

Bishop Elect Peter Collins

Please join us in praying for Bishop Alan this week as he will be stepping into his long awaited retirement on Wednesday. We also will be praying for Bishop Elect Peter Collins who will be stepping into the role of Bishop of East Anglia and shepherd of our local Church.

We trust God will bless him and bless us through him, May he be filled with wisdom, compassion and resilience as he leads and serves us.

Amen

Carol Concert

The carol concert will be held at St Edmunds Church, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1QG

Wednesday 14 December 7.00pm.

Transform for Advent

For young people age 16-30 years. Grow in your faith as we approach Christmas! Clare Priory, 9th–11th December. The weekend includes live music, powerful talks, passionate prayer and interactive workshops, good food and free time! Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service and Clare Priory. Bookings close on Sunday 4 December. See <https://transformfestival.uk/> for more information.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you so much for everyone's donations so far, we've had a fantastic show of support for our local foodbank, Gatehouse. A huge thank you also to the staff and students who used their own free time to organise the donations into crates based on their 'best before dates' this is hugely helpful as it saves Gatehouse a massive job once we deliver the donations to them next week. So far, we've filled far more than forty 'Tesco's crates', and I'm going to have to go and collect another 20 crates at least this week. This kind of giving is such a powerful message for the students to see as they pass by each day

It would be brilliant if we could keep up the generosity in the coming week.

Here's the items Gatehouse have specified for this final week:

Week 3

12/12/2022 Bread Sauce

13/12/2022 Tins of custard and rice pudding

14/12/2022 Orange / Apple juice

15/12/2022 Christmas Pudding

16/12/2022 Cranberry sauce/Stuffing

6th Form London Trip

On Friday 2nd December 110 sixth form students went to London for their Christmas trip.

It was a crisp, cold morning when the coaches left Bennies at 9:15 and luckily the rain held off for the day. The group was dropped at the embankment where they split up and went to either the Tate Modern with Mr Richmond and Mrs Slater, The British Museum with Mrs Senior and Mr Boorman or the Natural History Museum with Mr Spiller and Mr Steward. After a couple of hours soaking up the history and culture the groups reconvened in Covent Garden where they dispersed with their friends to enjoy the twinkly lights and do a spot of Christmas shopping.



The biggest test of the day came at 5.30 when the staff crossed their fingers waiting for all the students to appear to get back on the coaches, apart from the small error by some of our brighter students who went to Russell Square instead of Russell Street (luckily none of them are applying for geography!) everything went smoothly. The rain started as we pulled out of Covent Garden but this didn't affect our return journey as we were back at St Benedict's for 8pm, 30 minutes earlier than expected.

On behalf of all the staff on the trip I would like to commend the students on their exemplary behaviour which made the day a pleasure to be on.

Mrs Slater



Science News

The Science Department has published the latest Journal of Science. This is actually the 2nd edition of this term - the 1st edition, published in November, was a special edition to showcase the work in Physics and Chemistry of our 6th Form scientists. This second edition has work from our year 9 and 10 students on topics in Chemistry and Biology.

Ms Coogan's year 9s and 10s, as part of their work on the carbon cycle and large, covalent molecules, were asked to do research and produce posters. Their work was truly outstanding and Ms Coogan comments as follows: "Yr9 have been studying the Earth 2 module. Part of this module is investigating the contribution that natural and human chemical processes make to our carbon dioxide emissions. Students produced a poster to use a diagram to show how carbon is recycled in the environment and through living things. This allowed us as a class to then compare the relative effects of human-produced and natural global warming. We had quite a heated debate on the question 'can we live without fossil fuels?' as part of us evaluating the implications of proposals to reduce carbon emissions. This class have been excellent during this topic, really engaging with the subject matter, from measuring the trees around our school site to calculate the carbon sequestration, to considering what our planet would be like without an atmosphere. I hope you enjoy seeing the work produced by 9x1 they work hard and consistently go above and beyond with their effort and it is fitting that you get to see their work in the St Benedict's Journal of Science."

Ms Coogan continues: "Yr10 have been studying structure and bonding as part of their GCSE chemistry syllabus. To deepen their understanding and encourage independent research the students had to design and produce a poster on giant covalent structures, students were encouraged to research structures away from the specification of allotropes of carbon, as you will see some students found information on Silica, a crystalline structure similar to diamond. I am delighted to see so many hand-drawn diagrams detailing the covalent bonding and the intermolecular forces. I am also delighted to see the detail that students went into regarding some examples of nanoparticles. Chemical bonding is notoriously challenging for students, this yr10 class have risen to the challenge, completing the unit for the majority with very good mid-term assessments. They really seemed to enjoy the London fashion week link where we paused to move away from the syllabus to look at spray on fabric – the applications of this aspect of science is astonishing."

Miss Dolby and Mr Sousa's year 9s were given a presentation on the history of DNA and, particularly, the roles played by various scientists in determining the 3D structure of the DNA molecule, published in 1953. Miss Dolby and Mr Sousa comment as follows: "In recent lessons, our year nines have been exploring the wonder that is DNA. 'The secret of life' as expressed by Watson and Crick, the controversial Nobel Prize winners for the discovery of the structure of DNA. But as the year nines recently explored with guidance from Mr Gregory, who was actually responsible for the ground breaking discovery? Was it the 'Girl from Notting Hill'? In these published articles, the year nines explore Rosalind Franklin's role in the discovery of the structure of DNA and how the role of women in STEM has changed throughout the years. Rosalind left this world happy with her substantial work with viruses but she may

have had more of a role in the 'secret of life' than she realised. Please enjoy reading our year nine work and consider who you think had the greater role."

The Journal will be posted in the Science News section of the school's website and on the various social media outlets.

Mr Gregory

Jokes

If any student knows a good joke please go up to H1 to tell Mr Oliviera

Non Uniform Day

Despite the cold many of our students and staff turned up in pyjamas today, thank you to everyone who donated, the charity we are collecting for this week is the Catholic Children's society. Final total to be announced. Don't forget sparkly Friday next week.

Candles for Sale

Our year 12 chemists have been busy making Christmas candles with its own unique fragrance. There are a limited number of these for sale, if you would like to purchase one they are selling for £5.00, 100% of the sale will go to charity.

Mr Senior



End of Term Friday 16 December

Students Return on Wednesday 4 January