



ST EDWARD'S ACHIEVES BEST GCSE RESULTS...EVER!



From the Chairman of the Board of Governors

I AM DELIGHTED THAT, following a third successive Outstanding Ofsted Social Care inspection, our teaching staff have now secured for our pupils the School's best GCSE results ever following the 2011 examinations. The results compare favourably with many mainstream schools.

In a superb set of results, it emerged that every pupil had achieved at least 5 GCSE passes and 90% of boys attained at least 6 passes. Very impressively, 42.5% of this year's grades were at Grade C or above. One pupil secured 7 GCSE passes, all at Grade C and above, including three 'A' grades.

The School's previous best average grade (E), impressive in itself for a BESD provision of our type, was surpassed by a distance as the combined efforts of these boys resulted in an average overall grade of C/D.

I continue to be hugely impressed by the quality of the guidance and encouragement provided by our dedicated and experienced team of teachers, social care and support staff. I would like to congratulate all these young men on their excellent efforts and pay tribute to their teachers and other colleagues for all their expertise and assistance.

Supplementing this highly successful outcome, every one of our Year 11 pupils achieved passes in the Certificate for Skills in Working Life and our two Year 12 students were awarded BTEC certificates, each worth an equivalent of four GCSE passes at Grade B.

This is a wonderful outcome for everyone associated with St Edward's.

Please see the website for more statistics on the 2011 GCSE results success story.

Mr RCB Long, Chairman of the Board of Governors



GCSE RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Every pupil achieved at least 5 GCSE passes
- ✓ 90% of pupils achieved at least 6 GCSE passes
- ✓ One pupil secured 7 GCSE passes with three A Grades
- ✓ 42.5% of all passes were at Grade C or higher

ALSO FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE



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Third successive outstanding Ofsted inspection

A third successive Ofsted judgement on the quality of the School's attention to the social care needs of our pupils concluded that St Edward's continues to be an Outstanding provision.

The Ofsted inspection report is a wonderful acknowledgement of the efforts of all those contributing to the life of St Edward's. Our sustained high performance at successive Ofsted inspections provides an essential marque of quality for pupils, their families and local authorities seeking to place children in our setting.

Earlier in the year, the Clifton Diocese conducted its own inspection on the quality of Religious Education and the spiritual, moral and social agenda for the School. That too concluded that St Edward's offers outstanding learning and living opportunities to its pupils.

We are committed to improving still further the quality of all we do for our pupils.

Liam Mead, Daniel Perry, Muhammed Ali...



Liam and Dan will forgive you for wondering how their names might appear alongside the legendary Muhammed Ali but it is a fact, they did as a result of their dedication to our Literacy Department.

Mrs Stanton and Mrs Hillon approached children's fiction publishers, Barrington Stokes, to enlist Liam and Dan in a scheme designed to encourage young adult readers. The boys were invited to review a new fiction by Anthony McGowan, one of the UK's top writers, and to make their own suggestions about the plot, the narrative and the characters. The

author duly responded to all these suggestions in drafting the final version of the story. The book is called 'The Fall' and was the winner of the Booktrust Teenage Prize for Literature.

In the first edition of the book, Dan and Liam are credited, along with Muhammed Ali, for their invaluable contributions to the process. Not many of us can boast that kind of association.



Bishop Declan Lang visits St Edward's

Bishop Declan Lang paid an historic visit to St Edward's, a member of the Clifton Diocesan family of schools, during the summer term. St Edward's had been judged Outstanding by Ofsted in three successive social care inspections and was also considered an Outstanding school following its Section 48 Diocesan Inspection.

Bishop Declan was able to meet with many pupils during his visit, which began with a short liturgy in our chapel. Pupil Jamie Vaughan formally welcomed Bishop Declan before he toured the school, spending time in many curriculum areas and talking with boys and members of staff from all departments.

Long serving pupil, Scott Groom, presented Bishop Declan with a specially engraved Every Child Matters statue, an award otherwise made to one pupil each year in recognition of his progress and outstanding contribution to the life of St Edward's.

Bishop Declan's visit was planned by Clifton Diocese Secondary Advisor for RE, Ann Fowler. Ann provides valuable support to St Edward's and was delighted that Bishop Declan was able to spend some time with us.



Kisoboka - it is possible

St Edward's teamed up with The Kisoboka Trust to support the installation of a water and sanitation plant for schoolchildren at the Notre Dame Catholic School in Uganda.

Kisoboka means 'It is Possible' and three members of the Kisoboka Trust – Helen, Brian and Norman – led a special Assembly at St Edward's to promote the work being done to support children attending the Notre Dame Catholic School in Masaka District.

To date we have raised more than £2600 for the Trust, including a donation of £300 from the boys on the Student Council and hundreds of pounds raised by sales of chutney by the Horticulture Department and craft pieces by the DT Department.

We have learned something of the conditions that young people in other parts of the world have to put up with just in order to attend school. We hope our boys will consequently place a high value on the learning we are fortunate to receive here in Britain.



A touch of artistic merit

Boys in GCSE Art and Design undertook a ten hour practical examination as a major part of their course. Pupils are tasked to pick a subject to study from a list published by the OCR Examination Board. This year's range of subjects included Gone Fishing, Aerobic, Jesters, Landscapes and Silhouettes. The results were really good and boys used many different ideas and techniques to complete their work.



IT'S OFFICIAL - we're now definitely in the Dark Ages

Our History department has added a Dark Ages section to our 'Living History' project and we have run new and successful Living History workshops in several local schools. We aim to enable our boys to run the workshops themselves utilising the range of artefacts we have either purchased or constructed on site. The project makes History come alive for our pupils and it can re-establish a desire to learn. Boys also develop self-confidence and self-esteem as they share their knowledge of the Dark Ages collection with other schoolchildren.

We have also developed a link with the Ancient Technology Centre in Dorset and plan to run a workshop at one of the Centre's famous 'story-telling' evenings. The Dark Ages project has relied on cross-curricular support from the Design, Technology and Art Departments and has thus become a whole-school initiative. We now have plans to link with our English Department to devise a cross-curricular learning unit on 'stories'.



Outdoor Activity Week - summer holiday 2011

Following the success of last year's activity week, a number of pupils returned to St Edward's for a repeat experience during the summer holiday. The event was designed to enable boys to keep in touch with School and offer families a short break towards the end of the long summer vacation.

Fun and Relaxation were the key ingredients as many of our skilled and dedicated staff returned to School to provide a memorable week of activity for the boys who chose to return. During the days, special sessions for surfing, sailing, body boarding and kayaking, mountain biking, fishing and motor cycling proved hugely successful.

Once again, our catering team laid on an extra special range of fabulous meals throughout the week, morning and evening, culminating in a splendid 'banquet' on the final night.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this summer holiday activity week such a great success.





Engage National Football Tournament

We are the Champions

A superb season of football ended on the highest possible note when St Edward's lifted the inaugural engage in their future National Football Trophy.

Engage in their future (engage ITF) is the national association of BESD schools in England and many of the very best BESD specialism schools are members.

The tournament brought several engage ITF football teams from across the country to the Loughton Football Academy in Essex to contest the first ever national football title.

A keenly contested tournament culminated in St Edward's emerging unbeaten from the group stages, through a tough semi-final to meet the tournament favourites, Wandle Valley School from London, in the Final.

A blistering start secured a two goal lead which should have seen St Edward's home but for late defensive lapses which enabled Wandle Valley to strike back to level terms. The game went to penalties and with the score at 5-4, 'keeper Cesar pulled off a stunning save to secure the trophy. Chris Bartel, Head of PE and Games, was effusive in his praise for his squad – 'We have enjoyed a fantastic team spirit this year, which enabled us to win the Hampshire trophy for BESD schools. The boys are overjoyed to win a national title and they should all feel very proud of this achievement.'



A view from the Kitchen

We are working towards the Bronze Food For Life Award which encourages young people to eat healthily and become more aware of how food is produced or reared. Boys learn essential life skills and we are keen to involve not only the boys and staff but parents too. Our Horticulture Department, led by Mrs Brickell, already teaches boys about growing their own food and a visit to Laverstoke Park Farm is planned for September. The Farm is a very impressive educational centre – boys will learn about chickens, pigs, piglets and bottle feeding buffalo calves.

A cookery activity takes place here at school on Thursday evenings where boys are actively encouraged to cook and make healthy lifestyle choices. During last term we also enjoyed a Caribbean Theme Day when boys tried several dishes new to the menu.

In the summer, many boys came back to School for a great Activity Week. Our breakfast meals were all themed – Continental with meats, cheeses and pastries; American with crispy bacon, eggs and muffins as well as a full English breakfast. Following all the activities each day, we laid on evening meals as diverse as Chinese, Mexican and, on our last night together, a formal three course supper complete with waitress service – a truly 'Happy Meal' provided by a dedicated catering team.

Lyn Elkins, Catering Manager

LIFE UNDER CANVAS OUTDOOR EXPEDITION – SUMMER 2011

During the summer term a group of boys pitched up in Wiltshire to learn basic camping skills and take part in several fantastic outdoor pursuits. Pupils had to set up their own tent on arrival at the camp site and organise all their own kit. Over the next few days they had opportunities to discover mountain boarding, surfing and body boarding. Sadly, a day planned for a gruelling mountain biking trip fell victim to some awful weather.

Outdoor Pursuits leader, Kristian Barton, reported 'This was a really great team-building trip. Every boy taking part made a really good contribution. Boys were quick to encourage and help each other all through the week. The activities were really popular and we all had a good time as a result'.

