



Feast of Ascension

We're fast approaching the feast of the Ascension on Thursday. Ascension commemorates the moment when Jesus, after His resurrection, ascended into heaven, reaffirming His divinity and promising to be with us always.

We would like to remind you that Ascension Thursday is a holy day of obligation, a time for reflection and prayer. However, due to ongoing exams, our school will have limited provision for Mass. A voluntary Mass will be available during period 3 on Thursday for those who wish to participate, we encourage students to take this opportunity.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Matt Spiller

Exam Information

External written exams start Thursday 9th May. Please make sure anyone sitting an exam arrives to the exam room ahead of time without any electronic items, mobile phones or watches. Please bring any equipment in a clear pencil case, along with water in a clear bottle with a lid (labels removed). Any other kind of bottle or open cup will be removed from the exam room.

For further exam guidelines and relevant information please look at the school website under exams. Live rooming timetables are available on Arbor and should be checked regularly for any room changes.

Good luck everyone ☺

Mrs Edwards - Exams Officer

U13 Girls

West Suffolk Cup Football FINAL

St Benedict's 4 - 0 Ormiston Sudbury

On Tuesday 30th April, the U13 girls had their West Suffolk Cup football final against OSA. All week, the girls were saying how nervous they were for the game, however, you could not tell from their performance! Straight from kick off, Bennies pressed high up the pitch, swarming OSA and instantly created chances on goal. Polly Saade latched onto a volley from outside the box, lobbing the goalkeeper for an early 1 nil lead. Any chance OSA tried to create was snuffed out by the defensive line of Eliza Rowley, Alanna Evans, and captain Lucy Murphy. Bennies constant pressure proved to be too much. Amelia Smith's through ball past the defence was met by Polly, who smashed the ball into the roof of the net. Elodie Massuard, who was also a constant threat down the left midfield, managed to grab herself a goal before the end of half time, striking the ball

to the keeper's left to make it 3 nil. The second half was more of the same from Bennies. Imogen Grove was incredibly unfortunate not to get on the scoresheet. OSA's defence could not handle the strength and speed of Imogen all game, however the OSA keeper kept making some incredible saves. Polly secured her first hat-trick for the school, running through the defence and slotting the ball through the keeper's legs. The girls all played fantastically well, and should be extremely proud of their achievements this season. Bennies are now the U13 Girls West Suffolk Cup CHAMPIONS!! Thanks to all the parents and staff who came to support the team!

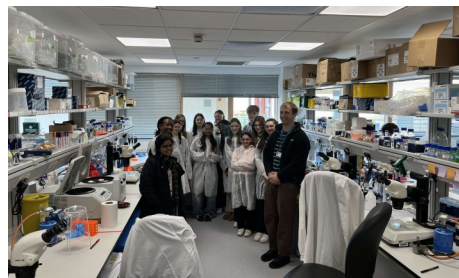
Mr Bates



Y12 Trip to the Babraham Institute

On Friday 26 April the Year 12 Biologists attended a day trip to the Babraham Research Institute in Cambridge. We attended 4 sessions throughout the course of the day, each led by current researchers or PHD students working at the bioscience research lab. The first consisted of a tour of the facility by a current PHD student and visiting research assistant, followed by two sessions led by other PHD students explaining their work on cell signalling, and a workshop covering critical thinking and the scientific method. The final session was a virtual tour of the Biological Support unit where students were guided through the daily work of the animal technicians and how they ensure animal welfare.

Elise Wright - Yr 12 Biologist



Maths Challenges Success

Junior Maths Challenge (JMC) 2024

The JMC is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at high ability year 7 and 8 Maths students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. This year we entered 30 students into the challenge to complete a mix of 25 number and geometry logic problems.

The top scoring 50% of participants are awarded certificates; Bronze, Silver or Gold in the ratio 3:2:1, so we would expect 15 students to end up with certificates. At St Benedict's, we achieved 4 Golds, 11 Silvers and 10 Bronze awards for the following students.

Gold

Philippe D'Mello, Jacob Gurrell, Sebastian Starkowski and Hannah Thomas

Silver

Maximilian Becker, Lotte Brandon, Imogen Grove, Leona Jose, Wiktor Konopka, Jake McConnell, Elizabeth Nicholls, David Olugbemi, Lyra Reimann, Sean Roberts and Arthur Simmons

Bronze

George Apps, Oscar Barrett, Samuel Dockrill, Edwin George, Caylen James, Neha Jose, Alexis Rose Josy, Leja Lukoseviciute, Xavier Markowski and Amelia Smith

Following this challenge, UKMT have invited 10,000 of the highest performers from all of the entrants to take part in the Junior Kangaroo, and two of our students, Jacob Gurrell and Hannah Thomas have qualified for this. This follow on round will take place on Tuesday 11th June. We are so proud of the achievements of all our pupils that took part in the Junior Maths Challenge and would love to see all of our students developing their logic and problem solving skills so we have included a taste of the Maths Challenge for you to try.

In Fred's field there are some humans and some horses.

There are 25 heads in total and 60 legs in total.

What is the difference between the number of humans and the number of horses?

- A 3 B 7 C 9 D 11 E 15

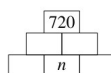
Intermediate Maths Challenge (IMC) 2024 – Pink Kangaroo

As previously reported, 30 of our year 10 and 11 students completed the Intermediate Maths Challenge at the beginning of the year, with three students not only gaining Gold by being in the top 9% of participants, but also scoring highly enough to compete in the second round of the competition which is called the Pink Kangaroo.

Grace Clifton, Amy John and Adam O'Flynn all performed brilliantly with Amy gaining a merit award for being in the top 25% of qualifying participants. How do your problem solving skills compare?

Mrs Nicholls

Donggyu wants to complete the diagram so that each box contains a positive integer and each box in the top two rows contains the product of the integers in the two boxes below it. He wants the integer in the top box to be 720. How many different values can the integer n take?



- A 1 B 4 C 5 D 6 E 8

History Revision - Tower of London

On Thursday 25th April the Year 13 Historians visited the Tower of London as part of their A Level studies on the Tudor period. Students were guided by a Tower of London tour guide around key Tudor sites in the Tower, including the Salt Tower which held examples of carvings left by Jesuit priests imprisoned by Elizabeth I during the 1570s and 1580s and the Beachamp Tower which at times held Protestant nobility who had fallen foul of the reigning Tudor monarch. The difference between the Protestant and Catholic carvings was stark, showing that despite being confined in the Tower prior to execution for treason John Dudley (the Duke of Northumberland) was able to employ a stonemason to leave a very intricate piece of carving. In contrast, the images of the Five Wounds of Christ left by the Jesuit priests were of a very simple design, but were motivated by a desire to inspire the faith of future Catholic prisoners awaiting a sometimes grisly execution. It was a very useful experience which allowed the historians to understand the complex reality of the changes to religion during the Reformation and its impact on specific individuals.

Students also visited the Bloody Tower, the royal armoury, particularly enjoying the changing shape and size of Henry VIII's armour, the execution site of Tower Hill and Traitor's gate.

In addition, students were able to study a variety of Mid-Tudor sources which will hopefully assist them in their exam in three weeks time.

Mrs Titcombe



'Pop Up' Revision Book Sale

The sale of revision books donated by last year's Y11 students proved very popular, attracting a big crowd of students during both Monday and Wednesday break times. At one point, Mrs Wray was heard to comment that it was more popular than a cake sale! It was fantastic to see so many students proactively taking this opportunity to purchase books to help them with their studies. We hope that the resources prove to be useful for the forthcoming exams and wish all of our students every success.

In total, the sale raised £201.60 for CAFOD. Once the current exam series is over, all donations of revision guides will be gratefully received so that we can continue to run this initiative next year. A huge thank you to all those who donated and bought books and to Mr Turner, Mr Bates and Mrs Roughley for helping to run the stall.

Mr Murphy