

NEWSLETTER

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 needs. These may be complicated by additional learning difficulties.

St Edward's School
HAMPSHIRE

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Issue 31

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VIKING INVASION

During the Spring term our pupils in The Garden Rooms have been learning about the Anglo Saxon and Viking period of British history. The pupils have enjoyed looking at how different Britain was during these times compared to modern life.

A particular highlight of the topic was a re-enactment of a Viking invasion! The pupils enjoyed getting dressed up in authentic Viking clothing, lent to us by the History department, as they carried their shields towards the new land of 'England' during a drama activity. Waiting for their arrival were three fearsome members of staff dressed as Anglo Saxons! They asked the invaders why they had come to their shores and the pupils were able to use their knowledge to explain why they thought the Vikings invaded Britain all those years ago. The pupils have engaged well with the topic and have shown a keen interest in learning about the past. There were no children or staff slain in the delivery of this curriculum.



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WRITE for RIGHTS

In March, pupils in Year 10 visited Romsey to post letters they had written as part of Amnesty International Write for Rights campaign. St Edward's pupils wrote letters to Seyi Akiwowo, an anti-racism activist and London councillor. Pupils were concerned to learn that Seyi had experienced racist abuse from online trolls for her work promoting justice and peace. Pupils wrote letters directly to her in London to express their support for her work. One pupil wrote, 'Thank you for tackling the enormous global issue of online abuse and for encouraging a safer and more equal world for all people'.

Another wrote, 'I stand in solidarity with you. You're not alone in fighting for women's rights online. Stay strong'.

After posting their letters, pupils enjoyed celebratory cake and hot chocolate in the grounds of Romsey Abbey. Inside the abbey, pupils lit candles and wrote prayerful messages for people in their own lives.

Taking part in Amnesty International Write for Rights campaign has been a great opportunity to practise the important skill of letter writing, make a real difference in the world through writing and explore Catholic values of human rights and solidarity.

Tom Chatwin, Head of English.



Metal Detecting & Coin Club

During the Winter evenings we can't go out metal detecting because it's too dark. We use a classroom and research areas to search for new sites such as Broxmore House Gardens. We went there this Spring and searched for military items from World War 2. Another thing we do is clean and research the coins and relics that we find during our 'coin and relic hunts'.

I thought metal detecting would be boring but it's really good fun. You can learn a bit about history and it also gets you out in the fresh air. I like going metal detecting because you find new stuff all the time. I've found some old coins from way back. I'm looking forward to going to the Royal Mint in Wales to look at the history of coins. We will be making our own £5 coin from 'Blank to bank' and we will be able to keep the finished piece once its completed.

Jack (Yr11)



My Favourite Find

When I was metal detecting I found a Tudor Rose in Temple Park at the front of school. This Rose is the same as the school emblem. I was happy because Rae said that no one else has found anything like this before. I was also happy because I remembered to turn the metal detector on, something I forgot to do last time! Rae thinks that the Rose is a piece of lead work from the guttering or drain hopper. This would have been on a section of the house before it burned down in the 1880's. This is by far my favourite find and I can't wait to see what else is out there just waiting for me to discover it!

Alfie (Yr9)



Modern Foreign Languages Day

The chosen language this year was Espanol which attracted staff who were keen to show off their Spanish connections, offering activities that were exciting and vibrant for the pupils. The morning began with a Thought for the Day about Spain's interesting and varied culture and traditions.

Throughout the morning, pupils then rotated around activity stations in their class groups. We enjoyed a Spanish cookery and tasting demonstration with amazing pa-ella as the star dish, but there were more conventional classes, including a Spanish language class, matching words to pictures and a Geography workshop in order to enhance their atlas skills and knowledge of Spain.

In ICT, pupils were encouraged to use their skills in Adobe Photoshop to create images inspired by the Spanish surrealist, Salvador Dali. Some very mind-boggling images ensued!

The Spanish invented table football which prompted the PE department to organise a human table football game that proved to be hilarious, both for participating pupils and staff members! Throughout the event, pupils were engaged with all the activities and fully immersed themselves into the Spanish theme, which concluded with a delicious Spanish lunch - bueno!



Image produced by

Miles
using Adobe Photoshop

Science - Starch testing in leaves

This week our younger pupils were discovering the process of photosynthesis. They already knew that with the help from the Sun and plant chlorophyll:

Carbon Dioxide + Water => Oxygen + Glucose

We had already tested that oxygen was present using some pond weed, so all we needed to do was test for the presence of glucose.

To begin with, we soaked a leaf in hot water to soften it. Then we soaked the leaf in warm ethanol to strip away the chlorophyll. Once the leaves were washed, we applied some Iodine which turns from brown to black in the presence of starch. Indeed the leaves turned black, proving our knowledge. Well done chaps, another fun practical with great results.



Mosque Visit



This half term, several pupils and members of staff visited the Medina mosque in Southampton and were given a guided tour by the Imam. We were invited to join midday prayer in the main prayer hall of the mosque and then spent over an hour being shown a number of the different rooms in which different groups of the local Moslem community meet each day of the week.

Our pupils were then invited to ask questions of the Imam who answered them frankly and honestly. In this way they were able to dispel a number of myths around our understanding of Islam. We came away with a very positive impression of a warm, faith community who are keen to promote close relationships with their neighbours.

On Monday, March 18th following the appalling attacks on the Moslem community in New Zealand, St Edward's School wrote a letter of support to our new friends

Dear Brother Saleem

As-Salaam Alaikum

It has been with the greatest sadness and a sense of great pain that we learned of the attacks on worshippers at two mosques last week in Christchurch.

Our heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to the families of those killed or injured in this senseless attack. As a Catholic Christian community we stand in solidarity with our Moslem brothers and sisters across the world in condemning all acts of hatred and violence, especially those directed at believers engaged in an act of worship.

Please pass on to all at the Medina mosque our deepest sympathies. Rest assured that we, as a community, will pray for all concerned and continue to pledge ourselves to the peaceful resolution of all conflict.

The community of St Edward's School

After successfully completing his BTEC Level 1 in 'Investigating the Hospitality Industry', Dimitri has expanded on his cooking and food preparation skills through working at the local 'The Hatchet Inn' which initially began as part of a work experience programme. Following that successful week, such was Dimitri's work ethic, he was invited back to gain more experience, but this time with an opportunity to earn some wages. Dimitri has since been regularly working at The Hatchet in his spare time. We hope that he can continue to develop his skills and gain further experience, and we wish him every success in the future, as he becomes a more independent young man.

Similarly, this year saw most of our Key Stage 4 pupils apply themselves to work experience placements, from garages to shops, kitchens to computer refurbishment warehouses. It is such a valuable experience for them to begin to understand what it means to work for a living, having the discipline to be punctual, the tenacity to stick with the placement, the social skills to work alongside new colleagues and the maturity to follow instructions from your boss! Although we were in receipt of some excellent feedback from the employers, two stand out candidates this year were Ben and Matthew, who worked in Halfords and a computer repair company respectively and both realising that work could be found that complimented their individual interests. Well done to all of you. Now back to the classroom!



BTEC & WORK EXPERIENCE



FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Seven pupils represented the school in a Hampshire football tournament held at Samuel Cody School in Farnborough. The pupils arrived looking ready to play in their St Edward's tracksuit and bright yellow Chelsea football kit that was kindly donated by CFC.

We started the game very strong - not allowing the other team any time on the ball. The pupils dominated the first half, finding the net once, but sadly the goal was disallowed. The pupils came out feeling very confident in the second half, again not allowing the opposition time to build any momentum. The game saw us have many opportunities, but none resulting in a goal. The first game finished 0-0 with our pupils feeling like they deserved a win. The second game saw us with a comfortable 1-0 win, but the score line should have been a lot higher. The pupils represented the school in an outstanding fashion on and off the pitch and were truly deserved winners. Well done boys. We march on!



Kit Donation!

A massive muddy **thank you!**

The pupils who regularly access our off road motorcycle activity were amazed by the kind generosity of Lee Tolan. Lee, director of ASA scaffolding and the owner of a motocross team currently competing in the British championship, very kindly donated a huge box of motocross kit to our school for the pupils to use.

With immediate effect, the pupils put the new kit to test on our school track and would like to say thank you to Lee for his kind generosity and wish his team the best of luck for the future.



Escape Rooms!

Escape Rooms are popping up all over the country and it was only a matter of time before we added one to our activity programme.

Around the room there were a series of clues and tasks, which pupils needed to complete to unlock keys. When used together, the keys would eventually allow the students to escape.

The pupils were required to work as a team

to solve a variety of problems that used their mathematical knowledge, problem solving skills and physicality. Three pupils entered a

room that was set in an old police cell from the 1970's whilst the other three were sent into a futuristic room that replicated a space shuttle.

Both teams endured difficult tasks and narrowly avoided the timer to escape the room with seconds to spare! This activity has become very popular with the students due to the sense of accomplishment, increase of self-belief and the sheer excitement the task creates.





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