



I hope that the half term break and the opportunity to take a break, enjoy some sunshine and reflect on the year so far was enjoyed by all. I am delighted to announce that we ended the half term with the successful interview and appointment of a new Deputy Headteacher from September. Mr Samuel Tatum is currently the Acting Deputy Head at St Mary's in Bishop's Stortford. He impressed the interview panels in every way and we are sure that he will bring a great deal to St Benedict's and the community here. As the weather is warmer at present, we have allowed students to consider their school jumper as optional at present (although I write this watching the rain fill the puddles outside). If the weather does become cooler for a sustained period we will revert to the full uniform, but until then if students do choose not to wear their jumpers, their shirts should remain tucked in, ties should be worn and no other jumper or hoodie should be worn. I hope that Pentecost this Sunday is a joyous occasion for all and that all our students and their families have a great weekend.

Best wishes,

*Imogen Senior*

## Congratulations

We would like to congratulate St Edmunds Catholic Primary School on achieving the Science Quality Mark, this has been down to the hard work by Hannah Bridges (Year 1 teacher at St Edmunds). Hannah was a student here at St Benedict's and the science department are delighted to have been able to support her with this project for St Edmunds

## Mosquito Club – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May

At our meeting just before the half-term break we were pleased to welcome a new member to the Club – Mr Ducker, St Benedict's new PGCE Teacher of Maths.

Members were brought up to date with the latest news from our supported charity The People's Mosquito, including the exciting announcement that just over a month ago a container arrived in the UK from Aerowood (New Zealand) Ltd. Inside the container were the newly acquired wing, tail and bomb bay jigs plus varied tooling and presses. In addition there was the full set of wing ribs for our Mosquito restoration. The 'main event' of the meeting was a presentation by Darragh Thacker entitled "The Wider Impact – how the Mosquito affected the war and, on a wider scale, us today". Darragh had carried out some meticulous research on the role of the Mosquito during WW2, especially its crucial operations in aerial reconnaissance; in particular before, during and after the D-Day landings which have their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

We also heard about the role of Mosquitos as night fighters, venturing out through the night skies over Occupied Europe, being aided immensely by carrying the latest, top secret, centimetric airborne radar sets.

Perhaps the most fascinating part of Darragh's talk was his invitation for us to openly debate a 'What If?' question: "If Geoffrey de Havilland had never been born, would Britain and her allies still have won WW2?"...or..."Was the Mosquito influential enough to win Britain the war over any other factor that allowed the Allies to defeat Germany?" Space does not allow for a full report of the actual debate but it was thoughtful and mature - a testament to our members' commitment to respect the history of human conflict in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Cyber Security

On 21st of May, Darren Aitchison from Skybox Security visited the school again, following the talk he gave in February. This time

Darren delivered a lesson to year 10 Computer Science students on cyber security. He spoke with the class about many areas of cyber security including a range of threats, the protection techniques currently used and shared lots of interesting accounts of recent security breaches and their implications. Darren gave the class a first-hand insight into the career paths and job roles of security specialists and ethical hackers. The class really benefitted from this time with an industry expert and asked lots of questions. Since the lesson with Darren a number of the class have been inspired to experiment with the ethical hacking challenges he introduced them to using websites such as [hackthebox.eu](http://hackthebox.eu) and [hacker101.com](http://hacker101.com). We also discussed how to stay on the right side of the law and the very serious consequences of breaking the Computer Misuse Act.



We are really grateful to Darren for the time he has taken out of his busy schedule to come and work with our students and the added value he has given to their learning experience on this topic. He has also kindly offered to help out during the cyber security activity in enrichment week where students will be taking part in coding and cyber security challenges. *Mr Beaumont*

## Sporting Highlights

U13 Boys Cricket through to County Finals.

Our first round tournament took place on a sunny evening in the lovely setting of Cavendish CC. In the semi final we played Castle Manor and batted first. Excellent batting by Theo Castle Charlie Feehan, Adam and Jack saw us reach 84-3 in our 7 overs. Very good bowling and fielding meant Manor never looked like getting the score and ended their innings on 30-2 giving us victory by 54 runs. In the final we played Stour Valley and again bowled and fielded well to restrict them to 44-5. An excellent opening stand of 40 from Santi Davies and Theo saw us on the way and we reached the target without losing a wicket to give us an 8 wicket victory and progress through to the County finals.