



St Benedict's Newsletter 271

15 November 2024



## Mace Competition

On the evening of Friday 8th November at St Joseph's College in Ipswich, our brand new debate team opposed the motion, proposed by Ipswich School, that "This House would build on the green belt". The other debates were "This House would ban the use of facial recognition technology in public spaces" and "This House supports the implementation of a four-day school week" so the topics were varied and very interesting.

Despite a great effort from them all, the St Benedict's team was not put through to the next round, although their speeches and points of information were well-researched and clear and the trio worked effectively together to offer mutual support and share ideas. However, I was delighted when they told me that they want a rematch next year: this is the resilience we try to cultivate in our students!

*Mrs James*



1 - From left to right and in order of their speeches, Anotidaishe Bhanti, Michael Unwaha and Linduli Jayaneth.

## Netball Results

The year 7 and 8 netball team were both successful in their recent fixtures at County Upper School on 11th November. The year 7 team were on fire with an impressive 11-2 win, while the Year 8 team also proved their teamwork and determination winning 9-6.

Congratulations to both teams!!!



2 - Year 7



3 - Year 8

## English Schools Cross Country Cup



On Thursday 7th November twenty-four students travelled to Felsted School in Essex for the Essex and Suffolk Regional Final of the English Schools Cross Country Cup. We believe that this is the first time in the school's history that we have had teams reach this stage of the competition.

The students enjoyed the minibus journey south on the A11 and were filled with anticipation as we neared the venue, especially when they saw the impressive school buildings and grounds. A walk of the course revealed that the course was a relatively flat loop of the playing fields with a couple of short hills.

The Junior Girls race was the first on the afternoon's timetable of events. Sophie Bolton ran superbly to finish second behind a girl from Chelmsford County High School who is ranked first U13 girl in the country for both the 1500m and the mile. Sophie was ably supported by her friends Beatrice Harpur-Davies (39th) and Imogen Knight (41st) who worked through the field together. Our Year 7 girls, who were in the bottom of their age group, gained invaluable experience racing at such a competitive level and ran superbly to complete the team: Clara Needham (56th), Sophia Collins (65th) and Alice Nowak (69th). Their efforts were rewarded with a team placing of 10th overall.

The Junior Boys also ran really well, with Kacper Kolodziej first home for St Benedict's in 44th place, closely followed by Evan Cameron in 46th, which was a fantastic result as he is also in the bottom of his age category. Gregory Slater started strongly before an asthma attack forced him to take his foot off the accelerator, but he still went on to finish in a very creditable 69th position. The rest of the Year 7 boys showed great packing to finish close behind with Sidney Aistle 70th, Callum Sleight 73rd and Oscar Grove 75th. Their combined results meant that they finished in 12th place just behind their Suffolk rivals – Farlingaye.

The Intermediate Girls were the highest placed St Benedict's team of the afternoon in 8th position. Molly Murphy headed the team home in 19th place, followed by her sister Lucy in 32nd. Eleanor Slater was justifiably pleased with her run to finish 38th, with Amelia Smith close behind in 47th. The multi-talented duo of Alanna Evans and Imogen Grove closed the team to finish in 61st and 63rd positions respectively.

Our final race of the day was the Intermediate Boys. David Lupsa ran strongly to finish in 31st position. Behind him the rest of the team split into two groups for some great individual battles with Oliver Lamas (52nd) finishing just ahead of England Karate squad member William Glover (53rd); and Jake McConnell (57th) just edging ahead of Aiden Cameron (58th) and Noah Wilkinson (62nd). These positions meant that the team secured 12th in the team competition.

It was an excellent afternoon of high-quality races as the Essex schools, in particular, have a fine history of performing well in the regional rounds and the national final. The students should be very proud of their individual performances and the way that they bonded as a team to encourage each other. They showed true grit and determination to compete with the best athletes in the East of England and were a credit to the school.

*Mr Murphy*

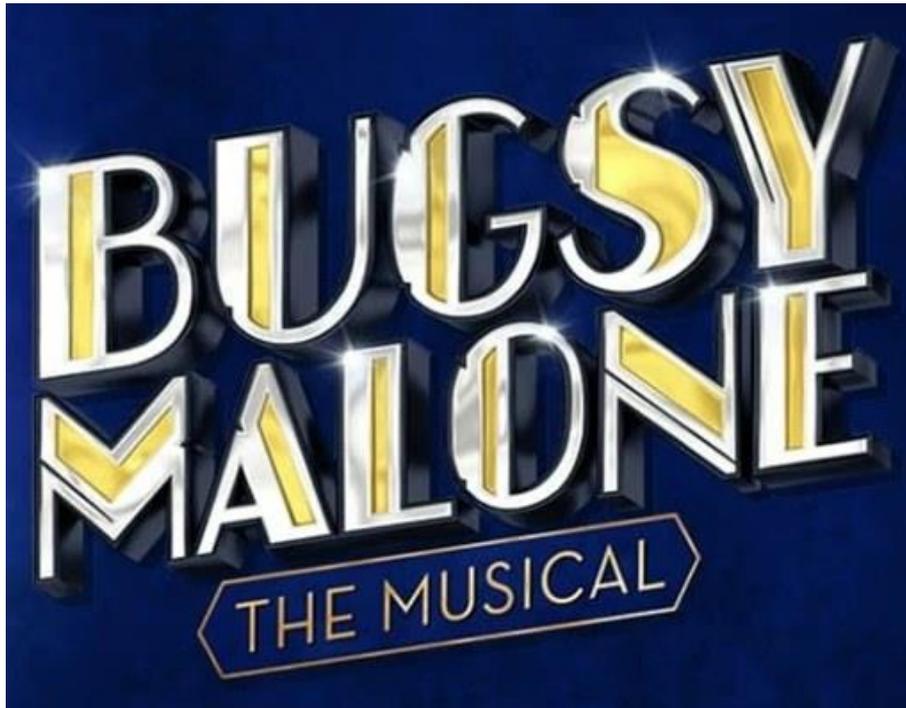
## Senior Maths Challenge

Earlier this term, four of our sixth form mathematicians took part in the Maths Olympiad for Girls. This challenge is essentially a 2.5hour exam that consists of five high quality, long answer problems that challenge students to think mathematically. All four of our competing students performed well with Phoebe Harpur-Davies achieving the highest in year 13, just beating Teodora Bodean and Angel Jose and earning a certificate of merit. In year 12, Amy John received a certificate of distinction and managed a perfect score on multiple answers.

There is one further stage of the maths challenge for some of our sixth form students as Asir Isswiasi, Piotr Ignaciuk, Amy John, Raphe Spiller and Taylor Valach will be competing in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo after being awarded Gold certificates in the Senior Maths Challenge last month.

*Mrs Nicholls*

Save the Date!



Save the date for Bugsy Malone!!

Our show Bugsy Malone will be performed in the evening on the following dates!!

Wednesday 12th March

Thursday 13th March

Friday 14th March

Date	Where	Time	What	Who is needed
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	G1	1pm	Audition scene	Chorus, Oscar
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	G1	1pm	Tomorrow	Fizzy
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	G1	1pm	Page 11 – 14	Reporters, Dandy Dan, Louella, Genevieve D, Hoods, Fat Sam, Knuckles, Fizzy, named dancers, Tallulah, Fizzy.
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Hall	3.45-5	Audition Scene	Chorus, Oscar

GCSE Pod



In the build up to the mock exams many of our students have been using GCSEPod to help them revise.

GCSEPod is a website that contains hundreds of really useful revision videos and assessment resources tailored to help students learn, retain and recall all the information they need to achieve their GCSE goals.

GCSEPod claim that is 'proven to help students achieve one grade higher on average than non-users, across 28+ GCSE subjects and all exam boards'.

If you would like to find out more, please click on the link below:

[Parent Resources](#)

At the moment St Benedict's is 26th out of 436 schools on the Leaderboard of 'Pods' viewed. This is a national competition which is running from 11th November to 30th June. Congratulations to Ben Warner, Aidan Feely and Keerthana Kandeegan who are currently our top three 'Podders'

Top Podders		
		
Total Streamed		
1	Benjamin Warner	151
2	Aidan Feely	128
3	Keerthana Kandeegan	116

## Christmas Decorations



Dear parents and carers,

If you have any spare Christmas decorations, please consider donating or lending them to our Chaplaincy team! We are looking to make our school a more festive place for December and we would be grateful for any used decorations you might not need! If you have anything to send in, please put them in a bag and leave it in the Chapel – if you would like them returned to you after the Christmas season, please leave a note with your child's name and tutor with the bag.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

*The Chaplaincy Team*

## St Benedict's Christmas Dinner

Please see the flyer for information about this year's St Benedict's Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 18 December.



**St Benedict's Christmas Dinner**  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

Lisa, Heidi, Tina, Elaine, Kayleigh and Sally from the kitchen team invite you to a traditional Christmas Dinner.

**Main course:**  
Roast turkey, pigs in blankets, stuffing, roast potatoes, carrots, peas, gravy and optional brussels sprouts, roast parsnips

**Desert:**  
Dusted Christmas Chocolate Brownie

Gluten free, vegetarian and vegan options available

Price £2.80 which must be pre booked via parent pay by 29<sup>th</sup> November.

The kitchen will not be able to produce any other food on this day.

## Economist Espresso Offer

The 6th form Geography students have been signing up for The Economist Espresso which is proving to be an invaluable source of up-to-date news and analysis on global current affairs. Subscription is currently free and would compliment all students' learning in and out of the classroom. Sign up now to get daily updates on topical issues.

[Free and Discounted Student Subscription | The Economist](#)

Mr Sayer

## School Christmas Card Competition



Every year the school runs a competition giving students the chance to design the school's Christmas card, for more information on how to enter, please follow the link below.

### [Competition Information](#)

*Ms Chacksfield*

## St Benedict's Cook Book

Do you have a special family recipe that you would be willing to share with others? If so we would love to hear from you.

*Mrs Senior*

**Bennies  
CHRISTMAS  
COOKBOOK**

Following the success of our 'Bennies Christmas' collection last year we would love to compile a cookbook that celebrates that distinctive and diverse community of St Benedict's.

If you have a recipe that is particularly special to your family that you would like to be happy to share please send this by email to [Head@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:Head@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk) with details of the recipe and any pictures of your speciality!

We look forward to cooking up a storm!

**SUBMISSIONS BY  
DECEMBER 9TH  
PLEASE**

## 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



18 November - Yr 11 Mocks Start

19 November - BAE Roadshow (years 7 & 8)

22 November - PD Day

26 November - Yr 13 Parents Evening

29 November - Sixth Form Trip to London

2 December - School Ski Trip Meeting

17 December - Exam Certificates Evening

## Contact Us



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