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Dear Parents/Carers, Students, and Friends of the School

This year, we break up for the Easter holidays prior to Holy Week. Nevertheless, during the period of Lent we have as a school been preparing ourselves for Easter, which this year will be celebrated during the school holidays. We have followed a programme of daily prayer and reflection. During the final week of term, through our collective worship we will build to an Easter liturgy and House Reward assembly

During Lent we have focussed on the themes of those in need, integrity, justice, forgiveness and God being near. Our prayers have been based on examples of people who have fulfilled these values in their lives and actions. Students and staff have been involved in fundraising for CAFOD and various other charitable activities. The generosity shown, as much in time and effort as monetary, is wonderful to see and we are so pleased that as a school we have been able to support those in need.

As ever at this time of year we also ask you to hold our Year 11 and Year 13 students in your thoughts and prayers, as they begin their final efforts towards their examinations in May and June. We wish them luck and pray that all their hard work finds its deserved reward in the summer.

I send my thanks to all parents, carers, and those at home, for your continued support of our young people this term, and of the school too. I also thank all staff at the school for their hard work for the benefit of our students.

Once again, I wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter, and I look forward to welcoming students back after the holidays.

Mr D Juric

Headteacher



Year 11 County Cup Final

Despite their efforts the Y11 Boys football team were on the wrong end of a 4-3 result in the County Cup Final, at Maiden Castle on Wednesday 29th March. Their coach, Mr Thompson said *"It genuinely is fair to say it could've gone either way, but sadly it went the way of St Bedes, Peterlee. "*

We want to congratulate all the boys involved and the teachers who supported them, especially Mr Thompson. They have represented the school over the last 5 years admirably and in the words of Mr Thompson, they have *"genuinely been phenomenal. Any visit to any school (across the country never mind district and county) they genuinely are a pleasure to be with.*

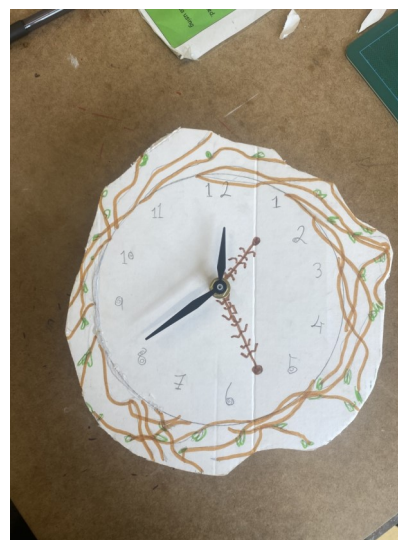
The team have won the league every season they've played (two seasons lost due to covid). They have never lost a league game, unbeaten in 'five' years. They are the first Y11 side to ever reach a county cup final. In year 8 they went further than any other side the school has ever had in a national competition, reaching the last 8 out of all the schools in the country. They've done extremely well.

Congratulations on all of your success!



Year 8: Sustainable Design Project

Our Year 8 students have taken part in project based learning exploring the concept of sustainable design through production of a creative clock. They explore product life cycles and the work of others to extend their design thinking and their social awareness. Manufacturing focuses on the generation of mechanical systems and working accurately and creatively with constrained material options. They have produced some fantastic designs:



Spring Recital 2023

On Wednesday 28th March the Music Department hosted our first Spring Recital to showcase the talented performers on our A-Level Music course. Students performed a variety of styles including classical, jazz, and rock. All pieces displayed virtuosic techniques that required the musicians to push themselves to the limit. It was a fantastic evening and a privilege to listen to such a high standard of performances. Well done to all the students involved for showcasing the best of what St Roberts has to offer – we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavours.

Joshua Lincoln - Piano (Jazz)

Jamie Cullum - These Are the Days

Linkin Park - In the End

Philip Lane – Struttin’ at the Waldorf

Issabelle Wong - Piano and Clarinet (Classical)

Frédéric Chopin - Waltz No. 2 in A minor, Op.34

Camille Saint-Saëns Clarinet Sonata Op. 167, 1st movement

Matthew Brown - Drum Kit (Rock)

RSL - Meet Darth Vader

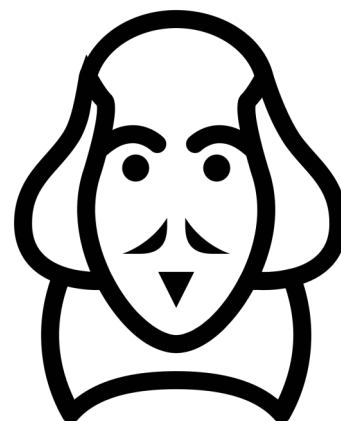
RSL - Dark Matter

Polyphia - G.O.A.T

Matthew Shevlin - Piano (Classical)

Claude Debussy - Arabesque No. 1

Nocturne in C-sharp minor, Op. posth.





Shakespeare for Schools

Oh, what revelry and mirth were to be had at the recent performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*! From the enchanting and mystical Puck, whose mischief and mayhem did set the stage afire, to the brave and determined Helena, whose passion burned with the intensity of a thousand suns, every character did leap from the pages of the play and seize hold of our hearts.

On the eve of March thirty, we embarked to the fair land of Newcastle, twenty-two of our finest actors in tow. With Mrs. Bowman at the helm, directing, choreographing, and designing the costumes, it was clear that the evening would be one of great enchantment. Verily, this performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was a feast for the senses, a testament to the enduring power and brilliance of Shakespeare's works.

As Shakespeare once wrote, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." And indeed, under the guidance of such a skilled and passionate leader, our players didst shine like stars upon that stage, bringing forth a tale of love and mischief that didst capture the hearts and imaginations of all who were fortunate enough to witness it.

Sporting Success

Huge congratulations to Ben Kindon who has signed a contract with Sunderland AFC. We are immensely proud of Ben who demonstrates our school values of excellence and aspiration. Ben has represented our school football team since Year 7 and is a fantastic young man. Best of luck for your bright future Ben [#letyourlightshine](https://twitter.com/letyourlightshine)



Sporting Success

Amazing achievement from Ruby Cuthbertson in Year 10 who is now a three time national champion. The school are incredibly proud of Ruby's achievement and determination to succeed. Ruby is part of the England pathway and came away with a bronze medal in Turkey last year. Congratulations on your continued success Ruby. You truly demonstrate our school values of excellence and aspiration [#letyourlightshine](#)



Head of House Awards

Our Heads of House have nominated pupils for our termly awards. The pupils chosen have consistently demonstrated our school values:

Durham:

Dylan March
Lucy Hills

Whitby:

Zak Parkin
Esme Hemborough

Lindisfarne:

Sam Ashes
Emilia King

Finchale:

Codey Hopwood
Ronela Ebere



Supporting Success

Huge congratulations to Addis Dore who has signed a contract with Middlesbrough FC. We are immensely proud of Addis who demonstrates our school values of excellence and aspiration. Addis has been a member of our school football team since Year 7. Best of luck in your future career Addis.

[#letyourlightshine](#)



Year 13 World Book Day Primary Event

Over 200 primary school students across the MAT listened to a reading of 'The Worst Class in the World' by Joanna Nadin, by our amazing Year 13 students via Teams. The students also took part in a quiz and biscuit designing competition. A massive thank you to Mrs Bowers and our Year 13 students for organising this.





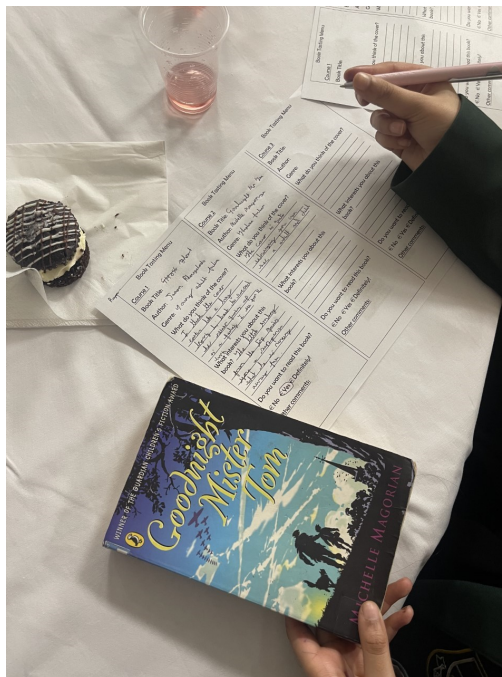
World Book Day: Literary Café

A thank you to Miss Hogan and Mr Brettell who set up this years literary café for world book day. The café allowed students to explore a variety of book genres, share recommendations and even find their next read! The English Department staff were on hand, serving juice and a fine selection of cakes and biscuits to Year 7 students, who had been selected by their English teachers. The café was a real success, with many students walking away with a new book or genre to explore.



World Book Day KS3 Competition:

After having played detective in their 'Masked Reader' literacy lessons, KS3 students were offered the chance to enter a World Book Day competition, with several challenges set to spark their creativity! Mrs Reed's class had an abundance of fantastic entries, with some students creating a diorama of their favourite story using a shoebox, whilst other students created artwork inspired by their favourite book.



Crime Day @ the University of Teesside

In February, sociology students were given the opportunity to participate in 'Crime Day' hosted by Teesside University. Those who attended, met with other Sociology and Criminology students in one of the many lecture halls of the university where we were greeted by lecturers who introduced the premise of the day.

It was based on one criminal case that throughout the day, we alternated activities to see how the investigative process worked. We investigated the crime scene and analysed digital forensics, learnt about the interviewing process conducted by police and finally how the case would come to an end in a mock courtroom where we evaluated how the case should end.

Overall, it was not only a unique experience, but it was also helpful as the interactivity of the day allowed you to recognise how these roles functions and if these were something you would consider in your future.



CAFOD Fundraising

On Thursday 23rd March, pupils from St Godric Finchale House took part in a bake sale to raise funds for our Lenten social justice project. Tutors were asked to nominate two pupils from their groups who really embodied the school values. There were 22 pupils from Year 7 to 11 making Rockies during their personal development hour. Four of our Year 11 pupils ran the stall on Friday break time and the Rockies were sold out within 10 minutes. We raised £126 for CAFOD and the pupils were fantastic to work with and an absolute credit to the House and school.



Sporting Success

Huge congratulations to Aidan Harris in Year 11. He has signed a professional contract with Newcastle United FC. Aidan is a fantastic goalkeeper with a bright future ahead of him. More importantly, Aidan is a great young man who has demonstrated our school values of aspiration, integrity and vocation throughout his five years at St Roberts. We wish Aidan well in his football career and hope he is part of a successful Newcastle team in the future.



Sporting Success

Huge congratulations to Trey Ogunsuyi who has signed a contract with Sunderland AFC. Trey has also been snapped up by Puma and represented the Belgian national team. We are immensely proud of Trey who demonstrates our school values of excellence and aspiration. We wish Trey well in his football career and hope he is part of a successful Sunderland team in the future.



Science Live

In February, 16 of our scientists travelled to Sheffield to take part in GCSE Science Live! a conference celebrating science. Students had the opportunity to listen to a mix of interesting and engaging scientists to find out about the work they do, including Dr Kate Foster's lecture titled 'How nuclear fusion actually works', and Professor Lord Robert Winston, of Channel 4 fame, talking about genetics and IVF. The day was informative, and students left with a clearer sense of what science is, how it's done, and how it benefits society. We'll definitely go back next year!

LIVE! SCIENCE



Politics Lecture

Through attending the lecture of Teesside University historical research fellow, Ultan Gillen, we were able to gain a better understanding of not only the contemporary issues facing our political system today, but also allowed us to enhance our knowledge of the history of ideologies, ranging from Conservatism through to liberalism and socialism.

Interestingly, as Ultan explained, the common root of these ideologies stems to the French Revolution in the late 18th century, in which, following the collapse of monarchy and autocracy, French philosophers and thinkers had to develop a new style of government. This lecture was also focused on the idea of liberalism, specifically in the idea of freedom of speech. This was interesting as it presented the question of 'where does freedom of speech cross the line of offending someone?'

The lecture was not only informative but also educational as it comes in useful for Politics Paper 3 for students, meaning that Year 12 gained a foundational knowledge of the ideologues and Year 13 were able to enhance their pre-existing knowledge.



Passion for Change Project

30 students from our CAFOD, Chaplaincy and Social Justice groups were involved in a 6 week project ed by Mick Quille and Lya Vollering from the Passion for Change project. The objectives were to increase awareness and stimulate action around the issues of environmental justice and social justice in Pope Francis' letter 'Laudato Si,' through the creation of artwork and texts relating to the Stations of the Cross. The students were fantastic and were a real credit to our school.



School News



Year 9 Ski Trip to France

46 Year 9 students attended our annual ski trip in February. They spent a week in Dévoluy and enjoyed some fantastic skiing conditions. Our students were real ambassadors for our school and demonstrated our school values of excellence, respect and integrity. Thank you to all the teachers who helped to organise and lead the trip. A special thank you to Mr Fisher who leaves St Robert's at the end of this term. The students and staff at St Robert's wish you luck for your new role.

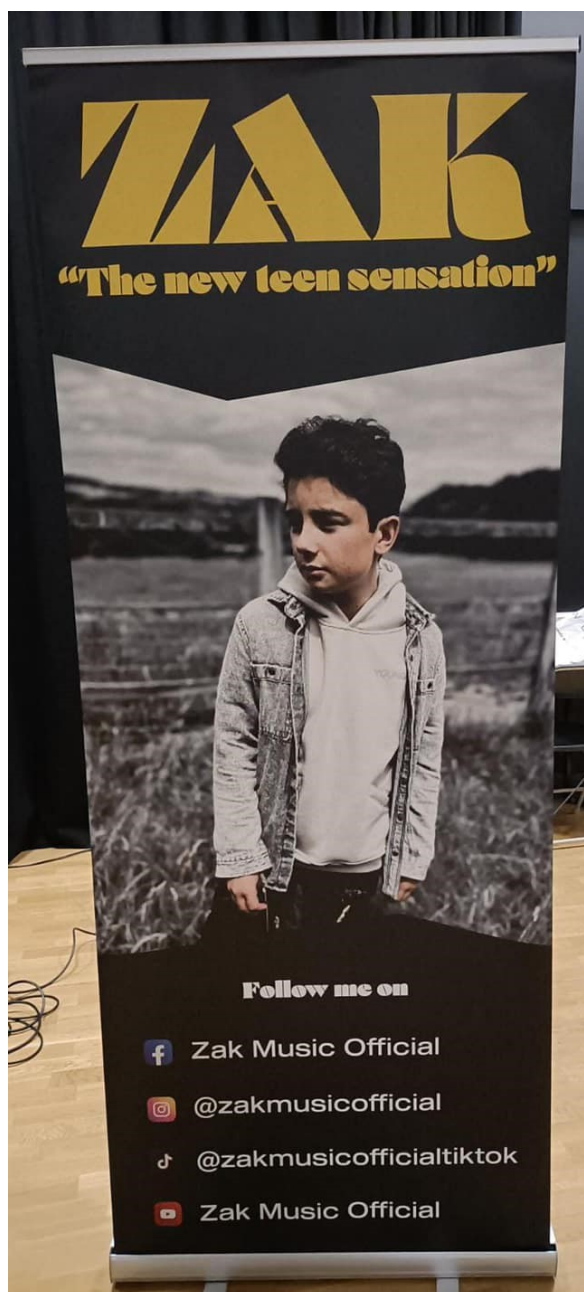


School News



Mental Health & Well-Being

In early February our Year 7 students had the opportunity to hear from the very talented Zak Music Official presented by 'The Prime Agency'. He gave an excellent session on cyber bullying and wellbeing. Our Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed the show delivered by an extremely talented and mature young man.



Grace House Fundraising: St Aidan Lindisfarne

Fantastic fundraising effort from St Aidan Lindisfarne House. Their chosen charity this year is Grace House in Sunderland. Since 2003, Grace House has supported local disabled children, young people and their families. Their services have provided vital support to these families and have served to enrich their lives. They managed to raise £670. Thank you to all the students that supported this and demonstrated our values of faith and integrity.



Anne Frank Trust

The Anne Frank Trust is an education charity that empowers 9- to 15-year-olds to challenge all forms of prejudice, inspired by the life and work of Anne Frank. **Anne Frank** is uniquely powerful as a catalyst for learning and reflection about prejudice. Her experiences as a young Jewish person during the Holocaust provide a powerful insight for young people to learn and reflect on the dangers of anti-Semitism and all forms of prejudice. Through our programmes, young people gain the knowledge, motivation and skills to make a real difference.

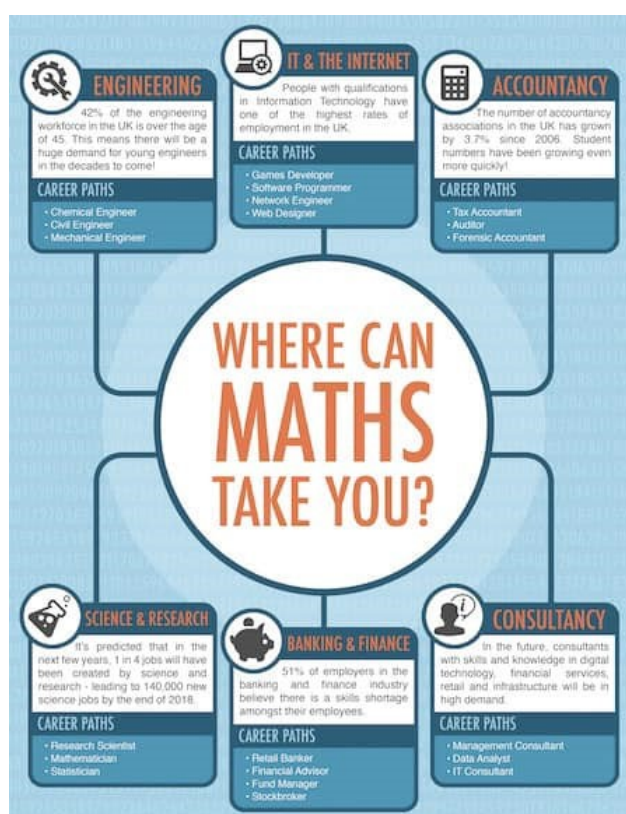
A group of fantastic Year 9 pupils were part of the Anne Frank Trust ambassador programme. They helped teach parents and members of the community about the importance of inclusion and the dangers that hatred can cause. The students have been exceptional and wonderful role models.





Careers in Mathematics

The Maths department are looking to create a display encouraging pupils to strive to achieve their full potential in Mathematics. If you, or someone you know, has studied Mathematics at our school and is now using this in their current career please email mgiles-brewster@str.bwcet.com to share. It would be great to share as many stories as possible.

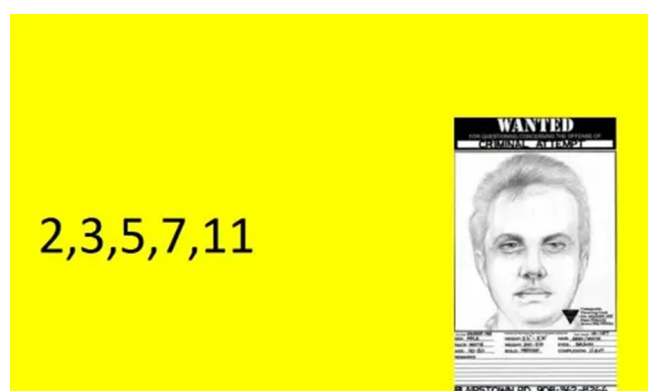


International Day of Mathematics

The International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is a worldwide celebration. Each year on March 14, countries are invited to participate through activities for both students and the general public in schools, museums, libraries and other spaces. Our students have been looking a variety of maths puzzles and challenges with their form tutors and maths teachers.

The International Day of Mathematics (or Pi Day) was marked in St Roberts on Tuesday 14th March with a tutor group Maths Dingbats competition and activities within Maths lessons. KS3/4 students looked at the origins/uses of the mathematical constant π (pi), whilst 6th Form students looked at art based around the value of π .

The winning registration groups for the dingbat competition were 7F2, 8W2, 9L2, 10L2, 11L2 and 12L67. See how you would fair with the dingbat below:



The theme was 'Mathematics for Everyone', which we feel is a hugely important message. Related to that, parents/carers can find information about supporting their children with key aspects of mathematics on our website under the 'parents' tab, then selecting 'numeracy'.

Big Lent Walk

Our Year 13 student Dominic Bramley has taken on the 'Big Lent Walk' challenge during Lent. He, along with a group of other students and staff will walk 200km in 40 days. If your able to donate you can here cafod.enthuse.com/pf/stroberts. You can also scan the QR code to donate if your able.

Dominic, along with his peers are demonstrating the importance of putting faith into action and standing in solidarity with those who may be less fortunate than ourselves. We are very proud of Dominic and all the students and staff taking part. Good luck!





Gender & Theology

Our A Level Religious Studies pupils welcomed Christopher Lamb to our school this term. Christopher spoke to them about female leadership in the Vatican as part of their unit on gender and theology. He is the Rome correspondent for the Tablet as well as a regular commentator on the Vatican for the BBC. This was a great opportunity for our students to see where A Level study can take them.



Sisters of Divine Charity

On Monday 13th March we welcomed the 'Sisters of Divine Charity' to our school. They spoke to students about the importance of being themselves and letting their lights shine. Pupils in Year 7-10 had the opportunity to speak with the sisters and ask them about their lives which they have dedicated to God. The sisters were open and willing to give a fascinating insight into the value of vocation.

You can find out more about the Sisters of Divine Charity on the programme 'Bad Habits' which you can view on Amazon Prime.



Flame CYMFED 2023

36 students represented St Robert's and the parish of St John XXIII in March at the national CYMFED Flame Congress at Wembley Arena. They joined with 800 other young people from the diocese. They sang, danced, prayed and heard stories from inspiring people of faith from across the world. We thank them, the adults and staff who have journeyed with them for representing our school and parish.







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