

St. Edward's CE Academy Newsletter



December, 2016

Coming Up:

Christmas Holidays
19/12/16—3/1/17
(inclusive)

Half Term
20th February—24th
February (inclusive)

Easter Holidays
10th April—21st April
(inclusive)

LOCKER KEYS

Please ensure your child brings their locker keys with them everyday

Water Bottles

Please ensure that all children have a water bottle in their bags each day

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Finally this is my last newsletter and also the weekly news and Blog that I have enjoyed keeping since 2013. I know that Facebook has replaced much of the news area but I have always enjoyed reviewing the week and charting the many exiting activities that school enjoys.

Sadly we have said goodbye to Mr Abell who has served the school with outstanding service and led to our school being at the forefront of both Chess and Maths Challenge. Following a protracted period of ill-health unfortunately Mr Abell will be leaving St Edward's Academy to focus on becoming well. Mrs Lansley has also left and will be pursuing her retirement. Mrs Lansley spent much time working with the community and had great success with the Rotary Young Chef competition.

The value and vision of St Edward's has always been about seeking the best for each child; giving a wide choice of activities for pupils to take part whether this be sport, languages, craft or discussion. Always at the centre has been the success of each pupil and seeking the optimum way of bringing out the best in their learning. We have tried to offer the highest standard of care and support for our young people as each one is unique and loved both by God and by ourselves as part of our school family. I have been very thankful to work with such a wonderful and talented team of staff who have always sought to put faith into practice and 'go the extra mile' for each young person. Over the years, I have seen children turn into successful and talented students who have taken their rightful place in many walks of life both in Leek and beyond, it is always a joy to see or hear of their success. However, it clearly time now to leave and pass this responsibility to others eager to take the school further forward.

I would like take this opportunity to thank over the years pupils, staff, parents and governors wholeheartedly for their continuous support, commitment, friendship and challenge throughout my time here. It has been an utter privilege to have been the custodian of St Edward's for a short time but also to have had the opportunity to have shared the longer journey with you as a teacher, Head of Year and Assistant Head. Leek is a unique and wonderful town and I am sure that if the schools continue to work together as they have been doing, education here will only go from strength to strength.



Our Vision

Following Christian principles based on the teachings of Jesus, where every person is loved and accepted by God, our vision is to prepare all our young people academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually, so they realise their God-given potential, becoming lifelong learners and effective contributors to our global community.

School Christmas Concert

St Edward's rocked their way to Christmas with the new Christmas Concert format . Hot on the success from last year the new St Edward's dance teams were keen to take part . Dance is now part of curriculum lessons but also there is a dance club which pupils attend both at lunch time and after school. Our drama group is new for this year and is run by Mrs Harding after school with a small group of children. The music performers are both those with experience and those setting off on their journey to musical excellence. They may perform in assembly, but a public audience is that one step further in providing the challenge we like to set our pupils. Thanks to the many staff who have taken part and supported this event.

The PTA held a Christmas raffle on the night and it raised in excess of £1400.

St Edward's will also be holding their Christmas services at St Edward's church on Friday 16th December.



Christmas dinner x 797 with all the trimmings

St Edward's once again sang and ate their way through many Turkey's and several kgs of Christmas puddings. The school kitchen continues to serve the most Christmas dinners in one sitting across the Staffordshire schools and kitchen staff prepared well in advance. However the morning still sees the chefs arriving at school early in the morning to ensure the fresh turkey is cooked to perfection!

The pupils all wore Christmas jumpers and hats to mark the occasion and donated food to Leek Food Bank. In an extended lunchtime pupils also celebrated and worked off the calories , Mr Dunn our

site supervisor played DJ to a disco and singing celebration in the gym. A brilliant day for all and a great way to offset the many end of term assessments that are ongoing at this time.



Governors

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to thank Mrs Clarke for all she has done for our Academy.



Mrs Clarke has been a member of staff - as a teacher of Geography, Science, English, Head of Year, Head of Geography, Assistant Head teacher and latterly our Principal - for many years. Throughout this time she has worked passionately to make a difference to the lives of so many young people in our community as well as supporting her colleagues in any way she could.

May I take this opportunity to wish you, Liz, a long and happy retirement - with time to spend with your family and friends, opportunities to take on new challenges and not forgetting time off for some well-earned rest and relaxation!

Cynthia Simmonds

Chair of Governors

Young Chef Competition

The final heats of this year's Young Chef competition have taken place with some delicious dishes being presented by children from years 7 and 8. Mr Simm and Mrs Collier assisted by Mr Tor (governor) and Mr Readman from the Rotary judged the competition. The third place went to Claudia Lewis, Second place to Josh Finney and first place to Isabelle Smith. The Rotary, who sponsored the competition, awarded certificates to all and will also award the main prizes in Assembly on Friday.



Homework

At this point in the year we would like to clarify the issue of homework. The purpose of homework is to-

1. Provide the opportunity for the children to develop self discipline.
2. Allow them to take responsibility for their own learning.
3. Reinforce learning points.
4. Complete work begun in class.
5. Reinforce the school's expectations of high standards and quality work.
6. Encourage children to work in a different environment.
7. Involve parents in school life, through their support and assistance.
8. Make preparation for a forthcoming activity.

Please support us in ensuring that your child's homework is completed on time and let us know if your child is experiencing difficulty with it. In years 5 & 6 pupils receive Maths and English with occasional items from other subjects to support English or Maths. They are expected to read each evening and record their reading.

In years 7 & 8 pupils receive at least 30-40 minutes homework per subject based on their timetable. If your child struggles with homework and it is clear they do not understand, then whoever is supervising the homework should write a note in the relevant book explaining this and sign it.

Please do not spend an hour or more trying to sort it out for them—your child gets stressed and you probably get even more stressed! Please write a note in the homework diary. We also have a homework room at lunchtimes for pupils who find it easier to complete work in school.

Synapse

All years have been working on the true meaning of Christmas in religions as part of their RE lessons. Many have made Christmas decorations as part of their lessons.

The Puppet club have visited Westwood First School and given a performance of their show for Christmas. Well done to all.



Le Bistro de Dan Roro - French Theatre

As part of our policy to present pupils with native French speakers, we welcomed 'Dan Roro' to entertain Years 7 and 8 on Wednesday 30th November. His one man show includes traditional French mime and circus skills as well as a little story told in easily understandable French. The show is interactive and includes lots of audience participation. Our pupils especially enjoyed the 'egg' trick, where Dan cracked an egg on his head, splashing some of the audience with water! His use of frequent repetition and 'catch phrases' meant that the pupils were able to pick up key words such as 'Sympa!' and 'Maintenant!'.

There was also a chance at the end for pupils to ask questions about Dan's circus training, the languages he speaks and some pupils asked some simple questions in French.

Some quotes from Y7 pupils:

'I asked Dan his name in French and he answered me back and then asked me my name'. George 7L

'It was the best thing ever!' Jacob 7L



Journey home

Bus

Travel on the school bus must be by using the pass sent by the County at the beginning of the year and is for a numbered bus. There are inspectors who occasionally visit the differing routes. Bus drivers have the right not to take students without a pass as this contravenes their rules. If a pass is lost a temporary one can be obtained from the office. This lasts for 2 weeks and allows parents time to obtain a new one from the Local authority, we cannot issue real passes. Students may not travel a 'guest' on the buses for insurance purposes and also as some buses are technically full.



Walking

About 40% of our students walk to and from school and it is still deemed to be part of the school day. We trust our students to behave in a polite and courteous manner to both one another and those around them. Issues of misbehaviour will be dealt with as part of our school disciplinary procedures.



Parking

Please avoid parking in front of drives adjacent to the school gates as this causes distress to our neighbours.

Puppet Club

The Year 5 Puppet club performed a short Nativity play at Westwood First School. It included a traditional Christmas story and featured "Little Donkey", "Away in a Manger" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". The ten pupils have worked really hard on a Thursday lunchtime and the staff and pupils at Westwood First school really enjoyed the performance.



St Edwards Academy now have Leek Foodbank vouchers in school. Please ask at reception for details.

School Uniform

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the school uniform / dress code. It is important that pupils wear only items which are on the approved list as it helps them to feel part of the school community and prevents costly competition over fashion, maintains high standards of appearance and makes pupils easily identifiable during school excursions.

Supersport, Hope Silk Mill, Macclesfield Road, Leek, 015368 386226 are currently offering 25% off all shop items until 22nd December 2016.

Please ensure that all uniform is marked clearly with the pupils name.

Trouser/skirts should be plain black or grey. For girls, trousers should be loose fitting, classic style. Skirts should be of a reasonable length and not of a tight fitted style. Only narrow, plain black/navy belts may be worn. In Summer gingham dresses may be worn.

Shirts should be a gold open-necked polo shirt.

Sweatshirts pupils must wear the official navy sweatshirt with logo.

Socks must be **plain** navy, black, white or grey. Girls may wear black tights with skirts.

Footwear should be sensible, PLAIN black shoes without logos, patterns or coloured trims; high heels and trainers are not permitted. In bad weather boots or wellingtons may be worn to travel to school and then changed on arrival for the usual black shoes.

Outdoor coats should be practical and suitable for outdoor wear at play. Coats should not be worn inside school buildings.

An apron or old shirt is essential to protect clothing during science and practical lessons.

Jewellery is a hazard in many school activities and so is not permitted. A watch may be worn and should be named. Those with pierced ears may wear a pair of simple, small gold or silver studs in the ear lobes alone. These must be removed for all PE and swimming lessons. Other piercings are not permitted.

Make-up and nail varnish should not be worn in school.

Hair no un-natural or vivid colours are permitted. Styles such as tramlines/patterns, mohawks and shaved heads are not allowed.

Valuables of high value ((either personal or monetary) should not be brought into school. The school **will not be held liable** for their loss.

Additions to the uniform which may be worn during the Summer months: Light blue gingham dress, Tailored shorts and Culottes.

Y7 Girls Hockey Tournament at Denstone College

The Y7 girls' hockey team were invited to play in an annual hockey tournament hosted by Denstone College. All of the opposition came from independent schools with their own astro turf pitches and specialist hockey coaches.

Teams came from Nottingham High School, Abbotsholme, Foremarke Hall, St. Anselm's, Stafford Grammar School and Denstone College.

The girls played matches against Nottingham, St. Anselm's, Stafford Grammar and Denstone. They drew two games and lost two games.

The girls played very well and their hockey improved throughout the tournament. Afterwards the girls from Denstone took our girls for match teas of sausage, chips and beans followed by a tour of the school by ex-St. Edward's pupil Maddie Statham, who was really excited to introduce her old friends to her new friends and to show us around her new school.

Y6 Girls' Hockey match v Abbotsholme

The Y6 girls' A and B hockey teams played their first competitive games of hockey against Abbotsholme School on Tuesday at Leek High.

This was a friendly match in preparation for the County tournaments next term. This was the first game for both teams so it was a great way to learn the rules and regulations of the game of hockey, and a great opportunity for both teachers to coach the girls in a game situation.

Both teams played some lovely hockey and on the night we turned out to be the stronger teams.

Our A team won their game 1-0 and our B team won 6-1.

Rugby

On Friday (18/11/16) 27 pupils travelled to Oldfields Hall Middle School to play rugby.

A Year 7/8 girls' team played 6 games against various schools and many of the girls had not played contact rugby before. They played really well, scoring lots of tries and winning several matches. Two Year 5/6 boys' teams played against Oldfields. The 'B' team won 50-35 and played well. The 'A' team, who were made up of Year 5 pupils, played against a strong Year 6 team. They also played well and won their game 30-20.

All the pupils were a credit to the school and a special mention must go to Mr Edge and Mr Lawlor from Leek Rugby Club for coaching the teams.

Dodgeball

On Thursday (24/11/16) 15 Year 5 and 6 pupils travelled to Fenton Manor Leisure Centre to play in a dodgeball competition organised by Premiersports.

The pupils were selected as a reward for supporting the Premiersports after school clubs so far this term. 21 teams took part from 11 schools. The children were split into 3 teams and they finished in 3rd, 4th and 5th in their dodgeball leagues.

A special mention must go to Tilly Lawlor, Hattie Lowe and Tom Willshaw from Year 8 who went along on the day and helped to organise the teams.

Cross Country Championships

The winner of the Y7 Girls Staffordshire Moorlands Schools Cross Country Championships is Jasmine Molden, who won all her 5 races.

The Y7 Girls' A team, made up of the four fastest runners over the five races, came second in their League are Jasmine Molden Y7, Freya Boyle Y7, Grace Bond Y5 and Harriet Buck Y7

The Y8 Girls' A team came third in their league are Abbie Fryer-Winder, Lauren Barratt, Louise Hackett and Lily Evans

The Y7 boys' cross country team were winners of the Y7 Staffordshire Moorlands Cross Country League. The four fastest boys over five races made up the A team are Eammon Clowes, Harry Lancaster, Kieran Goodwin and Adam Hewson

The Y8 boys' A team came third in their League are Harry Bond, Jordan Ash, Harry Poole and Nathan Geston.

Hockey

The Y7 and Y8 girls travelled to Newcastle Under Lyme School last Tuesday night to play some 7 a side hockey matches.

The Y8 team played some of the best hockey Miss B has seen from them this season and won the game 1-0 with a beautifully struck shot at goal by Lauren Barratt (or was it Olivia!). Superb Man-of-the-Match performances by Charlotte Ridley in goal, the first time she has played this position, and Emily Robinson in defence, ensured that Newcastle did not score an equaliser, as the game was very evenly matched.

In the Y7 game, Newcastle scored first and looked very strong indeed, with a couple of really skilful players, breaking through our defence early on, to set up what looked like a tough game. We then settled into the game and started to play some equally impressive hockey and the goals just started to flow. Hannah Finney, who was awarded Man-of-the-Match by Newcastle, scored 2, Jas Molden and Lilly Kirk claimed $1\frac{1}{2}$ each, both touching the ball for one of the goals, and Ebony Tweats scored 1, resulting in a 6-1 victory to St. Edward's. The team included three Y6 girls so this was indeed a fantastic effort.