



ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Spring Newsletter

Twitter - @SEACHS1961

Key Dates:

School Closes: Friday 5th April

School Re-opens: Wednesday 24th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May

School Closes: Friday 24th May

School Re-opens: Monday 3rd June

We are currently working extremely hard to prepare our Year 11 pupils for their GCSE examinations. It is a very stressful time for teachers, parents and pupils but by working together, I am sure our pupils will do themselves justice and perform extremely well. The whole school community wishes them every success.

This term has been fantastic in many ways, but the thing that really stands out for me is the tremendous efforts our pupils have put into all aspects of school life; they have truly shined their lights very brightly!

May I take this opportunity to thank all members of the school community for your unflinching support and generosity of spirit. It is our partnership and common purpose that makes our school such a special place. On behalf of the governors, staff and pupils, I wish you all a wonderful Easter holiday.

Mr Dunican

Save the Date!
PTA
Summer Fair
Friday 12th July!

Marvellous Music



In March, St Edmund Arrowsmith held their 4th annual Music Festival. Over three evenings there were 76 pupils who performed a solo to audiences of up to 130 people. The ability ranged from pre-grade one musicians who had never performed to an audience, all the way to experienced GCSE performers who have graced the stage many times during their time at St Edmund Arrowsmith. There was even room for eight guest performers from Year 6 pupils who are due to start St Edmund Arrowsmith this September.

All pupils did themselves proud demonstrating their individual talent and ability. Their hard work and dedication paid off as feedback from adjudicators was overwhelmingly positive, including guest adjudicator David Wall (Head of Performing Arts at St John Rigby College). Some pupils have already starting planning their performance for March 2020...watch this space!



Reece's Fundraising



Hi,

My name is Reece and last term I sold bracelets and raffle tickets to raise money for Alder Hey Children's Hospital, as my cousin Bobby is receiving treatment there. Bobby has been to Alder Hey so many times and he is only three years old. He had an operation on his heart because when he was six weeks old he was diagnosed with a hole in his heart.

Last year I also did a cake sale, raising £110 and in the half term I also did a fundraising event at Sam's Dry Bar in Ashton. I still have money coming in so I haven't got the full amount, but so far have raised over £400. I hope that my efforts will inspire more pupils in our school to do things for charity - even if it isn't so close to their hearts as Bobby and Alder Hey are to mine.





WORLD BOOK DAY

Decorate Your Door!

SPOTLIGHT ON ENGLISH

It has been another busy term in the English department. Our Year 11 students have been working hard through their trial examinations where they have just been tested on their reading and writing skills in preparation for their English Language exam in June. By the Easter holidays, Year 11 students will also have sat a 'walking and talking' mock exam for their English literature, an experience that past-pupils have found invaluable in the run-up to summer. Our Year 11s should now be revising and preparing for their GCSE exams which begin in May.

Our fun and exciting extra-curricular activities have continued with full force this term, with plenty to inspire our students here at Eddies. Firstly, the hard work from our BBC Young Reporters team culminated on Wednesday 6th March, when our dedicated reporters joined schools nationally in their news day. Amazing and interesting reports can be seen on our website and Twitter page which were written by our very own student journalists, who worked tirelessly on the day to meet their reporting deadline. Want to know which teachers were treated to an Oreos on National Oreo Day or perhaps you have always wanted to know how to create a successful YouTube channel? Well, read their stories to find out these answers and much more.

The very next day, saw our most exciting World Book Day to date. Staff across the school sported badges which had a famous literary character on them. Students were challenged to find the matching character (and staff) names in a bid to win an Easter egg. Congratulations to our winners from each year group and a special mention to Year 8 in particular, who were the only year group to have four students to find all thirty-seven matches! Well done to everyone who entered!

World Book Day festivities continued in lessons with a school-wide reading of a short story to all of Year 7 and a 'Decorate Your Door' competition for Year 8 who went head-to-head to decorate their English classroom door as a bookcover. The competition was very tough, but victorious were Mrs Doolan's class with a war-inspired theme. Well done, Year 8!

Alongside all of these activities, our wonderful librarian, Mrs Taylor, ran our most successful book fair to date. A wonderful selection of new titles and stationery delights enticed students to support our fair and we raised a fantastic amount to help to re-stock our library and keep a fresh and modern book selection available for all of our students to enjoy. Thank-you to all of the prefect helpers; Mrs Taylor could not have done the job without you!

Looking ahead, the first cohort of the Better Reading Partnership scheme is about to end and we are looking forward to inviting Year 9 mentors to take over the role of reading mentor for some more Year 7 pupils. We will also be organising another Spelling Bee after Easter for our Year 7 students and our next Cake and Classics reading book is 'Wuthering Heights' by Emily Bronte – students, siblings, parents and teachers are all very welcome.

ALL ABOUT RE

Year 7 have been exploring the parables of Jesus and the seven sacraments for the last term. On World Book Day, classes made a mini book about where the origins of the sacraments can be found in the Bible.

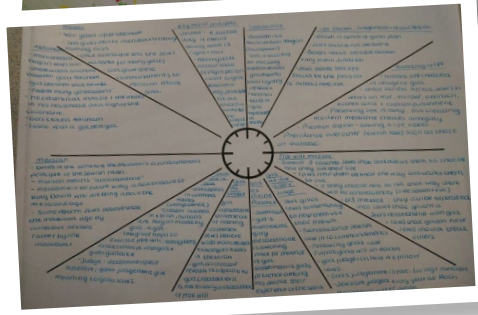
Year 8 have produced some excellent presentations about Christian denominations, and some classes had the opportunity to work with Maria our chaplain on Ecumenism, producing bookmarks to be distributed to local parishes. Pupils are now coming to the end of their work on Lent and Easter, studying what happened to Jesus during Holy Week and all classes will have the opportunity to participate in the Stations of the Cross.

Year 9 have studied Islam as their world religion this term, and have explored the Five Pillars in depth. They have also shown great maturity in studying sex and relationships this half term.

Year 10 have been studying Judaism as their world religion element of their GCSE course. Some classes have tried out new revision methods, such as a revision clock – in one hour, they had only five minutes to summarise each of the twelve topics. These are a good foundation for future revision of this topic.

Year 11 are on countdown until their final exams in RE! Paper 1 (Catholic Christianity) will take place on Monday 13th May and Paper 2 (Judaism and Themes) will take place on Monday 20th May. Remember to use Mr McMillan's revision videos on YouTube to help revise Catholic Christianity.

Don't forget to follow the department on Twitter! @SEA_RETweets



Year 7

Please follow @Year7_SEA for updates!



Year 7 have been working extremely hard to collect their extra-miles to aim for their marathon. Pupils have been taking part in many of the extra-curricular activities that the school has to offer, from choir at lunchtime to additional sporting activities after school. Keep up the fantastic work Year 7!

Many of our students spend a great deal of their personal time taking part in additional activities outside of school. A special mention has to go to Julianna Van Mierlo for pushing herself out of her comfort zone to attend and take part in a 'Hackathon'. She represented the school exceptionally well and discovered a new love for computer science. Well done Julianna.

We as a school strive for excellent attendance and take pride in our students' attitude towards this. As we are approaching the final term, let's all make a conscious effort to make positive steps to improve our attendance for the end of year and aim for 98% or above.

Year 7 have been working hard in their lessons and have managed to rack up a total of 8,494 achievement points since January for their efforts. Each form is striving to get onto the leader board in their awards assembly at the end of the term. Currently 7M are taking the lead with a total of 1,113 achievement points since January.

A total of £361 has been raised so far this year for our charity, Wigan & Leigh Hospice. Our Year 7 forms have worked very hard to give up their time to fundraise for such a worthwhile charity, from countless cake sales and sponsored silences, to creating their own lunchtime pantomime performance. Our Year 7 pupils are very conscientious and charitable students and will continue to raise money until the end of the school year.

Our annual review day will be taking place on 3rd July 2019. This will be a good opportunity for you to meet with your child's form tutor to discuss their overall progress so far this year. Please make a note on your calendar of the dates mentioned above.



Please follow @SEA_Year8 for updates!

Year 8

At Christmas, we had over 50 students 'Beat their Best' and earn an invite to our Christmas party. Our Beat your Best initiative has now gone live on the portal. Pupils must ensure they add their extra-curricular activities for their teachers to sign them off in time for our Easter reward. We are looking forward to celebrating all of their good behaviour in our assembly.

The overarching aim for Year 8 is Broadening Horizons. Many of our students take part in wider aspects of school life. Our bespoke programmes have continued and we currently have a new group of boys taking part in our second Wigan Athletic Enterprise Programme.

The 'Fashion Show' girls are making great progress; thank-you to Wigan and Leigh College. We have had teachers and students from the college deliver sessions on Hair, Beauty and Photography. The girls were also recently invited to attend catering and fashion show sessions at the college.

Twelve Year 8 girls attended the 'Digital Her Roadshow in Wigan' The Digital Her Roadshows are designed to inspire and empower girls across the Greater Manchester region to take up careers in digital and technology fields. The day comprises of talks, workshops and activities for the girls and workshops for the teachers to help them understand the careers that are available in industry, plus resources available for them to use in school.

Year 8 continue to work on their mental well-being. We are taking part in our whole-school initiative 'Mind Body and Soul'. During form time, we have explored the importance of looking after our mental well-being. We are now on our third strand, 'Give'. We have ten well-being reps, two from each of our forms, who all took part in relevant training.

Two of Year 8 students, (Lily Wyatt and Robert Morris) took part in the UK Maths Challenge. They came second overall and may get the chance to go to London. Watch this space!

As a year group, we are on 96% attendance which is great, but there is still room for improvement. Lates are creeping up recently and pupils need to ensure they make a real effort to be punctual to avoid detentions.

Total achievement points this year amount to 22066 which vastly overshadow the 3745 behaviour points.

Update on Year 11

Key dates:
Wednesday 8th May – Y11 Leavers' Mass
GCSE examinations begin 24th April
Leavers' Prom – Friday 5th July

Many of our Year 11 pupils are becoming very anxious as the GCSE exams get nearer and nearer. It is very important to remember that with preparation comes confidence. Stress is created because of the fear of failing. Lots of pupils are frightened at the prospect of not reaching their potential but if they are well versed for the exams then they should feel confident. Pupils should make sure a revision routine is in place for the next few months and if they stick to it religiously then rewards will be reaped. Hand all technology over so that they do not become a distraction at this very important time.

Remember Year 11, this stressful time will not last forever. You can only do your best!!

Top 10 pupils who have made the most progress according to data from trial exams:

Caitlin Taylor, Alex Pendleton, Thomas Ratcliffe, Luke Martin, Katie McKay, Chloe Kilgallon, Katie Shone, Matthew Hill, Lauren Holcroft, Estelle Moss

Year 11 pupils who have been nominated for excellent attitude and behaviour:

Eleanor Williams and Jack Adams for their hard work and commitment preparing for their performance exam.

Excellent effort in maths:

Emily Bennett, Niamh Cook, Natalie Howarth, Tom Ratcliffe, Katie Shone, Kamiliya Tomkute

Excellent effort with their art exam:

Jodie O'Neill, Megan Whittle, Jaydon Stokes



St Edmund Arrowsmith PTA *Late Summer Ball*

to be held at
DW Stadium, Marquee Suite
on
Saturday 28th September 2019
6.30pm til late

Tickets £45

Includes:
Champagne Reception
Performance by St Edmund Arrowsmith School Choir
4 Course Meal
Raffle
Auction
Live entertainment by Big Men in Town
MC Dave Guest, Chief Reporter at BBC North West
Disco until Late
Dress code: Black Tie
1.00am Carriages



All profits to support the refurbishment of the school hall, the heart of St Edmund Arrowsmith.
Further details & tickets available - 01942 728651
office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk

Personal Development Curriculum

We visited Skills North West in March at Event City in Manchester. A group of Year 10 pupils were given an opportunity to speak to employers, training providers, colleges, universities and professional bodies face-to-face. This event was chosen to raise aspirations, motivate and inspire through hands-on demonstrations and activities across a wide variety of stands and exhibitions.

As part of our careers curriculum, Y10 pupils who have expressed an interest in studying Business Studies in the future were selected to participate in the St John Rigby College Business Challenge 2019. The event is a competition amongst local high schools with students working as a team on a business challenge and presenting their findings to a panel of judges. They worked on problem solving, organisation, prioritising and presentation skills. We are delighted to report they were runners-up in the competition; the judges made special mention of their excellent commitment, teamwork and communication.

The Year 10 Workplace Challenge - pupils have been set the challenge to investigate a workplace to increase their knowledge of the many different environments that it is possible to work in. We are looking forward to learning all about their experiences.

A group of Y10 boys visited Lancaster University with Greater Manchester Higher, a network partnership which is part of the National Collaborative Outreach Programme. The boys had a campus tour and university-style lectures; to discover what it is like to study at university, moving onwards to university, plus a resilience and mindset workshop.

Around 700 pupils in Years 7 – 9 have been undertaking everyday First aid and CPR lifesaving skills provided and funded by The British Red Cross.

Crime' day in March: pupils the opportunity to develop an insight into crime, its consequences and prison life. CELLS (Choices Education Lifelong Learning Skills) are a specialist team of rehabilitated ex-offenders, abuse/violence victims and people who work alongside victims of crime, all giving a realistic insight into crime and have received specific training for the presentation and delivery of the day. Having all undergone enhanced DBS checks, the aim of CELLS is to deter children from embracing crime and it is for this reason that they will be shown hard-hitting images and real life portrayals of the consequences of crime in order to promote positive lifestyles.

For more information visit our school website careers section and follow our Twitter page @SEACareers for updates.