

Friends of St Ed's

NEWSLETTER

Spring term I

As we enter March it finally feels like spring is arriving - lighter evenings and snowdrops appearing are very welcome signs! March also brings the start of Lent, a hugely significant time, where we reflect on the enormous sacrifice that Jesus made for us. A big focus for our community over the next six weeks will be almsgiving - supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. Each year group will be involved in a Lenten fundraising activity. Please take some time to discuss this with your child. Wishing you a blessed Holy week and happy Easter, Mrs Letheren



Donations to The Haven from sixth form Health and Social care students

Key dates this half term

- 24th Feb for Two Weeks Y13 & Y11 Internal Examinations
- 3rd March Duke of Edinburgh gold training
- 5th March Trip: Y10 - An Inspector Calls Theatre Visit
- 5th March Ash Wednesday - Voluntary Mass for Catholic Students
- 6th March Trip: Y11 - An Inspector Calls Theatre Visit
- 7th March Trip: Film Studies BFI Study Day
- 13th March 3.45 - 6.15pm Year 7 Progress Evening/ Departmental Time
- 20th March Trip: Y13 Business A Level Grade Booster Workshop
- 24th March Sixth Form St Oscar Romero Feast Day Mass
- 2nd April Trip: Y10 Carding Mill Valley
- 3rd April VI Form external student interviews
- 3rd April 7.00pm Performing Arts Concert

Unifrog

UNIFROG - the careers platform to support your child to find their future!

Unifrog brings all the available information into one comprehensive, user-friendly platform that helps our students make the best choices, helping them find their future.

All St. Ed's students have access to Unifrog, in which they can access high quality information about potential future careers. Some of this includes:

Over 1000 career profiles

- Presents information from a range of sources, including local and national Labour Market Information (LMI)
 - Includes qualifications and skills needed, interviews with industry professionals and LMI
- Explores progression opportunities and what a working week really looks like
 - Students can enter subject of interest and projected grades to see all relevant university courses available in the UK
 - Rank and filter opportunities by factors like hours of lectures, price of accommodation and graduate job rates
- Students can find live apprenticeship vacancies which are updated daily
- Rank and filter opportunities by factors like distance from home, weekly wage and application deadlines

Please ask your child to share their username and password to see what an amazing resource this actually is!

Our next parent partnership event will be on Thursday 27th March at 1.15pm. Please join Mrs Letheren and the sixth form senior prefect team for an opportunity to test out the academy lunches! Email aletheren@stedmunds.org to book a place.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

WHAT IS SEXTORTION?

'Sextortion' is the short name for 'financially motivated sexual extortion'. It is a type of online blackmail where criminals threaten to share sexual pictures, videos, or information about someone. They may be trying to take money or force someone to do something else they don't want to. Recent statistics reveal the alarming scale of the issue:

- In 2023/24, Childline provided over 900 counselling sessions to children on online sexual coercion and extortion. This figure does not include an additional 150 calls made by concerned adults.
- The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) reported a disturbing rise in younger children being targeted.

The report went on to say that:

- In the first six months of 2024, child sexual abuse reports related to sexual extortion were up 19% compared to the same period in 2023.
- While boys still make up the majority of victims, there has been a 2,600% increase in reports involving girls.

THE USE OF AI TECHNOLOGY

There has been a worrying increase in the use of AI-generated indecent images of young people within 'sextortion' cases. Offenders obtain innocent images of a young person, often from their social media profiles, and superimpose it onto an explicit image or video, making it appear that they are engaging in a sexual act on camera.

Even if a young person has never shared a sexual image of themselves, they can still be a victim of 'sextortion' through the use of this technology and the threat and impact can be just as real. Remember, this technology is extremely advanced and can trick most people into thinking it is a real image or video.

An AI-generated indecent image of anyone under 18 is still classed as a child abuse image, even if it isn't real. You should never screenshot or share a sexualised photo or video of a child. Instead, protect yourself by reporting it immediately to the police and the [Internet Watch Foundation](#).

INEQE Safeguarding Group

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD TO REMOVE OR PREVENT IMAGES FROM BEING SHARED ONLINE

- **Report remove:** The Internet Watch Foundation and Childline's tool helps report and remove harmful images.
- **Take it down:** Provided by the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, this tool assists in stopping the online sharing of images across participating platforms.
- **Report harmful content:** Use official reporting channels to flag harmful material.
- **Direct reporting:** Encourage reporting incidents directly to the platform or app where the content is shared.

Considering a Career in Primary or Secondary Teaching? 🌟

Our Multi-Academy Trust is offering an Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Programme—a perfect opportunity to train alongside experienced educators, gain hands-on classroom experience, and inspire the next generation!

- ✓ High-quality training & expert mentoring
- ✓ Supportive & nurturing environment
- ✓ Real impact in shaping young minds
- ✓ Pathway to QTS & teaching roles within our MAT

If you're a career-changer, a recent graduate, or passionate about education, this is your chance!

✉ Contact: ehill@stedmunds.org

🔗 More info: <https://www.sfscmac.co.uk/itt/>
#TeachTheFuture #TeacherTraining #CareerChange



St Edmund's Catholic Academy

To Love and Serve the Lord

Chaplaincy in Spring Term 2 2025

Liturgical Dates

Saturday 1st March

St David's Day

Wednesday 5th March

**Ash Wednesday - Lent
begins**

Sunday 9th March

First Sunday of Lent

Monday 17th March

St Patrick's Day

Wednesday 19th March

Solemnity of St Joseph

Monday 24th March

St Oscar Romero

Tuesday 25th March

Solemnity of the

Annunciation

Sunday 30th March

Laetare/Mothering

Sunday

We are in **Ordinary Time** and will move into
Lent on Wednesday 5th March

Our Gospel Values for this half-term are

Forgiveness and Mercy

Livestreamed Mass and Adoration

Weekly mass taking place every Monday in the Chapel at 1:15pm and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday at 12:45pm will now be livestreamed for parents or carers. Follow this link to tune in: <https://www.stedmundscloud.co.uk/livemass/>

St Ed's Larder

The Larder is available to any families in need of supplies. To access, drop into school with a shopping bag or send us an email. You can also make cash donations for our termly food deliveries to our most at risk families via Parent Pay. We will then do the shopping on your behalf.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

2025 - Jubilee Year - "Pilgrims of Hope"

Pope Francis has officially opened the Jubilee Year - "Pilgrims of Hope". All students and staff were able to be part of the live-stream diocesan opening of this Holy Year in all Catholic schools, which took place on Friday 24th January. We will be promoting this through Celebrations of the Word, tutor group Liturgies in chapel, and in and through



Year Group Masses and Liturgies

On Monday 24th March our sixth form will be celebrating their patronal Feast Day Mass - St Oscar Romero at 9am in the Arena, with Fr Alex as our celebrant.

Fr Alex will be available for Confessions throughout the Holy Season of Lent, every Monday in chapel, before or after Mass. If you are a baptised Catholic and would like to go to confession during Lent, please let Rev know.



QUIZ NIGHT

14TH
MARCH
7PM

£3 per ticket min, 3 in team.

Families welcome.

Refreshments available for
purchase.

The Arena, St Edmund's
Catholic Academy WV3
9DU

please contact Cerys c.hard22@stedmunds.org
for tickets by the 7th March