



Message from the Headteacher

It was hard to imagine at the start of the autumn term that this academic year would pan out as fabulously as it has. September seems an age ago and a different world. There is so much that we have achieved as a community, not least spending the academic year back on site together and re-imagining and re-kindling all of the elements of the life of the school that had stopped or stalled during COVID. We have achieved so much and we are so incredibly proud of our school and our students. With both Ofsted and our

Denominational inspections completed this year it has been a fantastic opportunity to show what makes our school such a wonderful community. The reports from both those inspections, I believe, show the distinctiveness of what we do and we are very proud of those reports and how they describe our school. We sadly say goodbye to a number of staff at the end of this year, Miss Duncan, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Spiller, Mrs Ranzetta and Mr Drugan. We thank them all for their service to the school and wish them all the best for their onward journeys. We also wish Mrs Hyden all the best as she will begin her maternity leave in the summer. Sad though we are to say goodbye to staff, we are delighted to welcome new staff in September, Mrs Palmer who is joining the maths department, Mr Oliveira who joins the RE department, Ms Ashcroft and Mrs Tattersall who will join us teaching DT and Mrs Bell who joins us as a Business and Economics teacher.

As the term finishes I would like to wish all of our families and friends of the school a wonderful summer. I hope that the summer gives us all an opportunity to reflect and rest; it certainly feels like a break is well-earned. Personally as well as enjoying a family holiday I will be training for the London Marathon that I will be (perhaps foolishly, certainly slowly) running in October raising money for The Catholic Children's Society. We are also looking forward to the summer school for our new Year 7 in August and sharing what I am sure will be the successes of the results later in the summer. Looking ahead to September we will start the academic year joining Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust and this will mark a new and exciting journey for the school.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and I would also like to thank all the staff of the school who all do so much to make St Benedict's the unique, successful, kind place that it is.

Yours in Christ, Mrs Senior

St Benedict's Day

On Monday 11th July 2022, we were truly honoured to have the Bishop of East Anglia, Bishop Alan Hopes, visit our school and celebrate St Benedict's Day Mass for us in our school grounds. It was a very poignant Mass and we prayed together that the people of Ukraine stay safe and that the people of Ukraine become stronger.

It was a beautiful day for us and one that we are very thankful for, however, whilst we are very lucky to have such a joyous day, Bishop Alan helped remind us of those less fortunate than ourselves around the world who are in times of trouble and who can't have such special days. We listened closely to Bishop Alan's message, and I know, as we grow up, that all of us from St Benedict's will do whatever we can to make this world a better place.

Thank you, Bishop Alan, for coming to us and for your message...we hear you. *Ellie Turtill (Year 9)*

Term Dates

Autumn Term

Starts: Thursday 1 September 2022

Students Return: Monday 5 September

Half Term: Monday 24 October 2022 to Friday 28 October 2022

Ends: Friday 16 December 2022

School Holiday: Monday 19 December to Monday 2 January 2023

PD Day(s): Thursday 1 and Friday 2 September 2022, Friday 25 November

Spring Term

Starts: Tuesday 3 January 2023

Students Return: Wednesday 4 January 2023

Half Term: Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2023

Ends: Friday 31 March 2023

School Holiday: Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April

PD Day(s): Tuesday 3 January and Monday 20 February

Summer Term

Starts: Monday 17 April 2023

Half Term: Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June 2023

Ends: Friday 21 July 2023

St Benedict's News



St Benedict's Astronomy Group

We go into our summer break with the latest news from the James Webb Space Telescope and some stunning images that it has sent back. Just 7 months after launch, JWST is safely at its orbital destination and fully operational. It is not in orbit around the Earth, like the Hubble Space Telescope is, but is actually in orbit around the Sun, 1.5 million kilometers (1 million miles) away from the Earth at what is called the second Lagrange point or L2. What is special about this orbit is that it lets the telescope stay in line with the Earth as it moves around the Sun. This allows the satellite's large sunshield to protect the telescope from the light and heat of the Sun and Earth (and Moon). This is crucial as the main function of JWST is to look at the distant Universe using infrared.



The first image to be released to the public is possibly the most thought provoking. JWST's infrared camera centered on a group of galaxies about 4.6 billion light years away. However, also captured in the image were more than a thousand other galaxies, some nearer and some further away. In fact, some of the more distant galaxies may be as much as 13 billion light years away, which means that we are seeing them less than a billion years after the Big Bang. Researchers will soon begin to learn more about the galaxies' masses, ages, histories, and compositions.

Perhaps the most amazing thing is that this image takes up an area of the sky the size of a grain of sand when held at arm's length, thus it represents just a tiny portion of our visible Universe.

NASA has since released a number of other images from JWST – check them out at <https://www.nasa.gov/webbfirstimages>

St Benedict's is a member of the Society for Popular Astronomy and produces a monthly newsletter, Night Sky News, for our amateur astronomers. Later in the autumn term we hope to be able to resume our popular "astronomy evenings" employing our 12" Langley Newtonian telescope and astronomical binoculars, that all students, parents and staff will be invited to attend. In the meantime, if any of you reading this would like to become a member of the St Benedict's Astronomy Group and receive regular astronomy news, please email JGregory@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

Mr Gregory

LRC News

Thank you for a great year from the LRC! Please continue to read and enjoy your summer! Don't forget to check out the Bury St. Edmunds library for summer reading programs!

See you in September!

Mr. Walker

Results Days

Students will be able to come into school to collect their results as follows:

Year 13 GCE A Level Results: Thursday 18th August between 0900 and 1100

Year 11 GCSE Results: Thursday 25th August between 0900 and 1100

Results will be available for collection from the school hall at the above times. Please come in via the outside car park entrance to the school hall. Teachers and staff will be available on both days to offer advice and guidance on the results, whether this is about the next move to university (for the Year 13s), or to sixth form or college (for Year 11s).

We really hope that students will be able to come in and collect their results, however If they are unable to be there in person they will be able to access their results via EduLink One from 0930 for A level and at 1200 for GCSE.

Mr D'Mello

AMSP Team Maths Summer Snack competition

Last Thursday we attended the inaugural AMSP Team Maths Summer Snack competition at Westbourne Academy in Ipswich. The event was well attended with 8 teams representing their schools in a test of Maths ability and teamwork. Teams were made up of four pupils from Year 9. Mohamad Ismail, Amy John, Grace Clifton and Alice Ellison represented St. Benedict's. They performed very well on the day and came 3rd overall after 4 tough but incredibly rewarding rounds of Maths questions.

The team had a slow start but came into their own in round 2, and won the award for greatest improvement between rounds, they also came second in two of the four rounds. All the students attending behaved in an exemplary manner, we could hear a pin drop when they were all focussing so hard on the challenges in front of them.

A huge congratulations to the team for their wonderful effort and what an enjoyable way to spend the morning.

Mrs Cornforth



Sports Day

St Benedict's Sports Day took place on the 6th July. The first half of the day involved all of the field events as well as the long distance races. The final half of the day, the whole school were outside on the field to watch and support the short distance races as well as the relay races. Thank you to everyone who participated in the day, stepping up and representing their form proudly. Well done to everyone involved for making the day so successful! The overall results will be shared during the whole school assembly on the last day of school. Who do you think will win overall? A & P? C & S? Or L & X?



Online Safety Bill

On Tuesday 5th July, I had the incredible honour of attending a Parliamentary reception at the House of Commons in support of the upcoming "Online Safety Bill".



I was invited in the capacity of my role as a member of the NSPCC's Young People's Board for Change. This bill is one that has been campaigned for by the NSPCC for several years, so it is a huge achievement for it to be finally passing through parliament in the next week. The bill itself contains several pieces of Legislation that will offer more protection to young people online, for example, making it harder for those under-18 to access explicit content online and placing a much greater responsibility on the companies to stop and intervene in online abuse. The purpose of this reception was to lobby MPs to not only support this bill, but to take its fundamental ideals further, to not make the bill as effective as it can be and stopping all online abuse, especially when targeted at young people. With my fellow members of the board we spoke to many different people in attendance about the issues facing young people in the online world. It was a surreal, wonderful and highly important event that I feel honoured to have been a part of.



William Blewitt (Year 11)

Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Last Monday (18th July), Mrs Leeds (Head of Geography) took our year 10 geographers on a field visit to the Naze. You can be forgiven for thinking that this was not a wise move, given the forecast heatwave and temperatures predicted to be in the mid-high 30s, prompting an amber weather warning for extreme heat. However, you would be wrong – while Bury St Edmunds sweltered at around 38 degrees Celsius, those of us at the Naze were 10 degrees lower and treated to a very pleasant, cooling sea breeze. This came as no surprise: as all geographers know, temperatures at the coast are always somewhat lower than further inland – a consequence of the differing heat properties of water and solid land, and the generation of cooling sea breezes. The Naze is an internationally recognised Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the visit focussed on two of its main features: the Naze Tower and the cliffs/beach. Mr Murphy, (Head of Humanities and expert historian), held audience at the Tower which is an historic 86ft landmark. It has been beautifully restored over the last decade and more, and comprises eight floors that include an art gallery, a museum and a roof viewing platform with spectacular panoramic views. Constructed by Trinity House in 1720 as a navigation mark for ships sailing in and out of the busy port of Harwich, the Tower has played many roles over the course of time. A common thread running through its history is its use by the military as a defensive observation/signalling post from 1803 right into the 1960s – that's from the Napoleonic Wars into the Cold War. This involved use by the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and eventually the United States Air Force.



The Tower's use during World War II as an early warning station for enemy aircraft approaching England's east coast is particularly notable, especially during the decisive Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940. The tower was fitted with a version of the newly invented radar system (Chain Home), whose giant transmitters/receivers were dotted all around the eastern and southern coast of England. The version fitted to the Tower was a variant known as Chain Home Low (CHL), which was a much more compact transmitter/receiver that was easily fitted at the top of the Tower, with operators and all their equipment stationed at the base of the Tower. Crucially and unlike the main CH stations, CHL could detect incoming enemy aircraft at levels below 5000ft – this proved a huge advantage both during the Battle of Britain and later. It is even more appropriate that we should recognise the Tower's contribution to radar during WWII because just 20km up the coast is Bawdsey Manor. In 1935 the Scots physicist Robert Watson-Watt, supervisor of a national radio research laboratory and descendant of James Watt, inventor of the first practical steam engine, was contacted and asked for his views about the use of radio waves to make a "death ray". Watson-Watt and his leading researcher, Arnold Wilkins, concluded that the notion was impossible. However, they had previously noted the effect passing aircraft had on radio transmissions and set about investigating this phenomenon. In February 1936, the research scientists occupied Bawdsey Manor House and the stables and outbuildings were converted into workshops – here was the birth of British radar, just in time for the outbreak of WWII on 3rd September 1939. Back to the present day and an important part of the field

trip was to give the students a practical exercise in determining "How successful are the coastal defences at Walton-on-the-Naze?" This was done by way of a scientific Beach Profile, which was carried out on a section of unmanaged beach just to the north of the Tower location. The students, with their tape measures, ranging poles and clinometers surveyed the beach profile from the water's edge right up to the base of the cliff – a good 40 metres, as the tide was out. This was overseen by our grand beachmaster, Mr Stiff (teacher of Geography and Humanities). The students will collate and analyse their data back at school and then come to their conclusions. This field work is an important part of their GCSE Geography and data can only be obtained by actually visiting locations such as the Naze and taking physical measurements.



No visit to the Naze would be complete without a mention of the geology exposed in the cliffs and the abundance of fossils to be found therein and on the beach. It so happened that the trip included an excellent delegation from the Science Department in the shape of Mr Stafford (Head of Science) and Mr Gregory (Science Technician). Mr Gregory had visited the Naze during a geology field trip when he was studying A-level geology in 1971(!) and was delighted to be invited to talk about the cliff from a perfect stage – the recently-built "rip-rap" beach platform that now helps protect the cliff from further erosion. At its maximum the cliff rises 20m above the beach level beneath the Tower. This depth tells a history of 55 million years of geological time and two very distinct periods in the climate of East Anglia. The base of the cliff is made of London Clay, a deposit that was laid down 50-55 million years ago during the Eocene epoch. Southern England had a subtropical climate at that time and the area that was to become Essex was submerged beneath a warm sea, up to 100 metres (300 ft) deep. The shoreline supported a subtropical rain forest with plant species related to the mangroves. The London Clay sea was home to crocodiles, turtles, gastropods, bivalves, brachiopods, nautiloids and many species of fish, including sharks. Fossilised sharks teeth are among the most prized fossils at the Naze. Afterwards the sea retreated for a considerable period but about 3 million years ago, at the very end of the Pliocene epoch, probably all of Essex was covered by a new, shallower sea between 15 and 25 metres (50 to 80 feet) deep and the climate was decidedly cool as the world was heading into its last great Ice Age. As the sea advanced across Essex a sand containing an abundance of marine shells was laid down as dunes on the sea bed, fairly close to the shoreline. These shell banks now form a deposit called the Red Crag which is a notable feature of the Naze cliff and also underlies parts of north-east Essex and Suffolk. At the top of the cliff are layers of brickearth, sand and gravel probably laid down by an early River Thames which flowed across central Essex during the Pleistocene epoch about 600,000 years ago and compounded by later deposits as the last ice age glaciers melted and retreated – the last ice age ended just 11,000 years ago.

There are always unsung heroes on such trips, so we should recognise the help given to us by the staff at the Naze (ice creams readily available!) and our own Ms Barker (LSA) who helped us all on our way.

Battlefields Trip 2022

It was great to be able to restart the 'Battlefields Trip' for the first time since 2019, despite the early start; thank you very much to the parents of the students who dropped them off at school at 0415hrs on Friday 15th July. As we usually run the trip in November it was a pleasant change to meet in the light rather than pitch darkness.

Another change this year was travelling by ferry rather than by Eurotunnel. In many ways it was much more evocative for the students as they could look back at the white cliffs of Dover in a similar way to soldiers heading towards the Western Front. We then continued to retrace the steps of the troops as we followed their route through northern France and into Belgium, approaching Ypres through 'Hellfire Corner'.

Our first stop was the Hooze Crater Museum where our wonderful Anglia Tours guides, Sean and Dave, provided the students with a brief overview of the First World War and let them look at the exhibits in the museum including a flagon of Greene King beer from Bury St Edmunds that some soldiers obviously enjoyed in a moment of downtime over a century ago. The students also enjoyed walking through a recreation of a trench system which was on the site. After a light lunch, we crossed the road to the Hooze Crater cemetery, where Sean and Dave told the students about the ethos of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Then we travelled into Ypres itself where we marvelled at the beauty of the renovated Cloth Hall which was completely destroyed by shelling during the First World War and visited the chocolate shops where the students were enticed to buy souvenirs by the enthusiastic marketing of the owners. On our way back to the bus we stopped at the Menin Gate to reflect upon Sir Reginald Blomfield's Memorial to the Missing on the Ypres Salient – the site of the daily Last Post ceremony which has taken place since 1928. Among the 54,896 names of soldiers from the Ypres salient we focused on two individuals: Lieutenant Harry Thomas Harvey whose parents ran a butchers in what is now Boots Opticians and is commemorated on the war memorial and on the altar to Our Lady which was paid for by his parents; and Mrs Titcombe's great, great uncle T.M. Harrington.

Our final destinations for the day were two contrasting cemeteries – Langemarck German Cemetery and Tyne Cot. Sean and David explained how German war graves often contain more than one grave whereas the CWGC aim to provide an individual headstone; and how Langemarck is dominated by oak trees and the CWGC try to replicate English country gardens so that a shadow of a rose can fall on every headstone. At Tyne Cot we reflected on the 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) and the theme of remembrance which was made even more poignant by the fact that there had been a new burial earlier in the day of an unknown Australian soldier whose remains had been recently discovered.

On the way to dinner at a pizza restaurant we drove past Vancouver Corner where chlorine gas was first used by the German army on French colonial and Canadian troops. After such a busy day the students were hungry, and none more so than Jack Carter-Wright who managed to eat a staggering 6 slices of pizza.

Once everyone's appetite had been satiated, we travelled on to Messines Peace Village where the students played football, basketball or badminton as the sun set.

After a substantial continental breakfast on the Saturday we travelled down to the Somme. Our first stop was at Sunken Lane, where Sean and David told the students about the events of the 1 July 1916 – the worst ever day in British military history. This included inviting the students to scramble up the bank as the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers had done at 0730hrs on a similarly hot July summer's day, and then walking them up to the site of the Hawthorn crater, where they could see the German army's vantage point. Sean and David explained how Geoffrey Malins had recorded footage of the soldiers in the lane and of the explosion at Hawthorn Ridge.

This was followed by lunch at Ocean Villas and a show and tell session where several members of the party had the opportunity to wear different parts of a 'Tommy's' uniform while Sean and David explained how every piece of equipment was used including an entrenching tool and short barrelled Lee Enfield rifle complete with bayonet.

Then we moved on to the final stages of our itinerary which involved a quick explanation of the achievements of the Ulster Division at the Ulster Tower and a stop at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, designed by Lutyens, which contains the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Battles of the Somme between 1915 and 1918. Once again it was important to go beyond the numbers and to focus on individuals and we managed to find Harrison's great, great uncle Alexander Jamieson of the Gordon Highlander's name among the missing, who died on the 14th August 1916. By chance, while we were looking at his name a bagpiper approached the Stone of Remembrance and played Scotland the Brave.

From Tyne Cot we headed northwards to the coast, but stopped off on the way at Haute-Avesnes British Cemetery in Pas de Calais to lay a wreath at the grave of another of Harrison's great uncles, James Jamieson, also of the Gordon Highlanders, who died on the 10th April 1917 aged 21 after seeing action in the Battle of Arras.



The personal stories of the students' ancestors greatly benefitted this particular trip as Jack supplied details about his great great uncle Frederick Moore who enlisted at St Benedict's on the 20th August 1914, who fought at Loos in 1915, Festubert, Bethuune and the Somme in 1916 and Arras in 1918. Unfortunately, however, his younger brother, George Harry Moore wasn't as fortunate. He also enlisted into the 7th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment at Bury St Edmunds in the later part of 1915 as soon as he was 18 but was gravely injured in 1916 and died of his wounds at Bethune. Milly also supplied details of her ancestor, Peter King from Tile Hall Cottages in Wickhambrook, who enlisted into the 2nd Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment in February 1915 but was injured in the Battle of the Somme and died at No 1 New Zealand Stationary Hospital in Amiens on the 22 July 1916 aged 25 years.

Toby also unearthed some very interesting family history and informed us that both his great grandads survived the war: Ernest Taylor was involved in the Battle of the Somme in 1916 and the 3rd Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) in 1917 and Percy John Basham who enlisted as a private in the Norfolk Regiment and went into the 8th Battalion which fought in Flanders and the Battle of the Somme in 1916. Percy was wounded at Poelcapelle on 22 November 1917 and was evacuated to a hospital in Manchester where his arm was amputated above the elbow, although he never moaned about his experiences and just got on with life in a cheerful, good humoured war.

On the theme of survivors, Matthew brought along with him a lucky black dog that his great great grandfather Wilfred Jobbins, who enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps, was given by his mother to keep him safe throughout the war. Apparently, he kept it close to him and made it through in one piece although he never spoke about his experiences. When Matthew's grandfather, Raymond Jobbins, was called up at the start of World War II his mother gave him the very same lucky dog that looked after his father so well. While he was standing on a top of a riverbank at having a cup of tea and a cigarette during the Battle of Monte Cassino, he heard mortar fire and something in his head told him the shell had his name on it, so he jumped down into the river for cover. There was an almighty explosion and when he climbed up the bank there was a small crater where his kit had been and all his possessions had been completely destroyed, apart from the lucky black dog! From that moment on he kept the lucky dog safe with him and it was never out of his possession. It was fantastic that Matthew was able to bring the lucky dog with him on the tour to revisit some of the places the dog would have been over a hundred years ago.

It was a fantastic trip and the students were exceptionally well-behaved and great company, despite the early starts, long days and hot weather. Both our coach drivers and guides commented on how well our students conducted themselves. We are very proud of them as once again our students demonstrated our core values of Compassion, Wisdom and Resilience.