

ISSUE 2 • DECEMBER 2023

# ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

All the news from the last half term



## A few words from Mr Morgan ....

WELCOME TO OUR CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER. I WOULD LIKE TO START BY THANKING EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOL FOR THEIR EFFORTS, HARD WORK, DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT THIS HALF TERM. I OFTEN TALK ABOUT THE SPECIAL COMMUNITY THAT ST BEDE'S IS AND THIS TERM IS CERTAINLY ONE THAT REMINDS ALL OF US HOW LUCKY WE ARE TO BE A PART OF IT. I COULD NOT BE MORE PROUD AND PRIVILEGED TO LEAD THIS COMMUNITY. THE TEAM OF TEACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF ARE SECOND TO NONE AND ALONGSIDE GREAT TEACHING IN LESSONS OUR PUPILS HAVE EXPERIENCED A WIDE RANGE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE ALL DESIGNED TO ADD TO OUR VISION OF TRANSFORMING OUR PUPILS. THIS TERM HAS SEEN OUR INCREDIBLE YEAR 11 WORK HARD FOR THEIR MOCK EXAMINATIONS AND SIT THEM WITH AN INCREDIBLE FOCUS AND DESIRE TO ACHIEVE, WE HAVE SEEN MANY SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS, OUR NEW YEAR 7 HAVE SETTLED QUICKLY INTO THE BEDE'S WAY AND ARE PROVING TO BE A GREAT YEAR GROUP AND WE HAVE CONTINUED TO SEE OUR IMPROVEMENTS AS A SCHOOL GROW AND GROW.

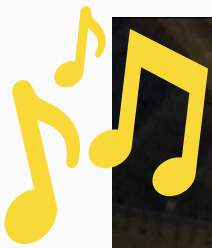
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AS A WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY WE GATHERED TWICE DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER ON TWO SPECIAL OCCASIONS. THE FIRST WAS TO GATHER FOR ARMISTICE DAY AND REMEMBER ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN, WE THEN MET IN THE SPORTS HALL FOR OUR MASS TO CELEBRATE ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS. EVERYONE INVOLVED IN BOTH OF THESE EVENTS DESCRIBED HOW TOUCHED THEY WERE AND HOW RESPECTFUL AND DEDICATED OUR PUPILS WERE TO THE CATHOLIC AND SPIRITUAL LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL. OUR CHRISTMAS SPIRIT STARTED EARLY IN DECEMBER WITH THE ANNUAL PUPIL AND STAFF CHRISTMAS LUNCH, WE THEN HAD OUR FANTASTIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS, THANK YOU TO OUR MFL TEACHERS FOR ARRANGING THIS, AND MORE RECENTLY OUR CAROL SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES, A HUGE THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS HAS TO GO TO MRS MCMURRAY HERE FOR THE INCREDIBLE PRODUCTION OF THE CAROL SERVICE, I THINK THIS YEARS WAS POSSIBLY THE BEST I HAVE SEEN IN MY 6 YEARS AT ST BEDE'S.

MAY I WISH ALL OF YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL 2024



THIS TIME OF YEAR IS OBVIOUSLY ONE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN THE LITURGICAL YEAR AND OUR PUPILS ARE IMMERSSED INTO ITS IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE THANKS TO THE HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT OF OUR CHAPLAIN JACINTA BROWN. THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON ALL OF OUR STAFF AND PUPILS, THANK YOU JACINTA. I HOPE YOU ENJOY OUR NEWSLETTER. MAY I WISH ALL OF YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL 2024. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING EVERYONE BACK TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY 8TH JANUARY AT 8.50AM.

GOD BLESS  
DAN MORGAN



**THIS YEAR**, 58 YEAR 10 STUDENTS VOLUNTEERED TO LEAD THE ADVENT LITURGICAL ASSEMBLIES. STUDENTS PLANNED, PREPARED AND DELIVERED A SERIES OF ADVENT ASSEMBLIES TO THEIR PEERS. INVOLVING MANY MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY, THEY EMBODIED THE ADVENT VALUES OF LOVE, PEACE, HOPE AND JOY BY GIVING THEIR TIME, CREATIVITY AND ENTHUSIASM TO THE LEADERSHIP OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP AT OUR SCHOOL.



## Year 10 Advent Assemblies



## Stealth Stars

SPREADING THE ADVENT VALUE OF JOY



ALL STUDENTS IN YEARS 7 TO 11 SPENT TIME COMPLETING 'STEALTH STARS' DURING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES. STUDENTS WROTE MESSAGES OF JOY, HOPE AND LOVE TO STAFF AND THEIR PEERS. THE YEAR 9 AND 10 STEALTH ELVES HAVE SPENT AN UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNT OF TIME ORGANISING AND DELIVERING THE MESSAGES TO STUDENTS AND STAFF DURING THE FINAL WEEK OF THIS TERM. WE HOPE THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CONTINUE TO SPREAD JOY THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVE SEASON AND BEYOND.



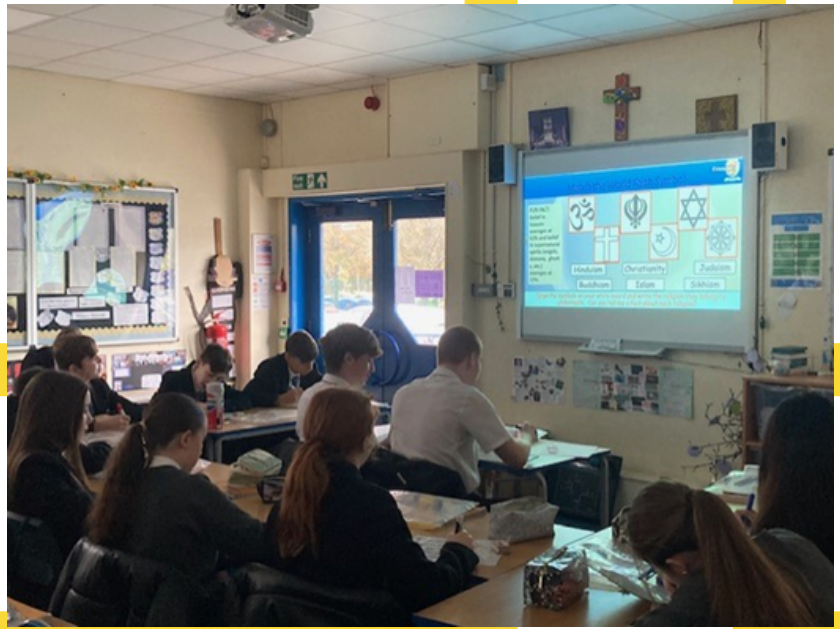
Year 11 Pop-up Joy Cafe

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WANTED TO GIVE OUR OLDER STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK. THE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN BUSY DURING LUNCHTIME MAKING AND DISTRIBUTING EXTRA SPECIAL HOT CHOCOLATES COMPLETE WITH COOKIES. STUDENTS HAVE RAISED OVER £200 TO SUPPORT THE YEAR 7 FAITH IN ACTION GROUP IN RAISING FUNDS FOR MARY'S MEALS. YEAR 11 HAVE HAD A GREAT TIME AND THEY HAVE SPREAD JOY THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY THIS WEEK! WELL DONE YEAR 11!



# Interfaith Week

THIS TERM



THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CELEBRATED INTERFAITH WEEK THIS TERM.



THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CELEBRATED INTERFAITH WEEK THIS TERM. ACTIVITIES INCLUDED INTERFAITH QUIZZES IN EVERY RE LESSON, ORMSKIRK COMMUNITY FAITH HUB PROJECT EXHIBITION, ORMSKIRK PASTORS VISITED YEAR 7 RE LESSONS AND AN ESCAPE ROOM DURING LUNCHTIME.



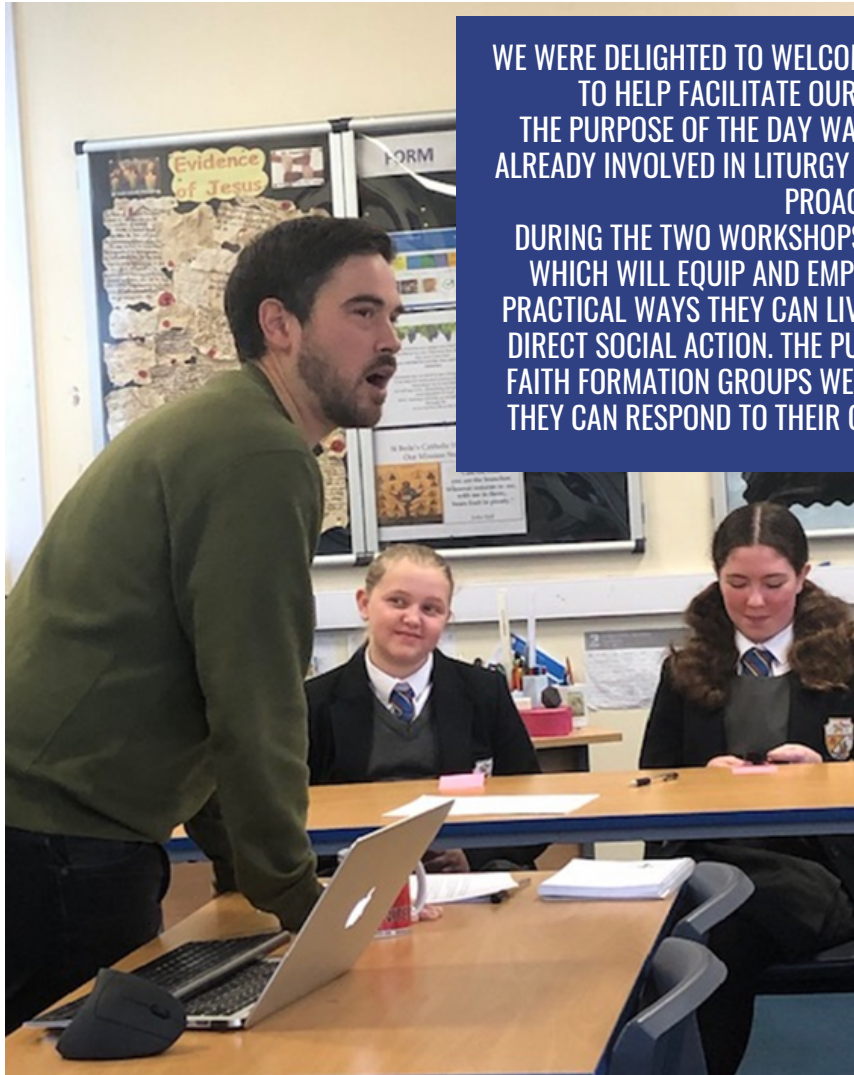


# ST BEDE'S

Youth Leadership in Faith Conference

WE WERE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME GUEST SPEAKER JOE WELLS FROM THE ONE HOPE PROJECT TO HELP FACILITATE OUR FIRST ST BEDE'S CATHOLIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP DAY. THE PURPOSE OF THE DAY WAS TO INFORM AND INSPIRE A COHORT OF PUPILS WHO ARE ALREADY INVOLVED IN LITURGY PREPARATION AND SOCIAL OUTREACH, TO DEVELOP IN THEIR PROACTIVE LEADERSHIP IN THESE AREAS.

DURING THE TWO WORKSHOPS, PUPILS PLANNED ENGAGING PRAYER AND LITURGY IDEAS WHICH WILL EQUIP AND EMPOWER THEM TO LEAD IN WORSHIP AND TO EXPLORE SOME PRACTICAL WAYS THEY CAN LIVE OUT CATHOLIC SOCIAL ACTION THROUGH ADVOCACY AND DIRECT SOCIAL ACTION. THE PUPILS WHO ARE ALREADY INVOLVED IN LEADERSHIP AND/OR FAITH FORMATION GROUPS WERE HUGEY EXCITED TO WORK WITH JOE AND EXPLORE HOW THEY CAN RESPOND TO THEIR CALL TO BEAR FRUIT THROUGH CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING



## In other news .....

CAITLIN AND NIAMH HAVE BEEN TAKING PART IN THE ANNUAL SOUTHPORT SWIMMING CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS. NIAMH HAS COMPETED IN 7 RACES AND WON 7 GOLD MEDALS. SHE HAS ACHIEVED TIMES TO COMPETE AT LANCASHIRE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 6 EVENTS- 200M BUTTERFLY, 100M BUTTERFLY, 50M BUTTERFLY, 100M FREESTYLE, 200M FREESTYLE, 400M FREESTYLE. NIAMH IS CURRENTLY RANKED 1ST IN LANCASHIRE FOR THE 200M BUTTERFLY. RECENTLY SHE SET A NEW CLUB RECORD FOR THE FEMALE AGE 11 YEARS 1500M, WITH A TIME OF 21.49.50. INCREDIBLE TO WATCH WITH THE SPECTATORS GIVING HER A STANDING OVATION AS SHE FINISHED!

CAITLIN HAS COMPETED IN 8 RACES AND ACHIEVED A FEW SILVER AND BRONZE MEDALS, MOST IMPORTANTLY SHE'S SET A NUMBER OF PB'S FOR HERSELF. SHE HAS TAKEN PART IN THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS ALONG SIDE HER USUAL TRIATHLON TRAINING, NOT EVEN TRYING TO GET OUT OF HER EARLY MORNING SESSIONS!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF WHAT THEY'VE ACHIEVED THESE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS

# THE LIBERATOR

## COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

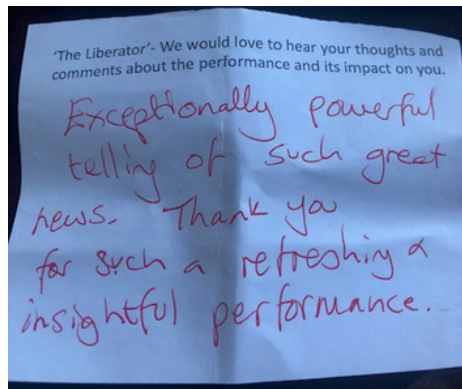
*A huge  
Thank you*

TO THE SCHOOL PASTORS  
WHOSE GENEROSITY  
ENABLED US TO STAGE THE  
PRODUCTION



THANKS TO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL PASTORS, WE WERE DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO STAGE TWO PERFORMANCES OF THE LIBERATOR, A CHRISTIAN THEATRE PRODUCTION BY THE COMPANY SALTMINE. THE LIBERATOR IS A THOUGHT PROVOKING, MODERN RETELLING OF HOW THE GOSPEL AND FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE CAN CHANGE ALL OUR LIVES.

MEMBERS OF OUR SCHOOL AND WIDER COMMUNITY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH THE PERFORMANCE ON SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER 7P.M AND YEARS 9 AND 10 FILLED THE HALL ON MONDAY MORNING TO WATCH THE PERFORMANCE. PUPILS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE LUNCH AND ENJOYED A QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH THE CAST FOLLOWING THE TWO HOUR PERFORMANCE. THE VERBAL AND WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM PUPILS AND THE COMMUNITY WAS INCREDIBLY POSITIVE.



LIVE SIMPLY AND MARY'S MEALS COLLABORATION



Faith in  
action

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MARY'S MEALS VISITED OUR YEAR 7 FAITH IN ACTION PUPILS IN NOVEMBER TO INFORM THEM ABOUT THE WONDERFUL CHARITY AND DISCUSS HOW THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE THROUGH ACTION. AS A RESULT, PUPILS HAVE COORDINATED A FUND RAISING PLAN. THEY ARE WORKING WITH ST ANNE'S LIVE SIMPLY GROUP ON A CRAFT PROJECT WHICH WILL FORM THE BASIS OF FUND RAISING FOR MARY'S MEALS.



WE CURRENTLY HAVE YEAR 9 PUPILS WORKING TOWARDS SILVER AWARDS, INSPIRED BY THE EFFORTS OF FORMER YEAR 11 PUPILS, WHO ACHIEVED GOLD. WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT WE HAVE YEAR 7 PUPILS JOINING THIS FAITH GROUP, ALLOWING THEM TO PUT THEIR FAITH INTO ACTION.

## St Vincent De Paul liaison and thanks

OUR SCHOOL WORKS VERY CLOSELY WITH THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL GROUP. JB MEETS MONTHLY WITH THE GROUP IN ORDER TO SECURE SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN OUR SCHOOL. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR A £400 DONATION WHICH ALLOWS US TO SUBSIDISE THE COST OF OUR YEAR 9 CASTLERIGG RETREAT SCHEDULED IN MAY. DUE TO THE WONDERFUL WORK OF THE SVP, WE ARE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST FAMILIES WITH THE COST OF BASIC NEEDS, FOOD AND ENERGY COSTS.



# MILLION MINUTES PEACE AND JUSTICE GROUP

## Reverse Advent Appeal

FOLLOWING THE PUPILS' LAUNCH OF OUR REVERSE ADVENT APPEAL, WE HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED BY YOUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY. EVERY FORM CLASS HAS DONATED A RANGE OF FOOD AND GIFTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DONATED TO THE TRUSSELL TRUST FOODBANK IN ORMSKIRK. WE HAVE MATCHED LAST YEAR'S SUCCESS WHEN DONATIONS SECURED MEALS FOR 500 FAMILIES AND SUPPORT FOR 25 FAMILIES SEEKING REFUGE IN THE LOCAL AREA. WE CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY THROUGH THE LENS OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING, PUPILS RAISED AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF FAST FASHION IN FORMS AND ASSEMBLIES. THE GROUP ARE CURRENTLY ORGANISING A SCHOOL FAST FASHION SWAP SHOP AND PARTICIPATED IN THE LOCAL COP 29 YOUTH CONFERENCE. PUPILS FROM ACROSS THE SCHOOL ALSO SENT LETTERS OF PROTEST TO THE PRIME MINISTER REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF FAST FASHION.



## CONFIRMATION



WE WERE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME BISHOP TOM NEYLON WHO CELEBRATED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION WITH 52 OF OUR YEAR 9 PUPILS. IT WAS A JOYFUL AND UPLIFTING CELEBRATION. MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE CATECHESIS, PLANNING AND CELEBRATION OF THE PUPILS' CONFIRMATIONS. WE CONTINUE TO KEEP ALL OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS AS THEY CONTINUE IN THEIR FAITH JOURNEY.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION SESSIONS FOR YEAR 9 PUPILS FROM THE PARISH OF ST ANNE'S. SESSIONS WERE DELIVERED BY STAFF AFTER SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAYS





WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE THE MOST WONDERFUL GROUP OF PUPILS WHO DISCUSS, PLAN AND DELIVER THOUGHT PROVOKING AND ENGAGING COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TO EVERY FORM CLASS. WE CURRENTLY HAVE 29 PUPILS WHO MEET FOR BREAKFAST EVERY TUESDAY IN CHAPLAINCY TO DISCUSS AN ISSUE IN THE NEWS WHICH THEY WISH TO EXPLORE THROUGH THE LENS OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING. THEY THEN SPEND BREAK AND LUNCHTIMES CREATING A MEDIA RESOURCE WHICH EXAMINES HOW SCRIPTURE AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING CAN HELP US RESPOND TO THE ISSUE IN A COMPASSIONATE AND SOCIALLY PROACTIVE WAY. RECOGNISING THAT FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS NOT AN OPTION, THEY MAKE PROACTIVE SUGGESTIONS ABOUT HOW WE CAN BEAR FRUIT IN THE COMING WEEK. THEY SHARE THIS RESOURCE WITH ALL FORM CLASSES WHO THEN DISCUSS IT DURING FORM TIME. WE CONTINUE TO BE DELIGHTED AND MOVED BY THE ENERGY AND COMMITMENT OF THESE AMAZING YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE OUTSTANDING ROLE MODELS FOR ALL OF US. ALL PUPILS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE LITURGY GROUP ON TUESDAYS FROM 8.30AM, IN CHAPLAINCY.

## Prayer and Liturgy

## Community Information

**Opening 20th  
November 2023!**



**Offering essential baby items  
FREE of charge to families  
struggling with the cost of living**

Come & register to access your free annual membership card to allow you to visit 12 times in 12 months.

Our items include nappies, wipes, toiletries, clothing, coats, baby food AND MORE!

**63 Westgate, Skelmersdale WN8 8LP  
(Upstairs in the Sandy Lane Centre!)**

**Open Monday, Wednesday &  
Thursday 10am - 2pm**

Follow us on Facebook @tippytoesbb

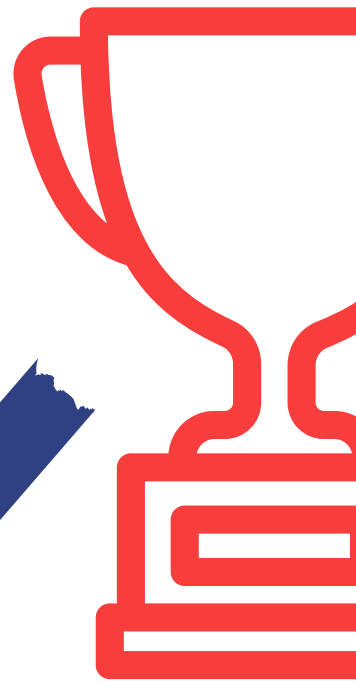
Registered charity number 1187923

## Whole School Mass

WE CELEBRATED A BEAUTIFUL HOLY SOULS' SCHOOL SCHOOL MASS. THE MASS, LED BY FATHER GODRIC WAS HELD IN SCHOOL AND THE WHOLE SCHOOL WAS IN ATTENDANCE. MANY THANKS TO OUR CHOIR, READERS AND ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PLANNING AND CELEBRATION OF THE MASS.



Year 7 Winning Team!



# FOOTBALL

OUR TALENTED YEAR 7 GIRLS IN WON THEIR FIRST MATCH IN THE LANCASHIRE CUP THIS HALF TERM. AFTER A LONG JOURNEY THEY BEAT ALDER GRANGE 14-0 - AN AMAZING RESULT !



Year 8 Winning Team!

OUR YEAR 8A FOOTBALL TEAM HAD A GREAT 10-3 WIN IN THE SECOND ROUND OF THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS FOOTBALL CUP YESTERDAY. A GREAT WIN AGAINST ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI ACADEMY, LIVERPOOL.

TEXTILES CLUB HAVE MADE STITCHED CHRISTMAS TREE CARDS AND FELT BAUBLES. WE PARTICULARLY LIKE THIS ONE IN THE SHAPE OF A SANTA HAT BY GENEVIEVE



## COLLAGE

## KS3 ART CLUB

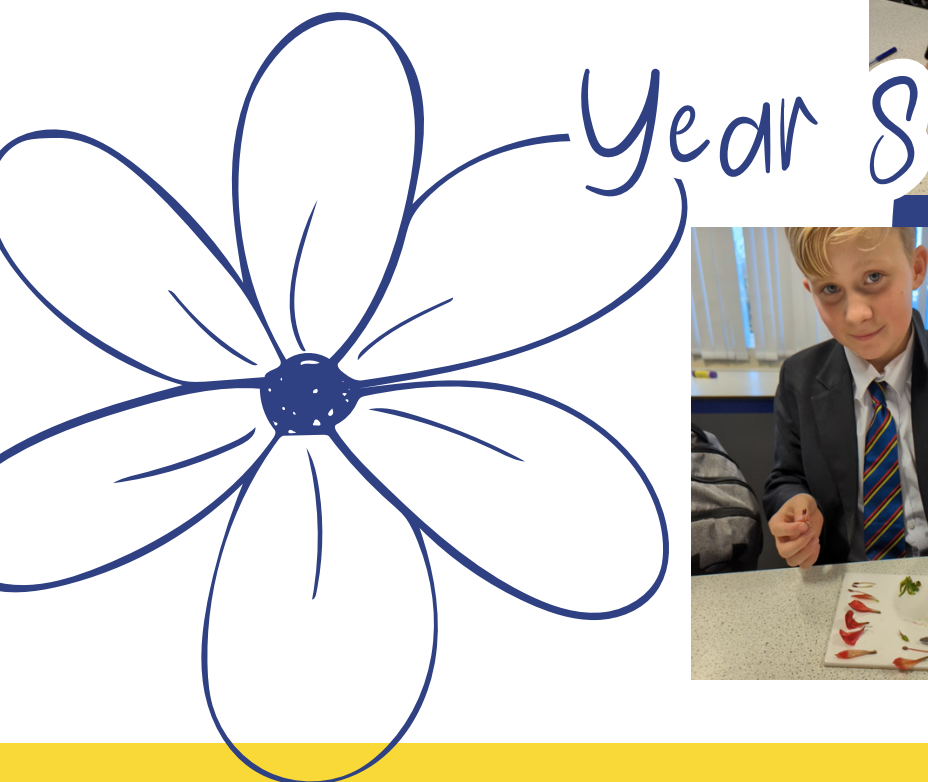
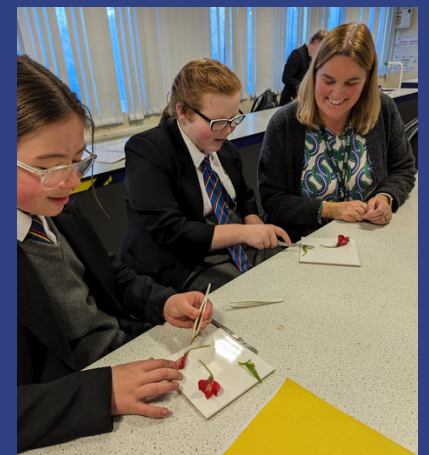


KS3 ART CLUB HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT COLLAGE THIS TERM. THEY HAVE CREATED PORTRAITS, VASES OF FLOWERS AND SANTA HEADS USING RECYCLED BACKGROUNDS.

## College applications

Y11 COLLEGE APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER. AT LEAST 3 IF POSSIBLE PLEASE. THIS ALLOWS A GOOD OPTION CHOICE IN AUGUST WHEN RESULTS ARE OUT. APPLY EVEN IF YOU ARE WANTING AN APPRENTICESHIP. PLEASE SEE MRS TURPIN IF YOU NEED ANY HELP.

YEAR 8 INVESTIGATED THE INTERNAL STRUCTURES OF FLOWERS AS PART OF THE PLANT REPRODUCTION TOPIC. THEY ALL MANAGED TO SUCCESSFULLY IDENTIFY ALL OF THE REPRODUCTIVE PARTS AND WENT ON TO LEARN ABOUT THE DIFFERENT STRATEGIES PLANTS USE TO POLLINATE ONE ANOTHER.



# Laureato Si Student COP 28 Conference



TO PREPARE, I RESEARCHED OUR COUNTRY, INDIA, BY READING THROUGH THE INFORMATION SHEETS AND THE INTERNET. EACH GROUP ALSO PREPARED A ONE-MINUTE SPEECH ABOUT OUR COUNTRY AND HOW ITS SUFFERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. WHILST AT THE EVENT, WE DELIVERED OUR SPEECH TO THE REST OF THE DELEGATES AND LISTENED TO EVERYONE ELSE'S. WE THEN HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS TO OTHER GROUPS REGARDING THEIR SPEECH. AFTER THIS, THERE WAS A PANEL WITH MANY EXPERTS INCLUDING A REPRESENTATIVE FROM CAFOD. NEAR THE END OF THE CONFERENCE, THE MAYOR OF WEST LANCS, MAUREEN NIXON. WE THEN PRESENTED OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE AND WHAT WE HAD LEARNT FROM THE EVENT TO HER. THESE INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTAL TEAMS AROUND THE SCHOOL, TURNING LIGHTS AND VENDING MACHINES OFF WHEN NOT IN USE AND ENCOURAGING WALKING TO SCHOOL.

Noah H

## YOUNG PEOPLE HAVING A VOICE AT A MOCK UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE

GUIDED BY POPE FRANCIS' CALL TO ACTION IN THE ENCYCLICALS LAUDATO SI AND LAUDATE DEUM, YOUNG PEOPLE CAME TOGETHER TO SHARE THEIR VOICES AT A MOCK UN CLIMATE CONFERENCE AT THE END OF NOVEMBER. SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND SJR 6TH FORM COLLEGE FROM ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE HAVE COME TOGETHER IN AN EFFORT TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE BY TAKING PART IN A COLLABORATIVE CONFERENCE AND THE AIM WAS TO INITIATE ACTION CAMPAIGNS BACK IN THEIR SCHOOLS TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINTS AND SUPPORT BEHAVIOUR CHANGE IN THEIR SCHOOL AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES. THE SCHOOLS ATTENDING WERE ST BEDE'S ORMSKIRK, ST MARY'S LEYLAND, ST JOHN FISHER WIGAN, ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH WIGAN, ST MARY'S ASTLEY, ST JOHN RIGBY SIXTH FORM, ST PETER'S ORRELL AND STS PETER AND PAUL HALTON.

LIVERPOOL WORLD CENTRE FACILITATED A MOCK UN STYLE CLIMATE CONFERENCE TO COINCIDE WITH COP 28. WORKING TOGETHER WITH WEST LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, YOUNG PEOPLE FROM 7 CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL AND ST JOHN RIGBY COLLEGE TOOK PART IN A CHALLENGING DEBATE INSIDE THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. THE PUPILS REPRESENTED 16 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ALL FACING THE CHALLENGE OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY. TEAMS DEBATED THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE EMISSIONS AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO MITIGATE AND ADAPT TO THE CHALLENGES AHEAD. THE CONFERENCE WAS HOSTED BY WEST LANCASHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

JACQUIE AYRE, GLOBAL LEARNING EDUCATION OFFICER AT LIVERPOOL WORLD CENTRE, SAID: THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO DEVELOP THEIR CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS AROUND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY. IT PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO DEBATE IN THE STYLE OF A UN CONFERENCE, DEVELOP EMPATHY AND LEARN SKILLS AROUND NEGOTIATION AND COLLABORATION. THIS EVENT IS ONE WAY THAT SCHOOLS CAN EMPOWER THEIR YOUNG STUDENTS TO HAVE A VOICE AND FEEL THAT THEY CAN MAKE CHANGES IN THEIR SCHOOL COMMUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY.





AS PART OF THE EVENT STUDENTS HEARD FROM A RANGE OF VOICES WHO TOOK PART IN A PANEL ACTIVITY AND A Q/A ABOUT THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE LOCAL AREA ALONG WITH SOME POSITIVE WAYS TO LEAD A MORE SUSTAINABLE WAY OF LIFE. ONE PANEL MEMBER, CHRISTOPHER DENT [ LEADER OF SUSTAINNET AT EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY], HAS BEEN KEEN TO TAKE PART AND SUMS UP THIS OPPORTUNITY: CLIMATE CHANGE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EVIDENT ACROSS THE PLANET. IT IS A GLOBAL-SCALE CHALLENGE BUT WHAT WE DO LOCALLY MATTERS. YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A VITAL PART TO PLAY ON CLIMATE ACTION. THEY ARE THE DECISION-MAKERS OF OUR FUTURE WORLD. THIS MOCK UNITED NATIONS COP CONFERENCE BEING HELD AT THE SAME TIME AS COP28 IN DUBAI WILL GIVE OUR LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE HOW WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER AT EVERY LEVEL TO TACKLE THE BIGGEST THREAT EVER TO FACE HUMAN CIVILISATION. THE EVENT WAS SUPPORTED BY GED EDWARDS AND LUCY BRILL FROM CAFOD.

WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS EXPERIENCE WILL HELP SUPPORT AND INITIATE EXCITING ACTION CAMPAIGNS TO HELP SCHOOL COMMUNITIES DO THEIR BIT TO MEET SOME OF THEIR OWN LOCAL COMMUNITY ISSUES AROUND LIVING MORE SUSTAINABLE LIVES.

SOPHIA FROM ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH SAID THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS REALLY GOOD AND WELL ORGANISED. SHE SAID THAT SHE LEARNT HOW OTHER COUNTRIES WERE RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

COUNCILLORS FENNEL, HENNESSEY AND RIGBY SAID THAT THEY WERE IMPRESSED WITH HOW WELL PREPARED THE YOUNG PEOPLE WERE; THAT THEY HAD SHARED SOME VERY INTERESTING SOLUTIONS AND WERE ABLE TO DEBATE THE ISSUES AT AN IN-DEPTH LEVEL.

STUDENTS FROM ST JOHN RIGBY SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO DEBATE AND DISCUSS AND TO ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES.

SACIA FROM ST JOHN FISHER SAID THAT THE WORLD IS LIKE A PLANT THAT YOU NEED TO LOOK AFTER IN ORDER FOR IT TO THRIVE AS A FLOWER. TO KEEP THE WORLD WELL WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF IT.



*If you were given the opportunity how would you prepare for the conference and what would you say?*



## Preparation



AT THE COP 28 SUMMIT WE WERE GIVEN A COUNTRY TO REPRESENT IN THE DEBATE; OURS WERE INDIA AND BARBADOS. WE HAD TO PREPARE AN OPENING STATEMENT WHICH WE READ OUT TO THE OTHER DELEGATES, ALLOWING THEM TO UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES THESE COUNTRIES FACED AND WHAT THEY WERE DOING TO COMBAT AND REVERSE THEM. WE ALSO INVESTIGATED THE POSITIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES SO THAT WE COULD BETTER DISCUSS EACH OTHER'S STANDPOINTS WHILST DEFENDING OUR OWN.

## What did we do and say?

AT THE CONFERENCE WE GAVE OUR OPENING STATEMENT ALONG WITH THE OTHER DELEGATES AND DEBATED EACH OTHER'S ACTIONS AND GOALS. IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT WE BEGAN TO SEE SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES POSED BY SHIFTING TO NET ZERO, FOR INSTANCE, WHY SHOULD LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE TO PAY FOR THE HISTORICAL EMISSIONS OF THOSE WHO ARE MORE DEVELOPED? QUESTIONS LIKE THIS WERE POSED THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSION AND WERE THE SOURCE OF MUCH DEBATE. LEADING TO MANY REVELATIONS ABOUT THE REAL EXTENT OF NATIONS' EMISSIONS.

## What happened at the conference?

SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE WERE WHEN WE WERE DIVIDED INTO GROUPS TO DISCUSS SHARED OBJECTIVES AND HOW WE COULD MEET THEM AND WHEN SOME CLIMATE EXPERTS CAME IN TO HELP US DISCUSS WHAT WE COULD DO IN OUR AREA. THESE EXERCISES ALLOWED US TO DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW BEST TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE ON BOTH A LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL BY MAKING CHANGES AT HOME, SCHOOL AND OUR COMMUNITY. WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO POSE QUESTIONS TO HELP US TO MAKE EVEN GREATER CHANGES.

## What can we do?

AT THE END OF THE SESSION, WE WERE ENCOURAGED TO COME UP WITH SOME IDEAS FOR CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITY. SOME OF OUR SUGGESTIONS INCLUDED RALLYING FOR BETTER TREATMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT BY COMPANIES AND ENCOURAGING MORE PEOPLE TO WALK, CYCLE AND TAKE THE BUS. THIS ALLOWED US TO LINK THE INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WE HAD RESEARCHED TO EVERYDAY LIFE MEANING THAT AS A GROUP WE WERE ABLE TO PLAN CHANGES TO OUR OWN ACTIONS AND HOW WE WOULD SPREAD THESE CHANGES FURTHER AFIELD.



# St Bede's pupils petition politicians to prevent climate damage.

IN THE LEAD UP TO COP 28 THE PUPILS AT THE ST BEDE'S SENT LETTERS CALLING FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER, SIR KIER STARMER MP AND MS ASHLEY DALTON MP. WE HAVE RECEIVED THESE REPLIES.

