



**St. Benedict's High School**

# NEWSLETTER

*Winter 2021*



Follow us on Twitter: [@stbenedictsren](https://twitter.com/stbenedictsren)



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our Christmas 2021 edition of St. Benedict's News. This year has again been different from previous years. Covid-19 has continued to present us with difficulties and challenges. However, thanks to the commitment of staff and the hard work of pupils we still have had a successful year with lots to be proud of.

I am delighted to be sharing with you a compilation of some of the many activities, successes and achievements of our young people this session.

Particular highlights include:

- The outstanding SQA exam results achieved by our senior pupils in their recent exams recognising the commitments and effort of our young people and school staff.
- The school's development of approaches to remote learning being recognised by Education Scotland as 'sector leading' through a National Review. Our excellent practice was shared with all Establishments across Scotland.
- Our strong links with local parishes, including the outstanding charitable contributions made by our school community.
- Improvements in standards of uniform, further developing our sense of belonging and pride in our community.
- The school being chosen to feature on BBC National News regarding coping with COVID procedures - over 5 million people watched! Check out our Twitter feed for a short clip!

These events and many others are captured in this newsletter.

I welcome your comments and any new information which we can share in future newsletters. I hope you enjoy!

Alan Taylor

Alan Taylor  
Head Teacher





# Exam Success 2021

The school community recently celebrated some of its best levels of attainment since the school opened. Hard work has certainly paid off!

## S4 Year Group

Percentage of pupils achieving five or more awards at SCQF 5: 53% (47% in 2020).

Thirty-eight pupils achieved seven National 5 awards. Thirteen pupils achieved all A grades passes.

## S5 Year Group (based on S4 roll)

Percentage of pupils achieving five or more awards at Higher level: 31% (24% in 2020).

Percentage of pupils achieving three or more awards at Higher level: 46% (40% in 2020).

Percentage of pupils achieving one or more awards at Higher level: 77% (59% in 2020).

Twenty pupils achieved five Highers.

Seven pupils achieved five A awards at Higher level.

## S6 Year Group (based on S4 roll)

Percentage of pupils achieving five or more awards at SCQF Level 6: 44% (40% in 2020).



Fourth Year Duxes  
Sarah Hailey and Junior Okorodudu



Fifth Year Duxes  
Abby McLaughlin and Gavin Stewart



# Pupil Leadership

## Head Boy and Head Girl



**Head Boy**      **Head Girl**  
Gavin Stewart   Abby McLaughlin

## House Captains

### **St. Josephine Bakhita**

S3 Cole McNally and Niamh Armour  
S4 Lucy Quinn and Eve Muir  
S6 Martin Crawford and Lauren Edgar

### **St. Oscar Romero**

S3 Sophie Chambers and Saoirse Dunn  
S4 Emma Irvine and Nikki Lavery  
S6 Casey Griffin and Chloe Chambers

### **St. Teresa**

S3 K. Burns, Rachel Kelly  
and Katie Cavanagh  
S4 Murron McGuire, Olivia Kinnear,  
Kaitlyn Moran and Karis Smith  
S6 Abbie Scally and Stuart Allan

### **St. Maximilian Kolbe**

S3 Christopher-Luke Davidson  
and Annalise Muggins  
S4 Abigail Coyne and Ben Templeton  
S6 Mia Templeton and Andrew Edvaldsson





## School Captains



### **Faith and Charity**

Seun Afolabi, Emelia Druce-Flynn and Luke Russell

### **Peer Support**

Ellie Levett, Olivia Loughlin and Madeleine McClure

### **Sports**

Morgan McGowan and Molly Ryan

### **Wellbeing**

Lucy Blair, Sophie McGrorty, Jessica Noel-Laverty and Adam Ferguson



# School Uniform – Dressing for Excellence

Uniform is an important part of our school identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and allows students to feel pride in their school. It also helps prepare pupils for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for work.

Over the past three sessions, there has been a significant improvement in our standards of uniform. An increasing number of pupils are now wearing blazers and I am delighted to report that 96% of pupils are now wearing all black footwear. A big thank you to you as parents/carers for supporting this.

Our main driving force for striving towards 100% of pupils wearing black shoes is to ensure equity for all : that no pupil or parent feel pressured to wear/buy an expensive pair of “converse style” trainers. This was highlighted by our pupils through our pupil voice.

Our improved standards of uniform is also coinciding with our increasing pattern of attainment, which I would suggest is partly connected.

The wearing of school uniform:

- Is invaluable in conveying a sense of community, wellbeing and purpose.
- Indicates a sense of pride in the school and helps pupils to form positive attitudes to the school and their school work.
- Protects children from the harmful effects of social distinction and competitive dressing.
- Promotes the school’s identity in their community, with our immediate neighbours, local business and industry.
- Assists staff in the task of supervising pupils and keeping unwelcome visitors out of the school.

A reminder of our school uniform requirements. St Benedict’s High School’s policy is that all of our pupils are required to wear the school uniform.

The School Uniform consists of :

- A white school shirt/blouse, and school tie which is visible at all times. S4, S5 and S6 will wear the Senior tie.
- Tailored black trousers or black skirt - leggings, jeans, denim and tracksuits, are not acceptable under any circumstances.
- A school blazer with badge.
- Comfortable footwear (black in colour).
- Plain black jumper or cardigan (optional). Black school jumpers should be of an unbranded style that allows the school tie to be clearly seen (v-neck). Hoodies are not allowed.





# Chaplaincy

The theme for this year's Catholic Education Week, 'Celebrating and Worshipping', was designed to help us reflect upon how our schools are communities of faith and learning, characterised by our celebration and worship.

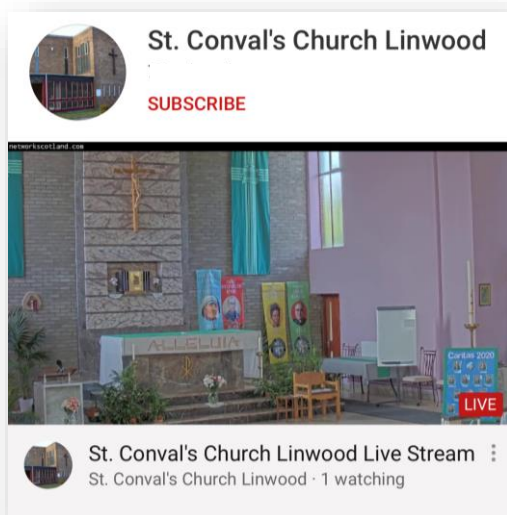
We can list many things that make a Catholic school distinctive:

- learning is shaped using Gospel values;
- prayer, worship and religious celebrations are integral to the life of the school;
- we promote social justice and serve our communities;
- our school values of respect, love, trust, tolerance and integrity encapsulate our Catholic ethos.

The circumstances of the last two years posed real challenges for so many in our schools, parish and wider communities. We saw the closure of our schools and parishes and worked through the tentative attempts to reopen and reimagine how we could function safely in an ever-changing landscape. As with any enforced change, we were put into a situation where we could reflect upon what we had lost and come to value it all the more.

Celebration and worship is such a big part of what we do and of who we are in St Benedict's. Prayer and the sacramental life of our school is absolutely central to who we are and to how we grow as a community. It is also why the links we have with our associated primaries and parishes are so important to us. The St. Benedict's cluster works in close collaboration to enhance the vision of Catholic education.

Over the past two years we have found innovative ways to celebrate and worship in St. Benedict's as we were not allowed to gather as a school community. We have live-streamed Masses and pre-recorded services which are broadcast in every classroom. We begin every day with the school prayer in all classes and we celebrate Mass every Friday lunchtime in our school Oratory.





We are challenged to use our talents for the service of others and we demonstrate this in a variety of ways in St. Benedict's:

- Our annual foodbank collection for the Trussell Trust to help the most needy in our community.
- We participate in "Light up a life" during advent to remember our loved ones who have passed away, whilst raising funds for St. Vincent's Hospice.
- Several R.E. classes have sponsored children through Mary's Meals.
- Thirty-nine of our S6 pupils are participating in the Caritas programme where they carry out 40 hours of school and parish faith-related activities.
- Over the past year, we have assisted St. Conval's Parish in providing 200 meals and toiletries to needy families on a weekly basis. More than 100 families receive Christmas dinner through the project.
- During Lent we support SCIAF by carrying out a variety of fundraising events in addition to the Wee Box appeal.
- S6 organise a Santa Dash which the whole school participates in. This year the money raised will be split between, St. Vincent's Hospice, Scottish Association for Mental Health and our Malawi partnership.
- Unfortunately two partnership visits with St. Patrick's in Malawi have been cancelled due to travel restrictions, but we continue to support the boys as best we can. We provided sanitising stations for the school and we are currently preparing their Christmas parcels.

In St. Benedict's we are growing in our learning and growing in our love of God and neighbour through celebration and worship and we very thankful to our local clergy and for the tremendous support we receive from them.

In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, during his visit in 2010, "A good school provides a rounded education for the whole person. And a good Catholic school, over and above this, should help all its students to become saints."

We will continue to remember you in our prayers and we ask that you remember us.







M.V.P.

In October this year, our S5 students had the amazing opportunity to participate in two days intense training to become MVP mentors. We selected 33 students who demonstrated the values and work ethic for such an endeavour.



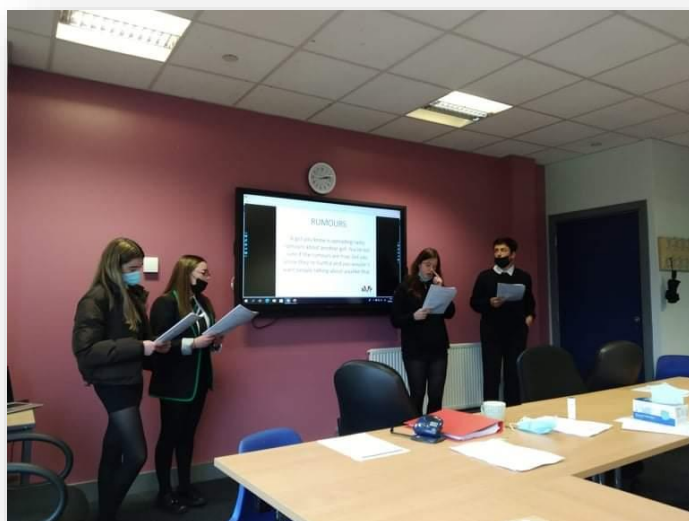
### What is MVP?

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) is a peer mentoring programme that gives young people the chance to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin gender-based violence, bullying and other forms of violence.

It addresses a range of behaviours including name-calling, controlling behaviour and harassment, and uses a 'by-stander' approach where individuals are not looked on as potential victims or perpetrators but as empowered and active bystanders with the ability to support and challenge their peers in a safe way.

The mentors have delivered the first two core lessons to all of second year and will be continuing their work in the new year. Well done mentors!

Here are some of our talented young people discussing the training and practising their lessons.





# Staff News

Hello! My name is Mrs Macdonald, and I am an N.Q.T. within the Religious Education Department. This year I am teaching core Religious Education to pupils in S1 to S5, and I am delighted that I have been given the opportunity to work with and get to know so many of our pupils.

I am very passionate about my subject as I feel it helps us make sense of the world around us. It has been great to learn about the wide range of beliefs and views of our pupils in St Benedict's, and I'm pleased to be part of such an inclusive community. Despite the challenging year our pupils have had, they continue to live out our school values daily. I am very much looking forward to continuing to support pupils to discover their own gifts and talents next term.

In my free-time I like going on long walks with my basset hound Bertie or going to the cinema with my husband. This has kept me grounded and relaxed during a busy first term! I am thoroughly enjoying myself so far at St. Benedict's and already feel settled and welcome within the school.

Have a wonderful, peaceful Christmas – find some time to relax and celebrate!

Best wishes for 2022.



My name is Mr Graham and I'm new to the Maths Department. This year I have had the pleasure to teach pupils from across all year groups, and it has been fantastic to get to know so many of the wonderful students in our school! The pupils and staff have been so welcoming in my first few months here and I already feel like a valued part of the school community.

Every morning I look forward to coming to St Benedict's to teach the best subject to the pupils of the best school. The challenge and intrigue of Maths at all levels is something I relish presenting to my classes, and no problem has been too tricky for the hard-working and devoted students of St. Benedict's.

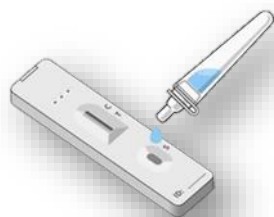
I recently had the joy of seeing the values our students uphold every day be put into action on the S3 CANI trip to Dumfries House. Watching their confidence and communication skills grow over the four days was amazing to be a part of, and I myself found that I too reaped similar benefits from my experiences collaborating with the students in a variety of activities and workshops. To date the trip has been one of the greatest experiences of my career, and I am excited to take part in further trips in the future! (Note to self for next time: don't wear a suit for an assault course ...)

I wish everyone reading this the most well-deserved and restful break over the holidays. However you are spending it I hope it is peaceful and I hope you find time to rest and recharge before the new term in January.

The Health and Safety of all members of our school community is of paramount importance. We have a number of arrangements in place to stop the spread of the virus. These are regularly evaluated.

Here is a summary of some of our key mitigations :

- Pupils and staff sanitise on entry / exit to the building.
- Pupils sanitise on entry to classrooms before cleaning their work area with spray.
- Pupils and staff wear masks when in the school building. The only exception is when they are having their lunch or snack.
- We notify parents/carers when there has been a positive case.
- We encourage pupils to access the vaccine.
- We encourage staff and pupils to take lateral flow tests on a regular basis and record results. These are available for pick up at the school office. This is crucial especially with the recent increase with the Omicron variant.
- Pupils are allocated specific areas for lunchtime ensuring they are in a year group bubbles.
- There is a one-way system ensuring pupils are not face to face when moving between classes.
- We encourage pupils to socially distance as much as possible.
- We ensure there is appropriate ventilation through the opening of windows and doors.
- We regularly remind pupils through assemblies and signage throughout the school, of the importance of following all of the mitigations above.
- Staff also follow the above mitigations and have adapted their learning and teaching approaches.
- I would ask for your continued support and urge you to inform the school of any positive COVID cases in your family bubble.





# Digital Learning



Over the past 20 months, we have continued to develop our digital learning approaches.

Our main platforms continue to be Satchel One and Microsoft teams. Satchel One provides both yourself and your child with details of homework issued and submission dates.

Microsoft TEAMS is a pupil learning platform - resources linked to their daily lessons and courses are made available for them to access.

Our website has further information and instructions.



# Homework

Homework and home study continues to be a crucial part of learning.

As a guide your child should be working for approximately these times per week:

- S1-S3: 5 hours
- S4: 6 hours
- S5/6: 7 hours

Throughout the year there is a supported study programme for senior pupils, and we have recently introduced a weekly lunchtime Homework Club for S1- S3 pupils. Please encourage your child to attend.





# School Library

The School Library has resumed normal service this term, we are open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 8am-4pm, including at lunchtimes and break times for pupils to browse, borrow and read books or use the library space as a place to study.

The library's new librarians are Mr Kerr (on Mondays) and Miss Thompson (on Wednesdays and Thursdays). You can [browse the library's physical collections by searching our catalogue](#). You can also [browse Renfrewshire Libraries extensive e-resources \(e-books and audio-books\)](#) which are accessible to staff, pupils and parents.

The library has run the following thematic book displays this term:

- Refugees
- Black History Month
- Halloween
- Remembrance
- Climate Change
- Christmas



You can view our corresponding e-book collections on these themes by visiting the [school library's webpage](#) and scrolling down to the book displays box for the links.

In terms of new stock, we have enhanced our Manga collection, our holdings on climate change (non-fiction texts and also Cli-Fi) and have started building a 'words for wellbeing' collection which will help pupils manage their mental health and wellbeing by reading non-fiction and fiction.

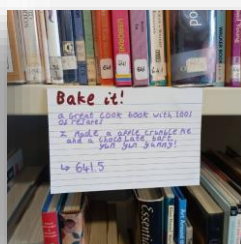
We have also run several events over term which pupils have enjoyed:

- Manga Club (every Monday lunchtime)
- Book Club (every Thursday lunchtime)
- Halloween Spooky Read-Aloud
- Halloween Creative Writing Competition (congratulations to Robyn Gray for winning this and a big thank you to everyone else who took part)
- Climate Change Creative Writing Competition (ongoing at time of writing)
- World War One Poetry Read-Aloud (for Remembrance Day)
- For Christmas, we will run a book display and pupils will be able to select a "present" from under the library Christmas tree – a mystery library book for the holidays - wrapped up with only a three-word tag identifying what it is about!

We will also be hosting a Library Christmas Party at lunchtime on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of December.

You can follow the school library on Twitter [@stbenedictslib](#) and/or Instagram

[@stbenedicts\\_library](#) to find out about the beautiful books we have and events etc. going on in the library.





# Extra-Curricular Clubs

In September, we launched our extra-curricular clubs for S1 and S2 pupils. These ranged from sports clubs, movie and debate clubs to homework support, languages and art club.

Many pupils have been enjoying these lunchtime activities and have become very involved in the wider life of the school.

For the first time, we have tied attendance at our extra-curricular clubs to the house system. Each pupil was issued with a score card, and each time they attended a club they received a stamp. Once their card was filled, they were entered into a prize draw for house points 😊



## Score Card

Each time you attend a club, the teacher will sign/stamp to acknowledge that you attended.

The more you go, the more you get!

Fill your score card = 50 house points!

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

Also, once your card is filled, pass it to your Pastoral Care Teacher who will enter it into the monthly prize draw!!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

House: \_\_\_\_\_

My Clubs:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Club	Teacher	Where?	When?	Open to...
Keyboard Club	Miss Gillespie	Music dept.	Monday lunchtime	S1 & S2
Science Club	Mr Irwin	Science Lab	Tuesday lunchtime	S1 & S2
Disaster Movie Club	Mrs Kean	Geography (G022)	Wednesday lunchtime	S1 & S2
Homework Club	Mrs Grey (English)	ICT dept. (TBC)	Wednesday lunchtime	S1 – S3
Languages Club	Miss McAllister	Spanish dept.	Wednesday lunchtime	S1 – S3
Choir	Miss Gillespie	Music (G005)	Thursday lunchtime	All year groups
Art Club	Miss Sweeney	Art dept. (G039)	Thursday lunchtime	S1
Computing Club	Mrs Olsen	ICT dept	Thursday lunchtime	S1 & S2 *starting 2 <sup>nd</sup> September
Debating Club	Mrs Curley	Social Subjects (G019)	Friday lunchtime	S3
Chess Club	Mr Morris	Maths (F008)	TBC	All year groups

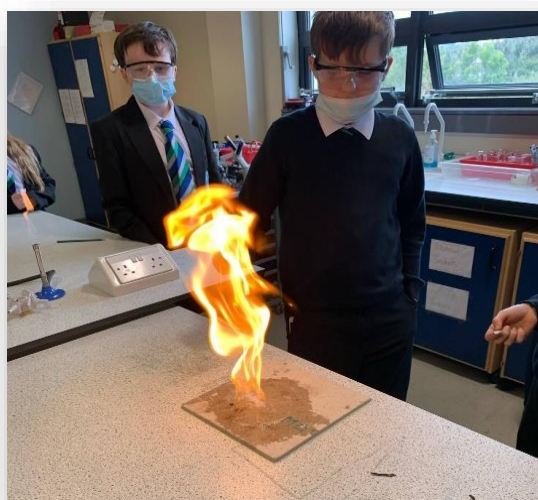
DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	TEACHER	LOCATION
Monday	Lunchtime	Badminton	Mrs McCartney	Games Hall
Tuesday	Lunchtime	Hearty Lives	Mr Hardie	Small Gym
Tuesday	Lunchtime	Girls Fitness Suite	Mrs Dargie	Fitness Suite
Tuesday	Lunchtime	S2 5-a-side football	Mrs Mitchell & Mr Caldwell	Games Hall
Tuesday	After School	Basketball	Mr McGeady	Games Hall
Tuesday	After School	Gymnastics	Miss Shearer	Small Gym
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Trampolining	Miss McMillan	Games Hall
Wednesday	Lunchtime	Table Tennis	Mr Hardie & Mr Harvey	Small Gym
Thursday	Lunchtime	Netball	Miss Shearer	Games Hall
Friday	Lunchtime	Volleyball -Seniors	Mr Millar	Games Hall
Friday	Lunchtime	Dance	Miss McMillan	Small Gym



# Science Club

## Methane Bubbles

Science Club investigated the chemical properties of methane by lighting methane bubbles on fire. Mr Irwin, Mr Kennedy and Mr Coyle then demonstrated methane combustion on their own hands. The young scientists then explored the association between methane and risks posed by climate change. Underneath the ice caps there are many frozen bacteria, if thawed these bacteria could start to multiply and produce methane which would be released into the atmosphere. Increased methane levels in air could prove very harmful to life on earth.



## Elephant's Toothpaste Pumpkins

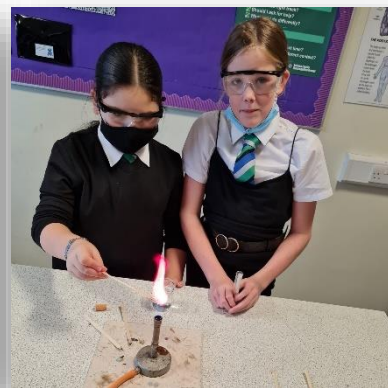
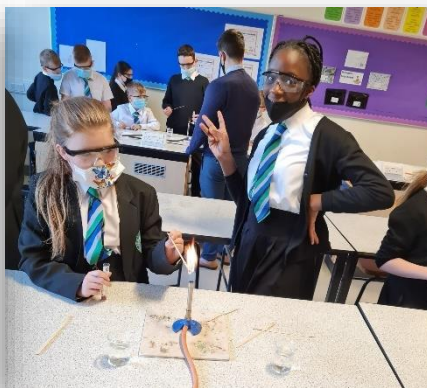
Science Club conducted a Halloween themed investigation of catalysts today. Catalysts are chemicals which speed up the rate of chemical reactions whilst remaining unchanged by the reaction. We observed what happens when the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide to produce oxygen and water is catalysed by potassium iodide. By adding some fairy liquid to the reaction, it becomes elephant's toothpaste. We added a Halloween twist to this experiment by conducting the reaction inside our very own "Science Club" Pumpkin.





## Flame Test Fireworks

This week at Science Club our young scientists investigated the chemical properties of a range of metals. They learned that different metals produce different coloured flames when burned and that is why certain metals are used in fireworks. Creation of fireworks is a science to produce the wonderful range of colours we see when fireworks explode. We concluded this session with an in-class (but very safe) fireworks display from our very own Mr Irwin!



## Sound and Rubens Tube

Science Club looked at how sound travels from a source to our ears. We watched as a loud speaker moved backwards and forwards to produce a sound. We spoke about how it was hitting against the particles in the air to send a vibration (sound wave) through the air so it can reach our ears. Then the young scientists got the chance to use the Rubens tube. The Rubens tube is a long tube filled with gas with holes on the top. When the gas is ignited and a sound is played through a loudspeaker at one end the flames on the top produce a wave so we can see the sound travel. The scientists then got to sing into a microphone as we watched the sound they produced move through the tube.



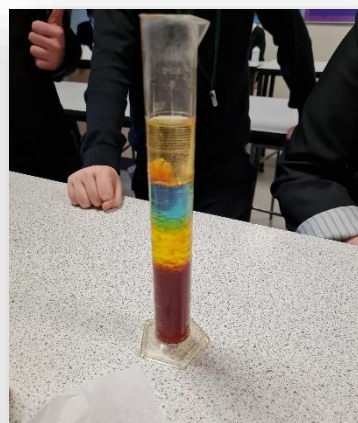


## Van de Graaff

This week the young scientists were investigating electrical charge using the Van de Graaff generator. The Van de Graaff generator is a machine with a big metal dome that becomes positively charged as a rubber band is quickly rubbed against it. We watched as sparks flew, cake tins were thrown off the dome and a few of the scientists' hair stood up on end. We discussed how things with opposite electrical charge are attracted to each other while things with similar charges are repelled by each other. We used this information to work out that our hair was standing on end as they all had a similar charge and wanted to get away from each other.

## Density Rainbows

This week Science Club developed their understanding of density. The young scientists used sugar and water to create coloured sugar solutions with different known densities. They then poured these solutions into a measuring cylinder from most to least dense to produce some wonderful density columns.



## Chemist-Trees

This week at Science Club the young scientists began to get into the Christmas spirit. They explored the chemical and physical properties of a range of chemicals. They then used this knowledge to produce some wonderful Chemist-trees which are now sitting pride of place in St. Benedict's Science classrooms.





# Football

The return of schools this year has coincided with the return of football to our local communities - school football has been sorely missed by pupils up and down the school and much like many of the other joys life has lacked during COVID, being able to experience it once again after so long has made the occasions that bit more special. Through absence of extracurricular activities like this, school life just wasn't the same last year and whether it's lunchtime clubs, competitive matches or of course being able to support our clubs back in the stands its presence has been felt since its return. Football is unifying; our hunger for it here in the west of Scotland is well-known and unwavering, it may be a game and just that but it seriously makes a difference to the physical and mental health of pupils of all ages. In short, thank God it's back.

There's a sense of pride and tribalism when representing your school that just isn't matched when representing a club, playing with your mates and for your teachers is a unique release from ordinary school life. Every game feels like a derby and an occasion, the absence of training as a team gives each match a feel of exhibition, you're showing your coach what you can do in each fixture and of course, you're desperate to win. The incentive of being able to proudly boast for the rest of your life that your school won the local league/cup is priceless, especially in the case of St Benedict's where we tend to be underdogs against some of the other schools in the local area. Win, lose or draw, each game is met with infectious anticipation and it's always an occasion that provides an atmosphere we can all enjoy.

Of course, we owe it all to the teachers and referees who give their time to organise/coach and officiate matches respectively, everyone plays their part. People who volunteer have always been at the heart of grassroots football and in our case it is Miss Shearer who has championed the Senior squad to what in all honesty has been a rough start, but results have been harsh on our performances and our victory over Linwood High in the St Mirren Cup is definitely soon to be followed by our first league win. Mr Cook, Mr Sinclair and Mr Coyle have also given up their time to take teams from S1-S4 and results have been very positive on the whole, so here's hoping to a successful 2022 on the pitch for all of our teams.





It is also of course impossible to ignore now the return of fans packing out football grounds has enriched lives for hundreds of thousands up and down the country - supporting your team offers a release and brings families together. In our school it brings teachers and pupils together too and just adds to the appetite we already have for football, I've personally seen how competitive the lunchtime clubs can get in the PE halls where we almost never were able to play last year due to restrictions. The S1-S2 pupils give it their absolute all for half an hour whilst being refereed and sometimes assisted by our seniors, a nice chance for year groups to mix in a way which they also couldn't last year.

In short, the benefits of football's return to our in and out of school lives have been abundant. Our school has been thriving on and off the pitch and all of our year groups are continuing to get the absolute most out of opportunities provided by referees, teachers and even fellow pupils. Long may it continue, speaking personally it's been missed dearly as few things can enhance the livelihoods of so many in as many different ways as the beautiful game.

Martin Crawford  
Sixth Year

*(Martin has applied to study 'Sports Journalism' at university next year.)*





# Primary Transition

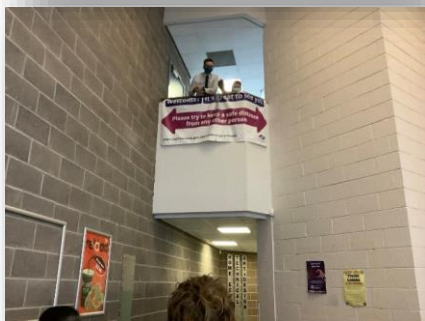
This term saw the launch of our new enhanced transition program for our cluster primary schools.

The focus of the project was to land a rover on Mars. The Science, Maths and English departments have collegiately planned a project which will improve key skills in numeracy, literacy and STEM.

The pupils constructed and experimented with their own Mars rover. They collected data which they then processed to reach a conclusion about parachute radius and time taken for rover landing. Whilst leading the construction the pupils also used their creative writing skills to write a story about space exploration.

They also spent some time with St. Benedict's staff to learn about our school values.

The pupils were a credit to our cluster, working diligently together to produce their best work.



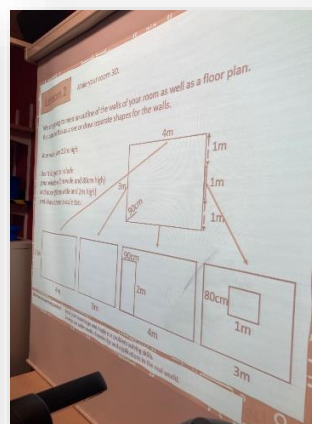
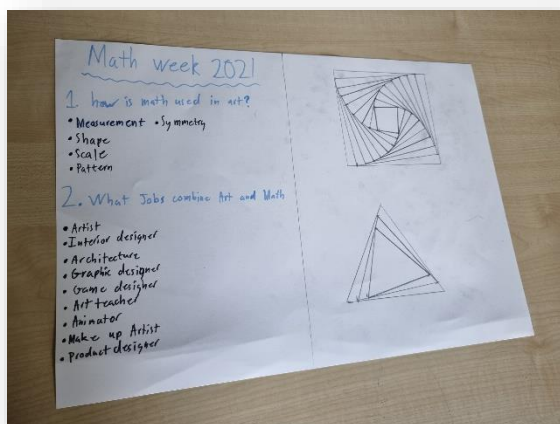


# Numeracy

This year our pupils experienced a very successful Maths Week Scotland. They applied their Numeracy skills in a range of subjects including Computing, Technical, Science and more!



**Numeracy**



Some of our S1 and S2 pupils also had the opportunity to visit the Transport Museum to see how their Numeracy skills can be applied in real life.



Did you know? There is now a YouTube channel that is being regularly updated to support your child's learning S1 onwards? Just search Mr Canning Maths on YouTube where you can access resources which can be used prior to assessments for revision or if something from class needs clarified.

## HOLIDAY MATH RIDDLE!

Dasher spent half as much as Prancer did on holiday presents this year and Cupid spent 3 times more than Dasher. If the total spent between the three of them was \$720, how much did they each spend on gifts?





# Sports Development



Sports Development pupils have been working hard with the local primary schools in St. Benedict's High School and out in the community. Pupils took part in a four week programme where they worked together to deliver a range of activities to children. Well done to all, feedback from the primary schools has been excellent and they can't wait to welcome you back!



Sports Development pupils organised and ran a very successful S1 inter-house games allowing S1s to compete and try new activities. Activities on offer were football, basketball, Swedish long ball and dodgeball.







# Raising Attainment

## St. Benedict's Record Attainment

Over the past years a wide variety of strategies have been employed to raise the attainment of young people in the Senior Phase (S4-S6). By building on the excellent learning and teaching which takes place in St. Benedict's High School, we have been able to make significant improvements in attainment. These strategies and the hard work of all of our students, especially in very trying times, has led to St. Benedict's outperforming similar schools in all the key measures for S4, S5 and S6.



## B.G.E. Homework Club

Our BGE Homework Club (S1-S3) takes place every Wednesday at lunchtime. Our Raising Attainment Project Leader, Miss Gillespie, works alongside other staff volunteers and S6 students to provide help and support to S1-S3 pupils in their learning. Please encourage your children to come along for a quiet place to work and access to ICT. You can check your child's homework through the Satchel One app. Please contact the school if you have any difficulty using this and we will be happy to help.

## Senior Phase Mentor Programme

As in previous years, our Senior Phase Mentor Programme is up and running. Mentors are volunteer staff members who serve as an additional point of contact for Senior Phase students in S4 and S5. This enhanced support builds on the work of Pastoral and Year Head and provides young people with the opportunity to discuss their achievements and concerns as they make progress throughout the year towards the prelims and the final exam diet in May. Staff offer support and advice regarding study skills, wellbeing and target setting at regular points in the school year. We will meet again before the Christmas holidays to ensure that students have a clear study timetable, are focused and coping with the demands that prelims will bring. This is to enable our young people to achieve their full potential across all subjects.

This session our extended mentoring programme will be run by our Employability Key Worker, Lisa Wiggins. This programme sees a group of S5 students working closely during mentor time to prepare students for interviews as well as tips and guidance on how to dress and behave in an interview situation. These skills will be invaluable in building young people's confidence as they prepare to move out into the world of employment.

## Interview Techniques

HOW TO PLAN YOUR INTERVIEW EFFECTIVELY



## **S5 Raising Attainment Seminar**

Following the very unsettled nature of the past few years, it is essential that all students feel fully supported and well prepared for the forthcoming prelims. Recently, we were delighted to be able again to deliver our S5 Raising Attainment Seminar which was a great success.

The morning consisted of a motivational talk by Mr Sinclair and a range of workshops such as study skills, mindsets and meta-cognition as well as team building, health and well-being and mindfulness. These workshops were delivered by volunteer staff who are always keen to do the best they can for all our young people.

Our S6 students also contributed, providing an invaluable input to the day as they shared their experience of assessments with our current S5. Both positive and negative experiences were shared between students in order to ensure S5 can learn from the insight of their older peers.

Our final event of the day saw students attend an elective “Next Step” workshop where they chose from guidance in Careers, UCAS or Modern/Foundation Apprenticeships. Student feedback made clear that this was a particularly successful part of the day with pupils gaining a clearer understanding of where their learning can take them in future.

Our attainment seminars are designed to equip our students with the skills required to achieve their potential in the forthcoming exams, but it is equally important that we support our pupils to cope with the inevitable stress and pressure which they will experience. One of the key missions of our programme is to help our students to realise that they are resilient, have the capacity to cope and, with appropriate levels of study and support, are destined to achieve.

We are looking forward to delivering a similar programme in February for our S4 students.

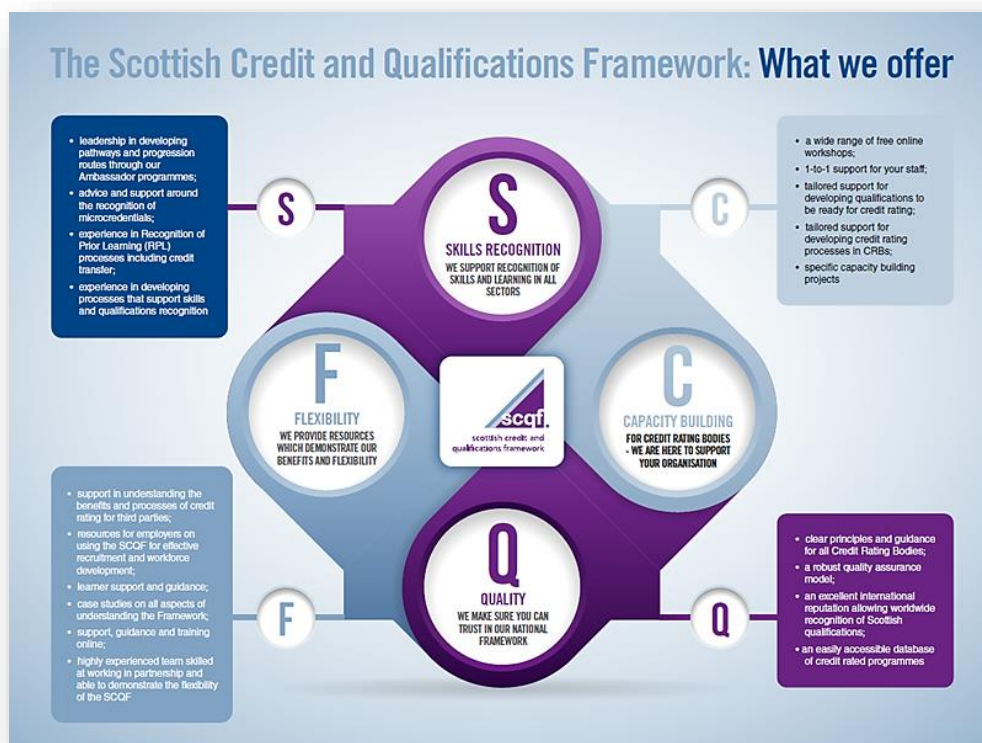


## Going for Bronze – SCQF Schools Ambassador Programme

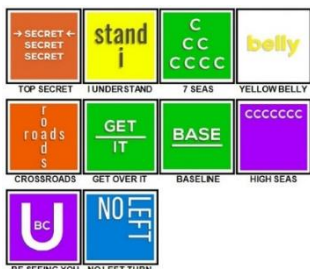
We are now at the stage of developing and renewing our Curriculum Rationale and in keeping with the ethos of our Catholic school, we aim to support attainment in its widest context. As such, we have recently become an SCQF Schools Ambassador School. This programme offers the opportunity to learn more about the benefits of the SCQF and the wider ways in which it supports learners such as recognising wider achievement, developing Senior Phase learning pathways in line with the Developing the Young Workforce strategy and giving equality between vocational and academic qualifications. One of the main aspects of this programme is enabling students themselves to become Pupil Ambassadors and we will deliver training sessions so they can help to raise awareness and use their creativity to engage peers and parents. The courses that we have implemented as a result of our commitment to the SCQF Schools Ambassador Programme include a range of National Progression Awards (NPAs). Through wider achievement, we also feel strongly that our young people should gain accreditation in areas that they are involved with out with our classrooms. We will keep you informed of our progress as we embark upon this programme.

In addition, in September, all S6 students were provided with First Aid training to gain the Level 6 qualification in “Emergency First Aid at Work”. This not only enhances the CVs of our young people and makes them more attractive to prospective employers, but it also provides them with opportunities to show their abilities to learn in a different context from the traditional curriculum.

Celebrating the success of our school community promotes our positive school ethos and empowers our community.



Letter					
Girl's name					
Boy's name					
Food/Drink					
Animal					
Place					
Colour					



Dingbats are visual word puzzles of a famous phrase or saying. Identify all the phrases correctly to be the winner! Again, this is another cost-effective way to enhance literacy skills and spend quality time as a family.





# Health and Wellbeing

## Wellbeing Ambassador Training

Well done to our Sixth Year Pupils who have just completed an eight-week programme to support our younger pupils with their mental health.

Sixteen Senior pupils signed up to do Wellbeing Ambassador Training with Mr Harvey and developed their skills in the following areas:

- Peer Mentoring;
- Building Relationships with Mentees;
- Understanding Psychological Perspectives with Mentees;
- Understanding Psychological Perspectives of Behaviour,
- Anti-Bullying,
- Supporting Vulnerable Pupils;
- Problem Solving;
- Communication Skills;
- Teamwork & Confidentiality.

This training will allow our seniors to mentor pupils to hopefully improve their general wellbeing in all areas of their life.



## Mental Health Support

In January a new Mental Health support club will open in the school for all pupils to drop in if they need support with their mental health.

This will be supported by Mr Harvey and trained Sixth Year pupils who will complete the Wellbeing Ambassador Training.

We hope this provides pupils with a place they can visit for support and advice on their mental wellbeing in 2022.



# House System

Our House System has been up and running now for over two years and we continue to make improvements to support and motivate our young people. Each House is competing for a reward day at the cinema followed by a pizza buffet in school come Easter time.

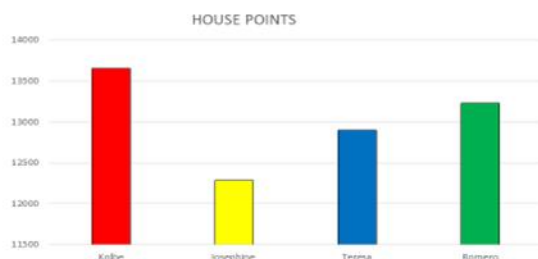
Pupils can win points for their House in the following ways:

- Health & Wellbeing points - walk or cycle to school!
- Departmental Awards in each subject
- Monthly Tracking points through effort, behaviour and homework
- Attendance points for 95% and above each month.
- House Hero points for exceptional contribution to the ethos of the school and the local community.
- 50 Points to House Pupil of week, awarded by your Pastoral Care Teacher

Each house group has had two house assemblies this term. During these services classes come together as a community and celebrate the positive impact all pupils have had on the school community. We will also aim to highlight particular pupils and the contribution they have made to their House through House Hero points. In addition to this, Senior House Captains will deliver motivational talks and Fr Michael will have a religious and supportive input to all Houses.

Lastly, and possibly most importantly, please be aware that the House Points are updated each month and displayed in the Street Area of the school. Currently St. Kolbe House lead, with St. Romero House second, St. Teresa House third and St. Josephine House in fourth place. The points totals are very close and there is plenty of time for it to change throughout the year!

Please see below for the official standings:



House Points December 2021



# News from St. Maximilian Kolbe's House

## Orienteering Challenge

Pupils in the Kolbe House have been working hard to achieve points for the House. In particular, a great big thanks to 1.2 who provided the House with a feast of points when they took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the social subjects orienteering challenge. The pupils took their marks and set off to solve the clues and collect the markers in record-breaking time.

The Winning Team: Owen, Curtis, Charlie and Jack:



## Reflection on Charity and Hope for Future

S3 provided some Christmas reflection for us in both SE and RE based on a section of the 12 Days of Christmas. Niamh and Lauren highlighted in their presentation some really important things to be mindful of in the world:

1. Team Seas, which cleans ocean trash has cleared 17 million pounds of ocean trash;
2. in school the Santa Dash will raise money to help causes;
3. the Malawi bake sale raised funds, and also encouraged aspiring bakers;
4. vaccinations are now available for 12 years and above;
5. SCIAF are currently helping over 200,000 people across the globe.



## Fourth Year

4.1 invited two of our student teachers into their SE class to talk about career pathways. This talk provided an insight for the pupils into the value of documenting Learner Journeys. Out two social subjects student teachers spoke about the challenges of sitting exams, balancing studying with life beyond school and the value of volunteering for common good and personal experience.





# News from St. Teresa's House

What a year it has been for St. Teresa's House!

Our House Hero Awards have been allocated to the pupils that Mrs O'Neill believes have shown great courage, resilience and a positive attitude this year. Congratulations to them all – they were all well-deserved!

Emma (S1) Zach (S2) Luca (S1) Nathan (S2) Steven (S2)

Ava (S3) Ryan (S2) Ciara (S1) Katie (S2) Keelay (S3)

Callum (S2) Kai (S1) Cara (S2) Logan (S3) Bobby (S1)

Lucas (S1) Rachel (S3) Jemma (S3) Ciara (S3) David (S1)

Erin (S2) Caris (S3) Shaun (S1) Aaron (S3)



Some of our other notable achievements ...



Anya Leckie (S4) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in a dance competition – well done Anya!



Louise, Jessica, Jenny and Cian are some of our S5 St. Teresa's House leaders in the MVP programme.



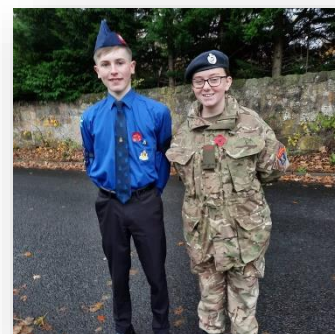
Lucas Leckie (S1) passed his grading exam in taekwondo – superb!



David Amaeze (S1) is enjoying his time playing basketball in the school team.



Katie's (S3) cheerleading group placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in two competitions and 1<sup>st</sup> in another – amazing!

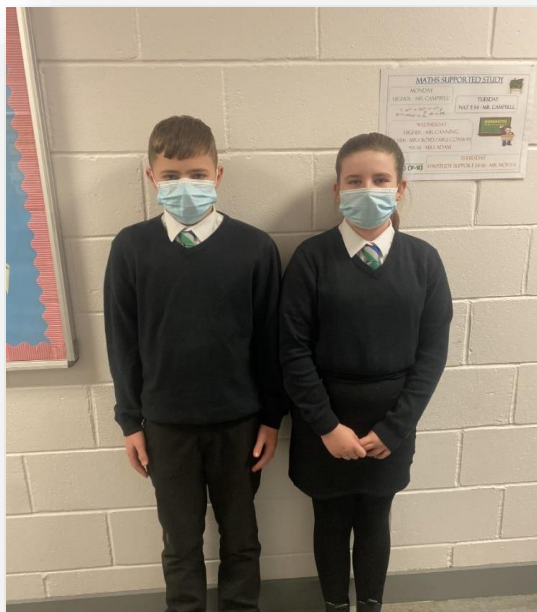


James and Kaitlynn participated in the Remembrance Day Service.



# News from St. Oscar Romero's House

## Sporting Excellence



S1 Craig Campbell for Representation at District Level Football and S1 Jessica Neeson For her Irish Dancing Competition successes.



S3 Lennon Duffy for outstanding performances at Pro Youth level for Greenock Morton at Under 15 Level.

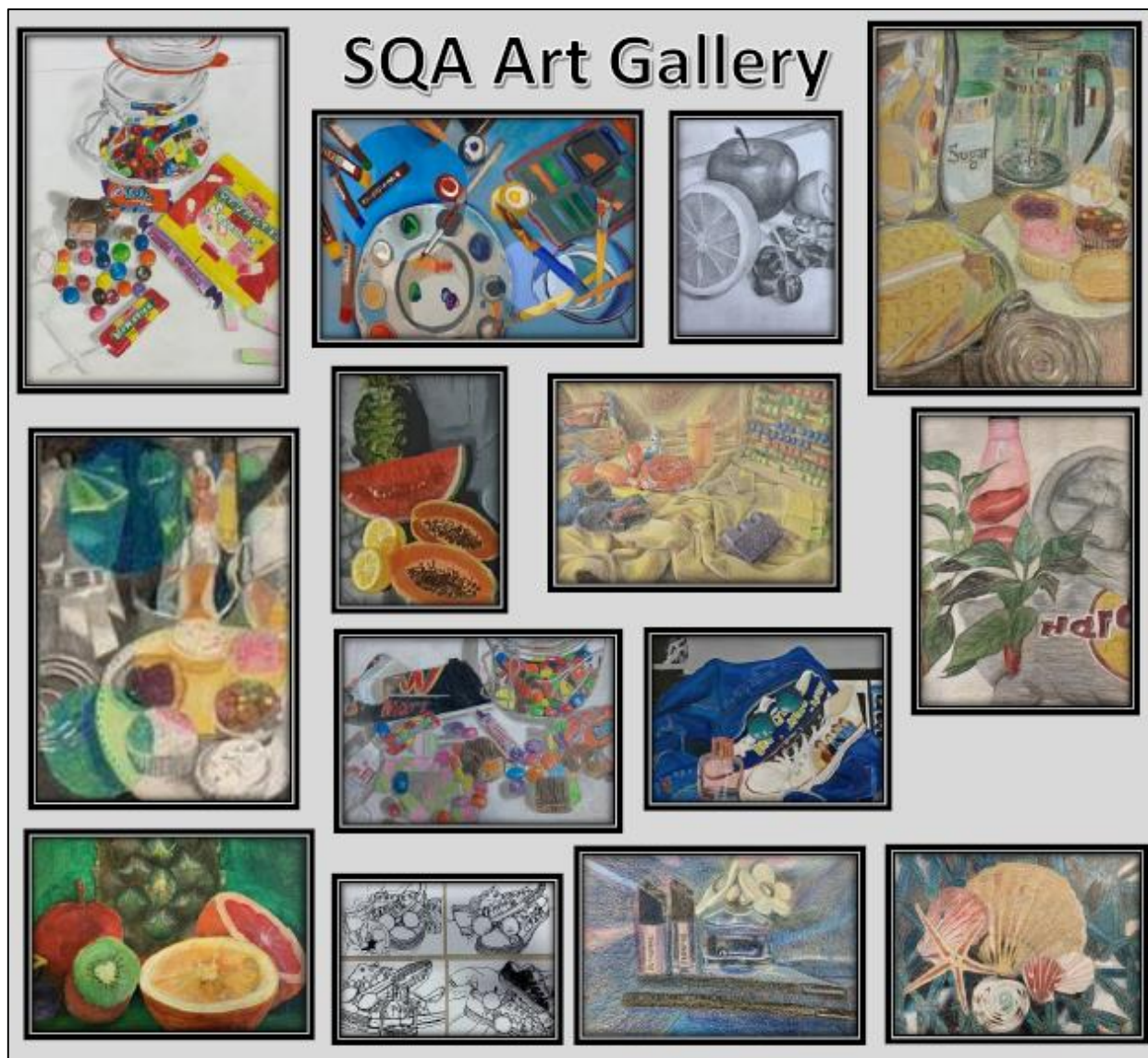


(L-R) S6 Kayla Nelson for Dance Competitions at national level,  
S6 Kacey Watson Glasgow Professional Senior Women's Team,  
S1 Ebony Brogan Irish Dance Competitions,  
S3 Martin McCallum Under 15 Golf Award,  
S5 Kacper Cybulski Volleyball representation for local Renfrewshire Club.



# Art and Design

As ever, pupils in the Art and Design Department have produced some beautiful work. Some of the work displayed below shows great skill and attention to detail. Well Done National 5 and Higher we look forward to seeing what amazing work you produce this year.



## SQA Supported Study

Supported Study is running again this year Tuesday to Friday lunchtimes. Any pupil from any of the senior classes can attend these sessions. Students should look to take advantage of this extra time as these extra few hours can make a big difference in the preparation of a portfolio.



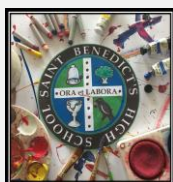
## Art Club

S1 Art Club will continue after the Christmas break. Pupils can get involved with some interesting pieces of work as well as have the opportunity to enter competitions. Pupils should bring their lunch and come to Miss Sweeney's room on Thursdays.



# S1 Christmas Card Competition

S1 have had the opportunity to enter our school Christmas Card Competition. They were asked to design a card which could be sent out as the official St. Benedict's High School Christmas Card 2021. Well done Sophie in 1A on your design, the quality of your submission is beautiful.

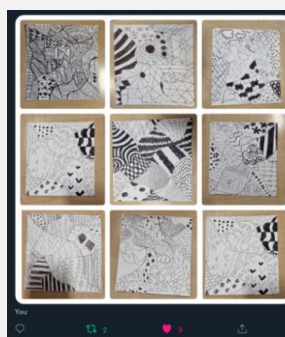


@StBenedictsArt



St Benedict's HS Art @StBenedictsArt · 28 Oct

2F's turn for oil pastel drawings. Everyone listened exactly to instructions and as a result some beautiful attention to detail in the form of highlights and shadows. We'll done 2F 🙌 #hardworkpaysoff #3D #artwork @stbenedictsren



You Retweeted



Miss Sweeney @MissSweeneyArt · 4 Nov

1B have just finished this work based on PATTERN! Every piece of work is unique and wonderful in their own way 🙌🙌 @stbenedictsren #pattern

If you haven't already, you can follow the Art Department on Twitter @StBenedictsArt  
This is where we can share some of the amazing work by our talented pupils.

AUGUST Lenox 1B



OCTOBER Erin 1A



SEPTEMBER Mirrin 1C

AUGUST Skye 2E



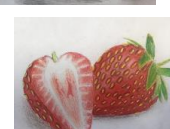
SEPTEMBER Chibuzo 2C



OCTOBER Erin 2F

AUGUST Keira M 3A

SEPTEMBER Jemma 3A



OCTOBER Jamie 3A



Finally, the Art Department would like to thank all staff, students and parents for their continued support throughout the past year and wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



# Language and Communication

## Young Writers Competition

Congratulations to Conan Rooney, Moses Amaeze, Aleesha Wilson and Aaron Wilson whose entries into a recent short story competition have been selected for publication in the next Young Writers edition. We have recently entered S2 into another of these competitions and look forward to hearing of similar successes.



## Mentors in Violence Prevention

Thirty-three of our S5 students have signed up to function as Mentors in Violence Prevention. As part of the project, they have been paired with S2 English classes and will lead one lesson per month on how to build meaningful and respectful relationships across the community. Our young people have responded to this with pride and determination and we look forward to seeing the continued success of the programme.

## School Library

Our School Library has now re-opened and is available to students in all year-groups. Students can visit the library or can obtain books via the Click and Collect service. The click and collect service is available at

<http://libcat.renfrewshire.gov.uk>

More details of how to access this system can be found from Mr Kerr on Mondays and Miss Thompson, who is in school on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The library is also running monthly competitions so please continue to encourage pupils to look out for these and to enter them. Congratulations to Chloe McKenna (1.1) who won the most recent Halloween competition!





## French: The Return

Starting from the 15<sup>th</sup> November, we have re-introduced the study of French to St. Benedict's after a five-year break. Our current S1 and S2 classes have been fully immersed in learning the cultural traditions of France before then going on to exploit the language based around the topic of food and drink. If you remember any French from your own school days, feel free to test their knowledge at any time. Bonne chance!



## One Kind Word – Modern Languages

As a school community, we have emphasised and embraced the sentiments of 'Anti-Bullying Week' – this year with the theme of 'one kind word'. Pupils in Modern Languages classes used their knowledge of other languages to promote this theme to the wider school community, as you will see from the image attached. A higher-resolution version of their work is available on our Twitter page [@sbhslanguage](https://twitter.com/sbhslanguage)



## European Day of Languages

Our school community celebrated this year's European Day of Languages just prior to the September Weekend with staff and pupils invited to the Street Area to take part in our continental morning café. A vast array of treats were available to pupils and staff while some music fitting the theme played. In classes, and across all subjects, pupils completed lesson starters based on different languages. A great experience was had by all!



All that remains to be said is a huge thank-you to all of our pupils, parents and partners for your support and encouragement of all that we do within the faculty. Please have a peaceful and well-rested Christmas break.





# P.E. and H.F.T.

Following a year of COVID restrictions, it is pleasing to see a large number of events and extracurricular clubs and teams returning this year!

Mr Hardie and the Hearty Lives pupils organised and led Active Girls' Day in November. This nationwide event gave opportunities for all S1/2 girls to participate in various activities to encourage girls' activity in sport. Activities included "Clubathon", dodgeball and trampolining



This year we have four football teams who are competing in the Renfrewshire League and Cups. Mr Hardie has been taking the S1s, Mr Cooke and Mr Sinclair the S2s, Mr Coyle the S3/4s and Miss Shearer, the seniors.

Miss Shearer has also been coaching the netball team who have had recent games against the Glasgow Gaelic school and Linwood High.

Mr McGeady's junior and senior basketball training has been ongoing on Tuesdays after school and the teams recently competing successfully against Woodfarm High in a festival.



Lunchtime clubs have also been well attended, improving pupils' health and wellbeing and includes Miss McMillan's Dance and Trampolining Clubs, Mrs McCartney's Badminton, Mr Caldwell and Mrs Mitchell's S2 Football Club, Mr Harvey and Mr Hardie's Table Tennis, Miss Shearer's Girls Football and Mrs Dargie's Girls' Fitness.

Mr Millar's Volleyball club runs Fridays at lunchtime as in previous years, the teachers beat the pupils each week!

Numerous Sports Development pupils have been volunteering to help out at various extra-curricular clubs and in lessons to gain valuable leadership experience.

Miss Shearer and Mrs McCartney have arranged for partnership work with East Renfrewshire Multi Sports Development Officer and Renfrewshire Basketball Development Officer to come in and deliver sessions to upskill the Sports Development pupils and gain valuable coaching qualifications.



Furthermore, the Sports Development pupils, in partnership with Lynsey Dawson (Active Schools) have been attending feeder primaries to deliver sports sessions to support transitions, and they also planned and led an S1 inter-house event sports event in October.



Miss McMillan organised and took a Higher Dance trip to the King's Theatre to see 'Chicago', to deepen pupil's knowledge and understanding of the Higher course.

The FHT department are again running the Annual Rotary Competition for S1-3 pupils. Pupils in each year group will be competing against each other by cooking Christmas themed food and St Benedict's staff will vote on the winners.

Mr Caldwell and Mrs Mitchell are also running an extra-curricular Cooking Club for S1/2 pupils who have been cooking various dishes including chocolate chip cookies.





# Religious Education

## COP26/Laudato si'

During COP26, R.E. classes took the time to consider their role as stewards of creation and explored the Papal Encyclical, Laudato si'. We prayed for the success of COP26 as we looked for action on the care of our common home.

Glasgow University's St. Andrew's Foundation had a poster competition in preparation for COP26, below are some of the posters from St. Benedict's that were entered from St. Benedict's, with the centre poster by Jemma in S3, who won a prize for her art!



## Catholic Education Week – Celebrating and Worshipping

We celebrated Catholic Education Week with the theme 'Celebrating and Worshipping'. We focused on the spiritual formation of the whole school community, through prayer and liturgy; we also looked at our relationship as a school with our parishes. We also spent some time focussing on the Eucharist and the sustaining role that the Blessed Sacrament has played in the lives of the saints.

We were able to visit our local parishes for weekend Masses. Pictured are Sophie, Katy and Mia, as well as our helper, Shannon, from Our Lady of Peace.





## Faith in Action

A team of very committed Third Years have been busy recently in their efforts to raise money for the postage for the Malawi parcels and for St. Vincent's Hospice. Through their efforts of a bake sale, selling Christmas cards and stars for our 'Light Up A Life' tree, the packages were safely posted to Malawi and over £300 was raised for the Hospice.



## Caritas

Thirty-nine of our S6 pupils are participating in the Caritas programme where they carry out numerous hours of service for their school and parish faith-related activities. They have been working very hard and have been giving generously of their time in a variety of ways.

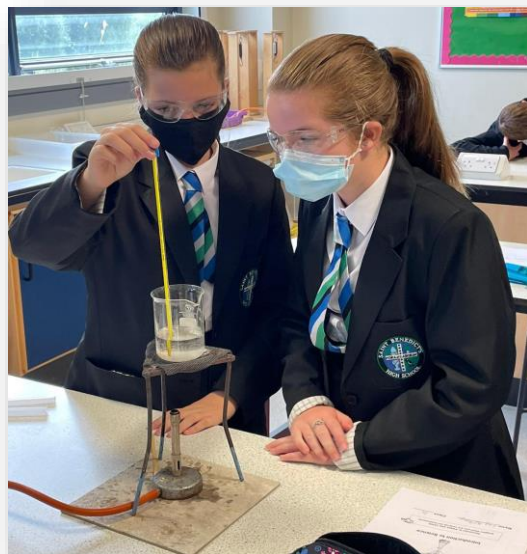
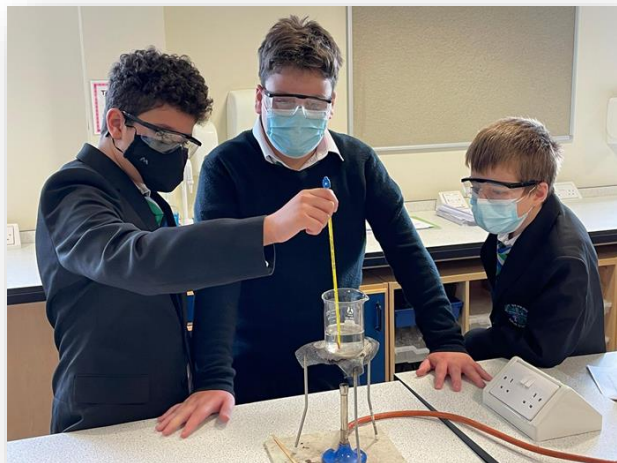




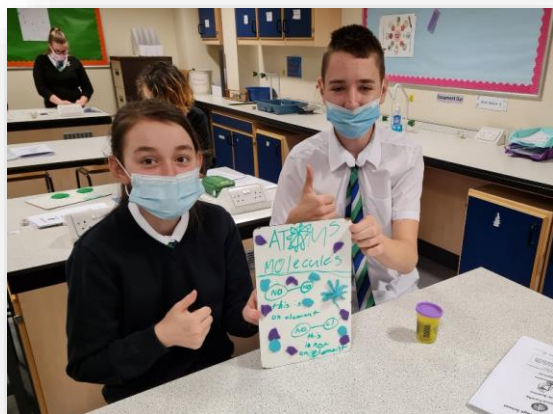


# Science

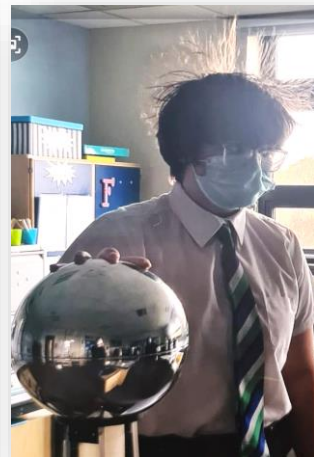
St. Benedict's S1 and S2 pupils have been enjoying the Science Faculty's BGE course this year. Pupils have been experiencing many exciting science outcomes and getting to grips with the practical aspects of the courses.



S1s enjoyed getting creative to demonstrate their understanding of atoms and molecules.



The Van De Graaff was in full force this term in the Science Faculty.





S3 Biologists using moisture meters to investigate moisture levels around the school, thankfully the rain stayed off!

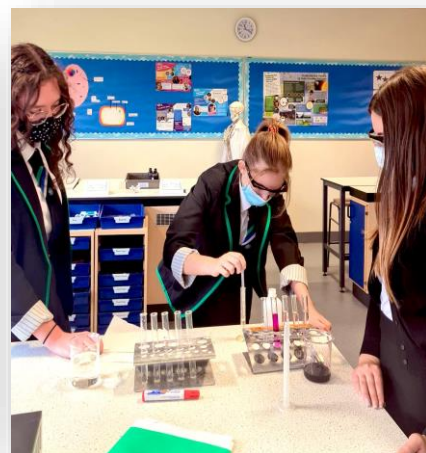


Our S1 scientists have been experimenting with diffusion.

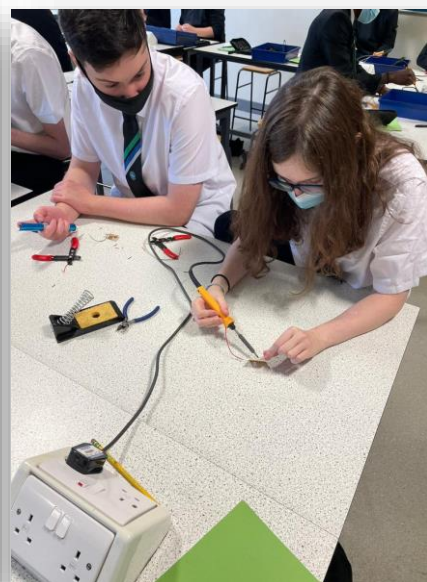




Our new Advanced Higher Biology class have had a busy term.



Our new Practical Electronics cohort have been improving their soldering skills.



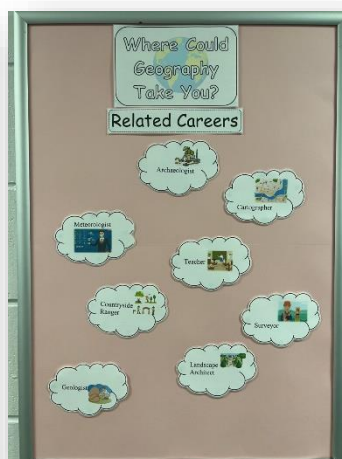
The 'Scientist of the Month' awards have been handed out to our S1 and S2 scientists since the start of term.





# Social Subjects

Our pupils and teachers have been working hard to aim for excellence in social subjects so far this year. As well as excellent learning and teaching we have been working hard to refresh our board displays. You can now find information on careers in all three social subjects.



## COP26

Our pupils have been learning about the recent COP26 summit in Glasgow. We had the pleasure of welcoming Paul O’Kane MSP into the school to lead a discussion on COP26 and what was hoped to be achieved. The pupils were model citizens and asked quality questions. The Scottish Studies class displayed their green fingers and planted two Crab Apple trees at the school entrance. These trees will support the local biodiversity, help manage our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the fruit will be used to create culinary delights in HFT. A COP26 display has also been created. The display holds leaves made by pupils with their promise to the planet on the back. Well done to the pupils for all of their hard work raising awareness about climate change in the school!



We are also looking forward to our Dynamic Earth trip in February. S2 pupils will experience the primeval forces of nature that have shaped our planet. They will take a tour around the world in a 4D adventure and then experience the planetarium show.



Follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with all our events and to see excellent examples of our approach to teaching and learning @socsbstbens.







# Support for Learning

## SfL Health and Wellbeing:

S1 pupils have been taking part in a Health and Well-being group which has allowed them to focus on building resilience and relationships with other pupils. The groups have taken part in a number of activities and were helping with the conservation work done at Clyde Muirshiel Country Park. Pupils enjoyed getting out into nature and exploring, as well as helping in their local community.



## SfL Numeracy:

This term S1 pupils have been building on their numeracy skills. Pupils worked together to build their understanding of mathematical operations. Pupils worked with concrete materials and interactive games such as Kahoot. Their small coaching groups focussed on increasing confidence in numeracy and on supporting numeracy across all curricular areas.

What our pupils liked best:

When we play maths games or help each other with our problems.

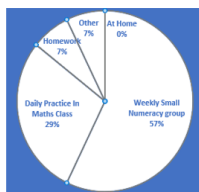
Quietness and concentration.

Communicating with people who struggle like me.

Having fun and learning.

We got to spend time together and got to know how to improve in Maths.

What would help you the most with numeracy?



What subjects has this positively impacted?

Maths  
Science  
PE  
Just everything  
Probably all subjects

Has it improved confidence in numeracy?

Rate 1 – 5 ( 5 being highest)

4.3

Would you want to be part of another numeracy group?

100% Yes

## SfL Literacy and ICT:

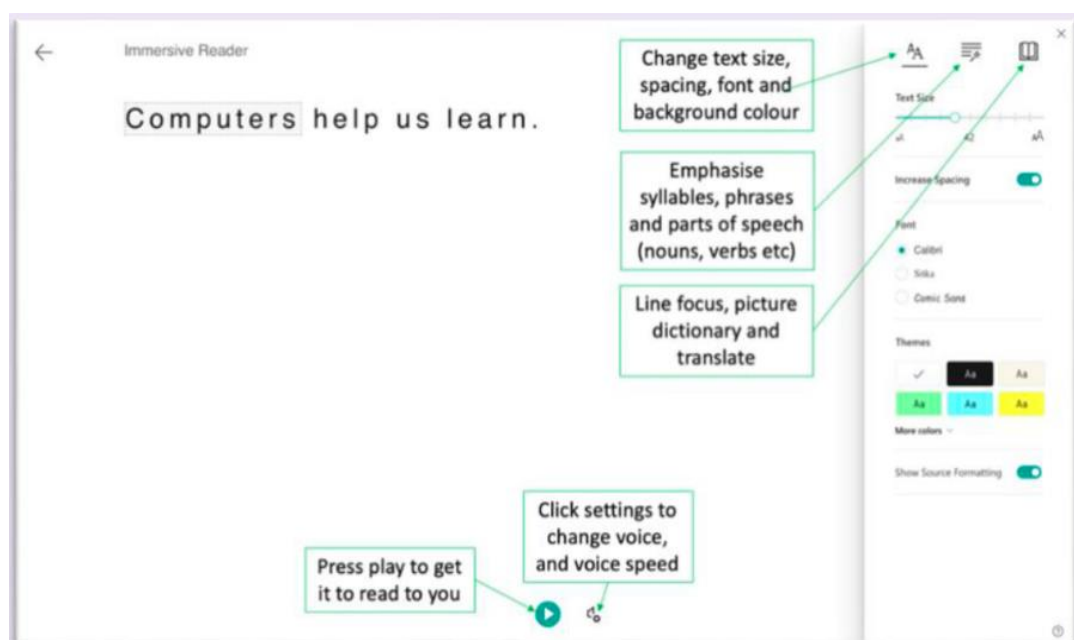
Some of our S2 pupils have been looking at how Assistive Technologies can help them manage their classwork and course work. These technologies will also be available to them when they sit their examinations in senior school so it is good to get a little practice in now! The group have been learning hints and tips on practical strategies, including how to customise their own computer and other useful links. So far, the group have looked at Immersive reader, Ivona Mini Reader and online mind mapping.

There are lots of great digital supports, that are FREE to download and can help if you find reading and writing a little tricky.

Ivona Mini Reader is free to download. It is a simple text reader which can read from almost any program e.g. Adobe Reader, Internet browsers, Microsoft Word.



Immersive Reader can be accessed through Word online. Log in with your Glow account. It simplifies the document to make it visually easier to take in. When you press play at the bottom, it puts a box round each word and reads it aloud.

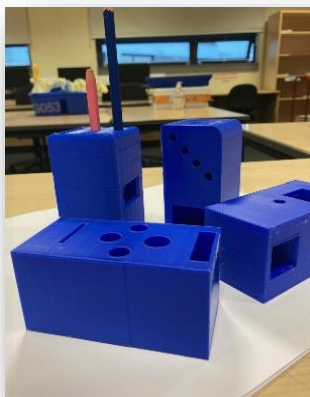
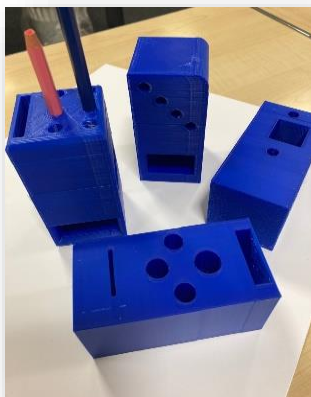


More information on Assistive Technologies can be found at Call Scotland.



# Technical

Some examples of the fantastic work our pupils have created since August in the Technical Department:



## Tech dept 2022

### GRAPHICS NEWS

All pupils from S1-6 in the Technical department will be upskilled on the industry standard software we use in Graphics. **Canva** is an online design and publishing tool with a mission to empower everyone in the world to design anything and publish anywhere.







# Tech Department

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ?

## S1/2

**2 PERIODS PER WEEK  
IN TECH**

Pupils have one period in the classroom (Graphics) and one period in the workshop (Practical Skills)

S1/2

## S3 OPTIONS

**GRAPHICS  
PRACTICAL WOODWORK SKILLS**

Pupils can choose to do Graphics or practical woodwork skills (PWS) in S3. They can choose both, one or none for S3!

S3

## NATIONAL 4/5

**GRAPHICS  
PRACTICAL WOODWORK SKILLS**

In S4 pupils progress on from what subject they studied in S3 to National 4&5 Graphics and/or Practical Woodworking Skills

S4

## HIGHER & NATIONAL 5

**GRAPHICS  
PRACTICAL WOODWORK SKILLS  
PRACTICAL METALWORK SKILLS**

In S5/6 pupils progress on to Higher Graphics from N5

Progression from N5 Woodwork is to N5 Metalwork

S5/6

Learn more at:



@STBENEDICTTECH



ST BENEDICTS TECH



<http://ORAETLABORA.CO.UK>





# Parent Council

St. Benedict's High School has an active and thriving Parent Council which is here to represent the views of all parents/carers at the school. We support the work of the school by:

- **Providing a voice for parents on issues that are important to them and their children.**
- **Advising the school on its policies.**
- **Being involved in the appointment of senior staff.**
- **Organising social and fundraising events.**
- **Ensuring all parents are listened to and understand what the Parent Council does.**
- **Promoting contact between all parents and the rest of the school community.**
- **Discussing any key areas of interest to parents.**

## Members

Stephen McGee ( Chairperson ), Clare Turley (Vice Chairperson), Alan Taylor ( Head Teacher), Nicola Stewart, Elizabeth McNally, Julie Hunter, Claire McLaren, Canon Michael McMahon, Anne Shaw, Kayleigh Dyer. Staff Representatives – Claire Howell, Colette McArthur

Despite the difficult times our group has continued to meet both in person and online. Meetings take place every month. If you would like to join or have any points you would like raised please contact me [stmcgee@sky.com](mailto:stmcgee@sky.com) or the school office.

Kind regards Stephen McGee



Follow the Parent Council on Twitter  
[@StBenedictPC](https://twitter.com/StBenedictPC)



# Attendance and Timekeeping

We have been working hard this term to ensure that young people in St. Benedict's High School continue to achieve and attain to their highest level. Regular attendance and punctuality at school are essential for this. Your support here as a parent/carer is crucial.

Please ensure that your child is only absent from school if they are genuinely unwell or there is a valid reason. Absences must be reported to the school office by 8.45am. If young people are absent on a regular basis or if they are late to class, this is detrimental to their education and learning. Please be aware that if your child's attendance or timekeeping falls below the standards we expect, we have a duty of care to inform you and to follow Renfrewshire Council procedures.



## Pupil Reports and Target Setting

Monitoring and tracking of your child's progress helps us to ensure your child can achieve their potential and is therefore a very important part of his/her education.

As part of our monitoring and tracking system, your child will be involved in regular discussions with staff to identify strengths, areas for development and next steps. Please also discuss these reports with your child.

Over the course of a full session, you will receive the following communication.

The school calendar on the website highlights the dates these are issued.

1. A full written report detailing your child's strengths and areas for development within each subject of study.
2. Tracking reports detailing levels of achievement and ratings for effort, behaviour and homework.
3. A parent-teacher online meeting with an opportunity for a verbal report.

If you have any issues you wish to discuss further, please contact your child's pastoral care teacher or year group Depute Head Teacher.





# St. Benedict's Website and Twitter

I draw your attention to our school's website <http://www.oraetlabora.co.uk> as an interesting and ongoing source of valuable information on events and achievements at the school, including our calendar for this session.



Our Twitter feed is up and running again and is also a great source of information about the school. We now have over 1700 followers - you can follow us on **@stbenedictsren**





# Dates for Your Diary

Description	Date
Last day of the session	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021
Christmas and New Year break (schools closed)	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2021 to Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 (inclusive)
Second Term	January – April 2021
Schools reopen	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
February mid term break (schools closed)	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 (inclusive)
In service day	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Schools reopen	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Spring holiday (schools closed)	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April to Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 (inclusive)
Third Term	April – June 2021
Schools reopen	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
May Day (schools closed)	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022
Schools reopen	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022
In service day	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
Schools reopen	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
Local holiday (schools closed)	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
Schools reopen	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee (schools closed)	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June and Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022
Pupils return	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Last day of session	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2022





# Feedback

We welcome any feedback on the content of the Winter Newsletter or indeed any other aspect of the work of the School. If you wish to make an electronic reply, please do so through the school email address:

[stbenedictshighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:stbenedictshighenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

Pupil's name:

Year group:

Comment:

Signature of parent/carer:

Name of parent/carer (please print):