



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first term, our whole school community is busy preparing for Christmas. This week, all our pupils took part in the school Christmas Carol Services where they heard the Christmas message through prayer and scripture. Our Choirs performed and all joined in with the singing of traditional carols - this always proves to be a wonderful way to prepare for Jesus' birth.

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

May I take this opportunity to thank all members of our school community for their 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 very happy and holy Christmas.

Mr Dunican

**School re-opens:
Wednesday 8th January**

Room One Notices

- All appointments must be written in students planner/ journals and brought to Pupil Services.
- Please can all pupils check Pupil Services for lost property.

Preparing for Christmas

Advent is a time of expectant waiting – of preparing ourselves for the birth of Christ at Christmas. Advent should be a time to slow down, to stop and think and spend time in peaceful reflection. But instead, we find ourselves busier and busier every year!

Instead of taking things easy and contemplating the birth of our saviour, we worry and overly stress ourselves with Christmas day arrangements, present buying, gift wrapping, card writing, party planning and so on!

Children (and some adults) get impatient waiting for their Christmas presents and wish they could have them sooner. Advent calendars get raided and the chocolates for future days eaten without a second thought. Christmas decorations are up before even the beginning of December! Somehow, this season has become something it was never intended to be.

Here in school we therefore have been trying to find the true meaning of Advent. We start every school day with morning prayer reflections gathered around the Advent wreath. Our forms then gather for form prayers where we have been delving deeper into the purpose of Advent. Our year groups gather weekly in assembly to unpick the previous Sunday's Gospel and learn all about what we should be preparing for. As John the Baptist tells us, we must 'prepare a way for the Lord'. We think this message is so important we even made it our school's mission statement!

So, how are you preparing for Christ's birth this year? Is it by making sure your house is decorated and the Christmas treats are stocked up. Or are you preparing your hearts to welcome in the birth of our saviour – to be filled with joy and love on Christmas morning and truly appreciate the greatest gift of all?

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

- Year 7 Choir Monday & Wednesday lunch 1st sitting
- Senior Choir Tuesday & Thursday lunch 1st sitting
- Boys Choir Friday lunch 1st sitting
- Concert Band Wednesday 3.05pm-4.05pm.

All our choir and band members are all preparing for the Music Showcase on **Wednesday 12th February - add the date to your diary!**

St Edmund Arrowsmith Music Festival returns for it's 5th year over three evenings in March: Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th March. There will be roughly 80 musicians over the 3 evenings performing solos with guest performances from Year 6 feeder primary schools and also some past pupils returning to perform. Please save the a date and support our school!



Year 7

Year 7 enjoyed a lovely Welcome Mass in September together with family and friends. Find out more on our latest news section on our website, Owen G from 7B has written a news article all about it.

In September, we took our new Y7's over to Our Lady's parish centre in Bryn for a series of retreat days. The purpose of these days was to facilitate the settling in of the pupils to our school by encouraging new friendships and teamwork. We themed these days around the idea of "Faith and Community". The pupils had a wonderful time and really felt like an embedded part of our St Edmund Arrowsmith family.

The Year 7 Choir performed very successfully at the GCSE Certificate Presentation Evening, well done to everyone involved it was a lovely performance.

We took part in the annual Year 7 Ecumenical Service with Byrchall High School in November. This is always a fantastic opportunity to gather together as a wider faith community and explore the different gifts and talents each individual pupil.

Guidance Evening was a great success and Parents' Eve will follow on Thursday 13th February. Nicole Pastore, along with her two sisters cut all her hair off to raise money for the Little Princess Trust. So far they have raised an amazing £1,041.83. Well done girls!

Owen G 7B and William S 7M got awarded in assembly this week for receiving the highest AtLs in the year. Well done boys!

Year 8

Well done to all the Year 8 pupils who have had a brilliant term and were invited to the Beat Your Best Christmas Party on Monday 16th December. We hope you all had a fantastic time!

Top achievement points for girls this term - Hannah W 8C, Erin F 8M, Codie Ann L 8L, Ruby G 8M and Lois W 8O.

Top achievement points for boys this term- Jian L 8H, Ben L 8H, Harry T 8O, Alex E 8B, Samuel G-B 8O

ALC award – to a pupil who has made a huge improvement in behaviour and attitude recently! - Brandon J 8A

SLC award – to two pupils who are always kind, welcoming and all round good eggs! - Sydney F 8A and Jorja A 8B

Year 9

Year 9 have been working hard to show how they 'Stand out from the Crowd' and contribute to wider responsibilities both inside and outside of school. Pupils will give a presentation about this on Review Day to their parents and form tutor, which will be an excellent opportunity to display talents and encourage pupils to contribute to the wider school life

Some of our Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to visit Wigan and Leigh College for GM Higher choices day. This was fantastic time for pupils to gain information on choosing options as well as getting a glimpse of college life. The options process will be starting after Christmas, with Guidance Evening taking place on the 22nd and 23rd January and parents' evening on the 30th January. This will be a key opportunity to discuss options with subject staff in preparation for some very important decisions!

Well done to 9A who are currently leading the way with 820 achievement points this half term! 9G are currently the best attending form and 9H received the fewest lates. Well done to Isabel (9B), Sophie (9A), Ruby (9C), Jake (9H), Harry (9C) and Robert (9L) who have done particularly well this half term. Keep up the good work!

Year 10

Year 10 experienced their first week covering the Year 11 prefects during their mock exams. They did a fantastic job and have started to demonstrate the positive qualities we expect from them. All Year 10s will have the opportunity to apply for prefect positions. The deadline will be end of first week back in Jan. This will be an online application for the first time to keep an eye on your emails to apply!

During the Year 10 rewards assembly two outstanding pupil awards have been given. Fraya W 10L received one for her outstanding contributions to school life and Samuel A 10G for his continued improvement in attitude to both school life and homework. Well done to both of these pupils!

Aimee-Leigh S 10M, Nieve G 10A, Isabelle K 10W, Megan 10M, Charlotte M 10S, Courtney S 10O, Trinity M 10O, Sonny W 10W, Amelia P 10C and Grace 10W have taken part in the St John Rigby CAFOD Carol Service at St Teresa's in Upholland along with other schools. What a fantastic service full of Christmas spirit!

Year 11

Year 11 rewards programme - Every week members of staff are encouraged to reward pupils who show outstanding effort in class by emailing Mrs Doolan/Miss Hampson positive comments. For every comment that is received the pupil is out in to a draw with the chance of winning a ticket to the 'Leavers' Do'. We have had 144 nominations so far for the leavers do reward this includes-

Nicola G for fantastic focus and independence in Design and Technology
Sophie B 11W for significant improvements in MFL mock exam
Zoe H 11C and Lily M 11G for excellent effort in Maths
Michael 11C, Ella 11C, Emma H 11M II for consistent hard work in Geography
Abigail D 11O - grade 9 in Biology mock (above target)
Cameron R 11G - grade 8 in biology mock (above target)
Cavan D 11W for his current attainment in his sports studies lessons

Classes with the best attendance this term are 11A and 11C, well done! The two pupils with the most achievement points are Fleur S 11O and Abigail 11O.

Please can we remind all of Year 11 to continue their exam preparation and revision over the Christmas break. 'There is a difference in remembering and forgetting. Review after 10 minutes, 1 day, 1 week, 1 month and 3 months to keep recall high!'

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM UPDATE

Year 8 Star Student Board Game

The session introduced pupils to higher education through an exciting team activity. The aim was to raise the aspirations of young people to consider higher education.

Year 11 Mock Interview Preparation Session

This session was delivered by a colleague from the Department of Work and Pensions, and GM Higher. Pupils watched a brief presentation about how to conduct themselves and the process involved during an interview.

Year 11 Mock Interview Day

Pupils went through the process of attending a mock interview. Colleagues from local businesses and industries acted as interviewers for the day. They met the pupils in a realistic interview situation in school.

Year 7 Anti Bullying Play

Hope is a drama specially commissioned by The Take Away Theatre Company. Students watched the play which was both powerful and entertaining as it told the story of three young people whose lives were affected by bullying.



Twitter - @SEA_PDC



Year 7-11 Year Council and Whole School Council Elections

The re-election of whole School Council members took place in September. Students who wished to be considered for the Year Council presented a short speech to their form outlining why they wished to be considered for the role of form representative. The first Year Council meetings and Whole School Council meeting have now taken place with new representatives for 2019-2020.

Year 7-11 Knife Crime

Pupils explored the issues around crime, particularly knife crime, and how it can affect their lives and the lives of others around them.

Year 10 and 11 Careers Fair

Pupils gathered valuable information about their careers options and choices after they leave school. Stands available to visit included colleges, employers, training providers and apprenticeships.

Spotlight on Drama

We were lucky enough to get to watch 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime' performed by the National Theatre in our school hall. We entered the hall and the chairs were placed around the edge surrounding the stage; the production team had set up in the middle. This is called Theatre in the Round. This set up made us feel more involved with the performance and allowed us to see every fine detail of their movements and facial expressions.

In my opinion the play that we watched was very well choreographed and the actors never seem to get tired or lose character. It was really impressive how they kept the same energy throughout the performance. The lighting that the production team had set up created different moods throughout the show which was really effective.

The characters who played multiple roles changed roles really well and adapted to each character impressively. The main character called Christopher, who didn't exit the stage once, did extremely well to keep the same atmosphere and energy throughout the performance.

After the play had ended they gave a significant amount of time to answer any questions we had about what we had watched, they were very interested in what we asked and gave us lots of time to ask questions which made us feel really involved.

Overall, I really enjoyed the whole experience.

By Kitty P 10W

Update!

As a reward for their fantastic work in the school production of 'Annie', the Drama Department have been to see 'Peter Pan goes Wrong' at The Lowry on Tuesday 3rd December.

Drama Clubs are now in action! Year 7 Drama Club will take place Thursday lunchtime in Drama Studio 1.

Year 8 Drama Club will take place Monday Lunchtime in Drama Studio 2. All are welcome!



Photo by TheOtherRichard

All About Maths

MathsWatch Monthly Challenge Winners - every month, the student who has answer the most questions from MathsWatch wins a certificate, sweets and 5 achievement points. So far this term the winners have been: October - Isabella G (Y7) Summer R (Y8), Luke M (Y9), Eve J (Y10), Abigail D (Y11). November - Amber T (Y7), Ruby G (Y8), Charlotte F (Y9), Isabella E (Y10), Elizabeth D (Y11).

We are also keeping track of the student who answers the most questions over the course of the whole academic year. So far, the lead is held by Abigail D in Y11 with 523 questions, followed by Hannah W in Y8 with 392 and Amber T in Y7 with 370.

Y7 Numeracy club runs every Wednesday in Maths 8 and is a chance for Y7 students to demonstrate their numeracy skills and earn bronze, silver and gold badges. So far this term the following students have earned their Bronze badge: Hannah H 7W, Leo B 7W, Imrich M 7O, Ruby P 7L, William S 7M, Dylan S 7O.

Rubik's Club runs every Wednesday and is open to all students who have an interest in solving different Rubik's puzzles and who are looking for strategies to improve their speed.

Y6 Primary Maths UKMT Challenge

In November seven of our primary feeder schools sent teams of four students to compete in the annual Maths Challenge based around the UKMT team challenge. This year the teams all worked together fantastically well and the results were very close! St Benedict's eventually emerged as final winners, with Sacred Heart and St Oswald's closely following in second and third place.

The Y10 Maths Mentors worked very hard in supporting the day and all pupils enjoyed showing off their maths skills and teamwork.



Twitter - @eddies_maths

Eddies' Chickens Update!

We welcome some new chickens in September for Open Evening. Everybody loved the chickens, they thought they were really cute! The Chicken Club members have been able to take the chickens home on weekends and during half term. They took the chickens run, a bag full of all the chickens' things and the box they have been living in. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed this experience.

They have now been moved outside as the cockerels began to crow and they have grown much bigger. We have 3 cockerels and 3 girls. Last year, the chicken run broke, but fortunately we've put up a new sturdier structure. We now have stones on the floor of the enclosure so it isn't as muddy. We have been selling eggs and donuts around school at dinner time for 50p. The money goes to providing for the chickens. So far we have raised an amazing amount. Unfortunately, our cockerels will leave after Christmas, but a naming competition for new chickens will take place for just 20p per suggestion!

We already have lots of Chicken Club members, but if you would like to join please come and speak to Miss Brophy in Science 2.

By The Chicken Club

Twitter - @Eddies_Science



Snapshot of RE

Back in September, each of our Year 7 forms experienced a 'St Edmund Arrowsmith Away Day' and accompanied their Form Tutor and RE teacher to Our Ladies Parish Hall. Pupils spent the day getting to know the people in their new form that little bit better and gaining a greater understanding of what life in a Catholic high school is like. Alfie in Year 7 said 'I had a really, really fun day; the best bit about the day was making three new friends and that my egg also survived in the egg drop game!'

After spending the first half term studying what life is like for those called to a monastic way of living, Year 8 are currently studying the lives of inspirational Christians and examining what makes them so inspirational. Ella is still upset after learning about the racism that Martin Luther King had to endure, and for Ella, Martin is 'by far' the most inspirational of all the people her class studied.

Year 9 have recently been assessing the existence of God and it's fair to say that the agnostics amongst them have had their opinions swayed both ways! In light of their spirituality lesson with Maria, our Chaplain about the problem of evil, a number of Year 9 decided to 'make a difference' and were inspired to organise a cake sale in order to pay for a toilet via CAFOD World Gifts. These pupils have been the change that we want to see in the world and made almost £100 on World Toilet Day, thereby purchasing a toilet for a community in need of sanitation.

Year 10 have made a terrific start to their GCSE studies, and teachers within the department have commented on how hard working they are; this resulted in some very happy parents at the recent Y10 Parents' Evening.

And finally, Year 11 have finished this term by completing their mock exam. This now means that they only have two units of GCSE left to study before the course ends and we fine-tune that exam technique. The big exam will soon be here!!

A very busy term indeed, and now everybody is looking forward to the upcoming carol services which will be a timely reminder for us all: to keep Christ in our CHRISTmas this year.

Twitter - @RetweetsSea

HISTORY CLUB - RUSSIAN REVOLUTION



This year in History Club we as a group have decided to make a Drama Documentary about the Russian Revolution.

At the beginning of the year, History Club welcomed back some students now in Year 8 who were in the club previous year. Also, new Year 7s were welcomed with open arms. Over the next few weeks more members arrived and History Club became a club of 29 instead of a club of 5-6.

One of the first moves we made as a club was creating an email group so we could keep in contact over the week before the next History Club meeting. This email group became very useful when creating the script for our drama documentary.

After many versions and problems, the script finally came together and was a successful moment for History Club. Another struggle with the script related issues was who was playing who! We had the few main characters however smaller roles were proving a challenge to give out because members were coming and members were leaving, but eventually people were found to play the roles needed.

We as History Club have reached the point where the script is finished and we can now start the story boarding of our documentary. So, keep a look out for more updates coming soon! In all, History Club this year has been a great success and is coming on swimmingly and so from all of History Club....



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

By William S 7M

Twitter - @SEAHistoryDept