

This week has seen our first 'in person' parents' evening for some time. I have been reminded of the 'buzz' of these evenings and the joyful experience of sharing the wonderful positives of our young people. Hearing so many excellent conversations about learning and seeing the commitment of our young people to achieving their potential makes me incredibly proud. We are aware that there have been issues in accommodating everyone who wants to join us and we hope to be able to put some solutions in place. Over the coming weeks we are looking ahead to Advent and indeed our Christmas Carol concert which will once again be the first in some time. It is a real pleasure to be able to spend time marking these key milestones and moments as we would choose rather than the constant restrictions and adaptations we saw over the past two years. As we head into the season of mock examinations and university interviews we wish all of our students the very best in facing the challenges in the weeks ahead, knowing that they have the resilience and wisdom to use the opportunities to show what they are capable of.

Wishing you all a joyful weekend,

Mrs Senior

Congratulations

Massive well done to Ethan in Year 7 who won the Junior Golfer of the Year 2022 at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club last night.



Christmas Card Competition



Calling all artists, photographers and designers!

Could you be the designer of the school Christmas Card this year?

See your work published as a real card this Christmas.

Use your favourite choice of media, collage, paint, pencil, mixed media and submit your design on card/ paper no bigger than A4.

Please ensure your design reflects the theme of Christmas in an imaginative way to convey the values of the school. Come and talk to art department staff for ideas if you need inspiration or materials to experiment with.



Submit your entries please to Mrs Chacksfield of Mrs Tattersall in D7 by Weds 30th November

Winners will receive an Art Pack prize and see their design transformed into the official school card with additional prizes for the three runners up.



Mrs Chacksfield

Unwanted Candle Jars

This half term our A Level Chemistry students as part of our enrichment program, along with the help of some other sixth formers, are designing our own St Benedict's Christmas Fragrance that will be used to manufacture candles. All the essential oils used in the design of our fragrance along with the candle wax have been kindly donated by Phoenix Aromas, however we are looking for containers to cast the candles in. If you have any unwanted or used candle jars at home could you please send them into school with your son/daughter to drop off at reception. The candles will be on sale during the last two weeks of this term and may make an ideal Christmas present for someone. All proceeds will be donated to a local charity to help the community this Christmas.

Maria Anjo 6th Form

Alumni Career Profile.

This weeks alumni career profile focuses on Tia Lowman.

Tia Lowman, Class of 2017 – Software Developer at Entrust



Higher Education Subject and University:

Mathematics and Computer Science, with a year in industry.

University of Liverpool

Brief Career History:

Achieved a First Class Honours in BSc Mathematics and Computer Science, graduating in 2021, where I spent my 3rd year on placement as a Software Engineer at Ivanti. Currently working at my graduate job as a Software Developer at Entrust in their Cambridge office. Taking on more responsibility by becoming my teams Scrum Master at both Ivanti and Entrust and therefore gaining more skills in Agile development and management.

What do you love about your job:

I am in a team dedicated to work on features requested by our customers, so I love getting to work on different projects for some of the biggest names in technology. I am constantly challenged and get to learn so many different skills and coding languages with a clear path to progress my career. I love working in a team and being able to learn and network with co-workers, globally, specialised in different areas, in a very friendly and inclusive atmosphere. Also, it is such a great feeling when your code works and is pushed into the product which is going to be used internationally and make other people's lives much easier.

Three words to sum up an average working day:

Innovative, Collaborative, Inclusive

What three pieces of advice would you give someone thinking of a career in Software Development:

- 1) Work on your written and verbal communication skills! Networking and making good connections will vastly help you in your career, as you will always need help and knowledge from other people and will want to maintain strong relationships. Also, it is not uncommon to give presentations to your team or even more companywide and write documents noting your findings and process on how to use the software.

- 2) Start working in an Agile way! Most software companies will follow Agile Methodologies where you break your projects into smaller tasks and work incrementally, giving continuous feedback to the customer to satisfy them, and iterate on their feedback. You plan everything in stages, but nothing is set in stone because you understand that trouble could be found along the way (by underestimating the scope of the task, or finding bugs through the continuous testing you do along the way instead of waiting until the end) or the customer could change their mind. Here is a link to the Agile Manifesto <https://agilemanifesto.org/principles.html>

- 3) It doesn't necessarily matter what coding languages you know, as once you know how to code in one, it is much easier to learn others. Some companies will ask for experience in certain languages, but not for university, and rarely for grad jobs, as it's all about learning. Saying that, universities will usually teach you an Object Orientated Language, as that is arguably one of the best ways to code in. If you did want somewhere to start, then some of the most desirable languages to learn are Python, C++, Java, C#, JavaScript, C, Go, Swift (mainly iOS development), SQL (for databases), Angular/React (front end development) and more, but don't feel overwhelmed that you need to know them all, personally, I am only moderately proficient in Java and C# and know parts of some others.

How did St Benedict's help you into your present role:

I learnt key leadership, teamwork, and responsibility skills by being Vice-Chairman of the student council. Gained interview experience through helping interview teaching applicants. Also, I learnt the best way to do independent study as I had to teach myself the further mathematics A-level, with the support of members of the mathematics faculty if I had a questions about the material.

Favourite memory from your time St Benedict's:

Organising the activities in Christmas Week with the other Sixth-form council members and filming/editing the Sixth Form Video, where we got everyone involved, from yr7s to teachers, and bringing our year a lot closer together. (Bennies Talent 2016)

Magnets and Magnetism

On Thursday morning (16th November) BAE Systems arrived at St Benedict's, courtesy of the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. BAE Systems and their partners in education, the RAF and the RN, currently employ more than 50,000 engineers across the UK and are committed to engaging with all young people on STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) activities to encourage and support a highly skilled engineering and scientific workforce of the future.



The Schools STEM Roadshow, which began in 2005, currently visits over 420 schools across the UK each year. It provides a highly interactive experience for students aged 10 to 13 years old in primary and secondary schools and is designed to inspire excitement in STEM subjects. This year's show focused on magnets and the important role they play in everything from healthcare, to transport, and to electricity generation. A series of experiences and demonstrations showcased practical applications of science concepts and brought them to life for the students, all of which is perfectly aligned to the current curriculum taught in school.

One part of the show focused on why magnets are crucial in the operation of motors and generators. These are not new concepts – Michael Faraday figured it out as long ago as the early 19th century when he invented the first electric motor in 1821 and then the generator in 1831. With today's more powerful magnets and improved engineering and technology, we can help achieve one of the most important goals essential for our future: the elimination of the need to burn fossil fuels for energy. Magnets will therefore play an important role for the world to get to 'net carbon zero'.



Thanks to the expertise and enthusiasm of the show's three presenters, all highly trained BAE Systems STEM ambassadors, the show certainly inspired all our year 7 and 8 students and perhaps some will seriously think about STEM subjects and careers, especially with the need for new skills and talent to help develop the next-generation of ideas.

Much thanks must go to our Careers Officer, Mr Steward, who arranged this event and to the teachers of years 7 and 8 who allowed us into their daily routine. Most of all, though, a huge thank you to all the students who attended and played such a splendid part in this truly interactive event. We look forward to welcoming the Roadshow back next year when the topic will be "Space Travel".

(Fact can be stranger than fiction: did you know that modern magnets can be made so powerful that they can levitate a frog? You'd better believe it – it's true!)

Library News

ATTENTION! The LRC will be closed during mock exams. However, you can check out books in G5 before school, during the break, or after school!

Lunch time will be in D3. Chess club and Warhammer club will still meet at lunchtime.

Thanks,

Scott Walker

Key Dates and Reminders

Mock Exams

Year 11 mock exams start on Monday 21 November to Friday 2 December 2022

PD Day

Friday 25 November 2022 is a PD Day, school will be closed to students.

Carol Concert

Wednesday 14 December 2022, St Edmunds Church, Bury St Edmunds.

End of Term

Friday 16 December

Absence

If your child is unwell and you need to report an absence, please do so by either calling the school on 01284 753512, the office is open from 8.00am or send an email to attendance@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk. Please do not use Edulink this system is no longer available. Please let us know on a daily basis if your child's absence is ongoing. It would also be helpful if you let us know in advance of any appointments you have planned.

Thank you in advance

Vacancies

Senior IT Technician

Job Title: Senior IT Technician
 Salary: Grade 4 range pending pay award
 Job Term FTE (52 weeks) 37 hours per week
 Appointment: Permanent
 Place of work: St Benedict's Catholic School
 Required from February 2023 or sooner

We are seeking to appoint a proactive and purposeful Senior IT Technician to work with our current IT team, ensuring the efficient and effective maintenance, servicing, cleaning and network connectivity of all IT equipment and software. The successful candidate will work within a team to provide reliable access to high quality IT services that complement the teaching and learning taking place in lessons and across school.

St Benedict's is a 'Good' school (April 2022) with a strong reputation and a supportive local community. Our school is committed to our mission as a Catholic community and seeks to help all our young people achieve their potential both academically and personally. We can offer you a positive environment where you will be encouraged to progress further in your career should you wish, supported by a team of staff who are very hardworking and dedicated to the school. Applications from both experienced staff and those considering a new role are welcomed.

Closing date: 9.30am Monday 5th December 2022 - applications will be reviewed on receipt so an early application is advised

Interviews: w/c 5th December 2022 or sooner

Tel: 01284 753512

sbuchan@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

Exam Invigilators

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.

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1 -1 Learning Support Assistant

Job Title: 1:1 Learning Support Assistant
 Salary: Grade 3 range 4-6 (£19, 264- £20, 043 pending pay award pro rata)
 Job Term FTE or PTE considered Term Time only (38 weeks) 27.5 hours per week
 Appointment: Permanent
 Place of work: St Benedict's Catholic School
 Required from January 2023 or sooner

We are seeking to appoint a 1:1 Learning Support Assistant to work with our wonderful students as part of our SEN team. This post will involve providing 1:1 support for students with additional needs both in the classroom and in intervention sessions.

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Closing date: 09.00 Friday 2nd December 2022- applications will be reviewed on receipt so an early application is advised

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