

# NEWSLETTER

#47

16 December 2021



## WELCOME

As we approach the Christmas holidays and I sit and write our final newsletter of 2021, it is somewhat surreal to think back over the last 12 months and all that has been experienced as not only a school community, but a nation.

In 12 months we have continued to experience the awful effects of a pandemic that shows no signs of easing with a new variant amidst us and restrictions being reintroduced across the globe. In education, we continue to plan for different scenarios as guided by the government. Whilst this continues to challenge educators in all schools, at Stuart Bathurst, we remain unapologetic and tenacious in our drive to provide the very best to all our young people regardless of the circumstances. We have continued to rise to the challenges as we place our mission at the core of all that we do and staff and students remain determined to do and be our best for ourselves and each other.

In recent weeks, it has been of great comfort to many to be part of our special community. The darker days and longer nights have been lit up by a spiritual focus through our whole-school Mission Week and Advent liturgies. It has been wonderful to see students engage in these activities and we have enjoyed hosting the Kenelm Youth Trust and Rise Theatre who have led life-changing opportunities throughout school encouraging our young people to reflect upon a life of faith through large group input, workshops, liturgy, worship and music. Our corridors and classrooms have been filled with joyous moments of togetherness, reflection and gratitude and it has been wonderful to see the return of such interactions in school. I would like to thank all staff involved in the week but especially Mrs Jordan who worked tirelessly with the Mission Team to ensure the week ran like clockwork.

It has also been amazing to experience other Christmas events in school as we approach the holidays; from the taste-bud tantalising Christmas lunch cooked and hosted by our culinary experts in the kitchen, to the fashion extravaganza that was Christmas Jumper Day, to the joy of hearing of some of our Year 7s experiencing their first visit to the theatre to watch Beauty and the Beast, this time of year remains one of my favourites in school. I have also continued to enjoy my weekly "Breakfast with Miss Raindi" where the top achieving students in terms of ClassCharts points join me for hot chocolate and pastries every Friday. It remains the highlight of my week and I am looking forward to seeing who will join me around the table in the New Year.

The end of term is tinged with some sadness as we say goodbye to two members of staff. First, Mrs Bates who led the Science Department before joining us on the Senior Leadership Team to oversee Assessment. Mrs Bates has been a fantastic member of my team and I will miss her a great deal, not least her company and encouragement on our fundraising mountain climbs that we have completed together. Students will miss her engaging Science lessons, good humour and kind nature but we wish her all the best as she embarks on a new chapter at St John Wall Catholic School. We also say goodbye to Miss Ali who has taught Health and Social Care and led PSHE across the school. Miss Ali will be missed by all, especially her colleagues in the Humanities Department and we also wish her great success at her new school.

I would like to remind all parents and carers that there continues to be a drive on uniform standards and in the New Year, as per my letter earlier this year, we will no longer accept boots as acceptable footwear. I ask

for your ongoing support to ensure that students are in the correct uniform and footwear when we begin the Spring Term. A reminder of full uniform expectations is enclosed in this Newsletter from Mr Holder.

The government is expecting all schools to offer one lateral flow test before lessons resume in January. As a reminder, our testing day will be Tuesday 4th January 2022. Students will have a time slot to come to school and get a lateral flow test. Providing this is negative, normal lessons will then resume for them on Wednesday 5th January 2022. I ask that you ensure that you follow government guidance over the festive period in order to keep one another and our community safe, and encourage you to conduct the twice weekly lateral flow tests that are advised during the festive break. Following this guidance will hopefully minimise disruption not only to your child's education but also the education of others.

Now all that remains is for me to offer you my warmest wishes as you begin the Christmas holidays with your families and loved ones. I hope that all of you enjoy the wonder of the season, however you might be celebrating. Whilst many of you will be exchanging gifts and enjoying the merriment of this wonderful time of the year, I ask that you keep in your thoughts and prayers those who are spending their first Christmas or another Christmas without their loved ones and those who are less fortunate. My Christmas wish for the Stuart Bathurst community is that God continues to bless us with the true gifts of life; family, love, friendship and laughter.

With Warmest Wishes and Blessings,

**Miss G Raindi**

Interim Head of School

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*by Miss Raindi*

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*by Mrs Bates*

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*by Mr Walsh*

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including sign-up link  
for instrument tuition!

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including winners of this term's  
100% Attendance Competition!

# IN THIS ISSUE

# RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN JANUARY

## Return to school lateral flow testing: **Tues 04 Jan 2022**

**Y12: 9-10am**

**Y13: 9-10am**

**Y7: 10-11am**

**Y8: 11-12pm**

**Y9: 12-1pm**

**Y10: 1-2pm**

**Y11: 2-3pm**

**Entrance for testing:  
Door by Internal Inclusion**

The government has asked all schools to offer one on-site test before students return to school in January and has authorised schools to plan this as they see fit in the first week.

At Stuart Bathurst, our staff are involved in an INSET day on Tuesday 04 January and there will be no lessons taking place. We have decided to use this day to offer our on-site test in accordance with this schedule.

Students simply need to come to school in their allocated time slot, complete the lateral flow test and then can return home.

They do not need to wait for the result; we will notify you if it is positive and if you need to book a PCR test.

### **Positive Test Result**

If your lft test is positive, you will need a negative PCR test result before you can return to school.

### **Negative Test Result**

If it is negative, there will be no notification.

If you have previously given consent for testing, you do not need to do this again. If you have not previously given consent for testing, your child will have been issued with a letter for return this week.

Please note that if you have children in different year groups, they can attend the same testing slot rather than you make multiple trips to school.

### **Return to lessons:**

## **Wed 05 Jan 2022**

All lessons will resume on Wednesday 5th January 2022 where school will start at 8.50am.



# CATHOLIC LIFE

This Advent has been a very busy time at Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School. On Monday 29th November as Advent began, we welcomed the Kenelm Youth Trust to our school for an exciting and thought provoking Mission Week.

This Mission Week had the theme of 'ROAR'. The focus was to empower and enable all of those in our community to have a voice and to find that voice through their faith – and the week did not let us down!

Our students seized every opportunity to involve themselves in the activities, ranging from Rise Theatre performances, to services of Reconciliation, to meeting refugees to gain insight into the suffering of many in the world. Our week was very humbling and we were grateful for the love and friendship that was shown to all during this special time.

Our Student Chaplaincy team played an integral role in this whole school Mission week and supported our guests in delivering workshops and encouraging their peers to engage in all that was on offer. Our students were simply amazing and did an incredible job supporting and guiding everyone towards a better experience in our Mission Week.

We would like to say a massive thank you to our Chaplaincy team for all their hard work this week, and also in all their hard work in fund raising events:

Chaplaincy Team Chair: Paris Clarke

Deputy Chaplaincy Team Chairs:  
Meah Henn and Aaliyah Waseem

Chaplaincy team members:

Salina Shakeel, Zuzanna Opalka, Aaron Dixon, Sumaiya Akalwaya, Harrison McCarthy, Megan Easterlow, Grace Glover, Michaela Mutambira, Declan Speake.

## **Charity: Thinking of others - putting faith into action**

This term has been a term of action – action to support the most vulnerable in our society and the students and families of Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School have excelled themselves in their generous support.

Starting with our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning we raised over £400 for this very special cause and this led to a surge in motivation to continue such fund raising efforts.

Our fund raising for mental health was a huge success on our Wear Something Yellow Day and again we raised over £300 for charity.

Not for the faint hearted, Miss Adams took the challenge to Jump For Joel and raised nearly £1000 for Smile for Joel and has inspired so many in our community to go beyond the ordinary and dare to do something different.

More recently, our School Council Team led by Suhana Khanum in Year 13, planned and delivered our first Cultural Heritage Week which culminated in a global food festival which raised a staggering £800 for UNICEF – much need funds for a charity which works with vulnerable and needy children all over the world.

As we approach Christmas our efforts focused on supporting Whispers of Hope, a charity supporting women who are victims of domestic abuse or are refugees. A charity cake sale led by Aaliyah Waseem in Year 13 raised £300 and we are privileged to be able to support such a worthy cause.

Our final charity work for December is our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal and we are grateful for all of the donations made by students, staff and families – thank you for thinking of others at this very difficult time of year.

## **CHRISTMAS PRAYER**

**Father,**

**I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches.**

**Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas.**

**That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.**

**Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift.**

**This Christmas, may we too give to others the same joy and love you give to us.**

**Amen.**

## **OVER THE PAGE**

**Harrison McCarthy explores his experience of Mission Week.**





# MISSION WEEK REVIEW

by Harrison McCarthy  
Year 10

Last week, Stuart Bathurst invited the mission team into our school, a group of young individuals from the Kenelm Youth Trust who aimed to help young people find their voice as part of the Mission Week's theme, Roar. Our school's chaplaincy team worked closely alongside the group to aid them in the sessions they hosted throughout the week with different year groups. I met with the team on Monday as part of the chaplaincy team, where we introduced ourselves and were briefed on what would be happening throughout the week.

I participated in many sessions within my year group but the week gave me the opportunity to help with many other year group's workshops, as part of my role in chaplaincy. There were several sessions that took place throughout the week, with some focusing on mental health, prayer, reconciliation and finding our own voice. I really enjoyed the session that was hosted by members of the mission team on Wednesday, where I met with

groups of students from many years groups and discussed issues that they felt were prevalent within our society today. I found it very interesting hearing about how our pupils feel about societal problems such as racism and sexism that people face every day. The mission team asked the groups to discuss how we can make a change to combat these issues in and outside of our school environment, where I heard many great ideas. To know that the school were going to take these ideas on board to further improve our school community, it felt rewarding to know that we can make a change.

There were numerous sessions held over the week that centred around worship. At lunchtimes all students were given the opportunity to light a candle and say a prayer in our chapel where they could spend some quiet time to themselves and on Thursday, a time of reconciliation was held all day, where pupils could go to confession with a priest or simply talk to them. I

took part in confession where I found it very uplifting and enlightening to talk and be open with a member of the church. On Friday, the week was ended with a mass where the school came together in their year groups to celebrate the week we had experienced through a time of prayer.

I feel that the mission week has greatly strengthened my faith and relationship with God. It gave me the chance to meet with new people and hear of their experiences with faith. I spoke with students across the school who also felt that it had made a positive impact on them. It was sad to see the mission team leave Stuart Bathurst but knowing that they had made a positive impact will inspire future change within our school community.



# HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS

Our School curriculum is sequenced to help students know and remember more. All departments have designed their curriculum to build upon knowledge over time using interleaving strategies and retrieval practice.

Teachers share with the pupils the learning journey making it explicit how subject content and skills cross over between departments and can be applied in their current learning.

Homework is an extension of this learning process. Through the varied homework tasks set, pupils are:

- Encouraged and supported to know and remember more through self-quizzing
- Pupils will receive feedback that will focus on moving the learning forward targeting specific learning gaps identified by the class teacher
- Preparing pupils for End of Topic assessments (EOT) and Assessment Week (AW)
- Help build pupil self-confidence, pupil motivation and independence by holding the pupils to account for the completion of homework as per the deadlines set by their class teachers

## Subject Class Teachers

Class teachers will set all homework through ClassCharts.

Class teachers will mark all homework as per departmental marking and feedback policies. Self-quizzing books will be checked and initialled by the class teacher upon completion.

Class teachers are to reward the completion of and sanction the incompletion of homework through the use of ClassCharts.

## Homework Expectations

Homework guidelines for each key stage are:

**KS3:** 30 minutes per subject of Self quizzing and one supplementary task per subject

**KS4:** 30 minutes per subject of Self quizzing and one supplementary task per subject

**KS5:** 3 hours per subject

It is the pupil's responsibility to ensure that they have their ClassChart log in. Pupils can get their ClassChart log in from their form tutor.

## Homework Detention Process

If a student fails to hand in a piece of homework, the student is given an additional 24 hours to complete it. This will be recorded on ClassCharts using the "Homework Warning".

A student can only receive the 24-hour extension once per half term for each subject. If a student fails to hand in the homework following the 24-hour extension, they are placed in afterschool detention.

If a student fails to hand in the homework and the 24-hour extension has already been used, they are placed in afterschool detention. Parents will be informed if their son/daughter is to be placed in detention.

## How To Self Quiz

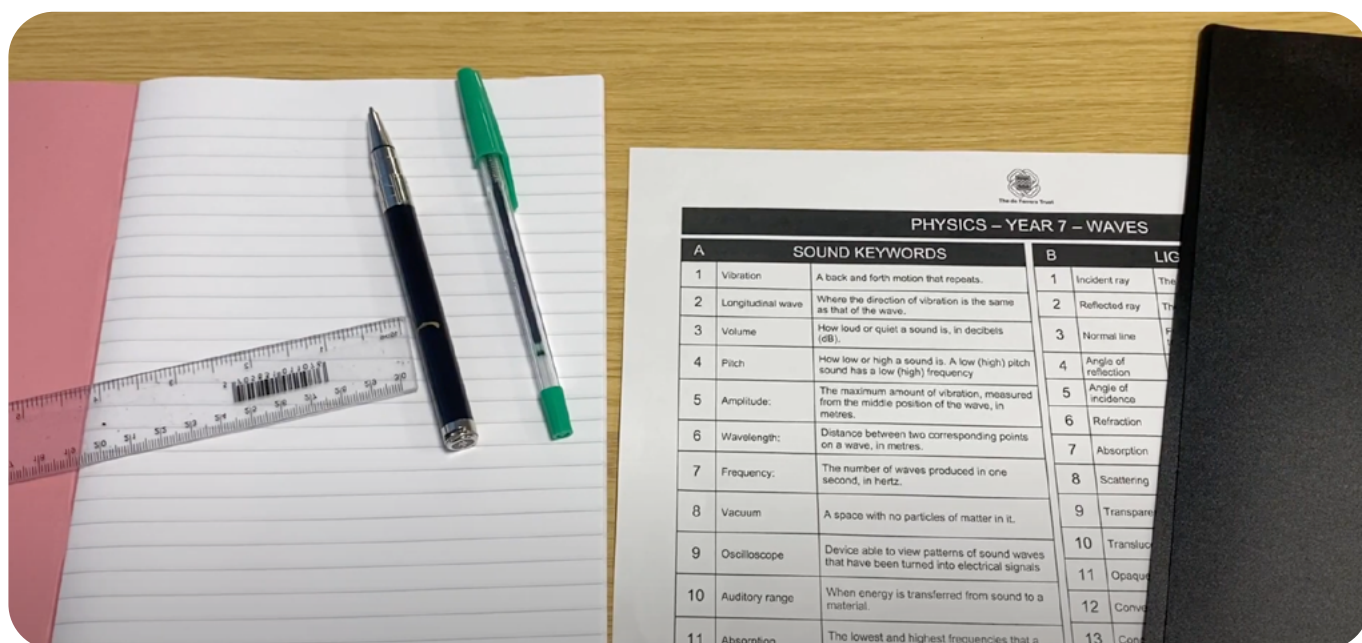
Please see the link below that will remind students how to self-quiz using their knowledge organisers.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=r966HWW4vgQ>

As a School we would appreciate your support in ensuring that your son/daughter completes all homework set.

**Mrs J Bates**

Assistant Headteacher



# UNIFORM UPDATE

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support with your children and their education at Stuart Bathurst. This term has been seen the reintroduction of an afterschool detention, a renewed focus on homework, punctuality and standards in uniform.

As we end the Autumn term and look to the Spring, I would like to remind all parents of the standards stated in letter Miss Raindi sent out earlier in the term.

## FOOTWEAR

Shoes (ending BELOW the ankle) MUST be black leather and low-heeled. All footwear must fit securely and give proper support to the feet to meet our Health and Safety requirements. BOOTS, SANDALS, SLINGBACKS AND PLATFORMS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

**Please remember that from January 2022, boots are not allowed.**

NO leather trainers or leisure shoes are permitted including brands such as Vans, Converse or other sports brands.

## TROUSERS & TOPS

NO skinny fit school trouser or leggings. School trousers must be regular fit.

NO hoodies / tracksuit or sports tops with the exception of the Stuart Bathurst PE Kit.

## JEWELLERY & MAKE-UP

NO jewellery (other than those worn for religious purposes, for example students may wear a Sikh Kara or a small cross and chain under their blouse/shirt but this must be removed for PE).

ONE single stud in the lower lobe in terms of earrings is allowed.

NO badges (other than those approved by the school) may be worn.

NO nail varnish or false nails.

NO noticeable, obvious or excessive make-up (school's discretion and students will be expected to remove).

## HAIRCUTS & ACCESSORIES

No extreme haircuts. The school will use its discretion in determining this but will not accept eyebrow slits, shavings, lines, unnatural colourings, extreme partings or extreme variations in length. Any hair accessories must be conservative, anything outlandish will be challenged.

## UNIFORM ADDITIONS

A plain white round necked T-shirt may be worn underneath the shirt for warmth in cold weather.

Maroon V-neck jumper with school badge embroidered.

Outdoor coat/jacket must be plain black, grey or navy (not leather, denim or corduroy). NOT to be worn inside classrooms unless directed by the Head of School.

## PE KIT

In the Spring term there will also be a renewed focus on the Stuart Bathurst PE Kit and there will be a further letter from Mrs Wright addressing this.

I would like to echo Miss Raindi and I ask for your continued support as parents and carers to ensure that students are in the correct uniform and footwear when we begin the Spring Term.

Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.

**Mr S Holder**

# SUPPORTING PSHE AT HOME

At Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School PSHE (personal, social, health and economic) education is a school curriculum subject through which children and young people acquire knowledge and skills to stay safe, be healthy (physical and mentally) and prepared for life, and work, in the modern world. This is delivered by subject staff, which your son/daughter completes for one hour every two weeks in a timetabled lesson. This is also where your son/daughter will cover the statutory RSHE content as of September 2021.

As a parent/carer you are your child's first educator and play a vital role in their personal and social development. Therefore, PSHE and RSHE education should always be a partnership between schools and parents/carers. Please use the links below to support you to contribute to your child's PSHE education outside of school or through home learning.

If you have any questions or queries about Skills for Life, or would like any additional resources to support any PSHE based work or discussions with your child, feel free to email me on: [rshe@stuart-bathurst.org.uk](mailto:rshe@stuart-bathurst.org.uk)

Please use the links below to key resources to support you at home:

## Department of Education RSE guide for parents:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/812594/RSE\\_secondary\\_schools\\_guide\\_for\\_parents.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/812594/RSE_secondary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf)

## Mental and Physical Health

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

NHS mental health hub

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/make-it-count-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

## Online Safety

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

## Keeping Children Safe

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

## Relationships and Sex Education

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-41552666>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

## Economic Well-Being

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/corporate/young-people-and-money-toolkit-yphub>

<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/corporate/teenagers-talking-money-yphub>

## Drugs Education

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help-for-parents/parents-guide-to-support-a-z/parents-guide-to-support-drugs-and-alcohol/>

<https://www.talktofrank.com/get-help/worried-about-a-child>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/talking-about-drugs-with-your-child/>

Wishing you all the best for the Christmas holidays.

## Mr T Walsh

Assistant Headteacher

## UPCOMING TOPICS

The topics that will be covered in PSHE next half-term are as follows:

### Year 7

- What does it mean to be a British Citizen?
- How can we be aspirational students and reach our full potential?
- How can we keep good mental health and be resilient?

### Year 8

- What does it mean to be an entrepreneur?
- Managing my behaviours to achieve my targets
- How are public taxes raised and spent by government, locally and nationally?

### Year 9

- How can we keep good mental health and a positive body image?
- How can we celebrate diversity: Gender and Trans identity?
- Managing effective relationships.

### Year 10

- Stalking and harassment: what are these? How does the law protect us?
- Forced and arranged marriages: what do we need to know?
- Social media, image sharing and the law.

### Year 11

- How can we manage break-ups amicably and get over a broken heart?
- Managing my Personal Safety – keeping myself and my friends safe
- How can we celebrate diversity? Exploring our unique identities.



# ENGLISH

Hello from the English department! We have had an absolutely wonderful term in English this term.

Since September, we have seen our students rise to the challenge of a new academic year. They have given their all and well and truly immersed themselves in their English study.

Teachers of Year 7 have loved seeing our new pupils working hard on the foundations of English by embedding reciprocal reading skills and personal writing styles in their study of texts centred around the theme of 'Memoirs.'

Year 8 have thoroughly impressed their teacher with their mature and skilful approach to reading and writing about 'Conflict,' while Year 9 have been busy discussing and debating challenging topics through the lens of 'Campaigns and Disasters.'

All of our KS3 students have also loved getting stuck in to their class readers for their weekly reading lessons. Year 7 have enjoyed reading Benjamin Zephaniah's 'Refugee Boy,' Year 8 have travelled back in time to WW2 when reading Robert Westall's 'The Machine Gunners,' and Year 9 have loved discussing the themes and issues raised in the first of the 'Noughts and Crosses' series by Malorie Blackman.

Similarly, our KS4 students have engaged brilliantly in their study of both GCSE English Literature and Language. Our Y11s are busy preparing for their upcoming mock examinations after Christmas, with teachers commenting on the extremely mature attitude that they have taken to their lessons. In Years 12 and 13, the KS5 team have loved delving deep in their study of both English Literature and Media Studies.

This term, we have also loved seeing our students go above and beyond to develop their love of reading. Many of our KS3 students have engaged in Accelerated Reader and are pushing up the school's target of 'Reading to Mars' on a daily basis! Ms Sendonari and Ms Johnston have also enjoyed hosting the school's weekly book club, with students in KS3 engaging in the reading of dystopian texts for pleasure.

Next term, teachers are very much looking forward to beginning new topics with students. Year 7 students will be studying the topic of 'Myths and Legends,' where they will be reading classical tales from around the world, and writing their own myths too!

Year 8 will be developing their understanding of poetry further as they explore 'People in and out of Places' – a collection of poetry connected to ideas around identity and place.

Year 9 will be exploring the wonderful work of the bard – William Shakespeare – by studying a range of famous soliloquies from his famous histories, comedies and tragedies.

Year 10 will continue their study of English Language Paper 1, and in English Literature will be developing their analysis skills through the study of unseen poetry.

Our Y11 and A-level classes will continue to build their knowledge and skills as they progress through the texts and topics that they have been working on this term.

Overall, we are absolutely thrilled with the way that students have engaged in their English lessons. We hope that all of our students and their loved ones have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

## The Oxen Thomas Hardy

*We would like to end by sharing with you this wonderful Christmas poem by Thomas Hardy that we feel really captures the true meaning of Christmas. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do.*

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.  
"Now they are all on their knees,"  
An elder said as we sat in a flock  
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where  
They dwelt in their strawy pen,  
Nor did it occur to one of us there  
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave  
In these years! Yet, I feel,  
If someone said on Christmas Eve,  
"Come; see the oxen kneel,

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb  
Our childhood used to know,"  
I should go with him in the gloom,  
Hoping it might be so.



### OVER THE PAGE

A selection of our fantastic  
English homework submissions.

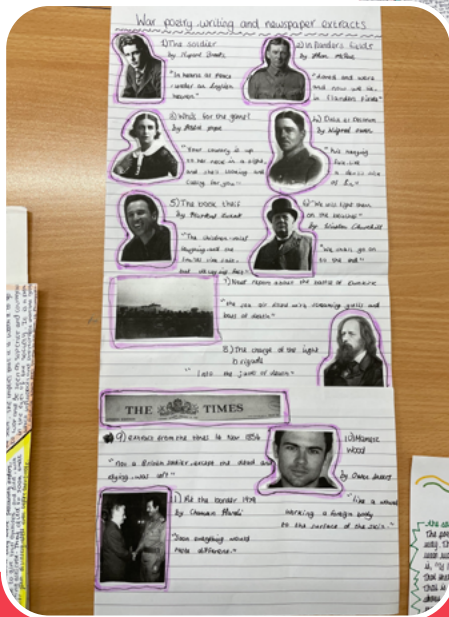
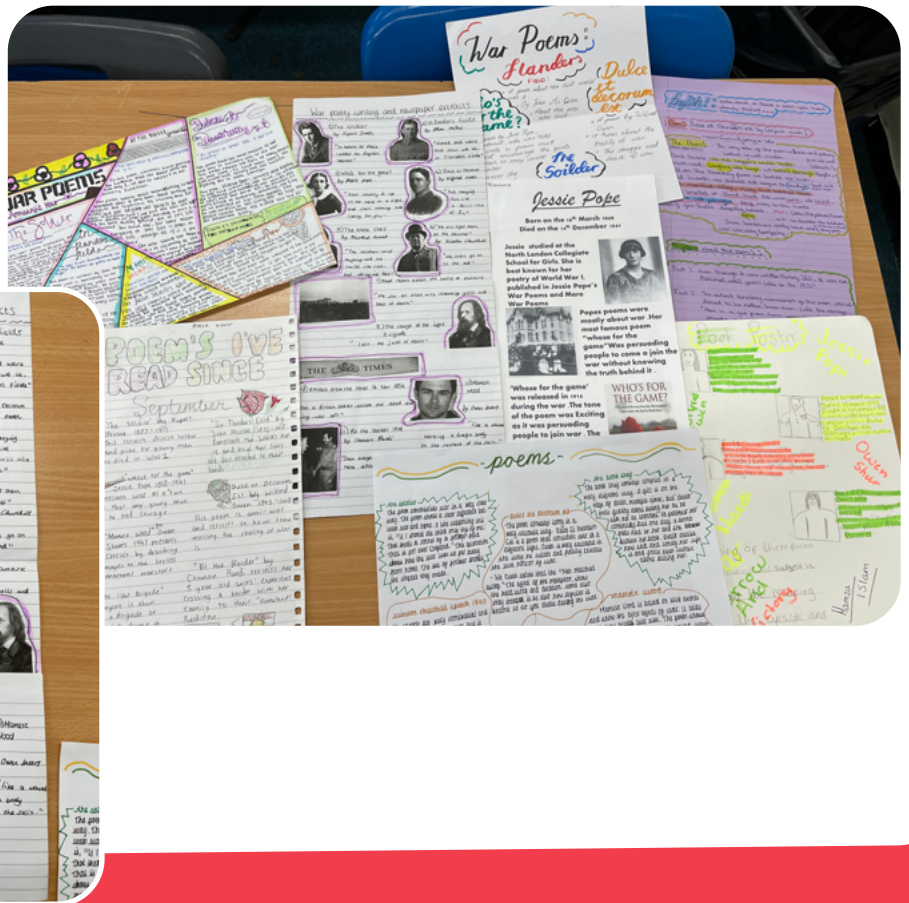
# ENGLISH

Earlier in the term, 8W1 were tasked with the homework of creating a fact file/ poem or poster to celebrate what they have been learning this year.

We have had some fantastic responses!

**Well done 8W1!**

Miss Bradnick.



# PSYCHOLOGY

Year 10: What a fantastic first term Year 10 have had studying Psychology. Students have been learning about Memory and Research Methods and have really engaged with their new subject. A special well done to Ellie Yarnall and Zain Chowdhary for their amazing effort so early in the course.

Year 11: Topics such as Social Influence and Language Thought and communication have been studied by Year 11 since September, this makes 50% of Paper 2 complete. Also, this half term revision sessions have been ongoing and a special shout out to the following students for attending all revision sessions so far: Ellie Hunter, Fatima Patel, Abdullah Raza, Zahra

Riaz and Danyaal Yasar. Also, over the course of their studies students have been provided with revision resources, which they should already be using to revise and prepare for their mocks in January.

Year 12: Well done to Year 12 Psychology students, for making the transition to their A-levels. Students have been studying topics such as Social Influence, Approaches, Memory and Psychopathology and have shown a good interest in future careers around the subject area. A reminder that independent study should be ongoing outside of the classroom and also some students are attending revision catch up sessions too which

have been prearranged with the Head of Department.

Year 13: What a term Year 13 have had so far. We are so very proud of each of you to your dedication to the subject area. Topics studied since September have been Schizophrenia and Gender and this leaves 50% of Paper 3 left. Students have been provided with the revision material they need, especially in the run up to their January mock exams.

**Mrs Taylor**

Head of Psychology

# MATHEMATICS

Students in maths have been working really hard this autumn term and we are really pleased with the progress they have made.

## GCSE Assessments

All students have now completed two GCSE exam papers since they have returned to school in September. We are really pleased to see students have made clear progress from their exams at the end of the last academic year.

All students have been given their personalised Question Level Analysis (QLA) and should use these to improve on their identified areas of weakness, using online resources as well as revision guides purchased from school. If you would like copy of the QLA emailed to yourself, please email [q.mughal@stuart-bathurst.org.uk](mailto:q.mughal@stuart-bathurst.org.uk), with the student's name, date of birth, form group and Maths class.

## Year 11 Maths GCSE Countdown

When your son or daughter comes back to school after the Christmas break, we only have another 78 maths lessons up until the first exam. This may seem like a lot, but we have had 84 lessons this academic year already. It is therefore crucial that they are making the best use of these lessons.

When students return in January, will be completing an intensive three-week revision course in preparation for their examinations in hall. These exams may will be used to help determine the final GCSE grade should exams not take place, so is imperative that students prepare for these thoroughly. A topic list will be provided in January.

In order to help with revision, we will be putting on compulsory revision sessions afterschool. It is critical that students are attending all of these.

## Homework & Sparx Maths

As you will be aware, we have restructured the way that homework is being set in Maths. Please see below the structure we are now following:

HOMEWORK	WHEN
Knowledge Organiser	First Lesson of Week
Sparx / Hegarty	Wednesday
Written Task	Last Lesson of Week

For years 7 to 9, you will have received a letter regarding Sparx. I would like to reinforce that homework is only considered as complete if 100% is achieved. If students are unsure about a question, they should watch the video or ask their class teacher before Wednesday.

On behalf on the Mathematics Department, we hope that you have a pleasant Christmas break and look forward to welcoming back our students in 2022.

## Mr Q Mughal

Head of Mathematics

## KEY DATES

Year 7 GCSE Assessment  
WB 31st January 2022

Year 8 GCSE Assessment  
WB 31st January 2022

Year 9 GCSE Assessment  
WB 17th January 2022

Year 10 GCSE Assessment  
WB 7th February 2022

Year 11 GCSE Assessments  
17.01.22 to 28.01.22  
(in the hall)

Year 13 A Level Assessments  
17.01.22 to 28.01.22  
(in the hall)



# HUMANITIES

We have had a wonderful start to the year in History and Geography, all staff in the department have been impressed by the efforts of our students across all year groups.

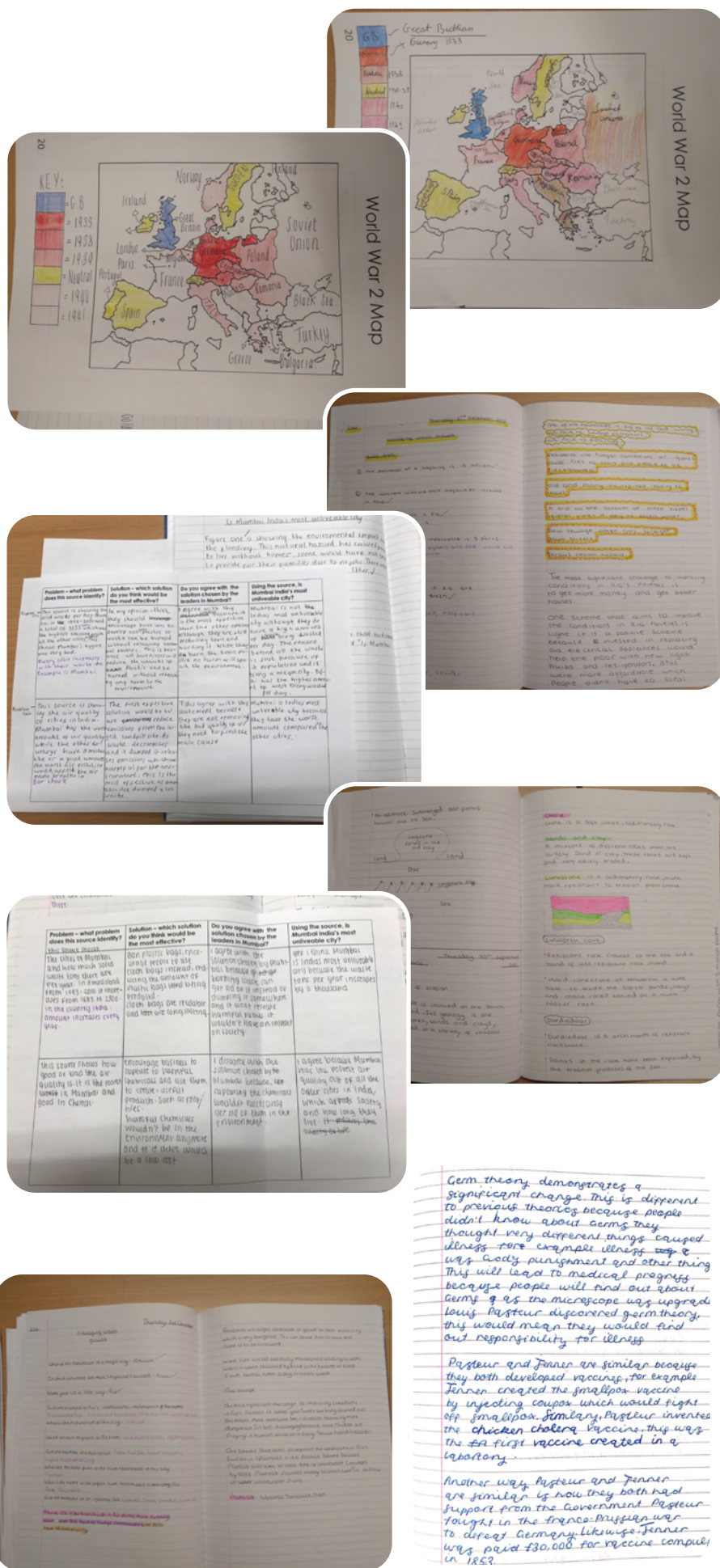
Our Y7 Geographers have travelled around the globe from their classrooms completing their 'Passport to the World'. Our Y8 Historians have deepened their knowledge of the British Empire and begun to understand what impact it has had on different people around the world. Our Y9 Historians have studied 20th Century America before focusing on the role that key freedom fighters have played in gaining rights around the globe, from Emmeline Pankhurst to Nelson Mandela and many in between! Our Y9 Geographers have taken a trip around Asia, exploring the diverse nature of different areas of the continent.

In KS4, our Y10 cohorts have made a brilliant start to their respective GCSE courses and have been making great progress through their topics so far. Our Y11 Historians have begun our final unit of the course Conflict and Tension and have been working hard to revisit the Health and the People knowledge through homework and retrieval starters. Similarly, our Y11 Geographers are studying the final section of Paper 1 (Natural Hazards) and have been working hard on their retrieval homework and practice exam questions.

The Humanities department would like to wish all of our students a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

**Mr T Walker**

Head of Humanities





# MUSIC

It has been an utter joy to be back in the music department with students enjoying making music! Hearing live music making and instrument practice around the building again is fantastic.

KS3 students have responded particularly well - not just in lessons. Our music clubs are also enthusiastically attended by many. The pictures below are all from our Monday lunchtime music technology club, which regularly sees around 20 students getting creative with our keyboards, computers and electronic drumkits.

KS3 have been enjoying starter and refresher courses in piano, ukulele and Garageband. In the new year, these skills will be central to our learning as we dive into composition and performance activities.

We have a particularly special project coming up for Year 7, but for now it's top secret. All I can say is that it involves the instruments of the orchestra, and it is very ambitious...

**Mr Pepper**  
Head of Music

## SIGN UP FOR INSTRUMENT LESSONS!

*Nothing to pay until February 2022*

Earlier in the term we contacted parents with a questionnaire about instrument tuition.

Thank you for your feedback on that. We had a great number of responses and we anticipate that private instrument tuition will be up and running very soon.

**CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP TO INSTRUMENT LESSONS!**



# DRAMA

We have had a wonderful term working on scripted performances in Drama. As the term comes to a close, each group have been assessed on practical work, a scripted performance, a written examination, and have seen a piece of live theatre.

Year 7 have been to see Beauty and the Beast, and War Horse; Year 8 have watched DNA; and Year 9 have watched the Splendid production of Macbeth.

The Drama department has been very busy both in curriculum time and our well-attended extra-curricular clubs. We have had a wonderful turnout for KS3 Drama and Dance clubs which has been wonderful to see.

We have been working hard on our performance of Taming of the Shrew, which includes students from Year 7-13 working together as an ensemble and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the cast involved for their hard work and dedication. The Performance is coming along nicely

and we are very excited to share it with as many people as possible. If you have not been to the theatre in a while please come and support the students on the night as it is a real celebration of creativity.

This week the cast has taken part in a workshop with a professional director Lane Paul Stewart, from Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival, and it was excellent to see the students growing in confidence and working with an industry professional.

In the coming term all of Key Stage 3 will be exploring the work of the influential theatre practitioner Bertolt Brecht. They will be developing their knowledge of drama strategies and exploring three of his most influential works.

Year 7 - Caucasian Chalk Circle

Year 8 - Mother Courage and her Children

Year 9 - Threepenny Opera

Our performance of Shakespeare's **Taming of the Shrew**

**7pm, Wed 19 January 2022**

**@ the MAC** (Midlands Arts Centre), Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH.

Tickets are available to purchase from the Mac Box Office. Tel: 0121 446 3232

We would love to see as many of our school community there for this very special evening.





# PE & SPORT

This half term has been extremely busy with clubs and fixtures. The department has taken pupils on at least one fixture per week this half term including football, netball, dodgeball and basketball.

At every fixture pupil's have demonstrated the true values of the school and have performed with dignity, courtesy and respect. It is the girls who have excelled in their achievements this half term. I was honored to take 9 year 10 and 11 pupils to compete in the Under 16's County Netball tournament.

The girls all arrived at George Salter on a very cold and windy Sunday morning. The team competed against Wolverhampton Girl's High, Wolverhampton Grammar, Hagley Catholic High, The Streetly Academy and had a narrow loss of 2-1 to Queen Mary's. We were the only Sandwell School to compete.

Unfortunately, we did not get through to the next round of tournaments however it was a great experience for the girls to see such a level of performance.

It is always great to hear about pupils sporting achievements outside of school. This half term I have two boxing achievements to share with you. Firstly, Muhammad Ismail in Year 8 has been crowned National Schoolboy Champion for 62kg class. Muhammad competed in Newcastle to win this very prestigious award that has rarely been won from someone in the Black Country. We would like to wish Muhammad the best of luck with his boxing career.

Raees Banaras in Year 13 has also been busy winning a trophy and has secured the title of Black Country Champion for his category. He displayed an outstanding performance and won by a knockout. Well done Raees.

It would be great to celebrate more sports achievements. Have you got a hidden sporting talent the PE department do not know about? If so please let us know.

Send us photos and information of your achievements to Rebecca. [wright@stuart-bathurst.org.uk](mailto:wright@stuart-bathurst.org.uk).

Next half term we will be changing the clubs we have on offer. We offer clubs on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime and a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday after school. Miss Adams will be sharing the new timetable with pupils in the new year.

I wish you all a holy, happy and healthy Christmas. We look forward to offering pupils a fitness unit when we return to school to inspire pupils to look after themselves especially after all those Christmas treats.

**Mrs Wright**

Head of PE & Sport



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## **Mrs Richards' KS4 Summary**

After finishing the Judaism practises unit, Year 10s were able to complete a full paper just before Christmas in order to get a feel for what the real GCSEs will be like. I was so impressed with the effort and dedication of Year 10 students in the lead up to the assessment as they prepared themselves using revision guides, knowledge organisers and past exam questions. It is this enthusiasm that will help them to achieve the best that they can in their assessments. Just before Christmas, we have started Origins and Meanings which is a new unit all about different beliefs on the origin of humanity and the world. 10E3 had a fantastic discussion and debate in their lesson today. Well done Year 10- keep up the amazing work.

I don't know where time seems to go with our Year 11s! They are working at such a great pace and I could not be prouder of the year group and their effort in RE. We have moved on from Good and Evil and we are halfway through our Life and Death unit. As an early Christmas present, all Year 11 students will receive an RE revision packs that will help them revise for their mocks in January. All students will also have a topic list and guided revision that will ensure that they are fully prepared for their exams.

## **Mrs Richards' student shoutouts:**

Y11 - Brandon Shaughnessy

Y10 - Kyann Turner

Y9 - Caitlin Terrett

## **Mrs Jordan's student shoutouts:**

Y11 - Ramih Gray

Y11 - Brad Clews

Y11 - Nusaybah Aswat

## **Mr Thompson's Y9 Summary:**

During the first half-term, Year 9 students have been tackling the question of whether an all-loving and all-powerful God would allow evil and suffering to exist in the world. This entailed looking at types of evil and their causes, how Catholics and people of different faiths explain the existence of evil and why the existence of evil leads many people to believe that there is no God.

For the second half of the term, students have been following the theme of 'social responsibility' looking at Christian responses to issues such as poverty, homelessness and racial justice based on the teachings of the Bible and the Church. the term will end with a study of Oscar Romero and his work for social justice in El Salvador.

## **Mr Thompson's student shoutouts:**

Y11 - Jai Gharu and Emily Hawkins

Y10 - Sania Bains and Kyran Kumar

Y9 - Lexie Akhtar  
and Mohammed Ahmed

Y8 - Hamzah Islam  
and Phillipa Matanga

Y7 - Success Omoryui  
and Salman Patel

## **Miss Howard-Biggs. Y8 Summary**

This half term, Year 8 have been learning about Old Testament Covenants. This unit of study has taken us on a journey of The Book of Genesis from Noah's Ark, to the very old and an initially childless Abraham and how God tested him by asking him to sacrifice his much wanted beloved son. We continued to learn how Abraham's great grandson Joseph came to be so powerful in Egypt and the Israelites were honoured by Pharaoh.

We then jumped 400 years, and in Exodus we focus on Moses and how an Israelite became an Egyptian Prince who eventually led his people out

of slavery and on a journey to their promised land.

Throughout the work on Covenants we were reminded how God was and is always with His people. After Christmas we move on to 'Community' and will be considering how God shows He is with us today by focussing on how communities by looking after each other show God is with us and works through us.

## **Mr Waites' Y7 Summary**

This term our Y7 students have been looking at belief and belonging in their school community and beyond, as well as the Old Testament. We have been incredibly impressed by the enthusiasm of our students. With their ability to describe and contribute to our amazing community being particular highlights.

Next term we will be moving onto the New Testament: the life and teachings of Jesus. We are really looking forward to seeing our pupils interpret the meanings behind these powerful stories, as well as seeing how we can apply them to our lives.

## **Mr Waites' student shoutouts:**

Y7 - Tai-Chanelle Dwyer  
and Alisha Yasar

Y8 - Cameron Moylan-Spink

Y9 - Sasha Davies

Y10 - Zayne Bounaaja, Haafizah Hussain and Tyler Fellows

**All shoutouts are for having an excellent attitude to learning, taking responsibility, and always challenging their selves.**



# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Bonjour Tout-le-monde!

It's been a busy term in the Modern Foreign Languages Department  
Here is a summary of our year so far!

September saw our European Day of Languages Poster Competition.  
Below is an example of the wonderful work we received.

During the week of the 20th September, the Department celebrated Languages Awareness Week and the world of language in lessons.  
In lessons for years 7-9, students were introduced to Latin. We were amazed and delighted at the enthusiastic response and will be including Latin in our Languages Lunch Club next term.

## Languages Lunch Club (Years 7-9):

At Stuart Bathurst we are lucky that our staff are very versatile and can offer a variety of skills!

In the second half of Autumn Term, Ms Nolan has been offering taster sessions in German for staff and students at the KS3 Languages Lunch Club.

## Christmas Card Competition

'Tis the season to be jolly!

We have had an amazing response to the Christmas Card competition!  
The standard has been very high and we want to thank all students who participated in this. Winning entries will be revealed this week.

Students are working hard on their speaking skills - and especially on their pronunciation! Well done to all students who have practised their language skills outside the class room - whether they have attended lunch club, made recordings as part of their homework or practised at break time. Great job! Keep going!

## Looking ahead to Spring 2022

In the Spring Term we will be offering taster sessions in Korean.

Details will follow at the start of the new year/new term.

Ms Nolan will also be offering conversational French to any present- or past student in years 10-12.

Finally, we want to thank our wonderful students for their enthusiasm, hard work and perseverance throughout the term.  
We wish all in the Stuart Bathurst family a happy, healthy Christmas and New Year!

Miss Allen, Mr Doyle and Ms Nolan

Spring 01 2022

Also coming up....

La Chandeleur!

Mother Tongue / Other Tongue Competition

**La Chandeleur  
le 02 février**



Learn about different languages and cultures each half term!

Starting with... **GERMAN** (Autumn 02)



Every Thursday KS3 Lunch  
12:40-1:10  
Humanities 2

**FRENCH**

**CONVERSATION CLUB**

Brush up your language skills!

Day: **Wednesday**

Time: **KS4/5 lunchtime (1:40-2:10)**

Where: **MFL 3**

All levels welcome! Drop in or stay as long as you like.

# BUSINESS & IT

## Key Stage 3 IT:

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

Well done to years 7, 8 and 9 who have completed some fantastic work in IT this term. Year 7, have had their first taste of IT at Stuart Bathurst this half-term and it has been a pleasure! Looking forward to next half-term, we have exciting new topics ahead of us:

Year Group	Topics
Year 7	Spreadsheet Modelling using Microsoft Excel
Year 8	Advanced Spreadsheet Modelling using Microsoft Excel
Year 9	Database Management using Microsoft Access

## Key Stage 4 Business and Computer Science:

GCSE Pod is your Best Friend!

WOW! This term has flown by!

The department and I would like to thank you for the way in which you have started or continued with your GCSEs within Business and IT. It may seem like a very strange and scary time in your life, but we have your back!

We have lessons, homework, revision and everything much more covered to allow you to succeed in Business and/or Computer Science.

Look forward to next half-term, there are going to be some assessments to assess your learning of particular strands, therefore, over the break please do revise and refresh your knowledge and application. Please do not worry about these assessments, just make sure you are prepared!

Remember:

GCSE Pod is your new best friend!

## 6th Form:

YOU'VE GOT THIS!

The department would like to congratulate all year 12 and 13 learners who are currently studying to sit their January 2022 exams in such stressful times. Even with the unknown of Covid upon us, they are all working so hard to ensure they achieve their deserved grades.

We would like to wish you all the very best of luck with your January exams and please work hard over the Christmas break on your last minute revision – your hard work will pay off!

Here is a reminder of our OCR Cambridge Technical Exam Dates:

Business	
Unit 1	Monday 10th January 2022 (PM)
Unit 2	Wednesday 12th January 2022 (AM)

Digital Media	
Unit 1	Tuesday 11th January 2022 (PM)
Unit 2	Friday 14th January 2022 (PM)
Unit 6	Tuesday 18th January 2022 (AM)

IT	
Unit 1	Monday 10th January 2022 (AM)
Unit 2	Wednesday 12th January 2022 (PM)

From me and the department, we would like to wish you all a VERY Merry Christmas and a happy new year! Take care and see you in January 2022!

**Miss Brookes**

Head of Business, Media and IT

## Learners of the Term

Well done if you have received a learner of the week certificate this term! Your teacher has identified you are going above and beyond, simply being amazing!

We have picked names from a hat that included all the learners of the week from this term, and our Learners of the Term are:

Year 7 IT	Success O
Year 8 IT	Reuben S
Year 9 IT	Gideon N

Year 10 Business	Jack G
Year 10 Computer Science	Talhah B
Year 11 Business	Jayden C
Year 11 Computer Science	Shriya P

Year 12 IT	Sean G
Year 12 Digital Media	Senna G
Year 12 Business	Amelia C
Year 13 IT	Sana P
Year 13 Digital Media	Sumaiya S
Year 13 Business	Raees B



**2,021** Retweets   **66** Quote Tweets   **12.4K** Likes

