



# St Benedict's Newsletter 334

26 June 2026



## Catholic Social Teaching

This week has brought exceptionally hot weather, creating challenges for students and staff alike. However, amid the soaring temperatures, there has been something very positive to celebrate: the way our school community has responded.

Throughout the week, students and staff have shown remarkable adaptability, patience, and resilience. Plans have sometimes needed to change, routines have had to be adjusted, and everyone has had to think carefully about how best to cope with the conditions. What has stood out is the willingness of people to support one another and approach these challenges with positivity and understanding.

This reflects an important principle of Catholic Social Teaching: the dignity of every human person. Every person is valued by God and deserves to be treated with care and respect. When a community comes together to look after one another, particularly during difficult circumstances, we put this belief into practice.

It also reflects the principle of the Common Good. Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that a strong community is one where people work together so that everyone can flourish. During this week's heat, we have seen countless examples of people thinking beyond themselves, adapting to changing circumstances, and helping to create an environment where everyone could continue to learn and work as comfortably as possible.

St Paul reminds us of this responsibility towards one another: **“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.” — Galatians 6:2** These words remind us that faith is lived out not only in prayer but also in the way we support one another through everyday challenges. Whether through patience, understanding, offering encouragement to a friend, or simply adapting positively to changing circumstances, we have seen many examples of this scripture being lived out in our school community this week.

This week has shown that resilience is not simply about enduring difficulties; it is about adapting positively and continuing to support one another. Whether through maintaining a positive attitude, helping a friend, or simply getting on with the day despite the discomfort, students and staff alike have demonstrated the strength of our school community.

As Pope Francis wrote in *Fratelli Tutti*: "No one can face life in isolation. We need a community that supports and helps us." This week has been a wonderful example of that spirit in action.

As we reflect on this week's experiences, we are invited to live out our school values of in simple ways:

- **Wisdom:** Recognising when circumstances require us to adapt and making sensible choices that help ourselves and others.

- **Compassion:** Showing patience, kindness, and understanding towards those around us, especially when conditions are difficult.
- **Resilience:** Responding positively to challenges and continuing to do our best, even when things do not go exactly as planned.

This week we might reflect: How have I adapted when faced with challenges? Have I noticed opportunities to support others? What can I learn from the way our community has worked together this week? The hot weather will eventually pass, but the qualities we have shown kindness, adaptability, and resilience, are qualities that will continue to help us grow as individuals and as a community.

### **Loving God,**

We thank you for the gift of our school community.

Help us to recognise the dignity of every person  
and to care for one another with kindness and respect.

When challenges come our way,  
give us wisdom to make good decisions,  
compassion to support those around us,  
and resilience to keep going with hope and positivity.

May we continue to grow in friendship,  
understanding, and care for one another,  
always reflecting your love in our words and actions.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Careers Update

As part of our PSHE Careers curriculum, I create a fortnightly World of Work (WoW) presentation series for Years 7-13 (inclusive) which is delivered (in Week B) to students by their form tutors. The WoW series encourages students to reflect on their interests, strengths and preferences in relation to the careers focus for that week. As well as providing information about a wide range of career pathways and related entry requirements, the series is designed to expand students' career horizons, raise their aspirations, challenge stereotypes (especially in STEM-related careers) and ensure they are supported in their career management with accurate information.

This week's heatwave inspired me to look into weather-related careers and in particular, roles within the UK's Met Office. Please do take a look at the presentation and ask your child(ren) if they can remember some of the facts! [36. World of Work - Let's Talk about careers in Weather.pptx](#)

### **Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Opportunities**

For students in **Years 11,12 and 13** interested in working in **Banking & Finance**:

#### **Insight into Lloyds Banking Group - Virtual Event (on Zoom)**

Tuesday **7th July**, 5.00pm to 6.00pm

This is the last Lloyds Banking Group event of the academic year.

Discover what it is like working at one of the UK's biggest banks. The session will be packed with information, career insights, and an opportunity to gain a better understanding of how to apply for corporate roles and prepare for the interview stages.

**Application Link:** [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LBG\\_LevelUp\\_Summer](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LBG_LevelUp_Summer)



#### **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/8x2eVe8RI6kFgMQa3m5300k>

 **Afternoon** session (2pm–6pm): <https://buy.stripe.com/8x28wQc3x10lflMgrK5300l>

 £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

And... if you have not already completed the Parent/Carer Feedback Form below, please take a few moments (with a cold drink!) to do so. Your feedback is so important in helping me review and plan our school's future Careers provision.

***Thank you very much in advance!***



**Call to All Parents and Carers!**

I would be grateful if you would complete this short survey to share your feedback on our Careers programme: [Parent/Carer Feedback on St. Benedict's Careers Programme Academic Year: 2025-26 – Fill in form](#)

*Miss Hahn*

## Year 11 Prom

Monday 22 June saw the year 11s dress up in their finery and head to The Folk Cafe for their year 11 prom.

It is always wonderful to see the year 11s come together to celebrate the end of their exams, they have worked incredibly hard to complete around 20 exams each!

We hope they all have a wonderful long summer and wish them every success on results day and for their future steps.



## Success in the Junior Kangaroo Maths Challenge 2026

Back in May, 30 of our year 7 and 8 maths students took part in the Junior Maths Challenge, with 8 of the students gaining a gold award for their high scores. Three of our gold winning students scored high enough to qualify for the second round, called the Junior Kangaroo. Round 2 is of a similar format to round 1, featuring 25 multiple-choice, geometry, number and logic problems to solve.

Like the first round, students that score high enough in this paper are awarded bronze silver and gold certificates. This year we achieved:

### **Bronze**

Sebastian Brokenshire-Dyke

### **Silver**

Oliver Petchey and Emily Wightman

It is a fantastic achievement for all of our students to have gained awards for their performance in the challenge. If you would like to see how hard the questions were, two have been included below.

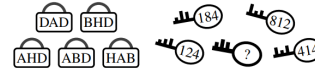
Mrs Nicholls

18. Rafael uses three squares to create a shape. The first has side-length 3 cm. The second has side-length 5 cm and one of its vertices is placed in the centre of the first square. The third square has side-length 7 cm and one of its vertices is placed in the centre of the second square, as shown in the diagram. The top edges of all three squares are parallel. What is the total shaded area in  $\text{cm}^2$ ?



- A 66      B 74.5      C 75      D 77.5      E 83

7. The five keys shown fit the five padlocks. The numbers on the keys are coded by letters on the padlocks. Which number is written on the remaining key?



- A 282      B 284      C 382      D 823      E 824

## Services Above Self

The lovely Ellen Baldock (Year 13) was presented with the Services Above Self Award on Tuesday evening at St Edmundsbury Cathedral Refectory. The event was organised by the Rotary Club of Bury St Edmunds aiming to recognise and encourage inspiring young people who contribute generously through some form of outstanding service to their community. Each school within the area is able to nominate just one student for the award and this year, Ellen was our nominee. An exceptional role-model, who has volunteered countless hours of dance tuition, peer-peer support, as well as making an impact in Cambodia, Ellen's unwavering kindness and generosity of time and spirit is what made her stand out for this award.

Well done Ellen and all the very best for your future plans!

Mrs Hamilton



## Classics Dinner

After two years of study, Mr Harrison and I were more than happy to take our excellent year 13 Classicists out to dinner at Olive Grove in Bury where we appropriately had some excellent Greek food and were receiving of excellent Xenia by Olive Grove!

Mr Harrison and I are very proud of this group of students and how hard they've consistently worked and been deeply engaged with the Classical World!

Highlight of the evening was Finola giving out these personalised tote bags she'd made herself which featured our favourite prescribed sources!

Onto results day!

*Mr Elmer*



## My Trip to France

It was the first time I've been to France. After a long journey to Folkstone, the Euro Tunnel was not as loud as I thought. It was strange when we arrived in France to be on the other side of the road but Craig our driver knew what he was doing.

Throughout the week we visited a number of different places including a school in Lisieux, I wasn't keen on their school lunch, the lunch at Bennies is much better, an adventure park in Caen, the Normandy landing beaches and the Livarot cheese factory. We even managed to squeeze in a trip to a cinema to watch Asterix. My favourite excursion was to the landing beaches because of the 360 cinema.

*Archie Stannard (year 8)*

## A Level Geography Field Trip

On Wednesday 17th June, our Year 12 Geography students travelled by train to Ipswich Waterfront to investigate the success of the area's regeneration project. Students carried out a range of fieldwork activities, including environmental quality surveys and questionnaires with local residents and visitors, to assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of regeneration.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop the data collection and analytical skills needed for their individual Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs). The students represented the school exceptionally well throughout the day, engaging confidently and respectfully with members of the public.

The trip was both enjoyable and academically valuable, giving students first-hand experience of urban regeneration in action.

*Mr Sayer*



## Year 9 Making Pasta

This week, our Year 9 Food Technology students rolled up their sleeves and created their own homemade pasta from scratch. A real highlight was watching them make their own creative twists, shaping their dough into a variety of unique, imaginative pasta forms. We had bows, circles and tagliatelle, each one showing off the students' individuality.

Alongside the practical work, students have been exploring the rich traditions of Italian cuisine, researching classic dishes and ingredients. It has been fantastic to see their culinary knowledge grow alongside their enthusiasm for cooking.

*Miss Quilton*



## PE Celebration Evening



Just a reminder that the PE Celebration evening is next week! You will have received an invite via email if your child has been selected to attend this event.

Our special guest for the evening is professional football player Megan Wearing, who plays for Ipswich Town and has played for Scotland U19 Squad.

Please ensure that you have returned your reply slip, confirming your attendance and the names of any guests who will be accompanying you.

We look forward to seeing you there!

*Mr Bates*

## Summer School Volunteers

Over the summer we are again running a Transition Summer School, and we are looking for volunteers to help out. This opportunity is open to any student from Y10, Y12 and those Y11's who are staying on at St Benedict's for 6th form.

The summer school is running over the week of 17th to 21st August 2026 between 9am and 3.45pm.

Do you think you could be one?

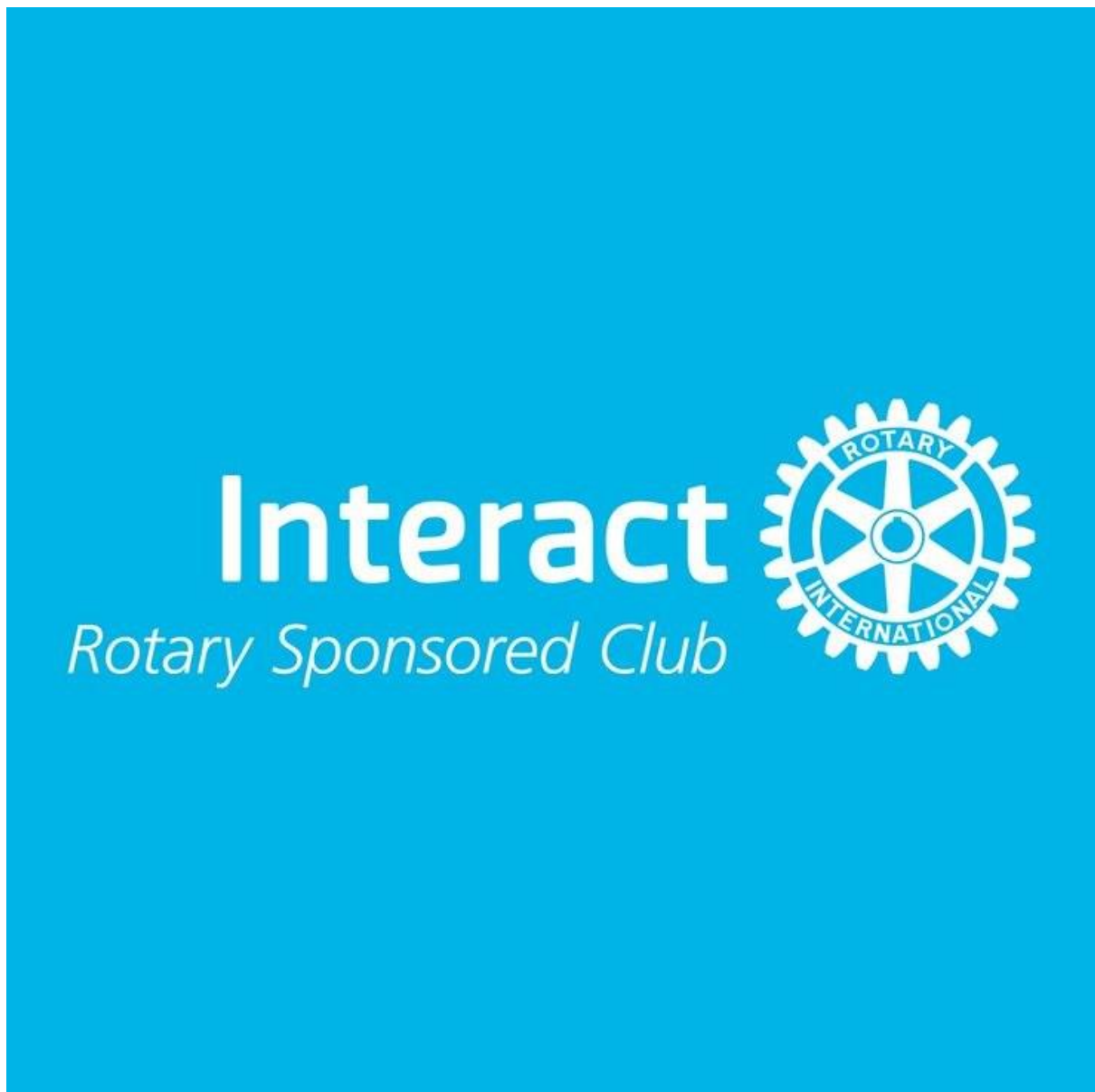
You would not be required to spend the whole week with us if not convenient and you can just volunteer for one day if you'd like, or more if you can.

During each day, you will be assisting teachers to run morning sessions of curriculum-based activities and afternoons of sporting/team building activities.

If you would like to volunteer and can be available during your summer holiday, please reply to [kberry@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:kberry@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk). If you could do so by the 3rd of July, then I will be able to sort out rota's and finalise permission slips etc before the end of term.

*Mrs Berry*

## Interact News



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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Arbor@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk) where we will be able to help you.

Thanks

*Mrs Defew*

## Dates for your Diary



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

3 July - Years 9-12 Rewards Day - Thorpe Park

7 July - Sports Day

10 July - St Benedict's Day and Fayre

13 July - Years 7 & 8 Rewards Day

17 July - Break Up for Summer

13 Aug - A Level Results

20 Aug - GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment

1 Sep - PD Day

2 Sep - Students return to school

9 Sep - Year 11 Information Evening

10 Sep - Year 13 Information Evening

[Term Dates](#)

[Contact Us](#)



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