



## Royal British Legion Project

Year 7 students have been working with Year 13 A Level artists Angela Garnace and Kirsten Paulo to produce a collaborative art collage to commemorate 100 years of the work by the British Legion in Suffolk.

Students used images and photographs taken from the collection of artefacts on display at The Suffolk Regiment Museum in Bury St Edmunds. The year 7 artists created a series of monoprints which Kirsten and Angela have worked hard to collate into a large-scale artwork. The collage will be going in display in St Mary's Church in Bury St



Edmunds over the next few weeks. Students in year 7, 9 and 12 will be going to lay a wreath on behalf of the school at the Armistice service on Angel Hill as part of the schools act of Remembrance with the help of bugler Imogen Foreman who will be playing the last post.

Mrs Chacksfield

## It's Competition Time!



St Benedict's students have been entered into a National TT Rockstars competition called England Rocks.

For Maths Week England we want to make maths exciting and high profile in our school. We will be taking part in a friendly competition involving schools from England from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November. It's all done online via [play.ttrockstars.com](http://play.ttrockstars.com).

For every correct answer to a multiplication or division question in any game mode (Gig, Garage, Studio, etc), students will earn their class a point. The Times Tables Rock Stars platform will calculate the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours (7.30am – 7.30pm), subject to a daily 60-minute limit. The class with the highest score average and the class with the highest percentage of participants will win prizes.

Students will have the opportunity to play TT Rockstars in F1 at lunchtimes from 1pm during the competition. The competition is open to all students in years 7, 8 and 9.

Thanks for your support, the maths team

## Thank you

A huge thank you to all students, staff and families for such a warm welcome on my recent return to school. The support I received from the St Benedict's community through my treatment made such a difference. It is wonderful to be back!

Miss Law

## Calling all Photographers!



### The Young Photographer Challenge: Charity Competition

**"Every photo is...a vulnerable act of courage to build empathy." (Bryce Evans)**

Studies show that 60% of young people feel unable to cope with stress induced by the pressure to succeed. Research also shows that the visualisation of a tranquil place can help reduce stress, anxiety and fear.

In honour of this and stress awareness week, we invite students aged 12-18 to enter this competition by InvestIN, [The Young Photographer Challenge](#). Students should submit a photograph of their 'peaceful place' along with a title and short explanation. Creativity is highly encouraged!

**The competition is free to enter and for each entry we shall make a donation to Stem4, a youth mental health charity. The deadline for entries is Monday 22nd November.**

Please send your chosen 'peaceful place photograph' by email to the Art Department on [cchacksfield@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:cchacksfield@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk) so that we submit your entry to the competition for the deadline or get in touch if you need help with your ideas.

The Winner: The winning photograph will be shared across social media and featured on our blog which will be seen by 10,000+ people. In addition, they will receive an InvestIN AmbitionX Membership, granting them one year's access to all their weekend live online programmes and evening events.

Mrs Chacksfield

### From Exams Office

Year 11 mocks will take place between 22 November and 3 December. The timetable is on the school website, and displayed on exams information noticeboards around school.

### Sacrament of Confirmation at St Edmund's Parish

If you are in Year 9 and above, are parishioners of St Edmund's King and Martyr and wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Summer and need further information, please send an email to [confirmationatstedmunds@gmail.com](mailto:confirmationatstedmunds@gmail.com)



An invitation from the East Anglia Diocesan Youth Service

As well as the international World Youth Day, Pope Francis has asked that November's 'Youth Sunday' is now also known as World Youth Day with a special event in each Diocese around the world

In response to this we invite all young people in school Year 7 and up from across our Diocese to the new

World Youth Day East Anglia

Live Music  
Inspiring Talks  
Powerful Prayer

Special Guests - including comedian Tony Vino

Ending with a vigil Mass with the Bishop followed by refreshments as we welcome in World Youth Day 12-8pm. Arrivals from 11:30

Saturday 20th November at St. John's Cathedral, Norwich

Book your place now at [www.rcdea.org.uk/youth](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/youth)  
Just £6.50!

### The Power of Stories: Reading Week 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November

Advance notice that 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November will be Reading Week. The focus for this week will be on story-telling and students will have lots of opportunities throughout the week to experience the power of stories.

In tutor time, students will find out how we are 'hard-wired' for stories and will practice their own story-telling skills. Students can also show off their knowledge of stories by competing in the library book quiz on Thursday lunchtime or taking part in the 'Titles in Pictures' treasure hunt throughout the week.

Students will also take part in reading activities in their lessons and can choose to complete the optional homework to write and illustrate a powerful story of their own and so gain achievement points and the opportunity to have their story on display in the library.

Mrs Oakes

## Anti Bullying Week

Next week is anti bullying week and once again the school will be supporting the anti-bullying alliance. The theme of 'one kind word' which focuses on how small acts of kindness and consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of people around us.

This year theme reinforces our school approach of robust kindness and our core value of compassion. Next week starts with 'odd socks day', it would be great if your child could wear odd socks and show their support that bullying has no place in our community at St-Benedict's

Next week we will continue to raise awareness of students of what bullying is and if any student feels they or any member of our community is being bullied who they can come speak to in school.

I look forward to seeing lots of odd sock combinations on Monday.

Mr Taylor and Mrs Berry

**Odd Socks Day**

**MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

This year we are holding **Odd Socks Day**. It is a chance for primary schools to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a positive way by asking students to wear odd socks to school. There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or buy expensive costumes. All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks, it could not be simpler!

Odd Socks day will take place on the first day of Anti Bullying Week, **Monday 15th November** to help raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week.

Please wear odd socks on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> November to support and raise awareness that bullying is not acceptable in and outside our school community.

ONE KIND WORD

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

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## UK Parliament Week

The first week back after half term, 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November, was UK Parliament Week – a celebration of people power and a chance for students to 'Get informed, Take Action and Make an Impact'.

Most students in the school were able to watch the UKPW Assembly for Secondary Schools and some tutor groups and sixth form Politics students participated in a Petitions Committee inquiry into 'Tackling Online Abuse'.

This inquiry was launched following the abuse aimed at England footballers after the European Championships in response to half a million people signing a petition calling for people to have to submit their ID when starting a social media account.

Because hundreds of thousands of people voiced their concern about this issue by signing the petition, the MPs on the Petitions Committee decided to investigate how online abuse could be stopped and launched this initiative to hear what young people think.

The session began with students responding to a series of open statements about social media by positioning themselves in the room according to how much they agreed or disagreed with a statement such as 'Social media companies are doing enough to reduce online abuse.' Students were then invited to match up 'Content cards' with examples of possible online abuse with 'Action cards' to hypothesise about what they thought would currently happen; and were then invited to rearrange the cards to outline what action they felt was most appropriate.

Then the students worked in groups to discuss and write down the possible pros and cons of different solutions such as limiting who can comment on posts, requiring ID to set up accounts, banning anonymous accounts, removing posts containing rude and offensive language and more education in schools about how to interact with others online.

This was followed by a vote on what students thought the best course of actions would be, before they were invited to write down their final thoughts on post it notes. All the students involved enjoyed these activities and the photos of their work have been sent to the Petitions Committee so that they can be shared with MPs carrying out the inquiry.

The UK Parliament Week Kit that we received also contained a pack of chilli seeds which the Year 12 and 13 students planted during their year group assembly - to sow the seeds of democracy. These seeds are being nurtured by the A Level Politics students and we look forward to them thriving and bearing fruit!

We also successfully applied to be part of the 'Learn with the Lords Online' programme – a live 40 minute Q&A session during which young people can put their questions to a member of the House of Lords to develop a greater understanding of the role and function of the House of Lords within the UK Parliament: and are delighted that our sixth form students will be meeting Lord Haselhurst on Teams.



## Year 13 History talk on the abolition of slavery by Professor James Walvin

For the past five or six years our History students have completed their Non Examined Assessment (coursework) on the main reasons for the abolition of the slave trade in 1807 and the abolition of slavery in 1833. Since the nineteenth century historians have offered different interpretations to explain why the British parliament passed these pieces of legislation.

Our history students have based their research on two key texts: 'Capitalism and Slavery' published by Eric Williams in 1944 which argued that these acts were primarily motivated by economic concerns rather than by human ones, and 'A Short History of Slavery' published by James Walvin (Professor Emeritus in History at the University of York) in 2007 which argued that abolition was largely down to a very successful popular protest movement.

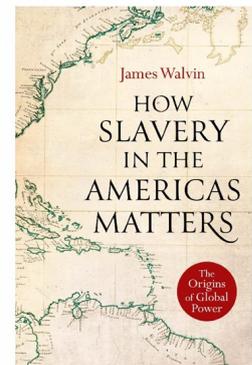
Towards the end of the summer term, Mr Murphy e-mailed Professor Walvin to see if he would be willing to talk to our students about the academic debate surrounding this issue and the current consensus. Mr Murphy was thrilled and amazed to receive an immediate response from Professor Walvin stating that he would be delighted to help.

As a result, on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November, Professor Walvin joined 13B/Hi1 via Microsoft Teams and delivered a fascinating talk summarising the main arguments which included: early opposition from the Quakers, the work of white abolitionists such as Granville Sharp, Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce; black abolitionists such as Ignatio Sanchez and Olaudah Equiano; propaganda in the form of Josiah Wedgewood's image 'Am I not a man and a brother' and the image of the Brookes slave ship; the seismic impact of the slave rebellion in St Domingue (Haiti) in 1791 and the massive popular movement in support of abolition which included boycotts of West Indian sugar and the signing of petitions (in which women played a significant role). Professor Walvin also explained how Seymour Drescher's book 'Econocide' published in 1977 undermined Williams' economic argument by arguing that the slave trade was still profitable in the 1790s and early 1800s – an interpretation that has been supported by new evidence in the form of the publication of the Transatlantic Slave Records in 1999 by David Richardson and David Eltis.

The students were riveted by Professor Walvin's talk and then had an opportunity to ask him questions at the end. This question and answer session helped them find out more about the historiography of the debates surrounding the abolition of the slave trade and slavery in the British Empire which the students found extremely useful.



Back



Front

We can't thank Professor Walvin enough for being so generous with his time and sharing his expertise with us – the product of a lifetime's scholarship in this area. It was an honour to host a talk from such an eminent historian who has published a plethora of books on this topic and appeared in many tv documentaries about the slave trade. Professor Walvin's new book 'How Slavery in the Americas Matters' is out in the New Year and would make a wonderful Christmas present for sixth form history students!