

Power of Stories: Reading Week

Last week was the latest Reading Week at St Benedict's. Students took part in a wide variety of reading activities during their lessons. For example, Year 9 PE students read an article on concussion ('Don't be a Head Case'), which gave them valuable information about how to deal with concussion before they played rugby. Year 10 History students read a chapter from 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit', Judith Kerr's semi-autobiographical novel which tells the story of a Jewish family escaping Germany in the days before the Second World War: a valuable insight to support their study of Nazi Germany. Year 7 English students explored how fables are constructed and prepared presentations of a fable to their classmates.

Alongside lessons that focused on reading, students also learnt about the power of stories in assemblies and tutor times, as well as having the opportunity to take part in a 'Titles in Pictures' treasure hunt and a Book Quiz in the library. Congratulations go to Bennie's Bulldogs – Tristan Bawden-Bouche, Diego Davies, Seamus Gallagher, Freddie Scott, George Wightman and Joshua Woodroof – from tutor group 7A, who won the Book Quiz.

Just a reminder that all students can choose to complete the optional homework (set on Edulink for their year group) to write and illustrate a powerful story of their own and so gain achievement points and the opportunity to have their story on display in the library. Students should hand in their stories to their English teacher by 6th December.

Mrs Oakes



St Benedict's students were entered into a National TT Rockstars competition called England Rocks.

It was great to see many students attending the computer rooms at lunchtimes to compete in the competition and many also joined in at home. A big thank you to everyone who participated.

The class with the highest score was 8H and the class with the highest percentage of participants were 9H.

A special mention goes to the following students for their stand out scores in the competition.

Best score in Key Stage 3: Emre Ertem

Best score in Year 9: Toby Steggles

Best score in Year 7: Franciszek Kuzminski

Outstanding Score: Noah Larke, Mevin Biju, Jayden Franco

Prizes and certificates are on their way to you. Look out for future school TTRS competitions. In the meantime you can be practicing and competing against your friends.

Mrs Eastwood and the Maths Department

22nd November 2021

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.

Reverse Advent Calendar

If you were part of our school community last year, you may remember that we run a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' which collects food for Gatehouse, our local foodbank. In previous years it has been hugely successful, each year setting a new benchmark for how much we can offer as a community!

Well, it's that time again - we're just about to begin Advent together. My children are very excited to be getting their advent calendars ready!

The idea of a 'Reverse Advent Calendar' is simple: instead of receiving something each day, you give something.

Sadly foodbanks continue to be a 'normal' part of society as things stand, effecting the marginal groups in our society disproportionately for instance 62% of working age people referred to foodbanks are disabled, 3 times the rate in the general working age population. The pandemic has also made some volunteers, who are often from vulnerable groups, choose to step down for their own safety.

Local foodbanks are more in need of our support than ever. Equally though, because times are hard, we ask you to be wise and sensible in your giving, if you are facing financial difficulties then it's ok to recognise that and reduce the amount that you participate in giving.

In every form room is a calendar, suggesting what items we will be collecting that day (we asked Gatehouse what 15 items they would like us to collect and have used their response).

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.

For the sake of simplicity, I've written the list out here if you want to refer to it while shopping.

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

World Youth Day

On Saturday morning a group of 8 pupils left St Benedict's on board the school minibus to St John's Cathedral in Norwich to celebrate the launch of the World Youth Days. They responded to an invitation from Ignite - the Youth Diocesan Team - to prepare for the WYD that will take place in Lisbon in 2023. The WYD were first launched in 1985 by Pope John Paul II now St John Paul the Great with the first WYD taking place in Rome in 1986. Since the WYD have been taking place throughout the world every 3 years gathering young people from all over the world.

Saturday was packed with live music, inspiring talks, Tony Vino (comedian) sharing his talent, adoration, reconciliation, Mass and a session of questions and answers with Bishop Alan. The evening ended with a highly appreciated live music performance by Fr Alvan and members of his Band.

Appointments

If your child has an appointment and you need to collect them during the school day, please advise the school office in advance, this will allow us to inform the teachers so that they can let your child out of the lesson.

Lost Property

There is a large amount of lost property at the school, we have laid it all out on a table in the main corridor, can we ask that you encourage your child to check the table if they have lost anything.

Sickness

Can we remind you that students should not be using mobile phones in school, if your child feels unwell, they should come to the school office and speak with a first aider, they should not be calling home to ask to be collected. If they do need to go home the school will call you and ask you to come and collect them.