



### National Mathematics Summer Schools

Enrichment / National Mathematics Summer Schools

#### Week-long residential events for young mathematicians

Our National Mathematics Summer Schools are designed for young people with an interest in mathematics. They aim to promote mathematics and provide an opportunity for participants to meet other students and adults who enjoy mathematics.



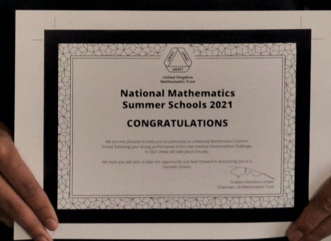
Students at a National Mathematics Summer School

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## Hans Earns Top Maths Honour !

*Story on page 4*



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Blessed Edward  
Oldcorne Catholic  
College



# Newsletter

*May 2021*



*We have so much to show you.*



Dear Parents and friends of our college I am struggling to wrap my head around the fact that we are now just over 80% of the way through another academic year. Time really does fly by which is one of the reasons why it is important to pause and reflect on what we have achieved during a year like no other. At Blessed Edward's our definition of community is a group of people coming together to do something good. We do this by looking to grow and develop each day as people of good character who each take individual responsibility for making the world a better place. This can seem like a huge challenge for an individual to undertake but just last week we said farewell to our Year 11 students and as I watched them leave I realised that the collective effort of two hundred young people going out into the world and striving to make it a better place is where the real impact of our college vision lies.

I truly believe that we do something unique here at Blessed Edward's in terms of our ethos and values. Our students can articulate how a "good" person should be at a level way beyond the superficial. When we add high quality teaching and support to that mix we have something very special.

Thank you as always for your ongoing support. It is a privilege to work alongside you and your children in our collective endeavour to ensure society continues to flourish.

*Greg McClarey - Headteacher*

As another academic year draws to a close in our great school, I would usually be saying that our Year 11 children are going on study leave; that Year 10 are moving up to Year 11 and enthusing about how great it will be to see the last concert, the last sporting event and the final school performance of the year. But not this year: Year 11 left school on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May, the school performances and sporting events have not taken place, and this is all because of Covid -19 pandemic. This is not easy for the Year 11s and their parents. No other year group has ever been affected so much by such an extreme event. But they have survived, and seeing pictures of Year 11 enjoying their last few days in school shows how resilient our children are. From discussions with teachers, they have told me that the Year 11 children have grown up far quicker than they have in previous years, they are more mature in the way they learn and the way they have settled into self-directed study, in my mind, this will set them up to do extremely well in the next stage of their studies. They can learn on their own initiative, they know how to study, and they know what questions they need to ask to get positive outcomes. The school has worked hard to celebrate their last year at school, the school has organised a Prom at Sixways Rugby Club and there will be a leavers assembly and Mass as well.

### **Safeguarding**

Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our students. This is broader than 'child protection' as it also includes prevention and ensuring the best interests of our students come first.

The School recognises that it has a duty to ensure arrangements are in place for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students by creating a positive atmosphere through teaching and learning, pastoral support for students and staff, training for staff, working with parents and Local Authorities.

Our school website has been revamped for safeguarding offering signposting and useful resources for both students and parents. If you go to [www.blessededward.co.uk](http://www.blessededward.co.uk) and click on safeguarding you will find lots of helpful material. This includes a weekly post with information from National Online Safety called Wake up Wednesday. On our website you can also request early help support and students can raise safeguard concerns online. You will find all key documents linked to safeguarding in this section.

Meet the safeguarding team [here](#).

Just a reminder:

**Miss Mason - Designated Safeguard Lead & LAC Lead**

**Mr McClarey - Deputy Safeguard Lead**

**Mrs Thomas - Deputy Safeguard Lead**

**Mrs Ennis - Deputy Safeguard Lead**

**Mr McClarey and Miss Mason - Prevent Single Point of Contact.**

*Miss Mason - DSL and LAC Lead*

I will finish with a story; A teacher at our school has given out a small set of presents to a number of students; A New pencil, a paper grip and an eraser stuck to it a note that read 'Just a note to say... Thank you for your positive attitude and resilience this term. Here are a few gifts to keep you going ...A New Pencil – to keep you sharp, Grip – to hold onto when it seems tough, Eraser – to remind you that it is OK to make mistakes' Now this is a small example of the things that our exceptional staff are doing to keep our children positive. This is another one of the reasons I love this school I feel proud to be part of it. It is these little things that make such a difference!

Please think of the teachers who will now begin the extremely hard job of marking and awarding grades to children they have been remotely teaching for much of the last two years.

I know that all the year groups have been affected by the last two years of lockdown so let us help to get the college back to the college we all know and love, Keep safe!

*Philip Carney - Chair of Governors*

### **Key Dates**

7th June - Students Return

14th June - KS3 Tests

17th June - Year 10 Careers Day

21st June - Year 10 Exams begin

22nd June - Planning Afternoon - 1:30 finish for students

24th June - Year 11 Prom

28th June - 1st July - Year 6 Transition Mornings

2nd July - Year 9 Vocations Week (RE lessons)

6th July - Sports Day (*provisional*)

7th July - Year 10 RSHE Day

9th July - Year 9 Work Experience Day

12th July - Year 7-10 Ambition Week

14th July - Year 9 Employers Day

16th July - Students Finish at 12:30 for Summer Holidays

12th August - Year 11 GCSE Results Day

# S.E.N.D. News

## SEND: Our new Nurture programme- The PiXL Edge programme

In September 2020, we launched our new Nurture group programme for Years 7,8, and 9. The PiXL Edge is a framework to develop and accredit students with those personal attributes essential for employability and life. The scheme focuses on five key attributes – LORIC skills, these are designed to enable students to learn new skills of Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, and Initiative. Since September 2020 students have completed the Leadership topic and are currently halfway through the Organisation topic.

The content that has been covered:

### **Leadership: -**

- Researched and discussed the attributes of a good leader – case study.
- Looked at inspirational speeches.
- Wrote about things they felt passionate about and would like to help/change – from charities to government policies.
- Discussed empathy and how to empathise with others.
- Researched different charities and organised a charity cake/cookie sale.
- Designed and made a game.
- Students had to compete two evaluations on the topic to gain their certificate.

### **Organisation: - Studied so far:**

- The importance of being organised and the consequences of not being organised.
- Ways to help organise yourself, others, and events.
- Discussed ways to be more organised - set themselves some achievable targets.
- Looked at time management - planned and baked cakes and did a tasting session.
- Learned how organised thinking can improve problem solving.
- Looked at pre-event, event, and post-event activities.
- Learned about the 'Incubation theory' how to organise thoughts to approach challenges with a clear head.



As part of our quality assurance, it is imperative to talk to and ask students to evaluate their learning. Some recent feedback from students on the Edge programme:

Josh in Year 7 says he loves the Edge programme and hopes to continue next year. He has enjoyed everything but particularly planning the cake sale and the food tasting session, which he hopes we can do again. He would tell a friend that it is fun. He has learned about how to be a good leader.

Grace in Year 7 thinks the Edge is really good because she gets to learn new things, gets to be with amazing people and to do fun things. She has enjoyed it all but especially making and tasting the cakes. She would tell a friend that she gets to do different and amazing things that she does not get to do in normal lessons. She has learned about



# S.E.N.D. News

leadership and how to be a good leader and how to be more organised, particularly when she had to be organised to do the baking.

Odin in Year 8 thinks the programme is great. He has enjoyed finding new ways to be organised. He would tell a friend that the Edge is a great place to be as it is a nice atmosphere and a great place to learn life skills that will help you with your other studies. He has learned how to be a good leader and how to lead a group of people to achieve something. Odin now believes he knows how to properly set up an event.

Frasier in Year 8 thinks he learns lots of new things from the Edge. He enjoys making things like games and planning a cookie sale. He would tell a friend that it's great fun because everyone works well together. He has learned that he has good communication skills.

Katie in Year 9 says she really enjoys being in the Edge programme and will miss it next year. She enjoys learning about the characteristics of famous people and how they became famous. She really enjoyed the baking tasting lesson. She would tell a friend that it is educational because she learns about different things, like Ludwig Guttman, the man who started the Paralympics. She has learned what characteristics you need to be a good leader and how she can be more organised. She thinks it is good because things are explained in a way that you can understand. Enjoyed finding out about famous people and planning things in groups like the cake sale. She would tell a friend that it is good because it is a smaller group, and she finds it easier to concentrate. Learned about different styles of leadership and ways to organise herself, and different events.

Some of the cakes made by Students in Year 7 May 2021.



Written and compiled by Mrs Bryant, Mrs Fitzer and Students on the PiXL programme.



### Hans Earns Top Maths Honour

Hans in Year 11, has been selected to attend one of the prestigious National Mathematics Summer Schools, run by the UK Mathematics Trust for the top performing 1% of students in their Intermediate Maths Challenge, a competition entered by thousands of secondary students across the UK and overseas.

Hans scored an incredible 121 marks in the original challenge, only missing out on two questions. He has won Gold certificates in all three years he has participated, and is looking forward to the experience.

At each summer school, students take part in demanding and stimulating sessions, led by experienced and dedicated volunteers.

They are supported by a group of senior students who have previously attended a summer school. This year's school will be a virtual event.

Mr Taylor, Hans' maths teacher, said "Hans has been exceptional at maths throughout his time here at Blessed Edwards. He really enjoys using his skill to solve problems, and does a lot of work at home to broaden his mathematical knowledge. It's inspiring to see someone so enthusiastic about maths, and his achievements are truly remarkable."

As well as his GCSE Mathematics, Hans is also entered for the AQA Certificate in Further Mathematics, which is offered as an additional course for Year 11 students who are considering doing Maths at A level or beyond.

Many congratulations to Hans on this exceptional achievement!

Mr Ellis - Maths & Further Maths Teacher



### Performing Arts!

We are delighted to have our singing/instrumental peripatetic teachers back in College!! Our students have been able to take advantage of learning to play the drums, clarinet, flute, guitar, piano, keyboard and have singing lessons. The music department is 'alive' with the sound of music once again!!

We celebrated Ascension Day on May 13th (Holy Thursday) in a Mass with our Year 7's - our first Mass in over a year! In line with the current regulations, there was limited singing, however, we enjoyed celebrating this special time with our newest college members.



With the recent good weather, we have been able to teach African drumming outside which has allowed students to enjoy group work and play to their heart's content!!

Mrs Thomas & Mr Bryant - Joint Heads of Music

### **Top Performances in UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge**

Once again, our best mathematicians from Years 9, 10 and 11 sat the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge In February – almost 100 students in total were involved. This year, the competition was online, meaning that all the students could tackle the challenge from home, during the Spring Term lockdown.

Four students were awarded Gold certificates – Hans (Year 11) who was best in school, with an amazing score of 121 along with Zeb and Georgia from Year 11, and Mariya from Year 10, who also scored 100. Edward was best in Year 9, and was awarded a silver certificate. All five were invited to participate in follow-on competitions, more than we have ever had at this level. See how they got on in the article below.

Following close behind were another 19 students, who all won Silver certificates:

Oliver, Isabel, Siân, Nick, Angelique, Katerina, Zidaan, Liane, Ciara, Jack, Adam, Aoife all Year 11.  
Claude, Ashleigh, Lily, Akhil, Alvy, Niamh all in Year 10.

A further 34 students won Bronze certificates. In total, this is far more than we have achieved at this level before. Very many congratulations to everyone on a such a great performance!

*Mr Ellis - Maths Teacher*



### **Kangaroos and Olympiads – Five maths superstars shine in the UKMT competitions**

The best performing students in the Intermediate Maths Challenge earlier this year were invited to take part in the prestigious follow-on competitions.

The “Grey Kangaroo” competition is for the top Year 9 students and Edward sat this paper for the first time, scoring a very creditable 57 marks to earn his participation award.

Zeb, Georgia (both Year 11) and Mariya (Year 10) sat the advanced “Pink Kangaroo” challenge, all performing very well, with Zeb frustratingly being just one mark away from a Merit Award.

Our “Best in School” student from the Intermediate Challenge, Hans, scored so highly that he was invited to take part in the Intermediate Maths Olympiad, which is a 2 hour written paper, with just 5 questions!

Congratulations to all five – you can be very proud of your achievements.

*Mr Ellis - Maths Teacher*

### **Labour Market Information**

During circle time students have been busy learning about Labour Market Information (LMI). LMI is a useful tool to help research future jobs, understand the skills needed for certain roles and demand for future employment. The world is moving very fast and things are changing all the time, new technologies and industry changes are creating new jobs and making others obsolete. If young people have access to accurate and up-to-date information they are better equipped to make an informed choice and plan appropriately.

Creative and digital, information and communication technology, hi-tech engineering, life sciences and tourism are all examples of sectors that contribute hugely to the UK economy and a lot of the new jobs available to young people will be in these industries. A relatively new sector often termed the ‘green economy’, offers a variety of roles which will help the government meet its environmental targets.

LMI indicates that we’ll also see demand for people to join the hospitality, construction, agritech and logistics sectors. As life expectancy grows they’ll be a huge demand for care and health workers across a range of jobs. As a parent or carer, you’ll probably be a big influence on your child’s future career plans. If you would like to find out more about the labour market in Worcestershire, LMI is available on the Skills 4 Worcestershire website and through the link below:

[https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/careersportal/info/36/worcestershires\\_employment\\_and\\_labour\\_market\\_information\\_lmi](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/careersportal/info/36/worcestershires_employment_and_labour_market_information_lmi)

*Mrs Holland - Carers & Aspirations Coordinator*





### Modern Foreign Languages

Year 9 worked on a project on Berlin during the last half term. They studied the history, life in the East compared to life in West Germany and consequences of the Berlin Wall as well as life in Lockdown in Berlin today. Students were allowed to choose the way that they presented their project and there were some amazing entries and the top 3 prizes were awarded to:

- 1st Place Olivia
- 2nd Place Zuzanna
- 3rd Place Adam

*Mrs Parker - Head of MFL Department*



### Humanities - Population & Migration

Year 7 Geographers have been investigating how populations rise and fall and the reasons behind this, such as improved healthcare leading to an increased life expectancy. Students have investigated why some countries manage their populations looking at China's one child policy and at Russia's encouragement for families to have more than two children due to their declining population. They are now looking at why people move and the benefits and negative impacts that migration has on both the country they have left and the country they are moving to, looking at Mexico to USA migration and also why people leave countries such as Eritrea in Africa to countries in Europe.

Year 9 Historians have also been evaluating the impact of migration and it's link to racism and discrimination. We began by looking at the impact of the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020 and the Hostile Environment scandal in 2017. We have showed how the effects of the transatlantic slave trade can still be seen in British cities today. We were able to discuss and evaluate whether removing statues or changing street names actually erases History. More recently we have shown post-war migration, beginning in 1948 with the Windrush Generation. A debate on the pros and cons of immigration has investigated the negative experiences for minority groups despite showing that, without it, Britain would be culturally and economically poorer.

*Mr Jessop & Mrs Sparey - Humanities Department*







### **CyberFirst Girls Competition Grand Finalists!!!**

A massive well done to Caitlin, Jasmin, Marina and Aeryn for reaching the Grand Final on 26<sup>th</sup> April, a remarkable achievement! The girls competed against 600 schools and over 6000 other girls to get to the Grand Final, with 10 teams remaining. The challenges completed by the girls were tough, many are not even taught at GCSE level. In the final they completed activities for a fictitious IT company and had to report their findings by giving a presentation. The winning school was Highgate school in London, whilst final standings were not disclosed, we were 6<sup>th</sup> up until the presentation. The competition is being covered by BBC Click, so we're hoping the girls manage to get on television! The image (above) was created to reflect Worcester, we're still not sure who the slippers belong to...A special thank you to Mrs Ford for setting the competition up and to Ms Olver for her impressive social media coverage and collation of pictures and video.

*Mr Nicholls - Head of Computing Department*

### **Chess Club**

Since December last year, we have been running an online chess club which is open to all year groups 7-11. We hold a weekly school tournament on Wednesdays at 4.30pm where students play using the website [www.lichess.org](http://www.lichess.org). It has proved very popular and continued through lock down with all abilities taking part regularly. The website has proved to be a fantastic resource where players can learn to play, do online chess puzzles and play each other, as well as other people from all over the world if they wish.

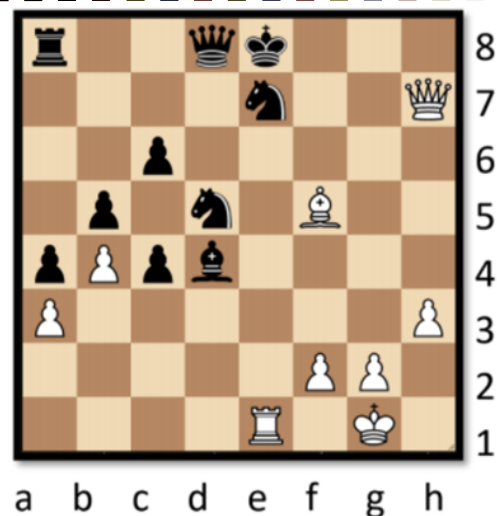
Not only is chess both fun and competitive but it has proven to be an incredibly beneficial pastime. Playing chess results in better brain function, improved memory and strategic thinking. It is also thought to develop creativity, build confidence, develop problem-solving skills and exercise the brain.

Next month the UK Chess Challenge is taking place on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Any student who can play a full game of chess can enter. Hopefully we will have lots of our students taking part. Registration is on the website <https://www.delanceyuksschoolschesschallenge.com>

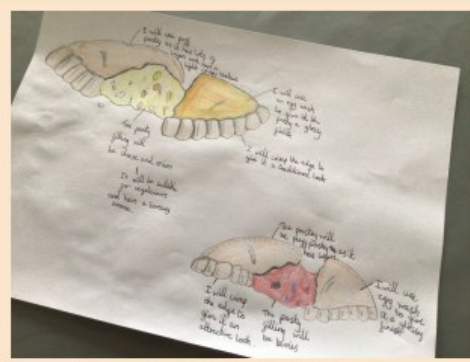
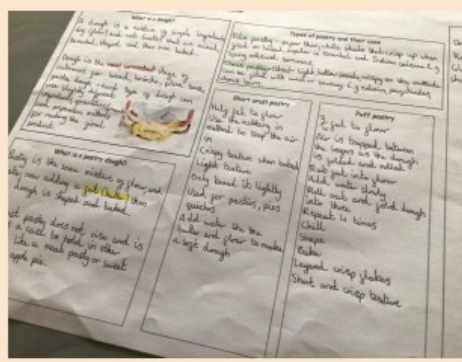
New members to our school club are always welcome and there are details on how to register with lichess and how to join our online school team on the Google Classroom gw4wzi7. As the rules relax, we can also hopefully resume our lunch time club, face to face, over the board.

Fun puzzle – white to play, can you checkmate in one move?

*Mrs Gerrard - Maths Teacher*







Year 8 have been busy completing their GBBQ module on pastry and pasties with their judges Mrs Taylor & Miss Reeve! Worthy contestants for next years competition!

Miss Reeve has taken the Year 9's on a whistle stop tour of foods from around the world. Italian aroma's filled the kitchen as they made lasagne and roux sauce from scratch! Bellissimo



Year 7 have taken on the role of EHO to tell Miss McCumisky how clean, tidy and mouse-free her kitchen should be!



## Year 8 Science Club

Well, we finally got the Year 8 Science Club up and running! I put a message out saying so to Mr Dobson for his assembly, and then waited. The appointed time arrived and it seemed that after a few minutes nobody would attend, until a veritable tsunami of students swept into the room eager to take on an engineering task: make a mini-trebuchet (catapult) using lollipop sticks, plastic spoons, elastic bands, marbles, and as much Physics knowledge as you can muster. Think, 'Scrap Heap Challenge meets ice cream van'. The endeavour was given a competitive slant by giving the bragging rights to whoever could launch a marble the furthest. Our aim is to do Science in a fun and accessible way over a lunch break by introducing activities that will get you thinking scientifically, but which you can take home to show your family and friends. So, if you want to see Weetabix conduct electricity, shrink wrap your younger brother or sister, or watch lemons defy gravity, why not come along and take part? We plan to run the Year 8 club every Tuesday lunchtime in room 39 until the end of the summer term. See you there.  
Mr Bradburn - Physics Teacher





### Lockdown Heroes

Who was your Hero through the lock down period?

Students in Year 7 working in Graphics are each designing a Stamp for the Royal Mail Heroes Competition. Each stamp has to be created to commemorate their Hero through the Coronavirus pandemic. Students from other age groups are also entering.

Mrs McFarland - Art Teacher

### Key Stage 3 English

This year we have introduced an exciting new English curriculum for our Key Stage 3 students, which introduces them to canonical works across a range of literary genres, including adventure, gothic, sci-fi and bildungsroman. Our texts have been selected to ensure students have the opportunity to read and explore some of the best literature ever written. Our new curriculum emphasises timeless concepts such as family, justice, kingship and social class, while also introducing students to challenging new literary concepts like foreshadowing, the unreliable narrator, liminality and the Byronic hero.

One of our most popular new texts this year with Years 7 and 8 has been H.G. Wells' *The Island of Dr Moreau*, a late Victorian science fiction novel, which offers a sinister warning against pushing the boundaries of scientific research beyond what is ethical. Our Year 7 students explain more ...

"After being shipwrecked, Edward Prendick winds up on an island and discovers the man named Moreau who was 'howled out' of the country for inhumane practices who is now creating human-animal hybrids on the island." (Joseph)

"Dr Moreau is a scientist trying to turn animals into humans. To his horror, Prendick thinks Moreau is experimenting on humans. This makes him realise he might be in danger. Will he get experimented on too?" (Martha)

"As Prendick explores the island, he finds horrors which could drive a man insane." (Jakub)

"Dr Moreau is a very secretive and mysterious character, and a bit ambiguous." (Megan)

Having whetted their appetite for science fiction and the gothic, students can look forward to studying *Frankenstein*, *The Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde*, *Dracula*, *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* as they progress through Key Stage 3.

Miss Case - English Teacher



Congratulations to James who entered the Birmingham Virtual Schools Competition to design their new logo. He won for his age group and went on to work with a Graphic designer to refine and complete his design.

Mrs McFarland - Art Teacher

### Year 7 Textiles

Just some of the fantastic work being produced by students in Year 7. They have been experimenting with the use of colour, fabrics, hand embroidery and embellishments.

Students have been creative with facial compositions inspired by:

- Pablo Picasso
- Stella McCartney
- Lauren Dicioccio

Mrs Wones - Textiles Teacher





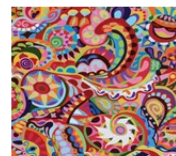
## YEAR 8 TEXTILES

Some of our super stars in year 8 have been working with a range of decorative techniques like marbling, machine embroidery, angelina hot fibres and felting.



Pupils have been inspired by pattern and colour from 2 artists:

-Melinda Hackett  
-Thaneeya McArdle



### Child Development Key Stage 4

In the spring term, the Year 10 students have learnt all about the postnatal provisions that are offered by the NHS as well as the environmental conditions that are needed for babies and children under five years to develop and thrive throughout their lives. We have gained some expert advice on how to promote positive behaviour by watching clips from Channel 4's 'SuperNanny' programme and we then gave advice to parents who had written to an Agony Aunt with similar issues. More recently we have learnt how vaccines prevent childhood illnesses and how to recognise and treat the more common illness that children under 5 years of age have. Students have also produced some detailed knowledge organisers about when to seek emergency medical help (999) and how to recognise and treat diet related illnesses. We finished this topic exploring ways in which to help prepare a young child for a stay in hospital – well done on all of the high quality work produced so far! We are now on the last exam topic - 'Keeping children safe- where we are learning about creating safe environments, first aid and personal safety, keep up the fantastic work Year 10. We will be starting the first of two coursework units before we break up for the summer and these are worth 50% of the final grade!

Year 11 have been putting their knowledge of children's development milestones to the test whilst watching Channel 4's 'Secret life of 4 year olds', learning how staff at childcare settings observe and record development milestones which then informs how they plan further activities to promote physical, intellectual and social development. They have also been busy revising for their Year 11 exam and I have been really impressed with their resilience and hard work this year. I wish each and every one of them all the best for the future! I know many of them are continuing with child development related courses at college and some have applied for apprenticeship places so I am hoping to see some of them returning in the future to give talks to future generations of child development students at Blessed's!

*Miss Dudley - Child Development Teacher*



**Cambridge University Masterclasses**

Year 11 Germanists completed their Cambridge University Masterclasses this month. Students had monthly after school sessions in new languages such as Japanese, had talks from current Cambridge students and lecturers and learned about life at Cambridge University. With 7 students going onto study German at A Level next year at various destinations we hope maybe their Masterclass sessions have inspired them to go onto Higher Education to become the linguists of tomorrow.

*Mrs Parker - Head of MFL Department*



This half term we have seen the primaries taking part in lots of sports events at their schools, at public parks and some returning back to Blessed's.

It's been wonderful seeing the children getting back to what they enjoy. We have had Tag Rugby, Cross Country, Orienteering and Summer sports festivals. We've also seen fantastic displays of leadership from some of Blessed's Year 7 and Year 8 this term in helping these festivals to go ahead. Well done all!

*Miss Ingram - School Sports Coordinator*



Look out on PE Classroom page and on the school website for new lunchtime and after school sports activities in June. We are hoping to be able to run some cricket, rounders, athletics and tennis sessions at lunchtime and after school. Lunchtime and after school sports activities have continued to be well-attended, with over 200 students per week attending practices.

*Mr Coward - Head of PE Department*



St Joseph's Worcester came to Blessed's with 60 Year 4s for a great tag rugby festival. The leaders were outstanding in guiding them through the rules and showing them how to play.

We then hosted Holy Redeemer and St Joseph's Worcester for the Year 5 Orienteering competition. A very wet, windy but a great fun day and the children definitely got plenty of steps in!

Again leaders did a fantastic job in helping with a smoothly run festival.

*Miss Ingram - School Sports Coordinator*

