

# NEWSLETTER

#54

16 December 2022



*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.  
We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory;  
like Father, like Son; generous inside and out; true from start to finish.*

John 1:14 The Message

## WELCOME

As is the case every year in the run up to Christmas, the great corporations and businesses of this world use every means possible to convince young people that Christmas time can only be a happy time of year if they receive multiple gifts under the Christmas tree. Similarly, the media purveys an identical message to teenagers through its ceaseless promotion of celebrities who are shown to be in a perpetual state of happiness as a consequence of their wealthy and privileged lifestyles.

Nonetheless, in a world where material wealth is endlessly promoted as something to aspire to, Stuart Bathurst pupils always try to put the true meaning of this wonderful time of year into action. Over the past few weeks our pupils have been taking part in a host of different charitable events. It was incredible to see the number of hampers put together through the donations of our school community and these have now been safely delivered to Father Hudsons and the Stourbridge Ukrainian Appeal.

Another key event which our whole school enjoyed was Cultural Heritage Day. So many of our pupils made the effort to come into school in their national dress and many families kindly donated food for this wonderful event which raised over £800 for UNICEF. It is, and always will be, an occasion in our school calendar which epitomises the values we stand for.

It is therefore encouraging to note that irrespective of the multi-million pound advertising campaigns, our pupils realise that happiness, love, peace, family, selflessness, kindness, almsgiving and forgiveness are the most valuable gifts a person could actually wish for. These are, after all, the values and beliefs of Jesus Christ, whose birthday we will be celebrating in a few weeks time.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of our pupils at Stuart Bathurst for a successful first term of the academic year. Our Year 7 pupils have settled down well and from talking to them, they are enjoying all of the different subjects and clubs we have on offer at the school.

Year 8 and 9 have been working hard and are making very good progress. Year 10 have risen to the challenge of GCSE and it was wonderful to see so many of our students signing up for the recent trip to the Birmingham Alexandra Theatre to watch the play An Inspector Calls.

Concurrently, Year 11 pupils have tried their best in the recent mock examinations and now have a clear focus on their targets for improvement in their final two terms of key-stage 4. Likewise, our Sixth Form students have worked hard and have impressed me greatly in their efforts to help out in all of the charity events that have taken place this academic year thus far. It's also encouraging to note that almost every Year 13 student now has offers of a university or apprenticeship place for next year.

On behalf of Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School I would like to wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas.

**Mr H Koryl**  
Head of School



# A MESSAGE FROM MR MAY

As we come to the end of a very busy first term this academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff at Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School (SBCHS) for their hard work and determination. I know the students really appreciate it as I had the pleasure of interviewing twelve students last week across all Key Stages, and they could not have been more complimentary about the support and guidance they receive here at SBCHS. Every member of staff – teaching and non-teaching – plays their part in making this such a warm and caring environment.

I could mention lots of events over the past four months that have highlighted this to me but I am worried I'll miss something, or someone out!

I will mention one recent event though, the Christmas Lunch! It was organised with military precision by our kitchen staff. The food was amazing and that was proven by the uptake from our students! It was a special day that brought everyone together for an hour and allowed students and staff to eat together.

Your charity work should also never be underestimated. It feels like a week doesn't go by without some form of community/charity support and the willingness from the students and their families to 'give something back' is very heart-warming. These activities and acts of kindness aren't the ideas of staff, it is student leadership at its very best. Let us not forget, times are hard for many families at SBCHS, but the generosity I witness day in, day out is absolutely wonderful.

This holiday season approaching is now for you and your families, may it be a break where you will be surrounded by those you love, by those that make you feel happy and by those who bring a sense of joy to this wonderful time of the year.

**Mr R May**  
Executive Principal

*we wish all our families a*  
**Happy & Holy**  
❖ ——— CHRISTMAS ——— ❖  
*from all the staff at Stuart Bathurst*



SCHOOL RE-OPENS  
FOR ALL STUDENTS  
**Wed 04 January**





# CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION

This term has been a busy one with all our students continuing to do and be of their best at every opportunity.

We are pleased to share with you that we have launched our fund raising initiatives to support our participation in the Archdiocese of Birmingham's annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, which will take place in May 2023. Many of our Year 12 students are actively leading on events to support this pilgrimage and we look forward to joining other schools across the Archdiocese in offering our services in support of the vulnerable.

Following the introduction of our Cultural Heritage Week last year, we were pleased to celebrate this important event again this year. Throughout the week we enjoyed daily presentations on different cultures, traditions and religions and this culminated in our Global Food Festival on Friday 18th November which raised

an astonishing amount – almost £1000! The highlight of the week was seeing so many of our students coming to school in clothes and colours which represented their heritage – it was truly beautiful.

The Religious Education Department led by Mrs Richards contributed to our multi-faith week with organising a conference style question and answer session with leaders from the Muslim, Jewish, Christian and Buddhist communities sharing their faith and knowledge with our community. This event was appreciated by all involved and enabled our students to continue growing in love for their fellow human beings, whilst valuing the views and beliefs of others.

The Stewardship Group led by Mr Jones are working hard to develop the Peace Garden as part of the Live Simply Award and we have enjoyed a number of harvest this term and look forward to much more!

Our Sixth Form continue to lead the way in charitable endeavours and enjoyed holding our Dress Up For Joel event supporting Smile for Joel Victim Support. This is a charity which is very important to our school community and we are grateful for the support our students, families and staff show each year for these key events.

This year, our Christmas Hamper Appeal has extended to support Gather Hudson's, and the generosity of our community has been overwhelming. In such difficult times, it is always with great joy and humility that we see so many of our community continue to give to others.

Working with the Stourbridge Community Ukrainian Response and staff raised over £300 which was used to buy much needed food and every day items which are on their way to families in Ukraine.



Food collected for Ukrainian Response



Multi-faith Week Q&A Conference



Cultural Heritage Week 2022



Lots of great costumes by staff and Sixth Formers for our 'Dress Up for Joel' day!



Cultural Heritage Week 2022



# CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION

## Advent is here!

Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. The word means 'coming' and this is the time when we remember that Jesus came into the world and we think about how we can remember the real meaning of Christmas.

We reflect on three things during Advent, when Jesus came long ago, how he is here with us in the present and we look forward to when He will come in the future. During Advent we try to be a little more like Jesus in what we do and this is why we always think of others and try to share what we have with those who may not have the same comforts we enjoy.

This year Advent began on Sunday, November 27th, and ends on Saturday, December 24.

## Symbols of Advent

The Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolising everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath.

Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red colour points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolise the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. The four candles traditionally represent hope, faith, joy, and peace. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-coloured. Sometimes all the candles are red; in other traditions, all four candles are blue or white. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Whichever tradition you might like to adopt, the symbolism of light growing in the darkness as we lead up to remembering Jesus' birth is something that all Christians celebrate.

## *An Advent Prayer*

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.  
Fill me with Your presence from the very start.  
As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,  
Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.  
The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.  
You came as a baby born in a manger.  
Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,  
Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.  
Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,  
When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.  
Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.  
And angels announced, "Into your darkness,  
God brings His Light."

"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.  
Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.

Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.  
Setting distractions and worries aside,  
to You I surrender them all.  
Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.  
Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.  
Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.  
In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.  
This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.  
Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.  
Dwell within me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.  
Keep me close to You, Lord.

**Amen.**







# CATHOLIC LIFE & MISSION

## Remembering others in prayer

During November we were blessed to celebrate the Feast of All Saints where we remember those in Heaven who can we can pray to for guidance and support. We were fortunate to be able to share this celebration across our whole school community.

November 11th saw us once again reflect on the sacrifice of those who have died in conflict around the world and we took 2 minutes at 11am to pray for peace.

Throughout November we invited students and staff to visit the chapel where a book of remembrance was placed in order to enable us to remember those whom we have lost and offer prayers for them during this most special of months.

To further develop the prayer life of the school, we have introduced a brief opportunity for prayer just before lunch where we can thank God for the gift of food that we share and to remember those who are not always as fortunate.

Our last day of this term was very special with beautiful Advent liturgies held for each year group in the theatre. These liturgies enabled us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and we felt the spirit of love and community in every moment.



## *A 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.



# TEACHING & LEARNING

Dear Parents/carers,

During SLT drop-ins to lessons over the course of the last few weeks our students have impressed us with their excellent attitude to learning. It has been wonderful to see students are fully engaged in their lessons and in particular Year 11 who are making the most of 'Hard work pays off' in the run up to their mock exams.

Last term we have been working on developing a new Teaching and Learning policy to help students 'Know more, Do more and Remember more'. Our vision is for all of our students, regardless of background and circumstance, to make outstanding progress and achieve grades which will open the door to the future of their choice.

We want our students to be curious and develop a thirst for knowledge; we want them to be resilient and to value effort; we want them to understand that sometimes failure is an essential part of the learning process and to recognise that developing a positive, 'can do' attitude will help them to set and achieve aspirational goals. The classroom is at the heart of everything we do in Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School.

**Mrs May**

Senior Assistant Principal  
Pedagogy and Staff Development

## LITERACY

At Stuart Bathurst we are committed to developing Literacy skills in all of our students, in the belief that this will support their learning and raise standards in all areas of the curriculum, enabling them to cope confidently with the demands of further education, employment and adult life.

Teachers will be working on strategies to help students become more confident and fluent readers alongside looking at ways of developing oracy in each subject area. I am looking forward to showcasing the fantastic work of our students over the course of the year.

## How to help develop reading and vocabulary

**PiXL**  
partners in excellence

### Information for parents and carers

## Did you know?

Research shows that reading for pleasure has the most impact on the frequency at which young people read, their educational achievement and their personal development.



Renaissance Learning's report for 2018 showed that in primary school, children are generally reading books that are of a level exceeding their age and ability. Unfortunately, this changes at secondary school; children in Year 7 generally read books which are levelled at a year below their age and this gap either plateaus or continues to widen throughout the remainder of their time at secondary school.

Research has shown that as they grow older, children find reading less enjoyable and they also read less frequently. We also know from research that, in general, boys enjoy reading less than girls.

## What can you do?

### 3 things to do if your child is at Key Stage 3:

Encourage your child to find texts they enjoy; choice and interest in reading is key. Spend some time at the library or a local book store and ask someone who works there to give suggestions based on your child's interests, films or books they've enjoyed or any new and popular books other children have enjoyed. Some research has shown that children who have books of their own enjoy reading more, but it is often worth ensuring that they're confident they'll enjoy the authors/texts they are choosing before investing!

Encourage your child to read for 15-30 minutes every day. This doesn't have to be novels - it could be short stories or even non-fiction. If your child is willing, sit with them and read together so that you can discuss and tease out some of the issues that crop up.

If your child has shown an interest in a recent issue in the news, or a particular topic at school, look into non-fiction articles or books related to it and help them see how they can follow their own interests and develop their knowledge of different areas they find engaging.

### 3 things to do if your child is at Key Stage 4:

By this age, young people can sometimes be harder to inspire in areas like reading. It can sometimes be worth

having a discussion about what your child dislikes, or finds difficult, about reading; be open-minded about their views and try to discuss ways around these together. It's fine to have dislikes, but what might they enjoy reading? Where could they make a start?

Encourage your child to find texts they enjoy; choice and interest in reading is key. This doesn't have to be fiction, it could be non-fiction extracts or whole texts too. You may find text ideas together, from your child's own selection or seek advice from their teachers at school. Due to the nature of GCSE English Language, you may find that your child's school library or English department have banks of fiction and non-fiction extracts for them to explore. This can help them, and you, to get a feel for what may interest them before widening your search to whole texts.

Consider, with your child, what subjects or topics they are particularly enjoying and seek out fiction and/or non-fiction linked to those. For example, some young people who like science enjoy biographies of well-known scientists from across the ages, those interested in history have a whole wealth of fiction and non-fiction available to them in their chosen areas of interest and those who enjoy maths may find books about topics like Alan Turing's Enigma machine of interest.

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better future - brighter hope



# HOME LEARNING

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Educational Endowment Fund Toolkit shows that the impact of home learning is consistently positive, leading to an average of five months additional progress across an academic career. We believe that home learning should be considered an integral part of learning and progress. We believe that home learning should not be measured by its duration of time to complete but by the quality of provision provided. It should be relevant and set for a purpose.

By committing the skills and knowledge required to long term memory it frees up working memory so that processing information is easier when solving problems. Home learning at SBCHS is therefore designed to practise and learn the content and skills required and gain deep knowledge within every subject. This style of homework also promotes and builds independent study skills needed for study beyond school. Subject teachers will set home learning tasks that are designed to embed skills and knowledge.

## HOMEWORK DETENTION PROCESS

If a student fails to hand in a piece of homework, the student is given an additional 24 hours to complete the homework. 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.

## WHAT HOME LEARNING WILL LOOK LIKE

Research suggests that pupils learn more when they are allowed to practise fewer concepts. Therefore home learning tasks should be set in small chunks in terms of content or focused on particular skills in order to be properly understood by pupils.

**Home learning at Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School will consist of elements of Retrieval, Application and Preparation (RAP)**

RAP	EXAMPLE TASKS
<b>Retrieve, Review and Revise</b> (to include interleaving and spaced practice using a varied diet of strategies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low- stake quizzes on key terms</li> <li>• Learning key vocabulary</li> <li>• Chunking</li> <li>• Mind-maps</li> <li>• Use of knowledge organisers</li> <li>• Look, cover, write, check</li> <li>• Cornell notes</li> <li>• Flash cards</li> </ul>
<b>Application</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliberate practice</li> <li>• DIRT tasks</li> <li>• Exam questions</li> <li>• Comprehension tasks</li> </ul>
<b>Preparation for the next lesson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Rehearsal</li> <li>• Preparing an oral presentation</li> </ul>

## HOME LEARNING WEEKLY EXPECTATIONS

### YEAR 7 & 8

One piece of home learning for each subject lasting a maximum of 20 minutes.

### YEAR 10 & 11

Students will receive one piece of home learning per subject. The time allocated will depend on the nature of key stage 4 course.

### YEAR 9

For English, mathematics and RE, two pieces of home learning for each subject lasting them a maximum of 20 minutes.

### YEAR 12 & 13

Students are expected to complete up to 5 hours of independent work per week, guided by teachers. Students will also be directed to wider reading in their subjects.

**Students are expected to write details of their home learning in their planners. Subject teachers will also write details of the work to be completed on**



# LEARNING REVIEW WEEKS

## LEARNING REVIEW WEEK 2 IS ON ITS WAY!



As part of a planned and progressive curriculum students will be regularly assessed by teachers using a variety of different strategies. One of these is our learning review weeks. Please find below the schedule of learning review weeks in the academic year 2022/23.

In the lead up to learning review weeks students will receive information regarding the nature of the assessments they will be sitting, topics they will need to revise as well as timetable for these assessments and strategies to support their revision.

Following the learning review weeks teachers will use the assessment information to identify future steps for learning and any students they feel would benefit from additional support.

Please be aware that due to the nature of some subjects' additional assessments may take place during the year, alongside external public examinations will be notified separately.

## The dates you need to know!

YEAR	LRW 1	LRW 2	LRW 3	Parents' Evenings
<b>7</b>	COMPLETE	<b>16-20 Jan 2023</b>	05-09 Jun 2023	<b>22 Jun 2023, 4-6pm</b>
<b>8</b>	COMPLETE	<b>23-27 Jan 2023</b>	12-16 Jun 2023	<b>29 Jun 2023, 4-6pm</b>
<b>9</b>	COMPLETE	<b>27 Feb-03 Mar 2023</b>	19-23 Jun 2023	<b>16 Mar 2023, 4-6pm</b>
<b>10</b>	COMPLETE	<b>20-24 Mar 2023</b>	26 Jun-07 Jul 2023 <i>End-of-Year Assessments</i>	<b>27 Apr 2023, 4-6pm</b>
<b>11</b>	COMPLETE	<b>06-17 Mar 2023</b> <i>Mock Assessments</i>	EXTERNAL ASSESSMENTS	<b>15 Dec 2022, 4-6pm</b>
<b>12</b>	COMPLETE	<b>20-24 Mar 2023</b>	26 Jun-07 Jul 2023 <i>End-of-Year Assessments</i>	<b>20 Apr 2023, 4-6pm</b>
<b>13</b>	COMPLETE	<b>06-17 Mar 2023</b> <i>Mock Assessments</i>	EXTERNAL ASSESSMENTS	<b>05 Jan 2022, 4-6pm</b>





# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## *Department Update*

### YEAR 7

This half-term Y7 have been learning and studying about the importance of the Old Testament. Students have looked at the key events of the Old Testament such as the Creation account of Genesis and the importance of the Covenants with Noah. Through this unit, students have also analysed various ways that Christians interpret the Bible, and how this may influence different religious believers in their lives. Next half-term, students will be moving on to looking at the New Testament and the life of Jesus. Throughout this unit, students will delve into the life, actions and significance of Jesus' moral teachings in the world today.

### YEAR 8

Year 8 have been learning about the Covenants God made with Noah, Abraham and Moses. We have been reading extracts from the bible, interpreting artwork and considering why God chose these people to make his promises with.

Next half term we will be looking at vocations. We will be learning about the different roles God can call us to do and studying about the calling some Saints received and the difference they made to the world.

### YEAR 9

This half term, Year 9 students have been learning about Social Responsibility. This unit is based on the principles on which Catholic Social Teaching is based, the teaching of the Church on our duties and responsibilities towards others. We began with looking at some of the teachings of Jesus, including the Golden Rule and what it means to love one's neighbour. We then looked at the concept of Imago Dei, the idea that all humans are made in the image of God and as such deserve to be treated with love and dignity. Finally we have applied these teachings and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching to the work of charities such as CAFOD and case studies relating to poverty, racism and homelessness.

Next half-term, year 9 will be studying the Authority of the Church. This unit focuses on the role of the Pope and bishops in communicating Catholic teachings and morals. The unit will also examine the development of different Christian denominations and how this has led to differences of attitude towards religious and moral authority within Christianity, including attitudes towards the authority of the Bible.

### YEAR 10

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. 10E1 had a fantastic discussion and debate in their lesson today. Well done Year 10- keep up the amazing work.

### YEAR 11

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 after their mocks. We have moved on from Life and Death and we are starting our Sin and Forgiveness unit. As an early Christmas present, all Year 11 students received an RE revision pack that will help them revise. All students will also have a topic list and guided revision that will ensure that they are fully prepared for their exams.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Shout Outs!

### Shout-Outs from Mr Waites:

**Y7:** Zain G - taking full responsibility for his learning and always fully engaging with verbal and written activities.

**Y8:** Miah B and Carolina V-C - always giving 100% effort and being supportive students willing to help their peers.

**Y9:** Alisha Q and Liam T - consistently producing classwork of excellent quality and engaging with stretch and challenge activities regularly.

**Y10:** Sanaa K and Danielle F - always fully engaged in lesson, producing high-quality homework regularly and offering sincere and helpful insights and knowledge with the rest of the class.

**Y11:** Abdullah I and Hassan F - both students have worked very hard over the last term in preparation for their mock exams, and both have made significant progress as a result of this.

**Y12:** Daniel N, Daisy-Mai McC and Haleema B - these three students have worked incredibly hard to transition into KS5 philosophy, and have proven that they are reflective and responsible students who promptly and diligently react to feedback.

### Shout-Outs from Miss Seery:

**Y7:** Amrit N, Claire M, Ramanpreet, Simran K, Kobi C, Subhan B and Blue-Rain E.

**Y8:** Melissa B, Amelia S, Hayley B, Ethan G and Ubayd R.

**Y9:** Amara A, Rozeena M, Izzy W, Brooke J, Sam B and Jahmari W.

### Shout-Outs from Mr Thompson:

**Y7:** Khalil B, Leah C, Renee M, Ollie-Jai H

**Y8:** Anaya E, Reegan C, Aaminah B, Lucas B, Simon R, Lewis M, Aimee F, Jacie P

**Y9:** Alyssia S, Charlie E, Zaynab S, Jesse O

**Y10:** Haamidah A, Rayhaan P, Alecks K, Raveen K

**Y11:** Gage M, Olivia M, Kaci-Leigh B, Kyran K, Hussain Y, Emmanuela S, Isaac H, Kyle W, Cody B

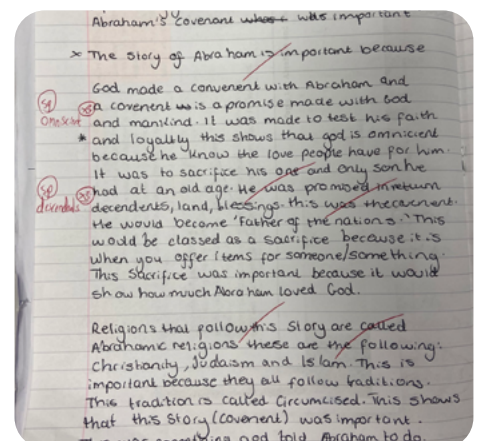
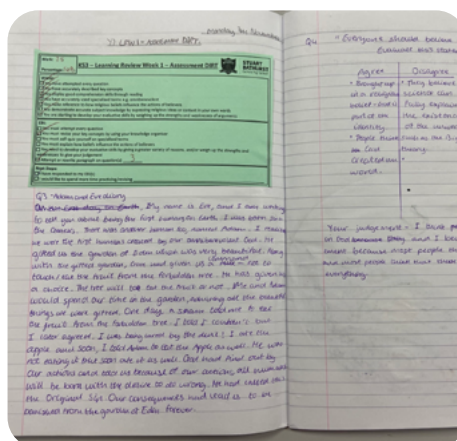
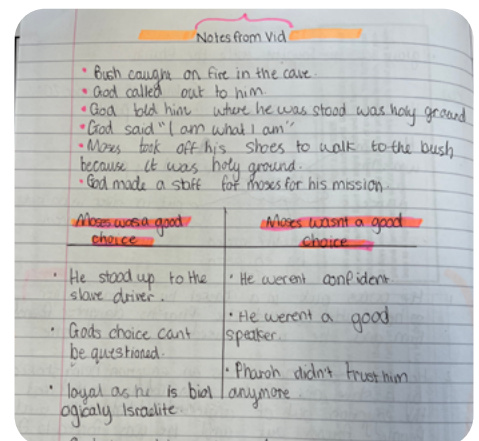
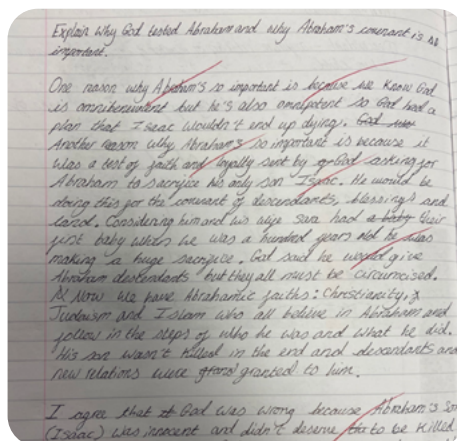
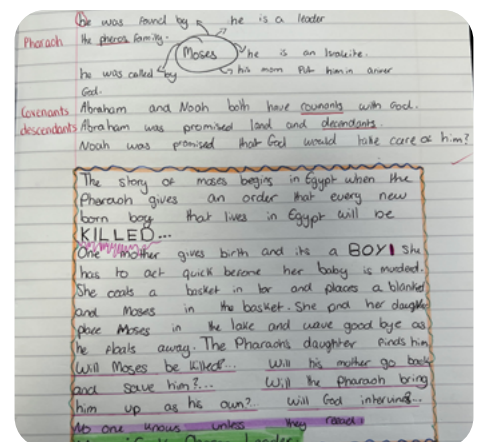
### Shout-Outs from Mrs Richards:

**Y9:** Faizah I - contribution to debates in lessons. Jacob C for bringing positivity to the classroom.

**Y10:** Fiza A - always first to answer a question and share her opinion in lesson. Sam Seymour - improvement in engagement in lessons. Shervin D'S for settling in and engaging well with lessons. Hannah M for her written work and answers in class.

**Y11:** Ellie Y - improved effort in religious education. Ethan G - excellent written answers in his mock paper. Ella L-W - fantastic effort in lessons and always willing to answer questions. Sean F - good written answers in lesson.

**Y12:** Destini D-M - always works hard in every lesson and contributes to class discussions. Danyal Y - always works hard in lesson.





# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## *Department Update*

This term in French, Year 7 have been learning to describe themselves and to talk about their sporting interests. Students in Year 8 have been discussing their free time activities, virtual and actual.

Year 9s have been finding out how to interact socially in French and have also been evaluating how healthy their lifestyles are. Students have enjoyed working on the Literacy Quick Start at the start of lessons and we are beginning to see an improvement in their ability to deal with quite complicated question forms in French. Well done all!

Year 10, have made an excellent start to their GCSE French course and Year 11 are to be commended on their efforts this term, particularly during Assessment Week 1. It was wonderful to hear how enthusiastically and proficiently so many students communicated in their mock Speaking Exam in particular.

### *Shout Outs!*

At the end of each term, as always, we celebrate the achievements of our students over the time we have spent together. We've had enormous fun teaching you all French this term, and that really is down to you and to your hard work, your achievements and also your good humour and generosity of spirit.

Praise postcards are on their way to many of you in recognition of your efforts this term. Some of you received subject awards at Awards Ceremonies and we congratulate Renee, Malachi, Kamran, Priscilla, Talha, Sara, Daniel, Elyssa, Zaine and Layla.

We would gladly have nominated many more of you, if that had been possible!

Team Français:  
Mr. Doyle and Miss Garcia

### *Top Tip*

When you are retrieving French vocabulary, teach someone else.

Talk to someone at home and try to teach them the words you are trying to remember.







# PE AND SPORT

## *Department Update*

Another busy term within PE!

In core PE, students have been developing their skills in a range of activities such as dodgeball, table tennis, HRF and netball. Alongside this, Year 9 students have started the Sports Leadership qualification which is extremely exciting for them.

In concept curriculum, Year 7 have been developing their movement competence through gymnastics; Year 8 have been developing their communication skills; and Year 9 have been developing their knowledge and understanding of sporting values - all through a variety of different sporting activities.

Year 10 students have been developing their leadership skills where they have been delivering fantastic lessons as part of their OCR Cambridge National Sports Studies qualification.

### *Extra-curricular Activities*

#### **KS3 Girls Dodgeball tournament**

The Year 7 and 8 girls battled hard in the KS3 girls dodgeball tournament held at Wodensborough Academy, where 5 schools from the North Sandwell area were represented. The girls came 4<sup>th</sup> winning 2 out of their 4 games but missed out on 2<sup>nd</sup> due to the amount of players left in at the end of the game.

#### **KS3 Boys Dodgeball tournament**

The Year 7 and 8 boys represented the school at the KS3 boys dodgeball tournament held at Wodensborough Academy, where 6 schools were present from the North Sandwell area. The boys found their first couple of games tough but gradually grew in confidence going on to win 2 out of their 5 games.

#### **U14 and U16 Netball League**

Throughout this half term, U14 and U16 netballers have taken part in a number of fixtures against local schools in Sandwell. For both teams, each week every single player has worked hard and shown determination when games have been tough. Huge congratulations to all students and those who have been awarded player of the match from their opposition.

Miss Adams has again been blown away with the number of students taking part in netball this year and really looks forward to this continuing next year.





# PERFORMING ARTS

## *Department Update*

It has been a very busy first term in Music and Drama. We have enjoyed being part of the busy run up to Christmas!

We were delighted to get instrument lessons going, and the department is often full of the sound of the many students who are taking advantage of the wonderful peripatetic tuition.

In Drama, we have been studying scripted performances with Year 9, exploring 'Noughts and Crosses' by Dominic Webb. Year 8 were exploring 'DNA'; and with Year 7 - 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child'. All pupils have been exploring the skills needed to perform these plays, with each pupil taking on a role and being assessed in their performance. It is an honour to teach such talented students and I have found many of their performances inspiring and very moving.

In the term ahead we will be continuing to look at the theatre practitioner, Brecht and the students will be studying three of his texts in the coming half term. This work enables students to explore how Drama can be used to change society.

In Music, Year 7 have been discovering the fundamental building blocks of sound - the elements of Music. They have also been getting to grips with the dexterity needed to master the keyboard!

Year 8 have begun to explore sequencing and the role of technology in recording musical ideas. Some of their electronic composition work has been outstanding.

Year 9 have taken their sequencing work to the next level with a remixing project. They have created their own tracks using samples and stems from contemporary tracks by Dua Lipa, Stormzy and even the soundtrack to Stranger Things.

### *Shout Outs!*

At Awards Evening, Year 10 Drama students shared their devising work in the style of local theatre practitioners, "Stan's Cafe". Grace, Rayden and Daisy delivered an important message from Malalah Yusufzai about taking full opportunity of our right to education.

We were also blessed by an incredible musical performance of "Oh Holy Night" by Michaela in Year 9, who raised the roof on the sports hall! Her rendition was accompanied by Daisy who shared an incredible contemporary dance.

On Thursday 15 December, 14 students from Years 7-11 sang like angels at St Mary's Catholic Church where we supported and shared in a joint carol service with St Mary's Primary, one of our feeder primaries from the MAC. Special shout out to Olivia, Grace, Michaela and Renee who sang solos, and Daisy who danced a beautiful contemporary dance. The choir would not have been a success without the hard work and beautiful voices of Danielle, Summer, McKenzie, Ebony,





# PASTORAL NEWS

## *Year 11 round-up*

Firstly, on behalf of the Year 11 team we would like to congratulate all Year 11 students on successfully completing their first round of mock examinations.

The examination process showed that our students are hard working and determined to do and be of their best. It has been fantastic to see so many Year 11 students attending 'Hard Work Pays Off' sessions both before and after school, again demonstrating their desire to achieve their very best. We would just like to remind you that these sessions will continue running again in January and up until their GCSE examinations in the Summer. Student attendance to these sessions is compulsory.

During the last week of half term interviews were conducted for the Student Leadership Team. We were simply blown away by the amount of applications received and how professional students were during the interview process.

We are delighted to announce the Student Leadership Team for this year. Congratulations to you all!

### Student Leadership Team

Head Boy – Harrison McC

Head Girl – Hanya Y

Deputy Head Boy - Jermaine M-N

Deputy Head Girl – Sumayyah A

### Prefects

Faith K

Mcaulay P

Safiyyah B

Sumaiyah S

Wiktorija S

Damian N

Holly T

Gursimran B

Krishna P

Jaskirt K

Eeshan J

Sania B

Fayaaz P

Jonathon S

### Student Leadership Ambassadors

Farhaan M

Samuel R

Adam K

Olivia J

Eunice N

Savanna B

Zara A

Olivia McG

### Prom Committee

Thea D

Layla Y

Rienna B

Ella L-W

Kaci-Leigh B

Emmanuela S

Isaac H

Imani M

### *Prom Update*

We are delighted to announce that the Year 11 Prom will be held at the Village Hotel on the 14th July. This will be a fantastic evening where we have the opportunity to celebrate our students' achievements over the past 5 years. More information will follow.

As we start a new term can we please remind you that our standards remain high. Year 11 set the standard for every other year group across the school and they are role models for younger students. Uniform should always follow the policy that has been set out by the school.

As always, thank you for all of your continued support. If you have any concerns, issues, or general enquiries, please contact us

[e.adams@stuart-bathurst.org.uk](mailto:e.adams@stuart-bathurst.org.uk)

[julie.meacham@stuart-bathurst.org.uk](mailto:julie.meacham@stuart-bathurst.org.uk)





# CAREERS

## Winter 2022

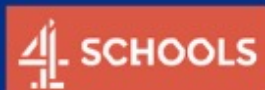
### Goodbye 2022 Hello 2023

**What a start to a term we have had, We have continued to deliver our promise to our students to give them an outstanding programme of careers and employer led activities from Careers Talks to Employer led projects to Career Conventions and University trips.**

### What's been happening this term...



**Employers from across the country have been involved in Talks inspiring our students to look at Jobs in the future, in media and to support with revision skills. In October we had our annual Careers Convention with over 20 delegates from Universities, Training providers, Apprenticeship providers and the Armed forces**





# CAREERS

## Winter 2022

### Whats been happening this term ...

UCAS is almost over for another year with already a high number of offers for our high achieving sixth formers coming through each day, With January 25th at 6pm being the deadline we know our students are going to be moving on to some brilliant opportunities in the future



One to one careers interviews are now well underway with year 11's with our very own connexions advisor Emma Dixon-Reid you can contact Emma by dropping her an email [emma\\_dixonreid@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:emma_dixonreid@sandwell.gov.uk)



# CAREERS

## Winter 2022

### Coming up next term...



#### National Apprenticeship week 2023

**National Apprenticeship Week 2021 aims to shine a light on the amazing work being done by employers and apprentices across the country. The annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships will shine a light on the amazing work being done by employers and apprentices across the country. The Week will also recognise how employers of all sizes have stepped up to the challenge during this unprecedented time. We have lots of exciting plans for the week to help our students understand more about Apprenticeships and the opportunities available to them. If you would like to get a head start learning about Apprenticeships check out the top 100 employers who offer Apprenticeships here -**

**<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/top-employers>**



All students year 8 and above will have the opportunity to create their Unifrog account and have completed their interest and personality quizzes in preparation for supporting their GCSE pathway choices



#### National Careers Week 2023

**6th - 11th March**

**Our theme this year is Careers within the curriculum helping students to make the connections between their subject and future careers...**





# CAREERS

## Winter 2022

### Coming up next term...



In March we are very excited to be linking with our "Very" local Ikea superstore where year 7's will be learning all about the local labour market and our Art students will be taking part in their design a project day.



#### Aspire to HE

**In February we will be taking a group of year 10s and 11s to Wolverhampton university to take part in a Campus Experience Day**



**Speakers trust will be joining us in March to work with year 10 students in delivering a fantastic session on Public Speaking confidence boosting and resilience.**

For more information on anything careers related please contact Ms Wilkins  
e. [swilkins@sjbca.co.uk](mailto:swilkins@sjbca.co.uk)

If you are an employer and would like to link with the school in any of our careers projects please get in touch, we are always keen to hear from anyone willing to support.



# CAREERS

## Winter 2022

### Coming up next term...



In April our year 10's are due to go out on Work Experience placements. Below are 10 benefits to work experience. Placements letters are due back the end of January

- An understanding of the work environment and what employers expect of their workers
- An opportunity to explore possible career options
- Increased self-understanding, maturity, independence and self-confidence
- Increased motivation to continue study and/or undertake further training
- A better understanding of how the school curriculum can help prepare young people for work
- An introduction to workplace recruitment practices
- Enhanced opportunities for part-time and casual employment
- The opportunity to include the employer's work experience evaluation in future job and course applications
- Opportunities to develop work-related competencies and acquire skills
- The chance to 'try out' a workplace.

For more information on anything careers related please contact Ms Wilkins  
e. [swilkins@sjbca.co.uk](mailto:swilkins@sjbca.co.uk)

If you are an employer and would like to link with the school in any of our careers projects please get in touch, we are always keen to hear from anyone willing to support.

# ATTENDANCE

Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning and can seriously disadvantage your child in adult life.

## Did you know?

**97% & ABOVE** = excellent attendance at school

**73%** of students with attendance of 95% or higher achieve at least 5 GCSEs grade 5 or above.

**ONLY 35%** of students with attendance of between 80-90% manage to achieve 5 GCSEs grade 5 or above.

**We understand there can be health problems, but don't believe that the 'odd day off can't harm'. Research carried out on the effects of broken weeks and achievement is astounding.**

- Try to judge how 'severe' the student's illness is. Do they really need to stay at home?
- How many students are better by lunchtime? Send them back to school!

- Non-urgent GP, Dental appointments and check-ups should be made outside school time (after 15.20).
- If an appointment must be made in school time absence will only be authorised for a reasonable margin of time. Not half a day to go to local GP/ Dentist. We understand Orthodontic treatments and Hospital appointments may take longer.

**Attendance during one school year...**



**Equals this number of days absent...**



**Which is roughly this many weeks absent...**



**Which means this number of lessons missed...**

90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

If you are experiencing difficulties getting your child into school, **talk to us**. There are many people who can help and advise.

**Student Welfare Officers | Year Leaders | SLT link to your child's Year Group**

