

Maths News

Thank you to our year seven parents and carers who came to the tutor evening last Thursday. Tutors reported that it was a very positive evening enabling both parents and students to ask questions and share first experiences of St Benedict's. One of the highlights was definitely the Kingswood trip!

We have now seen our first cohort through the new 9-1 Maths GCSE and have had a chance to reflect on how our students tackled the changes. It is very pleasing to see how well our students did this year but although we are confident following this year we are not complacent! One of the useful documents the exam board publishes is the Chief Examiner's report which gives a summary and reflection on how the 378,985 candidates sitting the exam found the papers. It makes very interesting reading and I recommend you have a look. There is a copy on the VLE under maths/news. Here is a link to the right area.

<https://vle.st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk/subjects/maths/Lists/News/AllItems.aspx>

Mrs Reid

We have our year 11 into Sixth form taster day on Thursday at the USC for Year 11. This is a very important day when year 11 consider their options for next year. It may seem very early in the academic year for such a day but the time goes very quickly from now on and it is better if students feel more settled about where they will be next year.

Examination Results

St Benedict's Catholic school is regularly one of the top performing schools in Suffolk. This year we are pleased to announce a figure of 74% for grades 4 or more in English and Maths and a progress 8 score of 0.49, which have just been published in the recent government school league tables. These figures position us the top performing school in Bury St Edmunds and the third highest school in Suffolk. The Progress 8 figure essentially means that students at this school make about half a grade more progress in all subjects compared to the progress achieved in an average school. St Benedict's is the only school in Bury St Edmunds that has a Progress 8 score which is deemed by the school league tables as above average. It means quite simply that pupils of all abilities do better here than they would at another school. Our results at A level are also impressive. This year our students achieved an A-C success rate of 82% of entries at grades A-C rate and an average grade per entry of C+.

Bury Engineering Experience 2017

Over the October half term holiday a small group of our Year 9 and 10 students will be taking part in the Bury engineering experience held at Culford School. The event provides young people the opportunity to explore their interest in a career in engineering. Students will work with professional engineers from local and national companies such as Thales Engineering and Jaguar Landrover. They are set a design brief and working with other students from local secondary schools have to design, make and present their final prototype in front of an audience. Good luck to Ania Mil, Emily Bickers, Rose Davy, Tay Lennox, Stephen Herlihy, George Humphreys, James Bullen, Oliver Stopher and Pierre Hornsblow.

Mr Dragan

These results reflect the hard work and determination of all those in our community – staff, pupils and parents. At St Benedict's we all work together in a caring and supportive environment that brings out the best in pupils. Excellent teaching, high quality guidance and effective advice are just some of the ingredients that makes St Benedict's the successful school that we are rightly proud of. Please feel free to look at the detailed breakdown given below of this year's and previous years' results.

A quick reminder on the mock examinations

Just a reminder that Year 11 mock examinations start on Monday the 6th November and run for a fortnight. We will be sending a letter with further detail and the exact timetable shortly. Please note that this is slightly earlier than normal in the school year and students should already be in the process of preparing for these important examinations. In our experience students who perform well in the mock exams go on to perform well in the real exams in the summer. They should therefore be seen as essential preparation for the June examinations. Please encourage students to use the next few weeks wisely.

John D'Mello

Sponsored Walk

The total raised so far by the Sponsored Walk is an extremely generous £2,272 – thank you! You can donate on ParentPay right up to Friday, 20th October at 4pm when the account will be closed. God bless for your generosity of spirit.

John D'Mello

Dan Wright



Vacancy

Examinations Invigilators

Salary: £7.89 per hour plus holiday allowance
Job Term: No guaranteed hours
Appointment: Casual
Place of work: St Benedict's Catholic School, Upper School Centre

We are looking for reliable and responsible persons who can remain calm and work well under pressure to act as invigilators for our pupils during external exams, mock exams and controlled assessments. This is a casual post with variable days and times, primarily in May, June, November and December. For further information contact ckennedy@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk

DT Contribution

Many thanks to all parents who have made a financial contribution to the DT materials fund. So far we have purchased both graphic and resistant materials for project work and new workshop aprons. If you wish to make a contribution please use the school's ParentPay system. Many thanks for your support.

Mr Drugan

National Poetry Day

This year the theme for National Poetry Day was Freedom. In celebration of this wonderful event, all Year 7 and 8 students were asked to write poems around this theme during tutor time. We have all been impressed by the engagement of the pupils and the wide range of ideas that have arose from the activity. Here are just a few that have been picked out:

Year 7

"Freedom is strong and courageous
The colour of green and blue
The joy and happiness
That makes us all free"

Year 8

"Freedom is where
You can be
Who you are
Where no-one is mean"

8MUR

Freedom
Freedom to run
Without being caught.
Freedom to see
Without being blind
Freedom to speak
Without being silent
This is freedom

These were completed within a 20 minute slot. Thank you to all the teachers who facilitated the event, and thank you to our wonderful students who continue to inspire us.

Mrs Wray

Sporting Highlights

Year 7 & 8 netball vs Mildenhall

Year 7s had a brilliant game again last week and beat Mildenhall 12-4. Some great shooting from Bea Savage and Claire Jones and brilliant defence from Heidi Thornton. Well done girls!

Year 8s had a great game too and drew 8-8. They played a brilliant first half, but errors were made in the second half allowing Mildenhall to bring it back and finish on a draw. Some great play from Libby Moore and Maddie Green.

Year 9 & 10 Netball tournament at Thomas Gainsborough

Both teams played well at the tournament and there was good determination and commitment shown by all. Both teams missed out on moving through to the next round, year 10s only missed out by points difference with another team. Some great play from Lydia Jeynes in year 9 and brilliant defending from Anna Wall in year 10. Next game is Tuesday 17th October vs Sam Ward and Mildenhall.

Miss Harris

6th Form Open Evening

Thursday 2 November 2017

Upper School Centre 7.30 pm

Half term Monday 23 October 2017 to Friday 27 October 2017

Christmas holiday Wednesday 20 December 2017 to Tuesday 2 January 2018

Cake sale Thursday 19 October

Year 7 Lower School Centre

Year 9 Upper School Centre