



ST. BEDE'S  
COLLEGE  
1876

**Save the Date!**

A Level Results Day

14<sup>th</sup> August

GCSE Results Day

21<sup>st</sup> August

Prep, U3 & Sixth  
Form Return

3<sup>rd</sup> September

L4, U4, L5 & U5  
Return

4<sup>th</sup> September

# BEDE'S NEWS

## Summer 2025

Dear Parents,

These past few weeks have truly highlighted the resilience of our pupils and staff as they carried out their responsibilities under intense heat. Their fortitude and good spirits have been nothing short of inspiring. Whether in lessons or during events such as Careers Day and Pastoral Day, Bedian pupils remained focused, courteous and hardworking. The guest speakers – both Old Bedians and new friends of the College – had only praise for our pupils' behaviour, attitude, curiosity, and engagement. They are a real credit to the high standards we hold as a College community and to their families.

In June, the Church celebrates the feast of Corpus Christi. At St Bede's, the presence of Christ in the Eucharist lies at the heart of our life as a school. In the chapel, our pupils are reminded that God created each of them lovingly and uniquely. Their lives – who they are and what they do – are sacred. No one else can be who they are in the history of the world. They are a gift, and they have the power to choose what kind of gift they want to be through the virtues they live by.

With creativity as our virtue of the month, it was fitting to celebrate the final projects of the Bedian Research Programme. This initiative equips our pupils with essential skills for the future, such as problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration, and emotional intelligence. The Upper Third pupils' project has been published as a beautifully presented first-edition book – the first of many we hope to see in the years ahead.

It has been an extraordinary month to close what has been a very special year. We have been non-stop: from internal and external examinations, trips, Shakespeare on the Lawn, competitions and Project Week, to our Upper Sixth Prizegiving and Ball. I felt immense pride and gratitude to have played a small part in the lives of our graduating Sixth Formers. As they leave, the College gifted them a compass – a symbol of the Bedian Compass, engraved in their hearts, to guide them in the years to come and help them stay true to the values they have learned here.

I hope the summer holidays give you a chance to rest and to create precious family memories – moments that root us in kindness and a spirit of service. It's important to use our time well and to resist the temptation to focus solely on our own comfort. Let's take every opportunity to bring joy to others through simple daily gestures.

Looking forward to seeing you all in September!

Kind regards,

**Mrs Maria Kemp, Headteacher**





# THE PREP

As we conclude the academic year, it is important to reflect on our Virtue of Creativity, which has aligned seamlessly with our end-of-year evaluations and the insightful feedback received from our pupils. I have been particularly pleased to hear their enthusiasm regarding Science and the Concept Curriculum, both of which have been instrumental in fostering intellectual curiosity and creativity through investigations and inquiry-based learning.

Our recent 'Meet Your Teacher Morning' proved to be a wonderful occasion, providing an opportunity for all pupils to meet their new teachers as they transition into their respective classes. Additionally, our new pupils

had the opportunity to get to know our school ahead of the new term in September. Our Prep 6 pupils also enjoyed a productive Upper Third Induction Day, and have recently participated in an English transition project with the Senior College centred on oracy.

I have been grateful for the opportunity to engage with many families at our recent events, including the Summer Fair and our two Sports Days. As we approach the end of term, I look forward to celebrating with you at the Prep 3 Eucharistic Mass and the Prep 6 Celebration Mass. On behalf of myself and the Prep team, I wish all members of our Bedian community a happy and peaceful summer.

**Mrs Claire Hunt, Head of Prep**





# THE SIXTH FORM

The final weeks of term have been marked by celebrations, reflections and farewells, particularly for our Upper Sixth students as they leave the College and begin the next chapter of their lives.

We were delighted to gather together for our Upper Sixth Prizegiving event, a special occasion not only to recognise the achievements of our students but also to say goodbye to the families who have been part of our community for such a long time. Many of the Upper Sixth first arrived in Reception and they, and their parents, will be missed.

The celebrations continued with the much-anticipated Sixth Form Ball, held this year at the beautiful Manchester Hall. It was a fantastic evening: the perfect send-off for a cohort who have given so much to College life.

While our Upper Sixth students look to the future, the Lower Sixth have been focused on theirs. They have been busy reviewing their summer examination results and crafting their UCAS personal statements as part of their all-important first steps towards university applications. Alongside that, they are soon to continue preparation for admissions tests, complete work experience placements and, of course, enjoy some well-earned summer holidays.

I look forward to seeing the Upper Sixth on A level Results Day, August 14th, and to welcoming the Lower Sixth back in September.

**Dr Anne McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form**



# PREP VIRTUE AWARDS

Students who best exemplified June's virtue of the month, *Creativity*





# BEDIAN AMBASSADORS

Students who best exemplified May's virtue of the month, *Truthfulness*

Upper Third	Lower Fourth	Upper Fourth
Nycara D Kimmy O Ava G Josep SB May K Lucy L	Nina K Tolani R Jason V Zac A Phoebe K Erica O	Raez P Rudy V Belle H Thomas E Zinzile T Astrid N
Lower Fifth		Lower Sixth
Davi C Karim C Rosie H	Ruadhan H Harris M Michele P Laurence T	Yoshi Y Austin G Favour O





# BEDIAN AMBASSADORS

Students who best exemplified June's virtue of the month, *Creativity*

Upper Third	Lower Fourth	Upper Fourth	Lower Fifth
Grace N Ruby B Majesty A Amanee B Mayowa A Raphael K	Nina K Simi P Bertie E Sofi V Rishaan P Lou F	Cleon N Joan S Ali A Mark L Francesca L Ryan N	Jay O Carlson L Joshua S Ailish G Carey S Edson D Tireni A





# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VICTORIAN APPRENTICE: PREP 5 AT QUARRY BANK MILL

Prep 5 had quite the shock recently when they stepped back in time and became Victorian apprentice children for the day during their visit to Quarry Bank Mill. As part of their Rights of the Child studies, the pupils have been exploring the experiences of working children in the Victorian era—and this immersive trip brought those lessons vividly to life.

Dressed in period costumes, the class spent the day living as indented mill apprentices. Their time in the Apprentice House was governed by the fearsome Superintendent Shawcross, under whose strict rule they were quickly put to work. The children made stained, straw-filled beds, emptied foul-smelling chamber pots, scrubbed clogs, ironed, and swept — all on top of imagining a gruelling 13-hour shift in the hot, dusty and dangerous mill.

Throughout the day, the pupils compared their own lives to those of children their age who lived and worked in the mill — many of them orphans or workhouse children bound to the service of mill owner

Samuel Greg until they turned 18. They were not impressed with the common "remedies" used at the time: leeches placed on infected eyes and a rather unappetising mixture of treacle and gunpowder to treat constipation!

Inside the working mill, Prep 5 got hands-on with some of the real tasks young workers would have faced. They scavenged raw cotton and were relieved to not be working beneath the dangerous machinery. They hauled heavy cotton-filled cans, and doffed bobbins, imagining the Victorian children trying to communicate through lip-reading due to the overwhelming and relentless roar of the machines.

The trip gave the children a powerful insight into what life was like for working children in Victorian times. It was an eye-opening experience that made many appreciate their modern school days just a little more — and might even lead to fewer complaints about homework!

**Mrs Claire Casson - Prep 5 teacher**









# PREP 5 WAXWORK MUSEUM BRINGS HISTORY TO LIFE!

On Tuesday 17 June, Prep 5 transformed the academic hall into our annual living Waxwork Museum, impressing visitors with their incredible portrayals of historical figures. Each pupil selected a person of significance from history, conducted independent research, and wrote a script in the first person bringing their chosen character to life with passion and confidence.

Pupils sourced their own costumes and props, and they looked absolutely fantastic on the day. From Queens and Saints to scientists, artists, politicians, astronauts, actresses, daredevils, musicians and civil rights leaders, each character and exhibit was unique and wonderfully portrayed.

All the children showed great fortitude by performing almost non-stop throughout the morning to a steady stream of visitors, including all the Prep classes from Nursery to Prep 6, as well as their own, very proud families. Each pupil stayed in character, delivering their speech with enthusiasm, clarity and poise.

We are extremely proud of all of Prep 5 for the effort, creativity and confidence they demonstrated. They should be delighted with their achievements – what a memorable and inspiring event!

**Mrs Claire Casson - Prep 5 Teacher**









# PREP LEGO DAY

This year's Prep Lego Day focused on the theme of community, giving pupils a chance to explore the people and places that help make up their world — all through the fun and creativity of Lego building. Each class worked together during their session to design and build their very own community, using imagination, teamwork, and plenty of colourful bricks.

The activity encouraged children to think about what a community is and who is part of it. Their Lego creations included everything from houses and shops to hospitals and parks, and much more. Each class came up with their own unique ideas and layouts, reflecting both the real world and their creative visions of what a great community could look like.

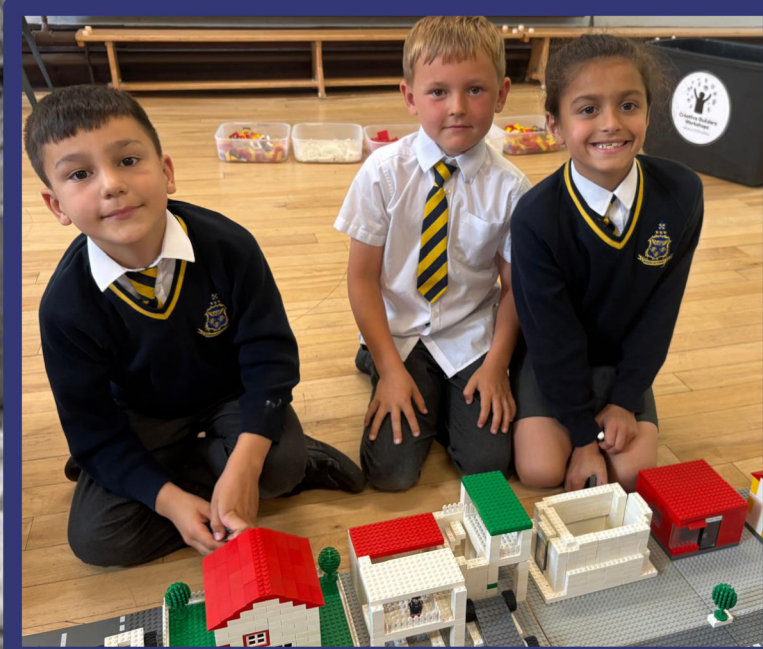
Working in small groups, pupils shared their thoughts, helped one another, and made decisions together. It was lovely to see how well they collaborated — listening, problem-solving and supporting each other throughout the session.

Prep Lego Day also supported learning in STEM. Pupils explored how to build stable structures, planned designs, and used mathematical thinking to bring their ideas to life. It was a hands-on, engaging way to apply STEM skills in a fun and meaningful context.

**Miss Eleanor Harrison - Prep Science Co-ordinator**









# PREP EXPLORING SCIENCE OUTDOORS

This year, pupils in the Prep have greatly benefited from taking part in outdoor science lessons. Learning in a hands-on manner within a natural setting has significantly enhanced their engagement with scientific topics. The outdoor environment has provided rich opportunities for pupils to observe, explore, and deepen their understanding of various scientific concepts through real-life experiences.

Pupils in Prep 4 have been studying the human body through a range of creative and active activities. One particularly effective exercise was a digestive organs treasure hunt, which helped pupils understand the sequence and function of organs involved in digestion. They also constructed models of teeth using natural materials, considering the distinct shapes and purposes of different types of teeth. Additionally, pupils created and labelled skeletons using sticks, stones and leaves – an enjoyable and memorable way to learn the names and locations of major bones in the human body.

Prep 5 pupils have explored the topics of space and forces through outdoor investigations. To develop their understanding of the scale of the solar system, they mapped out the distances between planets on the playground, gaining valuable insight into the vastness of space. They also used models to compare the relative sizes of the planets. In their study of forces, pupils explored the concept of air resistance by experimenting with speed training parachutes, observing how forces can influence the movement of objects.

In Prep 3, pupils have focused on the study of plants and animals. They have taken part in invertebrate hunts, explored what living organisms need in order to grow, and observed pollination firsthand. As part of their Bedian Rangers lessons, they have also been growing their own fruits and vegetables—from planting seeds to watching them grow – developing a deeper appreciation of how food is produced and the conditions necessary for successful cultivation.

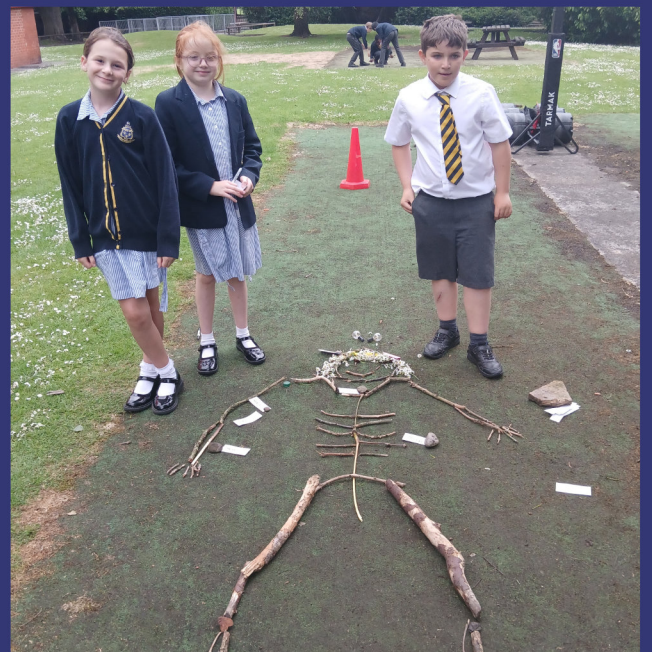




The experience of learning outdoors has brought numerous educational benefits. It has fostered collaboration, encouraged curiosity, and supported a sense of discovery among pupils. The outdoor setting has provided space for active learning and varied teaching approaches, which in turn have contributed to improved

concentration and well-being. Most importantly, engaging with science in the natural environment has helped pupils connect their learning with the world around them, reinforcing the idea that science is not confined to the classroom, but is an integral part of everyday life.

**Miss Eleanor Harrison - Prep 4 Teacher**





# PREP DRAMA MAKERS' SUMMER SHOW

Drama Makers started as a new club in the Prep this academic year, and the students who joined have flourished as creative individuals. After their show in February, the group continued to work on their stagecraft and devising skills, and they were desperate to put on another show.

Guided by Prep Teaching Assistant, Miss Jones, the group invented an original play, writing their own script and characters.

The final piece, 'All My Shining Silver' was performed for families

and friends on Wednesday 25th June and it was a wonderful success! Magic and comedy, talking animals and family bonds, an important moral about being kind to everyone; the show had it all!

The group worked incredibly hard and the final performance reflected that. The audience could see how far the group has come since February and we are so excited to see what else they can do.

Well done Drama Makers!

**Miss Daisy Jones - Teaching Assistant**





# BEE INSPIRED BY NATURE TO NOURISH US ALL!

As World Bee Day approached on 20 May, coinciding with the prestigious RHS Chelsea Flower Show, our Prep was buzzing with excitement for a fantastic initiative: the Mini Garden Project. This creative endeavour encouraged our young pupils to delve into the essential world of bees and biodiversity.

Children were invited to design their own portable mini gardens using bee-friendly plants, such as lavender, sunflowers and marigolds. This project not only allowed for a

splash of creativity but also created an opportunity for families to join in the fun of planning and planting together during our half term holiday in May.

All mini gardens were showcased in our outdoor learning space where we celebrated these wonderful creations. We were delighted that our children were inspired to connect with nature and foster a love for the environment.

**Mrs Claire Hunt - Head of Prep**





# PREP SCIENCE ASSEMBLY

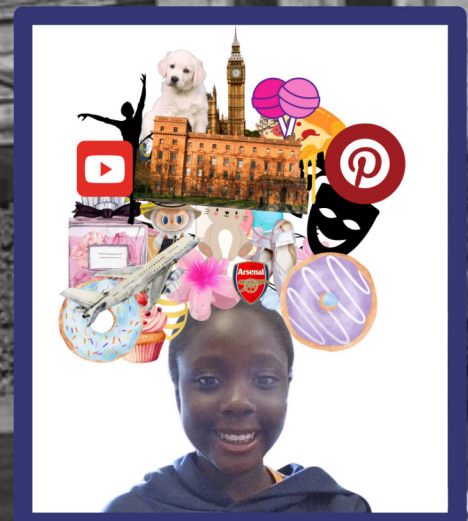
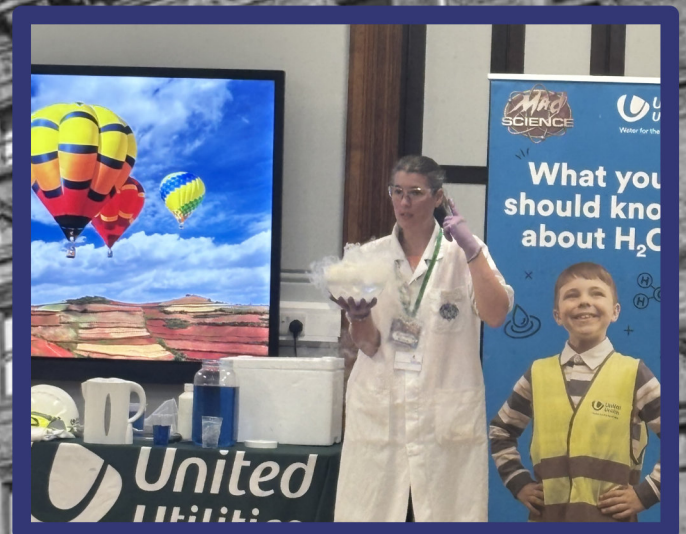
The whole of Prep were treated to a fantastic and explosive Science assembly led by Explosive Erica from Mad Science. Children from Reception to Prep 6 gathered eagerly to learn "What You Should Know About H<sub>2</sub>O" an exciting and interactive session all about water.

Erica explained where our water comes from, how the water cycle works, and how United Utilities clean our water to make it safe for us to drink. She also shared some important tips on how we can all help to save water in our everyday lives.

The assembly was packed with amazing demonstrations and whole-school participation, making the learning fun and memorable. From swirling experiments to splashing surprises, the children were fascinated throughout and came away full of new facts and curiosity.

A huge thank you to Explosive Erica for bringing science to life in such an exciting way!

**Mrs Sharon Kelly - Reception Class Teacher**





# SPRING READING CHALLENGE

On the back of her huge success in creating a Christmas Reading Competition, Alexis in Prep 6 gathered a team to continue promoting reading for pleasure in the Prep. Alexis, Noelle and Avneet worked with such enthusiasm and creativity to launch a fantastic reading project which involved hunting for book titles and then reading and responding creatively to the book each child took home. The girls carefully selected titles to

include a Spring theme and their love of books was truly contagious for all those children who took part.

It was such a fitting way for the girls to say farewell to the Prep library as they move on to the College and we are delighted that they have agreed to run the Spring Competition again in 2026!

**Mrs Georgina Leyden - Prep Librarian**

# WONDERVERSE WRITING COMPETITION SUCCESS 2025

Prep students were given the opportunity to write poetry as part of a Wondaverse National poetry competition this half term. Wondaverse celebrates poetry and its ability to expand our imaginations; the children responded with great passion and skill as they created extraordinary texts. It was exciting to be able to

draft, edit and submit the poems via the Wondaverse portal. We are thrilled to share that Teresa (prep 3), Bertie and Miriam (prep 4), Henry (prep 5) and Isaac (prep 6) received recognition for their poetry, being awarded certificates of merit. Congratulations poets!

**Mrs Georgina Leyden - Prep Librarian**





# PREP SPORTS

## Netball Manchester Schools' Finals

The girls finished on a high, winning the Manchester Netball Finals; they have been great all season, and Patrick deserves a special mention for stepping in to help the team out as the other half of the team had a production to get back for!

## Football

U11 Girls' Manchester schools finals.

The Prep Girls' Football Team delivered a stellar performance at the Manchester Finals, held at Platt Lane complex, showcasing grit, teamwork and talent throughout the tournament. From the very first whistle, the team set the tone with an unbeaten run through the group stages. With some solid defending and clinical finishing, the girls quickly established themselves as one of the standout teams in the

competition. The semi-final was a tightly contested affair, with both teams battling for a place in the final. Despite a valiant effort and numerous chances created, the match ended in a draw, sending the game to penalties. Unfortunately, the shootout didn't go their way, and the girls were edged out in heartbreaking fashion. However, showing true character and resilience, the team bounced back brilliantly in the 3rd/4th place play-off. Determined to finish on a high, they put in a commanding performance to claim a well-deserved bronze medal. Among many excellent performances, special recognition goes to Eden and Ellie, the dynamic sister duo who were instrumental throughout the tournament. Eden's clinical goalscoring combined with Ellie's energy and determination in attack, made them a constant threat and a joy to watch. Well done to all the girls for their fantastic effort, sportsmanship and team spirit. You did us proud!





## AJIS athletics

It was wonderful to take two teams to the AJIS athletics at Longford Park Stadium. There was great excitement from all the pupils, but particularly Prep 5, as for most it was their first time at an outdoor athletics event. A special mention to Aidan and Rayhan in Prep 4 who performed admirably against the older boys. We were fortunate to complete all the events as it was raining before the start and it poured down straight afterwards. It was so encouraging to see all pupils being competitive in their events. Well done to Shae who won the ball throw and the Prep 5 girls' relay team who came second.

## Cricket

The Prep 6 Cricket Team put on a fantastic display at the Manchester Finals, hosted at South West Manchester Cricket Club in Chorlton. They finished an impressive 4th overall after a day of high-quality cricket played under scorching summer skies.

The team came out firing in the group stage, winning three out of their four matches with confident batting, sharp fielding, and some outstanding bowling.

Their teamwork and determination saw them through to the knockout stages with real momentum. In the semi-final, the team faced a tough test against West Didsbury Primary, who went on to be crowned tournament champions. It was a thrilling encounter, with Prep 6 narrowly losing out in a close match that could have gone either way. Despite the defeat, the team showed real spirit and pushed their opponents all the way.

A key highlight of the day was the brilliant bowling from captain Zabian, who led from the front with pace, accuracy and calm under pressure. His efforts with the ball were crucial throughout the group stages and helped keep the team competitive right to the end. In the 3rd/4th place play-off, the energy-sapping heat took its toll, but the players dug deep and gave it everything. Although they missed out on a podium finish, they can be incredibly proud of finishing 4th out of a very strong field of Manchester schools. Well done to all involved for a superb team performance and for representing the school with pride, effort and sportsmanship.





## Prep Sports Day

### Unforgettable Sports Days Filled with Fun and Team Spirit

What an incredible experience we had across our two sports days!

Our Early Years and KS1 sports day started bright and early on a Thursday, bubbling with energy from all the young pupils and our fantastic Prep 6 helpers. It was truly special to see so many parents and grandparents joining us: their cheers adding to the vibrant atmosphere. As the photos show, the children were absolutely beaming as they tackled nine different activities on a carousel, with the sack race and space hopper races always bringing extra laughs – for children and adults alike! It was a scorching day, though, which led to a smart decision: moving the KS2 sports day to the next morning for everyone's safety. This proved to be such a hit that we're considering morning sports days for good!

The KS2 sports day was just as brilliant, and a huge part of that success was down to our incredible L5th pupils – more than 55 of them! They were brilliant, helping with groups and events, and it was heartwarming to see how much the younger students loved being with them. The interactions were genuinely lovely, full of fun and shared excitement. This year, we were so pleased that parents could freely explore the fields, following their child's progress at each event. It created such a wonderful, collective buzz, marking a truly fitting and joyful end to the year. A massive shout-out to all the pupils for giving it their all and for showing such amazing team spirit!

I would like to thank our groundsman, Pawel, for his hard work to make the sports grounds look amazing.

**Mrs Nora Lavorini - PE Teacher**









# PREP HOLY COMMUNION

On Friday 27th June the Prep 3 Holy Communion Mass was celebrated with great joy in the school chapel. Father Alvaro led the Mass, guiding the children and congregation through a beautiful and meaningful service.

The children played a special role in the celebration. They participated actively by doing the readings, singing hymns with enthusiasm, and showing great reverence throughout the Mass. Dressed in their special outfits, they looked wonderful and added a sense of occasion to the event.

Many proud parents attended the Mass, sharing this important milestone with their children. Following the service, everyone was invited to enjoy refreshments, providing a lovely opportunity for families and staff to gather and celebrate together.

The day was a memorable one, full of faith, community spirit and joy.

**Mr Kevin McGrath - Prep 3 Teacher**





# PREP 6: ENGLISH TRANSITION DAYS

Every year the College English Department collaborates with Prep 6 by way of a transition project. This year, Mr Rees took the lead, working with Mrs Cartmell and Mrs Horsefield to plan two days of activities designed to develop the pupils' oracy skills. The first day served as an introduction where skills were honed and a news report was planned. The second day took place in June, with rehearsals in the morning and a showcase of talent in the afternoon. Parents were invited to watch the fruit of our collective labours and were treated to a highly entertaining selection of reports on a diverse range of topics, including Manchester United's money worries, Shein and flying cars.

The pupils really rose to the occasion, along with a number of excellent coaches from Upper Third, and gave a confident display. One reporter even burst into song, which was lovely and unexpected: I hope to see this replicated live on the BBC one of these days.

Many thanks to Mr Rees, Mrs Cartmell and Mrs Horsefield for helping the children so much - and to the other staff who assisted at the group stage, along with Upper Third helpers. It was a great team effort!

**Mr Sean Howes - Head of English**

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I thoroughly enjoyed helping Prep 6 during their Oracy Project. It was a great experience for me to be a role model and a young leader to them, just as others have done for me in the past. I enjoyed performing my news report for them and helping them script their own. I would love to do more of this as not only was it a great opportunity for me but also for the Prep 6 students. I loved the fun activities, especially those that I ended up leading. I also enjoyed listening to Mr Howes' jokes. Overall, I had a fun experience with Prep 6 and I hope they had fun with me too.

**Deborah T, Upper Third**

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We were in V1 at the start of the day practising debating skills. It was really fun and interesting to see how such bizarre topics could create intense debates and have the pupils really fighting for their point of view. All the children were confident to speak in front of the audience, which I thought was really impressive.

At the end of the day my team won. The overall standard of the class was very good and it was a close competition. Overall I think the day was very successful and the Prep students really impressed me. I liked having a part in their work, and seeing them use the things that I had taught them in their presentations made me feel happy and proud.

**Toby C, Upper Third**

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# Tŷ NEWYDD WRITERS' CENTRE:

## ENGLISH CREATIVE WRITING RETREAT

A group of 12 students from L4-U5, along with Mr Rees and Miss Moore embarked on a week-long creative writing retreat at Ty Newydd, the National Writing Centre of Wales. Nestled by the stunning coastline, this immersive experience provided a unique opportunity for aspiring young writers to hone their craft in a beautiful and inspiring environment. The pupils spent five days at the retreat and engaged with a wide range of activities, workshops and walks along the coast.

Throughout the week, students engaged in a dynamic programme of workshops each morning, led by professional authors and poets. They explored various genres and techniques, from crafting compelling narratives and vivid poetry to developing character voice and plot structures. Daily sessions encouraged experimentation, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of the writing process. Pupils were tutored by acclaimed author Susan Stokes Chapman and prize-winning poet Vicky Morris.

Beyond the intensive writing sessions, students benefited from the stunning surroundings of the mansion and had a balance of writing immersion and free time. There were opportunities for collaborative writing exercises, tutorial feedback sessions with tutors, and independent writing time, fostering both individual growth in their writing, whilst also allowing for plenty of games of Uno, The Traitors, rounders! Evening activities included helping chef Tony in the kitchen, readings from authors and tutors, discussions, and time for reflection. We ended the week with a writing recital, paired with hot chocolate, which gave students the opportunity to share aloud the work they had created with their peers.

The retreat proved to be an invaluable experience, boosting students' confidence in their writing abilities and nurturing their creativity. The retreat was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils and they all had a fantastic time.

**Miss Megan Moore & Mr Zachary Rees - English Teachers**









# CELEBRATING THE PUPIL CHAPLAINS' FAITH IN ACTION AWARD

We are delighted to share the inspiring achievements of our Pupil Chaplains from the Prep, College, and Sixth Form, who recently visited the Laudato Si' Centre at the Bishop's House to present their Faith in Action journey to Fr Peter Hopkinson, the Vicar General.

To achieve these awards, pupils have completed a remarkable number of service hours—20 for the PIN award, 35 for Bronze, 60 for Silver, and an outstanding 100 hours for the Gold award. Their activities have ranged from altar serving, food bank volunteering, and litter picking to leading prayer groups and raising funds for charities.

During their visit, the Chaplains spoke confidently about how they live out their faith in school, their parishes, and the wider community.

Fr Peter Hopkinson, representing Bishop John Arnold, expressed his deep gratitude and admiration for their efforts. He spoke of how proud the Bishop is of our students, praising them as shining examples of leadership and ambassadors for Christ in our local community. He reminded them that they are answering God's call and fulfilling the unique role He has set out for each of them.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupil chaplains. It is truly heartening to see the number of young people participating in the Faith in Action programme grow each year, with more students stepping forward to serve others, reflect on their experiences, and grow closer to God.

**Mrs Charlotte Hibbert - College Chaplain**









# DANCE SHOWCASE

In May, our Dance Showcase brought the stage to life with an evening full of energy, creativity and remarkable talent. Forty five dedicated students from Upper Third to Upper Fifth delivered an outstanding event full of movement and music, captivating an audience of over 130 attendees.

The evening featured a striking and original Capoeira-Haka fusion performed by our boys, alongside vibrant and expressive Jazz and Contemporary pieces from members of our dance clubs and soloists. For several students, this marked their first-ever public performance, and they rose to the occasion with admirable confidence and enthusiasm.

The students committed many hours

to rehearsals, and their dedication was evident in every performance. The event was a true success and a highlight of the school term.

We are immensely proud of each performer and look forward to the future of dance at our College. From September, Dance will become part of the curriculum for Upper Third and Lower Fourth, with Key Stage 3 provision supporting the existing GCSE Dance pathway from Upper Fourth onwards.

As we approach our 150th anniversary, we are excited to see our students continue to flourish and shine. The stage is set for even greater achievements.

Here's to next year's performance!

**Miss Laura Stark - Dance Teacher**









# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

## **Bronze DofE Expedition - A Confident First Step**

It was with great excitement that 42 enthusiastic U4 students arrived at Buxton Station at the beginning of June to embark on their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. Laden with rucksacks and kit nearly as big as themselves, each group set off to follow individually planned routes, and navigate their way, unaccompanied, through 15km of Peak District countryside to reach the campsite.

Their navigation skills were well and truly put to the test. As is often the case at Bronze level, a few wrong turns were taken along the way but, impressively, each group managed to identify their errors and successfully find their way back on course. The ability to problem solve under pressure and to work together calmly in unfamiliar surroundings is one of the key aims of the expedition, and our students rose to the challenge.

The weather over the course of the expedition was generally fine, (always a welcome bonus) and everyone approached the

challenge with determination, positivity, and no small amount of humour.

We look forward to seeing many of them take the next step on their DofE journey with the Silver Award in L5.

## **Silver DofE Expedition - Rising to the Challenge**

Our Silver Award students took on their challenge in the stunning but demanding landscapes of the Hope Valley. Over the course of three days and two nights, the groups navigated their way from Chinley train station to Hathersage, camping at Upper Booth and Castleton along the way.

Unlike their younger counterparts, the Silver teams had to contend with a very different challenge: heat. It was blisteringly hot each day, with little respite from the sun, and the terrain made for some tough going. The ascent of Mam Tor proved particularly difficult but the teams showed remarkable endurance and spirit, sustaining both their efforts and morale throughout.





Their hard work and attitude did not go unnoticed. An independent DofE Assessor, who happened to be staying at one of the same campsites, took the time to compliment the group on their excellent behaviour and teamwork; praise which we were delighted (but not surprised!) to receive.

We are delighted with the way our Silver participants rose to the challenge, and we'd strongly recommend they continue their journey to the Gold Award. Their character and effort were outstanding.

### **DofE Gold Expedition – A True Test of Resilience**

With a mix of confidence, excitement, nerves, and a touch of trepidation, our six Upper Fifth Gold Award students arrived in Keswick to begin their expedition. Buoyed by the stretch of good weather we'd been enjoying, spirits were high, with one optimistic student even asking whether waterproofs were really necessary. Oh dear!

As the group began pitching their tents

on the first night, the clouds rolled in, the temperature dropped, and the rain began to fall. And it continued to fall for the next four days. Gone were dreams of sunny hikes and scenic picnics; in their place came soggy boots, dripping tents, and a true test of resilience and teamwork.

Their mental strength was truly put to the test on the second day, as they set off towards what was meant to be the location for their wild camp high up on the fells at Blea Tarn. The weather was horrendous. With visibility dropping to just a few feet, the rain lashing sideways, and the wind blowing hard enough to knock you sideways, we made the decision to cancel the wild camp and to escort them down off the fells. Pupil safety is always our top priority, and although the group were disappointed to miss out on this part of the experience, they showed remarkable understanding, (or was that relief?).

Rather than letting the weather dampen their spirits, they completed the full route for the day, and





returned to the previous night's campsite, supporting each other with good humour and determination along the way.

As a side note, several Mountain Rescue Teams were called out that day to assist DofE groups from other schools who had become lost on the fells in the poor conditions. We were reminded, once again, of the importance of our long-standing policy: to always locate ourselves on the routes our students plot, regardless of terrain, elevation or weather. On this occasion, that policy could not have proved more valuable.

The expedition concluded on Day 4 with a summit of the mighty Helvellyn, and wouldn't you know it, the sun finally came out! I can't think of many tougher ways to finish an expedition, and it was telling that we didn't see a single other DofE group on the mountain that day. But our students rose to the challenge. The climb was

demanding, our legs were weary, but the views at the top were truly breathtaking. That moment, standing together in the sunshine, surrounded by panoramic views, made every muddy mile and damp night worthwhile.

We are incredibly proud of our Gold participants. There is a reason only a small number of young people choose to undertake this level of the Award. This was a challenging expedition by anyone's standards, and they met it with grit, good grace, and a strong sense of team spirit. Their dedication, resilience, and maturity are everything the DofE Award aims to nurture.

A huge well done to all involved.

**Miss Claire Whitney - PE Teacher & Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator**

**Mrs Cornelia Smith - Geography Teacher**





# SUCCESS IN THE SADIE MASSEY AWARDS!

Bertie E and Sara S attended a celebration presentation and award ceremony at the Sadie Massey Awards on Thursday 12th June. The pair had the opportunity to meet the judges of the competition, as well as read extracts from their entries and receive their awards. We are so inspired by these two pupils and their demonstration of the College's motto: Inspired. Committed. Grateful.

Pupils at the awards ceremony, along with their families, had the opportunity to meet the judges, as well as author Josh Silver - known for his award winning YA book series 'Happy Head' which is soon to be adapted into a film featuring Taron Egerton. Mr Silver spoke to the attendees about the importance of creativity and the need for self expression through writing among young people.

As mentioned in last month's edition, both Bertie and Sara won their categories in The Sadie Massey Awards 2025. Sara was awarded Joint Winner in the KS3 Creative Writing Competition for her short story 'Drawn to Darkenss' and Bertie was awarded Winner in the KS3 Reading Competition for his review of Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief.

Established in 2015, the Portico Sadie Massey Awards (PSM Awards) aims to encourage a life-long love of reading and writing in young people from all backgrounds. The Sadie Massey Awards are national awards for students aged 7-18, so it is a significant achievement for these two to have won in their categories; to have been selected from hundreds of entries across the country is a phenomenal feat!

**Miss Megan Moore - Literacy Lead**





# PASTORAL DAYS

We were grateful to welcome the Breck Foundation into College to talk to the Upper Fourth and Lower Fifth on the topic of online grooming. The pupils listened attentively to the hard-hitting story of Breck Bednar who was groomed and tragically murdered. The pupils engaged thoroughly with the session and asked plenty of questions, prompting them to think about whether they truly know whom they speak to online. And this is not always about extreme examples. With the rise of social media platforms like Snapchat, there can be children from other schools in groups that our pupils do not know, so it is easy to see how exposed to strangers pupils can be.

Mark from WHYSUP visited the Upper Third and Lower Fourth to discuss the dangers of addiction and share his testimony. Mark shared his personal experience of developing a gambling habit from an early age and went on to discuss the rapidly growing modern addictions such as vaping and social media. The Lower School pupils then participated in a Q&A session after which Mark commented that they asked some of the most thoughtful and interesting questions he had ever been asked by young students.

**Mrs Jess Ward - Head of Upper Third**

**Mrs Claire Boylan - Assistant Head Safeguarding & Ethos**





# ST BEDE'S PROJECT WEEK

Having successfully run Project Week for two years, we are more convinced than ever of its tremendous value to pupils. This four-day, problem-based learning experience encourages pupils to develop critical thinking, creativity, and project management skills while working collaboratively to solve a real-world challenge. Taking ownership of their learning journey helps pupils to build resilience and apply their knowledge in practical, meaningful ways. Teamwork during Project Week also enhances communication skills, while the dynamic approach fosters enthusiasm and makes learning both engaging and relevant.

We were determined to make Project Week even better for 2025, so this year saw the addition of a trip on the first day of the project. This gave pupils valuable hands-on experience of what their project was going to be about. Pupils then returned to College on Tuesday to reflect on what they had learned, carry out further research, and plan and execute their project.

The Upper Third project this year focused on animal welfare and sustainability. Pupils visited Chester Zoo and took part in two bespoke workshops focusing on conservation and how the zoo mimics natural habitats and promotes natural behaviours. They then planned their own sustainability project to be implemented at St Bede's, considering cost, impact, and even designing a mascot for the project. The range of ideas was incredible, with pupils exploring everything from reducing the impact of Coltan in Chromebooks to protecting flamingos and other innovative solutions.

The Lower Fourth project centred around business and sales, with pupils visiting the Trafford Centre to conduct market research before returning to the College to open their own version of St Bede's Café. As well as designing everything from the menu and loyalty cards to promotional posters and job adverts, pupils used an online simulation tool to run their café. They had to quickly





get to grips with staffing, sales, pricing and managing orders – discovering that balancing a budget sheet was more difficult than it first appeared!

The Upper Fourth project focused on the rich heritage and culture of Manchester. Pupils visited four sites in the city centre to explore and learn about the area's unique history. Back at College, they designed their own walking tours and created podcasts to guide tourists around their chosen attractions. The depth of information and backstories pupils uncovered – and the high-quality, engaging way they presented them – was brilliant to hear. Winning podcasts are being played at lunchtimes this week for all pupils to enjoy.

Lower Fifth pupils visited Manchester City's Media Centre, sitting in the room where press conferences are held, and taking part in workshops on how to launch a successful media campaign. Back in

College, it wasn't football but the College's 150th anniversary that became the focus of their work. Pupils designed, directed and produced three videos of varying lengths to market the College on social media. The quality of the material blew the judges away, with pupils involved in every part of the creative process. The best videos are now being played on screens around the College.

Thursday saw form group, year group and finally whole College finals, with the overall winners announced in Celebration Assembly on the final day of the academic year. Feedback from both pupils and staff has been overwhelmingly positive, confirming just how valuable the four days are. Oxbridge admissions this week echoed this, emphasising that it's not just what someone knows, but how they approach a problem that truly counts.

**Mr Thomas Sanders - Academic Deputy Head**





# CARNEGIE AWARD SHADOWING SCHEME WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Over the past few months, our Carnegie Shadowing Group consisting of Joan SB, Sky Y, Logan G, Vicky K, Allura A, Madeline H, Iria C, Zach C and Jacob L have been tirelessly reading the shortlisted books for the Carnegie Awards to try and decide a winner. Alongside their reading, they have had some fantastic conversations about books, the power of words, and the complexities of various topics, characters and moments in the texts.

It has been a fantastic opportunity for pupils to read a range of books and be given the opportunity to engage in discussions around their opinions and interpretations. Students have been attending bi-weekly sessions in the library to discuss the books as a group and have found the experience incredibly rewarding.

The Carnegie Medal for Writing is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book written in English for children and young people. A national (and international) reading for pleasure initiative, the Carnegie Shadowing Scheme engages thousands of children and young people in reading the books on the shortlist via reading groups in schools.

## Students reflected:

'In my opinion, the process was actually really fun. I liked the meetings, I thought they were all really chilled and there wasn't any pressure. I thought hearing everyone's opinions about different books was really interesting, because different people read different books in completely different contexts and take different





things from the same text. I would definitely recommend this to people next year; I had a really good time and I think more people should definitely get involved.'

'I absolutely loved the Carnegie Shadowing experience. It allowed me to be more motivated to read and try books that weren't necessarily in my comfort zone - which I think is a really good thing as it lets you challenge your beliefs and what you stand for. The library lessons allowed me to reflect on my reading experience and how I felt about the books I read which I enjoyed.'

'I think the shadowing was very worth it; I enjoyed reading books and having discussions about them, even if not all of the books were good. I will 100% recommend it to Upper Fourth next year because (especially if you like reading) it is an amazing experience and

opportunity. If you get a chance, do it!'

On Thursday 19th June, the shadowing pupils got the opportunity to watch a livestream of the awards in the Maher Library and see the announcement of 'King of Nothing' by Nathaniel Lessore be announced as the Shadower's Choice winner (we voted for this one to win as a group too!) and Glasgow Boys by Margaret McDonald be announced as the Judges Award winner.

We are so proud of the pupils who took part in this scheme, they really pushed themselves academically and showed fantastic commitment to the awards, taking the process seriously and discussing a variety of topics with maturity and sensitivity. Well done!

**Miss Megan Moore - Literacy Lead**





# ST BEDE'S BASKETBALLERS CAN PLAY!

Whilst the whole College was embroiled in the throes of exam week, a small group of U3 students were performing their own types of throws at the Manchester Schools' Year 7 Basketball Championships at Belle Vue. Basketball has become the playground activity of choice at St Bede's, however, this was the first time that the team had played together against other schools in the area. Training sessions throughout the year with Mr Morgan and Mr Mitchell had been well attended, and so hopes were high, although they were slightly dashed on arrival when we learnt that 6 of the other 7 teams had been taking part in the Junior NBA leagues competition.

Eager to step onto the courts at the National Performance Centre, the team was on first against Didsbury in our tough group of four. This proved an eye-opening experience as the opposition passed the ball around at ease and appeared to carve out shooting opportunities from everywhere on the court: a humbling defeat to begin our afternoon. Undaunted and able to critically evaluate the next opposition whilst having a break from matches, the group formed robust tactics for both attack and defence. Renewed in approach, the Upper Third stifled the opponents in the next two matches with their relentless man-to-man defending, denying them space. This, coupled

with fast breaks from Jaecole and Victor, saw us cruise to victory and head into the semi-finals as group runners-up.

Second in group A played first in group B, and so it was that we faced a tall Trinity team in the last four. Full of confidence, the team began like a steam train, with Matteo and Matthew combining several times in the first two minutes to take a healthy lead. This jolted Trinity, and they were never able to recover amidst resolute defending and calmness in possession from the Upper Third. As it turned out, this was our Final and best performance in the competition, as waiting for us in the actual final was Didsbury, who had proved way too strong for all the other schools. We had achieved something extraordinary by getting to the last match, and could not quite replicate the success of the previous round. That said, the St Bede's pupils and I were extremely proud of their growth as a team during the afternoon, and second place in Manchester is pretty good.

Well done to all the U3 who have been attending lunchtime practices all year, as in the competition for places, you pushed Matteo, Ivan, Victor, Jaecole, George, Lincoln, Matthew, and Noah to perform the way they did on the day.

**Mr Steffan Morgan - Head of PE**



# CHASING DREAMS:

## A YOUNG FOOTBALLER BALANCING BOOKS AND THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

For many young athletes, football is more than a passion, it's a way of life. For one rising talent, David, a Lower Fifth pupil at St Bede's and academy player at Manchester City FC, the journey began with a family deeply rooted in the love of the game.

"I have a family who loves the sport, and both my older brothers played football at a high level, so they definitely inspired me. Football highlights and games were always playing in my house. That environment really shaped me, and as I grew, I just fell deeper in love with the game."

That passion, nurtured at home, has already taken him to remarkable heights, including wearing the England jersey at youth level last month.

"When I found out I was selected, it felt surreal," he says. "It had been a goal of mine for a long time, and I was just over the moon. I felt proud of myself."

Balancing football with education is a challenge few outsiders fully understand, especially for someone

juggling training schedules and national team duties with schoolwork. But David works diligently to keep the balance.

"It isn't easy," he admits. "But I know I need to stay on track educationally to stay in this position. All my life I've been taught that education is key. Every opportunity I have to study, I try to use it effectively." While David was away with England in May, he achieved the highest possible grade for his attitude to learning in his education reports. He was 'outstanding' throughout and we are extremely proud of his academic and sporting achievements.

A typical day during England camp involves a carefully structured schedule: "Wake up, get ready, breakfast, and then a 1 - 4 hour education session depending on what I've already done that week. After that, it's a short football session, usually about an hour and a half. Then dinner, recovery, such as meditation and mobility, and then bed. It's pretty similar at Manchester City and St Bede's, just with longer days."





Still, the payoff makes the long hours worthwhile. Putting on the England jersey was an unforgettable moment.

"It was crazy," he recalls. "The realisation that I'm actually playing for England was overwhelming. I was just excited and ready to express myself on the pitch. It gave me this sense that all the hard work, my parents' sacrifices, and my family's support was finally starting to pay off."

One moment stands out above the rest.

"Receiving my first England cap and jersey – I'll never forget it. All the coaches and players were in the room, and when my name got called, everyone was screaming and clapping. The atmosphere was filled with genuine happiness and everyone was chanting my name! It was a moment that I'll remember for the rest of my life. What made it even better was seeing that same energy given to the other players making their debuts too."

But behind the highs, there are also real challenges, especially in managing time and responsibilities.

"Getting the perfect balance is probably the hardest part," he says. "It's a job in itself just to complete homework while doing a five-day-a-week football programme. There were times I'd go to bed late and

wake up late, and it would throw off my whole day."

Despite the pressure, the experience has taught him valuable lessons, not just about football, but about himself.

"I've learned that I could be really good. There's always room to improve, but this journey has given me extra confidence, especially in a season full of ups and downs."

Teamwork, he says, has played a major role in keeping everything balanced.

"It's so important. Having those teamworking skills makes everything easier, it saves time, avoids wasted opportunities, and builds a strong, safe environment. On the pitch, it creates chemistry. Off the pitch, it builds understanding and support."

Looking ahead, his goals are as ambitious as his drive.

"Academically, I want to pass my GCSEs and A levels with flying colours. I want to be the best youth player in the world and play professional football very, very soon. I want to represent England at senior level and possibly also Ireland, where I was born. Even Nigeria, if that opportunity ever comes."

**Mrs Michaela Parker - Assistant Head, Full Time Training Model**



**ENGLAND 2 : 1 GREECE**

**ENGLAND 3 : 1 JAPAN**

**ENGLAND 1 : 2 PORTUGAL**

**ENGLAND 2 (6) : 2 (7) FRANCE**



# WITH A TOUCH OF FRENCH FLAIR:

## SUCCESS IN THE ANTHEA BELL PRIZE FOR YOUNG TRANSLATORS

Earlier this year, French pupils from Upper Third, Lower Fourth, and Upper Fourth proudly represented their Houses (Bosco, Campion, Magdalene, and Siena) in the prestigious Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators, a national competition organised by the Queen's College Translation Exchange.

The competition challenges young linguists across the UK to immerse themselves in the world of literary translation. The Upper Third took on the vibrant poem *La Tour Eiffel* by Maurice Carême, while the Lower Fourth and Upper Fourth worked on the delicate and evocative *Les Colombes* by Théophile Gautier. Though they were given a glossary of vocabulary, the real task lay in capturing the poems' rhythm, emotion, and subtle nuances and recreating them naturally and poetically in English.

We are delighted to share that all of our Upper Third French teams were awarded a Commendation by the judges. This is a fantastic achievement, particularly in a competition that received over 22,000 entries, with nearly 5,000 being formally judged. The standard was incredibly high this year, making our pupils' success all the more impressive.

We are so proud of the creativity, care, and collaboration shown by all who took part. Translating poetry is no easy feat, and their commendation reflects both their language skill and their literary sensitivity.

We hope this experience inspires even more pupils to embrace the beauty and challenge of Modern Foreign Languages throughout their time at school and beyond.

Bravo et félicitation à tous!

**Mr Joel Gerardo - MFL Teacher**





## The Eiffel Tower

But yes i'm a giraffe  
 The Eiffel Tower told me  
 And if my head is laying in the blue , sunny sky  
 It's all the better to graze on the soft clouds,  
 Because they make me eternal .  
 But I have four feet well laid in the Seine .  
 You don't get bored in Paris :  
 The women like moths fragile and delicate  
 The men like ants fast and strong  
 They slip endlessly between my leg having fun taking  
 pictures  
 And the craziest, the most lively ,  
 Go up and down along  
 From my neck, just like hornets.  
 At night , I lick the bright, beautiful stars,  
 And if i'm seen from a distance ,  
 It is because I often swallow one and light up all pretty and  
 bright .

But yes, I am a giraffe  
 The Eiffel Tower told me  
 and my head is up in the sky  
 It's all the better to graze in the  
 clouds  
 Because they make me eternal.  
 But I have four well laid feet  
 In the curve of the Seine river  
 You do not get bored in Paris  
 Women, they are like moths  
 and men, they are like ants  
 They slip and slide over and over  
 again between their legs  
 And they are the craziest and most  
 lively  
 and they go up and yet go down  
 along  
 up from my neck like hornets  
 And in the night I lick the stars  
 And if I am seen from a distance,  
 It is because I often swallow one  
 Of them without looking like  
 anything.

THE EIFFEL TOWER

## EIFFEL TOWER

BUT YES, I AM A GIRAFFE  
 THE EIFFEL TOWER TOLD ME  
 AND IF MY HEAD IS IN THE SKY  
 IT'S ALL THE BETTER TO GRAZE ON THE CLOUD  
 BECAUSE THEY MAKE ME ETERNAL  
 BUT I HAVE 4 FEET WELL-FOUNDED  
 ON A CURVE OF THIS SEINE  
 YOU DO NOT GET BORED IN PARIS:  
 THE WOMEN, LIKE MOTHS  
 THE MEN, LIKE ANTS  
 THEY SLIDE ENDLESSLY BETWEEN MY LEGS  
 AND THE CRAZIEST, THE MOST NIMBLE  
 THEY GO UP AND THEY GO DOWN ALONG  
 MY NECK LIKE HORNETS  
 AT NIGHT I LICK THE STARS

ANNALEIGH, EMILY, NYCARA, JAKE, MICHAEL, VICTOR AND HAARIS



PARIS, FRANCE

## The Eiffel Tower

But yes, I am a giraffe,  
 The Eiffel Tower told me,  
 And if my head is in the sky,  
 It is all the better to graze on the clouds,  
 Because they make me eternal up high.  
 But I have four well-laid feet,  
 In a curve of the Seine.  
 You do not get bored in Paris:  
 The women, just like moths,  
 The men just like ants,  
 They slip endlessly between a leg  
 And the more ridiculous , the more  
 nimble  
 They go up, and they go down,  
 Along the mountain neck of the hornets,  
 The night, I lick the stars.  
 And if I am seen from a distance,  
 It is because I often swallow one  
 Of them without looking like anything.



# ROUNDERS SEASON 2025

This year, whilst a much shortened rounders season, has still been very successful. All year groups have won all their matches. Unfortunately due to the examinations being taken on the same week as all the Manchester schools rounders tournaments, only the U3 were able to enter this year. The U3 were very successful winning all 6 of their 1st round games and beating TEMA 19-2 in the semi finals. Going to press we have not yet played this year's final.

I am particularly proud of our Lower Fifth rounders team who volunteered to umpire the 1st round and the finals of the Manchester schools primary rounders tournaments. These were hosted at St Bede's and the girls umpired in

total 15 matches. There were two umpires for every pitch and not only did the girls know the rules inside out, but they also gave advice regarding tactics. They explained all the rules calmly and respectfully. The girls worked from 3pm until 6pm for two consecutive thursdays. Anna H even stayed until 6pm on her birthday, delaying the family celebration meal. They all demonstrated outstanding leadership and communication skills.

The girls involved were:

Eva G, Maisi S, Anna H, Noella M, Rosie H, Caoimhe D, Eniola O & Lilly P

**Mrs Nickola McCormick - PE Teacher**





# INTRODUCING OUR NEW CAREERS COORDINATOR

I am delighted to introduce our new Careers Coordinator, Ms Alyson Boustead. Alyson has been an education professional for 30 years, having worked in Rochdale, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Manchester. She has taught English, and occasionally Film, and has been a senior leader, responsible for teaching and learning, student academic data and outcomes (including transitions and destinations). Her last substantive role, for 17 years, was also at a 3-18 school, so she has plenty of experience of working with children of various ages. We are very lucky to have a full time Careers Coordinator and cannot wait to see what she introduces to the Prep and College in the coming months.

Alyson says of her new role, "I'm delighted to begin the 'second phase' of my career at St Bede's College as

Careers' Coordinator, where I will work full time to guide students, from Early Years to Sixth Form, meeting them individually to give bespoke advice about transitions, next steps and future careers, and running events to inspire them to do this.

I'll get in touch with parents periodically to keep you informed about what your children are doing, career wise, how you can help, and to keep you up to date with career information and advice on the website. Being a lifelong supporter of Newcastle United, whilst working in Manchester for the past 30 years, I have a well developed sense of humour and I'm skilled at instilling resilience and the hope that one day, dreams can come true!"

**Dr Anne McMonagle - Head of Sixth Form**





# CAREERS DAY

Monday June 30th was not only the hottest day of the year so far, but another action-packed Careers Day, with activities throughout the day to inspire our students to think about where they'd like to be and how they can contribute to society in the future. In the morning, all year groups had the privilege of listening to a carousel of speakers from various sectors, talking about their careers, what inspired them to follow this path and what they had to do to get there. In the afternoon, the L5 had an introduction to Sixth Form life, spending time in the Sixth Form Centre and attending a range of Taster A-level lessons while students in L4 and U4 enjoyed a Dragon's Den style entrepreneurial workshop run by Career Connect, where they had to design and market a new hotel. U3 spent the afternoon celebrating the work they have done throughout the year on the Bedian Research Project (BRP) by watching presentations of the infographics they had produced as a result of a research area of personal interest. Despite the heat, a dynamic and inspirational day was had by all, which gave our students the opportunity to reflect on their own skills and aspirations for the future.

A huge thank you to our guest speakers who shared their knowledge and experiences with such enthusiasm and honesty. We were delighted to welcome Barry Peden (former St Bede's teacher, sharing insights on preparing students for careers in TV and Media), Harry Bunn (Manchester City Performance, Lifestyle and Player Support), Jennie Killilea (Manchester City Sports Physiotherapist), Richard Forde-Johnston (St Bede's alumnus and former Army Officer), Chris Pritchard (Search Recruitment Consultant), Daisy Bolton (Engineering Apprentice at Rolls Royce), Amy Hutton (A&E Doctor and charity pioneer), and Gabriella Lavorini (St Bede's alumna, now working at McHale and Co Solicitors). Their stories offered a valuable glimpse into a wide range of career journeys and inspired students to aim high and explore the possibilities ahead.

**Mrs Alyson Boustead - Careers Coordinator**





# MANCHESTER ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025:

## WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

On Wednesday 28th June, a small group of U3 girls took part in the Manchester Schools' Track and Field Championships at Sport City. This competition is the most prestigious Athletics competition for U12s in the area, and involved sixteen schools competing across various events. Hopes were high for the Athletics team as they had been successful in a much smaller competition; however, all the largest schools in Manchester would be there this time.

The track events were up first, and leading the team off was Sara in the 75m. After four heats, she was declared the runner-up in the event, to a Wright Robinson student, clocking a little over 10.5 seconds. Next up, Ruby had a difficult lane draw in the 150m but performed well to finish 4th overall and score valuable points for the team. Last on the track was Myla, who was running the 800m, a day after being off school with illness. Somehow, she managed to find the strength to complete both laps and, after executing a fantastic race plan, closed in on the eventual winner in the final straight to finish second.

St Bede's had enjoyed a very successful track programme, but as points are awarded for every finishing position, starting with twenty-five for a win, it was difficult to know how we compared to the other schools. Next up was the turn of the field events, with Mayowa and Enya taking part in Shot Put and Javelin, both being new to the events. They performed admirably and only missed out on a medal by a matter of centimetres, with them both finishing 5th out of the 16 competitors. There was some expectation on Kimmy's shoulders in the Long

Jump as she had recorded a distance over 4m the week before, but she handled the pressure well to win the event by 25cm, jumping 4.10m. Meanwhile, in the time-consuming High Jump competition, Deborah had not put a foot wrong in the early rounds and so was one of only a few pupils still in as the bar reached 1.25m. A superb clearance on her first attempt that could not be matched by anyone else resulted in a further gold medal for St Bede's.

This left the all-important 4x100m relay to determine which school would be crowned Manchester champions. Fresh from her High Jump victory, Deborah joined Kimmy, Ruby and Sara on the track in heat three. Changeovers are key to the success with the relay, and the last minute practice on the sidelines paid off as the girls won their heat and were the third fastest school overall. They could do no more and had to agonisingly wait for the scores to be announced from 16th to 1st. With numerous schools named after saints, the delay from the announcer after the "St" was created tension for the teams. However, we did not need to worry as it was only after we knew the position of all the other schools that the name St Bede's was called out as Champions. The U3 team should be so proud of their achievement, and of how they conducted themselves on the afternoon, supporting one another. I know I certainly was!

**Mr Steffan Morgan - Head of Physical Education**





# UPPER SIXTH PRIZEGIVING: A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR LEAVERS

The College community came together last week to celebrate and bid farewell to our Upper Sixth students at this year's Prizegiving ceremony. It was a fitting occasion to reflect on their journey, their achievements and the exciting adventures that lie ahead.

The celebration began with a beautiful Mass, where we were treated to stunning performances by Maria, Siena and Dara. Their singing brought a sense of reverence and joy to the service, reminding us all of the shared values and friendships that bind us together.

We were also delighted to welcome guest speaker and former Head Boy (1969) Phil Griffin. Phil spoke about his own time at the College, sharing anecdotes that resonated with students and staff alike. He encouraged our leavers to embrace everything that Manchester has to offer – especially its rich architectural heritage, a particular passion of his. Phil drew a thoughtful comparison between the unfinished Vaughan Building and our departing students themselves – a reminder that while they may be leaving school, they are still very much works in progress, with so much growth and opportunity still to come. His words were both inspiring and reassuring, perfectly capturing the bittersweet feeling of moving on.

A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of a special leaving gift to the Upper Sixth – an engraved

compass. Symbolising guidance, adventure and self-discovery, the compass serves as a reminder to always find their way in life, wherever they may go, and to never forget where they came from. Once a Bedian, always a Bedian.

The ceremony also recognised the outstanding achievements of many students through the presentation of prizes. Subject awards celebrated academic excellence across a range of disciplines, as well as a Gold Faith in Action Award, and special awards for Academic Achievement, as well as for those who demonstrated the qualities of being Inspired, Committed, and Grateful. The Bedian Award – recognising outstanding contribution to the life of the College – brought the ceremony to a proud and emotional close.

As we say goodbye to this wonderful group of young people, we do so with immense pride in all they have accomplished and excitement for what lies ahead. They may be, in Phil's words, "unfinished," but they leave us equipped with knowledge, values, and a strong sense of determination to make a positive difference in the world.

We wish them every success for the future – and remind them, they will always have a home here at the College.

**Dr A McMonagle - Head of Sixth Form**





# St. Bede's College Prizegiving



## Subjects Awards

English Literature - Bridget Starkie  
Mathematics - Maciej Wdowin  
Further Mathematics - Reuben Paris  
Chemistry - Frankie Iliffe  
Physics - Maciej Wdowin  
Biology - Maria Garrachon  
History - Kamwana Mwara  
Politics - Ross Chaplin  
Theology - Bridget Starkie  
Psychology - Eviemae Campbell  
Economics - Alexander Bryce  
Computer Science - Genevieve Onzivu  
Modern Foreign Languages - Maria Garrachon  
Theatre Studies - Tara Gupta  
Art - Siena Ho  
Design Technology - Rafal Sobieraj  
Photography - Liana Cheong  
Performing Arts - Isobel Holt  
Headteacher's Sports Award - Harry Cartmell



## Ethos Prizes

Academic Achievement - Frankie Iliffe  
Inspired - Siena Ho  
Committed - Edward O'Loughlin  
Grateful - Brandon Griffin



## Bedian Award

Dara Salami









# SIXTH FORM LEAVERS' BALL: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER AT MANCHESTER HALL

The Sixth Form Leavers' Ball is always one of the most anticipated events in the College calendar — and this year's celebration at Manchester Hall certainly did not disappoint. It was a fantastic evening filled with laughter, nostalgia and plenty of dancing, as students and staff came together to mark the culmination of many years at the College.

The stunning venue provided the perfect backdrop for the occasion, with everyone dressed to impress and ready to celebrate not only their achievements but also the friendships, memories and shared experiences that have shaped their time here.

One of the highlights of the evening

was the awards ceremony. With both students and staff in the spotlight, a variety of lighthearted titles were handed out — from the classic Prom King and Queen to Best Dressed, Most Likely to be Famous, and Best Personality. The awards sparked plenty of laughter and good-natured teasing, as everyone embraced the spirit of fun and celebration.

After the formalities, the dance floor quickly filled and we thoroughly enjoyed the evening. A special thanks goes to Dara S for helping to organise the event, and to the staff and students who attended and made the occasion so special.

**Dr A McMonagle - Head of Sixth Form**









# MASS AND CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY:

We ended the summer term and the year in tradition with a thanksgiving mass celebrated by Father Alvaro. He posed the question in his homily what had been the highlight of the year from the pupils' point of view, and whether that might be different from God's point of view? In the second reading to the Corinthians, St Paul mentions that they have been enriched with all sorts of blessings, and it is the same for our pupils this year. We make daily choices to help us grow, become better and closer friends to our peers and Jesus Christ. Sometimes our growth goes unnoticed, but doing things we are not good at can help us grow, building our virtue and character. We grow because the Holy Spirit acts in us. Father Alvaro said, 'We should let him guide us and trust in him.'

We then celebrated the summer term's achievements, and what a bumper celebration it was! Our Head Boy, Sol, and Head Girl, Shriya, followed by the President of the BDI, CJ, summarised the term and

pointed out what a success it had been. With BRP awards, Biology, Business, Maths, Art, PE, Performing Arts, Library, Duke of Edinburgh, Project Week, Academic and Ethos prizes to distribute, our hands were sore with all the applause! But it was testament to how inspiring and committed our pupils have been over this year. The House Shield was awarded to Bosco this year, and our inaugural U3 Form Shield was presented to the form captains of Mr Segura's form. The end of the year can be bittersweet with pupils and some staff departing, but we said our fond farewells.

Mrs Kemp reminded pupils to 'Be Bedian' this summer, thinking of others before ourselves and encouraging everyone to have a well deserved rest, because next year will be busier than ever with our 150th anniversary celebrations, where we show our gratitude to Manchester.

**Mrs Claire Boylan - Assistant Head Safeguarding & Ethos**









# SIXTH FORM: GARDENERS FOR THE DAY

On 3 July, Heads of House gave Lower Sixth the opportunity to participate in a morning of gardening at the Caritas Lalley Allotment and Community Pantry in North Manchester. The allotment is an entirely charitable organisation and works with vulnerable people across Manchester to provide sustainably grown food to those who need it most.

Students donned gardening gloves and split into groups to water the plants (tomatoes, cucumbers, basil, lettuce) in the polytunnels, and to clear overgrown shrub areas to create paths around the vegetables. They were taught about how much

food we waste (a third of all global food) and learned about using food waste to create compost. They were shown a new compost machine (the only one like it in Manchester), to which the school next door donates food after lunch each day. Excitingly, the students got to harvest some vegetables - rocket, cauliflower, courgettes, lettuce, basil, cucumbers and swiss chard. When they weighed the vegetables they had harvested, they totalled more than 10kg! Many thanks to Mr Parkes, Ms Singleton and Ms Smith for accompanying the Lower Sixth.

**Dr A McMonagle - Head of Sixth Form**





# INAUGURAL TED TALKS COMPETITION:

## EMPOWERING VOICES, INSPIRING IDEAS

The College was proud to host a truly special occasion this term – our very first TEDed Talks Competition for the Sixth Form, marking an exciting new chapter in our commitment to developing confident, eloquent and interesting speakers.

The competition forms part of the Bedian Research Programme (BRP), which runs throughout the College from Upper Third to Lower Sixth. The BRP is all about empowering students to build resilience, take ownership of their learning, and develop the skills they need to succeed both academically and personally. As part of this, Lower Sixth students undertook a series of short courses focused on establishing strong study habits, exploring emotional resilience, and, finally, applying their learning through the TEDed Programme. Over the last ten weeks, students worked hard to plan, research, and refine presentations on topics they are passionate about – building both their knowledge and their public speaking skills along the way.

Before the main event, students competed in form group heats, with only the top speakers from each group progressing to the final – a fantastic achievement in itself. The

atmosphere was one of excitement and anticipation as the finalists took to the stage to present their talks to an audience of peers, staff, and our esteemed panel of judges, who scored the talks based on criteria set by the TED organisation.

Every speaker rose to the challenge with confidence, eloquence, and impressive creativity. The standard of the talks was exceptional, with students covering a wide range of topics that reflected not only their interests but also their ability to communicate complex ideas with clarity and passion.

The winner of the competition was revealed during our Celebration Assembly on the final day of term: Molly G came first with her intriguing presentation on 'A Criminal Investigation', while special commendations were awarded to Shriya N and Yoshi Y for their wonderful talks on 'Perspective' and 'Time Travelling' respectively.

We look forward to seeing this event grow in the years to come and to hearing more Bedian voices sharing ideas worth spreading

**Dr A McMonagle - Head of Sixth Form**





# ALUMNI VISIT

We were delighted to welcome back some former students to speak to our Lower Sixth about their experience of university life. Charlotte (not pictured), Isobel, Kathryn, Kian and Samson really kindly gave up their time to let our Sixth Formers know what life is like at university in Durham, Bristol, Manchester and Glasgow. They spoke about homesickness, accommodation, study, timetables and friendships, as well as the challenges of cooking and doing laundry.

They also addressed Lower Fifth, who were experiencing A level Taster

lessons on the same day. It was heartwarming to hear them speak so positively about how St Bede's Sixth Form had prepared them to make the most of their university experiences, and they emphasised the very bespoke and individual support they had had in choosing their universities and courses. I was thrilled to hear we have made such a difference, and so proud to see the five of them so happy and confident. I hope they will come back to see us again soon and join us in celebrating 150 years of the College in 2026.

**Dr A McMonagle - Head of Sixth Form**





# LOWER SIXTH EXPLORE MANCHESTER ON INDEPENDENT TRIPS

On Wednesday, 2 July, Lower Sixth students stepped into the heart of Manchester as part of an exciting independent learning initiative. As part of a wider effort to develop cultural capital and deepen their appreciation of the rich cultural landscape on their doorstep, students were challenged to plan and undertake a trip to one of the city's major museums or galleries.

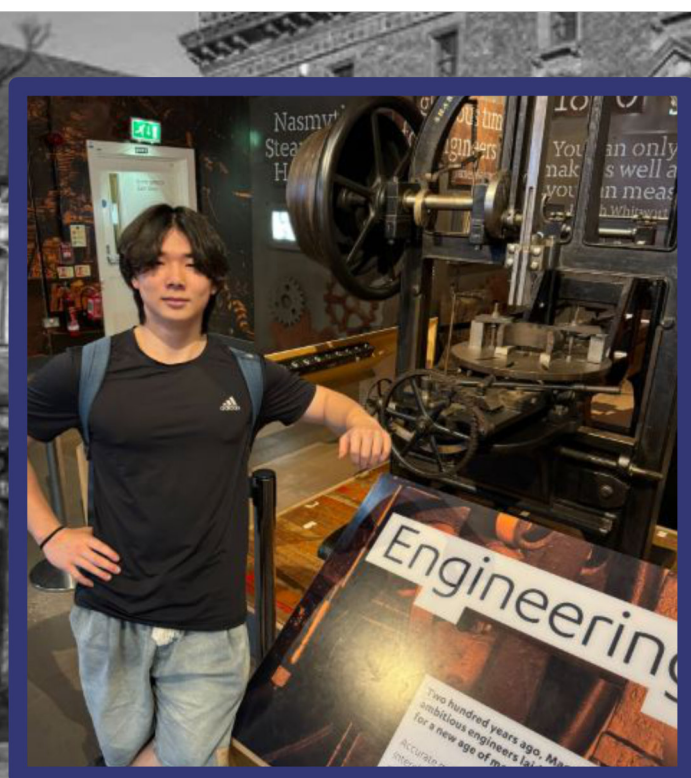
When completing their trip plans a week prior, the students chose three of Manchester's most iconic institutions: the Imperial War Museum, Manchester Art Gallery and Manchester Museum. Each place offered a unique opportunity to explore themes ranging from art and identity to history, conflict, science and natural history.

The day was about more than just

seeing the sights – it was designed to empower students to take responsibility for their own learning, prepare for university life and spend quality time with their peers. Students were required to plan their route using public transport, manage their time effectively, and fully engage with the exhibitions on offer by taking photographs and videos where permitted.

In September, as Upper Sixth students, they will be tasked with sharing presentations about their trips with the incoming Lower Sixth in an assembly. In doing so, they will hopefully inspire the new Lower Sixth students to get into Manchester themselves and support the independent trips initiative.

**Ms Jordana Theriault - Sixth Form Enrichment Coordinator**





# GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD CELEBRATION

On the 12th of May 2025, Kian, Samson, and Arran had the honour of being invited to Buckingham Palace to celebrate the completion of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The day was filled with inspiring moments, from meeting other outstanding young achievers to having the privilege of seeing and speaking with His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward.

The event recognised the hard work, dedication, and perseverance required to complete the Gold Award, a truly significant and demanding achievement.

Prior to the celebration, each of the boys received their Gold Award certificate and brooch, which they wore with pride on the day.

We are very proud of the boys and who they've become along their Duke of Edinburgh experiences.

**Mrs Karunes Naidoo - Parent**





# SIXTH FORMERS AT DELTA FORCE PAINTBALL

On the 2nd July, Lower Sixth students embarked on an exhilarating paintballing trip. The day was filled with adrenaline as students strategised, ran through the wooded area of Delta Force Paintball in Eccles, and engaged in friendly yet competitive battles with each other. Before the missions commenced, students were given a thorough safety brief by members of

staff; they were also supported to choose the correct outfit and gear. Overall, the trip offered not only a physical challenge but also an opportunity for students to bond and create lasting memories outside the classroom. What a way to end the year!

**Ms Jordana Theriault - Sixth Form Enrichment Coordinator**







# FATHER ALVARO'S SUMMER MESSAGE

In the midst of our daily challenges and struggles, it is easy to lose sight of the many blessings we receive throughout the year. Yet, as we look back on this academic year, we can recognise the numerous opportunities we have had to grow and flourish, both as individuals and as members of society.

For a Christian, this personal growth involves our efforts to identify ourselves with Jesus and become instruments of His love for others.

The end of the academic year is also a good time to take stock and ask whether we have made the most of those opportunities. Can I say that I am now closer to God than I was last September? This is not an easy question to answer. But we can be sure of this: if we have made an effort to live a life of virtue, to follow our conscience, and to let the Holy Spirit guide our actions – even in the midst of setbacks and defeats – then we have grown, becoming a little more the person God calls us to be.

We began the academic year with a Mass to the Holy Spirit and we have ended it with a Mass of thanksgiving. Asking for God's help and recognising His gifts are two attitudes that, for a Christian, always go hand in hand.

Seeing the graces and blessings God has poured upon us fills us with hope, a hope that, as St Paul tells the Romans, is rooted in "the love of God that has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

As we now enter the summer break, I wish you a time of rest, renewal, and joy. May the weeks ahead be an opportunity to deepen the bonds of family and friendship, to appreciate the simple gifts of each day, and to grow in your relationship with God. Whether through prayer, quiet reflection, or acts of kindness, may this summer help us return in September with grateful hearts and renewed strength.

**Fr Alvaro - College Priest**





# UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July - Break up for Summer Holidays 12 Noon

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August - A level Results Day

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August - GCSE Results Day

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September - INSET Day

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - INSET Day

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Prep, Upper Third & Sixth Form Return

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September - Lower Fourth, Upper Fourth, Lower Fifth & Upper Fifth Return

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October - Whole School Open Day