

St. Benedict's High School NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025





Welcome from Mr Taylor

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 – Monday 18th August.

Alan Taylor

Alan Taylor
Head Teacher





Dr Phelps

We say farewell and offer our very best wishes for the future to a much-valued member of our school community. Dr Anne Phelps, our Depute Head Teacher, will retire at the end of this term after 29 years of dedicated service in education.

Before entering the teaching profession, Dr Phelps enjoyed a successful career as a research scientist. She was awarded a PhD from the University of Glasgow in 1987 and went on to complete post-doctoral research at Harvard University in Boston, USA. In 1992, she returned to Scotland to take up a research post with the Medical Research Council at the University of Edinburgh.



Dr Phelps began her teaching journey in 1996 at St Kentigern's Academy in West Lothian, where she taught chemistry and developed a key role in leading supported study and enterprise initiatives. In 2006, she was drawn back to her home town to join the newly established St Benedict's High School as Depute Head Teacher.

Over her 19 years at St Benedict's, Dr Phelps has made an immense contribution to school life. She has served as year head to nine sixth year groups, guiding five of those cohorts through their full secondary school journey from S1 to S6.



A passionate and committed Catholic leader, Dr Phelps has placed Gospel values at the heart of everything she has done. She has been a central figure in the spiritual life of the school, leading with faith, compassion, and integrity.

A particularly memorable highlight is her time spent visiting our partner school, St Patrick's Seminary, in Malawi – a trip that deeply reflected her sense of vocation and commitment to global citizenship.



As she retires, Dr Phelps is looking forward to a new chapter filled with adventure and learning. She plans to travel widely, with a houseboat stay in Kerala top of her list. She's also looking forward to more time for yoga and is even toying with the idea of studying for an English degree — with the small exception of the exams, which remain a less appealing prospect!

We thank Dr Phelps for her many years of dedicated service, leadership and faith, and we wish her every happiness in the exciting journeys ahead.



Mr Tonner

After fourteen years at St Benedict's High School, Mr Tonner is leaving us to take up a post teaching Gaelic on the other side of the city. Whilst he will be sad to leave the school community, he is looking forward to the new challenges ahead and is reminded of an old Gaelic saying (or seanfhacal):

"Cha do dhùin doras nach do dh'fhosgail doras"
God never shuts one door without opening another

We warmly thank Mr Tonner for his service to our school. Over that time, he has been a steady and compassionate presence, and a valued colleague to so many.

His contribution to the faith life of the school has been especially meaningful—nurturing a spirit of reflection, community, and kindness. Beyond the classroom, he has also served faithfully with the EIS, supporting colleagues with wisdom, fairness, and integrity.

As he moves on to teach Gaelic, we're excited to see him bring his passion for the language and learning into a new chapter. We are truly grateful for everything he has given to our school community, and we wish him every blessing for the road ahead.



Beginning New Chapters

Best wishes to Miss Toti (Art), Miss Palmer (HFT), Miss Fitzsimmons (Modern Languages) and Ms MacNamara (English) as they move to new schools at the start of next term.

To our NQTs: Miss Findlay, Miss McHugh and Mr Horrocks - congratulations on a successful year and good luck for the future. Miss Findlay and Miss McHugh will return in August.



Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

Parents and carers can now apply for school clothing grants and free school meals for the new school year (starting August 2025).

You could save up to £863.40 per secondary school child if you receive free school meals and a school clothing grant.

Applications can be made on Renfrewshire Council's website.

Apply by Friday 11 July for a school clothing grant and we will pay the money directly into your bank account before the first day of term (18 August).

Those on Universal Credit are now eligible for a school clothing grant or free school meals if their earned income is not more than £850 per month.

Everyone who is entitled to free school meals and applies will receive a payment of £2.35 per day per child to cover the school holidays. Payments will be made prior to the October and December 2025 and February, Easter and summer 2026 holidays.

Anyone who is concerned about money or who would like to find out if they could be entitled to one of the benefits that would mean their child can get free school meals should get in touch with our Advice Works team.

Email adviceworks@renfrewshire.gov.uk or call 0300 300 1238.

Search "free school meals and clothing grants" on Renfrewshire Council's website.



**Clothing grants and
free school meals**



St. Benedict's High School has an active and thriving Parent Council which represents the views of all parents and carers in our school community. We work closely with the school to support its ongoing development and improvement.

Our key aims are to:

- Provide a voice for parents on issues important to them and their children.
- Advise the school on its policies.
- Take part in the appointment process for senior staff.
- Organise social and fundraising events.
- Ensure all parents are informed, listened to, and understand the role of the Parent Council.
- Promote strong links between parents and the wider school community.
- Discuss key topics and concerns raised by parents.

Meeting Dates 2025-26

All meetings are held on a Monday at 6pm and typically last around an hour.

- 15th September 2025
- 27th October 2025
- 24th November 2025
- 2nd February 2026
- 16th March 2026
- 27th April 2026
- 8th June 2026



If you would like to join the Parent Council or raise a point for discussion, please get in touch by email: stbenparentcouncil@gmail.com

Kind regards,

Jennifer Kane

Chair of the Parent Council

Follow us on X: [@StBenedictPC](https://twitter.com/StBenedictPC)





The ACHIEVE system has been very well received by pupils from S1 to S6.

Pupils receive a Merit for each class they attend, giving them a total of 33 Merits each week for meeting the expectations of the LET'S ACHIEVE TOGETHER Action Plan. These are all displayed on Satchel One so that pupils and parents can see their running totals each week.

Additional Merits are now available for pupils who have an improved attitude to their learning or for those who significantly contribute to the school community.

At the end of each term, there is a prize draw where pupils with over 95% of their Merits are entered – this has been so well received by pupils that we've increased the number of prizes this term so that more pupils' hard work and effort will be recognised.

LET'S ACHIEVE TOGETHER - ACTION PLAN

A	Arrive to class on time and get ready to learn.	
C	Concentrate and listen to the teacher.	
H	Have a positive growth mindset.	
I	Involve yourself fully in the lesson.	
E	Ensure you stay on task.	
V	Value and respect your teacher and classmates.	
E	Exit the class in a calm and orderly manner.	

Respect - Love - Trust - Tolerance - Integrity



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 five 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 99% 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.

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, denims and tracksuits, are **not acceptable**.
- 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. **Hoodies are not allowed**.

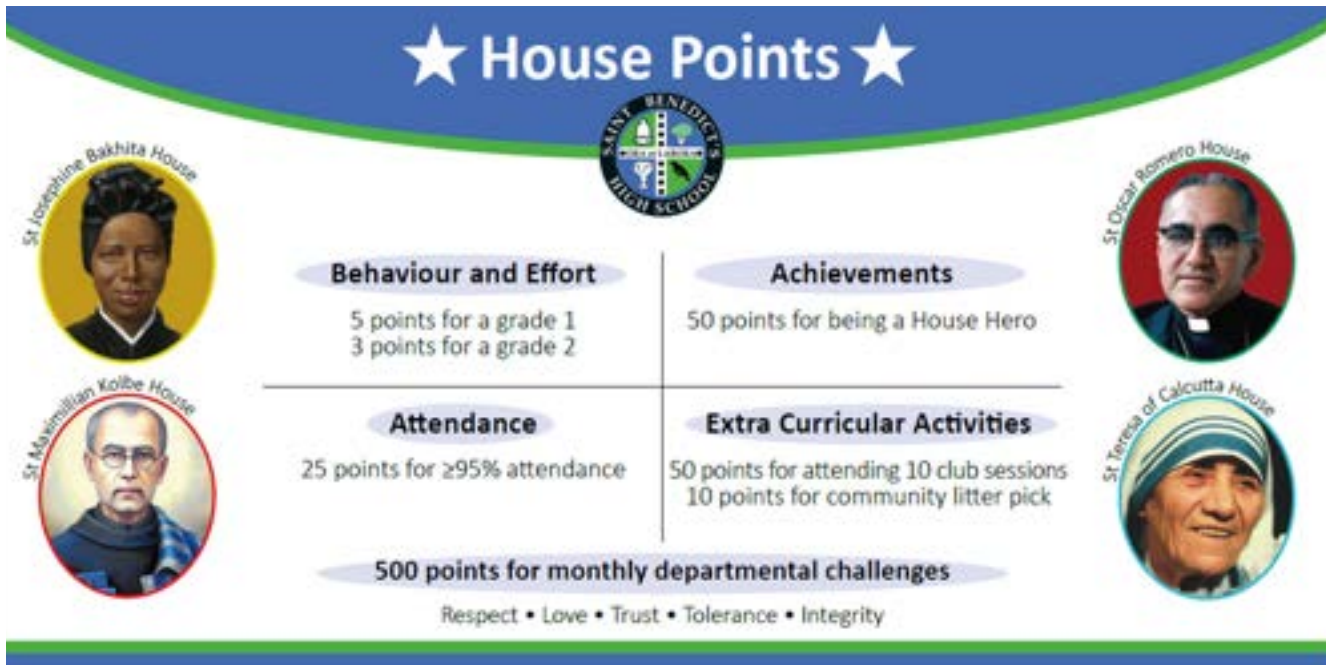




House System

Our House System is now well established, encouraging young people to participate in and take on a variety of leadership roles.

Pupils and staff can achieve house points as detailed below.



Month	Subject/Faculty
September	Maths
October	Social Subjects
November	Modern Languages
December	Art and Music
January	Computing/Business/Admin
February	Home Economics
March	Science
April	Technical
May	English
June	P.E./R.E.

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



Attendance Matters

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.

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 difficult 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 days of learning missed almost 1 whole term missed	



5 minutes late per day = 3 school days



10 minutes late per day = 6.5 school days



15 minutes late per day = 10 school days



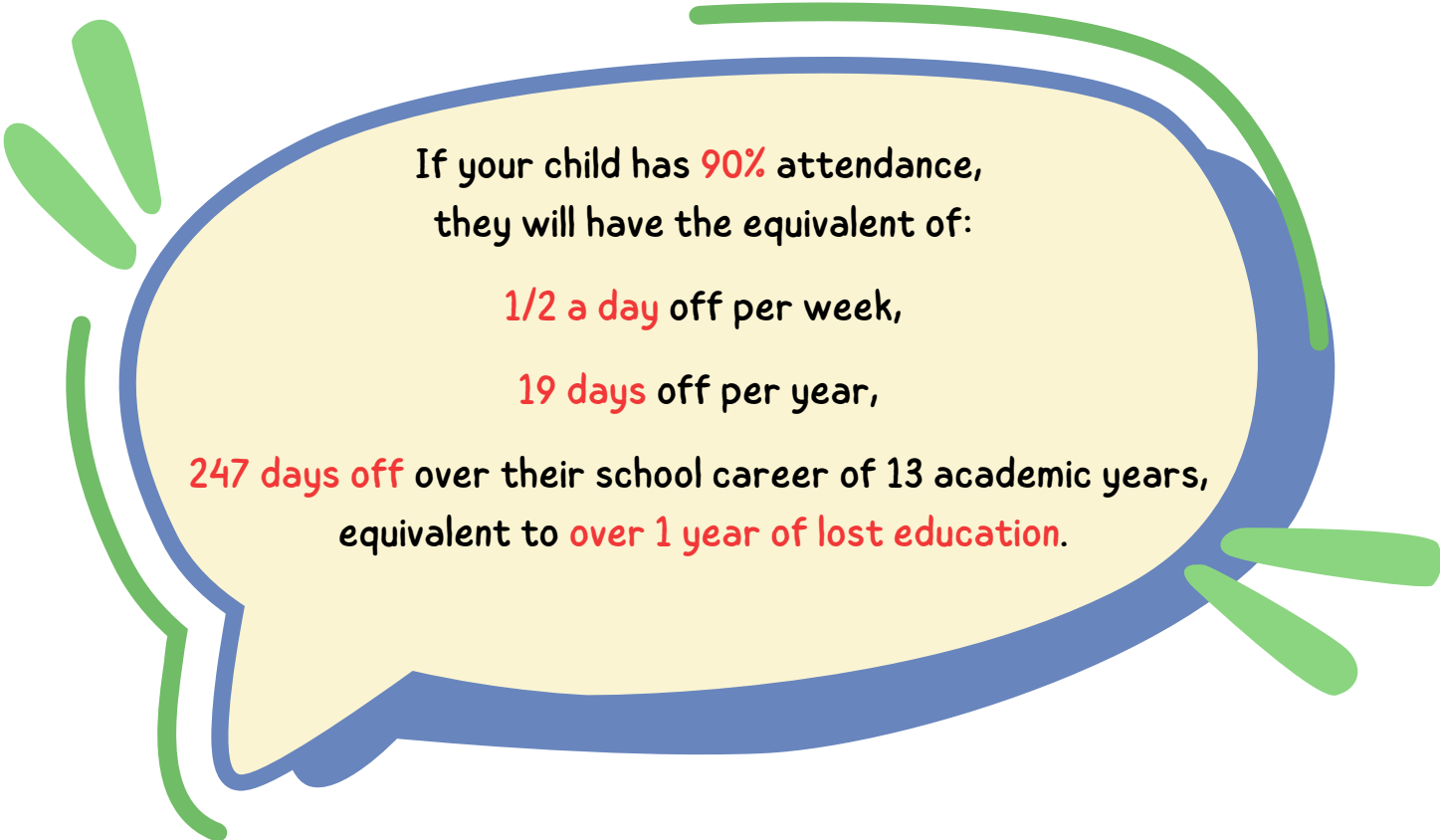
20 minutes late per day = 13 school days



25 minutes late per day = 19 school days

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 your 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:

1/2 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.



Malawi Partnership

We were truly blessed to welcome visitors from our partner school, St. Patrick's Minor Seminary in Lilongwe, Malawi, for a week of grace-filled encounters, fellowship, and shared learning. Their presence among us was a living reminder of the universality of the Church and the beautiful diversity within the Body of Christ.

Throughout their stay, our Malawian friends joined us in prayer, shared stories of faith and culture, and participated in the rhythm of our school life. Together we experienced the joy of community rooted in Gospel values—hospitality, respect, and mutual understanding.



There was a variety of visits to some Scottish landmarks, including Loch Lomond, Hampden, the Glasgow Science Centre, the David Livingstone Centre and the Debating Chamber of the Scottish Parliament.





As we gathered for Mass and shared reflections, we were reminded that though we may be separated by distance, we are united in faith and in our mission to form young people grounded in Christ's love.



The visit concluded with a meaningful Partnership Service held at the school. Led by Fr Edmond Nyoka, Rector of St Patrick's, the service celebrated both Malawian and Scottish culture and reaffirmed the bond between the two communities. It was a moving occasion that featured testimonies from St. Benedict's pupils who had visited Malawi the previous June, as well as reflections from the visiting students of St Patrick's—highlighting the depth of connection formed across continents.



We are deeply grateful for the light and witness our visitors brought, and we hold them in our prayers as we continue to walk together in partnership.





Celebrating Success in Charitable Activities

In September, a team of staff and students took part in Kami Bear's Teddy Trail and raised £483.75 for Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.

Several staff members also joined S5 student Mariya at the Glasgow Kiltwalk in April to raise money for Another Star in the Sky. Everyone had a great time and £1678.76 was raised, bringing the total raised through both events to £2162.51.



Mariya also had the honour of meeting King Charles in September when she was invited to the 25th anniversary celebration at the Scottish Parliament after being nominated as a 'Local Hero' by Paul O'Kane MSP, in recognition of her charity work.



Inspired? To sign up for this year's Kami Bear Trail in aid of the Glasgow Children's Hospital follow this link:

<https://www.glasgowchildrenshospitalcharity.org/support-us/events/672-kami-bears-teddy-trail>

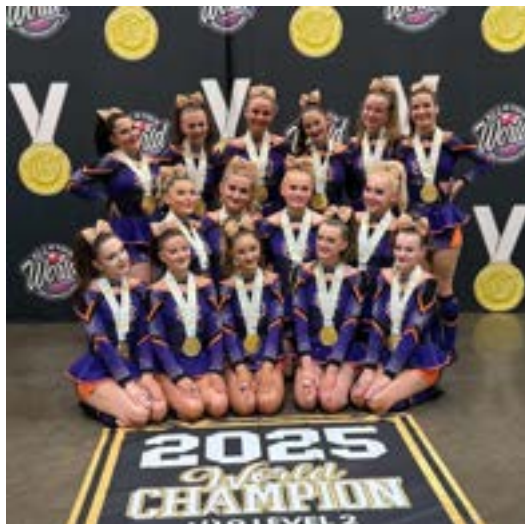
It's on 13th September and under 16s are free.





Celebrating Stateside Success

St. Benedict's pupils Niamh Armour, Katie Cavanagh, Ruby McKeeman, Skyla Niro and Ruby Sloan are all part of local cheerleading and dance group 'Solid Rock All Star Academy'. The girls successfully competed at the All Star World Championships in Orlando, Florida between 15th and 18th April.



Niamh, Katie and Ruby Sloan won gold as part of the Under 19 Level 2 division for Team Amethyst - a first for Solid Rock to win a cheerleading medal at a major competition overseas.



Niamh and Katie came home with a Bronze medal as part of the Open Pom division for Team Fire.



Skyla, Ruby McKeeman and Ruby Sloan came home with a Silver medal as part of the Junior Pom division for Team Silver.



Skyla, Ruby McKeeman and Ruby Sloan placed 4th in the Under 16 Level 1 Division as part of Team Emerald.



Celebrating Success: Wings

Through our collaboration with West College Scotland, three of our senior pupils proudly achieved their 'wings' — a testament to their commitment and success in the NQ Cabin Crew and Airport Operations course.

Students explored the key responsibilities of both cabin crew and airport ground operations staff, gaining insight into the essential roles that supported smooth airline service.

Throughout the course, they developed familiarity with industry-specific terminology and took part in role-play scenarios such as in-flight safety demonstrations, passenger announcements, trolley service, and simulated airport operations — all designed to build confidence in managing a variety of customer service situations.

Congratulations to Nicola, Grace and Katie for their success!





Celebrating Local Football Success



**MANY THANKS TO NOAH YOUNG FROM JOHNSTONE BURGH F.C.
WHO VISITED THE SCHOOL WITH THE SCOTTISH JUNIOR CUP!**





Dear pupils, families and colleagues,

I am delighted to be writing to you again as we bring a close to a fantastic school year! After some precious time away on maternity leave, I am excited to return to the role of Head of House for St Maximillian Kolbe house group.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Doyle for her dedication, warmth and outstanding work she has done for our house group in my absence. Thank you, Mrs Doyle!



Champions again! Congratulations to all the pupils of St Maximillian Kolbe house group on winning the house group competition for the second year in a row. An excellent demonstration of the hard work you have all put in. Below are some of our pupil achievements, as always pupils should be reminded to alert me to any achievements in or out with school so I can ensure to congratulate and award appropriate house points! Let's go for a hat-trick ...

Pupils in St Maximillian Kolbe House are:

1.2, 1.5, 2.2, 3.2, 4.2, 5.2 and 6.2.

Warm Wishes,

Mrs Glen



Celebrating Attendance!

Well done to the following pupils with 100% attendance so far this year!

- S1 - Treasure Akande, Rosie Costello and Isabella McFadden
- S2 - Ciaran Jones, Leah McConnachie, Choolwe Shipota, Leo Smyth and Anna Whyte
- S3 - Harry MacKay and Ciara Orr
- S4 - Sean Doherty and Harry Cavanagh
- S5 - Lewis Chisholm and Ava McNish
- S6 - Ian Kelly, Flora Okungbowa, Emmanuel Fatuyi, Promise Nkabi and Lewis Henderson

House Captains - A big thank you!

Well done to our Junior and Senior House Captains for volunteering themselves for such an important role within the school this year. Representing our house group as House Captain is a fantastic leadership opportunity and we thank you all for your contributions this year!

Senior House Captains



Anthony
McArthur



Ava
Garrity

Junior House Captains

Vice Junior House Captains



Marley
Biernacki



Harmony
Etinosa-Iroghiendo



Ellie
Martindale



Harry
MacKay

UCAS 2025/2026

UCAS

For any parents/carers looking to support their child in applying for UCAS 2025/2026, below is a podcast to allow you to support your child through this process.

Parent's Podcast: Careers of the future - Hear from the experts on how you can help them navigate the changing job market. Our latest episode talks about how to best guide the person you're supporting in finding the right path for them.

St. Maximilian Kolbe House Wider Achievement

Well done to **Hollie Cashley** and **Oscar Liwowski** on their ongoing involvement in horse riding, and guitar and singing.

We can't wait to see you progress in your hobbies!



Congratulations to **Brayden Muir**, **Dermid Kelly** and **Cory Carracher** for catching their biggest Rainbow Trout yet at Loch Fad.



Cameron Cassidy has been successful with Johnstone Burgh 2013 football team going 18 games unbeaten. Well done Cameron!



Congratulations to **Summer McKnight** who won first place at her dance competition with Jam Dance squad. Keep up the good work!



Tobiloba Mosuro has written his eighth book! Fantastic effort Tobiloba, your teachers can't wait to have a read of some of your work.

Well done to **Josh Reynolds** for achieving Goalkeeper of the Year at St Convals FC.



Frankie Stewart has been successful in three rounds of his Ren 96 Swimming Club and has now reached the finals of the Mini League. Congratulations Frankie!!



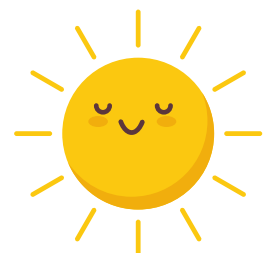
Abigail Mack has shown great determination and has learned the German language through an application at home. Gut gemacht!



Rawyaan Aroworowon has improved her coding skills and has been successful in progressing in her coding class. Girls in STEM!

Please remember to let me know of any achievements out with school so they can be celebrated!

Well done to everyone in St Maximillian Kolbe House for all your positive contributions to our school and wider community. Have a fantastic and relaxing summer!





News from St. Teresa's House

I am delighted to have been recently appointed in a permanent role of Head of St. Teresa's House. The past few weeks have been wonderful as I have been getting to know all the exciting gifts, talents and personalities we have in our house group.

Pupils in St. Teresa's House are:

- 1.3,
- 2.3,
- 3.3,
- 3.5,
- 4.3,
- 5.3,
- 6.3.

Thanks,

Mrs Doyle



Celebrating Attendance!

Well done to the following pupils with fantastic attendance this term:

Ethan Kane S1

Michael Bews Ngansi Devap S1

Duncan Fraser-Lennie S2

Adaeze Ononye S2

Danny Moynihan S2

Lewis Crawford S2

Oscar Russell S2

Keziah Massengo Fleury S2

Jeshof Jenith S3

Michael Double S3

Joshua Milne S3

Callum Brady S4

Katie Moynihan S4

Lucas Leckie S4

Caelan Bonner S4

Thomas Colquhoun S4

Jess Hamilton S5

Outstanding Tracking

Congratulations to those pupils who achieved 1s across the whole year!



S1 Erin Double

S2 Roxana Dulska, Jamie Robinson Ferguson,
Joseph Smith and Jakub Swistak



S3 Rhona Bos, Lucas O'Donnell, Grace Elston, Wojciech Dudek,
Anna Davidson and Riley Davidson

S4 Lucas Leckie, Taylor McKeown, Katie Moynihan and Bobby Rowe

S5 Leona Bos, Nieve Brown, Erin McCrum and Charis Wallace

S6 Isla Colquhoun, Annie Cranfield, Olivia McInnes,
Sophie Murray and Caris O'Brien,

House Heroes

Katie Lovett



Katie has officially earned her Black Belt in Taekwondo—a powerful testament to her discipline, determination, and unwavering spirit. Years of dedication, countless hours of training, and a relentless drive to grow both physically and mentally have led to this remarkable achievement.



Jack Loughlin

Jack has shown outstanding dedication to car valeting and made huge strides in his overall engagement at school. His hard work, focus, and growing confidence are really shining through—what a fantastic turnaround!



James Garscadden

James has really stepped up his game with improved school attendance—and it's not gone unnoticed! A great sign of growing commitment and a fantastic step forward. Keep it up, James!



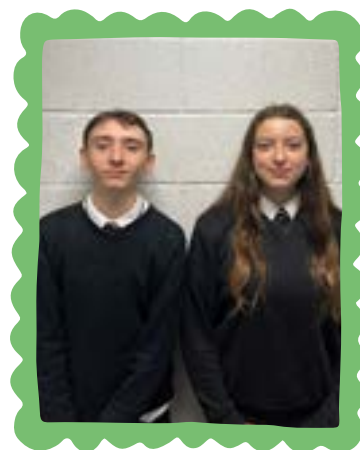
Please share your wider achievements to allow us to recognise and celebrate in your success!



House Captains

We thank our amazing Junior House Captains and Senior House Captains and look forward to the nominations for next year.

Well done to Noah McSkimming and Emily McKenzie Adams for their fantastic support as Junior House Captains.



**Junior Captains:
Noah McSkimming
and Emily McKenzie-Adams**

House Heroes

BGE: Ellie Louise McVey

Ellie Louise dramatically turned her attendance around and as a result has 100% in the final months of S1. Well done!

Senior Phase: Mariya Javed

Mariya took on her 9th Glasgow Kiltwalk for Another Star in the Sky in memory of her older brother. To date, she has helped to raise £32,000 to fund research into AVM and other rare conditions and to fund bereavement services at Glasgow Children's Hospital.

St. Oscar Romero House



"St Oscar Romero House has accepted me from day one and the other pupils and staff in the house always make people feel welcome and valued!"

Zach Adams (new S6)

Wider Achievement

Another fantastic spell of superb achievements outwith school. We are very lucky that so many young people in St Oscar Romero House are so talented.

Please remember to share their talents and achievements by sending into school via the attached QR code:

WIDER ACHIEVEMENT



The following pupils have been recognised for their outstanding achievements outwith school, showcasing incredible talent, dedication, and success in their respective fields:

1.1



Euan Logan, Robbie McGlynn won the Erskine U13s Cup.

Rosie Kane Successfully achieved her first grading in Taekwondo.



2.1

Holly Gallagher participated in the Junior NBA Finals.

Taylor Lafferty beat Rangers U14's and scored the winning goal gaining huge kudos from his team.



Justin King and his team St Mirren basketball won the cup final then went onto win play off the following weekend.



Leah Thomson recently got a distinction in level 2 ABRSM piano exam and distinction in level 3 ABRSM singing exam.

We wish Leah well at Knightswood Dance School.



3.1



Emily McKenzie-Adams and Alice Waldron recently ran in the Race for Life 5K and raised over £300.



4.5

Mariya Javed walked the 26.3 miles of the Kilt Walk in April with her family and a number of staff from St. Benedict's High School.



Celebrating Attendance!

100% Attendance:

Amy Brolly, James McFadden, Smiles Sackey, Jessica Walters,
Cael Dolan, Sean Colligan and Caleb Sackey

95% and Above Attendance:

Zachary Adams, Emily Mackenzie-Adams, Zara Muir, Frank Haraburda,
Stephen Morier, Fallon McElhinney, Natalie McIntosh, Orlaith Malley,
Katie McKay, Cora Houston, Reiss Ogg, Brandon Michel,
Brayden Gilmour, Emma McLellan, Sam Houston, Craig Campbell,
Taylor Lafferty, Eilidh Dolan, Ellis Hart, Krystal Sillars, Alex Wolak,
Sarah Telford, Ellie Hanley, Ewan Logan, Mia Colvin, Ebony Brogan,
Blair Millar, Hayden Byrne, Lucy McElhinney, Robert McGlynn,
Rosie Kane, Holly Wishart, Jakub Hryc, Andaru Jingga, Sheba Reji,
Mariia Onyshchuk, Yize Wang and Kelsey Anim-Addo.

It has been an absolute delight to be your
Pastoral Care Teacher and thank you to all
the young people, parents and partners who
have made my first eight months so enjoyable.

Wishing you all a wonderful and well-deserved
summer holiday. I look forward to seeing you
in August ready for the new term.

With best wishes,

Mrs Monica McLaughlin





News from St. Josephine Bakhita's House

To all pupils, parents and partners, I hope you have a great Summer break. A big thank you to the outgoing house captains, Eilidh and Oliver, who have done a great job serving St. Josephine Bakhita House.

Mrs Kearns.



Eilidh and Oliver,
our Junior House Captains:

Being junior house captain has been a great experience for me. I've been involved in multiple school events, including school Masses. A particular highlight has been supporting the transition of pupils from many primary schools. I also got a lovely new badge to show I am a house captain (it is very cool).

Eilidh

Chinemerem Eze
Lynette Wong
Kayla Chipanda
Eric McFee
Kristian Wonderful
Monica Adams

**PERFECT
ATTENDANCE**



WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

Ben Surpless

Fantastic art and geography work to welcome Malawi group.

Lynette Wong

Winner of 'World Book Day' competition.

Ryan Roddy

Most improved attendance.

St. Josephine Bakhita House





Malcolms - Heritage Centre

For the second year in a row, our S3 cohort have attended Malcolm's Heritage Centre to undertake mock interviews with existing employees in all different sectors of the business.

Our S6 Leadership class mentored our S3 cohort and delivered an introductory lesson in class in order to prepare our young people for their "world of work" mock interviews. The S3 pupils also took part in a mini careers event with the employees at Malcolms.

STEM Challenge at Mosswood Care Home

In March, a group of S1 pupils took part in a unique intergenerational STEM challenge at Mosswood Care Home in Linwood. Tasked with designing and building structures using spaghetti and marshmallows, pupils stepped confidently into leadership roles—demonstrating key employability skills such as teamwork, communication, creativity, and problem-solving.

This activity supported STEM learning and provided a valuable opportunity to engage with older adults and the wider community to develop interpersonal skills essential for the world of work. Awards were presented for best teamwork, strongest structure, and most creative structure - although a few marshmallows may have gone missing along the way!



DWF Group's 5 Star Futures

As part of the Employability programme at St.Benedict's, a group of S4 pupils participated in the DWF Lawyers 5 Star Future programme which was aimed at developing essential job application and interview skills. The programme consisted of three visits to the law firm over the course of three months in which pupils participated in interactive workshops led by senior and junior lawyers. The first two workshops were focused on how to write effective CVs, tailor cover letters, and present themselves confidently.



In the final session, pupils participated in a one-to-one interview with lawyers which allowed them to practice answering common interview questions, receive constructive feedback, and build their communication skills in a professional setting. The experience gave the pupils valuable insights into workplace expectations and developed their confidence in preparing for future employment opportunities, whether in law or other career paths. Pupils expressed that they found the experience useful and although they had to step out of their comfort zone, they now feel more equipped for entering the world of work.

Well done to all pupils involved for representing the school so well and making the most of the experience.

Staff at DWF were extremely impressed at the standard of CVs and the quality of the interviews from pupils!



Car Valeting

Car Valeting initiative has been a raving success. Initially, S3 and S4 students have been in training to learn all the different skills in order to valet cars to a high standard. In turn, they have been teaching these specific skills to S2 students as well as visiting one of our associated primary schools to involve some primary students in the learning process.

We have been visited by the Lord Provost from Renfrewshire, Head of Children and Justice Social Work and our Education Manager for DYW in recognition of the programme.

We even had a special visit from Grado, who took great pride in talking to our car valets about the skills they have acquired and the impact of the programme in their life.



Tweedie Hall - Education Managers

A highlight this session was a visit to Tweedie Hall in Linwood where a group of our young people were invited to speak with Renfrewshire Education Managers and talk about their experiences in several of our employability initiatives.



As always, our young people were a source of great pride as they pushed themselves out of their comfort zones and discussed their personal journeys in each of the initiatives and explained the skills they had learned, together with the sense of personal pride they had felt through taking part, so eloquently.

Creative Arts - UWS + Paisley Arts Centre

In February a group of S3 Art and Design students represented St. Benedict's for a day trip to The Paisley Arts Centre and University of the West of Scotland Paisley Campus hosted by Future Paisley.

The pathway programme allowed pupils to learn about creative art courses available to them as well as being engaged in activities within the university campus atmosphere along with other students from Renfrewshire schools.

The students participated in drawing tasks and role playing for a podcast, which they all found to be very interesting. In the afternoon the students were guided by a UWS student ambassador for a full tour of each building showcasing the wonderful facilities they had to offer followed by live art and drama performances in the Paisley Arts Centre along with set production and equipment programming. The feedback was a positive from all students allowing them to widen their ideas about career and degree directions for life after St. Benedict's.



Career Ready Internship Programme

We have seven of our new S6 students about to commence their first ever internship at the end of June. These students have attended Career Ready masterclasses at Morgan Stanley and visited their mentor's place of work - Renfrewshire Council, Thermofisher Scientific, Altrad Babcock, ASDA and Filshill. They are excited to see what lies ahead!





Support for Learning Update

We're delighted to welcome Ms Carr as the new Acting Principal Teacher of Support for Learning.

WELCOME

The department has undergone some exciting changes this term. Our newly redesigned Support for Learning wing now features three dedicated spaces to meet pupils' needs: a classroom, a wellbeing room, and a nurture room. We look forward to sharing more about these fantastic new facilities soon!



Primary Transitions

It was a pleasure to welcome our incoming S1 pupils for their two-day transition visit. Pupils had the chance to sample a variety of subjects and were introduced to members of the Pupil Support team, who joined them in class.

They also took part in transition sessions with the Support for Learning team and enjoyed a lively PE session led by Mrs Banks. We're excited to continue supporting our new S1 cohort when they officially join us in August.

Transition VISIT



Supported Study, Easter School and Master Classes

Throughout this session, Supported Study classes have been offered in a number of subjects and in January, an extensive programme of tutorial classes was delivered at the end of each school day and some on Saturdays. Students benefitted from this additional support as it complimented the excellent learning and teaching that goes on in the classroom. Attendance at these classes was very good and students gave positive feedback on the impact of this support. Senior students should be encouraged as we move on into next session 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.



During the exam diet, Master Classes were also being delivered in some subject areas, allowing students the opportunity to work with subject specialists immediately prior to their exam. This support provides pupils with last minute revision, well-being checks and reassurance on the eve of assessment.

Wider Achievement: First Aid at Work

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.

In March, S5 leavers were given the opportunity to participate in First Aid at Work training, and by the end of this session all new S6 students will also have completed this qualification. This course not only equips our young people with lifesaving skills but enhances their CVs making them more attractive to prospective employers.

The First Aid Qualification is part of the Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework.



Wider Achievement: YPI 2025

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is a powerful active citizenship programme, empowering young people to make a difference in their communities while developing a range of skills.

Since it was introduced to Scotland in 2008 by The Wood Foundation, YPI has engaged more than 350,000 young people who have taken responsibility for £7.6m of charitable giving. YPI is the biggest independent initiative being delivered in Scottish education. Each school is responsible for directing a grant of £3000 to a local charity championed by its students through a unique programme of teamwork, research, and competition.

The whole of our S3 year group have been engaged in YPI this year through RE and SE lessons. The programme raises awareness of social issues and local charities. Pupils worked in teams to choose a social issue within the local community and then research and identify a local charity that is working to support their social issue. Each team was tasked with researching and then reaching out to their chosen charities, interviewing them, and then creating a pitch to present to a panel of judges to explain why their chosen charity should win the £3,000 grant.

Five teams made it through the semi-finals round to the grand "Showcase" event which was held on 30th January. Each team had to pitch their final presentations to our panel of judges and in front of the whole year group. The judging panel found it very difficult to decide between the five groups as they all presented their pitches to such a high standard.

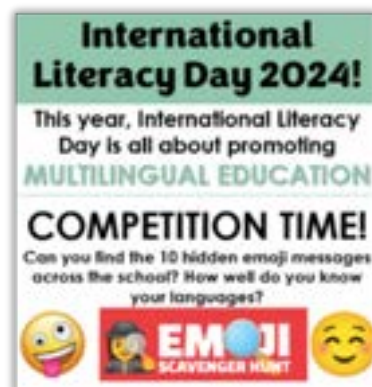
In the end, our winning team have secured a £3000 grant for a local charity Women's Aid, a charity that helps women and children escape domestic abuse. Our young people showed tremendous courage in raising such a sensitive issue with maturity, compassion and respect.





International Literacy Day 2024

To celebrate International Literacy Day, pupils took part in a Multilingual Emoji Scavenger Hunt! This fun and engaging activity challenged students to decode well-known phrases written in emojis, then translate them into multiple languages. Not only did it test their language and problem-solving skills, but it also encouraged collaboration and highlighted the importance of communication across cultures. The event was a brilliant way to promote literacy in a modern, inclusive way – and everyone had a great time joining in!



Can you work out some of the examples?



P6 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 left). Well done!

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

Paired Reading

Our S1-S6 Paired Reading Programme has been a fantastic success this term, bringing together senior and junior pupils to foster a love of reading. S6 mentors worked closely with S1 pupils to support and encourage their reading development through weekly sessions. The initiative focused on improving reading fluency, tackling challenging vocabulary, and helping with the pronunciation of difficult words. Not only did S1 pupils gain confidence and skill in their reading, but many also discovered a renewed enthusiasm for reading for pleasure. The programme has proven to be a valuable and rewarding experience for both year groups.





Talk

Research shows that children who speak to their parents about films, books, music, television shows, and current affairs develop effective skills to summarise the information they have acquired through reading, develop informed opinions, and develop critical thinking skills. Conversations that support effective learning don't have to be about learning!



Read



Building and maintaining the habit of reading is as important at secondary school as it is in primary school. One of the most effective things you can do to support your child's reading is to show them how much you value it yourself. The best way to do this is to make sure they see you reading and by taking an interest in what they are reading by asking them specific questions about the book.

Word Play

Encourage your child to become curious about language by playing with words. Can you figure out the play on words in the image below? Tweet your answers and don't forget to tag @StBensLiteracy!





STEM Club

First and second year pupils have embraced many STEM challenges this year showcasing their creativity, curiosity and problem solving skills.

Pupils designed and built boats from recycled juice bottles, then experimented with household items to power them using chemical reactions.

Students also demonstrated great patience and skill as they constructed robust marble run courses using just paper and tape!

Pupils explored the anatomy of the human hand and used their findings to create robotic string models that mimicked real movement. They also discovered how to turn CDs into hover crafts with the help of a balloon and bottle top!

STEM Club on Tour

Well done to Sarah and Hannah, who led their classmates in delivering a STEM challenge at Mosswood Care Home! Pupils teamed up with older adults from the local community to compete in the spaghetti tower challenge, working together to build the strongest and most creative structures.

Seasonal Fun!

At Halloween students carved their own pumpkins and watched them erupt with elephant's toothpaste. They also completed some microscale chemistry experiments investigating the effects of vampire's blood, snake venom and poison with dragon whiskers, monster serum and many more spooky ingredients. Christmas was a great opportunity for pupils to get creative with designing their own STEM themed Christmas baubles.

Finally, students decorated and designed protective contraptions to keep their eggs intact for the egg-drop challenge. Well done to Aaron who showed egg-cellent engineering skills by keeping his egg almost pristine!





BGE Classes

Pupils have been working really hard this year and have produced some excellent work. S1 learned about the visual elements, created some lovely Nightmare Before Christmas posters and sgraffito butterflies. S2 have been working on landscape paintings, papier mâché Peter Chang inspired bracelets and reptile eyes. S3 created a mixed media folio, printmaking and illustration for a book cover.

Here are some examples of their work:



S1 & S2 Work



S3 Work

Art Club

S1 & S2 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.



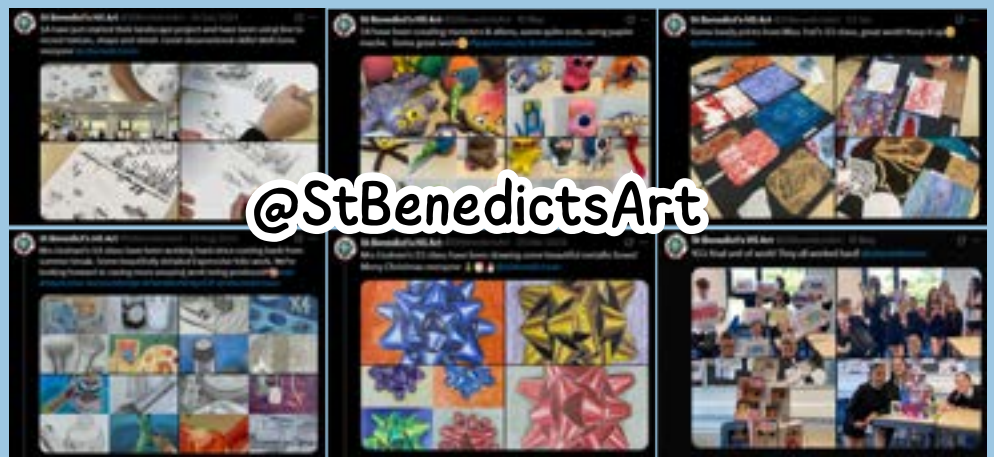
SQA Folios

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





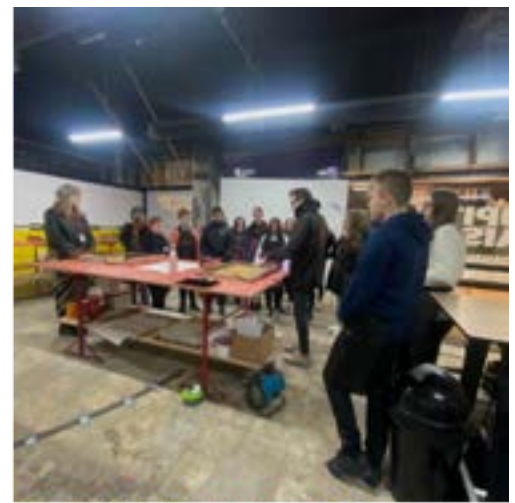
If you haven't already, you can follow the Art Department on X **@StBenedictsArt**, where we share some of the amazing work by our talented pupils.



Jupiter + Paisley Art Residency

In December a large group of S3 Art and Design students took part in a workshop event in collaboration with Jupiter + Paisley Art Residency. Students were able to explore contemporary art first hand by visiting artist Anya Gallaccio exhibition - a global artist known for working with interesting materials. The S3 students were able to explore her show, which was an immersive experience of analysing a chocolate painted shop unit, they worked in groups to convey their thoughts in an analytical way giving their personal opinions with justifications creatively.

The afternoon was spent in the printshop where the pupils worked in pairs to create stencil drawings in response to Paisley arts and use screen printing with pigments on paper to create a large variety of work. The trip was a highly effective day for St Benedict's art students allowing them to widen their knowledge of artists whilst engaging in a new process to produce art and build on positive peer relationships.





Health and Food Technology



Pupils have worked hard throughout the year both within the BGE and Senior Phase.



Barista pupils prepared and served a selection of coffee and tea to staff throughout the year and at parent's nights.



In April the Higher HFT class went on a trip to learn about food miles, locally produced ingredients, CO2 emissions, seasonality and organic products.



Ambila and Rhona competed at the Rotary Young Chef competition at Gryffe High putting their skills to the test.

JANET COATS MEMORIAL PRIZE



We were delighted to celebrate the achievement of Holly Cranfield, new S6, for being shortlisted for the Janet Coats Memorial Prize. Holly read her poem at the annual prize-giving ceremony held at Paisley Town Hall on Saturday 26th April.

Holly's poem focuses on the theme of survival and resilience, and we could not be prouder of her bravery and courage in both writing and presenting such a wonderful piece of writing. A huge congratulations and well done!

WORLD BOOK DAY

The school community had some weird and wonderful visitors on World Book Day this year, as you can see from the picture opposite. We had Galinda and Elphaba from Wicked, Miss Honey, Miss Trunchbull and Amanda Thripp from Matilda, Cruella DeVil from 101 Dalmatians, Alvin and the Chipmunks from the book of the same name, The Queen of Hearts, The Mad Hatter, Tweedle-Dee, Tweedle-Dum and Alice herself from Alice Through the Looking Glass.



Thank you to everyone in our school community who took part in making the day so celebratory and fun. Please also see the selection of winning book covers from our competition below - each winner received a £10 Amazon voucher.



By Andaru, new S3



By Lynette new S2



By Tobi, new S2

COMMUNITY RACE NIGHT

A huge thank-you to all members of our local community who attended and took part in our community race night on Friday 7th March. A great night was had by all – particularly those who took on the role of jockey in the interactive races! Pictures below.



MODERN LANGUAGE LINGUASTARS

Over the course of the year, numerous students have had their achievements recognised and recorded via our Linguastars scheme.

We want to congratulate all of our students who have dedicated their efforts to language learning in the faculty. Thank you.



VANCOUVER TRIP

On Monday 16th June, three members of the faculty, as well as representatives from Social Subjects, Mathematics and Science, led a group of 34 students to Vancouver. We want to thank the Malcolm Group for their generous contribution towards the cost of the trip hoodies.



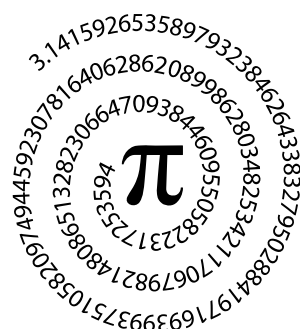
Junior Mathematical Challenge

This year has been another exciting and successful one for the Maths Department, with more pupils than ever taking part in the United Kingdom Maths Trust Junior Mathematical Challenge. This prestigious competition invites pupils from across the UK to tackle a variety of problems that encourage **mathematical reasoning, precision, and fluency** in using key mathematical techniques.

The challenge is far from easy, and every pupil—and their families—should feel immensely proud of their achievements. This year, an impressive **twenty-eight** awards were earned by our students, a testament to their dedication and hard work!



A special congratulations to **Yize Wang** in S2 for achieving the highest score in the school and securing a place in the next round of the challenge—an incredible accomplishment! This outstanding achievement is a testament to Yize's hard work and commitment to mathematical excellence. Well done!



Planning a Music Festival

The mathematical fun just doesn't stop for our S1-S3 pupils! Our S2 students are taking learning to a whole new level! Here they are, teaming up with our partners at M&G Enterprise to plan an incredible music festival, blending creativity, collaboration, and real-world experience into one extraordinary project.



Outdoor Learning

S3s were recently enjoying the beautiful weather by taking their learning outdoors and competing in a Maths based relay race. A very strong competitive spirit in action!



It has been another fantastic year for the pupils and staff in the Maths department and we look forward to doing it all again next year!



Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas Concert was a huge success again this year. The pupils who participated worked so hard to prepare for the event. We were entertained by Mariya on the trumpet, Brodie and Rosie on the bagpipes, Lynette on the piano and St B's Ensemble to mention just a few. We are so proud of them all!



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.



If you haven't already, you can follow the Music Department on X. Here you will find information about what pupils are doing in class.



@StBenedictsMusic





2024 finished with the Christmas Disco for S1-3 pupils and the whole school Christmas ceilidh and karaoke on the last day of term. Pupils at both events had a ball and were in festive spirits!

Mr Carr also organised the Santa Dash for S4 pupils to raise money for charitable causes.

A huge number of extra-curricular clubs and teams ran throughout the year including boys and girls football, netball, dance, gymnastics, basketball, volleyball and jiu-jitsu. Pupils participated in after school clubs, ONEREN competitions and East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire football leagues. Thanks very much to all the staff involved in taking clubs and teams to create achievement opportunities for pupils and develop skills and health and wellbeing.



The Sports Development Class organised and led the school S1-3 Cross Country Championship event in March.

Well done to both pupils organising the event, and the competitors.



The Sports Development Class also organised and led an S1 inter-house multi-sports event to round off the term at the Easter break.

The Dance Team competed in the Renfrewshire School's Dance competition in March winning two gold and two silver medals!



Athletics Championship

Congratulations to all the pupils who competed in the school athletics championship in June.

Sports champions for each year group were:

S1 boys - Michael Bewes

S1 girls - Layla Croall

S2 boys - Justin King

S2 girls - Charlotte Gorrie

S3 boys - Oliver Campbell

S3 girls - Ruby McKeeman



'The Romero Rosary' with Archbishop John Wilson

S1 pupils joined Archbishop John Wilson and The Daughters of St. Paul for the launch of Archbishop Wilson's book, 'The Romero Rosary'. Afterwards, they gathered in St. Andrew's Cathedral to lead a prayer service, and then enjoyed an excellent lunch together!



Conclave 2025

The classes explored the fascinating process of selecting a new Pope, delving into how the Cardinals cast their votes. While they found the voting procedure intriguing, the highlight was their excitement in watching for the appearance of white smoke—a historic signal of a new pontiff's election.

As part of their reflection, they also offered prayers for Pope Leo XIV as he begins his papal ministry."



Other World Religions

Studying world religions helps young people develop empathy, respect, and global awareness. It broadens their understanding of diverse cultures and beliefs, encouraging tolerance and open-mindedness.

In a connected world, this knowledge fosters peaceful coexistence and combats ignorance. It also strengthens personal identity by exploring shared values across faiths and traditions. To this end, during the summer term in R.E. classes, each year group explores the beliefs and practices of a different world religion.



Pictured is Mrs Macdonald's 2.2 class enjoying a round of the traditional Jewish game, dreidel.



Good News for Everyone

The Gideons International, a group dedicated to sharing the Bible, recently visited our First Year pupils. They spoke about their mission and gifted each student a copy of the New Testament and Psalms.

Through the story of the Prodigal Son, they encouraged our young people to reflect on God's love and mercy. Their visit provided a meaningful opportunity for discussion and personal reflection.



The Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award

The Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award recognises and celebrates the faith-based service of young people in their final year of school. Inspired by Pope Benedict XVI's 2010 visit to the UK, the award encourages students to reflect on their faith and put it into action by serving others in their communities.



Participants engage in both faith learning and faith witnessing—meaning they not only deepen their understanding of Catholic teachings but also live them out through acts of love and service (the Latin word *caritas* means “charity” or “love”). They have to carry out a minimum of twenty hours of service in their faith community, and twenty hours in their school community. It's open to all pupils, regardless of background, and is supported by schools and parishes across Scotland.

It's a beautiful way for young people to grow spiritually while making a real difference in the lives of others, and this year ? S6 pupils from St. Benedict's successfully achieved the Caritas Award.



Our Caritas Award winners with Bishop John Keenan at the award ceremony at the Clyde Auditorium.

ST. BENEDICT'S HIGH SCHOOL'S CARITAS AWARD WINNERS 2025

AARON RAI	FLORA OKUNGBOWA	LEWIS HENDERSON	PATRICK MCELHINNEY
AIDAN MCGOWAN	GRACE CLARK	LIAM MCLAUGHLIN	PAUL MURRAY
AIMEE SHAW	IAN KELLY	MARYSIA SMITH	RACHEL KELLY
ANNALISE MUGGINS	RACHEL KELLY	NEAVE BRADLEY	SAOIRSE DUNN
ANNIE CRANFIELD	ISLA COLQUHOUN	NIAMH ARMOUR	SOPHIE CHAMBERS
AVA GARRITY	JEMMA JOHNSTON	NICOLA CYBULSA	SOPHIE MURRAY
BROGHAN MCCREDIE	KIERA MCGROARTY	OLIVIA MCINNES	TRINITY MCGEE
COLE MCNALLY	KATIE CAVANAGH	ORLAITH LOCKE	

Faith Witness Activities

Our S6 Caritas carried out a wide variety of faith witness activities as part of the award programme. Below are some photos taken over the year of them helping with various different initiatives, both in school and in their parish communities.



Powering Futures Experience

Eight of our S6 pupils had an incredible journey through the new Powering Futures course. The pupils approached every challenge with remarkable enthusiasm, immersing themselves fully in each task and consistently demonstrating a positive, proactive attitude within their groups.

By sharing their journey with The Herald and at the All Energy conference at the SEC, the pupils helped raise the profile of the Powering Futures programme at St. Benedict's High School and beyond, encouraging other students to engage with this innovative opportunity.

Their efforts have contributed to the ongoing success of the course, helping to inspire and inform future candidates and supporting the nationwide promotion of this transformative educational experience.



Scan for Herald article



Scan for video about experience

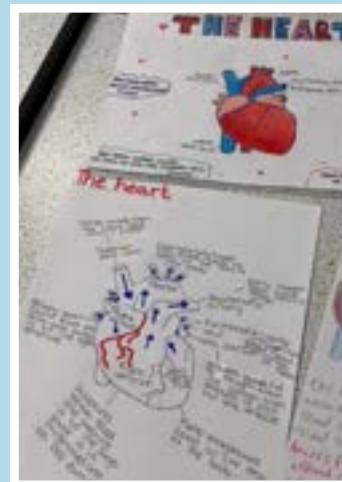


Science Experiences



S1 Science in Action

Our S1 pupils enjoyed some exciting experience through their S1 science journey.



Advanced Higher Chemistry



These exceptional pupils braved the AH Chemistry course this year, showcasing their practical skills throughout.





BGE Physics pupils worked hard this year to improve their experimental skills.



National 5 Practical Electronics pupils had an excellent year. The pupils worked incredibly hard to continuously improve their skills, producing some excellent projects that have given them the a fantastic opportunity to gain a very positive SQA result.

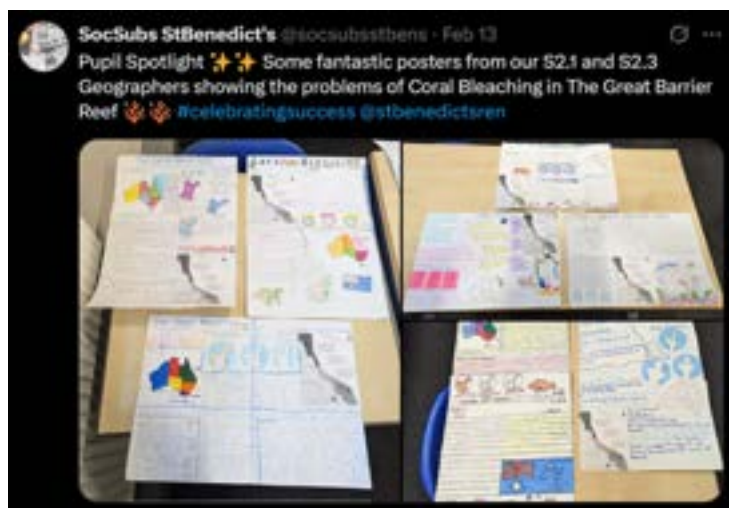


Social Subjects

Find us on X

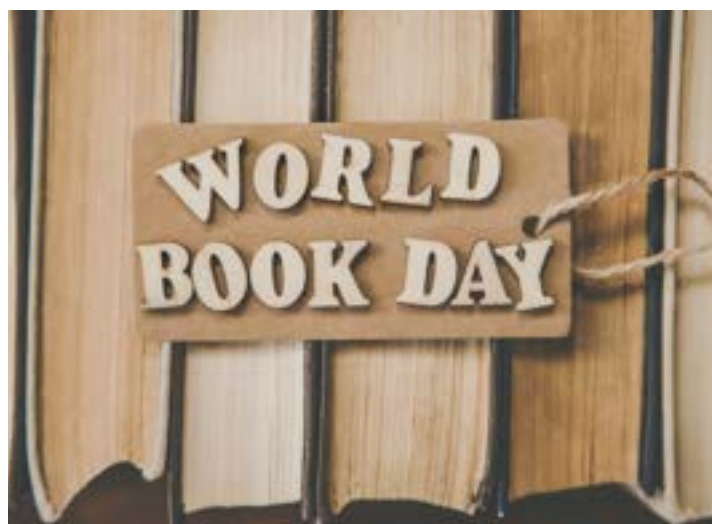
In Social Subjects we strive for excellence in our learning and teaching, staff have been working hard to showcase the quality work our pupils have been creating.

Follow us on @socsubsstbens



World Book Day

Social Subjects teachers supported out Modern Languages faculty with a world book day with a homage to Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carrol.



HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Gathering the Voices

We were honoured to have the Gathering the Voices exhibition back in the school in February. We welcomed two of our associate primaries Our Lady of Peace and St Anthony's over the course of the week to view the exhibit and listen to witness testimonies. Our BGE classes also explored the exhibition. Two representatives from Gathering the Voices presented to our S3 Historians. The talk was inspirational: giving a moving account of their parents' experiences during the Holocaust.



Sharing our Learning with our Parish Communities

Two of our senior phase pupils, Grace and Zachary spoke at St. Aidan's Mass in March. They spoke about the work our school community are doing on Holocaust education. Mrs Cardle proudly supported the pupils.



Linwood War Memorial

Linwood War Memorial Association visited the school in April to consult a number of our S1 and S2 pupils over the creation of a remembrance garden in the local community.



Dynamic Earth

Our annual Dynamic Earth trip ran in February. Dynamic Earth is a science centre and planetarium where our pupils experienced exhibitions including Restless Earth, Polar Extremes and Tropical Rainforest. Our S2s were excellent, with many budding geographers!

Micro-Tyco

A group of S3 Geography pupils have been taking part in the Micro-Tyco competition this year. Micro-Tyco is a leading global entrepreneurship competition which challenges young people to work together and develop innovative solutions to address The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Our group of six pupils (Emma, Grace, Hajarat, Jason, Joshua and Harris) have chosen to focus on recycling in the school. Their fantastic ideas and teamwork skills have secured them a place in the grand final!



The Green Guardians

Grace, Emma, Hajarat, Jason, Harris, Joshua

GO GREEN GUARDIANS!



SAGT Quiz

Miss Urquhart took two teams to the SAGT regional heats in May. The teams were made up of S1, S2 and S3 pupils. Both teams won their local heats and made the regional final! Well done to all pupils involved the questions were very challenging!



Young Leaders of Learning

A group of our S2 pupils have been involved in our self-evaluation programme this year. The Young Leaders of Learning have taken part in reciprocal visits to our partner school of Gryffe High School to identify what is working well, areas for improvement and effective practice.

Our pupils visited Gryffe in March with the follow up visit at the end of the same month. Pupils participated in evidence gathering of our school values and handed out cards of kindness. Our Young Leaders will now be hosting assemblies in June to showcase all the positive work from our school community. They will also write part of our School Improvement Plan and train new Young Leaders in session 2025-26. Well done to all of the young people involved, videos of the visits can be seen on our X feed.



COMING UP

Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park

Following on from our very successful trip to the Loch Lomond in June 2024. We will be taking a group of new S4s to the national park at the end of May 2025.



Arran

Our Geography teachers are busy planning a residential trip to Arran in September. The trip will be through Lochranza Outdoor Centre and help our S4 and Higher pupils prepare for their SQA assignments. Residential trips are an amazing opportunity for our young people to explore new environments and see their coursework in action. Look out for the trips forms if you are an S4 or Higher Geography pupil!



New York/Washington D.C.

Mrs O'Neill's trip to New York and Washington DC in October 2025. Mrs O'Neill would like to thank all pupils and parents for the support!



Switzerland

Miss Urquhart is organising a trip to Switzerland for June 2026 with Diverse School Travel. Miss Urquhart would like to thank all parents and pupils involved for their support so far!

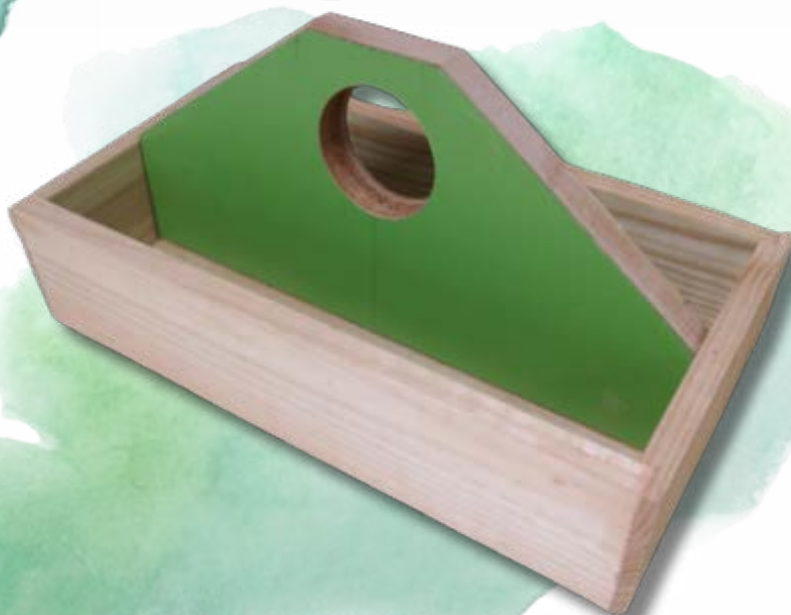


THE S3 JEWELLERY DESIGN CLASS HAVE BEEN DESIGNING AND MAKING THEIR OWN PIECES.

THEY HAVE ALSO MADE STANDS TO DISPLAY THE FINISHED ARTEFACTS.



**THE S3 WOODWORKERS HAVE
BEEN CONSTRUCTING
VARIOUS PROJECTS.**





Dates for Your Diary

Event	Status	Date
In-service day	School open for teachers and staff only	Thursday 14 August 2025
In-service day	School open for teachers and staff only	Friday 15 August 2025
Start of term	Pupils' first day at school	Monday 18 August 2025
Local holidays	Schools closed	Friday 26 September 2025
Local holidays	Schools closed	Monday 29 September 2025
Normal school day	Schools open	Tuesday 30 September 2025
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Monday 13 October 2025
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 14 October 2025
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 15 October 2025
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Thursday 16 October 2025
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Friday 17 October 2025
In-service day	School open for teachers and staff only	Monday 20 October 2025
Second half of term	Schools open	Tuesday 21 October 2025
St. Andrew's Day	Schools closed	Monday 1 December 2025
Normal school day	Schools open	Tuesday 2 December 2025
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Monday 22 December 2025
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 23 December 2025
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 24 December 2025
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Thursday 25 December 2025
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Friday 26 December 2025
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Monday 29 December 2025
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 30 December 2025
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 31 December 2025
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Thursday 1 January 2026
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Friday 2 January 2026
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Monday 5 January 2026

Further term and holiday dates can be found here:
<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/11856/School-term-dates-and-holidays>