – Fia

The day's highlights included Mass offered by Father Chris Yule, concelebrated by Father Alvaro, and a lively talent contest. Amanee captivated everyone with her rendition of "Part of Your World" from The Little Mermaid, while Cole had the whole year group partying to Justin Bieber's "Baby." Spirits were high as the final evening came to a close.





"The church on the castle grounds was so peaceful. It was really relaxing to go in there before bed."

"The talent competition was hilarious!"

On Friday morning, we squeezed in one last outdoor activity before wrapping up with prayer groups. During the closing prayer, the pupils expressed gratitude to their parents, teachers, and the Alton Castle staff who made the retreat possible. Many also took the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of

Reconciliation, offered by Father Alvaro.

"What an unforgettable retreat! Spending two days living in a castle, surrounded by nature, engaging in outdoor activities, praying, and building friendships was a unique and enriching experience. Times of prayer and reflection seamlessly alternated with moments of teamwork and outdoor challenges, delivering a powerful message: we are called to lift our hearts to God, not only amidst the beauty of creation but also in the midst of a





busy schedule.

The highlight of the retreat, however, was in the chapel. The Eucharistic Adoration on Thursday night offered a moment of stillness, silent prayer, and deep reflection. For me, it was the pinnacle of the entire trip. Ending the day in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, in such a beautiful chapel, was truly a blessing."

– Father Alvaro

Before leaving, the Alton Castle team shared an inspiring analogy

based on the life cycle of a tree: just as fruit carries seeds to continue the cycle, we are called to be rooted in faith and spread the Gospel. As a final act of prayer, pupils tied ribbons to the castle gates, dedicating their intentions.

Tired but happy, the year group boarded the coach, ready to return home closer in friendship and closer to God.

Mrs. Ward - Head of Upper Third





THE SCHOLARS' DINNER

Our Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth students truly enjoyed our annual Scholars' Dinner. This year, we heard from experts in the fields of Medicine, Psychology, Health and Safety and Publishing.

One of our esteemed guest speakers was Jenny Darlow, Consultant Paediatric Haematologist at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. An Old Bedian, Jenny studied Medicine at the University of Cambridge and graduated with a Distinction in Final MB, as well as an intercalated degree in genetics. She specialises in non-malignant paediatric haematology, in particular haemoglobinopathy and thrombosis. Jenny also has experience in presenting at national conferences and has published in scientific journals, including several opinion pieces or the British Medical Journal. She is currently on her second maternity leave; we all enjoyed adoring her beautiful baby

daughter at the event. Our students loved chatting with Jenny at dinner and finding out more about the reality of studying and working in the medical field.

We welcomed Jess Evans as our next speaker. Having attended St Bede's College, she went on to graduate from the University of Cambridge with a BA Psychology and Behavioural Science (First Class with Distinction and top of her cohort). She now works for the Department for Education as a Policy Designer specialising in applied behavioural insights. She is also an advisor to Youth Futures Foundation and the National Citizen Service Trust. She



shared some excellent advice on the value of being curious and accepting errors rather than striving for perfection.

We were also delighted to have Carl Owen with us, who demonstrated to our students that a career need not run in a predictable, straight line. Carl is a Chartered Safety Professional, Chemist and qualified teacher with many years' postgraduate international experience within the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, and has worked in the education,

consultancy and retail sectors. He is now Head of Safety, Health and Environment (Macclesfield) at AstraZeneca (when he is not training for triathlons and taking care of his lovely family).

Juliette Tomlinson was our final speaker, and entertained us by reading from her recently published novel. A publishing sales professional, Juliette's most recent role has been as part of a large sales team at Oxford University Press. She has represented a wide variety of genres, including children's





literature, art, travel, politics, educational and cookery titles. Juliette writes for pleasure in her spare time and is an eager and constant reader. Her first novel, 'Longford', was published in September by Wooden Books; it is the first of a Manchester trilogy, which is out now, with 'Sunnyside' to follow soon. It was wonderful to hear about her writing journey and what she learned along the way; her talk was both interesting and inspiring.

The evening ended with a delicious

formal dinner and a lovely opportunity for Upper Fifth students to mingle with Sixth Formers. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form





LOVELY LLANDUDNO (EVEN IF IT WAS A BIT CHILLY!)

The Lower Fourth loved the opportunity to enrich their Geography learning with a great day at the seaside in North Wales.

Taking each half of the year group on separate days, we had two fantastic trips to lovely Llandudno.

The students on the first trip were particularly lucky, as, although it was chilly, there was no rain. In fact, much of the day had clear blue skies. The weather was not as good for the students on the second trip; it was colder and windier, with one particularly sudden downpour of rain, but it was an enjoyable day nonetheless. On both days, students spent time day in and around the town of Llandudno, known as the

Queen of Welsh Resorts, practising fieldwork data collection techniques and identifying physical and human geography features that have been studied in the classroom.

The fieldwork started at the quieter West Shore location, where students identified coastal management strategies which were protecting people's homes and businesses from erosion and flooding. They then had the opportunity to conduct an environmental quality survey before a short walk to move onto the North Shore area for a comparison.



The North Shore is the main tourist area of Llandudno Bay, situated between the Great Orme and the Little Orme limestone headlands. At North Shore in particular, students got to see first-hand how geographical processes can form spectacular scenery, such as headlands and bays.

Everyone seemed to appreciate the opportunity to stop for a lunch break in the bandstand on the promenade, before heading 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 photos annotated, diagrams labelled and data collected, there was then 45 minutes to enjoy a spot of souvenir shopping on Llandudno High Street.

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

Daniel Parkes & Cornelia Smith - Geography Department



ROCKS, FOSSILS & VOLCANOES SESSION WITH MR PETE LOADER

We were thrilled to welcome back Mr. Pete Loader, a former colleague and esteemed geologist, to speak with our Prep 4 pupils about the fascinating world of rocks, fossils, and volcanoes!

Mr. Loader engaged the children with his expertise, diving deep into the properties of various rocks and sharing incredible insights about the geological processes that shape our planet. The highlight of the session was the display of diverse fossils, including an astonishing T-Rex footprint that left everyone in awe!

The children had the opportunity to explore a dinosaur's trackway, measuring foot lengths and stride

lengths of dinosaur footprints to estimate the hip height of an Iguanodon. With Mr. Loader's guidance, they were able to conclude whether the dinosaur was walking, trotting, or running—an exciting hands-on experience that brought their learning to life!

A huge thank you to Mr. Loader for sharing his passion and knowledge with us. We're inspired and can't wait to continue exploring the wonders of geology!

Eleanor Harrison - Prep Science Co-ordinator



EXPLORING THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE

A GLIMPSE INTO PREP STEM CLUB

The Prep STEM Club has been buzzing with excitement lately, as our young scientists have dived into a variety of hands-on activities designed to challenge their creativity and test their scientific knowledge. It's been amazing to watch the children work together, explore new concepts, and, most importantly, have fun while learning! Here's a glimpse of the exciting experiments and challenges they've been up to recently.

Our STEM explorers kicked off the year with an exciting experiment: filling a balloon without actually blowing it up! By harnessing the power of a chemical reaction, the children mixed baking soda and vinegar to create carbon dioxide gas, which then inflated the balloon in front of their eyes! It was a great way to introduce pupils to chemical reactions and the concept of gases.

The children's creativity and imagination began to flow when the children designed and built their

very own marble mazes! They created intricate paths using a variety of materials. The challenge wasn't just about making the mazes tricky; the children also tested each other's designs, finding ways to improve and optimise them based on trial and error. This was a fantastic exercise in engineering principles, spatial reasoning, and peer collaboration.

Our pupils have also been enjoying participating in STEM challenges, such as the Paper Chain Challenge. Armed with just a single piece of paper, the challenge was to create the longest paper chain possible! The children had to plan carefully, cut with precision, and work collaboratively to extend their paper chains as far as possible. It was a fantastic exercise in problem-solving, teamwork, and creativity. Some of the chains stretched all the way across the room, while others were more compact but just as impressive!





Finally, our pupils have been creating their very own lava lamps! The children learned about the difference in density between oil and water, discovering that water is denser than oil. But the magic really happened when they added effervescent tablets to the mix. As the tablets fizzed and released gas, the water bounced up and down through the oil, creating a mesmerising lava lamp effect. It was a wonderful way to explore both the science of density and the chemistry of reactions.

It's been such a joy to see the children so excited about science. Each activity has not only reinforced important STEM concepts but has also sparked curiosity and encouraged critical thinking. More importantly, the children have had the opportunity to experiment, fail, and try again, enhancing their resilience, whilst also fostering a love of learning and a deep appreciation for the wonders of science.

Eleanor Harrison - Prep Science Co-ordinator



PREP 3 BEDIAN RANGERS TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT OUR LOCAL AREA

Our Prep 3 Bedian Rangers have been hard at work, taking significant steps to protect the environment in our local area.

After Bonfire Night celebrations, the children sprang into action to tackle the litter left behind in Alexandra Park. With great enthusiasm, they helped clear the park, collecting a large bin bag filled with leftover firework packaging and other waste.

It's truly heartening to witness our young pupils actively engaging in environmental preservation. Their efforts serve as a wonderful reminder of the importance of taking responsibility for our surroundings, and we couldn't be more proud of their dedication to keeping our community clean and green.

Through their actions, they are learning valuable lessons about sustainability, teamwork, and the impact that small steps can have in protecting our planet. As a reward for their efforts, the children were treated to some well-deserved playtime on the playground.

Well done, Prep 3, for your outstanding efforts and for being such wonderful eco-warriors! Keep up the great work and continue to inspire others to follow your example.

Eleanor Harrison - Prep Science Co-ordinator



PREP 5 JODRELL BANK TRIP

An Out-of-This-World Experience: Prep 5 day trip to Jodrell Bank

Exploring the Cosmos:

On Tuesday, 5th November, Prep 5 students embarked on an unforgettable adventure to Jodrell Bank Observatory, where they got a hands-on experience of the wonders of space and science. The day was packed with interactive learning and discovery, offering a deeper understanding of our Solar System and the incredible science behind space exploration.

A Journey Through the Solar System

The adventure began in the Planet Pavilion, where students were captivated by the stunning orrery—a mechanical model that beautifully demonstrates the movement of the planets around the Sun. It was a perfect introduction to the vastness and complexity of our Solar System.

Students also had the opportunity to

explore the famous Lovell Telescope, a true icon of Jodrell Bank, and learn about its role in groundbreaking space research. The telescope, which has been in operation for over 60 years, remains a vital tool in the study of distant galaxies, stars, and planets.

Discovering the History and Science Behind Jodrell Bank

As part of the trip, students learned about the fascinating history of Jodrell Bank, which has been at the forefront of radio astronomy since the 1940s. They discovered how the observatory's pioneering work has contributed to our understanding of space, including its crucial role in tracking early space missions.

In the Space Dome, students enjoyed an awe-inspiring show where they





could “zoom in” on planets, stars, and constellations. The experience helped them visualise the vast distances between Earth and distant objects in the universe, making the concept of space feel more tangible and relatable.

Hands-On Learning in the Space Pavilion

One of the highlights of the day was the interactive Space Pavilion, which was filled with exciting, hands-on exhibits. Students explored models of the giant radio telescopes, experimented with plasma balls, and learned about black holes—an area of particular fascination!

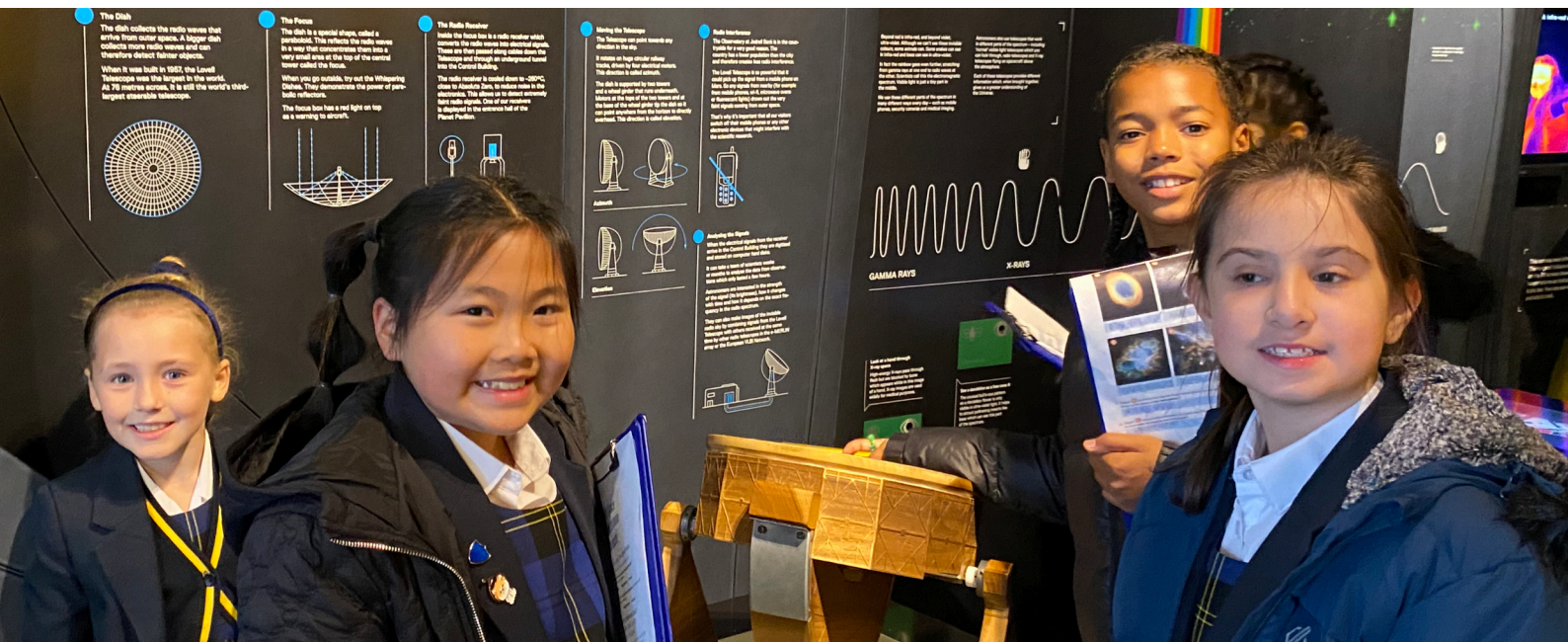
An informative talk about how we use radio telescopes to observe space broadened their understanding of the technology that allows us to peer into the far reaches of the universe, even when it's light-years away.

An Out-of-This-World Experience

Overall, the trip to Jodrell Bank provided Prep 5 with a wealth of knowledge, all while making science fun and accessible. From the interactive exhibits to the immersive shows, it was a day full of exploration, wonder, and learning. The students returned with a renewed sense of curiosity about the universe and the exciting possibilities of space exploration.

We are grateful to Jodrell Bank for offering such an engaging and educational experience, and we can't wait to see how the students will take what they learned and continue to explore the cosmos in the classroom!

Claire Casson - Prep 5 Teacher



EXPLORING NATURE AT MARBURY COUNTRY PARK: A FUN-FILLED TRIP FOR PREP 3

Our Prep 3 Bedian Rangers embarked on an exciting trip to Marbury Country Park, where they had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the beauty of nature and take part in a variety of outdoor learning activities.

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The adventure began in Marbury Country Park's arboretum, where the children eagerly set to work identifying different types of trees. Using their observation skills, they learned to recognise various species, from towering oaks to beautiful Japanese Red Cedar trees. The children were fascinated by the diverse range of trees in the park and enjoyed learning how to differentiate between leaves, bark, and

other identifying features.

Next, Prep 3 moved on to Budworth Mere, a peaceful lake perfect for bird spotting. Armed with binoculars and a sense of curiosity, the children excitedly searched for various bird species. By looking at the birds' physical features, pupils were able to identify several different types of waterfowl and woodland birds, all while learning about their habits.

One of the highlights of the trip was exploring the park's woodland areas. The children enjoyed gathering sticks, branches and other natural materials, allowing their creativity to flourish.





Some students made intricate bug hotels, providing a safe haven for local insects, while others collected sticks and built miniature dens. This allowed the children's imaginations to run wild, using nature to craft all sorts of unique creations in a hands-on way.

The trip to Marbury Country Park was a wonderful way for the children to connect with the outdoors, learn about nature, and develop a deeper appreciation for the environment around them. Whether they were

identifying trees, spotting birds, or simply enjoying the fresh air, the children revelled in the chance to take part in hands-on learning in such a beautiful, natural setting. It was a wonderful outing - one that reinforced the value of outdoor education and the importance of fostering a love for the natural world.

Eleanor Harrison - Prep Science Co-ordinator



Budworth Mere - A wetland refuge and wildlife

Budworth Mere is the third largest mere in Cheshire. It was formed during the last Ice age and is now an important water body for many resident birds as well as a refuge for migrating waterfowl. The mere, which is between 2 metres and 10 metres in depth, is host to a range of coarse fish including Pike, Bream and Eel.

The images on the panel represent some of the species you might find here at Budworth Mere.

- Sparrowhawk (R)**
This bird of prey feeds on small mammals and insects. It is a common sight over the mere.
- Long-tailed Tit (R)**
A common winter visitor.
- Blue Tit (R)**
A common winter visitor.
- Tree Toad (R)**
A common winter visitor.
- Bullfinch (R)**
White wing obvious even in flight overhead.
- Dunnock (R)**
Once known as Hedge Sparrow, a ground feeder.
- Starling (R)**
Flocks of thousands gather to roost in the reedbeds, numbers peaking in December.
- Coal Tit (R)**
White patch on back of neck distinguishes it from other tits.
- Kingfisher (R)**
Sometimes perches on branches of tall trees, over the mere.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker (R)**
Common visitor to feeders in winter, breeding in pairs.
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (R)**
Very rare, sparrow-sized bird, only occasionally seen in trees by mere.
- Water Rail (R)**
Rare but common in marshy areas.
- Reed Bunting (R)**
Nesting in the reedbeds, often visiting feeding stations in winter.
- Great Crested Grebe (R)**
Significant numbers in winter, otherwise scarce in spring.
- Mallard Duck (R)**
Most common surface-feeding duck, readily feeds from visitors.
- Nuthatch (R)**
Colourful, large-billed visitor to feeders, breeding throughout park.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust
 Incwim
 Budworth Mere
 Key: R - Resident throughout the year, S - Summer visitor, W - Winter visitor

SELF-DEFENSE SEMINAR FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

ACCLAIMED MARTIAL ARTS PROMOTER AND TEACHER VICTOR THERIAULT RETURNS TO HOST

On the 30th of October, Sixth Form students - along with some Upper Fifth - had the unique opportunity to learn vital self-defence skills from one of the most respected Canadian figures in the martial arts world. Victor Theriault, a renowned martial arts promoter, teacher, and third-degree Black Belt in Jiu-Jitsu, led an engaging and empowering self-defence seminar. Known for his engaging teaching style and extensive experience in various martial arts disciplines, Mr Theriault was widely celebrated by both the teachers and students of St Bede's College for his technical prowess, sense of humour and engaging background story. He made complex techniques and moves seem accessible in the short span of 60 minutes.

Empowering the Next Generation

The seminar was designed to give students practical tools to handle real-world situations such as how to respond if someone were to attack them unexpectedly. For many, this was

their first introduction to the world of martial arts and self-defence, and it proved to be both informative and eye-opening. The event was organised as part of the school's ongoing commitment to promoting student well-being, personal safety, and confidence.

"This seminar is about self-defence, not violence. What is the difference between these two ideas?" Mr Theriault asked before he began the seminar. His philosophy centres on creating awareness, building confidence and teaching students how to address situations before they escalate into violence. More specifically, he wanted students to know that his purpose at St Bede's College was to leave knowing that he gave students tools to protect themselves, not encourage them to engage in unnecessary violence. This was a clear message from the start that flowed through the entire seminar.



A Lesson in Discipline, Awareness, and Confidence

Over the course of the seminar, Mr Theriault demonstrated a range of techniques that could be used in self-defence situations. The focus wasn't on advanced fighting tactics, but rather on simple, effective moves that anyone can apply in a moment of danger. Students learned how to break free from holds (such as bear hugs), defend against grabs (including wrist grabs), and protect themselves if confronted with an attacker. This included brief instruction on striking techniques, as well as effective body positioning such as the 45 degree and horse stance. He even explored his well-known Relax-Explode theory, which is designed to catch opponents off-guard.

Through a mix of demonstrations, which included Mr Lee and some enthusiastic students, and paired practice, the students quickly grasped the importance of body posture, positioning, and confidence. Mr Theriault emphasised that self-defence isn't about fighting; it's about assessing and controlling the situation, staying calm, and using your environment to your advantage.

TaeBo Reboot: A Revolution in Gaming

At the end of the seminar, a few students got the opportunity to be the first in Europe to try the upcoming video game TaeBo Reboot. This is Mr Theriault's new passion project. In this virtual reality

video game, players can train in various fun and exotic locations and work on their striking skills, receiving feedback from the famous trainer Billy Blanks, the inventor of TaeBo. This video game launch came from the desire to support young people to be more active, and focus on both their physical and mental health.

CJ, a student in the Lower Sixth claimed, 'The game is technical and, most importantly, fun. You are able to learn the fundamentals of Boxing while also having an immersive experience in the world of Virtual Reality!'

A Lasting Impact

As the students left the seminar, many seemed visibly more confident, smiley, and with new perspectives on how to handle potentially dangerous situations, both physically and mentally. It was clear that the lessons imparted would stay with them long after the session ended.

For Mr Theriault, it was another opportunity to inspire the next generation to live with confidence, resilience, and the knowledge that their safety—both physical and mental—is always in their hands.

Jordana Theriault - Sixth Form Enrichment Coordinator





U4 AND L5 WATCH BLOOD BROTHERS AT THE PALACE THEATRE

On Wednesday 20th November the U4 and L5 drama students braved the cold to watch Blood Brothers on stage at The Palace Theatre. Blood Brothers, a musical by Liverpoolian playwright Willy Russell, revolves around twin boys (Mickey and Edward) who are

separated at birth and brought up in completely different environments in the city. The play, set in the 1960s, is divided into two acts, with songs throughout.

Jonathan Dickson - Director of Performing Arts

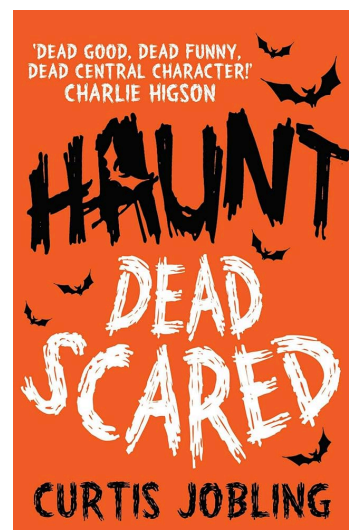
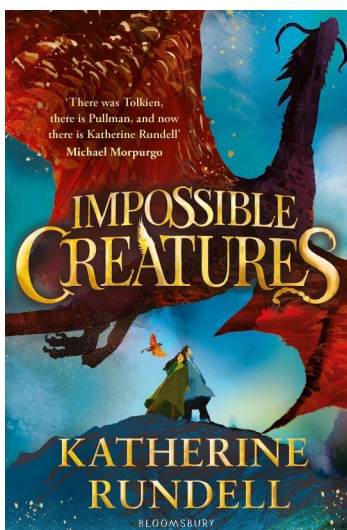
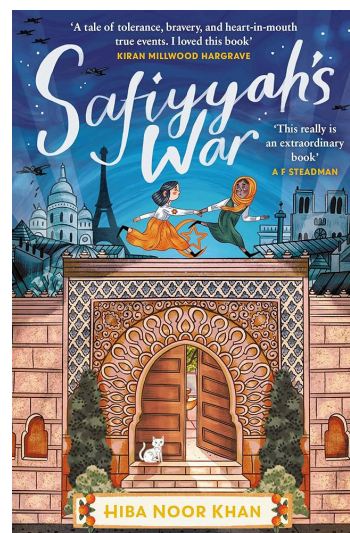
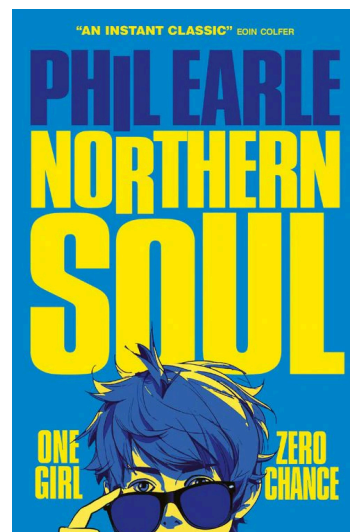
CHESHIRE SCHOOLS BOOK QUIZ 2024/5!

St. Bede's are participating oncemore in the Cheshire Schools Book Quiz! Our wonderful team of Upper Third pupils, consisting of Debora T, Victor P, Josep SB and Caroline K are excited about the first round of quizzes for this exciting competition.

Over the next few months, the group will read and discuss the set books by the Education Librray Service. The quizzing will happen over the next few months and our scores will be sent off to the examiners for marking. From this, four schools are selected to take part in the Final.

The quiz is designed to foster an interest in, and enthusiasm for reading in pupils, and to focus attention on the school library and its role in developing literacy and reading promotion. This is a fantastic opportunity for the pupils who are taking part and we wish them the best of luck!

Miss M Moore, Literacy Lead





U13 BOYS FOOTBALL COMPETE AT THE ENGLAND TEAM'S TRAINING BASE

Over the weekend of the 23rd and 24th of November, Mr Griffin and Mr Mitchell took several members of the U13 Boys football squad to compete at a prestigious 16 strong school competition. Even more prestigious was that it was held at St Georges Park, and so St Bede's pupils had the opportunity to showcase their footballing talent on the same pitches that the current England Senior team players had trained on.

On Saturday, the students topped their group with 9 points, winning all three matches against independent schools from the south of England. Josh C proved a significant handful for the opposition defences. This meant that the team had qualified joint top along with Wellington for the Sunday's knockout stages. After the group stage the pupils were able to enjoy the world class facilities on-site, including futsal, hydrotherapy and the games room, all helping to cultivate a wonderful team spirit across the boys.

On Sunday, the team carried on their momentum as they went through the quarter final and semi final rounds in

impressive style. This set up a grand final against the other undefeated team, Wellington, to take the coveted trophy home. It was a tightly contested match with both teams displaying great technical ability and strong defensive capabilities. The first goal was going to be crucial and sadly, Wellington scored it to lead 1-0 at half time. In the second half, St Bede's peppered the Wellington goalkeeper with shot after shot, relentlessly attacking. However, even with significant pressure and several near misses, they were just unable to find an equaliser.

Though finishing as runners-up, the U13s showcased exceptional skill and resilience throughout the whole tournament, leaving with heads held high after a weekend to remember. Special mention should go to Freddie, who won the 'Fair Play' award having been identified by coaches and referees for his brilliant attitude throughout the tournament.

Steffan Morgan - PE Teacher

U13 ISFA REPRESENTATIVE SQUAD SELECTION

Earlier this month, several talented pupils from St Bede's participated in the U13 North West Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) trials held at Manchester Grammar School. Following their impressive performances, Charlie G, Freddie W, Raphael K, and Majesty A earned selection for the regional squad. They will now go on to compete in a

prestigious three-day tournament next year, facing other regional teams. This outstanding accomplishment reflects their exceptional dedication, skill, and commitment to the sport—well done to all four students!

Sam Griffin - PE Teacher

CLASSIC FM BROADCAST FOR ST BEDE'S PIANO TEACHER

David Onac, peripatetic teacher of piano at St Bede's, had one of his compositions broadcast on Classic FM this November - with David himself playing the piano as part of a double debut. On Friday 15 November (between 9 and 10pm), the 3rd of David's "Five Etudes" for solo piano was broadcast as part of Chi-chi Nwanoku's "Classical Champions" series, now in its 5th season on Classic FM. You can find out more about this series (and listen online) here:

[Link](#)

Entitled "Carnival", the piece is a virtuosic response to jazz & gospel chords and grooves that David heard in his childhood, as well as the Junkanoo Festival which he experienced many times growing up

in the Bahamas. This is combined with a 20th/21st Century contemporary classical edge, since these pieces were written during his postgraduate MPhil in Composition at the University of Cambridge.

David's set of piano etudes have also recently had international premieres in Paris and the New Mexico, USA by internationally renowned pianist Jonathan Mamora, coming hot on the heels of another success: the recent publication of David's "Spirituals Arranged for Piano" which you can read more about here:

[Link](#)

David Onac - Peripatetic Teacher of Piano



FATHER ALVARO'S NOVEMBER MESSAGE

The month of November is characterised by the rapid shortening of daylight, the drop in temperatures, and the brown and yellow hues that paint the rural and urban landscapes of our parks, towns, and villages.

The liturgy, too, is imbued with a reflective spirit, inviting us to consider the “last things.” On All Saints’ Day, we rejoiced with our many brothers and sisters—the saints—who have already entered heaven. Their example fills us with hope that one day, we too may join them.

On All Souls’ Day, a more subdued tone colours our prayers as we remember, in particular, our brothers and sisters in purgatory, awaiting their entrance into heaven. A notable feature of the school

calendar is the Remembrance Service, where we honour the Bedians who fought and gave their lives for our country and the principles it upholds.

Let me finish this month’s article with a little anecdote. After the ceremony, I spoke with a group of girls I encountered in a corridor. At one point, I asked them what they had been thinking about during the two minutes of silence. One of them replied, “I thought about you; I thought that you were praying.” Her response moved and challenged me deeply. I found myself reflecting: What had I done during those two minutes? Her words reminded me that people expect Christians to pray—for the needs of the living and of the dead.

Fr Alvaro - College Priest



SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE

With Advent and Christmas just around the corner, and thoughts turning to Christmas gifts, the Child Accident Prevention Trust has put together a list of gifts which may be dangerous if not sourced from a reliable supplier.

December is nearly upon us and the College is getting the Christmas decorations ready; form groups are drawing their Secret Santa names, and online shopping is ever more popular in our busy lives. But do we really know or trust the websites we are buying presents from? With more and more social media sites selling products through online marketplaces, we put our trust in the suppliers, though we don't always know if they have the same strict manufacturing standards as in the UK. The Child Accident Prevention Trust has published a list of eight gifts most likely to cause an accident this year.

[Link](#)

Here are their top tips for shopping safely this Christmas:

Take care when shopping at marketplaces online (think AliExpress, Amazon, eBay, Etsy, Groupon, Joom, OnBuy, Shein, Temu, TikTok Shop and Wish). There might be dangerous products that haven't been safety checked.

- Stick with brand names you know. If you've never heard of the seller or the brand and the price is really tempting, it could be dangerous.
- Be really careful when buying for under 3s as they're most at risk from dangerous products.
- Check if the product has been removed from sale. Visit gov.uk for a list of recalled products.
- If you buy something that looks unsafe, trust your instincts and send it back.

Claire Boylan -Assistant Head
Safeguarding & Ethos