

St. Bede's Catholic College

Specialist Science and Sports College

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Newsletter

Issue 378 29th November 2024

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

Over the last fortnight, I have delivered an assembly to all houses on "Caring for others". We focused on the story of the Good Samaritan and how Jesus calls us to be kind and compassionate to all people, even when it is inconvenient or hard work.

As we approach the end of term I am aware of the heightened financial pressures that many of you are facing at the moment. As such, we want to emphasise that our staff are not expecting any 'thank you' gifts from students or families. Should you still wish to say 'thank you', we always appreciate:

Homemade cards, emails and letters, or a spoken 'thank you' – kind words mean a lot!

Donations to the House charities via SCOPAY

Paying it forward – volunteering your time to help others

Thank you for your continued support.

God of love,

May we always see the world through the eyes of the Good Samaritan and be filled with your deep compassion.

Help us to be merciful neighbours even when it is inconvenient, when we don't have time, or when we have other responsibilities to attend to. Grant us the insight to see the need in those around us, the wisdom to know how to respond, and the strength to do so willingly.

We pray for those we might cross the road to avoid - the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised.

Open our eyes, that we might not cross the road from human need. May our love of you and love of our neighbour call us to be people of peace and justice in the world.

Amen

St Bede's Spotlight Work Hard, Be Kind, Do the Right Thing

The St. Bede's Way Spotlight identifies someone who stands out as exemplifying one of our three St Bede's Way principles of "Work Hard. Be Kind. Do the Right Thing."

Congratulations to year 8 student **Sofia Da Silva** who is excelling in Jiu-Jitsu.

Sofia has been practising Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu since the age of five and has competed in many national competitions including the British Open Championship with great results.

At the end of October, Sofia competed at the European Kids Jiu-Jujitsu IBJJF Championship in Lisbon, Portugal winning Gold!

Sofia, your hard work exemplifies our St Bede's Way principles.

We are proud of you.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2024

Monday

9th December

Andorra Ski Trip
Parents' Meeting
6.00pm

Wednesday

11th December

Flu vaccinations
(Years 7-11)

Tuesday

17th December

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday

18th December

Advent Service
6.00pm

Friday

20th December

END OF TERM 2

College will close
at 2.00pm



REFLECTION – 30 November St Andrew

This week we celebrate the feast day of St Andrew



St. Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter. He was a fisherman and a follower of St. John the Baptist. When he heard the call of Jesus, he immediately left everything and followed Him.

Among the 12, Andrew and Peter were especially close to Jesus.

After the ascension of Jesus to heaven, Andrew went to Greece to preach the gospel. In the year 70 he became a martyr. He was put to death on a cross to which he was tied, not nailed. It was a cross in the form of an X, which is now called "St. Andrew's Cross" which is shown in the flag of Scotland. He lived for two days, suffering, yet still preaching the gospel.

Although he probably never visited Scotland, it is said that his relics were brought, and the place they visited was later called St Andrews.

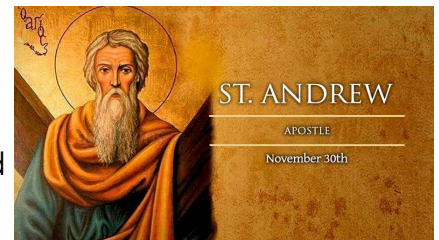
Reflection: *"If we strive for goals, relishing in the pleasure of circumstance, nothing is enjoyable, and life becomes purposeless."*
Quote from St Andrew

Prayer: Prayer of St Andrew

Creator God, your Son Jesus, called Andrew the apostle to preach the good news.

May his prayers in your presence give us courage to follow you and to be an inspiration to us as we share your good news with others through the actions we take.

Amen



A LEVEL AND GCSE CERTIFICATES COLLECTION

GCSE and A Level Certificates from the Summer 2024 season will be available for collection from Tuesday 3rd December 2024 from 10am–2pm. For further information please refer to our website: <https://www.stbedesc.org/page/?pid=367>

CHRISTMAS TREE

Thank you to Almondsbury Garden Centre for donating this year's Christmas tree. Students will get the opportunity to decorate the tree next week.

Almondsbury Garden Centre would love to see friends of St. Bede's over the festive period for a cup or tea and mince pie, and they are fully stocked with fresh trees ready to take home!

EXAM INFORMATION

The Mock Examination timetables have now been published for Year 11 and Year 13.

Please refer to the Exams page on our college website for information and guidance during this period. <https://www.stbedesc.org/page/?title=Exam+Information&pid=61>

TEACHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

We are pleased to announce that St. Bede's has been accepted by the Department for Education to be a Lead Partner School for Bristol University's (UoB) teacher training program. This partnership also includes St Bernadette's and St Brendan's, and as a group of schools, we will be known as the Alliance of Bristol Catholic Schools and Colleges.

Being a Lead Partner School brings numerous benefits to our institution. It places us at the forefront of teacher training, enhancing our reputation and attracting top teaching talent to our school. This partnership will boost our recruitment efforts, allowing us to bring in teaching professionals aligned with our ethos. Additionally, it provides our current staff with unique opportunities for professional development and collaboration with Bristol University and our partner schools.

Prospective teachers will now be able to apply to complete their PGCE with the Alliance of Bristol Catholic Schools and UoB. We will be able to interview prospective PGCE students who apply through this route, and successful candidates will be placed in two of our alliance schools during their training. In the future any of our PGCE students who have been recruited through this route will be guaranteed an interview should they apply for a full-time teaching position in one of our alliance of schools. Our first PGCE students recruited through this route will start in September 2025.

Opportunities to join this program are now available, and applications can be submitted via the DfE website. If you know anyone who is interested in getting into teaching and would like to train with us, please forward the following link to them: <https://www.gov.uk/find-teacher-training-courses>

ROTARY YOUNG MUSICIAN CONCERT

Congratulations to **Briana**, Year 10 and Areté student **Theodora**, who took part in a concert at Trinity Henleaze United Reform Church on Friday 22nd November.

The concert featured solos by nine students from schools in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. The standard of the performances was extremely high and **Briana** and **Theodora** should be very pleased with their accomplishments.



CONCERT AT ST. GEORGE'S

On Wednesday 27th November, a group of students attended a concert at St. George's. The concert featured solo piano works by the Polish composer Chopin.

An enjoyable evening was had by all who attended.



WELL-BEING ON THE FARM

A group of Pasteur pupils have embraced a well-being opportunity; supporting our local community farm in Lawrence Weston.

The experience will include handling the animals, learning about their needs and habitat and 'mucking out'! The pupils have shared that it's fun, educational and good for the soul!



RUGBY FINALS

The Year 10 rugby team played in the finals of the Bristol and Area State Schools competition yesterday.

We met Oasis Brislington in the semi finals and the boys played some excellent rugby. After making a great start Brislington came back at us in the second half but we secured a 24 - 12 victory, and moved into the finals.

We met BFS who have had an amazing season winning most of their games by 60 points, so we knew that it was going to be a hard game. BFS exploited a few gaps in our defence and took an early lead. The boys dug in and battled hard but we were beaten by the better team by 47 - 7.

A special mention to three year 9 players; **Sam M**, **Matt W** and **Bertie S** who stepped up and played for the team due to a few last minute injuries and illnesses.

This team won the competition last year and finished second this year. So congratulations to all the players who have had another successful season.

The Year 7 rugby team played their final festival at RGS last week.

All of the games were close and especially against BFS, which was end to end. They boys have progressed so well this season and Mr Johnson is delighted with how many of the year 7 boys have attended training before the October holiday, and performed very well in the two festivals and the rugby 7's competition.

They are showing a lot of potential and Mr Johnson would encourage those who have enjoyed their first experience in rugby, to explore joining a local club. Their record for this season stands at 1 loss, 1 draw and 3 wins. Congratulations to them all.



MARY POPPINS AT BRISTOL HIPPODROME

On Wednesday 20th November, students from Years 8—13 went to watch a performance of Mary Poppins at the Bristol Hippodrome. It was brilliant to see such an entertaining performance made up of talented performers and musicians.



We are now looking forward to our own production of Mary Poppins, which will be held in college at the start of Term 4.

CHRISTMAS DINNER — TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2024

Please be advised that the deadline for paying for your child(ren)'s Christmas meal is the 6 December 2024. This is to ensure that we have the numbers to order the necessary ingredients in.

Please note there will be NO break time service available and only ordered Christmas lunches will be available at lunchtime. If your child(ren) have not ordered the Christmas lunch you will need to provide them with a packed lunch or funds to purchase from the shops before school.

Students on Free School Meals are having their orders taken by their tutors, where they can have the same options as the paying students, or have the added option of a sandwich because we are obliged to ensure they are given lunch options.

FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Sirona are offering your child in Year 7 to 11 a free flu vaccine (nasal spray) at school on the 11th December.

If you wish your child to receive the vaccine, please complete the consent form as soon as possible: <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2024/consent?v=3>

Why get the vaccine?

The flu vaccine helps protect your child and your family from getting flu, reduces the spread of the virus in winter, and keeps them in school learning.

How is the vaccine given?

The flu vaccine is usually given using a quick and easy nasal spray, this is the best flu vaccine for children. If your child cannot have the nasal spray due to the porcine gelatine content or for medical reasons, you can consent for your child to have an injection instead.

Please follow the consent link or use the QR Code to consent Contact the School Immunisation Team: 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Digital Safeguarding is an important factor to consider at this time of year. As Christmas draws near, many children may be looking forward to receiving new electronic devices or games, so we feel that this is an appropriate time to highlight some straight-forward online safety tips to help parents/carers make safer choices and support their children online.

Top Tips

- Continue to take an active interest in your child's online life and engage in the digital world with them.
- Remind children that they can tell an adult if something happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable, without being told off or punished.
- Agree as a family, how the internet and technology will be used in your home; encourage children to use the online safety messages they learn in school and adapt these into your own family rules.
- Discuss online boundaries too; if your child loves to socialise online, talk to them about what is and isn't appropriate to share with their friends online.
- Always check the PEGI age rating and descriptors on games before buying them for your child and carefully consider whether the content is appropriate for them.
- Remember to role-model positive behaviour online; consider asking your child's permission before posting photos of them on social media this Christmas and empower them to have control over their 'digital reputation'.



Christmas opening times 2024

Our outlets will be closed for several days over the Christmas and New year period to give our volunteers a well earned rest. Please see details below:

Christmas Eve: Open at our hub in Avonmouth until 1pm

Christmas Day: Closed

Boxing Day: Closed

Friday 27th December: Closed

Monday 30th December: Open at our hub in Avonmouth

Tuesday 31st December: Closed

Wednesday 1st January: Closed

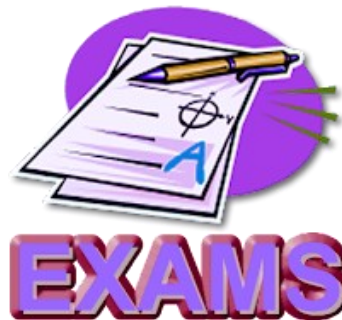
Thursday 2nd January: Open at our Lawrence Weston

Outlet as normal.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your partnership over the last year and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.



EXCITING CASUAL JOB OPPORTUNITY AT ST BEDE'S



Exams Invigilator

St Bede's is looking to recruit Exams Invigilators to provide support to the examination process within the College.

Employment is offered on a casual, sessional basis and the hours of work would be between morning and afternoon sessions, with exact timings depending on the length of the exams

8.30am-12.00pm AM Session

12.30pm-3.30pm PM Session

Internal GCSE and A Level MOCKS SEASON:

Year 11 & Year 13 Mocks exams 2025

Monday 13 January to Friday 24 January 2025

Year 10 & Year 12 Mocks

Monday 28 April to Friday 9 May 2025

Dates of public examinations GCSE & A Level (essential to be available on these dates)

GCSE & A Level Summer 2025 May/June

Tuesday 6 May to Friday 20 June

Contingency dates Summer 2025

The hourly rate of pay is £12.00

Successful candidates will be required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service check before starting work.

A job description and application form can be downloaded from the website or a hard copy can be posted to you.

If you have any queries, please contact Miss Mendez (Examinations Officer) exams@stbcc.org

Come and join the team!