

Friends of St Ed's

NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back To School!

Welcome, friends and families of St Edmund's, to our new newsletter. I have wanted to find ways to connect with you all within the busyness of all our lives and I hope this supports our mission. It has been a fantastic start to the term, with the best GCSE results we have ever recorded and students arriving back to school looking truly aspirational. The new active uniform is popular with lots of our students and our new year 7 students have made an excellent start. Thank-you for your continued support in ensuring our CARE values are embedded. Lessons are engaging, corridors are calm and the sun is shining (at least at the moment!). God bless, Maggie Hazeldine

What's In This Issue?

- Key dates
- After School Activities
- New Extracurricular
- Parent workshops
- Volunteers needed for a focus group

Key dates this half term

- Tuesday 17th September: Year 7 & Year 12 School Photographs
- Thursday 26th September: Settling in Evening 3.10 - 5pm (Y7-10 and 6th Form)
- Friday 27th September: Macmillan Coffee Morning - 50p per cake
- Thursday 3rd October: Open Evening 6.00 - 8.00 pm
- Friday 4th October: Lower school St Francis Feast Day Mass
- Wednesday 9th October: Whole School Flu Immunisation
- Monday 21st October: Year 8 Mass
- Thursday 24th October: Year 7 Disco 5.30 - 7.00 pm
- Monday 28th October: Half Term Week



Jasper, the academy puppy

Extracurricular clubs

Our autumn term extra curricular clubs have started and there is something to interest everyone - sports clubs, chess club, trial and debate group, Minecraft, film club... and many more.

Our full offer can be seen here:
<https://www.stedmundscloud.co.uk/afterschool-enrichment-activities-2/>



French and Spanish Disney club

Come and watch your favourite Disney movies... ..in French or Spanish!

WEDNESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL 3- 4PM
with Miss Blanchette and Miss Gallagher in 201

Crafts Club

AUTUMN 1

In crafts club this half-term, we will be exploring the beauty of nature and the changing seasons. Our project will involve painting and embellishing autumn leaves to create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece.



Mondays 3:00 – 4:00pm in room G02 - All year groups welcome.

Crochet Club

Are you a fan of *amigurumi* or interested in giving it a try?

Come and join us on:

TUESDAYS from 3:00 – 4:30pm in room G02

All year groups and staff welcome. Just bring your crochet hook!

This student-led club offers you the chance to choose and lead the projects we work on. It's a great opportunity to get creative and have fun.

Please email apereira@stedmunds.org to register your interest or ask any questions.

**New clubs
this term!**

Read more

www.stedmundscloud.co.uk

PARENT WORKSHOPS

CAMHS Parent/Carer Workshops

Come and join our Parent/Carer Workshops, run by Black Country CAMHS services (on Zoom for 1.5hours)! Groups held 12pm - 1.30pm.

We know that suffering from mental health difficulties does not only affect the person struggling, but also the family around them. Parenting a child/young person with mental health difficulties can create additional challenges for parents.

We are running workshops exploring a range of difficulties that children/young people may experience, that can impact their emotional wellbeing.

10.07.24- Trauma and Attachment

11.09.24 - Autistic Spectrum Conditions

23.10.24 – Speech and Language

20.11.24- Depression / Low Mood

18.12.24 – Anxiety / OCD

15.01.25 – Self-harm

12.02.25– Anger / Conduct difficulties

12.03.25 – Anxiety

To register your interest telephone **Andrea Ehgartner** on **01922 607400**



bchft_camhs



@CAMHS_BCHFT



www.blackcountryminds.com

WELLBEING FOCUS GROUP

St Edmund's are currently working towards the Sandwell Wellbeing Charter Mark.

We are looking for volunteers to give their views in a focus group on Tuesday 24th September at 9.30am.

If you are able to join us, please email Mrs Letheren, aletheren@stedmunds.org

If you would like to contribute virtually, please let us know. A link to complete an online survey has also been sent out on Arbor.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Smartphones

According to the Ofcom report 'Children's Media Lives 2024', children are spending between 6-8 hours a day on social media, through their smartphones or other devices. This is an increase from 12 hours per week in 2014. Young people are often left unsupervised when using their phone.

Implementing boundaries can be challenging once a child has become accustomed to unrestricted smartphone usage. The guidelines below from the UK Safer Internet Centre are useful for parents / carers to support conversations at home.

TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT RESPONSIBLE USE OF THEIR PHONE

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use their phone for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used, this could include things like the phone being charged outside their bedroom overnight.

DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IF SOMETHING UPSETTING OR WORRYING HAPPENS

Give them the strategies they need in case something concerning happens whilst they are using their device. This could be to lock the screen and tell an adult, to make a report to the platform they are using, or to block the user.

EXPLORE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Take a look at the controls available both on the phone itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.

