

This Time Last Year

It hardly seems possible that it was this week last year that Ofsted visited us and we were judged to be a **Good** school with an **Outstanding** Sixth Form. We have all been working hard this year to become even better and this work continues into the current academic year. Our exam results this summer back this judgement up as we achieved 74% Grade 4 and above in English and Maths and the progress students make here at St Benedict's remains excellent. Our staff are incredibly hard working and dedicated to our students and want the best for them. If you wish to come and see the school we have our **Open Evening on 3rd October** starting at 18.30 and **Open Morning on 4th October** at 9.30am.

Diocesan Schools Mass at St John the Baptist Cathedral in Norwich

On Wednesday Students from St Benedict's joined students from Catholic schools across the Diocese for the annual Schools Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan. It was a wonderful celebration of Catholic Education by bringing the Diocesan family of schools together. The theme of the Mass was *Children of God*. In his homily Bishop Alan talked about how important our Baptism was which made us part of the family of God. Bishop Alan went on to challenge every child in each of our Catholic schools to find out the date of their Baptism and to celebrate the date every year because it is so important. Some of Bishop Alan's suggestions for celebration included having a pizza or a cake or having a party!



Each school was then presented a special memento to take back to their school which Dina, one of our Year 12 students, went up to receive for St Benedict's. The students we took to the Mass were exemplary ambassadors for the school and we even managed to get a special photograph with Bishop Alan. Additional thanks to Jerome who served at Mass.



Taster Day

Year 6 joined us today from our Catholic feeder schools for an enjoyable taster day at St Benedict's. The day began in the hall with introductions before students began taster lessons and activities. It has been wonderful to see so many happy faces enjoying their time here. We are really looking forward to welcoming you all again at our Open evening and Open morning, further taster activities throughout the year and then in September. Year 8 also had a taster day away at the Upper school site today which went very well and allowed students to spend time familiarising themselves with the site for next September.

Kingswood

Most Year 7 students have been on the Kingswood trip this week. If you have access to our social media pages you will have been able to follow their activities and see the photos from the trip as they happen. A great time had by all!

Logo

Finally, thank you for all entries for the Logo competition, of which there were many. The entries will be judged over the next 2 weeks by students, staff and governors and I will keep you posted.

Kate Pereira

PSHE/Citizenship

Students across the school conducted a range of activities during PSHE/Citizenship lessons this week: Year 7: Looked at themselves in a lesson called 'Who am I?'

Year 8: Some studied the importance of charities and participation while others had in special guests including from St John Ambulance to deliver life saving First Aid training.

Year 9: Studied the British Values and what it means to be British.

Year 10: Had 2 guest speakers to talk about challenges they have faced in their lives and how they have showed resilience to overcome these challenges. Kate spoke about how she struggled with exams but has become a successful dentist and Emily brought in her son Reilly to talk about some of the ups and downs her family has faced.

Year 11: Had a Police officer from London speak about his faith as well as the importance of following the Law.

All pupils were able to receive practical and useful advice based around the 3 strands the PSHE/Citizenship programme will follow this year: You, Relationships and the World.

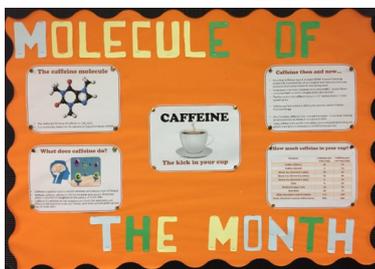
Mrs Cobbold

Reminders

Can we once again please ask parents not to use the car parks when dropping off and collecting students, this can be extremely dangerous at busy times.

Please be aware that Friday 6 October is a PD day.

Molecule of the Month



Molecule of the Month is back. The September molecule has been entered by our science technician Dr R Davies and is a molecule we are all familiar with: Caffeine; the first evidence of

coffee drinking was in 15th Century, but the first evidence of tea drinking was 3000BC. Caffeine is now the most widely used psychoactive drug, with an estimated global consumption of 120,000 tonnes per year. The display board by room 5 has more interesting facts on this fascinating molecule, so thank you Dr Davies. Please email me if you have a molecule that you would like displayed ecooogan@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk next month we have an exciting molecule: RuBisCo presented by Mr Gregory our LSC science technician.

Mrs Coogan

Lower School Site

The editors of BAM (Bennie's Arts Magazine) met for the first time this year. After the success of last year's BAM they have many brilliant ideas for articles. All Year 7 and Year 8 students are welcome to contribute to the magazine.

Mrs Wray

Paired Reading

Last year we ran a successful Paired Reading scheme between our Year 7 and Year 8 students and students at St Edmund's Catholic Primary school. It proved to be a valuable experience for all the students involved. We are very proud to have a new cohort of keen readers to begin the scheme next week.

Mrs Wray

Charitable Activity

As part of our charitable activity at the Lower School Site during this term we are supporting the local Storehouse Charity. On Thursday 28th September we will be celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving with the pupils and staff. We are focussing on the theme of harvest as well. Storehouse has provided us with a list of items that they would like us to provide. Starting on Monday 25th September we are encouraging all who feel able to support this excellent local group by sending in the following items. It is an ongoing collection so as and when would be wonderful.

Year 7 only

Breakfast ideas such as cereals, UHT milk, teabags foil wrapped, sugar in small bags if possible.
Lunch ideas such as soups in cans or cup a soups, fish, tinned spaghetti/baked beans, pot noodles, biscuits/ cereal bars.

Year 8 only

Tea ideas such as tinned meat meals eg, chicken curry, beef stew, mince and onions, tinned vegetables, tinned potatoes, quick cook rice, pasta small bags please, tinned

fruit, tinned custard, rice pudding.

Also if anyone has flowers suitable for use at Mass next Thursday or has good baking skills and could donate a large Harvest loaf with sheaves of wheat design by Thursday morning at the latest it would certainly add to our celebration.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Mrs Ranzetta

Sporting Highlights

U14 Netball vs County A&B

The girls played their first U14 league matches against County Upper on Tuesday 19th September and unfortunately were defeated in both games. However, there was some great play from our side and we showed good commitment and hard work throughout. Some great defending from Amelia Holt and some great attacking work seen from Lydia Jeynes and Francesca Nichols. We look forward to the rest of the season. The girls next match is against King Edwards VI Upper School on Wednesday 4th October.

Sponsored Walk

Friday 29th September sees the St Benedict's Sponsored Walk! All students from year 7 to 13 will be taking part in what promises to be a fun day of fund raising for the school.

All students should come to the Upper School Centre on Beeton's Way for the day. Students will have an extended tutor time in the morning, sponsored walk until an extended lunch, and then tutor time again briefly in the afternoon. We are walking to raise money for a local foodbank as well as CCTV for our school. I have also asked our charity ambassadors in Year 11 to choose another charity for us to donate to - they are working away furiously on this!

The canteen will be open for lunch for all years but not for break time - we will be walking! As such we would advise that you supply students with a snack for sustenance whilst they are out and about and of course, a bottle of water. I am also going to be optimistic and suggest that they have sun cream for later September!

The route is about 1.5 miles starting and finishing at St Benedict's USC - this loop will be completed several times over and will be heavily marshalled by staff. We have carried out a full risk assessment and contacted Suffolk Constabulary to let them know we are out and about on that day.

We are asking for students to get sponsored but to make this as simple as possible, you can sponsor/donate via ParentPay - any amount will make a difference, but there is guidance on ParentPay as to how you can help us hit our target goal. Please log on and give what you can.

Students from years 7-11 should wear school uniform for the day but may wear trainers or walking shoes. 6th Formers will be in fancy dress!

I would like to thank you in advance for your support of this event. Please send all enquiries to dwright@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk