

## Anti Bullying Week



Next week is Anti-Bullying Week and St-Benedict's will be joining 100's of school's participating in odd socks day. Odd Socks day is a day to celebrate what makes each of us unique, a time to celebrate individuality. So I encourage all students, staff and parents to join in and wearing odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique and special. This week is an opportunity to raise awareness of bullying to our school community to ensure students understand that we are all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying

Mr Taylor

## Sixth Form Information Evening

I am very happy to announce that we will hold our **virtual Sixth Form Information Evening on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 7pm-8:30pm**. There will be a talk by me and Mrs Senior, interviews with current sixth formers about life in the sixth form and videos from each of the 20 A level courses we have on offer at our sixth form.

Year 11 students will have the chance to experience a **sixth form taster day on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December** where they will have the opportunity to be taught A level lessons and gain a deeper insight into what subjects they would prefer to study in sixth form. A formal letter and a Microsoft Form will be sent to all Year 11 students and to their parents/carers outlining the day in more detail.

I wish you all a very lovely weekend.

Mr Richmond

Head of Sixth Form

## How to stay cyber secure

It's difficult to imagine how we would have functioned this year without our smartphones, laptops, and the services we access online. They're an essential part of our personal and professional lives. Now as we move into the run up to Christmas, yes sorry I did mention it, and being in lockdown, yes sorry I mentioned that too, it's an ideal time to make sure you are safe online. It's important to be aware of the steps you can take to protect your devices and prevent unauthorised access or loss, as well as helping your children to do this too. Below are three links to useful advice for yourselves and your children on making sure you are protected while living your life online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-to-cyber-security/>  
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-to-personal-information2/>  
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/a-parents-guide-to-privacy-settings/>

## Times Table Rockstars

The Times Tables Rockstars Battle of the Bands Maths competition took place during October Half Term. We were pleased to see so many students taking part and getting such amazing scores.

The results are in, and the Year Group that got the most points were... Year 7!

The winning classes per Year Group are: 7H, 8M, 9M and 10A, we hope you enjoyed your cookies.

The winning students per class have been issued with their chocolate prize and certificate this week.

Congratulations to all of the winners, and well done to all students that took part.

Times Tables Rockstars is a resource which can be used by students all year round. Keep an eye out for more competitions in the future.

Mrs Eastwood and the Maths Team

## CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



**Shout out to all budding artists, photographers, designers !**  
we need you to get inspired and design the school Christmas Card using any of your favourite media - the card can be collage, paint, mixed media, print, pencil or a photograph and you will work on card or paper up to A4 size.

Using your design skills you will ensure that your card reflects the theme of Christmas in keeping with the values of the school. Why not have a go and take the chance for your work to be published as a real card this Christmas.

Come and see us in the Art Department to discuss your ideas, if you need inspiration or materials to experiment and work with.

All entries to Mrs Chacksfield or Miss Stemp by Thursday 26th November

## Astronomy News

Although the current restrictions prevent us holding an 'Astronomy Evening', it does not put a complete stop to the school's Astronomy Group. We are continuing to keep our supporters up to date with what is observable in the night sky: constellations, the Moon, the planets, meteors and the ISS.

Now at the clocks have gone back it means that our night sky darkens earlier and earlier, which is good news for those of us who are not night owls! Although the southern constellations are relatively faint, there is an interesting aquatic theme to them; for example, the main constellations are Pisces (the Fishes), Aquarius (the Water Bearer), Capricornus (the Sea Goat), Cetus (the Whale) and the long, winding constellation of Eridanus (the River Eridanus).

Stand outside looking south and to your left, rising in the East, will be the brilliant red-orange Mars (the Red Planet); then move to the south-west and you will see the white pinpoint of light that is Jupiter, with a fainter Saturn to its left. If you are an early riser, check out Venus in the east (the Morning Star). If you are really lucky you might even spot the fainter Mercury, just above the horizon before sunrise. The latest edition of our monthly Night Sky News is available via the school's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Next week (14-22 November) is National Astronomy Week which, this year, will feature Mars in daily 'virtual events' via Zoom. Check out the schedule at...

<https://astronomyweek.org.uk/naw-events-schedule>

St Benedict's is a member of the **Society for Popular Astronomy** and receives regular newsletters regarding astronomical events and information. If you would like to be included on the mailing list for these, as well as receiving our own monthly Night Sky News, please contact [JGregory@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:JGregory@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

## Year 7 Head Lice.

Thank you for ensuring your son and or daughter arrives in school wearing the correct uniform. If you are at all unsure about our uniform expectations, please do visit the school web site for details. Please be aware that we are seeing a lot of jewellery being worn by both boys and girls which is not part of our uniform policy. The rules are one stud ear ring per lobe and one small necklace, if it has a religious symbol on it, such as a cross.

Unfortunately, we have also been made aware of an outbreak of head lice in Year 7. Please check your son and/or daughter's hair regularly and treat with a recommended product available from chemists. With social distancing it is surprising that we are seeing outbreaks of head lice, however this is the situation. Your support in both these areas is much appreciated.

Mrs Smart

## Art competition



Attention all year 7-9's You will all be taking part in an art contest inspired by BLM and the winners will receive **PRIZE MONEY!**



By Alfred Conteh



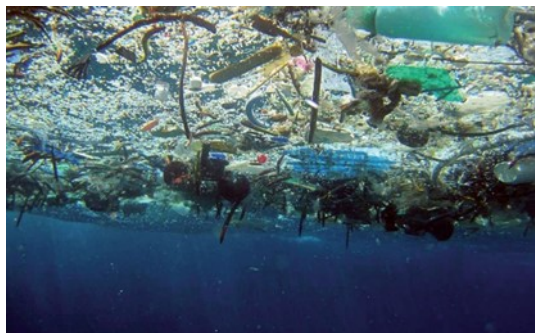
By Jamaal Barber

If you are year 10+ and wish to enter our competition just send an email to [H.L.Clarke-Sutton@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:H.L.Clarke-Sutton@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk) ( Henry Clarke-Sutton). You can do the artwork during your own time or during school when you can.

The year 13 business class are running an art competition for the whole school to participate in. This event will take place from the 23<sup>rd</sup> November till 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The year 7, 8 and 9 will be taking part during their art lessons at some point in this two week period. For year 10 upwards, they may participate in their own time and submit any work to Henry Clarke-Sutton [H.L.Clarke-Sutton@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:H.L.Clarke-Sutton@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

The art work is all based around equality, diversity and the black lives matter movement as it is a very relevant subject. All artwork will be judged by Mrs Chacksfield and the art department. The winner will be announced on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and awarded with a cash prize kindly donated by 6<sup>th</sup> form students, art department and parents. A proportion of the money donated will be donated to a black lives matter charity.

Best of luck,  
Year 13 business team



This is what we as destructive humans have driven: a species oblivious to the danger and damage we have inflicted on our incredible, intriguing world.

Our lunches are wrapped in tin foil, and cling film, and plastic bags. Our waste is dumped in landfills, on the field and in the ocean. Our use of plastic is contributing to the loss of 150 species each day, decreasing the 10 years we have to prevent permanent damage due to climate change and causing over 100 million marine animals to die each year from plastic alone.

## How can our lunch waste be prevented?

We live in a fairly affluent area where, when we can, we are able to prevent the promotion of plastic production through petitions and taking part in elections such as deciding who our mayor, MP and Prime Minister are. Some people think that their individual actions to combat climate change are a hindrance and a colossal waste of their time and money. But if every one of us had that mindset then if we all threw away one bag of crisps each then that would be 7.8 billion pieces of rubbish. If every one of us has that mindset then who decides who runs our parliament? If every one of us had that mindset then who signs petitions to create a more just world? Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.



Sea levels are rising rapidly, currently increasing by 3 inches every ten years. The rising water level is mostly due to a combination of meltwater from glaciers and ice sheets and thermal expansion of seawater as it warms. This is partly because of the manufacturing of the plastic packaging that we use when preparing our packed lunches. In everyday life you can reduce the amount of plastic that you use by buying a stainless steel water bottle and lunch box or potato skin packaging to put your sandwich in. You can also buy locally produced essentials such as meats, vegetables and fruit from the Bury St Edmund's market stalls every Wednesday and Saturday 8.30am to 4pm despite the lockdown that we are currently under.

Most people think that climate change is something that is lingering and loitering far off in the future. But it is not. At this rate climate change is irreversible in less than ten years. To echo the words of Sir David Attenborough "The future of humanity and indeed, all life on Earth, now depends on us."

*Fionnghuala S Leighton-Scott year 10*

## Term Dates

### Autumn Term

Ends: Friday 18 December 2020

School Holiday: Monday 21 December 2020 to Friday 1 January 2021

### Spring Term

Starts: Monday 4 January 2021

Students Return: Tuesday 5 January 2021

Half Term: Monday 15 February 2021 to Friday 19 February 2021

Ends: Friday 26 March 2021

School Holiday: Monday 29 March 2021 to Friday 9 April 2021

(Includes Bank Holidays)

PD Day(s): 4 January 2021 and 12 February 2021

### Summer Term

Starts: Monday 12 April 2021

Half Term: Monday 31 May 2021 (May Bank Holiday) to Friday 4 June 2021

Ends: Tuesday 20 July 2021