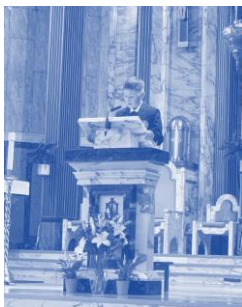




St. Benedict's High School

# NEWSLETTER

*Winter 2023*



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



Dear Parents/Carers,

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

The run up to Christmas is always a very busy time in school but also a very joyous time.

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

Particular highlights include:

- The outstanding levels of SCQF qualifications achieved by our senior pupils, recognising the commitments and effort of our young people and school staff.
- Our increased opportunities for pupil leadership across all year groups.
- The wide variety of pupil achievements both within and out with school.
- The exceptionally high standards of uniform, further developing our sense of belonging and pride in our community.
- Our fabulous awards ceremony with guest speaker Andrew Malcolm – CEO of the Malcolm Group.
- Our increasing number of industry partnerships with employers, providing a variety of exciting opportunities for our young people to engage in meaningful and relevant workplace learning opportunities.

On behalf of the staff of St Benedict's, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I look forward to seeing you all at one of our many events next year.

*Alan Taylor*

Alan Taylor  
Head Teacher



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



# Pupil Leadership 2023-24

## Head Boy and Head Girl



**Head Boy**  
Conan Rooney



**Head Girl**  
Anya Leckie

## Depute Team



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

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





# School Uniform – Dressing for Excellence

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

Over the past four sessions, there have been **significant improvements** in our standard of uniform. An increasing number of pupils are now wearing blazers and I am delighted to report that over 98% 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 schoolwork.
- Protects children from the harmful effects of social distinction and competitive dressing.
- Promotes the school's identity in their community, with our immediate neighbours, local business and industry.
- Assists staff in the task of supervising pupils and keeping unwelcome visitors out of the school.

St. Benedict's High School's uniform policy is that all of our young people are required to wear the school uniform.

The school uniform consists of :

- A white school shirt/blouse, and school tie which is visible at all times. S4, S5 and S6 will wear the Senior tie.
- Tailored black trousers or black skirt - leggings, jeans, denims and tracksuits, are not acceptable under any circumstances.
- A school blazer with badge.
- Comfortable footwear (black in colour). **No Converse style trainers unless fully black in colour.**
- Plain black jumper or cardigan (optional). Black school jumpers should be of an unbranded style that allows the school tie to be clearly seen (v-neck). **Hoodies are not allowed.**





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

## S4 Year Group

- Percentage of pupils achieving five or more awards at SCQF 5: 55% (VC 49%)
- Twenty-five pupils achieved seven National 5 awards and a record-breaking nine pupils achieved all A grades passes. Well done!

## S5 Year Group (based on S4 roll)

- Percentage of pupils achieving five or more awards at SCQF level 6: 30% (VC 19%)
- Percentage of pupils achieving three or more awards at Higher level: 50% (VC 39%)
- Ten pupils achieved five Highers with one pupil achieving five A awards.

## S6 Year Group (based on S4 roll)

- Percentage of pupils achieving five or more awards at SCQF Level 6: 38% (VC 34%)
- Twenty-four pupils achieved one or more Advanced Higher.



**Fourth Year Dux**  
Katie Cavanagh



**Fifth Year Duxes**  
Nicole Patrick and Moses Amaeze (*pictured*)



# Awards Ceremony 2023

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



The guest speaker was Andrew Malcolm MBE, who gave a truly inspirational speech detailing his journey to CEO of the Malcolm Group and providing excellent advice to our young people on how to maximise the opportunities available to them.

The wider achievement awards showed the diversity of talent among St. Benedict's young people Irish dancing, football, cheerleading and performing arts. We were also treated to high quality entertainment throughout the evening from the junior choir, Musical Theatre group, Irish Dancers, Highland Dancer, gymnastic display, and a piano and cello recital. It is fair to say that St. Benedict's really does have talent!



## Special Award Winners

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Crieff Award        | Andrew Miller    |
| Jan Merrick Award   | Flora Okungbowa  |
| McLoone Award       | Olivia Johnston  |
| Headteacher's Award | Cian Thomson     |
| Benedictine Award   | Broghan McCredie |





# Attendance

## Attendance Matters – Is your child missing out?

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

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

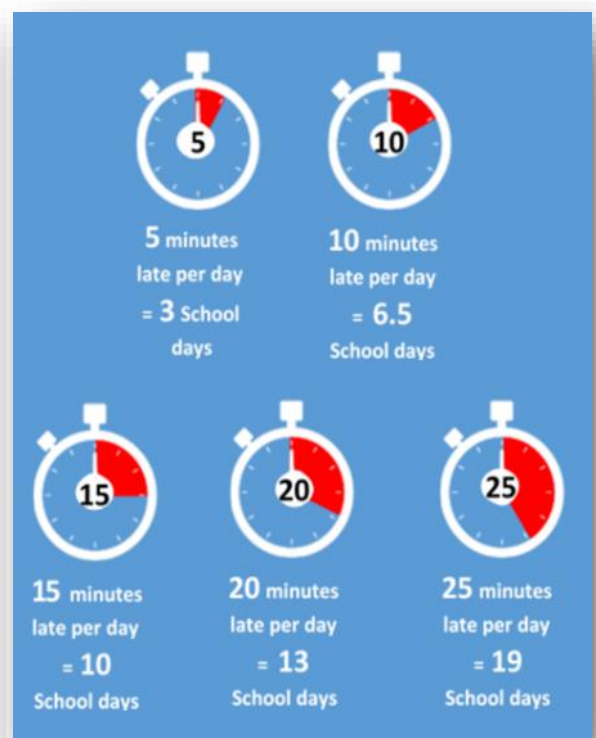
Parents/carers are by far the most important influence on children's lives and learning and are vital in shaping the mind set and behaviour of children.

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

What these figures mean:

## Poor Attendance and Timekeeping – Missed Learning

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





## What can you do to help?

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



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


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







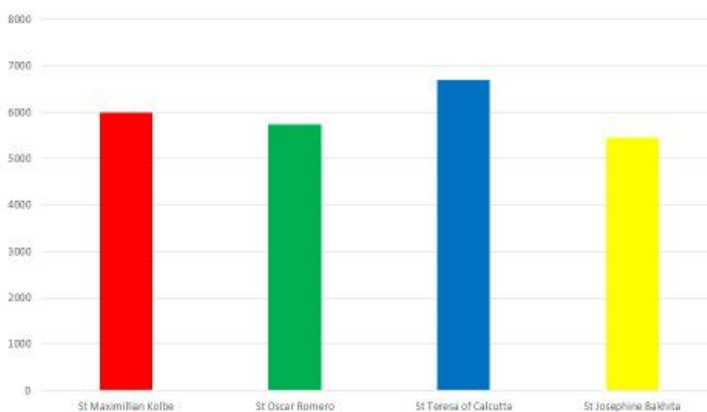
# House System

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

## ★ House Points ★



|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|  <p>St Josephine Bakhita House</p> | <b>Behaviour and Effort</b><br>5 points for a grade 1<br>3 points for a grade 2 | <b>Achievements</b><br>50 points for being a House Hero   |  <p>St Oscar Romero House</p>       |
|  <p>St Maximilian Kolbe House</p>  | <b>Attendance</b><br>25 points for $\geq 95\%$ attendance                       | <b>Extra Curricular Activities</b><br>50 points for attending 10 club sessions<br>10 points for community litter pick |  <p>St Teresa of Calcutta House</p> |
| <b>500 points for monthly departmental challenges</b><br>Respect • Love • Trust • Tolerance • Integrity             |   |   |  |



House Points December  
2023

## Inaugural Mass of the Academic Session

We were delighted to be able to join together with our cluster schools for our Inaugural Mass. We were very grateful our local clergy for being so generous of their time and celebrating this Mass for our cluster community.



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

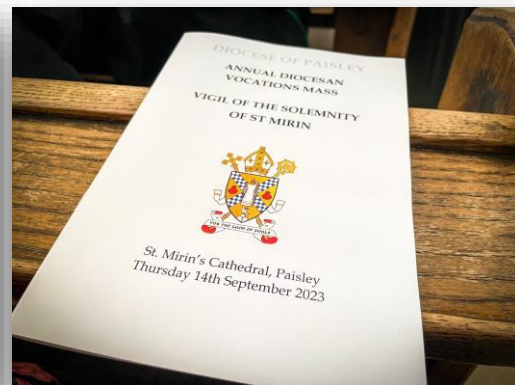


## Vocations Week

Sixth Year pupils joined with young people from across the Diocese for the annual S6 Vocations Conference. The theme of the day was 'Shine, Listen & Hope – Being a Young Catholic Today', and pupils were offered a thoughtful reflection from the keynote speaker, Daniella Stephens. Our pupils had a great day connecting with young people from across the Diocese, taking some time to discern their futures.



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





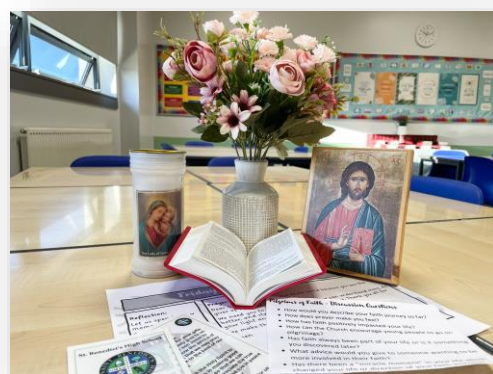
## Catholic Education Week

This year's Catholic Education Week focused on the theme of 'Pilgrims of Faith'. As well as lessons exploring the themes in R.E. a number of events were held in the school to celebrate.

Staff members of our school community gathered together for prayerful reflection in our Oratory, with Mgr. John Tormey offering a beautiful reflection.



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



Senior pupils visited our local parishes over the weekend Masses as part of our Catholic Education Week celebrations.

### Friday Lunchtime Mass

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

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





With our Senior School Snow Ball and our S1-S3 Christmas Ceilidh, we've been joining together to celebrate the season!







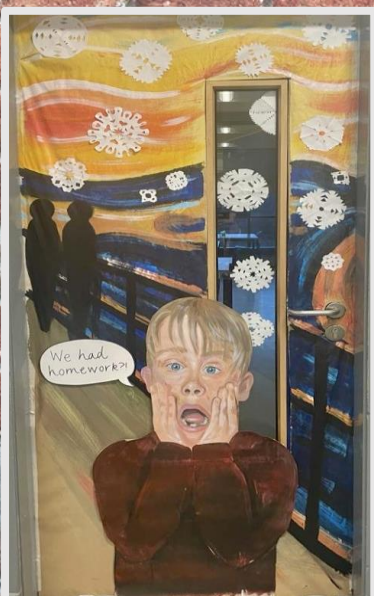






# Christmas Door Competition

Getting into the festive spirit, teachers and pupils enjoyed a friendly competition to decorate their classroom doors for Christmas!











# News from St. Maximilian Kolbe's House

As a new member of staff at St Benedict's High School, I am delighted with how welcoming the pupils of St Maximilian Kolbe have been! It is so wonderful to see all the achievements within our house group in this newsletter. 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! Pupils in St Maximilian Kolbe House are 1.2, 2.2, 3.2, 3.5, 4.2, 5.2 and 6.2.

Thanks, Mrs Glen



## House Captains

Well done to our Junior and Senior House Captains for volunteering themselves for such an important role within the school. Representing our house group as House Captain is a fantastic leadership opportunity and I wish you all the success in the role!



**Senior House Captains: S6 – 6.2**

**Niamh Tonge and Nikki Lavery**



**Junior House Captains: S3 – 3.2 and 3.5**

**Chiedu Nwokaebia, Marium Mosuro, Catherine Morier and Ebony Brogan**

## St Maximilian Kolbe Mass – 01/12/2023

This month we celebrated our first House Group Mass, and it was wonderful to see so many representatives present. A lovely Mass celebrated by Fr. Andrew.

## **100% Attendance Award**

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

- S1: India Rai, Ethan Fay, Hayden Mackay and Daniel Durkin
- S2: Toby White, Ciara Orr, Joseph Durkin, Harry Mackay and Emmanuel Okungbowa
- S3: Thomas Ross, Bruce Edgar, Joseph Stevenson Smith, Jack Anderson, Owen Campbell, Marian Mosuro, Abbie Anderson and Matthew Broadhurst
- S4: Ryan McKay, Alfie Ferguson and Chibuzo Nwkoekabia
- S5: Kiera McCall, Flora Okungbowa, Sarah McGettrick, Mirren Carter, Kiera McCormack, Ian Kelly and Aaron Rai
- S6: Emma Irvine and Anya Leckie

## **S1 House Heroes**

Ciaran Dilon, Anya Garrity, Leah McConnachie, Indiana Neil, Niamh Ogilvie, India Rai, Madison Reyes, Ethan Rocks and Anna Whyte – well done!

## **Extra-curricular Recognition**

- Highland Dancing – Kara Taylor
- Swimming – Jack Rafferty
- Cheer – Rachel Locke
- Pantomime – Sonny Ferguson
- Tymur Movchan – Music

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

Have a fantastic Christmas break!





# News from St. Teresa of Kolkata House

We successfully celebrated our House Assembly this term where pupils received awards and certificates for their many achievements throughout this school year so far. Our House enjoyed spending time with other year groups taking part in quizzes, games and prize giving!

Congratulations to this year's House Captains for St. Teresa's House:

Senior Captains: Patrick McNish, Sandy Bamba

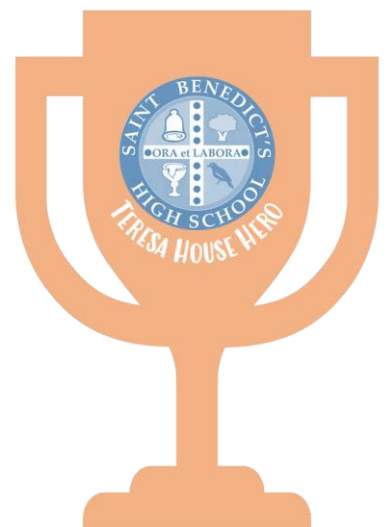
Junior Captains: Lucas Leckie, Katie Moynihan

Well done to the pupils below who have achieved 100% attendance this year:

- 1.3 Gabriel Lesiak, Lewis Crawford, Keziah Massengo Fleury and Jakub Swistak
- 1.5 Luke McGettigan, Danny Moynihan, Chukwuka Nwokeabia, Chloe Martin, Meghan Simpson, Joseph Smith and Nathan Quinn
- 2.3 Wojciech Dudek, Ruby McKeeman, Rhona Bos, Jeshof Jenith
- 3.3 Caelan Bonner and Liam McGall
- 4.3 Ryan Gallagher and Thanatip Meesat
- 5.3 Sophie Murray
- 6.1 Shekina Massengo Fleury and Aaron Wilson

The following pupils have made outstanding contribution to their House and have been acknowledged with a House Hero award:

- 1.3 Lewis Crawford, James Garscadden and Olivia Regan
- 1.5 Dillon Coombes, Faizzan Iqbal and Eve MacDonald
- 2.3 Anya Brown, Jessof Janith and Ruby McKeeman
- 3.3 Caelan Bonner and Lucas Leckie
- 5.3 Orlaith Locke and Sophie Murray





*The following pupils have been awarded with outstanding achievement out with school:*

- 1.3 **Olivia Regan** has successfully auditioned for the Johnstone youth phoenix theatre for the Christmas panto of Sleeping Beauty where she got a principal role and will play 'Fairy Nuff'.
- 1.3 **Josh Taylor** attends the football academy at Giffnock and coaching at Powerleague and gives it his all. He has also started to learn to play Golf. This is a big achievement for him as he previously found sports difficult to engage with.
- 1.5 **Ava Hampson** is a competitive Highland dancer. She has been dancing since the age of two and competing since the age of four. She attends the Christine Aitken Academy of Dance.
- 1.5 **Chloe Martin** loves reading books and constantly borrowing up to nine books in the library every week! She is also very good with art, making beautiful cards.
- 1.5 **Maria Jane Barclay's** cheer team, Solid Rock, gained First Place at their most recent competition out of fifteen other teams!

Well done to all our winners, don't forget to update us on any other achievements throughout the year for our house points!



Extra-curricular Clubs



Wider Achievement

I hope you and your families have a wonderful Christmas,

*Mrs Knapton*





# News from St. Josephine Bakhita's House

## Senior House Captains

Congratulations to St. Bakhita's four Senior House Captains: Gabriel Cairney (pictured), Fhallon Boyle, Jane Kelly and Heather Brander (pictured).

The Senior House Captains will lead the end of term assemblies and represent St. Bakhita's House at school events.



## Junior House Captains

Meet St. Bakhita's House Junior House Captains: Aimee Duggal and Ben Sheridan.

Aimee and Ben are exemplary pupils who are great role models for everyone in Bakhita House.



- 1.4** Aidan McWilliams, Tommy Bowman, Rory Kiernan, Ferdinand Tabot, Matthew Houston, Eason Gao, Erin Hampsey and Charlotte Gorrie.
- 2.4** Ben Surpless, Logan Reid and William Parker.
- 2.5** Ambila Cookey and Ire Aboyeji.
- 3.4** Anthony Burns, Lily Connelly and Cher Duru Inegbonese
- 4.4** Brodie Maclean, Megan Brander and Success Agbontaen
- 4.5** James Blair, James Scott, Grace Adams, Connor Hampsey, Piotr Drabik and Chambalyn Duru Inegbenose



# St. Bakhita's House Wider Achievements

## **Kenzie Mylrea**

Seventh in the British Judo Championships.

## **Kieran Docherty**

Awarded his CSCS card which allows him to work on construction sites.

## **Chambalyn Duru Inegbenose**

Ten goals in seven games for St. Mirren.

## **Brodie MacLean**

West of Scotland Concert Band – plays the trumpet.

## **Padua Okwonko**

Helped sick and disabled pilgrims at the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage.

## **Amelia Holland**

Climbed Ben Lomond.

## **Ashleigh Parker**

Made the team for Glasgow City Football Club.

## **Angelika Opalka**

Volunteer in the School Library.

## **Krista McSwegan**

Won West of Scotland tap dancing heat.

## **Corin O'Brien**

Winner of a boxing match at the ON-X.

## **Lucy Wishart and Aaron Brown**

DWF Law placement.

## **Kayden Perrie and Oliver Hart**

62nd in World Fortnite Tournament.

**Kyle Perrie, Hannah Blair, Robyn Gray, Hope Tennant,**

**Angel Jackson and Lana Brown**

Helpers at Parents' Events.

***"The Lord has loved me so much:  
we must be compassionate!"***

St. Josephine Bakhita





# News from St. Oscar Romero's House

Well done to this year's Romero House Captains for Session 2023/24:



**Senior Captains**  
**Jasmine Kandola and Shallom Afolabi**



**Junior Captains**  
**Sophie Coutts and Lucy McElhinney**

Well done to the pupils below who have achieved 100% attendance this year:

- S1:** Orlaith Malley, Katie McKay, Victoria Haraburda, Adam Atiya and Andaru Jingga.
- S2:** Emily MacKenzie Adams, Zara Muir, Jessica Walters.
- S3:** Mustafa Atiya, Frank Haraburda, Chloe McKenna.
- S4:** Zach Adams and Sean Colligan
- S5:** Annmarie Bredin, Marysia Smith and Ben Cunningham.

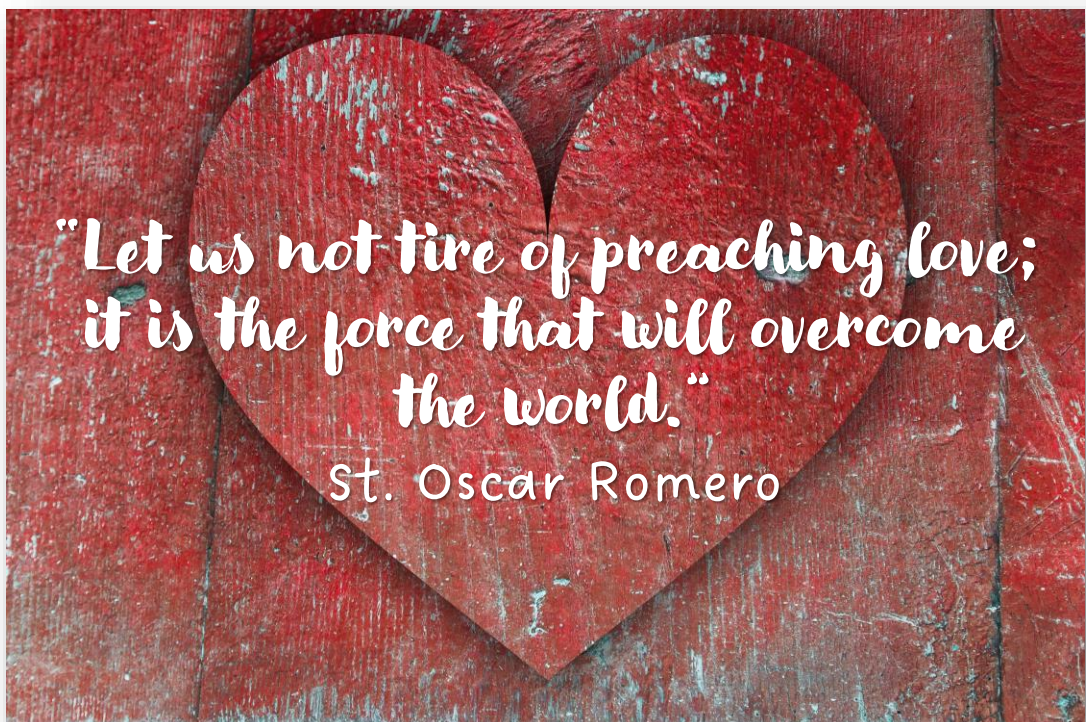
The following pupils have made outstanding contribution to their House and have been acknowledged with a House Hero award:

- Alaina Jackson (3.1)
- Lenox Docherty (3.1)
- Jasmine Kandola (6.1)
- Justin King (1.1)
- Broghan McCredie (5.1)
- Jacob Cardenas (2.1)
- Nathan Rennie (1.1)
- Adam Duffy (1.1)
- Cora Houston (1.1)
- Mia Dunwoodie (5.1)



The following pupils have been awarded with outstanding achievement out with school:

- Kiera Hutchison: Scottish Highland Dancing
- Noah McSkimming: Musical Theatre Performance 'Chitty Bang Bang'
- Sean Dempsey: Under 15 District Football Selection
- Liam McLaughlin: Under 18 District Football Selection





It has been one very busy term at Employability HQ in St Benedict's High School. We have been involved in several trips to lots of exciting businesses, many employers coming into the school to talk to dedicated groups, volunteering with older adults and some worthwhile work experience placements for our senior students.

## S1 Scotrail

Our S1 students took part in a Science Quiz for the whole of S1 and the top 20 students were thereby selected to take part in our biodiversity and sustainability project with SCOTRAIL. The S1 students visited the Depot in Yoker to take part in some investigations on the grounds at the depot with a return visit to the school from the Conservation Volunteers. Two of our S5 STEM Ambassadors also accompanied the group for some work-related experience.



## S2 Talent Foundry's Enterprise Challenge

Mr Canning's S2 class were involved in a numeracy focused STEAM workshop which linked Maths to real life with a fun and realistic scenario. Students had the opportunity to act as large-scale event organisers in charge of arranging a pop concert for 10,000 young people. They had so much fun in doing so and had to present their findings to the whole class.





## S2, S4 & S5 Careers Fair

St Benedict's Careers Fair 2023 invited fourteen local and national employers as well as two universities to set up their stall and speak to the S2, S4 and S5 students in small groups. This was an extremely successful event in which we received lots of positive feedback. Thank you so much to all the Janitorial, Auxiliary and Kitchen Staff for all the behind the scenes help.



## S3 Braveheart Challenge in conjunction with MALCOLM Group

We have continued our partnership throughout 2023 with MALCOLM Group and Braveheart Challenge, now, with our current S3. In groups, the students took on the various business roles and then worked hard to deliver the outputs required. They did extremely well throughout the whole process, and presented their Final Presentations at the end, which were high quality and full of really good content.



*"It was a joy to do the Challenge with your lovely St. Benedict's Pupils, and great to see how they threw themselves into the Challenge."*

*Clare McDonald, Braveheart Advisor.*

### S3 STEM WEST

Our double scientists in S3 made the journey to the Clydebank campus to take part in interactive stalls relating to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.



They enjoyed some time in the Arnold Clark van doing more of the same. Two of the boys even won a prize for their efforts.

### S4 DWF Law Firm Trip

Twenty of our S4 pupils have been involved in a three-part 5-star programme ran by our partnership with DWF Law Firm in Glasgow.

Part one was building their understanding of the organisation as well as their skills and qualities, part two was developing their CV and cover letter writing and part three was undertaking interviews from solicitors and trainee solicitors for a real-life work experience placement in 2024.



Watch this space for the winners selected due to their performance in interview as well as how impressed the employers are with the standard of their CV.

### S4 My Future Pathways

Two of our S4 students, Kieran Docherty and Marcus Kirwan have been attending Castlehead Hub and undertaking a programme by My Future Pathways which will lead them on to completing course work for CSCS card as well as enjoying site visits in relation to construction.





## **S4 and S6 Airport Visit**

We have formed a partnership with a company at Glasgow Airport which afforded five of our senior pupils an incredible opportunity to take part in “A Day in the Life of an Aircraft Engineer”. This experience allowed our students hands-on bespoke experience in, on, and under an aircraft. Some of our students returned from the trip having re-evaluated their career paths.



## **S4-S6 INVEST**

We have had the pleasure of having Louise Andrews from INVEST, Renfrewshire in St Benedict's and working with our community on a Friday. She has worked with a diverse range of students offering her guidance, support, and advice on how to create CVs and how to best search for job opportunities with respect to the students' skills and abilities. We thank Louise so much for her expertise.

## **S5 Volunteering at Johnstone Hub**

We have three S5 students who are offering their own time on a Wednesday afternoon after school to help out in our local community with a charity called ROAR in the Johnstone Hub – Station Seven.

## **S5 WCS Apprenticeship Routes**

We were lucky enough to have Katrina Maxwell from West College Scotland to come to the school during our S5 Attainment Seminar to talk to the S5 Cohort about Modern and Foundation Apprenticeships. The feedback received was overwhelmingly positive.

## **S6 Routes for All UWS**

Some of our S6 students attended in-house lectures on A) Goal Setting and Career Research B) Skills, Qualities and Application Writing and C) Personal Statements. The follow up campus visit will take place after the prelims so students can get a flavour of what it is like to be a student at University.





## S6 ROAR Charity (Digital Literacy Class)

We have further developed our connections with ROAR and invited older adults from the community into the school on a Friday. We have focused on upskilling and improving their digital literacy skills through several mediums. The older adults have worked with our photography class as well as members of staff from different departments. It is so humbling to give a little back into the community. If any of your parents or grandparents are looking to upskill in digital literacy, get in touch with us or Dora Kalogianni @ROAR.



## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2024

### S3 Follow Up With MALCOLM Group At Heritage Centre

Our S3 cohort will be travelling to the Heritage Centre to learn a little more about MALCOLM Group and to meet more of the expert operational team. The follow up days, January 15th and 16th will really emphasise how the skills they learned on the initial day in November can relate to real life. Over the next 2 years MALCOLM Group are looking to develop their career pathways and take our students to the next level. How lucky are we! Apprenticeships are already offered at the moment; MALCOLM Group want to expand this offering in the coming years so there are very real opportunities for our students.

### St Mirren Academy

Some of our students will travel to St Mirren Football stadium for an open day on January 17th. The 8-week course will begin on 30th January for 16–24-year-olds and will award participants with SQA Qualifications in Employability, Local Investigations, Coaching Badge Level 1 and completion of First Aid Certificate.

### A Day in the Life of an Air Traffic Controller

We hope to make some return visits to Glasgow Airport to explore and have a hands-on experience of the job description in another exciting role in Air Traffic Control.



# Eco Committee

St Benedict's Eco-Committee have been doing weekly rounds of the school to ensure cans, plastic bottles and mixed recycling doesn't end up in the land fill bins. Thanks to all the pupils and staff who have helped out.

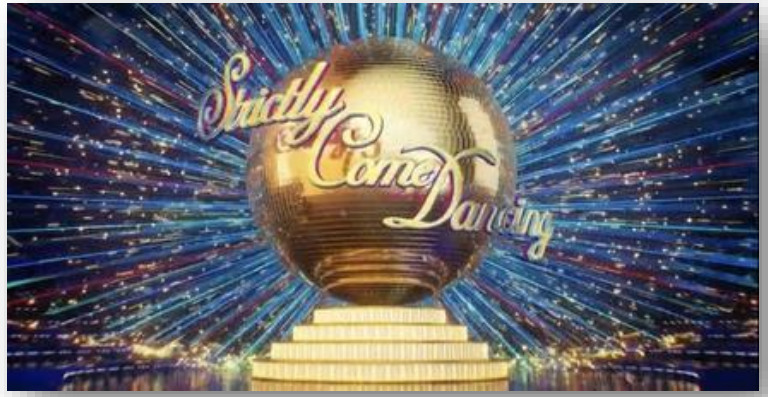






# St Benedict's does Strictly!

Our annual "St Benedict's does Strictly" competition took place earlier this term and was a great success. Over 400 pupils attended and watched staff and pupils go head-to-head to see who would be crowned 2023 Champions!



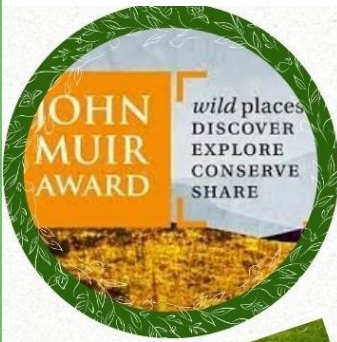
Well done to the S6 leadership team for organising and raising over £1000 for charity.

Massive congratulations to our Strictly 2023 winners - Anya and Conan (S6)

Keeeeeep dancing!!!



# Support for Learning



Our Outdoor Learning Classes have been working closely with Clyde Muirshiel Rangers towards attaining their John Muir Award.

Learners have been involved in bush craft, art in nature, litter picking and exploring our school grounds to learn more about the landscape and wildlife on our doorstep.

We are finishing this term with a session on hedgehog habitats and a visit to Castle Semple to work on rhododendron removal as part of conservation work.



## OUTDOOR LEARNING



### Climate Action

We are exploring all aspects of Climate Breakdown: why and how it affects our daily lives, what the causes are, and how to take action to prevent and reduce the effects on our environment.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our Eco Schools Award initiative here at St Benedict's! As part of our commitment to sustainability, we are working towards achieving Green Flag accreditation.

Pupils have identified 3 main areas of focus: Climate Action, Litter and Waste, and School Grounds.



### Litter & Waste

We are producing more waste than ever before. We are exploring ways we can minimise waste within St Benedict's and our own daily lives.

We are regularly litter picking, creating a recycling awareness campaign and exploring ways we can develop an outdoor learning space. A huge thanks to Science, Social Subjects and Art for collaborating with us so far.



### School Grounds

We are looking at ways we can develop and use the outdoor space we have to encourage pupils to continue to have a respectful attitude and behaviour towards their school space and their wider community.

We are keen to involve our local community. If anyone has any interest or expertise in gardening please get in touch.



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



# Support for Learning Shout Outs

*S1 Superstars*

Our S1 Literacy Groups have been exploring digital literacy and growing in confidence when selecting and reading new texts.



To all our learners who have shown kindness, compassion and respect towards each other. We are incredibly proud of you all.

*Primary 7*

We have been visiting primary 7 pupils across our feeder primaries.

What a welcome we have received from such hard working, mature & friendly pupils! We can't wait to see more of P7 in the new year.

A warm welcome to our young people from Ukraine and to Miss McGinlay, EAL teacher, who has been an invaluable support as our learners settle into our school community.

*Ласкаво просимо!*

It was a pleasure to meet with so many S1 families at Parents' Evening. We look forward to working in partnership with our parents - SfL appointments will be available for all year group Parents' Evenings.

*Parents*

S.Kenny recently began volunteering at the Football club to gain some coaching experience!

C.Murney has been pushing himself and his fitness, working hard towards achieving his Sport and Rec Award!

L.Gibson recently returned to his primary school to volunteer at a football club and has kept the school bikes in check as part of his Bike Maintenance Award!

Well done - keep up the hard work!

*Miss Shearer's  
Shout-Outs!*





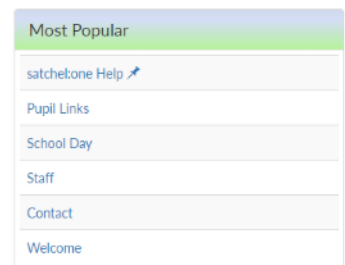
# Digital Learning

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

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



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



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

Microsoft TEAMS may be used as a pupil learning platform - resources linked to their daily lessons and courses are made available for them to access. Our website has further information and instructions.



## Homework

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

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

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

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

## Skills Development Scotland (SDS)– Careers Adviser

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is Scotland's careers service, and they support pupils, parents, and teachers with a comprehensive range of career information advice and guidance services. Their Careers Advisers are available to support you and your child throughout their time at school.

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

From the beginning of term, the Careers Adviser has been supporting senior pupils through 1:1 meetings and group sessions, helping them to develop their career management skills and supporting them with their career planning, to make informed decisions about their future career path and highlight the range of career routes out there.

## Options and Choices

At different stages of the academic year pupils will be making decisions around subject choices or may be exploring the range of options and routes open to them beyond school. There's also lots of information for parents/carers and pupils available on the SDS careers website My World of Work:

<https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/pupils> or for parent and carer information <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/tools/option-choices>

## Useful Websites

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





Following on from our two-day induction in June a group of parents have been attending weekly workshops at St. Benedict's High School. The training programme was delivered by CANI Coaching, with the aim of enhancing the support we offer to our young people.

The programme ran for a total of five weeks and was an enormous success. It helped support parents to unlock their young person's full potential. Many parents and guardians described it as "incredible" and "absolutely amazing" in terms of the impact it has on young people and their families.

The Parents in Partnership programme continues to run in the New Year and will be offering sessions tailored to the needs and wants of our group.

**All parents are invited to the next event at**

**St. Benedict's High School on Thursday 25th January 10.30am – 12.30pm**

## **A session on Managing Anxiety**



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

[gw21mitchelllynne@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw21mitchelllynne@glow.sch.uk)



# Raising Attainment

## Senior Phase Mentor Programme

Our Senior Phase Mentor Programme began in October with the second meetings taking place this month. These allow staff to offer ongoing support and advice regarding study skills, wellbeing, and target setting. With the approaching prelims, it is important that students have a clear study timetable, are focused and are coping with the demands that these exams will bring. Mentor meetings provide students with the opportunity to discuss their achievements and concerns as they make progress throughout the year towards the SQA exams in May.

Skills  
Development  
Scotland

An extended mentoring programme is also supported by our Principal Teacher Employability, Jacqueline Delaney, and Audrey McNab, SDS Advisor. This programme focuses on a group of S5 students working closely during mentor time to prepare them for interviews as well as giving tips and guidance on how to dress and behave in an interview situation. These skills will be invaluable in building young people's confidence as they prepare to move out into the world of employment.

### E-Sgoil

E-Sgoil offers online supported study.

<https://www.e-sgoil.com/senior-phase/study-support>



E-Sgoil

### Achieve

Offers concise explanations of each topic, links to further learning and links to SQA past papers for each topic. Students can test their knowledge of the unit or their entire course. Achieve will provide feedback on strengths and weaknesses. <https://achieve.hashtag-learning.co.uk>



Past Papers

### West OS

A growing number of recorded video lessons across different subjects are available via West OS to support learning. Students can access these via Glow or by scanning the QR code.

<https://www.westpartnership.co.uk/west-os/senior-phase-resources>



West OS

**ClickView** is also a valuable resource for exam and prelim preparation.



## Raising Attainment Seminars for S4 and S5

In November we delivered the annual Raising Attainment Seminar for S4. The focus of the workshops is not only to highlight to pupils the skills required to achieve their potential in the forthcoming exams, but also to equip them with strategies to help them cope with the inevitable stress and pressure they will face during exam time. We want our young people to have confidence in their abilities and to support them in building their resilience.

We were delighted to have John-Paul Fitzpatrick who addressed students as this year's motivational speaker, before students then attended a range of workshops implemented by volunteer staff on Study Skills, Mindsets and Meta-cognition as well as Team Building, Body Balance and Maximising Potential.

In partnership with our PT Employability, Jacqueline Delaney, we incorporated an additional section to this morning of workshops and experiences designed to support students as they prepare for the prelims and ultimately the SQA exams.



This year, four St. Benedict's students from previous years returned to share details of their own journeys since leaving school and offered practical advice on possible pathways, including university and modern apprenticeships. The overwhelmingly positive feedback means that this will be a recurring feature of the seminar.

This week our S5 students enjoyed their own Attainment Seminar, and they finished their morning by attending their choice of Next Step workshops which equipped them with information and advice on possible routes for the future.

Our SDS Advisors, Audrey McNab and Nicola Ashwood, offered detail on exploring different pathways to various careers, they highlighted the resources available for support and students learned about the different routes into employment. For students hoping to move on to university, Clare Glen, PT Pastoral Care, took students through the UCAS process and highlighted the deadlines for different courses.

Students also received advice on widening participation and how to apply for SAAS funding and student loans. Katrina Maxwell from West College Scotland joined us to deliver a presentation for students interested in a pathway into a modern apprenticeship. She highlighted the qualifications which can be gained and offered advice on the entry requirements and application process. Student feedback made clear that this was a particularly successful part of the day with pupils gaining a clearer understanding of where their learning can take them in future.

### BGE Homework Club

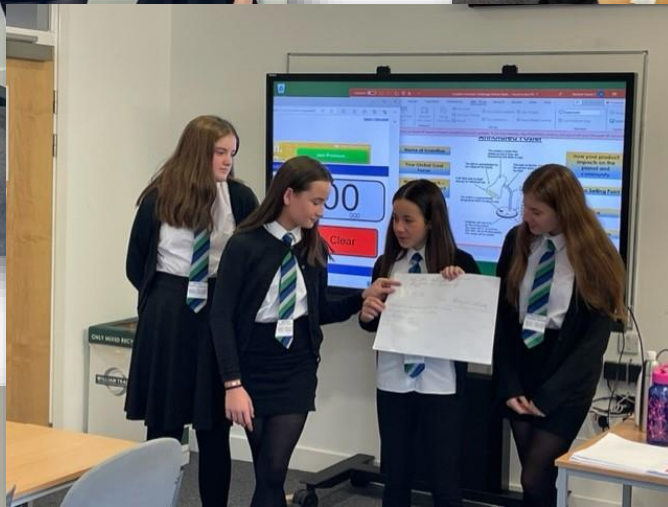
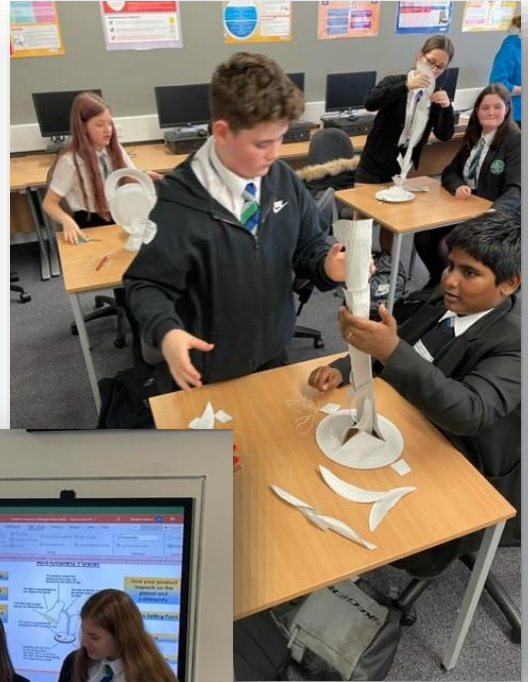
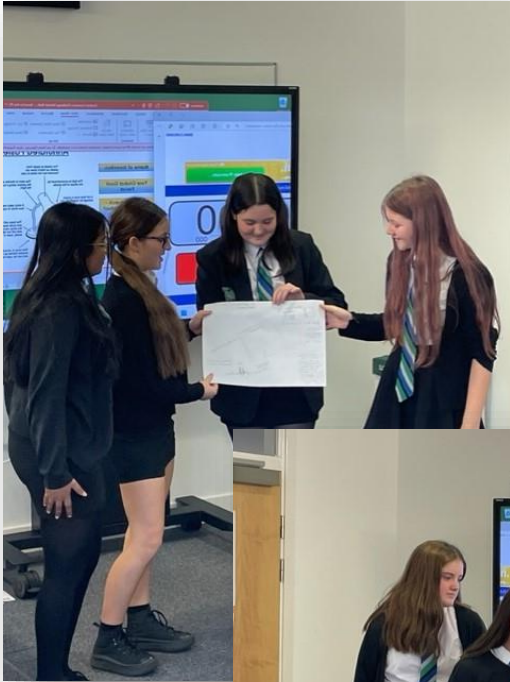


Our BGE Homework Club (S1-S3) takes place every Thursday at lunchtime. Our Raising Attainment Project Leader, Miss Gillespie, works alongside staff volunteers and S6 students to provide help and support to S1-S3 pupils in their learning. Please encourage your children to come along for a quiet place to work and access to ICT.

You can check your child's homework through the Satchel:One app. Please contact the school if you have any difficulty using this and we will be happy to help.

## SmartSTEM

A group of pupils attended the SmartSTEM event at Glasgow Clyde College – Anniesland Campus. The whole day event was a fantastic experience with pupils participating in a range of interactive workshops across the day and meeting with different employers to understand the wide range of careers that exist within STEM.







# Musical Theatre Club

The pupils in the Musical Theatre Club worked very hard this term preparing for the Christmas Concert.

The pupils enjoyed their weekly club meetings on a Tuesday Lunchtime in Miss Urquhart's classroom.

They had rehearsals after school on a Wednesday for their performance for the Christmas concert which was a medley from the film 'The Polar Express'.



The show was a massive success! The pupils loved performing for the audience and supporting all their fellow pupils who were also performing in other groups.

**KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR EXCITING  
NEWS ABOUT OUR UPCOMING SCHOOL  
SHOW WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE  
19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2023!**

## IDL Software

We are continuing use of IDL, a digital programme proven to improve reading and spelling ages, with the aim to improve reading and spelling skills. Learners are enjoying using IDL and can see how it is improving their confidence in reading and writing across the curriculum. From tracking learner progress, it is clear there has already been a significant improvement in the reading and spelling ages of many pupils. As we move through the 23-24 session, we will continue to use IDL to support learners in literacy improvement. IDL can be accessed from home – if you'd like more information about how to use the software at home, please contact the school office or visit

[www.idlsgroup.com/literacy](http://www.idlsgroup.com/literacy)



## Primary 6 and 7 Transition Programme

Cluster Primary 6 and 7 pupils recently took part in our Moon Landing Challenge where they were tasked with creating a short story about Outer Space. All pupils did a fantastic job at brainstorming ideas for describing plot, characters and setting as a team and individually created very entertaining stories as a result. Well done!

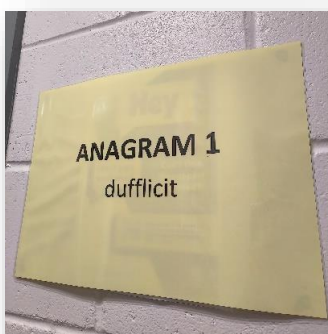
## Sky Up Academy

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



## International Literacy Day 2023

Pupils and staff recently took part in a treasure hunt as part of International Literacy Day 2023. This involved hunting around the school for 6 anagrams and 6 well-known Scottish phrases, with the 3 fastest and correct submissions taking winning chocolate prizes and house points! Staff also had the opportunity to showcase their favourite childhood books to promote reading with our young people.





# Literacy Games – Christmas Edition!

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



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

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



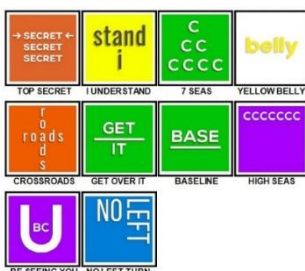
Play our fun game and see how high you can score!  
Remember the more unusual answers you pick the  
more likely you are to get full points.

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



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

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



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

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

## SQA Art Gallery



## Supported Study

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



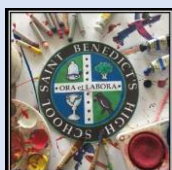
## S1/2 Art Club

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





S1 had the opportunity to enter our school Christmas Card Competition. They were asked to design a card which could be sent out as the official St Benedict's High School Christmas 2023 Card. Well done Andaru in 1A on your design, your submission is beautiful.



@StBenedictsArt



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

## ART & DESIGN

### Artist of the Month

|                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>AUGUST Adaeze 1D</b><br>     | <b>AUGUST Chad S3</b><br>     |
| <b>OCTOBER Chloe 1H</b><br>     | <b>SEPTEMBER Blair S3</b><br> |
| <b>SEPTEMBER Lucy 1H</b><br>    | <b>NOVEMBER Iona S3</b><br>   |
| <b>NOVEMBER Nathan S 2H</b><br> | <b>OCTOBER Sophie S3</b><br>  |
| <b>AUGUST Riley 2D</b><br>      | <b>SEPTEMBER Zara 2B</b><br>  |
| <b>OCTOBER Jeshof 2F</b><br>    | <b>NOVEMBER Sinead 2C</b><br> |

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



## Skills Development

BGE and NQ pupils have been working hard throughout the year developing their knowledge and understanding and their cooking skills in the HFT department.



## Barista Course

The HFT department has launched the Barista Course for senior pupils this year. Pupils are learning Barista skills and have been making coffees for staff and visitors to the school.



## Spooky Biscuits

At Halloween S1 pupils completed "Halloween Themed" HFT lessons searching for Halloween food clues and making Halloween biscuits.







# Language and Communication



@sbhslanguage

## International Literacy Day

As part of our annual effort to raise awareness of the importance of literacy, this year staff continued to share their favourite childhood books with staff. However, this was supplemented by an in-school treasure hunt for traditional Scottish words and phrases. Pupils (and staff) had to hunt for these and translate them into standard English. Congratulations to Jeshof Jenith (S2) for the winning entry!



## Mentors in Violence Prevention

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



## Contribution to Careers Day

A huge thank-you is due to Mrs. Tennant of the English Department for organising for representatives from the Scottish Fire Service to attend the school's careers day. During the day, the firefighters spoke to students, briefed them on fire safety and outlined the pathway towards firefighting as a career. Furthermore, the representatives from the service also offered pupils the chance to take a ride up in the hoist of the truck !!!! Thanks also to Miss Delaney of Modern Languages for organising and overseeing the day.



## Teaching and Learning Conference 2023

Mrs. Kelly and Mr. McKee of the English department travelled to Berwickshire High School on Saturday 18th November to attend their second annual teaching and learning conference. The insights gained from the morning have already been getting trialled in the department and we look forward to using more strategies to further enhance learning and teaching across the faculty.



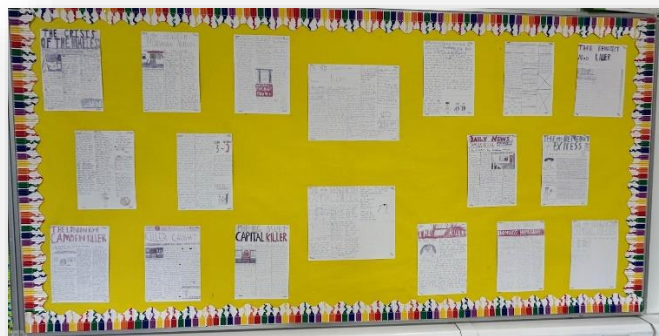
### Solo Talk Season

The faculty would like to take the opportunity to thank all of those pupils who have recently completed their solo talks and speaking assessments across English and Modern Languages classes. We absolutely understand how nerve-wracking the experience of preparing and delivering a spoken presentation can be, and are delighted to see so many of our young people excelling and delivering with full eye contact and confidence. Speaking is a key component of both curricular areas and vital to building confidence and resilience, which we have seen lived out in all who have recently completed them. We'd love to name individuals who have done well, but there would be too many, so please accept this blanket thank-you for all of your efforts. Your teachers really appreciate it.



### Developing Journalism Skills

Mr McKee's S3 class recently used their knowledge of the novel "Stone Cold" to place themselves in the shoes of journalists reporting on the crimes featured in the novel. The final pieces are of outstanding quality and show that the pupils fully embraced the challenge of the task.



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

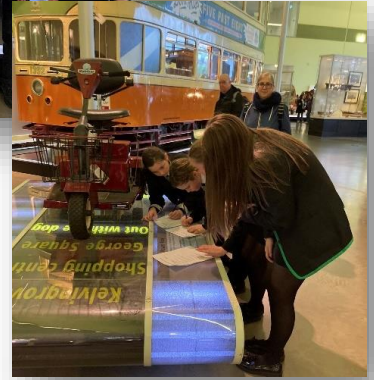




# Mathematics and Numeracy

Maths Week Scotland is a celebration of the importance of Maths in our everyday lives. This year's theme is Maths in Motion - exploring how maths is involved in the movement of, well, everything!

We took a group of pupils on a Numeracy Hunt at the Riverside Museum. All pupils had a great time trying to find the information to solve the questions. Special shout out to the amazing 6th Year helpers!



We also had our handpicked Enterprising Maths Team who competed against other local high schools in a series of fiendish mathematical challenges. Meanwhile our senior pupils took part in a seminar about network theory from our guest speaker, John Devlin.

This year has seen the launch of a brand-new Numeracy period for all of our S2 pupils. Pupils have the opportunity to focus on the key fundamental skills which are needed all across the curriculum. This has included working collaboratively in a recent budgeting project where each group had to decide whether to buy or rent a house, household bills, where to shop, types of insurance and much more.



An exciting Numeracy event took place in November where some of our pupils were fortunate enough to be visited by M and G by The Talent Foundry who run enterprise challenges which link Numeracy to practical real-life scenarios. This year's challenge involved pupils having to plan and organise a music concert for 10,000 people. They had to design and analyse their own market research and use these results to plan the event including set lists and stage design.

A final picture which summarises the start to the school term for our pupils:





## Awards Ceremony

Well done to the performers from the music department who contributed to the entertainment at the Awards Ceremony. Harry C. and Denys P. from our S3 class entertained the audience at the beginning with guitar ballads. Brodie M. gave a warm piping welcome to our audience and then piped our VIP guests into the Steet Area. Our choir sang a version of "Make Your Own Kind of Music" where they even combined the music with sign language.



## WSSO Training Band

David F (percussion) and Brodie M (trumpet) S4 were 2 out of only 3 pupils in the whole of Renfrewshire who performed in the West of Scotland Schools Orchestra Trust Ensembles. They passed auditions to become members of the Training Concert Band, attended an intense residential rehearsal week and participated in the final concert in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Sunday 17th September. Brodie M has just received news that he has been successful in his audition for the WSSO Senior Wind Band and he will be joining them later this session. Well done, Brodie!

## Christmas Concert

Our Christmas concert was a huge success. All pupils who performed worked so hard in preparation for the concert. Photos have been shared on Twitter/X. Here is a small selection of the photographs.

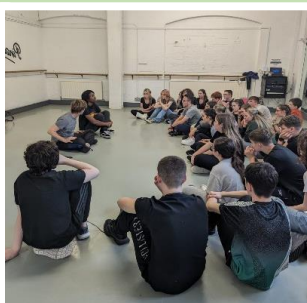


## London Trip

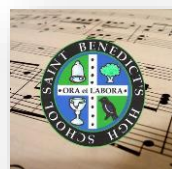
We were delighted to be able to organise another trip to London in October. This was the first opportunity for such a trip after the pandemic, so we were really excited. Our pupils were an asset to the school and all teachers were really proud of the pupils and the way they conducted themselves. There was a fully packed itinerary which included sight-seeing of Big Ben and the Palace of Westminster, Trafalgar Square, The Mall, Buckingham Palace, Covent Gardens and the South Bank. We went to see two shows, Back to the Future and The Lion King. Activities included a visit to the British Museum, backstage tour of the Royal Opera House, London Eye experience, dinner at Pizza Express, dinner at The Hard Rock Café and a Stage Combat workshop at Pineapple Dance Studios with Rich Gittins. Rich was blown away with his workshop with our pupils and here is a snippet of an email that he sent to our Head Teacher, Mr Taylor to praise our learners.

*"Your students have been wonderful ambassadors for your school. I absolutely adored working with them all ... staff and students. They were a lot of fun and all worked extremely hard. The thing that I enjoyed the most was the way in which they all supported each other. I work with schools from all around the world and it's rare to see a cohort encouraging each other to 'dare to try' in the manner that your students just did ... It was genuinely a privilege getting to work with them and they were the highlight of my day."*

We are busy behind the scenes organising our next trip to London which will be open to all S2 and S3 pupils.



If you haven't already, you can follow the Music Department on X (Twitter) [@stbensmusic](https://twitter.com/stbensmusic). Here you will find information about what pupils are doing in class.







# Physical Education

The Sports Development pupils (with support from Lynsey Dawson at Active Schools) have been leading sports sessions during placements at associated primary schools and working with S1 in PE lessons. They have also participated in a variety of workshops including Scottish Handball and ONEREN basketball. Pupils been volunteering to help out at various extra-curricular clubs, school events and community events to gain valuable leadership experience.



Niamh Armour and Liam McLaughlin are our School Sports Ambassadors. They are responsible for promoting sport within St Benedict's and they recently attended the Young Ambassador's Conference at Hampden. Zara Craig and Devyn Docherty are both the St Benedict's RSSE representatives.

This year we have three football teams who are competing in the Renfrewshire League and Cups. Miss Delaney is the Football Representative for the school. Mr Scarff has been taking the S3s, Lynzey Dawson and Nicola Miller are taking the girls and Miss Shearer the seniors. Liam McLaughlin, Sean Dempsey and Craig Campbell have all been selected to represent the Renfrewshire District Teams.



Lunchtime and afterschool clubs have also been well attended, improving pupils' health and wellbeing.

A group of students are playing basketball in a gymnasium. A basketball hoop is visible in the background, and several students are on the court. The gym has a wooden floor and blue walls.

Miss McMillan organised and led a dance trip to see Aladdin to deepen pupils' knowledge and understanding of dance. Pupils in the S3 elective dance class performed at both the Primary 7 Transition and Awards Ceremony nights.



S1/2 Core PE block plans for the year are below.

This is for pupils and parents to know when lessons will be indoors or outdoors. Please bring suitable clothing for adverse weather if outdoors such as jogging bottoms, jackets/jumpers, gloves towels etc.



| 52 CORE |                 |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|         | 2.4 G           | 2.5 CE             | 2.3 R              | 2.2 G              | 2.1 R              |
| 1       | VOLLEYBALL (GH) | RUGBY/FOOTBALL     | FITNESS (PS/O)     | RUGBY/FOOTBALL     | FOOTBALL           |
| 2       | FOOTBALL        | AESTHETICS & DANCE | VOLLEYBALL (GH)    | VOLLEYBALL (GH) *1 | VOLLEYBALL (GH) *1 |
| 3       | RUGBY           | VOLLEYBALL (GH)    | BASKETBALL (SG)    | AESTHETICS & DANCE | RUGBY              |
| 4       | SOCIAL DANCE    | SOCIAL DANCE       | SOCIAL DANCE       | SOCIAL DANCE       | SOCIAL DANCE       |
| 5       | CROSS COUNTRY   | CROSS COUNTRY      | CROSS COUNTRY      | CROSS COUNTRY      | CROSS COUNTRY      |
| 6       | AESTHETICS      | BASKETBALL (GH)    | RUGBY/FOOTBALL     | FITNESS (PS/O)     | AESTHETICS         |
| 7       | BASKETBALL (GH) | FITNESS (PS/O)     | AESTHETICS & DANCE | BASKETBALL (GH) *1 | BASKETBALL (GH) *1 |
| 8       | CHOICE          | CHOICE             | CHOICE             | CHOICE             | CHOICE             |
| 9       | ATHLETICS       | ATHLETICS          | ATHLETICS          | ATHLETICS          | ATHLETICS          |
| 10      | SUMMER GAMES    | SUMMER GAMES       | SUMMER GAMES       | SUMMER GAMES       | SUMMER GAMES       |

PS = Fitness Suite      G= Outdoors      GH= Gymnas Hall      SG= Small Gym

\*1= 100meters of water during the break



Twenty pupils in S5 and S6 are working towards a National 5 qualification in Psychology. The students are learning how to research human behaviour using experimental and non-experimental methods.

The topics being studied include sleep, phobias, conformity and non-verbal communication. In addition, students will design and carry out a research study into an aspect of behaviour.



"I had signed up for a Criminology course which fell through. I gave Psychology a try and it was the best decision I made because it is my favourite subject. We have learned many interesting things such as why we sleep and have dreams. The teacher makes the subject exciting, fun and very interesting."

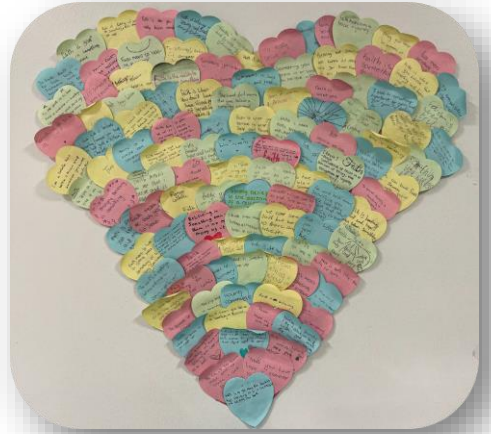
*Olivia MacMillan, S6*

"I previously studied Criminology, so I knew I was interested in psychology. I have learned more than I thought I would. I would recommend this subject to any pupil questioning whether they should take it or not because you get to do experiments and have fun while learning."

*Nicola Lamont, S6*

## Catholic Education Week

Pupils across all year groups spent Catholic Education Week exploring the theme of 'Pilgrims of Faith'. One of the activities involved pupils reflecting on what faith meant to them, with their answers collated into display which makes for very interesting reading!



## Malawi Christmas Parcels

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





## S3 WYD Event

Third year pupils attended a WYD event on the theme of 'Rejoicing in Hope' with young people across the Diocese of Paisley. They had a great day, particularly enjoying building their own church!

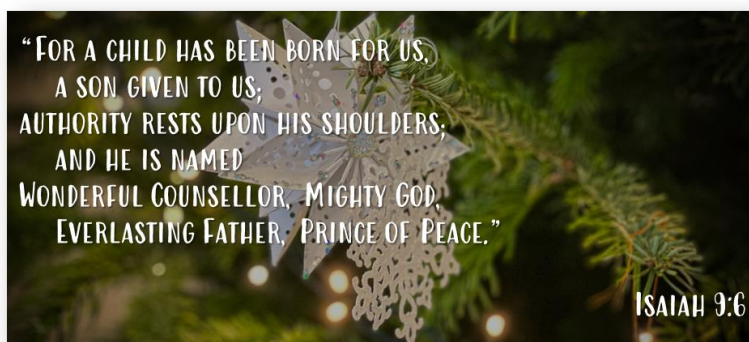


## Follow us on X!

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

## Christmas Blessings

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





## Enhanced Primary Transition

The Primary 6 and 7 pupils from our cluster primary schools enjoyed two enhanced transition visits where they worked as a team to complete their Mars Rover Mission.



"I loved the primary transition visits where I got to build a parachute to land the Mars Rover. It was so cool to see how it's done and made me really excited about science. I also feel more confident about coming up to St. Benedict's next year." P7 Cluster Pupil.

"I was amazed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the students during the primary transition program. The Mars rover project not only fostered their interest in STEM but also equipped them with valuable skills that will benefit them in the future."

*Cluster Primary Teacher*



## Scientist of the Month

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



## STEM Club

Pupils have been enjoying some amazing experiments!



### Flaming Halloween Peppers



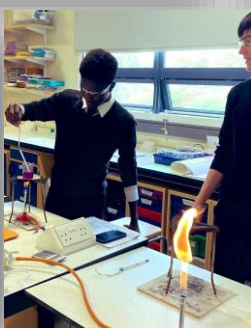
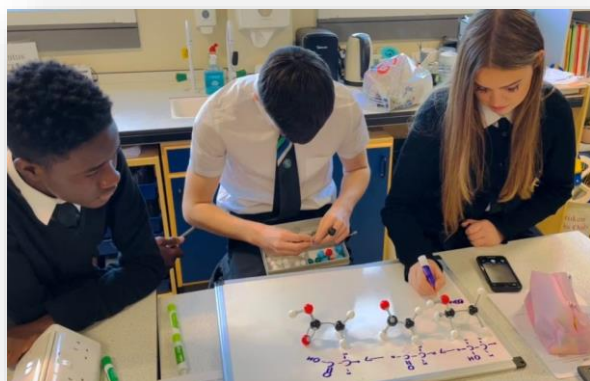
### Convection Ghosts



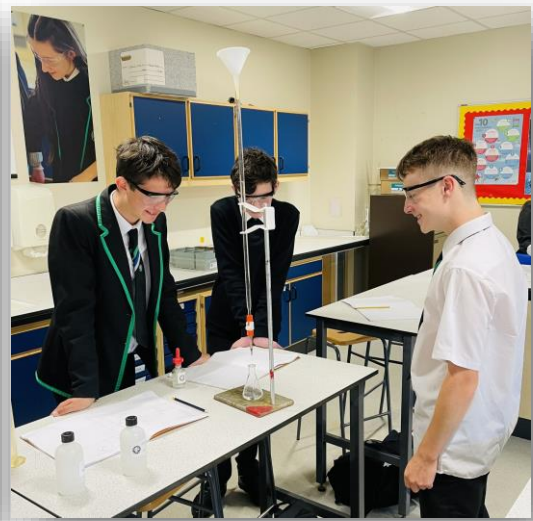
Our Practical Electronics pupils have been working hard to improve their design and soldering skills in order to start work on their project.



Our Higher and Nat 5 Chemistry pupils have been engaging in different activities to improve their knowledge and understanding. The pupils have also been piloting the use of digital tools to support their learning and improve engagement.







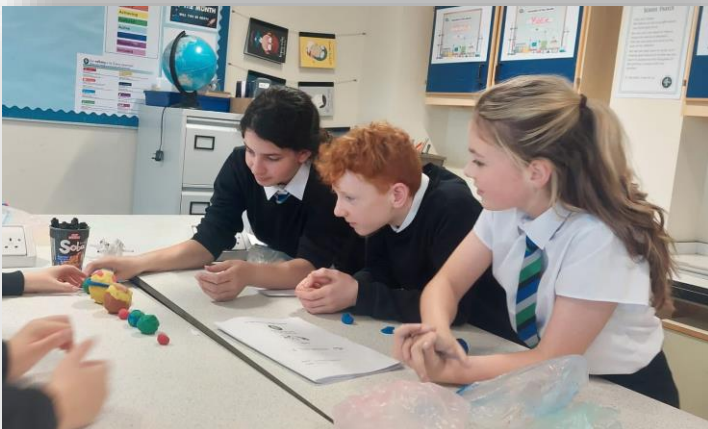
Our Higher pupils enjoyed a great PCR workshop at University of Glasgow.

This workshop delivers a hand on experience into a key biological technique for the health care industry.





Our BGE Science pupils regularly use digital tools in their learning and also complete many practical experiments to further their understanding and improve key scientific skills.

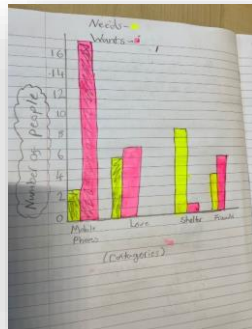




Our S3 Modern Studies pupils attended First Minister's Questions at the Scottish Parliament.



S1 Modern Studies 'Wants and Needs' lesson. Pupils collected their own primary data and used this to present their findings.



S4 Geography Field Trip to Loch Lomond (Lomond Shores and Luss).

Pupils did a river study and tourism surveys to collect data for their assignment. Thanks to Loch Lomond Education Services.





Our pupils manufacture their projects in the workshop they also create their projects on a 3D Modelling software called Autodesk Inventor.

As you can see from the pictures, this was a great success!







# Attendance and Timekeeping

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

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



## Pupil Reports and Target Setting

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

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

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

The school calendar on the website highlights the dates on which they are issued.

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

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



# *We are a nut-free school!*

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.







# St. Benedict's Website and Twitter

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



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





# Dates for your diary:

| Event                         | Status                      | Date                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Start of Second Term          | Schools open                | Monday 8 January 2024      |
| Mid-term holidays             | Schools closed              | Monday 12 February 2024    |
| Mid-term holidays             | Schools closed              | Tuesday 13 February 2024   |
| In-service day                | Schools open for staff only | Wednesday 14 February 2024 |
| Second half of term           | Schools open                | Thursday 15 February 2024  |
| Easter holidays               | Schools closed              | Friday 29 March 2024       |
| Easter holidays               | Schools closed              | Monday 1 April 2024        |
| Easter holidays               | Schools closed              | Tuesday 2 April 2024       |
| Easter holidays               | Schools closed              | Wednesday 3 April 2024     |
| Easter holidays               | Schools closed              | Thursday 4 April 2024      |
| Easter holidays               | Schools closed              | Friday 5 April 2024        |
| Easter holidays               | Schools closed              | Monday 8 April 2024        |
| Easter holidays               | Schools closed              | Tuesday 9 April 2024       |
| Easter holidays               | Schools closed              | Wednesday 10 April 2024    |
| Easter holidays               | Schools closed              | Thursday 11 April 2024     |
| Easter holidays               | Schools closed              | Friday 12 April 2024       |
| Third Term                    | Schools open                | Monday 15 April 2024       |
| Election day / In-service day | Schools open for staff only | Thursday 2 May 2024        |
| Normal school day             | Schools open                | Friday 3 May 2024          |
| May Day                       | Schools closed              | Monday 6 May 2024          |
| Normal school day             | Schools open                | Tuesday 7 May 2024         |
| Local holiday                 | Schools closed              | Friday 24 May 2024         |
| Local holiday                 | Schools closed              | Monday 27 May 2024         |
| Normal school day             | Schools open                | Tuesday 28 May 2024        |
| Summer holidays               | Schools closed              | Friday 28 June 2024        |





# Feedback

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

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

Pupil's name:

Year group:

Comment:

Signature of parent/carer:

Name of parent/carer (please print):