



**St. Benedict's High School**

# NEWSLETTER

*Summer 2023*



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our Summer Edition of St Benedict's News. I am delighted to be sharing a compilation of some of the many activities, successes and achievements of our young people.

Recent events have ensured a busy but exceptionally positive end of year for the school reflecting a great deal of hard work on the part of our young people and staff.

Our senior pupils have recently returned to school following the SQA exam leave. Months of hard work and extra study sessions allowed our young people to prepare well for the exams and we now look forward to hearing of the positive results at the start of August.

Our new S5 and S6 pupils have already thrown themselves into the life and work of the senior school. S6 pupils have now taken on the leadership roles vacated by the departing pupils.

Various whole school events have taken place in recent weeks including our House group celebrations, sports day and the S6 Prom. These events and many others are captured in this newsletter.

I hope you find the following information helpful and, as ever, we welcome your comments.

I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable holiday, whatever you and your family have planned, and I look forward to welcoming the whole school community back to school at the start of next session – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August.

Alan Taylor

Alan Taylor  
Head Teacher



**RESPECT – LOVE – TRUST – TOLERANCE – INTEGRITY**



# Farewell Mrs Dewar!

We say farewell and the best wishes for the future to an important member of our school community. Mrs Dewar, our Depute Head Teacher, retires at the end of term after 37 years of teaching.

Her teaching career began back in 1986 when she joined St Joseph's Academy in Kilmarnock as a teacher of Mathematics. A few moves and years later she arrived at St Cuthbert's in 1994. When St Cuthbert's and St Brendan's merged in 2006 to create St Benedict's she was delighted to move across and has been here ever since. She was appointed to Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care in 2009 she then became Depute Head Teacher in 2017.

Over the years she has shown total commitment to her roles and to the school, displaying a genuine care and devotion to everyone along the way. There is no doubt that she has had a long lasting positive effect and St Benedict's has certainly become a better place for her being part of it. As a staff, and indeed the whole school community, we will miss her and wish her the best as she moves onto the next stage of her life.

Her plans include travelling the world with her husband Michael (she has already booked up for USA in September!!!) and spending more time with her parents, son Jamie and daughters Lauren and Clare.

Best of luck Kathleen, and you are welcome back for a visit at any time!



Happy Retirement

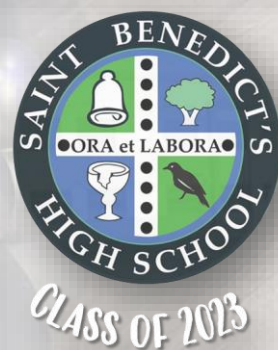




# Prom 2023









In February, the school was visited by Education Scotland inspectors. It was an overwhelmingly positive report which recognised the impact of our developments and our ongoing improvements.



For a full copy of the report please visit our [website](#).

"The headteacher is developing a culture of increased expectations and higher aspirations for young people."

"The school values of respect, love, trust, tolerance and integrity underpin a positive school ethos. The well-developed climate for learning is characterised by nurturing and mutually respectful relationships between young people and staff. There is a calm and purposeful atmosphere in almost all classes."

"Young people, parents, staff and partners are confident that the school is improving. These improvements are developing a strong ethos, a sense of belonging to the community."



"Young people feel valued, nurtured, and benefit from positive interactions with staff. Young people's wellbeing lies at the heart of the school's work."

"Young people find staff approachable and value regular offers of time out with class to access support with their learning. As a result, young people feel safe, supported and well cared for in school."

"The pupil council is effective in capturing the views of young people and providing regular feedback on the changes being made as a result."

"Parents welcomed information evenings to inform them of the different courses that children study at school. These were positively evaluated by parents."

"There are effective relationships with community partners, who actively contribute to the life of the school."

"Staff and young people enjoy positive and caring relationships. They are proud of their school and demonstrate a strong sense of belonging to the school community."



# Pupil Leadership 2023-24

## Head Boy and Head Girl



**Head Boy**  
Conan Rooney



**Head Girl**  
Anya Leckie

## Depute Team



**Depute Head Boys**  
Moses Amaze and Nathan Law

**Depute Head Girls**  
Olivia Kinnear, Zara Craig,  
Faith Devoy, and Ava Scott





# 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 a sense of 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 four sessions, there have been **significant improvements** in our standard of uniform. An increasing number of pupils are now wearing blazers and I am delighted to report that over 97% 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. No pupil or parent should feel pressured to wear/buy an expensive pair of “converse style” trainers. This was also highlighted by our young people through our pupil voice.

**Our improved standards of uniform coincides with our increasing pattern of attainment.**

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.

St. Benedict's High School's uniform policy is that all of our young people 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, denims and tracksuits, are not acceptable under any circumstances.
- A school blazer with badge.
- Comfortable footwear (black in colour). **No Converse style trainers unless fully 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.**





# Attendance

## Attendance Matters – Is your child missing out?

The importance of good attendance and timekeeping is essential for pupils to fulfil their potential. It is also a crucial life skill. If a pupil is not in school, they are missing learning.

It is important **we work together** to monitor this closely.

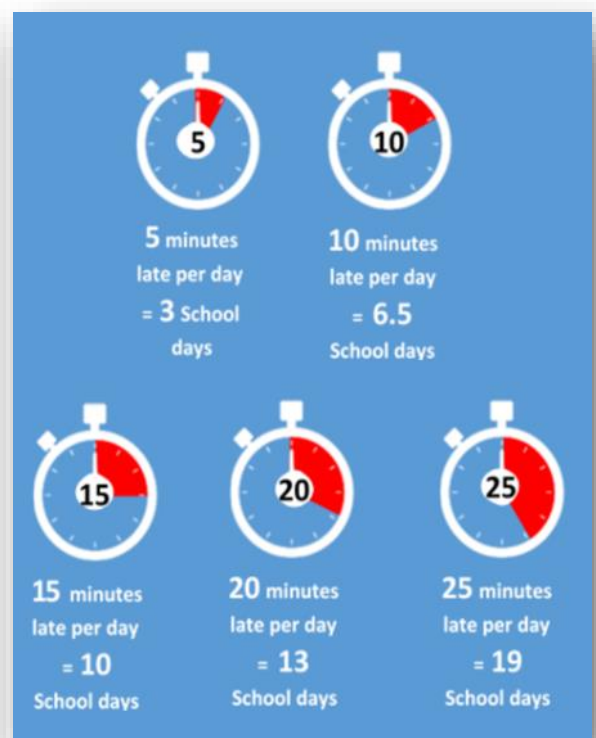
Parents/carers are by far the most important influence on children's lives and learning and are vital in shaping the mind set and behaviour of children.

You will receive attendance and timekeeping updates on all tracking reports you receive. Please pay attention to this.

What these figures mean:

## Poor Attendance and Timekeeping – Missed Learning

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Gives your child the best chance of success and gets them off to a flying start.
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Less chance of success. Makes it harder to progress.
85% Attendance	27 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed Almost half a term missed	Serious implications on learning and progress.
80% Attendance	36 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed Half a term missed	
75% Attendance	45 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed Almost 1 whole term missed	





## What can you do to help?

- Be aware of the impact of regular absences – missing school is missing out.
- Take family holidays outside of term.
- Try to arrange non-urgent dental and medical appointments outside school hours.
- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead ; build up good habits of punctuality and attendance.
- Be involved with your child's education and school – ask questions.
- Inform the school if you child is absent due to illness or other reason.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school, staff are there to help and will be supportive.



If your child has **90%** attendance they will have  
the equivalent of:  
**½ a day off** per week,  
**19 days off** per year  
**247 days off** over their school career of 13 academic  
years, equivalent to over **1 year of lost education.**

We do understand that pupils can be unwell from time to time and that some pupils are affected more than others by health issues including anxiety. These pupils will be fully supported by school staff in their learning journey.



# Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award

Many congratulations to our young people who successfully achieved the Caritas Award! A year of faith witness and learning was recognised as they were presented with medals and certificates at a ceremony in the Clyde Auditorium. Thank you for being such wonderful witnesses to God's love!



The Caritas award encourages, promotes, and develops the ongoing faith journey of young people.

The award recognises young people who are already active and committed within their homes, schools, parishes and dioceses and it invites others to respond to God's call of love.

It supports and celebrates the faith witness which young people give within their communities.

Caritas students are involved in: -


- contributing to liturgy in our school and parishes
- parish associations e.g., St Vincent de Paul
- caring for vulnerable groups /individuals in school and in parishes
- offering peer support (buddying younger pupils)
- organising fundraising e.g., Light up a Life for St. Vincent's Hospice, SCIAF, emergency earthquake appeal in Syria and Turkey
- assisting in parish activities e.g., readings at Mass, coffee mornings after Mass, children's liturgy, meet and greet with hymn books, supporting SCIAF in our parishes.




# House System

Our House System is now well established, encouraging young people to participate in and take on a variety of leadership roles. Pupils and staff are able to achieve house points as detailed below.


## ★ House Points ★



St Josephine Bakhita House




SAINT BENEDICT'S  
HIGH SCHOOL




St Oscar Romero House

Behaviour and Effort	Achievements
5 points for a grade 1 3 points for a grade 2	50 points for being a House Hero
Attendance	Extra Curricular Activities
25 points for ≥95% attendance	50 points for attending 10 club sessions 10 points for community litter pick



St Maximilian Kolbe House



St Teresa of Calcutta House

**500 points for monthly departmental challenges**

Respect • Love • Trust • Tolerance • Integrity

## Subject Calendar

MONTH	SUBJECT
SEPTEMBER	MATHS CHALLENGE
OCTOBER	SOCIAL SUBJECTS
NOVEMBER	MODERN LANGUAGES
DECEMBER	ART/MUSIC
JANUARY	COMPUTING/BUSINESS/ADMIN
FEBRUARY	HOME ECONOMICS
MARCH	SCIENCE
APRIL	TECHNICAL
MAY	ENGLISH
JUNE	P.E

Each faculty will have a month where they will run an event within their department and award points to pupils at the end of month DM.



# News from St. Maximilian Kolbe's House

Our House has had a successful year this session, with many pupils having curricular and extra curricular successes!

## 100% Attendance



The following pupils had perfect attendance up until the timetable change:

S1: Joseph Durkin, Harmony Etinosa-Iroghiendo, Ciara Orr and Toby White

S2: Harry Cavanagh (pictured left)

S3: David Ferris and Ryan McKay

S4: Ava Garrity, Flora Okungbowa and Aaron Rai



## St. Benedict's Does Broadway

Ciara Orr, Harmony Etinosa-Iroghiendo, Holly Noble and Sinead Smith (also Ellie Martindale, not in picture) displayed their creative talents in the planning and performance of the musical numbers. Well done!



## House Heroes

Congratulations to 1.2 pupils: Toby White, Jayden Fullarton, and Taylor McGeachie.



## Musical Interlude

David Ferris, who was also one of our 100%, attendees is currently participating in the West Orchestra, playing percussion.

## Kolbe Input

Taonga Chirwa and Chiedu Nwokeabia presented at the Primary 7 Information Evening to our new Kolbe intake. Great thoughts and advice. Well done boys!



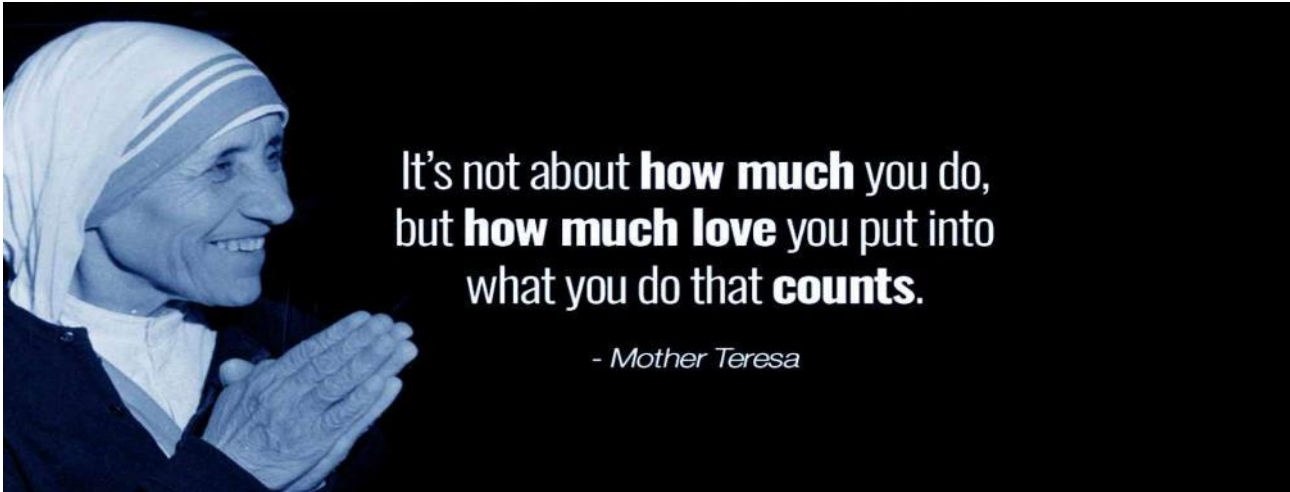
*"Never forget  
to love."*

St. Maximilian Kolbe





# News from St. Teresa's House



## What a year it's been!

Team Teresa would like to thank our outgoing Senior House Captains. Mark and Roman have been a great support to our house group this year and we wish them every success at university. Big shoes to fill for our new S6 pupils!



Our new S1 pupils have enjoyed participating in the 'St. Benedict's Does Broadway' show – what a great start to high school! They have committed to daily rehearsals at lunch and after school. All at St. Teresa House are very proud of you!





# News from St. Josephine Bakhita's House

It's been another excellent term for all the members of Bakhita House but particularly this year as they were the winners of the House challenge for 2022-23. Pupils enjoyed a well-deserved turn on the inflatables at the end of April to say thanks for all their hard work and dedication they have shown throughout the year both in and out of school in ensuring they lead the house to victory. Well done to those pupils who really contributed to the House points in the following areas:

## **100% Attendance**

S1: Ben Surpless and Matthew Turner

S2: Lily Connelly, Chad Duru Inegbenose and Cher Duru Inegbenose

S3: James Blair

S5: Nicole Patrick

S6: Ryan Colligan

## **Pupils of Merit for excellent academic success this year:**

S1: Monica Adams, Charlie Bell, Ben Surpless

S2: Anthony Burns, Aimee Duggal

S3.4: Success Agbontaen, Hannah Blair, Megan Brander, Aaron Brown, Holly Cranfield, Skye Delaney, Cerys Devoy, Robyn Gray, Krista McSwegan, Angelica Opalka, Lucy Tait and Lucy Wishart

S3.5: Grace Adams, Olivia Doyle, Piotr Drabik, Connor Hampsey and Amelia Holland

S4: Olivia McInnes, Sophie Murray

Seniors: Nicole Patrick, Olivia Johnston, Hannah Keenan and Miren Lochrie

## **Outstanding effort in the following subjects:**

### *PE*

Well done to Aaron Brown who won the bronze medal in the Renfrewshire cross country.

### *Science*

Well done to our STEM champions this year: Julia Armatys, Jason Devoy, Ryan Sloan, Hannah Swajkowski and Cerys Devoy

### *English*

Brodie MacLean, Angelica Opalka, James Scott and Lucy Wishart

### *Social Subjects*

Lucy Wishart











# News from St. Oscar Romero's House

*"Aspire not to have more, but to be more."*

St. Oscar Romero



Well done to House Romero on another wonderful year. Our house continues to build on our values, and this is highlighted by our Junior House Captains Sean Colligan and Zachary Adams (right) who said: "Our house is built on honesty, hard work and we never stop trying to win points."



Well done to the following pupils who had perfect attendance this year: Amber Moody, Jessica Walters, Chloe McKenna and Erin McFadden



*"We've really enjoyed our journey and we're excited for the future. We'd like to thank all the teachers and our peers that have helped us along the way. We wish you all the best of luck for the remainder of your time."*

(Reagan McDermott and  
Kacper Cybulski  
Senior House Captains 2023)

Well done to the following pupils pictured below who won pupil of merit for their outstanding tracking across all subjects – well done !

Julia Kolodziejczyk, Patrick Burns, Ebony Brogan, Amber Moody, Abbie Anderson, Tillie Shearon, Saoirse Dunn, Conan Rooney and Nathan Law.



The following pupils were awarded certificates and additional house points for outstanding effort within subject areas, well done!

- S2 Girls Cross Country team - Gold Team prize
- Fallon McElhinney, Olive Kilpatrick, Alaina Jackson, Erin McFadden, Sophie Coutts, Lucy McElhinney, Mirrin Shaw

Outstanding effort in PE & HE

- Mirrin McFarlane Rotary Club Young Chef Competition
- Zara Black PE Girls Cross Country Winner

Outstanding effort in Science:

Ellie Hanley, Alice Waldron, Roan Kerr, Frank Haraburda and Julia Kolodziejczyk.

Outstanding effort in English:

Alex Kerr, Abbie Anderson & Aaron Fordyce Kyle

Outstanding effort in Social Subjects:

Tillie Shearon, Jess Smith and Jessica Neeson

Outstanding effort in Maths:

Patrick Burns and Leon Mullen

The following pupils have been awarded points and certificates for achievements out with School, well done!

- Conan Rooney 5.2: Representing Scotland in International Cheer Competition
- Eve Main 3.1: Passed all her Dance exams.
- Sophie Keenan 6.1: Various Charity Work
- Jack Sheridan 5.2: Working towards queens BB Badge, after achieving his presider.
- Noah McSkimming 1.1: Involved in Pace and performing in different Pantos.
- Catherine Morier 2.1: Charity Fundraising
- Well done to Lennon Duffy in 4.1 for his Paisley & District Senior Football Call Up.



# Achievements

Below are some highlights of some achievements by members of our school community. Look out for the monthly text and let us know of your young people's successes!

## St. Oscar Romero House



**Noah McSkimming**  
Performance Award  
for achievements in  
PACE and panto!



**Liam McLaughlin**  
*Sport Award for  
players player of year  
and player of year for  
his Football Club.*



**Catherine Morier**  
*Citizenship Award for  
extensive fundraising  
out with school.*

## St. Maximilian Kolbe House

### Music:

- Harry, S1: Passed Grade 1 Piano and a member of Renfrewshire Concert Band.
- David, S3: Member of West Orchestra.
- Jamie, S3: Passed Grade 3 Piano.

### Dance and Drama:

- Ciara and Daisy, S1: Members of dance schools.
- Ellie, S1: Member of drama group.
- Andrew, S3: Completed in the Irish Open dance championships.

### Sports:

- Emily, S2: Horse-riding and dressage exams

### Charity:

- Hannah, S3 (*pictured*): Fundraising for the charity 'Children First'.







**Emma Shannon**

A keen sportswoman, and enjoys swimming and gymnastics. He has been an active Guide for many years



**Niamh Evans**

Niamh has been a member of Pace since Primary 1, and is a avid member of Kilbarchan Athletics Club.



**Katie Moynihan**

Katie has been using her championship dance skills teaching primary pupils Irish Dancing.



**Oliver Stan**

Has participated in Open University courses in Geometry and Sports and Fitness. He also featured in a Skills Development Scotland video filmed here in St. Benedict's.



**Grace Caldwell**

Competed in both Highland Dancing and Street Dancing.



**Wilmer Ferreira Da Silva**

Is a keen participant in lots of sports including running, swimming, football and tennis.



**Ava Scott**

Completed the Glasgow Kiltwalk 'Mighty Stride' raising funds for Accord Hospice.

## First Year

Bethany Galloway has had a busy year, passing her Grade 2 piano exam after successfully getting the lead role in Matilda. Bethany was also part of the musical theatre group this year who put on the Broadway at St. Benedict's show last week.

Cara McIntyre was part of the winning team with her dance troop Distinction who won the Scottish Championships.



## Second Year

Ben Sheridan is another talented actor winning a part in Peter Pan.



## Third Year

Ash Parker was successful in getting accepted for a football scholarship which will hopefully see her head off to America in later years.

Oliver Hart has a great year at football and at the end of year awards ceremony won, Player of the year; Players Player of the Year and Parent's Player of the Year.



## Seniors

Well done to Hannah Keenan and Miren Lochrie, who both completed the RSSE course this year, giving up their time after school to support the sports development of youngsters in the local area. Particular well done to Miren, who also gained special recognition at the awards ceremony in March.



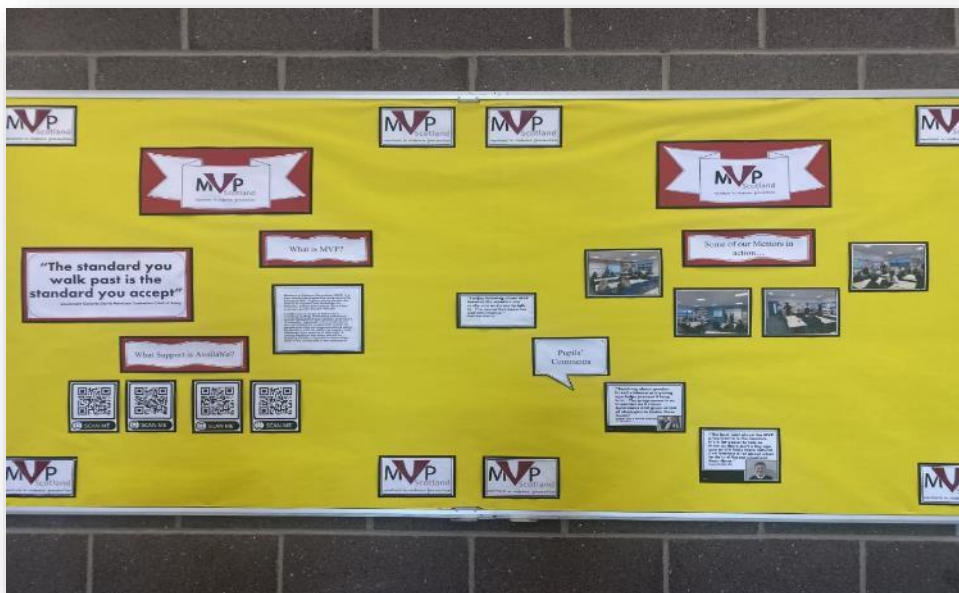


As of October 2022, St Benedict's High School have 70 S5 and S6 pupils trained in MVP. These pupils deliver sessions to our S2 pupils, raising awareness of gender-based violence. The mentors are growing in confidence and are effectively supporting our younger students on a variety of issues.



In January 2023, several of our S5 mentors undertook further training to deliver Mental Health lessons linked to MVP. The training was a great success, and all are looking forward to supporting S3 students during their SE time.

This year, our MVP team put together a fabulous notice board in the street area to highlight the work of the mentors and the support that all pupils can access.



## S1: Howdens – Girls into Engineering

Some of our S1 girls took part in interactive STEM challenges at Howdens in May to celebrate International Women in Engineering.



## S2: Price Waterhouse Cooper

Our S2 entrepreneurs attended a Dragon's Den challenge at Price Waterhouse Cooper in Glasgow. Our pupils' leadership and presentation skills certainly impressed the PWC staff!





## Senior School: Multigenerational Digital Literacy Café

Our S6 pupils have been volunteering to work with older adults through the charity ROAR. The students are investing time in helping older adults to become more confident in their own digital literacy skills and in turn they are learning about each other.



This café has been a huge success for both the young people of St. Benedict's, as well as older adults in our community!

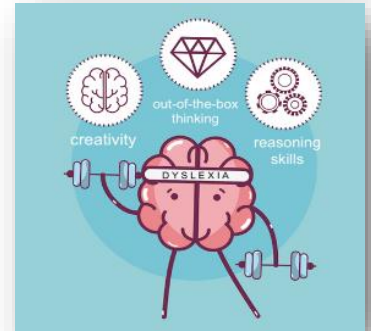


The Roar-Do-Digital Project won the Tackling Age Discrimination Award at the 2023 Generations Working Together Conference. Pictured are new S5 pupils receiving their well deserved Award of Excellence for their work with older adults in the community.

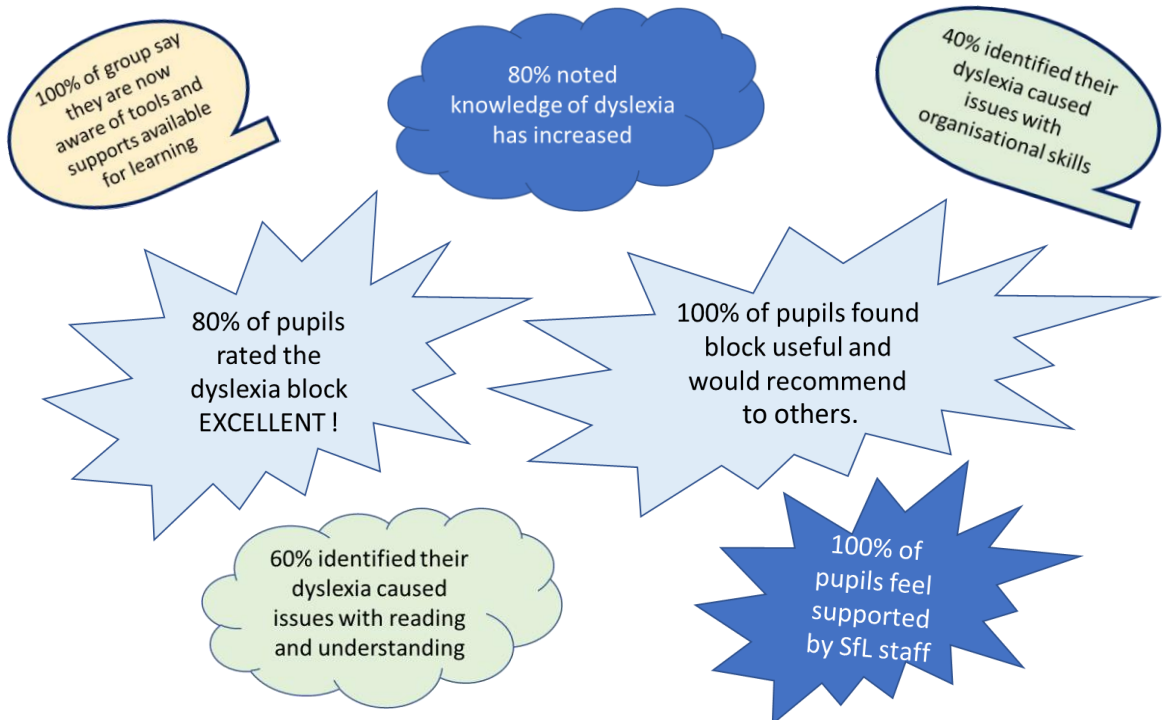


Last term, the Support for Learning Department ran “Dyslexia and Me” groups with some of our S1 pupils. Pupils worked together to develop an understanding of dyslexia; the barriers learners can face; and the creative way people with dyslexia can view the world. Pupils then had a chance to explore their own strengths and some strategies they could use in class to access learning.

Pupils learned about memory boosting strategies such as mind mapping, chunking, mnemonics, visualisation and colour association. They also explored the benefits of using ICT, where they were able to access ‘Speech to Text’ technology and immersive reader.



Results from a survey the groups completed included:



Click [here](#) to find out a little more about dyslexia.

If you or your child would like to know more please contact the Support for Learning Department.

**Visual difficulties:** Some people experience visual discomfort or disturbance when they read e.g. blurred vision, difficulty keeping text in place. If your child experiences this, it is important that they consult a registered optometrist for a full assessment of eye health and visual function. (British Dyslexia Association)



## ASDAN

Our class have been exploring the local community. They are proud to be part of such a thriving town and wanted to do their bit to help keep it looking good! Pupils organised a litter pick and identified areas for improvement going forward. Maybe next time they won't be so camera shy!

## S2 Achieve

From August 2022, the Support for Learning Department has successfully run a yearlong course for a small cohort of S2 pupils to support their literacy, numeracy and study skills, along with prioritising their health and wellbeing. The pupils have worked hard building team skills and self-belief.

The Achieve class covered wide-ranging topics from seasons, weather, personal finance, nutrition, science, Easter and all things Spanish! We had great support from departments across the school making it truly interdisciplinary. All the pupils involved were great contributors to the success of the course. We now look forward to seeing the pupils confidently engage in their new S3 classes.

Some of the comments from recent pupil survey:

It has helped me make friends.

I believe in myself more.

My spelling has improved.

I feel more comfortable working and speaking in groups.

Confident using ICT. Learning about Immersive Reader has helped me in all classes.

I am more confident in myself.



Using budgeting skills to plan a healthy meal. Thanks to HFT, pupils were able to cook up their meal.



One of our favourite games to revise new vocabulary. The class were outstanding at pronouncing new Spanish vocabulary.



Making the most of St Benedict's beautiful grounds – reading time outside.



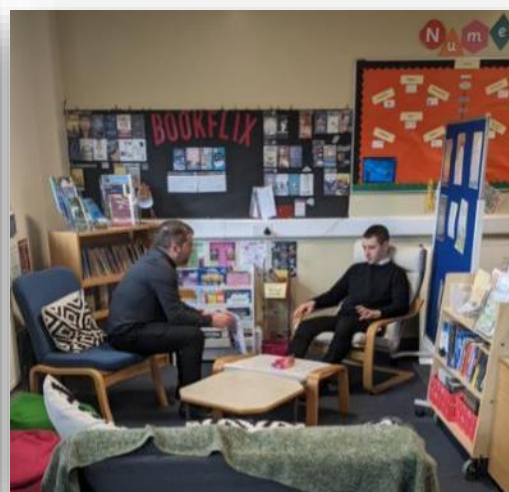
Effective use of ICT supports. Learners are more confident using Immersive Reader.



Active Numeracy! Hopscotch times tables revision.



Supporting each other with science study skills.



All the pupils successfully studied aspects of Spanish culture and language. Huge thanks to Mr Duffy for taking time to support pupils to engage in a solo talk in Spanish – amazing achievement! We are so proud of you all!





Creative outlets allow our pupils to build positive relationships with peers and staff. It also allows for some wellbeing time to work on strategies to support emotional regulation, anxiety management ... and some truly impressive nail and free-hand henna designs!



Our Wellbeing Group enjoyed a morning at Clyde Muirshiel Country Park to reap the benefits of outdoor learning. Pupils experienced walks in nature soaking up new knowledge about our beautiful wildlife and landscape.



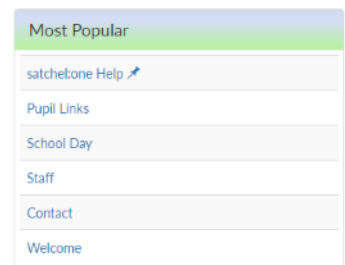
# Digital Learning

Over the past few years, we have continued to develop our digital learning approaches. Our main platforms continue to be Satchel One and Microsoft teams.

Satchel:One continues to be the platform we use to provide homework for pupils. This platform also allows yourself the opportunity of keeping up-to date with your child's homework and submission dates, using the unique Parent Code each child is supplied with.



If a pupil forgets their password for the website, all teachers can reset their password. However, please direct pupils to see **Miss Sweeney (Art)** if you would like to receive your child's Parent Code or any other help regarding Satchel:One.



You can also visit the school website:  
<https://www.oraetlabora.co.uk/> for videos and support on Satchel:One.

Microsoft TEAMS may be used as 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.

## Skills Development Scotland (SDS)– Careers Adviser

Skills Development Scotland is Scotland's careers service, and their Careers Advisers are available to support you and your child throughout their time at school.

Our SDS Careers Adviser is Audrey McNab you can get in touch through the school or by email: [audrey.mcnab@sds.co.uk](mailto:audrey.mcnab@sds.co.uk)

The Careers Adviser supports pupils at key times such as starting S1, making subject choices, and preparing for moving on from school. From the beginning of term, the Careers Adviser will be working with senior pupils helping them to develop their career management skills and supporting them with their career planning, through 1:1 meetings and group sessions.

### Useful websites:

- [www.myworldofwork.co.uk](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk) - Scotland's careers website.
- [www.apprenticeship.scot](http://www.apprenticeship.scot) - Your one-stop shop for apprenticeships.
- [www.digitalworld.net](http://www.digitalworld.net) - Digital World promotes the skills and training needed to work in Scotland's tech sector.



# My World of Work

## APPRENTICESHIPS.SCOT

From Skills Development Scotland

BECOME A DIGITAL HUMAN  
VISIT DIGITALWORLD.NET







# Parents in Partnership

We welcomed our new group of S1 parents to St. Benedict's in May for our annual induction days. The event was very well received with over forty parents attending both days.

Parents received a school tour, visited different departments, and took part in active lessons. Parents were also given the opportunity to meet various members of staff, ask any questions and get to know one another before pupils attended their two-day induction in June.

Below are some pictures of our parents taking part in Art, Health & Food Technology, Computing and Technical.



We are now developing a programme to start in August to continue to work alongside parents and support our young people at the beginning of their secondary school journey.

If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information, please contact the school or directly get in touch with Mrs Mitchell:

[gw21mitchellynne@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw21mitchellynne@glow.sch.uk)

## Attainment Seminar

Our S4 students participated in their own Attainment Seminar in February during our inspection week. Inspectors commented very favourably on this morning of workshops and presentations. This seminar allowed students to increase their skills in approaches to studying, whilst learning strategies to build resilience and confidence. They enjoyed a very interesting and inspiring presentation from our own school chaplain, Father Michael, before participating in a series of workshops, including Teambuilding, Body Balance, and Metacognition. S5 students were also on hand during the Question Rounds section of the event to share their own experiences and offer study and well-being tips.

Students reported that they benefited from their morning of activities and their evaluation feedback was very positive. Comments included: "I thought it was really good as it was from someone else's perspective"; "It made me think about how not everything will go how you expect it to but it will fall into place at one point"; and "I found it useful because I communicated with people and I felt more confident with working in a group."

## Supported Study and Easter School

Supported Study classes have been offered throughout this session in a number of subjects in order to further enhance the ongoing excellent learning and teaching which goes on in the classroom. This programme of tutorial classes was delivered at the end of each school day and allowed pupils to focus on key areas of the curriculum. Students benefitted from this additional support and welcomed the opportunity to deepen their learning by working in smaller class settings with subject specialists. Attendance at these classes was very good and students provided positive feedback on the impact of this support. As we move into next session, we will be encouraging senior students to continue to take advantage of all opportunities on offer to help them to maximise their full potential.

April saw further support provided to senior students on the cusp of SQA examinations in the form of our very successful Easter School. Students attended a wide range of subjects as well as taking advantage of a quiet, industrious learning environment which supported their study plans during the holiday.



## Wider Achievement Opportunities

As a Catholic school we understand that it is essential that we consider attainment in its widest context. As such, we work to ensure all our young people have the chance to gain skills for life, learning and work. To this end, by the time you read this newsletter all new S6 students will have been provided with the opportunity to participate in First Aid training. This will ensure they have skills which are of value and are relevant to the world of work.



By working in partnership with recognised workplace trainers all S6 will have had the chance to complete the “Emergency First Aid at Work” qualification. This qualification 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 new and very different context from the traditional curriculum.

The First Aid Qualification is part of the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework. Another new course from this Framework we intend to introduce in the new session is Level 5 Barista Skills. This new course will be delivered alongside the Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate.



As part of this new course, a group of senior students will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of running a Barista Bar. This will include:

- Knowledge of coffee and other beverages served by a barista.
- How to prepare and serve a range of coffees and other hot beverages using specialist equipment.
- How to prepare and serve a range of cold beverages using specialist equipment.

Parents are encouraged to look out for our Barista Coffee Cart at forthcoming Parents' Evenings.

By introducing these new courses, we hope to allow our young people to evidence the wide range of skills they possess. Skills which the traditional curriculum sometimes does not allow them to show.

This is the ultimate aim of all raising attainment strategies employed here at St. Benedict's High School – we are constantly seeking new and exciting ways for young people to develop their gifts and talents. Yes, we want our young people to achieve their academic potential, but we see this as just one aspect of our mission to allow them to become the best version of themselves. By offering new courses we are providing our young people with a rich learning experience which will provide them with the best opportunity to succeed in the years ahead.



# Fr. Michael's Reflection

I was recently invited to give an input at the S5 Attainment Day in November and the S4 Day in March; this is a day organised by the Attainment Team (those charged with helping the young people make decisions in their young lives that will help them achieve their full potential as they grow and develop). The day begins with prayer (as does every day in St. Benedict's) and after the pupils had been registered, they gathered in the 'Street Area' for a half hour input after which they went off to various classrooms in the school to work together with teacher leaders in a variety of workshops.

My task was to present the initial input to each year group - despite being an experienced public speaker I always find a group of over 150 young people rather daunting - they are, as you as parents will know, very dismissive of any perceived dishonesty or hypocrisy and can smell a fake at 100 metres; so honesty and straight forwardness are very much the order of the day.



When asked to speak at these events the best advice I was given is: 'Talk about what you know'. So, on that basis I decided to talk about my education and the impact it had made in my own life. That was both honest and I hope, relevant, as part of the purpose I had in mind was to enthuse them about the possibilities offered them every day in St. Benedict's often 'under their radar'; we know that young people often appreciate the new, the glamorous, the bells and whistles, rather than the truly helpful and difficult bits of learning!

So, I spoke to them about my memories of schooling in St. John's Primary School in Port Glasgow and St. Columba's School in Greenock - the Catholic Schools closest to my home. I mentioned the memorable teachers, some memorable for good reasons, some for bad! I spoke of the value I have discovered in later life about learning English Grammar and Arithmetic in Maths. How I had discovered a talent for languages and managed to get a good set of grades for my 'Highers'. They were very interested to learn that these good grades were achieved only after a spectacularly disastrous year in S5 where I failed everything, and I worried that I would achieve nothing in my life. That was where the encouragement of my family and good teachers encouraged me to buckle down to work and 'to learn how I learned' - valuable lessons indeed. Victory in the face of defeat is not just the stuff of fairy tales!

Then I told them of great opportunities given to me in Higher Education, of learning Philosophy, resulting in fluency in 7 languages, degrees from 3 Universities and, subsequently opportunities to live in, visit and work in 12 countries in three continents. I confessed that sometimes I still feel like a wee boy in St. John's Primary School in Port Glasgow who is well out of his depth!

For them it was, above all, I hope an encouragement to realise that with their determination, optimism and hard work they could achieve their dreams. I ended telling them of all the jobs I have done and all the things I do at the moment in my young life (!) working with them in St. Benedict's is among my most fulfilling and joyful. They were, as always they are, generous to me in their feedback and they continue to affirm and challenge me at St. Benedict's - making 'every day a school day' not just for them but also for me!



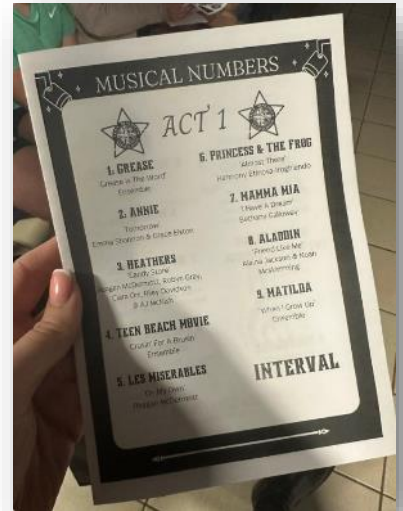
# Musical Theatre Club

The pupils in the Musical Theatre Club have been working very hard preparing for the school show, *'Broadway at St Benedict's'*.



The Musical Theatre Club found it very exciting to perform some numbers from the show for Primary 3 and 4 pupils from one of Our Lady of Peace Primary School. They said it was a joy to perform for the pupils.

Our pupils did an incredible amount of work for the show; creating posters, programmes, tickets and helping with costumes and setting design.



The show was a massive success! The pupils loved performing for the audience and all their hard work paid off!







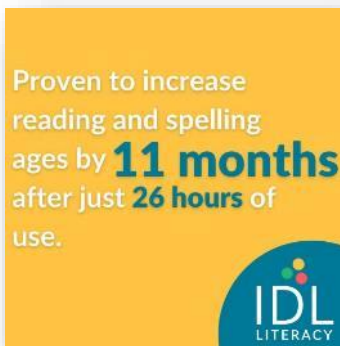


## S1 Literacy Lessons

S1 pupils have worked incredibly hard over the year to improve their literacy skills through receiving dedicated literacy lessons. From identifying and working through common errors, building extensive vocabulary, and developing excellent presentation skills, many S1 pupils have significantly enhanced their reading, writing, talking, and listening skills and should be proud of their efforts as they begin S2! The S1 literacy programme will commence for new pupils starting in August 2023.



### IDL Digital Software



IDL Literacy will continue to be used in session 23-24 to support all learners in S1 to improve their reading and spelling skills. Additionally, pupils in S2 and S3 will have access to IDL Literacy in a more independent capacity. Learners have been enjoying using IDL and can see how it is improving their confidence in reading and writing across the curriculum. IDL can be accessed from home – if you'd like more information about how to use the software at home, please contact the School Office or visit <http://www.idlsgroup.com/literacy>

## Primary 6 and 7 Transition Programme

Cluster Primary 6 and 7 pupils took part in our Snack Invention Challenge where they were responsible for designing, branding and advertising a new snack aimed at healthy eating. All pupils did a fantastic job at creating and delivering presentations to a host of judges and the rest of their classmates – here's some examples of winning presentations (pictured on right). Well done!

Look out for our new P6 and 7s work which will be celebrated in our next newsletter!



## Sky Academy Studios

A group of S1 pupils embarked on our annual trip to Sky Academy Studios in Livingston, where they got the opportunity to experience a day in the life of a producer, director, actor, presenter, reporter, scriptwriter, editor, and camera operator! They wrote, filmed, edited, and produced a news report on social media influencers and the final result was amazing to watch! Fantastic work everyone!



Opportunities to attend next year's trip will be communicated early on in session 23-24.

## Reading Schools Award



The Literacy Improvement Team is currently seeking ways to build and sustain a reading culture within the school and the wider community. In doing so, we hope to create opportunities for pupils to have their say, as well as create pathways for families and the wider community to become involved. We hope that St Benedict's will gain accreditation as a Reading School soon – watch this space!

## Useful Links/QR Codes

Below is a list of useful links/QR codes to help you in supporting your child's literacy development:

1. <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/parent-support/>
2. <https://literacytrust.org.uk/parents-and-families/>
3. <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/zone-in/>
4. <https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/filter/?age=9-12>
5. <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/guidance-for-teachers/covid-19-resources/support-resources-for-schools-and-parents>

1



2



3



4



5





# Health and Wellbeing

## Children's Mental Health Week (6th-12th February 2023)

For Children's Mental Health Week, SE classes were joined by some of our HWB Pupil Champions, who helped encourage pupils to engage in the topic of discussion; Online Safety. This year's Children's Mental Health Week focused on Online Safety, encouraging pupils to think about their current online activity and giving them tools to help them stay safe online. Pupils were also provided with details of some valuable online HWB resources, including the Keep Safe Kids App. This was greatly received throughout all age groups within the school.



## Pupil HWB during Athletics Championships

During the S1-3 Athletics Championships in May, the HWB team provided pupils with a free ice lolly to enjoy during the warm weather. These were received with great enthusiasm and helped pupils cool down whilst cheering on their fellow pupils during the events.



## S4 Raising Attainment Seminar

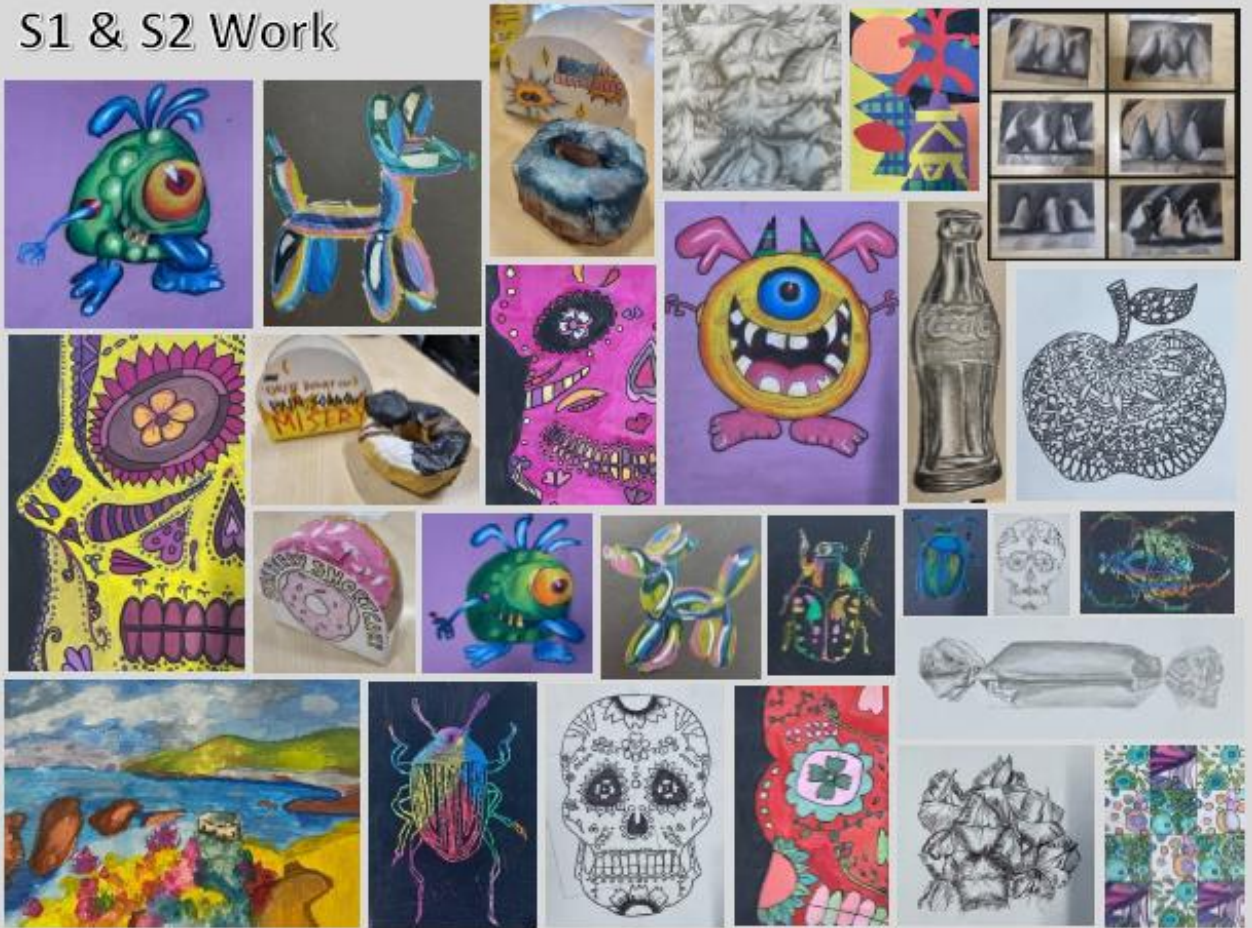
As part of the S4 raising attainment seminar this year, our HWB project leader Miss Conboy ran a workshop looking at the relationship between food and our mental wellbeing. Pupils enjoyed learning about the importance of a healthy and balanced diet to promote mental functions including memory and concentration. Pupils also learned about foods that can be detrimental to their mental function, such as foods high in sugar and trans fats. Pupils were treated to a Wholemeal Salad Wrap, which received positive reviews.





BGE classes have been working really hard this year and have managed to produce some excellent work. Here are some examples of work from S1-S3.

## S1 & S2 Work



## S3 Work



Art Club will continue next year. We would love to see some new members so keep your eyes open for a start date in August.





## SQA Folios

After lots of hard work pupils finally finished their SQA folios. Pupils all worked so hard and as a result there is some beautiful work. Well Done everyone. We are looking forward to some fantastic results in August.



@StBenedictsArt



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. Keep an eye out for our end of year BGE Gallery and SQA Gallery on Twitter.

Well done to Layla, Catherine, Jessica and Abbie in S2 (new S3) who recently entered and won the Code vs Climate competition. They were required to investigate the energy usage in the school, identify a problem and invent a solution.

The girls invented an automated air conditioning system that turns on when the temperature in the room is above 23° and the room is occupied. If the room is below 23° or the room is vacant – the system does not turn on.

The girls won £100 of STEM resources for the school! Great work!

*Mrs Tweed, Computing Science*







## Recognising Achievement

As part of our ongoing efforts to recognise achievement and attainment, the English department have installed a compliments wall in the corridor. This will be updated every month to ensure that our students' achievements – individually and collectively – are given the platform for recognition that they deserve.

Congratulations and well done to:

- Mr McKee's class for the high standard of their 'Truman Show' essays.
- Mrs Tennant's class for their brilliant performances of 'Bugsy Malone'.
- Mrs Kelly's class for their performance in their prelim examinations.
- Mrs Fletcher's class for their critical essays.
- Miss Lauder's class for their efforts when reading 'A Stranger Came Ashore'.
- Mrs Colligan's class for the hard work on their writing folios.

## The Great Linwood Write-Off

Pupils in 1.3 (now 2.3) were recently faced with a competition: learn the rules of limerick writing and use them to write 26 of their own – each starting with a different letter of the alphabet. Despite the combined literacy and numeracy skills required being of a high level of difficulty, the pupils performed admirably. Congratulations go to Grace Elston who was the overall winner of the competition, winning 500 House Points as a result. Well done!



[@sbhslanguage](https://twitter.com/sbhslanguage)

## Multi-lingual Debate at Heriot Watt University



A number of our senior phase linguists were invited to take part in the prestigious annual multi-lingual debate at Heriot Watt University in March of this year. Students were able to witness the real-world application of language learning through immersion in a debate, before being given access to the facilities on offer at the university to supplement the study of languages. A fantastic day was had by all and we hope that the experience provided further motivation to go the extra mile in preparation for those all-important SQA examinations.

## Language Ambassadors Visit the Primary Schools

Some of our Senior Phase linguists have been true ambassadors – not just for languages, but for our schools values – by giving up some of their study leave time to visit our associated primary schools and teach language lessons to their younger counterparts. We are so thankful and appreciative to the girls and look forward to seeing the impact they have had on the language skills of our new intakes over the next several years.



## Saturday Schools and Supported Study Sessions

We just want to say a huge thank-you to all of our young people – and, by extension, their parents and carers – for their amazing efforts to attend the vast range of supported study and Saturday school sessions in the run-up to their exams. We will continue to run similar sessions in the next year and would encourage all of our pupils to maximise their chances of success by attending.



All that remains to be said is a huge thank-you to our pupils, parents and partners for the support and encouragement of all that we do within the faculty. Please have a lovely Summer break when the time comes.



## Junior Maths Challenge

This has been a record-breaking year for the Mathematics Department. S1 and S2 pupils participated in the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Maths Challenge. Pupils across the UK participate and answer a range of problems that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques.

The challenge is far from easy all of the pupils and their families should be very proud of themselves. This year, thirty-nine awards were achieved by our pupils.



A special congratulations to the following S1 Prizes Winners: Ben Surpless (Best in Year), Mia Murray, Alice Waldron, Jeshof Jenith, Lucy Tonge, Cara McIntyre, Connor Briggs, Eilidh Fitzpatrick, Roan Kerr, Zara Muir, Emmanuel Okungbowa, Grace Elston, Oliver Stan, Laigha O'Brien, Gurseerit Chahal, Lilian MacLeod, Ella Whitehorn and Ambila Lenora Cookey.





Our S2 prize winners were Lucas Leckie (Best in Year), Bobby Rowe, Matthew Broadhurst, Ellis Hart, Alaina Jackson, Callum Brady, Chad Duru Inegbenose, Curtis Hope, Cael Dolan, Sean Doherty, Aleksander Wolak, Lucy McElhinney, Sean Connolly, Leon Donaldson, Jack Anderson, Chiedu Nwokebia, Alexander Kerr, Jack Campbell, Dylan Charlton-Brown, Aiden Cox and Taylor McKeown.



For the first time in years we have had pupils achieving a Gold Certificate, which ranks in the top 8-9% in the UK. A special congratulations to Lucas Leckie, Bobby Rowe and Matthew Broadhurst. Lucas and Bobby have qualified to the next round of the competition called the Junior Kangaroo, an outstanding achievement!

## S1 Jazz Workshops

A group of S1 pupils were lucky enough to be involved in a series of Jazz workshops with two professional musicians. Konrad and Alan came into class for six weeks and demonstrated the art and skill of improvising. The class learned to play and improvise on lots of different styles of music including, jazz, blues and Latin American.



## S3 RSC Concert

The S3 Class visited the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland recently and attended the annual schools concert lead by the Brass Faculty. Here's what they thought, "the musicians were very talented", "clear passion and talent", "great audience interaction", "decent educational value", "I enjoyed my experience and I hope we can come back again". It sounds like they had a great day and it didn't leave them brassed off!





Our very talented S6 pupil, Curtis, represented the school at the Renfrewshire Young Musician of the Year. He performed Ludovico Einaud's 'Experience'. Well Done Curtis!



If you haven't already, you can follow the Music Department on Twitter. Here you will find information about what pupils are doing in class. Here is a snippet from our most recent tweets!





## PE

The year finished with the Christmas Disco for S1-3 pupils organised by Miss McMillan and Miss Shearer and the whole school Christmas ceilidh on the last day of term. Pupils at both events had a ball!



## RSSE

Numerous S6 pupils graduated from the Active School's RSSE programme including Katie Owens, Aiden Smith, Sean McDonald, Mirren Lochrie, Hannah Keenan, Abigail Coyne and Madison Smith.

The pupils were involved in coaching sport within the school and wider community gaining coaching qualifications and experience. Mirren also won the Merit Award for the Johnstone and Linwood RSSE class.

This programme is led by Active Schools Coordinator, Lynsey Dawson.



## Dance

Miss McMillan's Dance club competed at the Renfrewshire Schools Competition claiming 1st Place and 'Judges Favourite', awarded to the S1-6 Mixed Group and two amazing performances from our S1-2 dancers at their first competition.

The S3 Elective dancers also performed at the S2 Parents' Information Evening, showcasing their talent!



## Netball

Miss Shearer's netball club has been going strong with pupils training regularly and playing friendly matches against local schools.



## Football

Miss Shearer's Senior Boys had an excellent year. They were narrowly defeated in the semi-finals of the cup, and went most of the season undefeated adopting "shearerball" tactics. Martin Campbell was also selected as the Scottish School Boy's Under 18's Captain.





Mr Scarff's S1/2 and Mr Sinclair's S3 teams were also involved competing in local competitions. Mr Scarff's S1/2 team have enjoyed recent 4-2 and 6-3 victories over Linwood and Gryffe High. Well done boys!

S1 also competed in the Active Schools Renfrewshire Games and won an impressive 7 out of 10 games.



## Basketball

Mr McGeady's basketball team competed in the Renfrewshire Active School's Festival Programme against local high schools, and are due to compete at the finals day in the coming weeks.

## Volleyball

Mr Millar's senior volleyball team came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Active School Volleyball League. Well done boys!





## Cross Country

Mrs McCartney's Cross Country pupils performed really well at the Renfrewshire Cross Country event winning a host of individual and team medals.

Owen Campbell      Renfrewshire S2 Boys      Gold

Aaron Brown      Renfrewshire S3 Boys      Bronze

S2 Girls      S2 Renfrewshire Team      Gold



The Sports Development pupils organised the St Benedict's Cross Country Championships.

Well done to the organisers and participants!



## St Benedict's Cross Country Championship Winners

Girls

Boys

1<sup>st</sup> Year Winner Zara Muir

1<sup>st</sup> Year winner Oliver Stan

2<sup>nd</sup> Year winner Niamh Evans

2<sup>nd</sup> Year winner Owen Campbell

3<sup>rd</sup> Year winner Ashleigh Parker

3<sup>rd</sup> Year winner Aaron Brown





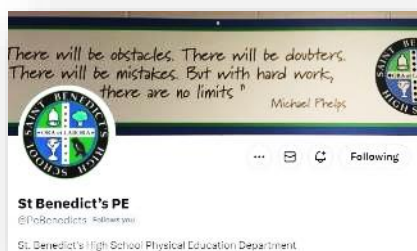
## Badminton

Mrs McCartney's Badminton Club played friendly games against Linwood High. The competition was enjoyed by all players from both schools.



## Sports Development

The Sports Development pupils have been involved in numerous events gaining coaching and leadership experience in St Benedict's and the wider community, including feeder primaries.



## Twitter

Follow us on [Twitter](#) to keep up to date with all that is going on in St. Benedict's P.E. Department!





# Religious Education

## Good News for Everyone!

First Year pupils were delighted to be visited by 'Good News for Everyone!'.

Formerly known as 'The Gideons', the organisation serves to introduce others to the Lord Jesus Christ by the placing, presenting and/or distributing Scriptures in many different areas of life, most often Testaments, which include the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs, but also copies of the full Bible.

Pupils were very thankful for the gift of the pocket-sized New Testament and Psalms!



First Year pupils have firmly settling into St. Benedict's. Here are some photographs of 1.1 presenting their learning on the Origins of Human Life!

Pupils in 2.1 did some excellent work demonstrating their understanding of the missionary role of SCIAF, reaching out to our global neighbours in need.



## Twitter

You can follow us on [Twitter](#) to keep up to date with all that is going on in St. Benedict's Religious Education Department.



## Blessed Carlo Acutis Encounter

We were delighted to host the Bl. Carlo Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Encounter; which provided pupils, staff and families the opportunity to explore the Eucharistic Miracles of the world, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer and adoration, and the veneration of a first class relic of Blessed Carlo.



We are very thankful to Jacquie Stacey who facilitated the experience, bringing Bl. Carlo, his story, and his love of the Eucharist to us.

### **Prayer to Blessed Carlo Acutis**

O God our Father,  
we thank you for giving us Carlo,  
a model of life for young people,  
and a message of love for all.  
You made him fall in love with your son Jesus,  
making the Eucharist his "highway to heaven."  
You gave him Mary as a beloved mother,  
and you made him, through the Rosary,  
a cantor of her tenderness.  
Receive his prayer for us.  
Look above all upon the poor, whom he loved and assisted.  
Grant me too, through his intercession, the grace  
that I need (mention your intention).  
And make our joy full, raising Carlo among  
the saints of your Church,  
so that his smile shines again for us  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.

This is the official prayer approved by the Bishop of Assisi asking for Blessed Carlo Acutis' intercession.



To learn more about Bl. Carlo Acutis and the cause for his Sainthood, click [here](#).



## Science Faculty Experiments



Metal Identification



Galaxy Simulation



Rubens Tube Acoustic Waves



Eye Dissection



DNA Extraction





S3 Lab Skills Metal Reactivity



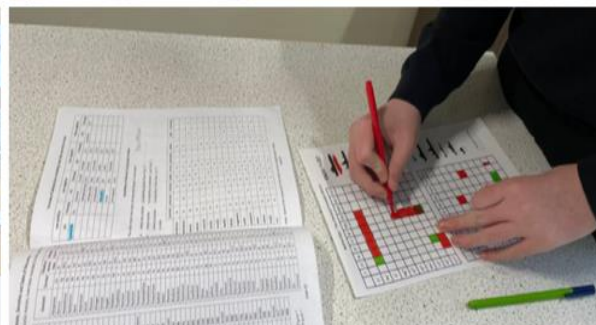
Precipitation



Red Cabbage Indicator







**S3 Chemistry Battleships**

## **Lab Science Employability Presentation by DSM Nutrition**



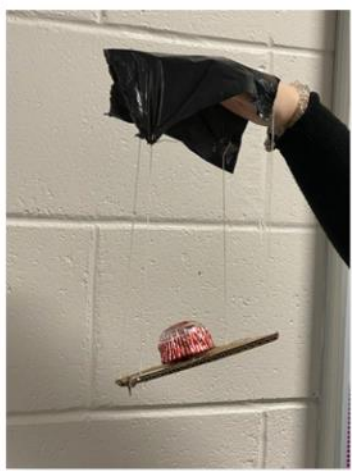
# STEM Week

The St. Benedict's STEM week was a huge success with high school pupils and cluster primary pupils enjoying lots of engaging activities, including:

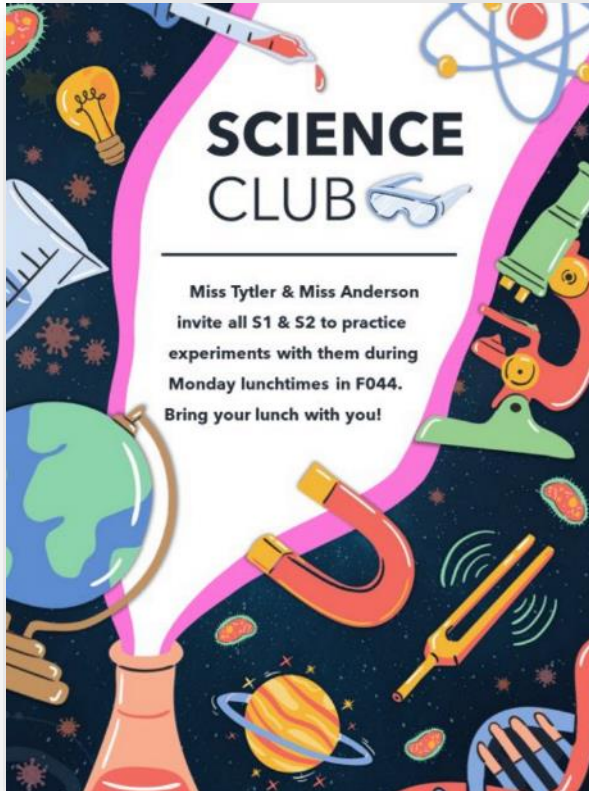
- Building the tallest paper tower
- Tunnock's Teacake landing apparatus
- Breakfast Club DNA extraction
- Who Stole the Cake?













Our pupils and teachers have been working hard to aim for excellence in Social Subjects this year. This year we were delighted to add Miss Urquhart and Miss Pope to our Faculty.



As well as excellent learning and teaching we have been working hard to refresh our board displays. You can now find the 'Women Who Made History' display, information on progression pathways as well as information on careers in all three social subjects. Please ask a member of staff if you have any questions about career opportunities in social subjects.

We are pleased to continue to offer Criminology at National 5 as well as Higher Politics for S6 pupils. The Criminology class managed a trip to Paisley Sheriff Court to witness sentencing through summary procedure.



The Gathering the Voices exhibition returned to our school during Holocaust Memorial week and our school was represented as a new War Memorial was unveiled in Linwood to commemorate the fallen during the world wars.



In March 2023, ten of our S3 Modern Studies pupils represented St Benedict's High at the 'Your Vote' event organised by Renfrewshire Youth Services.

Together with the Electoral Commission and Young Scot, pupils from all over the Renfrewshire gathered in Coats Memorial Church in Paisley to explore aspects of democracy including participatory budgeting and a voting exercise.



Our pupils delivered a presentation with ideas on how they could improve pupil voice in the school and in society.





Our S1 pupils have been busy in the workshop this term creating their own coat hook designs.



They also built bird boxes in small groups as part of the school's STEM challenge. Well done!



Meanwhile the S2s designed and manufactured bespoke bookends from timber and man-made boards.



They also enjoyed making their phone holders from acrylic.





## S2 Trinket Box

S2 pupils are currently manufacturing a trinket box which they will assemble and finish very soon.

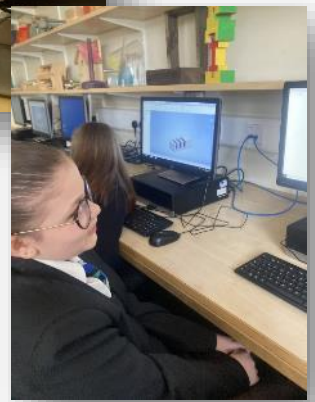
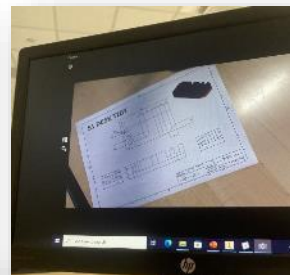
Pupils have used a variety of tools and equipment to:

- Mark out material
- Cut lap joints
- Assemble the components
- Apply a finish



## S1 Desk Tidy

S1 pupils are using 3D CAD modelling to design a desk tidy. Pupils have used a variety of CAD modelling techniques to design these products before manufacturing them in the workshop. Pupils have created orthographic views of their model which they used to check dimensions, and have modelled several simplistic 3D models in preparation for this task.



# Technical 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



@STBENEDICTTECH



ST BENEDICTS TECH



<http://ORAETLABORA.CO.UK>







# Attendance and Timekeeping

We have been working hard 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 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.



# *We are a nut-free school!*

We are a nut-free school as some members of our school community have a **life-threatening allergy to nuts**.

Nuts and products containing nuts e.g. Nutella, Snickers Bars etc. should not be brought into school.

It is essential that these members of our school community are not in contact with anyone who has eaten nuts that day as this can also trigger a reaction.

To ensure the safety of all members of our school community, it is imperative that this ban on nuts and nut-containing products is adhered to.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

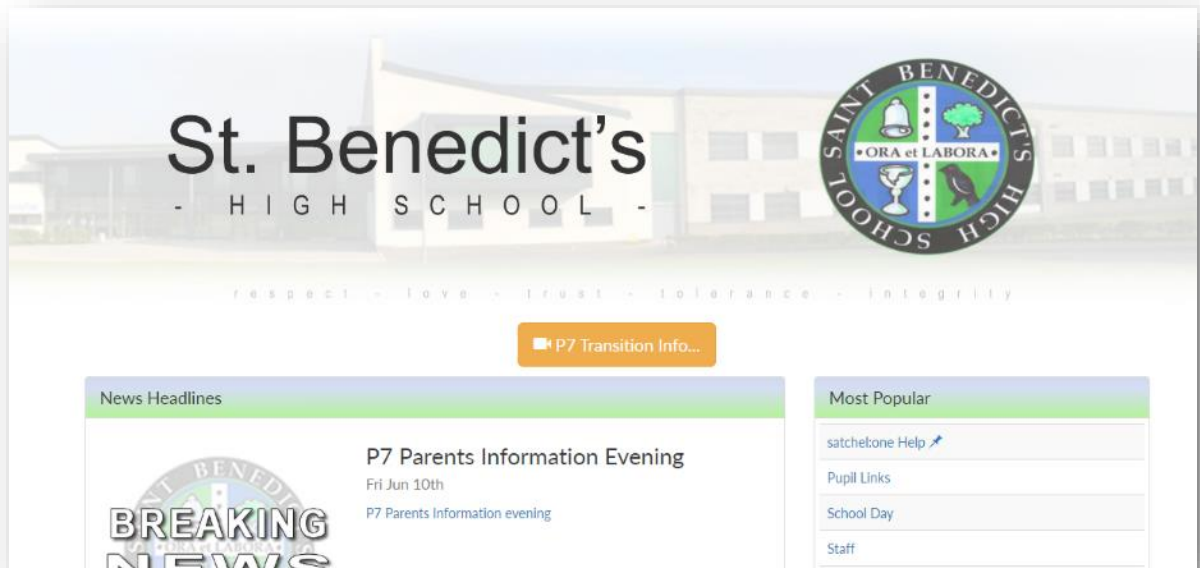






# St. Benedict's Website and Twitter

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 a great source of information about the school. We are nearly at 2,000 followers - you can follow us on [@stbenedictsren](https://twitter.com/stbenedictsren)





# Dates for your diary:

Event	Status	Date
In-service day	School open for teachers and staff only	Monday 14 August 2023
In-service day	School open for teachers and staff only	Tuesday 15 August 2023
Start of term	Pupils' first day at school	Wednesday 16 August 2023
Local holidays	Schools closed	Friday 22 September 2023
Local holidays	Schools closed	Monday 25 September 2023
Normal school day	Schools open	Tuesday 26 September 2023
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Monday 16 October 2023
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 17 October 2023
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 18 October 2023
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Thursday 19 October 2023
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Friday 20 October 2023
In-service day	Schools open for teachers and staff only	Monday 23 October 2023
Second half of term	Schools open	Tuesday 24 October 2023
St. Andrew's Day	Schools closed	Thursday 30 November 2023
Normal school day	Schools open	Friday 1 December 2023
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Monday 25 December 2023
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 26 December 2023
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 27 December 2023
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Thursday 28 December 2023
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Friday 29 December 2023
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Monday 1 January 2024
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 2 January 2024
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 3 January 2024
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Thursday 4 January 2024
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Friday 5 January 2024
Start of term	Schools open	Monday 8 January 2024





# Feedback

We welcome any feedback on the content of the Summer 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/carers:

Name of parent/carers (please print):