



STUART BATHURST
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023



Immanuel, God is with us

WELCOME

MR KORYL

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an exciting term at Stuart Bathurst High School and it has literally flown by. With 2024 just around the corner it is true to say that the whole community is looking forward to the Christmas holidays. We are currently in the period of Advent which in the liturgical calendar is a time of joy and hope for all Catholics as Christians prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ. Since September there have been so many events that have taken place which as a school we know have brought joy, happiness and hope to many of our brothers and sisters both locally, nationally and internationally. For the past 15 weeks our pupils have been fantastic in finding the time to organise and run a host of different charity events. We have raised funds for many good causes included Macmillan Cancer Support, Smile for Joel and the Cafod Israeli-Palestinian Appeal. Many of our families have also contributed to the Christmas hamper appeal. On behalf of the school I would like to thank you all for your help in supporting the charity work of the school.

Please note that there are number of additional charity events happening in school during the last week of term. On Wednesday 20th December, pupils can wear something 'Elf Like' in addition to their usual school uniform for a donation. On Friday 22nd December, the last day of term, pupils will be allowed to come into school in non uniform; and this will take the form of a Christmas jumper day. Joe and Daisy (Year 11 Head Students) and the Year 11

Prefect team have also organised a wonderful winter fayre

which will take place in the gym at lunchtime on this day. Please support this event and all the money raised will go to charity.

We pride ourselves on the fact that Stuart Bathurst is an extended family. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the hard work of the Year 11 and Year 13 Student Leadership teams as well as the chaplaincy team. They have worked tirelessly to help the school with many initiatives. Additionally, I want to mention and praise the efforts of our Sixth Form students who have given generously of their time to partake in the Gabriel Stewardship Programme. This is a new initiative in school which involves our oldest students helping key stage 3 pupils for an hour a week in class, in many different subject areas. This programme is the epitome of what we stand for at Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School; our senior students using their own wisdom and God given talents to help nurture the skills and talents on pupils in year 7, 8 and 9.

Year 11 and Year 13 have had a busy few weeks of mock exams, helping them to prepare for 'the real thing' and we have been delighted with their maturity and motivation to do well. As you know, Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School achieved commendable results at both key-stage 4 and 5 at the end of the 2022-23 academic year. We look forward to celebrating some excellent



mock results with Year 11 and Year 13 over the coming weeks.

There are lots of interesting articles within the newsletter including news from our departments, Sixth Form news, information on our school's literacy and numeracy initiative as well as very important information on the school's new Arbor App. This is an app you can download onto your phone and it will keep you up to date with your child's timetable, behaviour points, attendance statistics as well as a text message portal. Please take the time to read this article and sign up for the Arbor App.

Also in the newsletter you will find a document illustrating the school's new Cultural Capital offer which summarises the wonderful opportunities each pupil will have throughout their journey at Stuart Bathurst. The idea behind the Cultural Capital offer is that each pupil has the opportunity to experience a host of different cultural experiences. For example over eighty Year 9 pupils went on the Cosford trip on Friday 15th December, which was organised by Mr Jones and humanities team.

Similar events are also planned for other year groups. You will also see that the school runs many different lunchtime and after school clubs which pupils are encouraged to attend. In return, we expect pupils to aspire to always 'To do and be of their best'. This requires every pupil to ensure that they always wear the correct uniform and bring the right equipment to school. It is also their responsibility to have outstanding behaviour, attendance and punctuality records. If you have any questions about the Cultural Capital offer please feel free to contact your child's Head of Year.

School term ends on Friday 22nd December. We have a whole school liturgy and Christmas activities planned for the children on that day. Pupils will leave school at the usual time of 3.20pm. Pupils return to school on Tuesday 9th January. I wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

Mr Henryk Koryl
Head of School.

*The people who walk in
darkness will see a great
light. For those who live in
a land of deep darkness, a
light will shine.*





We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday



Need help using Arbor

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



At Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School, we expect you to:



Maintain 96% punctuality and attendance



Earn 500+ positive behaviour points each term



Promptly arrive to every lesson



Wear the correct and full school uniform



Bring the correct equipment to every lesson



Show great respect for yourselves and others

Our Values: Compassion, Honesty, Respect, Inspiration, Service, Tolerance.

Year SEVEN

We will provide opportunities for you to:

Mix with the stars on a **theatre trip**

Take part in a **wide variety of sports**

Compete in **chess club**

Solve mysteries with the **Cipher Challenge**

Take a break in **reading club**

Explore new worlds in **creative writing club**

Build and grow with **Lego**

Express yourself in **performing arts**

Reflect on life with **Kenelm Youth Trust**

Unleash your wild side with the **animal man**

Celebrate success with a **cinema trip and bowling**

Go for gold on **sports day**

Develop communication skills as **school leaders**

Strive for justice in **Politics Club**

Year EIGHT

We will provide opportunities for you to:

Mix with the stars on a **theatre trip**

Explore Shakespeare's world with an **RSC trip**

Take part in a **wide variety of sports**

Compete in **chess club**

Solve mysteries with the **Cipher Challenge**

Take a break in **reading club**

Explore new worlds in **creative writing club**

Build and grow with **Lego**

Express yourself in **performing arts**

Reflect on life with **Kenelm Youth Trust**

Unleash your wild side with the **animal man**

Celebrate success with a **cinema trip and bowling**

Go for gold on **sports day**

Develop communication skills as **school leaders**

Strive for justice in **Politics Club**

Year NINE

We will provide opportunities for you to:

Mix with the stars on a **theatre trip**

Explore **Bletchley Park**

Explore family ties with a **Blood Brothers trip**

Prepare for lift off on an **RAF Cosford trip**

Take part in a **wide variety of sports**

Compete in **chess club**

Solve mysteries with the **Cipher Challenge**

Take a break in **reading club**

Explore new worlds in **creative writing club**

Build and grow with **Lego**

Express yourself in **performing arts**

Look to the future with an **armed forces careers visit**

Celebrate success with a **cinema trip and bowling**

Go for gold on **sports day**

Develop as **school leaders**

Strive for justice in **Politics Club**

Year TEN

We will provide opportunities for you to:

Mix with the stars on a **theatre trip**

Compete on a **maths picnic**

Discover a new world at **Walsall Art Gallery**

Discover British medical history at the **Worcester Medical Museum**

Take part in a **wide variety of sports**

Compete in **chess club**

Solve mysteries with the **Cipher Challenge**

Take a break in **reading club**

Explore new worlds in **creative writing club**

Build and grow with **Lego**

Express yourself in **performing arts**

Look to the future with an **armed forces careers visit**

Celebrate success with a **cinema trip and bowling**

Go for gold on **sports day**

Develop as **school leaders**

Strive for justice in **Politics Club**

Year ELEVEN

We will provide opportunities for you to:

Take part in a **wide variety of sports**

Compete in **chess club**

Explore **careers in industry**

Be challenged by **Push Education Theatre**

Maintain your balance while **ice skating and Christmas shopping**

Reach new heights with the **Duke of Edinburgh scheme**

Learn from others during a **Virtual Insight Evening (Young Professionals)**

Make big decisions as part of the **Prom Committee**

Develop responsibility as **Prefects and team**

Strengthen your roots by taking a **GCSE in your home language**

Post SIXTEEN

We will provide opportunities for you to:

Learn from a **maths university lecture**

Explore creation with a **Jodrell Bank trip**

Conduct fieldwork at **Bishops Wood**

Experience the **University of Birmingham** as you learn **physics** and use their **CTL EPQ - Library Visits**

Take part in a **wide variety of sports**

Compete in **chess club**

Express yourself in **performing arts**

Explore **careers in industry**

Enter the **Chemistry Olympiad**

Become a **Doctor For A Day**

Work with the **Social Mobility Foundation**

Explore pathways through **NHS connections**

Discover the origins of the universe with **Outreach from CERN spokesperson**

Further develop leadership skills as **Year 13 Prefects**



EXTRA CREDITS

You can gain extra credits if you:

Take part in the **Duke of Edinburgh Scheme**

Represent the school

Have an **ongoing attendance** of extra curricular clubs

Take part in **Young Enterprise**

Complete a **Life Saving** course

Become a member of the **student council**

Become a member of the **Chaplaincy Team**

Raise money for **charity**

ATTENDANCE

A MAJOR KEY TO FUTURE SUCCESS

Dear Parent / Carer,

This is an important update about school attendance for the 2023-24 academic year. Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School is working in partnership with parents and the Local Authority to improve school attendance. A big thank you to the majority of parents who make sure their children attend school regularly, particularly during the current cost of living crisis impacting families. Your efforts, working in partnership with the school, will ensure that your child will have the best chance to achieve their academic potential and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work. It will also allow your child to;

- Access the lessons needed to achieve their expected grades
- Maintain friendships and develop new ones.
- Have access to social and sporting events offered by the school
- Explore potential careers
- Develop work habits such as good punctuality which are essential to thrive in the world of employment.

How does your child compare?

*But Mary treasured
up all these things and
pondered them in her
heart.*



Attendance during school year	Equals this number of days absent	Which is approximately this many weeks absent	Which means this number of lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons

If you are worried about your child's attendance the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with the school directly.

It may be tempting to book a family holiday in term time to save costs during the cost of living crisis. However, now is not the time for children to miss any more school. Family holidays in term time are not allowed in law. Taking children on leave without applying for authorisation may mean the school has to report your child as 'missing' to the local authority and holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively in law. Adding even more absence to the time children have missed because of school closures during the covid years means that the children miss even more lessons that will not be repeated.

Family emergencies also need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interest of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Notifying the school of leave due to a family emergency does not mean that it will be authorised.

Please note that where parents fail to ensure their child attends school regularly, legal action, including penalty notices, may be considered.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H. Koryl.

LEARNING REVIEW UPDATE

As part of a carefully sequenced curriculum students at Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School will be regularly assessed by teachers using a variety of different strategies. One aspect of these is learning review windows. These give teachers the opportunity to assess students' progress, generating information which can inform their future teaching. Please find below the schedule of learning review windows in the academic year 2023/24 including parent's evening dates.

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

Reports will also be issued to parents summarising these assessments, alongside information regarding students' attendance and attitude to learning.

Further information regarding this will follow during the academic year.

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

YEAR 7

Learning Review Window 1	Tuesday 9th January 2024 until Friday 26th January 2024
Learning Review Window 2	Monday 17th June 2024 until Friday 5th July 2024
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 5th June 2024

YEAR 8

Learning Review Window 1	Tuesday 9th January 2024 until Friday 26th January 2024
Learning Review Window 2	Monday 17th June 2024 until Friday 5th July 2024
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 12th June 2024

YEAR 9

Learning Review Window 1	Tuesday 9th January 2024 until Friday 26th January 2024
Learning Review Window 2	Monday 17th June 2024 until Friday 5th July 2024
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 21st February 2024

YEAR 10

Learning Review Window 1	Monday 4th December 2023 until Friday 15th December 2023
Learning Review Window 2	Monday 8th April 2024 until Friday 19th April 2024
Learning Review Window 3	Monday 24th June 2024 until Friday 5th July 2024
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 1st May 2024

YEAR 11

Learning Review Window 1	Monday 27th November 2023 until Friday 8th December 2023
Learning Review Window 2	Monday 26th February 2024 until Friday 8th March 2024
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 17th January 2024
Exam Information Evening	Thursday 1st February 2024
Public Examinations	Tbc – Week Beginning Monday 6th May 2024 Onwards

YEAR 12

Learning Review Window 1	Monday 4th December 2023 until Friday 15th December 2023
Learning Review Window 2	Monday 8th April 2024 until Friday 19th April 2024
Learning Review Window 3	Monday 24th June 2024 until Friday 5th July 2024
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 20th March 2024
Subject Modules	Depending on courses chosen

YEAR 13

Learning Review Window 1	Monday 27th November 2023 until Friday 8th December 2023
Learning Review Window 2	Monday 26th February 2024 until Friday 8th March 2024
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 24th January 2024
Public Examinations	Tbc – Week Beginning Monday 6th May 2024 Onwards

Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you.



CATHOLIC LIFE

MR EL'HABID



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that we are doing our part in supporting you in your child's Spiritual, Moral and Vocational development. We firmly believe that as a school we are called by God to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus and always act with a steadfast determination to do and be of our best.

That is the prayer that all students pray at the beginning and the end of the school day and at the start of every lesson.

We began this term with whole school Mass and we will complete the term with whole school Mass, a reminder that all we do is done in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Over the term, we have supported numerous charities putting our Catholic social teaching of "the preferential option for the poor/need" into action. From CAFOD, Wear something yellow, Smile for Joel, Macmillan and the CAFOD Emergency appeal for the crisis in the Holy Land. Thank you for your

contributions too. The end of term sees two more charities being donated to; Diabetes UK and MIND. During the month of November, we gathered as a community for the Act of Remembrance. It was a heartfelt service in which members of the Governing body laid wreaths at our Cenotaph.

This term, students have been guided in tutor time to pray in a variety of ways. On Monday's they reflect upon Sunday's Gospel, Tuesday they meditate on a theme from Scripture, Wednesdays they learn about the prayers used in Mass, Thursdays, students take time to write their own intercessory prayers and on Friday, they reflect on their own lives with the Jesuit Examen.

Tutor groups are rotated each week to visit the school chapel for morning prayer and then to continue their fellowship with a light breakfast. Also, each Friday Tutor groups are rotated to attend Mass celebrated by our Priest Chaplain Father Roger Peck from Our Lady and Saint Huberts parish. Many of you attended Mass at your child's primary school and we would really like to invite you too to

celebrate Mass with us starting in the Spring Term. Mass is on Fridays at 9am. We will email tutor group parents/carers each week to let you know. We look forward to welcoming you to Staurt Bathurst.

At the heart of all the celebrations and present giving about to take place over the next few weeks is the gift of Jesus Christ. The baby was born amidst war and strife in Bethlehem and laid in a manger. This is indeed the most precious gift that God has given. The very gift of love itself. God invites us to share in

that gift of love with everyone around us, known and unknown. That is a challenge. But the gift of love is surely what the world needs most? Only love as the Nat King Cole Christmas carol says will stop all the wars that rage. Only love can stop the inequality felt by so many. Only love can make this world a place that better reflects God's love for us all. We hope and pray that this Christmas and the new year to come the wonderful gift of love is given and received by everyone. What a difference that would make to us all!



Stewards of Creation.
Caring for our school environment.

Well planned catering for our school family means there is less food waste in our school.

STUART BATHURST
Catholic High School

SEASON OF CREATION



Thank You

SHOPPING LIST
For Donations

EMERGENCY
Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

"Make peace, create peace; be the example of peace. We need peace in the world."
Pope Francis

MATHEMATICS

MR MUGHAL

Students have been working really hard this autumn term in Mathematics, the results of which can be seen in very high-quality work being produced in their classwork.

All students have now completed two 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, and look forward to seeing this continue into the spring term. 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 Sparx Maths. If you would like copy of the QLA emailed to yourself, please email q.mughal@stuart-bathurst.org.uk, with the student's name, date of birth and Mathematics class/teacher.

Sparx Maths

All students will continue to receive their Sparx Maths homework every Wednesday, due in for the following Wednesday. The tasks set are based on topics covered in previous lessons. 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.

Key Dates Coming Up

Year 7 Assessment – 11th January 2024

Year 8 Assessment – 18th January 2024

Year 9 Assessment – 9th January 2024

Year 10 GCSE Assessment – WB 5th February 2024

Year 11 GCSE Assessments – 26.02.24 to 08.03.24 (in the hall)

Year 13 A Level Assessments – 26.02.24 to 08.03.24 (in the hall)

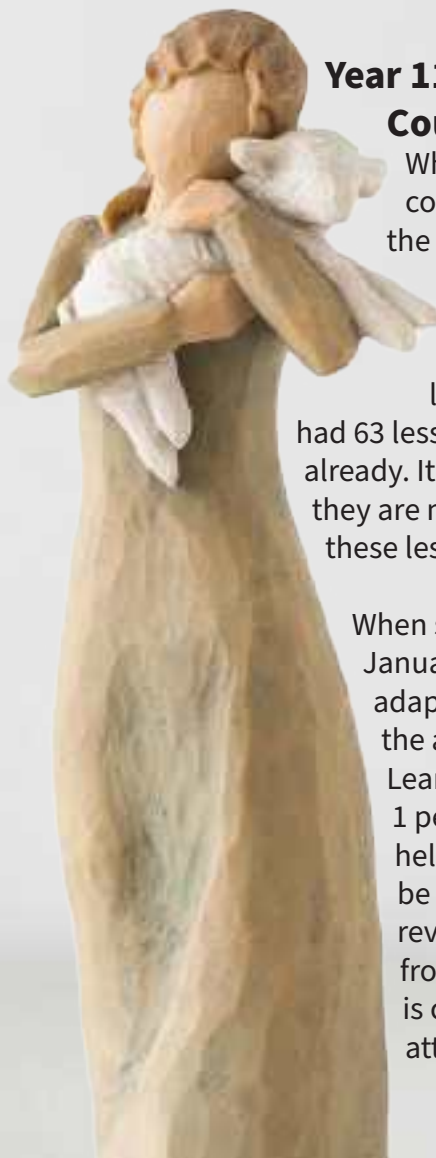
On behalf on the Mathematics Department, we hope that you have a pleasant Christmas break and look forward to welcoming back our students in 2024.

Year 11 Maths GCSE Countdown

When your son or daughter comes back to school after the Christmas break, we only have another 54 maths lessons up until the first exam. This may seem like a lot, but we have had 63 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 adapted curriculum, based on the areas identified from their Learning Review Window 1 performance. In order to help with revision, we will be putting on compulsory revision sessions afterschool from the end of January. It is critical that students are attending all of these.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!



NUMERACY

MR GLOVER

PUZZLE CORNER



I will be starting a beginner's club to learn to solve the Rubik's Cube, each week in Ma3. It will be the beginner's method, and I promise not to go too quickly.

So, if you have always wanted to be able to solve the cube, but never knew how, why not ask Santa to get you a cube for Christmas, and then you can join us as we explore how to solve one of the most famous and well known puzzles of our lifetimes.

Additionally, I am considering setting up a sudoku club, for anyone that would be interested. Sudoku involves placing the digits 1-9 in each box, row and column of the grid. It can be therapeutic, as well as incredibly satisfying when you complete the puzzle.

5	9	4	6	8		2	7	1
7			9	5		4		8
	8		2			5	6	9
1		5	8		2	6	9	
			5		6			2
	6	8				3		5
4	3	2	7	1	8	9		
	1		4	6	5	7		
6	5	7		2			1	

Not sure?
Try this one I created a couple of years ago - if you manage to solve it, let me know.

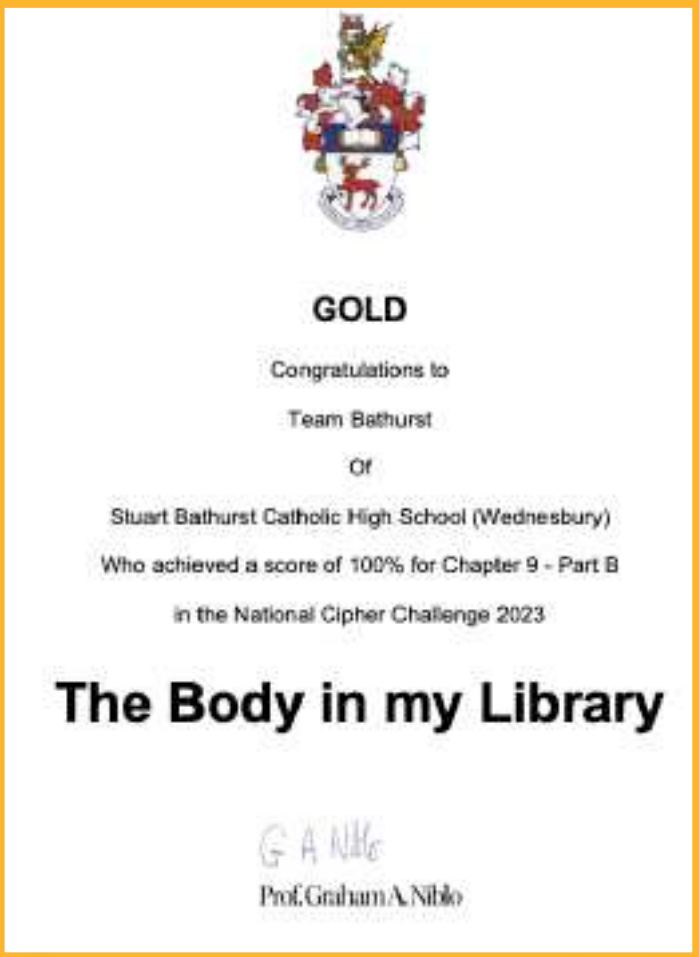
Finally from me, we have been taking part in the **National Cipher Challenge** this term, with members of all years being part of it. This is a competition run by The University of Southampton, along with GCHQ.

The challenges begin fairly easily, but over the course of the weeks, they get more complex and difficult to crack. Each week, various members of the team have offered suggestions as to how we can move forwards, sometimes guided by myself, but sometimes completely confused by me!

This certificate on the left is for the latest challenge, which, I must admit, took some beating!

However, as of the latest leaderboard update (at the time of writing), Team Bathurst were **joint 10th** across the country, currently in **251st** place out of **3764** teams! Well done to everyone who signed up!

NUDWU NUHHS ONVMF EXUFU ZQUHW
UTWPY JZWCS WUVPV IXXVO JIDWV



HINT: find the key hidden on this page, then go to <https://www.cipherchallenge.org/tools/>. Well, it's obviously what I consider to be the key of life!

MR WARNER

This term, the English Department has been pleased with how well students have settled into their lessons and for the progress that they have been making. We hope that they will continue to show such great focus during their next stage of their learning journey (see below).



YEAR

7

Year 7 have travelled back in time and are currently visiting Ancient Greece where the exploration of Greek Mythology is their current focus. Year 7s have been working really hard to deepen their understanding of myths through the analysis of allegorical messages behind ancient myths, characters, archetypes, context and links to current society. Well done Year 7, you are all working extremely hard!

YEAR

8

Year 8 have been studying A Midsummer Night's Dream - reading through the Shakespearean English version of the text and developing their understanding of more challenging vocabulary. Students are able to remember events from throughout the play and are enthusiastically engaging with reading as a class. Students are learning to write analytically about a text, write creatively using prompts and to also be able to communicate ideas through spoken debates. Students will soon be moving onto Romantic Poetry and are looking forward to studying a new type of text.

YEAR

9

During the Autumn term, Year 9 have delved into the dark and strange Gothic genre, and the futuristic world of Dystopian fiction. They have been reading extracts from famous stories such as Frankenstein, The Hunger Games and The Fall of the House of Usher. Using the knowledge that they have learned, there have been various opportunities to write their own Gothic story as well as descriptions of Dystopian worlds. There has been a lot of great work so far Year 9, keep it up!

YEAR

10

In Year 10, students have been hard at work studying A Christmas Carol for their English Literature studies, and have also been learning the skills for English Language Paper 1 in English Language lessons. Learners have engaged with exam style questions in class to demonstrate the skills that they have been taught. Year 10 have shown that they are dedicated to their learning and have produced some great responses in class discussion. As Year 10 prepare for their LRW1 assessment we have great faith that they will do well and have confidence in their ability to 'do and be of their best.'

YEAR

11

Year 11 have been looking at developing skills for English Language – they have looked at both reading and writing skills in preparation for their recent LRW1 assessments. They have also read Romeo and Juliet this term and are moving on to looking at unseen poetry, which is the final section of their GCSE in English Literature. Over the next few months, we know that our students will want to continue to improve as they make their way towards their final exams in May/June.

YEAR

12

Year 12 have been fully immersed in the wonderful world of William Shakespeare through their exploration of one of his most famous plays: Othello. With themes such as marriage, betrayal, comradeship and sisterhood, year 12 have been kept on their toes with their analysis of Shakespeare's tragic play. Good luck to all of year 12 in their up and coming mock exams. Following the theme of Love Through the Ages, they have explored a range of poetry.

YEAR

13

Year 13 have been closely analysing Carol Ann Duffy's modern poetry collection 'Feminine Gospels'; exploring themes of female oppression, unity and rewriting existing traditions. Alongside this, they have also been studying Jeanette Winterson's novel 'Oranges are not the only fruit'. The Y13 exam asks students to make comparisons between the two texts, with the overarching theme between them being: modern times. They have looked at the final section of their course by examining unseen prose.

*Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gold,
incense, and myrrh gifts.*

LITERACY AND READING

MISS JOHNSTON

At Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School, reading and literacy is a massive focus for us as we want to get the best results from our students and reading is the way to start this! As such we have launched a number of new initiatives in school this year: Sparx Reader for Key Stage 3, Reading Ambassadors, Reading Buddies, Book Club, a new Book of the Month shelf in the library, and Creative Writing Club. These are just the start of the new initiatives we plan to implement throughout this year and beyond!

Sparx Reader

Sparx Reader is a fantastic programme that the school has been lucky enough to be chosen to participate in! We are part of the trial schools that are accessing Sparx Reader and allowing our students to read a variety of literature and texts for completely FREE! Students are able to log into Sparx Reader on their phones, tablets and laptops and have access to a huge range of texts tailored to a student's reading ability. They can earn a Gold Membership, purely by reading lots, and can have access to an unlimited range of texts at any time when they feel like reading. Form tutors set each student in Key Stage 3 thirty minutes across the week – which breaks down to 6 minutes each school day to hit that goal! Any extra reading they do outside school will massively help to improve their reading comprehension and fluency for GCSE.



Reading Ambassadors have been launched across the whole school, with almost 30 ambassadors signing up to promote a love of reading to their school. These ambassadors range from Year 7 all the way up to Year 13. It's been fantastic to see the level

of passion that the students have towards reading and want to champion it around school.

“Reading to me is really important because it is a great skill to develop – 80% of what we see we also read, especially as young students. Reading is what everyone should have access to, but sadly not everyone does. My role as a Reading Ambassador is to show everybody in the school that reading is fun and we can all access reading through Sparx Reader for free! I have read more than 48,000 words in Sparx Reader to show my school how committed I am to reading and I would love to convince more people to read.” – **Greater Light** (Year 9)

“Being a Reading Ambassador at Stuart Bathurst is a great honour. I feel happy to be able to spread my knowledge of reading and share support for others who want to try to. I love having the opportunity to come up with ideas for how we can spread the love of reading as a school. I want everyone to soon be able to express themselves on which genres of books they love, and have the confidence to try new books and push themselves to do and be of their best!” – **Shayla** (Year 9)



Reading Buddies is another initiative that has been launched where during Form Time once a week, 5 students from KS4 and KS5 read with Year 7s to help with fluency and stamina. They are supporting their peers to help with confidence and provide support when reading bigger words.

We have launched two new clubs at Stuart Bathurst – weekly Book Club with Mrs Finch, Librarian, and Creative Writing Club with Miss Johnston, English Teacher. We have made a huge effort to make the Library a welcoming and comfortable space. We have a notice board for the Day articles – where students can go to get up-to-date news articles about what is happening in the world around them. We also have a new shelf dedicated to the new Waterstones Book of the Month which we buy in to stock in the library.

You can find out about Waterstones' Children's Book Of The Month for November by visiting bathurst.news/botmnov23



Finally, I am putting together a monthly Reading and Literacy bulletin that is sent out to parents/carers and also posted on Twitter (X). Find any Reading and Literacy related news for the school via this or on Twitter as it is updated frequently!

It has been lovely to see the amount of enthusiasm and support demonstrated by pupils towards the Reading and Literacy initiatives I have put in place at Stuart Bathurst. We are lucky to have such amazing students with steadfast determination to do and be of their best.



The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God

SCIENCE

MR PASKIN

Dear Stuart Bathurst Community,

As we approach the end of another term, it brings me immense joy to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students in the realm of science education. The dedication and hard work demonstrated by our students have truly been commendable, and we take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of them.

Year 11: Mastering the Science intervention Program We applaud the Year 11 students for their exceptional attendance and active participation in the science intervention program. Your enthusiasm and commitment to furthering your understanding of scientific principles are truly commendable. Your engagement in this program not only enhances your academic knowledge but also sets a strong foundation for future scientific endeavors.

Year 7: Nurturing Disciplinary Skills A special shout-out to our Year 7 students for their exemplary development of disciplinary skills, particularly in the adept use of microscopes and Bunsen burners. It's heartening to witness your hands-on approach to learning, laying the groundwork for a future generation of scientists. Keep up the fantastic work!

Year 8: High Achievements in Seneca Homeworks Kudos to our Year 8 students for their outstanding achievements in Seneca homework assignments. Your commitment to self-directed learning and mastery of key concepts is truly impressive. The skills you are honing through these exercises will undoubtedly serve as valuable assets in your academic journey.

Year 9: Innovating with Biotechnology Year 9, you have truly excelled in your exploration of biotechnology! From producing bread and yogurt to cloning plants, your innovative projects showcase not only your scientific prowess but also your ability to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios. We are excited to see how you continue to push the boundaries of scientific exploration.

All Students: Expressing Interest in the Medical Outreach Program A collective round of applause for all the students who have taken the initiative to express their interest in the Medical Outreach Program by writing to Mrs. Ilyaas. Your eagerness to contribute to the community and engage in real-world applications of your knowledge is truly inspiring. We look forward to seeing the positive impact you will undoubtedly make through this program.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated educators and supportive parents who play a crucial role in nurturing our students' passion for science. Together, we continue to foster a love for learning and encourage the pursuit of knowledge.

Congratulations once again to our remarkable students for their achievements, and we eagerly anticipate the exciting scientific journeys that lie ahead.

On the next page are some of the images our year 7s created when working with microscopes, finding cells.

Wishing you all a restful and rejuvenating break.

Mr Paskin and the Science Department

*The virgin will
conceive and give
birth to a son,
and will call him
Immanuel.*



SOCIAL SCIENCES

MRS TAYLOR

In Social Sciences pupils have been starting the new school year with motivation and focus in their studies. For some pupils they have begun their journey of academia in Social Sciences, and for our older students choosing what career they wish to pursue after Year 13.

In their books, pupils have curriculum maps so they know what phase of learning they are in and what topics they may wish to investigate independently, ultimately helping them to 'to and be of our best'. In each lesson pupils across Year 10 to Year 13 have the opportunity to be awarded pupil of the lesson, which they are able to bring home a certificate and share with parents/carers alongside achieving reward points.

PSYCHOLOGY



Current topics:

Year 10: Pupils have been investigating Memory and Research Methods, which will be the focus of their Learning Review Assessment.

Year 11: After completing the topic of Social Influence, students have been investigating the topic of Language, Thought and Communication.

Year 12: A-level students have been investigating research into Social Influence and Approaches, which will be the focus of their Learning Review Assessment, alongside Research Methods.

Year 13: Second year A-level students have been looking into research of Gender development and Issues and Debates within society.

SOCIOLOGY



Current topics:

Year 12: A-level students have been introduced into the world of Research Methods, alongside Families and Households.

Year 13: Second year A-level students have been learning about Crime and Deviance, as well as strengthening their knowledge of Media in society.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



Current topics:

Year 10: Pupils have finished learning about the six life stages, and development for those life stages. This term pupils are learning about various factors in HSC from inherited conditions to environment, and how they affect development for the six life stages.

Year 11: This term pupils have been completing their component 2 Pearson Set Assignment, which consists of 5 questions all worth 12 marks. This component is worth 30% of their final grade.

Year 12: A-level students have been studying human lifespan development. This unit looks at the

six life stages, and the development for the six life stages, linked with various theorists. Alongside, how physical, social, economic, environmental and cultural factors can affect development positively or negatively for the six life stages.

Year 13: Second year A-level students have spent this term finishing off content for unit 2, working in health and social care, and preparing themselves for their exam in January.

Pupil shout outs:

Y10: **Sara, Isabelle**

Y11: **Caitlin, Alex**

Y12: **Freya**

Y13: **Fatima**

Reminder: If a student is absent from lesson, is it expected that students speak or email their class teacher for the work, so we can eliminate any gaps in student knowledge. Also, revision resources have been placed onto Google Classroom, for students to access beyond what has been provided in the classroom.1

Dates For Your Diary:

PSYCHOLOGY

Year 11 exams

P1: 15th May

P2: 23rd May

PSYCHOLOGY

Year 13 exams

P1: 17th May

P2: 22nd May

P3: 3rd June

SOCIOLOGY

Year 13 exams

P1: 20th May

P2: 4th June

P3: 11th June

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Year 11 exams

C3: 7th May

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Year 12/13 exams

Unit 1: 12th January

Unit 2: 15th January

*She laid him in
a manger, because
there was no place
for them in the inn.*



FRENCH

MR DOYLE AND MS GARCIA

We have had a really exciting start to the year in French. The introduction of new, more challenging, and frankly more interesting course materials has allowed us to be much more responsive and adaptive as teachers to the needs of our classes.

Students in Years seven, eight and nine have shown themselves capable of rising to the enhanced level of challenge in their French lessons and are successfully dealing with more complex language and structures, earlier in their courses, and in greater depth. We are very pleased with their efforts and with the progress they are making. Year 10 have made a good start to their GCSE course, and, as my teachers always used to say, a good start is half the work. In Year 11, we are now revising the course and doing intensive exam preparation.

As parents, we often wonder how to best help our children in their learning, particularly at Secondary School. Home learning is a really important element of what we offer your children in their work and in terms of preparing themselves for future opportunities and challenges. Checking that they are, for example, learning key vocabulary and grammar set for Home Learning is really helpful to

them and to us as teachers. We are grateful that so many of you do this.

Looking back over the year, it is the fun events, such as the European Day of Languages that underline the fact that languages are not just something for the classroom. We are delighted to have teamed up with the Humanities Department to offer a trip to France in March of this coming year. We will keep you posted about our progress and look forward to offering more opportunities like this in the future.

There are many students who consistently go above and beyond in terms of helping us out, be it in the classroom, at open evenings or by their willingness to help their fellow students. You know who you are and we really appreciate everything you do for Languages and for the school. Merci.

Finally, congratulations to our recipients of awards for French. They are: **Francesca, Sukhmani, Sneha, Tanaka, Rohail, Michaela, Macie, Daniel, Samuel and Zaine.**

Wishing you all **Joyeux Noel et bonne année!**

IT & BUSINESS

MR CARTER

Since the start of the year our department has been working towards the concept of an electronic classroom in many subjects. With Google Classroom now being available to us, we have so far managed to achieve this with Key Stage 3 Computing lessons, GCSE Computer Science, and Sixth Form Information Technology.

Students have appreciated the ability to access their classwork and homework from any location, and to use any device including mobile phones to do so. Providing students with examination revision material has been made much easier, now that large files such as digital books can be hosted individually.

We have also used a number of IT and Computing-related learning resources to allow students a wide range of study, including GCSEPOD, SENECA, ISAAC.

Computer Science and the various Google tools that are available in the application. Students have told us that the Google Classroom App makes it much easier for them to keep track of their revision and homework, especially online tasks such as GCSEPOD, which is now available for some Key Stage 3 subjects as well as for GCSE students.

THE ARTS

MRS CREIGHTON AND MR DODDS

It's been a busy start to the academic year in the Performing Arts department as work has been underway to adapt the curriculum to support the progress of all students in Key Stages 3 and 4.

In Drama, students in **year 7** have been introduced to a range of rehearsal techniques and skills through the topics 'Matilda' and 'Superheroes'.

Year 8 have worked hard to create a range of performances examining how young people can be stereotyped by society and, this term, the stories of hidden figures of black ethnicity who made a significant contribution to the world we live in.

Year 9 spent the first half term exploring a range of Contemporary Theatre styles and are now applying this knowledge to a devised performance this term.

In music the students in Key Stage Three have been developing their skills in drumming, singing and currently keyboard. It has been lovely to hear the students performing with enthusiasm to a range of musical scores throughout the building.

Congratulations to **Alfonso, Zuzan, Margaret, Chrispus, Rowan & Success** who all received certificates for Performing Arts students of the term in their year groups.

Certificates were also issued to **Haamidah, Harriett, Esah** and **Ellie** in Key Stage Four for their continued hard-work and dedication to their studies.

Shout outs also go to the following students for their continuous hard-work in Music this year: **Nikodem, Lelly, Kimathi** and **Sebastian**. Well done everyone!

Staff are looking forward to running extra-curricular activities, the timetable for which will be distributed shortly.

In addition, later this term auditions will commence for this year's school show '**Beauty & the Beast**'.

Students will have the opportunity to audition for a range of roles, including the chorus which involves a combination of dancing, singing and acting. We hope to see as many pupils as possible get involved in such a great opportunity to showcase their talents!

*And she brought forth
her firstborn son, and
wrapped him in swaddling
clothes*



HISTORY

MR JONES

The Autumn Term has been really exciting for the History Department. We have implemented and cemented new concepts and the students have approached their learning in a different way. Year 7 have been introduced to a number of key concepts such as Cause and Consequence and Significance when exploring Britain before 1066. Year 8 have developed their understanding of key concepts. They have developed their significance skills when studying about how the British Empire should be remembered. Year 9 have had the unique opportunity to learn about the near annihilation of the world which the Cold War. The key concepts they are instilling are Cause and Consequence. Year 10 have consolidated their source and similarity and difference skills when exploring Medieval and Renaissance medicine. Year 11 have been making links with concepts by learning about the Interwar Years Finally, Year 12 and 13 have developed their understanding of validity of sources whilst diving deeper into the world of academic History through Historiography in their NEA and Russian unit.

There has been an emphasis on reading and literacy this half term with disciplined reading being adopted in lessons to support in students understanding of events and moments in History and how it coincides with concepts. Special mention to 10AHi1 whose reading was noticed by visitors and some work made its way on the Stuart Bathurst X (formerly Twitter) page.

Students who need praise for their work over the last term:

Mary – Rose: Attitude to learning and contribution has been excellent.

Desainae and **Mason:** Amazing attitude to learning and brilliant effort and contribution.

Hafsah: Beautiful presentation and effort in her book.... KEEP IT UP!

Frankie: has shown excellent knowledge and understanding of the Battle of Fulford.

Angel Very good independent work of late... amazing effort.

Mohammed: excellent effort on first assessment.

UPCOMING TOPICS:

Year 7 are getting the opportunity the aftermath of the Battle of Hastings by exploring how William consolidated his power. They will look at the barbarity and control that William used to achieve consolidation.

Year 8 will explore the Industrial Revolution. They will determine the impact of the social and political impact the Industrial Revolution had on Britain and how this subsequently led to the First World War.

Year 9 will have the unique opportunity by exploring the Civil Right Movement in America. They will learn how African Americans were viewed after World War Two to the protagonists who instigated change for the lives of African Americans.

Year 10 will continue learning about Health and the People with the focus turning to the 20th Century. They will explore the work of Crick and Watson and other key aspects of Medicine which changed the way people think about causes, treatments and preventions of illness.

Year 11 will start their last topic on Germany between 1871 and 1945. They will study the birth of a unified Germany and explain the political, economic and social aims amongst the problems that came up after unification.

Year 12 Students will explain why Nicholas II became the last Tsar in Imperialist Russia and how he amongst the previous Tsars actions lead to an appetite for revolution in Russia. Also, they will be learning how Harold Wilson became Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in 1964 and the issues of the Labour Party after his election win.

Year 13 students will explore the reign of Nikita Khrushchev. They will determine why he introduced the De-Stalinisation programme and the impact of this on his reign. They will also explore how Tony Blair was able to win a general election and the problems he and Labour faced after 1997.



Year 9 @ RAF Cosford as part of their Cold War unit of work. 15th December 2023

*They saw the child with
His mother Mary, and they
bowed down and worshipped
Him.*



ART/TECHNOLOGY

MRS LONGMORE-SPILLETT

It's been busy in the Art and Technology departments over the last term.

In Food and Nutrition, students in **Year 8 and 9** have been developing their cooking skills by making lamb koftas.

Year 7 have been making Spicy tomato soup and in **Year 10** the students are experimenting with making a bechamel sauce with a keen focus on the food science and looking at gelatinisation.



At present at lunchtime on a Tuesday and Thursday, students from all year groups can attend Lego club with Mrs Tandy

From Monday at lunchtime, student from all year groups could attend Mrs Tandy's Christmas club, where student will be making Christmas decorations and on Wednesday 13th December, Year 10 Art GCSE students will be attending a sketchbook workshop at Walsall Art Gallery.

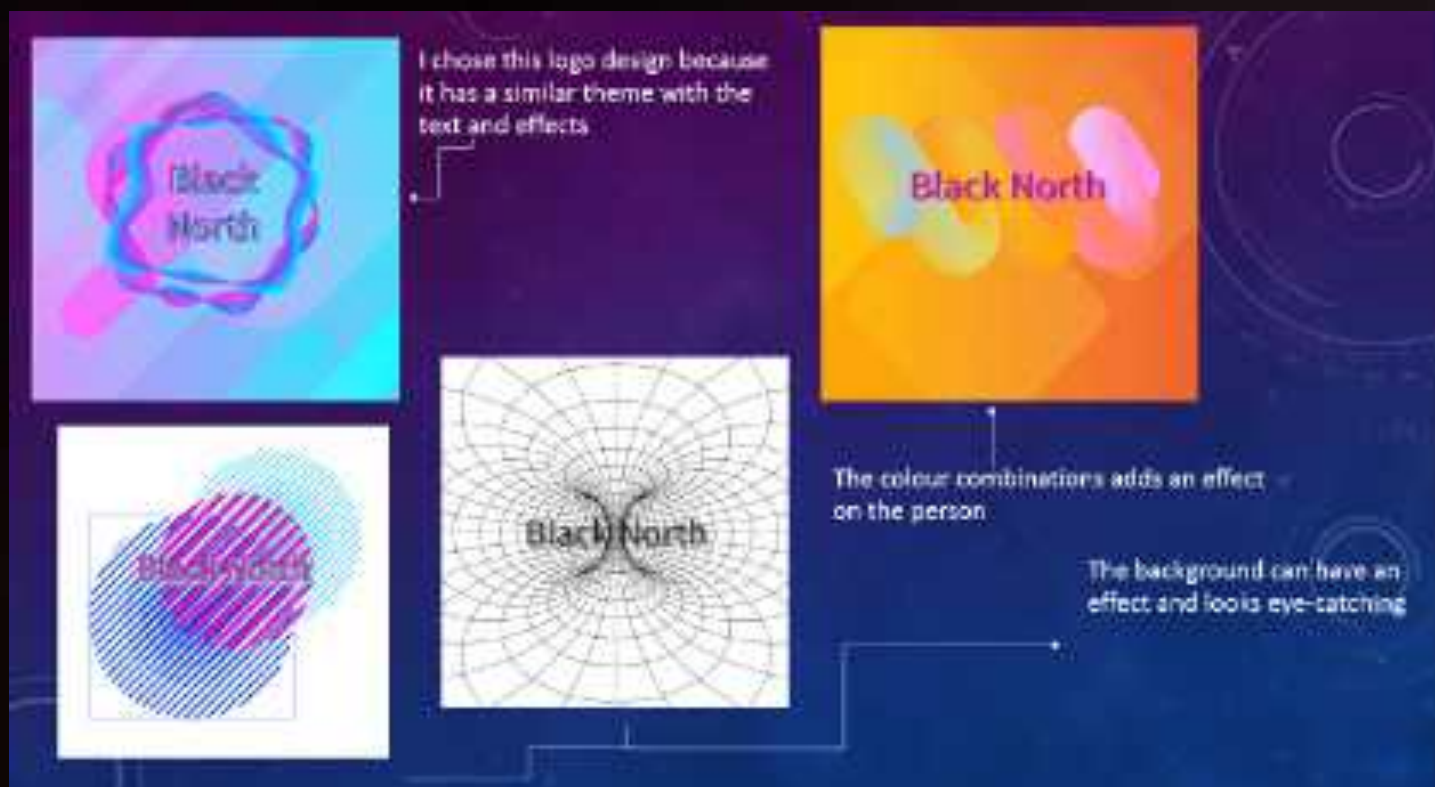
Year 11 have extra curricular lessons on a Tuesday and Thursday afterschool as they prepare their final designs for their personal portfolio.





In the Art Department , Year 7 students created beautiful pictures of Mary with different cultural depictions to part take in the Multi Academy MAC day. The pictures were exhibited with all the other Mary depictions from all the school in the Trust.





In Graphics and Photography, students have been working hard, learning new skills regarding Graphics and developing their designing skills. As the projects are coming to an end, student will soon be learning new skills with Photography with Year 7 and 8 creating an animation and Year 9 doing Photography. Let's hope we have some budding photographers in the making.



Examples of Year 9 Logo design ideas Development

REWARDS/TRIPS

MR SUMMERS

The first half term (Autumn 01) we had our pastoral awards. Students in each year group achieved certificates for 100% attendance of which there were many in each year group congratulations to all of you, lets try and keep your attendance high throughout the year.

The following students achieved further recognition for their excellent start to the academic year

Year 7: Lola and Archie-Lee won the head of year award and 7S were the best performing form with regards to earning the most positives from staff

Year 8: Evan and Amrit achieved the most positives for the year group and 8S were the best performing form.

Year 9: Hamza and Greater Light achieved the most positives for the year group. Luca and Greater Light were awarded head of year award and 9C were the best performing form.

Year 10: Bright Nana and Kathy were the top-class performers. Calum and Summer achieved the head of year award, with 10S being the best performing form.

Year 11: Gideon and Humera are the top-class performers. Sam and Alex achieved the head of year award, and 11A were the best performing form.

Just before we break up for the Christmas holidays 48 of the best performing students from years 7 -11 will be rewarded with a cinema trip to watch the new Marvel movie. Students will also receive subject recognition, so please all keep working hard to earn as many positive points as you can as these will be important to increase your chance of winning bigger prizes and attending reward trips throughout the year.

Educational visits and trips

There have been excellent trips this first half term, with the main one being year 10's visit to the National school and college leavers festival at the NEC Birmingham. This was valuable insight to possible future destinations and career opportunities they may wish to take up after Stuart Bathurst.

We also had a successful sixth form trip to Drive to Drive where they experienced driving cars and took part in important road and car safety sessions. All thought it was very informative and enjoyable.

Coming up this side of Christmas are year 11 university experience trip, year 10 Art trip and the cinema reward trips. There will also be lots more educational/reward visits and experiences throughout the year.

Mr Summers.



KEY STAGE 3

PASTORAL TEAMS

YEAR

7

What a great start we have had in Year 7! The year group have settled in well to Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School and are taking up many opportunities that are being offered to them. This term we have had Stephen Seki, who came into school to discuss overcoming adversity and being resilient, and also had an information evening to discuss how parents can support students when out of school with their studies. Last week, a number of students visited University of Birmingham, and attended lectures on Physics and Chemistry led by the University of Birmingham's professors. This included looking at photosynthesis and how temperature effects the climate.

We have a number of Year 7 students who have received a high number of reward points, with our top students being Logan, Lola, Tia, Fatimah, Sam and Josh.

Well done to all and let's encourage year 7 to aim high and achieve their very best.

Have a happy Christmas.

Mrs Watkins and the Year 7 Team

YEAR

8

On behalf of team Year 8 a massive congratulations for their hard work during their first half term. Since September students in Year 8 have achieved a total of 97,713 total positives a massive achievement! Year 8 have pushed themselves consistently to be of their best, in extracurricular clubs, class work and with the support of parents with home learning. Each week students compete for our "Saint of the Week" where the forms total, attendance positive logs and least behavioural incidents are compared and celebrated, well done to Mr. Gaunt and 8C for the highest total wins thus far, fantastic work!

A special shoutout to the following our first term top performers!
Year 8 Top Performers:

Tobias, Malachi, Olga, Aayan,
Charlotte, Ellie, Aqil, Aamirah, Iqra.

I hope you all have a restful break and return in January ready to challenge yourselves to "Do and be of our best".

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Mr Curtis & the Year 8 Pastoral Team

YEAR 9

Firstly, on behalf of the year 9 team we would like to congratulate our year 9 students on their hard work through their first term. Our mission statement this year for year 9 is 'If you can dream it, you can achieve it' and year 9 are demonstrating their desire and determination to do so. This has been seen through our students working hard in lessons across a range of subject areas and completing exemplary home learning, to attending extracurricular clubs and representing the school in fixtures; year 9 have lots of things that they should be very proud of. Keep up the fantastic work because you all can achieve all you dream to achieve.

So far this year, year 9 have accumulated over 81,500 positives since September, which is fantastic. The leader board is changing daily but huge congratulations goes to **Greater Light** for getting the most amount of Arbor points for last half term.

We would also like to recognise the students who have achieved 100% attendance for last half term too. This is an amazing achievement.

Priscilla, Adam, Hamzah, Chizaram, Muhammad, Greater Light, Raman, Carley, Mohammed, Haydn, Success, Kamran, Aaishah, Bailey, Maria.

Lots to celebrate here and we are looking forward to seeing what we can continue to achieve next over the coming months.

As we look to return after the Christmas break, can we please ensure that our standards remain high. Can we please ensure that we are complying with all standards, uniform is fully in line with the school policy and that we always 'Do and be of our best'. On behalf of the year 9 team, we wish you a lovely Christmas break and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Burns and the Year 9 Team



KEY STAGE 4

PASTORAL TEAMS

YEAR 10

Firstly, I want to start by congratulating each student during their first term. It has been a difficult start for some students with a lot of changes to their work content, responsibility, and their personal development, especially when it comes to their new optional subjects that each student selected. It has been a joy to visit lessons and see students actively listening, working hard together and presenting the very best of their ability.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Neha and Joe for accumulating the highest number of positives thus far since September, with 695 positives each. The leaderboard is changing daily, so please keep up the good work. Overall, year 10 have accumulated 84,166 positives, which is incredible!

I also want to congratulate the following students on achieving 100% this half term;

Noushad, Olivia, Rohail, Kathy, Jesse, Charlie, Neha, Yvie-Grace, Jensen, Joe, Gaurav, Armaanjit, Ramandeep, Fifi, Jehu, Natalie, Zaynab, Amripal.

Keep up the hard work YR10!

There have also been many students in YR10 who have been involved in extra-curricular activities and fixtures and should be proud of their hard work, commitment and dedication to representing Stuart Bathurst in such a positive manner. We were also incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to attend the Utilita Arena Career's Fair in Birmingham where the students had the chance to speak with many professionals from different educational sectors and backgrounds.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each parent/guardian who attended YR10 information evening on how best to support your child during their last few academic years. However, for next term, please can I ask that you encourage students to complete their homework and remaining up to date with their coursework, as this plays a vital part in developing them academically. As a reminder, if students are unable to complete homework from home, we run a homework club Monday to Thursday 3.20pm – 4.20pm. I would also like to take this opportunity for you to remind students to be well prepared for school and ensure they have a bag, are fully equipped and are adhering to our uniform and no jewellery policy as we do not want students returning from the Christmas break with false nails, nail varnish, piercings, eyelashes or extreme makeup. The policy is clear on the expectations and I would be very appreciative if you could support us with this matter.

YEAR

10

contd

Key Reminders:

Going forward into the new year can you please ensure your child has joined the YR10 google classroom class, as this is where important information will be shared – the class code is WSBAYS6.

YR10 will be going out on **work placement** the week commencing 29/04/24 to 03/05/24. As a school we will be looking to hold more career event opportunities to support and widen all students knowledge to help decide their future/skills.

Thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or queries, please email me on the address below.

c.bennett@stuart-bathurst.org.uk

Miss Bennett (Head of Year 10)

YEAR

11

A huge congratulations to the whole of year 11 for having such a strong start to their final high school years. Already this academic year, year 11 students have expressed their interests in being part of the student leadership team and undergone interviews to secure the positions they desired; as Head of Year, I was so proud to give every student who interviewed a position on the team. This speaks to the maturity and dedication of the students and that is certainly what we like to see this year.

As a teaching staff, we would like to wish the entire cohort 'Good Luck' in their ongoing mock exams, and again congratulate them on their successes so far. This is a difficult year but I look forward to celebrating their hard work and resilience at Prom in July.

Well done to the following students for the highest positive points in Autumn 1:
Zahra, Svetlana, Ashleigh.

We wish you all a happy and joyful Christmas and New Year.

Miss Bradnick and the Year 11 Pastoral Team



SBVI UPDATE

MISS DIXON

In my role in 6th Form this year, I can honestly say I feel privileged to look back at all they have accomplished in this first term alone. Whilst year 13 have come back ready to tackle the all important UCAS application process, yr 12 have been focusing on settling in to a new environment and their A Levels. These new challenges are being met with great enthusiasm and diligence by our Sixth Formers.

Here at Stuart Bathurst we have a strong focus on giving back to those around us. This year our 12's and 13's started our events by planning their own bake sale for Macmillan coffee morning. This prepared our students for their annual Dress Up For Joel day, for the charity Smile For Joel. Smile For Joel is a fundraising charity supporting shattered and broken families who are victims of traumatic bereavement through homicide. Below is a picture of this years' event:



During October, we held our Sixth Form Open Evening to showcase our facilities and academic programme to our existing students and the wider community. I was blown away by the number of volunteers who wanted to stay to help at this. Whether that was to be in one department, help out in the canteen or show visitors around our school, all of the students did an amazing job. I look forward to reading the applications for next academic year that we have been receiving.

This year we have begun The Gabriel Stewardship Programme for our Year 12's, this entails students

Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favour with God.

volunteering in a classroom setting and working with the younger members of our community in subjects they now take as options. The experience has given our students the chance to take on more responsibility and see a class from a different perspective. It has been lovely to hear so many positive comments from students, staff and parents. I would like to give a shout out to Sahil Masood who has gone above and beyond to do this role to the best of his ability. Well done!!

Last half term some of our Year 12 students had the opportunity to take part in a Drive2Arrive course, which was a great experience to have had. The students took part in a very informative day by working with each of the public services involved, including: Police, Fire, Drugs and Alcohol teams, and the Highways Agency. They were also able to take part in the Young Driver practical. The day ended with students learning about the full effects of alcohol when driving after a practical task, then using VR equipment, students were able to see the aftermath of a car accident through the eyes of a passenger. This term all of Sixth Form have had the opportunity to spend a day on a retreat with Kenelm Youth Trust. They were looking at and discussing: their carbon footprint and how to reduce it if possible and learning about refugees and asylum seekers. In particular the challenges they face when arriving in this country, students were given the budget that would be received and had to create a shopping list.

This term has also seen a rigorous application and interview process for our newly appointed Sixth Form Student Leadership team. The standard this year was extremely high which made the decision

process very difficult.

Head students

Julia & Tyrese

Deputy Head students

Tiah & Enrique

Social Secretaries:

Maya & Destini

Transistion:

Lord, Laiba and Danyaal

Mental Health Ambassadors:

Haleema and Sian

Both year groups have come to me with ideas of events they would like to create both for Sixth Form and the wider school community. I look forward to seeing the leadership team take their ideas and work together to create a great event. Good luck!

Finally, after such a busy term, both Year groups are now working on their mock exams before the Christmas holidays. It's nice to see spare time being used for coursework and revision. Students know that they are also welcome to stay until 4:20 to use the computer facilities in Sixth Form. All.

That's left for me to say is well done so far Sixth Form. Thankyou!



SAFEGUARDING TEAM

As we approach the Christmas season we at Stuart Bathurst Catholic High School are thinking about our families who may need extra support . Please see below a list of information we thought may be useful during our Christmas break.

Many thanks,

The Safeguarding Team



*"Don't be afraid! I
have good news for you,
a message that will fill
everyone with joy."*

Good To Know Newsletter



Free Changes Programme for Parents & Carers

Would you like to meet other parent/carers in similar parenting stages to you in a judgement-free and friendly environment?

Did you know our Changes Early and Primary years courses are held at soft play sessions? This means the children can play and make new friends while you relax and talk to other parents!

New early and primary years courses will be available in January - for more information email parent_support@sandwell.gov.uk

Free Changes activity sessions

January courses coming soon!

We are excited to be able to continue offering our FREE Changes activity sessions to families living in Sandwell with children aged 0-5 years old in 2024!

January courses will be available to book [here](#) soon!

Free Changes antenatal offer

Find out more
[here](#)

Sandwell Changes offers free antenatal courses for parents who live in or have a GP in Sandwell.

Services include:

- Virtual and in-person 3-week antenatal courses
- 4-week aquanatal courses
- Grandparent/supporter sessions
- New Bump & Beyond sessions
- New Bump to Baby sessions

Sandwell Family Hubs

September is here and our local family hubs have so much to offer and share with you!

Sign up to our FREE newsletter ([here](#)) to receive the latest information on what Sandwell Family Hubs has to offer you and your family.

Sandwell Family information service

Visit the hub [here](#)

Has anything changed?

- Don't forget to update the FIS Hub and keep families up to date with your information
- Log on and check your record now
- Please complete the online Provider Survey. Your input to the Childcare Sufficiency Report is invaluable

Supporting Sandwell Residents

Supporting Sandwell Information Hub has lots of support and advice for residents during this tough time, from energy bills to Welcoming Spaces there is help for families in the borough.

Visit the Supporting Sandwell Information Hub [here](#)

Childcare support is expanding in 2024

Childcare support is expanding– even more working parents can get help to pay for their childcare.

Click [here](#) to find out more about the upcoming expansion starting April 2024.

Please remember, if you currently use the 30 hours childcare offer you must renew your 30 hours code before the 31 December

Healthy Sandwell

Helping you to improve your mental health and wellbeing

The festive period can be an emotional time for some, Healthy Sandwell has tips and information to support you, your family and friends this year and beyond.

For more information click [here](#)

Child to parent abuse

Child to Parent Abuse: Supporting parents and professionals. PEGS aims to reduce the impact of child-to-parent abuse by helping parents, training frontline professionals, impacting policy and raising awareness.

Find out more [here](#)

NSPCC Learn

Online safety

The NSPCC has opened applications for its Online Safety Youth Taskforce, for young people aged 13 to 16 across the UK, to help shape decisions about children's safety online.

The Taskforce allows young people to meet decision-makers, influence policies, and share their thoughts on how to help make the online world a safer place. Find out more [here](#)

NSPCC Learn

Banter vs bullying in sport

The NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) has released a webinar recording on bullying in sport. The webinar looks at the differences between banter and bullying and how to identify this in sports.

Find out more [here](#)

Sandwell Winter Booklet

Sandwell Council has produced a new Winter Booklet to support residents.

This is the Guide to Living Well this Winter and is being delivered to all residents. It is full of useful information on how to keep well during these cold winter months.

For access to the virtual booklet is [here](#)

SCVO

The community environment fund

SCVO has teamed up with The West Midlands Combined Authority to deliver an information session on The Community Environment Fund.

The session will be held on Tuesday 9th January 2024, 10 am via a Zoom

To register your space click [here](#)



Good to Know News

Please click on the photographs for access to links for booking or further information

SPDC Newsletter December 2015

SPDC Coffee Shop Teatime
Friday 4th December 10.30am - 12.30pm
Join us for a lovely afternoon of tea and cake. We will have a special guest speaker, a member of our staff, who will be giving a presentation on the importance of mental health.

Well Woman Show by Rachel Sambrook
Thursday 10th December 10.30am - 12.30pm
Join us for a special afternoon of health and wellbeing. We will have a special guest speaker, a member of our staff, who will be giving a presentation on the importance of mental health.

Craft and Chat Newsletter December 2015

Craft and Chat
Wednesday 24th November 10.30am - 12.30pm
Join us for a lovely afternoon of tea and cake. We will have a special guest speaker, a member of our staff, who will be giving a presentation on the importance of mental health.

Stads Night out at Playhouse
Friday 4th December 10.30am - 12.30pm
Join us for a special afternoon of health and wellbeing. We will have a special guest speaker, a member of our staff, who will be giving a presentation on the importance of mental health.

Co-op Local Community Food
Friday 4th December 10.30am - 12.30pm
Join us for a special afternoon of health and wellbeing. We will have a special guest speaker, a member of our staff, who will be giving a presentation on the importance of mental health.

Getchins Office Supplies
Friday 4th December 10.30am - 12.30pm
Join us for a special afternoon of health and wellbeing. We will have a special guest speaker, a member of our staff, who will be giving a presentation on the importance of mental health.

NHS

Measles cases are rising in England

Make sure your child is up to date with their vaccinations

2 weeks left to Tell us what you think about our...



Would you like to become a Community Cancer Champion?

This training will take place over three sessions on Microsoft Teams and will focus on:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Cancer Prevention and Early Diagnosis
- Cancer Screening Programmes
- Signs and Symptoms
- Living Well and Beyond Cancer



If you are interested, book by going to reurl.uk/WUZA or contact Kassandra.styche@hls.net for more information

Murray Hall Food Pantry

16 Bodge St Marie Road Tipton DY4 6SL

Open Tuesdays 10am - 5pm
Open Wednesdays 9.30am - 5pm

Membership is £6 per week. You receive up to £15 of food frozen by you!
It's welcome, whether unemployed, working or retired.

Phone: 0121 612 2954
Email: info@murrayhall.co.uk



Sandwell

Council Budget Consultation

"Have YOUR Say!"

Sandwell

Don't let your rent snowball out of control this Winter

Call us on 0121 737 5148 for advice

NHS Black Country

Is any child too ill to go to nursery or school?

Get health advice for your child at blackcountry0-18.nhs.uk

FIND A WELCOMING SPACE IN SANDWELL

Sandwell

ONE in FIVE CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC ABUSE.



YOU ARE WELCOME TO

Christmas Day

@ The Old Post Office

FREE CHRISTMAS BUFFET, WARM SPACE, FAMILIES AND
INDIVIDUALS WELCOME

DECEMBER 25 2023

1200 - 2000

THE OLD POST OFFICE, HOLYHEAD ROAD, WEDNESBURY,
WS10 7DF

FREE ENTRY

TO BOOK A SPACE RING OR TEXT JOSH
ON 07731716259



School reopens to students on Tuesday 9th January 2024

All images of the Demdaco Willow Tree Nativity used under creative commons licence and compiled from Unsplash and Pixabay.

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“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

Luke 2:4-7



View the flipbook version at
<http://bathurst.news/Christmas23>