



British Army Careers Talk

This week, Sergeant (Sgt) Chris Goodwin (centre, left) and Lance Corporal (LCpl) Dan Waters (centre, right) from the 1st Battalion Royal Anglian Regiment delivered an insightful Careers Talk to St Benedict's students on roles in the British Army. Alongside careers such as Army Medic, Dentist, Pilot, Engineer and Infantry soldier, our eager audience discovered more about Basic Training, the Army's funded education, training and rank progression, attractive salaries and Olympic sports pedigree. LCpl Waters outlined a typical 'Week in the Life of an Infantry soldier' and he and Sgt. Goodwin explained the ongoing welfare support available to serving soldiers. Our students also got to try on some very heavy kit! A great talk and warm up for our Careers Fair on 15th February, which will play host to all the Armed Forces.

Miss Hahn - Head of Careers



Hairspray Interviews

Mrs Keefe caught up with some of the stars of the forthcoming Hairspray Musical, Ms Motormouth Maybelle played by Talia McQueen-Hargrove and Link Larkin played by Oscar Marshall!

Keefe: What was the audition process like?

Link: For me, it was quite hard and I wasn't very prepared because I was sick before for the pre-thing, the pre-audition thing.

Maybelle: Good but I was worried to perform it so that's why I froze a bit, but now, my confidence has become better with the cast.

Keefe: Well, talking of cast, what are the cast like on the show?

Maybelle: They're nice and they're really supportive.

Link: They really love acting and they're very good at singing.

Keefe: And dancing?

Link: Of course.

Keefe: Okay, Link Larkin, what are you looking forward to most in the show, bearing in mind is going to be on in Early March?

Link: Probably the show nights because I just love the feeling of when you stay after school and just

have a fun time before you get on stage.

Keefe: Maybelle, what are you looking forward to most in the show? It's in 6 weeks, getting excited?

Maybelle: No! Sorry!

Keefe: What are you looking forward to?

Maybelle: Getting ready.

Keefe: What, like hair and make up?

Maybelle: Making memories and stuff...

Keefe: Hair and Make up? Costume?

Maybelle: Hmm, yeah, hair and make up.

Link: I hate make up; I'm still traumatised from last year.

Mrs Keefe



Idiom of the week - French

Il est février et il fait froid et le ciel est gris!

As it is cold and grey at the moment, I have gone for cold weather French idioms;

Avoir la chair de poule - goosebumps (literally to have chicken skin)

Faire un froid de canard - cold weather (literally to be a cold fit for ducks - I am not sure why ducks deserve cold weather!)

Par exemple; Il fait un froid de canard et j'ai la chair de poule! Brr!

Mrs Dalby
Head of MFL



Year 8 Sportshall Athletics

We took a group of Year 8s to Newmarket for Sportshall athletics last week. The boys came 3rd in West Suffolk and the girls won the event, beating County by just 1 point and have made it to the County Finals being held on Friday 9th February! Both teams performed extremely well and some had never been involved in this type of competition before so we are so pleased to have finished in the top 3 for boys and girls for our area! Highlights from Noah Wilkinson, Lucy Murphy and Alanna Evans who was the quickest girl in the competition, flying through the 2 lap race!

Well done to all involved and good luck to the girls in the County finals!

Mrs Wright

Public Speaking Competition

On the afternoon of 24th January three year 11 students from St Benedict's went to Finborough School to take part in the second round of the ESU Churchill public speaking competition.

The venue was a brand new auditorium/theatre, with smart, raked seating for the audience and we were participating in its inaugural event. This was quite a different experience from the Zoom call we had made in the first round, and particularly daunting for Oscar Martyn our Chairperson, who had nobly stepped in to cover a fellow student who had been forced to withdraw through ill-health, and who had never competed in a public speaking competition. It was unfortunate that, in addition, he was drawn to be the opening speaker. Oscar managed his role very well, introducing his guest speaker and inviting an adept interrogation by our Questioner Zoe Harvey.

Our Speaker Aoibheann Leighton-Scott was confident and fluent as she presented her response to the idea that in the 21st century we expect more of technology and less of ourselves. It was a well-constructed speech, about which the judge said she could offer no recommendations for improvement.

Although we did not progress to the next round, the team did superbly, exhibiting the ability to collaborate effectively and supportively, and having worked hard to be ready to take on two teams each from Thomas Gainsborough School and Colchester County High School for Girls and a team from Finborough School. I want to congratulate all three for their humour, commitment and diligence in preparing for and participating in this prestigious national contest. I look forward to their involvement in future demonstrations of their not inconsiderable powers of oratory.

Mrs James

SWIMARATHON 2024 - Fun & Fundraising, and non-competitive!

Do we have any keen swimmers?

The Bury St Edmunds Rotary Club are organising a Swimarathon on Sunday 17 March: 12.00 to 5.00pm at Abbeycroft Leisure Centre.

'A brilliant, simple, idea'

Make a team of four swimming relay for 40 minutes, and going at your own pace

Choose a charity you want to support knowing that ALL the sponsorship your team raises goes to your charity, there's no entry fee.

The event is sponsored by the Ridley Godfrey Foundation.

Entries/teams need to be submitted to the school office by **26 February please**.

Further information can be found on the attachments sent with the newsletter.

London trip inspires our Year 11 Artists

48 year 11 students travelled to London this Tuesday to explore the Tate Modern and Tate Britain as part of their **GCSE Art External Assessment**. Having recently received their new exam paper of potential thematic starting points, students had the opportunity to find works of interest in the Tate Modern, before heading down the Thames by boat to Millbank where we ended our visit at the Tate Britain.



Students enjoyed the array of installations, sculptures and paintings on offer, particularly in the Tate Britain with works by Gwen John and John William Waterhouse to help them explore one of the most popular themes on the exam paper; Places and Spaces.



Thank you to Mrs Ashcroft, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Stemp and Mr Green and all in the office who helped support the trip to make for such a successful and inspiring day. The year 11 students were an excellent, mature group to take and I thank them for being so patient with the long coach journey home from the big city! We look forward to seeing the students' ideas progress over the coming months for their final exam in early April.



Ms Chacksfield

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

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