



St Benedict's Newsletter 287

8 April 2025



Easter Reflections

AT THE END OF THE SPRING TERM

This half term in school is always tricky I think. It is defined by all the things that it is not; not the start of the school year, not Christmas, not the New Year and not yet Easter. At the start of the half term it is often still both cold and dark, but by the end (whilst usually not consistently the weather we might hope for) it is certainly not as bad as it was. Lent is a time for reflection and preparation, but in terms of the school year, it is a time when students in exam years head into the final phases of their study where revision dominates most of what they do and most of us have our heads down, busy with things that must be done. We remember in these more testing days there are always those in our community who have more to bear than others or who face additional challenges and setbacks in rising to these increasing demands.

This time of year then it is important to look ahead and for me, the words of Pope John Paul II in speaking in Australia in 1986, bring together the optimism and joy of looking to Easter and beyond:

"We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery - the mystery of his Death and Resurrection. 'We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!'"

As we head towards Easter then, may we live in the light and always remember that 'Alleluia is our song!'

Yours in Christ,
Margen Service

We are an Easter People and ALLELUIA is our song!

Arboreal Farewell



Term Dates

Term Dates

Summer Term Starts - Tuesday 22 April 2025

Summer Half Term - Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025

Summer Term Ends - Friday 18 July 2025

Term dates can be found on the main page of the school website [Term Dates](#)

Lessons from Auschwitz

Two of our sixth form students, Finola and Yasmine, are taking part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's prestigious Lessons from Auschwitz Project. This educational and commemorative project offers post-16 students the opportunity to learn about the Holocaust and consider its relevance for today.

During the Project, participants:

- Explore this challenging history by taking part in interactive seminars, led by experts in the history of the Holocaust
- Hear directly from Holocaust survivors, who share their personal experiences, including live survivor testimony and Q&A

- Experience the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum through a one-day visit to Poland

Last Wednesday our students took part in their one-day visit to Poland where they explored the events of the Holocaust and visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. Our students found the visit incredibly moving.

They will now finish the course by completing their Next Steps, an opportunity for them to share what they have learnt and experienced with their school and wider community.

Mrs Eden

Athens Trip



On 18 March, both year 13 and year 12 classics classes embarked on our adventure to Athens, Greece. Our first destination was the Panathenaic Stadium, site of the Panathenaic Games. It is the only stadium made from marble in the world and its scale was remarkable. The group took part in a highly competitive race on the track, with a sterling effort from Mr Harrison. Next, we found our hotel situated in the centre of the city which provided us a prime view of the Acropolis from the rooftop bar where several cokes were consumed alongside many a game of UNO. During the four days we explored a lot; from several museums to classical sites. On our second day, we explored the Acropolis, which was

without doubt an impressive site, allowing us to really grasp the pure scale of the Parthenon and understand where each building was situated. It also allowed us Year 13s to revise for our upcoming exams and for the year 12s to get a good understanding of what they were to study in the coming months. Later, we visited the Agora Site, which in ancient times was the business, political, and legal centre of Athens.

Though the Acropolis is the most famous, from what I gathered there was a unanimous agreement that Delphi was undeniably the favourite site of our trip, and it was here that we visited on day 3. Delphi was a sacred site dedicated to the god Apollo, and it was home to the Oracle of Delphi, where the priestess Pythia delivered prophecies and advice. Though the weather most definitely aided this conclusion, this is not to overshadow how impressive the site was for as we climbed higher and higher the views only got better -there is no wonder the Greeks themselves were heavily fond of Delphi.

On our final day, we visited the National Archaeological Museum which is the largest archaeological museum in Greece and one of the most important museums in the world devoted to ancient Greek art. As we explored the collections, we were able to see many artefacts that were beneficial to our course.

We returned home exhausted from all the travelling, museums, excitement and the sheer consumption of olive oil and having discovered so much about the classical world.

A massive thanks to Mr Elmer for acting upon, and putting up, with the year 13s' pleas over the last two years as we practically begged for this trip. We all really appreciate his determination and hard work!! Another thanks to Mr Harrison who had the ability to keep composure as we often joked with him about - or rather at, his skinny jeans. And not to forget the mother of the trip, Mrs Eden, who was as lovely as usual!

Beatrice Price - Year 13 and Mrs Eden







1 - Delphi - Temple Apollo



2 - Delphi - Ancient Theatre

Year 10X Fundraising



On Wednesday 2 April, 10X invited teachers to attend their 'Afternoon Tea' in aid of EACH. All the students in the form participated - whether it be through presenting in assemblies, baking at home, crafting bunting and invites, making scones, cheese straws and more over two lunch times, and even making all the sandwiches. A fire alarm was not enough to deter the group from putting on a wonderful event for staff that was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed!

The total raised so far for EACH by 10X is over £230 and we hope it will be more once we finish collecting!

Mrs Hamilton





Volleyball Success

The Year 10 boys and girls volleyball teams, with the help of some Year 9s, faced the challenge of the u15 Volleyball Tournament final at County Upper School on Wednesday 2nd April. The four St Benedict's teams played with four other Suffolk schools. The beginning of the finals were unnerving and exciting at the same time. The girl's teams fought tough games and came 5th and 6th! Their resilience and character was admirable and they were truly amazing! The boy's A Team came first and won the tournament beating Claydon High

School, who were unbeaten until that point! The boy's B Team lost only one game and came second overall! Congratulations to all participants, it was a great tournament with some brilliant performances from all teams.

Ms Szczech



Basketball Success

On Tuesday 25 March, St Benedict's Year 7 and 8 girls went to County High School for a Basketball tournament.

Our team played really well, scoring 34 goals, tying with County. We showed great teamwork and a fun afternoon was had by all.

The most famous and best basketball player in the world is Michael Jordan, he played for the Chicago Bulls in America.

Basketball is more than just a game; it's a part of global culture. From its invention in a small gymnasium to becoming an international sensation, the sport continues to evolve while keeping its core principles intact.

Did you know that Basketball was originally invented by a PE teacher and the first balls they used in basketball were football balls?

Why not join the St Benedict's basketball team next term to play this fun sport!

Shyah Bewick 7P

GCSE Food Technology



During the week of March 24th, the Year 11 Food Preparation and Nutrition students completed their practical exam. The range of dishes they prepared was amazing and many restaurant worthy. They worked incredibly hard over the three hours and were rewarded with the very positive comments from the staff tasters! You should expect some amazing cooking at home! Here is a very small selection of some of their dishes. Well Done 11A!

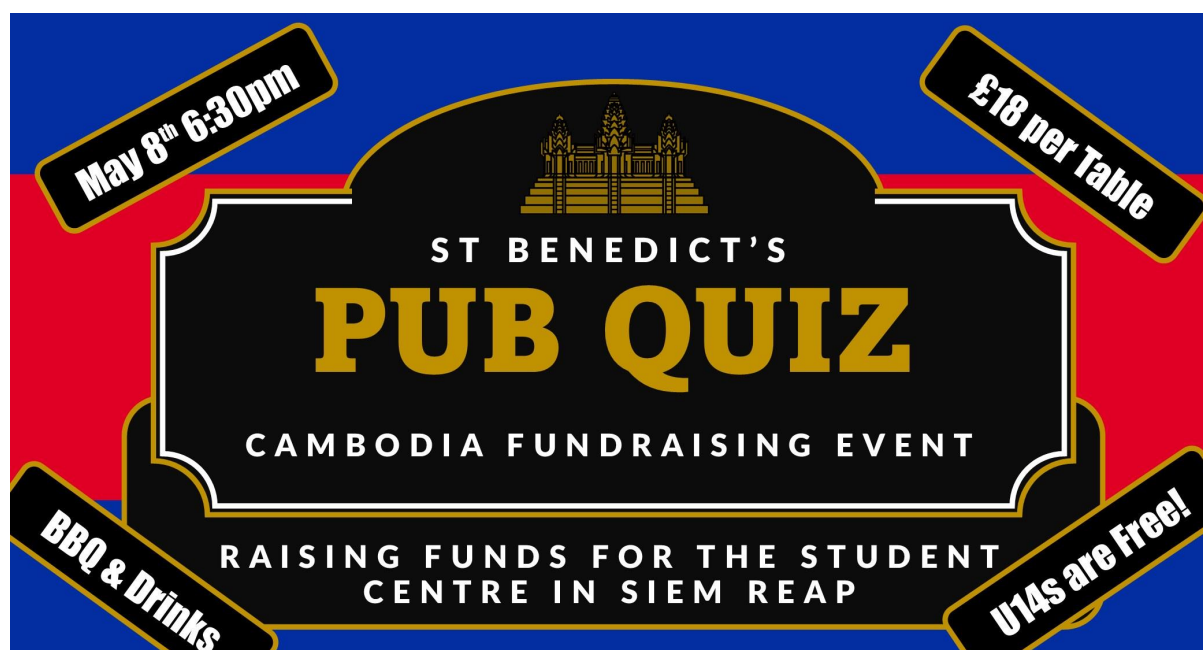
Mrs Reeman





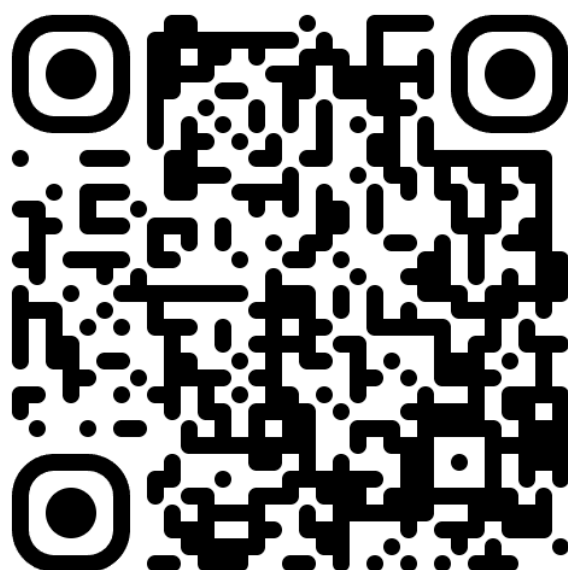


Pub Quiz for Cambodia



We are excited to invite students and parents to a pub-style quiz at school on Thursday 8 May, which we are running to raise money for the student centre in Cambodia. The student centre offers young students from rural Cambodia a place to live and study, an opportunity which they otherwise do not have access to. The night will include a barbecue, snacks and refreshments, and tables will be bookable through [Booking Link](#) for a maximum of 6 adults (under 14s do not count in this number and can join in for free!). We look forward to seeing you, and hope everyone has a lovely Easter!

The Year 12 Cambodia and Chaplaincy Team



Easter Treats






This week, our Year 7 students got into the Easter spirit by baking delicious Easter biscuits as a special end-of-term treat. From rolling out the dough to decorating with care, they showed fantastic teamwork and creativity in the kitchen. A fun and EGG-CITING way to round off the term—well done, Year 7!

Mrs Coldwell



Grow Your Dough

ST BENEDICT'S GREAT GROW!


We are taking part in the 'Grow your Dough' fundraising event for West Suffolk My WISH charity and we are asking students to take part in our 'Great Grow' sunflower competition. Entries are £2 and we are hoping that students and families will plant their sunflower seeds and send us updates of their success. The grower of the tallest sunflower (as measured by 15th July) will be crowned the greatest grower. Entries can be purchased via parent pay or cash collections in form groups or via reception.

Hopefully this will be an opportunity to grow some sunshine across the community as well as growing dough for this excellent cause!

HOW TO GROW YOUR SUNFLOWER

The best time to plant sunflower seeds is between April and May and the earlier you plant them the longer they have to grow before the competition ends.

Instructions: Sow seeds individually in 10cm pots of peat-free, multi-purpose compost. Cover pots with a clear plastic bag or the top half of a clear plastic bottle and place them in a warm spot for the best chances of germination. Remove the plastic cover once the seedlings have emerged. When the seedlings are about 10cm high ensure plant them outdoors. You may need to protect them from slugs and snails and be mindful of temperatures- if it is cold your seedlings might need hardening off before being planted to get used to the change in temperature. Alternatively, just sow the seeds direct in the ground from mid-April onwards, but watch out for slugs and snails!



Handball

On Monday 31 March, the Year 8 girls took part in the handball tournament final at Stowmarket. The girls game showed strong desire and character and they finished third overall.

Congratulations girls!

Ms Szczech

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



8 April - Break Up for Easter

22 April - Back to School

22 April - GCSE Language Speaking Exams start

28/29 April - GCSE Textiles Exam

30 April - New Parents Evening Information Evening

8 May - GCSE Public Exams Start

12 May - A Level Public Exams Start

Contact Us



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