St Benedict's Newsletter 264

20 September 2024

Languages Day - 26 September

International day of languages
Thursday, 26th of September
Cake competition

To celebrate **the importance of languages** and our **national diversity** at St Benedict's the MFL department warmly invites you to participate in our **cultural cake competition** which will take place on the **26th of September**.

We are looking for keen bakers who want to show off their talents by baking cakes/biscuits with a cultural theme. Your cakes will then be sold for charity.
If you have any further questions, please see your French or Spanish teacher.

Please bring your cakes/biscuits to E5 on the 26th of September.

Year 12 - Axe Throwing

Year 12 Team-Building Trip - Axe Throwing

On Thursday 19th September all the Year 12s spent the morning at The Playground in Barrow learning how to Axe Throw. The trip was organised as an opportunity for the new cohort to bond as a year group.

The year was split in two which meant everyone had plenty of time for throwing axes. The first group were ready to start at 10am and after listening to the safety instructions, it was time to have a go and

it turns out Axe Throwing is a lot harder than it looks! This can be corroborated by the fact that the teachers also had a go and didn't fare much better than the students. The instructors made the morning fun by running different events, such as getting the groups to work together to be the first to reach a certain score, hit a playing card, or hit each of the numbers. It was wonderful to see all the students getting to know their new year group better and finding out who has a competitive streak.

The students all behaved impeccably and were an asset to the school. The feedback at the end of the day from the students was very positive, and all enjoyed the collective experience. Many thanks to Mr Spiller, Mrs Senior and Ms Law who joined us to make the trip possible.

Mr Richmond

Bugsy Mania

Auditions are next week!

We have had record numbers of students attend our pre-auditions this week which is simply fabulous! The students have been taught all the material for the auditions which take place on the following dates.

Tuesday 24th Sept 3.45 – 4.45 G1

Auditions for female leads.

Wednesday 25th Sept 3.45 – 4.45 G1

Auditions for male leads.

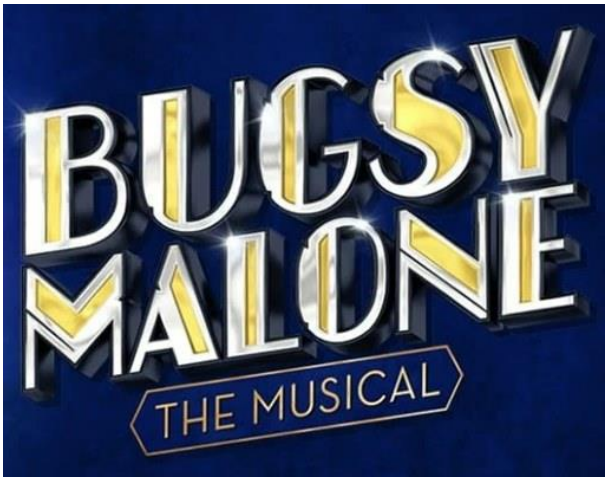
Thursday 26th Sept 3.45-5 Hall

Chorus and Dance auditions.

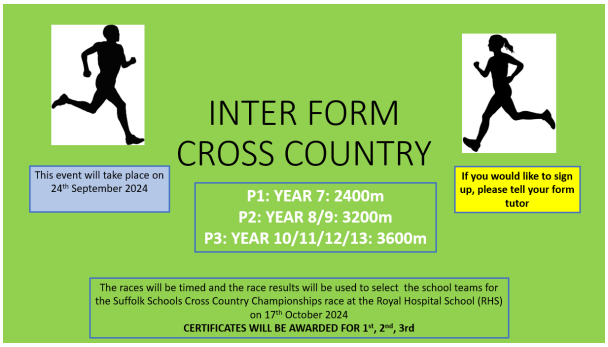
A massive good luck to everyone auditioning!!

If you have any questions regarding Bugsy Malone then please speak to Mrs Roughley or send an e mail to troughley@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

Mrs Roughley



Inter Form Cross Country



Teen Clubs in Bury St Edmunds

Outside school clubs for teens in Bury St Edmunds

We have been given information by two outside organisations about clubs that are run for all youths in Bury St Edmunds and from the surrounding area. They are not run by the school or have anything to do we the school but may be of interest.

1. **Teen Chill** is a project whereby Abbeycroft has been funded by Suffolk Police Crime Commissioners, West Suffolk Council and in partnership with Bury Town Council to provide young people with a safe environment to socialise on Monday evenings. 'Teen Chill' provides a service for young people in Bury St Edmunds and immediate surrounding areas. Sessions are not structured, instead they allow young people to choose what they want to do…or do nothing. If you'd like to get involved, there's plenty to do and you can suggest activities that you'd like to see added.

- Sports
- Music
- Computer Games Consoles
- Tuck Shop

The Teen Chill sessions take place: Monday evening - 19:00-21:00 Age(s): 11 -16

New Bury Community Centre, BSE, IP32 6TD. £1 entry fee [First session FREE OF CHARGE]. Turn up and pay!

2. Free afterschool clubs for 11–18-year-olds at the **Yard at Bury Cathedral** – these are run by experienced youth mentors and are open to everyone.

- Mondays 4-5 pm – Calm in the Yard (mindfulness and emotional resilience)
- Tuesdays 4-5 pm – volunteering opportunity (Duke of Edinburgh award etc)
- Wednesday 3.45-5.15 Art in the Yard

New Starters

It's the start of a new school year and we are delighted to welcome some new staff to our team.

Mr Sankey - Art and Design Teacher

Having returned to the UK after 23yrs teaching overseas in Brunei and then The UAE, I join the school from a temporary position at Ely College and having previously taught at Ixworth School. I originally trained as an Ecclesiastical Metalworker & Silversmith, I still use my jewellery and precious metal skills to make, renovate and repair items at my own bench and also to deliver classes and workshops for students and adults; something I also intend to bring to St. Benedict's School. I was born in Liverpool, raised as an avid Liverpool supporter from a very young age and have the scars of many lows and memories of many many memorable highs to prove it.

Mr Adams - Business and Economics Teacher

I'm excited to join the team here at bennies, bringing with me a wealth of experience from the Hospitality Industry, where I had the privilege of managing guest services at prestigious country estates and clubs in Surrey. I'm passionate about helping students make real-world connections in Business and Economics, drawing on practical scenarios from my career to enrich their learning. And on a fun note, I also had the incredible experience of playing the saxophone at the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics!

Hobbies : Music & Tennis

Mrs Swayne - Language Teacher

I'm Mrs Swayne and I live in Bury St Edmunds with my husband and two daughters. I've been teaching languages for about 15 years to children aged 3-18. I like the theatre, running, animals (I have lots of pets), painting but my favourite thing to do is sleep….

Mrs Herring - Teacher of Religious Studies

I recently relocated from the north of England where I have lived and worked for a long time, to be closer to family, helping to take care of my granddaughter. For the past 16 years my teaching career has been at Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College in Leeds, as a teacher, head of department, and most recently as Director of Catholic Life. It is a joy to be part of the St Benedict's community, especially the wonderful RE department.

Isabel Boulton - Religious Studies Teacher

I thoroughly enjoy Philosophy, having studied this for my undergrad and continue to enjoy pondering deep questions about life. In my spare time, I enjoy going on walks with my cockapoo and playing squash.

1 - Mrs Herring

2 - Mr Sankey

3 - Mr Adams

4 - Miss Boulton

5 - Mrs Swayne

Suffolk Historic Churches Bike Ride

Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride

On Saturday 14th September I teamed up with Mick Truman and Dorothy Neoh from St Edmund's parish to participate in the 51st Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride.

We met at 9.00am at St Edmunds and were warmly greeted by Allison Flath who was a volunteer to at the church. Then we set off for the rich pickings in town – St Mary's and the cathedral. It soon became clear that Dorothy is very well known in the Bury St Edmunds area as she bumped into someone she knew at almost every church.

Then we headed out of town to the Fornhams, stopping first at Fornham St Martin, where we were the first visitors and then on to Fornham All Saints where we all enjoyed a home-made sausage roll.

Freshly nourished we confronted are first climb of the day up Mere Lane, bemoaning the fact that the road had been re-surfaced and the grass growing in the middle of the single track had disappeared. Nevertheless, it remains a wonderfully bucolic 'Quiet Lane'.

Our reward for gaining height was a wonderful visit to St Giles, Risby our first Anglo-Saxon round towered church. We were greeted by a lovely lady who Hugh O'Neill (retired St Benedict's headteacher who usually leads the cycle but unfortunately couldn't make it this year as he was in Canada) and I have grown to know reasonably well over the years, as Hugh sometimes helps her with her crossword. The interior of the church is really worth a visit as there are some magnificent medieval paintings in the nave and an exquisite 15th century rood screen. The home-made biscuits were also very tasty.

Before long we were shocked back to the modern era as we crossed the A14 and cycled past the Claas building. At this point Mick asked us if we knew about the 'St Edmund's tree'. He explained that he and his family always look out for a tree which looks uncannily like St Edmund covered in arrows which is in a field to the East of the industrial units – look out for it next time you are on the road!

Our next stop was at St Nicholas, Little Saxham Church, another round towered gem. Of particular note here is the delightful medieval woodwork on the pew ends including a lady at a prayer desk, a dragon biting its tail and a lion! From here we headed to Hargrave, but sadly due to a navigational error by myself we overshot the hill up to St Edmund's church and will have to revisit another time.

After this we headed to the majestic cruciform St Peter's in Ousden, which is curiously located about a mile outside the village. The reason for this soon became apparent as the friendly lady who was greeting cyclists informed us that the church served Ousden Hall. The interior is remarkable as it is made up of different parts as the church has been extended over the years. It is also worth visiting to see what the Suffolk churches website refers to as featuring 'Suffolk's finest and scariest skeleton' on the memorial to Laetitia Moseley who died in 1619. The lady who greeted us explained that the skeleton had been covered by concrete columns which were only rediscovered a few years ago and that at the same time a villager found the missing ornamental pineapple finial, which had obviously been lost for years, at the bottom of her compost heap, which has enabled it to be reattached.

From there we headed past St Mary's in Denham (which again we will have to visit on another day) to our last stop which was fittingly at All Saints in Barrow, where once again we were warmly welcomed by a friendly parishioner who told us all about the history of the church and advised us of the best route back to Bury St Edmunds.

It really was a wonderful day and we would thoroughly recommend as many people as possible to participate in future years as it is a great opportunity to enjoy each others' company and to appreciate the rich history of Suffolk's churches. If you would like to sponsor us, there is a payment option on Parentpay and all donations would be thankfully received. The Suffolk Historic churches trust does a fantastic job of maintaining the fine buildings to ensure that they remain intact and can be used, enjoyed and appreciated by future generations.

Mr Murphy

Open Morning Tomorrow

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

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

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

17 October - RHS Cross Country

22 October - Sixth Form Open Evening

Contact Us

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