



St Benedict's Newsletter 272

21 November 2024



Careers Fair



Our second Careers Fair at St Benedict's highlighted the value and enjoyment of this event in our Careers calendar. Ten new employers and organisations joined our core group of apprenticeship providers, colleges and universities to ensure our students explored new horizons and engaged in new experiences. All year groups attended, starting with Year 11

and completing with Year 7 students. Sixth Formers attended during their free periods and break times.

Huge thanks go out to those employers who gave up their time and energy again, or for the first time, to inspire our students (and staff!): Ashtons Legal, ASK Apprenticeships, The British Army, Cambridge Regional College, Care Development East, Central College of Animal Studies (CCOAS), Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), City College Norwich (CCN), Eastern Education Group, Fabric First Architects, Hachette Children's Group, Ipswich Town Football Academy, Knights Lowe, Marshall Aerospace, MPCT Military Academies, NHS, Norwich University of the Arts, Oxford Brookes University, Pick Everard, Royal Navy and Marines, RSPCA, Suffolk Constabulary, The Jockey Club Catering, University of East Anglia (UEA), University of Hertfordshire, and West Suffolk College (WSC) including WSC Apprenticeships.

Feedback from students and staff noted that the Fair was "interesting, informative and busy". Most said they would like to see more employers and a bigger space devoted to the Fair!

Employers who attended were very positive, with two new participants commenting:

"It was a great day - really well organised and terrific engagement", and "They were a brilliant group of students engaged in their futures and a pathway of success. This is a wonderful mindset to see at such a young age... the atmosphere was lovely, and it was a pleasure to be part of this community".

My cerebral cogs are already whirring on the evolution of our Careers Fair next year... watch this space!

Miss Hahn

Reading Week

Our first Reading Week of this year took place from 11th to 15th November. Our theme for this week was the Natural World, with a particular focus on poetry. Alongside the focus on reading in class, we ran a wide range of activities and competitions in the library.

The highlight of the week was the poetry reading competition, which took place on Thursday lunch time in the library. We were delighted with the strength and number of entries. Mr Gregory set the tone with a rousing recital of part of the Rime of the Ancient Mariner. This was followed by over 30 students who delivered a fantastic range of poems from funny limericks to lyrical nature poems to poems about modern life. All in front of an enthusiastic and respectful audience. It was very difficult to choose between such a wide variety of performances. In the end we decided to award the following:

Best overall performance = Bogdans Stascenuks 10S

Runners-up = Hosannah Gee 7X and Kairo Boyaram 12L

Best dramatic performance = Teisha Roughley 8P

Best performance of an original poem = Sharon Unwaha 10C (Sharon's poem is printed below)

In addition to the poetry reading, students could take part in various creative activities and the winners of these are:

Make a Bookmark – Amelia Selfoss 7L

Create a Natural World – Daniel Herd 8P

Design a Character – Brock Coleman-Miles 7X

On the final day of Reading Week students took part in the Reading Quest.

Winners = Amber Hamnett and Emily Wightman 7C

Runners-up = Manuel Manoj and Brock Coleman-Miles 7X

Away from the library, tutor groups were invited to take up the challenge of writing a limerick based on an animal. We were delighted with quality and inventiveness of the responses, making it very difficult to judge an overall winner.

The honour goes to 7C with this limerick:

There once was a very small cheetah

No animal had ever been neater.

Every day and every night,

He washed with all his might

Til he had no fur and needed a heater.

Runners-up were 7L and 11C with their limericks:

I once had a turtle who went in the bath.

He ate all the soap and started to barf.

I took him to the vet

And now I'm in debt,

I can't even afford a scarf. (Gabriel Hammond, 7C)

There once was a great old manatee

Lacking in all but vanity.

She lay before her reflection

In the most great introspection

Ignoring the surrounding calamity. (11C)

We thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity to celebrate poetry and hope students did too!

Mrs Oakes and Mrs Pickersgill

Original poem by Sharon Unwaha 10C

Make friends with the fire,

You get used to the smoke.

You dwell on people so much,

They see you as broke.

Broken,

Open

Open

Opened

Locked in

Deep it,

Deepened.

Like the knife of betrayal used to wound,

I should have seen it so soon.

I was thinking with my heart

Instead of my brain.

It was even written in plain

Across the moon.

The heart and the brain fighting for first place,

Two brothers of the same race.

Dog eat dog world

Survival of the fittest.

Don't you know that it's a race amongst the quickest?

The quickest to go

The quickest to grow

The quickest to know

That crickets don't crow.

Flock of crows is a murder

Murder as in:

Murder of personality

Murder of thought

A societal occurrence

That will not be thought.

But would be welcome with open arms

As people in the middle east open arms.

In the middle east,

They pray salah for the peace

As their countries are torn piece by piece

Their homes left in pieces

Their people left in pieces – will they ever know what peace is?

And when they're done, they pick up their belongings

Piece by piece

Not knowing if they'd ever find peace.

Maybe that's the missing piece

Peace.

Lock in,

Locked in,

Clock it,

Clocked it.

U13 Football



Bennies 2-2 Castle Manor (Bennies won 5 – 3 on penalties)

On Friday November 15th, the U13 boys' football team played their first 11-a-side match for the school, facing Castle Manor in a tightly contested game. Bennies made a strong start, with Finn Brinkley-Everard scoring early in the match, delivering a powerful strike from outside the box into the far corner of the goal. Castle Manor gradually found their rhythm, and the final 10 minutes of the first half saw increased pressure from their side, resulting in an equalizer from outside the box just before the break.

The second half mirrored the first, with Bennies once again asserting themselves early on and creating several attacking opportunities. Finn added a second goal, finishing a superb shot over the goalkeeper to restore Bennies' lead. However, Castle Manor continued to push forward in search of another equalizer. After a well-executed move down the wing and a precise cross to the back post, they scored a header to level the match once more.

The final whistle blew, which only meant one thing... penalties. Quoting Alan Shearer's famous commentary from England's Euro Semi-Final penalty shootout, PRESSURE? WHAT PRESSURE? PRESSURE IS FOR TYRES! 5 excellent penalties taken from Charlie Glading, Finn Brinkley-Everard, George Tottie, Kacper Kolodziej and James Attfield saw Bennies win on penalties 5-3. Bennies are now through to the Quarter Final against King Edwards!

Mr Bates

Chess Success

On Monday 11th November six of our students (Adam Herd, Amy John, Nazar Kushnir, Joe Ferdinand, Charlotte Budd, and Raf Calumpiano) took part in round 1 of the English Schools Chess Championships. Against some tough opponents our students performed really well, with all of our players picking up at least two wins and as a result we managed to qualify for the next round! Amy deserves a special mention, as not only was she the highest scoring player on our team but also the highest scoring female player in the whole competition. Well done to all who took part!

Mr Harrison

Carol Concert

St Benedict's Carol Service is on Wednesday 11th December at St Edmunds Roman Catholic Church.

To reserve your seats please click on the link below:

[Click here to reserve tickets](#)

Mrs Senior



Purple for Polio - Crocus Planting



Last week students from the School Council in years 7 & 8 and a few other volunteers joined the Rotary Club in school to plant crocuses to raise awareness of polio.

"I really enjoyed planting these flowers because soon all the dull areas of the school will be bright purple. I hope that everyone will take care of these wonderful buds". Manuel Manoj (year 7)

Mrs Hamilton





French and Spanish Assistants



We are very lucky to have Eléa and Javier with us this year. They are here to help our French and Spanish A Level students improve their spoken language. They also are helping in GCSE classes in the same way. They are with us until 31st March 2025.

Eléa

Bonjour! My name is Eléa, I am the new French assistant. I am 22 years old and I grew up in a small town called Nouaillé-Maupertuis before I moved with my family to Le Mans. We have lived nearby the circuit of the famous race car “the 24h of Le Mans” for seven years now. I also live in Nantes where I studied French literature. Last year, I have achieved my first year in Education degree and I still need to complete my second year as I would like to become a French teacher in France, and maybe abroad later. But currently in gap year, I am happy to have been involved in this experience to learn English while I am training for my future work. I am an active person who likes dancing, doing CrossFit but also reading and craft activities. I also enjoy travelling as it helps me challenge myself and to discover other cultures. I have appreciated travelling around the United Kingdom during my free time so far and I can’t wait to discover more. A bientôt!

Javier

Hola! My name is Javier and I am 21 years old. I am from Arahal, a wonderful village near Seville in the south of Spain. It is known as the largest producer of olives in the world!

I have studied to be an English Primary teacher, and I am currently studying to be an English teacher in Spain while also working in St Benedict's.

I am a big sports fan, especially basketball which I have played for many years, as well as football and boxing. For those of you who like football, I am a Sevilla FC fan!

I am really looking forward to spending my time in Bury St Edmunds and especially in this school.

GCSE Pod



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](#)

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

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.

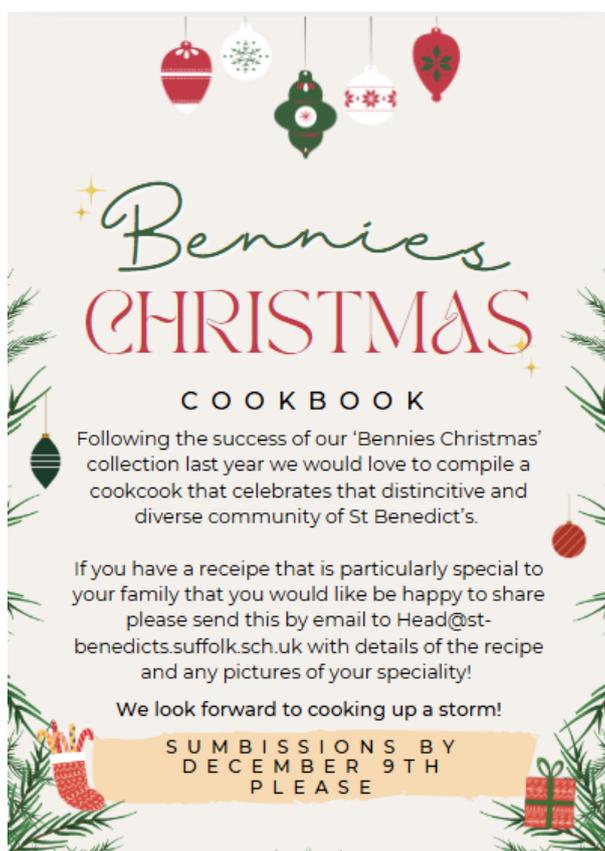
[Competition Information](#)

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



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



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

20 December - Last Day of Term

Contact Us



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