



## A prayer for St David's day

You called your servant David to uphold the Christian faith amongst the people of Wales to encourage them by his observance of fasting and obedience,

And to show them compassion through small acts of great love.

As light is poured onto the mountain-tops and as fresh rain is sprinkled on the hills, help up to be good carers of one another and of your great and glorious creation

Amen

Written by the Archbishop of Wales, the Rev Dr Barry Morgan

## Physics Challenge and Maths Feast

Well done to all students who took part in the Physics challenge and Maths Feast this week. Our students came first in the Maths feast and second in the Physics challenge. More about these in next week's newsletter.

## Head of RE

Congratulations to Mr Damian Wallace for being appointed as Head of RE from May 2019.

*Kate Pereira*

## CAFOD Young Leaders

A group of 6th Formers from St Alban's Ipswich, St Benedict's Bury St Edmund's, Notre Dame Norwich and St Mary's Cambridge have taken up the challenge to lead CAFOD activities in their schools. This national scheme will give them a deeper understanding of global issues and how they can be resolved. The training will also develop their communication and leadership skills so that they can organise events to raise awareness back in their schools.

The students shared with each other why this project is important to them. One student's comment summed up everyone's thoughts 'We want to speak up for justice and help to build a better world for everyone'.

Jane Crone, Community Participation Coordinator for East Anglia said, 'it is wonderful to hear about the Young Leaders' solidarity with their brothers and sisters across the globe and their commitment to making sure that no one is beyond reach.'



## Year 11 Revision.

We hope that our Year 11 students are progressing with their revision and are finding the revision timetable and resources on the VLE useful. There is a Year 11 revision evening on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 19:00 to 20:00. Please come along to this to find out more about the revision material available and how you can best support your child through exam revision and beyond.

*Mr D'Mello*

## Year 11 Women in Science Residential.

If you are in year 11, and thinking about continuing with the sciences at University and beyond, then this **Easter residential** might be for you.

Cambridge University Pembroke College is hosting a **three-day Women in Science residential in April 2019**. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to stay in College, meet current students, be challenged in academic sessions covering a range of sciences, and find out more about Cambridge – both as a city, and a university.

Cambridge University hope that students who participate will get a real taste of university life, and a better understanding of what they can do now to prepare themselves for this step. Cambridge University has just had a £100 million donation from one of their alumni and some of that is being invested into encouraging students from all backgrounds to aspire to study at this prestigious establishment.

Follow this link to find out more <https://www.pem.cam.ac.uk/study-here/access-and-outreach/events-prospective-students/year-11-women-science-residential>

To apply, please complete our online application form by no later than **8am on Monday 25th February**. Do not be intimidated by this being run by Cambridge University if you have a minimum of five 6-9 grades predicted at GCSE and are studying at least two sciences and are female you should strongly consider applying.

*Miss Coogan*

## Learning Support Assistant

If you would be interested in finding out more about working at St Benedict's as an LSA please feel free to contact Mrs Walker to discuss what opportunities we have. [awalker@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:awalker@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

*Mrs Walker*

## Calling Prospective Journalists!

University College, London is offering students between the ages of 15 and 18 the opportunity to take part in the Young Journalist Programme on Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> 2019

On the Young Journalist Programme, a group of journalists from some of the world's most renowned media houses will immerse you in a series of interactive role plays, seminars, and Q&A sessions, to give you a 360-degree experience of journalism. You will also be coached on how to maximise your chances of becoming a top journalist, starting now. You will leave the programme having gained a competitive advantage over other aspiring journalists, and a brilliant experience to include on your UCAS application.

There is a fee of £130 for the full day (with a discount of 10% if 2 or more places are booked) but, if you are have an interest in becoming a journalist, this is an amazing opportunity. For more information, have a look at the InvestIn website: [www.investineducation.co.uk/products/the-young-journalist-programme](http://www.investineducation.co.uk/products/the-young-journalist-programme)

Mrs MacMillan

## Year 12 - University Preparation Day

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Year 12 students enjoyed a 'University Preparation Day' which saw them off timetable learning skills vital for living and studying alone. Period 1 saw Mr Taylor running a crash course on healthy cooking which was a fun way to improve our culinary skills even if some of the dishes were a little "over-done". The total price of the food surprised me as only £17 was enough to make 4 dishes! The lesson showed me that living healthily on a low budget at university is feasible and I now feel more comfortable in the kitchen.

After break, the University of Suffolk gave a talk on study skills which involved debating the strengths and weaknesses of using search engines such as google. I am now more cautious when taking information from the web, looking for the date and potential bias of the website. These skills will be particularly useful at university where there is more independent research.

Following the study skills session, we had a talk from the University of East Anglia on budgeting and finance. Having had student finance explained to me, I am less worried about the debt I will have as only 17% of people fully pay it off and after 30 years it is dropped. A budgeting game showed me the difficulty of choosing where to prioritise your money (living off rice and beans to save money for partying may not be as sustainable as I thought).

The final lesson of the day was in First Aid run by paramedics from the East of England Ambulance Service. We went through treating a burn, using bandages and CPR. This was quite a sobering end to the day but if an incident were to happen at university, I feel I would be better prepared to deal with it.

Each element of the day has better prepared me to tackle all that university life will throw at me and on behalf of all the students who took part, I would like to say thank you to Mr Steward who organised the day, Mr Taylor for teaching us to cook and the all the speakers who helped make the day informative and enjoyable.

Tom Bidwell, Year 12

## Ski Trip to Austria: Stubai statt Dubai

Shortly after the rest of the school broke up for half term on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February, an adventurous group of 41 students ranging from Years 8-11 set off by coach to the Austrian Alps for the ski trip.

The outbound journey took longer than expected due to a delay at Folkestone and weight of traffic on the motorways. However, after 24 hours we arrived at the 'gemutlich' Alte Post Hotel in Fulpmes, which would be our base for the rest of the week.

The conditions couldn't have been better, as the heavy snow falls earlier in the year had left the slopes with excellent coverage and the high pressure weather made for bright blue skies which accentuated the beauty of the stunning Stubai valley.

Our daily routine, which was perfected throughout the week, started with breakfast at 7.00am followed by boarding the bus at 8.00am for the half hour drive up the winding road to the gondola lift to begin our ski lessons at 9.30am.

The groups then divided into five groups and met up with their instructors who gave them five hours of tuition per day with a one hour break for lunch. All of the students improved their skiing ability from the complete beginners progressing to red slopes, and the advanced group to black slopes, moguls and jumps.

Then it was back to the hotel for dinner at 6.00pm before getting ready for a packed schedule of evening activities which included Austrian bowling (Kegelbahn), ice skating, swimming at the Stubby Waterpark and a pizza evening in the nearby town of Neustift (where we sang Happy Birthday to William Reid).

It was a really enjoyable trip as the students were superb ambassadors for the school. They were praised for their behaviour and politeness by the hotel staff and coach drivers who thanked them for their conduct and told them that they were the best school party they had ever had the pleasure to work with.

Finally, I would just like to say a huge thank you to the students for making the trip so enjoyable and memorable, to the other members of staff (Mrs Dunn, Mrs Macey, Mr Richmond and Mr Stafford) who offered such invaluable help in making the trip so successful and to all of the support staff who work so hard to make trips like this possible.



Mr Murphy

## “It’s Good to Talk”

Just before half term, our Year 11 public speaking team of Emily Bickers, Ariana Lopez-Clift and Aidan Mayall represented St Benedict’s at West Suffolk College, and were runners-up in the local heat, with Ariana being named “Chairperson of the evening”.

Next week is another important one for St Benedict’s student orators. On Tuesday 5th March, Dermot Gray (year 11) and Frankie Wright (year 13) travel to Culford School to tackle the national semi-finals of the English Speaking Union’s Mace debating competition, having won through both the previous heats. They are proposing the motion allotted to them that “This house would implement an upper rate of income tax of 70% on incomes over £5M”. We are looking forward to a third exciting contest.

The following day, sixth formers Alfie Dry, Emily Black and Elisabeth Cameron-Laker; and the year nine team John Whittingdale, Ismail Sanneh and George Wall will all be participating in the Rotary Club’s public speaking competition in the hopes of bringing the shield home to Bennies. We anticipate an interesting and entertaining afternoon with our neighbours at County Upper School.

I’m sure you’ll join with me in wishing them all the best of luck, and hoping they will enjoy themselves doing something that offers fun as well as challenge.

Ms James

## Coding Competition

At the end of January students from year’s 11, 10 and 7 took part in the first round of the Perse Coding Team Challenge, a national programming competition for high school students from year 7 to 11. We had 12 students taking part as pairs or individuals. In the first round competitors had to write code to solve ten online challenges of increasing difficulty within a 40 minute time limit, under exam conditions. Details of the competition can be found here <https://persecoding.net/>

We then had to wait for the results while round one was completed across the country. The results are in and I am proud to announce that our students have done very well.

Four of our students have progressed through to the final round of the competition and will now compete for the Braben Cup and a large cash prize. Liam Swarbrick achieved Distinction scoring 86%, Euan Dance and Nikolaus Ehall as a team achieved Distinction scoring 97%, Alan John achieved Distinction with a 100% score!

Two other students did very well but narrowly missed out on progression to the next round were Milosz Boufal and Dylan Wilks who both achieved Merit.

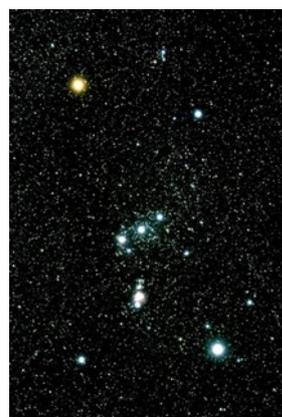
All students who took part have shown great coding and problem solving skills and I hope to see more students taking part next year. Finally I would like to congratulate the students who have made it to the final and wish them the best of luck!

Mr Beaumont



## Astronomy News

It is always frustrating when planning an evening event so that we can utilise the Langley-Newtonian 12” telescope: if you plan too far in advance, then you cannot guarantee clear skies; but if you leave it until the forecast is reliably good, then that only gives a day’s notice, which is too short for most. Mr Steward took the chance earlier this week and it paid off with a good number of staff and parents dropping in with their young folk – most importantly, Mr Steward had arranged for the sky to be perfectly clear ensuring ideal conditions for visible astronomy!



January to March is a popular time for stargazing as the cold, clear evening skies still have their winter darkness and the most majestic of all the constellations, Orion (the Hunter), is at its zenith in the southern sky at around 7:30pm.

Orion is a favourite constellation among astronomers for all sorts of reasons. One notable object within it is designated M42 (in the Messier catalogue) or NGC1976 (in the more modern New General Catalogue) – however, the world knows it as the ORION NEBULA. It is one of the brightest nebulae and, remarkably, can easily be seen with the naked eye as a fuzzy patch of light below the three bright stars of Orion’s belt. But in the field of view of the 12” telescope, the Orion Nebula begins to reveal its secrets!

Once the eye becomes adjusted to the image in the eyepiece of the telescope, the luminous, fuzzy patch appears tinted with pink. This is largely because the gases of the nebula are being energised by a huge emission of ultraviolet



radiation, but where is this radiation coming from? Again the telescope reveals all – in the centre of the nebula are four, bright white stars that show up as brilliant pinpoints of light. They are arranged in the geometric shape of a trapezium and are therefore known as THE TRAPEZIUM. They are very young, hot stars (barely a million years old) and their radiation literally lights up the Orion Nebula.

We also obtained excellent views of Mars, the ‘red planet’, and everyone’s favourite ‘twinkling star’, Sirius. As Mr Steward seems to have such an impressive way with the weather, keep a lookout for his next Astronomy evening!

Mr Steward & Mr Gregory



# Announcing the launch of EdulinkOne

Next week we will be launching a new way for parents to engage with their children's school life, with the introduction of a new tool called EdulinkOne.

This will enable parents to access a wealth of real-time information about your child's progress, performance, behaviour and more - from both a website and an app for your phone.

Initially we will be launching a subset of the information via the tool, with further features being enabled in the coming weeks and months.



## To begin with you will be able to access your child's:

- Timetable
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Achievement
- Exam timetables and entries
- Data collection form, to update both your own and your child's personal information including emergency contacts.

You will also be able to access the school calendar.

## What happens next?

Keep an eye out for an email from EdulinkOne via St Benedict's in your inbox from next week. This email will contain

## In the near future we will be releasing further functionality:

- Your child's assessment and progress
- Cashless catering transactions
- Parents evening booking
- Detentions
- Homework tracking (in place of ShowMyHomework)
- Absence reporting
- School to Parent messaging

instructions on how to activate your EdulinkOne account and a getting started guide to get you started.

