



It has been an exceptionally busy, but fantastic week in school. I have been blown away by the engagement and attitude of our students in all that has been taking place. We started back immediately with Reading week and Mrs Oakes and the English team have run a fantastic programme that our staff and students have engaged with whole-heartedly. World Book Day was a fantastic opportunity to live life a little more normally than it has been in the past two years and it truly felt like a breath of fresh air.

This week has been marked in every sense by Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes and Masses that took place. For many of us this was a moving and emotional experience. It is the first time in two years that we have been able to mark these key points in the liturgical year and hearing Mass, as a whole school (albeit spread across the three Masses that took place) brought us together as a community to begin our Lenten journey. This is part of what makes St Benedict's special and it was a wonderful way to start the half term.

This week has also seen us as a school reflect on the war in Ukraine. We once again received a visit from ITV Anglia who were keen to speak to young people about their views and experiences. Our students spoke with maturity, candour, compassion and intelligence. As I mentioned in my Edulink message earlier in the week, please do get in touch if there is any support we can give or any connection to the conflict that you would like us to be aware of. We continue to pray for those affected by the conflict and those who are worried by what is taking place. We pray for all those who have died in this conflict and in other conflicts around the world and hope that peace will prevail.

Wishing all our families a peaceful and restful weekend.

Yours in Christ,
Imogen Senior

Let Us Pray

Lord Jesus, Prince of peace, we ask you to reign down in the lives of the individuals affected by this war. We pray for the Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, for the children, the politicians, the conscripts, the mothers, the relief workers, the fearful, the generous, the families willing to welcome refugees, the refugees and all those suffering any physical or mental pain or loss. We pray for all involved in this conflict that your peace, your healing and your love will deeply reach into their hearts and their situations.

We pray that you would take this broken situation and that your will would now be done.

In confidence we pray
Amen.

If you would like to pray as a family with the Ukrainian people at this time, you can use this link to hear the Our Father prayed in Ukrainian. <https://m.soundcloud.com/catholicchurch/our-father-in-ukrainian>

In our own language we can pray alongside this recording and alongside all those who are praying this prayer. It's hard to focus on the words while listening, so I'd recommend having the words in your language on a screen or printed out as you pray.

Matt Spiller

Ash Wednesday

It was with great pleasure that on Wednesday we were finally able to celebrate a liturgy as a school in the hall again after a 2 year break as a result of the pandemic. The liturgies were presided brilliantly by Fr Gladson and Fr Jay, and the students engaged really positively with the service, which was a special credit to the year 7 and 8 students who have not necessarily been to a prayer time like this one.

I'd especially like to thank the students who prepared and managed much of the Mass, including choosing and leading the music, managing the sound and PA equipment, finding readers, practicing the readings and a range of other tasks which were delegated to students in many cases for the first time. It was a great celebration which ran smoothly because of their dedication and care.

So begin our Lent journey together, wearing ash on our foreheads, all of us reminded that we are fragile and we face challenges, knowing the love of God is with us in those trials.

Our Masses and our fasting are dedicated to the people of Ukraine.

With every blessing

Matt

ESU Mace Competition

The evening of Monday 28th February saw the St Benedict's sixth form debate team oppose the motion that timed exams should be abolished - in the regional final of the ESU's Mace competition.

Despite a carefully planned and executed strategic approach and lively spontaneous responses, Nokuntenda Jaji, Bethinn Feely and Nancy King were unfortunately not to accede to the finals. We are all immensely proud of their great accomplishments and hope that they will all continue, not only with our in-house Debate Society, but also with more competitions in the future. Thank you, all three, for your hard work and commitment.

Mrs James

Sporting Highlights



Before half term, the schools under 15 girls team went to a tournament against other schools in Suffolk. Despite this being their first tournament and first rugby match experiences, they did incredibly well! Winning 4 matches from 4 and scoring some fantastic tries, playing well as a team and representing the school with great respect and determination!

They have another tournament on 29th March and are extremely excited to represent us again.

Mr Elmer

Vacancies

Job Title:	Exam Invigilators
Salary:	Grade 2 point 3 currently £9.62 per hour plus holiday allowance
Job Term	No guaranteed hours
Appointment:	Casual
Place of work:	St Benedict's Catholic School

Job Details

We are looking for reliable and responsible persons who are available to work primarily during the exam seasons (January, May, June and November). The ideal candidate will be flexible; have effective communication skills; and be able to remain calm and confident while invigilating our pupils during external exams, mock exams and controlled assessments.

This is a casual post with variable days and times, primarily in January, May, June and November. In return, you will be supported by a successful and collaborative staff and be part of a school highly regarded for its academic success and supportive atmosphere.

Applications are reviewed on receipt so an early application is advised. This round will close on 30/04/2022 but applications always welcomed. Interviews will be held as and when suitable applications are received.

sbuchan@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

St Benedict's Prom Loan Library



Following Mrs Senior's letter at the end of last half-term. We are welcoming formal attire to loan to students in year 11 and 13 for their proms. We are conscious that prom attire can be expensive and contribute to the environmental impact of single wear clothing. It is important to St Benedict's that we are conscious of our environmental impact and ensure that all our students can participate in celebrating year 11 and 13. We hope this will help students celebrate and make memories without this costing the earth.

We wish to collect formal wear from our community to allow our students the choice of pre-loved items that you may have also only worn once. If you have any dresses or suits, we would be very grateful. The students will then be invited to an evening to look at the items we have been donated (the items must be clean and in good repair), they will loan the item and return it to us clean and in good repair. When you donate an item please indicate if you would like the item returned after our prom season or if you are happy for it to remain in our formal attire library.

Term Dates

Ends Friday 8 April 2022

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

Summer term

Starts Monday 25 April 2022

Half term Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022

Ends Thursday 21 July 2022