



St Edmund's Catholic School News

23 February 2017

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A message from Mr Wilson

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to Term 4. Incredibly, we are already half way through the school year. The students have much hard work ahead of them as we approach the exam season, but I am very pleased to say that they are being prepared well for exam success and rising to the challenge set them by their teachers. I am very grateful for all the support that the students receive from you at home.

We are very excited about the forthcoming performance of *High School Musical* and I urge you to make sure you purchase your tickets soon. Please remember to "Like" us on Facebook and check there as well as on our website for up to the minute news about what is happening at St Edmund's. You will also find a link on our Facebook page to Mr McNeil's "Just Giving" page. We wish him all the very best as he prepares to run the London Marathon in support of Kelly Turner's appeal to raise money for surgery at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (1st March) when we will launch our Lenten fundraising campaign. Thank you in advance for your support.



Dates for your diary:

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| • Tuesday 28 th February | Catholic School Rugby 7's Festival, St John's, Gravesend |
| • Wednesday 1 st March | Ash Wednesday
Closing date for entries for house art competition |
| • Friday 3 rd March | World Book Day Book Swap |
| • Thursday 16 th March | Year 9 Subject Consultations 4pm-7pm |
| • Friday 17 th March | Kathryn Evans, author of <i>More Of Me</i> to visit school |
| • Wednesday 22 nd – Friday 24 th March | Evening performances of High School Musical |
| • Thursday 23 rd March | Year 8 Theatre Trip to The Globe |
| • Thursday 30 th March | Year 12 & 13 Subject Consultations 4pm-6pm |
| • Friday 31 st March | Last day of term |

Don't forget:

- Homework club every evening Monday-Thursday from 3pm until 4pm. Meet in the SEN Room.
- Prayer Meeting Wednesday lunchtimes in the Carmel Centre with Mr Harrison.
- Check the school website for a full list of clubs, extra-curricular activities and news about the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

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On Wednesday 8th February Bakhita House celebrated the feast of their patron saint, St Josephine Bakhita with Mass celebrated by Fr Duncan Lourensz. Afterwards Fr Duncan had a tour of the school and found out about House News from each of the three houses: Francis, Bakhita and Kolbe.

St Josephine Bakhita Day is a day of prayer for the victims of human trafficking and those who work to combat it.

O God, who led Saint Josephine Bakhita from abject slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and a bride of Christ, grant, we pray, that by her example we may show constant love for the Lord Jesus crucified, remaining steadfast in charity and prompt to show compassion. Through Christ our Lord.

St Josephine Bakhita:

Pray for us



If you need help or know of somebody who does you can call the 24 hour Modern Slavery Helpline Freephone: 0800 0121 700

Thank you to everyone who came along to our first **annual Progression Fair** on Tuesday 7th February. Year 11 were welcomed into the school hall where representatives from local post-16 providers were waiting to offer advice on some of the courses and training available to them. Many thanks to Dover Grammar for Boys, East Kent College, Canterbury College, Middleton Murray, Astor, Dover Christ Church Academy, Sandwich Technology School, Goodwin Academy and the Duke of York's Royal Military School, for sending along representatives to talk to Year 11 students.



All agreed the Fair was well organised and well attended, and that the students were positive and interested to talk to the representatives present. Year 11 parents had the opportunity to discuss with providers their children's possible pathways in the afternoon. We are already looking forward to our next Fair!

House ART Competition

Winners from each house will have their work displayed on the school homepage!

How to enter:

- Create a piece of artwork of the Patron Saint of your house. You may draw, paint or create a mixed media art piece. You may work from a photo or create your own version. See Miss Testa, Mrs Lively, Mr Harrison or Mr Rutter for more information.

Closing date: 1st March 2017

Prizes:

- All entrants will receive 20 house points
- The winner from each house will receive 100 house points
- The winner from each house will have their work displayed on the school homepage



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Ellie Hopper and Jintl Baby were appointed to the position of **Head Girl and Head Boy** for the year 2016-2017. Here are their thoughts and plans for the rest of the school year.

What was the interview process like and how did you prepare?

Ellie: I thought very carefully about what I wanted to say, and then concentrated on keeping calm and focussed during the interviews. We were interviewed by Mr Wilson, Mr Harrison and Mr Jukes, and there was also a group interview.

Jintl: I have an older brother, and I got him to give me a mock interview so that I could role play the questions I might be asked. I worked out exactly what I wanted to say.

Why do you think that you were chosen?

Ellie: I think because I was confident and I had ideas and opinions about life at St Edmund's from a student's perspective and which I talked about.

Jintl: Well I was always a sensible kid growing up in the school, so I don't want to be big headed, but I hope I can be a role model and someone that the students can look up to.

What are your roles and responsibilities?

Ellie: To set an example. I'm a big football player and I coach 11 teams out of school; boys, girls, teenagers, young people with disabilities, at Dover Rangers, Dover Athletic and Deal All Stars. Doing that has really helped me grow in confidence and develop my speaking and listening skills. I hope that the younger students look at me and think they would like to do something like that too. I hope that they feel inspired to follow in my footsteps and realise that if I can do it, then they can too.

Jintl: To be a role model, to help the younger kids, to share their ideas and represent them. We have a Monday meeting with Mr Wilson where we can make representations to him. We run the prefect system with Mr Harrison, so students can also go to the prefects with things that are bothering them, the prefects can tell us and we can talk to Mr Wilson. I also like to work with the students who come into the engineering room. I'm completing an engineering project and building a train for Shepherdswell Railway. I enjoy giving younger students an insight into the magical world of engineering! I think my role is about inspiring, sharing and teaching.

What plans do you have for the rest of the year?

Ellie: We'd like to organise some trips to University and College Open Days, we have already arranged a Winter Ball, and we are hoping to organise a Summer Ball.

Jintl: We want to do all we can to help younger years with their further choices, education is really important.

Any final thoughts?

Ellie: I really enjoy working with Jintl, we share ideas.

Jintl: I'm really glad Ellie is Head Girl. We've known each other since we were 11, we friends and we make a good team. We always agree on the same things!



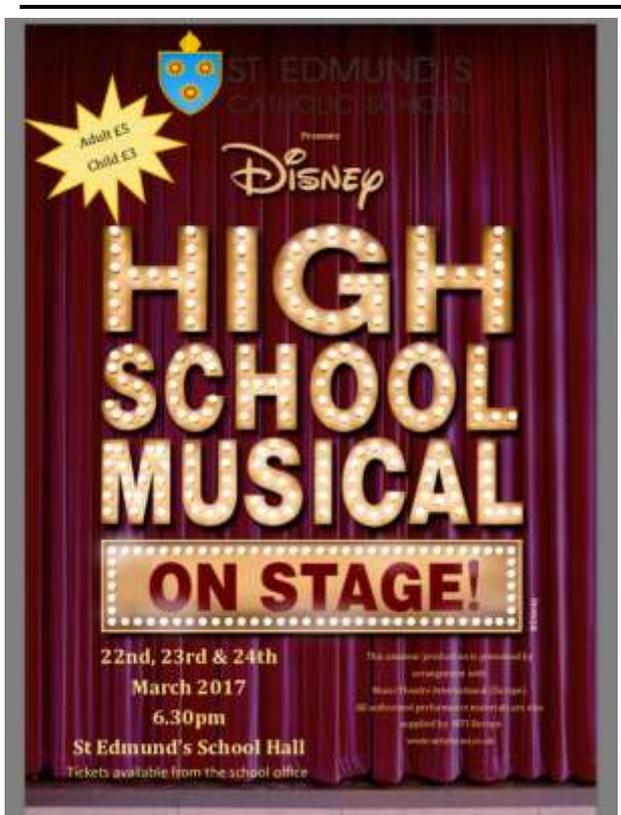


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The Duke of Edinburgh Award at St Edmund's is an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding programme for our young people. It is designed to promote personal development, self-reliance and leadership skills. Good luck to all the students planning to complete their Silver Award on bikes this summer! They will be cycling over three days, as well as completing a bike maintenance qualification and mountain bike certificate. Mr Huntley, Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinator at St Edmund's, said, "This is a fantastic opportunity for our students and the school. This Award has created great opportunities for our students, not only will the cycling be demanding physically, but this gives skills which go beyond the classroom." Check the website for more Duke of Edinburgh Award news.



Following on from the work completed by students during PSHE on Safer Internet Day (7 February), students in Years 7-10 have also taken part this week in the **E-Safety Roadshow "Is it worth it?"** supported by Kent Police. This was all about making students think twice before posting on social media sites. In addition to playing interactive games, watching videos and talking about various E-safety issues from Sexting to Cyber bullying, students enjoyed performances from a Kent born up and coming music artist!



The event was certainly well worth it, reinforcing important messages about staying safe online and not risking being seen as someone you're not. For more information about E-Safety visit www.kent.police.uk/safeonline

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