



I would like to extend a huge thanks to all members of our school community for their support this term. St Benedict's is an amazing school, filled with wonderful students, exceptional staff and supported by a community of parents, carers and friends that make this a fantastic school to work at. I am so very proud of the school and our students in all that they have achieved this term. In spite of the challenges of COVID our students have shone and although none of us can be completely sure how the New Year will pan out in terms of any changes or measures that affect schools, I know that this school and this community will rise to any challenges. Thank you for the kind messages, gifts and cards that you have sent to me and to all the staff. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish all of our families and friends a peaceful, healthy and happy Christmas as we share in the joy of Christ's Nativity.

Yours in Christ

Imogen senior

Congratulations

A huge congratulations to Ellie Turtill in year 9, who became the first student ever to achieve the St Benedict's Bronze Award. We hope that Ellie is as proud of her achievement as we all are!

To achieve this award Ellie achieved:

- Over 50 achievement points
- Attended more than 20 extra-curricular clubs
- Participated in active worship in tutor time
- Attended a careers guest speaker session
- Read two books from the library and completed book reviews.

The aim of the St Benedict's Award is to give students responsibility and ownership working to complete goals which encompass all elements of our school inside and outside the classroom. To achieve this award before Christmas clearly shows Ellie's commitment and motivation which are great qualities to develop. I hope she now sets her sights on achieving silver award.

Ellie will hopefully be the first of many students to achieve the bronze award as I know many have completed several goals with few remaining to complete.

Well done, Ellie, we are super proud of you!



St Benedict's NUMBER DAY 19th January 2022

On Wednesday 19th January 2022, our school will be holding our first Number Day. We will have a numeracy focus across the whole school day.

Students will be able to wear non-uniform including an item of clothing with a Number on for a donation to charity.

There will be tutor time numeracy activities. All lessons held that day will include numeracy. Lunch time competitions.

Problem solving activities around the school.

More information will be provided when we return next term.

Mrs Eastwood

Diocesan Mass

Back with a Bang 2nd Jan, 4 – 6pm (Diocesan Mass for young people followed by fireworks) – Cancelled
Considering the recent concerns about Covid Omicron, this has been cancelled.
Hopefully it will be back with an even bigger bang in the future!

Many thanks

Hamish, Director of Youth Service
Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia

Important Visitor

On Friday Baroness Barran, who is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Education, spent two hours touring the school and meeting staff and students. She was joined by Sue Baldwin the Regional Schools Commissioner. The tour was led by 2 students from year 11, the Baroness was then involved in discussions with students on life in a Catholic school. At break time she was treated to some festive fayre that had been prepared by students in year 10. We appreciate that she took the time out of her busy schedule to visit our wonderful school.



Book Review

I once read that the best way to improve the grades of your A Level students is to encourage them to undertake additional reading, relevant to the subjects they are studying. So, for the last three years, I have asked my Year 13 sociologists to read and then review a book of their choosing, from a list of relevant fiction and non-fiction books. There is a range of books for them to choose from, covering a variety of different topics in sociology, such as crime and deviance, beliefs in society, education and health. Over the course of this half term, students have been sharing their book reviews with the class – I have been really impressed by the enthusiasm they have shown and how much they have benefitted from this experience. I have also come away with many more books on my 'to-read' list! Below is a brief synopsis of the book read by one of my students.

Mrs Shepherd

Why I am No Longer Talking to White People About Race, by Reni Eddo-Lodge



This book is about race relations in the UK and explores the reasons why it is useless to bring these points up in conversations with people who are not affected by racism (white people).

As a person who has not experienced racism, I have found it hard to imagine the impact it can have on an individual. I am so grateful that this book has explained how actions that people like me may perceive as ordinary could be

the cause of a person's suffering, especially when these actions are coming from people like me. This book covered everything I wanted to know to be able to change my perception of race in the UK, from racism in history that has almost been forgotten, to how it is not ok to 'skip to an end point' and say that we live in a post-racial society.

I would definitely recommend this book, not only to Sociology students, but to everyone (especially those coming from a white-privilege perspective). It is one thing to read about the statistics on race inequalities in a textbook, written in an impartial and factual way. However, reading about ways that our every-day actions could be disadvantaging a whole population, as well as learning about the author's personal experiences, is the best and only way to accept and understand what we are doing to so many people.

I don't know how I have been living before reading this book. I am now constantly thinking about situations in movies or newspaper articles etc that I can understand from a different point of view, and I hope that I am a more empathetic person now.

Maddie Miller, Year 13

Notice of Consultation

Regarding 2023 Admissions to St Benedict's Catholic School

Under the School Admissions Code (SAC), in order to make any changes to the oversubscription criteria in school admissions, admissions authorities (in this case St Benedict's School) must consult on any changes within statutory timescales. Proposed changes for 2023 admissions must take place for 6 weeks prior to 31st January. The Governors of St Benedict's school proposes to make changes to the school's admission policy for 2023 and is therefore seeking to consult with parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen and other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions.

The draft policy and consultation will be live on the school website from Friday 17th December for six weeks through the following link: <https://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk/admissions> Any responses to the consultation should be directed to: admissions@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

Gatehouse Donations

With the help of some of our 6th form students we delivered a staggering 56 crates of food along with lots and lots of bags to Gatehouse today. As we have said before we are overwhelmed by your generosity, with your help this will go a long way to make the less fortunate in our community have an enjoyable Christmas. Thank you all so much.



Christmas Candle

The St Benedict's Christmas candle has been a huge success and we completely sold out of candles. A whopping £200 has been raised for De Paul and the students are hoping to repeat the project in the Spring with a candle specifically produced for Easter. Thank you to all who purchased a candle and supported this excellent initiative.

School Reports

Our aim is to publish end of term reports on Edulink as soon as possible. Please look out for an email from the school alerting you to this. Looking ahead to next term we have the following parents' evenings scheduled early next term:

Year 11 Thursday 6th January

Year 9 (Option Focus) Thursday 20th January

Bookings for the Year 11 parents' evening open this week.

John D' Mello