



Blessed Edward Oldcorne Catholic College



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2022

Lenten Fundraising

Our students made a great 'comeback' this year with their Lenten Charity work! For the past two years we have been unable to undertake our usual fundraising due to covid restrictions.



Our students worked hard and have shown love and compassion to those in need. £1000 was sent to Fr Hudson's which was raised through bake sales, talent shows, 'guess the name' games, car washes and many more fun activities! Our young people are a real inspiration!

Pentecost

Pentecost was celebrated on the Sunday the 5th of June. In College we marked the occasion through our daily Collective Act of Worship.

WE LISTEN

On Sunday we celebrated the feast of Pentecost. Fifty days after Jesus resurrection on Easter Sunday, God sent the Holy Spirit to the Disciples as both fire and wind. The effect of Pentecost was to give the Apostles the courage to go out into the world and preach the 'Good News' of Jesus Christ.



WE GO FORTH

Do we have the confidence and courage to stand up for own beliefs and display our faith ?



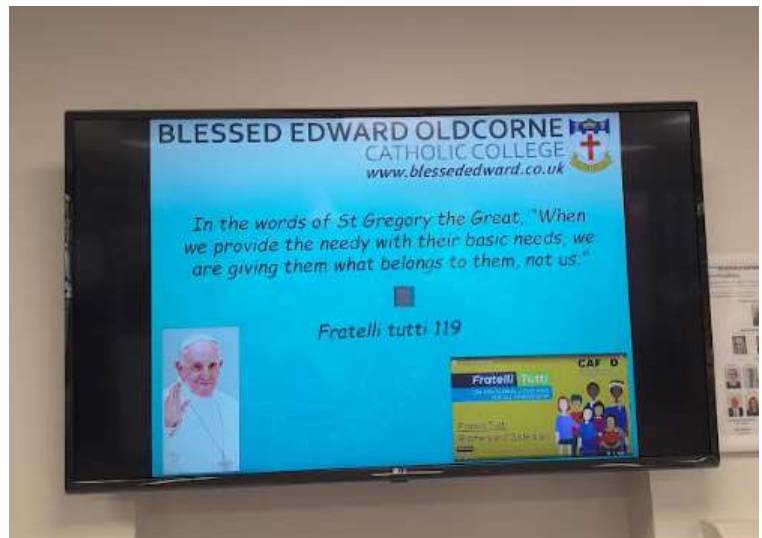
A.M.D.G
Remember - Everything we do is 'For the Greater Glory of God'



Pupil Reception

Now that the Season of Easter is over, our Pupil Reception has been redecorated to reflect that we are in Ordinary Time.

Prayers in RE lessons and our daily Collective Acts of Worship are also on a green background to remind students of the liturgical calendar that we follow in school.



Staff Prayers

Each Thursday, our staff are invited to join together in the Chapel to reflect on a reading, listen to worship music and share prayer intentions. All staff are welcome, please feel free to join us from 8.25am onwards!



Y11 Celebration Mass

On Thursday 26th May Y11 students celebrated their final Mass at Blessed Edward's together. It was an

occasion for reflection and joy as the students thought about all that they have achieved over the last 4 years and all of the adventures that they have to come! We wish them lots of luck for the years ahead. May they always remember their beginnings and look back with fondness at their time at Blessed Edward's.



Good Shepherd Mass

On Wednesday 25th of May Mr McCormack arranged our yearly (although it has been postponed for the last 2 years!) Good Shepherd Mass. This is an occasion to give thanks for the charity work the young people in the diocese have done for the Father Hudson's charity.



This year, 45 Blessed Edward's pupils attended to take part as readers and singers in the choir. They were joined by Mrs K Thomas, Mrs S Thomas, Mr Bryant, Mrs Ball and Mr McCormack. Over 50 pupils from St George's Primary School also attended and took an active part in the Mass. With special thanks to Mrs S Taylor for organising the biscuits and drinks for all the hungry students afterwards!

Y9 Retreat to Soli House

On the 8th-10th June, 40 year 9 students went on retreat to Soli House.



The group enjoyed a day at Alton Towers (CBeebies Land was a big hit with all of the students...!) before heading to the retreat centre.



The theme of the retreat was Strong Towers. They thought about those people who support them in their lives, with a focus on the tower of strength God's love provides for us. They also thought about those people who they support.

On the first night the students took part in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, it was a new experience for many of our students, but one that will be remembered by many.



On the second day the students enjoyed a walk to the Ramblers' Retreat and various outdoor activities such as mountain biking, trust walks and crate stacking. The students celebrated Mass with many of our students doing the readings and all taking part in many new hymns- some of which we hope to introduce at College!







On the final day the students spent some time filling in their 'affirmation' books. This was a chance for them to write messages and notes to each other to remind them of the wonderful young people that they are!

The trip was a lovely opportunity to have time to get to know each other, enjoy some new activities and deepen their relationship with God.

A big well done to the staff Mr Lee James, Mrs Claire Parker and Mrs Laura Ball leading such a successful trip!

Here's what our students had to say:

"It was great! One of the things I will forever remember are the affirmations, it is such a good idea and I read them whenever I feel down. I loved the activities we did- especially the competition on the second day, when we had to do loads of activities to see who was the better team. I loved the atmosphere that was there, and the people there were so helpful and they really made me think about my faith- especially my small group leader Elsa.

Thank you so much for organising this incredible trip- I will definitely never forget it as it was the BEST trip I've ever been on!"

– Marina



"I really loved Soli. I enjoyed everything: the muddy bike ride, alton towers, the challenges, the affirmation writing, the mini cafe and being in the dorm with friends. For a longtime I will remember Soli and these were some of my highlights: I will remember going to Alton Towers because it was the first time I'd ever been and I was petrified of rides but being with friends was so fun and in the end I went on all the rides including the Smiler... I'll also remember the challenges. I was nominated to do a strength challenge and I was the only girl alongside my teacher. Then me and this other boy were the last two standing and I'm so proud to say that I won for my team. Another challenge was the pitch perfect riff off, which was really good because it was competitive but in a fun way and it was nice how my team were able to work so well together even

though we were people who barely knew each other before the trip... On the last day, Elsa [team leader] brought the group together for the last time and we wrote something honest but positive in the booklets she gifted us and everyone wrote something in each other's books. I'll never forget the lovely comments people wrote about me and it's something I will treasure."

—Eva





"I really enjoyed my time at Soli house, and felt welcomed by everyone there. The atmosphere was so calming and the team building activities were loads of fun"

– Angie



"Soli house was an incredible experience in finding myself, it was an amazing experience and I would recommend it."

–Kay

"Soli House is awesome! It isn't just a religious retreat, it's s time to create friends and memories"

–Ven

SVP Celebration Morning

We have had a wonderful group of young people in SVP this year! They have shown fantastic dedication by giving up their Thursday lunch time 2 or 3 times a month and have always shown enthusiasm for each other's ideas.



As a thank you, Mrs Ball arranged a celebration morning on Thursday 7th July for the most dedicated members, during which we enjoyed cakes (that they baked!) hot chocolate and snacks in communion with the adult SVP group from Our Lady Queen of Peace parish. We presented an overview of the work we have done throughout the year and handed over the tomato plants that have been growing since March.



The plants have been donated to the Lawns Care Home, Timberdine Care Home, Redhill Care Home, Latimer Care Home as well as

parishioners from Our Lady Queen of Peace that are housebound so that they know we have

cared for them in the same way that God cares for us all. It also serves as a reminder that those we don't always see, are always in our thoughts and prayers. We would like to thank the Worcester Allotment Community who kindly donated the pots for the plants.



Thank you to our links at OLQP, our chaplain Fr Stephen and to all the staff that popped in to congratulate the students on their hard work this year!



Srebrenica Memorial

On Monday 11th July 11, Mrs Apps and Year 9 students took part in the Remembering Srebrenica event at the Guildhall. In 1995 8, 375 mostly Muslim men and boys were killed in the Srebrenica genocide. The United Nations described it as 'the worst crime on European soil since the Second World War.' During the event we were reminded of the importance of making sure everyone is treated fairly and about standing up for injustice. Imam Sayid Khalil talked about the importance of remembering, that first and foremost, we are all human beings who should show love to one another. Ms Selma Bektic shared the story of her family who survived the genocide but also told us that 100 members of her family lost their lives in 1995 in Srebrenica. Along with members of other world faiths, we were able to remember the victims of the genocide.

Staff Walking Weekend

On Friday the 8th- Sunday 10th July members of Blessed Edward's staff were invited to a weekend away in Wales. They enjoyed a meal together and tackled a 6 hour round trip up Pen y Fan! It was a perfect way to end a busy year by spending time with those we work closely with, making time for nature and to come back to God. Thank you to Mrs S Thomas who painstakingly planned the whole trip, and the route for the walk- it was a great success!





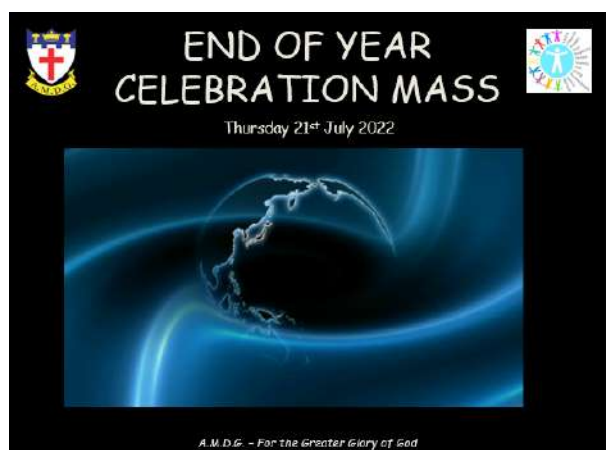
Prayer Stations

On Wednesday 13th July Year 7 students spent some time in the chapel visiting different prayer stations. They reflected on how they are a link in a chain, how they can try to make changes in the world and shared the names of people they would like to pray for.



Whole School End of Year Mass

On Thursday the 21st July we celebrated Mass as a whole school for the first time in 3 years. It was inspiring to have so many students singing in the choir and volunteering to take part in the Mass through the readings and the offertory. Special thanks to Mrs K Thomas for her hard work with the choir and to Mrs S Thomas and Mr Bryant for leading the music and to Fr Stephen for saying Mass. As always, thank you to Mr McCormack for all of the hard work and preparation that goes into all of our Catholic Life celebrations.



Goodbyes

This year we say goodbye to two members of the RE department, Mrs Laura Ball and Mr Danny McCormack. Mrs Ball is moving on to another school but will miss her colleagues



and the students tremendously. She feels privileged to have been part of such a supportive school and will miss the warm community at Blessed Edward's.



Mr McCormack has been a loyal and integral part of the Blessed Edward's family for 32 years (longer than Mrs Ball has been alive- as she likes to remind him regularly!) His commitment to Catholic Life in the school has led to 3 successive 'outstanding' ratings by Section 48. He will be sorely missed by all those that have had the pleasure to work with

him as his colleagues and by the students who have been lucky enough to have him as their RE teacher. We are grateful that he will be remaining as part of our College community by coming in every Friday to prepare the students for weekly Mass.



An end of year blessing from our chaplain Fr Stephen

At the end of another challenging college year, and facing the rising cost of living and other issues in society, it is good to be mindful that God understands our concerns and is with us in our struggles. This traditional Irish blessing evokes a sense of hope and peace. Perhaps we can pray it for each other, that we may be renewed in his love over our summer holidays.

*May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand*

I wish you all a good rest and a very happy holiday.



Finally, we wish our students and staff a very relaxing and safe summer break. We hope you enjoy your time away from school ready to return refreshed in September!