



# St Benedict's Newsletter



Issue No 1

Date Friday 16 September 2016



**WELCOME BACK** The new term has got off to a wonderful start and we look forward to another exciting year. We extended a warm greeting to our new Year 7 students who have survived a demanding two weeks acquainting themselves with new friends, new rooms and a whole new way of school life. We have prayed too for the new students who have joined us in other year groups, that they will soon feel part of a happy extended family.

It has been a busy two weeks in the Sixth Form, with our Year 12 students re-grouping after a long summer holiday and Year 13 getting to grips with their studies and starting to think about life after St Benedict's. The Sixth Form has introduced 'vertical tutoring' this year and to help our students get to know each other, they have taken part in rounders, football and netball matches and also speed dating where they had to talk to each other on a variety of subjects!

**GCSE RESULTS** Our results were once again very impressive with virtually all students achieving the results they needed to gain places to pursue their post 16 studies or work-based training.

*86% of our students achieved A\*-C grades in English*

*74% achieved A\*-C in Maths*

*71% achieved A\*-C grades including English and Maths*

*English Baccalaureate results are 35%.*

Such achievements reflect the high expectations we have of our students, the quality of teaching of our staff, the support and leadership of the governing body and, last but certainly not least, the endeavours of our students.

These results complement our recent excellent Sixth Form International Baccalaureate results, where the average point score was the equivalent of three A\* at A- Level. We celebrate the success of all our students. All success is relative and all students' achievements should never be underestimated.

Mr Gibson said *'We are thrilled with another strong set of GCSE results and our students and staff should feel very proud'*.



**LEADING STUDENTS** St Benedict's is proud to announce that Head Boy Freddie Burn and Head Girl Joselin Joseph in Year 13 are to be joined by Deputies Frazer Forbes and Royan Laight following an election by their Year 11 peers at the end of the summer term.

The combination of Year 13 and Year 11 students is a new but exciting development for St Benedict's and represents just how interdependent the main school and Sixth Form are. This strong team of individuals have been heartily endorsed by staff at the school. We wish them well with their first public speaking at the Open Evening on 21 September.

**YEAR 13 AWARDS EVENING** Following on from our excellent results during the summer, the Sixth Form paid tribute to our former Year 13 students at a special ceremony last week. Mr Sara returned to present the IB and BTEC certificates and delivered a touching remark about each individual; the character they brought to the school and what they have achieved personally. This year for the first time we also presented Teacher's Awards in recognition of students who have gone over above in their subjects. To date over 90% of our students will be heading off to their first choice of university, with 2 students receiving unconditional offers.





**SISTERS** Eleana (11B), Lilya (10D) and Elodie (7M) Turner Hurd have been incredibly busy in recent weeks! Last weekend, the talented girls played with Simon Kemp and the Stratford Festival Orchestra and choirs, with Gordon Hendricks as Elvis, at Stratford Arts House. Please take a look at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bgOXarho7E> Elodie is front right on saxophone, Lilya is far left on clarinet and



Eleana plays a short but wonderful solo.

At the end of the summer holidays, Eleana, Lilya and Elodie had the pleasure of playing with Scottish classical violinist Nicola Benedetti MBE (pictured left).

## HOUSEKEEPING

**PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION** It is the responsibility of a parent or carer to ensure that we have the necessary prescribed medication in school for your son or daughter. Please make sure that any items including epi-pens are within their expiry date

**LABELLING OF UNIFORM** Please may we remind parents to label each and every item of school uniform and PE kit. Initials and first names are inadequate, so is ink that disappears in the wash! Please help us minimise the upset and expense associated with 'lost property'.

**PUPIL DATA COLLECTION** The school has issued a copy of our existing record to each pupil to take home. Any recent changes to address, email & telephone contacts, plus medical details need to be noted. Can we politely request all parents that these forms must be signed and returned immediately, to confirm that details are still valid.

**YEAR 7 DOCUMENTS** If any contact details have changed since March, please inform the school office. Year 7 parents are also required to sign and return the **HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT**.

**PHOTO CONSENT FORMS** Please return all outstanding parental consents for photographs and video. All students must have signed consent for photos to be taken and potentially used on our newsletter, website and publicity material. If you signed this form last term, you need not repeat.

**SCHOOL DROP-OFF AND COLLECTIONS** Please avoid entering the school car park for the purpose of dropping or collecting your son or daughter at the beginning and end of the day. Only school buses are permitted at these times. Instead, please consider parking away from the school property and asking your child to walk a short distance to meet you. The Grieg Hall may also object to you using their car park at busy times. Thank you for your cooperation

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 21 September	Open Evening for Prospective Year 7 students 6pm -8:30pm
Friday 23 September	Year 7 Alcester Maths Trail
Monday 26 September	Year 7 and 12 Tutor and Parent's Meeting 5:15 – 7:15pm
Monday 3 October	Year 8 and 9 Parent's meeting about new grading systems 6:00 – 6:30pm
Tuesday 4 October	Year 9 vaccinations Harvest Mass 5pm

### USEFUL CONTACTS

Telephone: **01789 762888** Fax: **01789 400192**  
Emails: **[admin@st-benedicts.org](mailto:admin@st-benedicts.org)** **[pta@st-benedicts.org](mailto:pta@st-benedicts.org)**  
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