



St. Benedict's High School

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our Winter 2022 edition of St. Benedict's News. 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.

Recent events have ensured a busy but exceptionally positive start to the session, reflecting a great deal of hard work on the part of pupils and staff.

Particular highlights include:

- The outstanding levels of SCQF qualifications achieved by our senior pupils, recognising the commitments and effort of our young people and school staff.
- Our increased opportunities for pupil leadership.
- Our newly introduced approaches to recognising and celebrating the wide variety of pupil achievements both within and outwith school
- The exceptionally high standards of uniform, further developing our sense of belonging and pride in our community.
- Our increasing number of industry partnerships with employers, providing a variety of exciting opportunities for our young people to engage in meaningful and relevant workplace learning opportunities.
- Our authority review report, highlighting our innovative classroom practices and the excellent relationships between our young people and their teachers.

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





Pupil Leadership

Head Boy and Head Girl



Head Boy
Oliver Turley

Head Girl
Louise Parsons

Depute Team



Depute Head Boys
Junior Okorodudu and Cian Thomson

Depute Head Girls
Jessica Toland, Alyssa Murray
and Gloria Okungbowa

House Captains



Junior House Captains

Erin Halley
and Jodie Sloan

Senior House Captains

Mark McKay
and Roman Hunter

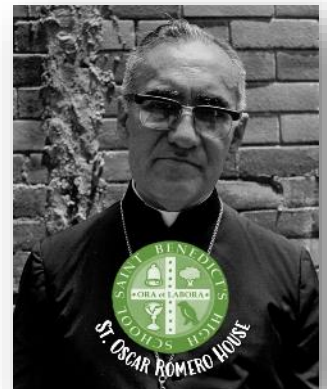


Junior House Captains

Sean Colligan
and Zachary Adams

Senior House Captains

Kacper Cybulski
and Reagan McDermott





Junior House Captains

Andrew Miller
and Chibuzo Nwokeabia

Senior House Captains

Madeline Whitehorn
and Cody Graham



Junior House Captains

Krista McSwegan
and Kenzi Mylrea

Senior House Captains

Olivia Johnstone
and Ryan Colligan





Exam Success 2022

The school's attainment and achievement levels continue to thrive ensuring that the hard work of our young people is rewarded. The government benchmark (known as our Virtual Comparator - VC) is the level of attainment we are expected to reach. From the figures below it is clear to see that **we outperform our VC at every key measure.**

S4 Year Group

- Percentage of pupils achieving five or more awards at SCQF 5: 54% (VC 49%)
- Twenty-three pupils achieved seven National 5 awards and two pupils achieved all A grades passes.

S5 Year Group

- Percentage of pupils achieving five or more awards at SCQF 6: 27% (VC 24%)
- Percentage of pupils achieving three or more awards at SCQF 6: 48% (VC 46%)
- Percentage of pupils achieving one or more awards at SCQF 6: 73% (VC 67%)
- Eighteen pupils achieved five Highers.
- Four pupils achieved five A awards at Higher level.

S6 Year Group

- Percentage of pupils achieving five or more awards at SCQF 6: 38% (VC 35%)

Fourth Year Dux

Nicole Patrick

Fifth Year Duxes

Mark McKay & Alyssa Murray





Awards Ceremony 2022

After a hiatus of two years, we were delighted to celebrate the achievements of our young people at the awards ceremony in October. It was a fantastic evening for all involved as we celebrated academic success, outstanding effort, sporting champions and wider achievement.



The guest speaker was Julie Fleeting MBE, who shared tales of her personal journey towards becoming Scotland's most capped Women's Footballer. Julie's inspirational words including "be your own biggest fan" had a great impact on our award winners and this will no doubt stay with them for years to come.

The wider achievement awards showed the diversity of talent among St Benedict's young people including national and World Champions in Irish dancing, Street dance and cheerleading. We were also treated to high quality entertainment throughout the evening including Sarah McGettrick and Saoirse Dunn's outstanding rendition of "Somewhere over the Rainbow", Sam Parker's Highland dance, Brodie McLean on the bagpipes, Saoirse Dunn & Andrew Miller's Irish dancing and our Headboy Oliver Turley's piano recital. It is fair to say that St. Benedict's really does have talent!

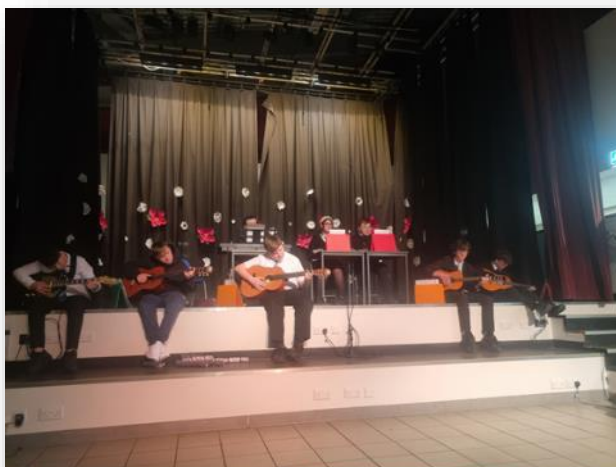




Christmas Show

Our Christmas Show was a great success, showcasing the gifts and talents of our young people and staff. Here is a selection of some of the highlights from the fantastic night - more photos and clips are available on the school [Twitter](#).







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 95% 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.

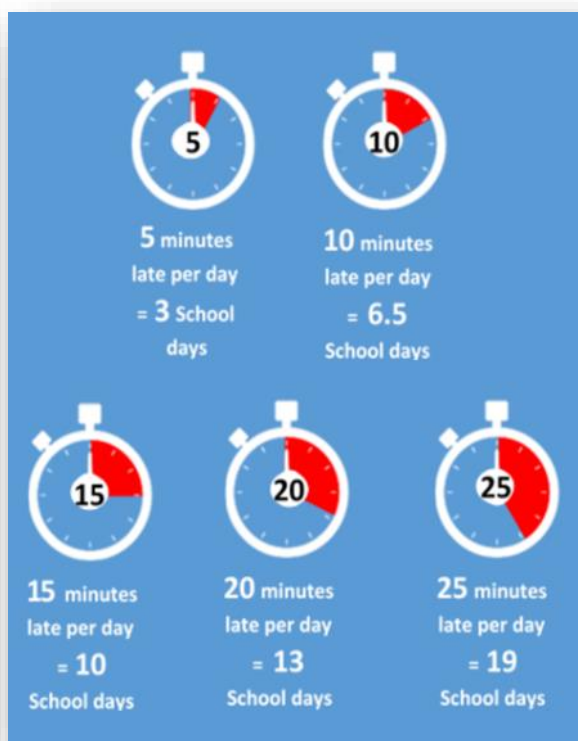
Parents/carers are by far the most important influence on children's lives and learning and are vital in shaping the mind set and behaviour of children.

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.



Chaplaincy

Inaugural Mass of the Academic Session

We were delighted to be able to join together with our cluster schools for our Inaugural Mass. We were very grateful to Mgr. Tormey, Mgr. Carlin and Mgr. McFadden for leading us in prayer.



After Mass, pupils from all schools were presented with awards for their successes. Badges were also issued as way of induction into their various leadership roles they were undertaking this year.



Vocations Week

Sixth Year pupils joined Bishop John Keenan and Fr. Frankie Mulgrew for a wonderful S6 Vocations Conference. Our pupils had a great day connecting with young people from across the Diocese and taking some time to discern their futures.



Pupils from various year groups joined with our Diocesan community for the Diocese of Paisley's Vocations Mass, praying for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.



Catholic Education Week

This year's Catholic Education Week focused on the Synodal Themes of Communion, Participation and Mission. As well as lessons exploring the themes in R.E. a number of events were held in the school to celebrate.

Staff members of our school community gathered together for prayerful reflection in our Oratory, with our Chaplain, Canon McMahon, leading us in prayer.



Pupils, staff, local clergy and parishioners joined together for a Prayer Breakfast in celebration of Catholic Education Week. A truly beautiful morning spent together living communion, participation and mission. Thank you to the S6 Leadership Class for organising!



Friday Lunchtime Mass

Mass is offered in the Oratory every Friday lunchtime at 12.25 and is very well attended by pupils and staff.

We are very grateful to our local clergy for the commitment to this extremely important part of our school week.



Enhanced Primary Transition

The Primary 6 & 7 pupils from our cluster enjoyed two enhanced transition visits where they created a product which they had to sell to a panel of dragons.



Feedback From The Primary Visit

“Great project for the kids that involved a number of different skills.”

“Fantastic to have this transition offered to P6, as well as P7. Class loved the opportunity to explore, meet teachers and participate in an engaging project.”

“The children were very engaged throughout this process. The cross curricular nature of it allowed all children to get something out of it. I also believe that the enthusiasm from your staff helped to inspire the children.”

“Great opportunity for primary pupils to visit the high school in a meaningful way and be introduced to the concept of different departments/classes around the building as well as begin to build relationships with the high school teachers.”





Coaching Mindset for Success

I have worked within St. Benedict's this last year, supporting pupils and staff with coaching. We are about to embark on an exciting programme for parents commencing in February.

As we navigate these uncertain times - where change and challenge are constant, we must safeguard our resilience and encourage this in our young people. When times are tough, the temptation is to take the easy option to reduce our stress - "drop the subject", "avoid a test", or "stay off" - but if we do this, we aren't helping our well-being - we are storing up trouble for later! So when pupils say to me that learning is difficult, I say, "brilliant! It's supposed to be!

But the strategies we can use to strengthen our mindset can make a huge difference in how we feel about learning and our success in every aspect of our lives.

Here are my top tips for mindset success:

1. Ask for help when your stuck
2. Make sure you get feedback from your class teachers and peers on what you can do better and what you need to focus on - so when you are doing homework or revision - ask for feedback.
3. Don't give up - where else can you get help? From BBC Bitesize, supported study and other resources your class teachers give you.
4. Get a study plan that means something to you - and is very specific! You should know what you are working on and when.
5. Don't just revise or study topics you like -do the things that "give you the fear" first - you will feel much better when you have done it!
6. When studying, find a quiet place; turn your phone into aeroplane mode; set a countdown timer and get answering a particular question or researching a specific topic. When the timer goes off, have a short break, then back to it!
7. Have clear goals about what you want and how you will do it.
8. Keep your fitness going - even a short walk can make a difference to our mood, which can help us have more energy.

So, helping ourselves Instead, thinking through how we can manage and respond to things we find stressful, have clear goals - rehearse our strategies for how we deal.

Parents Programme

In January, we will launch a video series for parents and pupils on Mindset; in February, our Mindset Coaching Programme for parents & carers will kick off. It will be fun, free and friendly and is a great personal development programme to help you and your children. Look out for more information after Christmas.

Contact JP

For help and advice, or to find out more about the parents programme or our work you can reach John Paul at johnpaul@teachmindset.com



Dr John Paul Fitzpatrick,
Founder of TeachMindset








House System

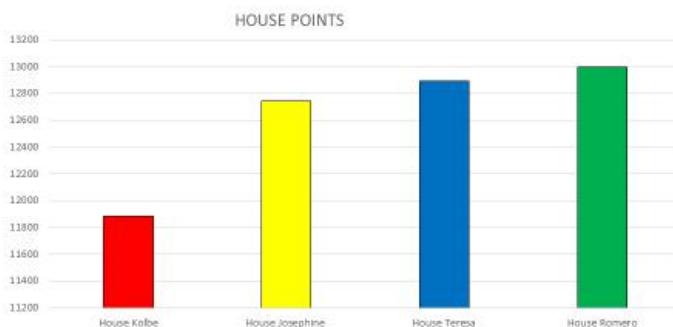
Our House System is now well established, encouraging young people to participate in and take on a variety of leadership roles. Pupils and staff are able to achieve house points as detailed below.

Currently, St. Oscar Romero House is in the lead at the half way stage!

★ House Points ★



 <p>Behaviour and Effort</p> <p>5 points for a grade 1 3 points for a grade 2</p>	 <p>Achievements</p> <p>50 points for being a House Hero</p>
 <p>Attendance</p> <p>25 points for $\geq 95\%$ attendance</p>	 <p>Extra Curricular Activities</p> <p>50 points for attending 10 club sessions 10 points for community litter pick</p>
<p>500 points for monthly departmental challenges</p> <p>Respect • Love • Trust • Tolerance • Integrity</p>	



House Points December
2022



News from St. Maximilian Kolbe's House

S1 Girls display their House Achievement Books.

The success in this area will be celebrated at the up coming House Assembly.



UCAS Applicants: STEM Power

Kolbe S6 girls prepare for the world beyond school with their applications to university.

All the girls are applying for STEM related subjects.

Pupil reflections on their experience of St. Benedict's:

"people help whenever you need"

"the school is very welcoming and inclusive"

"you are encouraged to be the best version of you – to have a growth mindset"

"there are lots of different clubs to take part in which are great fun"

"I like all the different subjects"





News from St. Teresa's House



What a year it has been for St. Teresa's House! We have a lot to celebrate!

At our recent House Assembly, many pupils received awards for 100% attendance, Pupils of Merit, subject awards, attendance at extra-curricular clubs and their achievements out with school.

Congratulations to them all!





News from St. Josephine Bakhita's House

What a great first term. This month at the House Assembly we are celebrating the successes of our pupils who have excelled and gained points for attendance, effort and any special deeds.

Excellent Attendance

Congratulations to our 100% attenders.

S1: Ben Surpless and Matthew Turner

S2: Alanna Cuthill, Chad Duru Inegbenose and Cher Duru Inegbenose

S3: James Blair, Summer Kenny, Angelica Opalka and James Scott

S4: Sophie Murray

S5: Heather Brander and Nicole Patrick

S6: Ryan Colligan and Adam McParland

Congratulations to Angel Jackson, Hope Tennant, Olivia Doyle and Hope Robertson who gave a fantastic performance alongside the rest of the N5 dancers at the school award ceremony in October. They all gave an amazing performance.





News from St. Oscar Romero's House

House Romero Awards December 2022

The following pupils have been awarded certificates and house points in the following areas.

Congratulations to all of them and if you feel your young person should get an award please make sure to inform the school of extra-curricular achievements the relevant QR codes around the School and on the School Website.

100% Attendance Certificates:

- S1: Natalie McIntosh, Alice Waldron, Jessica Walters
S2: Mustafa Atiya, Erin McFadden, Joseph Stevenson Smith, Ellis Hart, Lucy McElhinney.
S4: Aimee Shaw
S5: Shallom Afolabi
S6: Louis McGarry



Departmental Awards

Maths:

Alice Waldron, Patrick Burns, Keira Gordon, Amber Moody, Ellis Hart, Zach Adams, Amy Chambers

Social Subjects:

Zara Muir, Alex Kerr, Ebony Brogan

Modern Languages:

Julia Kolodziejczyk, Lucy McElhinney, Sophie Coutts, Ebony Brogan, Greig Hastie, Anna Campbell, Grace Clark, Saoirse Dunn.

Pupil of Merit (S1-S3 Only):

- S1: Aleise Archer, Ellie Hanley, Roan Kerr, Juila Kolodziejczyk, Emily Mackenzie Adams, Taylah McGuinness, Zara Muir, Alice Waldron, Natalie McIntosh and Jessica Walters.
- S2: Patrick Burns, Sophie Coutts, Alaina Jackson, Alex Kerr, Olive Kilpatrick, Erin McFadden, Abbie Anderson, Ebony Brogan, Sean Connolly, Ellis Hart, Catherine Morier, Amber Moody, Faith Richardson, Sophie Sinclair and Jessica Neeson.
- S3: Zach Adams, Anna Atherton, Anna Campbell, Amy Campbell, Amy Chambers, Sean Colligan, Aaron Fordyce Kyle, Liam Connolly, Jess Smith, Molly O'Halloran and Tillie Shearon.

House Hero Award:

Hannah Weir, Molly O'Halloran, Kacper Cybulski, Niamh Grady and Jasmine Kandola.

Achievements Outwith School:

- 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.

Attendance at Clubs:

- S1: Sam Houston, Ellie Hanley, Emily MacKenzie, Roan Kerr, Larissa Law, Leon Mullen Spalding, Indie Campbell, Natalie McIntosh, Karis McMartin, Zara Muir, Finn Rennie, Alice Waldron and Jessica Walters.
- S2: Alex Kerr, Mustafa Atiya, Ebony Broghan, Emma Louise Booth, Layla Fraser and Amber Moody.
- S4: Saoirse Dunn
- S5: Andrius Karunos.

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!



There's no business like showbusiness!

Over the past few years, Mrs Tennant has dabbled in Musical Theatre, performing in a variety of shows such as Hairspray, 9 to 5, Shrek and The Little Mermaid. Next year, she will be 'Truly Scrumptious' in the PMOS production of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' at The King's Theatre in Glasgow, alongside S1 pupil Noah McSkimming, who will be playing Jeremy.

The Adventure Continues

Jack Strathearn is heading for his Queen's Badge at Boy's Brigade, having been attending since he was in Primary One!



"Lights, camera, action!"

Ben Sheridan in S2 has been a member of PACE Theatre Company since he was four and has enjoyed great success in his acting. Ben has a feature film, 'The Defender', due for release soon – we can't wait to see it!



Katie Lovett in S3 is excelling in Taekwondo!

Pictured are:

- Bronze medal for sparring 🏅 (Scottish Championships)
- Silver medal for sparring 🏅 (Scottish Championships)
- Bronze medal for sparring 🏅 (British Championships)

Katie has also competed in a worldwide online competition, coming 8th for patterns, and has been asked to compete in a further two more online competitions. Katie's competed in over 6 different competitions and has earned 16 certificates and 14 different belts – the next one is her black belt! She's also been asked to compete in both European championships and worldwide championships.

Dedicated to her sport, she has taken part in classes since the age of seven and to date has participated in over 61 different events!



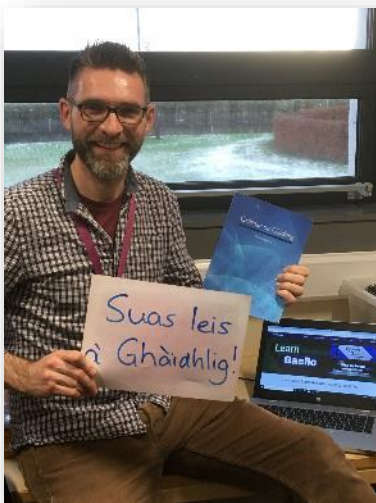
Katie takes part in a minimum of four classes a week. She also teaches in younger classes and also helps them during gradings. In her own time she assisted in a taekwondo “funday” for younger ages and was invited to help introduce taekwondo to her primary school



An Act of Kindness

Amy Elliot in S1 gives up some of her weekly pocket money all year every year and sponsors a classroom for one of the schools St. Patrick's or St. Joseph's in Gambia.

This is the picture from this year's sponsorship – a young girl with the plaque showing a classroom has been sponsored by Amy.



Ag ionnsachadh cànan ùr!

Mr Tonner is working towards his Higher Gaelic and will be sitting the exam on the 24th May 2023.

Tha an t-eagal orm oir cha do shuidh mi deuchainnean airson còrr is fichead bliadhna!

You're never too old to learn a new language.

Volleyball

Congratulations to Kacper Cybulski and Michael Young who were invited to train with Su Ragazzi volleyball Club. They have attended training sessions and have been offered places within the Senior Second Team for the 2022/23 Season .



100 Push-ups a Day!

Mr Taylor completed the 100 push-ups a day challenge in November raising money for Cancer research. That's 3000 in total!

"It was hard going at times but I managed to complete the challenge successfully and raised a lot of money thanks to donations from friends and family. By the end of the challenge I was able to do 80 without a break!!!! I've decided to do it again next year with a target of all 100 in one go."





Equestrian Success

Sophie Sinclair in S2 has been working hard at her horse riding and been competing in shows.

Gaudeamus Igitur!

We are so proud of Miss Lauder, who graduated from the University of Glasgow in December, as a Master of Education (with Distinction). Miss Lauder worked incredibly hard to achieve her Masters, inspiring us all with her keen commitment to her studies.



Footballing Triumph

Congratulations to Martin Campbell on being selected for the Scottish Schools U18 National Squad - the first St. Benedict's pupil since 2007.



Fooooooore!

Mr Canning has got his golf handicap down to an impressive 2.7!

New Experiences and Challenges

James Wheeler in S5 got the opportunity to train with the crew from Johnstone Fire Station!

James makes us proud of all the hard work he's doing physically and mentally, in and out of school!





Sixth Year Experience

My 6th Year in St. Benedict's has given me so many opportunities. I am the House Captain for St. Maximilian Kolbe House; this has allowed me to be a part of the leadership team in the school helping out at events like Parents' Information Evenings.

I have become a role model for the rest of the school by speaking at assemblies and engaging with my house – listening to their ideas of what they want to see in the school and representing them.

Through programmes like M.V.P. and the buddy system I help educate the younger pupils and have become someone they can come to whenever they need someone to talk to, or some extra help.

I have also participated in organising the school's Snowball, which was a fantastic night with all the S5 and S6s having some fun, all in order to help raise money for charity.

St. Benedict's had provided me with numerous opportunities which have helped me grow to become a confident individual with leadership experience, qualities I will carry with me the rest of my life.

Madeline Whitehorn

Hello, I am Oliver Turley and I am this year's Head Boy. I have enjoyed the responsibility and challenge of this leadership role, and lessons it has taught me.

It has been great being a part of this Sixth Year as we are all close and get on very well – making it more straightforward to organise things!

St. Benedict's this year has been great as we have been trying to get back to some normality in terms of organising our annual events that we've missed out on over the past few years due to the pandemic. Everyone has been so keen to help as they want a Sixth Year packed with lots of different events, leaving us with memories that will last a life time.

Oliver Turley



Sixth Year Experience





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 40 students who demonstrated the values and work ethic for such an endeavour.



Our S5 MVP mentors have been working with S2 pupils to educate them on the issues of gender-based violence. They have so far delivered two lessons to the whole of S2 and will continue this work in the new year.

Here are some of our S5 mentors working with the pupils:



Also, our S6 MVP mentors who, were trained last year, have had the opportunity to deliver year group assemblies during anti-bullying week.

Here they are in action:



CANI Trip

Some lucky S3 pupils have just returned from the residential CANI coaching trip at Dumfries House outdoor education centre in Cumnock where they looked at developing their leadership skills. During the course of the week, they looked at the values that were important to them which were turned into mugs for graduation.

They took part in a number of activities and challenges joined by members of staff including blindfold climbing and obstacle course. A lot of trust was required but they all excelled and celebrated the end of the week with a fire walk on Wednesday night in freezing temperatures and a graduation ceremony attended by Mr Taylor!





Developing the Young Workforce

DWF

Our S4 students have visited DWF law firm in Glasgow on two occasions to participate in the 5 Star Futures Programme. They are undertaking a programme enabling them to meet with lawyers and trainee lawyers who in turn help them to understand the difference between the qualities and skills they possess, and how to paint themselves in a positive light to an employer via several communications in order to be more work ready. The students have reaped the benefits of the staff's expertise and are now in the process of implementing the "STAR" approach – 'Situation, Task, Action, Result' to produce their own CV and cover letter in order to apply for any job and, more specifically, in the DWF office for work experience.



PWC

S3 ambassadors visited the Price Waterhouse Cooper company in Glasgow to participate in their 'New Skills Schools Series'. The friendly staff from PWC introduced who they were and what they do at PWC as an introduction to office life. Through a multitude of tasks, the students were able to use their skills for learning, life and work in order to develop their self-confidence and employability skills. At the end of the day, they were able to practice their communication techniques in order to deliver a presentation in groups to the employers adhering to a scenario.



S1 Digital Ambassadors

Our S1 students visited our associated primary schools in order to deliver a “what you need to digitally know” in order to survive in high school lesson. They explained how to use Satchel:One, Microsoft Teams and how to access homework. S1 ambassadors were keen to answer any questions or queries, and respond to any worries Primary 7s had about the imminent transition to high school.



S3 Students in the Community

Our S3 students worked with adults in the community at Johnstone Station Seven Hub. They assisted some adults in how to upskill their online knowledge of social media accounts, Spotify, set up online payments etc. This was incredibly well received by both the young people and adults as they all developed new skills.





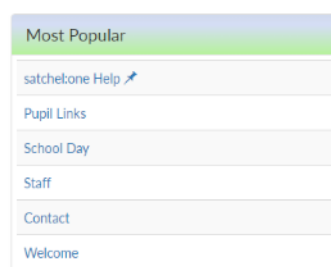
Digital Learning

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.



Careers Adviser

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 Advisers are Audrey McNab and Nicola Ashwood. You can get in touch with them through the school or by email: audrey.mcnab@sds.co.uk
nicola.ashwood@sds.co.uk

The Careers Advisers support pupils at key times such as starting S1, making option choices, and preparing for moving on from school.

From the beginning of term, the Careers Advisers have been 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.

Post School Support

Once pupils leave school, they will be followed up by an SDS Adviser; pupils can also contact SDS to arrange an appointment to speak to a Careers Adviser on a one-to-one basis. The SDS Renfrewshire office is in the Russell Institute, Causeyside Street, Paisley. **To arrange an appointment, telephone 0141 849 0942.**

SDS Exam Results Helpline: www.myworldofwork.co.uk/pupils/results-help

Each year SDS runs an Exam Results Helpline, the helpline reopens in August 2022, and SDS Advisers can help with:

- UCAS Confirmation
- UCAS Clearing
- Giving information on apprenticeships
- Job help
- Giving information on Volunteering
- Staying on at school

Useful websites:

www.myworldofwork.co.uk
www.myworldofwork.co.uk/parents
www.mykidscareer.com
www.apprenticeship.scot
www.digitalworld.net



My World of Work

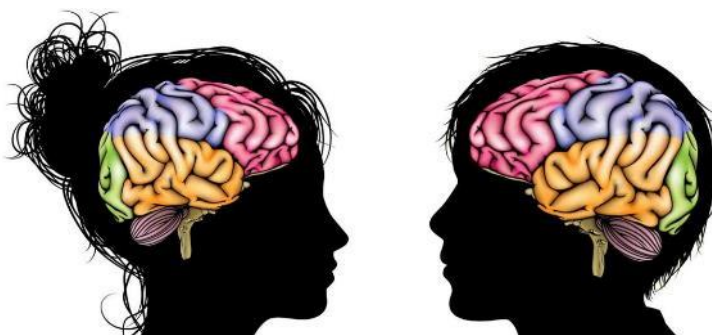


Parents in Partnership

We are working hard to re-establish the PIP Programme here at St. Benedict's. We have had two meetings with some parents of our S1 pupils which have been so far well received. The first was a meet and greet and an introduction to what the programme can offer, it also allowed our new S1 parents to get to know one another.

The second was a session delivered by Mrs Mitchell, PIP coordinator, focusing on Food & Mood, looking at how certain foods can have a large impact on our mood. This ended with parents taking part in a practical cookery lesson, very similar to what our S1 pupils do when they visit the Health and Food Technology department, to make smoothies.

Mrs Mitchell, Marion, and Gordon (Home School Link Workers) are now planning for the next event in the New Year. It is scheduled for Thursday 26th January, 12pm at St Benedict's, and is dedicated to How the Teenage Brain works. This was one of the topics which was of interest to our new group.



A new Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing booklet has been created and will be distributed to all our S1 pupils. It contains helpful resources and activities to support our pupils learning in these areas.

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 –

gw21mitchelllynn@glow.sch.uk



Raising Attainment

BGE Homework Club

Our BGE Homework Club (S1-S3) takes place every Thursday at lunchtime. Our Raising Attainment Project Leader, Miss Sweeney, and our Transition Teacher, Mrs Grey, work alongside 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 continues to run offering additional help to all of our S4 and S5 students. 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. It is important at this time that students have a clear study timetable, are focused and coping with the demands that prelims will bring in order that our young people achieve their full potential across all subjects.



An extended mentoring programme is also being run by our Employability Key Worker, Lisa Wiggins. This programme focuses on a group of S5 students working closely during mentor time to prepare them 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.

S5 Raising Attainment Seminar

Last week we delivered our annual S5 Raising Attainment Seminar which was a productive and enjoyable experience.

Our school chaplain, Father Michael delivered a motivational presentation which was very positively received. Students then attended a range of workshops on Study Skills, Mindsets and Meta-cognition as well as Team Building, Body Balance and Mindfulness. Volunteer staff prepared and implemented these allowing support and advice in a range of areas.

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.



IDL Software

We have been using IDL, a digital programme proven to improve reading and spelling ages, with the aim to improve reading and spelling skills. Learners have been enjoying using IDL and can see how it is improving their confidence in reading and writing across the curriculum. From tracking learner progress, it is clear there has already been a significant improvement in the reading and spelling ages of many pupils. As we move through the 22-23 session, we will continue to use IDL to support learners in literacy improvement. 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 www.idlsgroup.com/literacy.



P6 and 7 Transition Programme

Cluster Primary 6 and 7 pupils have recently taken 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 left). Well done!

Sky Academy Studios

A group of S1 pupils recently 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!



Literacy Games – Christmas Edition!

Christmas isn't just about the presents – spending quality time as a family is important too! Here are some great ideas to bring the family together whilst developing key literacy skills.



Available on the App Store for FREE, **Heads Up** will challenge your ability to describe. Usually this game is acted out as charades, but it can also be adapted for players to shout out descriptive words.

An old family favourite, **Stop the Bus** is a competitive way to show off your world knowledge as well as refine your reaction times. Best of all? It's FREE! All you need is paper and pens or download free templates online.



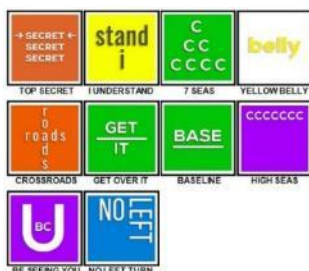
Play our fun game and see how high you can score.
Remember the more unusual answers you pick the
more likely you are to get full points.

Enter:					
Girl's name					
Boy's name					
Food/Dish					
Animal					
Place					
Colour					



Bananagrams is available to purchase as a Scrabble-like board game as well as from the App Store. There are loads of ways to play and the in-depth instructions can easily be found online.

Articulate is another old family favourite that tests your ability to describe things fast! It is available as a board game to purchase, or you can make this more cost-effective by taking words online and creating cards yourself!



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

World Mental Health Day – Non-uniform Day

Monday 10th October 2022 was World Mental Health Day. In order to raise awareness and help promote our staff and pupil wellbeing, we ran a non-uniform day on the final day of term. Everyone was encouraged to wear their favourite colour to improve their mood and mental wellbeing. We raised a fantastic £308 which was split between the S6 charities committee and the Christmas food parcels, to help give families a delicious meal at Christmas.



S5 Raising Attainment Seminar

As part of the S5 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 'Brain Foods'; foods that specifically improve mental functions to aid studying. Pupils were treated to a Blueberry Brain Food Smoothie, which received many positive reviews.



Staff vs S6 Dodgeball – Friday 16th December

Our PE and HWB Team members organised a favourite event of our pupils - staff vs pupils dodgeball! This was a big hit with all pupils involved and those spectating!



HWB Twitter

Remember to join our HWB Twitter page [@StBenedictsHWB](https://twitter.com/StBenedictsHWB) for up-to-date news from the HWB Team and tips to promote your own wellbeing.



Art and Design

As ever, pupils in the Art & 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 Art Gallery



Supported Study

Supported Study is running again this year after school on Tuesday and Wednesday and 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 Gibson's room on Tuesdays.



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 2022. Well done Ruby in 1D on your design, your submission is beautiful.



If you haven't already, you can follow the Art Department on Twitter [@StBenedictsArt](https://twitter.com/StBenedictsArt). This is where we can share some of the amazing work by our talented pupils.



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

International Literacy Day

8th September 2022



As part of our annual effort to raise awareness of the importance of literacy, this year staff shared both their favourite childhood book as well as their favourite words. Pupils were then encouraged to discuss these with their teachers and subsequently build their vocabulary. See the words – and test yourself on how many you know – on our Twitter page [@sbhslanguage](https://twitter.com/sbhslanguage)

Mentors in Violence Prevention

Many of our S5 students have signed up to function as Mentors in Violence Prevention. As part of the project, they have been partnered to 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.



European Day of Languages

26th September 2022



This year, we celebrated European Day of Languages with a continental breakfast for all pupils in our school social area. Miss Delaney, Miss McAllister and Mrs Shearer were on food and drink duty while Mr McKee took control of the crepe station. Later in the day, all Modern Languages classes immersed themselves in the spirit of the day with many bespoke tasks, while classes across the school participated in a variety of lesson starters in a variety of different European languages.

Higher English Theatre Trip

5th October 2022



The English team were delighted to be able to offer the opportunity for Higher and S4 students to attend a production of 'Men Should Weep' at Eastwood Park Theatre. The play is widely taught throughout the department and seeing it in a real-life context added a further dimension of understanding and appreciation to pupils' experiences. Our pupils were a credit to themselves and we look forward to providing further opportunities as and when they arise. Thanks to Mr. McKee for planning and organising the event.

S1 Cinema Trip

22nd November 2022

The English department has partnered with INTO FILM in order to provide a number of cinema trips for our learners, the first of which took place on 22nd November. On this day, all S1 pupils were invited to the VUE Cinema at Glasgow Fort to watch "Uncharted". After the event, pupils were provided with a free ticket for a return visit to any VUE cinema. The closest venue is likely to be the new VUE in the St. Enoch centre, Glasgow, and using the ticket could well be a part of a family day out to get those last-minute stocking fillers. Many thanks to Miss Lauder for planning and organising the trip.



CONGRATULATIONS!



A huge congratulations to Miss Lauder who graduated from the University of Glasgow on Friday 5th December 2022 as a Master of Education (with Distinction). We are hugely proud of Miss Lauder's achievement and delighted to see that all of her hard work and determination has been rewarded.

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 peaceful and well-rested Christmas break.



Mathematics and Numeracy

Maths Week

September brought Maths Week 2022 and what a brilliant time we had with it!

Class activities, trips, competitions and guest speakers made for a busy but very rewarding week for all!



Working with our Partners

S3 had a 'Careers involving Maths' talk from JP Morgan associates highlighting potential employment opportunities upon leaving school.



S1 had a great activity on code breaking delivered by Jon Devlin from Strathclyde University. Their problem-solving skills were put to the test with challenges!



Enterprising Maths

Our school was well represented in this year's Enterprising Maths Challenge by Ethan and Jennifer from S3, and Kiera and Liam from S4 – a fighting performance in this Region-wide challenge of Renfrewshire schools.



Maths Doctors – appointments always available!

Our wonderful Advanced Higher maths pupils have started a 'Doctors' Surgery' supporting our S1 pupils with their maths. This has proved very popular and we are extremely proud of our S6 helpers in making this a success – well done!



Supported Study

As always, the Maths Department continues to support our pupils in being aspirational by offering a wide selection of supported study opportunities each week. Support classes continue to run for Advanced Higher, Higher and National 5 across S4-6 each week. Numbers are high and we ask for your continued support in encouraging attendance at classes that significantly improve SQA performance. We have also introduced a 'drop-in' support class for S3 pupils preparing for the transition to N5.



Primary Transition

We have been delighted to be working with our associated cluster primaries with the extended transition program. Each primary has visited the department to compare different health information on food packets.

We started by looking at this problem:

Who do you think is the best basketballer?

The Primary 6s and 7s have been so impressive with their enthusiasm and hard work. We look forward to working closely with them in the years to come!



Janine scored 32 free throws out of 50 attempts.



Sarah scored 128 free throws out of 200 attempts.



Grady scored 6 free throws out of 10 attempts.



Jacob scored 17 free throws out of 25 attempts.



Music

Awards Ceremony

Our Annual Award Ceremony showcased some fantastic talent from our music students. Sarah sang with Saoirse accompanying her on the ukulele. Brodie performed on his bagpipes and Head Boy Oliver entertained us on the piano.



S2 Theatre Trip

A group of S2 pupils visited the Kings Theatre in Glasgow to watch 'Beauty and The Beast'. A great afternoon had by all.



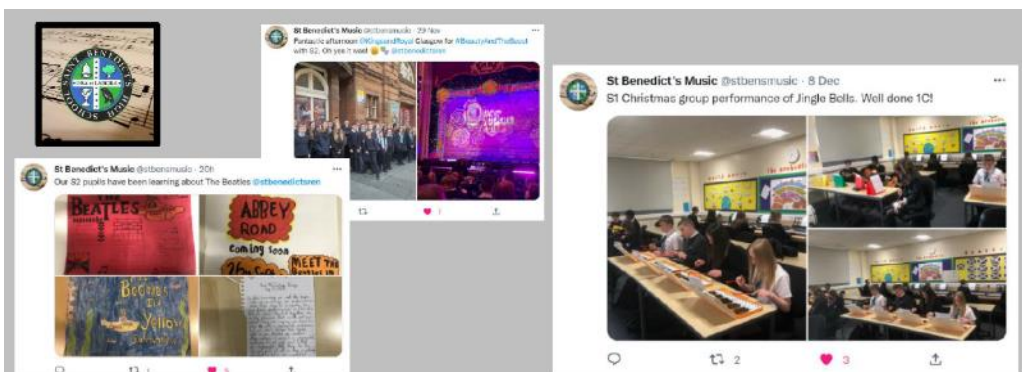
Christmas Concert

We are currently rehearsing for our Christmas concert. All pupils have worked so hard and are excited to perform for everyone. We will share photos on Twitter and in the next newsletter.



Twitter  @stbensmusic

If you haven't already, you can follow the Music Department on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/stbensmusic). Here you will find information about what pupils are doing in class. Here is a snippet from our most recent tweets!





Physical Education

The Sports Development pupils (with support from Lynsey Dawson at Active Schools) have attended 5 weeks of placements across 7 primaries and for the first time, include Riverbrae. They have participated in a variety of workshops for Frisbee, Basketball, Rugby, Gymnastics, Archery, Boccia and have also worked with Scottish Handball in partnership with Active Schools.

Most recently, the Sports Development pupils planned and delivered sessions for the Disability event with SDS and other local clubs for Target Sports and Dance. They have also been volunteering to help out at various extra-curricular clubs, school events and community events to gain valuable leadership experience.



RSSE students from St Benedict's: Madison, Katie, Hannah, Miren, Kimberley and Aiden, are volunteering at clubs and sessions across Johnston and Linwood. The RSSE Girls ran the Active Girls day with the S1 girls delivering an obstacle course and step aerobics.



This year we have three football teams who are competing in the Renfrewshire League and Cups.

Miss Delaney is the Football Representative for the school. Mr Scarff has been taking the S2s, Mr Sinclair the S3s, and Miss Shearer the seniors.

Martin Campbell (S6) has also been selected to play for the regional squad and has recently has been successful in his trial with Scotland School Boys.



The S1/2 Girls Football Team have been training on Wednesdays after school with coach Nicola and have attended two rounds of the Active Schools league.

Lunchtime and afterschool clubs have also been well attended, improving pupil's health and wellbeing and include Miss McMillan and Miss Shearer's Gymnastics and Trampolining Club, Miss McMillan's Dance Club and Mrs McCartney's Badminton Club.

Mr McGeady's junior and senior basketball training has been ongoing on Wednesdays after school and the teams recently competed successfully against other Renfrewshire Schools in the Active Schools Competitions. Chris Cleary (OneREN) also attended a session to improve pupils' basketball skills.



Miss McMillan organised and led an S3-6 Dance trip to see Dream Girls to deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding of Dance. Pupils in the S3 Elective Dance class performed at both the Primary 7 Transition and Awards Ceremony nights.





Religious Education

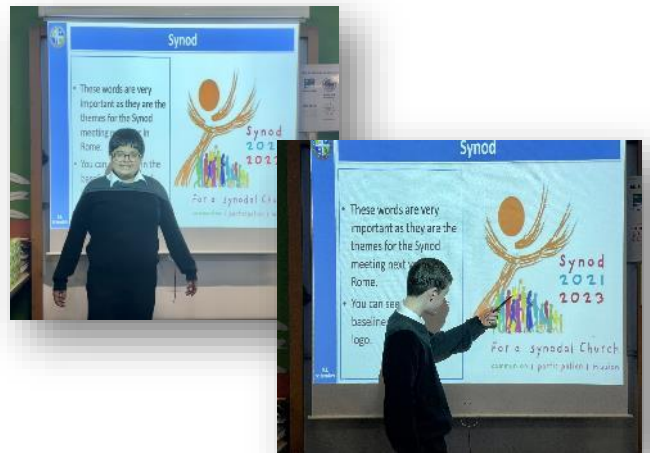
Welcome First Year

First Year pupils have been settling in well in Religious Education in St. Benedict's.



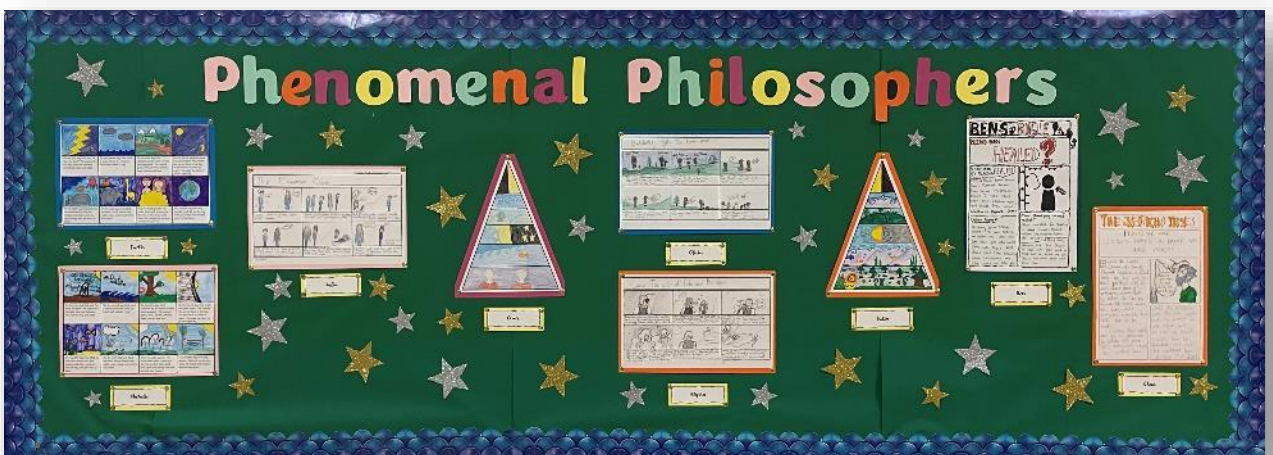
First Year pupils worked together to develop their Bible referencing skills through their exploration of literary forms!

Classes also spent some time considering the themes of the Synod: Communion, Participation and Mission, sharing their learning with their classmates.



Celebrating Success

To acknowledge the strong effort of pupils in Religious Education we have a new 'Phenomenal Philosophers' board which has wonderful examples of some of the amazing work produced by our B.G.E. pupils. Well done to everyone who has made it onto the board so far!



Advent

Thank you to Miss Howell's 1.5 and Higher RMPS classes who collaborated to create an Advent Wreath for our wall display.



Senior pupils have been taking time to reflect upon the importance of prayer for a good Advent, creating their own prayer cards. Prayer can be light in darkness, offering us comfort and hope.

Malawi Christmas Parcels

Pupils have been busy wrapping the presents to be sent to St. Patrick's in Malawi. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported this year's appeal – we know the boys in St. Patrick's will be too!



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.



Christmas Blessings

St. Benedict's Religious Education Department wishes everyone in our school community a happy and holy Christmas. Please be assured of our prayers over the festive season for you and those you love.



Science

The Scientist Of The Month Awards have been handed out to our S1 & S2 scientists since the start of term.



The Science Club pupils have enjoyed some amazing experiments.



Methane bubbles!

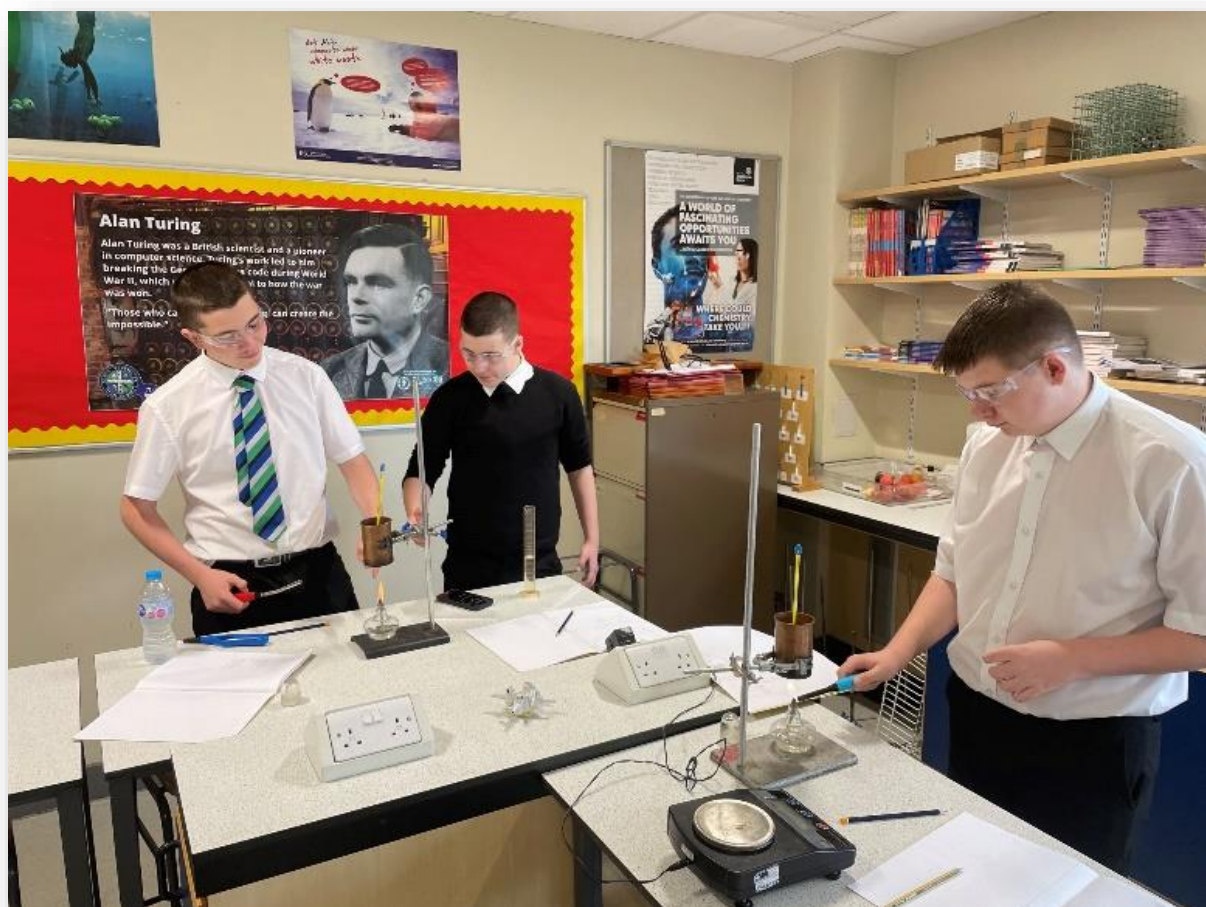
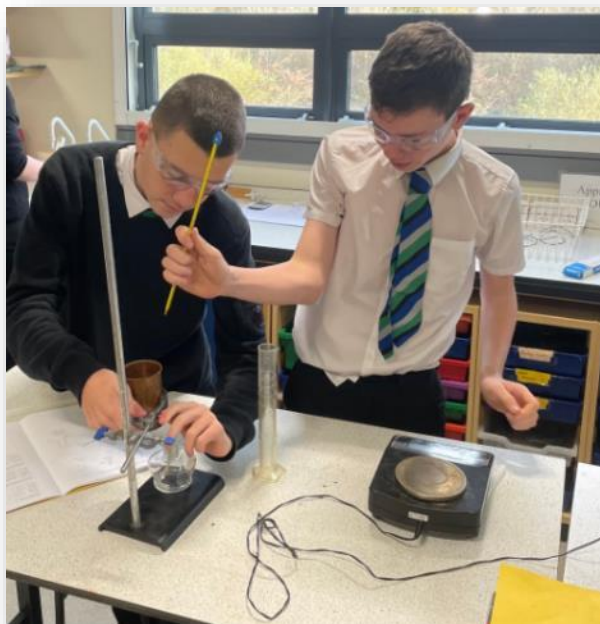


Conditioner-made snowman!



Our Science classes have had an excellent start to this session with some very active learning showcased below.

S3 Lab Skills





1F were experimenting with oobleck this week during their matter topic.



1A were experimenting with rockets during their space topic this week

S3 had a great time creating Pyramids of Energy and Numbers using Playdoh and whiteboards! It was good to visualise the number of organisms at each stage, and we think they enjoyed making the animals too.



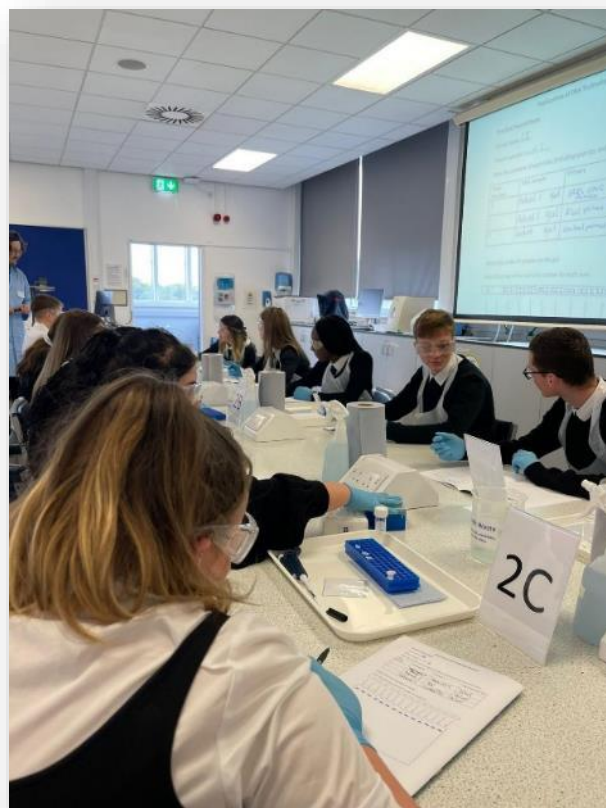
A group of our S1 scientists were learning about diffusion through this colourful activity.





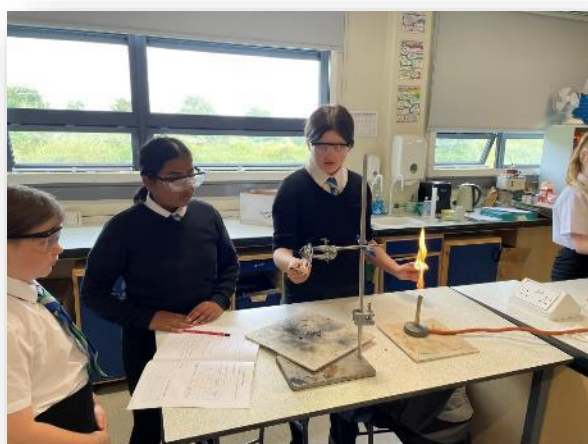
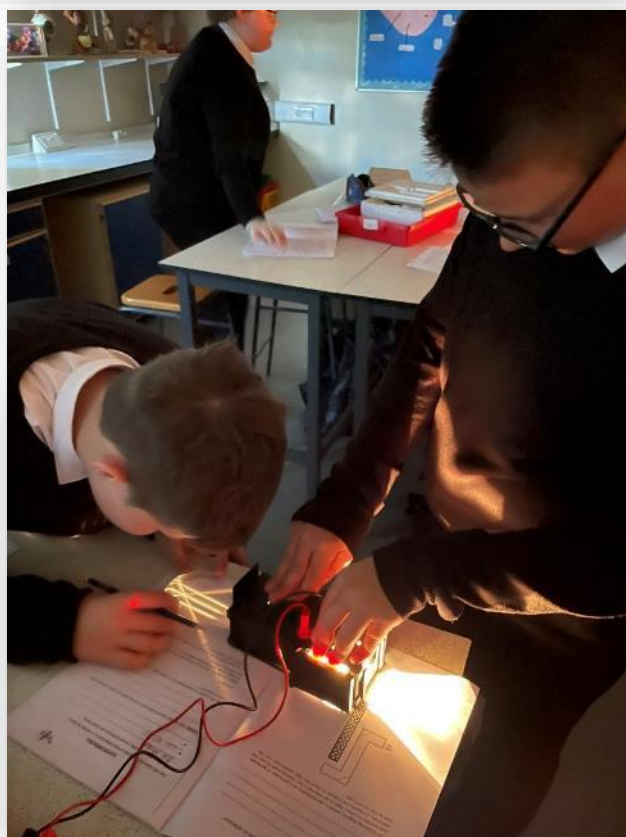
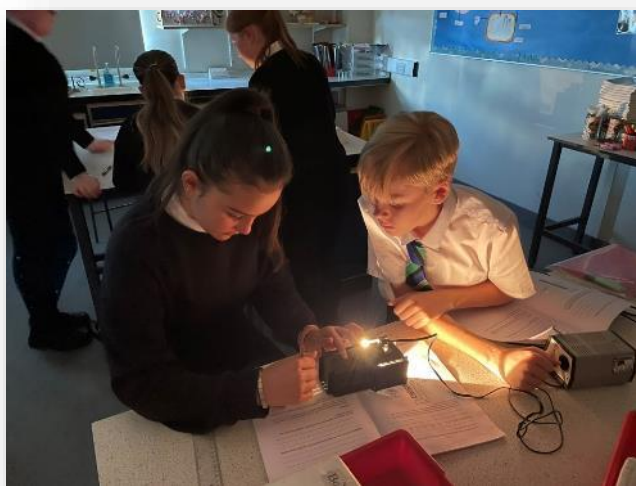
S4 Biologists expertly extracting DNA.

Our Higher and Advanced Higher Biologists enjoyed a great PCR workshop at University of Glasgow.





Higher Chemists experimenting
with rate of reaction.



S1 & S2 Science classes
learning through
experimentation.





Social Subjects

We have been having a very busy year so far in Social Subjects! Our pupils and teachers have been working hard to aim for excellence in Social Subjects.

Welcoming New Staff

We started the year by welcoming two new members of staff to our department. Miss Urquhart joined the faculty teaching Geography and Miss Pope teaches History.

Criminology Trip To Paisley Sheriff Court



Our criminology pupils enjoyed a trip to the Paisley Sheriff court in November. They found it insightful and interesting to witness a day in a real-life courtroom. They made us very proud as they represented the school at this event.

Learning and Teaching in Social Subjects

Pupils have been producing an outstanding quality of work so far this year. This has meant an increase in praise cards, pupil of the month certificates and reward periods. It has been fantastic seeing the young people work so hard this year. We are looking forward to seeing what they achieve in the new term!



S1 Model Competition

S1 were given the task of creating a model connected to history, geography, or modern studies.

They did a fantastic job with their models! So much so that it was incredibly hard for the S6 leadership team to select our winners.

Our top prize winners were:

1st Prize: Oliver (Big Ben) and Emma (The Seven Wonders of the World).

2nd Prize: Harry (Stonehenge).

3rd Prize: Wojciech (Stonehenge).

Working with the Linwood War Memorial Association

Pupils across the school have been working with Linwood War Memorial Association for Remembrance Day. S1 had a lesson dedicated to Remembrance Day and both senior pupils and staff had the privilege of attending the Remembrance Day service.



S3 Football Team

Mr Sinclair's S3 football team have been representing the school at several matches.

They are continuing to practice and look forward to more games in the new year.



Key events in the New Year!

S4/ S5-6 Prelims

One of the first events in the calendar for next year is the senior prelims. Our Senior pupils have been working hard in class and have created study plans for at home. We wish them the very best of luck with their prelims in January.

Gathering the Voices exhibition and guest speakers

We will have the honour of having the Gathering the Voices exhibition visiting St Benedict's for Holocaust Memorial Day. Pupils will be getting the opportunity to listen to guest speakers who will tell us their stories about the Holocaust and their family members who experienced the events.

Dynamic Earth



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.

We have many more trips planned for 2023 so keep your eyes and ears peeled! 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 [@socsubsstbens](https://twitter.com/socsubsstbens).



Technical


Another great term for our pupils in the Technical Department!

Pupils have been experiencing computer aided design in the BGE course and have had great fun learning how to use the software by creating LEGO characters.


Our senior pupils have been working hard on their N5 Practical Woodwork/Practical Metalwork course. Pupils are refining their practical skills and have explored many new tools and processes this session.


Our Higher/N5 Graphic Communication pupils have been developing skills in two main areas — 2D, and 3D and pictorial graphic communication. Pupils apply these skills to produce graphics with visual impact that communicate information effectively.


Our department is going from strength to strength and our pupils are at the centre of all our great progress- we are looking forward to what 2023 brings!

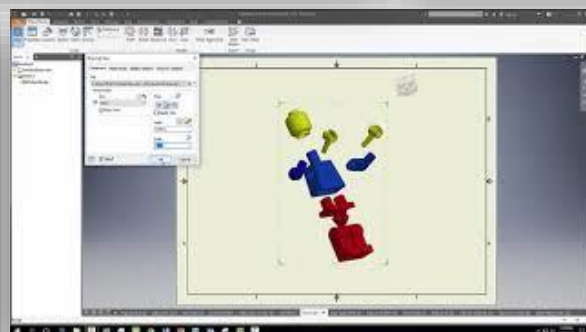
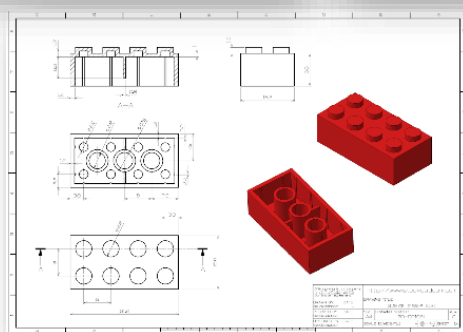
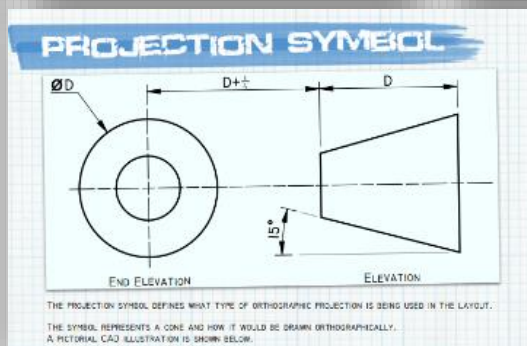
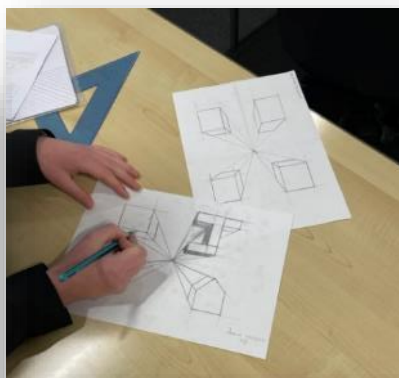


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 [http://](http://oraetlabora.co.uk) **oraetlabora.co.uk**

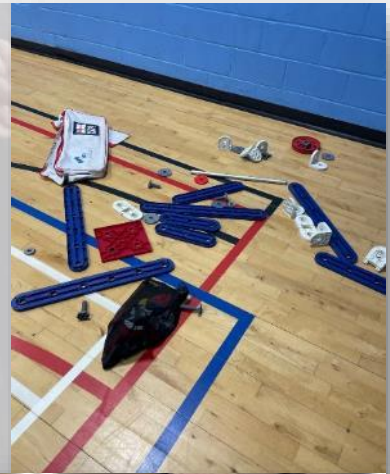
 **@StBenedictTech**



THE LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION



LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT



Senior pupils from the Technical Department were selected to take part in a workshop lead by the Royal Navy. The challenge was to build several structures outlined by the leaders. One example of the structure the pupils had to make was a free-standing tower of a certain height using the least number of parts, building a windmill that spins freely and is stable, building a wheelbarrow with a relay race on completion.

Pupils then participated in a “Dragon’s Den” inspired task where each team can build anything they like however, they must also conduct a sales pitch and explain why we would want to purchase their item. The group of pupils selected learned key transferable skills for example – teamwork, communication, engineering skills and problem solving. As always, our pupils were a credit to themselves and the school, and the workshop was a great success.



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 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

Description	Date
Last Day of the Session	Wednesday 21 nd December 2022
Christmas and New Year Break (schools closed)	Thursday 22 nd December 2022 to Wednesday 4 th January 2023 (inclusive)
Second Term	January – April 2023
Schools reopen	Thursday 5 th January 2023
February Mid Term Break (schools closed)	Monday 13 th February and Tuesday 14 th February 2023 (inclusive)
In-service Day	Wednesday 15 th February 2023
Schools reopen	Thursday 16 th February 2023
Easter Holiday (schools closed)	Monday 3 rd April to Friday 14 th April 2023 (inclusive)
Third Term	April – June 2023
Schools reopen	Monday 17 th April 2023
May Day (schools closed)	Monday 1 st May 2023
Schools reopen	Tuesday 2 nd May 2023
Local Holiday (schools closed)	Friday 26 th May 2023
Schools reopen	Monday 29 th May 2023
In-service Day	Tuesday 30 th May 2023
Pupils return	Wednesday 31 st May 2023
Last Day of Session	Tuesday 27 th June 2023





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

Pupil's name:

Year group:

Comment:

Signature of parent/carer:

Name of parent/carer (please print):