

ST CUTHBERT'S ROMAN
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



PARENTAL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 2 | Autumn 2023



Headteacher's Update

Welcome to the Second edition of our 2023-24 school newsletter. I hope you will find the information included in here both useful and interesting. We want to give all of our partners and stakeholders a good insight into what life is like at St Cuthbert's.

I would like to begin by wishing you all a wonderful Christmas. I hope you get to spend some quality time with your loved ones over the festive season.

As you will see when you read through our newsletter, it has been a busy time here at St Cuthbert's. We have had a huge array of events including a Mass for all year groups, Advent Christmas charities, Remembrance Day, the Christmas lights switch on and our brilliant School Show – Oliver.

I would like to thank all of the staff and students involved in each of these events for their time and contribution to school.

Christmas is a time for us to celebrate and to think of others. Pope Francis said 'may we not let this Christmas pass without doing something good.' Many of our students have achieved this with their wonderful charity work. This is something we can all do this Christmas and it will make the world a little bit better place if we can all achieve this.



Headteacher Awards

Students who were the recipients of our Headteacher Award this half term.

From Left to right:

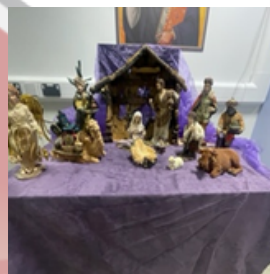
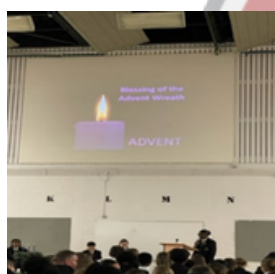
Imogen (Year 11) Melvis (Year 10) Mr Shields Alex (Year 8)

Daniele (Year 7) Reece (Year 9)

Catholic Life Of the School



In November we remembered all those who we have lost through our Remembrance Day service and the smaller bereavement service in the Chapel. Pupils were extremely respectful, which made us proud! We celebrated Mass as a school, to mark us joining the St Teresa of Calcutta Academy and we give thanks to Fr Michael for coming in to deliver Mass, again all pupils were extremely respectful and the choir sang beautifully. We have had Sr Linda in school to begin and meet with the students from year 8 who wish to take part in the Sacrament of Confirmation. All enquires about Confirmation must be made at your local parish church- not school. We have been very busy during Advent, we began Advent with our Advent liturgies that all year groups attended and it was delivered by members of our GIFT team. Where we blessed our school Advent wreath and lit the first candle. Advent is also a season of Preparation for the coming of Jesus. It is also a time when think about how we can help others. With this in mind all form groups helped to support the catholic life of the school and show their faith in action by fundraising for our Advent Charities, operation Christmas child, Rochdale Foodbank and CAFOD World Gifts. It has been amazing to witness all of the Generosity from our pupils, staff and parents. Thank you.



Year 7 Events & News

Chill Factor Year 7

9 lucky year 7 students were chosen to attend the annual Manchester United Foundation Chill Factor trip. Students enjoyed the time to network with other Manchester United Partner schools on the day. The day consisted of students being given a skiing induction followed by the opportunity to learn and develop their skiing skills and then given a chance to go down the snow slides.



Springhill Hospice Visit

Well done to our terrific Year 7 students Sklya, Rose-Annabelle, Irebami and Freya for spreading Christmas joy during their visit to Springhill Hospice. They delivered handmade Christmas cards to the lovely patients and caring staff.



Year 7 Emerging Talent Football

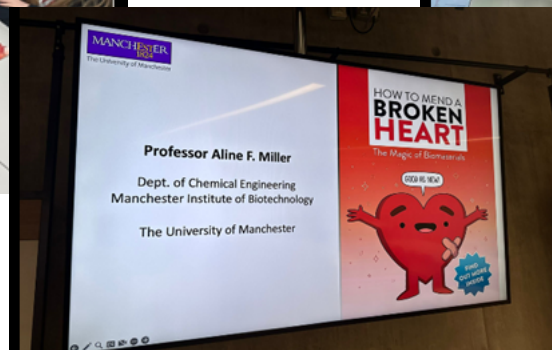
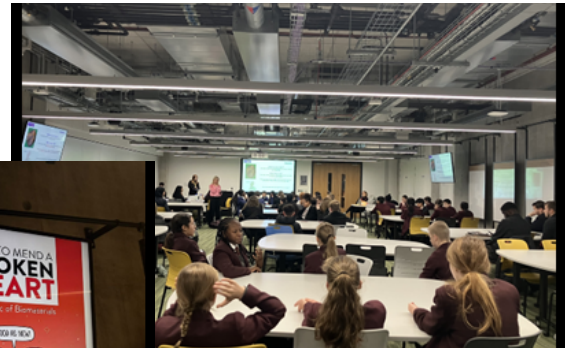
Students were invited to attend the annual football emerging talent day. This is to allow any budding footballers the chance to showcase their footballing ability against other Manchester United schools. The day also allowed for our Year 9 and 10 students who have an interest for refereeing to officiate the matches which took place at The Cliff training ground.



Year 8 News & Events

Year 8 Next Move University Of Manchester Visit

Year 8 Students visited University of Manchester for a science engineering event which students were able to look at coding and the importance of new technology in today's world. They had a talk around Biochemicals from Professor Aline F. Miller. Students received a tour of the state-of-the-art campus and managed to meet students and lectures and discuss their interest in coding and gaming.



ECO Reds Year 8

Environmentally friendly initiatives were the topic of discussion at the event which began with talks from Adidas and other Manchester United sponsors which gave students scope to discuss and look at ways they can bring these initiatives to school. 4 year 8 students were chosen to represent school by our wonderful science department.



Year 9 News & Events

Manchester United U19 vs Galatasaray

Students visited Leigh Sports Village to watch the UEFA Youth League game. Students were invited because of their great start to the new academic year. Students had the opportunity to mix with players after the final whistle which was a fitting touch by Manchester United players and staff.

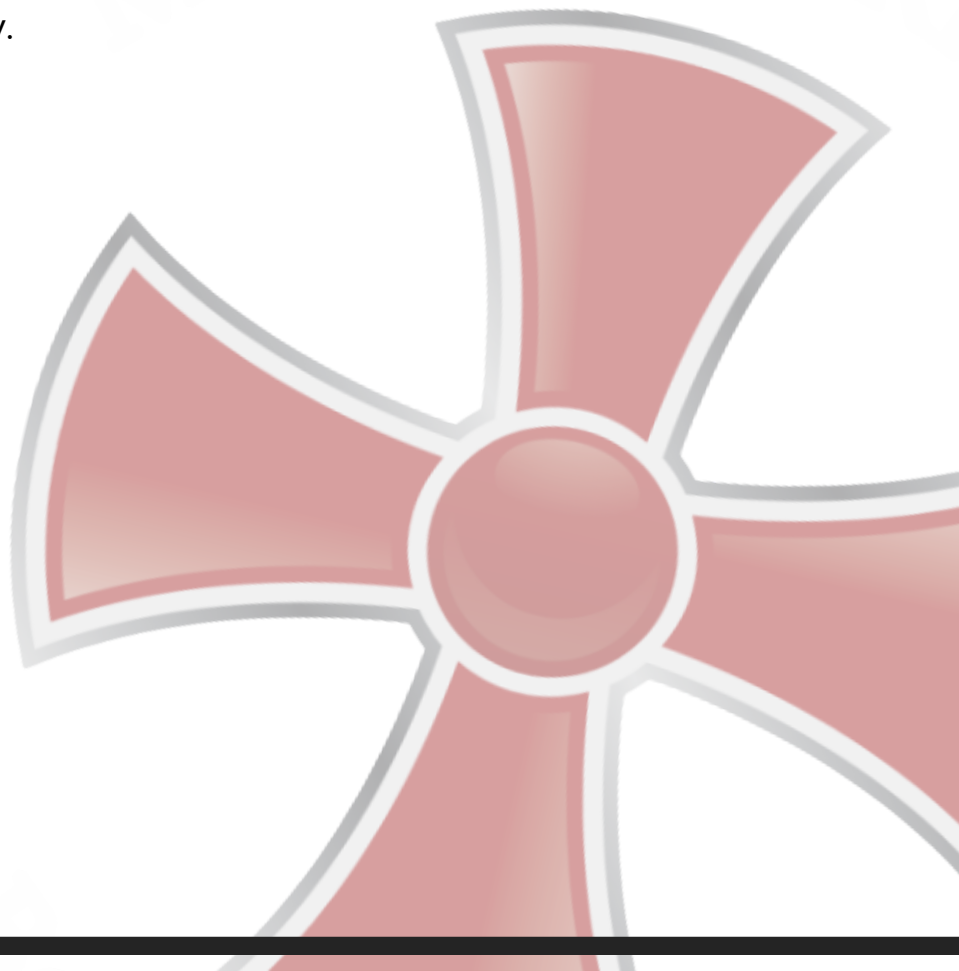


Year 9 Boys Football Emerging Talent

Students were invited to attend the annual football emerging talent day. This is to allow any budding footballers the chance to showcase their footballing ability against other Manchester United schools.

Christmas Tree Light Switch On

On November 30th we had a wonderful joint event between St Cuthbert's and our local neighbors and community. Counsellor Phillip Massey and members of our local community attended a Christmas lights switch on with staff and students from St Cuthbert's. Our students sang some Christmas carols and then we all watched as the lights were switched on before coming back into school for some mince pies. Next year we are hoping to make the event much bigger and get in many more members of the St Cuthbert's community.



Across the Curriculum

Computer Science

Several students in Year 8 have been taking part in the Cyber First Competition.

They had to complete challenges in the following areas; Logic and Coding, Networking, Cyber Security and Cryptography.

The girls have been competing for a national prize of some brand new laptops! We will be keeping our fingers crossed that they will manage to compete successfully with the other schools in England.

Our top 3 teams within the school are:

1st Place: Abigail, Alanna McG and Lola B

2nd Place: Favour E, Jayden B, Happiness M, Esther C

3rd Place: Lola F, Natalia W, Shianne McL, Chichi O



ART

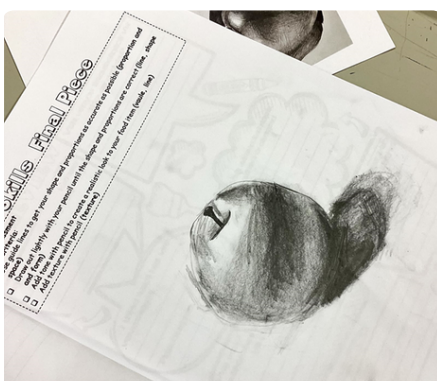
Year 11 students have been creating a mock exam project in preparation for the real thing in January, Miss Anderson is very proud of the progress the students are making and excited to see what you all produce in January!

Year 10 students have been working on a skulls project, experimenting with all sorts of printing techniques, drawing and painting skills, we are starting to create final pieces to conclude the project – keep an eye out for us exhibiting the work.

Year 9 have been working on an architecture project and are well on their way with their sculptures celebrating their chosen cultures

Year 8 have been exploring perspective and landscapes and are nearly ready to showcase their final piece paintings, check out Facebook for an update.

Year 7 have been mastering the elements of art, to build confidence and skill in their drawing, Miss Anderson and Mr Treanor are really impressed with what we have seen so far – we look forward to teaching you the colour project next!



Across the Curriculum

PE

The Under 16's Basketball Team won the Rochdale Schools Championships on Thursday 14th December excelling against the other schools in Rochdale and Middleton. We are extremely proud of their achievements. Well done!



Technology

Year 7 pupils have been using the hand tools and machinery to make their pencil boxes.

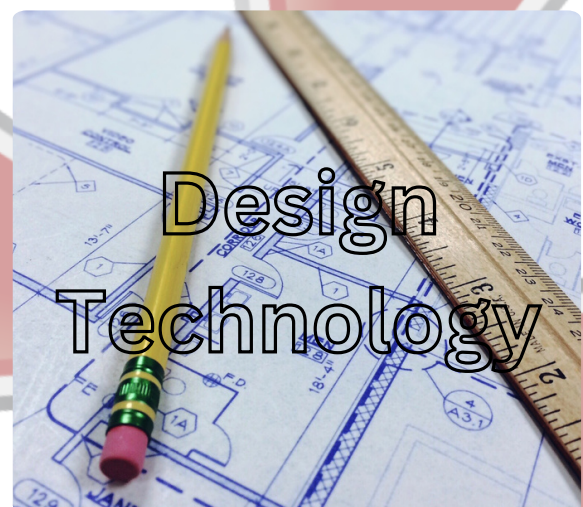
Year 8 have been expanding their food practical skills and learning about healthy eating and energy balance. Pupils have made dishes such as Shepherds Pie and Stir-fry in the last few weeks to support their learning.

Year 9 have been busy working on their passive amplifier project, this is a product that can amplify the sound from phones.

Year 10 pupils have made a great start to the new V Cert Technical award in Food and Cookery and Creative design and production. The Food and Cookery pupils have visited a commercial kitchen to see what goes on behind the scenes. The Creative Design and production group have been using the 3D Printers, sewing machines and screen printing. Next term they will try casting pewter and vacuum forming.

Year 11 DT have been very busy completing the developments of their ideas for storage units. The group are leading up the stage where they will start actually creating their ideas in the workshop.

Year 11 Food have been working hard on their NEA Food investigation tasks and writing up their results. Mrs Rothwell and Mrs Walsh-Allen are very impressed with the commitment and determination from pupils so far.



Across the Curriculum

Music

It's been a very busy period for the music department this half term with lots of extra-curricular activity taking place. The school choir began the half term by performing 3 songs at two masses and also sang three Christmas carol songs at the Christmas light switch on earlier on this month. The music department has also been hard at work preparing the cast of Oliver for all the musical content that they need to learn for this year's school production. Mr Havercroft and Miss Stephenson have been very impressed with all the fantastic sounds that have been produced by every cast member. Year 11 have been hard at work preparing for their mocks by revising the various areas of study and study pieces that they need to know. Year 11 have also completed practice performances for their final assessment just before Easter. Mr Havercroft has been very impressed with your hard work and dedication to your studies, so a massive well done to you all. Year 10 have also been hard at work learning about the different areas of study as well as getting familiar with the new software that they will need to use to complete their composition coursework just after Christmas. Mr Havercroft is already impressed with the practice compositions that you have completed so far.

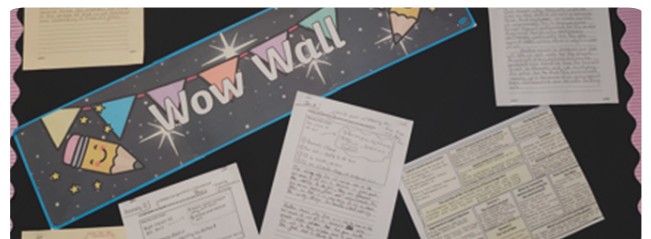
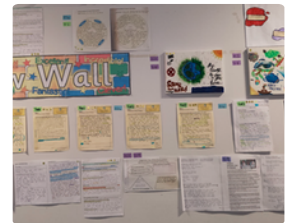
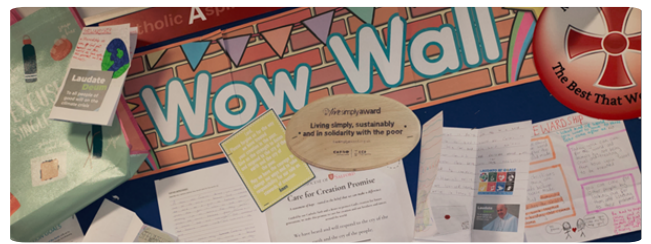
Year 9 have been working hard on various pieces like Fur Elise and the James Bond theme, so they have had a real focus on pure performance this term. Year 8 have also focussed on performance this term but they have looked at performing Reggae pieces like Three Little Birds. Finally, Year 7 have had a real focus on composing their own piece of music to a brief this term, and it's been great to hear some of the ostinatos that have been created so far. Well done to all the KS3 students for their fantastic hard work.



Across the Curriculum

RE

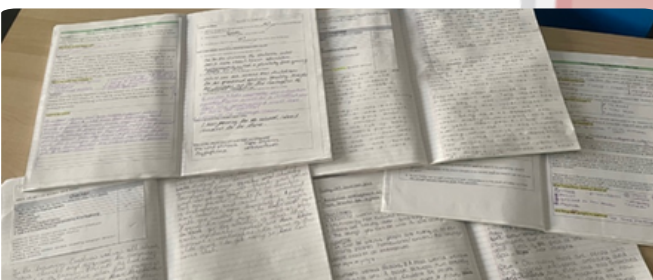
RE has been celebrating many successes this term. Our Wow Wall's in classrooms have lots of pupils work displayed, Year 7 have been learning about the Bible, Year 8 have been creating timelines on the Civil Rights movement in the 1950's and 60's, Year 9 have been looking at the topic of evil and suffering and how Catholics respond to the problem. Finally, Year 10 and 11 have been studying the topic Origins and Meaning and have been busy working on the skill of explain and evaluate when answering GCSE questions. We look forward to updating our Wow Walls next term with lots of exciting new topics and creative work.



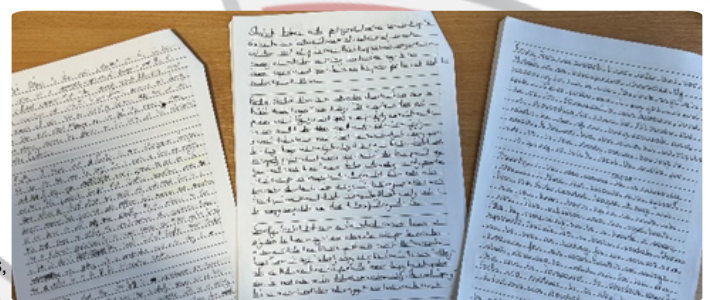
Celebrating the Dedication of KS3 Students in Recent Assessments

Throughout the assessment period, KS3 students demonstrated not only a deep understanding of the subjects but also a remarkable ability to apply their knowledge. Their perseverance and dedication to mastering the material have truly set a positive tone for the entire school community.

Teachers have praised the students for their engagement, thoughtful responses, and the overall high standard of work submitted. It's evident that the collaborative efforts between students, teachers, parents and carers have created an environment that fosters academic excellence and personal growth.



English



Remarkable Progress in Refining Writing Skills

Y10 students have demonstrated an impressive commitment to honing their writing abilities, consistently producing work that showcases not only improved technical skills but also a deeper understanding of the art of expression. Teachers have been thoroughly impressed by the thoughtful and well-crafted pieces that students have submitted. The focus on planning and constructive feedback has played a pivotal role in their growth, and it's evident that their hard work is paying off.

As we celebrate the achievements of our Y10 writers, let's continue to encourage them to explore new horizons and push the boundaries of their creativity. The skills they are developing now will undoubtedly serve them well in their academic pursuits and beyond.

Drama



We had such a lovely time welcoming our Year 5 friends from St. Vincent's Alice Ingham, Holy Family, Sacred Heart, St. Mary's, St. Gabriel's and St. John's RC primary schools to watch our fabulous production of "Oliver."

The children were a fabulous audience and loved meeting the cast afterwards.

We look forward to welcoming our partner primary schools to next year's production.



Our Creative and Expressive Arts team excelled in this year's production of "Oliver." Students from Years 7-11 were in the cast and crew and the months of rehearsals paid off. It was a spectacular show that our partner primary schools, parents, carers and community loved. Well done to all involved!



Careers

On Friday 15th December we were grateful to be able to take 75 Year 9 students down to Rochdale Sixth Form College for an opportunity to start to think about their future careers and how their specialism choices may affect this. This was a really insightful visit and prompted some really good discussions about what they might like to do when they leave St Cuthbert's.



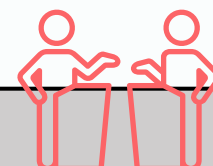
Key Dates

- 09.01.24 – School reopens for all students
- 09.01.24 – 19.01.24 – Year 11 mock examinations
- 24.01.24 – Class of 2023 Presentation Evening
- 29.01.24 – 09.02.24 – Year 10 assessments
- 07.02.24 – Year 11 Parents Evening (4-7pm)
- 14.02.24 – Ash Wednesday
- 16.02.24 – School closes for half term
- 26.02.24 – School Closed for Students (Staff training day)
- 27.02.24 – School reopens for all students
- 06.03.24 – Year 10 Parents Evening
- 13.03.24 – Year 9 Parents Evening and Options Evening
- 28.03.24 (Maundy Thursday) – School Closes for Easter


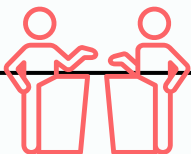


Lunchtime Enrichment

M	<p>Year 10 and 11 football (3G DAA) Year 11 GCSE PE Coursework Catch up (MMS - Sports Hall Mezzanine) Year 11 Triple Science Revision (NGN - 208)</p>
T	<p>Year 10 and 11 Football (3G - DAA) Year 9 and 10 Netball (MMS/HWD - Sports Hall) Eco Team (NHD - 313) Year 11 Business Studies Revision (Week B only - STS - 409)</p>
W	<p>Year 10 and 11 Football (3G - DAA) Year 7 and 8 Girls' Netball (MMS/HWD - SH) Year 11 Computer Science Revision (Week A only - STS - 409)</p>
Th	<p>Year 10 and 11 Football (3G - DAA) KS3 Badminton (JRN - Sports Hall) Gift Team (NHD - 313)</p>
F	<p>Years 10 and 11 Football (3G - DAA) Year 7 and 8 Dodgeball (HWD - Gym)</p>



After School Enrichment

<p>M</p>	<p>Year 10 and 11 Health and Social Care coursework catch-up (DEE - 319) Year 10 and 11 Boys Football matches Year 11 Maths revision (classroom teachers) Year 11 Music coursework catch-up Year 11 Spanish revision (MGC - 321) Year 11 RE Revision (SCN/RBA - 315/312) Key Stage 3 Coding Club</p>
<p>T</p>	<p>Year 10 and 11 Health and Social Care coursework catch-up (DEE - 319) Kaleidoscope Club (KFR - 310) Netball Fixtures Year 7 and 9 Football practices and games (3G - DAA) Year 11 Music coursework catch-up Year 11 Psychology revision (week A only - SWS - 309) Year 11 Sociology revision (week B only - SWS - 309)</p> 
<p>W</p>	<p>Netball fixtures Study Hall - Space to revise/complete homework for Year 11 students (MDS/LMT - 210/211)</p>
<p>Th</p>	<p>All groups girls' football (JHT - 3G/Sports Hall) Netball fixtures Year 10 and 11 Health and Social Care coursework catch-up (DEE - 319) Year 11 GCSE History revision (LBN - 414) Year 11 Computer Science revision (Week A only - STS - 409) Year 11 Business Studies Revision (Week B only - STS - 409) Year 11 Computer Science (Week B only - LBI - 410) Year 11 Business Studies (Week A only - LBI - 410) Year 11 Music Theory revision (406) Year 11 Geography revision (RLE/AHT - 401/413)</p> 
<p>F</p>	<p>Year 11 GCSE History revision (JME - 106) Year 11 GCSE PE Practical Moderation Year 10 Bronze DoE Meeting (last Friday of each month - JHT/HWD - 409)</p>



Wishing all our families, staff and students
a happy and Holy Christmas

