

SPRING NEWSLETTER

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tradition



**ST. BEDE'S
COLLEGE**

Newsletter Welcome

It seems extraordinary that Dr McMonagle and I have been in post eight months, and that our Lower Sixth are now the leaders of the school. Time has truly flown by! The election of a new Executive heralds **the beginning of a new phase** in the development of the Sixth Form at St Bede's College and this was most keenly felt at the two hour strategy meeting we held on Wednesday 18th May; **our own pupils proposed a diverse range of events and activities to engage and support our whole Bedian family and wider community.** Regular events such as Student Council, mentoring and volunteering will occur throughout the academic year; these will be augmented by House events, competitions and themed events such as Culture Day, Fashion Show and Eco-Bake. It seems that **our new Executive are ready to lead on the aspect of our Sixth form that makes us unique: the building of ethical leadership qualities through the development of character.**

Our form time will be more structured from the 2022-2023 academic year to facilitate the development of leadership skills through the development of character. The week will start with reflection upon the Chaplaincy's Theme of the Week and will be followed by a weekly assembly, a form focus upon the Virtue of the Month, a weekly session delivered by Mrs Kemp for the Harvard and Oxford Character project (which all Sixth Formers will complete) and a session in which pupils can receive mentoring and act as mentors for the other year groups in College. **A key aspect of leadership is the need to take responsibility for oneself and for the happiness and wellbeing of others;** an altruistic outlook is integral to Catholicism and to our charism as Bedians.

A key dimension of that need to take personal responsibility involves pupils taking ownership of their own learning by adopting an excellent attitude to study. Our aim has always been to provide the best A Level results of which our pupils are capable and to produce young people of whom we can be justly proud, but that cannot be achieved through passivity. The majority of our pupils study three A Levels and are taught in small classes by subject specialists with a passion for the academic subjects they teach. **Teachers are always ready to provide extra support** where it is needed in Drop-ins but our students are expected to work in their non-contact periods and to engage in wider reading that will enhance their subject knowledge and provide evidence of individual zeal that can feature in applications to university, apprenticeships and employment. Dr McMonagle, our specialist UCAS Adviser, and Mr Hepburn, our Head of Careers, support students with their journey through A Levels to the world beyond.

Our academic results have traditionally placed St Bede's Sixth Form as one of the best performing schools in the North West and we have become used to seeing the overwhelming number of **our pupils being accepted for their first choice universities, including Oxford, Cambridge and members of the Russell Group,** but also universities that specialise in more vocational courses. We have noted an upsurge in interest in those who wish to apply for apprenticeships and we continue to find ways to support these through seeking to develop partnerships with a range of diverse employers and through our programme of visiting speakers.

The Sixth Form at St Bede's College is a diverse and stimulating environment of enterprise. We are proud of our students but we also promote the growth of our intellectual culture, most recently through the award of Academic Scholarships. **If an Upper Fifth student attains Grade 7 or Grade 8 in at least six GCSE subjects and Grade 9 in a further three subjects, then they are eligible to apply for an Academic Scholarship.** Please contact the Admissions Office for further details: admissions@sbcm.co.uk.

If you would like to arrange a tour of the Sixth Form or to meet members of the team, we would be delighted to see you.



Mr Dominic Rose

Head of Sixth Form



To make an impact on people's lives

Each student who passes through these classrooms is irreplaceable; they all leave a mark on the lives of those of us who remain at St. Bede's. It is really gratifying to see our students developing both personally and academically and it fills us with great joy to know that we are part of their pathway.

Jessica N, a Sixth Form student, tells us a little about how she envisions her future. **She has had offers to study medicine at the University of Cambridge, Imperial College, London and Queen Mary University of London.**

Why do you want to become a doctor/why did you choose to apply for medicine?

I want to become a doctor because I have always been interested in learning about human biology and being able to apply this knowledge to helping people makes for a very fulfilling and rewarding career.

What kind of things have you done in preparation for your application?

I have done a lot of things to prepare for my application. This includes gaining some work experience with a community mental health team and volunteering with a charity called Kissing It Better whose goal is combat loneliness amongst the elderly. Through these, I was able to develop my communication skills as well as my sense of empathy. Reading books such as Do No Harm by Henry Marsh also helped me gain more insight into the challenges that come with being a doctor. A very important aspect of my preparation was the help I received from Dr McMonagle and the Medical Forum led by Mrs Prince. They kindly took the time to review my personal statement and prepare me for my interviews, which were probably the most difficult parts of the application process.

What are you most looking forward to at university?

I am looking forward to learning a lot about medicine and building on the knowledge that I have gained from my A-Level subjects. One of the best parts about studying medicine, in my opinion, is the opportunity to make an impact on people's lives, so I am also looking forward to going on placements in hospitals and becoming more familiar with the practical side of medicine. The vibrant student community at university is also appealing and I will make sure to join a few societies in my time there.

What field do you think you might specialise in?

At the moment I am not completely sure, however, foetal medicine is a field that I found myself interested in after watching a documentary called The Surgeon's Cut and reading about how different a foetus' cardiovascular system is compared to that of an adult. Therefore, foetal cardiology is an area I could potentially specialise in.

What advice would you give to our current GCSE students who are thinking of applying for medicine?

The first step to having a competitive application is having good GCSE grades, so I would encourage them to work hard and be focused during their lessons. Revision outside of lessons is also crucial. As a medical applicant it is important that they show that they are well rounded individuals so they should try to take part in the extracurricular activities that the College has to offer.



Jessica N

Sixth Form student

A digital revolution to help students reach their potential

Many of our students have been learning and developing outside the classroom this academic year. They have been pursuing various areas of interest such as politics, economics, art and medicine.

Michael had a fantastic day of work experience with Steve McCabe MP; Roselle attended 'Realising Regional Growth: What Next for Greater Manchester?' at the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester; Martha, Tilly and Isobel joined the Young Women's Leadership Programme, run by Manchester City Football Club; and Halina's fantastic art will be published in the next issue of the Living Edge Magazine.

A group of our Lower Sixth students are also enjoying our College Medical Forum, which provides chances to attend lectures, explore work experience opportunities and listen to visiting experts. Our young people are relishing learning about themselves, while having their eyes opened to the world beyond A-Levels.

New Sixth Form Prefect Team

The Prefect Team comprises 21 enthusiastic, innovative and confident young people who have been given a range of roles, including being House Captains and taking responsibility for engaging with individual year groups. Huge congratulations to our Head Girl, Katy C, and Head Boy, John T, as well as our Deputy Head Boy and Girl, Ciaran and Martha. They completed application forms, delivered a speech on their visions to their year group and successfully negotiated two rounds of interviews.

The full details of Prefect responsibilities are below:

Katy C.	Campion	Head Girl
Martha O.	Siena	Deputy Head Girl
Patience M.	Bosco	House Captain
Doris K.	Siena	House Captain
Roselle S.	Magdalene	House Captain
Isobel M.	Campion	House Captain
Maria O.	Siena	Prefect
Chloe Le	Bosco	Prefect
Sonya E.	Campion	Prefect
Veronica S.	Siena	Prefect
Marie D.	Siena	Prefect
Halina K.	Campion	Prefect
Kimberley L.	Campion	Prefect
Tom D.	Siena	House Captain
John T.	Bosco	Head Boy
Joel S.	Siena	Prefect
Ciaran O.	Siena	Deputy Head Boy
Ross M.	Magdalene	House Captain
Matt K.	Siena	Prefect
Matthew Ho	Campion	House Captain
Wing L.	Bosco	House Captain



Grow with us



Be Bedian

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Please contact the Admissions for further details.
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