

# MAY BEDE'S NEWS



Mrs M Kemp Headteacher

#### Dear Parents,

#### May has been an exceptional month this year.

We started with the coronation of Our Lady, placing all our worries and hard work at her feet and asking for her protection, especially for our U5 and U6 students who started their exams on the 9th.

Their last day before study leave began with Solemn Mass and I had the chance to wish them all the best. To have witnessed their growing up and achievements the last two years has been a privilege and I am sure there will be many happy faces in August when they collect their results. In the newsletter we have tried to capture a very busy month throughout the College. Making the most of the warmer spring weather, we have taken the students on different trips and experiences. I am sure you will agree it has been non-stop. It is so important that we create these opportunities for our students to grow curious minds and become critical thinkers in search of truth.

On his feast day, I feel we would have made St Bede very proud; as a scholar he inspires us to work, study and use the knowledge we acquire to serve others. We celebrated with ice creams at break time for all the students and in Mass we asked him to intercede for us so we grow to be true Bedians.

My special thanks is due to our PFA for organising a super fun event to finish the half term. The comedy night was a great success and helped raise funds for the Gambia and Lourdes trips, which will be fantastic opportunities for our students to give of themselves to others less fortunate.

Have a great half term! Mrs María Kemp

#### Dear Parents,

As we reached the end of half term, we celebrated Mass in our College chapel for the feast day of our patron, St. Bede.

Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate our Prep 3 Eucharistic Celebration Mass on Sunday 30 June and our Prep 6 Celebration Mass on Tuesday 2 July; pupils will be accompanied by their families for these special occasions.

Throughout May, our focus has been on the Virtue of Truthfulness, reinforcing essential qualities in our pupils in collaboration with their families. We are pleased with the dedication exhibited by our pupils during the concluding weeks of the half term, with pupils in Preps 1-5 successfully completing their end of year progress tests. The upcoming half term will be filled with exciting STEM activities, including LEGO Days on 17 and 18 June and our STEM Day on 26 June.

Ensuring smooth pupil transition is paramount as we prepare for the new academic year. Our dedicated staff are committed to facilitating a seamless transition for all pupils in the forthcoming half term. We eagerly anticipate the 'Meet your Teacher' afternoon on Wednesday 19 June, providing all pupils, including our new starters, the opportunity to meet their new teachers and classmates. Prep 6 will also embark on their Induction Day in the senior part of the College.

I look forward to welcoming many families to our upcoming events during the remaining weeks of the academic year.

With my best wishes for June,

Mrs C Hunt, Head of Prep



Mrs C Hunt Head of Prep



**Dr A McMonagle**Head of Sixth Form

#### Dear Parents,

# May has been momentous for our Upper Sixth students.

It is the month in which they attended their last lessons at St Bede's and began their A level examinations. After a Holy Mass which marked the commencement of study leave, they gathered in the Common Room to mark the occasion. As I observed the celebrations and shirt-signing, it was clear to see that that many deep, long-lasting friendships have been forged by our wonderful young people, who are part of the Bedian family forever.

While emotions ran high on the last day, the students' attention soon shifted to the challenge of A level examinations, and it is lovely to see that they have been making good use of the Sixth Form Quiet Room to engage in study. They are all coping admirably so far and are being kept in our prayers. I cannot wait to celebrate with them at our special U6 Prizegiving Evening and Leavers' Ball on 27 and 29 June.

Meanwhile, the Lower Sixth have already started drafting their personal statements for UCAS and are making exciting plans for the future. Next half term includes a number of events for them to look forward to including Careers Day, Higher Education Day and a paintballing trip.

Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form

# Virtue of the Month

# Truthfulness

# Embracing Truthfulness: The Foundation of Integrity and Authenticity

**Truthfulness** goes beyond simply telling the truth; it encompasses a deep love and appreciation for truth in all aspects of life. It's not just about being honest in our words, but also in our actions and intentions. When we embody **truthfulness**, we integrate it into our behaviour and decision-making processes.

At its core, *truthfulness* is about being authentic with ourselves. It provides a solid foundation for building our character and navigating through life's complexities. Inculcating *truthfulness* in children is of paramount importance. By teaching them to value truth, we equip them with a moral compass that guides their actions throughout life. Children who embrace *truthfulness* develop a sense of integrity and authenticity, enabling them to face ethical dilemmas with clarity and conviction.



# April & May Virtue Winners







# Stars of the Week









# House Point Winners









# Housepoint Winners for this Half Term







# Headteacher's Award Winners







# Individual Awards





Flynn for his football skills



# Other Awards and Recognitions



A group of Prep students participated in the annual Alderley Edge Festival, one of the country's biggest music festivals, which takes place each May. Deborah T. and Romilly G. were asked to participate in the finale concert, a culmination of the week's best performances.

Annie won the Classical YR5 Group.

Well done, everyone – you were awesome!

# Bedian Ambassador

# April - Diligence Winners



U3

Kurtis C Julie M Gene C Issac O Aamir S Ashkon M

L4

Paramdeep R Joe J Marcell T Charlie C Cleon N William G U4

Elliot Y
Rozarka L
Rafael R
Caoimhe D
Terry L
Finley D-G
Viktor L
Jacob D

L5

Amara S
Youssif A
Zach C
Holly E
Hovan W
Josh O
Joe M
Chloe D-G

U5

Ayyan K Xander D Oliver S Travis W Louisa K Gray C L6

Frankie I Eviemae C Francesca S Tara G

U<sub>6</sub>

Erin B Jude A Zach T

# Happy Birthday!



# **PREP**



On 9th May, Prep 4 set off for their overnight residential to Winmarleigh Hall. The adventure centre, operated by PGL, is set in 50 acres of pretty parkland, near the Forest of Bowland.

The children were very excited to be going away for the first time with their friends and the weather was beautiful from start to finish.

Pupils enjoyed a variety of activities: climbing, abseiling, aeroball, vertical challenge and the zipwire.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to develop independence and team-building skills. All pupils showed great enthusiasm and many overcame their fears, showing true determination and resilience. It was wonderful to see the children coming out of their comfort zones and encouraging each other to do the same.

It was a fantastic trip, creating long lasting memories for everyone.

Miss E Harrison Prep 4 Teacher





# PREP















#### A Journey into Egyptian Mythology

Members of the Ancient Egypt Club, Holly E and Niquain M, recently embarked on an exciting adventure to Mr McGrath's Prep 3 class. Their mission? To unravel the mysteries of Ancient Egyptian Gods and Goddesses, and delve into the fascinating world of hieroglyphics.

The atmosphere buzzed with curiosity and excitement as Holly and Niquain shared their knowledge about the deities revered by the ancient civilisation. From the mighty Ra, the sun god, to the wise Isis, goddess of magic and wisdom, the students were captivated by tales of divine power and mythology.

But the journey didn't stop there. With a stroke of creativity, Holly and Niquain guided the students through the intricate art of hieroglyphic writing. Together, they transformed mundane letters into ancient symbols, unlocking the secrets of communication from millennia past.

One of the highlights of the session was when the students discovered the significance of a cartouche – a unique oval enclosing hieroglyphs, serving as a protective charm for the names it contained. With guidance from the club members, each student crafted their own cartouche, symbolising not just their names, but the safeguarding of their identities and souls, just like the ancient Egyptians did.

Adding to the immersive experience, Holly curated a collection of authentic artifacts from museums. From delicate papyrus scrolls to miniature mummy statues, the classroom transformed into a treasure trove of ancient wonders. Among the treasures was a copy of the Egyptian Book of the Dead, an Anubis keyring, and a striking black scarab figure, each item holding a piece of history waiting to be explored.

The collaboration between the Ancient Egypt Club and Prep 3 was a success, and everyone had a great time together. As the session ended, excitement for future adventures and discoveries filled the air.

Ms J Theriault, Teacher of English





### PREP

## Prep 6's Unforgettable Adventure at Boreatton Park

The long awaited Prep 6 residential trip to PGL Boreatton Park commenced on Monday 13th May much to the delight of 39 eager and excited Prep 6 pupils.

Over the course of the week, the children enjoyed a vast range of outdoor activities, including high ropes, giant swing and zip wire. They also strengthened their team spirit through raft building and solving various outdoor conundrums at the puzzle park. Thursday brought torrential rain, but even that could not dampen the high spirits of our brilliant pupils as they excitedly prepared for the BP disco.

Throughout the week, the children faced their fears and pushed their boundaries, filled their bellies with three hearty meals a day, munched their way through copious amounts of sweet treats, sang songs at the top of their lungs in the rolling Shropshire countryside, and made wonderful memories that will stay with them forever.

We were delighted with the behaviour of the pupils and the fantastic camaraderie, enthusiasm and resilience that they all showed.

Well done, Prep 6. You were all amazing!

Mrs Clare Cartmell Prep 6 Teacher



#### Amanee B

Prep 6

"Boreatton Park is absolutely phenomenal. It pushed me to do things I thought I could never do. Fun, laughter and joy were always present. I am extremely grateful that I was given the opportunity to go there."

# PREP















#### The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth

This month, our Prep 1 class embarked on an exhilarating journey to the Manchester Museum, part of their literacy unit centered around the captivating book, The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth. The museum trip brought the book's mysteries to life, sparking our young explorers' imaginations and deepening their love for reading.

The students were thrilled to encounter the museum's diverse exhibitions, with the enormous dinosaurs being the undisputed stars of the day. These prehistoric giants provided a perfect backdrop to our literary adventure, making the story's elements feel tangible and engaging, and allowing the children to connect their reading with real-world discoveries.

The visit to Manchester Museum was more than just an educational trip; it was an immersive experience that blended literature, history and science, leaving a lasting impression on our budding scholars. The activities and exhibits not only enhanced their understanding of the book but also ignited a passion for learning and exploration.

Miss O Cunningham. Prep 1 Class Teacher







# Unveiling Linguistic Talent Highlights from the Modern Languages Performance Morning

On Monday 13th May, seven nervous and excited Bedians prepared to show off their well rehearsed pieces at the annual Modern Languages Performance Morning. The event challenges students from U3rd to U4th to create and perform their own original script for a musical or dramatic performance, in the foreign language of their choice. Visiting schools Parrs Wood High School and Cheadle Hulme School also brought groups of students who had prepared to deliver.

This year's Bedian participants were committed from the outset to coming up with an interesting original concept, developing a script and tirelessly rehearsing in order to perfect it for the big day. Katelynne H in U3rd wrote a story in Spanish entitled 'El Senor Pantalones Grunones está feliz' (Mr Grumpy Pants is happy), Aamir S and Haris A wrote a song in French called 'Regret Resonant' (Echoed Regret), with Haris singing and Aamir accompanying on guitar, and finally, Joan S-B, Charlie C, Logan G and Sky L wrote a French sketch called 'La Gemme Verte' (The Hidden Jewel).



There was a buzz of excitement in V1 as the visiting students and teachers arrived. Haris and Aamir did a superb job of opening the show with their wonderfully performed and pronounced French song, earning a great reaction from the audience and helping to break the ice for the subsequent performances. The morning's programme saw a reading of 'Demain Dès L'aube' by Victor Hugo, a French sketch about exchange students and a song in both French and Spanish, among others.

All performances were excellent, but after much deliberation, the judges decided on the following awards: Best Performance to Francesca from Cheadle Hulme School for her emotional rendition in English and Italian of 'Perfect' by Ed Sheeran and Andrea Bocelli. Best Performer to Ekamdeep of Cheadle Hulme School, for a hugely entertaining performance of the Punjabi song 'Guitar',

complete with a fun dance. Most Original Performance went to both Katelynne H of St Bede's for her Spanish story and Joan S-B, Charlie C, Logan G and Sky L of St Bede's for their intriguing sketch on the lost jewel discovered in a graveyard. Last but not least, Most Memorable Moment went to the comedic French restaurant sketch by Francesca, Maggie, Alice and Holly of Cheadle Hulme School and a fantastic rendition of 'Call me Maybe' in Spanish, by Amelie of Parrs Wood High School, which had students and staff alike burst into spontaneous clapping and singing along.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable morning and a great celebration of language learning, but overall, the commitment and creativity of the students was what stood out and impressed everyone involved. Stay posted for your chance to get involved in next year's Modern Languages Performance Morning!

Ms Michelle Reid. Head of Modern Languages



#### Auf Wiedersehen Berlin!

After five days in Berlin, we waited to board our homeward plane. Several students were heard to comment that the time had passed so quickly and yet we had packed so much into our visit. What long-lasting, happy memories we had made in such a short time...

# Berlin

### Day One:

Our departure time had been changed to a much earlier slot and it was a bleary-eyed and uncharacteristically sedate group of Bedians who boarded the outbound plane. However, they quickly revived and it was just as well. The blistering pace which characterised the whole trip began the moment our feet hit the tarmac at Brandenburg airport. After disembarking the train, quickly marching to the hotel, dumping our bags and grabbing a sandwich at a bakery, we were off to the Spy Museum. It was a real early highlight, boasting a laser alarm challenge, an interactive polygraph test and a terrific James Bond exhibition. Then it was back to the very lovely Acama Hotel for our evening meal and trip to the Reichstag, where we were all amazed by the incredible historic building and its great glass

dome. We were able to take in the Brandenburg Gate, where the preparations for



#### Day Two:

I am sure students will recall with pleasure our lively river cruise on the Spree and the fascinating display at the Palace of Tears. Bowling in the evening was also unforgettable, especially with some of the victory dancing on display. However, I am sure that, in years to come, the trip that will linger longest in the memory is our early morning visit to Sachsenhausen Memorial, the preserved former concentration camp. What we saw there and how we all felt is difficult to put into words but it had a profound and lasting effect on all of us.



#### Day Three:

adverture

A comparatively late wake-up call for 7 a.m. to enjoy the excellent Acama breakfast buffet was welcomed by all after the frenetic first two days. However, we soon made our way to the Berlin Wall Memorial to see for ourselves the deadly 'No-Man's-Land' which claimed so many lives during those dark days of division. From there we made our way to the Topography of Terror, a museum to the rise and rule of the Nazis, situated in the foundations of the headquarters of the Gestapo. After lunch, we made our way to the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church which has been left bombed out as a sober reminder of the devastation war brings. We were amazed to go into the octagonal-shaped modern church next door, the interior of which has to be seen to be believed! Churches were something of a theme for the day as we made our way to mass at the magnificent St Ludwig's Catholic Church in the evening.



#### Day Four:

Our last full day began on a sombre note as we visited the massive, bleak Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. We also managed to take in the enormous Berlin Cathedral before setting off to the Stasi Prison Museum. Touring a facility built with the express intention of using psychological cruelty to procure confessions right up until 1989 was a real eye-opener for us all. Our tours were expertly guided and the sight of prison cells, interrogation rooms and converted vans brought home what it means to live in a police state. After a well-deserved lunch and some souvenir shopping at Alexanderplatz, we trotted off to the East Side Gallery to walk along a remaining section of the Berlin Wall that has become an open-air gallery of street art. The pupils were mesmerised by several works of art. Then it was off to the Berlin TV Tower to scale Europe's highest building. A few nerves were soon quietened by the amazing views of the city where we could see and reflect on all the sights that we had seen throughout the trip.

#### Day Five:

We packed for home, slightly downcast at the prospect of leaving but very much looking forward to our trip to the world famous Berlin Zoo. The pandas were certainly a highlight but we were also treated to a magnificent menagerie of countless other exotic beasts. We then squeezed in a short visit to the Mall of Berlin for lunch and some shopping, before collecting our bags and saying "Auf Wiedersehen to Berlin"!





















# BE BEDIAN

# Bedian Talent: Joseph in Prep 6 at U13s cricket team at his Club during the second week of May

Joe was an opening batsman and scored the maximum of 30 runs at which point they retire. It was his first retirement of his career. He also was an impressive wicket keeper, stumping a player out and stopping numerous balls going for 4!

He has also successfully made it through to the GMCL U11s Inter League Squad for 2024. With over 100 players trialling during the Winter to get in the squad, it is a fantastic achievement. Well done Joe!



# **Bedian Talent:** Patrick in Prep 5 at the Spring Cup final

Patrick R from Prep 5 showcased his defensive skills in the Spring Cup final for the Timperley and District Junior Football League. Already champions of the Autumn Cup, the U10s team aimed for a double win.

Despite being 2-0 down at half-time, the team displayed incredible resilience, equalizing 2-2 by full-time and pushing the game into penalties. With nerves of steel, they clinched the victory and brought home the coveted cup!

Congratulations to Patrick and his team!

# PERFORMING ARTS & MUSIC

## Hamlet: A Promenade Theatre Experience on the Lawn

Over the last half term, students from U3-L6 have been diligently preparing a production of 'Hamlet' for our annual 'Shakespeare on the Lawn' performance. This year we bring one of Shakespeare's true masterpieces to life using the style of promenade theatre which will showcase our beautiful grounds and Vaughan building as we immerse ourselves in this tragic tale of madness, revenge and the fragility of life.

We aim to take our audience on a journey, following the inner battles of the famous prince of Denmark as he seeks to avenge the death of his father. Expect beautiful costumes, marvellous acting and an accompaniment of our College's finest voices. We invite you to join us on the Headteacher's Lawn on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th June; the show starts at 7pm and will conclude at 21:15.

Tickets on sale soon priced at £10 per ticket. See you there!

Mr J Dickson, Director of Performing Arts



# PERFORMING ARTS & MUSIC

#### Dance Showcase

Step into the spotlight! Our Dance Showcase was a celebration of dedication and talent, especially for our Upper Fifth students who wowed us with their GCSE Choreography and Performance pieces.

From graceful classical ballet to commercial energetic jazz, our diverse dance styles shone bright. It wasn't just about the performance, but about inspiring the next generation. Our Lower Fifth and Junior Dance Club dancers lit up the stage alongside our seasoned performers, some experiencing the thrill of performing for the first time.

At our college, we believe dance is for everyone, no matter your ability. Here's to our amazing dancers for an unforgettable Showcase!

Miss L Stark, Teacher of Dance











#### Upper Sixth Leavers' Mass

The Upper Sixth enjoyed their Leavers' Mass on the feast day of the Ascension - a fitting day to begin their study leave as we think about having a spirit of expectation and preparedness. What better lesson as they begin their study leave? Mrs Kemp encouraged the students to think about the month's virtue of truthfulness and reminded them that they should always be sincere with themselves. She reflected that they began Sixth Form at the same time she started her role as Headteacher, and thanked them for trusting her and being an excellent example to others. She encouraged them to be true to themselves and to strive at this difficult time to try to do one act of kindness for others every day. In this way, even through the stresses of revision, they can be proud of themselves. We wish them all the best for their A level examinations.

Dr A McMonagle, Head of Sixth Form





























#### Living with a Disability

Jonathan Fogerty, Associate Solicitor and Spinal Injuries Association trustee visited our Lower Sixth to speak about 'Living with a Disability'. Jonathan sustained a spinal cord injury as a young teenager and now advocates for those living with disabilities.

The students were thoroughly captivated by his talk, as he explained how his own injury occurred and highlighted some activities that put young people at risk of injury. He revealed how his daily life has been affected and the students were fascinated by pictures of the adaptations he has made to his car and home, as well as shots of him travelling and even skiing.

The students learned to be mindful of how we can modify settings to better accommodate those in wheelchairs, but were also truly inspired by Jonathan's immense courage and fortitude.

Dr A McMonagle Head of Sixth Form



#### Breaking the Stigma: L6th Assembly Tackles Anxiety

To welcome the Mental Health Month, during the L6th Assembly on April 30th, Kamwana and Ndirira led a workshop on anxiety. They explained that anxiety is a mental health condition that affects self-esteem, work ethic, induces physical symptoms, and can range from mild to severe.

Kamwana and Ndirira created a safe space where students were encouraged to speak about moments when they have felt anxious. Using a stuffed octopus toy, students were invited to either hold it and speak about their anxiety or pass it on to the next student if they did not wish to contribute. The number of students who chose to share their feelings was surprising and heartwarming. Students were also moved when their form tutors and teachers held the octopus and shared their own experiences with anxiety.

Overall, the workshop was a wonderful experience for all and demonstrated that to beat the stigma associated with mental health, we all need to speak about it openly and support each other



# SPORTS



# Maher Library

# Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration shortlist books

There's something for everybody in illustrated books! They're not just for children, as College students learned from illustrator Mr de la Puente, who very kindly shared his perspectives of the Yoto Carnegie Medal for Illustration books. There are seven in total and they are all illustrated very differently.

Students who participated showed their interest and curiosity as they listened to Mr de la Puente's expertise. They shared what they noticed in the different illustrated books, appreciating the artists' techniques, colours, moods and textures, while being guided by our in-house expert. An invaluable experience!

The voting, which is open until 5th June, will be a difficult task as each illustrated book demonstrates unique talent.

Miss M Pocas, College Librarian



# Maher Library News

#### Book Fair 2024

The Maher Library was once again buzzing this month but this time with Scholastic's 4-day Book Fair. We had 3 bookcases full of historical fiction books, young adult books, graphic novels, biographies, classics, fiction books for all College ages, discovery boxes and notebooks – so much to choose from!

We were also given boxes with fantastic stationery, which included holographic bookmarks, pencils, cool erasers, pens and much more. These were very popular.

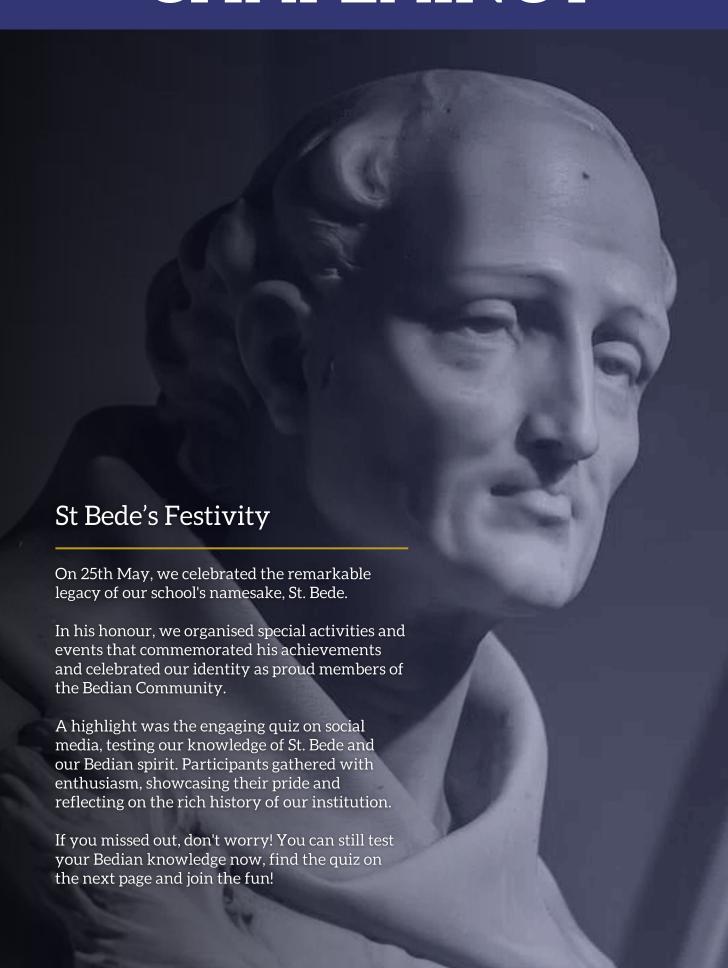
Students had opportunities to browse throughout the day. The love of books was evident as they picked up their chosen titles and started to read them straight away! U3 and L4 students also took part when they came to the library with their English class, making the fair truly come to life.

Miss M Pocas, College Librarian





# CHAPLAINCY



## CHAPLAINCY

## St Bede's Day Quiz

### Bedian Pride

- 1. Where was St. Bede born?
  - (A) Lindisfarne
  - (B) Jarrow
  - C Rome
  - (D) Canterbury
- 3. What title was St. Bede given by the Church?
  - (A) Doctor of the Church
  - Bishop of Northumbria
  - © Patron Saint of Scholars
  - D Father of Monasticism
- 5. In which language did St. Bede write?
  - A English
  - B French
  - C Latin
  - (D) Greek

- 2. In which year did St. Bede die?
  - (A) 680 AD
  - (B) 705 AD
  - (C) 735 AD
  - D 800 AD
- **4.** What is St. Bede known for writing?
  - A The Canterbury Tales
  - B Ecclesiastical History of the English People
  - C The Divine Comedy
  - Confessions
- 6. What significant event did St. Bede witness at age 13?
  - A The dedication of the Jarrow Abbey
  - B The Battle of Hastings
  - C The signing of the Magna Carta
  - The construction of York Minster

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Flip the page to check your answers!

Answers: 1B, 2C, 3A, 4B, 5C, 6A

## CHAPLAINCY



# Reception Celebrate the Month of The Virgin Mary

As a priest, one looks with trepidation when Trinity Sunday approaches, but that trepidation turns into expectation when one has to "explain" the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity to the little ones. This year was no exception. After I explained that God is a family (paternity, filiation and love), one of the boys raised his hand and asked why Mary, who is the Mother of God, was not one of the persons of the Trinity.

Our Lady is a creature and therefore not one of the persons of the Trinity, but the boy's intuition was not too misguided. As Saint Elizabeth professed, Mary is the most blessed among all women! And so it was fitting that the little ones wanted, during this month dedicated to Mary, to crown her as our mother and our queen.

Fr. Alvaro Tintore, College Priest













## Chaplaincy

### **U5 Study Leave**

The Upper Fifth celebrated the formal end to their studies with mass in the Chapel. We welcomed U5 parents to the celebration and gave thanks for the many and varied achievements of the year group. At the offertory, as well as the gifts of bread and wine, items which represented music, drama, sport and academia were

brought up to be blessed in recognition of the year group's talents.

Afterwards, pupils enjoyed signing each other's shirts in a last day tradition, while parents enjoyed some refreshments. We wish them good luck for their revision and GCSEs.



### Feast of Ascension

The sun shone on the pupils as they made their way to English Martyrs for the Feast of the Ascension.

Fr Alvaro homilised that Jesus left us as he ascended to heaven, so that the Holy Spirit could come to us and God always remains close to us in the Eucharist. We should ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten our lives by following God through our actions. The celebration was an uplifting way to end the school day and we are very grateful to English Martyrs for hosting us on this wonderful feast.

## Chaplaincy

### Gambia Expedition

This October, a group of 9 current Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth pupils, accompanied by Mrs Collard, Mr Stillburn and Fr Alvaro are going to visit Gambia. Our main project is The Jammeh Kundar Nursery School and Day Care Centre in Kombo Kerewan which was founded in 2019 amidst the Covid 19 pandemic.

Whilst in The Gambia we will do arts, crafts and circle games with the nursery children as well as painting the classrooms and completing work in the garden. Prior to our expedition, we will fundraise so we can support the nursery school to pay its staff, and provide furniture (basic tables and chairs) which the school is currently lacking. This hands-on project aims to create a better learning environment for the children who attend the school, fostering a sense of gratitude and social responsibility in our students. We hope that this is an opportunity for our students to share our unique identity with members of a different community, and to deepen our students' sense of belonging, fully appreciating and perpetuating what it is to be Bedian.

Beyond the renovation project, students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the vibrant culture of Gambia, experience local traditions and sites of interest and engage with local communities. In addition to local activities around Banjul, we will spend a night visiting Tendaba Camp. This safari style camp is situated on the banks of a river and we will get to enjoy the wildlife and enjoy a bush safari and river trip. Our college priest, Fr Alvaro, will accompany us on this journey to guide and provide spiritual insights, creating a supportive environment for reflection and personal growth.

Fr Alvaro's presence will add a special dimension, enhancing the cultural and spiritual aspects of our experience.

Already our students have made an amazing start to raising funds. Robyn G in Upper Fifth completed a sponsored silence, Elsie H generated £125 from a Eurovision sweepstake and the Culture Week organised by the Bedian Diversity Initiative raised over £1000. In addition to Mr Stillburn's 100 mile sponsored bike ride around Cheshire, a link to our Just Giving Page is also being presented in the programme for NE Theatre York's production of West Side Story for which Mr Stillburn is the patron. The Gambia team will also be present at the performances of Hamlet and the Summer Fair. We would love to see you at one of our stalls!

If you would like to donate via the QR code below we would be very grateful for your support. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress and for a fabulous expedition this October.

Mrs A Collard Head of Maths





# New Boots put to Test on the Bronze DofE Walks

### Sunday 14th April -Quarry Bank Mill/Mobberley

Beware clear blue skies and bright sunny days following abundant rain, for there will be mud! Such was the case on the first walk of the season for the thirty L5 Bronze students.

The main aim of the day was to introduce the students to the distance they will cover on their June expedition and to reinforce basic map-reading skills. With maps in hand, we enthusiastically set out on a 13.5km circular route from the car park at Quarry Bank Mill, grateful for the favourable weather conditions. Our journey led us towards Mobberley and the western end of the runway before winding back through the beautiful Styal Woods.

To describe the conditions underfoot as challenging would be an understatement. In some places, the mud was beyond ankle depth and as we slipped and slid our way along, everyone (well, mostly everyone) did well to stay upright. Despite the toughness of the terrain, the group maintained a positive attitude and kept a reasonable pace which saw them arrive back at the car park on time. We were filthy and tired, yet there was a bizarre sense of enjoyment. And the positive outcome was that all the new boots were thoroughly broken in. Well done to everyone!





## DofE

### Sunday 28th April - Lyme Park

It was a soggy start to our navigation training day in the beautiful surroundings of Lyme Park. With waterproofs on, and compasses and laminated maps in hand, the groups learnt how to navigate routes they hadn't previously seen. The conditions didn't make it easy and it was a couple of hours before the rain stopped. Errors were made, wrong turns were taken and group dynamics were tested along the way! The biggest lesson the students took away from the day was simply not to follow the herd. "Assuming" the route is one way because "it looks right" rather than taking a bearing and trusting the compass is a sure way of making mistakes. We am confident they are now better prepared for their qualifying expedition in June which we hope will be in more favourable conditions!

Miss C. Whitney & Mrs C. Smith Duke of Edinburgh, Bronze Training Walk









### DofE



### Silver Students Boil in Buxton

#### 10th/11th May, Buxton

This weekend 11 L5 students embarked on their Silver DofE Practice Expedition in Buxton. The groups met up at the train station, having arrived on the 9.20am train from Piccadilly and, after a brief revision session on compass and map work, they walked to Shallow Grange Farm at Chelmorton to make camp for the night. It was a lovely sunny day and everyone enjoyed taking in the beautiful scenery along the route.

This was the final opportunity for the students to practise their navigation skills before the Qualifying Expedition in June. Mistakes were made and wrong turns taken but they managed to correct themselves each time and arrived at camp for 6pm in excellent time. It was a relief to take boots and rucksacks off after being out in the heat for seven hours.

On Saturday the students rose to another beautiful sunny day which made cooking breakfast and breaking camp very easy. They took a different route back to the train station to that of day one, passing through the picturesque villages of King Sterndale, Cowdale and Staden before dropping down into Buxton town centre. Along the way the group's enthusiasm really stood out and they arrived at the station in plenty of time to catch their trains back to Manchester.

All the students were a credit to the College and were in good spirits throughout, despite the very hot weather. They displayed an excellent degree of teamwork whilst navigating, and learned some valuable lessons along the way.

Miss C. Whitney & Mrs C. Smith Duke of Edinburgh, Silver Expedition Practice



### Gold DofE Students Hit the Heights in the Peak District

### 4th/5th April, Kinder Scout, Edale

Since the start of September students at all award levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold have been busy working towards completing their Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections. Now is the time for the expedition training to begin and the U5/L6 Gold participants set the ball rolling with their two day practice in Edale during the Easter holidays.

This was a great opportunity to explore a new area, and one which offered plenty of challenges and conditions, both physical and environmental. Kinder Scout is a beautifully stunning location with spectacular views over the Peak District to Manchester and beyond but it is a featureless myriad of peaty cloughs and when the clouds drop and the rain comes in, the area becomes a very different prospect.

Day 2 was a shorter but still challenging walk – both with the route back up to Kinder Scout via Ringing Roger and across Upper Tor, and the navigational challenge of finding the aircraft wreckage of Avro Anson N9853. Conditions were much better, though extremely windy, and the group navigated themselves easily to within 100m of the crash site. Unfortunately they were unable to locate any of the wreckage on this visit which isn't unusual given the terrain.

They did however, manage to locate and retrieve one of the group's boots which had been dislodged after the wearer had stepped knee deep into a peat bog (name to be withheld)! Of all the lessons they learnt over the two days, how to tie walking boots wasn't one I thought we'd be covering!

The group worked hard to improve their map and compass navigation and did extremely well given the tough conditions. They should now feel more confident and better prepared for the Qualifying Expedition which is planned for the end of July in the Lake District.

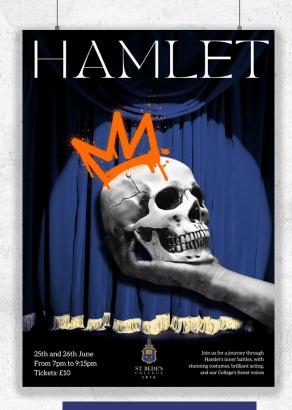
Miss C. Whitney & Mrs C. Smith Duke of Edinburgh, Gold Expedition Practice





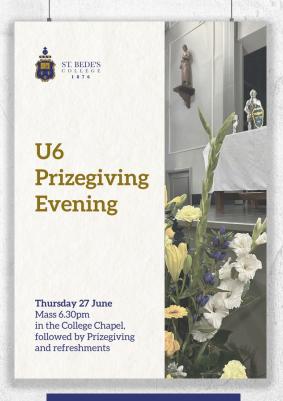
## REMINDERS





Get your tickets here!





Register here to attend!

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Monday 3 June
Return after Half Term

Monday 3 June - Friday 7 June Internal Examinations

Monday 10 June 10am
-Wednesday 12 June 3pm
Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition

Wednesday 19 June 9am
-Friday 21 June 3pm
Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition

Wednesday 19 June

9am Upper Third Induction Day

Thursday 20 June

9.30am Prep Sports Day (Nursery-Prep 2) TBC

2pm Prep 5 Wax Museum

Friday 21 June
3.30pm Prep Sports Day (Prep 3 - Prep 6)

Saturday 22 June

11am Summer Fair

Monday 24 June-Thursday 27 June **Project Week** 

Tuesday 25 June

6.30pm Shakespeare on the Lawn

Wednesday 26 June

6.30pm Shakespeare on the Lawn

Thursday 27 June

6.30pm Upper Sixth Prizegiving Evening (U6 and parents)

Friday 28 June 9am Sports Day

Sunday 30 June

9am Prep 3 Eucharistic Celebration Mass

Friday 5 July

9am End of Year Mass

9.45am End of Year Celebration Assembly

12.00 (noon) Last Day of School



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