



Designed by Gauravi Deegwal (9C1)

ALICE IN WONDERLAND - CURIUSER AND CURIUSER!

Our School Production 2024, Alice in Wonderland, was performed to packed audiences on Monday and Tuesday evening. Students from all years took part, with weekly rehearsals running from this September. Alongside those acting, our students also took on the challenges of costumes, staging, set, sound and lighting. This year the staging meant that the audience were in the midst of Wonderland, with the actors performing in and around the hall as well, as on the stage... [read more.](#)



CALENDAR:

Y12 Parent Review Evening, Dance Showcase, Mencap Christmas Carol Service, Y7 Christmas Parties, Y13 Parent Review Evening, Christmas Jumper Day, MFL Karaoke Competition, Snowman Live Performance, Patterson Film Night, Ten Tors Sunday Walk 1, Rehearsal for Carol Service, St Bart’s Carol Service, Y8 and Y9 - Reports Issued, PA Meeting and KS5 Awards Evening.

CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES:

SPOTLIGHT: Royal Berkshire Hospital Nursing & Midwifery Open Day

NEWBURY WEEKLY NEWS OVER 80S PARCEL FUND:

St Bart’s Year 7 and Sixth Form students took part in the Newbury Weekly News Over 80s Parcel Fund, supported by Greenham Trust.



AUTHOR VISIT - ALI SPARKES:

We were delighted to welcome the children’s author, Ali Sparkes, to school. Having published over 40 books for children, Ali shared her writing journey with us.



CCF NAVY UPDATE:

This term, our Year 10 and 11 CCF cadets have continued to build their teamworking and leadership skills with a variety of outdoor challenges.



SOVEREIGN AWARD FOR KAT:

We’re delighted to share this photo of alumnus, Kat Wright, receiving an international St John’s Ambulance Award in recognition of her achievements with the organisation.

EVERS’ CHOCOLATE RAFFLE:

Jack (7E2) has organised a raffle for a big chocolate hamper in aid of West Berks Mencap.

SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS CLOSING:

Calling all Year 11s - Have you submitted your Sixth Form Application yet?

PE:

- U13 Girls Football
- Year 10 Football
- 1st XV Rugby
- Year 9 & 10 Dodgeball Festival



We have a lot of lost property and we are hoping to reunite items with their owners. To this end, all lost property will be on display for both parents and students to look through and hopefully claim, from **Monday 9 - Friday 13 December** from 8.30 until 4pm in Reception. Items not collected by the 13 December will be recycled/donated to charity.



Remember!
It’s Christmas Jumper Day Tomorrow!
Turn to page 3 for more information

Alice in Wonderland - CURIUSER AND CURIUSER!

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Mrs Howe, Head of Drama, said: *"The School Production is a celebration of drama at St Bart's and we had great*



fun with this year's chosen script. It was a brilliant ensemble which enabled more of our students to take on speaking roles and shine on stage. It was particularly pleasing that so many of our Year 7s chose to get involved, as casting took place during only their second week at St Bart's! The challenge this year was to realise Lewis Carroll's weird and wacky world of characters using the resources available, and to do so, we had to draw on the ideas and talents of our actors – whether it was our Mad Hatter, Sleepy Dormouse or tyrannical Queen of Hearts! Also, of huge importance were the skills of the students managing the technical gallery, and the energy and organisation of our stage hands."

This was a brilliant and energetic showcase to see out 2024.

Congratulations to all involved and especially to our two Alices,

Ada Swift Marshall and Jessie Murphy.



Our thanks to the wonderful Drama Department who directed and produced – Mrs Howe, Mrs Parkinson and Mr Glancy, with Mr Weller in the tech gallery. Our thanks also to staff in the Expressive Arts Faculty for musical support, set, costumes and the programme. We'd also like to thank Maria Robertson (Didcot Girls' School) and Mrs Williams (St Joseph's College, Reading) for their help with costumes and props.



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Calendar

Y12 Parent Review Evening	Wednesday 11 December	Online, 6.00pm
Dance Showcase	Wednesday 11 December	Hall, 6.30pm
Mencap Christmas Carol Service	Wednesday 11 December	St Nicholas, 7.00pm
Y7 Christmas Parties	Thursday 12 December	Blocks, 5.00pm-6.15pm
Y13 Parent Review Evening	Thursday 12 December	Online, 6.00pm

Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday 12 December	See below
MFL Karaoke Competition	Friday 13 December	Activity Time
Snowman Live Performance	Friday 13 December	Y8 P4, Y7 P5, Hall, P4/P5 Parents/Staff, Hall, 3.15pm
Patterson Film Night		Hall, 5.30-9.00pm
Ten Tors Sunday Walk 1	Sunday 15 December	Newbury area, 8.30am
Rehearsal for Carol Service	Tuesday 17 December	St Nicholas Church, All Day
St Bart's Carol Service	Tuesday 17 December	St Nicolas Church, 7.00pm
Y8 and Y9 - Reports Issued	Wednesday 18 December	
PA Meeting	Wednesday 18 December	See below
KS5 Awards Evening (Y13: 2023-2024)	Thursday 19 December	Hall, 7.00pm
END OF TERM – school day finishes 12.30pm	Friday 20 December	

[View all school events in our online calendar. Click here to go straight there](#)



Christmas Music Events

There are lots of opportunities to listen to Christmas performances by our student musicians this festive season. We hope you'll be able to join us for one or all of these musical celebrations.

Mencap Christmas Concert: Wednesday 11 December, St Nicolas Church, 7.00pm – our senior musicians will be performing in support of Mencap. Families are warmly invited to attend and tickets are charged at £5 each via the West Berkshire Mencap website. Mulled wine, mince pies and the Christmas Raffle draw will be available afterwards.

Snowman Performance: Friday 13 December, School Hall, 3.15pm – our musicians will perform a live musical accompaniment to 'The Snowman'.

Families are welcome to attend the after school performance. There is no charge and we ask that visitors enter the hall via the Foyer.

St Bartholomew's School Carol Concert: Tuesday 17 December, St Nicolas Church, 7.00pm - the school's annual Carol Service is always a spectacular celebration of Christmas, featuring traditional and modern musical items, readings and singing in the beautiful setting of the historic St Nicolas Church. The service will include performances by the talented School Orchestra, Senior Band and School Choir, as well as smaller ensembles. It is free to attend.



Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Menu, Thursday 12 December

As in previous years, St Bart's will take part in Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. We are encouraging all staff and students to reuse jumpers from previous years. Students come to school in normal uniform, except that their blazer is replaced by a Christmas Jumper. Please log on to [your ParentPay account](#) where you will find the option to make a donation as a new payment item.

On the same day there will be a special menu served in the canteen. Students can choose between Paninis filled with Turkey & Cranberry, Cheesy Pigs in Blankets or Brie & Cranberry, followed by Rocky Road.

Parents' Association Meeting, Wednesday 18 December

The Parents Association will be having its final meeting of 2024 on Wednesday 18 December at 7.00pm in the Wormestall meeting room. We will review 2024 and discuss the events we have planned for 2025 including the Year 7 Disco, Parents evenings and Fish and Chip Quiz night. They look forward to seeing you there.

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CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES

SPOTLIGHT: Royal Berkshire Hospital Nursing & Midwifery Open Day

Saturday 25 January 2025, 10.00am-12.00pm, Royal Berkshire Hospital. Open to students in Year 11 onwards. Students will have an opportunity to talk to staff and to representatives from partner university, the University of West London. Register to attend [here](#).

St Bart's Careers Education Programme is delivered through PSHE lessons, assemblies and a portfolio of careers events. [More information on the programme can be found on our website](#). You will also find [Careers Guidance](#) and [Further Resources](#) on our website. In addition please see information about how parents, carers and local businesses can [get involved](#) in our careers events.

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NEWBURY WEEKLY NEWS OVER 80s PARCEL FUND

On Friday 6 December, St Bart's Year 7 and Sixth Form students took part in the Newbury Weekly News Over 80s Parcel Fund, supported by Greenham Trust. The initiative, which has run since 1897, saw schools and community groups come together to hand out nearly 2,000 Christmas goodie bags as a seasonal thank you to local elderly residents.

Our Sixth Formers, Sophie, Joshua, Shivam, Bethany, Edith, Tori, Natalia, Jenna, Grace P, Taya, Ellie, Rory, Amilia, Finley. Lyra, Swarnika, Sophia, Anna. Grace T, Lily, Ella and Katya helped to unpack the parcels from the delivery vans with Mr Wilder and Mrs Taylor. Whilst accompanied by Mr Bandy



and Mrs Cox, our Year 7 students, Noah, Katie, Charlie, Tilly, Miles, Winnie, Nevaeh and Shay, helped by our Year 13 House Captains Emily, Sreelakshmi, Charlie and Isaac, headed out to make the first deliveries to the happy recipients' doors!

Mr Wilder, Co-Head of Sixth Form, said *"This is a fantastic initiative and one that the school is very proud to play a part in. We want all students, from Year 7 through to Year 13, to strive to demonstrate our school values, to build communication and*



leadership skills and to learn that they can make a successful contribution to our society. This a great opportunity for our students to take some time to make a difference, meet other volunteers and to be part of the community coming together and spreading a bit of festive cheer. Congratulations to all involved."



With huge thanks to Phil Cannings, Newbury Weekly News, for sharing with us his brilliant pictures of the event.

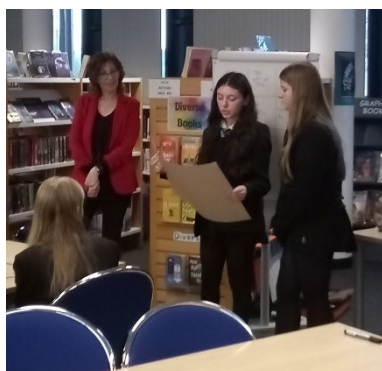
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AUTHOR VISIT - ALI SPARKES

We were delighted to welcome the children's author, Ali Sparkes, to school on 28 November. Having published over 40 books for children, Ali shared her writing journey with us, including her early childhood writing which received rave reviews... but only from her friends! Ali talked to Year 9 about her latest novel, *'100 Summers'*, and gave students the challenge of figuring out a few ciphers. We were shown the obvious downsides of a code where 1=a, for example, and the advantages when you use a book as the decoding key - say, for example, one of Ali's (as long as your friend/handler/boss has the same edition).



In the afternoon, Ali led a small workshop, giving students the opportunity to write their own title, blurb and first page and then vote on which one was the most compelling.



"I was grateful to attend the workshop in the afternoon. We voted on which front cover, blurb and short extract we liked most out of four of her books and then we paired and made our own title, blurb and short extract. It highlighted how important the front cover, blurb and short story are in influencing someone to want to read a book. I bought her book '100 Summers' as the front cover looked very dramatic and mysterious and the blurb was very enticing! I can't wait to read it!"

Holly Fry (9P1)

Students are really fortunate to have opportunities like this, and we are grateful to Ali for coming to visit.

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CCF NAVY UPDATE

This term, our Year 10 and 11 CCF cadets have continued to build their teamworking and leadership skills with a variety of outdoor challenges. These have ranged from decoding secret messages using radios, through to building masts to hoist signal flags. However, the highlight was undoubtedly two separate field days to Theale lake. Our Year 11 cadets spent a morning paddleboarding, having to pass a series of challenges, including tuck jumps and headstands on the boards; before enjoying an afternoon of dinghy sailing. Our Year 10 cadets meanwhile had their first field day experience, with a full day of dinghy sailing. They were taught how to rig a boat, before getting out onto the water to practice their gybes and tiller techniques. Fun was had by all.



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SOVEREIGN AWARD FOR KAT



We're delighted to share this photo of alumnus, Kat Wright, receiving an international St John's Ambulance Award in recognition of her achievements with the organisation. The Sovereign is the top award from St John's. Kat's certificate was signed by King Charles before it was presented to her by the Princess Royal at a ceremony in London last month. Only nine other cadets in the UK have received the award this year.

Kat won the National Finals of the St John's Ambulance National Youth Public Speaking Competition in 2023, speaking about neurodiversity awareness. She joined St John's following an assembly from them in Year 7. Despite being "quite shy" she took on leadership roles, gaining confidence and putting in 6,000 hours of volunteering! Kat is set to study International Social and Public Policy with Politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) from 2025. Well done Kat on this remarkable achievement.

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EVERS' CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Jack (7E2) has organised a raffle for a big chocolate hamper in time for Christmas.

Tickets are £1 each and are available to students in the Evers House Office and on ParentPay too.

All proceeds go to the Evers House Charity – West Berks Mencap.

Winning ticket will be drawn in the last week of term!

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SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS CLOSING

Calling all Year 11s - Have you submitted your Sixth Form Application yet?



Year 11s, have you submitted your Sixth Form Application yet? Please remember the deadline from applications is Monday 16 December. You can apply via the [application portal](#) – the link can also be found on the Sixth Form Admission page of the school website. If you still have questions about your application or about studying in Sixth Form, please do contact our Sixth Form team. You can email sixthform@stbarts.co.uk or pop to see them in the Sixth Form Common Room on 1st floor Wormestall.

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PE

U13 Football

On Wednesday 4 December' our U13 Girls' Football team made history by playing in the 5th round of the English Schools Cup.

We played against a very strong team from Kennet School. The game was really exciting, played to a really good level and could have gone either way, with all players giving it there all.

Kennet had most of the possession in the first half but we managed to get a goal and take a 1-0 lead. In the second half, Kennet came back and scored quickly to make it 1-1 but then both teams went on to score a goal each to make the final score 2-2. The game went to penalties and both teams scored some great penalties and it went past the first 3 that had to take penalties but we did unfortunately loose and get knocked out of the cup. All girls gave it their all and should be really proud of themselves. Lots more football to look forward to. Well done to Lucia Biais Zambelli who was awarded player of the match by the opposition.



Year 10 Football



Congratulations to both the Year 10 A and B team football players who took part in their finals night on Thursday 5 December. Despite the wind and the rain, the girls did not allow this to dampen their spirits!

The A team were playing against Kennet School A team for 2nd place play off and their game was certainly very evenly

matched. Kennet dominated the first half but the St Bart's girls came back determined in the 2nd half, which was tightly contested. A late goal from Kennet meant they were the winners, with a 3-2 victory.



The B team were playing Kennet B team for 4th place play off. Despite not having a full side, the girls were superb and took to the pitch determined to play their best – even at half time, both teams worked tirelessly in the second half to take the lead but a final score of 2-2 was a fair result for both teams. Well done to you all.

1st XV Rugby



The 1st XV Rugby team travelled to Reading Blue Coat School to play in the County Cup Semi Final.

Reading Blue Coat School won the first half, but St Bart's came back strongly and won the second half. The final score was Reading Blue Coat 40 – St Bart's 21.

Tries were scored by Adam Hutchinson, a fine solo run that started just inside the opposition's half; Archie Thorpe who demonstrated electric pace down the left wing and dived over in the corner, and Juno Corney who powered over in a forwards move under the posts.

Jez Davey's conversion kicking was excellent. Player of the match was fullback Archie Matthews for his excellent performance in defence and attack.



Year 9 and 10 Dodgeball Festival

8 St Bart's students attended the Dodgeball Festival at Kennet School on Wednesday. The Festival was played in good spirits and St Bart's played matches against Trinity A, Trinity B and Kennet School. Despite having two year 8 students playing, St Bart's still managed to win 5 out of 6 matches, as we played each school twice. This meant that we were the winning school overall! Well done to all involved.

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On the grid...



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