



St Benedict's Newsletter 279

31 January 2025



Suffolk Schools Cross Country - Second Round



On Thursday 16 January, Mrs Wright and Mrs Slater took the 35 qualifiers from the first round of the Suffolk Schools Cross Country competition to Woodbridge School for the second round of the competition and the chance to qualify to run for Suffolk in the Anglian Competition.

Most of the students have raced at Woodbridge before and took great delight in describing 'Killer Hill' to the year 7s who had yet to experience it. The Woodbridge runners were once again fairly dominant throughout the age categories, with the advantage of having trained on the course. The St Benedict's runners put in some great performances with everyone trying their hardest, the finishing positions are listed below and the following runners have qualified either to run or as reserves for the next round:

Evan Cameron, Sidney Astle, Sophie Bolton, Lucy Murphy, Molly Murphy, Eva Torfinn, Eleanor Slater, Charlie Oxborrow, Noah Wilkinson and Jake McConnell. The next race is on Saturday 1st February and we wish them all the best of luck.

Mrs Wright

Clara Needham 65

Alice Nowak 98

Evan Cameron 13
Sidney Astle 23
Oscar Grove 77
Lochlann Murray 89
Callum Sleight 103
Solomon Brokenshire-Dyke 109
Harry Petrucci 110
Sophie Bolton 1
Lucy Murphy 13
Amelia Smith 24
Beatrice Harpur-Davies 32
Imogen Knight 44
Alanna Evans 58
Imogen Grove 90
Aiden Cameron 37
Gregory Slater 45
Kacper Kolodziej 47
Rupert Stafford 52
Charlie Glading 82
Dylan Bain 84
Ollie Man 98
Molly Murphy 7
Eva Torfinn 10
Eleanor Slater 20
Violette Davy 28
Daisy Constant 33
Charlie Oxborrow 9
Jake McConnell 16

David Lupsa 17

Noah Wilkinson 18

William Glover 36

Taylor Valach 29



1 - Gregory Slater



2 - Noah Wilkinson and Jake McConnell



3 - Molly Murphy

Tate trip inspires new exam projects for year 11



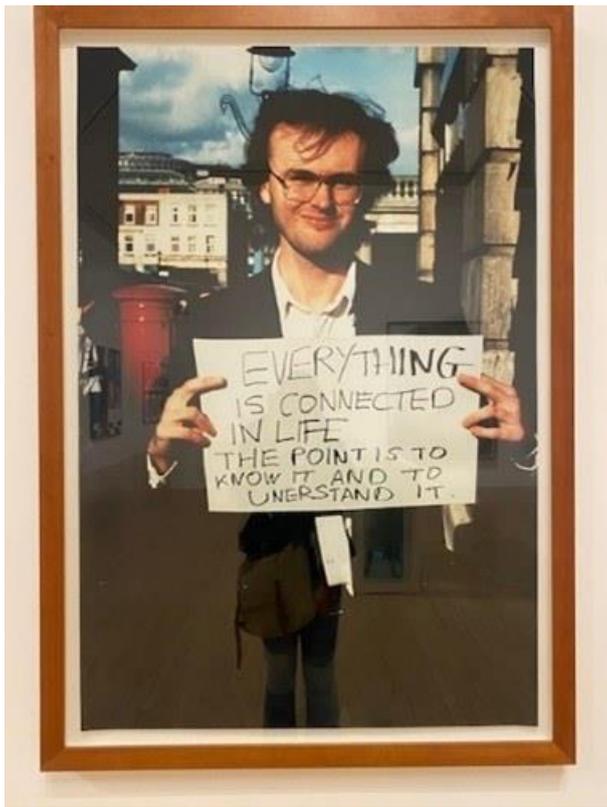
Our 50 Year 11 Art and Textiles GCSE students set out in rainy weather to London this week to visit the Tate Modern and The Tate Britain for the start of their new Exam projects. The students choose from a range of 7 questions on their exam paper; from 'Flora and Fauna' to 'Angles', 'Narrative' and 'Remnants', students found work on display in the galleries to help them make connections with their own initial ideas. Having explored the vast halls of the Tate Modern, we stopped for lunch on the pontoon and all enjoyed the boat trip along the Thames, managing some photography and a swift hot chocolate before disembarking at Millbank to investigate works at the Tate Britain. Works from the current Turner Prize by Cladette Johnson and photography by Gillian Wearing were of interest as were the amazing array of installations and paintings from William J. Turner to Gillian Ayres and Sarah Lucas.

The students were fantastic representatives for the school throughout the trip. Their patience in the congested traffic getting out of London was much appreciated and we are so pleased that the students left the day inspired to start their own investigations into their new exam themes.

A big Thank you to Mrs Peasey who helped organise the day for us and made it such a success for the students.

Ms Chacksfield







Art Competition

Cambridge Rotary Club organise an annual art competition. This year's theme is 'Wonderful Water' and entries are open until 14 February. If you would like to find out more, or enter, please go to: [Competiton Details](#)



St Benedict's 2 – 1 Sybil Andrews

On Thursday 30 January, the U14 girls' football team faced Sybil Andrews in the semi-final of the West Suffolk Cup, in what proved to be an incredibly close and competitive match.

Sybil Andrews came out strong in the first half, taking the lead with a fantastic strike from just inside the box that found the side netting of the goal. They continued to apply pressure, creating several one-on-one chances against the St Benedict's goalkeeper but were unable to convert.

As the half went on, St Benedict's began to grow into the game. Imogen Grove was a constant threat, making several powerful runs into the box, but unfortunately couldn't find the back of the net.

The second half saw St Benedict's dominate possession, creating numerous chances to level the score. Despite their efforts, they just couldn't seem to finish, with many shots narrowly missing the target or going wide.

However, in the 70th minute, it was Amelia Smith who brought St Benedict's level. Picking up the ball in midfield, she drove past multiple defenders, entered the box, and calmly slotted the ball past the keeper to make it 1-1.

The momentum shifted in St Benedict's favour, and they continued to press for a winner. As the final whistle approached, it looked like the match might end in a draw, with several close attempts failing to find the net. But in the dying seconds, Polly Saade stepped up, receiving the ball on the edge of the box and fired. The ball took a couple of awkward bounces,

slipping under the goalkeeper's hands, and into the net, securing a dramatic 2-1 victory for St Benedict's.

With this win, St Benedict's advance to the final of the West Suffolk Cup, where they will face the winner of the TGS vs. Thurston match. They also have a quarter-final clash in the Suffolk County Cup against Felixstowe, which will be scheduled soon.

Player of the match - Amelia Smith

RE Trip to Norwich

On Wednesday this week, all of Year 11 went on an RE Trip to Norwich. This was a great revision opportunity for them to consolidate what they have been learning in class and further see how faith is lived out.

The students rotated between three sites:

1. They went to a synagogue and had an insightful talk about the diversity of views within the Jewish faith and how these are put into practice. They also got to sit inside the Prayer Hall and see the Torah scrolls inside the Ark as well as other key features such as the Bimah and the Ner Tamid. Several students got involved with showing us how Jews worship, including how they read the Torah, and enjoyed wearing the Kippah and Tallit!
2. They also went to the Cathedral of St John the Baptist where they were led on a tour by the Ignite team. They got to see key features such as the font, altar, lectern and tabernacle and heard about their importance in helping Catholics to worship. They heard some personal examples of faith and enjoyed learning some history. Many students felt a sense of awe at the size and design of the building.
3. They were also privileged to go St Julian's Church where they had a talk about the inspiring Julian of Norwich. They learnt how she is the first woman that we know of, to write a book in English, and heard what she taught about cosmic reconciliation (and said about hazelnuts!) They took a visit to the Julian Shrine and went inside her cell, where she lived as an anchoress.

The students were brilliantly behaved and asked excellent questions. They showed a great interest in all three places and can hopefully use this knowledge and motivation for their upcoming mock exams.

Mrs Cobbold

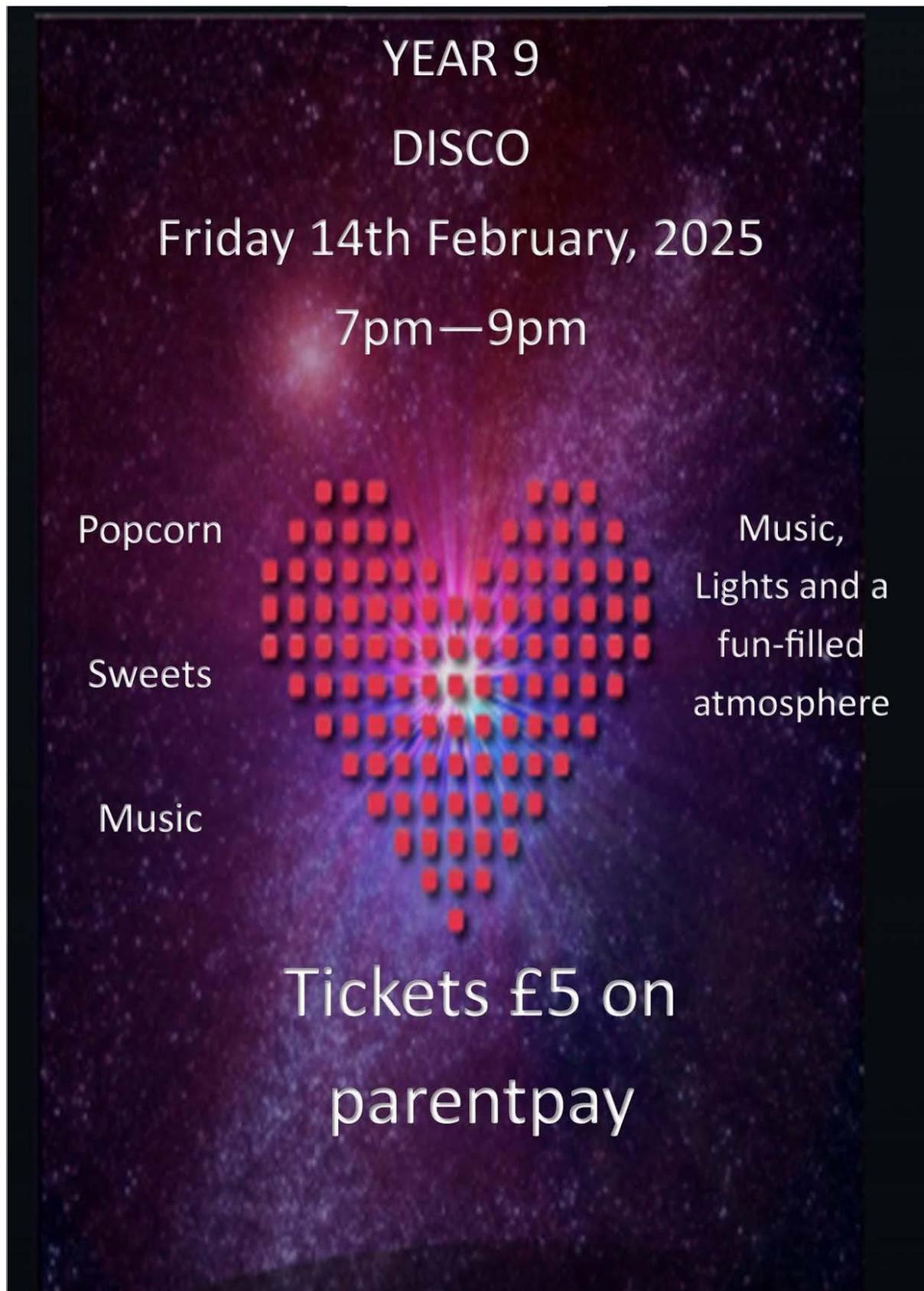




Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 6 February 2025 at 6:30pm will be the year 9 Options evening. Details have previously been emailed but if you are unable to attend please email mcornforth@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk and I will ensure that your child receives their booklet by the end of next week.

Mrs Cornforth



EASTERN EDUCATION GROUP **WEST SUFFOLK COLLEGE SIXTH FORM**

How do you choose your pathway?

- What kind of learner are you?
- Access Careers Advice & Guidance
- Attend free Open Events
- Create your own digital prospectus
- Stay informed with new courses
- Secure a back-up plan

Vocational Diploma Pathway	T Level Pathway	Apprenticeship Pathway
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Study one course▪ Practical lessons▪ One or two year courses available	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A new pathway▪ Classroom learning & industry placements▪ Study over two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Employment with training▪ Earn a wage▪ Focus on one industry

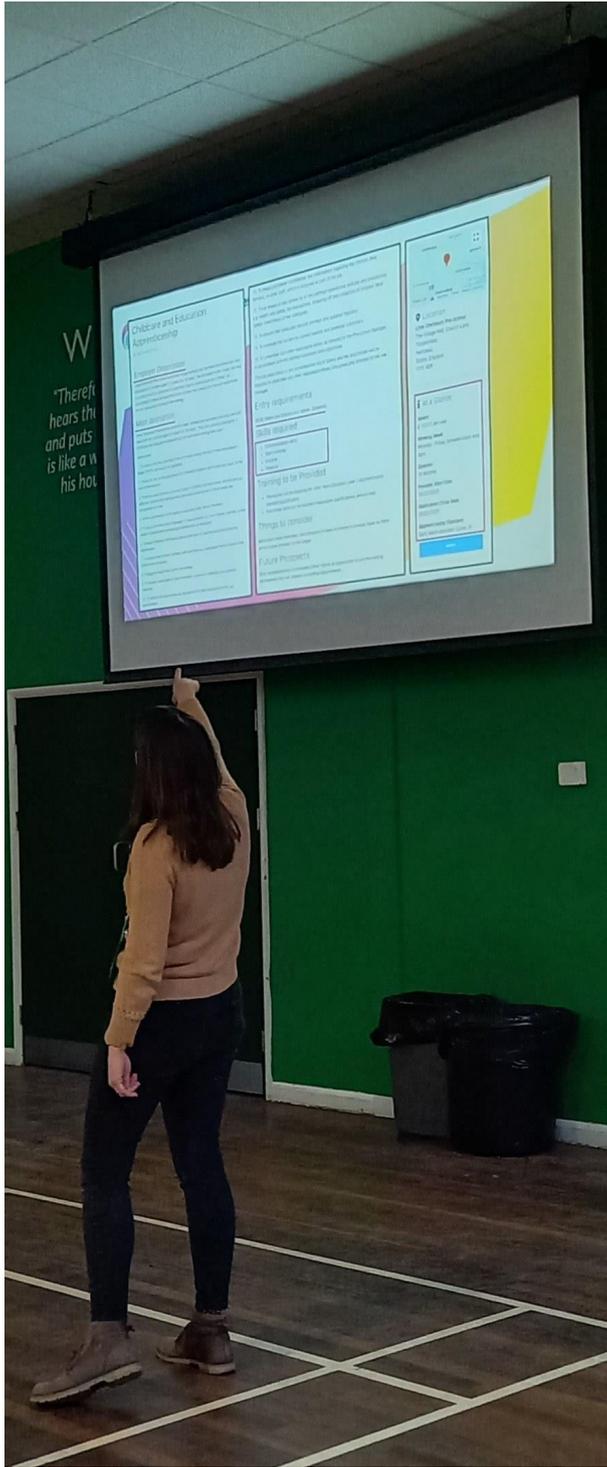
Year 11 Careers Workshop: Technical Education and Apprenticeships

On Wednesday 22 January, Sally Zabroski from the Eastern Education Group (EEG) invited Year 11 students to learn more about the pathways in technical education and apprenticeships they can access post-16, or later on in their career. Sally focused specifically on the opportunities available at West Suffolk College (WSC), describing in detail what vocational (career-related) courses were available, work experience, placements, and the apprenticeships for which WSC provides the training and education component on behalf of employers.

Students were advised on how to identify options that would best suit them, the levels of education, training and apprenticeships available and how to apply for each. With the floor open for questions, Sally was able to impart further details, including T Level work experience (315 hours) and the progression from Level 1 vocational courses to apprenticeships.

I have met with a number of students since Sally's workshop who have made new applications and explored additional pathways on the basis of this new information. A job well done!

Miss Hahn



Free Activities for February Half Term

THE GREAT GET TOGETHER

FREE activities during the February half term for children & young people living in Bury St Edmunds



Scan the QR code to find out more



We're partnering with Bury St Edmunds Town Council to offer children and young people who live in Bury St Edmunds FREE activities at these February events

EXPLORE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE DAYS

Our Adventure Days are action-packed, safe, structured activities with abundant fresh air, all under the careful eye of experienced outdoor instructors. Activities include axe throwing, fire-lighting, swimming, archery, catapult building, Geocaching and more!

Bury Leisure Centre: 17th, 18th, 19th & 20th February
Moreton Hall Community Centre: 21st February

WATER POLO AT BURY LEISURE CENTRE

Come and try out a new sport with our free introductory sessions to water polo this half term. Water polo is a fun, fast-paced ball sport – even if you're already a confident swimmer, this will undoubtedly teach you new skills!

Monday 17th – 10.00 – 11.00 & 11.00 – 12.00
Wednesday 19th – 10.00 – 11.00 & 11.00 – 12.00
Friday 21st – 11.30 – 12.30 & 12.30 – 13.30

Ages: 6- 10 years – earlier time slots & 11-15 years – later time slots.

FREE SWIMMING AT BURY LEISURE CENTRE

FREE swimming for children and their parents/guardians to enjoy at Bury St. Edmunds Leisure Centre. These are available in our Floats & Fun, Family Swim or Wet-n-Wild sessions from **17th -23rd February**.



Scan the QR code to find out more

To be eligible you need to live within the Bury St Edmunds Town Council catchment area IP33/IP32 postcodes



Exam Invigilators Needed

Job Term: No guaranteed hours

Salary: Grade 2 point 3 £12.45 per hour

Appointment: Casual

Place of work: St Benedict's Catholic School, Bury St Edmunds

We are looking for reliable and responsible persons who are available to work primarily during the exam seasons (January, May, June and November). The ideal candidate will be flexible; have effective communication skills; and be able to remain calm and confident while invigilating our pupils during external exams, mock exams and controlled assessments.

This is a casual post with variable days and times, primarily in January, May, June and November.

In return, you will be supported by a successful and collaborative staff and be part of a school highly regarded for its academic success and supportive atmosphere. Applications are reviewed on receipt so an early application is advised.

Closing date: Ongoing

Interviews: As and when suitable applications are received

Further details: St Benedict's Catholic School

sbuchan@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk or 01284 753512

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](#)

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



- 6 February - Year 9 Options Evening
- 8 February - Year 10 Rome Trip Departs
- 10 February - Year 11 Optional In-Class Mocks start
- 11 February - Year 9 Parents Evening
- 14 February - Ski Trip Departs
- 14 February - Year 9 Disco
- 6 March - Year 10 Parents Evening

Contact Us



St Benedict's Catholic School

Beetons Way

Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6RH

01284 753512

enquiries@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk