

Friends of St Ed's

NEWSLETTER

Autumn term 2

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term - a very busy time of year for the St Edmund's community. The feast day of our patron saint, the Stars of St Edmund's award event and our advent fundraising will all happen over the next few weeks.

In the build up to Christmas, I hope that you find the time as a family to reflect on this important part of the Catholic calendar and encourage your children to involve themselves in some acts of social action to support the most vulnerable.

You are warmly invited to join us at St Michael's Church, Penn on Tuesday 9th December, for our Candlelight Carol Service.

Wishing you a peaceful and blessed festive season.

In October we celebrated World Mental Health day, giving students an opportunity to discuss and reflect on their mental health. Over £200 was raised for charity



Key dates this half term

November

Monday 3rd - INSET day. Academy closed

Thursday 13th - Year 11 parents' evening 4-6pm

Monday 17th - Thursday 20th - National language competition

Thursday 20th - Sixth form open evening 6-8pm

Sunday 23rd - National Youth Sunday

Friday 28th - St Edmund's Feast day Mass

December

Monday 1st - INSET day. Academy closed

Thursday 4th - Year 10 parents' evening 4-6pm

Friday 5th - Friends of St Ed's Brunch (senior citizens)

Tuesday 9th - Candlelight Carol Service 7-9pm, St Michael's church

Wednesday 10th - Christmas Lunch

Thursday 11th - Year 7 parents' evening - 4-6pm

Thursday 18th - Stars of St Edmund's awards event

Friday 19th - Advent liturgy and Christmas Jumper day

Academy closes at 12noon

Parent partnership event

Our next parent partnership event will be on

Wednesday 19th November

9am - 10.30am



Join parents and staff for a hot drink and a sample of the food available to students at break times.

To reserve a place, please email Mrs Letheren
aletheren@stedmunds.org

Care for the common home Catholic Social Teaching

Each year the academy community will be focusing on one area of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Our strand for this year is:

Care for the Common Home

There are a number of ways that we will be doing this:

- a focus in lessons, where appropriate
- staff teams will set themselves a CST target for the year
- our fundraising charities for the year (Operation Noah and CAFOD)

More information about Care for the Common Home can be found here:
<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/catholic-social-teaching#5r22bd6yjYlNwFMuFPfJki>

If you have any other suggestions of how we can promote this area of CST in the academy, please let us know.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMS

Algorithms influence what your child sees on social media platforms and predicts what type of content they are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping them online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who they follow, what they have searched for and what they have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests them, to then show them this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means your child tends to see content that interests them, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screen time as your child continues to see things that interest them. Secondly, it can lead to your child being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can impact on their mental health, as well as giving them access to violent or misogyny content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where your child is only seeing content that relates to their opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint. When they see harmful content hundreds of times, they are inclined to believe that the content is normal and appropriate.

ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023

The Online Safety Act's central aim is to make the internet safer for people in the UK, especially children. It is a set of laws and duties that online platforms must follow, being implemented and enforced by Ofcom, the media regulator. Under its Children's Codes, platforms must prevent young people from encountering harmful content relating to suicide, self-harm, eating disorders and pornography from 25 July. This will see some services, start checking the age of UK users. Ofcom's rules are also designed to protect children from misogynistic, violent, hateful or abusive material, online bullying and dangerous challenges.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

MOLLY ROSE FOUNDATION

The Molly Rose Foundation has published new research on social media algorithms and young people's exposure to harmful content online - algorithms continue to recommend suicide, self-harm and depression content at scale. Findings include:

- Almost all of the recommended videos watched on Instagram Reels (97%) and TikTok (96%) were found to be harmful.
- Over half (55%) of recommended harmful posts on TikTok's For You Page actively contained references to suicide and self-harm ideation and 16% referenced suicide methods
- Recommended videos included posts that promoted and glorified suicide, referenced suicide methods and normalised intense feelings of misery and despair.
- One in ten harmful videos on TikTok's For You Page had been liked at least a million times and on Instagram Reels one in five had been liked more than 250,000 times.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

1. **Understanding your child's digital world** - familiarise yourself with the social media platforms your child uses, including how these platforms operate and what content is shown.
2. **Establish open communication** - create a safe space for your child to communicate honestly. Encourage your child to share what they encounter, including any violent or distressing content.
3. **Set clear boundaries and guidelines**
 - Set limits on how much time your child can spend on social media each day
 - Implement filters or parental controls to restrict exposure to violent or inappropriate content.
 - Regularly review their online activity to ensure they follow your guidelines.
4. **Encourage healthy 'offline' activities** - encourage your child to engage in offline activities such as sports, hobbies, and family time to create a balance between their online and offline worlds.



St Edmund's
Catholic Academy

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 5PM - 7PM

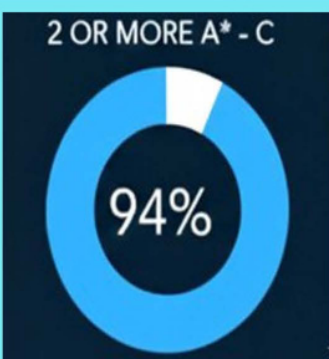
Our Open Evening includes a Subject Fair: an opportunity to talk to subject teachers. Followed by a talk from our Principal, Heads of Sixth Form, and the Senior Prefect Team, plus a tour of the 6th Form Area.

Please visit our Website:

www.stedmundssixthform.co.uk

Instagram: @stedmundsviform

Top Performing Sixth Form



41% of our
students go on
to Russell
Group
Universities



St Edmund's Catholic Academy

To Love and Serve the Lord

Chaplaincy in Autumn Term 2 2025

Liturgical Dates

Sunday 2nd November

All Saints

Monday 3rd November

All Souls

Friday 21st November

**Presentation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary**

Saturday 22nd November

Memorial of St Cecilia

Sunday 23rd November

Solemnity of Christ the King

- **National Youth Sunday**

Friday 28th November

**Celebration of the Feast of
St Edmund Campion -
transferred from 1st Dec.**

Sunday 30th November

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday 30th November

Second Sunday of Advent

Monday 8th December

**Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception of
the BVM**

Sunday 14th December

Third Sunday of Advent

We are in **Ordinary Time** moving into **Advent**
from 30th November

Our Gospel Values for this half-term are

Dignity and Compassion

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, via the Pastoral Team. You can also make cash donations for our termly food deliveries to our most at risk families via Arbor. We will then do the shopping on your behalf.

November - Month of the Holy Souls

The Catholic Church designates November as a special month, to pray for and remember those who have died. The month begins with the feast of All Saints (Nov 2), and the feast of the Holy Souls (Nov 3), but we continue to pray for our lost loved ones all through the month. There will be opportunities to do this in Chapel, in tutor time and in Celebrations of the Word.

St Edmund's Feast Day Masses

On Friday 28th November we will be celebrating our patronal feast day (transferred from his feast day Monday 1st December). We will, as usual celebrate these in the sports hall with Fr Gerry, our priest chaplain.

"The souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God, no torment shall ever touch them."

The Book of Wisdom 3:1

***Eternal rest, grant unto
them, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon
them. May they rest in
peace. Amen
May their souls, and the
souls of all the faithful
departed, through the
mercy of God, rest in
peace. Amen***