A message for the Headteacher

I hope you enjoy reading the latest edition of our school newsletter, which offers just a small sample of the wide range of the activities that have taken place this term. At this time of year, we prepare to say farewell to our Year 11 students as they will soon begin their final GCSE examinations. Their teachers have worked hard this term to ensure every child is well prepared and able to revise. Please join us in praying for all our students as they enter the examination season.

As St Bede's has become more heavily oversubscribed, a much higher proportion of our students travel to school from within the city to attend each day. This has led to increased numbers of pedestrians and cyclists, which is great news for the environment. Please can I remind parents that students must wear helmets when they cycle to school and we cannot permit the use of any motorised student travel, such as e-bikes or e-scooters for safety reasons.

Our new Music Block will soon be completed allowing the existing Music Block to be refurbished as our school chapel and in turn, our existing Chaplaincy to serve as an alternative provision venue for students who are currently unable to attend regular lessons. We plan to host a formal opening at the start of the new school year when students will benefit from this new provision.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very joyous Easter!

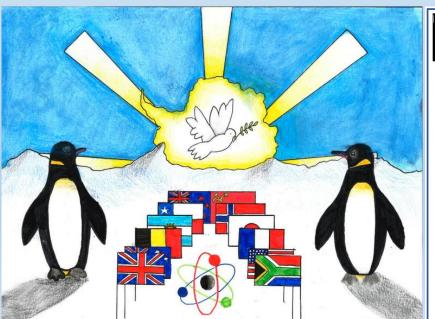
Alistair Day

Geography – Year 7 Antarctic flag competition

Year 7 students participated in the 'UK Polar Networks Antarctic Flag' competition, designing their own flag to represent Antarctica as part of their topic exploring different global biomes. Students produced a range of very creative designs, highlighting why Antarctica is such as special place and why it is important to protect it.

The flag sent from St Bedes, designed by Georgie Van Overbeke (7P-MT), has arrived in Antarctica! It has been photographed with Dr Katie Bowen, a medical doctor at Rothera Research Station on the Antarctic Peninsula.

Well done to all Year 7 students for their excellent flags, and congratulations to Georgie!







Geography – Inter-school geography quiz success



In February, two teams of very enthusiastic geographers took part in the WorldWise quiz competition held by the Cambridge and District Geographical Association at Long Road Sixth Form College.

The teams representing St Bede's were:

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- Jack Oldham
- Alex Schofield
- Alex Sanders
- Joe Prabhu

Year 9

- Sophie Monk
- Alicia Wirawan
- Samuel Smith

Both teams did very well against substantial competition from other local schools and some really challenging questions. Particular congratulations to the Year 10 team, who achieved an extremely impressive 2nd place! Well done to all students involved for their achievement and their commitment in representing the school in this way.

Science



Dr Haroon meets 11-Haroon

Students at St Bede's who choose to study three sciences to GCSE, the "separate science" options, are given class names relating to science.

Currently the classes in Year 11 are named "Haroon" and "Rankin" who are active in the research community.

By mutual agreement, 11-Haroon had a web seminar with Dr Hamied Haroon from the University of Manchester.

Dr Haroon was able to discuss his life journey, one with additional obstacles to overcome because of disability, and also the latest research he has completed.

At the same time, he was able to answer a broad range of questions from students, though divided opinion with a controversial answer regarding football.

Students and teachers alike found this to be a useful and valuable experience, with Dr Haroon being delighted to be able to talk to "his class".

History: Visiting Speakers





We were very grateful for Generation 2 Generation speakers visiting St Bede's again this year and volunteering their time to speak to St Bede's students in Year 9 and Year 11. Thank you to Year 9 and Year 11 students for their excellent questions.

Gerry Hahlo told the story of his father, Dieter Hahlo and the story of the Hahlo family. Please find out more here:

https://www.generation2generation.org.uk/survivorstory-the-hahlo-family/ Sam Rogoff told the story of his mother, Rela Rogoff. Please find out more here:

https://www.generation2generation.org.uk/the-story-of-rela-rogoff/



History: Inter-House History Year 7 Castle Competition

House points and certificates have been awarded for students in the following areas:



Innovation and creativity
Historical accuracy
Use of recycled materials
Use of technology
Creative cake designs
Special commendation

Corinth - 60 house points
Colossae - 60 house points
Rome - 180 house points
Philippi - 80 house points
Galatia - 120 house points
Ephesus - 100 house points







The standard of the castles was outstanding and well done to all Year 7 students for creating such fantastic designs.

PTFA Spring News

The PTFA has had a busy Spring Term:

Thank you to all the parent/carer volunteers and to everyone who has supported us this term including at the Lower School Disco and the Ceili. More volunteers always needed – please join us! St Bede's PTFA Volunteers sign up: https://xoyondo.com/dp/xq7o2ovr8qyohfb



PTFA Events next Term:

- Next meeting of PTFA online Teams Summer meeting on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.
- Come along and help us decide which events to do and where to focus our fundraising efforts.
- Y11 Leavers' ice cream & staff thank you Brunch on Friday 2nd May.
- Refreshments at the School Plays 28th/29th April and the Expressive Arts Evening on Wed 21st May.

Kappy Baster

PTFA Fundraising:

Please join Easyfundraising to help raise FREE funds while you do your online shopping or make donations directly to the PTFA using the QR codes below.



Use this QR code to make donations to St Bede's PTFA towards refreshments or ongoing activities

For more details of what we do and to join us please email: ptfa@stbedes.cambs.sch.uk

Use this QR code to sign up to Easyfundraising for St Bede's PTFA



Family Gardening Day 15th March

On Saturday 15th March, parents, students, and staff gathered to plant 210 trees (whips) kindly given to us from the Woodland trust. They were planted on the ridge of earth created by the new build and once established will provide a habitat for wildlife and a lovely backdrop of interesting colours, shapes and textures. After all the hard work everyone gathered in the food room for a brunch of soups and sandwiches. Thanks to all who participated and thanks to the PTFA for helping out and funding the ingredients for the brunch.









#Fish Heroes

#Fish Heroes is an organisation promoting the preparation and cooking of fish in schools. They do this by donating fresh or Canned fish products, demonstrating recipes and presenting information on sustainable fishing. We were one of 300 schools who were donated cans of organic Alaskan wild salmon (very expensive to buy). Year 10 Food students used this to make one of the recipes a salmon pasty flavoured with lemon and parsley. The results looked and tasted lovely! Thanks so much to #Fish Heroes and the Food teachers centre for our donation.









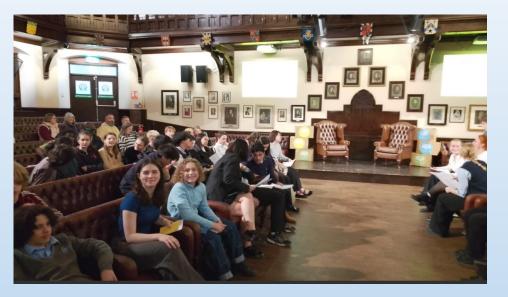
St. Bede's Library News

- This term has been a busy one in the library....
- In February some year 7 & 8 students attended an author event at the Stephen Perse Senior School.
- Bestselling author of the Skandar series, A.F. Steadman gave an inspiring and fun talk to over 400 students. Each student was presented with a signed copy of the first Skandar book in the series. We are looking forward to the next book published in the summer.
- Students had fun guessing the 'Staff Shelfie' for World Book Day! We had some amazing entries for the library challenges and 'Blind Date With a Book' was a real hit!
- Carnegie shadowing has begun with around 80 students taking part.



Year 10s debate in the Cambridge Union Chamber at the Cambridge Festival of Ideas





A Year 10 team, well-supported by a host of Year 10s and Year 11s from the Debate club at St Bede's, debated the motion 'This House believes that climate change is the responsibility of the individual'. Our team, consisting of Elliott Denmead and Maddie Woodford spoke passionately in favour of the individual's role in preventing the climate crisis worsening. Their skilled delivery and passion paid off, with the motion being passed.



Callum Collie made an striking speech from the floor in which he presented his research into water pollution in local brooks and deduced that, as governments seem powerless to prevent pollution, and companies complicit in it, only the individual can be trusted to make the necessary changes.

The team had worked very hard to prepare their arguments and the success was down to the efforts of the speakers and the backroom team of Zosia Prokop, Neema Mokobi and Laura Ullrich, without whose research and rehearsal skills the debate would not have been such a success.

St Bede's were very grateful to have this opportunity to discuss such a vital issue in such an eminent public forum.

Panathlon SEND Sports Competition

On March 27th, St Ives played host to an exciting and inspiring Panathlon SEND event, where students from across Cambridgeshire gathered to compete in various adaptive sporting events. The students were very excited and had already shown good sportsmanship and talent by securing second place in the previous round of the competition by beating Coleridge and NCA.

The event in St Ives was an opportunity for students to showcase their skills and sportsmanship in a supportive, inclusive environment. They took part in activities such as Boccia and New Age Kurling.

They should all be very proud of how well they did and how they represented the school.



U13 Girls Cricket Team

St Bede's had an impressive start in the indoor cricket tournament, securing victory in the first round by defeating both NCA and Trumpington. Their strong performances earned them a spot in the county finals at the prestigious Cambridge University Sports Centre.

In the finals, St Bede's faced off against two private schools, St Faith's and The Perse. Despite some outstanding bowling from the St Bede's team, both opponents proved too strong on the day. While St Bede's fought hard and demonstrated excellent skills, including some superb individual performances, St Faith's and The Perse ultimately triumphed.

Though the results didn't go in their favor, the team's journey to the finals was a fantastic achievement, showcasing their talent and determination, finishing 3rd in the county. St Bede's can hold their heads high as they now look forward to building on this experience in future competitions





U15 Girls Cricket Team

St Bede's had a fantastic start in the indoor cricket tournament, securing victory in the first round by beating Trumpington, Impington, and Comberton Schools. Their dominant performances in this stage earned them a well-deserved spot in the county finals at Cambridge University Sports Centre.

In the county finals, St Bede's faced strong competition from The Leys,
The Perse, and Comberton. Despite some excellent bowling throughout
the day, including impressive control with minimal wide balls, St Bede's
unfortunately lost to The Perse and The Leys. However, they bounced
back to beat Comberton in a thrilling match, showcasing their resilience
and teamwork.

Finishing 3rd in the county was a remarkable achievement, highlighting their skill and determination. Their journey to the finals was a proud moment for the team, and they will undoubtedly build on this experience in future competitions

U16 Girls Football

This term has seen excellent progress from the U16 Girls Football Team throughout their County Cup campaign. Their efforts have been rewarded with a well-deserved place in the Semi Final, where they will face Chesterton in what promises to be a thrilling match. Good luck to the girls, fingers crossed they make it through to the final!

U12 Girls Football

The U12 Football Team put in a fantastic performance during their recent fixtures in the District Cup, facing strong opposition from Soham and Bottisham.

In a closely contested match against Soham, the team narrowly missed out on a win, showing great resilience and determination throughout. They bounced back brilliantly in their second game, delivering an impressive 4-1 victory over Bottisham with excellent teamwork and skill on display.

Well done to all the players for their hard work and commitment - a great effort and a promising sign for future competitions.

Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 Netball Team have had a phenomenal half term, showcasing outstanding promise and dominance on the court which has resulted in an undefeated run in all of their fixtures. Their results speak for themselves:

17-1 win vs Netherhall 9-2 win vs Sawston 14-1 win vs Bottisham

These performances put them in great stead for the District Tournament taking place after Easter. We wish the girls the best of luck as they prepare - keep up the brilliant work!

U14 Basketball Team Clinches District Championship Title

In a thrilling double-header that showcased skill, determination, and teamwork, the U14 Basketball team emerged as

District champions, securing victories over NCA and The Perse. The team displayed exceptional defense and offensive strategies, overcoming both opponents to claim the coveted title.

Victory Over NCA: 30-20

The first game of the day saw the team take on NCA in a tightly contested match. With strong defensive play and effective ball movement, the team took control early. Despite NCA's best efforts to claw back, the U14 squad maintained a steady lead throughout the game. Stellar performances from the guards, coupled with solid rebounding from the forwards, allowed the team to secure a 30-20 victory. The standout player of the game was Jared Cendana, whose 12-point performance and key assists helped lead the team to a dominant win.

Narrow Win Over The Perse: 26-21

The championship final was a nail-biter, as the U14 team faced off against The Perse in a low-scoring, defensive battle. Both teams fought hard, but it was the U14 squad's ability to make crucial stops and capitalise on fast-break opportunities that ultimately made the difference. Despite The Perse's strong second-half push, the U14 team held firm to secure their place as District champions.

U14 District Champions

Squad: Jared Cendana (Capt), Franklin Chiu, Sohan Patel, Gabi Carvalho, Alex Robin, Matteo Magnaye, Samuel Lapuz Jonathan Serban, Xavier Codlin

U16 District Basketball Tournament

The U16 basketball team showed remarkable grit and determination in the District Tournament, ultimately finishing as

runners-up. Their performance was filled with intense moments, particularly in their two key games. In the first match, the team triumphed over IVC with a solid 17-12 victory, demonstrating strong defense and effective teamwork. Their perseverance on both ends of the court allowed them to maintain a steady lead throughout the game.

However, in the final, they faced the tournament champions, Parkside, in a nail-biting contest. Despite a valiant effort, the team was narrowly defeated, 13-14, in the last few seconds. The game was a thrilling display of skill and intensity, with both teams fighting hard until the final buzzer. The team's close loss showed their resilience and sportsmanship, leaving them proud of their performance despite the narrow margin.



Squad: Isaac Boyle (Capt), Craig Roa, William Davidson, Jesh Gaylo, Nick Kontakos, Bobby Nicholson, Gabriel Costa Antonio Barra Plaza, Leon Williams, Noah McGarvey

Year 7 Football Team Battles Hard in District Tournament

The Year 7 football team put in a strong performance in the District Tournament, showing great determination and

teamwork throughout their matches.

The team started with a narrow 3-2 loss against Netherhall, conceding a heartbreaking goal in the final minute of the game. Despite the setback, they bounced back impressively, securing a solid 2-0 victory over Linton with a well-organised display. A tough match followed against Bottisham, who would go on to win the tournament. Despite their best efforts, the team fell to a 2-0 defeat against a strong opponent. In their final game, they earned a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Sawston, demonstrating resilience and team spirit until the final whistle. Overall, the team showed great promise and can take plenty of positives from their performances and finished third overall. With continued hard work and commitment, future success is sure to come!



Squad: Lorcan Carvill, Spencer Tanner, Jerry Josy, Fleming Josi(Capt), Alex Schwarz, Jacob Rowell, Miguel Garcia, Enoch Taiwo David Henman Timothy Wong Hugo Gutteridge Jacquin Patel Theodore Burke Ethan Nicholson Sam Bryan Massimo Jeanes

Year 7C & Year 7D Cluster Fixture vs Linton

The Year 7C and Year 7D teams put on a fantastic display of skill, teamwork, and determination in their recent cluster fixture

against Linton.

Year 7C

The Year 7C team dominated their matches, securing two impressive victories. The first match saw a commanding **5-0** win, with excellent attacking play and solid defense. In their second game, they continued their strong form with a **3-0** victory, showcasing great teamwork and clinical finishing.

Year 7D

The Year 7D team also put in a strong performance. They started with a well-earned **3-1** win, demonstrating resilience

and sharp attacking play. In their second match, they battled hard and held their opponents to a **0-0 draw**, showing great defensive discipline.

Year 7C & 7D

Overall, it was a highly successful fixture, with both teams displaying fantastic effort and sportsmanship. Well done to all the players involved!

Squad:Lorcan Carvill Michael Dros Tommy Brown Toby Leech James Steward Anthony Dyl Tom Di Pietro Sumin Bae Enoch Julius Finlay Martin Julian Perka Joshua Jingara Paddy Fordham Nathaniel Passingham Noah Gamez Kasper Woloszyn

U14 Boys District Cup Knockout Match

Result: Lost 3-1

The U14 boys put in a spirited performance but ultimately fell short in their District Cup knockout match, going down 3-1 in a hard-fought contest.

A tough start saw the team concede two early goals, leaving them with an uphill battle. However, they responded well, showing resilience and determination to get back into the game. Their efforts were rewarded when Alex Robin produced a moment of brilliance to pull one back with a superb goal, giving the team renewed belief heading into the second half.

With momentum on their side, the boys pushed hard for an equaliser, dominating possession and creating several chances. Despite their attacking intent, the opposition held firm, and as the team committed players forward in search of a late leveller, they were caught on the break and conceded a third goal in the final minutes.

It was a brave and battling performance, and although the result didn't go their way, the team can take plenty of positives from their effort and desire.

Squad: Francesco Cockram Joel George Zac Codlin Edward Page Kascper Stachkowski Oliver Field Teddy Ngatchu Oscar Martin Alex Robin Errol Dulshi Harry Hilton Jonathan Serban

Year 8 Football

Year 8 Cup Victory Secures Quarter-Final Spot

10th March | Year 8 vs Stephen Perse | 6-0 Win

St Bede's Year 8 team put on a dominant display against Stephen Perse, securing an emphatic **6-0 victory** to book their place in the quarter-finals of the cup.

The team started strong and never looked back, with **Jonathan S** and **Alex R** both netting **two goals each**. Further strikes from **Ethan I** and **Daniel G** rounded off an outstanding performance. Solid defending and excellent teamwork ensured a clean sheet and a commanding win.

With confidence high, the team now looks ahead to their quarter-final clash against Melbourne, hoping to continue their cup run into the semi-finals.

- Player Highlights:
- **⊙** Jonathan S & Alex R − 2 goals each
- **⊙** Ethan I & Daniel G 1 goal each
- **○** Strong defensive performance leading to a clean sheet



Year 11 Football

- Heartbreak for Year 11 in Final Cup Outing
- IIII 6th March | Year 11 vs Northstowe | 1-1 Draw (Lost on penalties)
- St Bede's Year 11 team battled hard in their final ever cup competition but were edged out by Northstowe in a dramatic penalty shootout after a **1-1 draw in normal time**.
- Despite being a year younger, **Daniel N** showed composure beyond his years, scoring the vital goal to keep St Bede's in contention. The team put in a strong defensive performance, with **Tyler D**, stepping in as goalkeeper, making a **crucial penalty save** to keep the game alive.
- Unfortunately, the penalty shootout didn't go in St Bede's favour, bringing their cup journey and their time in school football competitions to a tough but proud conclusion.
- W Key Performers:

 - Daniel N Goal scorer (playing up from Year 10)
 Tyler D Crucial penalty save while filling in as goalkeeper

Year 8 A Netball Team 2nd Place District Netball Tournament

The St Bede's Year 8 A Netball team participated in a thrilling District tournament, showcasing impressive skill and teamwork. The team played against six other schools in the group stages, where their determination and strong performances secured them a spot in the semi-finals.

In the semi-finals, St Bede's went head-to-head with Comberton Village College. The team played with confidence and precision, emerging victorious with a 4-1 win. This victory propelled them into the final, where they were set to face IVC.



The final was a hard-fought battle, and despite their best efforts, St Bede's were narrowly defeated 4-2 by IVC. Although they didn't clinch the trophy, the team's spirit and sportsmanship throughout the tournament were commendable. The Year 8 A Netball team's performance has set a high standard for future tournaments and they have now qualified for the U14 County School Netball Championships which will be held in November 2025..Well done to all the players for their dedication and hard work!

Year 8 B Netball Team 2nd Place District Netball B Tournament

The St Bede's Year 8B Netball team competed in the District netball tournament, and their performance was nothing short of remarkable. In the first round, they faced off against eight schools, winning four of their games, including victories over two A teams. Their strong results earned them a solid 4th place in the group, qualifying them as the top B team to progress to the semi-finals of the B Team Tournament.

In the semi-finals, St Bede's took on Comberton's B team in a dominant display of skill and teamwork, winning the match 7-0. This impressive performance sent them through to the final, where they were set to face Impington Village College B team.



Although the final was a tough contest, St Bede's fought hard but were eventually defeated 7-2 by IVC. Despite the loss, the team's achievement of reaching the final and their overall performance throughout the tournament showcased their resilience and talent.

Congratulations to the Year 8B Netball team for their fantastic effort and a well-deserved spot as one of the top B teams in the District!

Year 9 Netball A Team District Tournament Champions

The St Bede's Year 9 A Netball team put on an outstanding display at the District Tournament, making their mark with dominant performances throughout the competition. In the first round, they faced five teams and triumphed over each one, winning every match by at least 8 goals — a testament to their skill, teamwork, and determination.

Their impressive run continued into the semi-finals, where they took on Netherhall. The team played with precision and confidence, securing a convincing 12-5 victory, which earned them a spot in the final.



In the final, St Bede's faced Chesterton and continued their dominant performance, winning 13-2. The team's impressive teamwork, accurate shooting, and solid defense ensured they cruised to victory, securing the District title. Congratulations to the Year 9 A Netball team for their exceptional performance and well-deserved win!

Year 9 Netball B Team 3rd Place District Netball Tournament

St Bede's B team took part in a challenging netball tournament, playing against a series of strong opponents. The team played in the group stage against four schools, all of which fielded A teams, as only one other school entered a B team. Despite their initial apprehension, the St Bede's B team rose to the occasion and worked hard, securing three wins out of four games — an outstanding achievement considering the tough competition.

This impressive performance earned them a place in the semi-finals, where they were up against Chesterton's A team. Despite putting in a valiant effort, the St Bede's B team unfortunately lost the semi-final 8-1. However, their determination and sportsmanship throughout the tournament were truly remarkable.

The B team's performance was a testament to their resilience and skill, and they should be incredibly proud of how they competed at such a high level. Well done to all the players for their incredible effort and teamwork!

Year 10 Netball A Team 3rd Place District Tournament

The St Bede's Year 10 A Netball team put in a strong performance at the District tournament. Competing against four other schools in the group stages, the team won three out of their four matches, earning them second place in the group.

This strong showing propelled them into the next round, where they faced the winners of the other group, Comberton. In a thrilling semi-final, St Bede's gave it their all but narrowly lost 6-7, in what was a hard-fought and exciting match.



Despite the defeat, the team's efforts were commendable, and they finished the tournament in 3rd place. The team should be very proud of their performance.

Year 10 B Netball Team B Team District Champions

The St Bede's Year 10B Netball team put on an impressive performance at the District Tournament, facing tough competition as the only B team in a field full of A teams. Despite the challenge, the team showed resilience, securing a strong 4-1 victory over Sawston A Team in their group stage, though they were unfortunately defeated in their other three matches.

However, the team's determination paid off when they faced Sawston's B team in the final. In a thrilling match, St Bede's came out on top with a 4-2 win, securing the title of District B Team Champions.



This victory was a testament to their perseverance and skill, especially considering they had to compete against A teams throughout the tournament. The Year 10B Netball team should be incredibly proud of their effort and success, proving that hard work and teamwork can overcome any challenge. Congratulations to the team on their well-deserved victory!

Year 11 Netball Team 4th Place District Netball Tournament

The Year 11 Netball team took to the court for the final time for the District Netball Tournament. 6 of the strongest school netball teams took part, to make it a very challenging tournament. Over the course of five matches, the team demonstrated impressive teamwork and resilience, securing two victories and ultimately finishing in 4th place.

Despite facing tough competition, the team's standout performances came in their wins, where they displayed strong attacking plays and solid defense. Their ability to adapt and push through challenging moments was a testament to their teamwork. While they didn't claim a top spot in the standings, the team's spirit and sportsmanship were widely praised by both their coaches and opposition.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the students in Year 11 that have contributed to the sporting life of the school over the past 5 years. They are wonderful group of students who have been a real pleasure to teach and coach. They have shown a great deal of dedication to all of the clubs and fixtures. We wish them well in their future sporting endeavors.

U14 Girls Basketball Team 2nd Place District Basketball Tournament

The U14 Girls Basketball Team showcased exceptional talent and resilience during their recent tournament, making a memorable run all the way to the final. The team's journey began with a strong performance in the Preliminary tournament against Linton Village College. They secured a well-deserved victory, earning them a spot in the District Finals.

In the semi-finals, the girls faced Impington, and despite a tough contest, they emerged victorious propelling them into the final against Chesterton CC. The atmosphere was electric as the team prepared for what would become a nail-biting finale.

The championship game against Chesterton was a true test of skill and determination. With only 30 seconds remaining on the clock, the U14 Girls Basketball Team held a narrow one-point lead. However, in a dramatic twist, Chesterton managed to seize possession of the ball in the final moments and scored a decisive two points just as the final whistle blew.

While the team narrowly missed out on victory, their performance throughout the tournament was nothing short of inspiring. Their hard work, teamwork, and tenacity on the court earned them respect and admiration from all who watched. The U14 Girls Basketball Team's journey to the District Finals, capped off with a thrilling final, is a testament to their dedication and bright future in the sport.

U16 Girls Basketball Team 2nd Place District Basketball Tournament

The U16 girls basketball team had a standout performance in the District Tournament, beginning with a strong semi-final match against Sancton Wood. They played with great determination and skill, convincingly winning 12-2, which secured their spot in the final against Chesterton.

In a nail-biting U16 Girls Basketball Final, the team delivered a strong performance, but ultimately fell short against Chesterton C.C., losing by just one point in the final seconds.

The girls were in control for much of the game and held a 7-point lead with just four minutes left on the clock. With excellent teamwork and defensive strategies, they seemed poised to claim victory. However, Chesterton C.C. mounted a stunning comeback, scoring four quick baskets in the final minutes to snatch the win away from the girls.

The match ended 17-18 in Chesterton's favor. Although the team finished as runners-up, their performance was a testament to their hard work and tenacity. The girls can be proud of their journey to the final, and this close contest highlights their potential for future success.