

# St Benedict's News

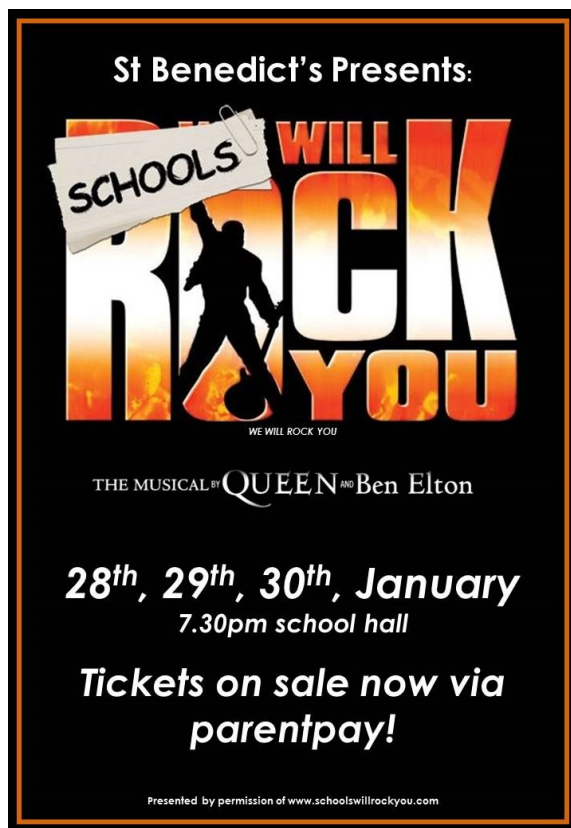


I would like to wish a Happy New Year to all our students and their families. This term has started with dramatic changes to the front of the school in preparation for the new science classrooms. As you may have seen, the front car park is being used as a compound for the contractors and the area where the classrooms are to be built is being prepared. All students are exiting the school at the end of the day via the Klondyke gate until further notice. This is because the exit to the front of the school around the hoarding is much narrower than we anticipated and we did not feel that it was a safe exit for 900 students en masse, given the potential for a bottleneck and resulting difficulties. So far using the Klondyke exit has proved safe and effective, but we would urge parents to take extreme care if driving in this area as this is now very busy with students, cyclists and motorists. I would also like to thank parents for their continued cooperation in not using the staff car park for either pick up or drop off as this further adds to the congestion and prevents staff from completing their duties if the car park is blocked or spaces temporarily filled.

This is a short half term compared to the last and there are a great many plans in place for this and the rest of the Spring term. I am confident that this will be a busy and productive time and hopefully the rain will give us a bit of a break!

Yours in Christ,

Imogen Senior



Ticket sales for our school production of We Will Rock You are now on sale!

We have been working hard and rehearsing since September and can't wait for our evening performances in January.

Make sure you purchase your ticket via parent pay in order to secure your place. Each date has two payment items against it – one for Adult tickets and the other for Child (under 16) tickets. If you have a seating preference (front/middle/back) please specify in the notes section. We will do our best to fulfil requests, but this can't be guaranteed!

**Dates: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

**Time: 7.30pm**

**Location: St Benedict's Uppers school Hall**

**Adults £8**

**Children under 16 £5**

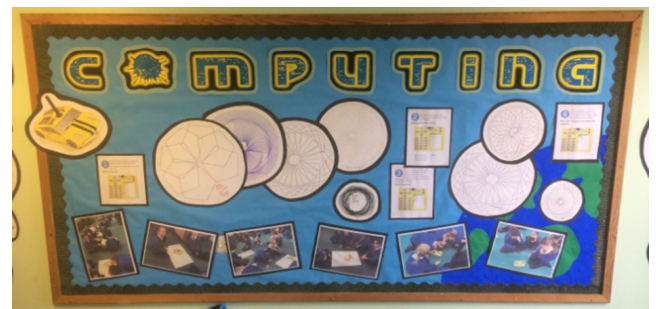
Your tickets will have seat numbers on and will be distributed to your child to bring home.

We look forward to seeing you.

Mrs Denny

## Computing Project's at St Edmund's Primary

During last year I met with Mr Brewer the Computer Science lead at St Edmund's Primary to discuss collaborations between our schools in Computer Science. At the end of the year I was able to donate a small set of Probot robot cars that our students' skills had outgrown. Just before Christmas I received an update from Mr Brewer on the projects his students have been working on with the Probots. It is really pleasing to see these robots being put to good use and engaging students at the primary school with



computer science and programming.

I run the West Suffolk Computers At School (CAS) Community group and through this I am always looking to build more links with our local primary and secondary schools. Next week we are starting a project with BT where our students will be trained to deliver programming workshops at primary schools, look out for an update on this next week.

Mr Beaumont

## School Term and Holiday Dates

### 2019 to 2020

#### Spring term

Starts

Monday 6 January 2020

Half term

Monday 17 February 2020 to Friday 21 February 2020

Ends

Thursday 2 April 2020

Spring (Easter) holiday

Friday 3 April 2020 to Sunday 19 April 2020 (includes Bank Holidays)

PD Day Monday 6 January 2020 and 14 February 2020

#### Summer term

Starts

Monday 20 April 2020

Half term

Monday 25 May 2020 (May Bank Holiday) to Friday 29 May 2020

Ends

Wednesday 22 July 2020

## Dates for the Diary

Monday 13 January—PTFA Meeting 6.30pm

Tuesday 14 January—Rome Information evening 6.00pm

Thursday 16 January—Year 9 Options Evening 7.00—8.00pm

Thursday 23 January—Year 11 Parents Evening 5.00—7.00pm

28 January—30 January We Will Rock You

3 February Year 13 Mock Exams fortnight scheduled to start

Thursday 6 February—Year 9 Parents Evening 5.00—7.00pm

Thursday 26 March—Year 10 Parents Evening 5.00—7.00pm

## Holidays

It is the time of year when some of you might be arranging your holidays for the coming year. Could I please remind you that holidays should not be booked in term time and if they are these will not be authorised. Any holidays that are booked during school time will result in the issuing of a Fixed Term Penalty Notice. There are very well researched links between levels of attendance and performance at GCSE and therefore in order to give your children the best chances of achieving their full potential at school could I ask you to keep this in mind.

Fiona Green

## Upcoming Careers Talks

**Thursday 16th January 2020, 1240-1340 - Alumni Careers Talk—Studying MFL - Katrina Fuller** (this talk will take place in E5)

The MFL department will be welcoming back former student Katrina Fuller. Katrina is currently studying French & Spanish at Queen Mary University of London and will be coming in to talk to students about studying languages at “A” level and University as well as the career opportunities available to skilled linguists.

**Wednesday 22nd January 2020, 1240-1340 - Lunchtime Careers Talk, Policing.** Andy Pursehouse, Chief Inspector for West Suffolk will be coming in to talk students interested in pursuing a career in Policing. Andy will be talking about the different pathways in to the profession, the skills and qualities needed in policing and what life as a Police Officer is really like.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/police-officer>

**Thursday 23rd January 2020, 1240-1340 - Lunchtime Careers Talk, Clinical Psychology.** Dr Nikki Schuck is a Clinical Psychologist working for the NHS. Dr Schuck will be coming in to talk to students about the work she does as clinical psychology, looking at pathways into the profession and the personal skills and qualities needed to work in this challenging field.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/clinical-psychologist>

**Thursday 6th February 2020, 1240-1340 - Lunchtime Careers Talk, Chartered Surveying.** Walter Scott is a Chartered Surveyor at Bidwells and will be coming into to talk students about his profession and what being a Chartered Surveyor actually involves. Walter will be talking about the different pathways into the profession and the skills and qualities needed to be successful in the work place. This would be an excellent talk for anyone interested in the construction industry.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/commercial-residential-surveyor>

If anyone is interested in attending any of these talks please let me know.

Mr Steward  
Careers