






Designed by Gauravi Deegwal (9C1)

	<h2><u>HEADTEACHER’S MESSAGE:</u></h2> <p>Welcome back for the <a href="#">Summer Term</a>. This term is the culmination of many years of hard work for our Y11 students who will shortly be entering their full GCSE examination period and our Y13 cohort who will be sitting their A levels. We wish them all the best for these exams and want to thank them for their contribution to school life during their time with us.... <a href="#">read more.</a></p>
<h3><u>CALENDAR:</u></h3>	Y12 UCAS Trip to Farnborough, Y10/Y12 Ten Tors Training/Selection - Dartmoor, Y9/10 Astronomy visit Royal Observatory, National Robotics Competition Trip and Y7 Subject Parents’ Evening.
<h3><u>CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES:</u></h3>	Bayer Business Apprentice
<h3><u>GOVERNOR VACANCY:</u></h3>	St Bartholomew’s School Governing Body is looking for new Governors to enhance their team. The deadline for applications is Monday 28 April
<h3><u>EMBRACING SUSTAINABILITY AT GREENFEST:</u></h3>	<p>With over 1000 members of the public in attendance, on 5 April our school was transformed into a vibrant hub of sustainability and community spirit as we hosted the much-anticipated GreenFest 2025.</p> 
<h3><u>HEAD STUDENT TEAM:</u></h3>	<p>We are delighted to formally announce our new Head Student Team. After a rigorous selection process Charlie Gale and Katya Burgess were appointed Head Boy and Head Girl, with Jacob Khan, Swathi Sivabalan and Ellie Shears being appointed as Deputies.</p> 
<h3><u>CCF NAVY FIELD DAYS:</u></h3>	<p>Just before half term, Year 10 and 11 CCF Navy cadets enjoyed some sea air in Portsmouth.</p> 
<h3><u>ARMY AND RAF NIGHT EXERCISE:</u></h3>	<p>20 cadets from Y11-13 headed out at lunchtime on Friday 21 March to Longmoor Training Area.</p> 
<h3><u>ROC TECHNOLOGIES DONATES SCHOOL DEVICES:</u></h3>	<p>St Bart’s would like to extend a huge thank you to Roc Technologies, who have recently donated 21 phones to the school.</p> 
<h3><u>HOUSE DRAMA:</u></h3>	<p>Just before the Easter holidays we were treated to the dramatic feast that is the House Drama Competition.</p> 
<h3><u>ADOLESCENCE:</u></h3>	<p>The Netflix hit show, Adolescence, which was written by BAFTA-winning screenwriter and St Bart’s Alumni, <a href="#">Jack Thorne</a>, has raised many troubling issues for parents.</p> 
<h3><u>PE:</u></h3>	<a href="#">Year 8 Football</a>



## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



Welcome back for the Summer Term. This term is the culmination of many years of hard work for our Y11 students who will shortly be entering their full GCSE examination period and our Y13 cohort who will be sitting their A levels. We wish them all the best for these exams and want to thank them for their contribution to school life during their time with us. It is always so pleasing to see how the other students across the school show their support and respect for those sitting public exams by ensuring they do not disrupt the exams.

The Summer Term is packed full of activities and trips as usual and I urge students to get involved in a club or activity if they are not already doing so. These really enhance the school experience.

We recently asked for the opinions of parents, students and staff about the school. These annual surveys are very useful for us to listen to the voices of key members of our community. This year the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, but as usual there are some key areas where improvements need to be made. We will write to parents shortly with some feedback from the parent survey.

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## Calendar

Y12 UCAS Trip to Farnborough	Friday 25 April	9.00am - 1.30pm
Y10/Y12 Ten Tors Training/Selection - Dartmoor	Friday 25 April	Returns Sunday 27 April
Y9/10 Astronomy visit	Monday 28 April	Royal Observatory
National Robotics Competition Trip	Tuesday 29 April	Oxford, 8.00am - 5.00pm
Y7 Subject Parents' Evening	Wednesday 30 April	Remote, 4.30 - 7.30pm

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

### Cricket Match in Memory of Mr King – Sunday 27 April, 2.30pm

In addition to being a much respected and inspirational teacher at St Bart's, Mr King was an umpire and president of East Woodhay Cricket Club. A cricket match will take place there this weekend in his memory and all are welcome to join as spectators to pay their respects. The team playing the club will be made up of old boys and they will be presenting the club with an inscribed bench during the tea interval.



ST BARTHOLOMEW'S SCHOOL  
LUMINARIES  
ALUMNI, STAFF, PARENTS AND FRIENDS  
AD LUCEM - TOWARDS THE LIGHT





## Save the date - Wednesday 7 May, 6.30pm - Have your say!

One of the ways that the St Bart's Parents' Association (PA) supports the school is through vital fundraising. St Bart's, like most state schools, is managing the challenge of a budget that is not increasing in line with ever growing running costs. The PA monies enable the school to provide additional experiences, activities or equipment that might otherwise not be available to our students for budgetary reasons.



Each year our staff are given the chance to make a bid to the PA to support funding. Excitingly, this year, at the PA's request, this process will also be open to some of our student councils!

**On Wednesday 7 May at 6.30pm the Parents' Association will be meeting to review all the bids received and to decide where to allocate the PA funds. This meeting is open to all current St Bart's parents/carers and we'd like to encourage as many as possible to save this date in the diary.** There will be the option to join in person or remotely (a link will be publicised nearer the meeting and on the [St Bart's website](#)).

It is a great opportunity to have your say on what you would like the PA to support and to learn more about the PA activities. We asked one of our teachers, Mrs Johnstone (Science), what PA funding has meant to her Nature Club:



*"We have been fortunate to receive a grant from the PA for two years now. During the first year we used our budget to learn all about bees and the products we get from their hard work! We made candles, cosmetics and beeswax wraps - all materials purchased with our PA funds. We also took a fully funded trip to a local apiary where eight students were lucky enough to get up close to a working bee hive - an incredible experience for them all."*

*This year we have been focussed on our school environment and making it not only bee-friendly but also a haven for all local wildlife. We have purchased seeds and bulbs for the nature area and have just invested in some kits to make bee, bug, bat and bird boxes to place around the school site. Without the funding from the PA we would not have been able to run these activities without asking for contributions from the students and their families. The PA funding makes the club truly inclusive and also more engaging for its members. So thank you very much!"*

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## CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES

### SPOTLIGHT: BAYER BUSINESS APPRENTICE

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join Bayer as an apprentice working in Product Lifecycle (Inventory Management and Supply Chain). This would suit students with an analytical mindset and an interest in maths, economics and science. Applications close Monday 28 April 2025 at 11:59pm. [Click here to apply.](#)

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 to information about how parents, carers and local businesses can [get involved](#) in our careers events.

## GOVERNOR VACANCY

St Bartholomew's School Governing Body is looking for new Governors to enhance their team.



- Are you passionate about education?
- Do you have skills and experience in finance?
- Are you enthusiastic, confident and able to work collaboratively?
- Can you commit to three or four evening meetings per term, plus an occasional daytime visit?

If so, why not join our team of volunteers and make a valued contribution to school life.

The Governing Body sets the strategic direction and ensures the educational performance, management and financial health of St Bartholomew's School.

You don't need to be a St Bart's parent to be one of our Governors – we welcome applications from a range of people in the local community.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Governor at St Bart's, please contact the Clerk to the Governors, Abi Layton at [alayton@stbarts.co.uk](mailto:alayton@stbarts.co.uk) or leave a message at St Bart's Reception on 01635 521255 by 9.00am on Monday 28 April

All applicants shortlisted will be subject to an online search. Successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced DBS check along with other relevant checks.

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## EMBRACING SUSTAINABILITY AT GREENFEST

On Saturday 5 April 2025 our school was transformed into a vibrant hub of sustainability and community spirit as we hosted the much-anticipated GreenFest 2025. With over a thousand members of the public in attendance from 10.30am to 3.30pm, the event exceeded all expectations and showcased our school's commitment to environmental initiatives.



The Heritage Garden provided a picturesque setting for welcoming dignitaries including Mr Billy Drummond, Chair of West Berkshire Council, who officially opened the event, and Olivia Bailey, MP for Reading West and Mid Berkshire. Our school grounds drew admiration from all visitors as they explored over 60 stalls run by local environmental organisations and businesses, all promoting sustainability and eco-friendly practices.

We're particularly proud of our Young Enterprise team, Clean-Cut, who, during the event, won the award for "Most Sustainable and Engaging Outlook". Team members, Charlie and Cora, represented Clean-Cut at the event, showcasing their up-cycled glassware and coasters. Their stall highlighted how sustainability is at the heart of their business – from their sourcing and production to packaging and presentation. As a result of their win, the team

received a £50 prize to invest back into their business, as well as making many sales to customers throughout the day.



Cora, Young Enterprise Team Member, said: *"Winning this award means a lot to us. We've worked so hard to ensure that our enterprise reflects our commitment to sustainability, so it is amazing to see that effort recognised. GreenFest was a great event and we were thrilled to be a part of it"*

Mrs Seward, Head of Business, added, *"Following their success at the Young Enterprise trade fair, it is a fantastic achievement for 'Clean Cut' to win this award at GreenFest. I am proud of the hard work they have put in to developing this company and achieving their goals. We will now get to work on preparing for the area final on 6 May, a good result at this event would mean progressing to the Young Enterprise Regional Final."*

Our Kintsugi Club showcased their artistic talents by selling beautiful repaired pottery, demonstrating the Japanese art of embracing flaws and imperfections. Additionally, our Guardians of the Living Realm Club ran a popular stall selling badges depicting our charismatic wildlife: Socks the Fox, Brian the Badger, Owlivia Hooton John the Owl, and Philip the Hedgehog. Their enthusiasm for conservation was evident as they shared information about our biodiversity initiatives with visitors, and the money raised will go towards our Nature Reserve Restoration project. Our school's Sustainability Lead, Miss Barrett, also gave a talk on the ways we are making St Bart's more sustainable, sharing our journey and inspiring other organisations to join in.



The success of GreenFest wouldn't have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of our Facilities and Lettings teams. Their attention to detail and hard work ensured that all aspects of the event ran smoothly, from set-up to clean-up, allowing everyone to focus on enjoying the festivities.

As Ken Neal, Chair of West Berkshire Green Exchange, noted during the event, *"Our thanks go to Dr David Fitter, Headteacher of St Bartholomew's*

*School, and his staff for welcoming us in and allowing the use of these wonderful facilities."*

We're proud to have partnered with West Berkshire Green Exchange for this impactful community event that has sparked meaningful conversations about sustainability that will continue long after the festival.

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## HEAD STUDENT TEAM

We are delighted to formally announce our new Head Student Team. After a rigorous selection process, Charlie Gale and Katya Burgess were appointed Head Boy and Head Girl, with Jacob Khan, Swathi Sivabalan and Ellie Shears being appointed as Deputies.



The interview panel made up of Dr Fitter, Mr Owen and Mr Wilder were incredibly impressed by the effort and commitment of all of those who applied to become a Head Student. Applicants were required to complete a team task, which focused on improving the school's approach to sustainability. This required students to work in teams to plan and formulate a solution, which they then presented back to their fellow peers. Applicants were then required to present their ideas for change to the entire Y12 cohort, along with staff members and the interview panel. After deliberation, 11 applicants were then brought forward to interview, which was led by our current Head Boy (Sam White) and Head Girl (Charlotte Lethaby), further supported by Dr Fitter, Mr Owen and Mr Wilder. Our final Head Students performed exceptionally well across all parts of the interview process, demonstrating excellent communication and leadership skills.

Co-Head of Sixth Form, Mr Owen, said: *"We are incredibly grateful and proud of all students who applied to become part of the student leadership team. It was immensely rewarding to observe their confidence throughout the process and their eagerness to lead the school community"*.



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## CCF NAVY FIELD DAYS

### Year 11 – Friday 21 March

Year 11 Navy cadets travelled for an action packed day at the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth ahead of their public exams. They enjoyed some sea air on a harbour tour of the Royal Navy dockyard, where they were able to see the two aircraft carriers up close. They also visited two significant ships in the history of the Royal Navy, HMS Victory and Warrior. The highlight was then three intense games of Lazer Quest in the cargo ship reconstruction in the Royal Marine museum. Fun was had by all!



The tour of Portsmouth Harbour.



The Year 11 CCF RN cadets on HMS Warrior.

### Year 10 – Friday 28 March



Our Year 10 CCF Navy Cadets visited the Royal Navy headquarters at HMS Excellent on Whale Island in Portsmouth for their field day.

In the morning, they were given some Maritime Compartment Clearance (MCC) training. In the morning they were given a talk by a Chief Petty Officer who was involved in anti-piracy operations and interceptions. He gave the cadets training in how to intercept and board a vessel with potential hostiles. The cadets then put this training into practice by storming a physical mock-up of a ship, looking for potential contraband items, hostages and potential hostiles using nerf guns. Miss Maunders played a particularly bravura performance as "hostile B" who ambushed our cadets from behind a pile of cardboard boxes.

The afternoon was then spent enjoying the sea breeze with some land sailing. The cadets had to assemble and then put their sailing skills to the test using BloKarts. Some impressive speeds and manoeuvres were achieved, along with a few capsizes.



Year 10 cadets parading outside the CCF RN HQ on Whale Island.



Callum Wilding demonstrating what to do if the kart flips over!



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## ARMY AND RAF NIGHT EXERCISE

20 cadets from Y11-13 headed out at lunchtime on Friday 21 March to Longmoor Training Area for what would be for many of them their final night exercise with us before leaving school. They were all excellent cadets who met every challenge with enthusiasm, competence, and excellent teamwork and leadership skills.

The first activity after arrival was to carry all their kit to the harbour area where they strategically set out their sleeping spots for the night. Despite the rain that came later in the evening, all of the sheet shelters were well built and stood up to the weather. We then patrolled off to attempt to locate the enemy.







We found him darting about on top of a hill and each section completed an excellent withdrawal from contact as trained, giving each other covering fire to suppress the enemy whilst everyone made it back to safety.

With the enemy suppressed for the time being, we made our way back to the harbour to cook up our rations for the evening. Despite a couple of the stoves looking a bit wobbly, and an NCO cheating by using a gas stove, everyone enjoyed a good meal, including some surprises in the recently updated ration packs. We then set up a sentry rotation for the evening and headed out section by section on patrol to try and find the

enemy in the dark. There was a dubious light hanging from a tree, which after investigation appeared to be the enemy camp – we know this because they jumped out screaming war cries and caused us to execute a speedy retreat. Different sections tried sneaking around from other directions as we narrowed down the likely final location.

Once back in camp there was an excellent field map made from sticks in the centre of the harbour. After an in-depth discussion of what we'd found, led by our sixth form NCOs, we came up with a plan for how to attack the enemy in the morning, then headed to bed, ready to rise at 6.00am.

After a chilly night's sleep we breakfasted, then patrolled back out to execute our planned section attacks. All three sections made excellent attacks with each fire team led very well. We forced the enemy to retreat further and further from their camp, executing some impressive flanking manoeuvres and very consistent suppressive fire until they eventually ran off into the distance.

The exercise ended, as always, with cleaning our weapons and then napping on the coach home. This was an excellent exercise led by our very experienced Y13 NCOs handing the baton over to the Y12s who will lead next year. Everyone who participated demonstrated admirable teamwork and their learned military skills.



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## ROC TECHNOLOGIES DONATES SCHOOL DEVICES

St Bart's would like to extend a huge thank you to Roc Technologies, who have recently donated 21 phones to the school for staff to use both on trips and in school to record work and activities. The new phones will be easier to transport and have far better picture quality than the current school devices that we have available for these purposes. The donation will support sharing news, achievements and essential recording of exam work.



[Roc Technologies](#), based near Newbury, provide expertise in IT Operations. They work with clients on a variety of projects from short term IT fixes to wholesale digital transformations and ongoing managed services in areas such as automation and data analytics, cloud solutions, secure networks and specialist capabilities. CEO Simon Furber said: *“Roc Technologies is a proud champion of young people in our community. We understand the many challenges schools are facing and are delighted to be able to support St Bartholomew’s School through this donation.”*

The support from Roc Technologies was initiated by contact made through our brilliant Parents’ Association – another way in which they are able to support the school.



Dr Fitter, who met with Simon and discussed other ways in which Roc Technologies might support events in our Careers Programme, said: *“St Bart’s is at the heart of our fantastic local community and we are so grateful for the many ways in which we receive support from the community – whether from families, volunteers, local businesses or local organisations - this is another example of a local organisation stepping in to help us provide the best experience for our staff and students. There are many challenges facing the education sector but we remain ambitious in the many opportunities we provide for students to enjoy their learning and grow in confidence, so that they thrive in the ever-changing world beyond school. There is no doubt that organisations such as Roc Technologies, who give time and donations to support school initiatives, are helping us achieve that aim.”*

A huge thank you to both Roc Technologies and the PA!

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## HOUSE DRAMA

Just before the Easter holidays we were treated to the dramatic feast that is the House Drama Competition. Year 12 Drama students wrote, organised and directed a cast of Year 8 and 10 students in their own plays to compete for important House Championship points.

Evers kicked off the evening with the star studded “Restoront From Hell” by Eleanor Peake, Ella Plowman, Eish Mahajan and Ruby Roots. From Curnock we were presented with the haunting “Platform 13” by Daniel Ledwith and Sophie Warner. Davis gave us the hilarious “The Resplendent Runway” by Daisy Shaw, Georgina Sheffield, Harry Godwin and Niamh Breslin. Finally Patterson delighted us with the hysterical “The Kardashians” by Macey Seamons.





Huge thanks to all those who put in so much work, to those who came to support in the evening and especially to judge Nick Sutton (Head of Drama from Park House) who declared Patterson as the worthy winners. Congratulations!

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## ADOLESCENCE

The Netflix hit-show, Adolescence, which was written by BAFTA-winning screenwriter and St Bart's Alumni, [Jack Thorne](#), has raised many troubling issues for parents. **The Mental Health Foundation has written an article that may help and interest parents. It can be found [here](#).**

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## PE

### Year 8 Football

The Year 8 Boys' Football team played Forest School in the quarter finals of the County Cup before the holidays. Forest School won the competition last year and were looking to do the same this year. Forest were a very strong side with numerous players representing local football academies. However, St Bart's stepped up to the challenge scoring the first goal of the match to take an early lead. A goal was scored by captain Tommy. Forest managed to get one back just before the break, which came at a poor time for St Bart's.

Forest then started the second half very positively, having the majority of possession and creating a few chances. St Bart's struggled to get out of their own half, finding it very difficult to play up the hill and against very strong winds. Forest kept the constant pressure throughout the second half, but St Bart's grit and hard work in defending as they worked tirelessly to block shots and win second balls kept the score at 1-1 going into the last 5 minutes. However, Forest managed to find a break through with a few minutes to go, making the score 2-1. St Bart's continued to try and create a chance to take the match to extra time, but were unsuccessful.

As expected, St Bart's were extremely disappointed to go out of the County Cup, but they should be immensely proud of their efforts against a very strong Forest side. All players did themselves and the school proud. Player of the match was awarded to Rupert for his excellent defensive display, winning all of his duels and confidently playing out from the back. Well done to all involved.

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