



## Debate Team Win

On Tuesday Will Blewitt (year 13), Libby Hart and Dylan Painter (year 12), represented St Benedict's in the second round of the English Speaking Union (ESU) Mace debate competition at The Perse School in Cambridge. The first round had been via Zoom, so presenting arguments in person, to an auditorium full of students and teachers was a very different experience for our team.

The motions, as well as the pairings, are imposed by the ESU, so teams are often arguing against their own beliefs. The first debate was on the motion, proposed by St Albans High School for Girls, that they would grant all prisoners the right to vote; opposition was by St Mary's School, Cambridge and the discussion was quite emotive at times.

St Bede's Inter-church School proposed that they would abolish the House of Lords and our team opposed the motion, often with passion, but always with confident, well-researched evidence and gimlet-sharp points of information, based on a mature and developed understanding of Britain's political systems.

The final debate was between Bishop's Stortford High School and The Perse, on whether schools should focus on maximising students' value to the modern workplace over a broad and balanced education, a very interesting topic which prompted a wide variety of questions from the floor.

Four hours after our arrival, the final judgement was that St Benedict's and Bishop's Stortford High school would be the two teams to go through to the regional final later this term. Obviously, we are immensely proud of our three speakers and acknowledge the long hours and hard work invested in preparing for these events – and we look forward to their next competition with eager anticipation.

Mrs James

## Year 12 Sociology Board Games

As part of revision for their Health module, Year 12 Sociologists have been designing and making their own Sociology of Health Board Games. Students designed their games, ensuring they covered key theories, sociologists, studies and terms. The end results were fantastic and showed real creativity and great understanding of the module. We even enjoyed welcoming some students with a free lesson to come and play the completed games. Well done Year 12.

Ms Eden



## Year 13 music success

A massive congratulations to Oscar Lyons in Year 13 who has managed to secure a place at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music. Every year hundreds of students apply to study music at the Royal Academy. This year there was only one jazz piano place on offer. The music department are very proud of Oscar's achievements.

Oscar is performing at the Hunters Club in Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Tickets for this gig can be purchased via this link.

<https://www.wegottickets.com/event/602121/>

Mrs Roughley



## Lost Property

The office team is working hard to return named items of lost property to the students. However, there are a number of un-named items which include a lot of coats. Below are pictures of the coats and the lost property shelves. If your son/daughter has lost an item of clothing please ask them to check in the PE corridor outside F1.

Thank you



## Starters

This term we welcome Mr J Sayer to the team as Head of Geography. Mr Sayer studied Environmental Science at Leeds University and did his teacher training at Bristol; he now returns to his native Suffolk after spending most of his teaching career at state schools in London. When he's not teaching, he enjoys playing the electric guitar.



## Samuel Ward vs St Benedict's 6<sup>th</sup> Form

### Match report:

#### Samuel Ward 3-6 Bennies

1.Daniel Noor Brooks 2.Henry Baldock 3.Rodrigo Alves 4.John Feely © 5.Fionn Redmond 6.Rafael Martinez 7.Isaac Lewis 8.Santi Davies 9.Cian Murphy 10.Alfie Claydon 11.Ollie Brunning 12.Will Wells 13.Ollie Niedziejko 14.Isac Thomas

With their first game under their belt, the Bennies boys were into the next round of 16 of the cup against Samuel Ward, who have an established football course at their school. Immediately expectations were high for the match with the knowledge that Samuel Ward were a good, accomplished team, whereas Bennies were suffering from injuries and an absence from their first-choice goalkeeper.

The game kicked off with John winning the toss and Bennies kicking off the game. Immediately Samuel Ward found their stride as after a ball played down the line and dealt with by John, Samuel Ward had a corner. After two clearances which gave them two more corners, Samuel Ward's third was looped teasingly over Daniel and headed home leaving Bennies 1-0 within the second minute.

Kick off once again with Samuel Ward retaining possession and looping an over the top through ball into the Bennies half. After repeated failed attempts to clear the ball, No.10 set the ball up for a bicycle kick and although slow it was placed into the top left corner which left Daniel scrambling to reach it. Bennies with a lacklustre and disappointing start to the game. 2-0.

From then on it was pure dominance from the green and blacks as the Bennies midfield found their stride and gained confidence from solid passing plays. With Isaac's silkiness on the ball, it was inevitable that Bennies would win a free kick, and after a ball whipped in by Santi perfectly placed into the box, the diversion run from Cian persuaded the keeper a-drift from the ball to let it bounce on home. 2-1.

Again dominance in the style of play from Bennies, as a ball played centrally by Raf, landing at the feet of Isaac outside the box was thundered into the top left corner leaving Samuel Ward stunned. 2-2. Keeping the pressure on, Bennies with a right wing ball from Will to Alfie leads to him winning a foul. Played quick and short, Santi loops the ball into the back post where it nestles into the top corner. Santi with his second of the game and Bennies into the lead. 2-3.

Samuel Ward responded with a bolting run down the right, which left Bennies exposed, a cross from the By-line was headed goalward by their number 16, but heroically blocked on the line by Fionn, then comfortably gathered by Daniel.

A mouth-watering run from Isaac, enticed the Samuel Ward midfield to dive into challenges giving Bennies a free kick from 30 yards out. Again, Santi looped it goalwards, the ball trickles into the back of the net to give Santi his class hat-trick before half time. 2-4.

Towards the end of the half, after bringing Ollie B on for Will, assurance was brought to the right-hand side as Rodrigo time and time again, put his body on the line and played it forward to Ollie B. He would have success down the line till the end of the half. HALF TIME: Samuel Ward 2-4 St Benedict's.

The second half started with Ollie N now at left back and Isac T at right midfield. For the first 15 minutes the two titans battled for control. The Bennies defence remained solid as Ollie N controlled his position well, even getting a world class slide tackle in. However, as the Samuel Ward attack broke through down the right side, they won a penalty as Henry left his leg dangling in the box critically injuring the player. The penalty slotted down the middle leaving Bennies distraught. 3-4.

John changed things up making more changes and demanding control from his players. John and Henry dealing with their strikers with ease, as John would clear the ball up to Cian, and Henry would be able to break out and start a counterattack.

To the relief of the St Benedict's team, Isaac with one of his traditional runs broke the Samuel Ward team apart, leaving their players lost and confused. A ball then slid across to Cian gets him on the score sheet as he closes out the game. 3-5.

The game was far from over though as Samuel Ward found themselves through on goal, 1on1 against Daniel. The shot slotted down right but followed by Daniel as he just about manages to reach it with out stretched gloves, unbelievable!

Isaac for the final goal once again finds himself on the edge of the box after good play from Raf and Cian leaves Isaac the chance to get his second of the game and to win the game for Bennies. 3-6.

From then on, after two cramps from Fionn and John, Alfie and Isac T come on and assure the win. Alfie nearly bagging a wonder goal dribbling all the way to the 6 yard box but the shot being stopped. Isac linking the gap between the Defence and attack superbly finding spaces and assuring the Bennies Win.

FULL TIME: Samuel Ward 3-6 St Benedict's.

MOTM-Isaac Lewis, Santi Davies, Daniel Noor-Brooks.

Well done and thank you to Daniel for stepping in when the team needed him, after a shaky first 5 he was exceptional. The next round is the Quarter Finals of the cup and should be against Bungay. Very well done to the Bennies Boys, on to the next round.

*John Feely*

## Thank You

A huge thank you to all those who have donated such wonderful books, puzzles and games to the library. All donations are really appreciated. Thank you.

Mrs Pickersgill

## Post-16 Open Events - Book Now!

It's now time for **Year 10** students (and parents/carers) to book onto post-16 Open Events being held at colleges and Sixth Forms of interest. Students can visit and apply to as many post-16 destinations as they wish. The final decision will be made between the student and education provider after GCSE exam results are known. As a reminder, Year 10 students will begin applying to their post-16 destinations in October this year!

To help you get started, below are links to the Open Events being held at a number of colleges locally and across our region. Attending these events offers an insight into new environments, allows you to meet course directors and students and evaluate the best choice of destination after Year 11.

**Note:** *Year 11 students who still need to decide on their post-16 destination can book a second visit and can apply on the day.*

Abbeygate Sixth Form College:

[Open Days - Abbeygate Sixth Form College \(abbeygatesfc.ac.uk\)](http://abbeygatesfc.ac.uk)

One Sixth Form College:

[Open Days - One Sixth Form College \(suffolkone.ac.uk\)](http://suffolkone.ac.uk)

Hills Road Sixth Form College:

[Open Events | Hills Road Sixth Form College](#)

Long Road Sixth Form College:

[Long Road Sixth Form College - Open Evenings](#)

West Suffolk College:

[Open Days \(wsc.ac.uk\)](http://wsc.ac.uk)

Suffolk New College:

[Open Events - Suffolk New College](#)

Cambridge Regional College:

[Open Days - Cambridge Regional College \(camre.ac.uk\)](http://camre.ac.uk)

City College Norwich:

[Events - In category Open Days \(ccn.ac.uk\)](#)

Easton College:

[Events - In category Open Days \(easton.ac.uk\)](#)

Miss Hahn - Head of Careers

## Model United Nations

As of September the sixth form have offered a Model United Nations lesson as part of its enrichment provision. So far we have held several debates, including the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the COP28 Climate Conference and this week we were debating the conflict in Sudan. The students have excelled in researching their country's position regarding these crises, negotiating with each other and preparing resolutions to vote on.

Mr Murphy

## Reporting your child's absence

If your child is unwell or has an appointment e.g. dentist/doctor could you please leave a message by 9.00am including the reason for the absence via:



Phone: 01284 753512 and Choose option 1:

And then choose option 1 for students in year 7-11

And option 2 for student in the sixth form

OR



Email: [Attendance@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:Attendance@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

For information on what to do if your child has COVID-like symptoms please see the following link for NHS guidance:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If you do not telephone us, we will text you at home or at work. Please note the school operates a first-day response to absences.

If, in exceptional circumstances, you need to request permission for your child to be absent from school during term time, you should complete a **leave of absence application form (please see link below)**, at least three weeks in advance, stating the reason why the absence must be taken in term time.

<https://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=74&type=pdf>

Thank you very much.

Mrs Wesley - Attendance Officer



## School Social Events

Please don't forget to book onto these events through parentpay if your son/daughter would like to attend.

### Year 9 Silent Disco Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024

DJ ELMER, DJ HAMILTON, DJ TAYLOR plus more.

Ticket Price £8

Times to be confirmed

Tuck Shop open

Why not come, dance and have fun as year group together.

Please buy tickets through parent pay!



### Year 8 Night in the Museum (school) movie night and sleepover Friday 9.2.24



Stay for just the movie  
or join everyone in  
sleeping for the night in  
the school hall.

Tuck Shop  
for sweets

Free Popcorn and Hot  
Chocolate

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_