

As you may be aware, for some time there have been plans in place for St Benedict's to join Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Trust. There will be a meeting held in school on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March from 9.15am-11am to launch the formal stakeholder consultation on the proposed decision to join the MAT. Please arrive at reception if you wish to attend. Following the launch of the consultation, I will send a letter explaining details of the consultation and how we will gather views from all stakeholders and ensure that all those who wish to raise questions or make comments have the ability to do so.

Imogen Senior

## Maths Feast Success

The Maths Feast is a fun educational challenge for Year 10 students which test problem-solving and teamwork skills. Teams of four students test their maths skills with a feast of problems!

This year we took two teams of our year 10 Maths students to Kesgrave school to compete against other schools from Suffolk. In a very close fought event that is marked on a round by round basis we come out victorious in two of the four rounds, deciphering patterns and mathematical comprehension. Our maths superstars put in an excellent performance and were also awarded certificates for how well they worked as a team.

Our 8 students representing St Benedict's were Henry Baldock, Mateusz Bos, Leo Gerald, Phoebe Harpur-Davies, Niya Paul, Taylor Valach, William Wells and Elise Wright.



Mrs Nicholls

## Careers Fair's at Sybil Andrews Academy and King Edward VI School

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March we attended the Sybil Andrews Academy Careers Fair and on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March we attended the King Edward VI School Careers Fair. Thank you to Noku, Marc, Krzysztof, John, Liam, Kishora, Darragh, Connor and Fionnughuala who came along to the event at Sybil Andrews Academy and to Elinor and Noku who attended the Careers Fair at King Edward VI School. Our students did a fantastic job at representing our school and sixth form and at sharing their experiences of life as a sixth former here at Bennies. We received wonderful praise at both events for our students and were complimented for how approachable and friendly they were.



The Sixth Form Team



## Vacancies

Job Title:	Exam Invigilators
Salary:	Grade 2 point 3 currently £9.62 per hour plus holiday allowance
Job Term	No guaranteed hours
Appointment:	Casual
Place of work:	St Benedict's Catholic School

We are looking for reliable and responsible persons who are available to work primarily during the exam seasons (January, May, June and November). The ideal candidate will be flexible; have effective communication skills; and be able to remain calm and confident while invigilating our pupils during external exams, mock exams and controlled assessments.

This is a casual post with variable days and times, primarily in January, May, June and November.

Applications are reviewed on receipt so an early application is advised. This round will close on 30/04/2022 but applications always welcomed. Interviews will be held as and when suitable applications are received.

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[www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

## Public Speaking



On Saturday 11th March, students Will Blewitt, Catherine Dunn (both year 11) and Helena Peachey (year 10) accompanied by their parents, met at Magdalene College in Cambridge for the regional final of the ESU Churchill public speaking competition. The grand and historic setting of the Samuel Pepys library and the "college hall", where we were

given lunch, provided an appropriately academic backdrop to proceedings. Moving across to the more modern Cripps Court, the team started to build a sense of the acoustics and were soon ready to represent St Benedict's again.

Of course, it was a very different experience, speaking to a theatre full of people rather than addressing an unseen audience on zoom, as they had over the previous two rounds of this prestigious national competition.



Despite a scorching speech by Will about the need for free university education, and excellent teamwork from Catherine and Helena in questioning and chairing their guest speaker, our intrepid trio did not go through to the national final, although Catherine was awarded the prize for "Best Questioner" and all three were presented with specially minted Churchill Crowns. We are, of course, extremely proud of our team - and all our debaters and public speakers - confident that the skills they have practised and honed here will benefit them in their future studies and careers.



The final public speaking contest of this very busy academic year was Wednesday night's Rotary Club competition, hosted by County Upper School. We fielded two teams: Aoi bheann Leighton-Scott, Ella Wray and Claudia Bergin, from year 9, and Leonel Jose, Darragh Thacker and Connor Chacksfield from year 12.

Our younger team had elected to speak on the progress of attitudes against homophobia in Catholicism, while their elders presented ideas about the advance of artificial intelligence and its impact: both topics show the sophistication of our students, and their engagement with current affairs and social responsibility. I am delighted to report that our girls won the Year 9 shield and the boys were runners up in the sixth form heat. Congratulations to all those who have participated in, and engaged with the public speaking and debating activities they have been offered this year. Our students are a very special bunch!

Miss James

## Beyond the Curriculum Seminar



This Thursday all of Year 7 spent some dedicated time together looking at the importance of building community. Combining themes covered within PSHE & Citizenship, Chaplaincy and highlighted by their Head of Year, Mrs Smart, students spent time considering their own friendships and how they see others in the world. They were guided to think about how they could help more people to become their acquaintances rather than strangers and how they can remove the barriers which might stop them from reaching out and showing kindness to others. The students engaged well with the talk and then enjoyed the workshop which followed where they had the opportunity to learn more about others in their year group. There were some great animated conversations being had.

## World Downs Syndrome Day

It is World Down's Syndrome Awareness week next week and this year's theme is inclusion. In school we are raising awareness and funds in different ways; on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March is **#LOTS OF SOCKS**, students are being asked to wear Odd Socks, the brighter the better (donations can be made on ParentPay). We will also be hosting a bake sale at break time. The Down's Syndrome Association are a national organisation who do valuable work in improving the quality of life of people who have Down's syndrome as well as supporting families and education.

People were asked what inclusion means to them. Here is what a couple of them said.

Mrs Reeman

*having fun with her fellow Brownies, earning her badges and learning about herself, her community and the world*

*being part of the adult world, working, doing your duty and everything you possibly can*

*being included at school and being with my friends, it makes me very happy!*

## Suffolk's UK Youth Parliament Elections February 2022

We are extremely proud to announce that three of our Year 11 students, William Blewitt, Catherine Dunne and Ailish Kemble, ran as candidates in Suffolk's UK Youth Parliament Elections and have been elected as Members of the Youth Parliament for Suffolk.

This is an astonishing achievement as they all made independent decisions to put themselves forwards as candidates. The application process consisted of completing a form explaining why they would like to be considered for the position and making a two-minute video outlining three issues that they feel passionate about and want to change in their area, region, nationally or even internationally.

Together, they comprised three out of the eight candidates and they only became aware of each other's applications when the 15-minute election video was sent to every school in Suffolk at the beginning of February. Voting took place throughout the month with a closing date of the 28<sup>th</sup> February. Every school in Suffolk was invited to take part in the vote. At St Benedict's we ran the election in form groups and students ranked the candidates on a sliding scale from 1 – 8.

The results were announced on the 10<sup>th</sup> March and all three of our candidates were thrilled to find out that they had been elected. They will now remain in their posts for the next two years and will work with their MP, decision makers, councillors and local youth groups on the issues of greatest concern to their constituents.

They will now join with other members of the Youth Parliament across the UK to work to give young people a voice – listening to marginalised groups, organising events, making films, meeting MPs, lobbying for change, organising campaigns and appearing in the media to amplify the views of their peers. Additionally, they will help to run the Make Your Mark campaign and collect and represent the view of young people at the annual sitting of the UK Youth Parliament in the House of Commons.

We would like to congratulate them on their successful appointments and wish them every success over the next two years.

**VOTE IN SUFFOLK'S UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS 1ST - 28TH FEBRUARY 2022**

- Watch the 15 minute election video for your area. These will be emailed to your school, college, youth group or worker.
- Hold a vote & count up the results.
- Email them by noon on the 28th February 2022 to [jess.walker@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:jess.walker@suffolk.gov.uk)
- Results will be announced on 10th March.

**VOTE**

**Youth Parliament**  
MAKING OUR MARK

*It's easy!*

Mr Murphy

## St Benedict's Awards

A huge congratulations to George Wightman in year 7 who became our first student to achieve the St Benedict's Silver Award. To achieve this award George has successfully attending 40 extra-curricular activities/clubs, received 100 achievement points, contributed to 5 acts of service during the school day and read four books from the library with a book review for each. George should be proud of this achievement and shows that he is engaging in all elements of school life.

George received his silver badge, certificate, 5-day lunch queue pass and a non-uniform day this week. He will now be setting his sights on the Gold Award!



I'm pleased to say the number of bronze awards is increasing by the week. So far, the list of students who have received their bronze award are:

Portia Ratcliffe, Ellie Turtill, Noa Taylor, Matthew Becker, Raf Calumpiano, William Channing, Freya Piggott, Landon Hydes, Adrian Pohec, Linduli Jayaneth, Angelica Odogwu, Raissa Lopes, Serena Bergin, Keerthana Kandeaban.

To achieve the St Benedict's Bronze Award students have attended 20 extra-curricular clubs, received 50 achievement points, contributed to active worship, and read two books from the library and completed book reviews.

Well done everyone and I hope to see lots more awards given out in the weeks to come!

Mr Taylor