



Summer 2023-24 Highlights

The Big Print

This the third and final year of a fantastic printmaking journey for the students of Ipswich schools. We have been the only school to participate in the 'Our Place in Time' project over the 3 years. This is a funded project run by Oyster Community Press

IPSWICH PRINTWEEK

CIC @Tower Street Printmaking studio in Ipswich. This is part of the annual event called Ipswich Print week, to raise awareness of printmaking. The finale of Ipswich print week is staging an event on Ipswich Quay called The BIG print where the lino print designs from local school are joined together to make a collaborative piece that is displayed in the archives at The Hold. The ideas for the prints are reflective of the years 2023, 2022, 2021 and how students' experiences have been captured in these fantastic designs. The outcomes have been fantastic from students in years 7-12. We are proud to see the work displayed and know that these designs will be kept as part of the history of Ipswich.

St Alban's Careers Fair 2024

This year we hosted our biggest and best careers fair yet. Welcoming over 60 employers– from a wide range of sectors to talk to students. It was lovely to see amongst our visitors several past students who are now working successfully in a range of industries both locally and nationally.

CAREERS FAIR 2024



All St Alban's students had the opportunity to talk to employers face-to-face and ask them questions. A big thank you to everyone who supported the event, what a great networking opportunity for our students!



Year 8 Geography Trip

The geography department have enjoyed a number of fieldtrips this term. On Wednesday 1st May the department took out the year 10 GCSE students to Minsmere to conduct their fieldwork on sustainability and geographical flows. The amazing fieldwork team at the RSBP Minsmere shared their knowledge with the students. We worked in two teams to collect the different data needed to help prepare them for their fieldwork exam next year.



Year 10 Colchester Zoo Trip



On the 13th June the geography department took the whole of Year 8 to Colchester Zoo to look at endangered species. The students received a talk from the education team at the zoo and had the chance to handle some illegal items that had been confiscated by the Police and donated to the zoo, including a rhino horn. Each group picked an endangered animal to investigate and they observed it and their enclosure for 5 minutes, recording interesting

information which they will use in their assessment back in school. The group were brilliant and we had a really enjoyable day.

Year 7 Visit Flatford and Dedham

Year 7's enjoyed a very warm day out on Monday, the 24th June. They were looking at how tourism impacts the areas of Flatford and Dedham, both positively and negatively. The students witnessed lots of people enjoying themselves on the river and walking across the Dedham Vale. They collected data in both areas. Completing traffic counts, EQA's, litter surveys and field sketches.

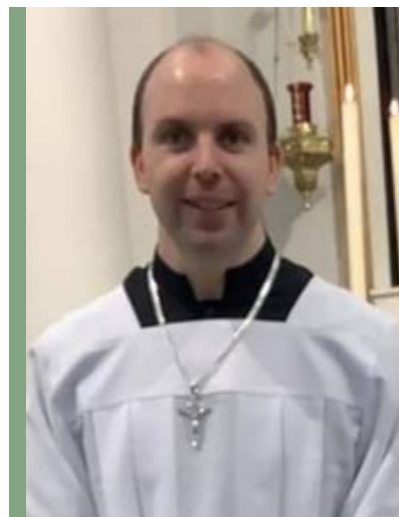
They also discovered Willy Lott's Cottage and learnt a little about its history and John Constable who famously painted it in 1814.



St Alban's Welcomes a New Chaplain

I am taking this opportunity to write to all in the Trust to introduce myself as the new lay chaplain at St Alban's High School in Ipswich since being appointed by Bishop Peter Collins and Mr Baker in April. I am very much looking forward to working with staff and students to support them in any way I can.

Let me also give you a very brief overview of my faith background and what has led me to work in St Alban's. I am very active in my local parish in Thetford and undertake a number of roles within the parish community such as serving as chair person of the parish council, I also read and serve in the Mass. Before I joined St Alban's I worked as a Taxi driver for twelve years and before that was a teaching assistant in a primary school.



I am currently training to become a permanent deacon within the Diocese of East Anglia and have just finished my first year which has been based at St Mary's University in Twickenham. I have just completed my first year of a three-year course and will hopefully be ordained in 2026 and will be able to minister both in my home parish and St Alban's which will be fantastic!

It is a great honour and joy for me that I am able to combine both my own personal faith and work together. Since my arrival at St Alban's, I have been able bring the faith alive across the year groups, by leading them in services, but also by sending out information each week to students regarding news from the local area, news from Rome and fact files on saints.

Since my arrival, the staff, students and governors have been very supportive. I could not have asked for a warmer welcome to the school community.

As I now settle into the role of school chaplain, I am keen for the students to be fully engaged with the catholic life of the school on a weekly basis. Part of this has been forming a group of students to assist with reading and serving at the Masses we have each week. I am also keen to develop a student chaplaincy group where charity will be at the centre.

Since my arrival, I have managed to speak with all the other school chaplains in the diocese and have visited St Benedict's High School in Bury St Edmunds and St John Fisher's High School in Peterborough. It has been great having the support of the other school chaplains.

I am looking forward to accompanying the staff and students in their journey of

Learning... Respecting... Caring...



education and faith and developing closer ties within the local community. Being a chaplain, is very enjoyable in the fact that each day is different and I am learning to expect the unexpected.

I'll end with a phrase that I have taken from my own high school, in that in a Catholic School, together we can all make the difference and that is something that is manifested in the role of a chaplain as by making the difference in small things, great things can occur.

Student Visit to the Grand Hall in Westminster

On March 11th, a group of twelve enthusiastic Sixth Form students from our school, led by Mr. Berry and Mr. Goonan, attended a prestigious student conference held at the Grand Hall in Westminster. The event, organized by PoleconUK, provided a unique opportunity for students to engage directly with prominent political figures and peers from across the country.

The conference featured a series of inspiring and thought-provoking speeches delivered by a variety of politicians, including Jess Phillips and Jacob Rees-Mogg. Each speaker brought their unique perspective on current political issues, offering students a comprehensive understanding of the diverse viewpoints within the political landscape.

One of the highlights of the event was the interactive Q&A sessions. Our students, along with their peers from other schools, had the chance to pose questions to the speakers. This not only enhanced their learning experience but also allowed them to actively participate in the political discourse.

Additionally, students had the exciting opportunity to witness a live recording of the popular podcast "The Rest is Politics," hosted by Alistair Campbell and Rory Stewart. The live podcast session was an engaging experience, offering a behind-the-scenes look at how political commentary is produced and providing further insights into current political affairs from two well-known figures.

Mr Berry and Mr Goonan were proud of our students' engagement and the insightful questions they asked. The event was a significant educational experience, broadening the students' horizons and deepening their understanding of political processes and issues. Mr. Goonan, teacher of politics, hopes to build on this trip and offer future politics students more opportunities to attend such events, fostering a greater interest and deeper understanding of politics among our students.

Overall, the visit to the Grand Hall in Westminster was a resounding success, leaving our students inspired and more knowledgeable about the world of politics. We look forward to more such enriching opportunities in the future.



Success in Computing at St Alban's

It has been a busy and very successful year in Computing at St Alban's. Here are a few of our highlights!

In November 213 students from Year 8, 10 and 12 took part in the 2023 Bebras Computational thinking challenge and on 7th December Mr Robinson took Year 12 and Year 13 students to the BT Adastral Park ChriSTEMas event to learn more about AI and careers in STEM subjects.

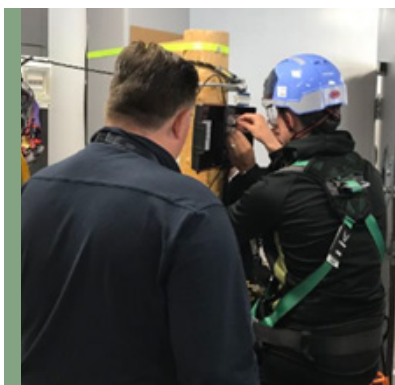
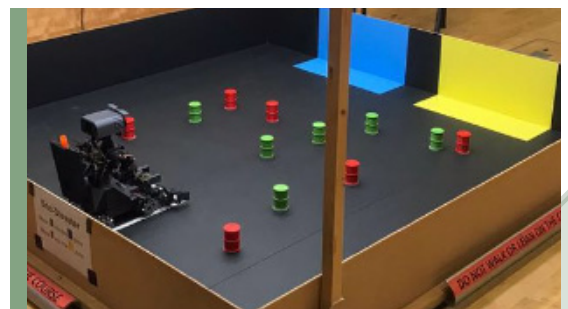


On January 5 students took part in the next stage of Bebras: The Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC) while Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 students took part in answering questions to help train a new research project for AI marking.



The annual National UK Micromouse and Robotics Society MINOS competition was held at St Alban's over an entire weekend (16th / 17th March), with some students gaining top positions in the Line following, Wall following and Maze solving events.

Pi Wars. On Sunday 21st April Mr Robinson and Mr Clapson visited Pi Wars event in the Cambridge Computer Laboratory. Pi Wars is an international challenge-based robot competition where competitors use Raspberry-Pi powered robots to compete in various non destructive robot challenges.



BT Technology day Thursday 13th June, Mr Robinson drove the school Minibus to take 8 Year 12 A Level computer science students to the BT Technology day. Here, students learnt about social engineering and took part in practical activities to do with cyber security, network cable installation, the new UoS Digitech Centre and had the chance to learn more about careers in STEM.

On Friday 14th June Mr Robinson, Miss Williams, Mr Prosser and Mr Fisher took 46 Year 9 and Year 10 students to the Centre for computing history in Cambridge. Students learnt about how instructions are fetched, stored and executed in a computer and had the opportunity to code an image using binary on a BBC Micro from the 1980s using the BASIC programming language. There were



some important visitors from Citrix to the museum on this day who commented that students behaved impeccably and were a real credit to the school.

“I Belong” Pilot Event at Suffolk One

On 25th June Mr Robinson will be taking 15 girls from Year 8 to Suffolk One College to take part in activities such as robotics, physical computing and user interface design. This is an event designed to encourage more girls to choose computer science as an option and inform them about available career options.

Did you know: Computer science is the fastest-growing STEM subject, and yet, despite its popularity, girls are consistently outnumbered by boys. In 2023, only one in five GCSE Computer Science and 15% of all Level Computer Science entries were from female students in England.

Use this link to learn more <https://teachcomputing.org/i-belong>

Trip to Spain

The Language department took 22 Year 10 and 11 students to Barcelona back in March for 4 days! We had the best time and the student's highlight was the Flamenco Show. We visited La Sagrada Familia, the Olympic Stadium, climbed in Montserrat, tried lots of traditional food and visited the local markets and shops.



Career Ready Graduation

Year 13 celebrated the end of their Career Ready journey, enjoying an afternoon tea with their mentors. A huge thank you to all our industry mentors who have challenged and supported our Sixth Formers over the last 12 months. Students have grown in confidence and there was a great buzz in the room and well done to every student who completed this programme, we are proud of you.



Collaborative Creative Exhibition 2024

This year we are very pleased to have exhibited KS3 artwork, GCSE artwork, GCSE textiles and A level work from Art, Photography, Textiles and Graphics. We invited students to view the exhibition to use as both a learning tool and for external moderation. Our private view followed on the Monday 24th July attended by many students, staff, governors and parents/carers.

We are always delighted to be able to showcase the talents of your students and celebrate their achievements.

