

# St Benedict's News



It is hard to fathom and comprehend how much has changed and how far we have come over the past academic year. Throughout all of the challenges and difficulties that the world has faced, in our community we have carried on, making the most of opportunities where we can and adapting where we need to. We have achieved a great deal. There have been many significant 'extras' for the school to manage. From making the transition back to school in September with new measures, to setting up online learning and expanding our provision of live lessons then setting up an asymptomatic testing centre in school and then supporting the assessment of all GCSE and A level students to award Teacher Assessed Grades. All of this has happened on top of the normal life of the school and we have managed to keep the school well-staffed, supported and calm. Over this time, we have grown in numbers so that in September we will have over 930 students across all year groups. Our wonderful staff and students have carried us through and upwards in a time when things have been hard for us all.

There are exciting times ahead, but no doubt challenges too. We sadly say goodbye to Mrs Nolan, Miss Cobb, Mrs Van Holland and Mr May at the end of the term and we are so grateful to them all for all of their time in the school. In September, we will welcome new staff and our plans to develop the facilities of the school will continue apace. We have made some changes to the presentation and signage at the front of the school and we have bought a new mini-bus to support our additional mini-bus services and to add to our capacity, and this is just the beginning of our investment in the school to ensure that every aspect reflects the excellence we seek.

I think we end this year on a positive and high note. Our students (new and old) have been brilliant in these final days and weeks and we have seen how well they and the school can perform when things are tricky. In the autumn, we pray that we will all see how high we can fly without the challenges that have held us down this year.

Until then on behalf of all the staff of St Benedict's we wish all of our families and our community a restful, peaceful and healthy break and we look forward with anticipation to September.

Yours in Christ,

Imogen Senior

*A Prayer for the St Benedict's Community at the end of the Academic Year*



*In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit*

*We thank you Lord for all that you have given us. For the community at St Benedict's and our wider community and family that supports us.*

*We thank you for the wisdom we have shared and gained over this past year. We thank you for the ways in which we have gained new knowledge and wisdom and we pray for your help in guiding us to find truth and meaning in the experiences of this past year.*

*We thank you Lord for our resilience and for the strength you have given us to deal with the challenges we have all faced in this past year. Help us to know that we never walk alone and that you will always support and guide us when we face obstacles.*

*We thank you Lord for your compassion and for the compassion of the community of the school. Help us always to look to support one another, to support with care and love all those who need our help. Help us always to look to serve and seek to make the world a better place.*

*As the community of St Benedict's help us to leave here today knowing that we are part of something bigger. Help us through our prayer, work and joy to praise and honour you in every part of our lives.*

*In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen*

*St Benedict- Pray for us.*

## St Benedict's Day Mass



It was a delight to be able to finally get together as a community to celebrate our feast day. On Monday the Bishop joined us along with Fr Jay, Fr David and Fr Andrew for a Mass outside with the whole school gathering as one, and the sun shone down and it felt like a blessed experience.



It's been so long without assemblies, Mass and being able to gather groups of students for collective experiences that it had begun to feel like a distant memory! We had initially planned to celebrate the occasion on the 9<sup>th</sup> but heavy rain meant we had to postpone, and the Bishop was very gracious and rescheduled with us for the 19<sup>th</sup>. So we went ahead with Mass on 'Freedom day' but still choosing to keep all of our school's provisions for covid security in place, as many families are planning to head off on holiday in the next few days and we didn't want track and trace to create problems that could have been avoided!

Overall the Mass felt like a great success and a powerful way to come back to collective worship. I am hugely grateful to all involved, from caretakers to readers to the Bishop himself – the Mass was a lot of work, but looked effortless and there are many people to whom I am personally indebted for that.

Thank you all and have a happy summer break.

With every blessing

*Matt Spiller*

*Chaplain*

## Meet our Year 7 Gardeners (now year 8)

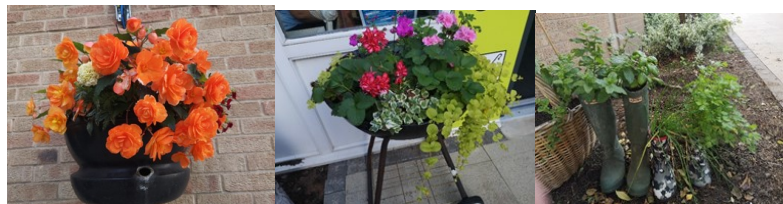


Radoslaw, Nyla, Rosie, Kasper and Tyler.

They have come to gardening club every week twice per and every evening to water, they are stars!

As part of Young Green Fingers (Bury in Bloom) we have had to use recycled and unusual containers so they have planted up an old BBQ with flowers and strawberries, a log basket with salad vegetables, welly boots with herbs and sinks with tomatoes, red pepper and a water melon! In addition we have tumbling toms in a basket. I am hoping they will continue with gardening next year.

*Mrs Reeman*



## Job Opportunities

### Exam Invigilator

How about joining our team of Examination Invigilators? We are looking to recruit invigilators for the next academic year.

The role of invigilators is an important one. Your job would be to help supervise examinations and to ensure that no cheating or misconduct takes place. We take this role very seriously.

No formal qualifications are needed, but flexibility, patience and common sense are a definite advantage. Training is given, and the current rate of pay is £9.25 per hour plus holiday allowance. There are no guaranteed hours and the appointment is on a casual contract. If you are interested, please email [office@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk) for further details and an application form or visit our school website [www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

### Mini Bus Driver

- 13 hours per week, Monday - Friday, 7am - 8.15am and 3.30pm - 4.45pm (exact times dependent on route)
- Term time only
- Fixed term until July 2022.
- Closing date 6 August



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Phoebe Harpur-Davies for passing her grade 8 cello exam with distinction. Massive well done to her.

A huge congratulations to Laurence Mayall for his Grade 8 violin achieving a distinction is superb.

Congratulations to the candidates in Y10 and Y9 who received the sacrament of Confirmation this year. Yesterday Bishop Alan celebrated Confirmation Mass in St Edmund's parish church with Fr David, Fr Mike and Fr Jay. Thank you to all parents and sponsors for supporting these young people in their Confirmation journey. May the Holy Spirit guide them throughout their life.

If you are in Y9 in the coming school year and a parishioner of St Edmunds King and Martyr, look out for news on the Confirmation course at the beginning September.

## Reading Rewards Cards

Congratulations to the following students who completed their Reading Rewards Cards: Deena Eldho 7A, Ciara Evans 7A, Alexandra Krenak 7A, Summer Ramplin 7A, Lola Williams 7A, Claudia Scott 7B, Isabel Basham 7B, Adele Boothroyd 7P, Helena Bulacz 7P, Paddy Matthews 7P, Matthew Jobbins 8X.

Special mention goes to Lola Williams who completed 7 reading activities and Summer Ramplin and Matthew Jobbins who both completed 6 reading activities.

Well done also to Mrs Eastwood's tutor group, 7A, who completed the most Reading Rewards Cards and were deserved winners of the prize.

Mrs Oakes

## Short Story Competition

Well done to all those students who participated in our annual short story competition. It was a real pleasure to read such a range of stories. Our winners are:

**Year 7** - Winner - Darien Almojuela, Runner up - Toby Flood

**Year 8** - Winner - Amy John, Runner up - Sophie Docking

**Year 9** - Winner - Clotilde D'Mello, Runner up - Alice Bullock

Mrs Wray

## Uniform

The uniform guidance has been updated on our website, please can you familiarise yourself with it before September. Thank you in advance.

<https://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=22>

## Results Days Summer 2021

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 A Level from 09:00 – 11:00

Thursday 12 August 2021 GCSE from 09:00 – 11:00

Please note staggered collection time for Year 11 students only:

For full details and timings please see school website and letter sent out to parents and students.

Surnames A - D	09:00 to 09:30
Surnames E – K	09:30 to 10:00
Surnames L – P	10:00 to 10:30
Surnames Q – Z	10:30 to 11:00

## Summer 2020 Leavers

Unfortunately due to government restrictions, we were unable to hold a Presentation Tea for you to come in and collect your GCSE and A Level certificates. They are now available for you to collect from the school reception until the end of this term, and then again in September. It is important to keep these for future employment applications, and because they cost a lot of money (about £45 each) to replace them.

The Exams Office

## Mosques

As part of their RE curriculum Year 8 classes this term have been studying the religion of Islam. We have learnt about the history, key beliefs, religious texts, Five Pillars of Islam and the Mosque which is their place of worship. As part of this process we created our own 3D models of a mosque.



Each one has a minaret, domes, minbar and is decorated in a suitable way. Muslims are forbidden from depicting any pictures of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) or Allah. The mosques which our students designed and coloured are based on pictures of the Ten most beautiful mosques in the world. We wanted to share their impressive results with you all.

Mrs Ranzetta ( RE team)

## Science News

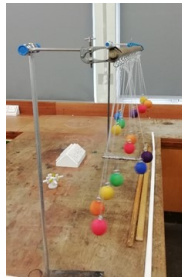
### An amazing new piece of equipment

If you happened to glance into the D6 Science Lab recently you would have seen a remarkable sight:

Senior Science Technician, Mr M Tanguay, with a length of broom handle just over 1m long, carefully screwing in a neat line of eye hooks precisely at 7mm intervals. He would then take 15 small wooden balls and screw similar eye hooks into these too. Science Technician, Dr R Davies, would then be seen painting the balls in a veritable kaleidoscope of colours. Then she proceeded to suspend the balls from the wooden beam using lengths of string through the eye hooks. Inexplicably, she would then meticulously adjust the lengths of string in a perfect increasing sequence from one end of the beam to the other. What could be going on?

The answer would become apparent if you had come back later: you would see Dr Davies start the balls in a swinging motion, after which they would then go through an amazing sequence of synchronous movements. Dr Davies had in fact built a Pendulum Wave Machine.

The apparatus provides a striking visual demonstration of simple harmonic motion, time periods, and phase differences. The device shows a hypnotic effect by having a series of pendula with increasing time periods so that when they are simultaneously released, they produce the effect of a wave. The wave in this case diminishes in wavelength, then looks very chaotic, then comes back to the straight line from which it started. The length of each pendulum is related to the one next to it in a way that, after a certain number of swings, they are all back in phase with each other.



The patterns produced by the pendulum wave machine were first observed by the Austrian physicist and philosopher Ernst Mach, who built the very first machine in 1867 while working at Prague University. Although based on strict principles of physics and mathematics, for many people the apparatus has a magical, almost metaphysical, quality. Thanks to Dr Davies' and Mr Tanguay's efforts and skill, the school's Science Department now has another marvellous piece of home-built demonstration equipment.

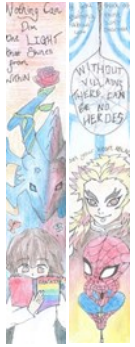
## News from the Library (LRC)

### Winner of the 'Design a Bookmark Competition'

We had 9 entries and they were all so good in their unique ways that we have decided to print them all! However there can only be one overall winner.

Entries came from:

Ruby Stark, Christine Chua, Amy John, Ruby Massuard, Kaytrina Babboo, Isadora Edwards, Helena Bulacz, Julia Tanska and Ola Bulacz. It was difficult to choose, but after much deliberating by Mrs Oakes and Ms Moore, the overall winner is Christine Chua 8P with her Manga style artwork



and very appropriate quotes to encourage reading. The book marks will be printed on card and be available in the library next term.

### Accelerated Reader Honours and St Benedict's Accelerated Reader Extended Honours Awards

It is with much pleasure that we announce Amy John year 8 has not only achieved the Honours award but has also achieved the Extended Honours Award.

The honours award is given once a student has gained all the other certificates within the programme and is then challenged to achieve 100 points including Classics, non-fiction, and modern fiction at level 6 and above. The Extended Honours Award is unique to our school as we had students in the past needing a further challenge. To achieve this, a student must gain another 100 points including books from a specific selection of Classic authors as well as Shakespeare, a new title, a short story or poem compilation and modern fiction above level 6. The award has not been achieved for three years. Congratulations Amy John.



### All Change

The Library has undergone a number of changes over the last three years. First of all operating over two sites, then moving to one site, but having to accommodate an extra class room. Once the new build was complete the library then re-laid on the lower level, where is used to be over two levels. This now means that not only does it look like a library again, but there is wheelchair access to all of the books.

## Career Talks

As we move in to the new academic year, we will again be running a programme of careers talks. We already have several confirmed for next year, and will be adding to this list over the course of the coming weeks and months.

### Confirmed Talks

#### Career Talk - British Army - Wednesday 15th

**September.** Dean Quinton from the Ipswich recruiting office will be coming in to talk to students who are interested in finding out more about the careers, and opportunities available within the British Army. Anyone under the age of 14 will need parental permission to attend this talk.

#### Alumni Career Talk - Biologicals Research & Development, Dr Frances Jones - Thursday 23rd

**September.** St Benedict's will be welcoming back former student Dr Frances Jones to talk about her journey into scientific research and the work she is currently doing at Syngenta. This talk will be virtual.

**Career Talk - Policing, Andy Pursehouse - Wednesday the 13th of October.** Andy is the Chief Inspector for West Suffolk, and will be coming in to speak to students interested in pursuing a career in the Police Service. Andy will be talking about the different pathways into the profession, the skills and qualities needed in Policing and what life as a Police Officer is like.

**Career Talk - Law - Claire Lockwood - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October** - Claire Lockwood, partner at Oslers Solicitors, will be coming in to talk students about her work as a criminal defence solicitor. Claire will be talking about the pathways into Law, the skills and qualities needed, and what life as a solicitor is really like.

**Career Talk - Hannah Barry, Biomedical Scientist - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October.** Hannah is an Advanced Biomedical Scientist and the Pathology Education Lead for the West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust. She will be coming in to talk students about the different careers available within Biomedical Science.

**Alumni Careers Talk - Tech Recruitment Consultant - Emile Bevan - Friday 12th November.** St Benedict's will be welcoming back former student Emile Bevan to talk about his role as a Tech Recruitment Consultant. Emile will be reflecting on the impact chance has had on his journey into his current profession at La Fosse Associates, and also talking about the work he does with the likes of Deliveroo, Monzo and The Guardian.

**We are waiting for dates to be confirmed for these talks:**

**Career Talk - Clinical Psychology - Dr Nikki Schuck (date TBC)** - Dr Schuck will be coming in to talk to students about her role as a clinical psychologist, looking at the pathways into the profession, the skills and qualities needed, and what life as a clinical psychologist is really like.

**Alumni Career Talk - Medicine - Dr Henry Dunne (date TBC)** - St Benedict's will be welcoming back former student Dr Henry Dunne to talk about his journey in to Medicine. Henry will be covering the pathways into Medicine, the skills and qualities needed, and what life as a doctor is really like.

**Alumni Career Talk - Flight Test Engineer/Aerospace Engineering - Adam Pearson (date TBC).** St Benedict's will be welcoming back former student Adam Pearson to talk about aerospace engineering and his pathway into his current role as a Flight Test Engineer within the RAF's 206 Test Squadron.

**Alumni Career Talk - Theatre Directing and Performing Arts - Julian Bruton (date TBC).** St Benedict's will be welcoming back former student Julian Bruton to talk about his role as a Theatre Director, Julian will be talking about his pathway into his profession as well as the many other career opportunities available within the performing arts sector.

**Alumni Career Talk - Banking & Finance - Matt Fildes (date TBC)** - St Benedict's will be welcoming back former student Matt Fildes to talk about his journey into the profession. Matt will be talking about the different pathways in to the financial industry, the skills and qualities needed, and what life in the financial industry is really like.

**Careers Talk - Nursing (dates TBC)** - Over the course of the academic year, we will be holding four separate Nursing Talks, each one will be focusing on one of the four main areas of Nursing - Adult, Child, Midwifery, and Mental Health/Learning Disabilities.

If you would like to attend any of these talks, please register your interest with Mr Steward [dsteward@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:dsteward@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

## Term Dates 2021/2022

### Autumn term

Starts Wednesday 1 September 2021

Half term Monday 25 October 2021 to Friday 29 October 2021

Ends Friday 17 December 2021

Christmas holiday Monday 20 December 2021 to Monday 3 January 2022

PD Days 1 & 2 September 2021 and 22 October 2021

### Spring term

Starts Tuesday 4 January 2022

Half term Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 25 February 2022

Ends Friday 8 April 2022

Spring (Easter) holiday Monday 11 April 2022 to Friday 22 April 2022

PD Days 4 January 2022 and 18 February 2022

### Summer term

Starts Monday 25 April 2022

Half term Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022

Ends Thursday 21 July 2022

Summer holiday Friday 22 July 2022 to Wednesday 31 August 2022