

It is with great sadness as a school that we recognise the passing of Father Michael Teader, Parish Priest of St Felix Haverhill who died on Friday. At this sad time we remember him as both Parish Priest and before his calling to the Priesthood as Headteacher of St Felix school. As a school we will keep the Parish, Fr. Michael, his family and friends in our thoughts and prayers and be grateful for his life and all the contributions he made.

I wish all of our families, students and carers a relaxing and peaceful half term break when it comes.

Yours in Christ,
Imogen Senior

Best Performing Secondary Schools

Please see the links below, showing articles from the Bury Free Press on the GCSE results and A Level progress figures released by the DfE.

<https://www.buryfreepress.co.uk/news/government-figures-rank-schools-on-gcse-results-9098839/>

<https://www.buryfreepress.co.uk/news/new-figures-show-progress-rates-for-a-level-students-9098128/>

Public Speakers & Debaters

This academic year has been a great one so far for all our public speakers and debaters. In mid-November our Sixth Form team of Emily Bickers, Alfie Dry and Emily Black won the final of their English Speaking Union's public speaking competition at The Perse in Cambridge. Alfie has gone on to compete in the ESU Mace – a national debating competition. He and his Year 12 team-mates Dermot Gray and Aidan Mayall have won through two rounds already, their most recent motion being curricular equality for the arts and sciences in secondary schools. They will be competing in the regional final, ostensibly the national semi-final, in February. We do not yet know their topic.

Next week an entirely new team, from year 10 – Bridget Martyn as Speaker, Nancy King as Chair and Leonel Jose as Questioner – will be representing the school in the ESU Churchill public speaking competition at West Suffolk College on the subject of the commercialisation of Christmas. They, like all our speakers, have been working hard to prepare for what is always an absorbing and rewarding challenge.

In March we will be sending a sixth form team and a Year 9 team to Bury St Edmunds County Upper School to participate in the Rotary Club's local public speaking competition, at which we have won the coveted shield as well as individual team victories in past years. They are free to select their own subject matter, which makes this an unique opportunity for eager orators.

A new venture for us this year is also offered by the ESU, and it entails a two-minute introduction to three minutes of either a monologue or a duologue from any Shakespearean play. Martha Harvey is reciting Titania's speech to Oberon about the trouble caused by their arguments; Aoibheann Leighton-Scott is

presenting a monologue by Helena to Hermia, also from A Midsummer Night's Dream, which has also proved so popular with our two pairs: Helena Peachey and Lilly Greer; and Sophie Docking and Ella Wray, all of whom are ideally cast in this comedy as a taller blonde girl (Helena) tries to defend herself from a smaller brunette (Hermia).

I am sure you will join with me in wishing all of our speakers the very best of luck in their endeavours as they demonstrate not only their individual flair and courage, but the calibre of student we are so fortunate to teach at St. Benedict's.

Victoria James

Stop Press: Our year 10 team won the regional heat of the Churchill public speaking competition, and so will be representing St Benedict's in the regional final at Magdalene College, Cambridge on Saturday 7th March!



Clinical Psychology – Careers Talk

As a student who is aiming towards a career in the area of Psychology, I found Dr Shuck's talk incredibly helpful for highlighting career prospects in the field of Psychology. Clinical Psychology has come up as a potential course for university study, but I never understood what it truly entailed, in that regard it was very informative. Dr Schuck also highlighted the challenges that you may encounter when seeking a career in the field including the work ethic that you must maintain, as well as talking about the specific requirements such as grades and ideal post-graduate courses to enter the profession.

Ultimately, this talk and the others that take in place in school give me and other students the opportunity to engage with experts from many different professional fields and also helps to provide all students with the information needed to help plan for their futures in terms of what courses we may chose for GCSE, A-Level as well as University. I am excited by the prospect of Dr Shuck returning to St Benedict's to deliver a mock lecture in the not too distant future and appreciate the time professionals such as Dr Schuck dedicate to coming in to St Benedict's to help inform all students about potential study and career options.

Jack Maher, Year 13

PD Day

Please be reminded there is a PD Day on Friday 14 February.

School Term and Holiday Dates

2019 to 2020

Spring term

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)

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

Senior Kangaroo Results

Seven of our incredible mathematicians secured a Gold award in the Senior Maths Challenge in November. Consequently, they were amongst the 6200 students nationally to be invited to take part in the Senior Kangaroo Challenge! The paper was challenging, testing problem-solving skills in particular. The top 25% of scorers receive a Certificate of Merit with the remainder of candidates receiving a Certificate of Qualification.

We are really proud to report that our Maths superstars achieved the following results:

Certificates of Merit: Will Harper-Davies, Leo Saiu-Bell

Certificates of Qualification: Euan Dance, Alwin Jose, Alfie Dry, Emilia Barrett, Jerome Thomas

A fantastic achievement, congratulations to all!

British Mathematical Olympiad Results

Following his outstanding result in the Senior Maths Challenge, Alan John was invited to take part in the British Mathematical Olympiad Round One! Nationally, he was one of only 1000 students to sit the gruelling 3.5 hour paper consisting of six problems requiring full written solutions.

For his brilliant effort Alan was awarded a Certificate of Qualification. A superb achievement - well done!

Please see below for a sample question from the British Mathematical Olympiad:

Let ABC be a triangle. Let L be the line through B perpendicular to AB . The perpendicular from A to BC meets L at the point D . The perpendicular bisector of BC meets L at point P . Let E be the foot of the perpendicular from D to AC . Prove that triangle BPE is isosceles.

Miss Law

Weekly Attendance

Year	A	C	P	L	S	X
7	92.8%	95.7%	91.9%	88.5%	87.0%	97.4%
8	91.5%	97.7%	92.8%	92.3%	94.3%	93.3%
9	98.1%	96.8%	96.3%	97.6%	94.6%	97.8%
10	94.8%	92.3%	92.7%	92.2%	92.6%	90%
11	95.4%	95.2%	95.4%	90%	96.8%	95.4%