

## Christmas Jumper Day

Today saw the first of our Christmas non-uniform days and this week is in aid of St Nicholas Hospice. If you would like to make a donation it's not too late, you can do it through your parentpay account.



## Noël

Le Père Noël (Saint Nicolas) et Père Fouettard.

In France, and other Francophone countries, Saint Nicolas has a companion, who visits children with him on 6<sup>th</sup> December. Le Père Noël gives sweets and presents to good children, and often coal or birch sticks to naughty children. Le Père Fouettard will then perhaps use the sticks to beat the children. He is a terrifying creature who looks like a devil or a goat, with a long red tongue and sharp horns.

In the countries in the Alps (France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Austria), le Père Fouettard is called Krampus and he is even more unpleasant! He will drag the naughty children away to hell where they may or may not be eaten, depending on how naughty they have been!

Noël est vraiment effrayant!

Mrs Dalby  
MFL department



## Give to Good Story

Lyra Reimann, along with her friend Elizabeth Nicholls, both from year 8 have created a Christmas Tree of Giving for their 'Give to Good' project.

The tree has tags which each hold a wish from a patient at the same cancer ward at Addenbrookes where Lyra's father was treated and recovered. The wishes are little things that would cheer the patients up, such as hand cream or a puzzle book. The idea is that anyone can take one of the wishes and buy that gift for the patient, the gifts will then be collected at school and delivered to the patients by Lyra and her father.

For further information please email Mrs Cobbold:



[scobbold@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:scobbold@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

## Christmas Tree

Thanks go to Rougham Estate for their very kind donation of a Christmas Tree for the school hall.



## English Speaking Union

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, we took part in the second of our English Speaking Union competitions. This time it was our gallant Year 11 team – Aoibheann Leighton-Scott, Zoe Harvey and Feya Williamson who had practised and prepared for the contest. The format (on Zoom for the first heat) is that the team's main Speaker – Aoibheann in this case – would be “hosted by the Questioner and Chairperson from another school, while Zoe (our questioner) and Freya (our Chair) hosted the Speaker from a different school. These new groups of three meet at the start of the evening to establish names, topics and background information to enable the presentations to run smoothly and professionally. Of course, this is complex enough in person, but subject to the vicissitudes of modern technology, wi-fi coverage and participants from a huge area, it can become quite stressful. Now, imagine a further twist as Freya was, unfortunately very poorly and unable to join us.

One of the tenets of our school ethos is the cultivation of resilience and this was clearly demonstrated as Aoibheann suggested she took on the role of Chair as well as Speaker – possible only as she would effectively be in a separate branch of the team for each role. The adjudicator from the ESU admitted this was a first, but roundly applauded her at every step and ultimately announced the success of our brave team in going through to the next round. This will be in person early in the New Year. Many congratulations to both Zoe and Aoibheann and commiserations to Freya. It is perhaps somewhat ironic that the topic of Aoibheann's speech was that school days are the best days of one's life.

*Ms James*

Zoe (left) and Aoibheann (right) preparing on the night.



## Bar Mock Trial

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Year 12 students Helena Peachey, Isaac Thomas, Libby Hart, John Feely, Grace Morgan, Bea Price, Alice Prosser and Kirsten Taylor together with year 11 students, Finola Thacker, Sarya Akman and Aoibheann Leighton-Scott, participated in the Young Citizens' Bar Mock Trial Competition at Ipswich Crown Court. This entailed an early and rather cold start to the day and the presentation of two quite topical cases: one case focused on unauthorised access to a computer and deletion of compromising photographs whilst the other was about the public nuisance caused by a protest outside a hospital.

The team, divided into prosecution and defence, had prepared both cases, with barristers, witnesses and court officials making up their roles. Due to unforeseen circum-

stances, a late “reshuffle” had been necessitated but everyone rose to the challenge and worked with determination and purpose, demonstrating the importance of resilience and teamwork.

Practising questions and speeches in a classroom is unlike conducting examinations-in-chief and cross-examinations in a real courtroom, and there is no doubt that it is an intimidating setting; add to that the fact that the adjudicators were real-life judges, and you can see that this was a stiff test for the courage and resolve of all the students involved, from all nine schools. Having prosecuted both cases, then defended the first, over three gruelling rounds (each lasting just under an hour), we were all tired but eager to know the outcome and although we weren't the winners, I believe every one of us felt pleased with our efforts and proud of the way we had presented the material and ourselves.

Many thanks too to Mrs Ellis and Mr Formby for their help with the logistics; and to Jasmine Lau and Katie Dunn for their support of the barristers.

*Mrs James*



## Sixth Form - London Trip

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 135 sixth form students went to London for their Christmas trip.

It was a crisp, cold morning when the coaches left Bennies at 9:15 and luckily the rain held off for the day. The group was dropped at the embankment where they split up and went to either the National Portrait Gallery with Mr Richmond and Mr Murphy, The British Museum with Mrs Senior and Mrs Kennedy or the Faraday Museum with Mr Spiller and Mrs Slater. After a couple of hours soaking up the history and culture the groups reconvened in Covent Garden where they dispersed with their friends to enjoy the twinkly lights and do a spot of Christmas shopping. Everyone reconvened at 5.30pm for the return journey.

On behalf of all the staff on the trip I would like to commend the students on their exemplary behaviour which made the day a pleasure to be on.

*Mr Richmond & Mrs Slater*



## Certificate Evening

We invite you to come and collect your GCSE/A Level certificates from summer 2023 on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023 between 4.00 and 5.00pm in the main hall. Refreshments will be available and you will have the opportunity to catch up with old friends and staff.

If you are unable to collect the certificates yourself, you will need to give email permission for someone to collect these on your behalf. If no one is able to collect your certificates on 15<sup>th</sup> December you will need to arrange a mutually convenient time to collect these. In either of these circumstances please email [cedwards@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:cedwards@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

Certificates are held in the school for one year. After that time, you will have to contact the exam boards to replace them, for which there is a charge, approximately £50-£60 per certificate.

Mrs Edwards

## Reporting your child's absence

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

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](mailto:Attendance@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

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

## U12 Boys Bury Schools Football Tournament

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, the year 7 boys had their first ever football fixture for the school. It was a Bury School's football tournament, playing against Sybil Andrews and King Edwards. Each school brought along two teams to play in the tournament. It was a freezing cold night of football, but the boys represented the school proudly with their efforts and behaviour. The A team played extremely well in a tough round of games, beating Sybil Andrews and drawing against King Edwards. Stand out performance was Finn Brinkley-Everard, who scored two goals against Sybil. The B team drew against Sybil and lost to King Edwards. Stand out performance was from Gregory Slater as goalkeeper, who made some outstanding saves to keep his team in the game.

Mr Bates

A Team



B Team

## U15 Boys Football West Suffolk Cup - Quarter Final

### St Benedict's 3 - 0 Newmarket Academy

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Bennies had their quarter final football game against Newmarket Academy. The boys played fantastically well, dominating possession and creating multiple chances throughout the game. A stand out performance was from Charlie Oxborrow, who scored a hat-trick of goals to secure us the win. Additionally, Paddy Matthews was fantastic in the middle of the pitch, performing his defensive and attacking duties extremely well. Bennies move on to the semi-final!

Mr Bates



## A Level Religious Studies Trip to Cambridge University

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, both year 12 and year 13 religious studies classes embarked on a trip to Cambridge University to experience a variety of lectures relating to Philosophy, Ethics and Religion from different professors and experts. This masterclass consisted of five, fifty-minute lectures including an enticing debate between the ideologies of Immanuel Kant and Jeremy Bentham; the winner being Immanuel Kant whereby Julie Arliss proposed a compelling argument which was able to convince the majority. From ethical theories, liberation theology, and the free will debate, we were able to finish the experience with an insightful lecture from the prestigious Daphne Hampson on a rather controversial topic over the gender of Christ and whether it matters in Christianity. All students, though cautious about arriving late in fear of not being allowed in, thoroughly enjoyed listening to someone so involved and educated in Theology. Will Blewitt summed up the day by saying "the trip was a fantastic opportunity to expand my knowledge of theology while considering the views of different experts at the top of their field." Both year groups highly benefitted from this valuable experience, giving the students a deeper understanding of Religious Studies.

Bea Price - Year 12

## Star talent amidst our Christmas Designers!

The winners of our Christmas Card competition this year are Beatrice Harpur-Davies and Lotte Sander in year 7 and Phillipe De Mello in year 8.

Well done artists! Your work is being produced as official cards for the school and you will receive Art Packs as your prizes. Special Mention goes to both Linduli Jayaneth in year 9 and Joshua Murray in Year 7 for their stylised designs.

Runners up: Imogen Knight and Genevieve Dobson

Congratulations to all those who entered an array of colourful submissions to the competition, and we hope your arty prizes will inspire more future creations.

Ms Chacksfield

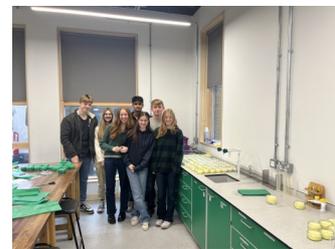


## Lighting up Christmas for a cause!

Over the last month, the Y12 Chemistry students have been working to create a 'Christmas candle' which they will be selling in support of The Catholic children's society. 100% of the proceeds will go towards the charity's efforts to support disadvantaged children and families across London, Hertfordshire and the southeast. The process included producing an original scent using donated essential oils, which were put through double-blind trials, ensuring the rest of the school and the teachers were involved in the process! After finalising the scent - which included cinnamon, clove, and orange extract - the students calculated their perfect scent to wax ratio. Finally, they designed a festive packaging with their own unique label for the final handmade touch! (A big thank you to the art students who helped in this process). The students will be selling these candles in the run-up to the Christmas holidays, both in school and at their local churches.

Thanks to Tilley Distribution for donating the fragrance ingredients so all proceeds can be donated to charity.

Year 12 Chemists



## St Benedict's Leavers

With a staff of over 100 there is a natural steady ebb and flow of staff and we'd like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to a few who are leaving us at Christmas:

Mrs R Smart has been a teacher for over 30 years, teaching all those from year 3 to post graduate trainee teachers, HLTAs and everything in between. She joined us in 2016 as a teacher of Geography and is leaving for her well earned retirement. Mrs Smart is looking forward to spending time in her garden, training the newest member of the family, Willow, the Golden Retriever as well as volunteering as a coach and umpire of netball at her son's old school.

Miss F Leighton-Scott has been at St Benedict's since starting in year 7 all the way through to completing her A Levels this summer before starting as a Science Technical this term, covering Mr Tanguay's paternity leave. Miss Leighton-Scott leaves us to continue her GAP year, travelling to New Zealand and South East Asia, where she will partake in a number of high adrenaline activities before hopefully returning safely to start her degree in Civil Engineering at Bristol next September.

Mrs C Titcombe joined the school in 2022 as our Reprographics Technician and has spent her time grappling with the school printers. Mrs Titcombe is leaving us to continue with her primary career as a nurse.

We would like to thank all our leavers for their hard work and dedication over the years and wish them all the best for the future.