

St. Benedict's High School NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026





Welcome from Mr Taylor

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our Summer Edition of St Benedict's News. I am delighted to share with you a selection of the many activities, successes and achievements of our young people.

The final weeks of the session have been exceptionally busy and positive, reflecting the hard work, commitment and dedication of both pupils and staff.

Our senior pupils have recently returned from SQA exam leave following months of hard work and preparation. We now look forward to celebrating their achievements when results are released in August.

Our new S5 and S6 pupils have already embraced the opportunities and responsibilities of senior school life, with our S6 cohort stepping into leadership roles across the school.

Recent highlights have included our House celebrations, Sports Day and S6 Prom. These events, along with many others, are showcased throughout this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many successes of our school community and, as always, thank you for your continued support.

I would like to wish all pupils, families and staff a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of the new session – Tuesday 18th August.

I hope you enjoy reading!

Alan Taylor

Alan Taylor
Head Teacher





Pupil Leadership Team



Head Girl and Head Boy:
Ebony Brogan and Lucas Leckie



Deputy Head Boys and Head Girls:
David Amaeze, Catherine Morier,
Erin McFadden, Mariya Javed,
Mariam Masuro and Ben Sheridan.





House Captains

St Maximilian Kolbe



Senior House Captains

Ellie Louise McQueen
and Mariam Mosuro



Junior House Captains

Luke McGurn
and Martha Ludlow

St Teresa of Calcutta



Senior House Captains

Taylor McKeown
and Katie Moynihan.



Junior House Captains

Freya Young
and Brayden McBride

St Oscar Romero



Senior House Captains

Lucy McElhinney, Mirren Shaw
and Sophie Coutts



Junior House Captains

Rosie Kane, Ewan Logan
and Robert McGlynn

St Josephine Bakhita



St Josephine Bakhita

Lily Connolly, Blair MacDonald
and Julia Armatys



Junior House Captains

Nakai Kabinara
and Iain Richardson

St Benedict's High School is proud to celebrate an exceptional achievement, with **100% of our school leavers securing a positive destination**. Every young person who left the school between September 2024 and September 2025 has progressed into higher or further education, employment, a modern apprenticeship, a training programme or voluntary work.

This outstanding success places St Benedict's among **just 10 of Scotland's 342 secondary** schools to achieve this milestone.

We are incredibly proud of our young people, whose hard work, resilience and commitment have made this possible. Their success reflects the values at the heart of our school—respect, love, trust, tolerance, integrity and excellence—and the strong partnerships between pupils, families and staff that support every learner to achieve their potential.

Congratulations to all of our leavers. We wish them every success as they begin the next stage of their journey.





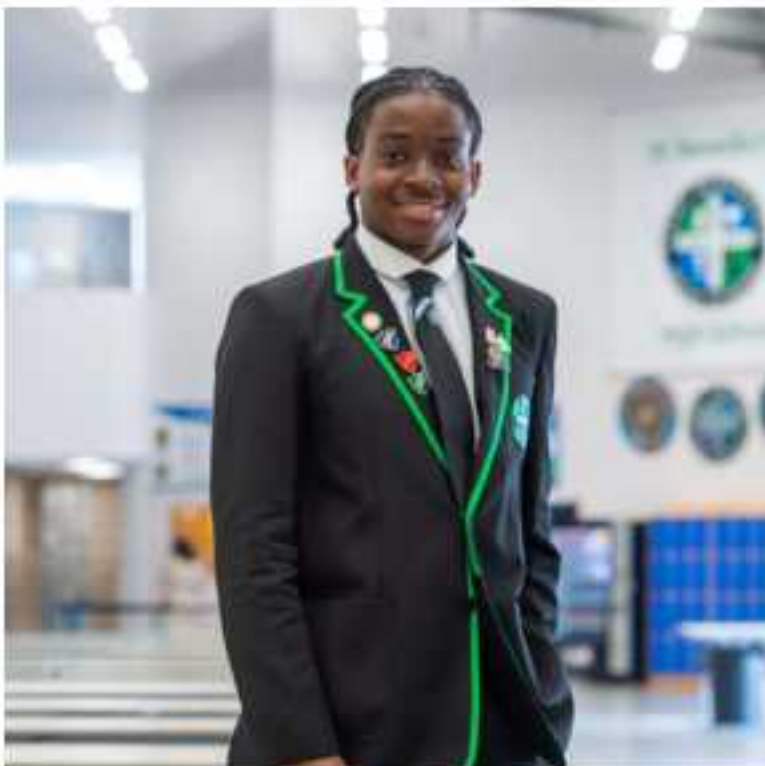
School Uniform – Dressing for Excellence

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**.

Blazer Swap

To further support families and maintain these high standards, we have introduced a **blazer swap system**, allowing pupils who need a larger size (throughout the year) to simply exchange their current blazer at no cost. Pupils should report to the office.





Get Ready for the New School Year

School clothing grant and free school meals applications are now open. These applications are for the new school year starting in August.

You could save up to £889.75 per secondary school child by applying. This total saving is for both a school clothing grant and free school meals.

Apply by Sunday 12 July and Renfrewshire Council will process your application before the new term starts.

Anyone on Universal Credit can earn up to £995 per month and still be eligible.

The Council provides holiday payments for free school meals. Payments are £2.35 per day per child. They cover the October, Christmas, February, Easter and summer holidays.

Advice on rising household costs is available. Email adviceworks@renfrewshire.gov.uk or call 0300 300 1238.

Apply for free school meals and clothing grants:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/education-schools-and-adult-learning/free-school-meals-holiday-meal-payments-and-clothing-grants>



Renfrewshire
Council



satchel:one is a platform used to communicate homework, school notices and behaviour with students and families.

We strongly encourage all families and students to either have the log in details saved on their phone or other digital device or download the **satchel:one** app for more convenient access.



Google Play (Android) download

App Store for iPhone download



<https://tinyurl.com/42yu9nc2>

<https://tinyurl.com/yb8dyedk>

You can also access help guides and videos as below;

Students:

<https://help.satchelone.com/en/collections/1695417-students>

Parents/Carers:

<https://help.satchelone.com/en/collections/1695420-parents-guardians>

Alternatively, see Mr. McGeough if you have any questions.



St. Benedict's - HIGH SCHOOL - **Supporting Attendance**

In partnership with families, we empower young people to grow and thrive.

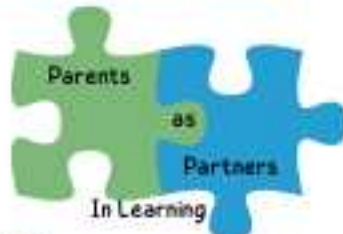
Commitment to learning through regular attendance



Attending school everyday helps to:

- Give you the best chance of success
- Build routines, confidence and resilience
- Build positive relationships with peers
- Get involved in the wider life of the school

Parents as partners:



You can support your child by:

- Setting clear expectations that school is non-negotiable
- Committing to positive routines—sleep, punctuality, organisation
- Maintaining regular contact with the school to report absences and/or if you have any concerns Celebrating the success of regular attendance

PUNCTUALITY - EVERY MINUTE MATTERS



How we monitor attendance:



We aim to support good attendance by:

- Alerting parents when pupils are not in school
- Sending letters home when attendance falls below a key checkpoint in the year
- Inviting pupil and parent/carer in to discuss supports to improve attendance

Support provided:



We are always here to help.

The following supports are available:

- PCT Check-ins
- Family Wellbeing Team
- Exchange Counselling
- Communication with parents/carers
- Targeted support groups

You will find a full list of supports in our attendance policy linked on our school website

95% attendance	= 9 days of missed learning	ATTENDANCE MATTERS
90% attendance	= 19 days of missed learning	
85% attendance	= 27 days of missed learning	What do your attendance figures actually mean?
80% attendance	= 36 days of missed learning	
		BE SMART BE THERE



Reporting a Child's Absence via Parent Portal App

You can use Parent Portal on your phone to report your child's absence:

1 In the Services tab...

2 Tap Absences

3 Select the absent child

This is where you can see any past Absences.

4 Tap Report Absence

Complete all sections of the form, including when the absence will be, the dates, and the reason - please include as much information as you can

5 Select the Dates of the Absence

6 Select the Reason for the Absence

7 Add a Note to explain the Absence

8 Hit Submit

A notification appears confirming the report was submitted

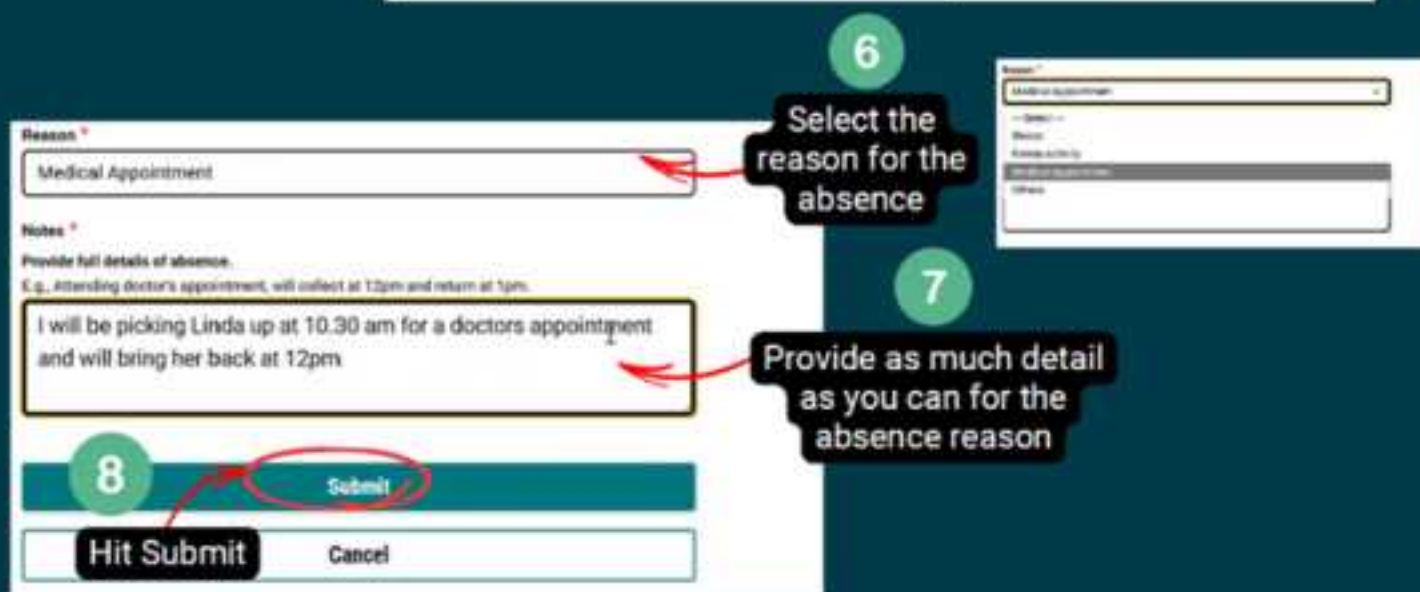
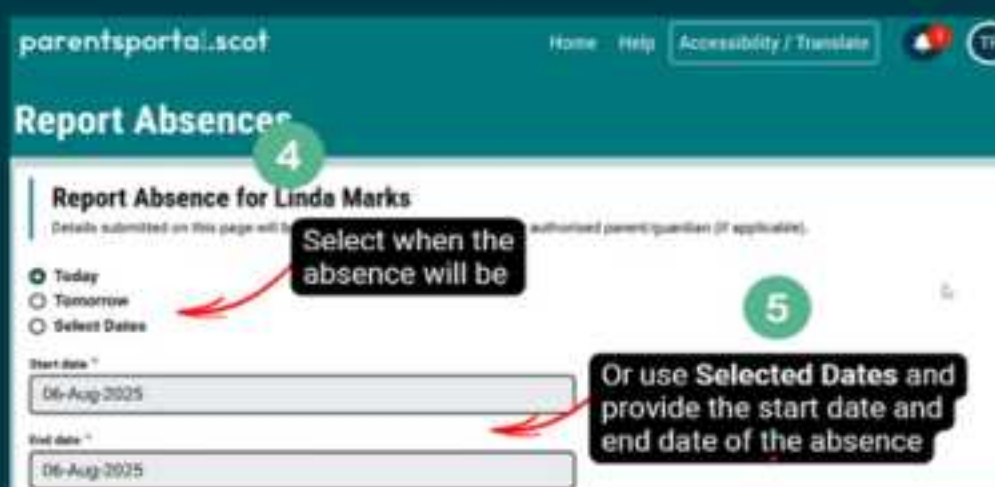
The new Absence has now appeared at the top of the list





Reporting a Child's Absence via Parent Portal Website

You can use Parent Portal on your browser to report your child's absence:





Moving On

As we say goodbye to the members of our St Benedict's family who are moving on to new posts or entering retirement, we do so with deep gratitude. Their years of service have been a true witness to Christ's love, lived out through their dedication to our young people and to the mission of Catholic education. They have planted seeds of faith, hope, and compassion that will continue to bear fruit long after they leave our corridors.

May God bless them in their next adventures!



Mrs Longwill

After 14 years here at St Benedict's, I've had the privilege of meeting and supporting some wonderful young people. Friendships have been borne with staff whom I shall miss very much, but, I've reached the age where it is time to have a rest, put my feet up and become a 'lady who lunches'.



Ms O'Brien

I came to St Benedict's in 2012 to teach higher French and joined the Columba Base the following year. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the pupils and staff there and will miss them as I have many happy memories. It has been very rewarding teaching the pupils life skills and seeing their confidence in the kitchen grow. I am, however, looking forward to going to France and Germany to keep up my languages and to spending time with my grandchildren.

Mrs Christie

After ten wonderful years at St Benedict's High School, I will be moving on to a new chapter. It has been a privilege to be part of such a supportive and welcoming community, and I will truly miss the staff and students who have made my time here so special. I am grateful for the experiences and relationships I've built over the years. As I say goodbye, I'm reminded of the words, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." I wish everyone at St Benedict's the very best of luck for the future!

Mr Canning

Mr Canning joined St Benedict's in August 2018 and will now be moving on to Castlehead High School to take up the post of Principal Teacher of Maths and Numeracy.

We thank him for his valued contribution and dedicated service to St Benedict's, and congratulate him on his well-deserved promotion.



Mrs Kean

Mrs Kean will be leaving us to take up a new post as Depute Head Teacher at St Matthew's Academy in Saltcoats. We thank her sincerely for her dedicated service to St Benedict's and wish her every blessing and success as she begins this exciting new chapter.



Mrs Kirk

Mr Taylor, accompanied by pupils Hope, Campbell, Gemma and Lilly-Anne, visited St David's Primary School, which they had previously attended, to present Head Teacher Mrs Kirk with a gift to mark her retirement. We wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement!

Mr Wilson

After 32 years teaching in Renfrewshire, the time has come for me to call it a day. I was fortunate to spend the last 20 years at St. Benedict's High School, having joined when the school opened in 2006, after teaching at St. Brendan's and Park Mains High School.



As a Computing Science teacher and Faculty Head of Technologies, I've seen technology change beyond recognition. From floppy disks to artificial intelligence, it's been quite a journey – although some things never change, like pupils insisting they definitely saved their work!

One of the greatest pleasures of a long teaching career has been teaching generations of local families. Over the years I've taught many of our current pupils, their brothers and sisters, and quite a few of their mums and dads too. There aren't many jobs where a parent can arrive at a parents' evening and find their old teacher waiting for them. It's enough to make you realise you've either become part of the furniture or you're getting auld!

St. Benedict's has been much more than a workplace. It's been a community filled with great colleagues, good humour and thousands of young people who have kept me on my toes over the years. To all the pupils I've taught, thank you. Watching you grow in confidence and go on to make your mark in the world has been the greatest reward of all.

Now I'm looking forward to long walks with my wife and our dog, and life without bells dictating my movements every 50 minutes!

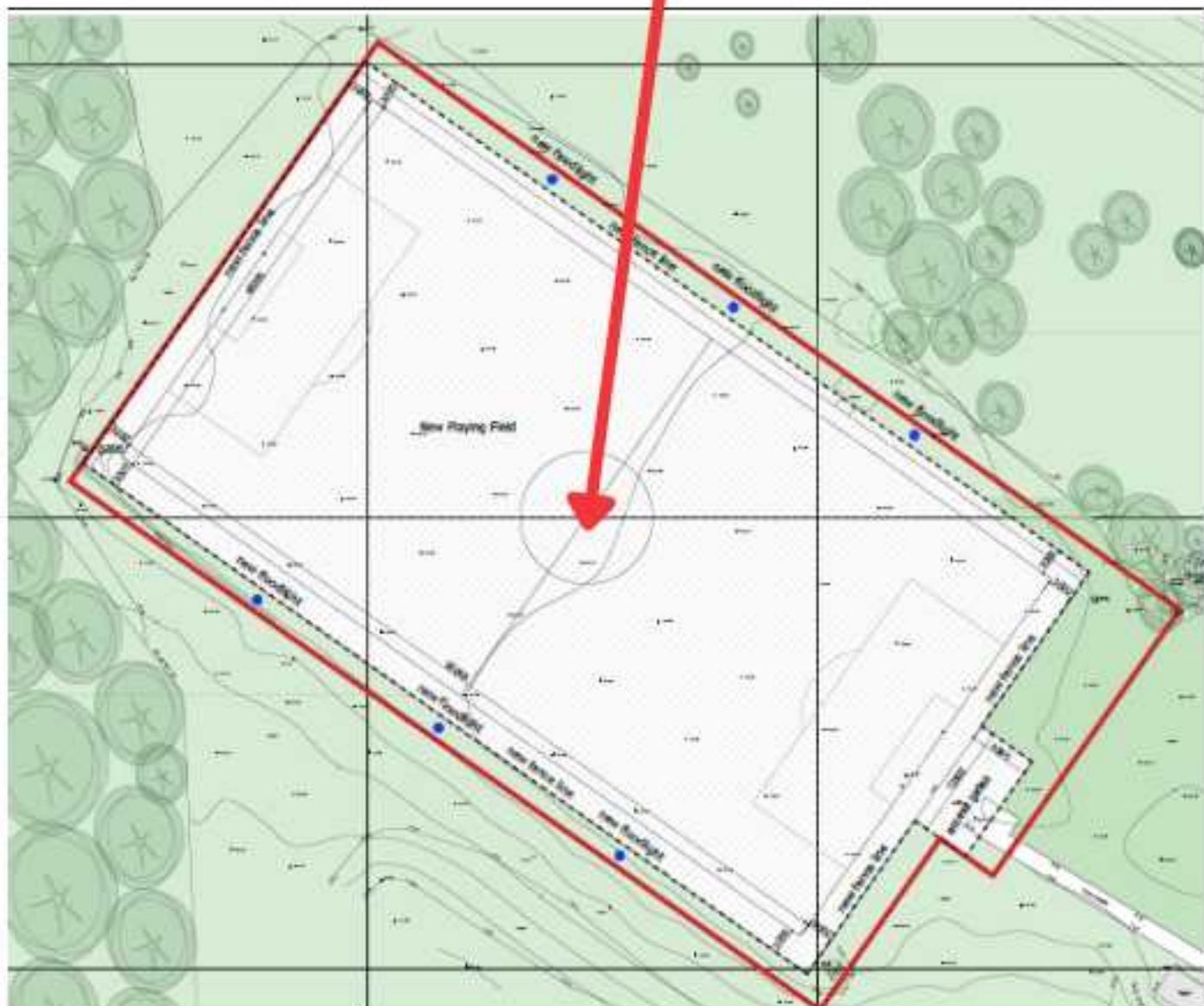
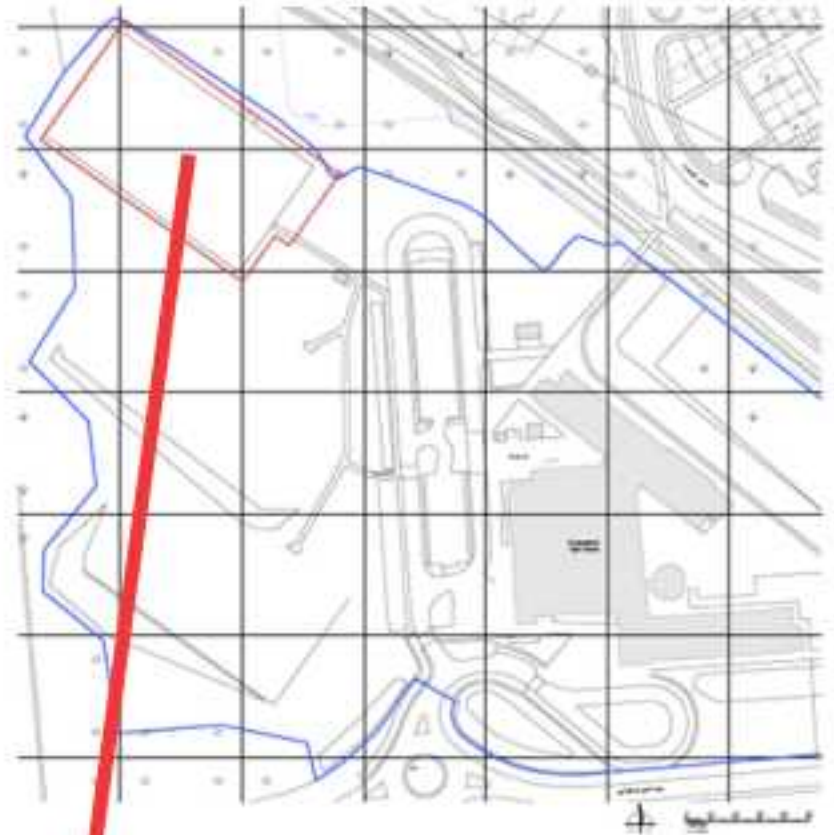
Thank you, St. Benedict's. It's been a privilege to be part of your story since day one.

Lang may yer lum reek, and all the very best for the future.

Thanks to recent funding from Renfrewshire Council, work will begin shortly on the construction of our new 5G all-weather pitch with floodlights.

This is an exciting addition to the school and will provide enhanced opportunities for learning, physical activity and extra-curricular sport for our young people, both during the school day and beyond.

We look forward to sharing further updates as the project progresses and to seeing the positive impact this fantastic facility will have on our school community.



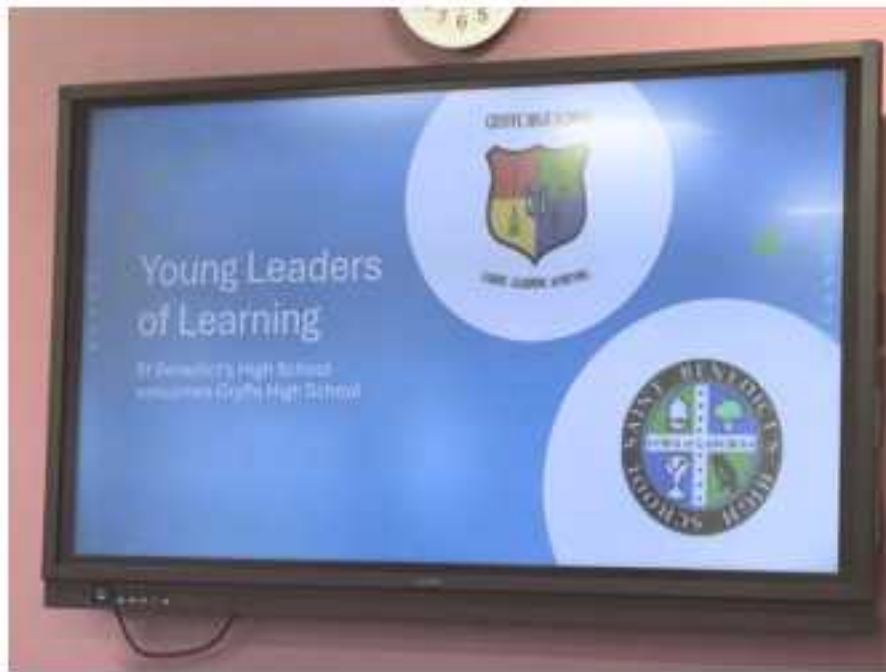


Young Leaders of Learning

In March, St. Benedict's High School had the pleasure of hosting the **Young Leaders of Learning** team from Gryffe High School. The focus of the visit was to showcase how we truly **embed rights education** into the heart of our curriculum and school community. Our Young Leaders did a fantastic job of demonstrating how a respect for rights isn't just a lesson we learn, but a culture we live every day.

To make the most of our time together, the groups participated in a series of interactive sessions designed to spark conversation: **Team Building Challenges, an Escape Room and a Mindfulness workshop.**

We are incredibly proud of our Young Leaders for their professionalism and passion. A huge thank you to the staff and students from Gryffe High School for joining us—we look forward to more collaborative ventures in the future!





Mentors in Violence Prevention (M.V.P.)

It's been another great year for our student mentors with the MVP programme. In October, our S5 students had the opportunity to participate in two days intense training to learn all about the programme and how to challenge gender-based violence. We selected 45 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 highlighted in the MVP programme, ensuring the S2 pupils know how to identify concerns, and challenge them safely.

Here are our wonderful MVP groups for Session 2025/2026!





Our S6 pupil mentors had a rare opportunity to represent St. Benedict's at a Youth Assembly, whose key-note speaker was Jackson Katz, one of the founders of the MVP programme. Jackson spoke of his experiences developing the programme which uses a "bystander approach" to empower young people to prevent gender-based violence, bullying, and harassment.



The MVP Programme



- The MVP Programme is a national anti-bullying programme and has been running in St. Benedict's for five years.
- The focus of it is equipping young people with the tools to tackle bullying and bullying-type behaviour safely.



Malawi Partnership

Members of the St Benedict's school community (Chantelle Duffy, Emily Adams, Lilian Macleod, Marley Biernacki, Fallon McElhinney, Olive Kilpatrick, Erin McFadden, Ben Sheridan, Ms MacNeil and Monsignor McFadden, led by Miss McFadden) were recently blessed with the opportunity to visit their partner school, St Patrick's Junior Seminary, in Malawi.

They were warmly welcomed by Fr Edmond, Sophie, staff and pupils, experiencing a community rooted in faith, kindness and hospitality.

Throughout the visit, strong bonds of friendship were formed as pupils and staff shared experiences and learnt from one another.

Members of St Benedict's contributed to school life by delivering lessons on Scottish culture, including traditional songs and ceilidh dancing, celebrating the joy of community and the richness of different cultures coming together.



Faith was at the heart of the experience. Daily Mass provided a powerful witness to the living faith of the St Patrick's community, with pupils participating prayerfully and joyfully.

This shared experience of worship highlighted the importance of Christ at the centre of school life and strengthened the spiritual connection between both schools.



The group also visited St Magdalena's Boarding School for Disabled Children and a local primary school, where they spent time with the children and shared gifts such as toys and teddy bears. These encounters reflected Gospel values of compassion, dignity and love for one another, leaving a lasting impression on all involved.



Visits to a maternity hospital and children's hospital offered further opportunities to serve others. Donations of baby clothes, essential supplies and gifts were gratefully received, supporting families and healthcare staff. These moments were a powerful reminder of the call to serve others and to recognise Christ in those they meet.

This visit has deepened the partnership between St Benedict's and St Patrick's, strengthening not only friendship but also a shared faith. The experience truly captured the spirit of Malawi, known as "The Warm Heart of Africa," and reflected the joy of global Catholic solidarity.



The memories and connections formed will remain a lasting blessing for all involved, as St Benedict's continues to walk in faith and friendship with its partners in Malawi. We are deeply grateful to our benefactors and all those who generously donated towards this trip; your support has made this experience possible and will have a lasting impact on everyone involved.

From 2nd to 6th June, pupils enjoyed an unforgettable school trip to Switzerland, packed with culture, adventure and spectacular scenery.

On Tuesday, the group began by visiting a traditional cheese factory, where they learned how Swiss cheese is made and enjoyed discovering more about this important part of local culture. This was followed by a visit to a chocolate factory, where pupils saw how Switzerland's famous chocolate is produced — with some tasting along the way!



Wednesday brought a mix of relaxation and discovery. Pupils spent time at the thermal baths before visiting Lac Souterrain, Europe's largest natural underground lake. They then explored Les Mines de Sel de Bex, learning about the history of salt mining deep inside the mountain.



On Thursday, the group travelled across the border to Chamonix in France. A highlight of the day was visiting the Mer de Glace, where pupils were able to see the impressive glacier and take in the dramatic Alpine views.



Friday was spent in Zermatt, home to the iconic Matterhorn. Pupils enjoyed exploring the picturesque mountain village and admiring one of the most famous peaks in the world.

The trip ended on Saturday with a memorable cable car journey to Le Berneuse, offering breathtaking panoramic views across the Alps.

Throughout the week, pupils showed excellent enthusiasm, independence and teamwork.

The trip provided a wonderful opportunity to experience new places, learn outside the classroom and create memories that will last for years to come.





We were delighted to host the awards ceremony this evening in school, welcoming pupils from Gryfe HS, Castlehead HS, Mossvale PS, St James PS, St Anthony's PS and Todholm PS.

This programme supports young people to build skills, develop confidence, and engage positively with their communities. Many of our pupils not only took part with enthusiasm but also achieved their SVQ Level 3 Dynamic Youth Award—an excellent accomplishment.

The programme has been delivered in partnership with the local charity Renfrewshire Rainbow Buddies and led by former pupil Corrine Cunningham. Corrine's journey since leaving school has been inspiring, and she is passionate about creating positive opportunities for young people. Through Renfrewshire Rainbow Buddies, she has supported many pupils across our school community and beyond to enjoy meaningful experiences and achieve success.



As part of the programme, pupils embraced a range of personal and community-focused challenges. These included organising a staff coffee morning, running a lunchtime bake sale, volunteering with NurtureFix to plant trees at a local farm, and raising funds to support others. Their commitment and teamwork have been fantastic to see.

We are very proud of our partnership with Renfrewshire Rainbow Buddies. Feedback from pupils and families shows the positive impact the programme has had, supporting wellbeing, skill development, and a strong sense of belonging. The "Success for All" programme continues to provide valuable opportunities for our young people to grow and thrive.



We look forward to continuing this partnership next year and are sure you will join us in congratulating all of our young people on their success.





Mary Poppins Jr.

What an unforgettable triumph for St Benedict's — Mary Poppins Jr. was nothing short of supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Two incredible nights, packed audiences, and pupils who lit up the stage with talent, joy, and sheer professionalism. This was a show bursting with energy, heart, and magic, and our young performers delivered a production we will remember for years.

Huge thanks to Miss McGarry, Mr Bell, Mrs Wallace, Mrs Longwill, Mr McIntyre, Mr Watson and Mr Paterson for their tremendous support.

And our deepest gratitude to Miss Urquhart and Mrs Cardle — their leadership, commitment and vision made this spectacular event soar.

A truly magical show to remember!







Congratulations to our winning House, St Maximilian Kolbe!

Pupils from the House went to the cinema to celebrate their success.

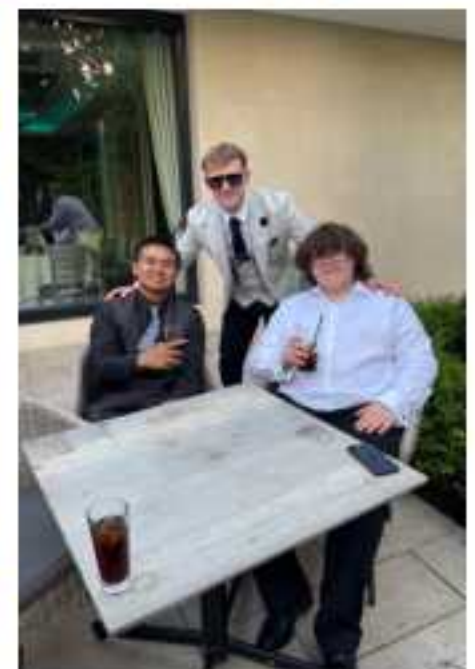




Prom 2026

The Class of 2026 celebrated their Prom in style at the Dalmeny Hotel, enjoying a night filled with laughter, music, and unforgettable memories.

Everyone looked incredible, dressed to impress, and the dance floor stayed full all evening as friends came together to celebrate and dance the night away.







Pupils in St Maximilian Kolbe House are in classes:
1.2, 2.2, 2.5, 3.2, 4.2, 5.2 and 6.2.

Dear pupils, families and colleagues,

My name is Claire McLaughlin and I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Head of House for St Maximillian Kolbe. Thank you to staff and pupils for the warm welcome I have received – it has been a real pleasure to join such a supportive and vibrant school community. I am already enjoying being part of the school and getting to know so many of our young people.



I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Mrs Glen for such a smooth and thoughtful handover. I hope to build on the strong foundations she has created and to continue with the same warmth and dedication she has shown to our house group.

Over the past three months, I have been focused on getting to know pupils across the house, with particular attention given to attendance and celebrating success. It has been fantastic to recognise the many achievements of our pupils, and you will hear more about these below.

A huge congratulations to St Maximillian Kolbe House on becoming house champions for the third year in a row! This is a wonderful achievement and a testament to the continued effort, teamwork and positive attitude shown by our pupils.

I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and all that we can achieve together.

Warm wishes,

Mrs McLaughlin

House Captains

I would like to congratulate our Junior and Senior House Captains of 2025.26 for putting themselves forward for such an important role within the school this year. Representing St Maximillian Kolbe House is a valuable leadership opportunity, and it has been a pleasure to see the commitment and enthusiasm you have all shown this term. A huge thank you to Ciaran, India, Orla and Chibuzo!

I'd like to add a very special note of thanks and good luck to our Senior House Captains, Orla Durkin and Chibuzo Nwokeabia, as they move on to their next chapter. You have represented the house with pride and set a strong example for others to follow.

We will shortly be appointing our new House Captains, and this brings an exciting opportunity for more pupils to step into leadership roles and contribute to the continued success of the house. I look forward to seeing fresh ideas, energy and commitment from those who take on the role. I am currently working through applications of our Junior House Captains, and it has been a real pleasure to see so many of our S3 pupils put their names forward with such excellent ideas and such a drive to succeed.

Senior House Captains



Orla
Durkin



Chibuzo
Nwokeabia

Junior House Captains



India
Rai



Ciaran
Jones

Attendance Matters

This term Maximilian Kolbe SE classes have focused on improving attendance, with particular attention given to reducing late coming and absences. Thank you to all families and pupils for your continued support in this priority area. A huge congratulations goes to the pupils listed below who have achieved over 98% attendance, as – your commitment and consistency are commendable. Well done!

Celebrating Attendance!

Well done to the following pupils with fantastic attendance this year!

S1 - Abigail Crawford, Tiana Wilson-Roy, Myla McNaughton and Ruby Jessica Whyte.

S2 - Daniel Docherty, Juanita Angel, Tobiloba Mosuro, Shannon Kidd, Rosie Costello and Treasure Akande.

S3 - Hayden Mackay and India Rai.

S4 - Harry MacKay, Emmanuel Okungbowa, Ella Whitehorn, Toby White and Ciara Orr.

S5 - Matthew Broadhurst, Sean Doherty, Harry Cavanagh and Mariam Mosuro.

S6 - Jamie McGrogan, Mia Kidd, Ryan McKay, Ava McNish, Faith Rutsvara, Orla Durkin, Grace Thom and Grace Campbell.

Well done

HOUSE HERO

Emily Ogilvie



WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

We are delighted to celebrate the many successes of our pupils this term, recognising their efforts both in and out of school. Their achievements reflect a wide range of talents, commitment and dedication across our house and it has been an absolute pleasure celebrating pupils' continued success!

SECOND YEAR

Sophie Jackson

Has been supporting younger pupils in her dance class.



Tiana Wilson-Roy

Has completed Grades 1, 2 and 3 in piano and is preparing for Grade 4.

Eva Flanagan

Volunteers weekly as a student coach in dance, supporting younger pupils. Eva also played a starring role in the school's production of 'Mary Poppins Jr.'.

Daniel Docherty

Played in his first 11-a-side football match with an excellent 9-6 win.



Mirrin Kenny

Performed guitar on stage during a concert.

Oliver Cox

Helped his team win Division 1 in football.



Alliah Niro

Competed for Team Scotland U14 pom in Orlando at the Worlds competition

David Savage

Played in the U13 CAS Cup Final for Celtic at Celtic Park and won 3-1.

Abraham Etinosa

Picked up three awards at his Football awards night, including top goal scorer, parent player pick and player of the year!



THIRD YEAR



Julia Laskowska

Took part in the school football tournament.

Layla Stewart

Has made excellent progress in her dance class.



Farrah Lindsay

Ran the S2 dance club and helped lead the team to success in competitions.

Arran Day

Achieved a score of 24 on the first four holes of a golf tournament and earned a place in the medal.



Calum Byrne

Cycled 21km and performed accordion live at Paisley Town Hall.



FOURTH YEAR

10

Hayden Mackay

Celebrated ten years of Boys' Brigade service.

Kara Taylor

Took part in the Kiltwalk with her dance team.



Sonny Ferguson

Achieved success in musical theatre.

Eve Stewart

Performed guitar at the spring music show with Renfrewshire Council.



Leo Smyth

Won a trophy for Paisley North.



Anna Whyte

Coaches younger dancers and demonstrates great leadership skills

SIXTH YEAR

Isabelle Okojie

Was successful in her interview for the Young Scot Equity Panel and will carry out this role until 2027. A huge well done to Isabelle for getting through a competitive round of interviews.

Well done!

We are incredibly proud of all of these achievements and look forward to celebrating even more successes in the coming year! Please make sure to send in the achievements of your child throughout the 2026-27 session.

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!



Our new Junior House Captains Luke and Martha, Mrs McLaughlin and our previous Captains India and Ciaran, with the House Cup.



News from St. Teresa's House

Pupils in St Teresa of Calcutta House are:
1.3, 2.3, 3.3, 3.5, 4.3, 5.3 and 6.3.

Dear pupils, families and colleagues,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding school year, I am delighted to share some of the fantastic achievements of our young people. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils make such strong progress, often overcoming personal challenges and showing real determination in their learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils for their hard work and enthusiasm, and to express my appreciation to parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year.

I hope you all enjoy a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Mrs Doyle



Senior Captains:

Ethan Hart and Leona Bos



Junior Captains:

Olivia Regan and Lewis Crawford

House Captains - Thank you!

To our Senior House Captains, thank you for the outstanding leadership you have provided. You have been excellent role models, and we wish you all the very best as you move on to your next chapters beyond school. Your contributions will be remembered, and you leave with our warmest good wishes for the future.

To our Junior House Captains, thank you for your energy, reliability and dedication throughout the year. You have embraced the role brilliantly, and we look forward to seeing you continue to grow as leaders within our school community.

Celebrating Attendance!

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

Alan Tom	Oscar Russell
James Lowrie	Joseph Smith
Kadi Porter	James Watson
Keira Shearer	Michael Double
Lewis Crawford	Jeshof Jenith
Duncan Fraser Lennie	Lilian Macleod
Keziah Massengo Fleury	Ruby Iona McKeeman
Jakub Swistak	Caelan Bonner
Luke McGettigan	Seamus Murney
Jamie Robinson Ferguson	

HOUSE HERO



Our house hero this term goes to Caoimhe Elliott. Caoimhe has worked exceptionally hard over this past year and we are very proud of her!

Well done Caoimhe!



Please share your wider achievements to allow us to recognise and celebrate in your success! Please remember to inform me of any achievements out with school so they can be celebrated!



Pupils in St Oscar Romero House are in classes:
1.1, 1.5, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1 and 6.1

Dear pupils, families and colleagues,

As we draw this school year to a close, I have been reflecting with gratitude on the spirit, generosity and determination shown by our young people in St Oscar Romero House.

Inspired by our patron saint's unwavering commitment to faith, justice and the dignity of every person, our pupils have worked hard, supported one another and contributed richly to our school community.



St Oscar Romero taught us to "aspire not to have more, but to be more", and our pupils have truly lived out this message through their service, compassion and commitment to our school community. Their example reminds us of the power of faith, justice and courage in everyday life.

On behalf St Oscar Romero House, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all our pupils for their hard work and enthusiasm, and to parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Your partnership strengthens our house community and helps our young people flourish.

As we look forward to the summer break, may God bless you with rest, joy and renewal. I pray that the weeks ahead bring happiness to your homes and that you return refreshed for the year to come.

Miss Howell

**"Aspire not to have
more, but to be more."
ST. OSCAR ROMERO**

House Captains

A huge thank you to our House Captains for their dedication, leadership and service throughout the year.

To our Senior Captains, Anna and Zach — thank you for the maturity, kindness and commitment you have shown in your roles. You have been outstanding ambassadors for our house, and we are incredibly proud of everything you have contributed. As you leave us for the next exciting chapters in your lives, we wish you every success and God's blessings for the future.

To our Junior Captains, Leon and Mia — thank you for stepping up with enthusiasm and reliability. You have been wonderful role models for younger pupils, and we look forward to seeing you continue to grow as leaders within our community.



Senior Captains:
Anna Campbell and Zach Adams

Junior Captains:
Leon McCaffrey
and Mia Warner

THANK
YOU



News from St. Josephine Bakhita's House

Pupils in St Josephine Bakhita House are in classes:
1.4, 2.4, 3.4, 4.4, 4.5, 5.4 and 6.4

Well done to all in St Josephine Bakhita House for your outstanding efforts this year. We didn't win the house trophy but we'll give it another try next year!

Goodbye to the Senior House Captains for Bakhita House - Cerys and Oliver - we wish both well in their future studies. Thank you too to our junior house captains, Kristian and Jorgie.



Outgoing Senior House Captains
Cerys and Oliver



Outgoing Junior House Captains
Kristian and Jorgie

We welcome our new House Captains for Session 2026-2027!



New Senior House Captains
Lily Connolly, Blair MacDonald
and Julia Armatys



New Junior House Captains
Nakai Kabinara
and Iain Richardson

HOUSE HERO - CHANTELLE



Chantelle joined St Benedict's during S3. It's difficult to move half way through secondary school, but she has become a brilliant role model for the St Bakhita House. She is a friend to everyone and has consistently lived out our school values this year.



To all the Josies - have a lovely summer break.

Mrs Kearns



Great Attendance 98% and over

- 1.4** Sophie, Casey, Samuel, Bailey, Grayson, Ellie, Orlagh and Niamh.
- 2.4** Craig, Emma, Chinemerom, Lynette, Christabelle and Kayla C.
- 3.4** Tommy, Faith, Charlotte and Kristian.
- 4.4** Cara, Erin, Monica and Aadhes
- 4.5** Alex, Eilidh and Ambila.
- 5.4** Zoe and Ethan.
- 6.4** Dannii, Brodie, James B and Piotr.

WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

Zoe H - excelling in dancing

Nakai K - singing in her church's adult choir

Emma S - excelling in gymnastics

Leah D - entrepreneur - has her own clothing line

Iain R - key player in S2 boys' football team

Hayley M-B - school library volunteer

Charlotte G - excelling in gymnastic competition

Matthew H - playing a full 6-minute song on guitar

Tommy B - competing in boxing

Jorgie A - gained distinction for 4th time in a row in
Lamda Acting Exams

Oliver S - is volunteer coach at Thorn Athletic Football
Club every Saturday Morning

Cara Mcl - is a member of the Linwood-based
competitive hip hop team Distinction. They were the
2025 SDE Scottish champions. This was the third year
in a row they took the Scottish title.

Zoe K - is excelling in dancing

Kenzie M - represents Scotland and UK at Judo events

Zoe Mcl - volunteering award

Robyn G - volunteering award

Angelica O - volunteering award

Ashleigh P - volunteering award

Success A - community work



Employability and Positive Destinations

We are delighted to celebrate another outstanding year of employability and career development opportunities at St Benedict's High School.

Record-Breaking Positive Destinations

For the first time ever, our 2025-26 school leaver follow-up has achieved 100% positive destinations, meaning every young person leaving St Benedict's High School has successfully moved on to employment, further education, training, or another positive pathway. This is a remarkable achievement and reflects the hard work, dedication, and aspirations of our pupils, staff, families, and partners.



DWF 5 Star Programme Success

Four of our pupils were selected to participate in the prestigious DWF 5 Star Programme, completing a two-day work experience placement within the law firm. The pupils thrived throughout the experience, gaining valuable insight into the legal profession, developing workplace skills, and thoroughly enjoying the opportunity.

Car Valeting Continues to Grow

Following two highly successful years, our Car Valeting Programme will continue into its third year with our new S3 Employability Group. The programme provides pupils with practical, hands-on experience while developing teamwork, customer service, and enterprise skills.



Mock Interviews and Mini Career Fair

Our S3 pupils attended a Mock Interview and Mini Career Fair at the Malcolm Heritage Centre in February. This valuable event allowed young people to engage directly with employers, ask questions about various career pathways, and take part in realistic interview scenarios. The experience provided excellent preparation for future employment and helped build confidence for entering the workplace later in life.



Business Shadowing and Inter-Authority Work Experience

Our successful business shadowing programme continued through attendance at Graeme High School in Falkirk, where pupils participated in an inter-authority work experience initiative. Seven of our young people successfully completed the programme and achieved an additional qualification in Employability and Enterprise, further enhancing their skills and future prospects.



DYW Ambassadors Leading the Way

Our Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Ambassadors have represented not only St Benedict's High School but the entire West Region at a range of prestigious events throughout the year. They attended events at West College Scotland and the National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS), where the outstanding DYW work taking place across the West Region was showcased. Our ambassadors demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and pride in sharing the successes and opportunities available to young people through DYW initiatives.



Career Ready Programme Graduates

A special congratulations goes to our five Career Ready interns, (only four photographed) who have successfully completed and graduated from the Career Ready Programme. Through dedicated mentoring relationships and meaningful internship experiences, these young people have developed valuable workplace skills, confidence, and professional networks.

The interns worked alongside incredible mentors from local organisations including Renfrewshire Council, Asda, Filshill, and Thermo Fisher. Their support, guidance, and encouragement have been greatly valued and appreciated by our young people throughout their Career Ready journey.

We are immensely proud of each graduate's commitment and achievements and wish them every success as they take their next steps into further education, training, apprenticeships, and the world of work.



Phase 3 Work Experience at Malcolm Group

We are also proud that four of our S5 pupils have been selected to undertake Phase 3 Work Experience with Malcolm Group. During a four-day placement, pupils will shadow employees across a variety of departments and sectors within this major local employer.



This exciting opportunity will provide invaluable insight into the world of work and help pupils make informed decisions about their future careers.

These achievements highlight St Benedict's High School's continued commitment to preparing young people for life beyond school and ensuring every learner has access to meaningful employability experiences. We look forward to building on these successes in the year ahead.



The Nurture Room

The Nurture Room continues to be a calm, welcoming and supportive space for our young people. Pupils are able to come here whenever they need time to regulate emotions, refocus, or simply take a moment away from the busy school day.

Staff work hard to create an environment where everyone feels safe, listened to and supported, helping pupils return to class feeling more confident, settled and ready to learn.



Attainment Success



This year has seen fantastic commitment and determination from many of our pupils. A number of young people attended Attainment Wednesdays, as well as additional sessions within SfL throughout the week, to complete coursework and units. Through their hard work, perseverance and the support of staff, many pupils successfully achieved their full National 4 English awards. We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished.

AAA for Exams

A very special thank you goes to all support staff who worked tirelessly during the exam period to support our young people. Their care, patience and dedication in providing Additional Assessment Arrangements (AAA) ensured that pupils were given the encouragement, reassurance and support they needed to perform at their very best. Their contribution plays a hugely important role in helping our learners succeed with confidence.





Breakfast in SfL

Every morning in SfL, pupils are welcomed with breakfast and a friendly atmosphere. We understand how important it is to start the day feeling comfortable, settled and ready to learn.

Having food available when needed helps ensure our young people feel supported, cared for and prepared for the school day ahead.

Warm Welcome

This year we were delighted to welcome new members of staff to the Support for Learning Department. A warm welcome goes to SfL teacher Mrs Arbat-Wozniak (Mrs W) and Ms McAllister along with our new ASNAs, Mrs Murren and Mrs Lamont and Mr McNaught. Their kindness, enthusiasm and support have already made a very positive impact on our young people and the wider school community.



The New Academic Session

The Support for Learning Team continues to provide a welcoming, supportive and positive environment where all young people are encouraged to achieve their best.

We look forward to continuing to do this next year and we can't wait to meet our new pupils.

See you in August!

Supporting every learner, every day.

Supported Study, Easter School and Master Classes

Supported Study classes were available across a range of subjects throughout the session. In January, a comprehensive programme of tutorials was delivered after school each day, along with additional sessions for maths and Spanish on Saturdays. This extra support enhanced the high-quality learning and teaching already taking place in classrooms.



Attendance levels were strong, and student feedback was very positive regarding the impact of these sessions. As we move into the next session, senior students should continue to be encouraged to make the most of these opportunities to help them achieve their full potential.

In April, additional support was provided for senior students preparing for their SQA examinations through a highly successful Easter School programme. Students engaged in a variety of subject areas and made good use of a quiet, focused study environment that supported their revision during the holidays.



During the exam diet, Master Classes were also offered in selected subjects, allowing students to work with subject specialists shortly before their exams. These sessions provided valuable final revision, wellbeing support, and reassurance ahead of assessment.

Wider Achievement First Aid at Work

As a Catholic school community, we recognise that attainment must be considered in its widest sense. Alongside academic achievement, we are committed to ensuring that all young people develop the skills, qualifications and experiences necessary for life, learning and work beyond school.

As part of this commitment, our S6 students will be given the opportunity later in June to undertake the First Aid at Work qualification. We are also delighted that, by the end of this session, all new S6 pupils will have successfully completed this nationally recognised training programme.

The qualification provides young people with practical, lifesaving skills that can be applied in a wide range of real-life situations, including responding to accidents, injuries and medical emergencies. Throughout the course, pupils learned how to assess emergency situations safely and confidently, administer CPR, use a defibrillator, place individuals in the recovery position and respond appropriately to a variety of first aid incidents.



In addition to the obvious health and safety benefits, this qualification also supports our young people as they prepare for future employment, further education and volunteering opportunities. Having a recognised First Aid qualification enhances pupils' CVs and demonstrates responsibility, resilience, teamwork and the ability to remain calm under pressure — all qualities highly valued by employers and training providers.



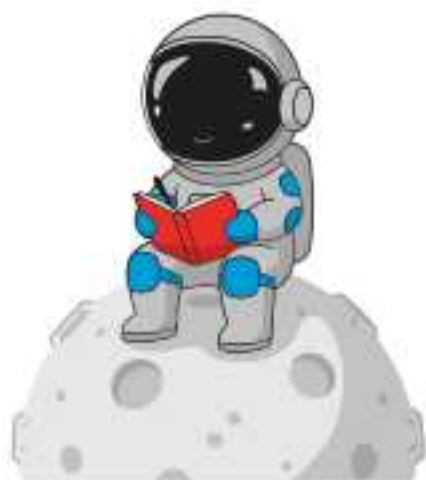
The First Aid at Work qualification is accredited as part of the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF), ensuring that it is recognised nationally and contributes to pupils' wider achievement profile. Participation in opportunities such as this reflects our continued commitment to developing confident, responsible and caring young people who are equipped to make a positive contribution to society.

International Literacy Day 2025

Pupils and staff recently took part in a QR code treasure hunt as part of International Literacy Day 2025. This involved hunting around the school for twelve hidden QR codes to unlock a literacy quiz question, with the fastest and correct submissions taking winning chocolate prizes and house points!

Staff also had the opportunity to showcase their favourite childhood books and favourite words to promote reading with our young people.

Want to share your favourite childhood books and favourite words? Scan the QR code here!



P6 and 7 Transition Programme

Cluster primary 6 and 7 pupils recently took part in our Outer Space Exploration Challenge where they were tasked with writing an imaginative story featuring alien abductions, space wars and much more! All pupils did a fantastic job at using sensory description and writing techniques to help their stories come to life!

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.



How can I help my child develop their literacy skills?

Talk

Research shows that children who speak to their parents/carers 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

Research shows that children who speak to their parents/carers 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!



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!



BGE Classes

BGE classes have been working really hard again this year and have produced some excellent work. S1 learned about the visual elements, created some lovely Michael Craig Martin inspired paintings and oil pastel prints. S2 worked on bird/landscape paintings, papier mâché Peter Chang inspired bracelets and reptile eye repeat pattern designs. S3 worked on a mixed media unit, a printmaking unit and created an illustration for a book cover. S1 and S2 also designed some 'Show Racism the Red Card' posters.

Here are some examples of their work:

S1 & S2 SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD POSTER DESIGN



S1 WORK



S2 WORK



S3 – NPA ART & DESIGN WORK



Qualification Scotland Folios

After lots of hard work pupils finally finished their QS 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.

NATIONAL FIVE AND HIGHER EXPRESSIVE



If you haven't already, you can follow the Art Department on X (@StBenedictsArt).

This is where we can share some of the amazing work by our talented pupils.



S1 & S2 Art Club will be continuing next year, and we would love to welcome some new members. Keep an eye out for the start date in August!



S3 Creative Pathways Event - UWS

A group of S3 pupils visited UWS for the day to enhance their understanding of the region's cultural, creative and visitor economy sectors, as well as to explore potential career and educational pathways. Activities included sessions in Tourism and Events, Podcasting, Paisley Museum, Technical Theatre, a Performance Showcase, and workshops in Design, Media, Film, TV and Photography.



S3 Practical Cookery

Pupils have been learning about functional properties of ingredients and specialist preparation techniques when baking cheese cakes.



S2 Options

S2 Pupils were learning about the difference between Practical Cookery and Health and Food Technology to help with their course choices in S3.

HFT = Develop new food products (loaded fries).

PC = Prepare, garnish and serve food to a high standard (samosa).



Multi-lingual Debate at Heriot Watt University

A number of our senior phase linguists have been invited to take part in the prestigious annual multi-lingual debate at Heriot Watt University on 5th June. Students are able to witness the real-world application of language learning through immersion in a debate, before being given access to the facilities on offer at the university to supplement the study of languages. A fantastic day is sure to be had by all and we hope that the experience provides further motivation to go the extra mile in preparation for those all-important Qualifications Scotland examinations.



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 Jazz era party-girls from *The Great Gatsby*, Mrs. Doubtfire from the Anne Fine novel *Madame Doubtfire*, Tigger from *Winnie the Pooh*, an entire selection of cast members from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and many, many others.

Thank you to everyone in our school community who took part in making the day so celebratory and fun. Please also see below some success stories from our 'Design a Book Cover' competition – each winner received a £10 Amazon voucher.



World Book Day Winners

Congratulations to Tobi and Lynette, S2, whose entries for the World Book Day cover competition were successful. We have yet to reveal the winners from S1, so all learners who submitted an entry should still watch this space. Mr McKee will be on his way with £10 Amazon vouchers soon...



Activities Days

Our faculty offering this year has included a Ping-Pong-a-thon, quiet rooms, puzzle stations, World Cup escape rooms and many, many more. It has been a true privilege to see our young people experiencing such success and personal achievement in these areas.





Mathematics and Numeracy

It has been another exciting and successful year in the Maths Department!

Junior Mathematical Challenge

More pupils than ever participated in the United Kingdom Maths Trust Junior Mathematical Challenge where pupils across the UK participate and answer a range of problems that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques.



The challenge is far from easy, and all the pupils and their families should be very proud of themselves. This year a record breaking 29 awards were achieved by our pupils.



A special congratulations to **Aedan Gillen** in S2 for achieving the best in the school!

Pi-Tok

During Activities Week, some of our S2 learners filmed a Maths based Tik-Tok all about the first 100 digits of pi. Their enthusiasm is infectious.

You can watch their video here:

https://x.com/maths_st/status/2057052829886435391?s=20



Probability



What are the Odds?!

A special shout out to Finlay McLaughlin in S1 who managed to successfully guess the next card from a pack of cards.

The chances of this happening are so slim (under 2%) and so Finlay will forever be known as 'The GOAT'.



Renfrewshire Young Musician of the Year

Our incredibly talented S6 pupil, David, represented the school at the Renfrewshire Young Musician of the Year.

He performed 'Tonight, Tonight' by The Smashing Pumpkins. Well done, David!



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.



The Scottish Concert Band Festival

In March three senior pupils performed in The Scottish Concert Band Festival. Brodie, David, and Mariya represented St Benedict's with the Renfrewshire Schools Symphonic Wind Band.

The band were awarded a Platinum award and were one of only two bands to achieve this. Amazing!



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.



St Benedict's Music
Some great performances from our senior students today. Who will be St Benedict's winner and represent the school at Renfrewshire Young Musician of the Year 2026? @stbenedictsmusic



@StBensMusic



Feis Phaislig - Stramash for Schools

An S1 class were lucky enough to take part in a one-off showcase event delivered by a team of three professional musicians.



During the session, pupils enjoyed hearing live traditional Scottish music, explored a range of different instruments, and had the exciting opportunity to learn some Gaelic phrases. It was a memorable experience that brought music and language to life in an engaging and interactive way.



Sports Development

The Sports Development class continued with placements at associated primaries where they led sports sessions. They were also involved in leading an S1 sports event and gained more valuable coaching qualifications when Handball Scotland visited the school.



Cross County Championship

This took place in February with pupils going on to represent the school at the Renfrewshire-wide championships, competing against other schools.



Tennis

Strathgryffe Tennis Club came in and delivered sessions to S2 pupils for six weeks and also ran a well-attended lunchtime club in the spring.



Basketball

The basketball club continued with senior pupils in action at a tournament at Paisley Grammar recently.

Dance

St Benedict's Dance Team competed at the ONEREN event winning numerous events.





St. Benedict's SCIAF Week 2026

SCIAF (the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund) is the official international development charity of the Catholic Church in Scotland. It works to reduce poverty and injustice around the world by providing humanitarian aid, supporting long-term development projects, and advocating for global justice.



Every Lent, SCIAF's 'Wee Box Appeal' focuses on one project they are involved in, and this year it was access to clean water in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, women, girls and boys walk for hours under the scorching sun just to find water. Often, the only water they can find is dirty, but they must drink it to survive.

SCIAF has been working with communities to keep water flowing, and bring life essentials to families, and the St. Benedict's school community wanted to help.

Through a variety of fundraising activities, we were able to send over £1400 to SCIAF



Ascension Thursday Mass

Our St Benedict's community gathered together in faith to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, marking Christ's return to the Father and His promise to remain with us always.



We are thankful our readers, who proclaimed the Word and led us in prayer with such reverence, and we were deeply grateful to the staff who organised and prepared the celebration, guided with care and dedication by Mrs MacDonald.

We were especially thankful to Monsignor McFadden, who led us in the Holy Mass and helped us enter more deeply into this sacred mystery.

Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies

This year marks an exciting moment for the R.E. Department as we begin offering both National 5 and Higher RMPS, giving our young people the chance to explore faith, morality and philosophy in greater depth.

Our pupils have already thrown themselves wholeheartedly into their studies, showing real curiosity and maturity in their learning.

They recently took part in a role-play courtroom drama, debating complex moral issues with confidence and flair. They also designed their own island nations, creating laws, systems of justice and structures of care for their citizens — a fantastic way to think about ethics in action.

It has been inspiring to watch their enthusiasm grow as they engage with big questions about belief, responsibility and the common good.



Caritas Awards Ceremony 2026

The Caritas Award honours young people who witness to Christ's love through service, prayer, and commitment to their faith. This year, the Caritas pupils of St. Benedict's High School have shown a remarkable dedication to living the Gospel, supporting parish life, and bringing Christ's compassion to those around them. Their work reflects the heart of Caritas — love in action — and we are deeply proud of every young person who has achieved this award.



We offer heartfelt thanks to Ms MacNeil, whose guidance has helped our pupils grow in faith and confidence, and whose encouragement has supported them on their spiritual journey. We are also profoundly grateful to our local parishes, whose partnership, prayers, and support have nurtured our young people as they served their communities.

Congratulations to all our Caritas Award recipients. May God continue to bless your generosity, your service, and your witness.



At this year's ceremony, it was particularly poignant that Mr McPhee's mother was remembered and honoured for her many years of dedicated service as a Caritas volunteer.

It was a fitting tribute to Mrs McPhee, whose faith in action and generosity of heart towards young people inspired so many and whose legacy continues to live on through the lives she touched. Through her quiet presence and gentle kindness, Mrs McPhee was a beacon of faith, hope and love.



CARITAS PRAYER

Loving Father, almighty God,
You so loved the world that you sent your son Jesus
so that we might live through him.

Help us to respond to your love.

Grant us understanding of the loving ways of Jesus.
Teach us to see others with his eyes and, through your Holy Spirit,
guide us in our efforts to show love in our daily actions.

Living Lord, you are love.

Help us, whom you made in your image, to practise love
in loving communion with others.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

Advanced Higher Lab Experience at UWS

Our Advanced Higher chemists enjoyed completed their crucial practical work over three days at the University of the West of Scotland.

UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND
UWS



Powering Futures

Three groups of S6 pupils completed their Powering Futures qualification this year culminating in the groups presenting to a group of industry judges at Hampden.

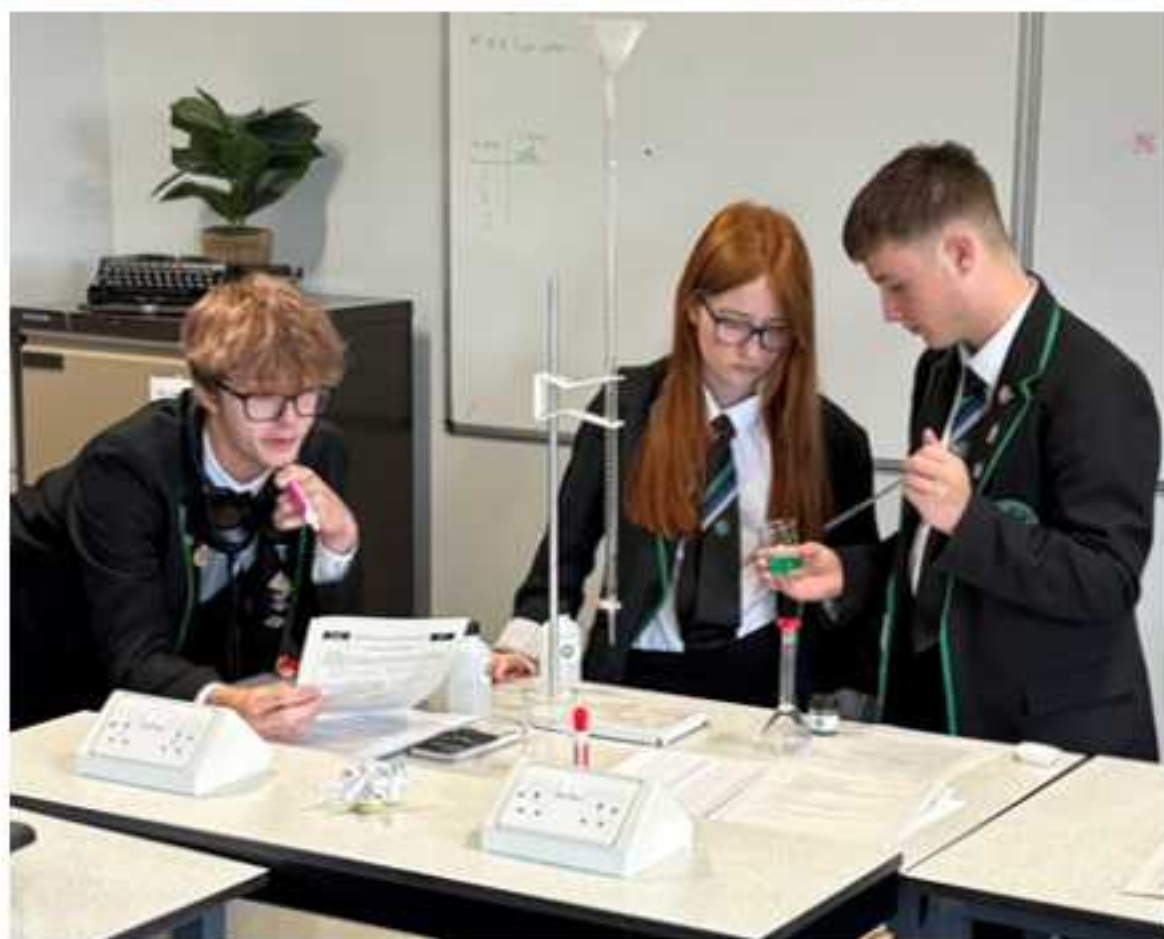
Powering Futures believe that every young person should have the opportunity to be happy and successful in their future. They prepare the workforce of the future for the jobs of the future by unlocking potential and equipping 16-25 year-olds with qualifications, skills, and the confidence to thrive.

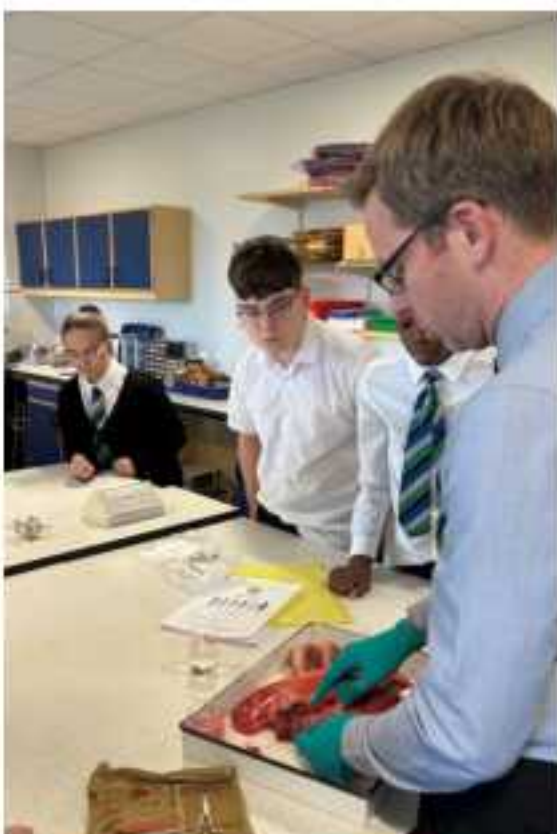
POWERING FUTURES



Science Experiences

The Science Faculty continues to offer engaging practical experiences and demonstrations for pupils to learn in Science.





National Advanced Higher Chemistry Award

Katie Cavanagh achieved 25/25 for her Advanced Higher Chemistry project – an incredible achievement and a first for St. Benedict's High School.



S2 Visit NMIS

A group of S2 pupils enjoyed a thrilling challenge at the new National Manufacturing Institute for Scotland.



Industrial Cadets Silver Award

Aaron and Oliver successfully completed a week summer placement at ST Microtech in Edinburgh where they gained experience in the electronics industry, developing their skills for work and were awarded the Industrial Cadets Silver Award.



DiscoverChemEngLive

S3 Chemistry pupils recently took part in DiscoverChemEngLIVE, an interactive Challenge Day delivered in partnership with Education Academy Scotland. Through hands on, team-based activities, pupils explored sustainability challenges and discovered how everyday materials are transformed into essential products, highlighting how chemical engineering can create a more sustainable future.

Well done to all pupils who showed excellent teamwork and creativity in designing their own products and a special mention to our winning team Daniel, Bramantya, Lucy and Rosie for their outstanding ideas – a fantastic achievement!



Young STEM Leaders

Our Young STEM Leader Level 6 programme was a major success this year. A group of our S6 pupils gained the award by supporting younger STEM learners and delivering engaging STEM practicals and events.



It was a real pleasure to read the outstanding evidence provided by the YSLs from St Benedict's High School. The breadth of leadership experiences offered by the centre demonstrates a commitment to STEM engagement and offering learners a wide variety of opportunity to develop their skills and STEM capital.

The Logs provided were completed to the highest standard, and the Assessor and Verifier demonstrated a high level of commitment to upholding the assessment standards of the award. The award evidence, assessment and approaches to verification were of model standard.

Well done to all involved.

FEEDBACK FROM THE YOUNG STEM LEADER AWARDING BODY



As the year draws to a close, look at some of the amazing opportunities St. Benedict's Social Subjects Department has to offer for pupils (and staff!). Our pupils have had some amazing experiences in Social Subjects and as a department, we are always thrilled to provide these both in and out of the classroom.



Some highlights since Christmas ...



Dynamic Earth

In February, our pupils traded the classroom for a journey through time and space with an unforgettable trip to Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. From the moment they stepped into the "Time Machine," the students were immersed in the story of our planet. It was fantastic to see our pupils engaging so enthusiastically with the exhibits.



Trip highlights included:

- **The Big Bang:** Pupils witnessed the birth of the universe through a high-tech sensory experience.
- **Tectonic Forces:** The group felt the ground shake during a simulated volcanic eruption, bringing their geography lessons on plate tectonics to life.
- **Climate Change:** Exploring the polar ice caps and tropical rainforests provided a firsthand look at the diverse environments they study in the classroom.



Get Ready for the Adventure of a Lifetime: Switzerland, June 2026!

Pack your bags and sharpen your senses—we are heading to the heart of the Alps! This isn't just a school trip; it's a front-row seat to some of the most breathtaking landscapes on the planet. From the moment we touch down, we'll be trading the classroom for a world of shimmering glacial lakes, towering snow-capped peaks, and cobblestone streets steeped in history.

All the pupils going have participated in fundraising and have had a fantastic time doing it. Have a great time everyone!



Voices of the Future: BBC Debate Night

Our senior pupils recently took centre stage as part of the studio audience for a special BBC Debate Night: Young Voters event. In a high-stakes political environment, our students had the unique opportunity to challenge the country's decision-makers directly on the issues that matter most to their generation.



Reflecting on History: The Jewish Heritage Centre

Our Social Subjects pupils recently visited the Jewish Heritage Centre, embarking on a moving journey through the history, culture, and resilience of the Jewish community in Scotland. This immersive trip provided a profound connection to the topics studied in our S2 History Course.



World Book Day

Our staff also love to get involved in whole school initiatives. Here we are participating in World Book Day - what fun we had!

S4 JEWELLERY DESIGN

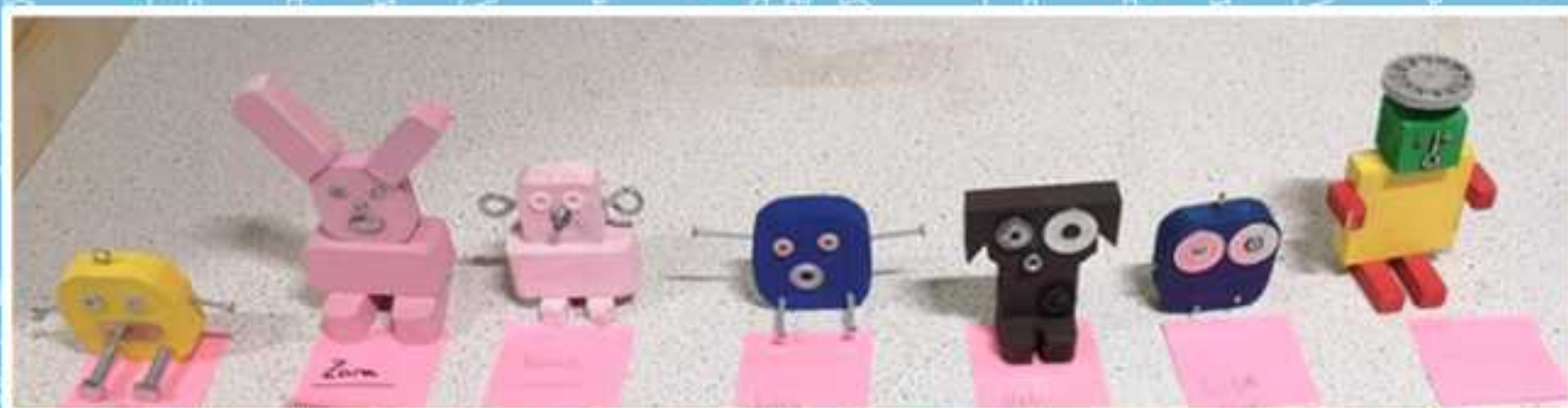
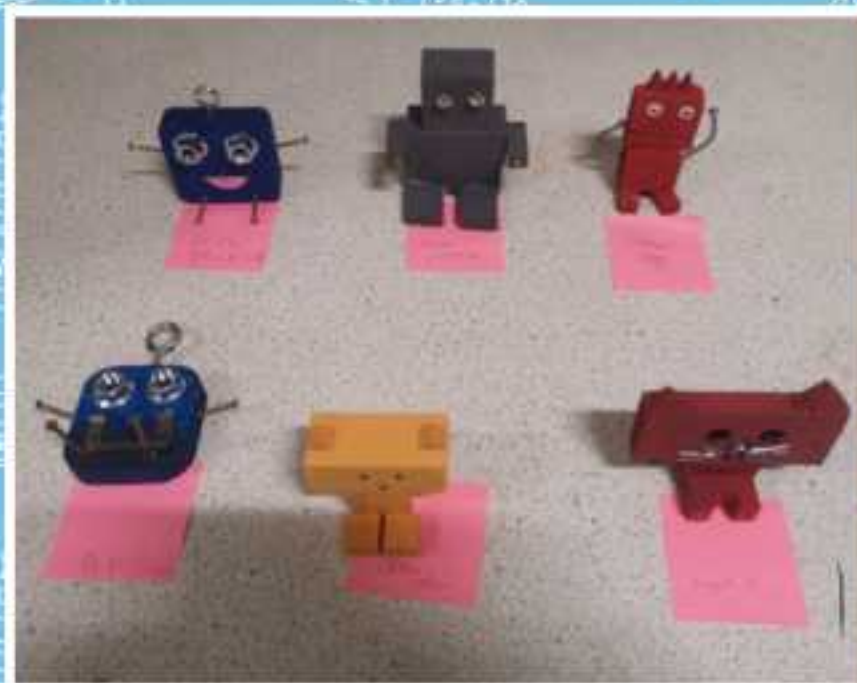
Our Jewellery Design students have made outstanding progress at the bench, clearly reflected in the exceptional pieces they have produced. Students are confidently following design briefs and specifications, thoughtfully planning and creating work that meets clear criteria while showcasing their individuality. They are growing in both precision and skill, mastering essential techniques and bringing their creative visions to life.



S1 TRINKET BOXES



S1 ROBOTS





Dates for Your Diary

Event	Status	Date
In-service day	School open for teachers and staff only	Friday 14 August 2026
In-service day	School open for teachers and staff only	Monday 17 August 2026
Start of term	Pupils' first day at school	Tuesday 18 August 2026
Local holidays	Schools closed	Friday 25 September 2026
Local holidays	Schools closed	Monday 28 September 2026
Normal school day	Schools open	Tuesday 29 September 2026
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Monday 12 October 2026
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 13 October 2026
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 14 October 2026
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Thursday 15 October 2026
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Friday 16 October 2026
In-service day	School open for teachers and staff only	Monday 19 October 2026
Second half of term	Schools open	Tuesday 20 October 2026
St. Andrew's Day	Schools closed	Monday 30 November 2026
Normal school day	Schools open	Tuesday 1 December 2026
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 23 December 2026
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Thursday 24 December 2026
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Friday 25 December 2026
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Monday 28 December 2026
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 29 December 2026
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 30 December 2026
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Thursday 31 December 2026
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Friday 1 January 2027
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Monday 4 January 2027
Christmas and New Year holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 5 January 2027

Further term and holiday dates can be found here:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/11856/School-term-dates-and-holidays>