



St Benedict's Newsletter 288

25 April 2025



Requiescat in Pace

REQUIESCAT IN PACE
HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

As the world prepares for the funeral of Pope Francis
we give thanks for his life and service.

Pope Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on 17 December 1936 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was ordained a priest in 1969; from 1973 to 1979 he was the Jesuit provincial superior in Argentina.

He became the Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 and was created a Cardinal in 2001 by Pope John Paul II. He was elected Pope on 13 March 2013 and chose Francis as his papal name in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Pope Francis died on Easter Monday 2025, having dedicated his entire life to the service of the Lord.

We give thanks for his life, and
commend him to God's mercy
and love.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,
and let Your perpetual light shine upon him.
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed
rest in peace.
Amen.

U16 Boys Football Win

U16 Boys Football West Suffolk Cup Final

Stowmarket High School 2 – 5 St Benedict's

On Thursday 24th April, the Year 11 boys' football team faced off against Stowmarket High School in a tense and dramatic semi-final clash. The first half proved to be a scrappy encounter, with Stowmarket enjoying the better of the chances early on. Despite the pressure, two clinical finishes from Charlie Oxborrow kept St Benedict's in the game, heading into the break level at 2-2. Credit also goes to Rory Blewitt, who produced two outstanding one-on-one saves to keep the scoreline intact.

The second half saw a much-improved display from St Benedict's, who controlled possession and dictated the tempo, though struggled to find the final ball to break through a resolute Stowmarket defence. It wasn't until the 60th minute that Charlie Oxborrow stepped up once again, breaking the deadlock and giving Bennies a well-deserved lead.

With eight minutes remaining and nerves beginning to set in, debutant Tomas Rosa was introduced — and what a debut it was. Just minutes after coming on, Tomas met a perfectly delivered corner from Charlie at the back post, rising above the defence to head home and double the lead. But he wasn't finished yet. With two minutes left on the clock, Tomas delivered a pinpoint, swerving pass down the line for Charlie to chase. The striker rounded the keeper and coolly slotted home to complete the scoring.

Charlie Oxborrow ended the game with an impressive four goals, but it was Tomas Rosa's unforgettable eight-minute cameo that stole the show. A true impact performance.

St Benedict's now march on to the final, where they will face Samuel Ward School. Let's go, Bennies!

Players of the Match: Charlie Oxborrow and Tomas Rosa

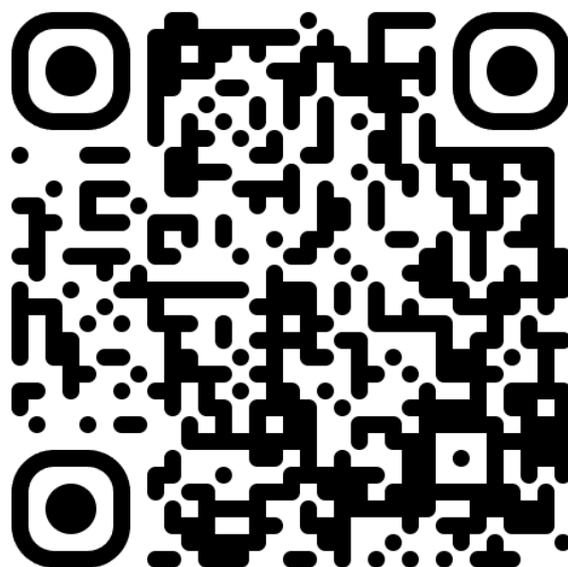
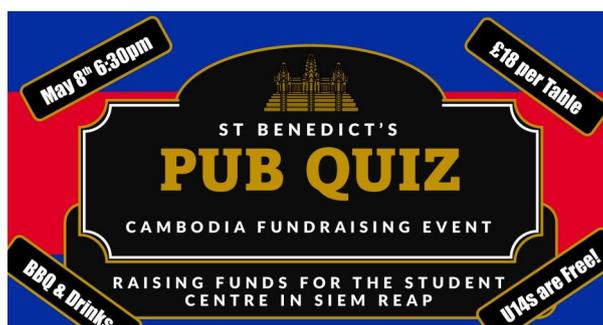
Mr Bates



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



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 £1 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!



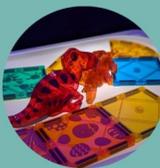
Bridge the Gap



BRIDGE THE GAP

**Bridge Family Hub
Summer Term
10:30 - 12:30
Tuesdays fortnightly**

Do you have a child who struggles with school attendance?
'Bridge the Gap' is a drop-in support space for children and their families who struggle to attend school for whatever reason.



29th April
13th May
10th June
24th June
1st July
15th July

JOIN with other parents and carers
ENJOY activities for your child
CONNECT to gain the support and advice you need to overcome the barriers to accessing school regularly.

Bridge Community Church,
68 Queens Rd, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3EW

for further details
please contact
emma@bridgecommunitychurch.co.uk
07501 408608



Pilgrimage to Walsingham

DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM
FOR THE JUBILEE OF FAMILIES, CHILDREN,
GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

SATURDAY 31ST MAY 2025

Led by
Bishop Peter

10.45 am: Walk from the village
12.00: Mass at the Chapel of
Reconciliation

Followed by a picnic



Contact Fr. Pat for more details: patrick.cleary@rdea.org.uk 01842 752266

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



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



28/29 April - GCSE Textiles Exam

28 April - Careers Workshops for Year 10 and Year 12 Business students: **Understanding Business** with Ryan Windsor, Real Estate Entrepreneur and Development Director of WindsorPatania

30 April - New Parents Evening Information Evening

2 May - Lunchtime Careers Talk: **Our Pathway into Teaching** with Mr Adams and Miss Boulton

5 May - School Closed, Bank Holiday

8 May - GCSE Public Exams Start

12 May - A Level Public Exams Start

23 May - Break up for Summer Half Term

2 June - Back to school

18 July - Break up for summer

[Term Dates](#)

Contact Us



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