

Maths Challenges Success

Maths Olympiad for girls (MOG) 2021

The MOG is a challenge aimed at girls and young women across the UK. The challenge consists of 5 high quality problems that challenge students to think mathematically. This year three of our students took part with Andrea Booth and Paula Ratcliffe achieving a certificate of distinction and Fionnghuala Leighton Scott achieving a certificate of merit. Andrea scored very highly and was one mark shy of being among the top 30 students that took part in the challenge across the country. Congratulations to all three of them for taking part.

Senior Maths Challenge (SMC) 2021

The SMC is a 90-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at high ability Maths students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. We are delighted to announce that students at St Benedict's achieved 4 golds, 9 silvers and 17 bronzes in this year's SMC! To recognise the highest performers in the Challenge, UKMT awarded the top-scoring 60% of participants Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1. Please see below for those who secured certificates!

Gold

Joe Leacy, Leonel Jose, Rhian Li, Robin Tuli

Silver

Andrea Booth, Matthew Lopez Clift, Nokutenda Jaji, Adrian Smith-Delgado, Lilli Warn, Matthew Duke, Anna Berry, Benjamin Green and Rosie Hayes

Bronze

Rohan Firat, Liam Swarbrick, William Barrett, Dominik Otto, Clara Saiu-Bell, David Kentzer, Fionnghuala Leighton-Scott, Paula Ratcliffe, William Thai, Matthew Sciclana, Leah Wood, Arvin George, Jakub Wiewjora, Emil Cheriyan, Lorcan Funnel, Thomas Roy and Antony Rettagliati

Following this challenge, UKMT have invited 1000 of the highest performers to take part in the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 and Joe Leacy, Leonel Jose and Andrea Booth have qualified. Around 6000 will take part in the Senior Kangaroo, and Rhian Li and Robin Tuli have qualified for this. Our outstanding mathematicians sat these exams this week. We await the results and are proud of the achievements of all our pupils that took part in the Senior Maths Challenge.

Mr Jogee

It always seems to me that Advent takes ages to arrive and then flies by at extraordinary speed. This week saw the arrival of the tree, the start of the reverse Advent Calendar and it does really feel that the approach to Christmas is upon us. Our non-uniform day today has been a huge success and I am really delighted that so many students have entered into the spirit of the day. We look forward to the season ahead, ever under the shadow of COVID but we hope that with everyone's continued support with control measures and care for one another we will all be able to enjoy the joys of this season.

Yours in Christ

Imogen Senior

Reverse Advent Calendar Reminder

As explained in last week's newsletter we will be running the reverse advent calendar again and collecting for Gatehouse, here is a reminder of the list.

Please don't feel that you have to take part every day, but perhaps you can choose how much would be appropriate for your family.

If people bring food that isn't on the list or that is not the 'right one' for the day, then these offerings will still be gratefully received.

- 30th - Tinned soup
- 1st - Tinned fruit
- 2nd - Baked Beans
- 3rd - Tins of vegetables
- 4th - Tins of tomatoes
- 7th - Chocolates
- 8th - Jams
- 9th - Biscuits
- 10th - Tinned Meat
- 11th - Tinned Fish
- 14th - CAKES!!!
- 15th - Tins of custard and rice pudding
- 16th - Orange / Apple juice
- 17th - Mince Pies
- 18th - Condiments eg Cranberry sauce?

We'll send reminders to student's Edulink accounts and via our Twitter feed throughout December, please give generously and sensibly.

With every blessing,

Matt Spiller

St Benedict's News



There are still places available for the Christmas Lunch Thursday 16th December 2021

This year, we are pleased to be able to offer a Christmas lunch to our students. Due to kitchen and dining limitations, we can only offer this menu to 200 students. Spaces will therefore be allocated on first come, first served basis.

The menu this year is as follows:

Roast Turkey in gravy

Chipolata sausage

Roast potatoes

Broccoli

Carrots and peas

Christmas festive chocolate cake

Lunch will be on Thursday 16th December and will cost £3.00. If your child wishes to have a Christmas lunch, please pay on ParentPay – using the special ‘Christmas lunch’ payment item NOT just under the school lunch money please! – by Thursday 9th December. Unfortunately, we will not be able to take any orders after this date. A vegan option of a ‘nutless’ roast, with seasonal herbs, seeds and mushrooms is also available. If you wish to order this please make this clear in the notes section on ParentPay.

No other food will be available on this day, so please ensure you send your child in with a packed lunch if they do not wish to have the Christmas lunch.

If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals and wishes to have the Christmas lunch or a sandwich option, then please email jdunbar@st-benedicts.sch.uk so that an appropriate meal may be ordered for them.

Public Speaking Competition

At Tuesday night's semi-final of the English Speaking Union's Sixth Form Public Speaking Competition, both Nancy King and Elinor Hurry performed brilliantly, having finely honed their talks on the link between the apple and our social history, plus the need for British schools to tackle sexism, respectively.

Two candidates from the seven competitors of this round were to go into the final and the rules state that two students from the same school cannot go through. Whilst we congratulate both for doing so well, as they have worked very hard to prepare and are shining ambassadors for St Benedict's, it is Elinor Hurry who has won through to the final next Monday evening, again over zoom.

On Wednesday evening Will Blewitt, Catherine Dunn and Helena Peachey are representing the school in the ESU public speaking competition for our GCSE students. This is a new venture for them and they are committed to their preparations and work very effectively as a team. We wish them all the best in their contests and look forward to other events in the future.

Mrs James

BEBRAS Challenge

This term every student in the school who studies Computer Science was given the opportunity to take part in the BEBRAS Challenge - a competition that tests students' problem solving and creative thinking skills.

In total we had 434 students take part across 2 weeks during their Computer Science lessons. It was fantastic to see the students showing their computational thinking skills outside their usual lesson work and applying what they know from other subjects.

It was also wonderful to see our school values shining out through the actions of many students both during and after the challenge by supporting each other to achieve their goals and congratulating others on their final scores.

Hopefully this has helped many of our students realise there is more to being good at Computer Science than simply programming!

Year 7 – George Wightman (184 and Best in School for Juniors), Ellen Beckwith (162), Izzy O'Flynn (162)

Year 8 – Ewan Baranskij (141), Isabel Basham (139), Aidan Feely (114)

Year 9 – Amy John (159 and Best in School for Intermediates), Tia Martin (154), Kuba Kluczynski (152)

Year 10 – Rafael Spiller (117), John Feely (116), Taylor Valach (116)

Year 11 – Toby Coogan (129 and Best in School for Seniors), Tom Madureira (114), Keith Gamboa (109)

Sixth Form – Andrea Booth (109 and Best in School for Elites), Liam Swarbrick (106), Ben Green (96)

An additional element to the competition was to identify those who achieved scores in the top 10% of their age category across the country. These students have been invited to take part in the Oxford Computing Challenge.

This is an invite-only competition and the students below should be exceptionally proud of themselves for achieving this!

Juniors – Top 10% of 87, 061 students in the UK

George Wightman, Ellen Beckwith, Izzy O'Flynn

Intermediates – Top 10% of 155, 733 students in the UK

Amy John, Tia Martin, Kuba Kluczynski, Finola Thacker

Dave Stachowiak, Ewan Baranskij, Isabel Basham, Thady Ginders-Coxshall, Peggy Claydon, Sarya Akman, Alice Ellison, Millie Dack, Daniel Nartiss, Isabelle Doughty-Esch, Caira Pourithodiyil, Carol Varghese, Rohan Yarnold Da Silva, Oscar Martyn, Adam O'Flynn, Grace Clifton

We will be running the competition again next year to see how each group gets on in the next level and with a brand new group of Juniors!

Miss Woodruff

Sporting Highlights

Under 15 Netball. Thursday 25th November at Stowmarket High School

The under 15 Netball team travelled to Stowmarket on Thursday afternoon to play in a mini tournament. The girls were a little rusty to begin with but still managed to win 4 -3 against Stowmarket 'B' team. Phoebe and Carmen both shooting some accurate goals. As the team warmed up - it was very cold - the play became more fluent with some fast passing and quick movement from the mid- court players Elise, Peggy and Olivia.

The second match against Stowmarket 'A' team saw St Benedict's begin to play at a higher level. Strong defensive play from Libby and Grace meant the Stowmarket attack was limited. The girls won this game 5 - 2.

As the light was fading, we began our final game against Sybil Andrews, a strong team which we knew would test our determination and resilience as the temperature dropped to make accurate passing trickier. St Benedict's girls were now confident and determined showing that their netball is strong. Cerys joined the mid- court players and helped to ensure the ball was consistently in our shooting circle. The final score was another win for St Benedict's 8 -1. Congratulations to the whole team for a great set of results. Well done to Grace and Peggy for playing 'up' a year group.



Thank you to Miss Duncan for videoing the play for the girls GCSE PE.

Mrs Smart

Christmas Card Talents!

The winner of our Christmas Card competition this year is **Niamh Keating** in year 7 for her beautiful, stylised Nativity Scene. Well done Niamh, your work is being produced as our official card for the school and you will receive an Art pack as the main prize winner. Special Mention goes to both **Darien Almoujuela and Elisha Gamboa** in year 8 who made superb designs full of symbolism and talent, your cards are also being produced to send.

Congratulations to all those runners up who entered an array of colourful submissions to the competition, you inspired the judges with your thoughtful designs. I hope your mini art prize will help further inspire your work this year. Well done all!

Ally Smith
Phoebe Moran
Agnes Paul
Zuzanna Bulacz
Ellen Beckwith
Ruby Hart
Lola Williams



Winning Design
Niamh Keating, Year 7



Christmas Tree

A huge thank you to Rougham Estates for our wonderful school Christmas tree! It is looking spectacular in our main hall, adorned with beautiful decorations kindly donated by Asda Bury St. Edmunds.

Miss Law

