



St Benedict's Newsletter 284

14 March 2025



## U15 Boys Handball



### **St Benedict's 15 – 13 King Edwards**

On Thursday 6 March, the U15 boys faced King Edwards School in an intense and closely contested handball match. Both teams demonstrated strong attacking and defensive play, making for an exciting game throughout.

Harry Gladstone was the standout performer for the team, dominating the attack with his power and speed. His impressive efforts led to him scoring 10 points, proving too much for King Edwards to handle. Archie Coogan and Leon Maloba (looking flash in his red socks) also showcased their skills, with Archie scoring 3 goals and Leon adding 2. Both players used excellent dribbling techniques to create numerous scoring opportunities for the team. Especially, Archie Coogan, who ducked his defender, performed a jump shot and nutmegged the keeper for one of his goals.

In goal, Tristan Bawden-Bouche played a key role in keeping his team in the match. His outstanding saves were crucial, and he played with the composure of a seasoned goalkeeper, much like a prime Manuel Neuer. Defensively, both Etienne Hopes and Ethan Deverell were exceptional, making crucial blocks and tackles that prevented King Edwards from capitalizing on key moments.

Overall, it was a fantastic team effort, with solid contributions across the board. The boys showed great skill, determination, and teamwork in a thrilling contest.

**Player of the Match:** Harry Gladstone

*Mr Bates*

## Easter Traditions In Spain



Javier, our Spanish language assistant, was talking about Andalusian Easter traditions to year 10 students on Thursday. They were learning about the different hermandades (brotherhoods) and processions during Semana Santa (Holy Week). Javier explained the meaning of the different religious floats (pasos) and the special way in which they are carried, accompanied by very stirring music. Students particularly enjoyed watching the burning of incense, Andalusian style, a rather smokey affair, which we chose to do outside so as to not set the fire alarm off.

Thank you so much Javier, for giving us a real flavour of these wonderful traditions from your home country.

*Mrs Winterstellar*





## 10S Macmillan Keyrings Available

10S Macmillan Cancer Support keyrings are now available!

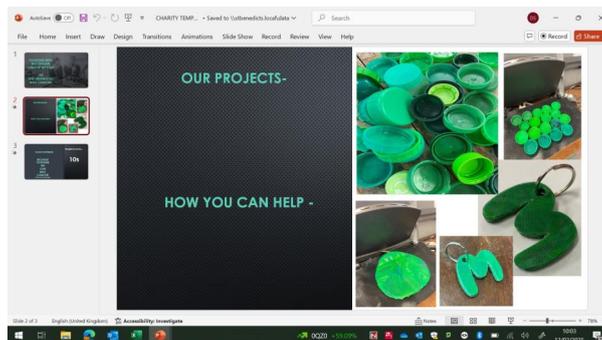
Made from the used plastic bottle tops some of you have kindly donated, with all proceeds going to Macmillan.

Available for a minimum donation of £3.

Please purchase to show your support for the amazing Macmillan Cancer Support workers.....and 10S Tutor Group.....who will be visiting classes on an ongoing basis.

THANK YOU!

*Mr Sankey*



## U15 Girls and Boys Volleyball

The year 9 and 10 boys and girls took part in a volleyball competition at County Upper School on Tuesday afternoon. It was a very impressive show by St Benedict's, with all four teams going the whole competition unbeaten! These amazing performances have secured the four teams places in the final on the 2nd of April. Well done everyone!

*Urszula Szczech*

## Step Up for a Great Cause with Fun Socks Friday!

On Friday 21 March, our Year 10A form group is inviting all students to take part in a colourful and creative fundraising event in support of the East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA). We encourage everyone to wear their silliest, brightest, and most imaginative socks to school and make a small donation to help raise vital funds for this incredible charity.

The EAAA provides an essential, life-saving service across the region, responding to medical emergencies with highly skilled doctors, paramedics, and pilots who deliver critical care to those in need. Operating 24/7, the charity relies entirely on public donations to keep their helicopters in the air and their response teams ready to act at a moment's notice. It costs £1200 to fly the helicopter for 1 hour.

Every contribution, no matter how big or small, helps support this vital service. Your donations will aid in funding emergency medical treatment, equipment, and crew training—ensuring that EAAA can continue to make a life-changing impact in our community. Please donate via Parent Pay.

So, dig out your wackiest socks and help us make a difference! We can't wait to see the fantastic designs on display. Thank you for your support in making Fun Socks Friday a success!

*Mr Foreman*

## Babraham Schools Day - 6 March

The Babraham Institute, just outside Cambridge, is a world-renowned centre of excellence in discovery life sciences research and training. The Institute aims to be an international leader for research on lifelong health and healthy ageing. The impact of this research, for the public benefit, is a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of health and disease throughout life.

At Schools' Day, students from schools all over Cambridgeshire and beyond gather at the Institute to discover more about world-leading bioscience research. Led by Institute researchers, secondary and sixth-form students complete hands-on lab projects. Often using equipment not available within schools, Schools' Day aims to enthuse, inspire and motivate students and provide insight into what life is really like in the research lab environment.

Five of our own Yr10 biology students (George Wightman, Zuzanna Bulacz, Serena Bergin, Sean Dersley and Lukas Barisius) were invited to attend. After an introductory talk from the Institute's Director, the student groups were then allocated to specific lab projects – in our case "Project 22", Development in a dish: differentiating stem cells to understand how to build an organism. The project started by introducing the students to the very complicated laser microscopes used to take multiple cross-sectional images of an embryo by using different wavelengths to differentiate the cells. The post-doctoral researchers explained how

it takes at least a month to learn how to use the microscope and that is only at a basic level! After this, the students were able to have a go at using a micropipette to place a PCR product in an electrophoresis gel, and then use a technique called immunofluorescence-based microscopy to see the different proteins.

After the laboratory session, the students returned to the main lecture theatre for a careers talk given by Zahra Jawad, CEO of Creasallis, a biotech start-up company based at Babraham. The talk covered Zahra's career path, from how not getting a place to study dentistry pushed her into a Biochemistry degree and from there she worked in academia as well as the corporate world before starting her own research company. The talk highlighted the fact that when you're young you may think you know what you want to do but often your passions change and you find yourself following a very different path.

It was a credit to the students that they applied themselves so well and I'm sure that they benefited from a thoroughly worthwhile visit. We hope to be able to return to Babraham Institute next year with a new group.

*Mrs Slater*

## GCSE Pod



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

### [Parent Resources](#)

## 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)

21 March - Year 10 Silent Disco

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)