



St Benedict's Newsletter 282

28 February 2025



'Respirer Paris'



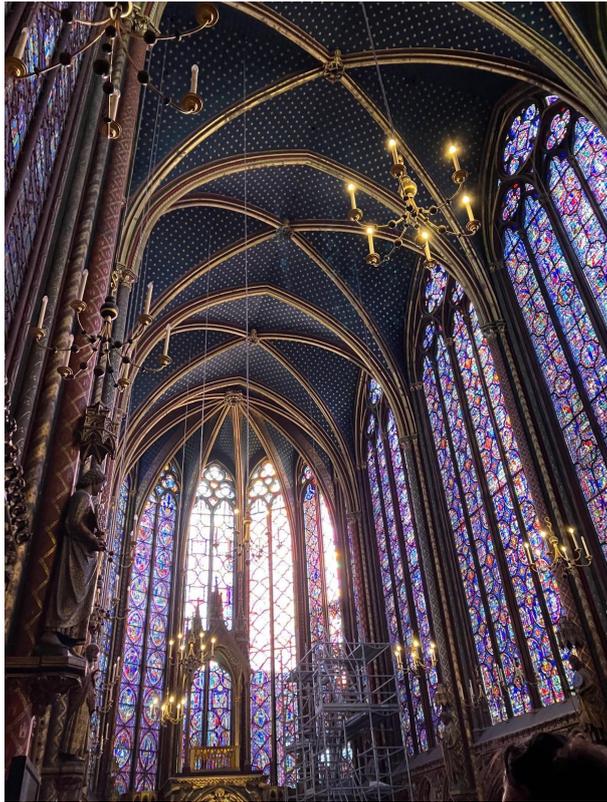
On Friday 14th February 25 sixth formers and three teachers set off for four days in Paris. An early 3.30am start and 6.00am Eurostar from London meant we greeted the French capital *avec des petits yeux* that were nevertheless full of wonder and excitement. Our first day

included a gentle jaunt along the Seine with a quick stop in the Shakespeare & Co. bookshop before continuing to the musée d'Orsay where we had our first art fix of the trip. After a meal altogether and a good night's rest, the second day started with coffees and pains au chocolats and a quick metro ride to the Eiffel Tower then a walk to les Galleries LaFayette taking in les Invalides and l'Opéra Garnier before stopping at the musée Rodin. Sunday started with a visit to the Sainte-Chapelle and continued in the hills of Montmartre where we made basecamp on the steps of the Sacré-Cœur for our session of *en plein air* painting. Our artistic efforts paid off when Bea Price (Year 13) managed to sell her painting of the green kiosk to the kiosk vendor! Later, not to feel outdone, Carl Conway (Year 12) spoke to a metro carriage full of Parisiens to try and sell Zuzanna Zabojszcz's (Year 12) painting. His powers of persuasion might have not worked, but his excellent command of French drew applause from the commuters. Our Sunday drew to a close with a visit to place Beaubourg and the Pompidou Centre, with a short night walk to see the Eiffel Tower twinkle on the hour. Monday was our final day in Paris and no trip to *la ville lumière* would be complete without seeing the Louvre and its artworks. Hôtel Familia in the Latin quarter, under the majesty of the Pantheon was our lovely base for the four days. Karine, Fatima and the team were so attentive and kind to us throughout our stay. Thank you to Mrs Coldwell who accompanied us on the trip and *un grand merci* to all the students whose company and *joie de vivre* makes these trips so worthwhile. Whether it was strolling through saint Louis-en-l'île, dining around la place de la Contrescarpe or queuing for croissants, all our students were a constant delight and represented all the best of Bennies. As Edith Piaf sang, « Sous le ciel de Paris / coule un fleuve joyeux » .

Mr Richmond & Ms Chacksfield







MFL Debating

On Tuesday 11th February, two of our Year 13 students represented St Benedict's Sixth Form in the regional heat of the 'Joutes Oratoires', the national MFL debating competition organised by l'Institut Français. Jagoda Napieraj and Bea Price had to prepare three motions

- *Les anciennes puissances coloniales ont le devoir de restituer les artefacts culturels aux pays africains francophones* (Former colonial powers have a duty to return cultural artifacts to French-speaking African countries).

- *Le bénévolat est essentiel pour maintenir la cohésion sociale aujourd'hui.* (Volunteering is essential to maintaining social cohesion today).
- *Les plateformes comme TikTok ont un rôle positif à jouer dans la démocratie en renforçant la participation des jeunes.* (Platforms like TikTok have a positive role to play in democracy by strengthening youth participation).

Students had to prepare two minute presentations both for and against each of the motions as they didn't know until the last minute which side of the motion they had to defend. Immediately afterwards, they conduct a four minute 'strife' against each of their opponents where arguments go back and forth between the competitors, and then finally a conclusion is presented to the adjudicators. All this in French. Bea and Jagoda did very well, beating Framlingham College but loosing out to Hills Road, but only by two points. Both were commended for their fluency, quality of language and ideas. Bravo!

Mr Richmond & the MFL team

Year 8 Games Night



There is still time to book onto the Year 8 Games Night taking place on Friday 7 March!

The evening will start at 7pm and we are asking for a £5 donation for Cafod per student. Places need to be booked and paid for through parent pay.

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

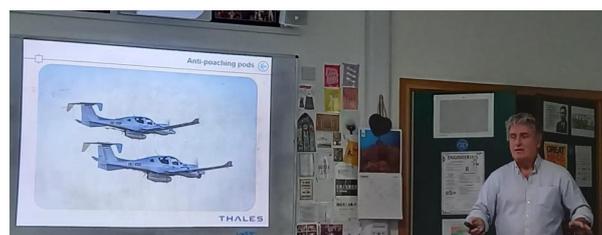
Careers Talk: What is it like to be an Engineer?

On Tuesday 25th February, Derek Langley, a longstanding (15 years+) STEM Ambassador from the [William and Ellen Vinten Trust](#), gave us a fascinating insight into the scope and evolution (from analogue to digital) of Engineering over his 38-year career as a Design Engineer (literally monochrome to colour!). Derek's work has focused on airborne reconnaissance and surveillance systems and his projects have taken him all over the world. Currently, his team's designs are helping protect wildlife against poaching. The latest application of his design expertise is in developing software and computing equipment for heat cameras covering very wide areas on the ground. Derek shared visual proof of the amazing ability of surveillance technology to find things hidden from the human eye, and demonstrated how AI could count 553 cars in an aerial photograph in just 1 second (I think we counted 3)!

We learned about the challenges of meeting a client brief and the crucial role of teamwork in problem-solving and innovation. Perhaps the most sobering note about the importance of Design Engineering was Derek's review of the Crash Test Dummy. Designed in the 1950s, the dummy was used to develop seatbelts and later, airbags in vehicles. However, it was based on an average man in terms of height and build as the driver. Female dummies were only tested in the passenger seat! The result is that women are 53% more likely to suffer arm injuries and 45% more likely to suffer neck injuries in a car accident. (The Sunday Times Bestseller *Invisible Women* goes into more detail about this bias in design engineering e.g. in pianos, smartphones, voice recognition...)

Derek concluded by outlining the amazing opportunities available through a career in engineering. He then challenged our students to develop their skills and knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths to improve on the designs that exist today. I believe our audience felt very ready to pick up that gauntlet!

Ms Hahn





National Careers Week (NCW)2025: 3-8 March



Theme for 2025: You Can!

Next week (3rd - 8th March) heralds National Careers Week (NCW)2025, a one-week celebration of careers guidance and resources in education across the UK. This year's theme is "You Can!"

NCW highlights careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to support young people in developing awareness and excitement about their future pathways. Students have been introduced to NCW2025 through a Careers presentation this week and will access resources next week to develop their self-awareness and knowledge of different career paths through a Virtual Careers Fair.

I invite you to click on the **NCW2025 Parent's Guide to Careers** below to access a wealth of information about Careers support for you and your child(ren).

[Careers Week Link](#)

I hope you are inspired by what you discover!

Ms Hahn

Equestrian Success

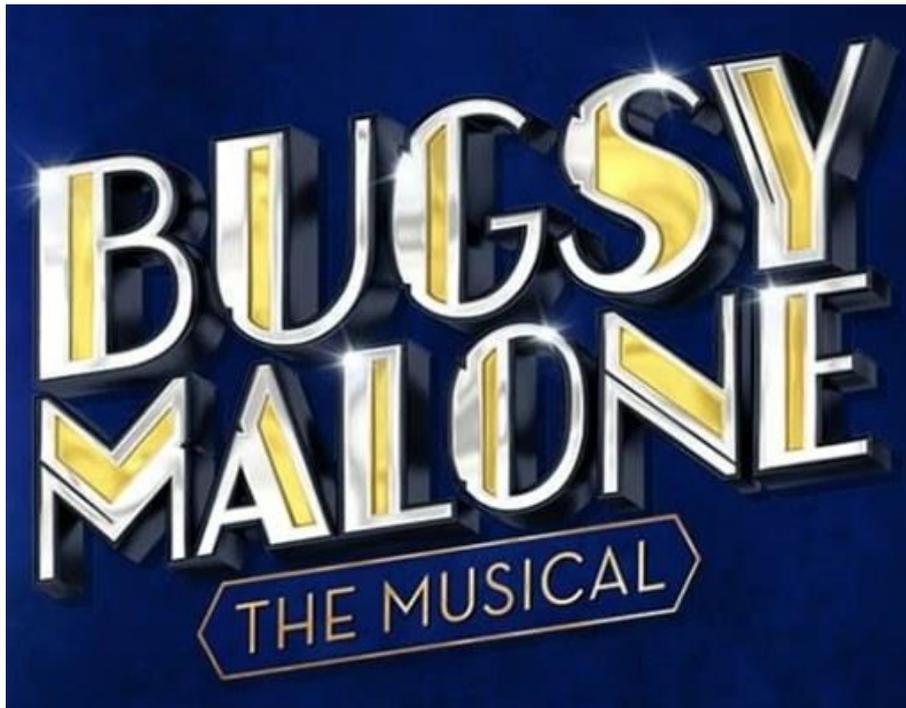
Tia Wynne-Rogerson (10P), on her young horse Jay Jay Daisy Duke, finished second in her recent qualifier, beating schools from all over East Anglia. This success has secured her a place at the NSEA National Championships in May where she will compete in the Eventer Challenge at Hickstead.

Tia is looking forward to the next stage of the competition and being able to put St Benedict's on the map in the Equine world.





Bugsy Malone Tickets



Bugsy Malone tickets on ParentPay

Please may we remind parents who have made ticket reservations for our school show, Bugsy Malone, to log into ParentPay and pay for their tickets.

Should you no longer require your reserved tickets, please contact the Finance Office:
finance@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

New Church Youth Group

Food, Fun, Faith and Friends

Join the Bury Youth Group where you can have a great time and grow in faith!

With table tennis, video games, group competitions, dinner and inspiring discussions, we strengthen our friendship with each other and God.

All teens welcome! Year 9 and up!

Join us after Saturday evening mass (19:00) on Saturday the 8th of March in the crypt (St Edmunds Catholic Church). We meet monthly.

For more information and to register contact: buryteens@gmail.com

See you there!

Constance D'Mello

GCSE Pod



GCSEPod is an excellent resource that can be used throughout the lead up to GCSEs.

[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



3 - 8 March - National Careers Week (NCW)2025

4 March - HPV Vaccine Year 8

4 March - Athens Trip Parent Information Meeting
6 March - Year 10 Parents Evening
7 March - Year 8 Board Game Evening
18 March - Classics Trip Departs
19 March - Careers Talk on Veterinary Medicine (lunchtime)
25 March - Careers Talk on Engineering (lunchtime)
25 March - Year 12 UCAS Discovery Trip
28 March - Year 9 Options Deadline
8 April - Break Up for Easter

Contact Us



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