



This feels like a week of huge extremes, blistering hot, miserable rain, bursting corridors, silent exam halls, a flurry of year 11 activity, watching them all leave this afternoon.

Like many I am sure, we were disappointed by the postponement of the end of legal COVID restrictions, but our own experience this week of a COVID case in school with multiple close contacts is a timely reminder of the need for these measures and the importance of following the guidance and supporting the home testing measures.

The delay in ending restrictions means that we will need to adapt some of our plans for the final weeks of term, but there has been helpful clarification of some of the guidance for schools and summer activities so we feel that we can put plans in place that are sensible but ambitious. I thank you again for your continued support.

I think it is important to make parents and carers aware of the challenges these recent weeks have placed on the school. The submission of the Teacher Assessed Grades for GCSE and A level has been a Herculean task and one that our teachers have approached with professionalism and integrity. There are mountains of guidance, procedure and process to follow that are simply not present in any other year. The additional volumes of work created by this on top of the logistics of maintaining the COVID measures in school are massive.

Unlike many other schools we have continued to support our Year 11 students in school through the NCS project which has meant teaching and support staff have coped with covering sessions, classroom changes whilst continuing all of the other main work of the school. On top of all these challenges and demands, we have after school sports clubs, school council meetings and exhibitions of student art work all taking place and I can only thank and praise the staff who have sought to do the most for our students despite the challenges and constant additional demands. We all hope that we are nearing the end of these trickier days and that the summer will bring sunnier days in every respect.

Wishing you all a good weekend and happy father's day to all who will be marking this on Sunday.

Yours in Christ, Imogen Senior

Junior Maths Challenge Success 2021

The JMC is a 1 hour, 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 entered our top pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 for the challenge last half term and the results are in. We are delighted to announce St Benedict's achieved 1 gold, 4 silvers and 6 bronzes in this year's JMC! The names of pupils receiving awards is below; we are proud of their achievement. We also commend all our

other pupils that took part in the challenge and just missed out on getting an award.

Gold— Joseph Ferdinand

Silver— Emma Payne, Millie Dack, Tia Martin
Finola Thacker

Bronze — Finnian Senior, Niamh Walker, Grace Clifton, Franklyn Nyarko, Adam O'Flynn, Toby Steggle

Here is a chance to test your logical thinking with one of the questions from the exam.

Alex has a pile of two pence coins. She swapped exactly half of them for the same number of 10p coins. Now she has £4.20. How much money did Alex have initially?

Mr Jogee

A Level and GCSE Art Exhibition Open Evening

Thursday 24th June 6pm - 7pm

We are keen to celebrate the wonderful outcomes made by our GCSE and A Level students this year, so we are curating an exhibition of their work for display to friends and family.

COVID restrictions permitting, we hope to host the evening for students and families on 24th June in the sixth form common room. It would be a delight to see you all so please do join us to enjoy the work alongside a glass of PIMMs or fruit juice.

'Moments' - Inspiring Exhibition of Modern Art for Year 12 Art students

Year 12 art students enjoyed the spectacular exhibition at Moyses Hall this week to take in famous original artworks by the likes of Banksy, Damien Hirst,



Blek LeRat, Tracy Emin and Rachel List.

The students were pleased to be given a tour by curator 'Dan' at the museum. This helped them find out more about different famous street artists work and understand some of the wider issues and stories relating to the works by internationally renowned artists.

The group were fantastic on the trip and all 15 of our year 12 artists found something to connect with their own work, as they embark upon their own personal investigations that start for their A Level portfolios next term.

A highly recommended exhibition to visit if you are looking for some art on your doorstep this summer too. Thank you Moyses for another fantastic trip.



Fundraising

Thank you all for your generosity, the non uniform day at the end of last half term raised £858.63 for the Cambodia literacy appeal.

PE Clubs

Sports clubs started again this week, please check the new clubs list as there have been some changes! We hope to see you there!

Meet Our New Duke of Edinburgh Ambassador!

Anna Berry is our very first Duke of Edinburgh Ambassador! Anna has completed both her Bronze and Silver Awards and is now working on her Gold Award, the Ambassador role will form her volunteering section and she is going to be very busy!



As well as helping participants she will help launch Duke of Edinburgh to our next cohort, help with admin and be the face of Duke of Edinburgh in school and at parent's information evenings.

We are very much looking forward to working with her.

From the Exams Office

The Year 10 and Year 12 students will be doing mock exams from 14 to 25 June. Timetables can be found on the school website.

Please note that the results days for A level and GCSE are as follows:

A Level 10th August

GCSE 12th August

We will publish further details on timings and arrangements for collection over the coming weeks.

Mrs Aliaga

Uniform

If you have any old or outgrown uniform including ties and would like to donate them to us, we would be really grateful.

Astronomy News

The long days of summer are not ideal for stargazing as, even for night owls in the early hours of the morning, the night sky never darkens completely. However, last week (Thursday 10th June) we had an opportunity for a bit of stargazing during the day – at our very own Sun, with appropriate precautions, obviously!

Because the relative movements of the Earth, Sun and Moon are known precisely, we can predict their interactions. The best known being eclipses, both solar and lunar. Yesterday the alignment of the Moon directly between the Earth and the Sun produced an Annular Eclipse. This differs from a Total eclipse in that, because the Moon is a bit further away from us in its orbit at this particular time, the Moon does not obscure the exact disk of the Sun but leaves a “ring” of light around its edge – the so-called “ring of fire”.

Sadly for us, the full annular eclipse was only visible in parts of northern Canada, Greenland and Russia. What we got was a Partial Eclipse. This is when only a part of the Moon passes between us and the Sun – in yesterday's case, from Bury St Edmunds, 20% of the Sun's disk was obscured at maximum. Our view of the eclipse was due to begin at 10:10 and end at 12:25, with maximum at 11:15. As history now knows, we were clouded out....but not completely.

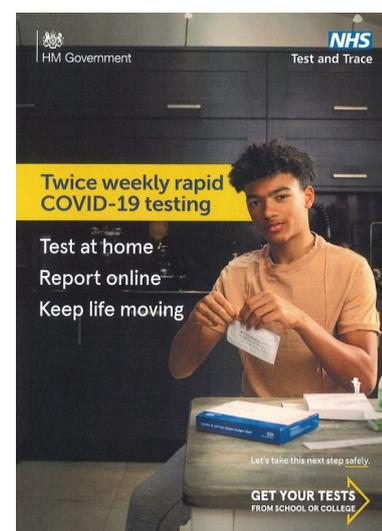
Keeping an eye on the clouds, at 11:35 they thinned just enough for us to catch a fleeting glimpse of the Sun's disk in silhouette with a characteristic “bite” out of it (see photo). Later, at 12:10 the clouds parted completely giving a direct view of the eclipse, using specially approved “solar eclipse glasses” for safety. So, at least to the writer of this piece, all was not lost.

Let's hope for better viewing weather for the next partial eclipse visible from the UK: October, next year.



COVID Testing

Please continue to test your child using the tests we have provided.



'Fratelli Tutti'

Pope Francis has written his 3rd encyclical named 'Fratelli Tutti'. In it, he is urging us all to build a better world based on fraternal love.

Fraternal love means caring for every man and woman, young and old, with the same care as the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-35), who refused to walk by and ignore the injured man as other people had done. He saw the injured man not as an outsider, but instead as a brother.

Fraternal love goes beyond all boundaries, calling us to reach out, and to help others in need, no matter where or who they are.

We cannot ignore suffering; we cannot allow anyone to go through life as an outcast.

In the face of suffering, our only way forward is to act like the Good Samaritan. No longer asking 'who is my neighbour?' but instead, becoming neighbours to all; a global neighbour. Bending down to touch and heal the wounds of others.

In the depths of every heart, love creates bonds and draws us out of ourselves, and towards others.

Fraternal love shatters the walls that keep us separate, and it builds bridges treating everyone as a neighbour.

CAFOD have produced an assembly on Fraternal love and social friendship '*no one beyond reach*' and our year 9 students have watched this to better understand the CST of the 'Common Good and Human Dignity' seeing how we can all move towards a world where everyone can be the best person they can be. If you would like to listen to the assembly please use the link below.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Secondary-school-assemblies/Fratelli-Tutti-secondary>

Mrs Bowyer

Leavers day

Transition/Leavers Day for year 11 has been provisionally moved to next **Thursday 24th June**. Students are invited in to school between **08.55-12:00** where they will be able to enjoy the inflatables, BBQ, ice cream, sign shirts and receive their hoodies. We are very much looking forward to seeing all of the year group for a morning of fun, hopefully in the sun!

Kind regards,

Miss Cox

Market Day



Business Studies students will be hosting a Market Day on Tuesday 13 July during the lunch break. They are working hard to make as much profit as possible by considering some of the most interesting business ideas. Besides the usual foods on sale, there will be other items on sale that may be of interest to you. So, come along, bring lots of money and support St. Bennie's Budding Entrepreneurs.

Profits will be donated to a nominated charity and there will be three categories of winners who will be awarded cash prizes as follows:

1st Prize: The team who makes the biggest profit will receive 30% of all profit.

2nd Prize: The team with the best marketing campaign will receive 20% of all profit.

3rd Prize: The team that displays the best team working spirit will receive 10% of all profit.

The remaining 40% of all the profit will be given to a charity nominated by all the students.

Students will work in teams of 2 or 3 to market and sell a product they believe will make them the most money. Ideally, the products will be hand-made, but all types of products will be considered. They will be putting their Business Studies theory to the test and will have to calculate how much it will cost them to bring their product to the market and how many they will have to sell to break even. The success of their business venture relies heavily on how well they can carry out their sales forecasts. They will need to promote their products prior to Market Day and they will be employing all the latest digital marketing methods, such as, Instagram, WhatsApp, etc. besides the traditional marketing methods, such as, school newsletters, banners, flyers and posters.

Year 12 students will act as managers to the year 10 Business Studies students to support them and help them with operational and logistics before and on the day.

If you would like to send your child in with a little bit of money on that day they can take advantage of what is on sale.

Mrs Taylor