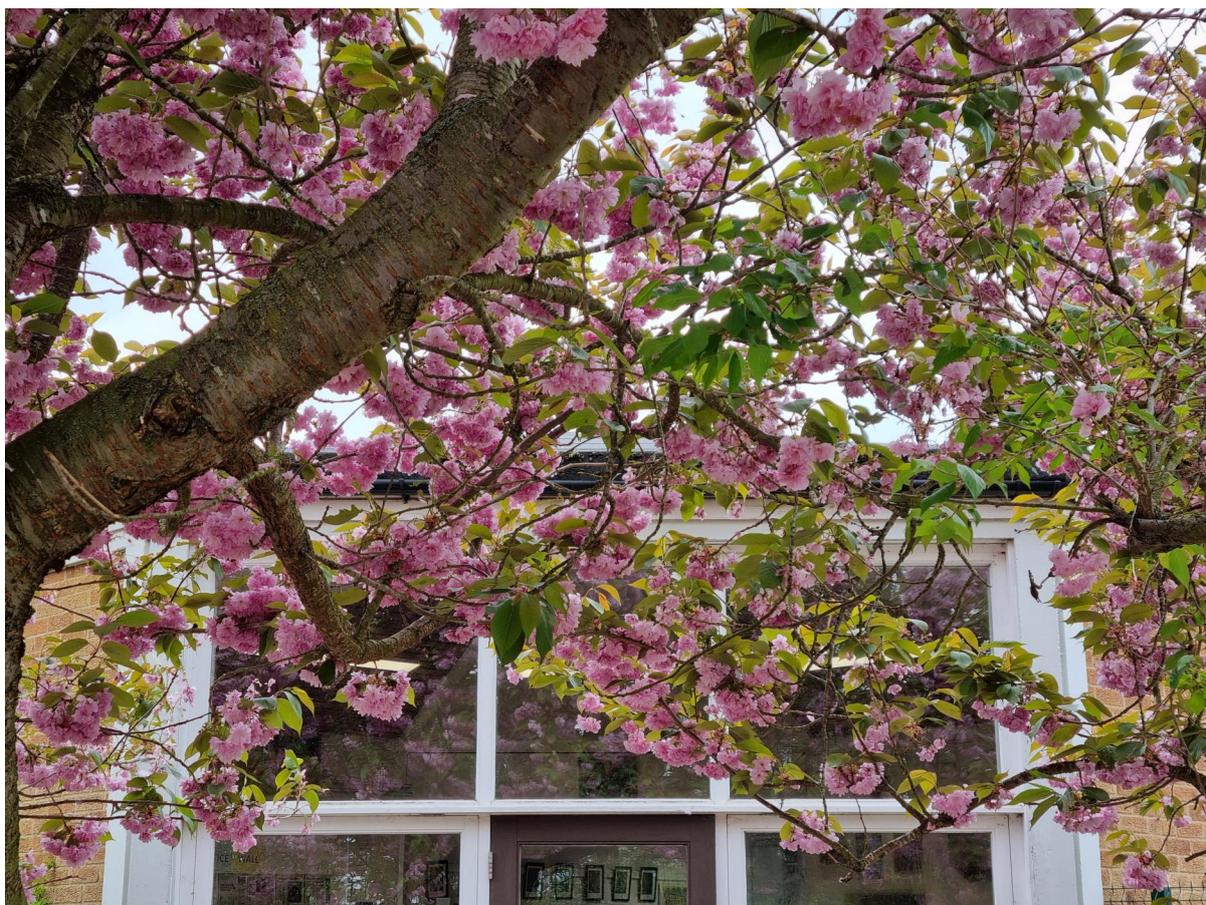




St Benedict's Newsletter 290

9 May 2025



U16 Boys Football West Suffolk Final

U16 Boys West Suffolk Football FINAL

Samuel Ward 1 – 3 St Benedict's

On Tuesday 6th May, the U16 Boys of St Benedict's played their final match together, taking on Samuel Ward in a tense West Suffolk Final. Coming into the game as reigning champions—having defeated County Upper School in last year's final—Bennies aimed to end their season on a high.

The first half proved to be a tightly contested affair. The home crowd created a hostile atmosphere, doing all they could to throw the visitors off their game. Despite dominating possession, Bennies struggled to carve out meaningful chances, while Samuel Ward posed a constant threat on the counterattack with their pacey forwards. Midway through the half, Samuel Ward capitalised on a long throw-in that led to a sequence of flicked headers, the final touch bouncing off the post and into the net to give them a 1–0 lead at the break.

At halftime, an inspiring team talk from captain Mati Szczech helped refocus the team. Bennies came out with purpose, maintaining control of the ball and pressing Samuel Ward's

defence. Szczech led by example in midfield—breaking up attacks with strong tackles and dictating the tempo.

Eventually, the pressure broke through. Charlie Oxborrow's movement and persistence proved too much for the centre backs, and a push in the back inside the box resulted in a penalty. Brushing off the noise from the home fans, Charlie calmly slotted the spot-kick into the corner to level the score.

Bennies continued to apply relentless pressure, launching attack after attack and forcing Samuel Ward's defence to scramble. Once again, Charlie Oxborrow proved too much for the defenders. His quick footwork in the box saw him evade a sliding tackle, earning Bennies a second penalty. Despite hitting the post with his initial attempt, Charlie reacted swiftly, smashing in the rebound to give Bennies a 2–1 lead, silencing the home crowd.

Samuel Ward, however, refused to back down and continued to counter with speed, causing problems for the Bennies defence. Keeper Rory Blewitt was called into action, making a crucial one-on-one save to preserve the lead. The ball then fell to centre-back Yaseen Ali, who made a vital goal-line clearance, keeping Bennies in front.

With the game entering its final 10 minutes, Bennies pressed for a third. Charlie unleashed a powerful strike towards the top corner, but the Samuel Ward keeper made an incredible save. Fortunately, Archie Coogan was in the right place at the right time, latching onto the parried save and calmly slotting the ball into the far corner to extend the lead.

Despite the cushion, the game wasn't over. Samuel Ward's quick counters still posed a threat, and in the dying minutes, their striker was once again denied by an outstanding one-on-one save from Blewitt. As the final whistle blew, Bennies were crowned **defending West Suffolk Champions**, sealing a hard-fought victory and a well-deserved title defence.

Player of the Match – Captain Mati Szczech

The boys have every reason to be incredibly proud of their football achievements. Time and again, they've demonstrated resilience and outstanding team spirit. With two years of unbeaten football, they truly deserve recognition. A special mention goes to Charlie Oxborrow, who has been exceptional throughout this undefeated streak. In just 8 games, Charlie has scored an astonishing 26 goals—an incredible accomplishment. I wish all the boys the absolute best in their future.

Mr Bates



English Schools Athletics

The English Schools Athletics Competition took place on the 8th of May.

The events in the athletics tournament included:

****Field Events:****

- High Jump
- Long Jump
- Discus
- Javelin
- Shot Put

****Track Events:****

- 1500m
- 800m
- 400m
- 300m
- 200m

- 100m

- Relay

- Hurdles

Each event featured different age categories: Junior (Years 7-8) and Intermediate (Years 9-10). The events for these categories were scheduled at different times. The athletics tournament was very fun and helped you improve your skills, while having fun with the sports you love.

By Sophia, Geneviève and Bea (year 7)



1 - Gregory Slater (year 8)



2 - Amelia Smith (year 9)



3 - Sophie Bolton (year 8)



4 - Patrycja Golonka (year 8)



5 - Molly Murphy (year 10)

Climate Change Article

CLIMATE CHANGE

What is climate change ?

Climate change is long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns; such shifts can be natural due to changes in the Sun's activity or large-scale volcanic eruptions, Since the 1800s, human activities have been the main driver of climate change, primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels: coal, oil and gas. Burning fossil fuels release their stored greenhouse gases, including carbon. These emissions act like blanket wrapped around the Earth, taking the sun's heat and raising temperatures by not allowing it to be released back out of the atmosphere. The main greenhouse gases that are causing climate change include carbon dioxide and methane. These come from gasoline for driving a car and coal for heating a building, for example clearing land and cutting down trees can also release carbon dioxide; the removal of these plants reduce photosynthesis which takes carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and recycle it into oxygen. Agriculture, oil and gas operations are major sources of methane emissions. Large energy consumption, industry, transport, buildings, agriculture and land use are among the main sectors causing greenhouse gases.

Humans are responsible for climate change!

Climate scientists have shown that humans are responsible for virtually heating the earth over the last 200 years. Human's activities are causing copiously large greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the world rapidly. In the last 200 years, the average temperature of the Earth's surface has risen 1.2C warmer than it was in the late 1800s [before the Industrial Revolution]. The consequences of climate change now include: intense droughts, water scarcity, severe wildfires rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar icecaps, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity. People are experienced climate change in different ways.

Climate change can affect our health, ability to grow food, housing, safety and work. Some of us are already more vulnerable to climate impacts, people living in small island nations another developing countries are more likely to face the severe impacts of climate change. Conditions like sea level rise and saltwater intrusion have advanced to the point where whole communities have had to relocate. The number of people displaced by weather related events is expected to rise even further in the future.

We face a huge challenge, but already know many solutions.

Many climate change solutions can deliver economic benefits whilst improving our lives and protecting the environment. We also have global frameworks and agreements to guide this progress, switching energy systems from fossil fuels to renewables like wind turbines to drive climate change, but we have to act now. Whilst a growing number of countries are committing to net zero emissions by 2050, emissions must be cut in half by 2030 to keep warming below 1.5°C; achieving this means huge declines in the use of coal, oil and gas. Consumption of all fossil fuels need to be cut by at least 30% by 2030 in order to prevent catastrophic levels of climate change from continuing

Money

Climate action needs significant financial investment by government and businesses, climate in action is far more expensive than you would suspect: it is an investment. One critical step is for developed countries to support developing countries so they can adapt to move towards green economies, but it may take an increasingly large amount of money if we leave it any longer.

Scarlett Pullen 7S

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.

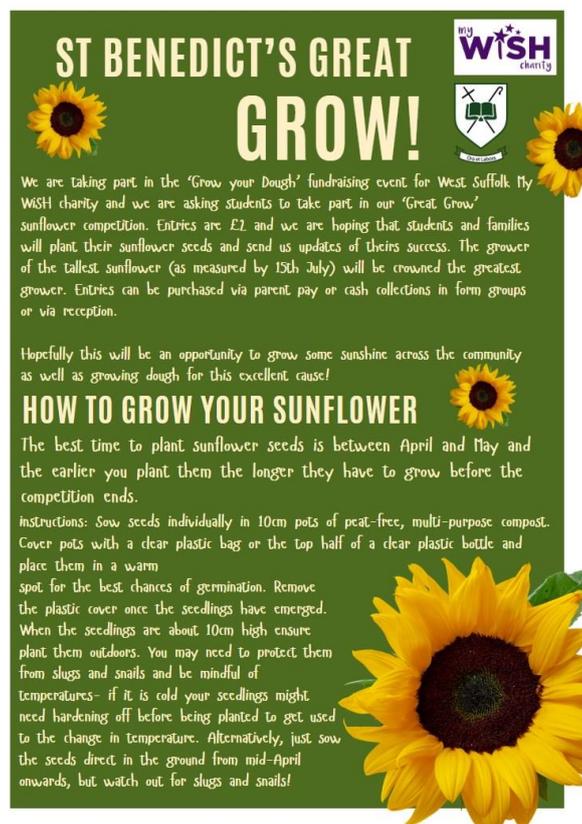
If you are affiliated with a business or have an item or experience you would be happy to donate, we would love to hear from you. All suitable contributions – big or small – are greatly appreciated.

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

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!

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



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