



St Benedict's Newsletter 286

28 March 2025



UCAS Discovery Event



On Tuesday 25 March, our entire cohort of Year 12 students were taken to the ExCeL exhibition centre for UCAS Discovery London 2025. This is the largest of the annual UCAS

Discovery events held across the UK and this year involved over 170 universities and training organisations in support of thousands of Year 12 students exploring their post-18 options.

It was great to see our students engaging with the providers, asking questions about course requirements, accommodation, student life and finance, as well as collecting a huge quantity of tote bags! After the event the students expressed their amazement at the number of universities and the range of courses on offer. Many of them had not realised the choice they now face in a few short months. The next step for our students will be to identify their preferred options and book onto university Open Days to gain a first-hand experience of their potential future learning environments. We, alongside Miss Hahn, our Head of Careers, will be on hand with information, advice and guidance to help all of our students with their progression. Exciting times!

The Sixth Form Team

Spring has Sprung



You may remember back in November the newsletter included an article about the Interact Club planting crocuses in partnership with the Rotary Club around the school.

The crocuses have arrived and Catherine Cunningham, 7L, took the photo at the start of the newsletter and Manuel Manoj, 7X, wrote the following:

"It is nice to see all these proper flowers coming out and making St Benedict's a bright place. It is nice to see hard work in action. The crocuses were planted back in November for Polio Awareness. Waiting until February/March felt like a long time but now they're here!"

Mrs Hamilton

Girls Basketball

The Year 7 and 8 team took part in a basketball competition at County Upper School on Tuesday 25 March. The game started slowly and easy for our girls, but County Upper were able to fight back and pushed us to the corner. St Benedict's matched their energy and attitude and played the game with amazing, strong, and aggressive performances. This was a game like no others! We played four quarters and as a result drew the game. The St Benedict's girls fought the battle like champions! Well done girls!

Mrs Szczech

Careers Update



FREE Online WEX with Springpod for Years 9-13

Students aged 13-19 yrs can access FREE online Work Experience (WEX) across a wide range of sectors, from digital, energy, finance and medical, to art and design, journalism and social care, and many in-between at **Springpod**: [Gain Virtual Work Experience. Earn certificates - 100% free! | Springpod](#)

Here is the link to create a student account for access to all Springpod WEX courses: [Sign Up | Springpod](#)

Exciting Opportunities!

Here are some online and in-person career-related opportunities for students to exploit and explore:

Years 10 & 11

Games Design and Animation Workshops (in-person)

Suffolk New College, Ipswich:

- [2D Game in A Day Workshop](#) (8th April)
- [Animation in a Day](#) (9th April)

Years 10 - 13

- **Young Professionals - Online Business and Accounting Easter WEX** Thursday 17th April 10am - 3pm Employers involved: KPMG, BDO, Grant Thornton, S&W, CIMA and the University of Law Business School
- [Theatre Royal WEX, Bury St. Edmunds](#) Applications are now open for Work Experience placements this June at Theatre Royal (in person) To apply please follow the link: <https://theatreroyal.org/education/work-experience/> Deadline for applications is 2nd May to apply

Years 11-13:

- [Online Work Experience Law](#) (Slaughter and May) 4 Events (online) in May, July, October (all 4 must be attended) **Deadline** for applications: **28th March**
- [KPMG Business, Finance, Accounting, and Professional services](#) (14th April) Register NOW!
- **REMINDER: [National Youth Strategy](#):  Use your Voice!** Young People aged 10-21 years and up to 25 years with an EHCP are being asked to submit their views to Government on a range of topics including what issues matter to them in their local area, what services they think should be available to young people, and how money should be spent in their area – delivering on the government's Plan for Change to spread opportunity across the country. Views are being collected NOW and the **deadline** for sharing them is **Wednesday 16th April**. Young people can share their views by completing this survey: [NYS - Deliver You - iwill](#) (if under 16 years, parents/carers will need to complete initial details).

Miss Hahn

Data Collection Sheet Updates

It is important that the information we hold about your child is kept up-to-date.

Please remember that as a parent/guardian/carer, you can check, amend and update most of your child's information on Arbor, including changing your mobile number and address or adding information such as religion, family contacts, medical information and transport method.

If you are struggling to do this please email Arbor@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk where we will be able to help you.

Thanks

Mrs Defew

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



31 March - Year 11 Careers Assembly: **How to write a great CV**

2 April - Careers Workshop: **How to write a great CV** Lunchtime (12.45-1.25pm) in the Drama Studio

8 April - Break Up for Easter

Contact Us



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