



## Mission Week

It's with great pleasure that we've hosted a Mission Week in the school for the last 5 days which was filled with excitement and enthusiasm. The team delivered a series of talks and prayer opportunities for the students to take part in. It's been amazing to see how the team's eagerness has been met equally by the energy and keenness of the students who have welcomed the team and taken interest in their message throughout the week.

The team was made up of 9 young Catholics, all aged between 18 and 30, who travelled down from their community house in Craig Lodge, Scotland. They shared experiences from their own life in presentations which outlined the simple basis of the Gospel message; that we are loved by God who sent his Son to free us from our sin, and that our relationship with a living God can be a powerful part of our life.

Through the week the opportunities for prayer have been well received and well attended. As we reached the end of the week many of the students have been left wanting more, so as a school community we now look to ways of watering the seeds that the team have planted in the hearts and minds of the students.

Hopefully, I'll be able to let you know in the coming weeks of a number of further events I've been able to invite students to attend. Thanks for your continued support and prayers

Matt Spiller  
School Chaplain

## Parliamentary Debate

This week our students had the opportunity to get involved with a current Parliamentary debate.

Students were asked for their responses to the issue of 'Physical education as a core subject in schools.' On Wednesday this week, Edward Timpson MP was leading a Westminster Hall debate on this and to inform it wanted students to answer:

- What key barriers do young people face in participating in PE and sport?
- What measures could the Government take to address these?

We love that this was a great chance for our students to get involved with real life politics and be heard. A good way they could live out some of what they have been learning about in their PSHE & Citizenship lessons.

## Oxford Computing Challenge

Back in February, 17 students in Years 7 and 9 competed in the Oxford Computing Challenge.

To qualify for this, students had to achieve in the national top 10% from the previous round so it is a huge accomplishment to have got this far!

To reach the final round, only the 20 top scoring students in the country for each age category are selected, an incredibly difficult feat to accomplish.

Although none of our students reached these heady heights this time round, they should all be incredibly proud of getting to the second round and achieving the score they did.

### Round 2 students:

Ellen Beckwith, Izzy O'Flynn, George Wightman, Sarya Akman, Isabel Basham, Grace Clifton, Millie Dack, Izzy Doughty-Esch, Alice Ellison, Thady Ginders-Coxshall, Amy John, Kuba Kluczynski, Tia Martin, Oscar Martyn, Dave Stachowiak, Finola Thacker, Rohan Yarnold Da Silva

### Junior Merit Grades

top 14% in the country (out of 4,136 participants)

George Wightman (top Junior grade in the school)  
Ellen Beckwith, Izzy O'Flynn

### Intermediate Merit Grades

top 17% in the country (out of 6,659 participants)  
Grace Clifton (top Intermediate grade in the school)

Students will be receiving their certificates in their next Head of Year assembly and will have the chance to compete again next year if they want to try again!

Miss Woodruff  
Head of Computer Science

## Exam Timetables

Summer 2022 exam timetables for GCSE and A Levels are now on the school website, under Exams Information.

## Year 11 Prom

The deadline for payment for the year 11 prom is due on 31 March 2022. Please pay the £10 via parentpay.

Ms Coogan

## Parent Survey

The 2021-22 Parent Survey is now open online. Please do spend a few moments filling in this simple online survey. Check your emails for the link to the survey.

## Down's Syndrome Awareness Week

### PROJECT 21

Project 21 is an East Anglian charity that runs activities, clubs and events for people with Down's Syndrome.

On Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> March Project 21 took a group of young people to take part in a Flash Mob to raise awareness of Down's Syndrome and inclusion in Trafalgar Square. One of our St Benedict's students, Vanessa Lyon's, took part in the event and was an absolute star, there was even an appearance for the group on BBC Look East.

### Cake sale and Odd Socks Day

In school on Monday Vanessa and her friends ran a cake stall, a very popular event which raised £113 in 20 minutes! We are waiting for confirmation about how much was raised through the Odd Socks Day. The money raised will be split between the Down's Syndrome Association and books for the school Library around inclusion and the importance of including everybody whatever the difference.



Well done and a massive thank you to Freya Williamson, Rosarinho Forte Vaz De Noronha, Ella Wray, Jessica Dive, Constance D'Mello, Oscar Lyons, Vanessa Lyons, Monika Smith-Delgado, Nahla Mace and Claudia Bergin.

## Fashion Masterclass

This week 14 avid Fashion inspired students from years 10, 11, 12 and 13 worked this week with Alex Mckeown, a specialist Fashion and Textiles practitioner who is currently working in the Art Department as part of her placement with Cambridge Teaching Schools Network.

The students started the day by working to cut and adapt their own pattern from a pattern block, linking their ideas to their current GCSE and A Level investigation's. By the end of the day all the students were able to get stuck into stitching on the sewing machines to produce their own 'bodice outcomes' ranging from printed jackets, architecturally inspired corsets, and historically informed tops!

The atmosphere in the Art room was comparative to a degree course – with students all rising to the challenge of making their own original work and developing new skills. Well done all for working so hard.

A Huge thank you to Alex, for all her dedication, preparation and expert advice that has enabled the students to take away such a success from the busy day, it is much appreciated.

Ms Chacksfield, Head of Art

