



Headteacher's Update

The glorious weather has stayed with us and students have made the most of it in school this week. We review our expectations for ties each day. Next week looks to be a little cooler than this week but we will always bear this in mind. We do remind students though that they are expected to be in school uniform even when it is warmer. If shorts are worn these must be in line with the policy, if kilts or trousers are worn they should be worn as designed and not rolled at the waist or ankles. Gingham dresses should also follow the expectations sent. There are a range of options available and we hope all students should be able to follow expectations.

We are planning our St Benedict's day celebrations for 11th July and I am delighted to say that following our usual Mass, we will be holding a school fayre. This will be open to parents (details to follow) and we hope that this will not only be a real celebration but a way to raise money for an excellent cause. We have chosen to raise funds in memory of Salvador Modke for West Suffolk WiSH. We hope this will become an annual event and that this can be part of how we honour his memory and the joy he brought to those around him in school and beyond. We will send full details through in the coming weeks of how the fayre will run.

Wishing you all a sunny and restful weekend,
yours in Christ, Mrs Senior

From the Sports Field

Year 7 Rounders league

Our Year 7 rounders team played Horringer in their final league game this week. Unfortunately, they lost by $\frac{1}{2}$ a rounder (7-7 $\frac{1}{2}$) but they played really well. Some great batting from Imogen Grove and fielding from Lucy Murphy.

We also played Thurston in a friendly game and won 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ rounders. The team have done really well this year and I hope to see them continue this into Year 8!

Year 10 Western Area Rounders Tournament

The year 10s came 3rd in West Suffolk!! Well done to all pupils who were involved in this competition! We played some brilliant rounders, with great bowling from Amelia Woodland and Nicole Jasinska and brilliant batting from Grace Clifton. Players player for fielding was given to Nancy Bailey and for batting was Grace Clifton, well done!

Mrs Wright

School Games Orienteering Champions

On Wednesday 29th March 12 students from St Benedict's participated in the West Suffolk School Games Orienteering Competition in Nowton Park.

The afternoon consisted of a carousel of activities designed to develop the students' orienteering skills including sessions designed to improve their teamwork and communication skills as well as their

knowledge of map symbols and their ability to set a map and relate it to the ground.

After a quick refreshment break, the afternoon culminated in a competition. We fielded a team of six (three boys and three girls) in both the U13 and U15 races. Our students were like muzzled greyhounds itching to set off and put their newly developed skills into practice.

Once the race had started they were like gazelles sprinting across the park from checkpoint to checkpoint, leaping over obstacles and helping each other out to navigate the quickest way around the course.



Both teams really enjoyed the event and were pleased to come first in their respective age groups. The Under 13 team consisted of Alanna Evans, Lucy Murphy, Amelia Smith, William Glover, Noah Wilkinson, George Wightman; and the U15 team consisted of Ciara Evans, Emma Payne, Eva Torfinn, Seth Gaw, Kuba Kluczynski and Charlie Oxborrow.



If any students are interested in trying out orienteering they should log in to the Suffolk Orienteering (SUFFOC) website www.suffoc.co.uk. The club organise the Ipswich O series of events on weekend afternoons in Suffolk's beautiful local parks, with courses designed for beginners, improvers, juniors and families ranging from 1 to 3km in length.



25/06/2023 – 13:00 Chantry Park, Ipswich

Mr Murphy

U14s Super 8s Athletics Competition

On Wednesday 14th June, the year 9s had an athletics competition at the West Suffolk Arena. All students were required to participate in a track, a field, and a relay event. It was a very hot day, but all the students were fantastic and represented the school proudly. Special mention to Matijus Juchna, who scored 39.02 seconds for his 300m race! Out of 14 schools that competed, the girls' team finished 3rd, and the boys' team finished 2nd!



Additionally, we brought along twenty-year 10s as sports leaders to help out with the event. All the students were excellent, and the school was praised for being professional and efficient, enabling the event to run as smoothly as possible.

Primary Sports Festival

On Thursday 15th June, St Benedict's hosted the primary sports festival for 170 year 5 pupils from St Joseph's, St Edmunds, St Felix and St Louis.

Students were all mixed together with different primary schools to create teams for the day, which enabled them to develop teamworking skills and to make new friends. All students participated in a rounders game, a capture the flag game, and an indoor workshop. The events were run by our twelve, Y10 sport leaders, who all did an amazing job in making each session fun and enjoyable. Additionally, we had twelve, Y9 buddies, who did an exceptional job in looking after the Y5s. It was great to see so many Y5 pupils join us, enjoying some sport and competition!



Mr Bates

Leavers' Day 2023

On Tuesday we celebrated the Class of 2023 in their Leaver's Day celebrations. It was wonderful to see the students enjoy watching photographs and some memorable videos of themselves in their Leavers' Assembly followed by a BBQ and enjoying each other's company on the inflatables, and the obligatory shirt signing. They are a year group of whom we are immensely proud. They have formed incredibly strong friendships with each other and share the characteristic of kindness. Mrs Long who had been their Head of Year from year 7 until she went on maternity leave this year also came to wish them well, along with many of the staff.



We would like to thank the staff, particularly the catering and caretaking staff who helped out and Tesco's for their donation.

We look forward to seeing them celebrate further on June 27th at their Prom which will be held at Ravenwood Hotel.

We wish you all the best for the next stage of your incredible lives.

Mrs Wray

Sixth Form & Y11s

A little reminder for any Y11s and Y13s with lockers to empty them out and hand in their keys before they leave.

Please can Y11 and Y13 parents also check their parentpay accounts, if there is a debt please can you clear it and if there is a credit and you would like it refunded please can you contact the finance department.

Thank you

Mrs Ellis

COMPUTER SCIENCE –

A Grand Day Out at Adastral Park

On Wednesday (14th June) the Computer Science department took 12 students from Year 10 and 12 to a "TECHNOLOGY DAY" at Adastral Park. Adastral Park is the home of BT Research and Innovation, who hosted the event for a dozen or more schools in the area. But there is more to the Park than just BT.

Adastral Park is made up of about 150 companies that form distinct organisations, each with their own focus, and which collaborate together to achieve breakthrough innovations. There is Innovation Martlesham comprising a cluster of over 100 hundred companies in the ICT/Digital sector. There is Innovation Hubs, which are collaboration spaces allowing companies to come together to solve sector-specific challenges. Then there is the Tommy Flowers Network that aims to bring the ICT industry and academia together.

The students were given an introductory talk in the Park's Tommy Flowers Auditorium on the theme Digital Deception – how one can mimic human voices and images to the point where an observer might be unable to distinguish between the 'fake' voice/image (known as a 'deepfake') and the real one. Importantly, it was explained how we can devise technological means to tell the 'fake' from the real.

Our student group were then taken on a 'tour' of four technology zones, spending 50 minutes in each zone being shown various aspects the R&D that is going on at the Park. There was the 'World of Work' zone where students could talk to numerous technology companies and have a go at various challenges.

Next we visited the zone for 'Artificial Intelligence and Software Engineering'. Here each student was provided with a laptop and a challenge to produce a piece of software using an AI (artificial intelligence) app called Bard, Google's artificial intelligence chatbot that can answer questions in a human-like way by accessing up-to-date information from the internet.



After lunch it was the 'Digital Manufacturing & Sustainability' zone where we were shown different examples of technological developments in areas such as town planning, robotics, remote working in dangerous environments, hydroponics and more.

Finally we came to 'Cyber Security' and how AI can help us tell the real from the fake – especially important as, for example, fake messages to us may be wholly malicious.

Our students really got engaged with all the sessions and challenges set and were complimented on the intelligent questions that they asked the BT presenters. In particular, the following students excelled in their various challenges:



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- Amy John won the 'Badminton Challenge'; the 'Clean Suit' race; and came top 3 in 'AI challenges'
- Asir Isswiasi won the 'AI Challenges', with commendations going to Amy John and Isaac Pernot
- Isaac Pernot, Patryk Bancyr, Max Hasiuk and Mohamad Ismail won the team 'Cyber Security Game'

A huge thank you to Jon Gregory for being our transport for the day, bringing his own technical expertise and writing up the day in the newsletter for us!

All 12 students were an absolute credit to the school and we are extremely proud of them.

Adastral Park offer many educational days such as these throughout the year so if you take Computer Science, look out for the next ones coming up!

Miss Woodruff

Head of Computer Science

Gardening Club

Gardening Club have been very busy clearing ground, digging and planting lots of plants and vegetables in our "Celebrating your Senses" garden for the Young Green Fingers Event. They have planted scented flowers for smell, rattly grasses for hearing, vegetables and fruit for taste and brightly coloured plants for sight. Before half term Fiona Till from Bury in Bloom Young Green Fingers visited bringing with her an array of plants. We would like to thank Julie, Tesco's Community Champion, who also donated plants including a beautiful Passion Flower and some bags of much needed compost!

Mrs Reeman

Idiom of the week- Ukrainian



This idiom is used to describe a person

who is unusual or extraordinary, not like others. It can be translated in English as "a black sheep" or just an odd person. Біла ворона is someone who stands out of a group (looks different, behaves differently).

Can you use it this week?



Біла ворона
"A white crow" / A black sheep

MFL Department

Berlin Trip

At the incredibly early hour of 3am on Thursday 8th June, 24 Year 10 students met at school to board a coach to Stanstead for the Berlin trip. At the airport we met Sean Cripps, our excellent guide from Anglia Tours, who many of the students knew already from the Battlefields trip.

Once we had landed we headed for our hotel in Charlottenburg to leave our belongings before heading to the Hauptbahnhof to buy some lunch. After that, we walked to the Reichstag where Sean explained the significance of the Reichstag Fire to the students. This was followed by visits to the Memorial to the Murdered Victims of the Reichstag, the Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Victims of National Socialism, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, and the Memorial to Homosexuals Persecuted under Nazism.

The students listened carefully to Sean's explanations at each location and responded sensitively as they reflected upon the tragic events of this period in history.

The next day we travelled by coach to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, where once again Sean used his detailed historical knowledge to explain the significance of the site. At the end of the tour we said a prayer for all of the victims of persecution both in the past and in the present. This was followed by a visit to the villa am Grossen Wannsee where the Wannsee Conference took place in January 1942, it was here that Reynhard Heidrich met with other leading Nazis to discuss the Final Solution to the Jewish Question and ensure their co-operation. Then it was back on the bus for a short drive to Berlin Grunewald Station to visit the Gleis 17 Memorial which commemorates the 50,000 Jews who were transported to ghettos and death camps between October 1941 and February 1945. From there, we were dropped off at the Bebelplatz, the site of a Nazi book burning on the 10th May 1945. Here Sean asked the students to find 'The Empty Library' memorial which commemorates the 20,000 books that were burnt and has a plaque inscribed with the prophetic words of the 19th century poet Heinrich Heine, 'That was just a prelude; where they burn books, they will ultimately burn people as well.'

Our last day involved a change of focus as we looked to the Cold War. We visited the Berlin Hohenschonhausen Memorial on the site of the main political prison of the former East German Communist Ministry of State Security, the Stasi. Our guides explained the psychological 'games' that were used to force inmates to confess to political crimes. The last stop of the tour was to Bernauerstrasse, where Sean explained why the Berlin Wall was built in 1961 and the various ways that East Germans tried to escape to the West. This culminated with the students climbing an observation tower overlooking a restored section of what the Berlin Wall would have looked like in its last incarnation before it was torn down.



Although this was mainly a historical trip focusing on the units that the students study at GCSE there was also an opportunity for more general sight-seeing such as seeing the Brandenburg Gate, along with stops for cold drinks and ice creams, which offered well-needed relief from the hot weather. The students were also invited to go on a 'Bear Hunt' by taking photos of the 'Buddy Bears' which are spread around the city – a competition which was won by Finola Thacker, with Ethan Lane in second place and Oscar Martyn in third.

It was really good to be able to resurrect this trip after the disruption of Covid, as the students always find it very rewarding and extremely worthwhile.

Mr Murphy