



tume padding, she brought big comedy, big hair and big love to her starring role. Claudia was the epitome of camaraderie, embracing Tracy's collegiate spirit deep and embodying all that is good and pure.

Edna Turnblad was encapsulated perfectly by Charlie Biggins, a GCSE Drama student, with a huge zest for life. It has been an absolute treat to see him bringing the character to life. One highlight for the audience was when Edna declared 'I wouldn't rush right in there after me if I was you' or proudly announced: 'Triple E!' His own favourite line was from 'Timeless to me': 'You're like a stinky old cheese, babe, just getting' riper with age'

Wilbur Turnblad was taken on by Naomhan Walker who just got funnier as the show night progressed. He has great comic timing and sang deliberately off key during 'Timeless to me' for the laughs which came plentifully from the audience. 'Product placement. The sponsor insists'

Corny Collins played suavely by Ethan Lane, another GCSE Drama student, was sophisticated, fully embracing a convincing US accent in his audition. Right from the casting back in September 2023 to present day, I believe...

Penny Pingleton was performed modestly by the exquisitely talented Lottie Sander and was cute in her role, giving a flawless delivery every time. A promising star of the future.

Amber von Tussle was depicted fantastically by Beatrice Harpur-Davies, who showed a brilliant portrayal of a clamouring, fame hungry wannabe Miss Teenage Hairspray and got huge laughs on the line 'You'll have to rip it from my cold, dead, hands'

Velma von Tussle was performed disgustingly accurately by the fabulous Teisha Roughley, who personified the character's monstrous, bossy, powerful traits. Teisha is but one of the many assets to our production with music simply running through her veins.

Link Larkin was delivered superbly by Oscar Marshall, who typified the heartthrob, swoonsome, wholesome role brilliantly. Great chemistry too, with Tracy Turnblad.

Seaweed J. Stubbs was required to sway, sashay and bust several moves which was done impeccably well by Matthew Ekoru. His maturity makes him very well respected and looked up to by our younger cast members.

Principal played authoritatively by Lyra Reimann who characterised the role powerfully and convincingly.

Motormouth Maybelle was heart-warmingly played by Talia McQueen Hargrove who sang wonderfully. Her beautiful singing voice was remarked upon by many, many audience members.

Little Inez was portrayed by Ella Ferdinand who has the singing voice of an angel. Outstanding in her role and high hopes for the future for Ella, indeed.

Prudy Pingleton Imogen Rowland played up to the authoritarian, stereotypical domineering Mother and her previous stage experience was evident in the calmest demeanour backstage. Unflappable and got a lot of the laughs.

Prison Matron portrayed by Zoe Harvey who opened the second act with gusto. 'Think of me as your Mother. Who eats her young!' was particularly well received by our fabulous audiences every night.

Harriman F. Spritzer was played marvellously by Henry Dobson who also got a big cheer of the night when announcing Tracy's pardon and... 'a full scholarship to St Benedict's Sixth Form under the prestigious leadership of Mrs Senior'

Mr. Pinky was impressively characterised by Matthew Becker who has an excellent sense of comic timing, furthermore, knew everyone else's dialogue as well as his own! 'I got ten tonnes of taffeta' was a highlight.

The Dynamites comprising Imogen Knight, Annabel Mansfield & Leja Lukoseviciute brought energy and sass. Harmonious and hairsprayed to the hilt.

Committee Members rehearsed, collaborated and performed brilliantly as an impressive unit, executing some daring gymnastically challenging moments.

Ellen Baldock danced a mesmerising lyrical dance to 'I know where I've been', sensitively and spectacularly expressing through dance the troubles faced by Maybelle's character.

Our chorus, without whom no show would be complete, knew exactly when the energy levels had dipped during rehearsals and precisely how to bring them back up again. They brought immense passion, energy and footwork to the proceedings. A great atmosphere backstage every single performance and gelled well together from the outset.

Our orchestra were sublime! Special mention to Will Blewitt who was presented with a commemorative guitar pick, which was engraved with the names and dates of the shows he has contributed to during his time at St Benedict's with this being his last show.

Backstage Crew are not to be taken for granted either, so we'd like to give a special mention to our expert Stage Manager: Clotilde D'Mello and to the seasoned stagehands: Constance D'Mello, Philippe D'Mello, Sofia Lyons, Maria Anjo & Scarlett Byrne; Lighting Desk: Philippe D'Mello, Ridley Collingwood-Hall; Sound Desk: Nate Senior & Isaac Spiller; Follow Spots: Jake Bridges, Mark Proctor, Tili Zak; Tech Supervisors: Mr Spiller & Mr Cameron-Laker; Hair & Make Up: Martha Harvey, Tawney Savage and Freya Williamson; Choreography, set scenery co-ordinator Miss Alice "Glitter Sprinkle" Dalby; Costumes, Props & Accents - Mrs Clare Keefe; Rehearsal Support Team - Mrs Carolyn Severy, Mrs Michaela Cornforth, Mrs Sharon Balaam & Ms Karen Young who also made protest signs & placards. Mrs Kira Ashcroft's Textiles Club for the making of the massive bra which got bigger and bigger laughs each night!

To the audience, who expect big things from this musical, thanks go to all those who came along and tapped their feet, because you can't stop the beat.

Mrs Keefe

Relationships and Sex Education Policy Consultation

Thank you to everyone who took part in the recent RSE Policy Consultation. The survey was anonymous and so if you wrote a comment in it which you would like a response to, please email scobbold@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk and we will reply. Thank you.

Mrs Cobbold and Mr Wallace

Reading Week Winners

Last week, as part of the Reading Week and World Book Day celebrations a number of competitions took place in school. Firstly, all tutor groups were invited to take part in the Door Decorating Challenge, in which they had to decorate their tutor room door on a book theme. There were some excellent and imaginative creations all around the school and it was incredibly hard to pick a winner. In the end it was decided that 8X with their fabulous Maze Runner door should take first prize, with 8S chosen as runners-up, who decorated their door on the theme of The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

On World Book Day, avid readers had a chance to take part in the Reading Quest in the library, with Patrycja Golonka in 7S managing to complete the challenge in the quickest time and winning the £15 book token prize. Also, throughout the week, students in Years 7 and 8 were given the opportunity in their English lessons to enter a prize draw to win one of the four books that they reviewed in class. The lucky winners of this draw are: Michal Niedzwiecki, who won a copy of 'The Climbers'; Teddie Taylor, who won a copy of 'On Silver Tides'; Olivier Borek, who won a copy of '100 Tales from the Tokyo Ghost Café'; and Eve King, who won a copy of 'Impossible Creatures'. We also have copies in the library of all four books, for students to borrow if they wish.

The Library and English Department



Public Speaking Competition

Every year we look forward to walking to our neighbouring school to take part in the Rotary Club public speaking competition – organised for local schools to enter a three-person team from Year 9 and one from Year 12.

This year ours were all girls and both teams had worked very hard in the inception and development of their speeches. The year 9 group: Chair, Orla McGinty; Speaker, Ellen Beckwith; Voter of Thanks, Connie Gordon, spoke about cake and were supported by Zuzanna Bulacz and Izzy O'Flynn, who had attended all the rehearsals. This was rather different from the usual "fare" of the doom-laden topics of global warming, pollution and social media and the judges clearly appreciated both the idea and the bright, enthusiastic delivery of the history, from King Alfred to Marie Antoinette, and symbolism of this sugary comestible managed by our team, because they won the Rotary Club Shield for their age-group.

Jagoda Napieraj, Zuzanna Piatek and Aleksandra Bulacz had had a conversation in which they had explored the effects of consumerism and this had evolved into a more focused appraisal of the impact of new aesthetics such as "Cherry Girl" and "Clean Girl" on those who espouse such trends and on the environment and the workers who produce the garments. Again, the team complemented one another and took a fresh, engaging approach which won them the Year

12 shield.

We are, of course, tremendously proud – not only of their win but also of the courage and commitment each student showed in taking on the challenge and then in competing. Many congratulations to all!

Ms James



GCSE Geography

This week saw two of the year 11 geography groups head off to Hawstead to complete a field study of a river for part of their geography GCSE. For the study the students worked in groups to measure the river's width, flow, cross section and gradient. They will then analyse the data to further understand the dynamics of a river back in the classroom.

Mr Sayer



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

St Benedict's First XI vs Bungay u18s

Kuba Kluczynski, Rodrigo Alves, Giles Attfield, John Feely, Fionn Redmond, Rafael Martinez, Isaac Lewis, Santi Davies, Cian Murphy, Joe Price, Ollie Brunning, Will Wells, Oli Niedziejko, Theo Piggott, Cris Cardoso

After an assertive and instructive team talk from John, The Bennies first XI were ready for the challenge; up against their second official football collage of the tournament. The stakes were high, with a win leading to the Semi Finals and a loss leading to elimination, not being up for the fight was not an option. Three year 11s made their debut with Giles and Theo replacing vital players and Kuba becoming our third goalkeeper of the competition, the team was at its best.

Bennies with kick off got the game rolling, with a 15-minute stalemate keeping the game competitive. However, to Bennies misfortune, the ref gave Bungay a controversial penalty after Rafael apparently held onto the opposition forward. The penalty was a confident one and was dispatched into the top left corner, just avoiding the outstretched hand of Kuba, 1-0 Bungay.

Bennies with their second kick-off of the game, looking for a way to break through the lines. The defence was held strong with Giles making many top draw interceptions, carrying the ball forward and laying it into midfield. Isaac would take the ball down, put it through someone's legs then lay it off creating gaps for Santi to switch the play. Eventually the break came, as Theo played the ball through to Cian on the left wing. He sold their right back a hotdog, then chipped it into Joe who found the right side of the goal with an accurate header, 1-1.

With the run of play in Bennies hands, Rafael obtained the ball down the right-hand side, and after poking it past an oncoming defender, whipped it back post; perfectly on the head of Theo who nodded it into the top corner. A pristine play from the green and blacks, really coming into their stride, 2-1 Bennies. Relentless was the only way to describe the Bennies team; completely turning the game on its head. Cris was brought on and between him, Isaac, Raf and Joe, Bungay could get nowhere near the ball, often finding themselves chasing their own tails, as the green and blacks played triangles up and down the pitch. However, when Bungay did get the ball, they could not retain possession as Cian would not let up, pressing and winning the ball creating chance after chance. Drawing to the end of the half, Santi looked up and found Joe in a gap in their defence; with a perfectly timed run, Joe broke away and was brought down in the box, where Santi sent the keeper the wrong way, 3-1 Bennies.

Bennies had never played better. Any chance they got down the left, Fionn would win it confidently and lay it through to Theo. Any chance they got it down the right, Rodrigo would thump it clear. Through the centre, headers and great positioning from Giles and John left little gaps for shots to be taken. A confident lead at the break for St Benedict's.

Half Time

With the second half resuming Ollie Brunning replaced Joe to give him a rest, slotting upfront well and laying off the

ball to Midfield. Even with the changes Bennies had that same hunger as Theo clipped it over to Cian who poked it past the keeper with ease, getting a well-deserved goal for the work ethic put in today, 4-1 Bennies. Again, with Bennies up the field looking to close the game out, 25 yards out the ball rolled to Theo, who without a doubt in his mind let loose as it was drilled into the top left corner, even leaving his own teammates stunned 5-1 Bennies.

The Substitutes were made, Oli N came on and had an immediate impact with his signature slide tackle, something Stuart Pearce would be proud of. Will came and closed out the game laying it through to the overlapping run of Rodrigo. For a while though, the teams were interlocked, with mistakes from John creating chances on the counterattack. Luckily Bennies had Kuba in goal, with his exceptional positioning and class handling he made several saves, one of which came right down to the wire, stopping the ball on the line whilst everyone watched on.

Nearing the end of the game, Bungay were not going to take the loss lying down. They pushed 4 people up front to try and get a goal back. With 15 minutes to go, they did. With a corner swept in and headed goalward, Kuba got down to stop it but could not keep out the rebound which brought a goal back for Bungay, 5-2 Bennies.

The game was nowhere near over as Bungay continued to push high. Clearances only came right back to Bennies as there were now gaps between the attack and midfield, making it hard for them to retain possession. Giles took it into his own hands often carrying the ball forward with Cris cleaning up behind him. With only a few minutes to go, Kuba Booted it forward to Cian, with him chasing the ball down as he has done all game. After bodying one of the ball, he found himself in the opposition box and after feinting one way and back again like he did in the first half, he found a gap in which Joe was calling for it. Cian played it across the box to Joe who couldn't miss, officially closing out the game, 6-2 Bennies.

As the rest of the game drew out, tension arose with Bungay getting frustrated. Rodrigo was dispossessed on the right flank; with the player through on goal the only other option was a cynical foul. With a move straight out of WWE, he took the player down and that's when the pushing started. The ref blew his whistle, but everyone was already at each other's necks. Bungay, obviously fuming began to mouth off which eventually led to the game being called off a couple minutes early. Bennies did not care though as that meant that they were through to the Semi Finals of the county cup.

Final score: Bungay 2-6 St Benedict's.

With the best performance yet, St Benedict's first XI are looking forward to the next match, where they will either face Thomas Gainsborough or Suffolk New Collage, both of which have a history of being formidable teams to play. Bennies are up for the challenge and can't wait until their next game.

Men of the Match - Giles Attfield and Cian Murphy

Honourable mentions - Theo Piggott, Rafael Martinez and Joe Price.

John Feely - Year 12