



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2019. Happy New Year! I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas. Last Sunday we celebrated the Feast of The Epiphany when the Magi brought special gifts of Gold, Frankincense and

Myrrh for the baby Jesus. The word Epiphany means 'a moment of sudden revelation, a poignant, sudden profound understanding.' The Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season and is a time to remember the sudden revelation of Jesus being proclaimed as King and Saviour. From this feast and from our Chaplaincy theme this week we have also been reminded to share our individual gifts and talents with others. In addition to this we have received letters of thanks from the charities Gatehouse and Storehouse both of whom we supported during Advent – thank you for your thoughtful donations.

### New House System

After much consultation with students we have this week introduced a house system into St Benedict's. Mr Croucher held assemblies with all students to give information about how it will work and which houses students are in. The big reveal was very exciting for students and staff! The houses are called:

Industria (Diligence, hardworking)

Caritas (Charity)

Humanitas (Kindness)

Patentia (Patience)

### Oxford University Offers for our students

Congratulations to the following students who heard this week that following an interview have received offers from Oxford University:

Harriett Allum

Frankie Wright

Mary Whittingdale

This in itself is a great achievement as the selection process is so challenging and competitive. Well done!

### Parents Evenings

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended the Year 7 parents evening yesterday at the LSC which went very well.

Our Year 9 Options evening takes place next Thursday and starts at 6.30pm in the USC hall. All Year 9 students and their parents/carers are expected to attend.

### Staffing update

This term we welcome Miss C Cobb Teacher of Mathematics who has replaced Ms Megan Holmes and Mr M Tanguay Senior Science Technician. We wish them both well and hope they will enjoy working with us.

*Kate Pereira*

### Stretch and Challenge Computing

#### Cool New Tech and Gadgets for 2019

The annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas is happening this week. All the world's major tech companies show off the latest gizmos and gadgets in development that will be hitting the stores this year. You can learn all about the new innovations in technology from VR and gaming, robotics, automotive, health, wearables, drone and new multi-media. Every year the BBC Click show dedicate two episodes to CES, these programs review all the highlights of the exhibition and give a great preview of all the cutting edge technology that will be blowing your mind over the next 12 months! Check out the next episodes on of Click on BBC iplayer <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006m9ry>

*Mr Beaumont*

### Stretch and Challenge English

Students often ask me how they can improve their vocabulary and my answer is the same every time – read!

The more you read the wider your vocabulary but, to have the greatest impact, you should find out the meaning of words you don't understand and then try to use those words in your day-to-day speech. A fair comment from students who have begun their GCSE courses is that their workload is already weighty and they have little time to read for pleasure but what you read doesn't have to be particularly long or weighty. Short stories, poetry, news articles, magazines and online blogs are all useful sources of reading material. The wider the range of material your read, the wider the vocabulary you will be exposed to on a regular basis.

The additional benefit of wider reading is that you can then develop your critical thinking skills. Whatever you read try to identify what the author **wants** you to think on their given topic – where is the bias? Why are they trying to influence you in that way? If you then share what you have read and what you have inferred with your family or friends, this can form the basis of a critical discussion which can further develop your ability to consider alternative interpretations. All vital skills to hit the higher levels on the GCSE mark scheme for English.

Happy reading!

*Ms MacMillan*



## Astronomy News

Well old news, actually. Now that we have recovered from our various celebrations and are looking forward to a New Year, I should like to reflect on a most remarkable event that took place at Christmastime 50 years ago.



The event produced one of the most famous photographs in the history of Mankind (so far, that is).....

Known as the 'Earthrise photo', it was taken by the crew of Apollo 8 on Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> December 1968. The three crew members, Frank Borman, Jim Lovell and Bill Anders were the first humans to leave the confines of Earth's gravity and orbit another planetary body, the Moon.

They were therefore the first to be able to look upon the Earth in space from another world. As they orbited the Moon they were able to see the Earth rise above the lunar horizon, just as we see the Moon rise here.

To finish their live TV broadcast on that Christmas Eve, the astronauts read a familiar passage from Genesis:

*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.  
And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.  
And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.  
And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.  
And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.  
And the evening and the morning were the first day.  
And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.  
And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.  
And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.  
And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.  
And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.*

Mission commander Frank Borman then signed off in his own words: "And from the crew of Apollo 8, we close with good night, good luck, a Merry Christmas – and God bless all of you, all of you on the good Earth."

Keep an eye out for announcements from Ms Coogan regarding Astronomy events at the USC involving the use of our outstanding 12-inch Langley Newtonian telescope. We won't be able to bring you an 'Earthrise', but we will certainly bring you incredible views of the Moon and other astronomical objects.

Jon Gregory

## Severe Weather

There will be occasions due to severe weather or other unforeseen circumstances, when the school will need to close, mainly snow during the winter months.

If bad weather overnight means the school is not going to open at all, an announcement will be made on local radio stations, a pre-recorded message on the school phone number, the school website, social media and Suffolk County Council website.

If bad weather during the day means the school has to take the decision to close early, students will be notified and told to contact their parents (School phones will be made available). The school will remain open, and pupils supervised, for those unable to go home. Buses will run as normal wherever possible.

Keep up-to-date by checking the school website, the Suffolk County Council website and by listening to local radio stations.

Radio Suffolk (104.6, 103.9, 95.5 and 95.9FM)  
Heart Radio (96.4 or 97.1FM)

## Beauty and the Beast

Tickets are on sale for the production of Beauty and the Beast which is taking place Thursday 24 and Friday 25 January, they are available to purchase via ParentPay. They are selling fast so don't delay.

## PTFA Meeting

The second meeting of the year is at 6:30pm on Monday 14th January at the Upper School. If you would like to come along and help with any fundraising etc. then please do, all money raised goes back into school and the students.

Presently we are working on refreshments and fundraising for the production.

Fiona Green

## Year 9 Options Evening

Thursday 17 January 6.00pm–8.00pm

Students have been given option booklets today.

## Year 9 Parents Evening Thursday 31 January



## Careers, Further & Higher Education Events and Career Talks

I am pleased to announce that we now have two more Career Talks in place for this coming term.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> February Anna Goodchild, Network Engineer with BT will be coming in with two BT apprentices to talk about their apprenticeship scheme. This will be an excellent opportunity for students considering any type of Apprenticeship to speak directly with someone currently undertaking one. Finding out what being an apprentice is real like and what is involved in the application process.

Also on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> March, Sophie Perrio, Senior Physiotherapist from West Suffolk Physio will be coming to talk with students potentially interested in pursuing Physiotherapy as a career, looking at the pathways into the profession, personal skills required and what being a physio is really like.

### Scheduled Career Talks

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Claire Lockwood, Oslers Solicitors (Criminal Law)

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January – AJ Fleet, CIAT (Architecture)

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January – Steve Flory, Hudson Group Plc (Graphic Design, Starting your own Business)

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February – Paul Ablitt, Kwikfit (Motor Mechanics, Apprenticeships)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Anna Goodchild, BT (Apprenticeships)

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Sophie Perrio, West Suffolk Physio (Physiotherapy)

### Year 11 Events, 14<sup>th</sup> February

Year 11 into 6<sup>th</sup> form day

Year 11 West Suffolk College Taster Day

### Year 12 Event, 14<sup>th</sup> February - University Preparation Day

St Benedict's will be holding its first University Preparation Day for students in year 12. Throughout the day the students will be attending workshops on Budgeting and Finance (run by Megan Broughton from the University of East Anglia). Study Skills, (run by Owen Evans from the University of Suffolk). Cooking on a Budget, (run by Mr Taylor, Hoy 10 and former professional chef). We are also working on adding a Basic First Aid workshop to the day. If any parents with the appropriate training would be available to help us deliver this workshop please get in touch [dsteward@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:dsteward@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

## Marcus West Lark Recruitment – Assembly for years 11 & 12

On Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> January we will be welcoming Marcus West from Lark Recruitment to St Benedict's to deliver an assembly for years 11 and 12 on CV writing, Cover Letters, Job Applications and Interview techniques. Marcus will also be available after the assembly for any students looking to get a CV started/produced.

### Japanese Lessons starting 18.01.19

Just a reminder we have our Japanese speaking lessons with Charlotte Steggall from the University of Suffolk starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. This will take place during lunchtime in room 53.

There are still a few places available if anyone is interested.

### Spring Term Work Experience Programmes for students aged 15-18



Throughout March and April, seasoned professionals from the world of Investment Banking, Medicine, Engineering, Law, Politics, Journalism, and Business Leadership will coach ambitious young minds through an inspirational journey of interactive simulations, engaging content and guidance on how to gain a competitive advantage starting NOW; giving them an immersive, 360-degree experience of some of the world's most desirable and competitive careers...

[www.investineducation.co.uk](http://www.investineducation.co.uk)

Please note that any bookings will need to be made directly with InvestIN as St Benedict's has no involvement with the running of these programmes.

Mr Steward  
Careers

## From the Exams Office

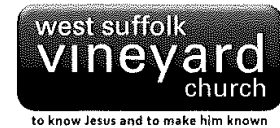
Students will receive a "Statement of Entry" in their tutor group on Monday morning. The Statement of Entry shows all the exams the student is being entered for in the Summer 2019 exam season.

It is very important that students check:

- The personal information at the top of the page, ie "Name", "Gender", "Date of Birth" and "Name on Certificates", is correct. Please amend if necessary.
- The entries are correct. If in doubt about the codes, students should check with their teachers they are being entered for the correct exam.

Once you are sure the information is correct, please sign the copy and return it to your Tutor **by Friday 18 January**.

Debbie Aliaga, Exams Officer



to know Jesus and to make him known



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7th January 2019

Dear Mrs Pereira

**Re: Christmas**

We would like to extend a huge thank you to you all for the generous donations you gave us for our Storehouse Ministry over Christmas. We used the food and gifts for some special hampers we made for clients and also to add to our regular food bags.

We greatly value the support and encouragement received from you as we seek to work together by practically caring for those in our community who, for whatever reason, find themselves in a place of need. Your generous donations have allowed us to be generous, particularly over the Christmas period with lovely Christmas food.

For your information, we have given out 1,717 bags of foods and toiletries during 2018. Your generous donations have made this possible and really do make a difference.

Thank you again for your support.

With every blessing,

**Beth Brown**  
**Storehouse Coordinator**  
**West Suffolk Vineyard Church**

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