



# St Benedict's Newsletter



**Issue No 10**

**Date Friday 16 February 2018**



**MODEL STUDENT** Congratulations to model maker Finley Hawkins, in Year 9, who has won the Alu D&T Challenge 2017 for his sustainable aluminium garden building. 12 designs were entered into this national competition, two made it through to the final and Finley was announced as the overall winner last week.

Product design teacher, Mrs McDermott, will join Finley and his parents at the Birmingham 'Thinktank' in March for a special presentation in front of dignitaries from the aluminium industry. He receives a robotics kit and drone for our school, plus £100 Amazon voucher and 3Doodler pen for himself. The judges were very impressed with his entry, which they felt had been very well-researched and met the briefs with creativity and imagination; combined with a clear appreciation of the contribution that aluminium could make to the sustainability of his design.



**LENT** This week we celebrated Mass to mark the first day of Lent, which is known as Ash Wednesday. Lent is the period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to Easter, the most important festival in the Church calendar. Lent always starts on Ash Wednesday and climaxes during Easter Week. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week.

During the 40 days of Lent, we remember the time when Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God.

Over the next half term at St Benedict's, we will be responding to our call to fast, give and pray. During Lent, each house will be raising awareness and funds for their chosen house charities (right). During Advent, we raised just over £1000 for our charities! Thank you to students, parents and staff for all of your support in reaching out to those in need.



**WELL DONE** to all who took part in Alcester Town's Annual Pancake Race, despite the rain, we had a lot of fun! Year 13 student, Kate Delany ran for her 17th year, winning the women's race. Year 7 1st place went to Carrigan Benton, 2nd place Nathan Warren, and 3rd place Grace Murphy!

**YOUTH SPEAKS COMPETITION** . On Monday 12 February, six Year 11 students went to Alcester Grammar to compete in the Alcester Alauna Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition. Patrick King, Joseph Armfield and Matthew Trevor spoke eloquently and in depth about the new changes to the GCSE specifications, while Lilya Turner-Hurd, Ellen Rafferty and Brooke Morgan argued that gender is not an attribute assigned at birth. Both teams competed brilliantly and made us very proud. Congratulations to them all!

**WHAT IS ART?** Year 12 IB students were given a full day's worth on the TOK (Theory of Knowledge) trip to Birmingham. They encountered art in many forms and in different environments, from the classical galleries of BMAG to the contemporary exhibition in the Gas Hall and the new installation at IKON exploring the environment of the therapeutic prison, HMS Grendon. The lecture tours challenged students to think about the different kinds of knowledge involved in responding to art and to ask the big questions: 'what counts as art and who decides this?', 'what use is art?' and 'what is the role of the artist?' An excellent day, that will no doubt lead to further critical reflection in the students' forthcoming essays.



**ART** The date for the Year 9 G&T trip has changed from 7 March to Wednesday 28 March. More details to follow

Pictured right - Year 7 Art Autumn Term, 'Natural Forms' drawings inspired by the artist Georgia O'Keeffe.

**Reminder: GCSE Art coursework deadline date Tuesday 27 February.**





**STUDENTS ISABEL THOMPSON 7D & AMIE CULLEN 8B** performed earlier this month at the Palace Theatre in Redditch. They starred in the Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk from 1-3 Feb with Starlight School of Dance. The cast also included Trolls, Cows, Aliens and the Men in Black.....oh yes it did. Fabulous!"

**GEORGE TIMLIN** We would like to remember George Timlin who passed away last week following a short battle with cancer. George worked for the Integrated Disability Autism Team in the past and more recently as an Autism Specialist Teacher with S.E.N.D Supported. George offered St Benedict's students, parents and staff an enormous amount of expertise and support during the 15+ years he worked with us. What always shone through was that he really cared. He always went above and beyond to help us all. George was a real character who made us laugh and was able to reach all our students by finding out what made them tick. He would tap into their interest to open a gateway in and most of all they trusted him, he listened to them.

There is a book of condolences in our chapel should you wish to write in it. George's funeral takes place on Thursday 8 March at 10am at St Mary's Church, Old Square, Warwick. The family welcome anyone who wishes to attend.

**FAREWELL** to Lin Blundell who is leaving St Benedict's this week after 20 years as part of the cleaning staff. Her hard work and long service is very much appreciated.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to former student, Farrell Treacy who has qualified for the 1000m Short-Track Speed Skating Semi-Finals at the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The Semi-Finals will take part on Saturday 17 February 2018. Good Luck, Farrell!



**WARWICKSHIRE POLICE CADET SCHEME** is open to young people, interested in policing, between the ages of 13-16yrs who live within the Warwickshire or West Mercia Police Force area. If any students are interested in the first instance, please contact [robert.williams@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:robert.williams@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk). Alternatively please fill out the application form using this link <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/cadets>. The closing date for applications is 28 February 2018 but the scheme will not start until September 2018.

**CALLING ALL POTENTIAL ENGINEERS IN YEAR 8 AND 9!!** We have been offered 10 places for students to spend a morning at our local Precision Engineering company Seco Tools. Please email Mrs Holmes at [Holmes.j5@st-benedicts.org](mailto:Holmes.j5@st-benedicts.org) by Wednesday 7 March if your son or daughter is interested. Names will be taken out of a hat if we have more than 10 applications.

**YEAR 11 STUDENTS** have all had a careers interview with an appropriate member of staff over the last couple of weeks. Anyone interested in Apprenticeships is invited to come to a talk given by Mrs Holmes on Tuesday 6 March from 5.30-6.30pm. Please email Mrs Holmes using the address above to confirm places.

**REMINDER TO PARENTS** Please can parents not cross the road in front of the school but use the crossing. It is important that we set a good example as it is a busy road, made more dangerous by school buses

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed to our non school uniform today in aid of MIND. We raised a fantastic total of £478.40. This is an amazing fundraising boost for Head of English, Mrs Hursey, who is running the London Marathon in April for the same cause. You can sponsor Mrs Hursey at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/rachel-hursey-marathon>

### **Dates for your Diary**

Monday 19 - Friday 23 February	Half Term Break
Monday 26 February	Inset Day (students not in School)
Thursday 1 March	Year 9 Parents;' Evening and Options Evening
Monday 5 March	PTA Meeting
Monday 5 to Friday 9 March	Year 10 Exams

### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

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