

Newsletter

Issue 382 31st January 2025

MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

We were delighted to launch the Jubilee Year with a visit from Bishop Bosco last Friday. Bishop Bosco took part in our launch assembly, blessed our special Jubilee Door in the chapel and then met some students for a question and answer session.

The theme of the year is "Pilgrims of Hope", and we will be providing the students opportunities to renew, reset and recommit throughout the year. This launch day left us feeling excited and enthused about what the year has to offer.



MOBILE PHONES

As many of you will agree, managing the use of mobile phones for secondary school children is a challenge. Our policy is "on site, out of sight", which recognises the need for students to have a phone to use before and after school, but that access to it during the day is distracting and detrimental to success in the classroom and the wider school.

In student focus groups this week, the students said the main reason they wanted their phone on them in school was in case their parents needed to contact them. Please, please do not try to contact your children on their phone during the day. If you need to pass on an important message, please contact our reception and they will be able to get the message to your child. Thank you very much for your support.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

Monday

10th February

Year 12 Classroom Exams start

Wednesday

12th February

Cultural Showcase

Thursday 13th

February

Year 11 Progress Evening

14th February

INSET DAY

END OF TERM 3

24th February

START OF TERM 4

Week B

25th February

Sixth Form Parliament trip

25th & 26th

February

Year 11 Mock Interviews

REFLECTION – 31 January – St John Bosco

This week we celebrate the memorial of St John Bosco



"People need work so that they can buy food and clothes and pay for a place to live. They need God so that they will be happy". John Bosco was a priest who tried to teach poor children how to work and how to love God. John was born in 1815 in Becchi, Italy. In 1841 he was ordained a priest.

John was a priest, but he became a "father" to thousands of children. He started a school for poor boys, many of whom he met when he visited their parents in prison as part of his priestly work. These boys lived in the prisons, too, or on the streets. He started a school where they could eat and sleep. He taught them, and they also learned how to make shoes and clothes and books.

John also taught the boys about God's love for them, so when they grew up the boys lived good lives. Later, John began a similar school for poor girls.

Because so many boys and girls needed help, John started the Salesians—a group of priests that helped boys—and the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians—a group of nuns that helped girls.

He is the patron saint of school children and the youth.

Reflection: *"It is not enough to love the young, they must know they are loved"*
John Bosco

Prayer: **Prayer to St John Bosco**

St John Bosco,

Friend of the young,

Teacher in the ways of God,

Your dedication to empowering the needy inspires us still.

Help me to work for a better world,

where the young are given the chance to flourish,

where the poor's dream for justice can come true, and where God's compassion is shown to be real.

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.**"

We are delighted to share that two of our talented young footballers, **Ciaran** and **Illan**, have been rewarded with two-year apprentice contracts at Bristol Rovers and Bristol City, respectively.

Apprentice contracts at professional clubs are a crucial stage in a player's development, offering a structured pathway towards a future in the game. Over the next two years, **Ciaran** and **Illan** will immerse themselves in high-level training, competitive matches, and professional development, giving them the best possible opportunity to succeed in the world of football.

Congratulations to you both. Your **hard work** exemplifies our St. Bede's Way principles.

We cannot wait to see what the future holds for you and we are so proud of you.



Faith Ambassador

We are always looking for ways to celebrate the good that we do here at St Bede's.

As part of that we have introduced a Faith Ambassador award, given to pupils who have shown exceptional commitment to the Catholic life of the College, be that through participating in liturgies, being involved in charitable actions or living out their faith in action by their attitude and devotion both to the Gospel values and also Catholic Social Teaching.

During the visit of Bishop Bosco, we handed out the first of these awards.

Congratulations to **Alphons, Sofia, Chris, Zoe** and **Josephine**



SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS TEAMS THROUGH TO THE COUNTY FINALS

Congratulations to our Sportshall Athletics Teams who have advanced to the **County finals**.

The Year 10 boys secured a well-deserved 3rd place, the Year 9 girls achieved an impressive 5th place, and the Year 9 boys clinched victory in the final race. Well done!



YEAR 10 FUTURE QUEST VISIT TO UNIVERSITY WEST OF ENGLAND

On Wednesday 22nd January, a group of Year 10 students visited the University of the West of England for a campus tour and to explore university life.

During their visit, the students gained valuable insights into various pathways to university and how academic studies are conducted at this level. They also participated in engaging workshops with Future Quest and Student Ambassadors, where they collaborated to solve potential challenges that students may encounter at university.

Additionally, they learned about the support systems available and the role of student societies within a Student Union. The students left the visit feeling inspired and eager to discuss their future aspirations on the journey back to school.



ST. BEDE'S WELCOMES BISHOP BOSCO

Last week we marked the official schools launch of the Year of Jubilee.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Bosco to St. Bede's to help us to celebrate, on what was his first visit since being made Bishop of Clifton.



During his visit, he took part in a launch assembly, that highlighted the theme of the Year, Pilgrims of Hope, where we were encouraged to look for hope. Bishop Bosco blessed our new banner and also led the closing prayer.

Bishop Bosco also blessed our Jubilee door, explaining the biblical significance of doors, he then wrote on our Jubilee pledge wall, being the first to do so, which will be used throughout the year by all at St Bede's.

Following the blessing, the Bishop was then quizzed, by students, being asked about his favourite saint and his favourite bible quote, as well as what it was like to be a Bishop! He was then taken on a tour of the College by the Head Boy, Head Girl and the senior students from the 6th Form. It was great to welcome Bishop Bosco to St. Bede's and a great way to mark such an important occasion for the church.

We will continue to commemorate the Year of Jubilee throughout this year, encouraging us all to be Pilgrims of Hope.

YEAR 7 GIRLS' PE

This term, our Year 7 girls have been making incredible progress through net games like short tennis and table tennis. These activities have provided a fun and supportive environment where pupils are building Meaningful Experiences (ME) in coordination, mastering new skills, and improving their shot selection.

Coordination is a vital skill that underpins nearly every physical activity we do. Whether threading a needle, driving a car, or playing sports, coordination allows us to perform movements smoothly and efficiently. It's also key to developing motor skills, reaction times, and balance. Beyond physical activities, good coordination boosts cognitive functioning, helping with problem-solving, multitasking, and even emotional regulation.

By practicing net games, pupils strengthen hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness, and timing, all of which transfer to daily tasks, fostering confidence and competence in life's challenges.

It's been a pleasure to see the Year 7 girls embrace net games with such enthusiasm and determination. Their progress on and off the court highlights the power of Physical Education in shaping confident, capable individuals.

We're proud of the effort they've put in this term—keep it up, Year 7 girls!



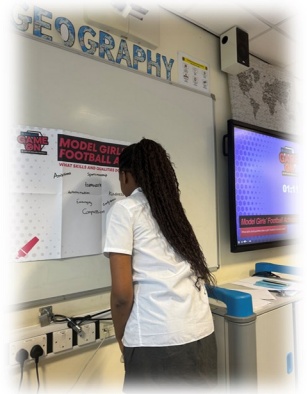
ST BEDE'S HAS RECRUITED A GROUP OF GIRLS FOOTBALL ACTIVATORS

St. Bede's is excited to be working with a small group of Year 9 and 10 girls in a 'Go Lead' football leadership programme. This programme is designed to help secondary schools create engaging, meaningful and enjoyable football opportunities for girls through the power of girls football activators.

The participants will take part in a variety of workshops to become competent girls' football activists, enabling them to design, create and deliver football activities both within our college and at local primary schools.

On Tuesday 14th January, the girls participated in the 'INSPIRE' launch workshop online, where they discussed their mission and vision for the academic year.

Their first event will take place in March, involving primary schools coming to St. Bede's Catholic College for the LetGirlsPlay biggest football session, where they will take on roles as coaches and officials during this event.



FUTURE QUEST YEAR 12 FUTURE EXPLORER LAW WORKSHOP

On Friday 17th January a group of Year 12 Law students visited the University of the West of England to participate in an engaging and interactive Law workshop. The day began with students observing a simulated courtroom case, which provided valuable insight into how legal proceedings unfold.

Following this, they took part in a hands-on mock trial based on a provided scenario. To prepare, students engaged in lively debates, developing their arguments and sharpening their critical thinking skills.

Taking on the roles of either the defence or prosecution, they explored and applied the complexities of law and justice in a dynamic and thought-provoking manner. The workshop was an enriching experience, offering students a deeper understanding of the legal system and a glimpse into what it's like to study and practice law.



CASHLESS CATERING ARREARS

Although it is not something we like to see, we have a number of students whose accounts go into arrears on a regular basis. We generally email those parents to inform them that it is in arrears and request that it is cleared. Whilst we accept, under the current arrangements, that students may slip into arrears because they don't have sufficient funds on the day, there are some that are very regularly in arrears. In order to try to reduce this, we are preparing to write to families where this is an issue to request that they top up their child(rens) account each weekend and identify a daily spend limit, so that the amount cannot be breached. We hope this will help families to enable their child(ren) to budget more easily.

Please note, we can put daily limits on student spend or we can stop children using the canteen completely if meals and snacks are provided from home instead.

Please contact cheshirem@stbcc.org if you would like us to help you with any issues you have around expenditure through the canteen.

REACHING OUT

On Tuesday 21st January, a group of Pasteur Tutor Reps and Vice-House Captains prepared and delivered an Anti-Bullying Assembly for the older year groups of St Bernard's RC Primary School.

The assembly included, the dangers of social media, celebrities who have been bullied, some personal stories by The St Bede's pupils and more. There was a lot of interaction and engagement with the primary school pupils responding to questions and asking questions of their own.

It's an important issue that is close to all our hearts and something that we all want to fight against.



YEAR 3 & 4 DODGEBALL FESTIVAL – A HUGE SUCCESS!

On Thursday, 30th January, we were delighted to welcome six primary schools to St Bede's for an exciting Year 3 and 4 dodgeball event. The festival was officiated by our fantastic **Year 10 Sports Leaders**, who are actively involved in our sports leadership programme.

Throughout the event, the leaders took on the responsibility of officiating matches, ensuring fair play and managing the fast-paced games by keeping track of players who were hit, caught out, or re-entering the game. They demonstrated excellent leadership skills, proudly representing St Bede's while wearing the new School Games Young Leader t-shirts, making them easily identifiable as role models for the young participants.

Events like the North Bristol School Games rely on the dedication and enthusiasm of student volunteers and our Sports Leaders played a key role in ensuring everything ran smoothly.

A huge thank you to all involved for their hard work and commitment!



WELL-BEING ON THE FARM

A team of Pasteur students have completed their six weekly sessions of helping out and getting to know the animals at our local Lawrence Weston Community Farm.

The pupils faced all sorts of weather to experience feeding, mucking out, handling the animals and learning about their breeding routines.

Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful opportunity and a great experience that could only enhance everyone's mental well-being. We hope the animals enjoyed meeting us too!



Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

VACANCIES **SCHOOL MEALS SUPERVISORY ASSISTANT (SMSA)**

St. Bede's Catholic College has a vacancy for a School Meals Supervisory Assistant to supervise, guide and assist pupils during the midday break, to ensure the safety, general welfare and proper conduct of pupils during this period.

The usual hours of work are 12.15pm – 1.30pm Monday to Friday, term time only and there is the opportunity of a free school meal or a drink.

St Bede's is a Real Living Wage employer for which the hourly rate is currently £12.45 (increasing to £12.60 in April 2025) Actual annual salary is currently £3,471.

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 via the college website or Eteach.
A hard copy can be posted, upon request.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Claire Walker on 0117 377 2200 or email walkerc@stbcc.org.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT



**EAT WELL
SPEND LESS**



Bristol North West
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Learn how to cook and eat healthily on a budget!



Free six-week course

Tuesday 11th
February 2025
9.30am-12noon

AT

St. Andrew's Church
Avonmouth Road
Avonmouth
Bristol
BS11 9EN

CONTACT US
TO BOOK

0117 9235343 office@bristolnwfoodbank.org.uk

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

If you are entitled to receive Free School Meals Vouchers for the half term break in February, these will be issued on 14 February 2025.

MEDICATION

If there are changes or updates to your child's medical condition or medication, please remember to inform the college. Thank you.

A CELEBRATION OF SPORT, TEAMWORK & HOUSE SPIRIT!

We're thrilled to share the results of our recent **Netball and Rugby** competitions, where over **530 students** took part—an incredible display of participation, teamwork, and house spirit! The energy, determination, and sportsmanship shown by all competitors were truly inspiring.



Netball Champions:

Descartes – A fantastic performance across all year groups, showcasing skill and teamwork.



Rugby Champions:

Bell Burnell – A dominant display of strength, strategy, and resilience on the field.

A Huge Well Done!

A massive congratulations to all students who took part, whether competing, supporting teammates, or demonstrating leadership and fair play. Your commitment and effort were outstanding!

A Special Thank You!

These events wouldn't be possible without the dedication of staff and students who help organise fixtures, referee matches, set up equipment, and cheer from the side lines. Your enthusiasm and hard work made this competition a success!

What's Next?

Stay tuned for upcoming inter-house events and more opportunities to showcase your talent and house pride.

Keep training, keep improving, and most importantly—**keep playing your part!**

	PASTEUR	DESCARTES	BELL BURNELL	SEACOLE
CROSS COUNTRY	42	46	56	56
RUGBY	14	26	36	24
NETBALL	22	32	26	20
TOTAL	78	104	118	100



St. Bede's Catholic College's
production of

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH'S

Book by
Julian Fellowes

Original Music and Lyrics by
Richard Sherman and
Robert Sherman

New Songs and Lyrics by
George Stiles and
Anthony Drewe

MARY POPPINS JR.

A musical based on the stories of P. L. Travers and the Walt Disney film

Monday 3rd March 2025
Tuesday 4th March 2025
Thursday 6th March 2025
6:30pm in the Main Hall

Tickets available on Ticket Source

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-bedes-catholic-college>

Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's *Mary Poppins Jr.* is presented through special arrangement with MTI.

All authorized materials are supplied by

Music Theatre International, New York, NY

212-541-4684 mtishows.com



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SHOTOKAN KARATE DOJO

KARATE

LEARN SHOTOKAN KARATE

- 🏆 Improve Focus & Attention
- 🏆 Improve Coordination & Physical Fitness
- 🏆 Build Self-Confidence & Discipline
- 🏆 Learn Japanese Culture & Etiquette

ST BEDES CATHOLIC COLLEGE SPORTS COMPLEX
LONG CROSS, LAWRENCE WESTON, BRISTOL. BS11 0SU

FRIDAYS 4:30 - 5:30PM

WWW.KYOTOKARATEBRISTOL.CO.UK

Join us on Fridays after college for a beginners' karate session with Kyoto Shotokan Karate Dojo!

Running every Friday from 16:30 to 17:30, this session is open to anyone aged 4 and above, including families and individuals.

Karate is a fantastic way to improve fitness, confidence, focus and self-discipline while learning self defence in a fun and supportive environment.

For more information, please email milesa@stbcc.org. Don't miss out, start your karate journey today!



Bristol SEND and Inclusion Strategy

2024 - 2028

**Bristol SEND and Inclusion
Strategy 2024 - 2028** is here!

Read it at

bristol.gov.uk/working-together-SEND

