



# St. Edmund's Catholic School

## specialist college for the performing arts

December 2009

# Newsletter



## Christmas Message



As we reach the close of another year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our parents for their ongoing support, and our students for their hard work. St Edmund's as a community has successfully negotiated another year of GCSE and A Level results – the best yet, as well as OfSTED and Diocesan inspections rating us very positively. None of our developments to date would have been possible without your input and support.

2010 promises to bring new challenges, but more importantly new opportunities. As of January 2010 we will have a fully staffed Maths department, who will be joined by the new Subject Leader (Mr Hall) at Easter. This means some of our students will have new Maths teachers in the New Year, in line with their own achievements at the recent mocks and end-of-year assessments.

Our Deputy Head, Miss Locke, has been asked to assist our Local Authority on a 6-month secondment from January. This means opportunities for enthusiastic staff to experience higher levels of leadership, whilst continuing to focus on our central aim of raising achievement. 2010 will also see a change to our Options process, leading to a more personalised choice for our students, as they make their educational journey.

I would like to close by wishing you all a very happy and holy Christmas, and a peaceful and restful New Year!  
God bless  
Mr A Reed

## Emergency Weather Procedure

### Severe Weather Conditions

We are writing to clarify arrangements for severe weather. School will stay open if at all possible when there is severe weather such as deep/drifted snow.

Parents need to decide if the journey is safe when severe weather affects transport and/or walking conditions making the journey unsafe. If your child has a disability and/or learning difficulty your decision to take the journey must take this into consideration.

In the event of the school needing to close following eg an overnight heavy snowfall, a message will go out on Radio Kent and Radio Invicta.

**Late opening and/or early closure owing to extremely poor weather conditions will only happen if Stage Coach, on the advice of Kent Highways and the police, deem that it is necessary.**

If conditions worsen in the school day and parents feel it is absolutely necessary to collect children, the school should, if possible, be contacted prior to collection.

Please avoid collecting children before the end of the day unless you feel their safety is at risk.

**At all times the health and safety of students and staff will determine whether or not the school needs to close in the event of severe adverse weather conditions.**

## Certificate Evening

We celebrated the magnificent achievement of last year's students from Years 11 and 13 on Tuesday. Many of the students returned from University courses after a challenging first term of a degree course. The guest speaker, Fr Wilfrid McGreal distributed prizes and certificates.

# Staff Pantomime

The staff pantomime, Cinders was a great success and raised £1600 for the three chosen charities; Help for Heroes, Children in Need and HCPT: The Pilgrimage Trust.

A huge thank-you to all staff involved and to pupils, friends and families that supported the event.

# Child Safety Message

I need to make you aware that we have been informed of an incident involving a game known as 'Tap Tap 3' which is available on ipod touch and the iphone. This game can also be played online. Recently, a young girl was approached by an older male after playing this game. He had sent her messages and persuaded her to give him her mobile phone number.

This game does not have a parental control. The police are currently investigating and have advised that schools inform parents and carers. Please can I ask you to speak with your son/daughter regarding the potential risks associated with this and similar online games.

*Mrs R Easley  
Designated Child Protection Co-ordinator*

If you are looking for a place for your son or daughter in September 2010

at

## St Richard's Catholic Primary School

Castle Avenue, Dover, Kent, CT16 1EZ

Telephone: 01304 201118 Fax: 01304 242977

Email: [headteacher@st-richards.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-richards.kent.sch.uk)

website: [www.st-richards.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st-richards.kent.sch.uk)



Please do come and see what the school can offer your children.

Although priority of admission is given to baptised catholic children, we do have children from all faiths in our school community.



# Important Dates

First Day of Term 3 Monday 4th January 2010

21st January 2010 Year 12/13 Subject Consultations

28th January 2010 Year 11 Subject Consultations

Last Day of Term 3 Friday 12th February 2010

# Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert, which took place in the school hall on Wednesday 9th December, was a great success. There were performances from all the school bands, many soloists from Year 7-13, dancers and drama performance. Every performer had clearly worked really hard and it was a great night for all.

# Uniform

Coats and jackets should be **plain and either dark blue or black**. Hooded tops ('hoodies') and tracksuit tops are **not** suitable for school wear. Trousers should be uniform trousers without large buckles and belts, they should fit so that shirts can be tucked in and whilst a slight bootleg style is acceptable, wide bottoms and hems that trail on the floor, looking very scruffy, are most definitely not acceptable

Training shoes and shoes with high heels are not acceptable for general wear around the school. If your child has an injury where the doctor has recommended that they wear training shoes would you please telephone the school to inform us as they will not be able to go onto the playground for health and safety reasons.

# Christmas Recipe

This holiday, try using this quick method to make a traditional Panettone.

Panettone is a typical Milanese bread that is usually prepared and enjoyed for Christmas and New Year around Italy and is one of the classic symbols of Milan. The origins of this cake appear to be ancient, dating back to the Roman Empire when ancient Romans sweetened a type of leavened bread with honey.

## Ingredients:

450g Strong White Bread Flour	
1 tsp sugar	1 tsp Salt
1 Lemon grated zest	50g Pine Nuts
50g Raisins	50g Mixed Peel
1 x 7g sachet Dried Yeast	1 Egg, beaten
25g Butter (melted)	200ml warm Water

To Glaze: 1 egg (beaten)



## Method:

Place all the ingredients in a bowl and mix thoroughly. Alternately, place in a mixer's bowl, attach a dough hook and mix the ingredients to a soft dough. Knead for 5 minutes. If mixing by hand tip the dough onto a floured surface and knead for 10 minutes by hand.

Place the dough into a round, well greased tin, about 18cm in diameter and 9 cm deep. Cover, and place in a warm place to prove until doubled in size (at least 2 hours).

Once well risen brush with egg place the cake in an oven pre-heated to 190°C and bake for 30 minutes.

*Merry Christmas from Mrs Rowarth*

