

We have seen another fantastic week in school and students continue to show their amazing talents and abilities. Anti-bullying week has given us an opportunity to reflect as a community of the importance of kindness in all our dealings with one another. As year 11 approach their mock exams and we all face pressures and strains on our relationships as we all become a little more tired, by remembering to be compassionate and share at least one kind word with one another we help to ensure that our community lives up to the high ideals we set.

Wishing you all a peaceful, restful and happy weekend,

Imogen Senior

Public Speaking Competition

On the evening of Wednesday 17th November, our newly formed Year 12 debate team represented St Benedict's in the first round of the English Speaking Union's Mace, conducted via Zoom. Nokutenda Jaji, Nancy King and Bethinn Feely, who spoke in that order in the initial heat, Opposed the motion we were given against King Edward VI: "[This House would make fines for criminal and civil offences proportionate to the wealth of the offender.](#)" The whole team performed with huge aplomb and there was a strong sense of camaraderie and plentiful evidence of all the research, practice and rigorous study of standing orders and rhetorical style poured into the preparations for this prestigious competition.

We are proud not only to have vanquished our long-time rivals, KEGS, but also to have won through to the next round as the only state school to do so in our heat. We are very much looking forward to being given our next motion and position, and hope that in future rounds we may have the opportunity to debate face to face, as human nature intended.

The Mace is among several public speaking contests in which St Benedict's participates. Earlier this term, on the 6th October, five of our students delivered speeches, varying in subject matter from the apple to space tourism, to the judges of the ESU's Sixth Form Public Speaking Competition - another event in which our school has a record of success, having come first with erstwhile students Alfie Dry, Emily Rose Bickers and Emily Black in the final at The Perse in Cambridge. This year, Bethinn Feely, Connor Chacksfield, Nancy King, Leo Jose and Elinor Hurry all acquitted themselves with confidence and clear knowledge of their topics as they fielded questions from the judges, and Nancy and Elinor won through to the next round, also via Zoom, on 30th November.

For younger students, from Key Stage 4, we will shortly be starting preparations for the ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition, with Catherine Dunn, Will Blewitt and Helena Peachey likely candidates for the team. Watch this space for news about the progress of all our orators in the coming months!

Mrs V James

Beyond the Curriculum Seminar

Last Friday all of Year 9 spent some dedicated time together looking at the importance of building community. Combining themes covered within PSHE & Citizenship, Chaplaincy and highlighted by their Head of Years, students spent time considering their own friendships and how they see others in the world. They were guided to think about how they could help more people to become their acquaintances rather than strangers and how they can remove the barriers which might stop them from reaching out and showing kindness to others. The students engaged well with the talk and then enjoyed the workshop which followed where they had the opportunity to learn more about others in their year group. All of the students were fantastic at immediately putting into practice what they had heard and we are looking forward to seeing how this continues more too.



Christmas Card Competition

Calling all artists, photographers and designers!



Could you be the designer of the school Christmas Card this year?

See your work published as a real card this Christmas.

Use your favourite choice of media, collage, paint, pencil, mixed media and submit your design on card/paper **no bigger than A4.**

Please ensure your design reflects the theme of Christmas in an imaginative way to convey the values of the school. Come and talk to art department staff for ideas if you need inspiration or materials to experiment with.

Submit your entries please to Mrs Chacksfield, D7 at the by Monday 29 November.



Winners will receive an **Art Pack prize and see their design transformed into the official school card** with additional prizes for the three runners up.