



St Benedict's Newsletter 283

7 March 2025



## English Speaking Union Sixth Form Public Speaking Semi-Finals

On Wednesday evening, from 7.30 to 9.45, Anotidaishe Bhauti from year 12 battled it out for a place in the final of this prestigious regional contest. Students from Chelmer Valley High School in Essex, the Perse in Cambridge, Colchester County High School for Girls, and Sandon School near Chelmsford and Farrington School in Kent spoke via Zoom on a wide range of interesting topics and answered searching questions from their opponents and the judges. Anotidaishe spoke again about greatness, but using a new range of exemplars and making new points about how greatness can be subverted by ambition or ego.

Having watched his impassioned performance and listened to the masterful construction of his argument, I was unsurprised but delighted that he was one of two students to progress into the final next Wednesday evening. A proud achievement for Anotidaishe, and for St Benedict's.

*Victoria James*

## Reading Week and World Book Day



This week has been the latest Reading Week at St Benedict's, which has seen students taking part in a variety of reading-related activities. On Tuesday 4th March, students from the school's Book Club went on an author visit to Culford School where they were lucky enough to meet Benjamin Dean, the author of one of the special World Book Day books for 2025 and received a copy of this book: 'This Story is a Lie'. In addition, students in Years 7 and 8 were given the opportunity in their English lessons to review books and be entered into a prize draw to win a copy of the books they reviewed.

The highlight of the week was World Book Day on Thursday 7th March, which saw staff and students dressing up as their favourite book characters. Some teachers even stayed in costume for the Year 10 Parents' Evening, which may have raised a few eyebrows. During the day, storytellers visited all students in Years 7-10 to read a short story. At lunchtime, students took part in a Reading Quest in the library, with Owais Isswiasi and David Olugbemi from 8A emerging the winners of the £10 book token.

Finally, during the week tutor groups were invited to take part in the Masked Reader Quiz and the Silver Foil Sculpture Challenge. The results for these competitions will be announced next week.

*Mrs Oakes*







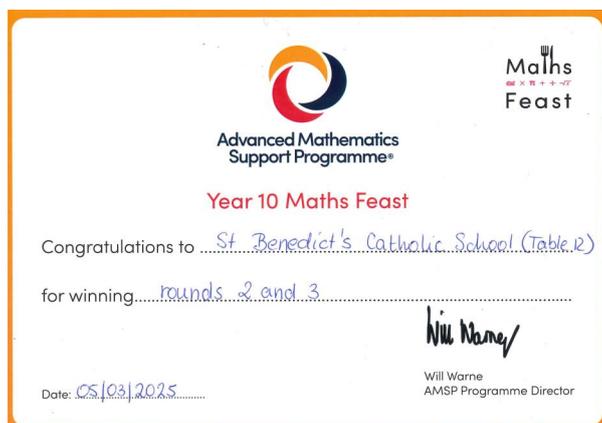
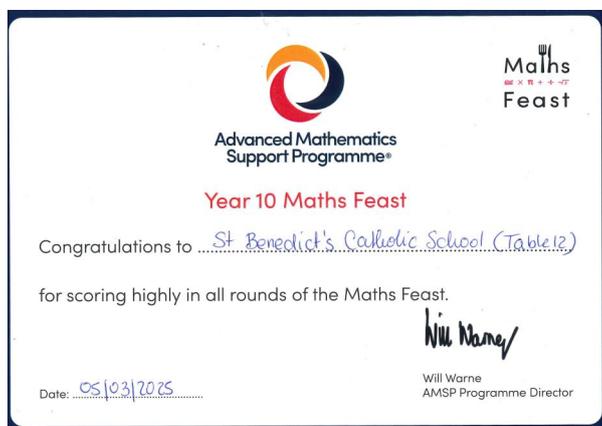
## Maths Challenge

This week the Maths Department took 8 students to Chantry Academy in Ipswich to compete in the annual Maths Feast. 20 teams from different school across Suffolk and Essex came together to compete in a series of problem solving challenges in teams of 4. Our two teams entered with great confidence and completed four rounds of challenges based around TV show quizzes, a visualisation problem that incorporated surface area and volume, a calculation skills round and the final relay. Just to make it a little trickier, it is all against a ticking countdown.

The competition never announces an overall winner, but certificates are awarded for winning rounds, scores, consistency and teamwork. Our maths superstars put in an excellent performance and left as the winners of the second and third round, achieving a perfect score in both rounds. While we will never know the overall winners, our students were definitely some of the front runners.

Our students representing St Benedict's were Ellen Beckwith, Zuzanna Bulacz, Rhodela Das, Sean Dersley, Linduli Jayaneth, Michael Knight, Tsionne Osei Ahenkuro and George Wightman. It was a brilliant event and they did exceptionally well to score so highly in round 2, as it was particularly difficult. We thank them for their excellent work and helping us to maintain our winning streak when we go to these events each year.

Mrs Nicholls



**Mals Feast**  
+ + + + +

**Section C**  
Swapped Buttons

In each of these questions, two of the white buttons have been swapped with each other. You will see four examples of attempted calculations and the answer that the calculator gives. Circle the two swapped buttons on the calculator in each case!

QC1)

4 - 2 =  
88888882

6 + 3 + 6 - 3 =  
88888885

1 1 2 - 1 1 × 1 1 2 + 1 1 =  
8888888132

8 + 4 =  
88888884

Circle the two white buttons you think are broken:

Score:...../2

ampsp 45 MEI

**Mals Feast**  
× × × × ×

**Relay round A1**

Given that all the digits in 4 Down are different:  
What is the value of **A**?

1 Across  $210^2$   
3 Across  $211^2$   
5 Across  $102^2$   
1 Down  $201^2$   
2 Down  $112^2$   
4 Down  $A^2$

	4	4	1	0	0
	0		2		
3	4		5		4
	0		4		
3	1		4		

**Relay round A3**

The number you are given is **B**  
**C** is the sum of all the prime factors of  $B(B-1)(B+1)$   
What is the value of **C**?

**Fun fact:** As of December 2020, the largest known prime number is:  $(2^{82 450 900} - 1)$  and it has 24 862 048 digits.

ampsp 50 MEI

## Attendance matters – make every moment count

We have now completed over half of our academic school year. This is a good opportunity to reflect with students about their attendance record (Arbor has this information for you).

As of 7th Mar we have had 110 school days since September.

Students missing over 10% of the school year struggle academically. Absences create knowledge gaps, limit participation in activities, and can cause social disconnection. National data has shown in KS4, 83.7% of students with full attendance achieved grades 9-4 in English and maths, compared to 35.6% of persistently absent students (attendance of <90%).

Please do speak to your children about the importance of attending all school sessions. Should you require further support, please do contact your child's form tutor.

*St Benedict's*

Attendance Percentage	Days Present	Days Absent	Days Absent per Week
90%	99	11	~1 day every 2 weeks
80%	88	22	~1 day per week
70%	77	33	~1.5 days per week

## Article by Ralph Rice - 7P

The Warhammer/dungeons and dragons club is held in H3 every Wednesday lunchtime by Mr. Willson. It could introduce young people into hobbies that they might not have an opportunity to do elsewhere, or you can take friends or make friends to play or battle with. You can eat in the club so you can bring a pack lunch or buy lunch. There is equipment at the club so do not worry if you are new to the hobby/hobbies.

Mr. Wilson is into both Warhammer and dungeons and dragons, so do not hesitate to ask him or anyone else at the club. It is a nice way to make friends and find new passions and interests. Everyone is welcome so try it out.

## 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](mailto:finance@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

## GCSE Pod



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

[Parent Resources](#)

## Glow Deanery Youth Event

### 'Glow' - Deanery Youth Event

If you are in secondary school or sixth form, you are invited to the **GLOW Deanery Youth Event** on **Saturday 29th March** from 12:30 PM to 6:30 PM at **St. Benedict's Catholic School**, Bury St. Edmunds. The day is led by The Ignite Team and will include activities, talks, social time, Adoration, Mass, and more! Please bring your own packed lunch, there is a £5 optional contribution to help cover costs. Register by scanning the QR code on the poster or online at [Link to booking](#)

Come along for a time of fellowship with other young Catholics to grow in faith this Lent!

Ignite Youth Mission Team

Catholic Diocese of East Anglia – Youth Service

[igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk)



**GLOW** St Edmund's  
Deanery  
Youth Event

An afternoon of:

- Engaging talks
- Games
- Small Groups
- Adoration
- Catechesis
- Mass
- Food

Led by  
The Ignite  
Team

**IGNITE**  
EAST ANGLIA DIOCESE  
YOUTH MISSION TEAM

**29<sup>th</sup> | MAR | 2025**  
St Benedict's Catholic School  
Beetons Way, Bury St Edmunds IP32 6RH

**Doors open at 12:30pm - Ending by 6:30pm**

Inviting all who are secondary school and sixth form age (11-18)  
Please bring your own packed lunch, Supper will be provided.  
To help cover the costs of the event, we're suggesting an optional £5 contribution.  
Your support is appreciated, please feel free to attend whether or not you can contribute.  
Everyone is welcome!  
or visit our website  
[www.rcdea.org.uk/youth](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/youth)

Calling all Youth from:  
Brandon,  
Bury St Edmunds,  
Clare, Diss, Haverhill,  
Mildenhall,  
Newmarket,  
Stowmarket,  
Sudbury and  
Hadleigh, Thetford.

Register  
HERE

## 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



18 March - Classics Trip Departs

19 March - Careers Talk on Veterinary Medicine (lunchtime)

25 March - Year 12 UCAS Discovery Trip

28 March - Year 9 Options Deadline

8 April - Break Up for Easter

## 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)