



St Benedict's Newsletter 333

19 June 2026



Catholic Social Teaching

In one of this week's gospel, Jesus invites His disciples to think carefully about where they place their treasure and their trust:

“Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy them and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” — Matthew 6:19–21

Jesus is not saying that material things are bad in themselves. Rather, He is guiding us to recognise that real security is not ultimately found in what we own, what we achieve, or how much we possess. Instead, true wealth is found in our relationship with God and in becoming rich in the things that matter to Him.

In a world that often encourages us to measure success through possessions, status, or appearance, Jesus offers a different vision. He reminds us that our greatest treasures are not material but spiritual: faith, kindness, generosity, integrity, mercy, and love.

The Gospel continues: “The lamp of the body is the eye. It follows that if your eye is clear, your whole body will be filled with light.” — Matthew 6:22 Jesus invites us to look at the world through God's eyes. When we focus on what is good, true, and loving, our lives become filled with light. When we focus only on ourselves or on what we can gain, we risk losing sight of what is truly important and we in ourselves become darker and more alone.

This message connects deeply with Catholic Social Teaching. Every person has dignity because they are created in the image and likeness of God. Our value does not come from what we own, the clothes we wear, the marks we achieve, or the popularity we enjoy. Our value comes from being loved by God.

Catholic Social Teaching also reminds us that the gifts we receive are not simply for ourselves. We are called to use our talents, time, and resources for the good of others. True wealth is found not in accumulating more, but in becoming people who are generous, compassionate, and willing to serve.

As we reflect on this Gospel, we are invited to live this out in simple ways:

- **Wisdom:** Recognising what truly matters in life and understanding that our worth comes from God rather than from possessions or status.
- **Compassion:** Using our gifts and talents to support others, showing generosity, kindness, and care to those around us.
- **Resilience:** Remaining focused on our values and faith, even when the world encourages us to seek happiness in things that do not last.

This week we might reflect and ask ourselves what do I value most in my life? Am I storing up treasures that will last? How can I use my gifts to serve others and build God's Kingdom?

Jesus reminds us that the things that matter most cannot be bought, owned, or measured. Faith, love, kindness, and service are treasures that grow when they are shared and remain with us long after material things have faded away.

Loving God,

You know the desires of our hearts

and the things that we treasure most.

Help us to seek the things that truly matter,

growing in faith, hope, and love.

Teach us not to place our trust in possessions,

but in your unfailing love and care.

Give us wisdom to recognise what is important,

compassion to share our gifts with others,

and resilience to remain faithful to your ways.

May our lives be filled with your light

and may we always seek the treasures of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Careers Update

The end of an era... but our support continues

As we say "*au revoir*" to our Year 11 and Year 13 students, their choices and next steps come into sharp focus. They may be off site but our support with their progression continues.

Students can still come into school for Careers guidance meetings. Supporting students on Results Days - Thursday 13th August for Year 13s and Thursday 20th August for Year 11s - is also a part of our Careers provision, proving to be essential for students and their families when choosing alternative post-16 or post-18 pathways.

This week's Careers Update includes information about the university Clearing process, which will begin on July 2nd.

Note: If you would like me to include careers-related information on a specific topic in our next Newsletter, please do get in touch via the Parent/Carer Feedback form (below):

Another Call to All Parents and Carers!

Would you please complete this short survey by the end of June 2026:

[Parent/Carer Feedback on St. Benedict's Careers Programme Academic Year: 2025-26 – Fill in form](#)

Many thanks to those parents and carers who have responded already.

... and one more request!

*Would you please check that your child(ren) has(have) completed their **Future Skills Questionnaire** (FSQ) and for Years 9-13, their **Student Work Experience Survey**.*

All of the above feedback will help me in planning our future Careers provision in school.

Thank you to everyone in advance!



Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Opportunities

Year 13

If you need to understand what happens in the **Clearing process** for university, here are links to UCAS Guides that bust the myths about Clearing and give timelines for 2026 applications:

- [A guide to Ucas Clearing 2026: how to find your university place - The Uni Guide](#)
- [Clearing toolkit for parents | UCAS](#)

Webinar: Clearing in 5 easy steps

Thursday 8th July, 6.00pm-6.45pm UEA are offering students, parents and carers a free webinar with information about Clearing.

To register, follow this link: [Clearing webinar](#)

Future Dentists?

New UEA Dentistry course

The University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich are excited to introduce a brand-new BDS Dental Surgery course, starting in September 2027. As the **first undergraduate dental training programme in the region**, it offers students early clinical experience and a strong community focus—helping to address the shortage of NHS dentists locally.

For more information, click on [Dentistry at UEA](#)

Young Professionals Summer Conference

Saturday 18th July, 9am–1pm or 2pm–6pm

London, Friends House, Euston (directly opposite Euston Station)

30+ global employers. Hiring for work experience, apprenticeships and graduate roles:

KPMG · Google · Goldman Sachs · UBS · EY · HSBC · Visa · Unilever · Accenture · Lloyds Banking Group · Arm · Bird & Bird · A&O Shearman · Farrer & Co · Charles Russell Speechlys · BDO · Grant Thornton · FDM · PA Consulting · CIMA · TLT · World Wide Technology · The University of Law · and more still to be confirmed.

 **Secure your place now**

 **Morning session (9am–1pm):** <https://buy.stripe.com/8x2eVe8RI6kFgMQa3m53O0k>

 **Afternoon session (2pm–6pm):** <https://buy.stripe.com/8x28wQc3x10lflMgrK53O0l>

 £26 booking fee — covers venue, speakers, AV, & resources

[INVESTIN](#)

We are now a partner school with INVESTIN which means our students have access to a discount on the cost of work experience programmes they register for with the organisation. INVESTIN is currently offering London-based work experience [summer programmes](#) for students aged 15-18 across 15 different industries including Law, Banking, Medicine, Psychology and Media. Students aged 12-14 have access to the [Career Discovery](#) programme.

See Miss Hahn for details of discounts and a bursary.

INVESTIN

Futures for All - Summer Work Experience programmes

Futures for All offer a mix of in-person and remote work experience placements, as well as shorter Insight Days for students aged 14-19 years. These programmes are fully funded for students in state schools and colleges across the country. For more information, visit: [About Our Work Experience Programme | Futures for All](#)

FUTURES FOR ALL

Please let me know if you access any of the above opportunities by completing: [Careers Student Opportunities – Fill in form](#). Thank you.

Miss Hahn

Year 7 Residential to Bradwell-on-Sea

Last week saw an exciting and memorable residential trip for our Year 7 students, as almost 140 pupils travelled to Bradwell-on-Sea to stay in the tented village at the Essex Outdoors Activity Centre.

The visit took place across two groups: 7A, 7C and 7L attended from Monday to Wednesday, followed by 7P, 7S and 7X from Wednesday to Friday. Each group enjoyed two packed days of adventure, reflection, and community building.

The residential began with a special and meaningful pilgrimage to *St Peter's-on-the-Wall*, one of the oldest chapels in the country, still actively celebrating Mass. Originally built around 654 AD by St Cedd, the chapel stands within the ruins of the abandoned Roman fort of Othona, providing a remarkable historical and spiritual setting.

Students walked 5km together along the coastal path to the chapel, enjoying the beautiful scenery while taking time to connect with one another, form new friendships, and reflect on their journey. Once there, the group celebrated Mass with Father Dick, marking a significant and memorable start to the residential.

After returning to the activity centre, students enjoyed an evening meal followed by a relaxed programme of reflection and fun. Activities included creating prayer stones, making a rosary, and playing an energetic, updated version of rounders.

Day two began bright and early, with many students awake to experience the sunrise and the sounds of the morning wildlife. A hearty Full English breakfast set them up for a busy day of activities. Students took part in a wide variety of challenges including mountain biking, high ropes, bushcraft, problem-solving tasks, and archery. These activities encouraged teamwork, resilience, and confidence, with many students rising to challenges they had never experienced before.

The day concluded with a lively silent disco, followed by a calm and reflective moment on the sea wall at sunset. This provided a peaceful opportunity for students to think about their experiences, achievements, and the relationships they had developed over the course of the trip.

On the final morning, although tired, students returned to school full of enthusiasm, having embraced new challenges and strengthened friendships. The residential was a wonderful opportunity for students to grow in independence, build confidence, and deepen their sense of community.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff who helped organise and support the trip, making it such a success. Special thanks also go to Father Dick for providing spiritual guidance and helping to make the experience truly meaningful.

Mr Senior

International Volleyball Match at St Benedict's

On Tuesday, 16th June, Year 10 students from St Benedict's took part in an exciting international volleyball event against a visiting team from Slovakia. The Slovakian students were visiting St Benedict's as part of their trip.

The teams played a series of short matches, giving everyone the opportunity to compete and work together. Throughout the games, St Benedict's students demonstrated excellent volleyball skills, resilience, and teamwork. The matches were played in a positive and friendly atmosphere, with all players showing great sportsmanship.

The event was a valuable experience for everyone involved. Students enjoyed the opportunity to play against different teams, improve their volleyball skills, and get to know students from Slovakia. It was a memorable day that celebrated sport, friendship, and international connections.

Mrs Szczech

Inspired by our talented students!

A huge well done to our wonderful Art and Design students this week at their end of year exhibition which we celebrated this week. This year we were thrilled to sample the delicious food made by volunteers from year 9 and 10 Food students, who cooked a range of wonderful tasty treats for guests to enjoy.

Imaginative and thought provoking work caught the attention of parents and friends; from a handmade screen-printed Kimono inspired by the theme of Elaborate, amazing oil paintings of still life forms and domestic scenes to vibrant textile collages inspired by the artist Yinka Shonibare.

A Level and GCSE product designers offered an array of innovative ideas to consider including an illuminated chess board, architectural designs, snowboarder themed storage solutions and even pet feeding stations! We were pleased to host three local artists for the event, Denise Franklin who works in oil based media to create amazing landscapes, Sylvie Maney, painter and printmaker and Keeley Chapman ceramicist who often works using Raku. The artists were on hand to talk to the students about careers in the arts and help further inspire student for their next stages after A Level.

A huge well done to all our Art and Design students this year, it was wonderful to celebrate your work with a wider audience. Thank you to all those who helped bring the exhibition to life and to our students for all their hard work and creativity at GCSE and A-Level, we wish you every success.

Ms Chacksfield



1 - Alex Chua and her family



2 - Alexa Chua - A Level Art



3 - Alexa Chua and visiting artists



4 - Connie Foreman - EPQ





5 - Jess Dive - A Level Art



6 - Keeley Chapman



7 - Keeley Chapman's Raku sculpture





8 - Zuzanna Zabojszcz - A Level Art



Do you have a talent you would like to share?

Are you yearning to get a chance to perform? Because, if you are, we have you sorted. Interact are running a talent stall at our summer Fayre on 10th July. Those who enjoy the performances can pay a donation towards My Wish. Types of Acts that could be accepted include:

- Magic
- Dancing
- Singing

Acts must be appropriate for a school setting. If you are interested, please indicate on the Microsoft Form link and pop along to meet Interactors Tuesday break time in H4.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=I3PzWp9QXUGGu-cOeumEpI1KZO0sh-tOty4qC7YwnD9UOFRLNDFFSkI3QzY2SEo5WFRIMDYNQ1BMRS4u>

It may not be possible to permit all acts, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested!

By Dominic Burbridge 7X

Teacher contact - Mrs Hamilton

Dhamilton@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

Raffle tickets now on sale! Your son/ daughter should be bringing home a set of raffle tickets - £1 per ticket, £5 a book. Please encourage these to be sold and any earnings to be brought in as donations towards My Wish- the charity we are supporting through our Summer Fayre. Prizes include chocolates from Hotel Chocolat, Firewood worth £260, a boiler service, £25 Amazon voucher, swimming vouchers, theatre tickets - Bury Theatre Royal, Two Bury Rugby Club First Team season tickets and a match shirt, gardening tools and much, much more!

Thank you to all donors for supporting our fundraising efforts!

Mrs Hamilton

Please note a couple of events coming up that are being run by our student group Interact. This is all to raise awareness of, and funds for, the charity 'My Wish'. This is a charity supporting patient care across both West Suffolk Hospital and Newmarket Community Hospital. A link to their work is here: [My WiSH Charity - Enhancing care for you, your family, for life.](#)

Ways you can support:

1. In the week beginning 29th June, students are spending their lunchtime washing staff cars for a small donation. If you would like your child(ren) to assist with car washing at home and they are willing to donate any offered pocket money to My Wish, then please do see a space to do this on ParentPay.
2. Also, the week beginning 29th June, ice lollies will be sold by 6th Formers at lunchtime on the field. Cash payment of £1 will be asked for.
3. Interact's involvement with the charity has been through a 'Grow your Dough' campaign. With this theme in mind, we would like to invite any keen bakers to bake something according to the themes of 'growth' or 'wishes' at home and submit pictures of these creations for a baking competition. You may bring in the baked goods for a bake sale on Monday 29th June, with all proceeds going towards My Wish.

Please email any pictures to **dhamilton@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk**.

Year 11 Transition Morning

Today was the Year 11 Transition Morning for those who have applied to study at our Sixth Form this September.

The morning started with some team building activities and it was great to see so many of our external applicants, alongside familiar faces from Year 11 getting to know each other before September. The students then had the opportunity to attend a session for each of their subject choices, where they found out more about the syllabus and what they should be doing over the summer to prepare.

Have a great summer Year 11 and we look forward to seeing you for Sixth Form enrolment on Thursday 20 August, the same day as GCSE results.

Mr Richmond

Primary Liaison News – St Edmund’s Catholic Primary goes to Mars...again!

On Wednesday morning (17th June), Ms Mak and Mr Gregory visited St Edmund’s Catholic Primary School for the third and final primary liaison Science visit of the year. We were delighted to inform, educate and (hopefully) entertain the whole of the Year 5 group – 60 students in all. The title of the morning’s subject was *“Project Mars: the Red Planet”*.

Mars has fascinated almost every civilization there has been in recorded history, going back thousands of years to the ancient Babylonians, Egyptians, Chinese, Greeks and Romans. As with all ancient astronomy, Mars has been given many mythical associations; for example, the Romans gave the planet its modern name after *Mars*, their God of War. Our fascination with Mars continues into the present day, especially our exploration of its surface and the search for evidence of life, or even traces of ancient life that may have evolved but has now died out.

The morning was divided into two parts either side of morning break: firstly, the students were given a talk, with slides and video, about the history of our fascination with the “Red Planet”. After break the students, in groups of 5, were given the method and materials to conduct their own experiments on three “soil” samples, one of which was from Mars itself. The tests included colour, feel, particle size of the grains, acidity, solubility and, finally, an evaporative test to see whether there was any salt present in the sample. The students were given the hint that the “Martian” sample would be fine in texture, slightly acidic and salty.

The student teams excelled at following method instructions and handling the various items of equipment to obtain accurate observations and results. This enabled them to collectively agree which sample was Martian. (Spoiler: it wasn’t actually from Mars, sorry!) The ability to understand and carry out such tests will be essential for the students as they progress in

science to GCSE and beyond. Hopefully the students found the morning's activities an enjoyable introduction to serious, practical science.

The educational resource used was provided by the UK Space Agency and developed by ESERO-UK (European Space Education Resources Office in the UK) and the Centre for Industry Education Collaboration. The aim of ESRO-UK is to support the space sector by helping teachers open doors for young people from all backgrounds, by delivering inspiring world-class teaching in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Ms Mak and Mr Gregory were hugely impressed by the articulate and intelligent questions that the students asked. We could easily have spent another hour with the students but, sadly, our time ran out on a thoroughly enjoyable morning.

Mr Gregory





Music and Lamda Lessons

Musical Instrument and Lamda Lessons

Would you like to learn a musical instrument?

At St Benedict's we offer a variety of musical instrument lessons. The lessons take place during the day and there is a choice of either a 20 minute individual lesson, a 30 minute individual lesson or a 30 minute joint lesson.

We offer the following instruments:

Piano

Flute

Clarinet

Saxophone

Trumpet

Trombone

Violin

Viola

Classical guitar

Electric guitar

Bass guitar

Ukulele

Drums

Singing

If you would like to sign up for lessons in September or continue your lessons, please complete the online form which has been e mailed out to you. If you wish to learn two different instruments, please complete a separate form for each instrument.

We also offer LAMDA lessons at St Benedict's. A LAMDA exam is the speech and drama equivalent of a music grade, which begin at basic levels and culminates at Grade 8. The exams use performance to develop self-confidence, physical presence and a strong speaking voice.

LAMDA exams cover a range of disciplines including:

- Acting
- Speaking Verse & Prose
- Miming
- Reading for Performance
- Speaking in Public LAMDA exams are designed to develop your life skills, such as clear communication, self-confidence and teamwork, through the creative platforms of drama, literature and music. The exams offer you opportunity to improve self-expression, strengthen memory and, most importantly, have fun.

Lessons will be available either as an individual lesson or paired with another student.

LAMDA Exams are a highly credited qualification that are recognised all over the world that you can use to add to your CV, resume or university application. You can even earn UCAS points to help with university entry.

If you would like to sign up for LAMDA lessons in September or continue your lessons, please complete the online form which has been e mailed out to you.

Mrs Roughley

Year 11 Revision Guides and Uniform Donations

St Benedict's values your donations of revision materials no longer required. These are used to ensure that ALL our students have access to revision materials.

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

Please drop off any donations at the main school reception. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Thank you, from the KS4 team.

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

Just a reminder that if you do not inform us by 9.00am using the above phone/email address, you will receive an email requesting the reason for your child's absence. All unexplained absences will be marked as unauthorised and there will be a follow-up phone call from the Attendance Officer. 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

Data Collection Sheet Updates

It is important that the information we hold about your child is kept up-to-date.

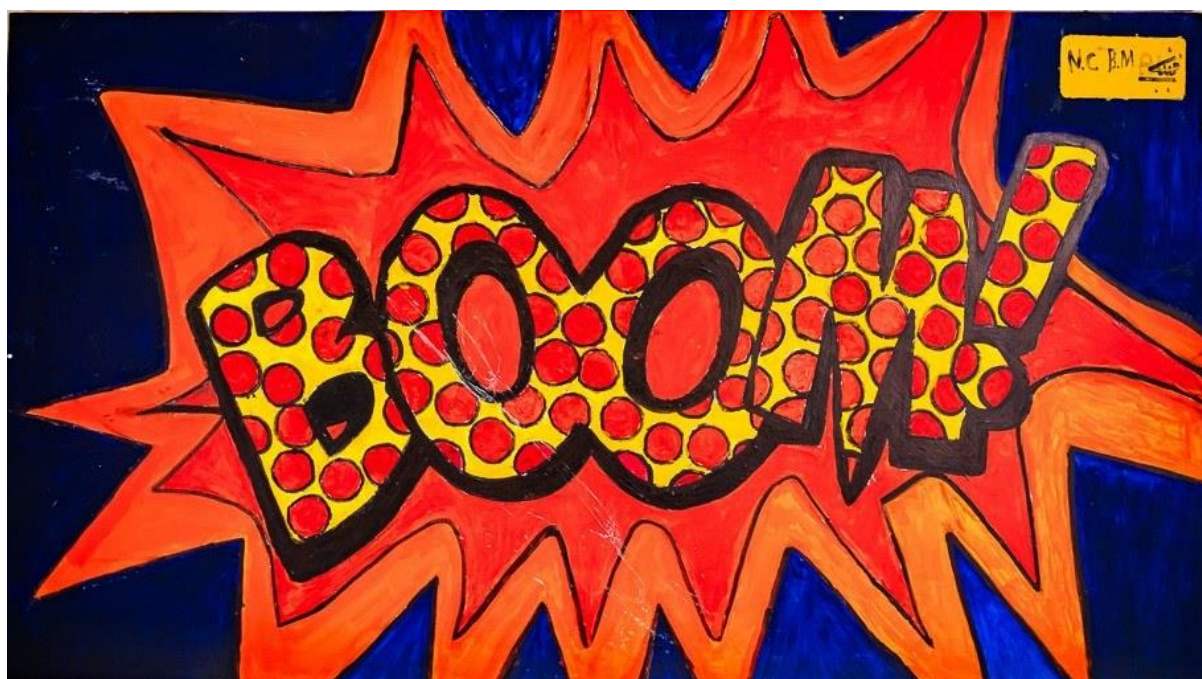
Please remember that as a parent/guardian/carer, you can check, amend and update most of your child's information on Arbor, including changing your mobile number and address or adding information such as religion, family contacts, medical information and transport method.

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

Dates for your Diary



22 June - Year 11 Prom

22 June - Year 10 Mocks Start

24 June - Exam Contingency Day

2 July - Lunchtime Careers Talk with Fr Richard White - **Here I am Lord - Don't send me!**

7 July - Sports Day

10 July - St Benedict's Day and Fayre

17 July - Break Up for Summer

13 Aug - A Level Results

20 Aug - GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment

[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

[Instagram](#)