

As we are now well into the season of Advent there has been a great deal of activity taking place in school. This week has seen the feast day Mass for St Francis Xavier, our Nativity production with the pyramid primaries, our reverse Advent calendar and plans in place for the Carol Concert next week. In less Christmassy fashion, the Year 11 mock examinations have started and it was wonderful to see how many parents came to the Year 7 Parents' Evening last night. There is still a great deal left to accomplish before the end of term and I thought it might be appropriate to share this prayer in recognition of the Feast Day of St Francis Xavier to keep our focus on our own missions and purpose.

Creator God, inspired by the example of St. Francis, we pray to you for the courage to be missionaries, reaching out and leading others to Jesus. Like St. Francis, may we help those in need, may we live a life rooted in prayer and may we bring Christ to all those we meet. This we ask through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Yours in Christ, Imogen*

## Evangelism in Action

Year 10s have been learning about what evangelism could look like for Christians as part of their unit 'Church and the Kingdom of God'. To help their studies, one class had a video call with Pete who works for 'Speak Life', an organisation which evangelises through using digital media. The students heard about how he came to faith and how his passion for sharing the Gospel led him to it becoming his job. The students asked relevant questions and enjoyed seeing some examples of the videos the group have produced.

*Mrs Cobbold*

## Congratulations

Massive well done to year 7 student Norah Ross who took part in a competition in Liverpool last weekend for the Kuk Sool Won Championship (Traditional Korean Martial Arts)

Norah had a very tough group however managed to win two medals a copper and a bronze.



## The Environmental Cost of our Lunch Boxes

There have been a number of articles in the press recently about single use plastics. Which set me thinking about the amount of single use plastic that we throw away in a day at school. Which then in turn got me to thinking about the average lunch box brought into school and its environmental cost. There are a number of things that we as parents can do to help ensure that a packed lunch does not 'cost the earth.

- Use refillable drinks bottles.
- Wrap sandwiches in paper bags rather than plastic, there are also available on the market reusable sandwich wraps.
- Select snacks with minimal wrapping if time bake your own which then will come with no extra packaging.
- Select pieces of fruit again keeping the packaging to a minimum.

Hopefully by considering the packaging we use we can each make a small difference to the global environment as well as to the local environment here at school.

Please see the article below for more ideas to reduce packaging.

<https://www.theguardian.com/food/2019/jun/06/no-plastic-mum-make-waste-free-packed-lunches>

*Mrs Green*

*On behalf of the School council*

## Attendance for this Week

Year	A	C	P	L	S	X
7	93.2%	92.8%	95.6%	92.7%	94.1%	93.9%
8	95.2%	92.3%	92.6%	94.6%	97.4%	91.3%
9	92.7%	94.8%	93.5%	85.2%	92.3%	91.1%
10	97%	94.4%	96.8%	90.4%	90%	83.6%
11	98.8%	97%	97.1%	96.5%	97.2%	97.1%

## From Exam Office

The provisional timetable for this summer's GCSE & GCE exams is now on the school website. The final version will issue at the end of February, along with students' individual timetables. Any queries, please email the Exams Officer

at [daliaga@stbenedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:daliaga@stbenedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

## Senior Maths Challenge Success 2019

The SMC is a 90-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

We are delighted to announce that students at St Benedict's achieved 8 golds, 14 silvers and 13 bronzes in this year's SMC! To recognise the highest performers in the Challenge, UKMT awarded the top-scoring 60% of participants Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1. Please see below for those who secured certificates!

### Gold

Will Harpur-Davies, Alfie Dry, Alan John, Emilia Barrett  
Euan Dance, Leo Saiu-Bell, Jerome Thomas, Alwin Jose

### Silver

Tom Bidewell, Kean Hodgson, Max Cartwright  
George Strugnell, Thomas Poulson, Nathan Castle  
Blake McAdam, Ralph Martin, Dylan Wilks, Theo Burnett-  
Wells, Pierre Hornsblow, Milosz Boufal, Hugo Whalley, Joe  
Leacy

### Bronze

Rachel Bell, Jack Maher, Hannah Conway, Harry Jarman  
Anna Germaine, Tay Lennox, Frances Saul, Henry Marriott  
Aidan Mayall, Alex Swarbrick, Nikolaus Ehall, Yousef Georgy  
Robin Tuli

Following this challenge, UKMT invited around 1000 of the very highest performers to take part in the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1 and around 6000 to take part in the Senior Kangaroo. Eight of our outstanding mathematicians qualified and sat these demanding exams. We await the results!

Miss Law

## Word of the Week

This week it is 'fortitude'. So far, the students are ahead of staff in making best use of the word!

We are launching our Word Champions next term; this role involves promoting vocabulary across the school. Please see Mrs Bergin if you are interested in the position.


## GCSE Pod

We are now at 74% activation rate in KS4 – this is fantastic.

The St Benedict's weekly usage award goes to:

Remember to activate your account, you need to put the school name, your name and your D.O.B.

Mrs Bergin

Top Podders		
		
Total Streamed		
1	Julia Bullen	40
2	Theodore Foster	33
3	Brandon Openshaw	28

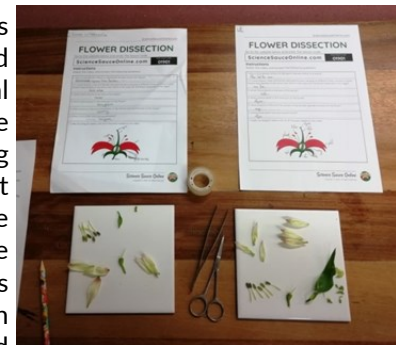
## Science Liaison Visit



On Monday afternoon we were pleased to receive 28 year 5 and 6 students from Risby Primary School as part of our Primary Science Liaison initiative. In recent times Risby had visited us at the LSC, so it was nice that they could now see science in action at Beetons Way.

We always choose a topic that the students are currently studying at Risby and this term it is plants and plant reproduction. The session began with a short presentation on the evolution of plants, from the very first living organisms that arose about 3.5 billion years ago right up to the present day. It was interesting to note that flowering plants evolved only very recently on the timescale of the evolution of plants in general, arising only about 150 million years ago!

The rest of the session was led by Mrs Green who had decided on a practical exercise to examine the structure of a flowering plant. Although not the best time of year to examine flowering plants, lilies are readily available so it was decided to provide each student with a flower head



that they could dissect in order to identify all its parts. A friendly local florist had donated 30 heads of the *Alstroemeria* lily for us to work with. The Risby students proved themselves to be very adept at dissecting the flower heads and arranging all the component parts. Mrs Green provided teaching and resources to enable the students to identify all the flower parts and write about their structure and function, with the students becoming familiar with terms such as *sepal*, *petal*, *anther*, *stigma*, *style* and *ovary*. At the end of the session the students taped their flower parts to a special worksheet so they could take the results of their dissection home with them.

One fascinating fact came to light – Mrs Green asked the students to count the number of each type of structure in the flower head and, for example, they found that there were 3 *sepals*, 3 *petals* and 6 *anthers*. This is not by chance for it turns out that flowers like lilies have such parts in threes or multiples of three. Other flowers may have different multiples: for example, roses have such parts in multiples of five. Mathematics in Nature!

Mr Gregory

## Christmas Card Talents !

The winner of our Christmas Card competition this year is **Isabelle Doughty- Esch, Year 7** from Patientia for her beautiful collaged Nativity Scene. Well done Izzy , your work is being produced as our official card for the school.



Congratulations to all those runners up who entered an array of colourful submissions to the competition, you have earned points each for your house and inspired the judges with your thoughtful designs.

Zuzanna Zabojszcz

Rebecca Keating

Chenia Kerr

Nancy Bailey

Aoibheann Leighton-Scott

Claudia Bergin

Ola Bulacz

Emilia Migut

Phoebe Mckee

**Ms Chacksfield**



**The Governors,  
Staff and Students**  
have great pleasure in inviting  
you all to our annual

## Christmas Carol Concert

To be held at St Edmund's Church  
Tuesday 10 December 2019 at 7:00pm.

✧ With performances by: St Benedict's  
Orchestra; St Benedict's Choir; Jazz Quartet,  
Trumpet Choir and String Quartet.

Followed by refreshments in the Crypt.

**RSVP the Headteacher.**



**St Benedict's**  
Catholic School



+44 (0)1284 753512  
www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk  
Beetons Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP32 6RH