

We wish all year 10 students and staff that are taking part in the D of E expedition this weekend the best of luck and hope that the weather is kind to them.

Kate Pereira

Poetry Competition

Congratulations to Emily Bickers in 10CGN who not only won her category in the Mildenhall Poetry Competition, she was also the overall winner with her poem 'Undefined'

Undefined

A dictionary is full of words and their meanings, defined specifically and known globally. That is one way where the meaning is concrete, Defined.

But even then works of art, theatre and literature are driven to express The undefined

Words can no longer be used to name or describe the complexity of the intellectual and mental, of the physical and emotional turmoil of human being.

Feelings cease to be trapped in the simpleness of one word or definition, feeling can no longer be expressed by anything other than themselves

They are The undefined.

We are incredibly proud of Emily's achievement but even more of her love of poetry and the beautiful way she crafts her words.

Mrs Macmillan

Uniform "Try On" Session

On Wednesday 9th May from 3.30 - 5.30pm you will have the opportunity to view and try on for size our new school trousers and skirts. This will be held at the Lower School in the main hall. This event is purely for sizing purposes and orders can be placed later. We look forward to seeing you.

Mrs Murdoch and Mrs Dunbar
Finance Department.

Hunger Cloths



As part of their Lenten Observance and RE curriculum the Year 8 students produced Hunger cloths are large wall hangings which relate the scriptural themes

to contemporary life. They worked in small groups and decided on a theme and religious focus. Students took this task very seriously and spent time researching various pictures of Hunger Cloths from around the world.

Such cloths may be enormous and hung in churches and are used to provide a focus for thought and reflection.

They may be on display either on a permanent basis or for periods of special meditation. Often used during Lent, their other name is Lenten Veils.

In the Middle Ages pictures were covered with cloth during Lent, the period of fasting.

Persons at prayer were instead supposed to look at Jesus' suffering and dying.



Today the 'hunger cloths' are supposed to remind people of the fact that we all live in one world, that we all belong together and all people are responsible for this one world. Students worked together and included different charities on their cloths.

Well done to all concerned.

Mrs Ranzetta, RE/Chaplaincy.

Summer Concert

A reminder that everyone is warmly invited to our St Benedict's Summer Concert on Thursday 10th May, from 6.30 - 7.45pm in the Upper School hall. Music ensembles and choirs from the Lower and Upper site will be performing, and refreshments will be kindly organised by the PTFA afterwards. Family and friends are all very welcome to attend!

Mrs Davis & Mrs Severeij

Book Collection

Through a parent of a year 7 student we are collecting books that you may have finished with. These books are being used to help start up a book resource centre in Africa. If you have any old books at home or just books that you have finished with and would like to put them to a good use then please do drop them off at the LSC and we will forward.

Mrs Green

Visit from Former Student



Sixth form Chemists were treated to a visit from former student Matthew Kose-Dunn who is a final year PhD student at Keele University. Matthew studied Chemistry at St Benedict's and fondly remembers Mr Watt's as the reason he started to study Biochemistry at undergraduate level. Matthew's PhD is in regenerative medicine and the title is "Designer *in vitro* neural circuits for assessment of regenerative therapies". Matthew talked to the students about his career path so far, from the classroom they are all sitting in to the international science conferences that he now attends. The exciting outcome of Matthew's work is that the neural circuit is a model of part of the brain and therapies for the treatment of Huntington's and Parkinson's can be tested on this first without the need for animal testing, therefore speeding up the testing capabilities. Thank you Matthew for taking the time to come and talk to us, Mr Watt's and myself found it enormously interesting as did the sixth form chemists – some of whom are just starting their own academic science journey.

Stargazing Event



Mr Gregory and I were delighted to see enthusiastic parents, students and staff on Saturday evening enjoying our first informal stargazing. The evening did have a little cloud cover, but most importantly the clouds cleared and we were able to get some lovely sightings of Venus, our waxing gibbous moon and the red giant Arcturus through our Newtonian telescope.

Thank you to Mr Gregory for so patiently sighting the telescope, not quite as easy as it sounds.

Families were downloading stargazing apps, helping each other to find constellations and naming stars visible to us. Ursa Minor (with Polaris on the tip of its tail) and Ursa Major were both clearly visible. Seeing parents and students sharing this activity together was lovely to see and I look forward to more evenings like this. Thank you to our caretaker Tony for supporting our access on to the school until after 10pm on Saturday night.

Mrs Coogan

The International Festival of Learning

As the sun shone on a bright April 16th a team of students hurried towards West Suffolk College. Head's bowed and arms protecting their precious resources they walked through the atrium and up to their designated area. Tables and chairs at the ready, nine o'clock sounded and the International Festival of Learning 2018 began.

The older students, from years 10, 12 and 13, ran a 'running debate'. This involves a series of students in hot seats, who then change places periodically to introduce new ideas. 'The future of faith schools' was the topic and the students were able to argue comprehensively the pros and cons of such schools and their place in the 21st century. Arguments against faith schools included that the students don't experience and interact with students of other beliefs and this can result in misunderstandings and prejudice. Similarly the students can be divorced from their communities and the society they come from and so counter the promotion of multi-culturalism and tolerance schools generally try to instil. The arguments for the benefits of faith schools, focused on the values taught with students developing a greater moral compass, being more empathetic and socially aware and so the environment encourages and demonstrates how to be a good and caring citizens who will do their best to be fair, responsive and responsible.

Alongside the debates a group of seven year 7 students were busy thinking about 'what learning means to you'. After reflecting on the theme these students made a series of inter-linking paintings illustrating their ideas and thoughts. Learning is about blossoming as you learn. Learning is about moments of inspiration and realisation. Learning is fun. Learning is about focusing your senses. In addition to the students, visitors to the Festival were also encouraged to join in the activity, adding to the paintings as they developed and providing their own viewpoints on learning. The finished pieces are amazing and will shortly be displayed at the school. The students not only enjoyed making their first exhibition pieces but also learned much from the experience....having to communicate their ideas clearly, using new materials, working to a deadline and having to interact with the visitors to the Festival.

A great time was had by all, and as the students walked proudly back to the upper school site, they chatted cheerfully about their experiences, the opportunity and their part in the International Festival of Learning 2018.

Gardening Club

As the warm weather is upon us we are still looking for any of the following items for the LSC gardening club. Please contact Fiona Green at the school if you can help out in any way.

- Bricks ,Dibber, Leaf ,Rake ,Secateurs
- Hardy perennial plants of any kind
- Multi-purpose compost

There will be a plant sale at the LSC on the 15th and 16th of May so please look out for the date in upcoming newsletter.

Mrs Green