



St Benedict's Newsletter 335

3 July 2026



Catholic Social Teaching

This week's assembly focus has been on the Catholic Social Teaching theme of **Care for Creation**, reminding us that the world is God's gift to us. From the beauty of the natural

environment to the resources we use each day, we are called to be good stewards of our common home, ensuring that it can be enjoyed not only by us but also by future generations.

It is easy to think that protecting the environment requires huge changes made by governments or organisations. While these are important, Jesus often taught that the Kingdom of God grows from small beginnings. Likewise, the small choices we make each day can have a lasting impact. Turning off a tap while brushing our teeth, recycling correctly, switching off lights when we leave a room, reusing items instead of throwing them away, or choosing to walk rather than travel by car whenever possible may seem like small actions, but together they make a significant difference.

In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that even the smallest acts have great value. He tells His disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.” — Matthew 13:31–32. Just as a tiny mustard seed grows into something much greater, our small daily actions can grow into habits that protect God's creation and inspire others to do the same. Every positive choice we make contributes to a healthier planet and a stronger community.

This is at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching. Caring for creation is not simply about protecting nature; it is about recognising that our actions affect other people, especially the poorest communities who are often the first to experience the effects of pollution, climate change, and environmental damage. When we care for the earth, we also care for our neighbours and for generations yet to come.

We are reminded that caring for creation is not an optional extra; it is part of living our faith. Each small act of stewardship reflects our gratitude to God for the wonderful world He has entrusted to us.

As we reflect on caring for our common home, we are invited to live it in simple ways:

- **Wisdom:** Understanding that the choices we make each day have an impact on the environment and choosing to use the earth's resources responsibly.
- **Compassion:** Recognising that caring for creation is also caring for people, especially those who are most affected by environmental challenges, and encouraging others to do the same.
- **Resilience:** Making small, positive changes that become lifelong habits, even when they require extra thought or effort, knowing that lasting change begins with consistent action.

This week we might reflect and ask ourselves what small change could I make this week to care for God's creation? Do I appreciate the beauty of the world God has given us? How can my everyday choices help protect the environment for future generations? We may not

always see the impact of our individual actions, but together they can make a remarkable difference. Like the mustard seed, small acts of care can grow into something far greater than we imagine.

Loving God,

We thank you for the beauty and wonder of your creation.

Help us to be faithful stewards of the world you have entrusted to us.

Give us wisdom to make choices that protect our common home,
compassion to care for those most affected by environmental harm,
and resilience to make small changes that lead to a brighter future.

May we never underestimate the difference that one act of kindness,
one thoughtful decision,
or one small step can make.

Help us to care for your creation with grateful hearts,
so that future generations may continue to enjoy the gifts you have given us.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Summer Celebration Awards Evening

On Tuesday 30 June we invited 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 enjoyed an inspiring talk from Reverend Paul Raynes, Director of Operations and Finance for the Catholic Diocese of East Anglia and Deacon of St Etheldreda's Ely. Our thanks go to our sponsor for the yr13 prize for mathematics and everyone who helped create a special evening of celebration.

Here is a full list of the awards presented, I have included names of students that are to be presented awards at the final assembly as they have now completed awards and should rightly be celebrated alongside those with earlier completion dates. We may still have more being celebrated on the final assembly day as we encourage and support all our students to be the best they can be throughout the whole school year.

Silver St Benedict's Award

Raffie Atuah, Jacob Bush, Joseph Cowan, James Knight, Matilda Mackenzie, Manuel Manoj, Phaino Olugbemi, Amelie Penine, Henry Petchey, Scarlett Pullen, Chloe Ramsbotham, Archie Stannard, Maximilian Sukpe, Meredith Taylor, Temi Yewon,

Silver St Benedict's award to be awarded on final assembly day

Wiktor Konopka, Ros Calumpiano, Miriam Thomas

Gold St Benedict's Award

Hosannah Gee, Patrycja Golonka, Angel Blesson, Jude Brown, Dominic Burbridge, Brock Coleman-Miles, Layna Hammett, Charles Jackson, Dithira Jayaneth, Ethyn Juwe, Evangelia Konstantopoulou, Edwyn Lloyd, Gabriella Pochec, Ruby-Mae Smith, Alice Wong,

Gold St Benedict's award to be awarded on final assembly day

Chloe Ramsbotham, Amelie Penine, Henry Petchey, Phaino Olugbemi, Temi Yewon,

Joint winners for the Year 7 & 8 Service Award, both having the highest achievement points across yr7&8.

Matilda Mackenzie, Iris Gurrell

Year 7 & 8 Resilience Award - Catherine Cunningham

Year 7 & 8 Wisdom Award - Hosannah Gee

Year 9 Resilience Award - Patrycja Golonka

Year 9 Service Award - Bea Smith

Year 9 Wisdom Award - Beatrice Harpur-Davies

Academic Awards Year 10

Art - Daisy Martineau, Biology - Nina Siarkowska, Business - Sebastian Siarkowski, Chemistry - Leja Lukoseviciute, Classics - Elsa Bush, Combined Science - Chloe Alexandrou, Computer Science - Caylen James, Product Design - Philippe D'Mello, English - Alexis Rose Josy, Food Nutrition - Isabella Duffin, French - Alan Kowalski, Geography - Lyra Reimann, History - Isobelle Nutt, Maths - Hannah Thomas, Music - Imogen Rowland, Physical Education - Jacob Gurrell, Physics - George Butler, Religious Education - Oscar Barrett, Spanish - Amelia Tsang, Textiles - Amelia Zabojszcz

Academic Awards Year 11

Art - Eleanor Slater, Biology - Serena Bergin, Business - Lola Castle, Chemistry - George Wightman, Combined Science - Tia Wynne-Rogerson, Computer Science - Leon Maloba, Product Design - Lukas Barisius, English - Linduli Jayaneth, Food Nutrition - Emilia Das, French - Zuzanna Bulacz, Geography - Nikita Kotov, History - Frederick Scott, Maths - Michael Knight, Music - Sean Dersley, Physical Education - Molly Murphy, Physics - Lily

Georgy, Religious Education - Ellen Beckwith, Spanish - Leonor Jardim, Textiles - Jagoda Szenderska

KS4 Headteacher Award

Eliza Rowley

Blessed Carlos Acutis prize for computer studies - Oliver Green

'Eureka' prize for Science - Alice Ellison

Paul Rossi prize for Public Speaking - Anotidaishe Bhauti and Amy John

Saint Albertus Magnus prize for Geography - Elise Wright

Saint Bede prize for History - Finola Thacker

Saint Catherina of Bologna prize for Art - Zuzanna Zabojszcz

Saint Dymphna prize for Psychology - Mia Turner

Saint Jerome prize for Languages - Mia Turner

Saint Hildegard Von Bingen Literary prize - Claudia Bergin

Saint Irenaeus prize for Classical Civilisation - Carl Conway and Amy John

Saint John Bosco prize for Sociology - Aleksandra Mikula

Saint Joseph prize for Design and Technology - Alexa Kayinga

Saint Matthew prize for Economics - Kuba Kluczynski

Saint Thomas Aquinas prize for RE - Claudia Bergin

Saint Thomas More prize for Government and Politics - River Perry

Fr Gerald Quigley prize - Tavy Scamponi-Grey and Rohan Yarnold Da Silva

Saint Hubert prize for Maths - Amy John



1 - Gold Awards



2 - Key Stage 3 Awards



3 - Year 10 Subject Awards



4 - Year 11 Subject Awards



5 - Year 13 Subject Awards

Axiom Rising Mathematicians Festival

On Wednesday 1 July, a group of year 7 and 8 students visited the University of East Anglia for the Axiom Maths Rising Mathematician Festival.

The students were able to work in a Maths circle to solve a Maths problem with students from other schools. The key principles of the Axiom Maths tasks are to be Adventurous, Articulate and Accepting, the students showed each of these values in their work with the other schools.

We then had a tour of the University campus by the UEA student ambassadors. It was interesting to see where they live, learn, study, and have free time. The Ambassadors took part in a question and answer session during which they were asked a lot of questions about their courses and what it was like to be at University.

After lunch, George Witty, a Maths lecturer at UEA, ran an interactive lecture about calculating probabilities of events.

Overall, it was a very interesting day, and a great insight into life at University. We look forward to continuing with the Maths problems in our next Axiom Maths sessions.

Mrs Eastwood





The Space Dome Returns

On Wednesday (1st July) we had the pleasure of welcoming back the SPACEDOME. This spectacular event, organised by Ms Dalby, was the 4th visit and is now an annual feature. The Spacedome is an event provided to schools by a company called Immersive Experiences who have the world's largest fleet of planetariums and domes to provide planetarium experiences to schools and other institutions. This year was special in that the professional astronomer/presenter was Mr Zee Dinally, who happens to be the founder and CEO of Immersive Experiences and he gave our Year 7s a truly immersive and interactive experience!

Once inside the Dome, day quickly turned to night and the darkness was broken by myriads of stars and our nearest celestial neighbour, the Moon. Mr Dinally showed the changing phases of the Moon during its lunar month – although most of our students showed during questioning that they already had a good knowledge of this (they'd done it in class!)

The students were then tasked with finding a very special star for us in the northern hemisphere: the Pole Star. Although it's a relatively faint star, we were shown how you can use a constellation that everyone knows, *Ursa Major* (also known as the "Plough") to find the Pole Star. While on the subject of constellations, we were shown a number of other constellations and the mythical figures associated with them by ancient civilisations,

especially the ancient Greeks. A favourite is Andromeda, the beautiful daughter of the King and Queen of Aethiopia. To cut a long story short, Andromeda ended up being chained to an island rock as a human sacrifice to the sea monster Cetus. The hero Perseus astride his magical winged horse Pegasus, returning from slaying Medusa, encountered Andromeda. Using Medusa's head, he petrified Cetus and rescued Andromeda. Perseus then married Andromeda and they lived happily ever after.

Mr Dinally took us on a remarkable journey away from the Sun and past all the planets in the solar system – but our travels didn't end there. We were transported just over 4 light years to our nearest stellar neighbours in the *Alpha Centauri system* and then on through the Milky Way and out into intergalactic space. Eventually we were shown the billions of galaxies that exist from a vantage point at the very edge of the Universe itself.

We were then taken on another journey – back in time. 13.8 billion years, in fact, to a time when everything that exists in the Universe today was condensed into an infinitesimally small volume in space, almost infinitely dense and superhot. There was a rapid expansion – the Big Bang - and eventual cooling during which the first particles of matter were formed – the quarks and electrons. Before long the quarks and electrons formed protons and neutrons and the first elements – hydrogen and helium. There was enough hydrogen and helium to form the first stars and galaxies and, through the life cycles of stars, all the other 90 naturally occurring elements were formed and that make up everything we know today, including our Solar System and ourselves. We are all stardust!

The students excelled in their participation in what Mr Dinally made an interactive event – respectful observation and listening when needed, but also the most wonderful outbursts of enthusiasm and wonder at the sights in the Dome.

There was so much more that Mr Dinally showed in the Dome, but I'll end this report with a most remarkable object that Mr Dinally had brought with him and that the students were amazed to be able to handle and pass around: it was a palm-sized lump of iron. So what, you may rightly ask. Well, the lump of iron was actually a meteorite that had been found in Argentina and is dated to around 4.6 billion years – so it is as old as the Solar System itself!

Mr Gregory

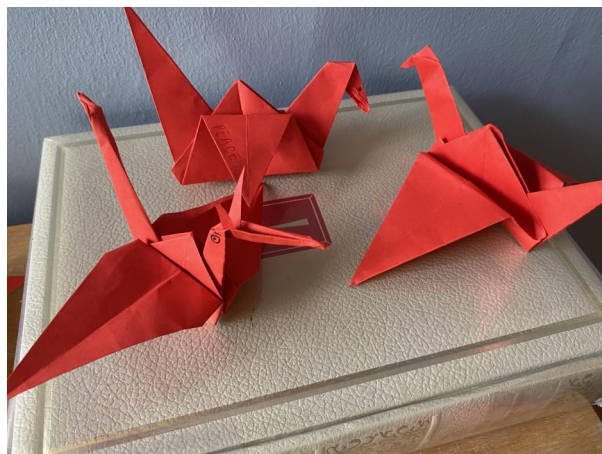




Focus on RE - Sixth Form Core RE

Year 12 Core RE have been reflecting on how to live the school values of compassion, wisdom and resilience in the life of Sadaoko Sasaki who died at the age of 12 years old from a leukemia caused by the atomic explosion of Hiroshima in 1945. Despite her illness, Sadako continued to fold origami cranes, inspired by the Japanese legend that folding 1,000 cranes would grant a wish. Her dedication to her dream and the act of folding cranes became a symbol of peace and hope for children worldwide. Students discussed how she exemplified the school values in her life and then made some cranes for peace that are now on display in the school chapel.

Mrs Herring



Book Return



St Benedict's Library

July 3rd 2026

A Library Request

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of term, we would be very grateful if you could please have a quick look around your home and check with your child for any school library books that may still be with you. Returning books helps us keep our library fully stocked and ready for our students.

We would appreciate any books being returned as soon as possible. The books can be brought to the library desk or placed inside the wooden returns box.

We are looking forward to returning in September and to all that our library has to offer, with a wide range of opportunities for reading, learning and leisure.

Thank you very much for your support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address below.

Mrs Hayter-Gare

Contact: rhayter-gare@st.benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

Welcome to St Benedict's Library

Our library is a safe space to read, play chess, play games, chat with your friends, study and research.

Whether you are looking for your next favourite book, help with research, a space to study, chess pieces or activity sheets we are here to help.

Food and drink are allowed in the **lower area** but please keep it clean and tidy.

No food or drink to be consumed in the **upper (computer) area**. **Computers for academic purposes only.**

Go to the main desk to check out/return books or, if Mrs HG is absent, use the forms provided on the desk.

Children's Commissioner's Report

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, published her annual report this week and she's looking for students to respond to her report as she understands the importance of listening to children when shaping policies that affect them. Please encourage your young person to complete the survey, the broader the data collected the better the picture will be.

Good afternoon,

Today I have published my annual report on Children and Young People's Mental Health Services. As I enter my final year as Children's Commissioner, one thing is clear: before we make decisions that affect young people, we need to listen to young people.

Children's mental health is no exception. The number of children with a referral to mental health services has reached over a million – about 1 in 10 children – almost double the 564,000 in 2018-19.

We know there are still many more young people whose voices deserve to be heard. I would therefore be grateful if you could continue promoting my national survey, The Big Future, to pupils, parents and carers over the coming weeks, and encourage as many young people as possible to take part before it closes: [The Big Future Survey](#)

Teachers, parents and carers can respond on behalf of young children, or those who may need support to access the survey.

Many schools have successfully increased participation through form time, tutor periods and assemblies. To support this, I have created a range of resources, including an introductory video, lesson materials and FAQs, all available on my website: [Children's Commissioner Website](#)

I am also inviting schools and colleges to nominate Student Champions to help promote the survey among their peers. Champions who generate particularly high levels of participation will receive a formal letter of thanks from my office, recognising their contribution to amplifying young people's voices. This recognition can also be included in personal statements, CVs and future applications.

In addition, the schools and colleges with the highest response rates will be invited to attend my final Festival of Childhood, celebrating the voices and contributions of children and young people from across England.

Thank you once again for your commitment to ensuring that children's voices are heard. Together, we can make sure this is the strongest and most representative picture of childhood possible.

With best wishes,

Dame Rachel de Souza

Children's Commissioner



Raffle tickets now on sale! Your son/ daughter should have brought 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 and iPhone, Galaxy Tablet, 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

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



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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