

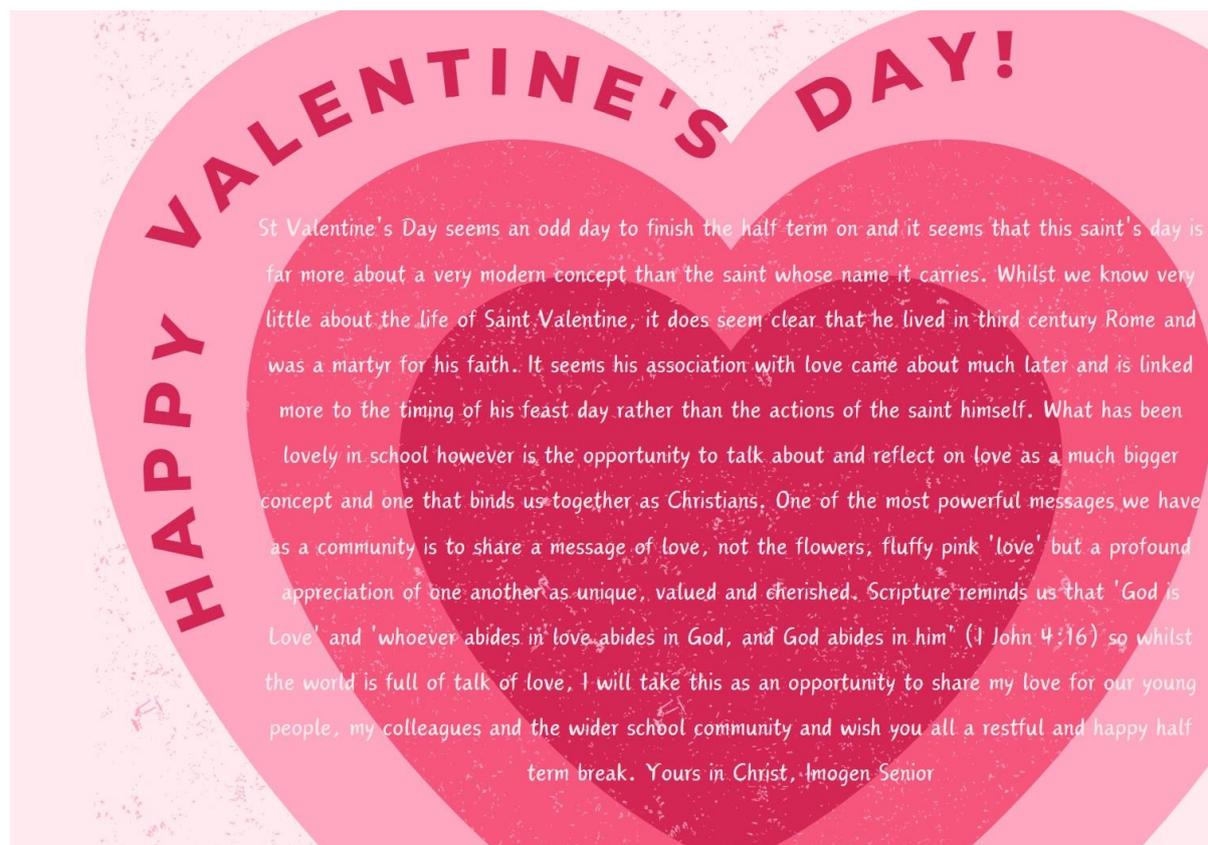


St Benedict's Newsletter 281

14 February 2025



## Headteacher Update



## Rome Pilgrimage 2025



This week a group of year 10s have been on our annual St Benedict's pilgrimage to Rome.

We visited so many places including the Vatican Museum, the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, the Forum and the English College.

Students said their highlights were...

- The views from the top of St Peter's Basilica
- Celebrating Mass with the Pope in St Peter's Square
- Seeing and visiting the iconic Colosseum
- The scale and awe of the art and design of the many incredible churches and basilicas we went to (for example seeing the 'Creation of Adam' painting they had learnt about in RE lessons, with their own eyes)
- The tour around the Capuchin Crypt, seeing the art made from bones.

As this year is the Jubilee, we were privileged to be able to carry a cross towards St Peter's Basilica and walk through the Jubilee doors. This was a truly unique occasion. The students embraced the pilgrimage, spending prayerful time throughout, with some having confession

in St Peter's Basilica and completing the Scala Sancta steps and all getting to experience several Masses.

The students were amazing and did a brilliant job at coping with all the walking and busy days. They especially liked the gelato and pizza!

*Mrs Cobbold*







## Maths Challenge Success

### **Intermediate Maths Challenge (IMC) 2025**

The IMC is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at high ability Maths students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

We are delighted to announce that students at St Benedict's achieved 4 golds, 6 silvers and 10 bronzes in this year's IMC! To recognise the highest performers in the Challenge, UKMT awarded the top-scoring 60% of participants Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1. Please see below for those who secured certificates!

#### **Gold**

Joseph Ferdinand, Michael Knight, Isaac Spiller and George Wightman

## Silver

Aryobarzan Asadi, Ben Baldock, Serena Bergin, Sean Dersley Jacob Gurrell and Finnian Senior

## Bronze

Kaytrina Babboo, Anya Barrett Jeynes, Matthew Becker, Ellen Beckwith, Philippe D'Mello, Raf Calumpiano, Brook Lerner, Edison Lorejo, Ben Warner and Izzy Wakes

This year, four students scored high enough to get into the next round, (Pink Kangaroo), this puts Joseph Ferdinand, Michael Knight, Isaac Spiller and George Wightman in the top 8000 students in the UK. We are so proud of the achievements of all our pupils who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

From this question onwards students started to lose marks for incorrect answers, how would you perform in the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

*Mrs Nicholls*

16. David likes books. He only ever pays 99p or £1.99 for an electronic book. In the last few months he has spent £56.56 on electronic books. How many electronic books costing £1.99 has he bought in that time?
- A 8                      B 13                      C 15                      D 17                      E 23
17. Dark green paint is made by mixing blue and yellow paint such that 60% is blue. Light green paint is made by mixing blue and yellow paint such that 60% is yellow. Pablo mixes dark and light green paint such that 60% of the mixture is dark paint. What is the ratio of blue to yellow in Pablo's paint?
- A 2 : 3                      B 12 : 13                      C 1 : 1                      D 13 : 12                      E 3 : 2

## Recycling Plastics - Year 10 Charity Work

As part of their charity project, a small group of Year 10s will be making and selling keyrings on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support. The students will sell these for a minimum of £1 but will encourage people to make their own donation above this fee to support this very worthy charity. The students will advertise once keyrings are ready, so please support them by donating via your son / daughter when they are ready for purchase.

*Mr Sankey*



## Year 8 Games Night



To raise money for the charity Cafod we would like to invite your child to a year 8 games café on Friday 7 March.

The evening will start at 7pm and we are asking for a £5 donation for Cafod per student.

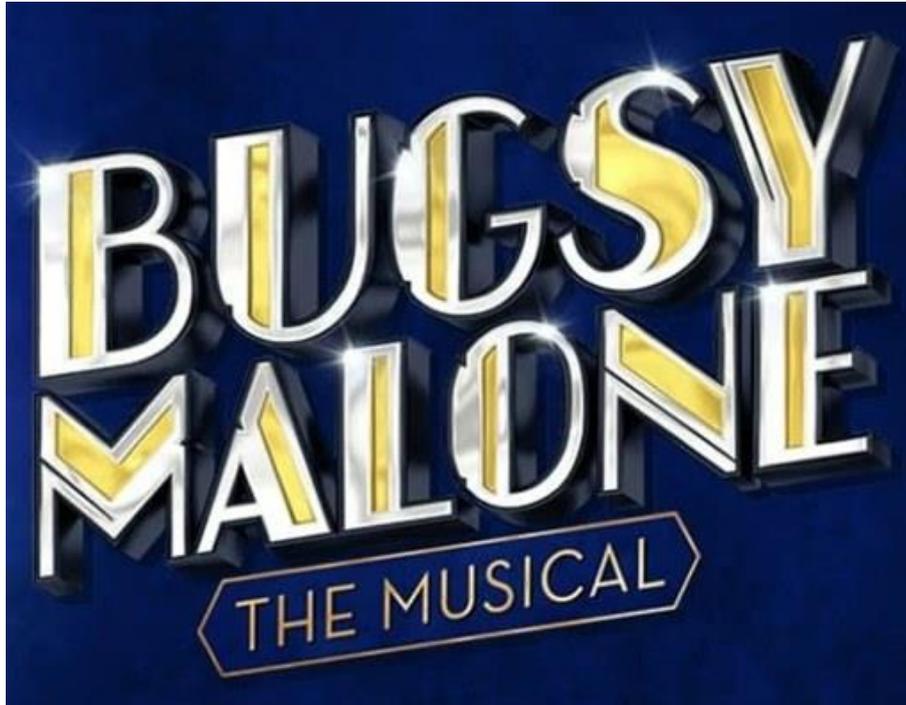
There will be a tuck shop where students can buy popcorn/sweets and drinks, we recommend around £3 per child and it would be preferable if you could send them in with coins instead of notes.

More information can be found in the letter sent to parents.

We hope this will be a fun event for our students and that it will raise lots of money for a brilliant cause!

*Mr Wilson*

## Bugsy Malone Tickets



We are excited to launch the ticket sales for our school show Bugsy Malone - a musical comedy following the story of rivalry between two New York street gangs.

Please use the link below to reserve your tickets, once your reservation has been processed a payment item will be set up on ParentPay. Please allow two working days for this to happen. The tickets cost £7.00 each.

[Ticket Reservation Link](#)

Kindly log into ParentPay to pay for your tickets. Please do pay promptly and should you no longer require your reserved tickets, please let the Finance office know.

There are three performance dates:

Wednesday 12th March

Thursday 13th March

Friday 14th March

The run times are 6:30-9:00PM.

Please be advised, our Finance Office is closed during half-term. While tickets can be reserved during this time, they will not be listed on ParentPay until after half-term when we return to school.

## Exam Certificates - Collection

We have a number of GCSE and A Level certificates that have not been collected from 2024 and 2023.

We are only obliged to keep certificates for 1 year before we destroy them and candidates would need to contact the exam boards and pay to replace them (this can cost around £200). Please contact the exams office to arrange collection of any outstanding certificates. If certificates are to be collected by someone other than the named candidate, permission for collection must be received by the Exams Officer from the candidate who undertook the exams.

Please email [cedwards@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:cedwards@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk) for collection requests.

*Mrs Edwards*

## 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 February half term.

[Parent Resources](#)

## Fr Quigley Mass

### **Fr Gerry Quigley Jubilee Mass**

*For many years, Fr Gerry was the Chaplain at St Benedict's and we know that he is well-known to the wider school community. He celebrates his Jubilee on 22 March with Mass at St Edmunds King and Martyr at 6.00 pm followed by a reception in the crypt.*

*He would love to celebrate with all who know him so please share this message!*



## 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



## Multicultural Women's Group invitation 15th February 2025

Join us! **The Multicultural Women's Group - Bury St Edmunds** will be holding its **ONE BILLION RISING** event on **Saturday 15th February** from **11:00** to **12:00** on **Angel Hill**.

It's the **12th Anniversary of the [#1BillionRising](#) global campaign** to end violence against women and girls. We will be raising awareness and highlighting the call to **Rise For Freedom**, showing solidarity to women across the world with music and dance.

Please come along, **wear something red**, and if you have some **red shoes, please bring them**. They will be part of a temporary 'installation' during the event - **empty shoes representing women who are no more, or who are not who they used to be**.

Here are the links to the long-established 1 Billion Rising anthem ***Break the Chain*** and the choreography which we will be rising to on Saturday:

Anthem: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fL5N8rSy4CU>

Everyone is welcome and will have the chance to rise, dance and sing in solidarity.

***1 in 3 women across the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. That's ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS. Every February, we rise – in countries across the world – to show our local communities and the world what one billion looks like and shine a light on the rampant impunity and injustice that survivors most often face. We rise through dance to express joy and community and celebrate the fact that we have not been defeated by this violence. We rise to show we are determined to create a new kind of consciousness – one where violence will be resisted until it is unthinkable.***

**[#1BillionRising](#) [#RiseForFreedom](#) [#RiseForSolidarity](#) [#UntilTheViolenceStops](#)  
[#CreateTheNewCulture](#) [#burystedmunds](#) [#community](#)**

# 1 BILLION RISING 2025

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Angel Hill**

**11am – 12pm**

One in three women on this planet will be raped or beaten in her lifetime – that means **ONE BILLION WOMEN!**

Join The Multicultural Women's Group of Bury St Edmunds to raise awareness and highlight the call to

**Rise For Freedom**

Wear something **RED** and bring **RED SHOES** for our display

**#RiseForFreedom #RiseForSolidarity  
#UntilTheViolenceStops #CreateTheNewCulture**

<https://www.onebillionrising.org>

## 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](mailto:sbuchan@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk) or 01284 753512

## 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



24 February - Back to school

6 March - Year 10 Parents Evening

7 March - Year 8 Board Game Evening

19 March - Careers Talk on Veterinary Medicine (lunchtime)

25 March - Careers Talk on Engineering (lunchtime)

## Contact Us



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