

## British Education Awards

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, the British Education Awards took place at Deansgate Hilton Manchester. This national awards ceremony celebrates the successes of young people from across the country in categories from GCSE to Degree level.

Year 12 student, Phoebe Harpur-Davies, was nominated for the GCSE award and then was shortlisted as a finalist for last week's ceremony. With her outstanding academic achievements, musical and theatrical commitments not to mention sporting and charitable pursuits, it was a fully merited nomination.

Sadly, the judges lacked the presence of mind and what is so evident to all of us, and Phoebe did not win. However, we remain immensely proud of Phoebe and her achievements and all our students who continue to strive to excel in all their chosen endeavours.

Wishing you all a wonderful half term.

Mr Richmond - Head of Sixth Form



## Year 7 Residential

The Year 7 Summer Residential to Walsingham is now available to book through Parent Pay.

This is a joint pastoral and religious education trip which will provide students with the opportunity to experience a trip away from home whilst engaging with exciting activities!

Students will be within their form groups, spending a day at the Pilgrimage site and a day at Holkham Estate. The trip will include high ropes, cycling and fish and chips on the beach!

Mr Senior has written to all parents/carers explaining the payment details and options. We would like to see as many Year 7s on this trip as possible so if you have any questions, please do email [JSenior@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:JSenior@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

Miss Law

## Careers Fair 2024

Our first Careers Fair in a decade was held in school yesterday (Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February) and proved to be a resounding success for all involved!

Huge thanks go out to the employers who gave up their time and energy to inspire our students (and staff!): Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), Apprenticeships Suffolk, Ashtons Legal, The British Army, Bury Physio, Cambridge Regional College, Care Development East, Central College of Animal Studies, Eastern Colleges Group, East of England Ambulance Service, Ipswich Town Football Academy, Jardine Motors, Knights Lowe, NHS, Norwich University of the Arts, Pick Everard, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and Marines, RSM, Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk New College, The Jockey Club Catering, Treatt, University of East Anglia (UEA), University of Suffolk (UoS), UoS Therapeutic Radiography & Healthcare, Wardell Armstrong (Archaeology) and West Suffolk College.

The positive engagement with all year groups made a huge impact and created a great buzz around the school. Students discovered more about careers they were already interested in and were introduced to new and exciting career paths too. We are already looking forward to next year's Fair!

The exhibitors completed a feedback form and these are some of the wonderful things they had to say about the day and our students:

"It was a brilliant day!"

"The students were amazing, lots of questions and interactions, and were courteous, it was a pleasure to talk to them."

"One of the best careers fairs I've done! The students were also fantastic, right through to Year 7s at the end of the day. They asked insightful questions and were friendly, enthusiastic and polite. A joy to talk to!"

Miss Hahn - Head of Careers



## European Spring Traditions

It is nearly Spring! So here are two European customs related to this time of the year.

Bells flying off to Rome and coming back with chocolate is a wonderful idea! And we all want to burn winter so the flowers and blue skies can come back!

### Les Cloches volantes

#### *The Silencing of the Bells, Good Friday*

As a historically Christian country, France is scattered with churches and their bell towers. On Good Friday, however, the bells remain silent in acknowledgement of Jesus' death. From this has grown the legend that on Maundy Thursday all the bells 'fly to Rome', leaving the country eerily quite. Then on Sunday, they fly back filled with treats and Easter eggs, scattering them everywhere for children to find.

#### *Switzerland, Sechseläuten, the third Monday in April.*

In Switzerland, people gather to burn 'Winter', a paper snowman that's filled with fireworks - which adds some extra excitement to the traditional bonfire.



Mrs Dalby - MFL department

## Hairspray

Tickets are selling like hotcakes so please book soon to ensure you are not disappointed. We are running the show for four nights from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March to Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Each show starting at 6.30 in our school hall. All tickets are £7.

Tickets can be purchased from this link

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DDCZ>

To avoid you paying additional fees for your tickets, once you have reserved them online you will then be requested to pay for the tickets via parentpay. You will need to wait at least a day (longer over half term) for them to appear on parentpay.

The students have been working incredibly hard in rehearsals and the show is going to be fabulous. We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Ms Roughley



## Maths Challenges success

### Intermediate Maths Challenge (IMC) 2024

The IMC is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at high ability Maths students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

We are delighted to announce that students at St Benedict's achieved 6 golds, 12 silvers and 5 bronzes in this year's IMC! To recognise the highest performers in the Challenge, UKMT awarded the top-scoring 60% of participants Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1. Please see below for those who secured certificates!

### Gold

Grace Clifton, Alice Ellison, Amy John, Kuba Kluczynski, Oscar Martyn and Adam O'Flynn

### Silver

Kaytrina Babboo, Isabel Basham, Raf Calumpiano, Millie Dack, Grace Ellis, Mohamad Ismail, Asir Isswiasi, Tia Martin, Franklyna Nyarko, Viktoria Pawlowska, Finola Thacker and Emily Vince

### Bronze

Kwame Atuah, Claudia Bergin, Constance D'Mello, Maria James and Phoebe Moran

This year, three students scored high enough to get into the next round, (Pink Kangaroo), this puts Grace Clifton, Amy John and Adam O'Flynn in the top 8000 students in the UK. We are so proud of the achievements of all our pupils that took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Mrs Nicholls

## Exam Certificates

We still have a number of uncollected GCSE and A level certificates belonging to students who sat exams in 2022 and 2023. If siblings in school are collecting certificates then an email authorising this must be sent by the student who sat the exam. Anyone wishing to collect certificates should email [cedwards@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:cedwards@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk) to arrange a mutually convenient time. The cost of replacing candidate's certificates at a later date can amount to between £150 and £200 per person for each exam series so it is advisable to collect certificates as soon as you are able as school is only obliged to keep certificates for one year.

Mrs Edwards - Exams Officer

## School Notice

To All Students, Parents & Carers,

All students should be in school by 08:50. We expect students to have their AM registration completed at 08:55. Arriving later than 08:55 is late to school. We will be focussing on punctuality to AM registration from the 26th Feb. Whilst we do understand that a delayed bus is out of a student's control and that sometimes the morning traffic can catch us all out, please can all students make a concerted effort to be punctual to school. Thank you in advance of your support with improving our students attention to punctuality.

## Sportshall Athletics

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February we took the winning teams from the qualifying competitions to the Suffolk Sportshall Athletics Final in Newmarket, we had the following three teams competing, Yr 7 girls, Yr 7 boys and Yr 8 girls.

Sportshall Athletics is a fun concept where they have taken traditional outdoor athletic events and moved them indoors, so there are events such as standing long jump, triple jump and high jump, speed bounce and various races which involve the athletes running lengths of the hall and pushing off boards to change direction at each end. Needless to say with around 10 different schools competing and everyone fitting into one sportshall it was loud and exciting.

The St Benedict's competitors were all brilliant, putting 100% effort into their events. Overall the Yr7 girls came 3rd and the Yr 7 boys came 2nd, the Yr 8 girls weren't in the top three but they all put in great performances.

Well done to all those who competed, thank you for being great competitors and ambassadors for the school.

Mrs Slater



## Reflections from Year 10

I can't believe that we are halfway through the spring term. Year 10 have continued to show themselves to be the kind and confident young people that they are. During this term Year 10 have been buddies to both Spanish and French students. The buddies have enabled their guests to have a positive experience of life at Bennies, whilst forging new friendships

Guided Reading - Year 10 have continued to show real commitment to guided reading. This is where we pair Year 10 students with Year 7 students. They meet each week in the library. The Year 10s have had a massive impact on the Year 7 students allowing a lovely connection between the year groups to grow whilst highlighting the importance of reading.

Also during this half term, Mr Wallace took a group of Year 10 students to Rome who had an amazing experience going to the Vatican, Colosseum and many other wonderful experiences. Please read the report from one of our Year 10 students.

As the half term draws to a close it was lovely to see how the year group took advantage of the careers fair yesterday;

they conducted themselves with great maturity. It is another step towards them thinking about their next steps after Year 11.

As ever thank you for all your support. Have a lovely half term.

V Wray

## Rome Trip

We're excited to share with you our incredible journey to Rome, where history, culture, and unforgettable experiences awaited us at every turn. Our adventure began with the exhilarating race up the Spanish steps, we were rewarded with breathtaking views of Rome's skyline, a testament to our perseverance and the beauty that awaited us at the summit. First full day, after patiently waiting for what felt like an eternity, the moment we heard the Pope's speech echoing through the crowd, it was as if time stood still, and every word carried the weight of wisdom and hope, making the wait entirely worthwhile. We then walked the streets of Rome stopping at different popular attractions. The best tourist attraction that attracted all of us was our mesmerizing visit to the Trevi fountain, where we made wishes amidst the splashing waters, feeling the enchantment of this timeless symbol. But it wasn't just the sights that amazed us; it was the incredible cuisine that truly stole the show. From indulging in mouthwatering pasta & pizza dishes to savouring the creamiest gelato, every bite was a culinary delight that left us craving for more. Our days were filled with leisurely shopping escapades, discovering hidden treasures in quaint alleyways, and basking in the warm embrace of friendship. And who could forget the thrill of riding the underground trains, navigating the bustling city like true Romans? Soon came the time that we were all dreading, as the sun dipped below the horizon, we boarded our flight home, hearts full of cherished memories and a longing to return to the magic of Rome.

Harel Samuel - Year 10

## Uniform Reminder

Please note the following information with regards to uniform expectations:

- School jumper with embroidered school logo, purchased from the school supplier
- School tie, purchased from the school supplier
- White collared shirt (not a polo shirt)
- Trousers - contemporary or classic fit black school trousers
- Shorts - Boys, from Summer term tailored black school shorts are allowed
- Skirts - Kelso tartan skirt, purchased from the school supplier
- Socks or tights must be plain and of a dark colour
- Shoes should be black and of a material that can be polished
- Green gingham dress for Summer term only