

We have made it to the end of a very long, very unusual half term and I am so pleased with how well our students have engaged with the return to school and all of the extra measures that we have in place. I would not have dared hope that we would reach the half term point with the successes that we have and I am so grateful for all of the hard work and efforts made by the entire team of staff and the commitment of our wonderful young people. I do sincerely hope that everyone is able to enjoy a well-earned rest over the half term week and that we can all look forward to a successful second half of the term.

Yours in Christ,

Imogen Senior

## Black History Month- October

In Key Stage 4 French lessons this week, we looked at this poem by Léopold Sedar Senghor (1906-2001). He was a Senegalese writer, poet and politician and the first President of the Republic of Senegal.

### À mon frère blanc

*Cher frère blanc,  
Quand **je suis né**, j'étais noir,  
Quand **j'ai grandi**, j'étais noir,  
Quand je suis au soleil, je suis noir,  
Quand je suis malade, je suis noir,  
Quand **je mourrai**, **je serai** noir.*

*Tandis que toi, homme blanc,  
Quand **tu es né**, tu étais rose,  
Quand **tu as grandi**, tu étais blanc,  
Quand tu vas au soleil, tu es rouge,  
Quand tu as froid, tu es bleu,  
Quand tu as peur, tu es vert,  
Quand tu es malade, tu es jaune,  
Quand **tu mourras**, **tu seras** gris.*

*Alors, de nous deux,  
Qui est l'homme de couleur ?*

Léopold SEDAR SENGHOR  
Qui est-il?

Né à Joal (au Sénégal) en 1906.  
Décédé à Verson (en France) en 2001.  
Homme politique, écrivain et poète sénégalais.  
A été le premier président de la République du Sénégal (1960-1980).  
A aussi été le premier Africain à siéger (to sit) à l'Académie française (The primary role of the Académie Française is to regulate the French language by determining standards of acceptable grammar and vocabulary, as well as adapting to linguistic change by adding new words and updating the meanings of existing ones.)

## Valerie Taylor: Parallel Computing

During Black History Month I have highlighted a number of successful pioneers in the field of Computer Science. Hopefully this is a small step towards addressing the miss-conception that the subject and industry is just for middle-class, white men. It definitely isn't! Valerie Taylor is another remarkable person of colour that I hope can inspire us all.



After earning her Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Valerie Taylor has become a star of the world of academic Computer Science, holding a number of senior positions including Director of Mathematics and Computer Science at the Argonne National Laboratory in the USA.

Dr Taylor's main area of research is parallel computing – allowing incredibly fast processing by harnessing tens, hundreds or even thousands of computers to work together.

Mr Beaumont

## PE Announcement:

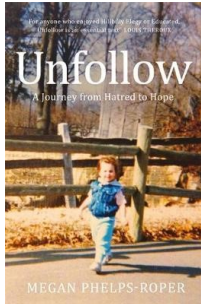
Well done to all pupils at St Benedict's for their efforts in PE lessons so far this year! It's great to see all the new year 7's in the St Benedict's PE kit.

Unfortunately the weather is turning and we will be teaching PE outside for the foreseeable future. Therefore, it is highly recommended that pupils have a waterproof jacket and extra layers to wear in PE lessons if we have bad weather. In regards to extra layers, pupils can wear sports leggings under their shorts/skort or wear tracksuit bottoms (St Benedict's PE kit or plain dark colour), dark colour long sleeve tops under their PE t-shirt and we highly recommend the St Benedict's PE hoodie to be worn over the top. Have a great half term break and we look forward to teaching some new sports when we are back!

Mrs Wright

## Book Review

I once read that the best way to improve the grades of your A Level students, is to encourage them to undertake additional reading relevant to the subjects they are studying. With this in mind, for the last two years I have asked Year 13 sociologists to read and then review a book of their choosing from a list of relevant fiction and non-fiction books. There is a range of books for them to choose from, covering a variety of different topics in sociology, such as crime and deviance, beliefs in society, education and health. When the students share their book reviews with the class, it is clear that they have benefitted from their experience. I also come away with more books on my 'to-read' list! Below is a brief synopsis of the books read by two Year 13 students.  
Mrs Shepherd

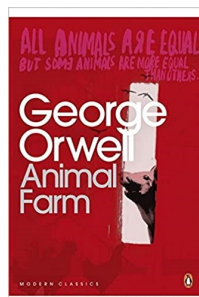


For the book review, I read 'Unfollow – A journey from Hatred to Hope', by Megan Phelps-Roper, the granddaughter of the leader of the Westboro Baptist church. It follows her as she recounts stories from her childhood in the extremely homophobic and anti-Semitic church, as well as how she eventually left, leaving her family and friends behind. I enjoyed this book because it gives a completely different point of view of the church than what is usually depicted in the media; it gives a view of family and community rather than a church preaching offensive messages. This book relates to sociology because it focuses on different branches of the Christian denomination and how they fit into society. This is particularly relevant to the beliefs topic that we study in Year 13.

Catherine Peak

Animal Farm is a satirical novella by George Orwell, detailing the struggles of the animals of Animal Farm. The animals revolt against their human captor, Mr Jones, and led by the pigs Napoleon and Squealer, take control. They hope to create a world of equality, happiness and freedom. However, the euphoria of control over their lives does not last long. The animals find themselves in a fate worse than where they started due to the exploitation and manipulation by their new dictators, the pigs. This book relates to Marxist theory in sociology, as it perfectly encompasses the exploitation of the proletariat by the bourgeoisie; the manipulation of the animals creates a false class consciousness allowing the pigs to repeatedly use and abuse them.

Sophie Bourne



## Applications year 7 2021/22

Please be aware that the deadline for applications into year 7 in September 2021 is 31 October 2020. Please ensure you have completed the on line form CAF1 via the Suffolk County Council website and also the SIF (Supplementary Information Form) which needs to come back to us at the school. The SIF can be found on our website using this link: <https://www.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk/admissions>

## PD Day

Please be reminded that Monday 2 November is a PD Day students return after half term on Tuesday 3 November.

## Cross Country





## Suffolk Schools Cross Country

Since our return to school in September, Covid-19 restrictions have effectively put the kibosh on after school PE fixtures. With this in mind, it was brilliant that the Suffolk School Games Cross Country Race could still go ahead, albeit in a slightly different format. Schools across the county were invited to compete by designing their own courses, holding their own races and then submitting the times electronically so that the results from all the schools could be centrally collated and compared.

The PE department made the most of our flat and extensive playing field to design 800m and 1200m loops to make up the required distances: and were pleased to make good use of the white course marker poles gifted by the Friends of St Benedict's last year. The first races were held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October for Year 7, 10 and Sixth Form. It was wonderful to see so many keen Year 7 students mustering in the middle of the field and warming up before toeing the line for their 2400m race which comprised two long laps.

Charlie Oxborrow set off like a train and maintained a fantastic pace to lead from start to finish, narrowly breaking 10 minutes to clock 9:58. Behind him, Seth Gaw ran an excellent race to finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> with a time of 10:45, with Thabo Nyambe finishing strongly to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 10:56. In this revised format, the girls ran with the boys and Violette Davy ran superbly to finish in 4<sup>th</sup> place overall in 11:16, 30 seconds in front of Ciara Evans (9<sup>th</sup> overall) in 11:33 and Emma Payne (11<sup>th</sup> overall) in 12:00. All of the Year 7 students ran superbly and there were some fantastic individual battles with Eva Torfin narrowly finishing in front of Henry Dobson for 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> places: and with only one second separating Vadims Kocetovs and Niamh Roberts for 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

While the Year 7s were running the Year 10 boys and girls were anxiously waiting for it to be their turn, especially as they had to complete on short and three long loops (4400m). The boys race was perhaps the most keenly competitive of the race series with William Reid, Finn O'Donnell and Nathan White all vying to lead the early pace. However, on this occasion William Reid proved to be the strongest of the triumvirate. Over the one short and three long laps he eventually built up a commanding lead to finish in 18:35 (which placed him second in the combined Year 10 and 11 results, as Conor Chacksfield, the sole Year 11 runner clocked 18:29 in a separate race on the next day). Finn O'Donnell looked strong in the final stages and closed the gap to finish in 18:54. Former school cross country champion Nathan White was disappointed to be out of the medals on this occasion, but is keen to regain fitness to regain his title!

Florence Scott ran like a gazelle to claim first place in the girls' race, and 7<sup>th</sup> overall in a time of 21:46. Clara Fildes showed true resilience to recover from an early fall on a tight corner near the K5 and K6 block to finish second in 26:12, with Jessica Woodland just over 2 minutes behind in 28:16. The PE department were thrilled to see so many girls from Year 10 enjoying the race and being proud of their achievements.

The final race of the day (5600m) was contested by the sixth form students, which was spiced up by the inclusion of some elite international athletes. Leon Gielgold, fuelled by Niederegger marzipan from his home town of Lubeck in Germany, ran a brilliant race to take first place in 25:05. A few minutes behind Dawid Mikulski and Luc Landenberger had an epic battle for bronze and silver, with Luc catching Dawid on the final lap, only to see Dawid dig deep and surge ahead to put thirteen seconds between them as they finished in 29:03 and 29:21 respectively. Caterina Piccinno, from Italy, was the sole competitor in the girls' race and showed great pacing skills to finish in a creditable time of 36:16.

The following day, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, it was turn of the Year 8, 9 and 11 students. The entry list for the Year 8 race was the biggest of any of the year groups., with Kuba Kluczynski racing to the front and maintaining his position to finish in 15:31, with Joseph Rogers finishing fast for 2<sup>nd</sup> in 15:43 and Harrison Davy romping home in 3<sup>rd</sup> position in 16:09. Peggy-Rose Claydon ran strongly for first girl, in an excellent time of 17:01 (after narrowly edging in front of Thady Ginders-Coxhall in a sprint finish) with Nancy Bailey claiming second place in 18:27 and Hannah Gargett third in 19:16. The Year 8 students showed great team spirit encouraging each other and running with some of the tail end runners as they approached the finish, demonstrating what makes St Benedict's such a special school.

As the sunset began to creep in the Year 9s set off for the final race of the two days of competition. In the boys race Harry Fasey used the strength gained from his swimming training to lead from the starting gun to finish in 14:44, with Ben Freese in second place with a time of 17:30. However, arguably the finest performance of the two day festival of running came from Phoebe Harpur-Davies who claimed second place overall in the Year 9 race in a time of 15:11. Hannah Gargett and Olivia Whinney were neck and neck throughout the run, but Hannah won the sprint to the finishing funnel by one second to finish in times of 19:16 and 19:17 respectively.

At a time when team sport fixtures and competitions are few and far between, it was fantastic to see so many students making the most of their natural talent and showing their resilience to push themselves as hard as they could in these races. We have submitted the times to the Suffolk Schools Athletics Association and are looking forward to seeing how we compare with other schools in Bury St Edmunds and across Suffolk. A huge thank you to the PE department for making this event possible and to all the other teachers who gave up their free time to help marshal the course and support the students.

Mr Murphy

## Charity Hair Cut

An end of half term haircut. Mrs Senior has ended the half term with a drastic haircut. Mrs Berry, Mrs Bergin and Miss Law all chopped off a ponytail each before a trip to the hairdressers to make the end result more presentable. The 30cm ponytails will be donated to the Little Princess Trust that makes wigs and hairpieces for children who have lost their natural hair.

The video is on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MrsSeniorStBen1> and if anyone wishes to make a donation to The Little Princess Trust to help turn the hair into a lovely wig, there is a Just Giving page set up at: <https://t.co/jA4g0gkP7H?amp=1>

Finally

Before



After

