

St. Edward's CE Academy Newsletter



February 2017

Coming Up:

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

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

May Day 1st May

Half Term
29th May—2nd June
(inclusive)

Summer Holiday
24th July—4th
September (inclusive)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This half term has once again been a busy one at the Academy, with many pupils experiencing opportunities beyond their normal timetable!

In RE, Year 5 have had Synapse in school working with them in their RE lessons whilst in Science, they had the expertise of Croda. We also had the army in Science working and delivering lessons to some of our older pupils!

It has been wonderful seeing our year 8 pupils also working with younger pupils from some of the First School's. During Spanish in Curriculum Enrichment pupils from Woodcroft and Westwood First joined us for a fun Spanish afternoon (there is a detailed account of what they got up to later on in the newsletter). Our Sports Leaders also helped Miss Batigan out with First School's sports events and I know that these were a great ambassador's for our school and we are very proud of them.

Some of our year 7 pupils are under-going training to become Health Educator's and it was a great delight to hear that once again our pupils were a credit to the school.

Other exciting events this half term have included: pupil's going on a 'world tour' using Google Virtual Reality in Geography, a 'Maths theatre' for Key stage 2 pupils, numerous sporting fixtures, chess tournaments, Young Chef, World War War One Poetry at the Nicholson Institute and 'Rotary Youth Speaks'.

In January, pupils from across different year groups have been under taking tests, with Year 6 doing their 'Mock SATs'. These tests give us an early indication of how children are progressing and they help us to identify what areas we need to focus upon. To gain a further insight we have another set of Mock SATs scheduled for the week beginning Monday 13th March.

January was also an opportunity for parents to join us for a Parent Forum and listen to Dr Rory Fox, our Interim Principal, discuss with parents anti-bullying, home-school communication, our academic results and other equally important issues.

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.

This half term has also seen the appointment of Mr Tom Hutchinson as our new Principal and we shall look forward to him joining the school after Easter. We say goodbye to Ann Hatter who is leaving at February half term and Jane Bell who will be leaving at Easter, wishing them well for the future. Welcome to Rachel Aggett as a second in the Maths department and Mrs Penny Mantle in the Science department who is covering Mrs Swinson's Maternity leave, good luck to Mrs Swinson and we hope you enjoy your time off.

Next term we shall be launching a new Anti-bullying Policy and this has been formulated using comments and ideas from pupils, staff, parents and governors. This will be in place from February 27th and a copy of this policy will of course, be on our website.

May I take this opportunity to remind parents / guardians, of our Facebook page which is updated weekly giving up to date information of achievements of pupils within the Academy.

I hope that you have a restful half term.

Warm wishes

Jason Parrish
Vice Principal

你好 Hello in Mandarin

In November Mrs Gallimore was fortunate to be able to travel to Zhangjiang Hi Tech Experimental Primary School in Pudang, about 40 minutes from the centre of Shanghai, to observe and teach maths lessons.

The school day begins at 8am with all children participating in the exercise class, watching over 1000 children (aged from 6 to 11) all moving in time to a set of exercises was incredible. Then to lessons, the children have six 40 minute lessons every day, mathematics, English, Chinese at least once per day with the remainder of the curriculum taken up with art, music, PE, learning to be a good citizen (similar to PHSE), and nature.



At lunchtime children eat their meal at the desk in the classroom, they don't go outside to play they practise something, then they clean the classrooms to prepare for afternoon lessons. School ends at 3:30pm however many children spend their evenings and Saturday at a private school to ensure they have the best chance of getting into their preferred school as competition for places in the best schools is intense.



Some of the lessons Mrs Gallimore observed were very similar to the lessons our children experience although the teaching style is more passive, children listen to learn rather than experiment to learn. Using practical resources to support learning is something the Chinese wanted to learn more about from English schools. All children in China know that practice makes perfect and will spend their time

learning the Chinese characters, perfecting their handwriting and spelling, learning their maths facts, number bonds and multiplication tables, their ability to calculate accurately and swiftly was very impressive and something we should aspire to. At least an hour of homework is set every day for Chinese and mathematics, parents are expected to supervise and support their children whilst they complete it.

House-keeping

Smart Watches — Any watch which is able to connect to the internet or has a camera is not allowed in school, a basic Fitbit is acceptable.

Please ensure your child is aware of any arrangements for the end of the school day before they leave for school and they have a water bottle and their locker key with them.

If you have changed your address or phone number please inform the school office as soon as possible to ensure our records are up to date.

Year 6 have been working extremely hard this year in their attempt to beat last year's Year 6 English and Mathematics results!

In January, pupils had a 'Mock SATs' week that gave all pupils the opportunity to experience what the examinations will be like in May. Pupils were focused and determined throughout the week showing a disciplined approach in both the preparation and the completion of the tests.



Young Chef Competition

Rotary 

"Well done to Izzy Smith who won the Young Chef, regional semi-finals at Stafford College on the 13th February, she will now go through to the regional finals on the 18th March. Well done Izzy, what a fantastic achievement!"



Congratulations to Daniel Massey 8L on his Touch typing achievements. Daniel was awarded the Prince's Trust 'Hot Keys' certificate for Digital competence as well as the Prince's Trust certificate (Beginner Level) for Word processing on 3rd January 2017.

Well done Daniel, you have certainly worked hard, shown commitment and perseverance to earn these awards.



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.

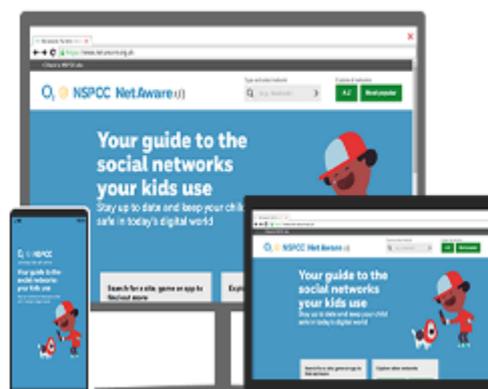
Net Awareness

Net Aware

Net Aware, developed by the NSPCC and O2, is a guide on the interactive social networks, apps or games that children use most frequently, based on research with over 500 parents and carers, and 1,725 young people.

Net Aware helps parents (primarily of 8-12 year olds) to understand more about the different sites and apps their children are using. It gives advice from other parents about age appropriateness, content, ease of reporting and privacy.

www.net-aware.org.uk



Foxlowe Arts Centre Exhibition

It's been an exciting term for our pupils in the Creative Studies Department. We are very proud to announce that our pupils currently have two displays of their art work hanging in the Foxlowe Arts Centre in Leek.



The fabulous recycled bottle top flowers and butterflies designed by Mrs. Stevens, and made with the help of Mrs. Walker and our pupils for the Alice Production, can be seen in the Cruso Room.

Mrs. Stevens would like to extend a huge thank you to all the pupils who helped to make the pieces and to all the families who collected and sent in their bottle tops for the project. Your kind donations have been upcycled into some truly original and inspiring works of art! It seems very apt that a project which was enabled by the strong community spirit of St. Edward's, should now be on display at a local venue that is committed to the promotion of community arts projects.

The other exhibition consists of the Mandala canvases our Year 7 and 8 pupils designed and made for Eureka Day at St. Edward's last summer, with myself and Mrs. Johnson. The theme was 'Mindfulness' and our pupils showcased their talents in the creation of over 100 canvases, some of



which can now be seen in the café and corridor exhibition spaces at the venue.

We would all like to thank Pat Bennet, the exhibitions co-ordinator at the Foxlowe, for her continued support and celebration of our pupils' artistic talents.



Year 2 Spanish Workshop

On Wednesday 1st February, St Edward's Academy welcomed 20 Year 2 pupils and their teachers from Woodcroft and St Edward's First School in Cheddleton to a special afternoon workshop of Spanish games and activities in order to stretch their language learning.

This was organised by our languages department in conjunction with the first school Spanish teachers. The games were devised and led by Mrs Sims and her fabulous team of Y8 Curriculum Enrichment students who are studying Spanish this term.

Firstly, the pupils were treated to a little 'play' put on by the Year 8 pupils. Then, as the first school pupils came from different schools, they greeted each other, and asked each other's names in Spanish to break the ice. This was followed by games to reinforce Spanish numbers, colours, and the names of pets.

A huge thank you must go to the Year 8 pupils involved with a special mention to Lauren Barratt, Victoria Sheldon and Claire Shepherd who gave up a lot of time at home and in lunchtimes to ensure the workshop ran smoothly.

The first school pupils really enjoyed their time here and the workshop further reinforced their love of language learning.

¡Viva España!



CRODA have visited the Science department for another fun year 5 lesson, giving our pupils an insight into real world science.

The pupils enjoyed investigating and working as a team to solve a chemical mixing problem.

CRODA will also be visiting 5M's science lesson on the 14th March



ECF Junior Chess Challenge

On Saturday, we won the ECF Junior Chess Challenge (for year 7 and 8s) regional stage at Loughborough. Each pupil played three games against teams from Loughborough Grammar School.

Josh Brown was on the top board, Robert Cooper board two, Jamie Jones board three and Isabelle Rose and Louisa Swarbrook took turns on board four.

They beat the Loughborough B and C team 4 - 0. Loughborough A team also won 4 - 0 each time. It came down to the last round to see who would win overall. Josh lost to a very strong player. Isabelle and Jamie went on to win. However, the score of 2 - 2 would not be enough as Loughborough A team had won a higher board so Robert needed to win or draw. With about fifteen seconds left on Robert's clock he checkmated his opponent winning the competition for St Edward's and getting us to another National Final being held at Hertford College, Oxford in April.



ECF Junior Chess Challenge

Nine of our girls played in the English Chess Federation National Northern Finals in Manchester. We had two teams of three pupils in the under 11s section and a team of three in the under 19s section where they were playing against much older and experienced opponents. There were ten teams altogether in the under 11s. Our A team (Jasmine Jones, Tilly Snape and Lilly Brown) came second winning ten of their 15 games, just two points behind the winners. We have qualified for the National Finals in April. Our B team (Ella Gayes, Jodie Meakin and Amalie Sinclair) got five points - a great achievement against the top teams in the north of the country.

The under 19s team, two 11 year olds (Isabelle Rose and Holly Sinclair) and a twelve year old (Louisa Swarbrook) had a very big age disadvantage against their opponents. There were eight teams and the St. Edward's team came fourth. They got eight wins from 15 games.

Jasmine Jones and Isabelle Rose did especially well playing on board one for their teams as they had to play the best players from the other schools. Jasmine won four of her five games and Isabelle won 3 of her five games - beating a 16 year old.

Once again the school has competed in a tournament dominated by private schools who have the best coaches and extra training opportunities and we have done better than most of them!! Well done to all the girls for how they conducted themselves, their focus and how they represented our school.



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.

Royal Institute (RI) Mathematics Masterclasses

Currently four of our most able year 8 mathematicians, Tim Nilsson, Jessica Smith, Libby Hall and Roan Critchley, are attending Masterclasses on a Saturday morning at Keele University. There are a series of workshops which are led by experts from industry, academia and education. They offer students in-depth investigation on topics in Mathematics combining theory with interactive exploration.

Team Maths Challenge

Mrs Hallen is preparing a team of four pupils for the 'Team Maths Challenge' regional event held in March. Four of our year 8 pupils are joining up with four ex-pupils in year 9 at Westwood to create two teams. The year 9s were successful at the regional stage last year and went to London for the National Finals held in London.

Sainsbury's

We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers, there is a collection box by the main school reception. Past years have provided the school with many valuable resources.

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.

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.

Y6 Girls' Netball match v Abbotsholme

The Y6 girls' A and B netball teams played their first competitive games of netball of the season against Abbotsholme School on 17th January.

This was a friendly match in preparation for the league and tournaments later this term. This was the first time that we have played netball against Abbotsholme as we usually only play hockey against them so for both teams it was a great opportunity for an extra fixture and for some extra coaching.

Both our A and B teams played some lovely netball and on the night we turned out to be the slightly stronger teams. We played three games each and after both of our teams had won their first two, we swapped our teams around to make the match more even. Abbotsholme went on to win the next game and we won the final game.

County Sportshall Athletics

On 7th February all four of our Y7 and Y8 Sportshall Athletics teams represented the Staffordshire Moorlands in the Staffordshire Winter Games at Fenton Manor Sports Centre.

Ten schools from across the county took part in each competition. The teams competed in 2 lap, 4 lap, 6 lap, 8 lap, obstacle and relay in the track events as well as shot, standing long jump, standing triple jump, vertical jump and speed bounce in the field events.

The Y7 boys competed extremely well with a depleted team which meant that each athlete had to compete in 5 events each. They finished 8th in their competition. The Y7 girls faced some strong competition in their event, and despite winning many events they could only manage 4th overall.

The Y8 boys performed particularly well in their field events, winning most of them to finish in bronze medal position overall.

The Y8 girls were outstanding throughout their competition, winning many track and field events and were crowned County Champions, beating 9 other very strong teams to the title.



U13 Hockey match v. Queen Mary's Grammar

On Thursday 9th February, our U13 boys' hockey team, which is made up of boys from Y8 and Y7, hosted a friendly hockey match against Queen Mary's Grammar School from Walsall at Westwood College. It was the first time that the boys had represented the school in an 11-a-side game of hockey on a full-sized hockey pitch. Our opposition had already played several full sided games with mixed success.

We started very strongly indeed and were soon 2 goals up, after playing some skilful hockey. After half time, the Queen Mary's team put us under some pressure, but were unable to score. Freddie Bell had a superb shot at goal disallowed, before Tyler Heath stepped up and added a third to give us a 3-0 victory.

Y7 and Y8 District Netball v Denstone College

The Y7 and Y8 netball teams played home matches against Denstone College on Wednesday.

This is the first time that we have played against Denstone so we did not know what standard of netball to expect. Each game was played over four quarters of 10 minutes each.

Our Y7 A team lost 13 - 4.

Our Y7 B team won 11 - 0.

Our Y8 A team won 16 - 8.

Our Y8 B team lost 12 - 9.

This meant that the match was tied overall with 2 wins for each team. At the end, each team chose a player of the match from their opposition. Denstone chose Lilly Kirk from the Y7 A team, Mollie Fern from the Y7 B team, Emily Pointon from the Y8 A team and Libby Collier from the Y8 B team.

This week has seen several sports teams in action - Y7 and Y8 Sportshall Athletics and Y7 and Y8 hockey matches, all with fantastic results for St. Edward's.

The Y8 girls became County Sportshall Athletics champions, beating 9 other schools to the title and the Y8 boys were bronze medallists in the same competition.

The Y8 boys' hockey team then went on to beat Queen Mary's Grammar School from Walsall 3-0 at home, whilst the Y7 boys' hockey team travelled down to Aston University, also to play Queen Mary's Grammar School, resulting in a 2-0 victory to our boys.

The Y7 girls' hockey team went to Newcastle Under Lyme School, where our A team won their match 3-2, whilst the B team were narrowly defeated by a goal on the final whistle to lose 3-2.