



# St Bede's Inter-Church School

ADVENT NEWSLETTER - 2024

Welcome to our Advent newsletter, as always, our students have been working hard this term with projects and activities inside and outside of school. We have captured a snap-shot of what's been happening!

# Head's Message



**Happy Christmas and every good wish for 2025 from everyone at St Bede's Inter-Church School**

On the next slide you will see the winning entries from Year 7 for this year's school Christmas card competition – many congratulations to all who took part; your cards have been posted on behalf of St Bede's.

Later this academic year, we look forward to the opening of our new Music Block which is currently under construction. When our Music Department relocates to its new home, work will begin to convert the current Music classrooms into our new School Chapel and pastoral support room. Thank you to everyone who sponsored children on our walk earlier this term - we raised an incredible £19K which will fund the furniture and decoration of our new Chapel. We also plan to develop an outdoor area close to the new Chapel as a contemplative garden for use by our school community – we can't wait to welcome you later in the summer to see it. There is much to look forward to in 2025!

Best wishes,

Alistair Day





Merry Christmas!





## Fair Bite – The Queen Edith Food Hub

A huge thank you to parents who made donations to our local Food Hub, at St James' Church, Wulfstan Way. Chaplaincy Reps delivered our items and spent an hour stacking shelves, sorting produce and learning how the Food Hub works. Their efforts, and your generosity, were hugely appreciated.

Michelle Peters, the Food Hub Coordinator wrote:  
*Thank you so much for your visit today.*

*It was so lovely to welcome you, Mr Allen and the students to the Hub and I am so very grateful for all the amazing help you were able to give. I really do appreciate it. It will make the running of the Hub so much easier to have everything so well organised. Please do also thank all the parents for their generous donations.*

*These will really make a difference to our members.*



# Parents, Teachers, Friends Association of St Bedes

## PTFA Xmas 2024 Update



### The PTFA has had a busy Autumn Term:

Welcome to all the new Y7 parents volunteers and thanks to everyone who has supported us this term. We have funded Footballs for break-times, Video Camera for Media Studies and donated towards Student Welfare, Travel and Classroom stocks. Served refreshments at the Y7 Welcome and School Open Evenings. Elected new Treasurers and a new Secretary. More volunteers always needed – please join us!

### PTFA Events:

- Y7 Fun Evening & Parents Welcome on 25<sup>th</sup> October - Y7 pupils for games, pasta & film.
- International Evening on 22<sup>nd</sup> November – delicious food and dance displays & workshops.
- Next term: Plans for Lower School Disco, Ceili Evening.....maybe a Family Quiz Night?
- **Next meeting of PTFA** online Teams AGM & Spring meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### PTFA Fundraising:

Christmas Tree Sale sold 56 trees – thank you! Further donations welcome (see QR code). We have received a further grant from the Co-op local causes to refurbish the School Inner Courtyard. Please join Easyfundraising to help raise FREE funds while you do your online Xmas shopping (QR code).



Use this QR code to make donations to St Bedes PTFA towards refreshments or ongoing activities

*For more details please email:*  
[ptfa@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk)

Use this QR code to sign up to Easyfundraising for St Bedes PTFA





# Year 7 Reflection Day at Ely Cathedral



Year 7 students enjoyed a day exploring the magnificent Ely Cathedral. They discovered what life was like for the monks who lived in the medieval monastery there, including the sign language they needed during silent meal times, and the beautiful manuscripts they wrote and read.

Students also had the chance to pray the labyrinth, discovering an ongoing journey into the heart of God's presence (rather than a maze with dead ends).

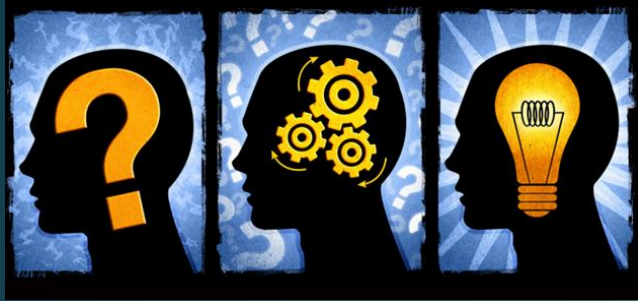


At midday a bell was rung and the Cathedral Chaplain led everyone in 5 minutes of prayer. It was great to hear St Bede's School being prayed for in the Cathedral, just as we were thinking about who we might pray for and why.





# Science and Religion - Year 11 Reflection Day



'What happens to a person's energy after death?'

'Why did God need to rest after 6 days of work?'

'If God and God's creation is good, why do people get sick?'

These were some of the questions our Y11 students put to our panel of experts from the Faraday Institute at their Reflection Day.

A reflection on God's words to Job about creation set the tone for the day as one of questioning and wonder and a great keynote address, complete with setting fire to gas-filled bubbles, launched us into the science. The speakers were hugely engaging and led us through a range of disciplines. A medical physicist used the laws of probability to consider the likelihood of human life existing. An evolutionary biologist used an extensive fossil collection to consider the origins of life. A cancer radiographer considered the case for miracles. A micro-biologist explored the adaptations of cells and proteins to the harshest environments on the planet and a translator challenged us to think critically about the text we call 'The Bible'.

It was a truly stimulating day covering many different aspects of our learning and faith.



# Visit to a German Christmas Market

Our trip to Aachen took place from the 22nd-23rd of November, taking us through four countries along our journey. On an early coach to Dover, we were able to board our ferry at just 7:40am, taking us over to France. Once there, we continued on the road through Belgium and Germany, before arriving in Aachen where we were met with fields of snow.

We checked in and made our beds at our hostel before walking to the market, where we first took a tour of Aachen Cathedral. This was one of the most impressive features of our trip: The cathedral boasts a 72m spire and has interiors fully decorated with intricate patterns, figures, gold leaf, and exquisite marble architecture.

The market itself was filled with delicious food, merry locals and lots of Christmas cheer. Wooden stalls offered an impressive variety of food, drinks, decorations and gifts; they offered enough of everything to satisfy you for many Christmases to come. Unfortunately, we had been somewhat unprepared for the European climate, so returned to our hostel for a warming dinner and a full night of sleep.

After breakfast on the second day, we left to explore the local Lindt factory shop where so much chocolate was bought at an impressively low price.

Our coach, now far heavier, proceeded to leave Aachen and thus began our journey back to Calais; we encountered some grumpy French and cheerier British border officers along the way, as well as border police with a cute sniffer dog. Thankfully, storm Bert didn't cause us any delay; we were made to suffer through a choppy ferry ride but arrived back in Cambridge in perfect time, thus ending our trip just 44 hours after it began.

Theo Brown, Finn Beardwell, Alex Sanders, Callum Laffling, Suhjin Lee





# HerLebkuchenhauswettbewerb!!!



This year's gingerbread constructions for St Nicholas day are very beautiful, skilfully made and smell Wonderful. Well done to all the fantastic bakers and decorators. The winners are shown below along with runners up



1st



2nd



3rd



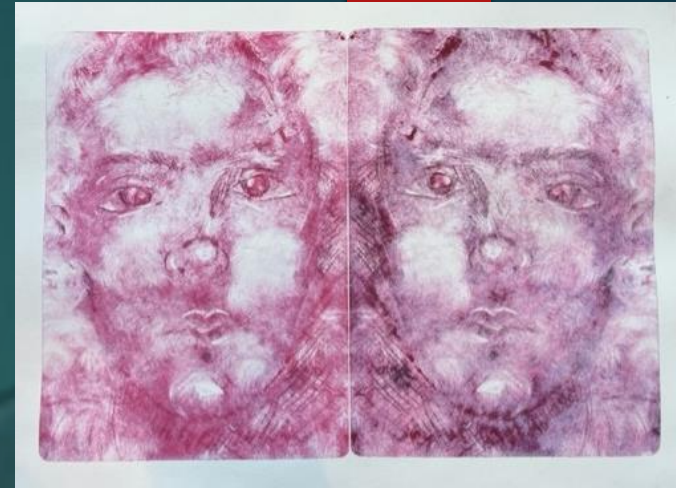


# Curwen Press Visit

Curwen Press visited St Bede's on 24th October 2024 for a printing workshop with our year 10 Art and Textiles students.

The students were very engaged and responded enthusiastically to the advice and supervision of the Curwen Press staff. They produced some excellent prints.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the day.





# St Bede's Library News



❖ So far this term we have loaned a staggering 4,441 books to our wonderful students and staff!

❖ A team of 27 dedicated student librarians have helped keep the library the wonderful place it is.  
A big thank you to each of them.

❖ This first half-term's Library Challenge was to design a bookmark with a quote based on a favourite book. We had so many fabulous designs, making it a tough decision for our judge, Ms. McKenna. The overall winner was Naomi Lloyd, with runners-up; Rosa Jordan, Isabella Mahoney and Georgie Van Overbeke



NAOMI LLOYD

"We can choose to participate in hateful acts, to look away from them...or to ease the pain we see in the world through bravery and kindness."  
From The Doll Maker of Krakow

Judge's comments:

A very visually appealing design with great cohesion between quote and illustrations. The quote stood out to me as a really powerful one that we could all benefit from being reminded of as we read each day. The drawings were so intricate but so clearly told the story of the book you chose. The colour palette was simple and effective. Beautiful!



Isabella Mahoney 7P-MT

"You lived like a rogue, you'll die like a rogue."  
From Warrior Cats

Judge's comments:  
I loved how in this design the style of illustration matched so wonderfully with the quote. It made me want to read the book to find out the context of these words. Very eye-catching with great contrasting colours; I wondered whether the placement of the fiery colours at the bottom connoted hell...?



Rosa Jordan

"It was there, unspoken between them, and it would be there forever...Love, she decided was like magic..."  
From The Last Bear

Judge's Comments:

A heart-wrenching quote that I would love to be reminded of every time I used this bookmark in my daily reading! The juxtaposition of the stark silhouettes and the gentle, varied watercolour background created a beautiful overall effect. The purple and orange added greatly to the 'romantic' (emotional) effect of this design and I really loved it.



GEORGINA VAN OVERBEKE 7P-MT

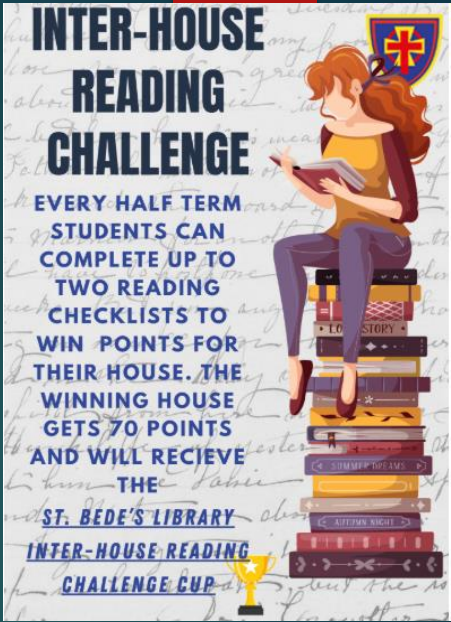
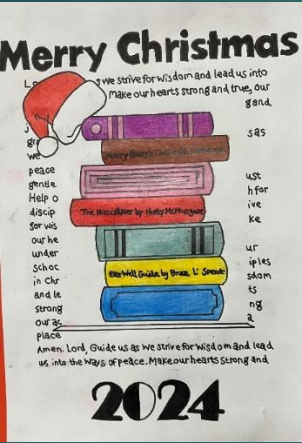
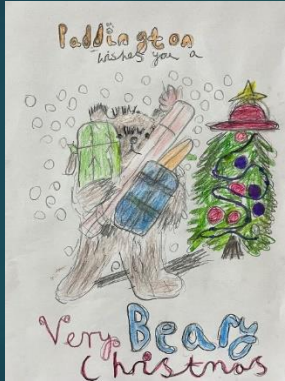
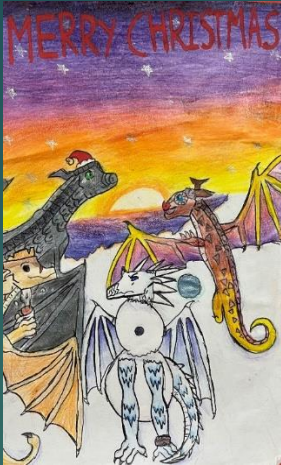
"Happiness can be found in the darkest of times if only one remembers to turn on the light."  
From Harry Potter

Judges comments:

It was evident from this design the care and effort that had been invested in its creation. It's also one of my favourite quotes, and your focus on imagery of light rather than the novel itself led me to think about its meaning away from the Harry Potter context. A sophisticated design overall and enhanced by its unusual border shape.



The library challenge for this second half term is to design a book-themed Christmas card. Here are some of the entries so far...



During the last week of November, the library hosted a Scholastic book fair. Students were able to browse the fair before school and during break and lunch.

Each book purchased helped us earn new books for our library.

**Thank you** to everyone who visited the book fair and purchased books.

The library was able to choose **£205.40** worth of new books to add to our collection.





# Girls' Football



## U16 (Year 10/11)

Congratulations to the U16 girls football team who are through to the next round of the County Cup. After an intense match ending in a 3-3 draw, the girls held their nerve to win 7-6 on penalties against Jack Hunt School. Good luck to the girls who prepare to take on Comberton Village College in the next round.

## U14 (Year 8/9)

The U14 girls' football team delivered a confident performance, securing a 2-0 victory against Bottisham Village College earlier in the term. The match provided an excellent opportunity for the team to prepare ahead of their cup challenge on the 27<sup>th</sup> November. They faced a challenging away fixture against a very strong Abbey College side. Despite the eventual defeat, the team displayed remarkable resilience and determination throughout the match.

## Year 7

The Year 7 girls' football team participated in their first fixture against Bottisham Village College on the 13<sup>th</sup> November. Two 7-a-side games were played, and the matches showcased an abundance of teamwork and talent. Congratulations to all the players for their effort and enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing the team in action again soon!



# District Cross Country Competition

A huge well done to everyone who competed in the cross-country competition at Netherhall School on the 5th December. Taking on a muddy and hilly course is no small feat, and you should all be incredibly proud of your efforts and determination! A special congratulations to those who progressed to the next round and will represent the District in January – we wish you the best of luck!





## Year 7 & 8 Basketball fixtures



On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October and On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December St Bede's Basketball team hosted a fixture vs Netherhall and Linton. Mostly year 8 students accompanied by a select few year 7 students played in 2 half court games and swapped at half time. Both St Bede's teams took handsome victories in both fixture. The talent for basketball in these 2 year groups is high and we will continue to develop these skills.

Squad:

**Y8** Sohan Patel, Jonathan Serban, Mateo Magnaye, Teddy Ngatchu, Gabriel Rogel, Gabi Carvalho, Maxwell Jansson Boyd, Nehan Suresh, Samuel Lapuz, Fernando Munoz, Daniel Okal, Ethan Imhagwe

**Y7** Xavier Codlin, Paolo Fiato, David Sikhosana, Samuele Lanza, Jeramiah Josy, Jacquin Patel



# Year 7 Rugby

## Year 7 District Rugby

The Year 7's have had a great introduction to rugby and the commitment to lessons and training has been outstanding. We played a number of schools prior to the tournament at Shelford rugby club, building up and developing into full contact rugby.

We started really well with a 15-0 win over Bassingbourn with tries from Enoch Julius, Zach Ng and David Henman. Bottisham were next and another try from Zach and David Sikhosana completed a 10-0 win. Zach and David scored again in the next game against Chesterton. Unfortunately, Chesterton came back with two tries of their own ending the game in a draw 10-10. The last two games saw Enoch Julius and David Henman score against Soham and Zach and Ethan Nicholson scoring against Comberton but both games ended in narrow defeats by one try. All the boys should be really proud of their commitment, teamwork and conduct. Congratulations to all of them as they finished third in the District.

Squad: Ethan Nicholson, Tom Freeman, Zach Ng, Spencer Tanner, Lorcan Carvill, Jacob Rowell, Enoch Julius, Fleming Josi, David Sikhosana, Massimo Jeanes, David Henman, Finlay Martin, Arthur Leckie, Alexander Schwarz, Nathaniel Passingham, Adam Ticcianti





# Boys' Basketball

## U15 Basketball

The Basketball season has kicked off with a couple of fixtures. The U15 Boys played Bottisham away, who had a good team with a number of club players. It was a good competitive match but we kept our unbeaten streak going securing a 42-23 win. Linton were next up but struggled against our defence and offence scoring 82 points to their 22.

Squad: Jeshua Gaylo, Will Davidson, Nick Kontakos, Leon Williams, Noah McGarvey, Bobby Nicholson, Gabriel Costa, Antonio Barra Plaza, Elliot Denmead, Zenilson Vong, Simon Mendez Garcia, Daniel Nneji, Jared Cendana, Franklin Chieu, Patrick Kaluza, Sahvan Patel





# District Hockey Tournament



Hockey continues to be popular with the students and we have been delighted by the number of students attending hockey club. This season as well as training on the grass pitches at St.Bede's we were able to offer the Year 10's and 11's the opportunity to train at the Ley's School astro-turf for 5 sessions which was really helpful in preparation for the tournament. Many thanks to the Ley's School.

It is always a pleasure to take the students to fixtures and this season it has been wonderful to be able to see the students grow in their playing ability and develop as teams. Congratulations to all the students that have taken part in clubs this season.

## District Hockey Tournament Results:

U16 Hockey A Team – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place District Hockey Tournament

U16 Hockey B Team – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place District Hockey Tournament

U14 Hockey Team – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place District Hockey Tournament

Year 8 Hockey A Team – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place District Hockey Tournament

Year 8 Hockey B Team – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place District Hockey Tournament

Year 7 Hockey A Team – District Champions

Year 7 Hockey B Team – 4<sup>th</sup> Place District Tournament





# County Schools Netball Championship



Following success in the Year 8 District Netball Tournament the U14 Netball Team qualified for the County Schools Netball Tournament which was held in St. Ives on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The standard of play is always high for the tournament and the girls prepared themselves well by attending training sessions and fixtures. Many thanks to Floria Marshall who assisted in the coaching of the team once again this year.

The team played 9 teams in the Round-Robin tournament and with each game their confidence grew, the games were only 15 minute long, so there was no room for error in these fast paced matches. I am very pleased to announce that the girls won 7 matches and lost only 2. It was an incredible performance which placed them second in the results table.

St. Bede's vs The Ley's – 8-5      St. Bede's vs Comberton 6-5  
St. Bede's vs Stephen Perso 2-4      St. Bede's vs Witchford 11-0  
St. Bede's vs King's Ely 8-2      St. Bede's Hinchingsbrooke 10-1  
St. Bede's vs Wisbech Gram. 8-7      St. Bede's vs The Perse 7-9  
St. Bede's vs Peterborough Sch 7-3

In normal tournament play this would have qualified them for the Regional finals however they then had to play the top 4 teams again. Although the girls continued to play well the team lost two games and won two games which meant they finished joint 3<sup>rd</sup> narrowly missing qualification for the regionals. We are immensely proud of the girls performance, they played to a very high standard and conducted themselves in an exemplary fashion throughout the tournament.

## Congratulations to the whole squad:

Grace Collins GD –Captain, Esme Gray GS, Vivian Canales Dias GA, Marianna Yost WA, Ava Stanley GK, Amy Dolan WD, Ariane Macdonald C, Gwendolen Doubleday GK, Rose McLeish GA





## School Prayer



Lord,  
Guide us as we strive for wisdom and lead  
us into the ways of peace.  
Make our hearts strong and true, our  
words gentle and understanding, our  
actions loving and just.  
Help our school to be a place of nurture  
and growth for disciples in Christ.  
Amen