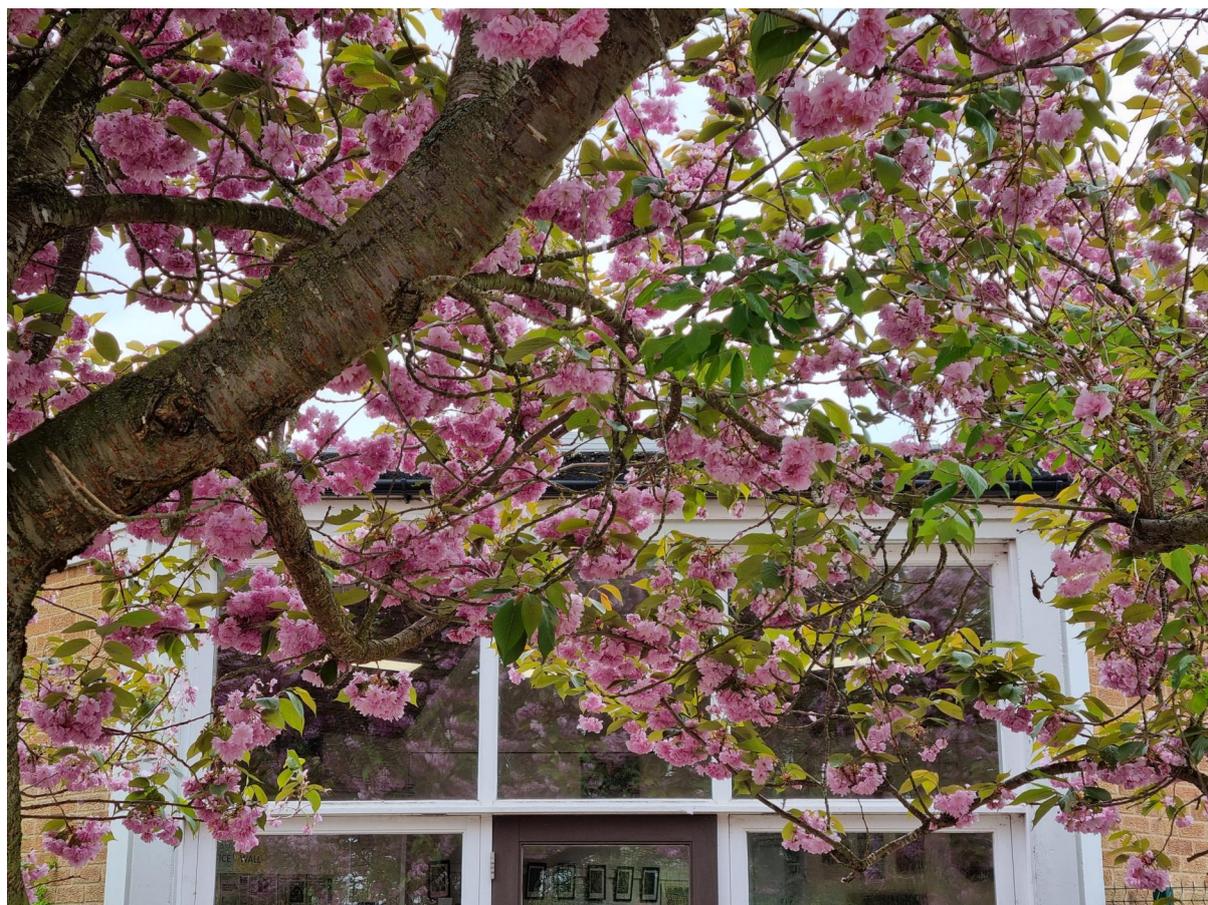




St Benedict's Newsletter 289

2 May 2025



Summer Fayre - Raffle

Summer Fayre Raffle – Prize Donations Needed

As we begin the Summer Term, planning is well underway for our end-of-year events, including our much-anticipated Summer Fayre on Thursday 11th July 2025.

Each year, the Summer Fayre is a wonderful celebration for our school community and a fantastic opportunity to raise money for charity. This year, we are proud to once again support My WiSH Charity at West Suffolk Hospital.

Last year, thanks to the incredible generosity of families and local businesses, the raffle raised over £800 – an awesome achievement! We are now looking for donations of raffle prizes to help make this year's event just as successful.

If you are affiliated with a business or have an item or experience you would be happy to donate, we would love to hear from you. All suitable contributions – big or small – are greatly appreciated.

Please contact Mrs Hamilton (Dhamilton@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk) who is overseeing the raffle prizes again this year. To ensure we have enough time to print and prepare raffle

tickets, we kindly ask that all donations are received by May half-term break (Friday 23rd May).

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Further details about the Summer Fayre will be shared in the coming weeks.

Mrs Hamilton

Year 8 Volleyball

The Year 8 boys and girls volleyball teams, with the help of some Year 7s, faced the challenge of the u13 Volleyball Tournament final at County Upper School on Wednesday 30th April. The four St Benedict's teams played with three other Suffolk schools. The beginning of the finals were tense and exciting, proving tough battles. The girl's teams fought challenging games and came first and second. Their perseverance was strong and they showed great character to earn their results! Both boy teams also played with great spirit with the the Boy's B Team coming third and the Boys A Team coming fourth! Congratulations to all participants, it was a great tournament with some brilliant performances from all the teams.

Mrs Szczech

Art Exams

Our Art and Textiles students in year 11 and 13 have been busy with their art exams these last two weeks. There are some amazing year 11 outcomes we look forward to displaying later in the year including a lampshade based on the exploration of the human brain, an installation exploring the human heart and an array of amazing paintings exploring themes such as 'Flora and Fauna', 'Angles', Narrative and Remnant's.

Year 13 are currently sitting their exam in a hot art room, having have been inspired by a range of artists including painters such as Alice Neal, Joyce Rayner and land artist Richard Long. Students are exploring themes from the exam paper such as 'Tables ', 'Close Up' and 'Walking'. There are some highly imaginative ideas this year in a range of media.

We wish them all the best for the completion of their final outcomes and look forward to seeing their work on display later in June.

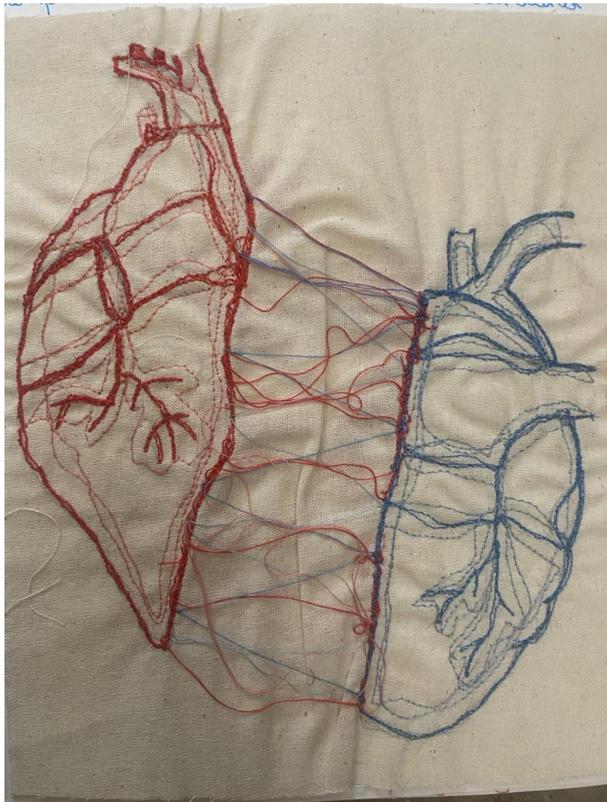
Ms Chacksfield

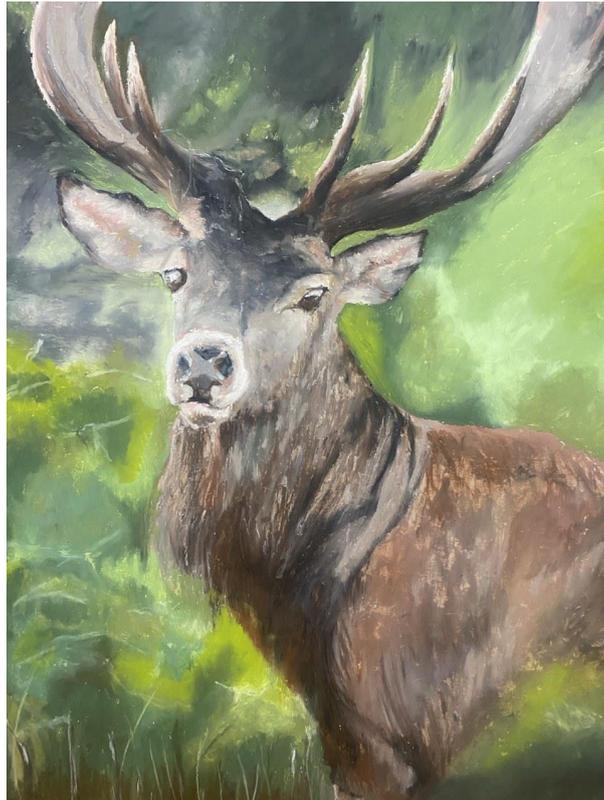












Intermediate Maths Challenge

Earlier this year some of our KS4 students took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, and our 4 Gold Winning students then had the opportunity to sit the next round, called the Pink Kangaroo. All of our students came away with certificates, with Isaac Spiller and Joseph Ferdinand gaining bronze awards and Michael Knight and George Wightman earning silver awards.

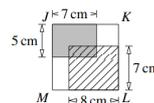
To qualify for the Pink Kangaroo, they had to perform in the top 10% of students taking part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge and to earn silver awards in the Kangaroo, they then had to perform in the top 30% of students taking part. They have shown amazing critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Here is an example of one of the questions that they tackled.

Mrs Nicholls

Square $JKLM$ contains two rectangles. One is grey and the other striped, with dimensions as shown, but not to scale. The area where the rectangles overlap is 18 cm^2 . What is the perimeter of $JKLM$?

- A 28 cm B 34 cm C 36 cm D 38 cm E 40 cm



Science News - May: VE Day

SCIENCE NEWS for May: VE-Day

This month marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two in Europe. On 7th May 1945, at his headquarters in Reims, France, Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower accepted the unconditional surrender of all German forces. The document of surrender was signed on behalf of Germany by General Alfred Jodl and came into effect the following day – 8th May. This day has become known as VE (“Victory in Europe”) Day.

The history of World War Two is well known in terms of the military conflict on land, sea and in the air. Less well known is that there was also a “secret war” fought not by soldiers, sailors and airmen, but by scientists, technicians and engineers. This was the “boffin’s war”. For the May issue of the *Science News* the editor has picked out 9 inventions whose development was accelerated by necessity prior to and during the war and that would go on to have significant and lasting benefits for all in peacetime. They are listed, in no particular order, as follows:

FLU VACCINES

PENICILLIN

RADAR

THE CAVITY MAGNETRON

BLOOD PLASMA TRANSFUSION

SUPERGLUE

THE BALLPOINT PEN

THE JET ENGINE

THE FIRST ELECTRONIC PROGRAMMABLE COMPUTER

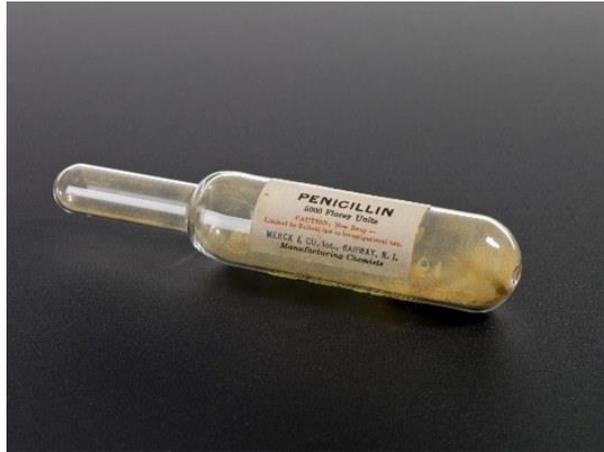
The list is, of course, subjective and open to argument. There are, no doubt, other inventions that could have been included – what do you think? Please let us know.

A popular question is “*What invention did most to shorten the Second World War?*” Was it the atomic bomb which, incidentally, hasn’t made the list? Or perhaps the computer that enabled the cryptanalysts at Bletchley Park to break the highest-level German codes? Or was it the Cavity Magnetron?

“*Cavity what?!*”, I hear you say. Well, you can read all about it in the latest *Science News*. Oh, by the way, you’ve almost certainly got one in your own kitchen!

[Science News Link](#)

Mr Gregory



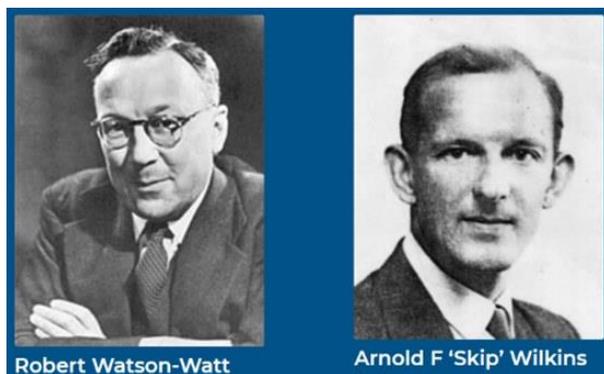
1 - Penicillin



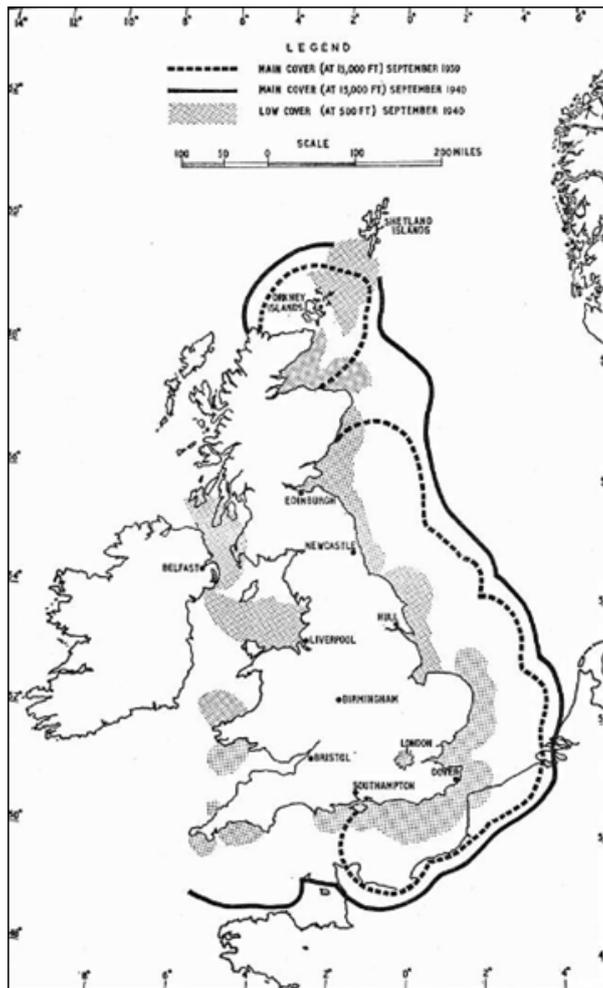
2 - Flu Vaccine



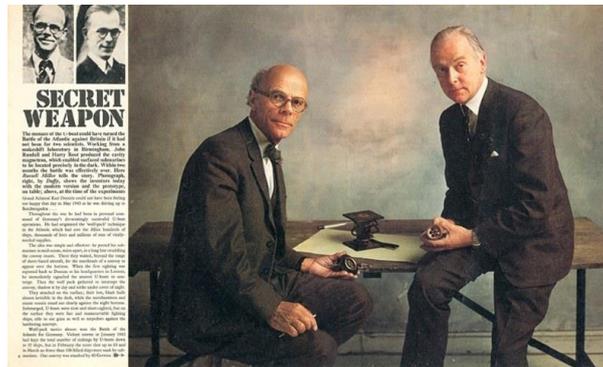
3 - Penicillin



4 - Radar



5 - Radar



6 - Cavity Magnetron



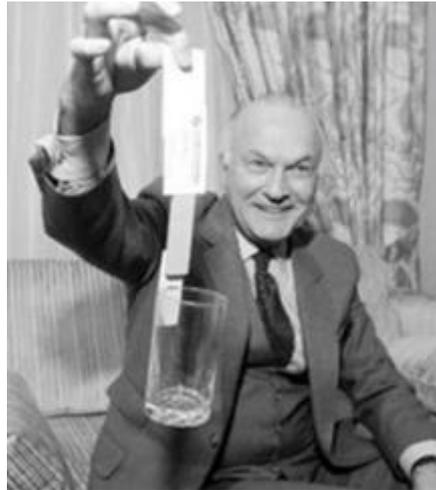
7 - Plasma Transfusion



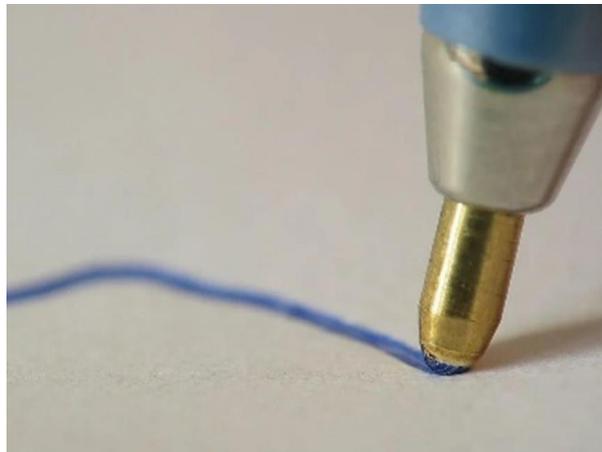
8 - Plasma Transfusion



9 - Cavity Magnetron



10 - Superglue



11 - Ballpoint pen



12 - Ballpoint pen

Careers Update

Business Studies Workshops: Insights into Entrepreneurship

On Monday 28th April, St. Benedict's Business Studies students in Years 10 and 12 engaged in a series of inspiring and insightful workshops with Entrepreneur, Ryan Windsor, the Development Director and co-founder of [WindsorPatania](#) and [HMO Architects](#).

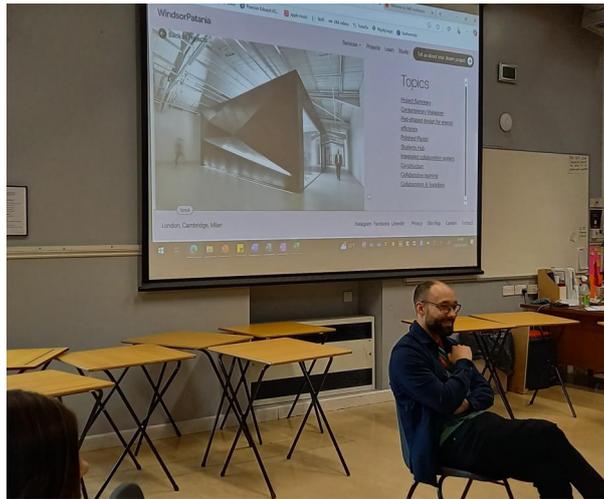
Ryan revealed that he began his entrepreneurial journey at just 5 years old, making money by selling his own artwork to his classmates! He quickly learned the value of outsourcing his work to experts in the field in order to invest his time more effectively in driving sales and exploiting new and more profitable ventures. Based on this robust approach to business, Ryan started building his property portfolio at age 17. Since then, his real estate assets across sustainable, high-end luxury, and HMO (Houses in multiple occupation) sectors have evolved into a vast and well-reputed property network, and his companies employ a range of national and international specialist partners.

Our students learned the importance of developing the *Opportunity Recognition Muscle* and how to exploit market research data when investigating a potential new niche. Financial literacy was another area of discussion. Ryan showed the Year 12s how to calculate the cost of property investments and the considerations involved in expanding a property portfolio. A number of Year 12 students were evidently keen to follow this up!

An equally important insight was the ethos of Ryan's ventures... Helping Others. This is evidenced by his companies' investments in a range of educational and charitable initiatives that make a meaningful impact on local communities. A great example is the [XR Lab created at West Suffolk College](#).

Year 12 student, Adam Burianski, described the workshops as: *"Quite an eye-opening experience. Very useful, informative and inspiring. A really valuable opportunity which I am very grateful for. The only negative is that we didn't have enough time to talk about more things!"*

The great news is that we are already planning Ryan's second visit! We hope to run a range of business-related activities that will both challenge our students and develop their entrepreneurial mindset. In the meantime, there is Ryan's recommended reading to complete. Watch this space for updates!



Careers Information

Students aged 13-19 yrs can access FREE online Work Experience (**WEX**) in **Business**:

[Business Management Virtual Work Experience: Essentials of Success | Springpod](#)

Career learning and virtual WEX

Reminder: NHS Healthcare Careers Online WEX starting Sunday 4th May:

Register for the Live Virtual NHS Healthcare Careers WEX

Book from 1-6 days (£10 per day/ 6 days for £50).

Certificates awarded on completion of each day.

Find out more [here](#) about this exciting opportunity to follow Healthcare professionals as they treat patients.

Register for each Day at: [Live Virtual NHS Healthcare Careers Work Experience Programme - Allied Healthcare Mentor](#)

Students intrigued by the blend of technology and finance and interested in exploring AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) as well as apprenticeships and training pathways in banking can register for:

Lloyds Banking Group Careers Live: Gen AI

Date: Tuesday, 6th May

Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

Location: Online (tune in from anywhere!)

Who Can Attend? All students in school or college

 **Register Now:**

Ms Hahn

[Library Closure](#)

The Library will close on and including Wednesday 7th May for exams. G5 will be available for breakfast and after school for the duration of the closure. Book Club will also be in G5 after school on Wednesdays.

The Library will reopen mid-week of week commencing 30th June.

Mrs Hayter-Gare

Dance Festival

Newmarket Dance Festival

Last weekend I took part in the Newmarket Dance Festival at Bottisham Village School, with people from local dance schools competing. There were about 12 other students from St Benedict's also competing.

There are different styles of dancing, at this festival you could do ballet, modern, tap, character, song & dance and contemporary. You can enter as a solo, duet, trio/quartet or group.

There are different age categories, to make sure you compete against similar aged people. The age categories were - 6 & under, junior (7-10), intermediate (11-15), and senior (16-19).

This means that there were 71 different classes, the class sizes vary, some had just one entry whilst others had a lot more.

In the intermediate section I entered 6 dances - a modern solo, modern duet, modern group, a character duet (which is a themed ballet, I was a cleaner), ballet group and tap trio. A teacher at the dance school helps prepare the music and does the choreography, it then takes lots of lessons to learn the routine and then lots of practise to get it ready for a festival.

There is an adjudicator who watches all the classes, there were 71 different classes at the weekend. You get a timetable and list of entries, so you have to plan all your outfits and hairstyles, plus be ready on time.

Your whole class gets called to back stage (normally a class beforehand, depending on how large the class is). When it is your turn, you then perform on stage in front of the adjudicator and an audience. The audience are your family and your friends from the dance school, plus other competitors family and friends.

The adjudicator gives feedback on the whole class and then announces the top 3 dances. Everyone gets a mark and individual feedback, which really helps prepare you for the next festival. Your teacher then goes through it with you and tells you how you can improve.

I really enjoy performing at festivals and I love watching and supporting my friends' dances too.

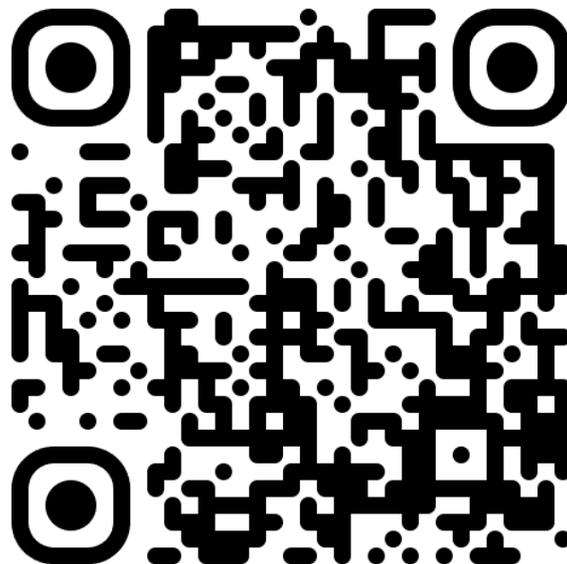
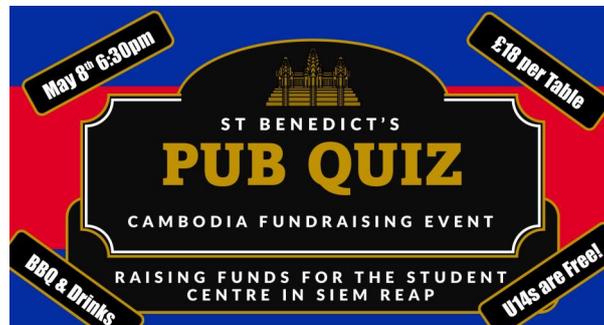
By Harriet Baldock, 7L

Pub Quiz for Cambodia

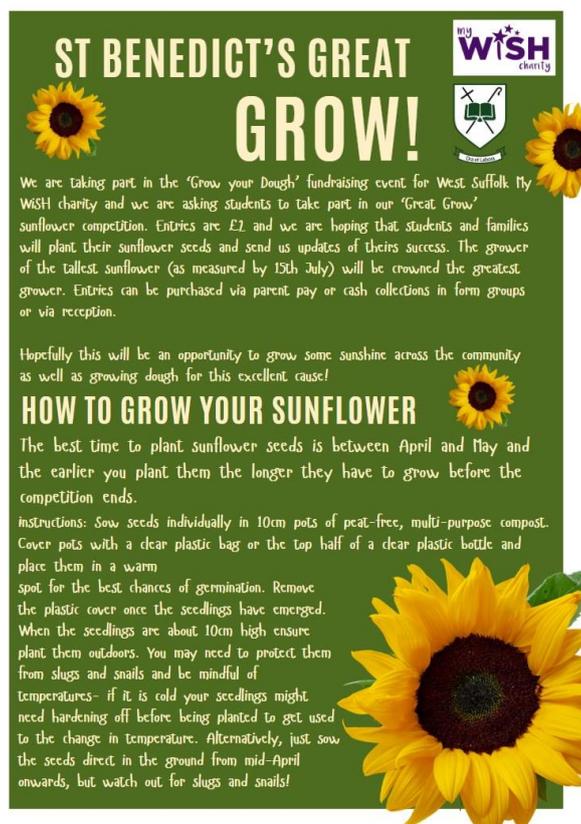
We are excited to invite students and parents to a pub-style quiz at school on Thursday 8 May, which we are running to raise money for the student centre in Cambodia. The student centre offers young students from rural Cambodia a place to live and study, an opportunity

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!

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



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



St Benedict's Catholic School

Beetons Way

Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6RH

01284 753512

enquiries@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk