

St. Edward's CE Academy Newsletter

March 2016



Coming Up:

Half Term
25th March –
8th April

Parent Forum
13th April 6.15pm

Y8 Enterprise Day
13th April

Growth Mindset
Evening for Parents
18th April

Y7/8 Disco
22nd April

French Trip Parents'
Evening
27th April

SATs week –
w/c 9th May

Y5/6 Disco
13th May

Dear Parent/Guardian,



Although this has been a short term, it has been a busy one with many varied activities both within and beyond school time. The year 6, along with the staff, are working hard for their SATs in May, with the prospect of the new exam and the ever changing expectations that this has brought. Any advice or support needed by parents can be obtained by contacting the school or looking on the school website. <http://tinyurl.com/jdcy4nd> for maths: <http://tinyurl.com/jbarwvb> for English.

There have been many successes and opportunities this term, with the Keele Maths Challenge Team getting through to the National Finals, the Dance '16 Festival at the Regent Theatre, Ruby Tweats in the final of the Staffordshire University Sportswriter competition, 4 teams in the Rotary Swimathon, Jaida Leigh Hardy Williams going to the Regional Young Chef final, and the school Musical concert to name but a few. These are in addition to the sporting successes with Harry Bond being the Staffs Moorlands Cross Country champion for Year 7, the girl's contact rugby team through to the Regional finals in Birmingham, 3 pupils selected for County trials at Hockey with other more detailed successes listed later in the newsletter. The snapshot of life in St. Edward's is varied for those willing to have a go and try new things and we celebrate the diversity of opportunity made possible by the commitment of the staff and the support of our parents.

In a further attempt to provide opportunities for joint working with parents we have a workshop that some of you have already signed up for on April 18th at 6.00pm. This is on Growth Mindset and it is a well-recognised way for supporting learning throughout all subjects and is, indeed, a great skill for life. So what is mind-set theory? In essence, it's this: our mind-set (the way we see ourselves and the world around us) shapes our behaviour. When that mind-set is about a core concept such as intelligence, it can either close or open our minds to feedback, weaken or strengthen our resolve lock or unlock our potential. In other words, get the mind-set right and you get more progress, more success and more fulfilment.

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.

In addition, we have the Parent Forum on April 13th 6.00- 7.00pm. This will look at the end of year reports and complete the consultation that has been ongoing with staff and pupils for next year. We are also open to items for the agenda. The Digital Citizenship materials that were available last Parent Forum will be available at Year 7 Parents' evening. The PFA also meets regularly and we would welcome new members both to help with events and also discuss any general school issues in an informal way.

Finally our Easter Communion Service at St Edward's is on Thursday March 24th as detailed in the letter and I would welcome anyone to share in this with either Year 5 & 6 in the afternoon or Years 7 & 8 in the morning. May I wish you all a Happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you in the Summer term at some of our events.

Mrs. E. Clarke
Principal

World Book Day—Library Sale



To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March, in addition to giving every child a free book token, we held a sale of ex-library stock and raised over £70 to buy new library books. The books which didn't sell are being donated to a local hospice.

Facebook

Our Facebook page has been up and running for around two months now and we feel that it has been a huge success and it is a great way to communicate with parents on a regular basis. We are able to post news, sports items, other activities and upcoming events much quicker than before together with images of what is happening in and around school. If you haven't seen our Facebook page please visit the school website and follow the link. We have had over 250 likes now

Pupil Fundraising

A big thank you and well done to pupils and staff who raised £674.20 for Lucas' Legacy (Childhood Brain Tumour Research) by holding a non-uniform day. Pupils also raised further funds at Morrisons, with a rowing extravaganza supported by Rudyard rowing club. Special mention must go to Harry Grime, Tom Hewson, Dexter Skelding and Marcus Dawson for their personal efforts on behalf of the charity. Well done boys!

Vacancies

Lunchtime Supervisor - We are looking for a Lunchtime Supervisor to start as soon as possible.

£7.11 per hour - 12.30-1.40pm, term-time only

If you are interested, please call Sue Casey on 01538 483233

Clerical Assistant (temporary, to cover maternity leave) to start in June

Please see website for details or contact Claire Broadhurst on 01538 483233

UK Chess Challenge 2016

St. Edward's once again entered the UK Schools' Chess Challenge. About 1300 schools have participated in the competition with over 40,000 pupils taking part. Seventy three of our pupils (48 boys and 25 girls) have been involved in the initial school stage playing seven games, one a week, during their time at Chess Club this term.

The pupils earned points for attending, drawing or winning games, gaining small prizes along the way. Sixty of the pupils have achieved enough points to be invited to the next stage of the competition, the Mega-Final, which is again being hosted for Staffordshire schools by Robert Milner at our school on Saturday 21st May.

A girls' competition and a boys' competition took place in school, with the main results being:

Best Y5 girl Jasmine Jones 18 points

Best Y6 girl Isabelle Rose 19 points

Best Y7 girl Emily Sanzeri 17 points

Best Y8 girl and overall winner Marnie Pointon 21 points (maximum achieved)

Best Y5 boy Sebastian Crawford 17 points

Joint Best Y6 boy Robert Cooper and Daniel Pope 17 points

Best Y7 boy Joshua Brown 19 points

Best Y8 boy and overall winner James Wood 20 points

Under 11s Chess

The school was well represented in the Staffordshire team that went to Liverpool last Saturday. Ten of the twenty Staffordshire players were from St Edward's. They all played 3 games against the best players from eight other regions in the North of England and Wales. The team battled hard against very strong opponents and although they did not win they did gain more points than in previous years.

Pupils involved:

Robert Cooper, Isabelle Rose, Daniel Pope, Morgan Rhead, Eammon Clowes, James Blackburn, Jasmine Jones, Corben Rowbotham, Dylan Pascall, Noah Eaton.



Battlefields Study trip to Belgium

To commemorate 100 years since the Battle of the Somme, the Government has funded places for every secondary school in England to send three pupils and a teacher on a visit to various battle sites in France and Belgium. Emily Done, Katie Mellor and Henry Thackstone represented St Edward's during the visit (26th - 29th February).

Our trip focussed on the Ypres Salient which was the scene of some of the biggest battles of the First World War. A salient is where in battle you find yourself surrounded on three sides by the enemy. The Allied forces had to cope with artillery and machine gun fire from different directions, as well as mud and from the summer of 1915, gas. Ypres was seen as the final barrier between the Germans and the port of Calais. The Allies (including, France, Belgium, Canada and India) wanted to hold onto it at all costs as losing it could have meant losing the War as vital supply lines of weapons and communications would have been cut off and the Germans would have been able to then occupy much of northern France. During our trip we were lucky enough to visit:

The **In Flanders Field Museum**, based in the Cloth Hall Ypres, faced constant bombardment by the Germans but remained in the Allies hands. We also paid our respects at the **Ceremony of the Last Post** at the **Menin Gate**. This was a very unique experience as, for a few minutes every night of the year, the area falls silent as buglers from the city's fire brigade sound the Last Post. This Menin Gate memorial records the names of 54,406 soldiers from the Empire who lost their lives and have no known grave in this part of Belgium.

At the **Memorial Museum, Passchendaele**, we saw replica trenches and bunkers and many artefacts including gas masks. This helped us to picture some of the conditions the soldiers had to face including: rats, mud, noise, cold weather and rain.

At **Thiepval** we found a memorial to one of seven Leek men to die on the first day of the Somme, 1st July, 1916. This was the worst day, in terms of casualties, for the town. Lance Corporal Harry Billing who lived on Buxton Road. He is amongst 70,000 men who fell at the Somme and who have no known grave.

Our final site was **Tyne Cot Cemetery** which is where much of the Third Battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele, took place. Work began on the Cemetery in 1922 and took 5 years to complete. It is difficult to explain how big this site is. It is the largest British and Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world. 11,956 soldiers are buried there and the walls of the missing contain the names of 34,927 soldiers who were killed after August 1917. Here we found a soldier from Leek. Private Bernard Wheatley, of 18 Mill Street, died on the 26th October 1917.

During our visit we were accompanied by a soldier from the West Mercian Regiment who was able to explain some of the conditions and problems faced by the soldiers. He also showed us the kit modern soldiers have including their medical kit, clothing and how they might have dealt with trenches and attacking bunkers.



We were surprised to find the tactics are not much different - they have just made them more efficient! We didn't think the food was much better though! "Visiting the German cemeteries was really interesting as they were very different to the British ones. They were much smaller, not as well-kept and not well visited. It was interesting to think about why. We were surprised at the size of the cemeteries. We also enjoyed attending to the ceremony at the Menin Gate as it was very moving. We also enjoyed the Belgian chocolate!" Emily Done



"Belgium was an experience of a lifetime! It was really interesting learning about WW. I particularly enjoyed learning about the Battle of the Somme. Whilst we were

in Belgium we met some really nice people from other schools and made good friends. Looking around the cemeteries reminded us of those men and women that fought for Staffordshire." Katie Mellor

"The trip was fun, interesting and very moving. My favourite part of the whole trip was going to the museums as they were factual with real artefacts. I understood much more about life in the trenches and what conditions must have been like for the soldiers. The soldier who went with us was able to explain more about this and compared it to life for soldiers now." Henry Thackstone

Digital Citizenship

Digital Commerce

Definition: The electronic buying and selling of goods



Learning to become an intelligent consumer is an important aspect of good citizenship. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for pupils to go online and purchase items without thinking about the consequences.

Often, the consequences extend beyond accumulation of debt. For example, not knowing how and where to buy items online can leave kids vulnerable to internet scams and identity theft. Here at St Edward's we are preparing pupils for the rest of their lives and digital commerce is an important issue that is being addressed during their computing lessons. Below is an example of inappropriate Digital Commerce and appropriate Digital Commerce.

Inappropriate Digital Commerce

- * Pupils purchase goods online without knowing how to protect their identity leaving them open to identity theft.
- * Pupils fail to realise that poor online purchasing practices lead to poor credit ratings.

Appropriate Digital Commerce

- * Pupils become informed consumers so they can safely purchase items online.
- * Pupils spend the time to research what they want to purchase, then take the time to identify safe, secure, and reputable sites with the best prices.

Progress towards realising our shared vision



In the summer term the Governors initiated a process to seek your views, and those of the pupils, to see how close we are to achieving the ambitions of our Academy vision. The results of these questionnaires have helped inform the strategic decisions being made to move our Academy forward and provide quality teaching and learning opportunities for all the children. We would like to extend our thanks for your involvement in this important process.

As a result of your feedback we shall be adding the following priorities to our Academy Development Plan and making a commitment to: build a greater sense of community at the Academy for pupils, parents and staff by promoting the values of a 'family' and developing opportunities for more involvement with our local community and the wider world; develop more effective communications and relationships between home and school; enrich our curriculum to increase the emotional and spiritual development of our pupils, and increase the focus on fostering skills for learning and skills for life; increase the focus on educating against bullying and 'emotional discomfort'.

Working closely together, the Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body have already put some measures in place to begin addressing these development needs, many of which you will be aware of. Here are some examples of actions that have already been taken:

- Developed a new Facebook page to help with communication to parents
- Invited parents to come to Parent Forum meetings so we can hear your views
- Appointed a Governor with special responsibilities for Stakeholder Management, who, amongst other tasks is ensuring Governor availability at parents' evenings
- Encouraged 'Fairtrade' to support the pupils in their development of awareness of the wider world
- Encouraged Year 8 pupils to take part in activities designed to open their eyes to career opportunities and inspire 'outward looking' ambitions
- Began a strategy to develop a culture of Growth Mind-set in both the staff, pupils and parents to support how best we respond to the challenges we face in an increasingly demanding world and education system.

We have also been working on the Academy Development Plan 2016 - 2017, to ensure that, in an Academy that respects and values each individual, not only do we meet the needs of our pupils academically but that we continue to be ambitious in the learning and development of the 'whole child'. Above all we wish our pupils to be in an environment where they can 'Learn for Life'.

Cynthia Simmonds
Chair of Governors

Team Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 15th March, two teams from St Edward's and Westwood College, went to Keele University to take part in the UK Mathematics Trust 'Team Maths Challenge'.

This is a Maths competition that has regional finals held all over the country. In fact over 1700 schools entered the competition and 88 will qualify to take part in the National Final.

Aaron Woolliscroft, Charlie Hinton, Joe Clark & Priya Sheldon formed the 'Westwood Team' with Ben Tunnicliff, Emma Scotchford, Nila Gunabalasinham & Alex Cooper formed the 'St Edward's Team'. (No more than two Year 9 pupils allowed in a team)

The day consists of hands-on maths problems, a cross-number, a shuttle round in which the answer from one question feeds into the next and a relay race!

35 teams registered for the Regional Final at Keele Hall, with the Westwood team finishing a very respectable 26th and the St Edward's team finishing in joint 1st position along with St Thomas Moore Catholic College, Crewe. Newcastle-Under-Lyme School came in third position.

All have certificates for taking part in the final, with the winning team also receiving a 'winners' certificate.

Ben, Emma, Nila & Alex will be travelling to London on Monday 20th June to participate in the National Final at the Royal Horticultural Halls.

Thank you to Ms Gallimore for entering the teams and liaising with Westwood and a special thanks to Mrs Hallen who spent time with the four St Edward's pupils doing some practise and preparation work, as well as travelling and working with teams on the day.

It is a great achievement to qualify for the National Final, however this is the second year that St Edward's has achieved that. Ben (along with Oliver Snape, Y9) was a member of the winning team last year and has already experienced the final in London.

Well done to all the pupils, who I am sure had a great experience and a wonderful day at Keele University.

Mrs Haydon

Warning signs of too much screen time for kids

Kids love screens. Why does the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend limiting entertainment screen time to two hours/day for children and teens? Excessive screen time interferes with social, emotional, and physical development. Most kids significantly exceed these recommendations. If your child exhibits some of the signs below, it's time to put some limits on screen time.

Social and Emotional

- Prefers spending time on screens to doing things with family or friends
- Experiences difficulty making and keeping friends
- Has angry outbursts when it's time for the screen to go off
- Acts irritable or discontent when not using digital items
- Lacks concern or empathy for others



Communication

- Has difficulty initiating or participating in conversations
- Regularly misinterprets non-verbal social cues
- Texts instead of talking in situations where face-to-face communication would be better



Cognitive

- Has difficulty focusing on the present moment when not using a screen
- Declining grades in school, missing school, dreading school
- Talking and thinking obsessively about the digital activity



Physical Development

- Withdrawing from sports and outside play
- Losing sleep due to gaming, texting
- Gaining weight to the point of being overweight or obese
- Developing health issues such as Carpel Tunnel Syndrome, eye problems, backaches

When you realize your children's media usage is having a negative impact on them, you need to set some limits. Discuss with your kids what limits are reasonable and how your family plans to enforce those limits. Not sure how to set limits without arguing or getting into a power struggle?

Learn how to set healthy limits in [Priceless Parenting's online parenting classes!](#)

Courtesy of Priceless Parenting, <http://www.PricelessParenting.com/>

Sports



Y6/7 and 8 Rugby

On 15th March, 36 pupils from Year 6, 7 and 8 travelled to Woodhouse to play in the District Rugby Tournament.

Teams from Endon, Congleton and Woodhouse were present on the evening and St. Edward's provided 3 out of the 8 teams.

The Year 7 team consisted mainly of Year 6 pupils. Out of the 20 players, 18 were from Year 6.

The "B" team played with tremendous spirit and finished in 4th place.

The "A" team played some superb rugby, winning all of their games and with it, the tournament.

The Year 8 boys were excellent throughout. They won all 3 of their matches and were deservedly crowned as District Champions for the 2nd year running.

Year 8 Football

On 8th March, the Year 8 Football Team played their final match of the season with an away fixture against Endon.

The game started slowly with both teams struggling to play football on a pitch that can only be described as atrocious.

Endon took the lead and despite a superb effort by St. Edward's to level the score, Endon eventually won the game 1 - 0.

All those involved showed tremendous team spirit, self-discipline and determination throughout the match.

Year 7 Boys' Football

The boys played against Cheadle High School in the Staffs Moorlands District league on 1st March.

We started brightly taking an early lead only to be pegged back shortly afterwards. We once again took the lead but were again pegged back and the score remained at 2 - 2 at half time.

We continued to play well and dominated the second half to run out comfortable 5 - 2 winners.

Girls' Contact Rugby

On 3rd March 2 teams represented St. Edward's in a Girls' Contact Rugby Tournament at Cannock Rugby Club.

A team of experienced Year 6 and 8 girls played in the main competition and a group of Year 6 girls, who have never played rugby before, took part in some training sessions.

The Year 6/8 team played 6 matches scoring 15 tries and conceding 5. All of the opposition players were older than the St. Edward's girls but this made no difference at all to their performance.

Y7 Boys and Girls hockey

On 3rd March, the Y7 boys' and girls' hockey teams went to Wolverhampton to play in the Staffordshire Schools U12 Hockey Tournament.

The girls played in the morning and had to play 7 matches against teams from Cannock, Lichfield, Newcastle, Walsall, Stafford, Tamworth and Wolverhampton.

After losing their first two opening games to the two teams who eventually went on to win the tournament, they settled down and went on to draw the next three, and lost their final game.

This meant that they had finished 5th overall. They played some excellent hockey, getting better as the tournament progressed.

The boys played in the afternoon. They lost their opening game to Newcastle but then went on to win the rest of their games, to finish second in their league and went through to the semi-finals.

They beat Friary Grange from Lichfield 2-0 in the semi-final setting up a final against Queen Mary's from Walsall. It was a superb final match with both teams playing some outstanding hockey. Queen Mary's scored a late goal and, despite us hitting the post with seconds to go, we were not able to find an equaliser.

Both teams go on to represent Staffordshire at the Midlands Hockey tournament in April at Cannock.

Girls' Futsal

The year 8 girls accompanied by 2 year 7 girls played in the year 9 County Futsal finals at Fenton Manor on Tuesday. When we arrived we were made aware that Centre of Excellence players were not allowed to play and so Tamsyn was not eligible. The girls decided to play with Tamsyn in the side meaning that our results would not count towards winning the tournament.

The girls played extremely competitively against older and stronger opposition winning 4 games, drawing 2 games and losing 2 games.

This meant that we would have scored 14 points and we found out after the presentation that the winning team only had 9 points but we knew that we had given up our opportunity to win by deciding to stick together as a team.

Y5/6 Netball

The Y5 and Y6 netball teams travelled to Woodhouse on 8th March to play matches against James Bateman and Woodhouse in the second satellite netball league fixture. Churnet View were unfortunately unable to attend.

All the teams played extremely well and St. Edward's remained unbeaten at the end of the evening, with the Y5 teams playing three games each and winning 4 and drawing 2. The Y6 teams played three games each, also winning 4 and drawing 2.

The girls are gaining in confidence with every game.

Thank you again to the Y7 leaders, Tilly, Olivia, Lauren, Hattie and Evie, for coming along and managing the teams and to Hannah and Rachel from Y8 for umpiring so well and helping all the teachers at the tournament.

Y7 Satellite Netball

On 10th March the Y7 and Y8 girls' netball teams went to Cheadle to play in the highlight of the netball season - the District Tournament. Both teams had to play seven matches against Churnet View, Woodhouse, James Bateman, Cheadle, Endon, Moorside and Painsley. Both Y7 and Y8 teams have had some very good results in the league throughout the season, and so we knew which teams were our biggest rivals - Painsley for Y7 and Woodhouse for Y8.

The Y7 team played some lovely netball, winning five of their matches and losing only two to Woodhouse and our closest rivals Painsley. These results meant that they had finished in runners up position in the District Competition and now go on to represent the Staffordshire Moorlands at the County finals with Painsley in June at Keele University.

The Y8 team were outstanding, beating some extremely strong opposition from Endon and our rivals this season, Woodhouse, before losing a surprise game against Cheadle, as we have beaten them in every other game this year. The girls did not let this affect them and they then went on to win all their other games and were crowned District Champions for the second year running.

At the end of the tournament, the league results were read out. The Y7 team have come second in the league this season, behind Painsley and the Y8 team are the League Champions, winning the double - league and tournament.

Well done to all the girls in Y7 and Y8 who have played netball this season for your enthusiasm and commitment.