



St Edward's School Hampshire

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Beacon School

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St Edward's School is a charitable trust providing day and residential placements for boys aged 9 – 18 years who experience behavioural difficulties associated with their social, emotional and mental health. These may be complicated by additional learning difficulties.

Accelerated Reader – St Edward's is a Champion Beacon School



After a long search for a programme that could embrace all our pupils' range of reading needs, we settled on Accelerated Reader as it offered us a platform that we could embellish and mould to suit us. As a result of much thought, trial and error we put Accelerated Reader onto our curriculum and it has pride of place each morning for 25 minutes. All pupils and staff read.

We have older pupils buddying younger pupils through the sessions and an awards assembly on a Friday to celebrate the varied success criteria we have set. We offer the pupils a chance to celebrate all their reading achievements regardless of whether they have advanced reading skills or emerging ones, individually or as a group.

RENAISSANCE Champion School

Assessments carried out annually offer our pupils a chance to reflect and celebrate on their advancing skills and a range of incentive schemes keep the momentum alive for the programme.

So it was with a great sense of pride that we received the prestigious title of 'Champion Beacon School' from Accelerated Reader who recognised that, after crunching data from 6000 schools we ranked as one of the highest users in the country!

Music to our ears!

The teaching of guitar playing has been encouraged by pupils willing to play as a group rather than individuals. St Edward's Unplugged has covered tunes such as the 'Mission Impossible' theme tune, Deep Purple's, 'Made in Japan' using chords, White Stripes, 'Seven Nation Army', Nirvana, 'Smells like Teen Spirit' and several Oasis hits. One group has even been working on songs from 'The Greatest Showman'!

Following requests made by pupils at several Annual Reviews the school is now on the search for a local peripatetic piano teacher with a view to coaching these pupils 1:1. Who knows, maybe before too long they'll be able to accompany our morning hymn!



The Selfish Giant

This year's theatre visit was *The Selfish Giant* by Oscar Wilde, that was magically brought to life by the Image Musical Theatre. It was a beautiful and moving tale of a giant's selfish ways that culminated in a moment of realisation and his redemption. The show was a wonderful tool to remind everyone of the importance of kindness and generosity.

The show required the participation of the whole audience as the chorus and ten pupils who played small parts. The pupils played their parts enthusiastically, with lots of laughter mixed in with a small dose of actors' nerves.

With beautiful costumes, an enchanting set, professional actors and wonderful music by Robert Hyman, this show will be remembered as one of the best.



A new shaped ball at St Edward's – Rugby's a big hit!

This term at St Edward's, the P.E. department have introduced touch rugby into the curriculum for the first time. Our pupils have been tasked with learning and developing new skills such as passing, evasion and communication between team mates.

We have been developing tactical awareness within the lessons and students have been challenged to overcome problems with their own ideas. Explaining different ways to overcome defence in sport has been done in the past on whiteboards and other visual aids, but this term we have had access to interactive tablets. After watching videos of rugby being played on these tablets, the students have been given the freedom to be creative and come up with their own ways which has improved confidence and communication between peers and staff members.

It has been a real benefit having rugby in the curriculum as it requires a lot of physical movement, development of gross motor skills, communication and cognitive thinking. We look forward to continuing and progressing the sport in the future with the help of our own very experienced coach, Dan Farr, who also coaches for London Irish.



Meet the new Head of English

At the start of January, we were happy to welcome a new Head of English. Tom Chatwin is an experienced English and Media Studies teacher. Tom has ten years' experience working with children and young people at mainstream and special schools in London and Hampshire.

Tom plans to offer the Cambridge iGCSE English qualification for all wider school Year 11 pupils from 2020, as well as provide a broad and balanced curriculum for younger pupils.



"I am very happy to join the amazing team at St Edward's School as Head of English. It is a privilege to work with such a committed and experienced team of teachers and care staff and I feel excited about my future," said Tom.

Tom has moved onto the school site with his wife and baby daughter. In his spare time, Tom enjoys football, keeping fit and travel.

Saxon and Viking Runes

Long before the introduction of the Roman alphabet we know today, there existed the ancient 'Futhork', or the runic alphabet. Carved onto stone or into wood this ancient form of writing was used by the people who lived on these islands, or who came as conquerors in the 8th Century. The runes were used as a way of labelling valuable goods, weapons or grave markers. They were also used by the Vikings as a way of foretelling the future.



In History, our pupils are learning about the runes, how to interpret them and are able to write short messages using the 'Futhork'. In the later part of the Spring Term, they will be given an opportunity to create their own set of runes as well as exploring the magic of this ancient language in Art. In History, it is our aim to introduce boys to something of the magic of the past. This Spring we are planning a field visit with Mr Pimlett which will explore King Alfred the Great's fight against the Danes using a mixture of historical sources, photography and art work.

DRT Kawasaki Workshop

A small group of deserving St Edward's pupils were invited to DRT Kawasaki workshop by the owner himself Steve Dixon. The team compete in the World Championship motocross series which is the highest level of competition.

On arrival, we were met by Jordan the head mechanic, who provided us with a very in depth tour of the workshop and explained all the processes involved in making a standard motocross bike into a high performance, race winning machine. He talked us through the process of using a CNC (computer numerical control) machine, where they make all their own parts out of titanium and he even explained the developments they make to the engine.

The team work in partnership with Cosworth who are world leaders in mechanical and electronic performance development. Jordan also shared his journey from first applying for work experience to becoming the head mechanic, a highly interesting account of what can be achieved through hard work; both practical and academic, which in itself was great eye opener for our pupils.

Darian Sanayei, from the USA, pictured here riding at our school track during a previous visit, will again be racing for the team this year. Thank you for accommodating our visit and we would like to wish you the best of luck in 2019!

Ben Cave (Year 10)



Dissection

As part of our science curriculum enrichment, we embarked on a week of dissections. Dissecting parts of pigs is not for everyone, however everyone took part, enjoyed the experience and found it highly memorable.

Throughout the science curriculum we engage in areas of study ranging from gas exchange, body systems and organs, central nervous system and light. Dissecting lungs, hearts, brains, nerves and eyes respectively, helps our pupils to really consolidate their understanding. Our younger pupils even dissected some chicken legs to clarify their understanding of antagonistic pairs of muscles, to 'add the flesh to the bones' of their learning.



Wanting practical science to be completely inclusive, those for whom pig and chicken dissection is a little much, can hone their skills on flowers. Dissected flowers helped to clarify their learning of the various flower parts. This is always popular with our pupils and all engaged with a safe and mature attitude.

Well done boys! Great write ups and honest reflections of the event.

A cracking time!

As part of our whole school drive to ensure that our more vulnerable pupils make a smooth and anxiety free transition from The Garden Rooms to the wider school, they have begun to visit different departments to familiarise themselves with the wider school teaching spaces and the staff that will possibly teach them.

We had a truly enjoyable and exciting visit to the science department this half term. We witnessed some of the fun demonstrations that the department offers and our pupils engaged with great excitement and shared their fun with the staff.

Aside from the 'screaming Jelly babies and 'eggsplooding eggs' the pupils also learned the safety requirements, procedures and expectations needed to conduct experiments safely.

This was a great success working towards a whole school objective. A special big thanks to Andy and Stu for organising this event.



Indian Topic – Culinary delights of the subcontinent!

Our Key Stage 2/3 class have been learning about India in their Topic lessons. They have studied famous landmarks, religions, geography and of course food!

As one might imagine, learning about the different foods and spices really intrigued the pupils, so we enriched the curriculum and took a trip to a local Indian restaurant. On arrival we were shown the kitchen and back rooms, as well as being introduced to the chef. The chef spoke with the boys and explained how the dishes were created, what went into the recipes and finally wowed us by demonstrating how to make a curry. The boys were amazed when it came to the making of the naan bread and the special drum oven that was used, as the chef placed his hand into the fire pit and showed us his well-honed technique.

After all the learning that had gone on, it was only fair that as a class we all sat down and tasted what we had witnessed being made.

“I was amazed at how the naan bread was made! I think I ate so much tasty food I was ready to explode.” Jay, year 8

“The curries had so much flavour and you could really taste the spices.” James, year 8

“It was a really nice way to see what we were going to eat being made in front of us.” Alfie, year 8



Extreme Earth

Our K2/3C transition class this term are learning about our extreme Earth, during Topic lessons. During the term we will be covering topics such as volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.

To begin with we looked at what is under our feet. We learnt about the different layers that make up the Earth and what we may find if we dug a hole to the centre of our interesting planet. To help the pupils get a grasp on what we had been learning in class, we used a hands on approach to recreate Earth using different coloured clay to represent its 4 layers.

The pupils engaged fantastically with the task and were able to clearly explain what each layer was. The pupils stated that this kinaesthetic approach helped them to understand with more clarity, holding the Earth in their own hands!

Safer Internet Day

This year we shared as a whole school community how to be kept safe on the internet. We explored how modern technology can influence the very decisions we make online.

Our ICT teacher, Kristian Barton presented an assembly explaining the importance of knowing who you are talking with on online social media platforms. The message was not to deter children from embracing this exciting technology, but to be aware of the potential risks.

This year's theme, 'Together for a Better Internet' was to inspire children to use the internet responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. It was a clear message that sharing can be fun, but gaining consent before we do so is very important.

The day brought a lot of exciting conversations about positive uses of technology.



Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service visit

The Fire service visited us in December with a fire truck kitted out as a house and spent the day with pupils teaching them about the hazards that surround us all in our homes.

Pupils were given a quiz when in the truck and options as to how best to deal with each hazard and the devastating effects that can occur when simple devices such as phone chargers are left plugged in.

They also covered safety on the roads and the potentially tragic effects that hoax calling the emergency services can have on other people's lives. The pupils asked relevant and in-depth questions throughout the day and enjoyed the challenges set by the fire team.

