

Designed by Gauravi Deegwal (11C1)

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www.stbarts.co.uk

Issue No: 1139

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year and the first BartholoNews of 2025/2026. Our aim is that all students enjoy their learning, and grow in confidence and self-worth so that they thrive in our ever-changing world. Our departing Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts celebrated great results this summer, testament to their hard work and dedication and enabled by the great support from the talented and committed teachers and support staff at St Bart's. We wish those students leaving us the best of success with their new endeavours and encourage them to join our alumni community so that we they can continue to play a role as part of our community... [read more.](#)



CALENDAR:

Societies & Activities Fair, Y10 CCF Parade and 7CD New Forest Activity Day.

CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES:

Virtual RAF World Experience

BRILLIANT BART'S EXAM RESULTS:

We are delighted to be celebrating brilliant exam results that are testament to high quality teaching and the hard work of our students.



EVERS ARE HOUSE CHAMPIONS!:

Last week in our first full school assembly, students waited to hear the results of last year's House Championship...

SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

Our annual Sports Personality of the Year Awards evening had a record attendance of nearly 400!



AMSTERDAM MUSIC TOUR:

Over 90 of our most talented musicians and nine members of staff went on a music tour of Amsterdam.

YEAR 10 GET A TASTE OF THE WORKPLACE:

At the end of last term, our Year 10 students had the opportunity to undertake work shadowing days



THE STORY MUSEUM TRIP:

Year 7 and 8 students spent the day at The Story Museum in Oxford. A Year 7 student tells us more...

COOKING SKILLS TEA PARTY:

Our Home Cooking Skills class proudly hosted a delightful Afternoon Tea Party!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD:

Congratulations to the following students who completed their awards at the end of last term...

LAMDA EXAM STARS:

Several of our students have achieved excellent results in their recent LAMDA Acting exams.



CALLING Y7s FOR ETONS FIVES:

There is an Eton Fives club for students on Wednesdays during activity time and Fridays after school.

PE:

[1st XI cricket: mixing it with MCC](#)

KEY CONTACTS REMINDER:

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Welcome back to the start of a new academic year and the first BartholoNews of 2025/2026. Our aim is that all students enjoy their learning, and grow in confidence and self-worth so that they thrive in our ever-changing world. Our departing Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts celebrated great results this summer, testament to their hard work and dedication and enabled by the great support from the talented and committed teachers and support staff at St Bart's. We wish those students leaving us the best of success with their new endeavours and encourage them to join our [alumni](#) community so that we they can continue to play a role as part of our community.



We are excited for all the opportunities that await our current students this year. Whether you are already a St Bart's family or joining us for the first time, we want to ensure that you are fully informed of these opportunities. Our weekly newsletter is an excellent source of information about school events, activities and student achievements and we hope that you will find time each week to browse the stories. You can also follow St Bart's on our school social media channels; simply click the icons at the bottom of this newsletter.

I wish you and your family a happy and successful year ahead, and thank you again for your continued support.

We welcome the following new teachers this term:

Miss Runcie	Teacher of Textiles
Mr Tylee	Teacher of Sociology
Ms MacDonald	Teacher of Sociology

[Return to contents](#)

Calendar

Societies & Activities Fair*	Wednesday 10 September	Y7 12.20 onwards. Other Years 12.30 - 12.55pm Hall, 12.20 - 12.55pm
Y10 CCF Parade	Friday 12 September	
7CD New Forest Activity Day	Friday 12 September	New Forest, 8.20am - 5.30pm

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



* For a list of Co-Curricular Clubs & Activities please visit [our website](#).



Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 24 September 2025, 6.30pm

All parents and carers are welcome to join us at our Annual General Meeting where we will review the past year, form the committee and plan the year ahead. Venue: St Bart's, Wormestall Conference Centre.

Year 7 Open Evening

Tuesday 23 September, 5.00 - 7.45pm

Year 7 Open Mornings: Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 September, 9.00 - 10.45am



“What I like about St Bart’s is the House system. It is really competitive and fun.”
Colby (7D3)

“I think that St Bart’s is a very caring school and your tutor group feels like a big family.”
Milana (7E2)

[Find out more on page 12...](#)

[Return to contents](#)

CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES

SPOTLIGHT: Virtual RAF World Experience

Wednesday 24 September 2025, 7.30pm. Explore interactive 360° global operations, join engaging themed chat rooms and get your questions answered by RAF Personnel. Sign up free [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 to information about how parents, carers and local businesses can [get involved](#) in our careers events.

[Return to contents](#)

BRILLIANT BART’S EXAM RESULTS

We are delighted to be celebrating two brilliant sets of results for our Year 11 and 13 students that are testament to high quality teaching and to the dedication, commitment and sheer hard work of our students.



An excellent figure of 86% of all GCSE grades were at grade 4 or higher and nearly 40% of all grades were at grade 7 or higher. These represent the best set of results for St Bart’s since 2018. 80% of students gained at least a grade 4 in both English and Maths, ensuring that they can smoothly progress to further study, with all doors open to them. A total of 57 students achieved at least 8 GCSEs at grade 7 or higher, with Amos Fitch, Harshit Raina, Charlie Morse, Tabitha Cook, Joe Herriman, Rishik Kar, Carmen Collins, Henry Chalk and Isla Clare achieving an extraordinary total of 92 grade 9s between them. Grade 9 represents the highest possible achievement at GCSE and we are thrilled to report a new school record of 256 grade 9s were achieved by this Y11 cohort.

Most importantly, with results up across all grade boundaries at St Bart’s, this cohort deserves to be immensely proud of their achievements. They have been a fantastic group of students, who have shown amazing stamina

and resilience, following the disruption of the initial years of their secondary education. They have been a real asset to the school, acting as excellent role models who have made a really positive contribution to the wider school community. The vast majority of these students will be joined by a large number from other schools in our highly successful Sixth Form. We wish all of them the very best.



Over 260 A Level grades (nearly 30%) were at A* to A and well over three-quarters of all grades at A level were at C or better. Over 100 students achieved at least one A grade or better, demonstrating widespread excellence across the curriculum. 37 students gained at least 3 A*/A grades or better at A level and special mention must be made of the achievement of Aryan Agarwala, Aayush Joshi, Annabel Maclean, Imogen Ciochon, Erin Clark and Astrid Wilson-Gignoux who all achieved at least 3 A* grades.

Five students achieved the grades they required to secure highly

prestigious places at Oxbridge. There are success stories across the entire cohort, including many students who have been supported through some serious adversity, and others who have made spectacular progress from lower starting points. Students will be taking up university or have secured places on competitive apprenticeship programmes. We are so proud of this wonderful cohort of young people who have contributed so much to the school over their time with us. Their performance is truly worthy of celebration and we wish them all the best for their next steps.



Thanks to the Newbury Weekly News for the use of their photographs.

[Return to contents](#)

EVERS ARE HOUSE CHAMPIONS!

Last week in our first full school assembly, students waited to hear the results of last year's House Championship. Our Houses have a fantastic history stretching back over 100 years and this decades' old competition is an integral part of it.

At the end of the Summer Term, Dr Fitter announced the winning House for four of the five components that make up the House Championship. The Sports Shield was won by Curnock, the Arts and Enrichment Shield was won by Patterson, the Citizenship Shield was won by Evers and the Sixth Form Cup was also won by Evers.



However, the placings in the Academic Shield can only be determined once the exam results are in during the summer break. This year, the results of the Academic Shield are

1st Evers

2nd Patterson

3rd Davis

4th Curnock

These placings meant that Evers House is the well-deserved winner, taking the House Championship Cup for the first time in eight years!



House Head for Evers, Mr Edens said, *“I am absolutely over the moon and beyond proud of every single member of Evers House. What was accomplished last year was fantastic. Everyone worked tremendously hard to raise money for West Berks Mencap, do their best and earn success in House sports, take part in so many events and House competitions and on top of that make such great progress in all of their learning. I really feel that this has set a strong precedent for the year ahead... We are Evers, high achievers!”*

The scores have been re-set back and the race is already well under way with Year 7 earning House points during Summer School. Good luck everyone!

[Return to contents](#)

SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR AWARDS

On Wednesday 16 July, the PE Department held their annual Sports Personality of the Year Awards evening with a record attendance of nearly 400! We had a fantastic time celebrating all of our students and their successes this year, as well as awarding individual students different awards, including Coaches Player of the Year, Most Improved Player of the Year and Players Player of the Year across all sports. We also had the prestigious Sports Personality of the Year Awards for each year group, alongside Sports Leaders of the Year and our Teams of the Year. Main award winners are below:

Year 7: Baxter Finch and Tilly Clare

Year 8: Tom Adams and Jessie McCurtin

Year 9: James Lawson and Bella Meir

Year 10: Luke Kingston and Hazel Cook

Sports Leaders: Chris Broadfoot and Hannah Bosley



Team of the Year (Girls): U13 Girls' Football



Team of the Year (Boys): Year 7 Rugby

A huge well done to all of our students that have represented us at fixtures and festivals; we can't to see what you achieve next year!



click here

See more photos on [our website](#)

[Return to contents](#)

AMSTERDAM MUSIC TOUR

At the end of last year, over 90 of our most talented musicians and nine members of staff embarked on a music tour of Amsterdam. After an initial day of travelling, they were pleased to settle into their hostel in the beautiful surroundings of the De Hollandse Biesbosch national park, near the historical city of Dordrecht.



The following morning was spent exploring the Madurodam, a miniature park and tourist attraction in the Scheveningen district of The Hague and then they were off to their first informal concert in the stunning Delft town centre, where they drew quite an audience who were impressed by the standard of musicianship. The second concert of the day was in the most striking building whose name literally translated as 'The Big Church'. It was a fabulous place to perform with great acoustics, and once again the audience



were exceptionally complimentary.

Day three began with exploring Muiderslot castle near Amsterdam. The staff were amused that the older students were as excited by the dressing up box as the visiting four year olds! This was followed by a canal cruise, which was a lovely way to see more of Amsterdam; although the walk back to the coach when the heavens opened involved a little more water than hoped for! Other trip highlights included a lively meal out in Utrecht and an amazing cheese and clog factory visit.

Their final concert finished the trip with a bang! All three groups got to perform in the beautiful Gouda market square, drawing a big audience who loved the repertoire. And they even managed to pack away all of their gear before the heavens opened again!

Head of Expressive Arts, Mrs Robertson, said, "The students' musicianship has been overwhelmingly brilliant and their teamwork made the trip a dream. I would also like to take a moment to say thank you to the staff for their amazing support, efforts and hard work in making this venture such a great success."



[Return to contents](#)

YEAR 10 GET A TASTE OF THE WORKPLACE

On the two curriculum days at the end of last term, our Year 10 students had the opportunity to undertake work shadowing days. Students spent a day in the workplace with a family member or friend, with the aim of exploring career options. On the day, students were asked to complete a booklet with information about the activities of the organisation, the job roles available and the different paths in these roles. Work shadowing is an excellent opportunity for students to find out more about a career they are interested in - or maybe to find out there is a job they definitely don't want to do!



We'd like to say a big thank you to all those who hosted our Year 10 students. A particular mention to Roc Technologies who, across the two days, welcomed students who were unable to secure a placement. Students joined Roc Technologies employees in their fantastic offices at Greenham Business Park. They had the chance to learn more about careers within the company, how to build a brand and the challenges of cyber security, before creating and delivering their own presentations to the group. They also benefitted from a delicious lunch and the pool table!

Congratulations to the following students who submitted excellent booklets - Joanie Seymour (11E2), Hansika Bolli (11C1), Madukar Kandalie (11E3), and were the winners of £10 Amazon vouchers, presented in Y11 assembly.

[Return to contents](#)

THE STORY MUSEUM TRIP

On Tuesday 15 July, a group of Year 7 and 8 students spent the day at The Story Museum in Oxford, taking part in a literacy session called 'Write at the Story Museum', and enjoying a 'Wonder Walk' around Oxford. A Year 7 student tells us more...

"When we went to The Story Museum in Oxford, it honestly felt like stepping inside a real-life storybook. The different rooms were amazing – there was a whispering forest, a mythical dragon room, and even doors you could walk through that reminded me of the wardrobe from 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. Everything was colourful, magical, and made me feel like I was part of the stories.

One of my favourite parts was the Enchanted Forest. It had fun games and activities where you could listen to lots of audiobooks. It didn't feel like schoolwork at all!

After the museum, we went on a private walking tour around Oxford. This was really cool because we learnt interesting facts about the city and saw places that might have inspired C.S. Lewis when he was writing 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', such as the ornate oak door. It was amazing to think that normal buildings, lampposts, and even hidden gardens could have helped him imagine the world of Narnia. Overall, the day felt magical. The Story Museum made me want to read more stories, and the walking tour made me see Oxford in a whole new way. If you like books and adventures, I'd 100% recommend it!"



[Return to contents](#)

COOKING SKILLS TEA PARTY

On Curriculum Day, our Home Cooking Skills class proudly hosted a delightful Afternoon Tea Party, and what a treat it was! Parents and teachers were invited to join us for a special afternoon filled with freshly baked goodies made that very morning by our talented students.



Guests enjoyed a delicious spread that included homemade pizza, flaky cheese straws, rich chocolate brownies, colourful cupcakes and so much more. The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their skills in the kitchen and to share the results of their hard work with the school community.

A big thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event and congratulations to our young chefs for such an impressive and tasty celebration!

[Return to contents](#)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

This national scheme, in which St Bart's participates is available to young people aged 14 to 24, encouraging young people make the best use of their free time, find interests and acquire self-confidence and a sense of purpose that will support them into their future and help them to become well-rounded citizens. There are three levels to achieve; Bronze, Silver and Gold, each with four sections for completion: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition, with an additional Residential section at Gold level.

Congratulations to the following students who completed their awards at the end of last term.

Bronze

Seren Braidley
 Sophie Bunce
 Henry Chalk
 Mollie Coffman
 Tabitha Cook
 Freddie Corneck
 Max Farrow

Harry Fenner
 Filip Francuz
 Violet Hughes
 Luke Kingston
 Archie Keep
 Vedha Aveen Krishnan
 Eibhlin Lamb

Chloe Richardson
 Rhys Watkins
 Henry Wilson
 Yudeesh Balachandran
 Madhukar Burugadda-Kandalie

Silver

Joseph Bell
 Beatrice Cratchley
 Sophie Lystor

Hermione Cratchley
 Lily Buckmaster
 Josephine Wheeler

Vishal Karthik
 Sam Kirby



Last weekend these students completed their Bronze expedition. All eight St Bart's teams passed, well done! The participants had the perfect weather conditions and covered 28 kms over the two days.

[Return to contents](#)

LAMDA EXAM STARS

Created and overseen by the prestigious London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, LAMDA Exams might be described as the drama equivalent of music grades. As such these exams are nationally recognised and carry UCAS points. Several of our students have achieved excellent results in their recent LAMDA Acting exams.



Harry Barnett (10P2) - Grade 3 Distinction
Maya Buczkowska (9D2) - Grade 4 Merit
Robert Hall (12C2) - Grade 5 Distinction
Georgina Rushmer-Wilson (9D1) - Grade 6 Bronze Medal Distinction
Eleanor Sanders (12C2) - Grade 6 Bronze Medal Distinction
Daniel Ledwith (13C3) - Grade 6 Bronze Medal Distinction
Niamh Breslin (13D2) - Grade 7 Silver Medal Distinction

Harry said, *"I had to learn two monologues from different books. They were marked on different criteria and I was extremely pleased to achieve a distinction. One comment from my examiner was " Harry, you are a charming and impactful performer " which I am very proud of. My next plan is to achieve my Grade 4. When I do come to this, I will try to expand my knowledge and learn more about my future pieces which will result in me having a wider range of ideas I could share with my monologues!"*

Debbi Ledwith from Razzamataz Theatre Schools said, *"We are so proud of all these students. They have studied for this exam for 10 months and have put so much effort into their acting pieces - it has been a pleasure to watch them blossom and grow as performers."*

Congratulations to all of you!

[Return to contents](#)

CALLING Y7s FOR ETONS FIVES

The school is fortunate to have three Eton Fives courts for the students to use. There is an Eton Fives club for students on Wednesdays during activity time and Fridays after school.

Eton Fives is a handball sport played between pairs of players on a three-sided court - think squash without a racket but with added hazards such as ledges and a buttress! It is a fun, easy to learn sport for boys and girls who can play together. It promotes fairness and team work, as it is played without a referee and it is great for developing hand-eye coordination and social skills. [This video](#) from the Eton Fives Association (EFA) gives a brief overview of the game.



The Newbury Eton Fives Club helps promote the sport in the school and we are inviting interested Year 7 students and their parents/carers to a taster session of Eton Fives on Saturday 13 September from 10.00am. Experienced coaches and players will be available to introduce the game and adults and children will have an opportunity to play. It's very quick to pick up and learn. You can stay for as long as you like.

If you are interested in coming along to the taster session, please let me know by email (jtalbot@stbarts.co.uk) by Thursday 11 September so we can gauge numbers. If you are unable to attend but your child is still interested in trying Eton Fives, then they can come along to any of the club sessions at school.

*Mr Talbot
Teacher in Charge of Eton Fives*

Thanks to the Newbury Weekly News for the use of their photographs.

PE

1st XI cricket: mixing it with MCC

Rarely can a defeat have been as exhilarating or affirming. To lose to the illustrious MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club) was no dishonour; to have played them as we did – for the first time in about a decade – was a feather in our collective cap. Very few comprehensive state schools have fixtures against MCC, the Lord's-based guardians of the game, and it was great that recent alumni who either helped to revive the 1st XI or missed out on playing at this level because of Covid were able to join our side: Elliot, Levi, Edan, Oscar and Aaron all contributed notably at times. Vivaan, still a Y12, also returned from the West Country to strengthen a team that was unfortunately missing four of its leading current players due to county call-ups, university inductions and other pressing engagements.



MCC, led by Old Newburian Will Herrington, batted first and with real quality, as expected. Brewer and Ettridge put on 90 for the first wicket in classy, unruffled fashion but also respected the good balls. Vivaan, bowling his spin steadily, deservedly made the breakthrough. Then, however, Brewer, who has played for Gloucestershire 2nds, and the young MCC triallist Talbot-Williams, turned on the style and the power. The former reached his century in the 27th over before cannily being stumped by Archie off the persevering and always poised

Yudeesh; the latter looked odds-on for a ton himself but was brilliantly caught on the straight boundary by a full-pelt Elliot – a grab that was part rugby mark and part baby cradling. Oscar also took a stunning catch (a one-handed, up-periscope number at cover), helping Ray to chip in with a couple of late wickets. By the end of their 40 overs, MCC had amassed an ominous 318-6.



Bart's were up against it, therefore, with the bat, but Poppy started brightly with two fine fours and Vivaan was most unlucky to be surprised by a straight one. From a rocky 15-2, Levi and Elliot put on 67 but both then fell with no addition to the score, Levi for a clean-striking but sensible 52 with 10 fours. For the sixth wicket, Oscar and Ray were next to record a 50 partnership, with Oscar reaching 43, but another dismissal soon followed and playing for pride was now the only real option. Celebrating his inclusion in the MCC Foundation South of England training squad, Ray did so by remaining unbeaten on a watchful and elegant 37. If only potential super-fan Haaris had made it to the ground before the last car was pulling away.

The MCC's Spirit of Cricket cap went to a delighted Yudeesh, and Will pointed out that he himself had been nominated to try out as a playing member of MCC after this fixture in his own school career – the perks of membership are almost the same as those enjoyed by the rest of those you see quaffing and hob-nobbing in the pavilion in St John's Wood at Test matches (and there's no 28-year waiting list), which is all the more reason for us to make every effort to retain this match. Sincere thanks from Mr Clayton to Will for getting this game going again, to all who took part (including Stan and Logan) and to Edan for rallying the alumni and all his on-field acumen. Cheers, too, to Falkland CC for hosting us again. Dr Fitter will be pleased to learn that – as at Abingdon in the season opener – we were only nine down (and, this time, six off making 200). Another “draw” then! Huzzah!



[Return to contents](#)

KEY CONTACTS REMINDER

School Reception

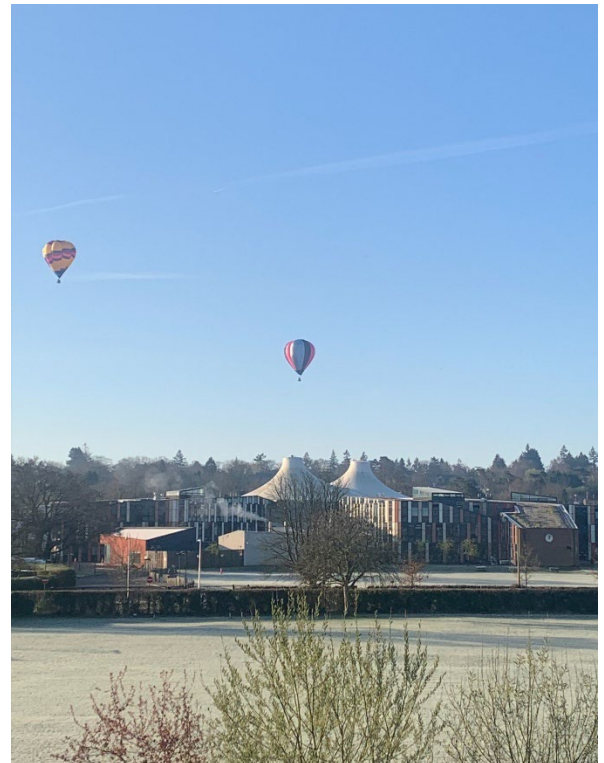
01635 521255 (Mon-Thurs 8.15am-4.45pm; Fri 8.15am-4.15pm)
office@stbarts.co.uk (General enquiries to be addressed FAO Dr D Fitter, Headteacher)

Attendance Hotline

To report your child absent please contact:
01635 576372 (Attendance Hotline)
attendanceofficer@stbarts.co.uk
(Attendance Officer: Mrs L Pennock)

Sixth Form Office

01635 576368 (Sixth Form enquiries)
sixthform@stbarts.co.uk (Sixth Form enquiries)
jwilder@stbarts.co.uk (Co-Head of Sixth Form: Mr J Wilder)
jbastable@stbarts.co.uk (Co-Head of Sixth Form: Mr J Bastable)



For a complete list of our contact details please visit [our website here.](#)

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St Bartholomew's School Open Evenings



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
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Year 7 Open Evening: Tuesday 23 September, 5.00 - 7.45pm

Year 7 Open Mornings: Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 September, 9.00 - 10.45am

Sixth Form Open Evening: Wednesday 22 October, 5.00pm-7.45pm



"What I like about St Bart's is the House system. It is really competitive and fun."
Colby (7D3)



"House events have helped me come out of my shell. I am now an Expressive Arts Captain, studying acting at the Bristol Old Vic."
Eish (12E3)



"Lessons at St Bart's are engaging but also challenging and motivating, pushing us to achieve our best."
Swathi (12C1)

"I think that St Bart's is a very caring school and your tutor group feels like a big family."
Milana (7E2)



No booking required for Open Events

Main Office:

office@stbarts.co.uk - 01635 521255

Sixth Form:

sixthform@stbarts.co.uk - 01635 576368

Find out more at www.stbarts.co.uk

