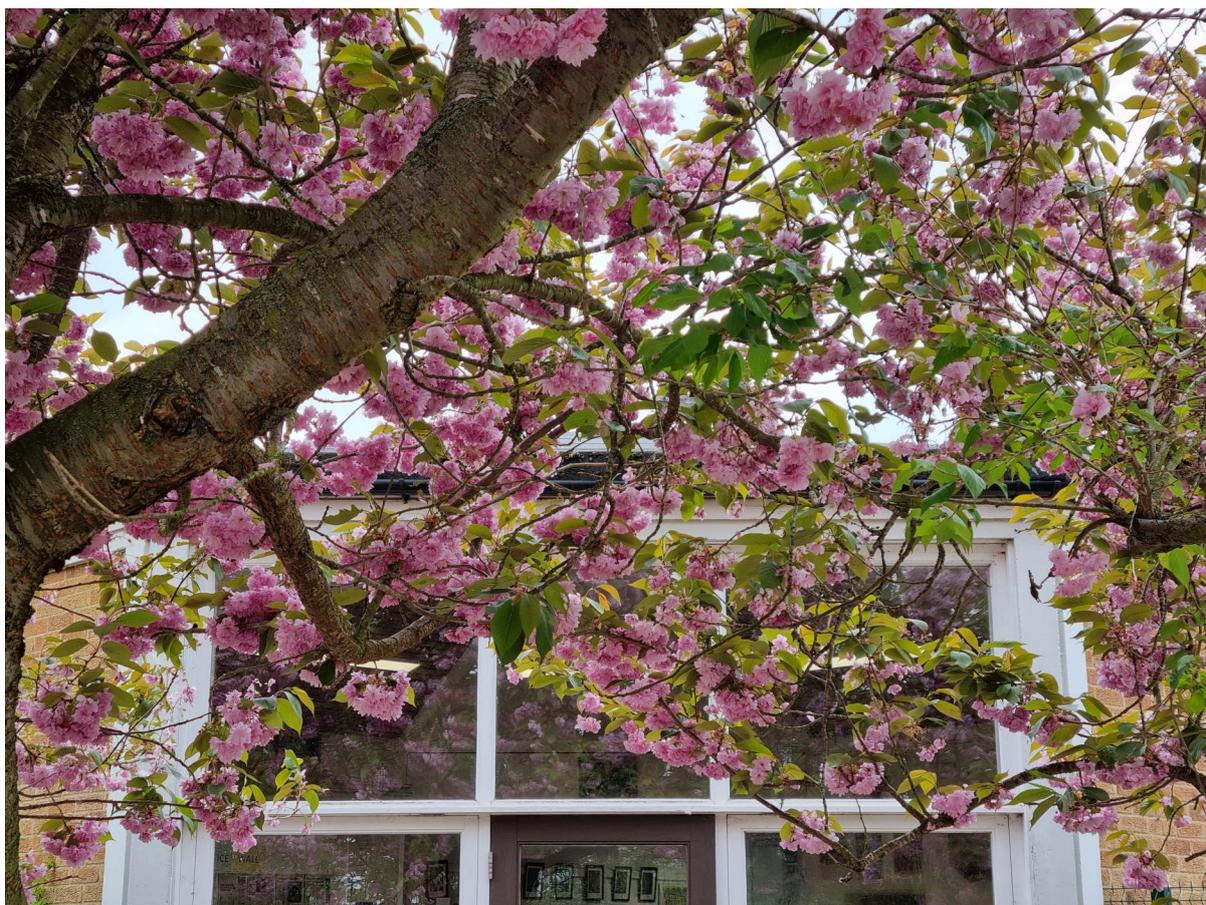




St Benedict's Newsletter 291

16 May 2025



## Careers Update



### **Careers Talk: Our Pathway into Teaching**

On Friday 2nd May, two of our very own St Benedict's School teachers enlightened a mixed student and staff audience about their pathway into the profession. Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) Mr Adams (Business/Economics) and Miss Boulton (Religious Studies)

joined St Benedict's as fully fledged educators at the start of this academic year although neither took a linear route into teaching!

Miss Boulton studied Philosophy before completing a Masters degree in Law and training as a [Paralegal](#). She soon realised that working in Law failed to satisfy her love of philosophical debate and exploration of the core meaning of life. Over time, Miss Boulton's next step became obvious - train to teach Religious Studies!

Mr Adams moved directly into work from school, landing a job with Just Eat in its start-up years. He then broadened his experience within hospitality, working for high-end and niche hotels, where his desire for progression led him, at age 27, to study for his first degree in International Business Management.

Miss Boulton and Mr Adams were both called to Teaching through a desire to inform and inspire children. Their passion to impart their subject knowledge in a way that reached students, and the joy of being challenged to improve and adapt their approach to do so, was abundantly clear during the talk. Both highlighted the variety (no two days are the same!), discussion and deepening the knowledge of their subjects as huge plus points in this career. They also agreed that these aspects of the role far outweighed the cons in terms of dealing with disruption and tricky behaviours in class.

Asked about [the different routes into teaching](#), Miss Boulton and Mr Adams described the range of options currently available to enter the profession. You do need to gain a degree first (and have passed GCSE English and Maths at grade 4 or above), then take a postgraduate teaching qualification. Entering the profession can involve academic or practical pathways. After gaining a Bachelors degree (Level 6), you can study for a Masters degree (Level 7) in teaching, known as the Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). For a more hands-on approach, the apprenticeship-style [SCITT](#) route (School-Centred Initial Teacher Training) is also available.

We all learned that commitment, enthusiasm and resilience are the toolkit of teaching. Both teachers underlined the personal joy of seeing students develop, overcome challenges and become confident in their abilities as their greatest reward.

The students in the audience were asked about the subjects they might like to teach if they chose this career. Their answers ranged from Astrophysics and Psychology to English and Art.

I am sure Miss Boulton and Mr Adams inspired many in our audience to seriously consider Teaching as a first or future career path. Maybe they will come and teach at St Benedict's?!

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

[The Art of Teaching: Unlocking Education Virtual Work Experience | Springpod](#)

Here is a link to the May edition of Choices, the parent & carer guide to **apprenticeships and technical education**: [May 2025 - Choices](#)

## Virtual WEX for students in Years 11, 12 & 13

Are you interested in learning more about careers in **wealth management and financial services**?

Join [St. James's Place](#), a FTSE 100 company with £190 billion in client assets and more than 25 UK offices that offers outstanding graduate, apprenticeship, and internship opportunities, for a full day of WEX:

Thursday, **29th May**, from 10:00am to 3:00pm - Virtual (link provided upon registration).

Register here: [Registration Link](#)

*Miss Hahn*



## Maths Challenge Success

### Junior Maths Challenge (JMC) 2025

The JMC is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at high ability year 7 and 8 Maths students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. 30 of our students were entered into this years challenge to attempt to answer as many of the 25 number and geometry logic problems. There is a significant amount of work included in the maths challenge, so students are not expected to finish all 25 questions in the allotted time frame.

The top scoring 50% of participants are awarded certificates; Bronze, Silver or Gold in the ratio 3:2:1, so we would expect 15 students to end up with certificates. At St Benedict's, we achieved 6 Golds, 8 Silvers and 8 Bronze awards for the following students.

Gold

David Olugbemi, Owais Isswiasi, Leona Jose, Sofia Lyons, Oliver Petchey and Arthur Simmons

Silver

Lena Baginski, Solomon Brokenshire-Dyke, Adam Bulacz, Elani Bynoe-Wright, Hosannah Gee, Beatrice Harpur-Davies, Lochlan Murray and Teisha Roughley

Bronze

Jake Atkinson, Patrycja Golonka, Harry Holland, Sebastian Kent, Phoebe Martineau, Jeremy Robinson, Dylan Schosland and Saoirse Walker

Following this challenge, UKMT have invited 10,000 of the highest performers from all of the entrants to take part in the Junior Kangaroo, and this includes one of our year 8 students, Owais Isswiasi. This follow on round will take place on Tuesday 10th June. We are so proud of the achievements of all our pupils that took part in the Junior Maths Challenge and would love to see all of our students developing their logic and problem solving skills so we have included a taste of the Maths Challenge for you to try.

*Mrs Nicholls*

5. The diagram shows the square  $PQRS$  and the equilateral triangle  $PTS$ .  
What is the size of the angle  $RPT$ ?
- A  $10^\circ$       B  $12^\circ$       C  $15^\circ$       D  $22\frac{1}{2}^\circ$       E  $30^\circ$



24. When 180 is divided by a positive integer  $N$ , the remainder is 5.  
For how many values of  $N$  is this true?
- A 4      B 5      C 6      D 7      E 8

## Interact



Students of the newly established Interact club were formally recognized by local Rotarians on Wednesday afternoon. Each student received a badge and leadership roles were awarded to Naomhan, Catherine, Eliza, Joao, Kacper and Zoie. Watch this space for news of their activities including a student-led magazine and a Bennie's Boot!

*Mrs Hamilton*

The Interact club is raising money for the My Wish Charity. We are having a Bennie's Boot Sale and are collecting old clothes or items that you no longer use. We don't want hair clips/brushes, underwear, broken items and please can they be in good condition. We would like each tutor to fill a bin liner full of items people would like to donate. We will be collecting until 30th May in order to prepare for our sale in June!

Catherine Cunningham - Publicity Officer

Mrs Hamilton - Staff link [dhamilton@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:dhamilton@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

Interact as an organisation seeks to bring out the best in someone. It allows for communication and problem solving between all members, with each bringing a valued perspective. There are no drawbacks in volunteering to help others and ultimately that is Interact's goal.

Interact clubs are focused on schools letting people develop along with others. Interact takes pride in having an affect on young people in schools. Instead of having a main representative all members of Interact work together allowing for a fluid and mature environment aiming to share views.

Despite this there are positions taken by those with the skills best suited for this position. This doesn't take away from the contributions others make. Neither are these positions an excuse to exert power over others due to age or experience. Instead they are members capable of inspiring others and managing the workload by distributing tasks to members.

An Interact group being chartered allows for additional support from a greater chain of globally based Interact groups. This support can could be knowledge or financial gain. Advice will not explicitly state what action the group should take as that would impede on the independence of the group.

Interact meets every Wednesday lunch time in H4.

Current projects:

- Student magazine
- Bennie's Boot

*Joao Cabrita - Operations Officer, 10X*

## Catholic Social Teaching

Hello, welcome to a new section of the newsletter that offers a pause for thought.

I would like to take some time to explore with you the principle of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) the Church's way of helping us understand how our faith connects with the real world. CST challenges us to uphold the dignity of every human person, to care for the poor and vulnerable, to protect creation, and to build a more just and loving society. These values are not separate from school life, but they are at its heart. In the words of Pope Francis "Christianity is not simply a matter of following the commandments; it is about living a new life, being in Christ, thinking and acting like Christ; and being transformed by the love of Christ"

The seven strands of **Catholic Social Teaching** are:

1. **Dignity**
2. **Solidarity**
3. **The Common Good**
4. **Option for the Poor**

5. **Peace**
6. **Creation and Environment**
7. **The dignity of work and participation**

Each week, we will focus on one of the seven strands of CST, reflecting on how it can shape our thoughts, choices, and actions. Whether we are serving others, speaking up for justice, or caring for the world around us, we will be asking:

How can I grow in wisdom, show compassion, and build resilience, through prayer and work, in response to God's call?

As we journey through the strands of CTS, my aim is that we not only deepen our understanding of the world, but we will walk the path of faith, making a real difference in the lives of others and building a community rooted in Christ's love. Together, as members of St Benedict's school community, we are called to be people of faith, action, and hope, now and always. "An authentic faith... always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it." *Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, §183*

**Prayer:**

*Loving God, Help us to listen to your voice through Catholic Social Teaching. Teach us to treat others with dignity, to care for the world, and to stand up for what is right. May we grow in wisdom, compassion and resilience, through prayer and work. Amen.*

Next week Focus: Dignity (every person is made in God's image)

## Summer Celebration

### Summer Celebration

As always we are busy planning for the Summer Celebration of students' achievements. We have been very fortunate previously to have had sponsors for an overall prize for year 13 and for individual subjects for year 13.

If you would like to sponsor a prize for Year 13 please could you contact me on:

[mcornforth@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:mcornforth@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk) by 13th June.

*Mrs Cornforth*

## Considerate Parking

We would like to bring to your attention the ongoing congestion around the school site during both morning drop-offs and afternoon collections, particularly on Beetons Way, Tollgate Lane, and in the Klondyke.

This message is especially for those who drive to drop off or collect their child. Please can we kindly ask all parents and guardians to be considerate of local residents and neighbours, and to avoid blocking driveways or parking inappropriately. We have received several complaints from members of the community about access issues and disruption during busy times.

We would also like to remind you that the front school car park is not to be used for drop-offs or pick-ups. Doing so is creating unnecessary congestion in a small and busy area that is not designed for large volumes of traffic. This also poses a safety risk to our students.

To help reduce congestion, we encourage you to consider the following alternatives:

- Park on a quieter road a short distance from school and walk the rest of the way
- Arrange a drop off or meeting point slightly away from the front of school to ease pressure on Beetons Way and Tollgate Lane

Thank you for your continued support in helping to ensure a safe and respectful environment for our students, staff, and wider community.

## 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](mailto: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*

## Free Activities at Abbeycroft

**THE GREAT GET TOGETHER**

FREE activities during  
May half term for  
children & young people  
living in Bury St Edmunds

Scan the  
QR code  
to find  
out more

BURY ST EDMUNDS  
TOWN COUNCIL

EXPLORE OUTDOOR

Abbeycroft  
Let's Love Life

We're partnering with Bury St. Edmunds Town Council to offer children and young people who live in Bury St. Edmunds FREE activities this May half term.

**EXPLORE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE DAYS**  
 Action-packed, safe, structured activities under the careful eye of experienced outdoor instructors.  
 Activities include axe throwing, fire-lighting, swimming, archery, catapult building, Geocaching and more!  
 Tuesday 27 - Friday 30 May 2025  
 8:30am-4:30pm  
 Breakfast and lunch included  
 For children aged 8-14 years

**ACTIVITY DROP IN SESSIONS**  
 This half term book on to one of our Climbing or Archery 30 minute drop in sessions running across Bury, for children aged 5-16 years.  
 Archery 10am-12pm  
 Climbing 1pm-3pm

**Gainsborough Park:** Tuesday 27th May  
**Moreton Hall Community Centre:** Wednesday 28th May  
**Tollgate Playing Field:** Thursday 29th May  
**Abbey Gardens:** Friday 30th May  
**Hardwick Heath:** Saturday 31st May

**FIND OUT MORE**



**FREE SWIMMING AT BURY LEISURE CENTRE**  
 100 FREE swimming places for children & their parents /guardians to enjoy any of our floats & fun, family or wet-n-wild swim sessions between Monday 26th - Friday 30th May.

**To be eligible you need to live within the Bury St Edmunds Town Council catchment area IP33/IP32 postcodes**



**Abbeycroft**  
 Let's Love Life

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



23 May - Break up for Summer Half Term

2 June - Back to school

9 June - Year 8 France Trip Departs

16 June - Year 10 mocks starts

19 June - Year 7 Walsingham Trip

23 June - Year 12 mocks start

23 June - Year 11 Prom

24 June - Year 13 Prom

25 June - Japan Trip Departs

28-30 June - Duke of Edinburgh Assessment Weekend

8 July - Sports Day

11 July - St Benedict's Day and Fayre

18 July - Break up for summer

[Term Dates](#)

## Contact Us



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