

6th Form News

The Year 13s have had a busy start to the new year with their mock exams running for the last two weeks and the UCAS deadline two days ago. However, they have shown great resilience and worked hard for their mocks, and all dealt with the pressure well which will set them in good stead for their real exams in the summer.

Wednesday 25th January saw the deadline for UCAS applications, with all our Year 13s planning on going to university this year getting their submissions in on-time. We are also pleased that six students have been offered places at Oxbridge. We are very proud of all our Year 13s, it has been great to see them thinking about their futures and making decisions about what to study and where. Alongside university applications, there has been a broad range of alternative post-18 choices amongst our students from apprenticeships in heritage crafts, gap years and studying abroad.

Now the Year 13s just need to settle down and work towards achieving their grades!

Well done Year 13 and we hope the Year 12s have been taking note!

The Sixth Form Team

Beyond the Curriculum Seminar



Last Friday Years 9-12 had a Beyond the Curriculum Seminar. During the session they heard an outside speaker share some of her life experiences and hear how she has shown resilience. The students completed tasks and reflected on how they can learn to be resilient in their own lives. This week in PSHE and Citizenship lessons they have been unpacking this further, looking more at the practical, emotional and faith support available to help people in need.

Mr Spiller

Oxford University Computing Challenge 2023

On Tuesday 17th January, we had 38 students across years 7-12 compete in the Oxford University Computing Challenge.

This was a prestigious event in itself, as only those students achieving in the top 10% of their age categories across the country from the previous Bebras competition were invited to compete.

To qualify for the Final round, students would have needed to be in the top 20 in their age category across every country that competed. Although none of our students made it that far, they should by no means be disappointed as this was an enormous challenge – nearly 20,000 students took part!

Students will have received their scores either from their form tutor or their Computer Science teacher this week.

Our top scorers are listed below and deserve a massive congratulations!

Distinction

Eliza Rowley – 7P

Merit

Jacob Gurrell – 7A

Isaac Pernot – 12D

Good

Finnian Senior – 9X

The competition will run again next year so everyone will have another chance to compete!

Miss Woodruff



COME CELEBRATE GROUNDHOG DAY IN THE LRC! MASTER OF CEREMONIES: MR. JOHN GREGORY
STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO WEAR A TOPHAT, JACKET, AND SCARF IN THE LRC ON FEB 2ND AT LUNCHTIME
SNACKS AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED!
WILL THE GROUNDHOG SEE HIS SHADOW? COME AND FIND OUT!

Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

This year's theme for Holocaust Memorial Day is 'Ordinary People', and we were very grateful for the work of the Holocaust Education Trust for organising a live interview with Ruth Posner BEM, an 'ordinary' person who has lived an extraordinary life.



#RuthLive

Ruth was born, an only child, in Warsaw in 1930 where she continued to live for the next nine years. Her father was an artist and accountant and her mother designed and made underwear. Shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War her family moved to Radom, a town about 100km south of Warsaw. After the German army invaded Poland, the SS knocked at her family's door, threw them out of their home and marched them to Radom ghetto.

Ruth explained that her father, fearing what might happen, was able to arrange for two of the family to work in a factory outside of the ghetto making leather rucksacks. Her mother wouldn't leave her father so Ruth went with her aunt, which rescued them from the deportations from the ghetto to the death camps.

Once a week, the workers in the factory were marched to the town baths and Ruth and her aunt used this opportunity to escape to the non-Jewish side of the ghetto. For the

remainder of the war Ruth moved back to Warsaw and survived by pretending to be a young Polish girl called Irena Slabowska.

However, at the time of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, organised by the Polish resistance, she and her aunt were evacuated and moved to a German prisoner of war camp, as 'Polish Catholics' rather than for being Jewish, where she went to school.

In the final year of the war, a German prison guard put Ruth and her aunt on a train which ended up in the large town of Essen in the West of the country. As they arrived, the town was attacked by the United States Airforce and she witnessed the deaths of many people being killed by bombs and machine gun fire. Ruth and her aunt used this opportunity to escape again and they were taken in by some local farmers, who believed them to be Polish Catholics.

When the allies liberated Germany Ruth and her aunt made their way to a British base, where her aunt started to work in an RAF canteen. One day her aunt served Squadron Leader Scott who refused to eat the bacon at breakfast. When she asked why, he explained that it was because he was Jewish and that his mission was to find Jews who had survived the Holocaust.

Ruth's aunt explained what had happened to them and then Squadron Leader Scott helped Ruth move to England as part of a Kindertransport programme. She arrived in the UK at the age of 16 unable to speak a word of English. Initially, she lived in a hostel with other refugees in Reading, which was run by German Jewish refugees who helped her gain entrance to good school.

This enabled her to go to college to study dance and drama and eventually she gained a place at the London Contemporary Dance Theatre, where she remained, performing and teaching, for the next 18 years. While she was working there, she met her husband Michael who worked for UNICEF. They lived in New York for nine years, where Ruth studied acting, before returning to England.

Since then, Ruth has had a successful career as an actress – appearing in *Casualty* and *The Bill*; and as a teacher at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the Central School of Speech and Drama. In the question and answer session at the end of Ruth's talk, she urged the students never to generalise and to always hope.

At the end of the broadcast, the interviewer explained to the students how fortunate they were to hear the testimony of a Holocaust survivor and explained that they would be the last generation to hear from a living witness. She urged the students to share Ruth's story and encouraged them to write her a letter about what they had learnt from her testimony, which part of her testimony they found most memorable and whether her testimony inspired had inspired them take any action in their school or local community.

Mr Murphy

Sporting Highlights

Year 7 Girls Match Report Against Westley

Just before the match, it began to pour with rain and the ground was very slippery, so it was very easy to fall over. The match started as an even game with both teams finding the ground very bobbly and hard to play on. Soon, the ball was passed over the defender's heads and Imogen Grove was through on goal to secure a nice start for the Year 7 Bennies girls. Not long after, Polly Saade scored another brilliant goal, and then disappointingly for Westley, an own goal was conceded. Next up, just before the whistle was about to blow for halftime, Amelia Smith scored a left-footed goal in the bottom left corner getting a good start for the young Bennies girls.

The Second half

This was a little more challenging for the team as the opposition got very physical. Soon the Westley team started to create a lot more scoring opportunities and the Bennies team could sense a goal coming for the opposition. One of our defenders got a hit on the head from a clearance from centre back and it rolled into the back of the net for a very unfortunate goal. Soon after the ball was kicked up the pitch someone ran down the line and had a shot on goal which was blocked by our keeper for a good save, but the rebound was received by another player who scored. One more goal was scored by Westley before the end of the game which ended as a close match at 4-3. A success for our Bennies girls who will probably be playing Kesgrave in the next cup round.

Amelia Smith and Lucy Murphy

U15 Volleyball Tournament

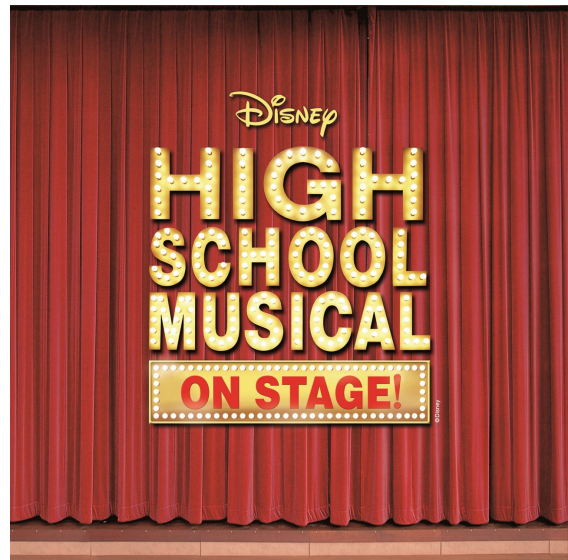
On Wednesday the 25th of January, U15 Boys and Girls had a volleyball tournament at County Upper. Both U15 Girls teams grew into the tournament and were playing very well during their last game. Despite drawing on points, they unfortunately missed out on qualification when comparing the total points conceded. The U15 Boys teams dominated their leagues. They played some excellent volleyball for their first ever tournament. Both boys' teams have qualified into the county finals!

U12 Girls Football v Westley Middle School

On Thursday the 26th of January, U12 Girls had their second round fixture against Westley Middle School. The girls played some great football and finished the first half winning 4-0. Westley played an excellent second half, but the girls showed great resilience to hold on for a 4-3 win! They will now play Kesgrave High School in the quarter finals.

Mr Bates

St Benedict's Presents



St Benedict's Catholic School Hall

Dates and Times

Tuesday 28th February Evening 7:30pm

Wednesday 1st March Evening 7:30pm

Thursday 2nd March Evening 7:30pm

Ticket Price

Adults £7

Children £5

Vacancies

We have a number of support staff vacancies at the school

Cover Manager

Salary: Grade 4 (above the bar) currently £25,878- £29,439 pro rata

Job Term: 35 hours per week 39 weeks per year

Appointment: Permanent

Attendance Officer

Grade 4 (below the bar) [currently £24,054-£25,409 pro rata]

Job Term: 35 Hours per week, 39 weeks per year

Appointment: Permanent

Place of work: St Benedict's Catholic School

Head of Careers

Salary: Grade 5 (below the bar) [currently £29, 439- £32, 019 pro rata]

Job Term: 35 hours per week, 39 weeks per year

Appointment: Permanent

Please see our website for further details of all the roles available.

<https://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk/vacancies>