

St Benedict's Newsletter 342

16 October 2026

Catholic Social Teaching

This week our focus is on the Catholic Social Teaching theme of **The Common Good**. It is about recognising that we are all part of something bigger than ourselves. Our school is made up of people with different backgrounds, languages, cultures, experiences and talents. These differences do not divide us; they can enrich our community and help us learn from one another.

The Common Good can be seen in the everyday choices we make: following school expectations, looking after our shared spaces, including others, being responsible, and thinking about how our behaviour affects those around us. It is not about giving up who we are or what we need. Instead, it is about recognising that we are connected to one another and that a positive community depends on everyone playing their part.

Languages Day gave us the opportunity to put these words into practice. By learning about different languages and cultures, we show curiosity and respect towards others. We begin to understand that our own experiences are not the only experiences that matter and that we can learn something from everyone, a community is strongest when everyone has the

opportunity to contribute. A language someone speaks, a tradition they celebrate, or a culture they share can become something that enriches the whole community.

St Paul reminds us: “No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.” — 1 Corinthians 10:24 This challenges us to think beyond ourselves. Languages Day encourages us to listen, participate and appreciate what others bring to our school. It reminds us that we all have something to contribute and something to learn.

We can contribute to the Common Good around the school in simple ways;

- **Wisdom:** Being willing to learn from people whose experiences are different from our own.
- **Compassion:** Showing respect and kindness towards everyone, recognising the dignity and value of each person.
- **Resilience:** Having the confidence to step outside our comfort zone, try something new and engage with people and experiences that may be unfamiliar to us.

As we think about the Common Good this week, we might ask ourselves: What can I learn from someone whose language or culture is different from mine? How can I help others feel that they belong? What can I contribute to our school community? How can I celebrate difference rather than be afraid of it?

The Common Good reminds us that everyone has a part to play and Languages Day reminded us that we are stronger when everyone has a place and a voice. Our school community is enriched by the many different people who make it what it is. When we listen, learn, share and celebrate together, we help to build a community where everyone can belong, contribute and flourish.

Loving God,

Thank you for the many different people

who make up our school community.

Help us to celebrate our differences,

learn from one another

and always treat others with kindness and respect.

Give us wisdom to learn,

compassion to include others,

and courage to try new things.

Help us to build a community

where everyone belongs.

Amen.

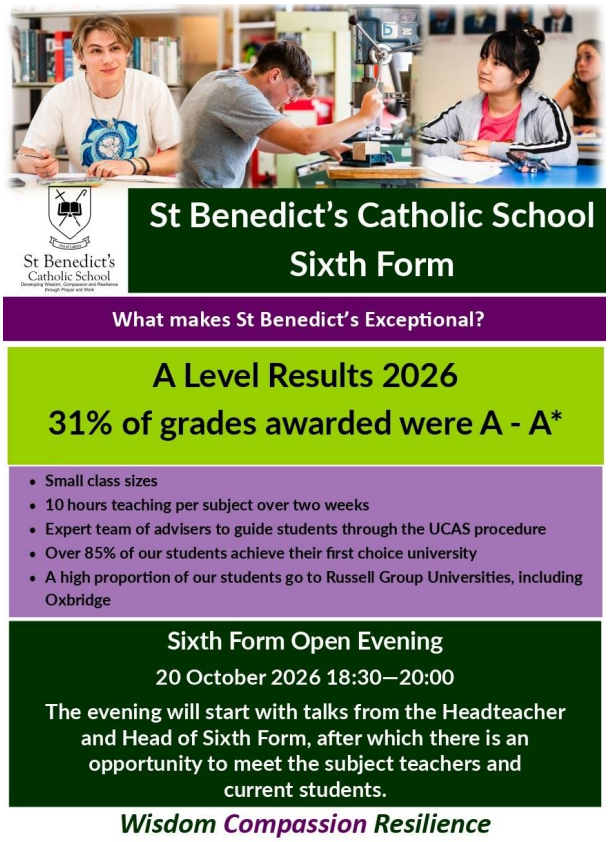
6th Form Open Event

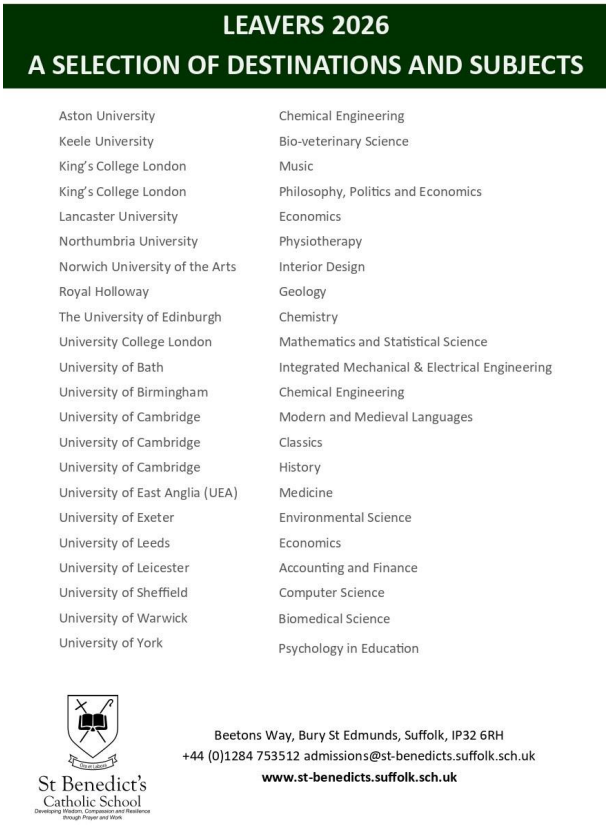
We are looking forward to seeing all Year 11 students and their parents/carers for next Tuesday's Sixth Form Open Evening.

Please arrive for a brief talk from me and from some of our current Year 12 students before heading to the exhibition stands for your prospective A-level choices. There will be subject lead teachers and many current students to talk to and help you find out more about possible courses.

The event will run from 6.30 – 8pm. It will be a delight to see you all there!

Mr Richmond





LEAVERS 2026
A SELECTION OF DESTINATIONS AND SUBJECTS

Aston University	Chemical Engineering
Keele University	Bio-veterinary Science
King's College London	Music
King's College London	Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Lancaster University	Economics
Northumbria University	Physiotherapy
Norwich University of the Arts	Interior Design
Royal Holloway	Geology
The University of Edinburgh	Chemistry
University College London	Mathematics and Statistical Science
University of Bath	Integrated Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
University of Birmingham	Chemical Engineering
University of Cambridge	Modern and Medieval Languages
University of Cambridge	Classics
University of Cambridge	History
University of East Anglia (UEA)	Medicine
University of Exeter	Environmental Science
University of Leeds	Economics
University of Leicester	Accounting and Finance
University of Sheffield	Computer Science
University of Warwick	Biomedical Science
University of York	Psychology in Education

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

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www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

Confirmation at St Edmunds Church

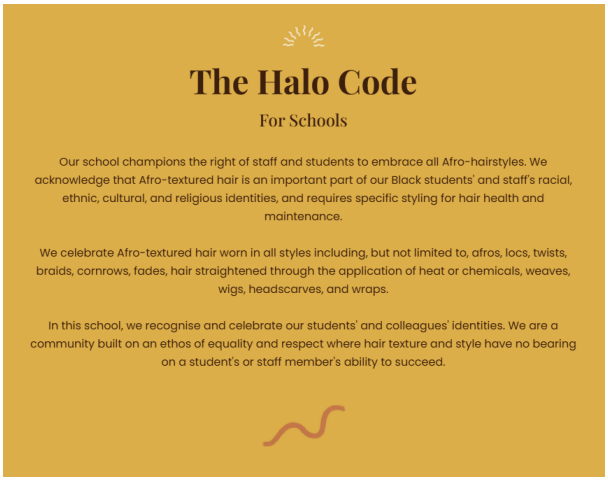
The annual St Edmunds King and Martyr Confirmation programme commences with a candidate and parent enrolment meeting on Thursday 22nd October at 19:30 - straight after the 19:00 evening Mass. The meeting is aimed at candidates in Year 9 (or above) who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and who regularly attend St Edmunds Parish. Attendance at this session is required if you wish to enrol on this year's programme.

John and Hedwige D'Mello

The Halo Code

For many years at St Benedict's we have adopted what we hope is an inclusive approach through our policies and uniform expectations to support our diverse student body and celebrate the wide range of cultures that form our community. In line with this basic starting point we are excited to announce that St Benedict's Catholic School has adopted The Halo Code, the UK's first Black hair code. No Black staff or students should have to change their natural or protective hairstyle in order to thrive at our school. We hope that the Halo Code will move us one step closer to a world free from discrimination, where all Black members of our community have their identities fully recognised and celebrated.

Mrs Senior



Church Banner Project

The year 7 & 8's went to visit St Edmunds Catholic Church on Tuesday October 13th for the afternoon. Thank you to Dorothy Neoh, Fr Peter Ho and RoseMarie Counihan for the warm welcome, blessings and informative talk.

The students were excited to see both the detail and impact of the Church banners in real-life. They are now well on their way to designing some incredible new ideas for the Church Banner Competition, where the winning entry will be made in partnership with the Church committee.

Mrs Ashcroft







Maths Challenge

We kicked off the start of the maths challenge season with the Maths Competition for Girls on 22nd September, this competition was only introduced last year as a new opportunity to challenge young female mathematicians across the UK. This challenge is 90 minutes long and has 5 short answer questions broken down into a number of parts. The questions are designed to challenge and the prizes are awarded as merit and distinction level. We entered two of out year 12 students who both passed at Merit Level. Congratulations to Zuza Bulacz and Ellen Beckwith.

This year as part of Inter-House Day we included some maths challenges to give more students an opportunity to compete for their House. These maths challenges were all completed in teams with the year 7s getting hands on and investigating sequences while our year 8s, 9s and 6th formers all put their logic and problem-solving skills to the test with a series of problems. Each team had 45 minutes to complete as many questions as possible. Our results are as follows

YEAR 7

Nursia took an early lead racing through the construction task to build the puzzle cube and kept up the momentum all the way through, the team had energy to spare and finished off with a series of star jumps to keep their brains energised.

First Place - Nursia with 61 points

Second Place - Monte Cassino with 35 points

Third Place - Subiaco with 33 points

YEAR 8

With some slightly uneven teams we did some slight restructuring between tutor groups we managed to get two teams from each house to compete. Despite showing great speed and a general preference for the numeracy problems, all teams showed that they could think outside the box and find a way to create a model for the stories set out.

First Place - Subiaco with 62 points

Second Place - Nursia with 50 points

Third Place - Monte Cassino with 26 points

YEAR 9

As our first set of competitors for the day, the year 9s were all a little worried about what to expect but they were quickly hands on and all teams managed to find an answer for all of the problems set, all showing great enthusiasm and an amazing ability with the route solving and shape problems. Monte Cassino had the disadvantage of only having one team otherwise there would have been a very close call for first place.

First Place - Subiaco with 62 points

Second Place - Nursia with 55 points

Third Place - Monte Cassino with 31 points

6th Form

The sixth form students were in back-to-back challenges, spending Wednesday completing the Senior Maths Challenge (awaiting results) and then Thursday in the Inter-House Challenge. Rivalry was high, and the teams had all decided who their biggest competition was before it started. We had an outright winning team but as their house only had one team they still ended up in third place, leaving Subiaco to steal the lead.

First Place - Subiaco with 44 points

Second Place - Monte Cassino with 33 points

Third Place - Nursia with 30 points

Art Club

Students in the Year 7, 8 and 9 Art Club have been exploring the creative techniques of marbling and paper sculpture. Through folding, cutting and manipulating paper, they have transformed simple materials into a beautiful collection of sculptural flowers, inspired by the rich, warm colours of autumn. The students have thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with different techniques, developing their creativity and producing some stunning, individual pieces of artwork.

Mrs Peasey





Calling all those who work in healthcare or the criminal justice system!

As part of the A level sociology course, students study health and illness and crime and deviance. Within these topics, we look at the role of medical professionals in the diagnosis and treatment of illness, and the role of the police and courts in dealing with offenders. If there are any parents or carers who work in these areas and would be willing to come in to talk to the Year 12 and 13 sociology students about their role, please contact Mrs Shepherd on hshepherd@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk.

Mrs Shepherd

Youth SVP Sleep Out

On Friday 2nd October, twenty-five of our Year 8 and 9 students pitched their tents on the school field for the Youth SVP Sleep Out. This annual event raises vital funds and awareness for the St Vincent de Paul Society, supporting their incredible work with people experiencing homelessness.

Arriving at 6:30pm, the students quickly got to work setting up camp before it got dark. Once night fell, the field came alive with football and netball, ending with a brilliant, high-energy game of capture the flag in the dark.

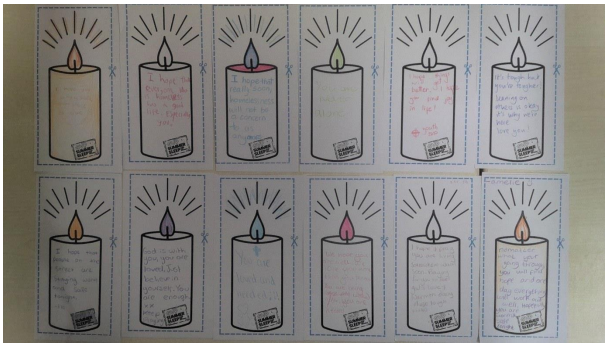
To warm up and wind down, everyone headed into K6 for board games, hot chocolate, and popcorn. Before heading to bed, the students gathered for a quiet time of prayer and reflection. As part of our 'Candle of Hope' activity, they decorated candles and wrote messages of solidarity to those facing homelessness, sending a powerful reminder that they are not alone.

After a chilly night under canvas, the students wrapped up the event with a quick breakfast of croissants and juice before heading home.

So far, our fantastic students have raised a brilliant **£773** for the Youth SVP. If you would like to support their efforts, donations are still open via ParentPay. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed so far for your wonderful generosity.

Mr Murphy



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Parish Contact Details



Is your child a Young Carer?

Suffolk Family Carers
Living Fuller Lives

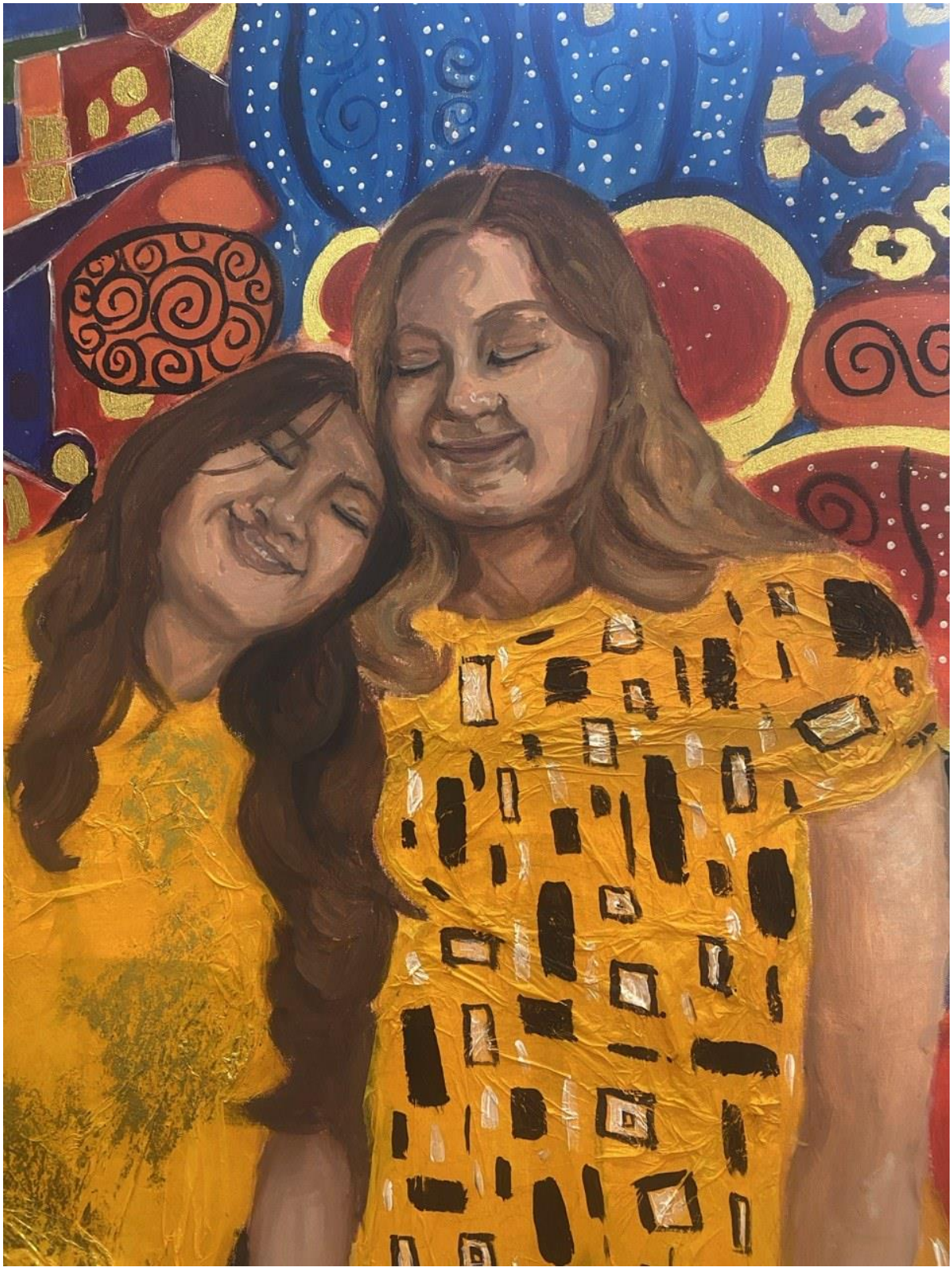
Young Carers
Young Adult Carers

A young carer is a child or young person aged between 5 to 25 years old whose life is in some way different or restricted because they provide, or intend to provide, practical or emotional support to someone else.

The person they provide care for is often a parent, a relative who is physically or mentally ill, frail elderly, disabled or misuses alcohol or substances. Young carers could also be supporting and caring for a disabled brother or sister.

If you think your child is a Young Carer, please call Ms Bourne on 01284 753512 to discuss, or contact Suffolk Young Carers directly at www.suffolkfamilycarers.org or 01473 835477

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

ARBOR Parental Information Verification



Please could we ask all parents to log onto their ARBOR accounts to ensure that you still have access to the system.

Once on the system, please check that the information that we hold is correct and up to date for each child that you have at the school. If it is not then please make any changes that are needed directly on the system.

If you are unable to make changes or would like some help then please email the school Arbor Support team on:

Arbor@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

Mrs Defew

Dates for your Diary



20 October - Sixth Form Information Evening

22 October - Careers Fair

26 - 30 October - Half Term

2 November - Year 8 HPV vaccinations

6 November - year 7 - 11 Flu Vaccinations

Term Dates

Contact Us



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