



St Benedict's Newsletter 280

7 February 2025



Year 9 Options

Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 9 options evening on Thursday. If anyone wasn't present and hasn't received their options booklet, please come and see Mrs Cornforth as soon as possible for your booklet.

And just a reminder that parents evening for year 9 is on Tuesday 11th February.

Mrs Cornforth

Rugby Success

On Wednesday, our U15 rugby team travelled to Ipswich for a highly competitive tournament. With a mix of experienced Year 9 and 10 players, alongside several making their debut, the squad showcased determination, teamwork, and exceptional sportsmanship throughout the day.

Group Stage Success

Led by captain Seamus Gallagher, the team faced East Bergholt in the opening match. A powerful run from debutant Harry Gladstone saw him break through multiple tackles to score his first-ever try, expertly converted by Seamus. East Bergholt responded with a try of

their own, but a try-saving tackle from Daniel Pietera ensured we maintained a narrow 7-5 lead at halftime. In the second half, dominant performances from Tristan, Lewis, Will, and Chris at the breakdown secured possession, allowing Archie Coogan to race down the wing for a superb try. Another successful conversion from Seamus sealed a 14-5 victory.

Next up was Hadleigh, and the team started strongly with excellent passing from Seamus, Noah, and Jake, setting up Archie for a well-taken try in the corner. Hadleigh quickly responded to level the score at 5-5, but the team remained composed. A tight second half saw fantastic runs from Noah, Etienne, and Harry putting pressure on Hadleigh before Archie struck again with a jinking run to secure his second try. Outstanding defence and a number of big tackles from Tristan, Etienne, Lewis, and Seamus ensured a 10-5 win and a place in the final.

A Thrilling Final

The final match against Northgate, an unbeaten side, proved to be an intense battle. Northgate started at pace, scoring two quick tries to take a 12-0 lead. Despite the early setback, the boys regrouped and began to grow in confidence towards the end of the first half.

At halftime, Seamus rallied the team, and they came out determined. A strong attacking phase saw Tristan charge through to score our first try, before Ethan Deverall made a crucial last-ditch tackle to prevent Northgate's danger man from extending their lead. With momentum shifting, Archie Coogan produced a moment of brilliance, running from his own half to score an outstanding solo try. With the score at 12-10, Seamus showed great composure under pressure to slot the conversion and level the match at 12-12 just before the final whistle.

Proud Representatives of the School

The boys were delighted with their performance, demonstrating skill, resilience, and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day. A special moment was seeing them include a Northgate player in their celebrations—showcasing the true spirit of rugby.

A fantastic day of rugby, and every player should be proud of their contributions. Well done to all involved!

Mr Taylor



U16 Boys Football – Quarter Final of West Suffolk Cup



St Benedict's 4 – 0 Mildenhall

On Tuesday 4 February, the U16 boys faced Mildenhall College Academy in their quarter-final match. Bennies started strong, taking the lead within 5 minutes. Oskar Lipinski reacted quickly to a loose ball on the halfway line, sending a first-time pass to Charlie Oxborrow. Charlie outpaced the defender, reaching the ball before him and calmly slotted it past the goalkeeper at the near post.

Bennies continued to dominate, but struggled with the poor pitch conditions, which prevented them from securing a clean strike on goal. Both Paddy Matthews and captain Mati Szczech came close to doubling the lead. With just 5 minutes left in the half, Mati played a perfect first-time pass through the defence to Charlie, who used his body to spin the defender and score his second.

The second half began with a rapid third goal. Mati collected the ball from the kick-off, playing a pinpoint lofted pass over the defence. Charlie took a magnificent touch, controlling the ball out of the air before slotting it past the goalkeeper to complete his hat-trick.

Charlie wasn't done yet, and Mati continued to provide assists. From a goal kick, Mati won a strong header in midfield, sending the ball over Mildenhall's defence. Charlie was once again there to round the goalkeeper and score his fourth goal of the match.

Both Mati and Charlie delivered exceptional performances, but the team voted for Cassius Cooper as Player of the Match. Playing at centre-back, Cassius was a rock in defence, making crucial tackles and last-ditch clearances to help secure the clean sheet.

Bennies will now play Stowmarket High School in the Semi-Final.

Mr Bates

Girls Football Festival

On Wednesday, the Year 7 and Year 9/10 girls took part in the Football Festival organised by King Edward School. The Year 7 team played King Edward School first and lost 1-0. Afterwards they played County Upper School, losing 2-0 at half time. After the short break the girls impressively came back to beat County 4-2.

Our year 9/10 girls were unbeaten. They won 2-0 against King Edward School and 3-0 against Culford School. The girls enjoyed the whole tournament and were proud of their performance. Well done girls!!!

Ms Szczech





Careers Update

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025

WE'RE SUPPORTING

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025

10-16 FEBRUARY 2025

FIND OUT MORE: [AMAZINGAPPRENTICESHIPS.COM/NAW](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/naw)

Amazing Apprenticeships

Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) 2025!

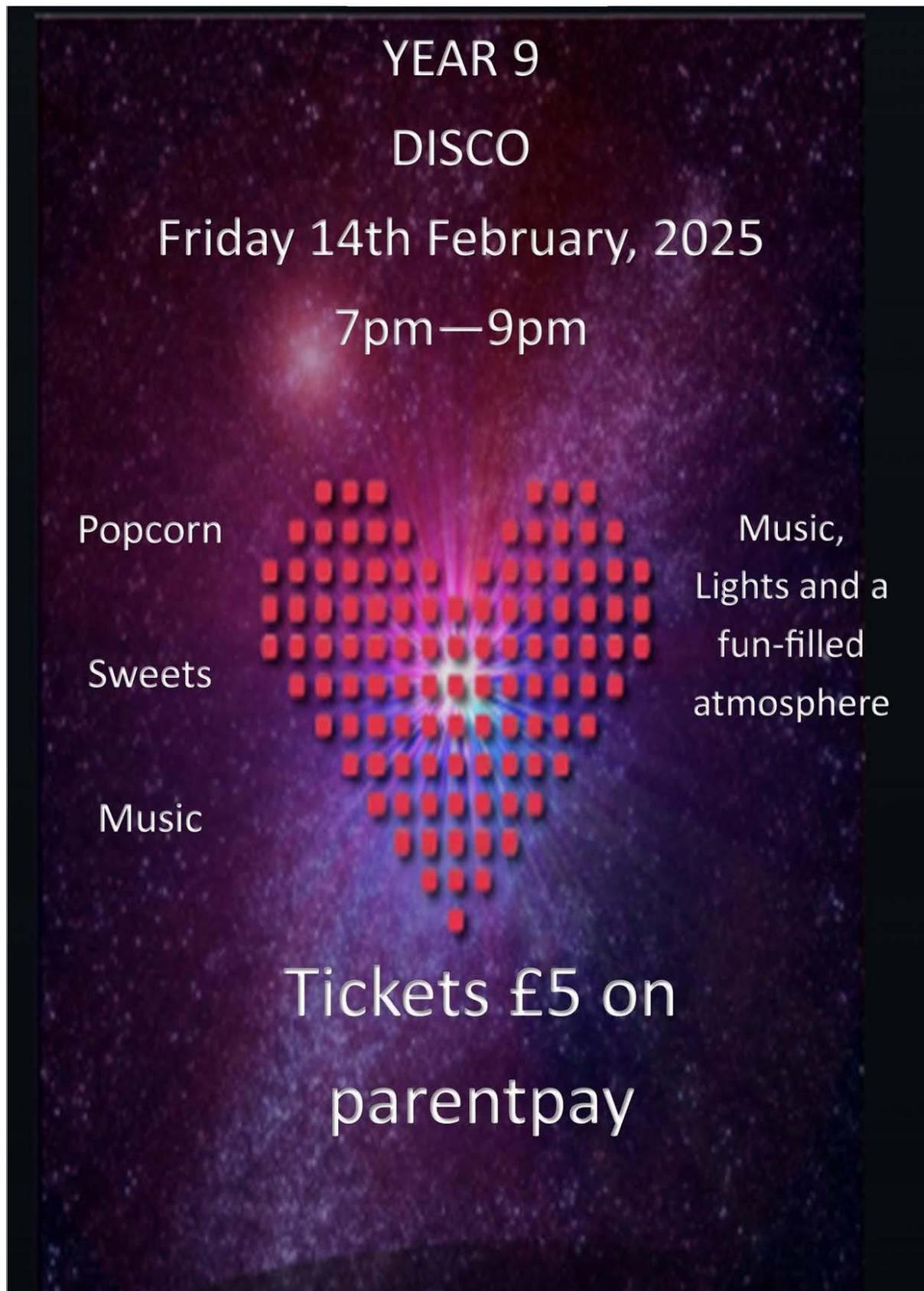
National Apprenticeship Week this year will run from 10-16 February, where all across the land we will highlight and celebrate this historic and ever-evolving pathway of learning and work.

Our students have already been introduced to NAW2025 in this week's PSHE Careers series in Tutor time, so will be ready to explore the information, resources and activities that are on offer throughout the forthcoming week.

Click on [this link](#) to access a full range of information, advice and guidance (IAG) about Apprenticeships that has been created specifically for Parents and Carers.

Enjoy exploring apprenticeships and do ask your child(ren) what they have learned about apprenticeships next week too!

Miss Hahn



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](#)

Please see the picture for our top Podders, keep up the good work!

Mr Murphy



Total Streamed

1	Keerthana Kandeegan	250
2	Matijus Juchna	242
3	Benjamin Warner	202

After School Club

VIVA CULTURA CLUB



Join the Fun – Learn, Explore, Grow!

- Looking for an exciting way to spend your afternoons? Join our after-school club in **E5** every **Wednesday** for a fun way to learn about Hispanic countries and cultures!
- Aimed at KS3 students (open to KS4), we explore cultural awareness through music, food, discussions, games, and more.
- Each week brings a new theme, providing an engaging space to learn, grow, and make friends. Don't miss out!

📅 Wednesdays | 🕒 [15:45-16:45] | 📍 E5

Thank You

Children and Families in Need in Zimbabwe have sent us a BIG Thank You for the money we raised for them at our Sparkly day before Christmas. The money will go towards creating a garden for Mwemba Primary School to grow vegetables for the children to eat. At the moment 90% of the children only have one meal a day, so by growing their own vegetables and learning how to garden it will help with their education.

If you would like to know more about the charity, please have a look at their website.

<https://childrenandfamiliesinneedinzimbabwe.weebly.com>

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

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



8 February - Year 10 Rome Trip Departs

10 February - Year 11 Optional In-Class Mocks start

10 - 14 Feb - National Apprenticeships Week

11 February - West Suffolk College Lunchtime Drop-in for Year 11 students J1 from 12.45-1.25pm

11 February - Year 9 Parents Evening

14 February - Ski Trip Departs

14 February - Year 9 Disco

6 March - Year 10 Parents Evening

Contact Us



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