



St Benedict's Newsletter 297

4 July 2025



Year 12 French A Level students visit to St Edmund's Primary School

On 17 June, 5 year 12 students went to St Edmunds to teach a French lesson to two classes. The topic was Where I live. The St Benedict's students planned their lesson, organised resources and practiced the lesson.

On the day, they enjoyed meeting their teachers from when they were in primary! They were very pleased that they remembered them!

The lessons went very well, and the St Ed's students enjoyed their temporary new teachers. They also hopefully were inspired to look forward to their own futures in relation to learning languages, and the progress they will hopefully be making at St Benedict's.

For the year 12 students, as well as realising how hard it is being a teacher, they also were able to use their French in another context.

Year 12 pupils: Carl Conway, Adam O'Flynn, Viktoria Pawlowska, Mia Turner, Ella Wray.

Ably assisted by Noah, a French visitor to the school.

Mrs Dalby



Year 11 Prom

The Year 11s celebrated the beginning of their summer holidays with a wonderful send off at The Folk Café in Bury St Edmunds on Monday 23 June. The evening was balmy, and the year 11s arrived in an array of vehicles. They had certainly spent a great deal of time preparing for the evening and looked amazing. It would be fair to say that they danced the night away.

Every member of the public who came into contact with them during the event commented on how polite and good natured they were. It was indeed a magical evening.

They have been an amazing year group, and it has been an absolute joy to be their SPL over the last two years.

We look forward to seeing many of them back in the Sixth Form and those that have chosen a different path, we wish them well.

Ms Wray



Raffle

Don't forget the Raffle!

Raffle tickets are being sold for our Summer Fayre, raising money for My Wish Foundation. Students have been given tickets to take home and sell - we would be grateful if you could encourage this. We have a range of wonderful prizes to be won, kindly donated by parents and local business. Some of these are listed below - but this is not a complete list!

2 x season tickets for 2025/26 Bury Rugby Club

1 x Team signed shirt - Ben Cooper

Eezy-bikes - 2x bike hire for day

Gift voucher for Dermalogica Facial - worth £60

Hamper

Case of wine

Full Body Massage -£45

£25 Amazon voucher

Bury Leisure Centre- swim passes

2 x tickets to Young Company Production of Sword in the Stone - Bury Theatre Royal

2 cubic metres of firewood worth £200 from Euston Estate

Afternoon tea for two - Ickworth Estate worth £60

'Free Day Out' - National Trust

Farm tour - 3 people, Euston Estate

Abbeygate cinema (Bury) and King's Newmarket cinema- 4 tickets to each

Gas Boiler Service

£50 voucher for home delivery - fish

32 GB iPad 6th Generation Network 2 Supplies

2 week membership of David Lloyd Leisure, Bury St Edmunds

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated a prize, we are very grateful.

Mrs Hamilton

Space Dome

Following its success in previous years, Mrs Dalby was determined to continue her 'out of this world' experience for our year 7s – and this year did not disappoint, with a new dome and a new expert presenter in the person of Mr David Ault, a Cambridge astrophysicist with a Masters in Gravitational Lensing...ooooooooohhhhhh!

The Space Dome is actually a mobile, inflatable planetarium inside which a projection is made of the sky via a computer app – Stellarium. This can project the sky for any time of day or night, so the students were able to experience, within a 1-hour session in the Dome, going from daytime into night time right here in Bury St Edmunds. And mighty impressed they were.

The overall theme was exploring the stars, constellations and planets. Appropriate for this time of year, the students were introduced to 3 bright stars making the “Summer Triangle”; Vega (in the constellation Lyra, the “Harp”); Altair (in the constellation Aquila, the “Eagle”); and Deneb (in the constellation “Cygnus, the “Swan”). Almost all the constellations were identified and named in ancient times and are named according to a mythical story, especially from the Greek, Egyptian and Roman cultures.

You may be familiar with the expression “*the dog days of summer*” which refers to the period of particularly hot and humid weather in the Northern Hemisphere, between July and August. In ancient Greece and Rome, the Dog Days were believed to be a time of drought, bad luck, and unrest, when dogs and men alike would be driven mad by the extreme heat! What you may not know is that the expression is based on an astronomical observation: the rising of the brightest star in our night sky – Sirius – that occurs at this time of year. Sirius, of course, is the main star of the constellation Canis Major – the “Big Dog”.

There was so much more to see, including our nearest galactic neighbour, the Andromeda Galaxy, notable for being the most distant astronomical object visible to the naked eye. Also, a nursery ground of new, young stars – the Orion Nebula.

Although the experience for our young astronomers was wonderfully exciting, they managed a good measure of self-control and impressed with their intelligent and insightful questions. Inevitably the question of black holes came up and we were indeed fortunate in having David Ault, a real-life astrophysicist, to provide expert answers. However, a question from Lochlann Murray (7X) really threw us: he asked about “Quark Stars”, which stumped even Mr Ault. A thoroughly worthwhile experience, we look forward to welcoming the Space Dome back again next year.

Mr Gregory



Celebration Evening

Summer Celebration Awards Evening

On Tuesday 1 July we invited 94 students and their families to our Summer Celebration Awards evening. The students were either nominated by their teachers or were awarded for their achievements so far this year. We were entertained by our excellent musicians, Serena Bergin, George Wightman, Sean Dersley, Ellen Beckwith and Diego Davies, and were fortunate to have a guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Sean Connolly. We had a voluntary donation for refreshments and raised a wonderful £165 for CAFOD. Our thanks go to our sponsor for the prize for mathematics and everyone who helped put the event together and assisted on the evening.

Mrs Cornforth

Here is a full list of the awards presented:

Silver St Benedict's Award Gold St Benedict's Award

Sidney Astle	Lena Baginska
Shyah Bewick	Harriet Baldock
Evan Cameron	Jude Brown
Tomas Carvalho	Brock Coleman-Miles
Oscar Grove	Sophia Collins
Evangelia Konstantopoulou	Genevieve D'Mello
Oliver Lamas Nakagawa	Leo Farrow
Edwyn Lloyd	Hosannah Gee
Edward Mansfield	Patrycja Golonka
David Message	Charles Jackson
Zoie Paredes	Alexis Rose Josy
Amelie Pickering	James Knight
Lyra Reimann	Wiktor Konopka
Amelia Selfoss	Manuel Manoj
Oscar Slade	Eleanor Moylan
Ruby-Mae Smith	Amelie Penine
Charlie Symonds	Gabriella Pohech
Temi Yewon	Scarlett Pullen
	Ralph Rice

Teisha Roughley

Evelyn Scott

Henrietta Tatum

Meredith Taylor

Hannah Thomas

Genevieve D'Mello	year 7 & 8 Resilience award
Clara Martinez	year 7 & 8 Resilience award
Oscar Grove	year 7 & 8 Service award
Adam Bulacz	year 7 & 8 Wisdom award
Philippe D'Mello	Year 9 Resilience award
Isobelle Nutt	Year 9 Service award
Eliza Rowley	Year 9 Wisdom award.
Alexis Rose Josy	KS3 Headteacher award
Eleanor Slater	Achievement in Art year 10
Lily Georgy	Achievement in Biology year 10
Raine Evangelista	Achievement in Business year 10
Serena Bergin	Achievement in Chemistry year 10
Leonor Jardim	Achievement in Combined Science year 10
Michael Knight	Achievement in Computer Science year 10
Noa Taylor	Achievement in DT Product Design year 10
Serena Bergin	Achievement in English year 10
Olivia Proctor	Achievement in Food Technology year 10
Zuzanna Bulacz	Achievement in French year 10
Tia Wynne-Rogerson	Achievement in Geography year 10
Rufus Atkinson	Achievement in History year 10
George Wightman	Achievement in Maths year 10
Ellen Beckwith	Achievement in Music year 10
Sean Dersley	Achievement in Physics year 10

Isabelle Coyles	Achievement in PSHE year 10
Sean Dersley	Achievement in RE year 10
Leonor Jardim	Achievement in Spanish year 10
Zuzanna Bulacz	Achievement in Textiles year 10
Erika Oliveira	Achievement in Art year 11
Anya Barrett Jeynes	Achievement in Biology year 11
Raf Calumpiano	Achievement in Business year 11
Isaac Spiller	Achievement in Chemistry year 11
Violette Davy	Achievement in Combined Science year 11
Joseph Ferdinand	Achievement in Computer Science year 11
Bartek Zarnoch	Achievement in DT Product Design year 11
Phoebe Moran	Achievement in English year 11
Niamh Roberts	Achievement in Food Technology year 11
Violette Davy	Achievement in French year 11
Emma Payne	Achievement in Geography year 11
Aidan Feely	Achievement in History year 11
Joseph Ferdinand	Achievement in Maths year 11
Aryobarzan Asadi	Achievement in Music year 11
Maxim Zak	Achievement in Physics year 11
Toby Flood	Achievement in PSHE year 11
Aidan Feely	Achievement in RE year 11
Charlotte Budd	Achievement in Spanish year 11
Phoebe Moran	Achievement in Textiles year 11
Helena Bulacz	KS4 Headteacher award
Angel Jose	Blessed Carlos Acutis prize for computer studies
Phoebe Harpur-Davies	'Eureka' prize for Science
Isac Thomas	Paul Rossi prize for Public Speaking
Jagoda Napieraj	Saint Albertus Magnus prize for Geography

Grace Morgan	Saint Bede prize for History
Chloe Martelino	Saint Catherina of Bologna prize for Art
Rose Coldwell	Saint Dymphna prize for Psychology
Eva Kennelly	Saint Gerome prize for Languages
Helena Peachey	Saint Hildegard Von Bingen Literary prize
Helena Peachey	Saint Irenaeus prize for Classical Civilisation
Kieran Fernandes	Saint John Bosco prize for Sociology
Milan Biju	Saint Joseph prize for Design and Technology
Daniel Noor-Brooks	Saint Matthew prize for Economics
Rose Coldwell	Saint Thomas Aquinas prize for RE
Charlie Green	Saint Thomas More prize for Politics
Sadie-Jayne Hammond	Fr Gerald Quigley prize
James Ladbrook	Saint Hubert prize for Maths

Year 7 Poetry

A poem of school.

The shrill bell screams in anguish,
 reeling itself from yesterdays of tardiness,
 all the while,
 the pink petals blow,
 and time is what we almost know.

Through the doors of unknown laurels,
 that could someday define us,
 we open our books and brace our pens,
 the screaming beckons us to breaks.

And when the sound sweet day will quake,
 the torrents of students through the doors,

A journey home is what they'll make.

Ruby Smith - 7C

A Level and GCSE Design Technology, Art and Textiles Celebration



On Monday 30 June we held our annual Design Technology, Art and Textiles celebration evening at school.

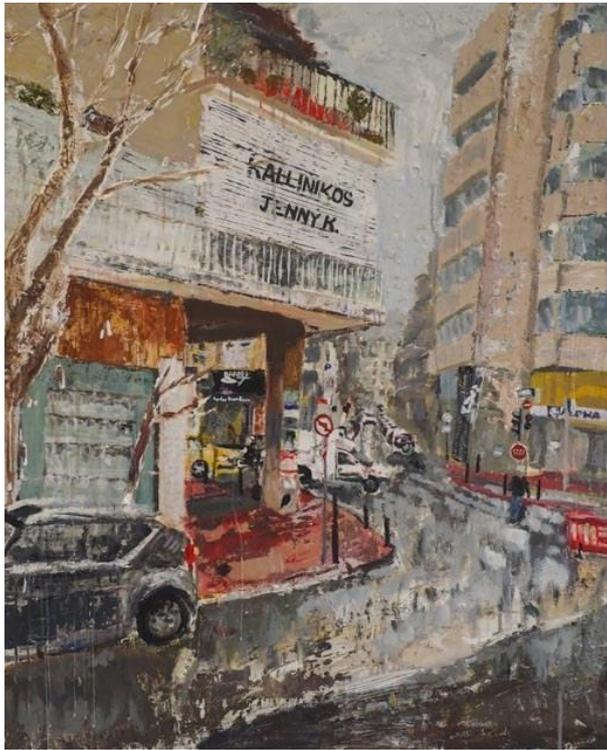
It was wonderful to be able to display all the amazing work the students have worked so hard to produce, we have some truly talented artists and designers in our midst.

Ms Chacksfield









Careers



Careers Talk:

On Monday 30th June, our very own Guy Wilson (Head of Year 8) gave a Careers Talk on his experiences in Emergency Management. Mr Wilson, who hails from New Zealand (NZ), began volunteering with the NZ Red Cross whilst at university. He was called into action during the huge earthquakes of 2011 in Christchurch (6.3 magnitude) and 2016 in Kaikoura (7.8 magnitude), both of which were devastating for the populations in those areas and beyond.

We learned how in practice, large-scale Emergency Management is split into two main areas: preparation and response. Government agencies that are set up to handle emergency management are usually referred to as Civil Defence. They plan for events that can affect entire communities, countries or the globe, including floods, fires, earthquakes and pandemics. Multiple agencies are usually involved in dealing with these events, including police, fire and ambulance.

Whilst there are a range of paid employment positions within this field, Mr Wilson explained that volunteers form a significant part of the workforce. He highlighted the importance and value of volunteering, not only in terms of acquiring a range of important [transferable skills](#) for future careers, but also for personal growth and self-worth. We all gained a real sense of the humanity, compassion and kindness that Mr Wilson shared with members of the populations affected by those large-scale natural disasters. We also noted the incredible bond and lifelong friendships that have evolved with those working in his team in the face of almost super-human challenges. It certainly was an inspiring and eye-opening talk!

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

[Charity Work Experience | Springpod](#)

Miss Hahn

PRIMARY LIAISON NEWS – Galileo and Newton go to St Edmund’s Catholic Primary, again



On Tuesday (2nd July), the Science Department representative, Mr Gregory, spent a morning at St Edmund’s Primary to enlighten a group of their year 6 students on the subject of “Galileo, Newton and Gravity”. Galileo died in January 1642 – on Christmas Day that year, Isaac Newton was born. Although the lives of these men did not overlap, they were among the first to use what we recognise today as “Scientific Method” and their influence in Science resonates still, especially in our understanding of gravity and how it affects falling objects.

After a biographical presentation about Galileo the students, in pairs, investigated the notion of two objects with differing masses falling to the ground. Galileo used cannon balls of different weights but, on safety grounds, we used a tennis ball and a feather! Galileo had theorised that objects, even with different masses, would fall at the same rate and hit the ground at the same time when dropped. This did not happen with the students’ ball and feather, so had we proved Galileo wrong? No, of course not – but it introduced the notion of air resistance and aerodynamics..

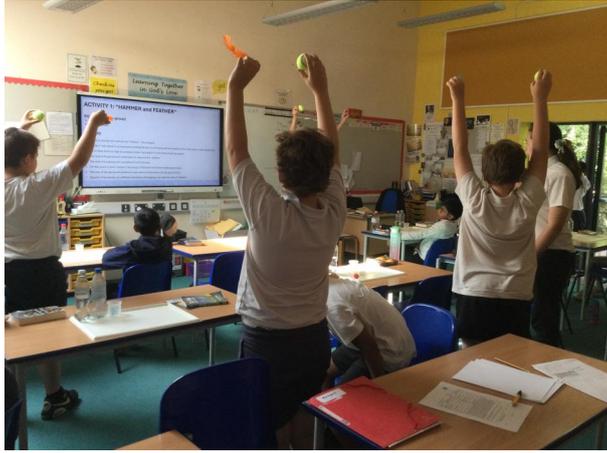
A follow up activity involved the students dropping two identical objects, plastic drinks bottles, one empty and the other filled with water to add weight. This time, they both fell at the same rate and hit the ground together. Hooray, we had proved Galileo right after all. To cap it all, the students were shown a video clip from 1971 that featured an astronaut on the Moon dropping a hammer and a feather – and they fell in perfect unity in the airless lunar environment!

After a break, the attention turned to Isaac Newton and his work on gravity that led to his ground-breaking Universal Law of Gravitation. Our understanding of this, together with Newton's 3 Laws of Motion, has enabled us to launch satellites and astronauts into space and send probes to explore the other planets and moons in our solar system. The students' final activity was to launch rockets of their own – "Alka-Seltzer rockets". All very safe in the classroom, the "rocket" comprised a plastic film canister powered by the fizzy tablet. They didn't reach Earth orbit, although some bounced impressively off the ceiling!

As always the St Edmunds' young scientists were first class participants and always keen with their insightful and intelligent observations and questions.

Mr Gregory





Music Lessons



Don't forget if you would like to sign your son/daughter up for musical instrument or Lamda lessons or to continue having lessons you must complete the online form

<https://forms.office.com/e/Zd6JBvwxPg>

If you have any questions about the lessons please pop me an e mail.

troughley@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

Mrs Roughley

Lost Property

As ever, there is a huge pile of lost property in school, which includes many un-named coats. If your son/daughter has lost any items during the school year, especially if they've lost a coat, please ask them to go and look in the lost property area outside F2.

Thank you

Mrs Sayers

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

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

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



7 July - Year 12 Cambodia Trip Departs

7 July - Year 10 Next Steps Assembly with Miss Hahn (Head of Careers)

8 July - Sports Day

9 July - Year 10 Henry Moore Studio Visit

9 July - Year 6 Meet the Tutor Evening

11 July - St Benedict's Day and Fayre

18 July - Break up for summer

[Term Dates](#)

Contact Us



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