



St Benedict's Newsletter 273

29 November 2024



Spirited Arts RE Competition

Before the Summer, a number of Year 7s submitted entries to the National RE Spirited Arts Competition.

We have excitingly found out this week that Lisa Marie Ferino in Year 8 was one of the winners!

You can see her entry and description here.

<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-gallery/2024/how-i-envision-god/>

Well done to everybody who entered. There will be the possibility to enter again to this year's competition, later in the year.



U13 Girls Football – Quarter Final of the West Suffolk Cup



County Upper 3 – 3 St Benedict's (St Benedict's won 4-3 on penalties)

On Tuesday 26 November, the U13 girls' football team played their first match of the season against County Upper. It proved to be an exciting and emotional encounter, with both teams evenly matched and deserving of progression to the next round.

County Upper started the game with strong momentum, controlling possession and creating early opportunities. They took the lead with a long-range shot that unfortunately deflected off a Bennies defender and into the opposite corner of the goal.

However, Bennies soon grew into the game, building confidence and generating their own chances. Sophia Collins demonstrated great composure and skill, dribbling past County's midfield before unleashing a powerful strike from inside the box to equalize. Bennies maintained their attacking intent, and Imogen Knight's aggressive pressing paid off when she seized on a loose ball in the penalty area, finishing coolly into the far corner to give Bennies a 2-1 lead.

The second half saw County Upper respond strongly, forcing goalkeeper Evelyn Scott into two exceptional one-on-one saves to keep Bennies in the game. With ten minutes remaining, County's striker broke through the defence and, after a skilful dribble, scored to level the game at 2-2. In the final five minutes, County's striker again showcased impressive dribbling, evading the defence to score and give County a 3-2 lead.

Undeterred, Bennies showed remarkable resilience and spirit. From the restart, they pressed high and pushed forward in search of an equalizer. Bea Harpur-Davies displayed excellent pace, sprinting down the right wing before finishing confidently across goal to make it 3-3 with just one minute remaining.

The full-time whistle blew, and the match proceeded to a penalty shootout. Martha Haywood, Niamh Biggin, Bea Harpur-Davies, and Sophie Bolton all converted their penalties with great precision, while Evelyn Scott made a crucial save, tipping the ball past the post to secure the victory for Bennies.

Bennies will now advance to the semi-finals, where they will face the winners of the Mildenhall vs. Thurston match. Special recognition goes to Player of the Match, Martha Haywood, who made crucial tackles against skilled opponents and played a vital role in her team's performance.

Mr Bates

Legal Proceedings

On the morning of Saturday 16th November, the St Benedict's Bar Mock Trial team mustered for the journey to Norwich Crown Courts to participate in this year's national competition.

We were to defend and prosecute two cases – one, an alleged possession of a controlled substance, which was a performance enhancing drug found in the bag of a professional track

cyclist; the second was an alleged assault resulting in Actual Bodily Harm by a security guard at an arcade.

Students from years 11, 12 and 13 played their roles with aplomb: barristers, witnesses, court staff and jurors. The team had worked very hard for many weeks and had been fortunate to have had some input from KC Gareth Mundy, a criminal prosecution barrister who helped the legal teams to hone their questioning skills.

We are all very proud of these students and this was the smoothest running contest I have experienced. There was a great sense of preparedness and purpose and everyone felt very competitive on the day. I should like to offer particular thanks to Elina Solovei, in year 12, who stepped in for a missing team-mate and performed the duties of the Court Clerk with great assurance and gravitas. Although we didn't go through to the next round there was a general sensation of having learnt a great deal and having benefitted from the experience of networking with other schools, being in real courts, scored by real Judges and putting into practice the skills learnt and polished over the previous few weeks.

Mrs James



1 - From left to right: Alex Guirguis, Charlie Biggin, Finnian Senior, Isac Thomas, Elina Solovei, River Perry, Finola Thacker, Keira Cartwright, Seth Gaw, Helena Peachey, Anotidaishe Bhanti, Bea Price, Libby Hart and Talia Grant.

Christmas Card Competition Winner

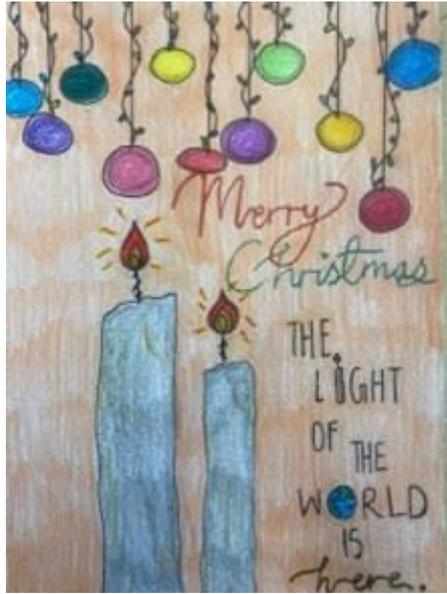


Congratulations to **Caspar Geernaert** in year 8 for his amazing Christmas Card design this year. His beautiful scene created in oil pastel and collage is magical, showing precision, skill and imagination. Well done, your work is being produced as the school's official Christmas Card.

Runners up were Alexis Rose Josy year 9, Sadie Nolan year 8 and Penny Newcombe in year 7.

A wonderful selection of entries this year, thank you artists for your work and care!

Ms Chacksfield



2 - Alexis Rose Josy



3 - Sadie Nolan



4 - Penny Newcombe



Art Cathedral Visit

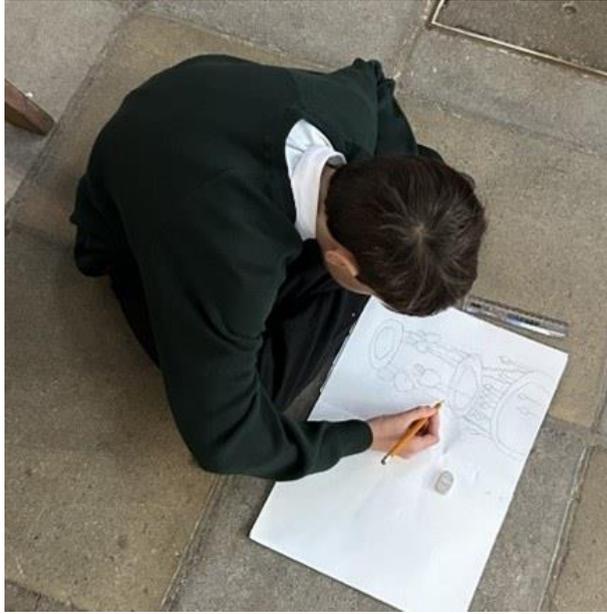


Students in 7C and 7S visited Bury Cathedral on Monday this week, to gather drawings for their Architecture project that they are studying with Mrs Peasey in Art.

58 students were able to make studies from the beautiful structures in the interior of the building, applying their skills in perspective drawing.

The other year 7 classes will be exploring architecture next term and will also get to build on their observational drawing skills. We look forward to seeing these illustrations develop into three dimensional designs for clay facades later in the year. A great start to the project year 7 and thank you for being such excellent representatives of the school!

Ms Chacksfield and Mrs Peasey





5 - On site drawing by Meredith Taylor



BAE Systems Electric Roadshow

On Tuesday 19th November, we welcomed the BAE Systems STEM Roadshow back to St Benedict's to enlighten (!) our Year 7 and Year 8 students on the subject of Electricity. The Roadshow, which is delivered in partnership with the RAF and Royal Navy has been an annual fixture in the Careers calendar for several years now, and students are introduced to a new STEM theme each time. The aim is to present a different, inspiring and inclusive perspective on STEM careers. Presenters Lauren, Mike and Zoe did an amazing job of entertaining each of our cohorts - and staff members - and teaching us all something new and exciting about the nature and uses of Electricity. There was no shortage of volunteers for testing the scientific theory and the Van der Graaf generator and cycling teacher were definite highlights!

I wonder what the theme will be for 2025...?

Ms Hahn





British Schools Orienteering Championships

On Sunday 17th November 2024 George Wightman competed in the British Schools Orienteering Championships at Shorne Woods Country Park near Gravesend.

Having finished first in the score championships last year and third in the same competition last year, George was a genuine contender for another podium finish.

However, orienteering can be a fickle sport and although George's time of 22.03 would have placed him in the top three positions he inadvertently missed control number 4 and only realised his mistake after crossing the finish line.

It was another fantastic achievement as he was unlucky not to get a medal in another national championship. In true St Benedict's spirit he has shown great resilience and is keen to compete again next year.

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



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.

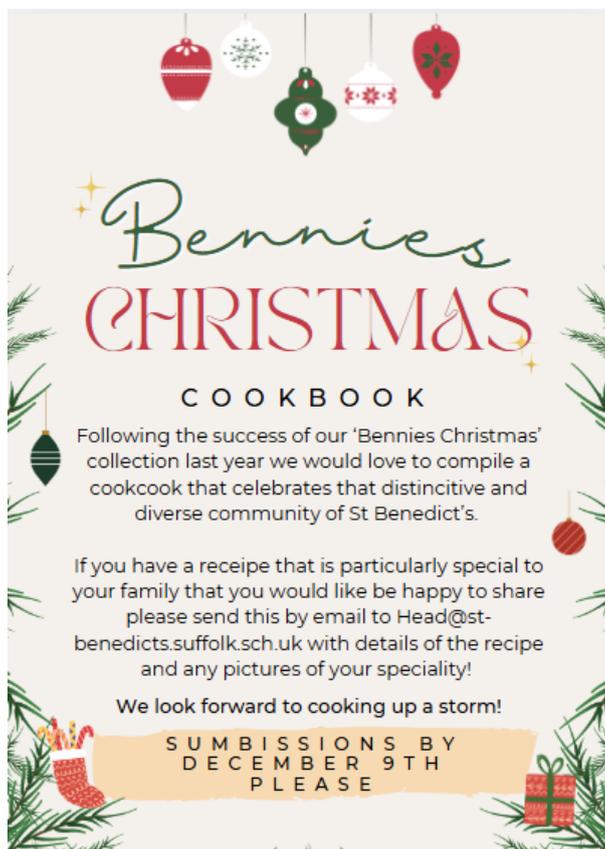
Thank you and Merry Christmas!

The Chaplaincy Team

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



2 December - School Ski Trip Meeting

11 December - Carol Concert

12 December - Year 12 Parents' Evening

17 December - Exam Certificates Evening

20 December - Last Day of Term

6 January - PD Day

7 January - PD Day

8 January - Students back in school

Contact Us



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