



ST. BEDE'S  
COLLEGE  
1876

# MARCH BEDE'S NEWS



Mrs M Kemp  
Headteacher

*Dear Parents,*

*This is a special newsletter as we walk together through Lent towards Easter.*

Lent is a challenging period as it makes us question ourselves and our own unity of life. Do I truly live by my beliefs and my values? Do I let the inspiration of Christ dying on the cross, blamed unfairly as he was innocent, help me accept what's difficult in life?

This month students have worked hard on the virtue of understanding and it was opportune to have during this last week a series of celebrations of diversity led by Sixth Formers, which involved all from Prep to 18. It marked a very special Celebration Assembly where once again I was nothing but proud of our College.

Thank you very much to all who were able to come to parent/teacher evenings this half term. We never want to take for granted what a privilege it is that you trust us working with you to give the best opportunities to your children.

I wish you all a very happy and holy Easter!

Kind regards,

*Mrs María Kemp*

*Dear Parents,*

**As we approach the end of the term, we have been privileged to witness the fantastic talents of our Prep pupils.**

Prep 4 amazed us all with their Easter play, 'The Easter Story According to Matthew.' Presented to the rest of the school and their families in our chapel, their performance filled our school with the Easter message of faith, hope, and joy. It was a truly moving experience.

On Thursday, we were left speechless by the breathtaking production staged by Prep 6, titled 'Von Trapped!' Our Academic Hall was completely transformed for one night only. The performances from our pupils were simply awe-inspiring, and I must acknowledge the dedication and commitment of Mrs Cartmell, Mrs Harrison, and Mrs Horsefield in creating such a magnificent show. I am immensely proud of their achievements.

March's Virtue of the Month was Understanding, and it was heartening to observe our pupils embracing and demonstrating this value throughout the month. We believe that fostering a culture of understanding is one of the foundations for building an inclusive and harmonious learning environment.

We also celebrated the commencement of Culture Week, which was organised by the Bedian Diversity Initiative. In an assembly on Monday 18 March, our Sixth Formers, Dara and Jeanne, alongside some of our pupils from Preps 4 and 5, presented an assembly that celebrated our college's cultural diversity. The array of cultural costumes on display was truly a sight to behold and a testament to the wonderfully diverse community we have at our college. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of you who made donations towards a College trip to Gambia, where our students will be helping to build a nursery.

Lastly, I would like to express our gratitude to our students who purchased Easter chicks, sold by our Student Council, in aid of Francis House Children's Hospice. Your support has been invaluable, and the hospice is extremely grateful for your generosity.

On behalf of the Prep team, I wish you a restful and peaceful Easter break.

*Mrs C Hunt, Head of Prep*



**Mrs C Hunt**  
*Head of Prep*



**Dr A McMonagle**  
*Head of Sixth Form*

*Dear Parents,*

**Our virtue of the month, Understanding, has been lived through various activities the Sixth Form have been involved in this month.**

I am so proud of the Bedian Diversity Initiative prefects who organised Culture Week. They showed amazing maturity and completely took control of a range of wonderful events. Their energetic and proactive approach was a joy to witness and resulted in a week in which understanding of different cultures' traditional dress, food, languages and traditions was increased in fun and enjoyable ways.

Our Sixth Formers also developed their understanding of themselves and how to succeed academically through sessions delivered by Elevate Education. Representatives from the company helped Upper Sixth to hone their study methods for the Easter holiday, to remove 'exam blind spots' and to understand how to cope with stress. Our Lower Sixth students were treated to a session on using the syllabus to frame study, structuring and reviewing organised notes, and standing out through independent learning.

I wish you all a wonderful Easter break and will keep Lower and Upper Sixth students in my prayers as they prepare for their examinations.

Best wishes,

*Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form*

# SAFEGUARDING

## Girls on Board

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We were delighted to host the **Girls on Board conference** at St Bede's this month. Andrew Hampton delivered his renowned training to staff from both St Bede's College and Prep, as well as to a range of delegates from schools in the North West. The Girls on Board approach helps to empower girls to resolve their friendship issues by themselves, without the need for adult intervention.

The session in the morning helped staff to see that, although well meaning, adult input can often not assist the girls to resolve their problems. In the afternoon, a group of Upper Third girls met with Andrew, and he talked to them about friendship, the pros and cons of different group sizes and then the girls had fun role playing different situations which can cause fall outs. The point of the exercises was to evoke empathy in the girls and to help them see things from others' perspectives. This was especially true when Andrew spoke of 'the girl in the water' who was no longer on board with the rest of the friendship group. The Upper Third girls explained that it was their responsibility to ensure no girl is ever left behind without a friend.

Mrs Ward, Head of Upper Third, found the conference enlightening: 'I am so proud of how enthusiastically the Upper Third girls participated in the afternoon session. They spoke eloquently and maturely, and embodied the Bedian Values whilst genuinely seeming to enjoy the session.'

We were grateful to receive the training from Andrew in person and hope to put some of the ideas into practice.

*Mrs C Boylan, Assistant Head Safeguarding & Ethos*





# Virtue of the Month:

## Understanding

### Appreciating Diversity and Expanding Critical Thinking through Understanding

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*Understanding* is a virtue that transcends mere knowledge acquisition; it embodies a deeper comprehension and empathy towards the intricacies of the world around us. It goes beyond rote memorisation and embraces the nuanced comprehension of concepts, ideas, and the perspectives of others. True *understanding* involves the ability to connect dots, draw correlations, and appreciate the complexities that often elude surface-level comprehension.

In the tapestry of life, *understanding* plays a pivotal role, especially during the formative years in school. It is the cornerstone of effective learning, enabling students to grasp not just what is being taught but also why it matters. In classrooms, fostering a culture of *understanding* cultivates a love for learning, as students are encouraged to question, analyse and synthesise information rather than merely regurgitate facts. This approach not only enhances academic performance but also equips individuals with the critical thinking skills essential for navigating the challenges of an ever-evolving world.

Developing *understanding* is a continual process that involves open-mindedness, active listening, and a genuine curiosity to explore beyond the surface. It thrives in environments that encourage diverse perspectives and value the pursuit of knowledge for its intrinsic worth. By promoting *understanding*, individuals not only enrich their own lives but also contribute to creating a more compassionate and interconnected society where the pursuit of knowledge is driven by a desire to comprehend, appreciate and positively impact the world.



# February Virtue Winners

JOY





# ★ Stars of the Week ★







# House Point Winners





# Girls' Football League Winners





# Individual Awards



Individual Awards  
for Football and Cheerleading



Player of the Match





# Sports Teams Medals



Hockey Medalists



Winners of the Manchester Schools Netball Tournament

# Piano certificate for Walton







# Easter Bonnet Winners



# Afternoon tea for Headteacher's award winners.





# Happy Birthday!

**Nursery**  
DiDi

**Prep 1**  
Nathaniel

**Prep 5**  
Tami

**Prep 6**  
Matthew

**Reception**  
Vedansh  
Theo  
Sullivan  
Jacob

**Prep 2**  
Ricardo

Josep  
Deborah  
Archie



# Bedian Ambassador

## *Joy Virtue Winners*



### U3

Freddie W  
Kaili Z  
Lara S  
Ife S  
Bea W  
Izzy P

### L4

Oscar R  
Oliver H  
Henry P  
Nell M  
Tyler M  
Justin

### U4

Joel H  
Kasen B  
Nika Y  
David E  
Mason S  
Isabella L  
Nathan A  
Leo P

### L5

Rida R  
Pearce C  
Bryndon M  
Jiya M  
Josh O  
Johanna A  
Aidan C  
Makeda P

### U5

Maeline B  
Tanisha B  
John H  
Havana L  
Brooke F  
Emily A  
U5COL

### L6

Ndirira B  
Lyndon B  
Joy M  
Bridget S

### U6

Sarah N  
Ned P-B  
Jessica W  
Martin T-L



# Easter Bonnet Parade

On the final day of term, the Prep Easter bonnet parade was a delightful spectacle in the infant playground, under blue skies and warm sun. Students from the four Houses of Siena, Bosco, Campion and Magdalene adorned their heads with creative and original Easter bonnets, displaying their House colours of yellow, red, blue and green.

The parade was a vibrant and colourful affair with each student showcasing their beautifully decorated bonnets. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement and anticipation as the parent onlookers admired the artistic efforts of the students.

A guest appearance from the Easter Bunny added an extra sprinkling of magic to the event. Children and adults alike were thrilled to see the adorable character hopping and mingling with the crowd, high-fiving pupils and posing for selfie photographs.





# Easter Bonnet Parade

The Easter bonnet parade was an end of term celebration of colour and creativity. It not only provided an opportunity for students to express their artistic skills but also fostered a sense of pride and camaraderie within the school community.





# Culture Week

Organised by the Bedian Diversity Initiative, Culture Week ran from 18-22 March and was a huge success. On the opening day, students arrived at the College in traditional cultural attire, national sports kit or the colours of their nation's flag. The College came alive and prefects from the BDI visited forms to choose the best dressed students, who were presented with prizes at break time.

On Wednesday morning the whole school competed in an online Culture Quiz made by Siena, Lamie and Maria in L6. Prizes for the highest scoring students were given out at Celebration Assembly.

One very popular event during Culture Week was the BDI's sale of food and drinks from different cultures. Spanish rice milk drink Horchata and Taiwanese tapioca milk drink Boba were popular, while African Fanta was so in demand, the prefects auctioned off the last two cans for £10 each!

The range of food sold included African meat pie and Puff Puff, Hispanic nachos and rosquillas, Hungarian pastry rolls Kakaós csiga, Australian Lamingtons and Hong Kong fortune cookies. The food sale alone raised over £500 for a nursery in Gambia. With students also donating £1 in exchange for wearing cultural clothing on Monday, the BDI is excited to find out what the total raised will be.

On Thursday morning, Head Girl Tara took the opportunity to educate the Lower Sixth on the feast day of St Patrick. She told us the story of the saint's life as well as the origins of the famous St Patrick's Day celebrations. We were treated to a quiz and even learned some Irish vocabulary. Maithú Tara!



[Click here to check out our post](#)



# Culture Week

Finally, Friday morning's mass allowed us to demonstrate how grateful we are for the diversity in our College, with the Prayers of the Faithful delivered in Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin and Yoruba.

During the offertory procession, a number of cultural items were presented, including Ankara fabrics, whose vibrant colours and intricate patterns symbolise the rich cultural heritage and diversity of the African continent. The Qipao, also known as Cheongsam, is a traditional Chinese dress whose intricate designs and luxurious fabrics of the Qipao reflect centuries of craftsmanship and artistry.

The abanico is a graceful and elegant accessory that holds cultural significance in many European countries, particularly Spain.

The flag of Barbados, with its blue and yellow bands and iconic trident emblem, allowed us to honour the contributions of the Americas to our shared humanity. Finally, Aboriginal sticks, traditional symbols of Indigenous Australian culture, carry deep spiritual and ceremonial significance.

Following Mass, the BDI leaders gave an overview of the achievements of the group and awarded prizes to those students who had gone above and beyond. They also announced the appointment of cultural leaders in each form.

*Dara S and Jeanne B, Lower Sixth Students*





# Culture Week in Prep

Two Sixth Form Prefects, Dara and Jeanne, brought the whole of the Prep School on a tour around the world. Students from Prep 4 and 5 were grouped into their continents and paraded down the aisle at assembly, showing off their cultural attire to a selection of specially selected music. Many came to the front and explained the stories behind items significant to their culture.

The children were also delighted to watch performances of an Afrobeats dance by Tolu and Annaliese in Prep 5; the Sixth Formers explained the Nigerian tradition of showering dancers with money and the children were thrilled to be given fake money throw, showing their appreciation for their peers' talents.

Aoife, Evelyn and Enya in Prep 5 & 6 wowed onlookers with their traditional Irish dance and amazing footwork.

Dara and Jeanne left the children with the message of how important it is to celebrate our cultures and differences as it helps us to connect with people in our own culture and others as well as promoting the virtue of Understanding. As they left, 'I Know Who I Am' played them out of the hall, an empowering gospel song which is about us all being one in Christ.

*Dara S and Jeanne B, Lower Sixth Students*



# AJIS Quiz

On the first Saturday morning of the Easter holidays, six of the Prep 6 pupils had the thrilling opportunity to represent our school in the prestigious AJIS (Association of Junior Independent Schools) Quiz. Hosted by Bury Grammar School, the competition encompassed the top independent schools in the North West, providing an exhilarating platform for our quiz team to test their knowledge.

Comprising of Archie, Christopher, Emily, Josep, Lucy as team captain, and Victor, our team demonstrated exceptional commitment and readiness. Equipped with extensive general knowledge, they engaged in twelve rounds of intellectual battles, ranging from Mathematics, Literature, and Science to French, Music, and Countries (including flags and capital cities).

It fills us with immense pride to acknowledge the excellent behaviour and exceptional teamwork displayed by our pupils at this prestigious event. Not only did they represent our school, but they also displayed camaraderie,

respect and determination. Their unwavering spirit was truly commendable.

Although the team did not win on this occasion, it was gratifying to witness our pupils actively participating in such enriching activities and excelling at them. We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the entire Prep 6 quiz team, as well as express our gratitude to their parents for their invaluable support as they nervously watched on.

Undoubtedly, this experience will further nurture the pupils' intellectual capabilities and instil in them a lifelong love for learning and personal growth. We are truly proud of our students' accomplishments and can't wait to see what they achieve in the future.

*Mrs C Harrison,  
Deputy Headteacher Prep*





# SCIENCE

## Science Treasure Hunt: Who is the Copper?

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The 2024 edition took place between 8 and 17 March and at St Bede's we joined in this celebration with different activities and events organised by different clubs.

Among them, we held a treasure hunt: 'Who is the Copper?', which focused on the elements of the periodic table. To unravel the mystery the pupils had to complete tasks that tested their knowledge of Chemistry and also find the teachers who were hidden throughout the College in different costumes. These disguises gave the pupils clues as to which element they were representing. We had, among others, a giant banana (bananas are a good source of potassium ions) and even a Freddie 'Mercury'! It was a very enjoyable activity and an exciting and dynamic way of learning!

*Mrs Rachael Prince,  
Head of Science & Chemistry Department*



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# MATHS

## Primary Maths Challenge

In February, some of the Prep 5 and 6 pupils participated in the Mathematical Association's bonus round of the Primary Mathematics Challenge, showcasing the remarkable mathematical talents of our students. Based on their scores in the initial round in November, an impressive fourteen pupils were invited to compete in this prestigious event.

Amongst the finalists, Tolu from Prep 5 showcased exceptional skill, missing out on the bronze award by just one mark. Despite falling short of bronze, Tolu's performance was commendable and a testament to her dedication to mathematical excellence.

Theodore, also from Prep 5, performed admirably and was awarded the bronze accolade. His determination and hard work were evident in his impressive score.

Oceana, another gifted student, demonstrated her mathematical prowess and secured the silver award. Her ability to tackle challenging problems with confidence and accuracy was truly commendable.

Notably, identical twins, Beth and May, achieved identical scores, surpassing all expectations and securing gold awards. Their outstanding performances showcased not only their individual capabilities but also their dedication to achieving excellence together.

The bonus round of the Primary Mathematics Challenge was undeniably challenging, featuring a rigorous paper that tested the pupils' mathematical knowledge and problem-solving abilities. However, the aforementioned students certainly rose to the occasion, demonstrating exceptional skills and determination.

We are incredibly proud of all our finalists who participated in this competition. Their achievements reflect both their individual talents and the dedication of our staff in providing high-quality education in mathematics. Congratulations to all the students involved!

*Mrs C Harrison, Deputy Headteacher Prep*







# ENGLISH

## Public Speaking Contest

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Having honed their rhetorical skills in English classes, ten students were selected by their English teachers to take part in a public speaking competition which was held in the academic hall.

I was joined on the judges' panel by Mrs Boylan, Head of Ethos and Safeguarding and Dara Salami of the Lower Sixth, who has represented the College to great effect at a variety of co-curricular events.

The finalists spoke on a wide range of topics but we noted the very high standard shown of delivery and audience engagement. For Upper Third students to speak so confidently and purposefully was wonderful to see.

My sincere appreciation goes out to the English teachers who facilitated the event and to the students themselves who showed such courage in speaking to a large audience of Upper Third and Prep 6 pupils.

Kimberley K, Stas K and Kurtis C were all awarded a prize as runners-up whilst the overall winner, who showed remarkable command of rhetorical techniques, was Bertie E. Well done to all of those who took part!

*Mr S Howes, Head of English Department*



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# MODERN LANGUAGES

## MFL Points Competition

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Throughout the term, the MFL Department awards points in lessons for good participation, asking and answering questions and for general great linguistic skills! Many students can be seen delightedly receiving 'un bon point', 'un punto' or 'ein punkt' across the Joseph classrooms. The points are added up at the end of each term and the student with the most points in each class is awarded a chocolate prize, in this case, a delicious Easter egg. Well done for all the hard work in lessons in French, German and Spanish.

*Mrs M Reid, Head of Modern Languages*





## 'Afire': Lower Fifth German Students at the Movies

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This month, Lower Fifth German students took part in a fantastic German GCSE Study Morning at HOME, Manchester. This exciting event was led by Sebastian Truskolaski, lecturer in German Cultural Studies at the University of Manchester, and included a screening of Christian Petzold's 'Afire' (Rote Himmel, 2023), a German language film.

'Afire' tells the story of a group of friends staying in a remote cottage on the German Baltic Coast where self-centred Leon, an author, is trying to finish his second book. Emotions run high as the forests that surround them slowly catch fire, leading Leon to question whether he can truly care for anyone or anything but himself.

The session began with an introduction from Sebastian regarding the film's main themes, namely love, friendship and identity, but also, more subtly, climate change. The backdrop of the former German Democratic Republic also featured heavily.

Following the film, pupils took part in a discussion of the film, which certainly gave them a taste for studying German at A Level. There were, of course, some language-based exercises to complete, but pupils agreed that it was "nice to get exposure to authentic German media and learn about cultural differences between East and West Germany" (Lewis F), as well as "gain new vocabulary and knowledge about German History" (Luca C).

*Mrs J Di Paola, Teacher of German and Spanish*



# BE BEDIAN

## Bedian Spotlight: Francis Ingham Legacy Fund

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*With the generous support of an anonymous donor we are delighted to announce the launch of The Francis Ingham Legacy Fund, a philanthropic endeavour established in memory of St Bede's alumnus and prominent global public relations executive Francis Ingham (December 22nd 1975- March 16th 2023) on the first anniversary of his death.*

The primary goal of the Francis Ingham Legacy Fund is to provide assistance to students who have endured Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), supporting them in navigating the mental and emotional challenges that ACEs pose.

This mission is deeply inspired by Francis's personal journey, where St Bede's College served as a pivotal turning point.

It was, therefore, fitting that the fund's founding donor wished to honour Francis through St Bede's College. We invite fellow St Bede's College Alumni, the broader Bedian Community as well as colleagues and friends of Francis Ingham to contribute to the fund and help raise awareness of its mission, extending the opportunity to support those most in need.



*"St Bede's was a very kind school to me. They took me in without paying any tuition. They pushed me all the way to the end of Sixth Form. With their support I went to Oxford"*

## Bedian Talent: Lucian in the Athletics Open

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Upper Third pupil Lucian has had great success in his recent Athletics Open! He was awarded Silver for 75m Hurdles, Bronze for 75m Sprint and Gold for High Jump. We are so proud of him.

*Mrs J Ward, Head of Upper Third*





# BE BEDIAN

## An evening to remember: St Patrick's Day

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A fantastic reception was held at Manchester Hall on Friday evening in anticipation of St Patrick's Day. Some Bedian staff were lucky enough to be invited along by the Consul General of Ireland, Sarah Mangan, whose children attend St Bede's College.

It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with so many members of the Irish community in Manchester, many of whom attended St Bede's or have children in the College. The Fianna Phádraig Pipe Band and a troupe of phenomenally talented Irish dancers made the evening truly memorable. We wish all of our Irish friends Lá Fhéile Pádraig!

*Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form*



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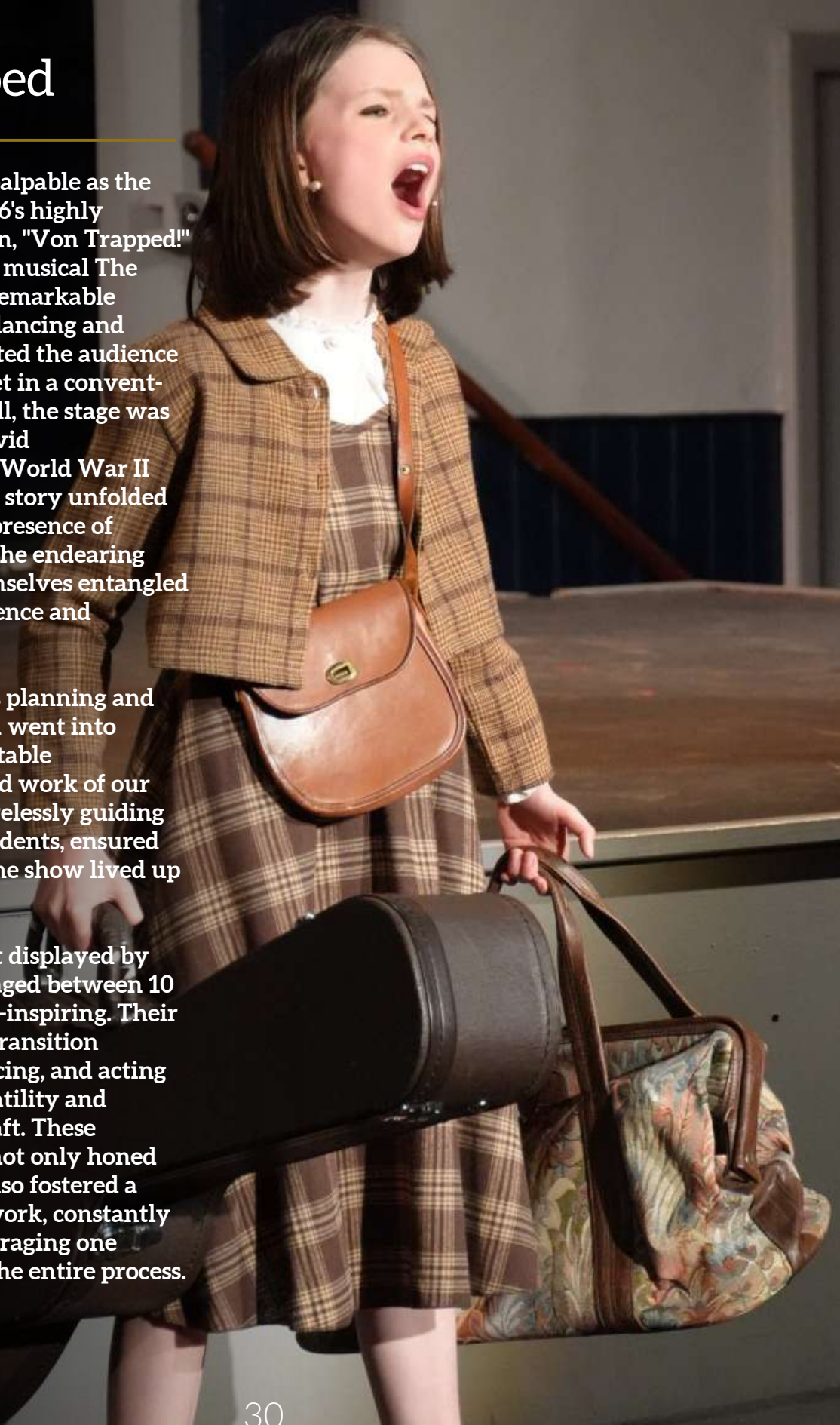
# PERFORMING ARTS

## Von Trapped

The excitement was palpable as the curtains rose on Prep 6's highly anticipated production, "Von Trapped!" Inspired by the iconic musical *The Sound of Music*, this remarkable showcase of singing, dancing and acting talents captivated the audience from start to finish. Set in a convent-themed Academic Hall, the stage was transformed into a vivid representation of pre-World War II Austria. The heartfelt story unfolded amidst the imposing presence of German soldiers and the endearing nuns who found themselves entangled in a tale of love, resilience and bravery.

Months of meticulous planning and relentless preparation went into crafting this unforgettable performance. The hard work of our dedicated teachers, tirelessly guiding and nurturing the students, ensured that every aspect of the show lived up to its full potential.

The astounding talent displayed by our young actors, all aged between 10 and 11, was truly awe-inspiring. Their ability to seamlessly transition between singing, dancing, and acting showcased their versatility and dedication to their craft. These talented individuals not only honed their own skills but also fostered a strong sense of teamwork, constantly supporting and encouraging one another throughout the entire process.





# PERFORMING ARTS & MUSIC

As the curtains closed and the audience erupted into thunderous applause, it was evident that "Von Trapped!" had left an indelible mark on all who witnessed it. The excitement and enthusiasm radiating from the crowd were testament to the exceptional quality of the production.

The success of Prep 6's rendition of "Von Trapped!" serves as a shining example of the power of the arts in education. Through the magic of theatre, these young performers have not only showcased their immense talents but have also fostered a deep appreciation for teamwork, discipline, and creativity.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the entire cast and crew for their dedication and commitment in bringing this production to life. They have undoubtedly left an enduring legacy within our College's vibrant arts community.

In conclusion, "Von Trapped!" will forever be remembered as a monumental achievement, an embodiment of the extraordinary capabilities of our students. We look forward to witnessing their future accomplishments and applaud them for their outstanding achievement.

*Mr J Dickson, Director of Performing Arts*



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# PERFORMING ARTS





# PERFORMING ARTS





# PERFORMING ARTS





# SIXTH FORM

## Annual Scholars' Dinner: An outlook on the next steps

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Our Scholars' Dinner proved to be an incredibly enriching experience for our Upper Fifth and Sixth Form students. It was truly inspiring to host speakers from diverse fields, each with extensive professional backgrounds, who broadened our students' horizons regarding their future prospects.

With engaging presentations and insights in the fields of Law, Engineering and the Health Sciences, our guests truly sparked curiosity and encouraged our students to explore their potential. We are immensely grateful for their contributions in shaping a memorable experience for all involved.



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# SIXTH FORM

## Our guests

One of our esteemed speakers was **Professor Margaret Kingston**, Consultant Physician at Manchester Royal Infirmary and Director of Undergraduate Medical Studies at the University of Manchester. Professor Kingston oversees the management of all the medical students in the University of Manchester and is an expert in looking after patients with complex infections. Our students loved chatting with her at dinner and finding out more about the reality of being a student of Medicine.



We were also delighted to have **Professor Joe Rafferty** CBE join us. After completing a PhD in molecular genetics, Professor Rafferty researched drug resistance in cancer. He went on to hold a series of senior NHS leadership roles and is now CEO of Mersey Care NHS Trust. He is a founder member of the Zero Suicide Alliance UK and is an honorary professor at the University of Liverpool Institute for Population Health Sciences. Professor Rafferty thoroughly engaged his audience, advising our students on how to deal with setbacks on the road to success.



**Mr Ian Gillis**, Partner at Hill Dickinson LLP is also a non-executive director of GB Taekwondo and on the board of the largest chain of independent opticians in the UK. Mr Gillis is a co-owner of multiple retail businesses selling designer clothes and accessories online and in stores. He advised our students to take ownership of their futures by envisioning their achievements and then making them a reality.



**Mrs Laura Rodriguez**, a senior structural engineer at Curtins, demonstrated to our students that a career need not be in a predictable straight line. She has a broad experience working on and delivering projects and deals with contractors, clients and architects to bring projects from tender to construction stage. She told our audience about her new role within her engineering consultancy as Learning & Development Specialist where her focus is the development of the training strategy and performance management of engineers.



It was inspiring to hear our speakers' stories and to gain valuable advice in choosing university courses and careers. The overall message was that the recipe to success is to work hard and pursue what makes you happy.

Following the lectures, we convened for a delightful dinner, providing both speakers and students with the opportunity to exchange thoughts and engage in valuable discussions.

*Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form*



# SIXTH FORM

## Make a Smile

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Weronika from 'Make a Smile' visited our Lower Sixth students to tell them all about the volunteering opportunities available within the charity. Founded by Luke Morgan, a medical student from Cardiff, '[Make a Smile](#)' started with a group of University friends, keen to make a difference to the lives of children in the city. Its volunteers dress up as well-known children's characters (often princesses and superheroes) and visit children affected by hardship, be it illness, disability or deprivation. If you are interested in the field of Medicine and might like to volunteer to visit children in hospitals you can find more information [here](#).

*Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form*



# SIXTH FORM

## Prevent Breast Cancer

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Pink Day is in the planning now that Lower Sixth students have been inspired by Caroline from [Prevent Breast Cancer](#). Caroline visited the Lower Sixth to tell them all about the charity and its funding of ground-breaking prediction and prevention research. It raises funds for the [National Breast Imaging Academy](#) and promotes awareness of breast cancer signs, symptoms and risk factors. Caroline explained that 55,900 people are diagnosed with breast cancer in the UK every year. We already have a committee of students who are coming up with innovative ways to raise money for this truly deserving charity.

*Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form*



[Learn more about  
Prevent Breast Cancer](#)





# SIXTH FORM

## Elevate Education: Lower Sixth Study Sensei

During a PSMEE session, Lower Sixth students had a 'Study Sensei' seminar, organised by [Elevate Education](#). This covered the following topics: using the syllabus to frame study; structuring and reviewing organised notes; conceptual learning to develop deep understanding; using exam papers; and highlighting through independent learning.

*Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form*

## Sixth Form Book Club: Native Son

Published in 1940, Richard Wright's '[Native Son](#)' sold an astonishing 215,000 copies within three weeks of publication - a major event in American literary history. St Bede's Sixth Formers Bridget S and Oliver T recently discussed the novel at the local independent schools' Sixth Form Book Club, hosted, this time, by Withington Girls' School. They were also joined by students from Manchester Grammar School and Manchester High School for Girls who argued whether the text challenged or reproduced stereotypes of black men at the time, and showed appreciation of its portrayal of injustice and repression. There was a lively discussion about the place of communism in the text and about Wright's misogynist depiction of women. We are looking forward to the next meeting of the Sixth Form Book Club.

*Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form*



# SPORTS

## A Historic Celebration of St Bede's Team Spirit

On Wednesday, March 20th, the highly anticipated annual netball fixture between staff and our Upper Sixth leavers took place. Due to rain, the match had to be held indoors in the Sports Hall, yet it still attracted a large crowd of supporters from across the college. Notably, significant support was shown by our enthusiastic Prep students.

Nerves were evident on both sides as the game commenced with a rapid pace; the ball swiftly moved across the court. The first quarter concluded with a low score of 1-1, with Charlotte scoring for the students and Miss Sharp for the staff. It appeared that the match was destined to be closely contested.

In the second quarter, with a few alterations to both teams, the staff managed to secure a four-goal lead. This gave a glimmer of hope to the staff team, who had been defeated for the past three years.

*Mrs C Smith, Geography Department Teacher*

The third and final quarters showcased impressive play from our students: Natalie demonstrating remarkable speed across the court, Anna seamlessly transitioning between attacking and defending roles, Sarah effectively controlling the play as centre, and Rebecca contributing significantly, to name just a few. The staff netballers, despite being rusty as most had not touched a netball in a year, managed to triumph over our students in a well-mannered match, with both sides displaying the Bedian spirit in abundance. Final score 13-1 in favour of the staff.

A big thank you goes to all the players, our umpire, Mrs Mary Andrews, a former PE and RE teacher at St Bede's. Mrs Andrews was the one who first established this competition over 25 years ago and always makes a wonderful celebrity appearance ensuring fair play across the court. Additional thanks goes to Grace, our second umpire, she made the match quite a family affair, with older sister Upper Sixth student Charlotte playing as a leaver against her mum, a staff member.

### **U6 Leavers and Players:**

Rebecca, Anna, Erin B, Erin, Charlotte, Natalie, Jessica, Jemima, Sarah, Deli, Katariina, Katie.

**Staff:** Mrs Ball, Mrs Prince, Mrs Lavorini, Miss Sharpe, Miss Whitney, Dr Shipley, Mrs Boylan, Mrs Corbett, Mrs Smith.

**Student POM:** Natalie

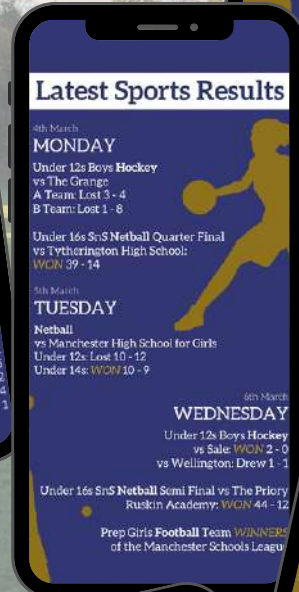




# SPORTS RESULTS



The Under 14s in the Sisters n Sport National Netball Shield Competition.





# Library

## World Book Day Quiz

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The lunchtime annual World Book Day quiz brought the Maher Library to life! Four teams of 6 - 8 students with a teacher, including a Prep 6 team, eagerly took part. Characters brought books to life: teachers dressed as Helen MacDonal, author of *H is for Hawk*, Maid Marian from *Robin Hood* by Howard Pyle, Gandalf from *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkein, Laura from *Laura's Star* by Klaus Baumgart, Pocahontas by Justine Korman, Maleficent by Elizabeth Rudnick, and author Jane Austen.

The room was filled with excitement as teams worked together to agree on creative team names and then completed 5 rounds such as the 'missing titles' round and a picture round. Prep 6 and College assistants led by L6 student Rafal S, helped make the quiz run smoothly and counted the points. It was a great way for Prep and College students to work together!

The results were: teams 'Bookworms' (the Prep 6 team) and 'The Argonauts' came in joint 1st place with 43/60 points, 'The Zorthogian Empire' secured 2nd place with 37/60 points. Not far off in 3rd place were, 'Diary of the Upper Third', with 35/60. The most creative team name prize went to 'Argonauts!' All participants received positive class chart points and sweets and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Congratulations to everybody, and thank you to our special guests!

*Miss M Pocas, College Librarian & Mrs Georgia Leyden, Prep Librarian*

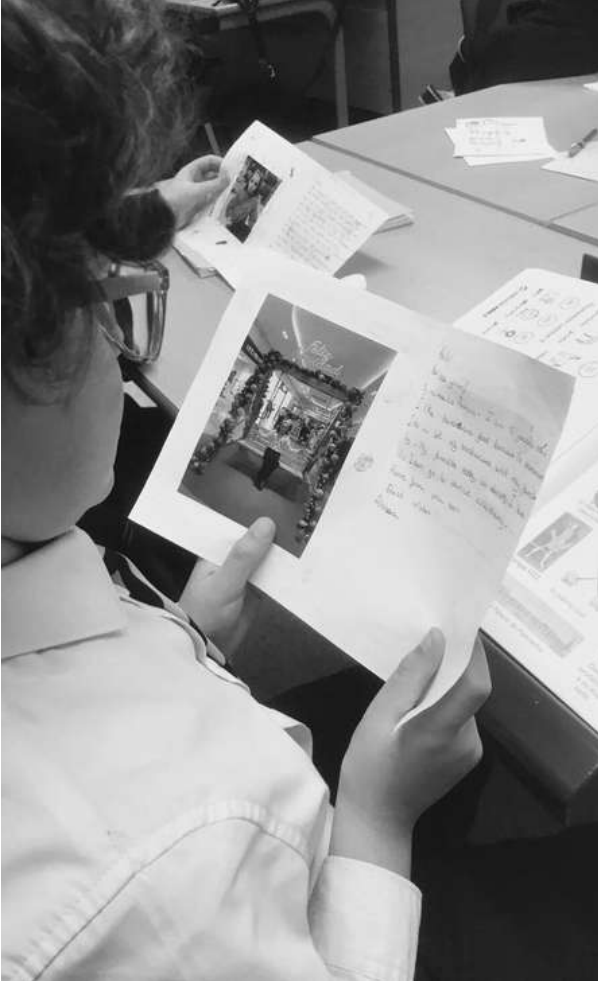


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# Maher Library News



## Letter Exchange with Spanish students

Preps 4, 5 and 6 have been taking part in a letter exchange with students in Palencia, Northern Spain. The children worked so hard to write letters in Spanish, introducing themselves and giving their Spanish pen pals a sense of who they are and what they enjoy. We were thrilled to receive letters and cards in return written beautifully in English and containing artwork, photographs and lots of details about our new friends in Palencia. We have so much in common with each other!

*Mrs G Leyden, Prep Librarian*

## Reading at Home at Easter

Nursery Class visited the library today. They loved the freedom to explore all the books and share their favourites with others. The children borrowed a book to take home for the Easter holidays.

*Mrs G Leyden, Prep Librarian*



# Maher Library News

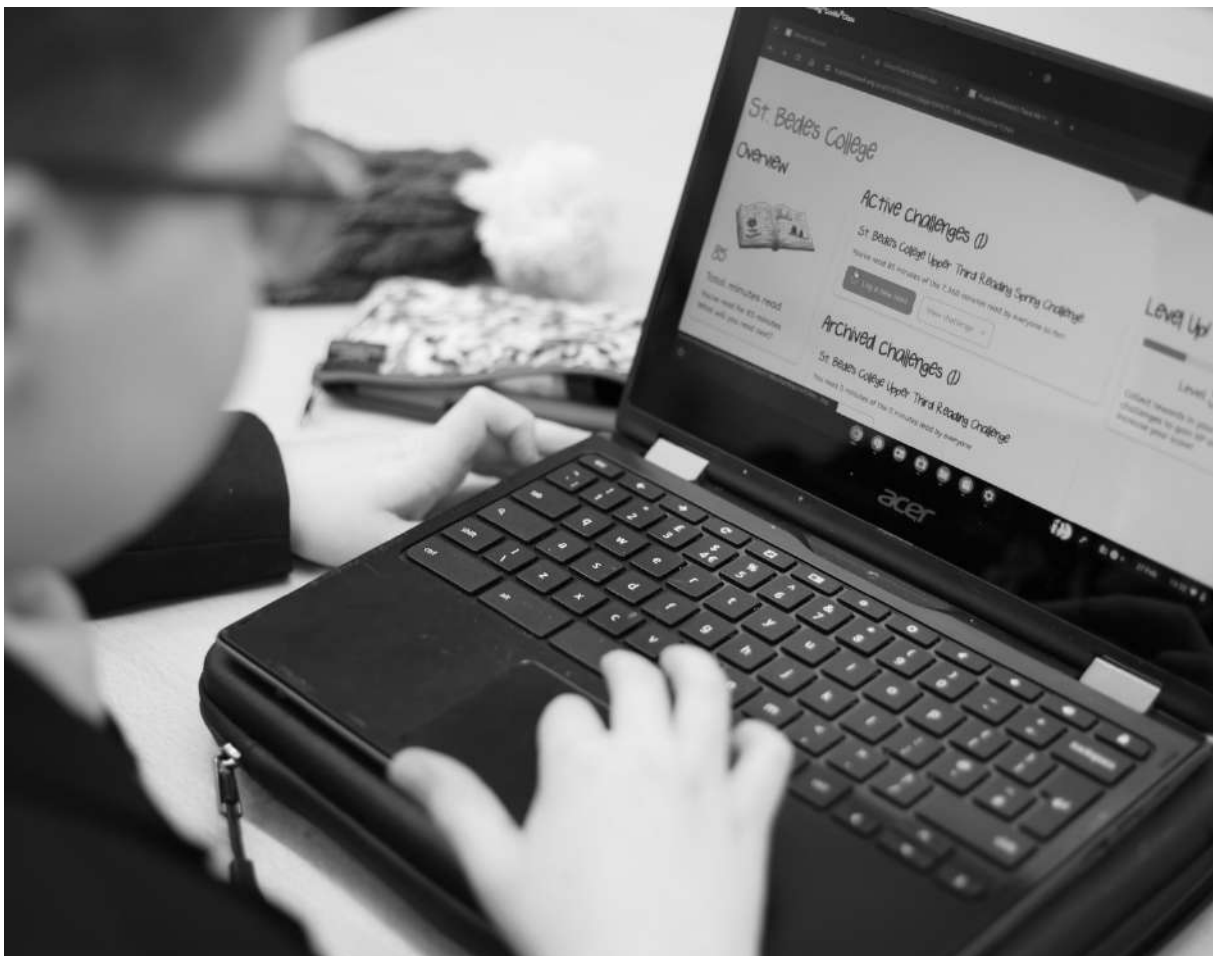
## Track My Read

Upper Third forms have been competing with each other this term to read and track up to 1,000 minutes through [Track My Read®](#). I am pleased to announce that the winning forms are:

U3COR for reading for 3,835 minutes, U3REI for 2,835 minutes, U3SHI for 1,455 minutes, and U3COP for 1,300 minutes. Form U3DIC was close to meeting the target with 995 minutes, while U3MOG read for 465 minutes.

Everyone who took part earned class chart points, and U3COR won sweets. Edwin Y, Edward A, and Shantia G were the top students who read for more than 1,000 minutes each, going over and above expectations. They won a unique book from its publisher, which was given to the College. Well done to everyone who participated!

*Miss M Pocas, College Librarian*







# PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

## 'Bede's and Brush' - Sunflowers and Bubbles event

A fabulous time was had by all on Friday 8th March as the ladies of St Bede's gathered in the Academic Hall to enjoy the PFA's first-ever 'Bede's and Brush' art event, with a 'Sunflowers and Bubbles' theme.

In celebration of International Women's Day and Mothering Sunday, the event was a lovely opportunity for female friends and family members to spend some creative time together and use their artistic flair to recreate their own versions of Vincent van Gogh's iconic 'Sunflowers'.

As well as painting a canvas to take home, guests enjoyed a cheeseboard and drinks from the bar. Some amazing masterpieces were created and everyone had a lot of fun!

*Miss M Pocas, College Librarian*

Many thanks to Jill Chamberlain for leading this event and also to Pedro De La Puente from our Illustration Club for his assistance and creative guidance. Thank you to all who supported the evening, the parent volunteers and those who kindly donated raffle prizes.

As this event was such a success the PFA hopes to make it an annual date in the diary, so please look out for future dates!

The PFA comprises a team of dedicated volunteers who are always looking for extra support in organising fun events such as this, to raise funds and create opportunities to socialise and enrich the school experience for families.

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering whatever time you have available, (even if it's not a lot!) please email: [pfa@sbcm.co.uk](mailto:pfa@sbcm.co.uk).



# CHAPLAINCY

## Easter through Matthew's eyes

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Prep 4 pupils performed a solemn but very moving version of the Easter Passion in the College Chapel. Pupils, friends and family watched intently as the children dramatised the events leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus, through the eyes of one of His disciples, Matthew.

We were all reminded that, although the Easter story displays pain, suffering and sacrifice, out of this comes joy and hope, hope for a better life, in a better world. It was clear the children were well rehearsed as they all performed so graciously, spoke clearly, sang beautifully and moved seamlessly in their retelling of this integral event in the Church's calendar. Well done to Prep 4 and their teachers!

*Mrs C Harrison, Prep Deputy Head*



[Click here to check out our post](#)





# CHAPLAINCY

## Mass and Easter Celebration Assembly

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The Easter term culminated in a **wonderful celebration of mass and celebration assembly**, as has become tradition. Although a short term, it has been remarkable to observe all the activities that have occurred, notably the inaugural Culture Week celebrated at the end of term. **Prayers of the Faithful** were read in various languages, and the offertory procession was an opportunity to give thanks for our diverse community.

Fr Alvaro homilised about the conversion of **Clare Crockett**, a young woman from Derry who had dreams of becoming an actress. Whilst on holiday in Spain with a friend, Clare was encouraged to attend a Good Friday service. Having been initially reluctant to venerate the cross, she eventually did, and was so moved by her encounter that she decided to take holy orders. A documentary called '**All or Nothing**' charts her story.

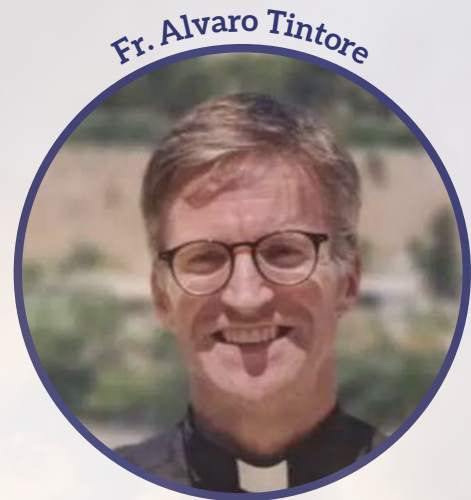
**Senior Choir opened Celebration Assembly** with a rousing rendition of Sing Unto the Lord and then we celebrated the achievements of the College community with a great array of prizes from Science, English, Maths, Business, MFL, Music, Art and PE. Many students also received their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and special mention must go to Samson in the U6 who has completed his Gold Award.

The pupils all behaved impeccably and joyfully celebrated each others' achievements.



# CHAPLAINCY

**Holy Week presents an opportunity for a new experience of conversion. It is a time of special grace, when we are invited to contemplate the love of God revealed through His Son's passion and death on the Cross, as well as the profound joy of His resurrection.**



In the spiritual realm, we all grapple with a form of "Spiritual Challenge" that hinders our understanding of God's love and His message of salvation. Holy Week offers us the chance to look into the eyes of Jesus and uncover, behind His emotions, words, actions, and deeds, **God's deep and tender love for humanity** and His desire to bestow upon us eternal life.

Something similar to this occurred to **Clare Crockett**, a 17 year old young Irish girl who discovered the love of God on a Good Friday Service she had never intended to attend. Before that moment, Clare had lived the typical life of a young girl, distant from her faith and sacraments, and with the sole ambition of becoming a movie star.

Years later, she herself recounted the beginning of her conversion when she kissed the feet of Jesus on the Cross: "I only remember that I kissed the nail that went through the feet of Jesus and received the grace to see that **God had died for me on the Cross** - for my sins, for my vanities, for my infidelities, for my impurity... I saw how I nailed the Lord to the Cross and that **the only way that I could console Him was to give Him my life**". The rest of the story can be found in a film that I thoroughly enjoyed, and cannot recommend highly enough for this season.

At the heart of the conversion experience stands the **sacrament of confession**. This term at the school, we have had the privilege of hosting Gabriella Stephens, a Catholic Evangelist, who has shared her powerful testimony of love for this sacrament with the students. As a school, we are committed to making the understanding of the **gift of Christ through the sacraments** the heart of the chaplaincy life. We want to make them more available to students, staff and parents throughout the year.

Confession is a sacrament for all seasons, but Lent is a particularly appropriate time for it. During Lent, we reflect on Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, where he paid the price for our redemption, ultimately granting us freedom and a new life through his resurrection. And so I want to finish by inviting you all to experience, during these holiest weeks of the year, the **profound love and forgiveness that are fruits of the Cross**.





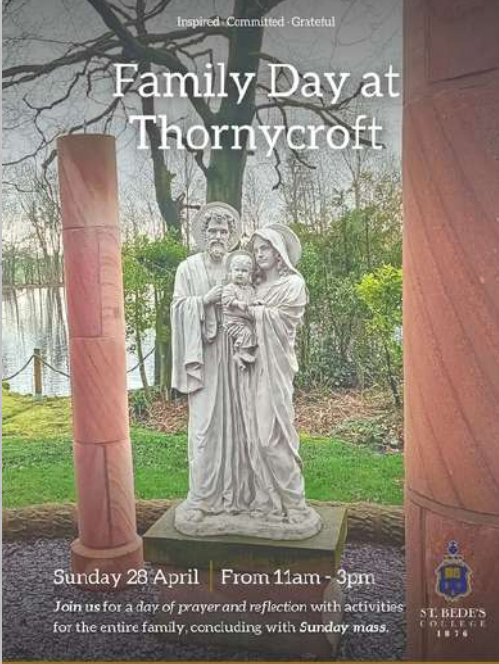
Happy  
*Easter*



# REMINDERS

Inspired · Committed · Grateful

## Family Day at Thornycroft



**Sunday 28 April | From 11am - 3pm**

Join us for a day of prayer and reflection with activities for the entire family, concluding with **Sunday mass**.

Please RSVP to Mrs Hibbert [shibbert@sbcm.ac.uk](mailto:shibbert@sbcm.ac.uk) if your family would like to attend and to receive an information pack.

ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE 1876

The PFA presents

## St Bede's Comedy Night

Arrivals 7:30 pm (event 8pm-10:30pm)



**Justin Moorhouse**

Friday, 24th May at the Academic Hall

Tickets **£16.50**  
Licensed bar and snacks

Parents & Friends Association  
ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE 1876

Get your tickets here!



ST. BEDE'S COLLEGE 1876

## Spring Concert

**Wednesday 17th April  
7.00pm\***

An evening of beautiful music performed by students of the college.

\* Refreshments from 6.30pm



Alexandra Road South,  
Whalley Range  
Manchester, M16 8SP

Entry and parking through the rear entrance of the College

Get your tickets here!



# REMINDERS



ST. BEDE'S  
COLLEGE  
1876

## Open Morning

Tuesday, 16th April  
at 9:05 am

Inspired · Committed · Grateful

[Get your tickets here!](#)



ST. BEDE'S  
COLLEGE  
1876

Monday 13th May

## Prep 5 College Taster Day

St. Bede's College  
Catholic HMC Independent College for boys and girls aged 3-18

[Get your tickets here!](#)



# FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Monday, 8 April  
**Summer Term Begins**  
Whole school photograph

Thursday, 11 April  
**14:30 Prep Parents' Evening**  
(School Based)

Sunday, 14 April  
**10:00 Introductory Bronze DofE Walk**

Monday, 15 April  
**Prep 5 Residential Trip to Patterdale**

Tuesday, 16 April  
**Prep 5 Residential Trip to Patterdale**

Wednesday, 17 April  
**Prep 5 Residential Trip to Patterdale**

Thursday, 18 April  
**16:00 Prep Winmarleigh Trip Parents' Meeting**

Sunday, 28 April  
**10:00 Bronze DofE navigation walk**

Monday, 29 April  
**9:00 Feast Day of St Catherine of Siena**

[Click here for further information](#)





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