



Newsletter

Message from the Headteacher

Summer 2021 Edition

As we reach the end of term, I want to wish everybody a happy and safe summer holidays. I think that during this year above all others, our students, staff and families really deserve to have the most wonderful break. I wholeheartedly congratulate the entire school community on a highly successful year. We have worked together through the pandemic and I am immensely proud of everything we have achieved together. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the school.

This is our last newsletter of academic year 2020/21 and celebrates the very best of St Edward's Academy. There have been many highlights for me, including the opportunity to celebrate the achievements and efforts of our students over the past few weeks. Please do keep visiting the St Edward's Facebook page to see all of the exciting things that have been going on.

Our community has come together more than ever this year. Through the challenges that have been thrown our way by the pandemic, we have truly excelled. St Edward's is a wonderful school and we have so many plans to continue to ensure that all of our students can live 'Life in all its fullness'.

A massive 'thank you' to staff, parents/carers, Governors and Unity Schools Partnership for your support. At the time I write this, we are sending our students out happy and excited about the summer holidays and the new academic year (when we very much hope normality will resume).

I just had a lovely conversation with some of our Year 7 students who told me how excited they are about the prospect of being able to explore the school site and be taught in a variety of different classrooms. I very much hope this can happen. Today we have had a wonderful dedication service for our new Chapel and I've had the pleasure of interviewing our candidates for the Student Leadership Team. Our students are an absolute joy and I am so proud of them all. They are a credit to their families and the school.

The school is seen by our students and their parents as a 'safe haven'. Our students report that they feel safe and happy at school. Our students have been taught how to stay safe both inside and outside school. I hope every family has the opportunity to spend some quality time together and enjoy local amenities and attractions.

I would like to pay public tribute to the staff of St Edward's. Our staff team are absolutely amazing and we are very lucky to have them. At this time of year we say farewell to a small number of staff:

- Rumi Akhter started at St Edward's in July 2018 in the science department and is moving on to a promotion in a new school.
- Ashraf Islam has been the second in maths since September 2018. Ashraf takes on the role of lead practitioner in maths in a school in Greenwich.
- Barbara Ellis started at St Edward's in February 2014 and has taken an important role in Finance and HR. Although Barbara is retiring, I'm glad to say that she'll be joining us in August to support the Summer School.
- Della McCartney started September 2011 in the English department and has inspired many students since then.
- Liz Whitcher started in September 2008 in the Design Technology department. Liz has made a great impact in both DT and Art.
- David Kendrick-White started at St Edward's in September 2008, working in a number of different Admin roles. David was a St Edward's student (at both our school and the primary school) and I'm so proud to say that David has now been promoted to a post at St Edward's Primary School.
- Sue Wake started in May 2001 and has supported generations of students. I'm glad to say that Sue has promised to continue to support our school productions in future.

Our staff will be very much missed. They leave with our very good wishes and sincere thanks. My thoughts and prayers for a happy and safe summer are with you all. Have a wonderful break. I very much look forward to seeing you all in September.



Life in all its Fullness

St Edward's Church of England Academy

London Road, Romford, Essex RM7 9NX
Tel: **01708 730462** | Fax: **01708 731485** |

Email: info@steds.org.uk



A message from Tim Coulson, CEO of Unity Schools Partnership

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is with great pride that I write to you - the trust has now been associated with the school for over three years, and it has been thrilling to see the progress that has been made. In particular, joining with others in the new school Chapel has been a privilege.

Thank you to you and your families for all your support for the school over the last four terms, and best wishes particularly to this of you who have had sadnesses due to the pandemic.

Very best wishes for a happy summer break.

Tim Coulson, Chief Executive, Unity Schools Partnership



Challenge Yourself, Father David Simpson

At our Year 12 Well-being Workshop in St Edward's Church this week, the four young people in the DVD were given a set of challenges to perform on the Millennium Bridge across the Thames and leading to St Paul's Cathedral: the challenges included lying on the pavement, dancing in circles signing 'Rain, rain go away, come again another day' in front of the bemused tourists. All four rose to the challenge and broke out of their comfort zone.

I wonder what challenge you might set yourself during the summer holiday. Holidays are for doing what you'd never have time to do normally. Relaxing on the beach or by a pool or reading a trilogy can help us unwind, BUT there has to be more to life – activities that raise your heart-rate, that challenge us to do something we'd never thought of doing.

On **Friday 20th August, between 2...-7.00pm**, St Edward's Church is inviting anyone aged 11-16 to a **FUN DAY**. Bradley and Jay, our two new youth workers, will be heading up activities to include the football cage, inflatables, bucket ball, a free BBQ and much more. It will be fun! If you're 11-16, we'd love to see you.

Whatever you do, stay safe and enjoy!

Fr David



A message from Ms Wensley, Deputy Head

At the end of a unprecedented year, students and staff have risen to the challenge and done us proud. Everybody has found this hard, whether you are a student at the start of your journey with us or an experienced member of staff. My family and I have been unable to see our relatives in the United States and my brother-in-law kept a connection with us by creating this carving of St Edward for our Chapel.

The text below is from the Order of Service from the dedication of our Chapel.

Mr John Sampson of San Antonio, Texas served a long career in the United States' Air Force before he retired and has made wood-carvings throughout his life. John, a member of Ms Wensley's extended family, made the Statue of St Edward for the St Edward's Academy during the 2020-21 Covid-19 Lockdown. The design and carving of St Edward symbolises deep care and love that has been shown through the pandemic, a time of sadness, separation and loss. The wood came all the way from the Canadian border and the figure flew out of Miami airport and cleared customs just in time for the dedication of our Chapel. John's motto is "Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, and leave the rest to God".



Welcome to the Summer newsletter from your Local Governing Board. We feel it is really important to find ways to ensure that the Local Governing Board communicate effectively with all parents and carers. We hope you enjoy finding out about the work of your Local Governing Board through this newsletter.

Working Together to make sure our school remains a safe place to be for staff and pupils.

This term, whilst the road continued to move forward, schools had a major role to play in ensuring that the infection rates did not spread or increase within the school environment and into the community. As Governors, we are confident that our risk assessment and protocols have proven successful in keeping our staff, pupils and families safe and would like to say thank you to those families and pupils who have supported us with the continued wearing of face masks and adherence to our safety measures

Membership

We were delighted to welcome Father David as a new member of our Local Governing Board. As the Vicar at St Edward's Church, he has already been busy in school with our pupils and has already attended his first two board meetings.

Marching Forward

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Governors are pleased to report that St Edward's staff continue to move the school forward, make progress towards our school priorities and find time to introduce new things! We are excited to hear about the new Chapel and Multi-Faith prayer space on site. Pupils worked with staff to design and set up these new areas. Thank you to everyone who has worked on this exciting new project and addition to our school.

What has your Local Governing Board been up to?

The Governing Body has continued to meet remotely since lockdown to oversee the work and progress of the school by:

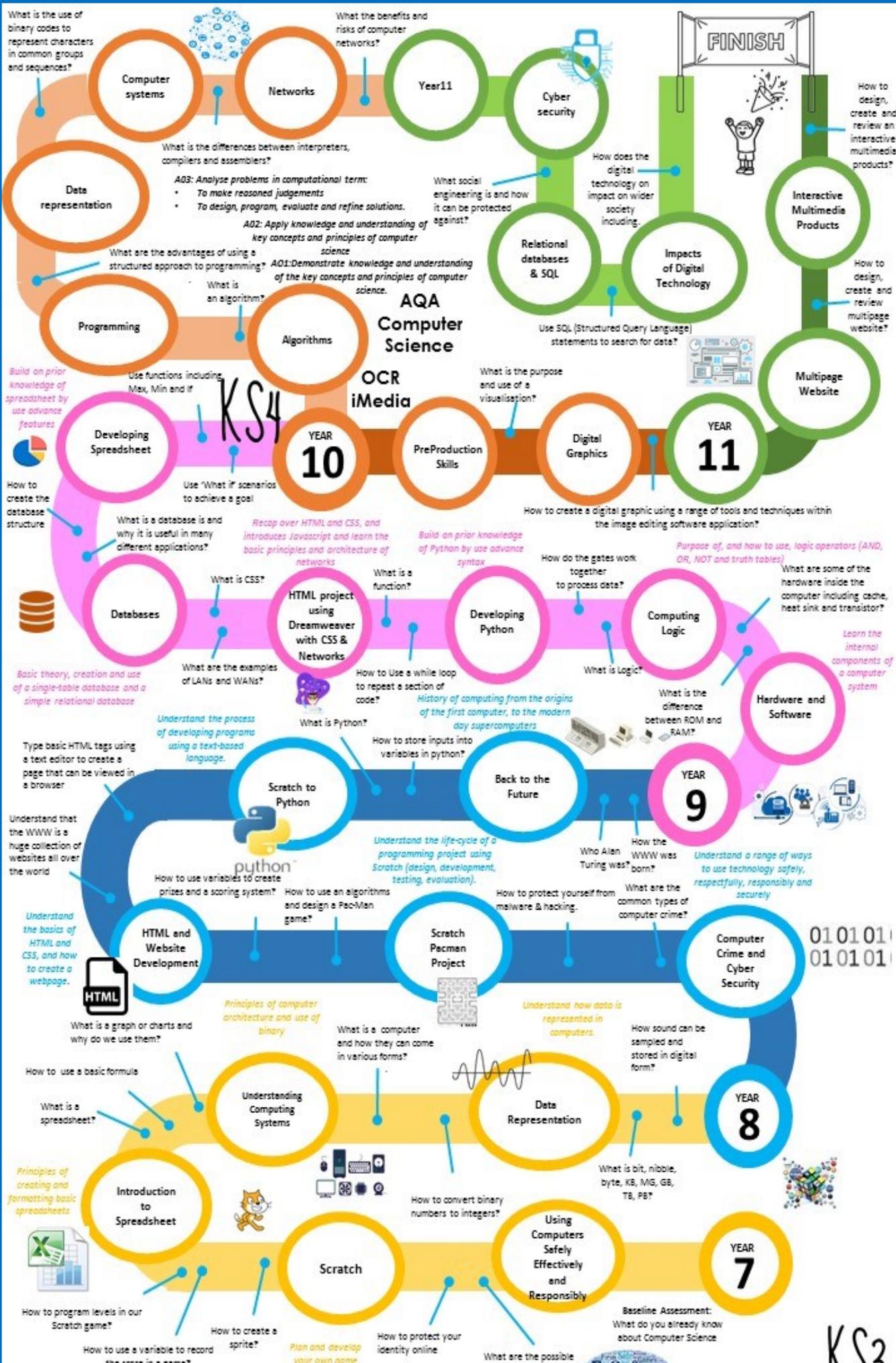
- Meeting virtually with key members of staff to monitor areas of school life including: Safeguarding, Assessment arrangements, SEND, Careers and the Curriculum.
- Overseeing the plans for spending of Catch-up funding to support our pupils.
- Attended Governor training, Trust and Diocese networking meetings.
- Monitoring the arrangements for agreeing Y11 and Y13 teacher assessed grades.

Achievements:

We are delighted to share with you these good news stories this term:

- The behaviour of pupils and their positive attitudes towards their learning is exemplary.
- Attendance levels are very good at 96%. Thank you to all families for enabling this.
- Our staff are fantastic and work very hard for all of our pupils.
- Last year, 99% of pupils who left St Edward's successfully went on to further education, apprenticeships or work. This is a fantastic achievement.

Best wishes to all of our pupils, staff and families for a lovely Summer break in the sun. Please remember to follow national guidelines, be careful and stay safe.



MUSIC



FINAL GCSE EXAM

Core content and specialist knowledge: Revise and practice exam papers in preparation for your final exam in Music.

AD1: Performance Recitals Prepare and record your final solo and ensemble performances

AO3: Focus Styles Further Study Consolidating knowledge from year 10 and expanding on this with further study

AO2: Composition to a Brief Choose one of the 4 composition briefs set by the exam board

EXAM REVISION

Performance Assessment

Focus Styles 2

Composition 2

YEAR 11

AO2: Composition 1 Draft and refine your first piece of coursework based on your chosen free brief

Design and Research a Composition: Choose your own composition brief task and investigate the key features

What is expected in a higher-level performance? Looking at how performance will be marked at GCSE and what is involved

Looking ahead to choosing options this year, we look at how to advance your skills ready for higher level music study.

Moving your skills on to the next level: consolidating your learning from year 7 and developing more advanced knowledge and skills through performance, composition and listening/appraising

Building on your prior musical experience to secure a firm foundation in the 3 main musical skills of performing, composing, listening and appraising.

Listening and Appraising: low to analyse the key musical elements for GCSE

Focus Styles 1

Performance

Composition 1

Analysing Musical Elements



Analytical Skills: Looking at the music of Queen and Classical music. Analysing music in greater depth

Specialise: Design your own projects to suit your interests and experience

Own Choice Composition: Building on the information given to produce one composition assessed with the GCSE mark scheme

What are the GCSE composition requirements? Looking at how composition will be marked at GCSE and what is expected

Own Choice Performance: Allowing you to work with your own instrument, voice or keyboard in order to prepare one solo or ensemble performance

YEAR 10

Analysing Music

Own Projects 1 and 2

Composition Skills

Performance Skills

KS4



Composition: Visual Brief Importing a video clip into GarageBand and identifying hit points in order to write some effective soundtrack music



What was the Baroque Period?: When was the Baroque period and how is it relevant to music today?

Performance: The Four Seasons Bringing together all of the performance skills you have learned in order to perform a well-known piece from the Baroque Period

Composition: Written Brief Selecting one of four briefs and realizing it through one composition

Performance Skills

Performance: Film Music Building on previous performance skills to create a performance of a famous film theme, developing LH skills and rhythmic awareness

Composing to A Visual Brief

Baroque Music

Composing to A Written Brief

YEAR 9

Why is Film Music Important? How do film soundtracks help to tell the story?

Composition: Pop composition Utilising your GarageBand Skills to compose a piece in the Popular style of your choice

GarageBand: Learning how to create music using this software

Solo Performance: I Shot the Sheriff Preparing this piece for assessment, learning about structural devices and adding chords and backing styles

Stylistic Features: What makes Reggae sound like Reggae?



Film Music

Pop Composition

Reggae

Solo Performance: The Carnival of the Animals Putting theory into practice - performing a piece from The Carnival of the Animals and using the 3 elements to create a convincing performance.

Composition: Music for the Menor House A cross-curricular project with Drama, composing some music to set the mood for a dramatic and spooky scene!



Ensemble Performance: In The Mood Preparing a performance of In The Mood for assessment



Improvisation Assessment: Improvising over a 12 bar blues chord progression

Communication in Performance: How do composers create mood in music? Learning about the 3 elements.

Music and Mood



Jazz and Big Bands

What is Jazz? Studying the stylistic features of Jazz such as harmony, rhythm, instrumentation and structure

Improvisation

What is Improvisation? Looking at this key jazz skill and how to build up your confidence!



YEAR 8

Solo/ Ensemble Performance: Tallis' Canon Using your knowledge of texture to prepare a performance of Tallis' Canon for assessment

Texture: Learning about layers and different textures in music through listening/appraising and performance

Music Theory: Reading traditional notation

Building Textures

Performance Workshop: Playing on authentic and traditional instruments with our visiting expert

Beat cycles and pulse: Performing traditional Gamelan music

Gamelan

Baseline Assessment: What do you already know about Music?

Prior experience questionnaire: Tell us about your prior musical experience so that we can plan effectively and support you in your learning



YEAR 7

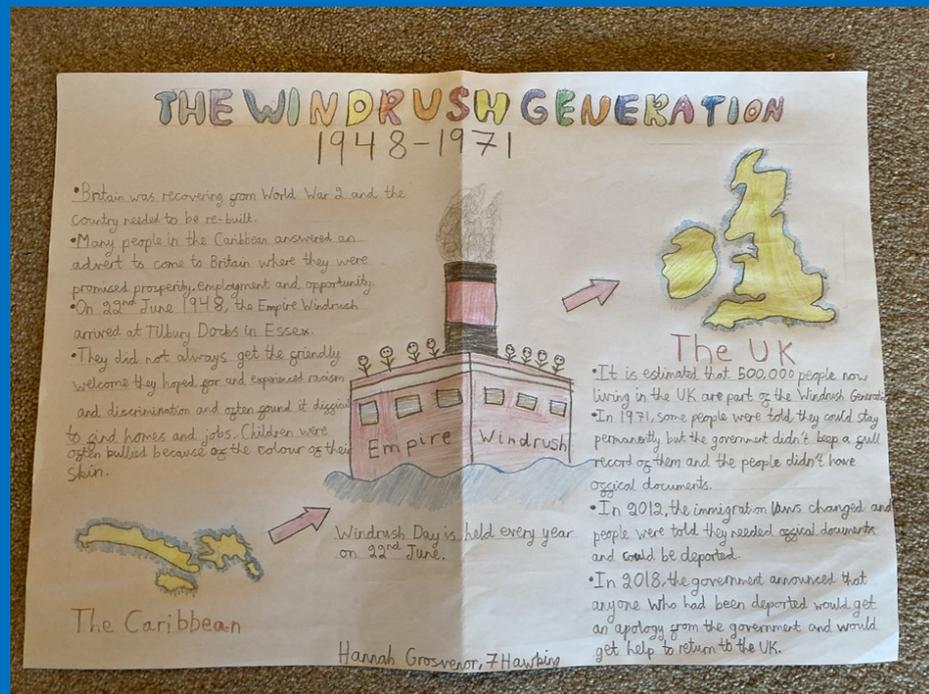
KS3

Windrush Day – Year 7 English

Windrush Day marks the anniversary of the arrival of MV Empire Windrush at the Port of Tilbury on 22nd June 1948.

The arrival of the Empire Windrush 73 years ago marked a seminal moment in Britain's history and has come to represent the rich diversity of this nation. It was on this day 71 years ago, that several hundred people arrived from the Caribbean to start a new life in Britain. The idea of this new day is to celebrate the vast contributions that the Caribbean community has made to British society.

The story of the Windrush generation is one that truly exemplifies the St Edward's HOPE values: Humanity, Optimism, Perseverance, Excellence. In Year 7 English lessons, students learned from first-hand experiences of people from the Windrush generation and discussed poetry which detailed the experiences of travelling to England to start a new life.



Year 10 Theatre in Education Project

Our Year 10 GCSE students were involved in a Theatre in Education project a few weeks ago. Their piece was based on Greek mythology and social media use, highlighting the impact overuse of social media can have on our lives. The group watched the drama and took part in creating the outcomes of the piece. The actors commented on how skilled and thoughtful the students were when interacting with them.



Dedication of the St Edward's Chapel

On Thursday 22nd July we were delighted to invite visitors to St Edward's for the dedication of our new Chapel and the blessing of the Triptych & statue of St Edward.

The Venerable Robin King, Archdeacon of Stansted, led our service with our very own Father David. We had a number of invited guests and students were represented by our Sixth Form team who have helped to vision our Chapel.

Our gratitude to everyone who has helped create this beautiful space.

The Triptych of the Lord's Nativity

Mr John Weekes made the Triptych of the Lord's Nativity during the Covid-19 Lockdown. This has been kindly presented for the use of St Edward's Academy & St Edward's Church of England Primary School. Our schools wish to warmly thank John and his wife Jean for their very generous gift. This is a beautiful and lasting reminder to staff and students of the Miracle of the Incarnation. We hope that John and Jean will now become firm friends of St Edward's.



The Statue of St Edward



Mr John Sampson of San Antonio, Texas served a long career in the United States' Air Force before he retired and has made wood-carvings throughout his life. John, a member of Ms Wensley's extended family, made the Statue of St Edward for the St Edward's Academy Chapel during the 2020-21 Covid-19 Lockdown.

The design and carving of St Edward symbolises deep care and love that has been shown through the pandemic, a time of sadness, separation and loss. The wood came all the way from the Canadian border and the figure flew out of Miami airport and cleared customs just in time for the dedication of our Chapel. John's motto is "Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, and leave the rest to God".

The St Edward's Chapel Cross

The cross on the Altar has been designed and created by Bianca Saville, a long standing member of staff and Head of the Design Technology Department. The design was created to mirror the history of the school, taking inspiration from the cross in the Webster Hall and the large cross overlooking the memorial garden.



Prayer Desk

Our prayer desk was kindly donated by St John's Church in Walthamstow and features the Diocesan crest. Our thanks to Reverend Kieran Bush for this generous donation which will be well used at St Edward's Academy.



The St Edward's Chapel

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Andrew Drake, Russell Old and Steve Mills who have *renovated and decorated* the Chapel beautifully. The Chapel looks beautiful and unrecognisable due to their hard work and dedication. Thanks also to Sonia Cook who, in her own time, has tirelessly sanded and waxed our Altar and cleaned all the chairs in the Chapel – an unbelievable act of kindness, will and determination after years of use. Finally, thank you to Maria Driscoll who sourced many of the items that make this space so special. This has been a difficult job during the pandemic, so Maria's dedication is much appreciated.

Year 9 CSI Day.

Last week, students in Year 9 had a fantastic opportunity to take part in a forensics workshop. During the morning session, they engaged in practical, hands-on activities, including learning about the processes and applications used at a Crime Scene; Fingerprinting using Magnetic Powder and Black Ink, analysing Footwear and Hair and Fibres.

During the afternoon session, all students donned a White SOCO (Scene of Crime Officer) suit, gloves, mask and overshoes to apply their newly acquired skill-set to attempt to solve a murder.

The students were fantastic throughout the day and had a wonderful opportunity to develop some new skills.



Year 7 and 8 Planetarium Visit

This term, students in Years 7 and 8 have had the opportunity to experience outer space. A fascinating, fun and interactive mobile Planetarium show came to school which took the students on a journey through space.



Through the use of the completely dark planetarium and amazing 360-degree visual display, the students were able to ask questions and develop their scientific understanding.

Thank you to Ms Da Costa (Head of Learning ,Year 7) for organising this special experience for the students.



Year 7 Kindness Project

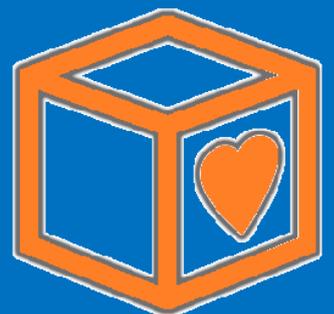
This term, Year 7 have been focussing on Humanity and the value of kindness. Each week students have been nominating students and staff around the school that have shown kindness to receive a special cookie reward in acknowledgement of their good deeds. This has included members of the public writing into the school to share the wonderful acts of kindness our students have done on their way to school, students handing in lost property and being supportive of others who have found classwork challenging. It has been wonderful to see the Year Group identity develop into one of true humanity.

The project culminated in every student in Year 7 contributing to a performance of 'One Day' where students showcased their hard work and musical skills. The video of this beautiful performance can be seen on our Facebook page or YouTube channel. We would like to thank the Year 7 tutor Team and in particular Ms Yeomans for putting together this wonderful performance.



Tackling Period Poverty

We have been working this term to continue to tackle Period Poverty as a school. Students in Year 9 have completed student voice to share ideas of how the school can make period products more readily available including have points on the school map identified to collect sanitary items. We are excited to continue this work into the new term and have taken many of their ideas on board. Including increased signage across the school.



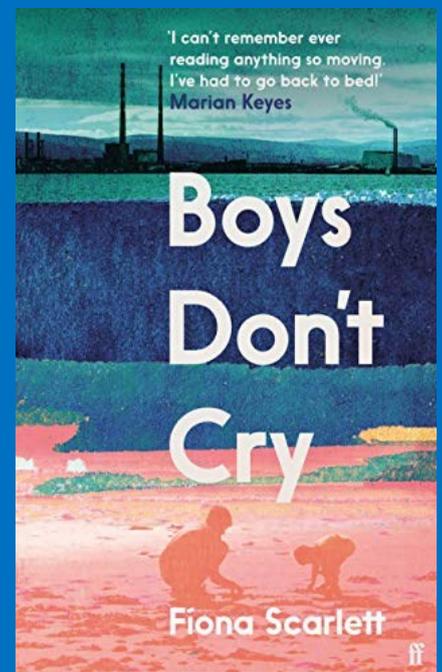
Diversifying the Library

Students across the school have been suggesting new books and literature for the school Library to be showcased in three new displays :

- Black Lives Matter
- LGBTQ+
- Well-being

We hope to have these sections of the Library ready for students in the coming term with over 500 new books ordered for these sections.

Imogen (Year 9) has also proactively been working to get the school some resources from Amnesty International for an upcoming section in the library on Inspirational Role Models.



Famous Alumni—Guvna B

We have been really pleased this term to welcome back former student and Christian rapper and author, Guvna B to St Edward's . He first contacted the school to ask us to take part in a SKY Sports interview in the lead up to the successful Euros 2020 campaign with several students featuring on Sky Sports News (this can be viewed on our Facebook page or YouTube channel). During the interview our students confidently communicated their hopes for the England Mens' team whilst also discussing some issues close to their hearts. All students involved were a credit to the school.



Following the success of this event, we have been proudly chosen as the school for the latest Department for Education 'Get into Teaching' advert which is soon to be broadcast on television.

Guvna B has published two books, both of which are available on Amazon:

- Unspoken: Toxic Masculinity and How I Faced the Man Within the Man
- Unpopular Culture



Guvna B has assured us he is keen to come back next year and help inspire our students to achieve their own dreams .

Sports and Arts Week

The penultimate week of term was filled with sports and arts events for each Year group.

Our students had lots of fun participating in dodgeball, tug of war and a number of other sports activities.

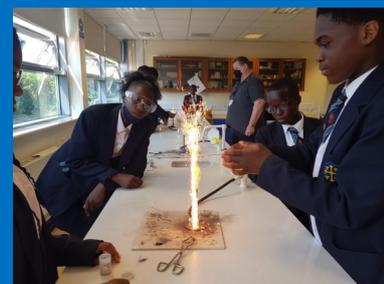
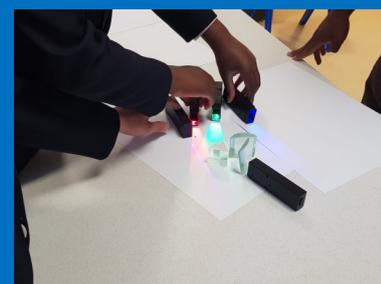
Lots of fun was had by all and the weather eventually brightened up throughout the week in order for us to run our athletics events in the afternoon on the field.

Congratulations to all who participated and well done to Ms Holt, Mr Spillman and Mr Adewale for organising such a busy timetable of events!



Year 7 Conduct Cup Winners - Jemison

The winners of the conduct cup for Year 7; the form who have the most achievement points this term, had an exciting science lesson today from Mr Milling and our science technicians.



Important Information & Dates for your diary

Wednesday 1st September 2021

Thursday 2nd September 2021

Friday 3rd September 2021

Monday 6th September 2021

Tuesday 7th September 2021

Monday 25th to Friday 29th October 2021

Monday 20th December 2021 to Monday 3rd January - Christmas Holiday

School closed for students

School closed for students

Year 7 - arrive by 8.20am

Year 11 Student Leadership Team (By Invitation)

Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12 return to school - Arrive 8.20am for 8.30am start

All Year groups arrive by 8.20am

Half Term Holiday