



**STELLA MARIS LEADERSHIP AWARD
AT ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
BURY ST EDMUNDS**



Our Mission

“Developing Wisdom, Compassion and Resilience through Prayer and Work”

Our aim at St Benedict's Sixth Form is to support all our students to achieve their potential and take their place in society. Our curriculum is structured to inform and support the practice of the Catholic faith through shared Gospel values. These values ensure that young people achieve the full potential God has for them, irrespective of ability, background or personal circumstances. Our mission is to ‘provide an excellent broad balanced education to help... young people grown to their full human potential and pay regard to the formation of the whole person’ (Christ at the Centre: Bishop Marcus Stock, 2013) *It is about forming the human person, equipping him or her to live life to the full – in short it is about imparting wisdom [Benedict XVI]*

For all knowledge is interconnected and the mission of a Catholic educational institution is not just to provide knowledge and skills but also to help students, think deeply, love generously and live fully.

Fundamentally the Stella Maris Leadership Award supports students in their development to be well rounded people. The aim of character education is the development of good sense, or practical wisdom. This capacity involves knowing how to choose the right course of action in difficult situations and it arises gradually out of the experience of making choices and the growth of practical and ethical insight.’ (adapted from Jubilee Centre, 2017).

A good life demands openness, courage, resilience, honesty, kindness and persistence. This is the true spine of success, without which we are all jellyfish.
[Geoff Smith]

What is the Stella Maris Leadership Award?

Character is fundamental as it is the basis for human and societal flourishing. Everyone has values, these are the attributes that we hold to be important. Virtues are the habits that help us fulfil these values. If I have the value of honesty, it is meaningless unless I practice the virtue of being honest. The name Stella Maris is one given to Mary the mother of Jesus and was once the name given to the star Polaris or North Star because of its role as guide to travellers, just as Mary is a guide to how to live the virtues.

The Stella Maris Leadership Award is based on students not reflecting upon their progress the Intellectual, Moral, Civic and Performance virtues but finding ways to practice the virtues. The three key values at St Benedict's are wisdom, compassion and resilience along with the value of 'service to others. Students are encouraged to fulfil these values by reflecting on and developing virtues, not only for themselves but for others so in turn to help them fulfil the core values of Catholic Social teaching; the Common Good, Dignity of the human person, Solidarity and Subsidiarity.

There will be three levels of the award, bronze, silver and gold. Each student will be expected to gain at least the bronze level in year 12 and demonstrate how they are meeting the criteria for the silver award. It is expected that all students will pursue the silver and gold award in year 13. Each award will be recognised by a star shaped badge and certificate.

Elements of any of the awards can be achieved in any order but to achieve the award all the criteria must be met. For example, a year 12 student may have taken part in an assembly, help with charities and run a bake sale –but has not fulfilled a personal virtue or completed the compulsory element of attendance in Core RE

The aim holistically is to develop students who reflect and act on how to 'be my best self – Integrity in Action.

House points can be awarded via Arbor when students have achieved a particular virtue by any member of staff. These contribute to a student's profile when considering how and if they have met each level



Why?

The worldview behind it

- Catholic view of education – educating the whole person
- You are a unique valuable person
- Dignity of the human person – made in the image of God

The practical benefit

- It will help you know yourself
- You can make more effective choices
- It can help in your career / interview situations



GOLD AWARD
INNOVATE

Be the best you can be



SILVER AWARD
LEARN NEW SKILLS

Make a difference in college,
at home and in the community



BRONZE AWARD
MAKE AN IMPRESSION

On your CV and UCAS application

Partnership and Associate Universities

The Stella Maris Leadership Award is in partnership with Leeds Trinity, Liverpool Hope, St Mary's Twickenham and Birmingham Newman Universities. They recognise the worth of the award and are able to moderate a sample of awardees annually.

'Be ambitious for the higher gifts...there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love' (St Paul's letter to the Corinthians)



Working with Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College Leeds

St Benedict's is in partnership with Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College who run the award.

The named member of staff who leads the Stella Maris Leadership Award at St Benedict's must meet yearly online to standardise a sample of reviews and activities. Anonymised samples to be sent to the lead for Stella Maris at Notre Dame Leeds to review and to be kept for any moderation by the partnership universities.

The Award

Bronze –Spero – Hope Award focus: Service	Silver –Fides– Faith Award focus: leadership	Gold – Caritas – Love Award focus: innovation
<p>To achieve this award students must have achieved in Core RE a certain level of attendance as per student agreement, and completed the required assessed written elements, plus commendations and/or evidence for two virtues. One virtue to develop them personally and one that develops them as a person for others e.g. Responsible citizenship or service that are evidenced by contributions to school charities, helping at school events, assemblies etc, Students must also have reflected on their progress the slips, challenges and successes [Practical Wisdom]</p>	<p>To achieve this award students must have achieved the bronze award plus commendations and/or evidence for two additional virtues [different to the ones evidenced for the bronze award]. In addition, they must have shown further progress in the virtue of service to others and responsible citizenship, not just contributions but regular active participation in one or more activities, such as helping out in assemblies, open events, involved in sport, involved in drama or extra curricula activities, departmental charities, involved in social action led by the school, e.g. Cambodia trip / Reverse Advent calendar</p> <p>Students must also have reflected on their progress the slips, challenges and successes [Practical Wisdom]</p>	<p>To achieve this award students must have achieved both Bronze and Silver. Plus they must show they have made progress in all four virtue classifications [using evidence from [bronze and silver] as well as shown initiative and leadership (e.g. led and developed something themselves) such organizing an event to raise money or awareness for a charity, a social action project. Or a person who has overcome or is dealing with extreme circumstances (e.g. carer, bereavement) and has evidenced the virtues in these circumstances</p> <p>Students must also have reflected on their progress the slips, challenges and successes [Practical Wisdom]</p> <p>Only the head teacher or whomsoever is deputized can award Gold</p>

How the virtues fulfil St Benedict's Core Values

Wisdom:

Our curriculum enables young people to seek truth and wisdom in their own lives and look beyond the superficial and misleading. "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24

Compassion:

Our curriculum provides opportunities for young people to learn about the society (both local and global) in which they live their lives and to connect with others with kindness. We ensure that our curriculum is broad and balanced to enable all young people to learn about the diversity of human achievement and endeavour and the importance of mutual respect and compassion for others. "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" 1 John 3:17

Resilience:

Our curriculum helps students to approach their futures with hope and optimism and through personalised approaches to learning, see that their own future can be a bright one. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh' Luke 6:21

WISDOM Intellectual virtues Character traits necessary for discernment, right action and the pursuit of knowledge, truth and understanding.	COMPASSION Moral virtues Character traits that enable us to act well in situations that require an ethical response.	SERVICE Civic virtues Character traits that are necessary for engaged responsible citizenship, to stand in solidarity with others, contributing to the Common Good.	RESILIENCE Performance virtues Character traits that have an instrumental values in enabling the intellectual, moral and civic virtues.
Examples:			
<p>Temperance/ Self-control –resisting temptation- wanting something that is not good for us. Controlling our emotions such as anger, the desire to get even.</p> <p>Humility: You are willing to learn from your mistakes and when you need help are not too proud to ask for help.</p> <p>Love of learning You have a desire for knowledge and happy to know new things to think critically</p> <p>Sense of Humour You can see the funny side of things and can laugh at yourself.</p> <p>Attentiveness You notice things and focus on things you notice so you learn to be less distracted by everything that is going</p>	<p>Justice You give people what is due to them, treating people fairly not using them for selfish ends. You speak out against anyone who treats you unfairly and support those who are treated unfairly.</p> <p>Gratitude You show you are grateful for all that you have, grateful for the people you know and the things that happen around you each day and use your gifts for the benefit of others.</p> <p>Honesty You are truthful with yourself and others, you are reliable because you keep the promises you make.</p> <p>Respect Treating others as you wish to be treated. You treat people with courtesy and kindness You show respect for your environment</p> <p>Compassion You care about how other people are</p>	<p>Courtesy You are polite and have good manners, making people feel respected and valued by how you treat them.</p> <p>Responsible citizenship Taking part in college activities Taking an active part in your community</p> <p>Service You look for ways of helping others without waiting to be asked.</p> <p>Integrity: Your words match your deeds</p>	<p>Courage You do something that needs to be done; overcome fear to do the right thing even if it is hard.</p> <p>Confidence You can do things without fear or doubts stopping you</p> <p>Perseverance You complete something even if it is hard to do</p> <p>Resilience You accept difficulties and are not discouraged.</p> <p>Determination You focus on a particular task and stick at it until it's done.</p>

<p>on by the things you use to distract yourself.</p>	<p>feeling and you wish to help them</p> <p>Forgiveness You give someone another chance when they have done something wrong. You also forgive yourself when you have made a mistake and try to act differently</p>		
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PRACTICAL WISDOM

This is the integrative virtue, developed through experience and critical reflection which enables us to perceive, know, desire and act with good sense. This includes discerning, deliberative action in situations where virtues collide. It is often referred to as 'good sense'.

This virtue will be pursued through the reflection process that occurs via the regular reflection processes that take place twice a term in PTE

Reflection on your own strengths and weaknesses

Deliberation – you carefully consider what to do and think of the possible ways to meet a challenge, solve a problem or make a decision.

Log Book

Virtue 1 Reflection – to develop me personally:

Why have I chosen this virtue to practice/what difference will it make to me?	
What will I do or try to become better at this virtue?	
Role model who demonstrates this virtue and why I have chosen them	
Reflection: What has gone well when practicing this virtue? What has not gone well?	

Virtue 2 Reflection – to develop me personally:

<p>Why have I chosen this virtue to practice/what difference will it make to me?</p>	
<p>What will I do or try to become better at this virtue?</p>	
<p>Role model who demonstrates this virtue and why I have chosen them</p>	
<p>Reflection: What has gone well when practicing this virtue? What has not gone well?</p>	

Virtue 3 Reflection – to develop me personally:

<p>Why have I chosen this virtue to practice/what difference will it make to me?</p>	
<p>What will I do or try to become better at this virtue?</p>	
<p>Role model who demonstrates this virtue and why I have chosen them</p>	
<p>Reflection: What has gone well when practicing this virtue? What has not gone well?</p>	

Virtue 4 Reflection – to develop me personally:

<p>Why have I chosen this virtue to practice/what difference will it make to me?</p>	
<p>What will I do or try to become better at this virtue?</p>	
<p>Role model who demonstrates this virtue and why I have chosen them</p>	
<p>Reflection: What has gone well when practicing this virtue? What has not gone well?</p>	

Virtue 5 Reflection – to develop me personally:

<p>Why have I chosen this virtue to practice/what difference will it make to me?</p>	
<p>What will I do or try to become better at this virtue?</p>	
<p>Role model who demonstrates this virtue and why I have chosen them</p>	
<p>Reflection: What has gone well when practicing this virtue? What has not gone well?</p>	

Virtue 6 Reflection – to develop me personally:

<p>Why have I chosen this virtue to practice/what difference will it make to me?</p>	
<p>What will I do or try to become better at this virtue?</p>	
<p>Role model who demonstrates this virtue and why I have chosen them</p>	
<p>Reflection: What has gone well when practicing this virtue? What has not gone well?</p>	

House Points Awarded

Category Wisdom/Intellectual Compassion/Moral Service/Civic Resilience/Performance	Staff member	Subject area	What did you do to achieve this?	Date awarded

House Points Awarded

Category Wisdom/Intellectual Compassion/Moral Service/Civic Resilience/Performance	Staff member	Subject area	What did you do to achieve this?	Date awarded

Volunteering outside school

What and where	When

Stella Maris Award Check list

Bronze Achieved:	Staff Signature:	Date:
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Criteria	Description	Student Initials	Staff initials and date:
2 full virtue reviews			
1 Civic/service HP			
1 other HP in another virtue criteria			
CORE RE attendance			
Overall school attendance [YTD]			

Stella Maris Award Check list

Silver Achieved:	Staff Signature:	Date:
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Criteria	Description	Student initials and date	Staff initials and date
4 full virtue reviews			
4 HP [any category			
All volunteering logged and evidenced			
CORE RE attendance			
Overall school attendance [YTD]			

Stella Maris Award Check list

Gold Achieved:	Staff Signature:	Date:
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Criteria	Student check	Staff initials and date	Note:
4 full virtue reviews			
4 HP at least one in each criterial [Wisdom, Compassion, Resilience, Service]			
All volunteering/participation logged and evidenced			
Evidence of leading a volunteering activity			
CORE RE attendance			
Overall school attendance [YTD]			



St Benedict's Catholic School

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