



St Benedict's Newsletter 293

6 June 2025



Ofsted

As you will all be aware the school was subject to an Ofsted Inspection this week. I would like to thank all of the staff, governors, parents and students for their involvement with the inspection. We certainly felt that the inspectors had a good sense of our wonderful school and community and we look forward to sharing the report in a few weeks when this is published.

Mrs Senior

Summer Celebration Evening

Summer Celebration Tuesday 1st July 2025

Invitations are now being sent and should arrive by 20th June at the latest. We have already finalised the subject nominations, but students still have a chance to achieve their Silver and Gold awards to be included in the evening.

This is an invitation only event due to the number of students who will receive awards.

Please check your emails for your invitation.

Mrs Cornforth

Sporting News

U14 West Suffolk Rounders Tournament

The U14 rounders team headed to Ormiston Sudbury Academy at the end of last half term and performed really well, finishing in 3rd place and narrowly missing out on the County finals! We played some great games of rounders with points being scored from nearly all of the team and some great fielding strategies to get lots of players from other teams out. In the initial rounds we beat Finborough (7-6), County (5 1/2- 2) and Stowmarket (8-6). However, we had to face Finborough again in the final round and unfortunately, we lost. The team's player of the year was awarded to Imogen Grove with some excellent batting and fielding throughout all games-well deserved!

We have some exciting events coming up in the calendar:

Thursday 3rd July: PE Celebration Evening - Invites for this evening will be sent out next week. We have a very exciting guest speaker attending!

Thursday 8th July: Sports Day 2025 - sign ups will begin next week!

Mrs Wright

Bury St Edmunds Youth Youth Concert Band

The Bury St Edmunds Youth Concert Band

Do you play a musical instrument from the woodwind, brass or percussion families? Are you looking for an opportunity to improve your skills as a musician?

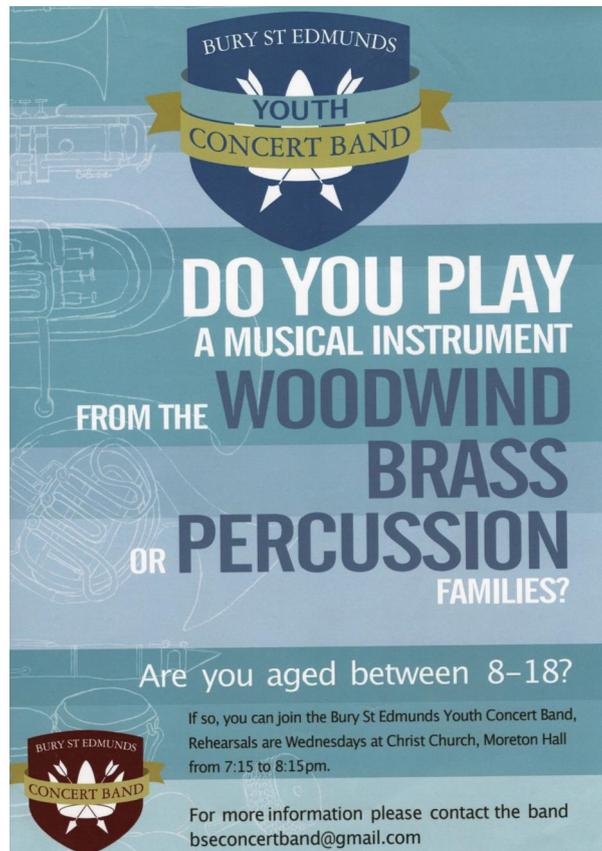
I am a member of the Bury St Edmunds Youth Concert Band. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:15 to 8:15pm, at Christ Church, Moreton Hall.

When asked why he set up the band, conductor Rob Head said, "I set up this band to be able to give the youth of West Suffolk and surrounding areas the opportunity to be a part of a music ensemble regardless of their musical ability and to have fun." I feel that this is true, as playing in the band is certainly fun, as well as being relaxing and putting a smile on my face. Not only that, but it has really improved my ability to play the trumpet, by listening and learning from others, and playing pieces which were more difficult than a musician of my ability would usually be attempting. The band also presents amazing opportunities. Typically, we do three concerts a year: Christmas, Last Night of the Proms in early autumn, and even one in the Theatre Royal in early summer!

We have another concert coming up, at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, on Sunday 22nd June, if anybody would like to come along to hear some music. You never know, maybe you may see and hear what we do and decide you want to join us!

For more information, contact the band at bseconcertband@gmail.com

Hosannah Gee, 7X



Catholic Social Teaching

Hello, and welcome back to this section of the newsletter that offers a pause for thought.

As part of our journey through the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST), we turn our attention to **Solidarity**, a principle at the heart of building a just and loving world.

Solidarity reminds us that we are one human family, regardless of nationality, race, ethnicity, economic background or faith. We are called to care for one another, especially those who are poor, vulnerable, or excluded.

In the words of Pope Francis “Solidarity is more than acts of generosity, important as they are; it is a call to embrace the reality that we are bound together, that the fate of others is also our own.”

We live out Solidarity not only in grand gestures but through small, daily choices that reflect our faith in action. By recognising and understanding others’ struggles, standing with them, and working together

We can show we understand this strand of CST through small, meaningful actions:

- **Wisdom:** Recognising that we are one human family, and recognising how our lives are connected.
- **Compassion:** Reaching out with kindness and care to those who are struggling or excluded.
- **Resilience:** Standing together in hope and justice, even when it's hard or we feel discouraged.

Through this week, take a moment to reflect on the question **“What does it mean to be my brother’s or sister’s keeper?”**

This question originates from the Book of Genesis, where Cain asks this question after harming his brother Abel. Cain’s response question to God (“Am I my brother’s keeper?” — *Genesis 4:9*), challenges us today to think about our responsibility to one another. In Solidarity, we move away from Cain’s defensiveness and embrace Christ’s example, of compassion, connection, and shared responsibility. The answer to Cain is clear: Yes, we are called to be our brother’s and sister’s keepers. This means recognising each person’s God-given dignity, choosing to walk alongside others in their struggles, and never turning away from someone in need.

Solidarity is not just about grand gestures, it’s about small, loving acts that build connection, community, and justice. This week, take a moment to notice where you see solidarity in action, in a friend who includes someone left out, in a classmate who supports a cause, or in your own heart when you choose kindness over silence.

Think about how your words and actions can lift up others. Who could you stand alongside this week, through listening, praying, or reaching out?

Solidarity invites us to go beyond sympathy and step into genuine relationships of support and care. It reminds us that we are deeply connected, and our actions, no matter how small, matter deeply.

“In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers (or sisters) of mine, you did it to me.” — *Matthew 25:40*

Loving God,

You have made us one human family.

Help us to see each person as our brother or sister.

Teach us to walk together in love and understanding.

May our school be a place of solidarity,

where no one is left behind or forgotten.

May we grow in wisdom, show compassion,

and find strength through resilience,
as we live out your Gospel through prayer and work.

Amen.

Year 11 Lockers

Please can we ask Year 11 students to empty their lockers and return locker keys to reception. Those students returning to St Benedict's in September for Sixth Form will have the opportunity to have a new locker allocated if they wish.

Any queries, please contact Finance@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk.

Thank you.

Mrs Ellis

Old Uniform and Books

Y11 and 13 Leavers

If you have any revision books that you no longer require, we would be very grateful if you could donate them to St Benedict's, so we can ensure that ALL our students have access to revision materials in the future.

Uniform that is no longer required (especially skirts) by your families and is in good clean repair would also be gratefully received.

Any donation items can be dropped at reception.

Thank you

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 by 13th June.

Mrs Cornforth

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 Friday 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

Careers Update

Year 11 students - still exploring your options for 2025?

[West Suffolk College](#) is hosting an **Explore Your Options** event exclusively for Year 11 students on Thursday **19th June** from **5.30-7.30pm**. Students will be able to meet course tutors, submit their application, complete their interview and be offered a place (subject to achieving the entry requirements) all in one evening!

Students can register (free) for this event at: [West Suffolk College Explore Your Options Event - Eastern Education Group](#)

Year 10 Open Events

Current Year 10 students will begin applying to their post-16 destinations in October!

If not already ongoing, it is time for Year 10 students (and their parents/carers) to book onto post-16 Open Events at colleges and Sixth Forms of interest post-16 (i.e. after Year 11).

Attending these events will give you an insight into new environments, allow you to meet course directors and students, and help you gain a sense of where students will thrive in future. Students can visit and apply to as many post-16 destinations as they wish. The final decision on next steps will be made when students have completed Year 11 and after GCSE exam results are known.

Details of Open Events can be found on Sixth Form/College websites.

Note: Open Events at **Hills Road** Sixth Form College (HRSFC) and **Long Road** Sixth Form College (LRSFC) in Cambridge take place **in July only**:

LRSFC: Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd July from 5-9pm: [Long Road Sixth Form College - Open Evenings](#)

HRSFC: Saturday 5th July: [Hills Road Open Event: Saturday 5 July 2025 Tickets, Sat, Jul 5, 2025 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Miss Hahn

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



9 June - Year 8 France Trip Departs

10 June - Lunchtime Careers Talk with Mr Wilson: Emergency Management: Preparation and Response to Large-scale Natural Disasters

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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