

ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL

HAMPSHIRE

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 (SEMH) needs. These may be complicated by additional learning difficulties.

Summer- 2021

Issue 37

NEWS



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



MFL DAY

*Leavers' Day
'Boys Who Dared
to be
Different'*

OUR RESULTS

EXAMS





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CELEBRATING

OUR EXAM RESULTS- 2021

St Edward's, a day and residential special school providing care and education for boys who experience social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH) celebrates very pleasing public examination results.

The school community were extremely proud to receive confirmation of public examination success on Thursday 12 August 2021. The year had been difficult for pupils because the pandemic inevitably impacted on teaching and learning. That said, pupils at St Edward's School continued to work hard and were rewarded with very encouraging results, equating to a 94% pass rate in all subjects.

Individual subjects achieved some impressive results. There was a 90% pass rate in GCSE mathematics with pupils achieving grades 9-4. 70% achieved grades 9-4 in GCSE English and an impressive 100% achieved a pass in GCSE Art and Design with many pupils gaining very high grades. We were also delighted with the 100% pass rate achieved by pupils sitting their Functional Skills examinations. Well done to all!

The examination results achieved by all pupils in Year 11 at St Edward's School are testimony to their resilience and determination. At a time of great disruption and uncertainty, pupils and staff have worked hard and achieved ambitious grades. I am delighted that these results enabled so many of our pupils to progress to colleges of Further Education.'

Mr Graham Maher
Headmaster

Modern Foreign Language

MFL DAY

The theme for Modern Foreign Language Day this year was the language and culture of Italy. Pupils were afforded the opportunity to participate in activities that were engaging, informative, challenging, fun, liberating and delicious!



The Commedia dell'arte was a workshop that allowed pupils to immerse themselves as characters in a slapstick style form of comedy that was invented and still exists in Italy today. The strong relationships that pupils have with the staff members involved allowed them to be vulnerable. Jen Wood and Martyn Payne's collective effort made pupils want to overcome their inhibitions.



Pupils acquired language in my language workshop where they were taught greetings, pleasantries, numbers, days of the week, months of the year as well as some every-day phrases. Opportunities to develop Cultural Capital were everywhere around the school.

In the Garden Rooms, all pupils tackled Stuart Green's orienteering task to discover more about Italy's geography and its history. This was followed up with the tranquillity created in the Art lessons as pupils reinvented the iconic face of Da Vinci's, Mona Lisa and kept within the lines of their colouring challenge which was just what they needed from Ffion Thomas and Tom Chatwin.





The pizza oven was well worth the wait, with Chef Nigel Whitcher at the helm, Sous Chef Ash Sumra on the toppings table and Mr Holmes managing the impossible task of sitting next to a fire all day in what was already a blisteringly hot day.

Pizza-laden pupils did make Craig Vigar and David Walsh's job of getting them to tread water that much harder, but all pupils threw themselves in at the deep end when it came to the water polo, in which Italy are the most successful team.

Of course, our energy levels were generously attended to with Italian fare and huge jellified tricolour knickerbocker glories by the catering team in the kitchen.



Even our pupils down in The Bridge didn't miss out, as they were engaged in MFL activities all day, cleverly woven into their interventions!

Mr Martin Green
General Subjects Teacher



Romeo and Juliet

In English, Year 9 pupils engaged enthusiastically with Shakespeare's, 'Romeo and Juliet'.

Pupils read excerpts from the 400-year-old script, explored the themes of the play, learned about Elizabethan England and practised dramatic techniques to bring the story to life in the context of 21st century rural Hampshire.

Pupils especially enjoyed making a soundscape of the party scene at the Capulet house as well as freeze-framing various fight scenes between Montagues and Capulets.

Year 9 pupil, Cameron said, "I think people still like Romeo and Juliet today because the play is about love and relationships, and these things are still relevant now."

Cameron's favourite quote from the play is, "Here's my fiddlestick. Here's that shall make you dance."

Mr Tom Chatwin
Head of English

Building a PC

During the Summer term, our pupils explored the inner workings of computers, learning about their components. We explored the process of building a PC and what the functions of each component do.

Building a computer is to fit premade components to a motherboard or fix components to a computer case. Pupils discovered a deeper understanding for the CPU (Central Processing Unit) and the potential complications of fitting this part.

Pupils' understanding and newly acquired skills were tested on computer building simulator program. Pupils had the opportunity to build their own custom PC in a virtual space. It was clear that learning had taken place. Having opportunities to strip down and rebuild a computer was not as intimidating as they have once believed.

Mr Kristian Barton
ICT Teacher



Living



In the Summer term, pupils from the Wider School enjoyed exploring History through some re-enactment sessions. They experienced artefacts from a range of eras, including Viking, First World War, Anglo Saxon and Norman. Pupils were able to evaluate the merits and pitfalls of shield designs from the Viking, Roman and Norman armoury by testing out replicas in a structured re-enactment session.

Those investigating the First World War artefacts donned our great coats and took up position in the grounds, to re-live the experiences of some of the soldiers sent to Melchet Court to convalesce after being injured in the conflict.

Many of our boys commented on the weight of the weapons and armour (even as replicas) and appreciated just how difficult life in the past must have been.

Mrs Maher
Head of Humanities



Leavers' Day 2021

Boys Who Dared to be Different

Click your fingers and it's time for them to fly the nest!



For some of our cohort, their last day represented the end of a 5 year placement at St Edward's and as significant as this was, there was a resounding feeling of readiness as they set to embark on their next steps into young adulthood; something that they had been well prepared for.

Once all of the younger pupils had left for their weekend, the spotlight was deservedly turned on our 11 leavers. Having deprived them of an earlier lunchtime, the leavers and the whole staff team retired to the Dining Room where our kitchen team had prepared a lovely reception for them, with all of their favourites.

Once full, the Headmaster asked us all to raise a glass (of juice) as he delivered a speech for each pupil, celebrating their time with us; the progress they had made and the very real impact that they'd had on our school. Whilst in the past, for many of them, the idea of sitting in a crowded room listening to superlatives about themselves would have been excruciating, they sat and accepted the warm recognition of their journeys, with what one can only surmise as a quiet sense of pride.

After each speech, to rapturous and very heartfelt applause, each pupil was presented with a leavers' hoodie, emblazoned with their names and an embroidered school emblem - The Melchet Rose. As is tradition at St Edward's, they also received a copy of the best-selling book, 'Boys Who Dared to be Different' - a celebration of men who have changed the world, despite breaking the mould of the mainstream. The special touch is that each of our pupils have their own chapter in this book, written by those staff members who know them best; a gift that we hope they keep, treasure and more importantly use to look back on their time here for years to come. Finally, they were presented with a wallet. A mark of a young man's independence, within which was a card with the school contact details and the simple message, 'Once a St Edward's boy, always a St Edward's boy'; a sentiment that we uphold unwaveringly.

The responsibility of cake cutting fell to Harvey, who with full beard, looked like he should perhaps have left several years before. On full stomachs, there was time for some quick cricket before we really had to say goodbye. But, as the aforementioned card infers, no one ever really says goodbye to St Edward's.

Dimi, Matt, Alfie, Ruben, Euen, Harvey H, Harvey L and Jayden, we are immensely proud of the young men you have become and wish you luck at college and beyond. We know that you are ready. Your names are inscribed on the Chapel wall in the hope that one day, you will come back to see them.

For Kieran, Liam and Freddie, we're not quite done with you yet. Roll on year 12!

Mr Jim Fenemore
Deputy Head





St Giles Trust

Breaking the Cycle of Offending

St Giles Trust - Kieran: Learn from my mistakes

For some, the most important lesson that they may ever have at St Edward's took place this summer. We invited into our school, Kieran – a remarkable young man from Manchester who had overcome an extremely difficult start in life, having been drawn into gang culture and Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) at a very early age, which had resulted in him serving a 13-year prison sentence from the age of 17.

Kieran came to us through St Giles Trust, a charity using expertise and real-life past experiences to empower people to progress towards positive futures. Their SOS+ Service delivers early intervention work in educational settings, through preventative sessions on violence, vulnerability and exploitation.

This is an award-winning approach that uses trained professionals with lived experience of the criminal justice system to de-glamorise gang involvement and expose the harsh realities of crime and violence. As they know these issues first-hand, they can speak from their own experiences and have high levels of engagement from the young people they deliver to.

Our pupils' levels of engagement with what Kieran had to say, cannot be understated. They listened intently, asked pertinent questions and if they're honest, sat in shock at the brutal reality of a life that they may have otherwise been drawn towards.

Mr Jim Fenemore
Deputy Head



Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week took place between 10th – 14th May 2021 and the theme was 'Nature'. As a school community we worked together to plant over 450 trees, this was in addition to the 800 we had already planted! This was a fantastic effort, with staff and pupils all working together, forging a positive link between nature and good mental health. There were many discussions in school regarding the importance of looking after our mental health, and there was a display in the main corridor with lots of helpful tips and reminders. Pupils were presented with a packet of seeds to take home, along with a certificate to recognise their efforts with the tree planting mission.

Mrs Louise Bartel
Therapeutic Services Manager



THE **BIG** SPLASH





Dotted around the pool area were posters that had been created by the pupils in their Art lessons which helped bring the arena to life.

I was over the moon by the attitude and positive displays being demonstrated by everyone who took part in this annual event. Without the participation of the pupils and support from the staff teams, the Gala simply wouldn't keep being the successful event that it is. Thank you.

The Swimming Gala made its long awaited return after then necessary restrictions of Covid 19. The pupils were keen to show off their skills and swimming form that they had been working hard on during their swimming lessons. The Gala had a total of 28 thrilling and hard fought races which were carried out with fantastic sportsmanship and commitment from each of the boys.

The action in the pool was accompanied by the vibrant sounds of our school DJ at poolside. With the atmosphere being colourful and jubilant around the pool, even the boys who didn't take part were adding their touch to the event.

Mr Craig Vigar
Btec Lead



Every swimming discipline was represented in the races, as pupils put all their recent training to the test in a pulsating sporting event. This year, two new races were introduced to the event which were the noodle race as well as the float race. These two new races, promoted inclusivity and brought smiles and laughter to the event.

There were several pupils who claimed gold medals in multiple races, however everyone was a winner as each swimmer was cheered from the beginning to the end of every race.



SPORTS DAY

Our annual Sports Day took place down at the Southampton Sports Centre this year. This was an opportunity for the pupils to display their sporting prowess in a variety of sports that they had been learning throughout the year. The sports that pupils competed in were – high jump, long jump, shot put, hammer throw, as well as fun races and a football time trial as a new addition!

The pupils participated against each other in small groups with gold, silver and bronze medals available in each sport. Once the pupils had participated in the circuit of field events, it was then onto the races! The pupils were placed in races depending on their results during lesson time, which built up a fantastic atmosphere, as the races were all so close.

The weather could have not been any better for us and the hard work that the pupils had put in prior to the event paid off. All pupils represented themselves and the school with pride. Well done all!

Mr Martyn Payne
Head of Physical Education





CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH



GAME ON



Summer 2021 and our new all-weather pitch had been completed and was ready for action. Was there a better way to 'break it in' than to organise a charity football match? An all-day charity football match!



Two of our year 10 pupils, Alfie and James, committed to challenging themselves to play one football match that was to be held over six hours. All of our pupils and staff supported the event by joining in with the match throughout the day. In true St Edward's fashion, all pupils rose to the occasion and displayed fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship during the event. Over seventy goals were scored in the match and after the full-time whistle was blown, the scores were tied. The match ended in a nail biting event of penalties and a fantastic amount of money raised for local charities. A brilliant day for St. Edward's and a big well done to all involved!

Mr Dan Farr
Btec Lead & Outdoor Education
Co-ordinator



TREE PLANTING



In his recent encyclical 'Laudato Si', Pope Francis called upon everyone to work together to fight climate change by championing environmental causes designed to tackle the worst excesses of climate change. This summer, the staff and pupils of St Edward's completed a task begun in 2019, to plant a wide variety of mixed woodland and hedgerow trees across a 3-acre meadow on the southern edge of our estate. To date, we have planted over 1,200 trees as a key part of our response to Pope Francis' challenge. We believe that every tree we plant will, eventually, help to tackle the rising levels of carbon dioxide.



In addition, pupils in the RE Department last Autumn planted nearly 500 acorns in special pots and housed them in a greenhouse, watering them over the course of the year. We have created an 'oak-tree nursery' of 475 surviving trees, many of which have already been planted in the tree meadow. The remainder will be used across the estate to replace oaks that came down in recent storms.

This Autumn, we are changing focus. In our Walled Garden, we are going to concentrate on a range of fruit trees and a mixed species hedgerow in the shape of a cross, which at different times of the year, will show offer up a rich array of colours. We are excited that we have an opportunity to continue the fight against global warming in such an innovative way and look forward to sharing, with you, the results of our work together as a community.

Mr Stephen Whelan
Mission, Ethos and Charity Lead



Round The Island Boat Race 2021

A very different race this year to the two previous races in that there was plenty of wind and at times almost too much. As usual, the pupils and some staff stayed aboard Moonbeam on Friday night, sharing a meal and camaraderie together. Cameron stated that the showers in the marina were the best he had ever experienced. The Deputy Head joined us as the night supervisor, adding to the atmosphere and giving the boys the chance to show off their knowledge.

It was a pleasure to welcome Euen back to school to take part, despite having officially completed his secondary education with us. He has sailed at home but has always been reluctant to sail with school. I persuaded him to come out on Moonbeam for the first time in May this year and he was so taken with the experience that he soon asked if he could join the race. He took his turn at the helm during the race but it is his calm personality and gentle humour that made him such an asset to the team.

We competed with a young or novice crew, Jay being the only pupil with any real experience. Having said that, his knowledge, skill and timing when handling the large genoa through a tack, gave the younger crew-members and I considerable confidence. He doesn't realise, because of his own insecurities, that he is a very good teacher and coach and he guided the others so that our tacking throughout the race was always of a very high standard.

The first half of the race down to the Needles and round to St Catherine's point was all hard on the wind, which the boys coped admirably with. Greg, who is only year 7, made a little nest down below for himself once we had rounded the Needles and slept soundly for almost 2 hours. When he reappeared on deck, I asked if he felt better to which replied, "Yes!" with a broad smile. He has a natural ability on the helm so once rested and in the clearer waters round the back of the Wight, he stood his watch, turning the heads of the other yachts that such a diminutive character should be so competently in charge.

Cameron last sailed aboard Moonbeam in January 2020 but his impulsive behaviour was difficult to manage and his constant fiddling with things on board presented a risk to safety. Since then we have talked often about sailing and he has made a considerable effort to control his impulsivity, so earlier this year I asked him if he thought he was ready to come sailing again. He is a very talented young man who learns practical skills incredibly quickly so he became my 'go to' guy in all the challenging situations. He thoroughly enjoyed the race and was really good fun all day. To see him walking down the corridor on Monday morning with that 'ten feet tall' look about him, filled me with pride.

I try to keep out of the main fray to avoid the cut and thrust of close racing, which did result in us traveling almost 60 miles on what is only a 51-mile race for boats that remain close inshore. Most sailors are polite and considerate but we did still encounter two instances of ungentlemanly conduct during the course

of the day. When we were close to the finish line, it gave the boys considerable pleasure to point out the boats in question as we out-sailed both of them to finish ahead.

The day was a huge success, the boys had a fantastic time and built memories that I am sure they will cherish for the rest of their lives. The staff team worked together tirelessly to support me and to ensure that our pupils had the best experience possible. After such a challenging year, it was for all of us, a real highlight.

Results:

Raymarine Young sailor: 4th out of 10

Division 7D: 14th out of 52

Class 7: 28th out of 133

ISCRS (cruising yachts): 78th out of 584

Overall (estimate): 163rd out of 942

Mr Mark Holmes
Head of Design Technology





St Edward's School
HAMPSHIRE

