



St Benedict's Newsletter



Issue No 7

Date Friday 15 December 2017



ALTON CASTLE 2017 During the final week of November, 93 students and staff members set off on our annual St Benedict's retreat to Alton Castle. The theme of our residential was 'Who am I', and each day we explored new topics, encouraging us to think about our care for those in need, our example to others, and the kind of person we were born to be. We spent most of our days braving the cold and taking part in outdoor activities like bike riding, trekking, survival and Emmaus walks, as well as indoor activities- climbing, archery, CAFOD world auctions and many more. Our teamwork skills were put to the test when we had to build a parachute to protect our eggs from breaking, using only a few different materials! Two out of six eggs survived being thrown from the first floor balcony! The Alton Castle team are made up of gap year volunteers, who take a year (or sometimes more) out of education to serve the Archdiocese, helping young people to encounter God through different styles of prayer, activities and their example as witnesses of Christ. The highlight of the week for most of us was our celebration Mass which was followed by a talent show. We had singers, dancers, comedians, and a Christmas karaoke sing along!

Thank you to the Year 8 students who were wonderful ambassadors for St Benedict's, and to the staff who led the residential!



STREET STYLE Congratulations to BTEC Dance student Isabel Trinkle, who represented St Benedict's at the Stratford-upon-Avon Victorian Christmas market at the weekend. Like a true professional, she delivered a fabulous performance of her own choreography to the song 'Hallelujah' to a crowd of lucky shoppers - despite the drizzly wet street. Well done Isabel!

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the PTA Calendar Raffle this year, once again it has been a huge success, we will inform you in the New Year where your money is being spent. Daily draws will continue for the rest of December, for details of winners please follow St Benedict's PTA on Facebook. Earlier in the week we sent out details of how you can raise money for the school whilst you do your normal shopping online. For more details please visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stbenedictshigh/>



OH YES THEY ARE! Year 7 Students **SOPHIE HILDRETH** and **OLIVIA FORBES** are all set to 'tread the boards' in Stratford this Christmas. The two budding performers successfully auditioned for the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' earlier in the year and were chosen above many others for their talent. You can catch their performance in all 2pm showings before Christmas and the 6.30pm after Christmas. **AMIE CULLEN** in 8B is in one of the three teams of girls appearing in Snow White at the Palace Theatre in Redditch, from 6 December through until to 31 December. She has been working very hard at rehearsals and had a great first show which was a sell out, tickets still on sale but there are only a few seats left. Good luck girls, **WE'RE ALL... BEHIND YOU!**





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YEAR 12 AND 13 students were blessed with a visit from Ted Hooper last week. Ted, a prison Chaplain, came to give us an insight into the life of a prisoner and his own journey working with prisoners and their families. He talked about the importance of forgiveness and love, and the unity of different faiths in communities. We were also challenged to think about how we perceive prisoners and the statistics of mental health, re-offending, and gender in prisons in England. We were able to ask Ted questions and he spent some time with some of us afterwards, allowing us to have the

opportunity to learn from his experience.

PE KIT REMINDER The following kit list is mandatory for all students

Boys:

- Sports Polo with school badge
- Black shorts with school badge
- Royal Blue football/rugby socks
- Football boots
- Training shoes (inside)
- Shin pads

Girls

- Sports Polo with school badge
- Black skirt with school badge
- Royal blue hockey/football/rugby socks
- Training shoes (inside)
- Training shoes/football boots (outside)

An updated list for clubs will be distributed after Christmas.

MRS HURSEY, Head of English is running her first London Marathon on April 22 2018. Her chosen charity is Mind, the mental health charity if you would like to donate please visit uk.virginmoneygiving.com/rachel-hurse-marathon

LAST DAY OF TERM Just a reminder that the last day of term - Friday 22 December is a half day. School will close at 12.45pm. For more information regarding buses, please see the letter sent out earlier in the week. For a donation of £1, students are able to come in non uniform and we would encourage them to dress in their favourite Christmas jumpers.

PARENTS - PLEASE NOTE A 20 mph speed limit has been enforced on Henley Street and Birmingham Road.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 22 December	End of Term
Monday 8 January 2018	Students return to school
Monday 8 January to Friday 12 January	Year 13 Mock IB Exams
Tuesday 9 January 2018	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.15 - 6.45 pm followed by Elevate Parents' Seminar 6.50 – 7.30 pm in Sixth Form
Monday 19 February - Friday 23 February	February Half Term

USEFUL CONTACTS

Telephone: **01789 762888**
 Emails: admin@st-benedicts.org pta@st-benedicts.org
 Send your news to: newsletter@st-benedicts.org
 School Website: www.st-benedicts.org