



St Benedict's Newsletter 262

6 September 2024



Headteacher Update

We are delighted to be back in school and there has been a wonderful and positive buzz around the school building this week. We welcome to our community our new students and their families in years 7 and 12 and those in other years who have joined us. The school community is once again bigger than it ever has been so the school is busy, but productive and purposeful.

As a staff body we met for two days of training at the start of the week and discussed our approaches to the year ahead. Our theme will be 'Fan into a Flame the gift that God gave' and we hope that through the work of the school community all of us, staff and students, will be encouraged to grow and develop our unique talents so that we light up the world around us.

Despite the holidays, the summer was busy in school and there has been a significant amount of building work taking place; there are new carpets and floor coverings in many corridors and classrooms as well as maintenance work on the roof and lots of repainting. We are very grateful to the site team who have coordinated all of this work and made the school look wonderful for our return. Once again our summer school for our new year 7 students was well-attended and hugely positive and we acknowledge the contributions of all the staff who came in to support with this.

The Cambodia trip returned at the start of August and this was a huge success for all involved. We are really pleased with how the trip went and are now fully in the throes of planning for 2025, building on the successes and connections made. Special thanks for this goes to Ms Mak, Ms

Ashcroft and our Lay Chaplain Matt Spiller for their commitment to this project and for giving their time to this huge undertaking.

Both sets of examination results were excellent and we are incredibly proud of all our students. There are some huge individual achievements, students who are wonderfully talented as well as those who showed incredible resilience and resolve in their approach. We are very proud of them all and again appreciative of the large number of staff who came in during the holiday to support the process.

The year ahead is already unfolding and we already have one trip out of school. Our year 13 physicists and mathematicians are currently in CERN visiting the Large Hadron Collider. As you will be aware, we are planning for our Open Morning in two weeks which is always a joy. There are already a huge number of other events planned and projects being launched and it is really exciting looking at the year ahead and what is planned. Our new Sixth Form building is on track to be in use by January and although there are no signs on the site to show the progress that has been made, the surveys and off site work has made significant progress.

As a start of term reminder and for those who are new to the community can we please ask that parents and carers do not use the bus bay or school car parks for student pick up and drop off. There is a risk to pedestrians in these areas and the movement of staff into and out of the school site is hugely complicated by vehicles attempting to navigate in the opposite direction to the flow of traffic.

We also ask for your support in establishing our expectations around student conduct. Uniform- including ties, PE kit and jumpers should be worn correctly and smartly, skirts not rolled and shirts tucked in. Please remind students that if they bring a mobile phone into school to please ensure that this is turned off and kept out of sight and we ask that you please do not send messages to your young person during the course of the day. Given the loveliness of the new floors in the school we again ask that chewing gum is not brought into school. The mess this creates around the site is very difficult to manage and so we ask that this is not brought in to school.

As yesterday was the feast of Mother Teresa, we shared in briefing one of her favourite prayers which seemed particularly apt:

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go.

Flood my soul with Your spirit and life.

Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly,

That my life may only be a radiance of Yours.

Shine through me, and be so in me

That every soul I come in contact with

May feel Your presence in my soul.

Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!

Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine,

So to shine as to be a light to others;

The light, O Jesus will be all from You; none of it will be mine;

It will be you, shining on others through me.

Amen.

With every blessing for the weekend and term ahead,

Yours in Christ, Imogen Senior

Upcoming Sporting Fixtures

Clubs will be starting soon as well as many fixtures! Therefore we need to see as many of you at these clubs as possible. The clubs are open to all pupils!

Here are just a few fixtures that have already been confirmed but there will be many more for all year groups and other sports very soon!

U16 Netball Tournaments: 17th and 26th September and 5th November

U15 Netball Tournaments: 24th September, 10th and 24th October

All years: English Schools Cross Country: 30th September and Royal Hospital School Cross country on 17th October

Mrs Wright

Head of PE

Clifton Scientific Workshop



During the first week of the summer holidays four students from year 12 (Niya, Isaac, James and Rose) participated in the UK - Japan Young Scientist Workshop 2024 in Cambridge. We spent the week productively, researching nuclear power, jet engines and metabolic sciences; working towards a final presentation of our discoveries to an audience of established scientists. Whilst there, we spent

time working alongside 30 Japanese students, who we went to fun cultural evenings, exchanged gifts and took part in game nights with, in order to experience each others cultures and traditions.

Niya - Year 13

Suffolk Historic Churches Sponsored Cycle Ride

On Saturday 14th September Mr Murphy will take part in the Suffolk Historic Churches cycle. The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust was founded in 1973, and makes grants to churches and chapels of all denominations towards repairs, improvements and restoration. Since it was founded it has raised more than £5 million and made grants to more than 700 churches and chapels of all denominations, including the renovations to the church, chapel and crypt at St Edmund's in 2014. Mr Murphy will be aiming to cycle approximately 30 miles and visit about 15 churches. If you would like to sponsor him, please feel free to make a donation on Parentpay.

Mr Murphy

Cambodia



It was a great pleasure to be able to take a group of fifteen year 12 students to our partners in Cambodia so that they could experience life in a developing country, make friends with some of their peers over the course of a month and teach some English to hundreds of enthusiastic young Cambodians. Now that we've returned, I will struggle to find words that will do justice to the experience we shared.

My natural preference is always to share the moments where it all went wrong, where we had to find a way past a problem...

Like when we discovered the land crossing into Cambodia closes at 8pm and we would have to find a large villa (with a swimming pool) to stay in for a night! Or having my phone stolen on the first day in Cambodia; a motorbiker drove into me and took the phone from my hand, but because the phone was only a couple of weeks old I had my old phone in my bag and my O2 simcard in my pocket, so I was back online in no time! Maybe the time we spent \$1700 dollars thinking one of the students might have a tropical disease, only to discover that she just had laryngitis and was dehydrated. What about the rain while we were in Taom, which nearly stopped our bus from coming to collect us, the boat that broke down on the river, the gecko who made a very loud call at 5 am every morning while we stayed in accommodation that seemed to be his house; the many thousands of bugs on just one night which were small enough to get through the mosquito nets and which mostly seemed to end up in the bed of one of the teachers, so she woke up covered in tiny grey moths.

All these stories are fun and each one is true; they tell something of the resilience of the students and staff over 28 days, but they don't tell the real story of what happened in Cambodia. The real trip to Cambodia has much less showy stories: it's stories of watching fifteen young people looking out for one another; it's the tears as we finish at one location and move to the next one; it's when our students invite some of their Cambodian peers to join them for pizza in their own free time; it's an afternoon spent in a waterfall having an experience that many of our students have called the 'funnest' moment of their life so far; it's watching students excel in ways they didn't know they could; in teaching and befriending. It's the depth of care and diligence that they show in preparing and delivering their lessons.

We spent the first week acclimatising to the country, mainly in the capital Phnom Penh, and the following weeks were in and around Siem Reap, working on 3 projects for a week each, visiting tourist spots at the weekends.

The trip is the first of many we plan to run and we're already receiving applications for the trip at the end of this academic year. We've been awarded government funding to pay fully for fifteen students in 2025. Many students are talking now about how to arrange a return visit.

It was a great success.

Cambodia is a country of welcome and St Benedict's is a school which aims to be compassionate - the combination seems to work beautifully: our students are well suited to visiting Cambodia, and they were also well blessed by their visit.

The students are still in the process of choosing what legacy to continue to work on, and many are planning on visiting Cambodia again soon. Watch this space to see what they get up to!

Matt Spiller

No Chewing Gum



St Benedict's is a chewing gum free school, we have replaced lots of flooring over the summer and would like to prevent the damage done by careless disposal of chewing gum, alongside protecting students from gum on clothing and shoes. Students chewing gum in school will receive a behaviour point and students bringing gum into school will have it confiscated. We would be grateful to parents for their support and understanding of our stance on chewing gum.

Ms Coogan



Open Morning



Open Morning

Saturday 21st September 2024



**St Benedict's
Catholic School**

*Developing Wisdom, Compassion and Resilience
through Prayer and Work*

Find out more about our wonderful school at our Open Morning for prospective Year 7 students.

10am to 12.30pm on 21st September 2024

For more information about applying for a Year 7 place for September 2025 please visit our website at: www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk



St Benedict's Catholic School

*Developing Wisdom, Compassion and Resilience
through Prayer and Work*

We know that choosing a secondary school for your child is a big decision.

At St Benedict's we believe that our community is distinctive and unique and we have worked hard to ensure that our values are evident in all we do. We are incredibly proud of our school and the young people at St Benedict's. We hope that you will get a clear sense of the school and the distinctiveness of our community both from our materials and through visits to the school.

Our school is a high-achieving one, with our curriculum underpinned by Gospel values and by our Catholic ethos in practice. Our vision as a school centres particularly on the Gospel values of Wisdom, Compassion and Resilience and our curriculum reflects these values and principles. As a school community we serve a large geographic area and welcome students and families who are supportive of our distinctive ethos from all backgrounds. As a result, our community serves many students who describe themselves as Catholic, those of other faiths and those with no faith. We are an inclusive school where students of all abilities, talents and cultures are nurtured and supported to achieve their potential.

St Benedict's students are polite, conscientious, reflective and supportive of one another. We have many opportunities for student leadership including charity work and service in the local community and our students engage with a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities.

Our values as a school encourage students to see competition as a mutual challenge where all contribute and we take pride in both personal and collective success. As a school we hold the Gold Award for religious studies and ensure that the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of students is a priority.



We also hold the Gold Artsmark and are a Duke of Edinburgh Award accredited centre and encourage our students to develop their understanding of the world through many extra and super curricular activities.

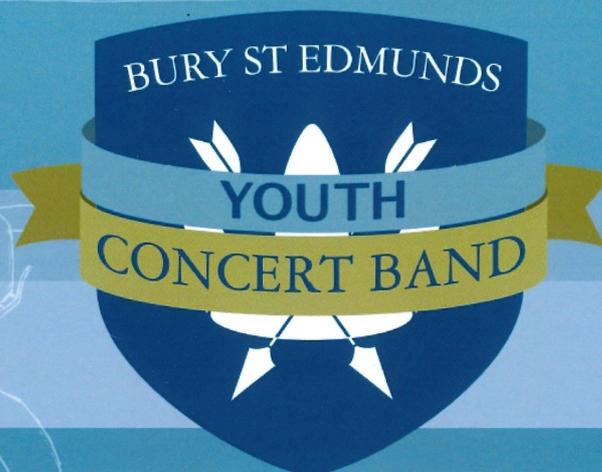
We are very proud of both the 2022 Ofsted report (April 2022) and our Section 48 Inspection (July 2022) which highlighted that this is a school where young people are happy and flourish and where it is 'OK to be different'. (Ofsted report)

Students leave St Benedict's well-prepared for the life that awaits them beyond school through a well-rounded education that goes beyond the confines of the academic curriculum and examinations. We believe that every one of our students should go out into the world ready to make it a better place.

If you are interested in finding out more or visiting our school, please join us for our Open Morning or get in touch.

Imogen Senior

Mrs Imogen Senior Headteacher



DO YOU PLAY
A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
FROM THE WOODWIND
BRASS
OR PERCUSSION
FAMILIES?

Are you aged between 8–18?

If so, you can join the Bury St Edmunds Youth Concert Band,
Rehearsals are Wednesdays at Christ Church, Moreton Hall
from 7:15 to 8:15pm.



For more information please contact the band
bseconcertband@gmail.com

Reporting Absences

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 students 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 inform us by 9.00am or use the above phone/email address, it will be highly likely that you will receive a text alert 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. Please note that the Fixed Penalty Fine is now £80 per legal guardian for unauthorised absences of 10 sessions (5 days) or more.

<https://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=74&type=pdf>

Thank you very much.

Mrs Wesley - Attendance Officer

Dates for your Diary



- 6 September - Year 13 CERN Trip departs
- 10 September - Year 13 Information Evening
- 12 September - Year 11 Information Evening
- 21 September - Open Morning
- 24 September - Year 7 Information Evening
- 26 September - Year 12 Information Evening
- 1 October - Year 9 Information Evening
- 3 October - Year 8 Information Evening
- 8 October - Year 10 Information Evening

Contact Us



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