



St Benedict's Newsletter 276

20 December 2024



## Headteacher's Update

At this time of year I often look out of my window at the end of the school day and I am shocked that it is so dark outside.

It feels in these dark days of December that very hour of light is during the school day and that everything else we do happens in the gloom. School is the brightest part of the day. This reminds me of the Gospel of John; not just chapter 1, verse 5 where we are told that a light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it, but also in 8:12 when Jesus tells us that he is 'the light of the world anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark but will have the light of life.'

I am so proud to be part of this school community, it feels every day even in the physical and metaphorical darkness, this community brings new light. While striving to make the world a better place our young people accomplish amazing achievements which make this school the incredible blessing it is. The amazing sums of money raised for charity, the donations to Gatehouse, the way in which our young people treat one another shows, I believe, what it means to follow Jesus in the light. As we celebrate Christ's Nativity and the bringing of light to the world at Christmas, I wanted to share how wonderful it is to be part of something so bright in these dark days.

*Mrs Senior*

## Christmas Lunch

A big thanks to Lisa and her kitchen team who served 507 Christmas Lunches on Wednesday over three sittings!!

The festivities started in period 3 with Years 7 & 8, the hall was full and buzzing with Christmas cheer and excitement, the students all sat at the tables which were laid with napkins and crackers and were served their Christmas Lunch by members of staff and the sixth form. They were also entertained by the sixth form singing Christmas Karaoke!

The second sitting over lunch was for years 9, 10 and 11 and this was a slightly quieter affair and many of the students joined in with the karaoke.

The final sitting was for the sixth formers who took advantage of the fact they were last to eat by finishing off the remaining sprouts.

Thank you to all the staff and sixth form who helped serve, clear and wash-up.

*Mr Taylor*





## Successful Gatehouse Collection

Thank you everyone for your fantastic support, together as a community we have gathered an incredible amount of food for the people who are going to struggle across the coming months. The team at Gatehouse were as grateful as ever!

A small team of us packed the minibus and delivered your gifts it was a pleasure and an honour to be part of your generosity!

Happy Christmas and a joyful New Year to you all!

Matt



## Careers Talk

### Careers Talk: From Newspapers to YouTube... and the fun along the way!

On Tuesday 17th December, we were delighted to welcome former student, Kate McGreavy, back to St. Benedict's to talk about her career path after Sixth Form. And what a career path it has been! Following the successful completion (in 2013) of her A Level studies in English, Geography, Sociology and Spanish, Kate gained a First Class Honours degree in Journalism at The University of Sheffield. Kate has spent a year in New York as a Sports journalist and now manages written, video, audio and social media content as Sports Editor for one of the biggest publishers in the world, The Mail (online).

Kate shared her career highlights with us and her unforgettable interview with Jurgen Klopp - as a Liverpool fan, this was a magic moment for Kate! Students loved the interactive nature of the talk, guessing how many views different sports articles online had received. They learned how Kate's team constantly strived to create new ways of engaging their audience through TikTok, Instagram and YouTube, all of which have become key platforms for journalists. Kate's next assignment is the Fury vs Usyk Boxing match this weekend - not always a sociable time to be working, but she assured us that the excitement usually makes up for that!

To top an excellent Talk, Kate showed us her England Cap for Women's Futsal, which she earned representing England at World Cup qualifiers in Moldova just a few weeks ago.

We very much look forward to another visit from Kate in 2025

*Miss Hahn*



## Year 9 Netball

The year 9s played Newmarket on Tuesday this week and won 7-4! We had a big squad of girls and they all played really well together for their final match of the season. Izzy Nutt played really well at GD, stopping the ball from entering the D on many occasions! Also some great movement of the ball up the court from Alanna Evans and Imogen Grove.

We also played Stowmarket last week but lost 7-5. This was a close game and the girls did extremely well considering the poor weather conditions! Some great shooting in both games from Lily Smith and defending from Kitty Cooper and Florence Gibbs.

We will be continuing netball club for years 9,10 and 11 after Christmas so I hope to see all the girls there each week and I will hopefully get some friendly games in the calendar for them!

*Mrs Wright*



# Fundraising for Zimbabwe



**Children and Families in Need in Zimbabwe**

**Charity number: 1156967**

**CFNZ**

Our final non-uniform day has raised funds for the work of Fr Tim Peacock – supporting 'Children and Families in Need in Zimbabwe'. The charity celebrated its 10th anniversary on the 8th May last year.

Fr Tim's sister, Sue Jennings, has been sending updates of the work, particularly with a primary school near to where Fr Tim lives – the Makwa School. This school has 250 pupils and water has to be collected from a bore hole, quite a walk away, several times a day. It is hoped that money raised through our school can go towards funding a solar panel and pump to allow for drinking water and water for cooking and irrigation.

Another need we hope to meet is to be able to part-fund feeding the children of the local schools – many of whom walk long distances to school and do not have breakfast or lunch to sustain them. Sue is trying to start a feeding programme to enable 450 children to have a meal at school each day – a cost of £300 per month. If you would like to help with this, information on setting up a standing order is below. You can also contact Mrs Hamilton for a paper form –

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

You would be able to donate as much or as little as you wish.

Details below:

**To set up a Standing Order -**

**CAF Bank details for bacs:**

CFNZ account number: 00024308

sort code: 405240

IBAN GB52CAF840524000024308

Swift Code BGB21XXX

To Gift Aid a donation, go to our website, or please request forms by email or post to :-

Sue Jennings,

Penceae  
Llanfaethlu  
Ynys Mon,  
LL65 4HH  
UK  
07956534478

Cheques made payable to CFNZ please send to Sue at the above address

Contact Sue to go on Email or to receive the newsletter -

[frimnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:frimnewsletter@gmail.com)

To Email CFNZ - [jenningsue@gmail.com](mailto:jenningsue@gmail.com)



## Thank You

A big thank you to Rougham Estate who have very kindly provided us with our beautiful Christmas Tree this year.



## Bridge the Gap



# BRIDGE THE GAP



**BRIDGE FAMILY HUB  
TUESDAYS  
10:30 - 12:30  
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**



**7TH JAN  
21ST JAN  
4TH FEB  
18TH FEB  
4TH MAR  
18TH MAR  
1ST APRIL**



**DO YOU HAVE A CHILD WHO STRUGGLES  
WITH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?  
'BRIDGE THE GAP'  
IS A DROP-IN SUPPORT SPACE  
FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES  
WHO STRUGGLE  
TO ATTEND SCHOOL  
FOR WHATEVER REASON.**



**JOIN WITH OTHER PARENTS AND CARERS  
ENJOY ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR CHILD  
CONNECT TO GAIN THE SUPPORT AND ADVICE  
YOU NEED TO OVERCOME THE BARRIERS TO  
ACCESSING SCHOOL REGULARLY.**



Bridge Community Church,  
 68 Queens Rd, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3EW  
 for further details  
 please contact  
[emma@bridgecommunitychurch.co.uk](mailto:emma@bridgecommunitychurch.co.uk)  
 07501 408608




## GCSE Pod



Well done to all of our Year 11 students for completing their mock exams. Exam feedback sessions may have revealed some areas that need a bit more attention. GCSEPod is an excellent way of addressing any topics that would benefit from a bit more revision during the Christmas holidays.

[Parent Resources](#)

## New to Hockey

Bury St Edmunds Hockey Club are running a series of hockey sessions aimed at children who would like to have a go at hockey, if you would like to book, please click on this link:

[Click to book](#)

**NEW TO HOCKEY**  
WITH BURY ST EDMUNDS HOCKEY CLUB

Inclusive hockey sessions led by qualified Bury Hockey Club coaches. Wear sports attire; sticks provided. Shin pads and gum shields recommended but optional.

**DATE** EVERY TUESDAY IN MARCH

**TIME** YEARS 5&6 4-5PM  
YEARS 7&8 5-6PM

**LOCATION** NOWTON PARK IP29 5LU

**PRICE** £15 FOR 4 SESSIONS.  
PAYMENT ON ARRIVAL

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!**

For more information, please visit our website ([click here](#)) or email our Club Development Manager - [bseclubdevelopmentmanager@outlook.com](mailto:bseclubdevelopmentmanager@outlook.com)

## 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



6 January - PD Day

7 January - PD Day

8 January - Students back in school

16 January - Careers Talk - The role of the Physician Associate with James Catton

## Contact Us



St Benedict's Catholic School

Beetons Way

Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6RH

01284 753512

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

[www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)