



## St Benedict's Newsletter 266

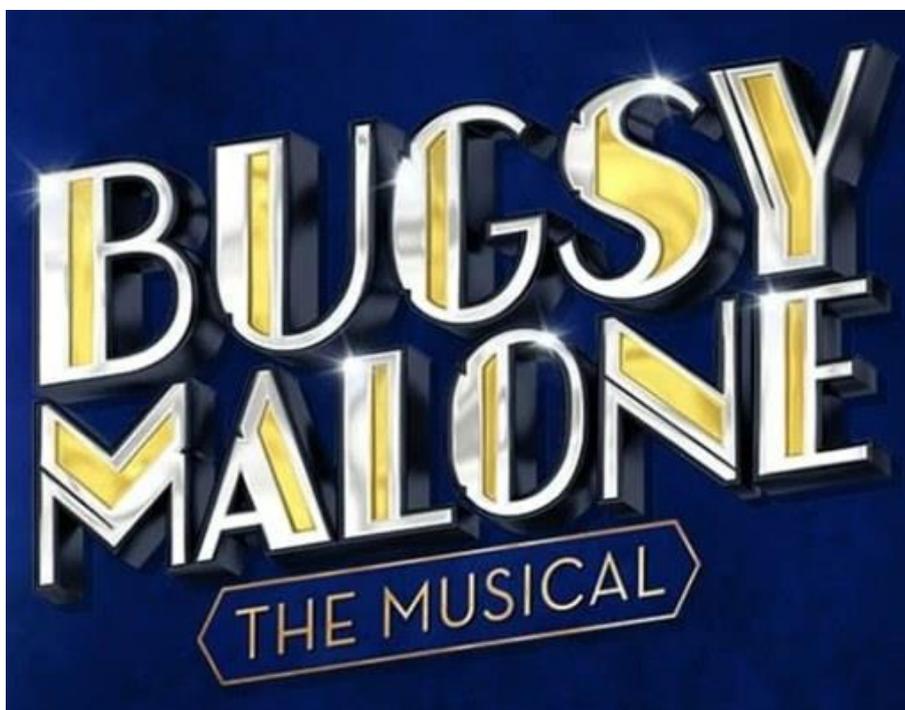
4 October 2024



## Smartphone Free Childhood

A group of parents from St Benedict's would like to highlight the Smartphone Free Childhood movement that has sprung up across the UK. This is a grassroots movement of parents and guardians who believe that childhood is too short to be spent on a smartphone. To find out more about it visit [Smartphone Free](#). You can be part of our group by clicking on the option "Find your local Community" that appears in the main page of the website, selecting "Suffolk" and then clicking on the option "Join the Suffolk WhatsApp Community". Our aim is to provide a supportive and inclusive environment where parents and/or guardians who are delaying giving a smartphone to their children, who wish they had delayed it or who want to find out more about this important issue, can connect, exchange ideas and resources and create a constructive conversation in our local area. We look forward to welcoming you!

## STOP PRESS!!!



### Cast List for Bugsy Malone

**Bugsy Malone** – Felix Brown

**Fat Sam** – Matthew Becker

**Dandy Dan** – Sebastian Siarkowski

**Blousey** – Evelyn Scott

**Tallulah** – Martha Lockhart

**Fizzy** – Isabelle Crossley

**Leroy** – Christian Lupsa

**Cagey Joe** – Harlee Hammond-Johnson

**Captain Smolsky** – Alexis Rose Josy

**O'Dreary** – Solomon Brokenshire-Dyke

**Fat Sam's Gang**

*Roxy – Elena Stachowiak*

*Snake Eyes – Amelie Pennine*

*Ritzy – Catherine Cunningham*

*Knuckles – Sidney Astle*

*Louis – Jeremy Robinson*

**Dandy Dan's Gang** *Yonkers – Neil Bissessur*

*Benny Lee – David Message*

*Doodle - Chloe Cooper*

*Shoulders – Anna Kisliakov*

*Laughing Boy – Temi Yewon*

*Bronx Charlie – Sebastian Peasey*

**Dancers**

*Velma – Lottie Sanders DC*

*Bangles – Teisha Roughley DC*

*Dotty – Beatrice Harper-Davies DC*

*Tillie – Ella Ferdinand*

*Loretta – Phoebe Martineau*

*Emilia Labillion Sinclair*

*Amelia Zabojszcz*

*Elizabeth Nicholls*

*Clara Martinez*

*Harriet Baldock*

*Beatrice Millington*

*Charlotte Nicholls*

*Hosannah Gee*

*Elizabeth Jordan*

**Other Parts**

*Undertaker – Rowan Steggles*

*Waitress – Ruby Holmes*

*Papergirl – Lacey Edwards-Pogue*

*Violinist – Diego Davies*

*Butler – Sophia Rivera*

*Pickett – Daisy Farrant*

*Slovakian Reporter – Tili Zak*

*Polish Reporter - Gabriella Pochec*

*English reporter – Henrietta Tatum*

*Louella – Arabella Powis*

*Shady – Evalina Garnett*

*Radio Announcer 1– Skyrah Yarnold Da Silva*

*Radio Announcer 2 - Elsa Bush*

*Seymour Scoop – Genevieve D’Mello*

*Babyface – Charlotte Nichols*

*Lena – Lisa Marie Ferino*

*Pop Becker – Moriah Becker*

*Barman Joe – Amber Flowers*

*Club singer 1 – Imogen Rowland*

*Club singer 2 - Imogen Knight*

*Club singer 3 – Genevieve Dobson*

*Club Singer 4 – Amaara John*

*Oscar de Velt – Saoirse Walker*

## English Schools Cross Country



On Monday 30 September, 24 students from years 7-10 left St Benedict's at 08:30am with Mr Murphy and Mrs Slater to battle through the torrential rain, and compete at the English Schools Team Cross Country Competition at Woodbridge School.

Most of the older years have competed at Woodbridge School before so knew what to expect but it was all new for our year 7s and their first experience of the Woodbridge 'Hill'! The 'hill' is a surprisingly steep slope that once the runners summit and think the worst is over, they are then met by a continuing incline for another 100m which makes recovery difficult. Despite the inclement weather, disadvantage of competing against very strong home teams from Woodbridge and the 'hill' our students all ran brilliantly and put in 100% effort. All the students were amazing but there were stand out performances from Sophie Bolton in year 8 winning her race and Molly Murphy in year 10 coming second in her race.

We don't know if any of our teams have qualified for the next round yet but we're hopeful for the year 9-10 girl team.

Full Results

### **Year 7-8 Girls**

Sophie Bolton - 1

Beatrice Harpur-Davies - 12

Imogen Knight - 16

Sophia Collins - 20

Clara Needham - 22

Alice Nowak - 26

**Year 7-8 Boys**

Gregory Slater - 9

Sidney Astle - 18

Evan Cameron - 19

Kacper Kolodziej - 21

Hugo McTrusty - 35

Solomon Brokenshire-Dyke - 36

**Year 9-10 Girls**

Molly Murphy - 2

Lucy Murphy - 4

Amelia Smith - 6

Alanna Evans - 14

Imogen Grove - 24

Keira Swarbrick - 25

**Year 9-10 Boys**

David Lupsa - 6

William Glover - 11

Oliver Lamas - 12

Jake McConnell - 13

Aiden Cameron - 15

Noah Wilkinson - 20



1 - Year 7-8 Girls Team

## Change The World



Change the world!

Last year, we launched a PSHE & Citizenship project: Give 2 Good where students were all given £2 to use to show kindness to others. They did an incredible job, raising over £5,000 and doing so many compassionate acts.

This week we have launched our 2024 PSHE & Citizenship project, called 'Change the World!' it focuses on understanding how if everyone makes a small change, big changes can happen. We want all students to realise how capable they are and take on the responsibility of doing something to make a positive difference to the communities and world around them.

During this fortnight, each student from Years 7-11 will be given a challenge card with one task which they need to try to complete before the Christmas holidays begin. This might be something they do themselves, or something which they work with someone else to do. They will each be given information about what the task involves and the positive impact which doing it can have.

Please ask your child what their challenge is and encourage them as they do this during this term. We are excited about what a positive impact they can have and how by everyone doing one small act, as a school we will have collectively made a big difference to our world.

*Mrs Cobbold*

## Artworks Exhibition



### Artworks Exhibition

Our year 12 A Level art students visited the wonderful 'Artworks' exhibition at Blackthorpe Barns this week. We were pleased to meet local artist Terry Bryan who kindly gave us a printing demonstration using an unusual mono printing technique. The students also had the chance to make drawings inspired by Chris Gamble's beautiful sketchbooks. Students gathered quick sketches to capture figure and form in everyday settings.

An inspiring exhibition that gave us plenty of ideas for our work. Thank you artworks for making us so welcome!

*Ms Chacksfield*







## Languages Day 2024



Following on from my article last week about the wonderful work done by the pupils who taught languages during Languages Day, here is an update on the other activities the school engaged in that day:

The Flag Competition, where pupils had to identify 27 different flags in a “treasure hunt” around the school, had many very successful entries. Several of them got 25/27 correct, so a name was pulled out of a hat (so to speak) and the winner was David in 8A.

The Cake Competition was also very successful, with gorgeous cakes and snacks being entered. All of them were absolutely fabulous, but three were chosen as winners; Gabriella in 8S, Leonor in 8P and Elina in 12A.

We then sold the baked goodies in a bake sale and raised £148.68 which will be donated to EACH (East Anglian Children's Hospice). Thank you to everyone who donated a cake. If you haven't already done so, please pick up your cake tins from E3.

### **Languages Survey**

I also sent a survey to tutor groups to see how many Languages are spoken in our school community, and here are the results:

Polish 70

Portuguese 18

Ukrainian 5

Russian 7

Tagalog 13

German 13

Italian 16

Tamil 3

Arabic 7

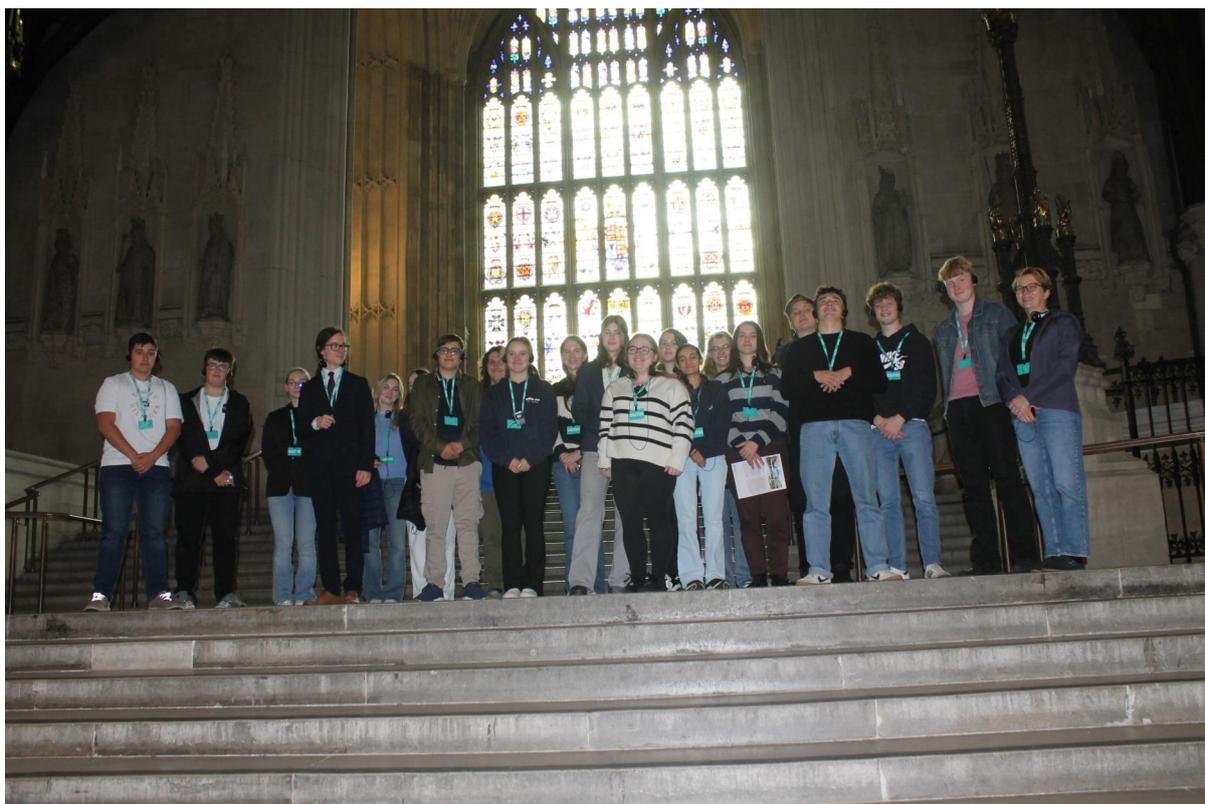
We also have people who speak Romanian, Lithuanian, Malayalam, Japanese, Dutch, Welsh, French, Spanish, Hungarian, Slovakian, Turkish, Mandarin and many others. Four people also answered they are learning Sign Language, which is very good to know.

Language Learning Apps such as Duolingo or Babbel are also popular with people learning 16+ different languages!

From these results, it is very clear to see that Languages and communication are valued in St Benedict's!

*Mrs Dalby*

## Sixth Form Parliament Trip



On Wednesday 23 September twenty sixth form students met at school at 7.00am to travel to London on a 'Politics' trip.

We were dropped off near the Palace of Westminster in enough time for the students to enjoy a quick play on the playground in Victoria Tower Gardens, in the shadow of the Buxton memorial commemorating the emancipation of slave in the British Empire in 1834.

At 11.00am we presented ourselves at the UK Parliamentary Education Centre, where we met our guide who helped us through the airport style security before delivering an excellent tour of the palace including the King's Robing Room, the Royal Gallery, the House of Lords, the Central Hall, the House of Commons, St Stephen's Hall and Westminster Hall.

After this the students enjoyed a really enjoyable workshop on 'Snap Elections'. The students divided into groups and had to create a name for their party and to outline their top three policies relating to education, health and the environment. Then one student from each party took part in a hustings which was followed by a secret ballot. Once this was concluded, the students role-played a Select Committee and scrutinised the winning party's policies. Zuzanna Piatek did a wonderful job of defending her party's position.

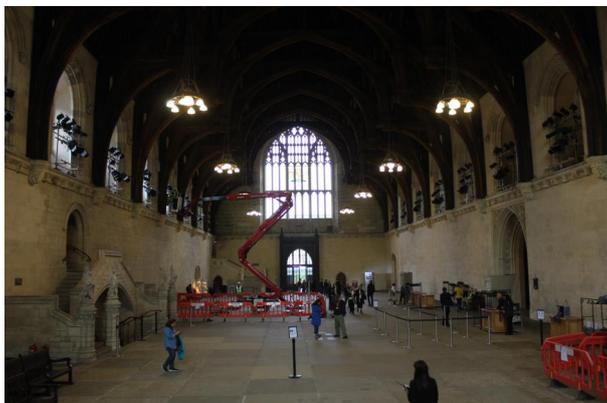
Once the tour had concluded, we had a quick lunch stop in Parliament Square, during which Charlie Green managed to spot Jacob Rees Mogg who obliged him by agreeing to a 'selfie'! Then we went through another round of airport style security for a self-guided tour of the Supreme Court. A highlight of the day for the students was sitting in the Supreme Court judges' chairs, including the President's chair where Lady Hale made her rulings regarding the triggering of Article 50 of the European Union and the prorogation of parliament.

We had hoped to also squeeze in a walk to the gates of 10 Downing Street in order to visit all three branches of the UK government, the legislature, the judiciary and the executive. Unfortunately though we ran out of time, but generously our bus driver kindly took us on a detour so that we could have 'drive by' visit of Whitehall before heading home.

The students made it a really enjoyable and rewarding day in the capital city and found that it helped them acquire a better understanding of the seat of government, as well as whetting their appetites to become even more politically aware and active.

*Mr Murphy*





## Careers



### **A Day in the Life of an Architect**

On Wednesday 2nd October, we welcomed parent, Architect and founder of [Fabric First Architects](#) (FFA), Stuart Jones into school to share "A Day in the Life of an Architect" with (staff and) students in years 7-13. Stuart enlightened our audience about his role, projects, professional pathway and entry routes for Architecture. Originally inspired in his career choice by an Architect who had worked on his childhood home, Stuart's love of Lego and problem-solving highlighted his aptitude for this profession. He and his two FFA co-Directors work on a variety of briefs spanning residential, commercial, industrial and heritage builds, with current projects including builds on the sites of Lotus Cars and British Sugar.

We learned about the importance of understanding what the *client* wants - rather than what the Architect may want to create - and the value and power of pen and paper in offering an immediate sketch of the vision that could be achieved in a build. Ongoing communication via telephone, email, written reports, drawings and presentations etc. forms a significant part of an Architect's daily schedule, and liaising with regulatory bodies and construction partners is a key aspect of the project management involved. To the relief of some, Stuart noted that Maths was not necessarily essential for his work - apps, software and other (human) specialists are able to provide him with most of the necessary calculations! He encouraged students who want to look into this career to be proactive in approaching companies and to consider an apprenticeship route as well as Higher Education degree courses. Pen and paper at the ready...

*Miss Hahn*

## Inter House Cross Country

On Tuesday 24th September St Benedict's held its annual Inter House Cross Country Championships. The weather was suitably autumnal with low grey cloud but thankfully the rain held off.

The Year 7s were the first to toe the starting line. In the boy's race Sidney Astle (7L) and Evan Cameron (7A) had a great race over the two lap 2400m course as the race leader changed several times. In the end Sidney managed to secure first place in 9.40, just three seconds in front of Evan and 12 seconds ahead of Hugo McTrusty (7S) in third. In the team race Subiaco finished first, with Monte Casino second and Nursia third.

The Year 7 girls ran the same course and the race was every bit as intense with only nine seconds separating the first three finishers: Clara Needham (7C) first in 12.38, Sophia Collins (7L) second in 12.42 and Alice Nowak third in 12.47. In the team race Monte Casino finished first, Subiaco second and Nursia third.

Gregory Slater (8P) emerged as a clear winner in the Year 8 boys race in 12.46, with Alexander Balmer second in 13.53 and Dylan Bain third in 14.13. The team result mirrored the Year 7 girls, with Monte Casino first, Subiaco second and Nursia third.

The stand out performance of the day belonged to Sophie Bolton (8A) who was the fastest finisher out of all the Year 8 boys and girls over the 3200m course in a time of 11.53. This came on the back of a terrific track season for the St Edmund Pacer's athlete who ranked 8th in the country in the 800m, 13th in the 1500m and 6th in the mile in her age group. Beatrice Harpur-Davies (8A) chased hard to finish second in 14.52 with Imogen Knight (8A) third in 15.16. Nursia recorded their first team victory of the day, followed by Subiaco in second and Monte Casino in third.

Noah Wilkinson (9L) ran strongly to win his third consecutive year group title in a time of 12.10, followed by his friendly rival Jake McConnell (9P) in second and Oliver Lamas third in 13.08. Monte Casino secured their second team win of the day, followed by Nursia in second and Subiaco in third.

Miss Dalby was overjoyed with the performance of her tutor group, 9P, which had a clean sweep in the Year 9 girls race with Lucy Murphy finishing first in 13.34, followed by Amelia Smith second in 14.06 and Alanna Evans third in 15.27. With this result the team result could only go one way with Monte Casino once again finishing in first place, with Subiaco second and Nursia third.

St Edmund's Pacer David Lupsa (10X) ran a fine race to finish as the first Year 10 boy in a time of 12.46 over the 3600m course, followed by British Karate squad member William Glover (10X) in 13.24 and Jasper Mathews (10L) third in 14.27, much to the delight of his coach Mr Wallace. Nursia headed the table in the team result, followed by Subiaco in second and Monte Casino in third.

Mr Wallace's magic paid off again in the Year 10 girls race with three members of his tutor group, 10L, securing podium finishes, with Molly Murphy first in 15.47, followed by Eleanor Slater second in 16.11 and Kiera Swarbrick running a fine race to finish third in 18.48. Mr Wallace has downplayed rumours that he has been approached by UK athletics on the back of his athlete's prowess.

Charlie Oxborrow (11C) ran superbly to finish first in the Year 11 boys race in an incredible time of 12.35 for 3600m, with Seth Gaw (11X) second in 13.46 and Oscar Lipinski (11X) third in 14.25. Subiaco recorded their second team victory, followed by Nursia in second and Monte Casino third.

Eva Torfinn (11A) also showed consistently good form over her years at St Benedict's to finish first in the Year 11 girls race in 16.03 ahead of Daisy Constant second in 18.33.

We were extremely proud of all of the students who volunteered to put themselves forward to represent their forms and their houses. It was wonderful to see them being active and trying their hardest to run as fast as they could until the finishing funnel. The camaraderie between the students was also superb to witness as they cheered each other on.

We would also like to thank our wonderful team of sixth form helpers, without whom the event could not have taken place. They were very proactive in executing their responsibilities and really helped to motivate the students while they were running and congratulate them afterwards. In short, it was a wonderful morning of sport and we look forward to the next cross country event which is the first round of the Suffolk Schools Cross Country Championships at the Royal Hospital School on Thursday 17th October.

*Mr Murphy*

## Confirmation

Sacrament of Confirmation at St Edmunds King and Martyr Parish

If you are a member of St Edmund's parish and wish to be confirmed in June 2025, please come to the launch meeting of the programme at 19:00 on Monday 21st October in the Crypt in St Edmund's church. This is a meeting for prospective candidates and parents. Full details of the programme and enrolment instructions will be given at the meeting. The normal age for Confirmation in the diocese is Year 9 however older students are welcome if for any reason they missed receiving the sacrament in previous years. If you are a member of another parish then do lookout for your Confirmation programme. Members of other parishes may join the Confirmation group at St Edmund's but it does need the permission of both your own parish priest and Fr Sean.

*Mr D'Mello*

## Vacancies

### **Cleaner Required ASAP**

Salary: £11.59 per hour

Job Term: 12.5 - 15 Hours per week, 44 weeks per year

Appointment: Permanent

We are seeking to appoint a cleaner to join our in house cleaning team. General cleaning of the school building, no previous experience necessary. Immediate start, completion of a DBS check required.

### **Learning Support Assistant**

Salary: Grade 3 range 4-6 (£23,114 - £23,893) pro rata

Job Term: Part Time, Term Time only (38 weeks) 27.5 hours per week

Appointment: Permanent

We are seeking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant to work with our wonderful students as part of our SEN team. This post will involve providing support for students with additional needs both in

the classroom and in intervention sessions. St Benedict's is a 'Good' school (April 2022) with a strong reputation and a supportive local community. Applications from both experienced staff and those considering a new role are welcomed. This is term-time only role, up to 27.5 hours a week, although candidates who can offer fewer hours than this will also be considered.

We will respond to applications as they are received, so an early application is advised.

For more information on both posts please contact

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

Tel: 01284 775712

## 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](mailto: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



8 October - Year 10 Information Evening

17 October - RHS Cross Country

22 October - Sixth Form Open Evening

25 October - Break up for Half Term

4 November - Back to School

22 November - PD Day

## Contact Us



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