

# St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College

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## Newsletter

Issue 371 28th June 2024

### MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

Students at St Bede's continue to excel in following the St Bede's Way.

#### Work Hard

This is exemplified by the commitment of all students that have sat exams in the last few months. Students have also worked hard on fundraising through their house and chaplaincy work. Students show courage when speaking about their faith and trying to live it out in their daily lives.

#### Be Kind

Students have provided wonderful role models for the Year 5s that have visited the college in the last fortnight. They have cared for the younger children, sowing compassion by easing their concerns and helping them prepare for the move to secondary school in September 2025.

#### Do the Right Thing

Students in Year 10 have recently shown great integrity and commitment to our community by either volunteering to be Eucharistic Ministers or applying to be prefects. I look forward to interviewing for the next Head Girl and Head Boy later this term.

Dear Lord,

*Make me poor in spirit, so I can receive the kingdom of heaven.*

*When I mourn, help me find comfort.*

*Make me meek, so that I may inherit the land.*

*Help me to hunger and thirst for righteousness, so I may be satisfied.*

*Make me merciful, so I may obtain your mercy.*

*Make me pure of heart, so I may see you.*

*Help me to make peace, so I may be called your child.*

*When I am persecuted for righteousness' sake, show me your kingdom.*

Amen.

### YEAR 11 PRESENTATION ASSEMBLY

Today, our Year 11's celebrated their last day in college uniform at our Presentation Assembly. Pupils were treated to a 'trip down memory lane' as we shared photographs of their time at the college. This evening, the Year 11 Prom will take place which is always a wonderful occasion.

Many of the pupils will of course, be returning in September for life in our Sixth Form. We wish each and every one the success they deserve.



## REFLECTION – 29 June

### Feast of SS Peter and Paul



Two of the greatest saints who have ever lived are commemorated together on this Feast. Simon Peter, the acknowledged leader of Christ's disciples and impetuously inclined 'Prince of the Apostles' is joined by a man who was, in so many respects, his polar opposite: Saul of Tarsus, a fiercely observant Pharisee, scholar and one of the most creative and original theologians to ever live, who became St Paul. We join with the Church through the ages in honouring two of the 'Apostolic men' who gave the Church its initial missionary impetus and zeal. They were both very different!

As we celebrate these two great saints, let us remind ourselves that, although very different, each had a personality which contributed much to the Church. In the same way, provided we allow God to work with us and through us, our own personality makes a vital contribution of itself, quite apart from any specific gifts with which we might be endowed. Let us celebrate the great diversity with which God endows the members of his Church as we rejoice in the examples of his great saints.

#### Reflection:

*"The Church looks to these two giants of faith and sees two Apostles who set free the power of the Gospel in our world, only because first they themselves had been set free by their encounter with Christ... they were neither judged nor humiliated by Jesus, who instead shared their life with affection and closeness. He does the same with us"* Pope Francis

#### A prayer to Sts. Peter and Paul

O holy Apostles,  
Peter and Paul, intercede for us.  
Protect, O Lord, your people who trust in the  
patronage of your Apostles, Peter and Paul;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## SPORTS DAY FIELD EVENTS

### RECORD-BREAKING PERFORMANCES!

Congratulations to our students who have competed in Sports Day field events this week showcasing some incredible talent. Students displayed their skills in various competitions and fun was had by all.

Congratulations to **Eseose Osazuwa**, **Tachari Porteous** and **Emily James** who have etched their names in the school's history, by setting new records in Shot put and Triple Jump.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

**2nd July**

Summer Concert  
6.00pm

**3rd July**

CERN trip

**3rd July**

Year 6  
Transition Day  
and  
Parents' Evening

**5th July**

Year 13 Prom

**8th July**

Enrichment Week



### CAN YOU HELP?

If you have any oddments of knitting or crochet yarn spare, we would love to be able to use it for Enrichment week. Please can donations be given to Mrs Owen.

Thank you in advance.



## RUGBY AT TWICKENHAM

The Year 9 team travelled to the Sixways Stadium for the final of the touch to Twickenham competition to play against the top 30 teams from around the country.

The team started really well and played some excellent rugby.

In our opening pool we won 4 and drew one game, which resulted in us finishing top of the group. This then enabled the team to progress to the afternoon session and play against the winners of all the morning groups.

The standard of rugby was excellent and we had some really tough games.

Unfortunately, we lost several of our games by a single try and finished fifth overall.

The team should be very proud of their achievements and finishing 5th in the country is amazing. Many of the team had never played competitive rugby before, so congratulations to them all.



## PHYSICISTS PRESENTATION

We welcomed Alessio Bernardelli to St Bede's this week to talk to Year 12 Physicists about the 4th Generation Quantum Technology Applications.

It was a thought-provoking presentation which left Year 12 inspired.



## BELL BURNELL CHARITY EVENT

Bell Burnell House participated in their annual charity event, which this year was a 24 hour walk!

The aim was for staff and pupils to participate within a team of 12, and throughout a 24 hour period to have at least two of them walking at all times. The challenge was certainly the longest that Bell Burnell has ever attempted and 154 students took part in the event.

At 2pm on Thursday 13th June they began their attempt. Spirits were high and were boosted by a BBQ which was kindly prepared by Rev. Munanga. Much of the meat for the BBQ was generously donated by The Butchers Block, in Portishead and the donations from both the CoOp and Aldi helped with breakfast.

Mr Johnson is extremely grateful for the help and support offered to enable the event to run smoothly and give students an experience that they will remember for a long time.

All of the sponsorship money raised went to St. Peter's Hospice, who are coming into the next assembly to congratulate the teams. Incredibly, as they crossed the finish line at 2pm on Friday 14th June the money was flooding in.

As it stands they have raised an eye watering **£7364.13**

St. Peter's Hospice have informed Mr Johnson that this is the largest donation that any school has ever made to the charity. It has also become the most successful event that Bell Burnell House has ever run. Donations are still being made and if you would like to contribute the link is: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/david-johnson-1715719936928>

Mr Johnson is extremely proud of all of the participants and what they have achieved to help the hospice perform their important work and provide an invaluable service to families who live in Bristol.



## ARETÉ TASTER DAY

We were delighted to welcome over 180 students to our Areté taster day yesterday.

Students were able to try out different subject lessons to get an idea of what they may study over the next two years. The day culminated in a brilliant team building afternoon where students participated in a variety of activities and a quiz in the lecture theatre. All students enjoyed the friendly competitiveness and had a wonderful time.

We look forward to seeing them in September.



## RACE FOR LIFE

Congratulations to St. Bede's Reception team Mrs Johnson, Mrs Bennett and students, Grace and Amy who participated in the Race for Life on Sunday, raising over **£1,250** for Cancer Research UK.

They were supported on the day by their friend and colleague Mrs Mason, who has fought cancer this past year.

A huge thank you to all who have donated to this very worthy cause. <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/stbcc>



## PhD

Congratulations to Dr Bailey, Lead Sixth Form Academic Mentor and Adviser, who graduates today with a PhD in Art History from the University of Glasgow.



Dr Bailey studied part-time as a distance student, with research taking her to archives, country houses, libraries and universities all over the country.

## ROMERO

Our new Sixth Form building 'Romero' has been shortlisted for "Building Project of the Year Up To £5M"

Please click the following link to find out more:

<https://cesw-awards.org.uk/2024/en/page/vote-now>

## LIBRARY NEWS

### The Carnegie special



Years 7 and 9 have been shadowing the Yoto Carnegie Book Awards.

Both Writing awards went to verse novels

The Shadows' Award for Writing (voted for by pupils nationally) went to Crossing the Line by Tia Fisher. This powerful novel looks at how one boy gets sucked into carrying drugs for a gang, one bad decision at a time. To strengthen its message, Tia plays with text and the formatting of its lines. Year 10+

The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing was won by Joseph Coelho, the current Children's Laureate for The Boy Lost in the Maze. This brilliantly weaves the stories of Theseus in ancient Greece and modern day Theo's very personal journey to find their fathers. It speaks to a profound need to know where you come from to know where you are going. I found the poetry deeply moving. I recommend this book to deep thinkers everywhere. Year 10+

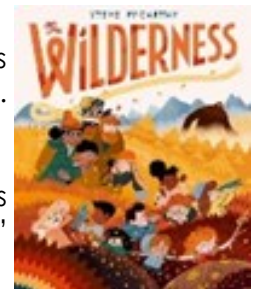
Both awards for Illustration were won by The Tree and the River by Aaron Becker, meaning that this book appealed to both the judging committee and the nation's children. The story is told entirely without words.

**Our year 7 Shadowing group has really enjoyed following the Carnegie awards this year.** "I loved doing the club and trying the challenges and would recommend for next year's Year 7's" – Emi "Being in a book club and talking about illustrations was a really fun experience, It helped me to appreciate all the hard work and attention to detail that goes into every book. As a person who aspires to be an artist, it was amazing to see..." – Joana

Every book on the shortlist is worth reading. We had no outright winner, Two books tied for St Bede's first place:

The Tree and the River - "It is a really detailed story of how a civilisation changes over time," Lennka "...It has inspired me to appreciate nature and the outdoors. It's beautiful." Joana "...It could interest anyone in every (age) range." Alan

The Wilderness by Steve McCarthy - "It's cute, funny and I love how the characters are named after the months." – Ola "Very energetic...really nice concept." Joana. We all agreed it was a great choice to share with younger siblings.



With honourable mentions to:

The Search for the Giant Jellyfish by Chloe Savage – "It has beautiful illustrations and a good story about perseverance." Emi. The Midnight Panther by Poonam Mistry – "I loved the drawing and the story all the way through. I thought the message of the panther being comfortable being himself was nice" Grace

**The Year 9 Shadowing Group went to Clifton College to take part in their Carnegie Drama competition...**



"The most memorable day! Performing at Clifton is something I will never forget. Winning at Clifton will stay with me forever! The experience was amazing. When we met the author it was like meeting the King. I'm so thankful I was able to go. Thank you, Ms Adams and Mrs Hayman, for getting us ready and helping us." Livia

The book the Year 9s chose from the shortlist for their competition entry was Away with Words by Sophie Cameron. Once again, it plays with the formatting of words "A lovely book, sweet story. I'd recommend to everyone. Five stars!" Christopher



Don't forget, all the shortlisted books are available to borrow from the Library.

## SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Police are urging parents to check the group WhatsApp settings on their children's phones after a number of 11 year olds in Gloucestershire were exposed to sexual violence and racist content.

Officers have received reports that children in the county have been automatically added to a group without their knowledge or permission.

Once in the group, which has an American phone number prefix, they are encouraged to add everyone in their contacts and are then sent upsetting sexually violent and racist content.

Group members are then warned that if they leave the chat, they will be found.

Police are now asking parents whose children use WhatsApp to check the settings on the messaging app so that they cannot be added to groups by unknown third parties. The default setting in WhatsApp allows anyone to add a number to a group chat without needing permission.

To disable this, go to WhatsApp and follow these steps:

Go to Settings

> Privacy

> Groups

> Under 'who can add me to groups', select 'My contacts'

Parents are also advised to talk to their children and advise them not to view the chat if they have been added to the group and to block, delete and report the group to WhatsApp immediately.

## NEW SCHOOL MEAL PRICES 2024/25

As you know, Chartwells run the college canteen and provide our breaktime and lunchtime service.

In accordance with the catering contract under which school meals are provided by Chartwells and the pricing review clauses contained within that contract, the new school meal prices from **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024** are shown below.:

CATEGORY	CHARGE	NOTES
Secondary Pupil	£2.95	Including halal and special diet meals

## VACANCIES

St. Bede's Catholic College are currently advertising the following vacancies:

### Caretaker

Term time only. Monday—Thursday 11.30am—7.30pm and Friday 11.30am to 7.00pm  
£20,895—£22,719 actual salary

### School Meals Supervisory Assistant

The usual hours of work are 12.00pm – 1.30pm Monday to Friday, term time only.  
£12.00 per hour

All posts at St Bede's are subject to a 6-month probationary period.

The successful candidate will be required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service Check before starting work. A job description and application form are available on our website: <https://bit.ly/3rWy5rJ>

A hard copy can be posted, upon request. Please contact Mrs Walker [walkerc@stbcc.org](mailto:walkerc@stbcc.org) for further information.

## FREE SCHOOL MEAL HOLIDAY VOUCHERS

We are writing to give you an update on the Household Support Fund which Bristol City Council currently receives from the government. A large proportion of this is used to provide supermarket vouchers for the families of eligible free school meal pupils during holiday periods.

In March 2024, the government made the decision to extend the Household Support Fund until September 2024.

Last week, Bristol City Council's Strategy and Resources committee agreed to use the fund to award grants of **£45 per pupil in receipt of free school meals for the upcoming summer holiday period**. These will be distributed in the form supermarket voucher by our finance team as in previous holiday periods.

Bristol City Council's Strategy and Resources committee have recognised that this is a reduced rate compared to previous years due to the limited six-month extension.

We understand that this may cause real challenges for families over the school holidays. If you know someone who is struggling, there is further information and support on the council's dedicated [cost of living webpage](#). The 'We Are Bristol' phonenumber is also available on 0800 694 0184 between 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

We do not yet know details about the future of the Household Support Fund beyond September 2024 when the fund is expected to end. This will be decided by the future government after the general election on Thursday 4 July and we will update you with more information as soon as we are able to.



ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE LIBRARY



# *RETURN YOUR BOOKS!*

**BY 5TH JULY 2024**



**THE LIBRARY WILL BE  
SHUT FOR STOCKTAKING,  
8TH -12TH JULY**

(You will be able to borrow again afterwards!)