



# St Benedict's Newsletter 300

5 September 2025

## Catholic Social Teaching

Hello, welcome back and welcome to this week's reflection in our newsletter.

As we begin this new school year, we are reminded that every new term is a fresh opportunity to grow together in **wisdom, compassion, and resilience** through prayer and work. It is also a time to reflect on how our faith calls us to care not just for ourselves and each other, but also for the world we share.

This September, the Church marks the **Season of Creation** (1 September – 4 October), a time when Christians around the world unite in prayer and action home. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, the call to care for creation is not optional, it is at the heart of our faith. We are entrusted by God to be good stewards of the earth, ensuring that it can sustain life for generations to come.

As Pope Francis reminds us in *Laudato Si'*:

“The earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone.”

And in his 2025 message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Leo XIV challenges us:

“Now is the time to follow words with deeds... By working with love and perseverance, we can sow many seeds of justice and thus contribute to the growth of peace and the renewal of hope.”

As we journey through this Season of Creation, we are also inspired by St Francis of Assisi, whose feast day on 4th October concludes this Season. St Francis saw all of creation as brothers and sisters, reflecting the beauty of God. His example reminds us to live simply, love generously, and praise God through care for the earth and for one another.

At St Benedict's, this is a chance for us to reflect as a community on how our choices at school, at home, and in the wider world, can either harm or heal creation. Small actions, like reducing waste, caring for our school environment, and supporting eco-friendly initiatives, are all ways we.

Here are some ways we can show we understand this call and live out CST in daily life, through small, meaningful actions:

- **Wisdom:** Be Mindful with Resources, Use energy, food, and water wisely.
- **Compassion:** Care for Our School Environment, Keep classrooms tidy and show respect for shared areas.
- **Resilience:** Recycle where you can, and avoid waste, even when it takes that little bit more effort.

God has entrusted the earth to our care, not to our destruction. This week, let us pause and ask ourselves: How do my choices; what I consume, how I travel, how I use resources, affect the world around me? Am I living in harmony with creation, or taking more than I need?

Lord,

Thank You for the gift of this earth,

for the sky, the water, the plants, and all living creatures.

Help me to care for Your creation,

to protect life, and to live simply and justly.

May my actions bring healing to the world,

and may Your Spirit guide me to love all that You have made.

Amen.

# Open Morning



## Open Morning

Saturday 27th September 2025



Find out more about our wonderful school at our Open Morning for prospective Year 7 students.

10am to 12.30pm on 27th September 2025

For more information about applying for a Year 7 place for September 2026 please visit our website at: [www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)



**St Benedict's Catholic School**  
*Developing Wisdom, Compassion and Resilience through Prayer and Work*



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We know that choosing a secondary school for your child is a big decision. At St Benedict's we believe that our community is distinctive and unique and we have worked hard to ensure that our values are evident in all we do. We are incredibly proud of our school and the young people at St Benedict's. We hope that you will get a clear sense of the school and the distinctiveness of our community both from our materials and through visits to the school. Our school is a high-achieving one, with our curriculum underpinned by Gospel values and by our Catholic ethos in practice. Our vision as a school centres particularly on the Gospel values of Wisdom, Compassion and Resilience and our curriculum reflects these values and principles. As a school community we serve a large geographic area and welcome students and families who are supportive of our distinctive ethos from all backgrounds. As a result, our community serves many students who describe themselves as Catholic, those of other faiths, and those with no faith. We are an inclusive school where students of all abilities, talents and cultures are nurtured and supported to achieve their potential. St Benedict's students are polite, conscientious, reflective and supportive of one another. We have many opportunities for student leadership including charity work and service in the local community and our students engage with a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities. Our values as a school encourage students to see competition as a mutual challenge where all contribute and we take pride in both personal and collective success. As a school we hold the Gold Award for religious studies and ensure that the spiritual, moral, cultural and social development of students is a priority.

We also hold the Gold Artsmark and are a Duke of Edinburgh Award accredited centre and encourage our students to develop their understanding of the world through many extra and super curricular activities.

We are very proud of both the 2025 Ofsted report (June 2025) and our Section 48 Inspection (July 2022) which highlighted that this is a school where young people are happy and flourish and where it is 'OK to be different'. (Ofsted report)

Students leave St Benedict's well-prepared for the life that awaits them beyond school through a well-rounded education that goes beyond the confines of the academic curriculum and examinations. We believe that every one of our students should go out into the world ready to make it a better place.

If you are interested in finding out more or visiting our school, please join us for our Open Morning or get in touch.

*Imogen Senior*

Mrs Imogen Senior Headteacher

## Careers Update

### **Year 10 & Year 11 - Book Open Events Now!**

For students to find the best fit for their next steps after Year 11 they need to be well-informed about the range of options available to them. Alongside the information provided on post-16 choices through our in-school Careers Programme, students can visit new environments and engage with a range of providers of education and training courses and employers. The aim is to ensure they find a post-16 destination where they will thrive.

Open Events at Sixth Forms and colleges across the region will be **taking place from 1st October 2025**. To attend, you will usually need to book a (free) ticket online via individual websites.

**Note:** St. Benedict's Sixth Form Open Evening will be held on Tuesday 21st October. All are welcome, without a ticket!

**Post-16 Meetings with Year 11 students...** will start from Wednesday 10th September. Every student will have an hour long 1:1 meeting with me (as a minimum) in which we will discuss their interests and options and look at future education, training and career paths. Following our meeting, each student will be emailed a summary report of our conversation with links to information that supports their choices going forward.

### **Student Experience Opportunities**

[West Suffolk Health Academy programme](#)

#### **Saturday 18th October - 8th November 2025**

Students (15-18yrs) interested in exploring careers in Healthcare can apply for the latest Health Academy Programme at West Suffolk Hospital (WSH). Sessions will be held on Saturday 18th and 25th October, and 1st & 8th November 2025 from 9.00am - 12.00pm at the WSH Education Centre. Students will need to attend all 4 sessions to receive a certificate of attendance. Please visit the webpage for the agenda: [Health](#)

**Deadline for [applications](#) is 5th October 2025!**

#### **Aspiring Medical & Dental students in years 10-12 ?**

Register for FREE LIVE VIRTUAL *Get into* Conferences:

##### **Get Into Medicine:**

- Saturday 20th September: 9am - 1:30pm
- Sunday 21st September: 9am - 1:30pm
- Sunday 28th September: 9am - 1:30pm

##### **Get Into Dentistry:**

- Saturday 27th September: 9am - 1:30pm

Attendance at the conferences will unlock exclusive opportunities, such as scholarships and prizes, and help students make a highly competitive application going forward. **Students and parents** can **register** using the following links:

**Medicine:** <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

**Dentistry:** <https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shrBuiR7SBACc19kE>

**Virtual WEX programmes for All students aged 13-19yrs:**

Take a look at: [Springpod Virtual Work Experience Search | Springpod](#)

*Miss Hahn*

## Can you help the A Level Sociologists?

As part of our Sociology A Level, Year 12 students study the Sociology of Health. Part of our course is to study the roles of medical practitioners, as well as complimentary and alternative medicine. If you, (or someone you know) , are a medical practitioner, or a complementary and alternative medicine practitioner, and would be happy to share about your role with our Year 12 students, then we would love to hear from you! Please contact Mrs Eden: [eeden@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:eeden@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk) if you would be able to help. We would be so grateful to have the opportunity to hear from specialists in these areas.

Thank you!

*Mrs Eden*

## Important Online Safety Alert

We'd like to warmly welcome all families to the new school year. As always, keeping our children safe and supported, both in school and online, remains a top priority.

We have heard that Suffolk County Council has issued a warning to schools in the Haverhill area about the *764 group*, an extremist network that began in the U.S. around 2020 and has since spread worldwide.

The group is known to target young people through platforms like **Minecraft** and **Roblox**, encouraging them to self-harm and then escalating abuse through harassment, intimidation, and blackmail. The *764 group* also uses a distinctive logo (pictured).

Although there have been **no reported cases in Bury St Edmunds**, it is important that we remain vigilant.

Alongside this, please remember that many popular social media platforms have **minimum age restrictions** (usually **13+**) to help protect children from harmful or inappropriate content. It is a good idea to check which platforms your child is using and ensure they are age-appropriate. The NSPCC provides helpful guidance for parents here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

**What parents can do:**

- Talk openly with your children about online safety and the risks of strangers online.
- Remind them never to share personal details or accept unknown friend requests.
- Be aware of who they are engaging with in games and on social media.
- Watch for warning signs such as secrecy, sudden mood changes, or withdrawing from family/friends.

Together, we can help keep children safe online.



## School Nurse

Please see the attached poster for information about school nurse drop-in times this term.

*Mrs Bourne*



The poster is for a School Nurse Drop-in event. At the top left, it says 'School Nursing Service' in a blue box. To the right is the 'Suffolk County Council' logo. The background is dark blue with various health-related terms in different colors and orientations: 'SELF HARM' (yellow), 'HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS' (light blue), 'DRUGS' (grey), 'ALCOHOL' (pink), 'SMOKING' (grey), 'HEALTHY EATING' (yellow), 'DRUGS' (yellow), 'SELF HARM' (grey), 'HEALTHY' (grey), 'BULLYING' (grey), 'SMOKING' (blue), 'BULLYING' (pink), and 'EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING' (yellow). The central white box contains the following text: 'School Nurse Drop-in', 'Wednesdays 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> September 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 12.40 – 1.25', 'Location: E2', and 'Everyone welcome Drop in for a confidential chat about anything that's on your mind'. At the bottom right of the poster is the website 'www.suffolk.gov.uk/schoolnursing'.

## Uniform and Punctuality

St Benedict's Catholic School prides itself on having a neat and dignified uniform, representing our identity to the community as a whole. High standards of personal presentation reinforce our values of self-respect and pride for our school and in ourselves.

If a student is unclear whether an item of clothing or appearance is acceptable, they should – in advance – speak with their tutor or Head of Year. All clothing must be clearly marked with the student's name.

Please see the website for full details of the school's uniform policy: [Uniform](#)

Thank you very much for your assistance in helping us to maintain our uniform standards.

Please can we also remind all students that they need to be in school before the first bell at 08:50 to prevent a late mark being recorded. Please see the school website for more information about attendance: [School Day](#)

## 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*

## 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



10 September - Year 11 Information Evening

11 September - Year 13 Information Evening

15-17 September - Year 11 Residential

16 September - Year 7 Information Evening

18 September - Year 12 Information Evening

24 September - Inter-House Cross Country

27 September - Open Morning

30 September - Year 9 Information Evening

2 October - Year 8 Information Evening

7 October - Year 10 Information Evening

[Term Dates](#)

## Contact Us



St Benedict's Catholic School

Beetons Way

Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6RH

01284 753512

[enquiries@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

[www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)