

St. Benedict's High School

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025





Welcome from Mr Taylor

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Winter 2025 edition of St. Benedict's News! I am delighted to share with you a compilation of the many activities, successes, and achievements of our young people this session.

It has been a busy but exceptionally positive start to the year, reflecting the incredible dedication and hard work of both pupils and staff.

Some particular highlights include:

Outstanding SCQF qualifications

- Our senior pupils have achieved remarkable success, with our S6 cohort celebrating our best ever Advanced Higher results since the school's establishment in 2006—a true testament to the commitment of both our young people and staff.

Pupil leadership opportunities

- Leadership roles are expanding across all year groups, enabling our pupils to take on greater responsibility and develop valuable skills.

Celebration of achievements

- From school awards ceremonies to newsletters, house assemblies to social media posts, we are delighted to recognise the wide variety of pupil accomplishments, both within and beyond the school.

High standards of uniform

- The pride our pupils take in their appearance continues to enhance our shared sense of belonging and community spirit.

Industry partnerships

- Our growing collaboration with employers is providing exciting opportunities for pupils to engage in meaningful and relevant workplace learning experiences.

Catholic ethos

- Our strong Catholic ethos shines brightly, guiding everything we do and shaping the positive culture of our school.

These highlights, along with many others, are captured in this newsletter.

As always, I welcome your comments, feedback, and any information you would like us to share in future editions.

I hope you enjoy reading!

Alan Taylor

Alan Taylor
Head Teacher





Pupil Leadership Team



Head Girl and Head Boy:
Grace Adams and Sean Colligan



**Deputy Head Boys
and Deputy Head Girls:**
Jamie McGrogan, Krista McSwegan,
Andrew Miller and Anna Campbell



Senior House Captains:
Zach Adams, Oliver Hart, Ethan Hart,
Eve Main, Cerys Devoy, Leona Bos, Orla Durkin and Chibuzo Nwokeabia

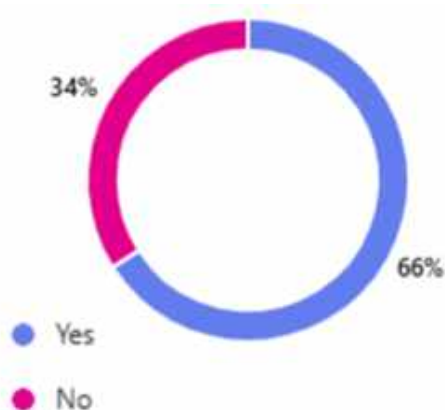


Parent Council

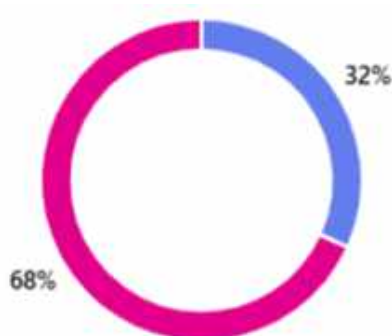
St. Benedict's High School has an active and thriving Parent Council which represents the views of all parents and carers in our school community. We work closely with the school to support its ongoing development and improvement.

This session our main aim is to improve the profile of the Parent Council. Our first action was to issue a survey to parents and carers which we did in November. As you can see from the following charts, we have a little work to do and we shall be working on this over the course of the year taking on board suggestions made in the survey.

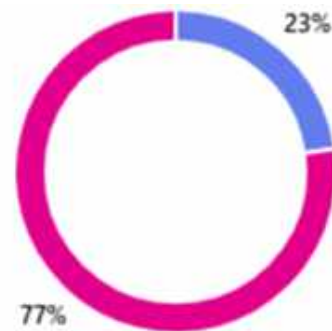
Q2: Are you aware of the role of the Parent Council?



Q3: Are you aware of when meetings are held?



Q4: Do you know how to contact the parent council?



One of our main roles is to help raise funds for the school and this term we held our Christmas raffle raising; We are very grateful to the school staff and to the following businesses and organisations who have supported us;

**Guidos, Elderslie Butchers ,St. Margaret's SVDP,
Tesco, Gowanlea, Roma, Baru and Subway.**

The Parent Council represents and supports parents and carers, and are happy to hear from you. If you would like to contact the Parent Council, you can do so via our email: **stbenparentcouncil@gmail.com**

Our next meeting is on **Monday 2nd February at 6pm.**

Thank you for your continued support,

Jennifer Kane

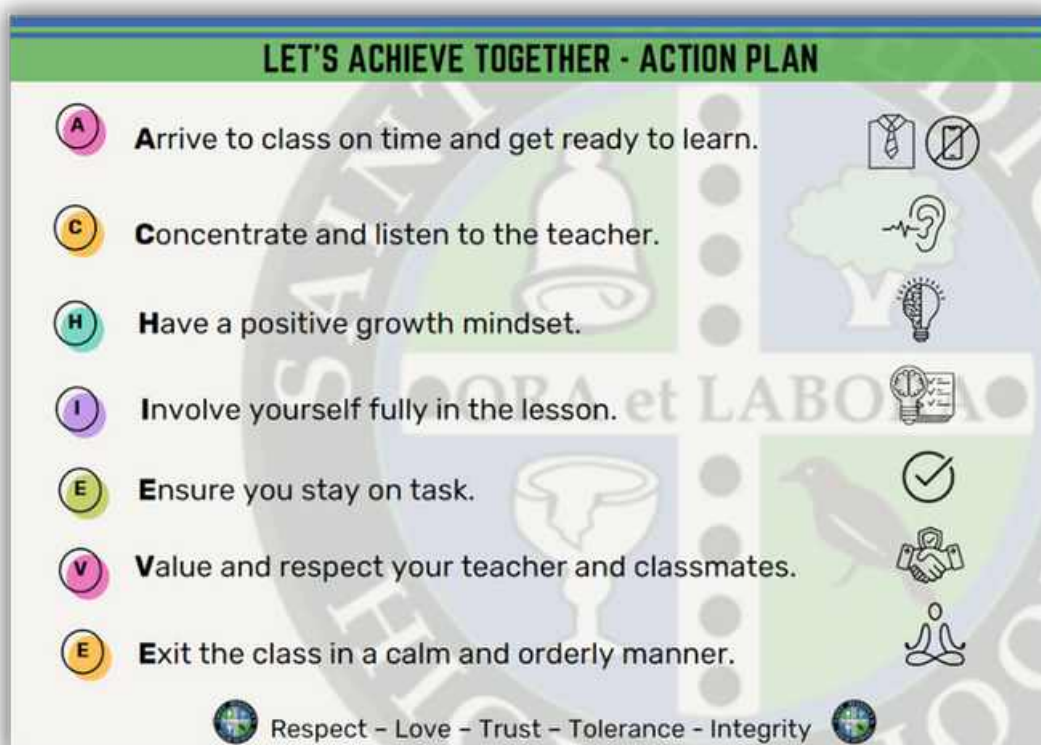
Chair Person

The ACHIEVE system has been very well received by pupils from S1 to S6.

Pupils receive a Merit for each class they attend, giving them a total of 33 Merits each week for meeting the expectations of the LET'S ACHIEVE TOGETHER Action Plan. These are all displayed on Satchel One so that pupils and parents can see their running totals each week.

Additional Merits are now available for pupils who have an improved attitude to their learning or for those who significantly contribute to the school community.

At the end of each term, there is a prize draw where pupils with over 95% of their Merits are entered – this has been so well received by pupils that we've increased the number of prizes this term so that more pupils' hard work and effort will be recognised.



Some of our recent winners!



School Uniform - Dressing for Excellence

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



Over the past five sessions, there have been **significant improvements** in our standard of uniform. An increasing number of pupils are now wearing blazers and I am delighted to report that over 99% of pupils are now wearing all black footwear. **A big thank you to you as parents/carers for supporting this.**

Our main driving force for striving towards 100% of pupils wearing black shoes is to ensure equity for all. No pupil or parent should feel pressured to wear/buy an expensive pair of "converse style" trainers. This was also highlighted by our young people through our pupil voice.



Our improved standards of uniform coincides with our increasing pattern of attainment.

The wearing of school uniform:

- Is invaluable in conveying a sense of community, wellbeing and purpose.
- Indicates a sense of pride in the school and helps pupils to form positive attitudes to the school and their school work.
- Protects children from the harmful effects of social distinction and competitive dressing.
- Promotes the school's identity in their community, with our immediate neighbours, local business and industry.
- Assists staff in the task of supervising pupils and keeping unwelcome visitors out of the school.

The school uniform consists of :

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

Blazer Swap

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



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

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



Google Play (Android) download



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

App Store for iPhone download



<https://tinyurl.com/yb8dyedk>

You can also access help guides and videos as below;

Students:

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

Parents/Carers:

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

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



St. Benedict's - HIGH SCHOOL -



Supporting Attendance

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

Commitment to learning through regular attendance

SCHOOL MATTERS!



ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

How we monitor attendance:



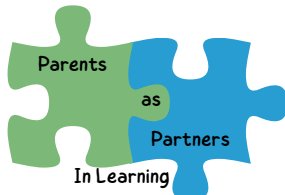
Attending school everyday helps to:

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

We aim to support good attendance by:

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

Parents as partners:



You can support your child by:

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

Support provided:



We are always here to help.

The following supports are available:

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

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

PUNCTUALITY - EVERY MINUTE MATTERS



5 minutes late per day
= 3 school days



10 minutes late per day
= 6.5 school days



15 minutes late per day
= 10 school days



20 minutes late per day
= 13 school days



25 minutes late per day
= 19 school days

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



Reporting a Child's Absence via Parent Portal App

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

1 In the Services tab...

2 Tap Absences

3 Select the absent child

This is where you can see any past Absences.

4 Tap Report Absence

(Not shown if only 1 child linked)

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

5 Select the Dates of the Absence

6 Select the Reason for the Absence

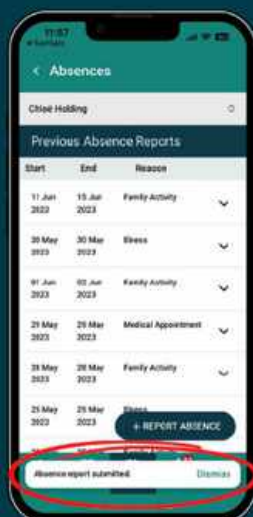
7 Add a Note to explain the Absence

8 Hit Submit

we're taking Chloe out of school that week for a special family activity.

A notification appears confirming the report was submitted

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





Reporting a Child's Absence via Parent Portal Website

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

1 Select the absent child

2 Tap Absences

Home

Your services

Absences

ALISS

Your children

Linda Marks

Sudbury Primary School

3 Click Report an Absence

Absences

Recorded Absences for Linda Marks

Report an Absence

Show 10 entries Search

Aug 2025

Absence Date	No. of Days	Details
From: 07-Aug-2025 To: 07-Aug-2025	1	Reason: Other Remarks: Linda has an upset stomach Submitted On: 06-Aug-2025 10:46:39

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

01 02 03 04 05 06 07

08 09 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31

4 Select when the absence will be

5 Or use Selected Dates and provide the start date and end date of the absence

parentsportal.scot

Home Help Accessibility / Translate

Report Absences

Report Absence for Linda Marks

Details submitted on this page will be visible to the authorised parent/guardian (if applicable).

☒ Today
☐ Tomorrow
☐ Select Dates

Start date *

06-Aug-2025

End date *

06-Aug-2025

6 Select the reason for the absence

7 Provide as much detail as you can for the absence reason

8 Submit

Reason *

Medical Appointment

Notes *

Provide full details of absence.
E.g., Attending doctor's appointment, will collect at 12pm and return at 1pm.

I will be picking Linda up at 10.30 am for a doctors appointment and will bring her back at 12pm

Hit Submit Cancel

Reason *

Medical Appointment

Other

9 The absence has been sent to the school

You can now see the absence on the home screen of the absence service

Recorded Absences for Linda Marks

Report an Absence

Show 10 entries Search

Aug 2025

Absence Date	No. of Days	Details
From: 07-Aug-2025 To: 07-Aug-2025	1	Reason: Medical Appointment Remarks: I will be picking Linda up at 10.30 am for a doctors appointment and will bring her back at 12pm Submitted On: 06-Aug-2025 10:53:50
From: 05-Aug-2025 To: 05-Aug-2025	1	Reason: Illness Remarks: Linda has an upset stomach Submitted On: 05-Aug-2025 10:46:39

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

01 02 03 04 05 06 07

08 09 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31



Rights Respecting School

Our Journey to a Silver Rights Respecting School

We are thrilled to share the exciting progress our school is making toward achieving the prestigious Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award from UNICEF UK.

Following our success in earning the Bronze Award in 2023, our dedicated Young Leaders of Learning (YLL) steering group will be working hard to lead the next phase of this vital journey. The aim will be to embed the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) across every part of school life.

A key part of this work is underpinning our school values: Love, Respect, Tolerance, Integrity and Trust, with specific articles from the UNCRC. This ensures that our values are not just words but are actively lived as fundamental human rights.

Upcoming Events:

- Human Rights Day with SE lessons dedicated to the UNCRC and Social Subjects 'Finding your Rights' Scavenger Hunt, prizes and house points to be won.
- Next Term Plans: The YLL are already planning engaging activities for the new term, focusing on Charity work, Our School Charter, staff CLPL, Right of the Month and year group assemblies.

Together, we are ensuring St Benedict's is a place where every child's rights are known, understood, and respected!



Scotland Visit

In March this year we were delighted to welcome a group from our Partner school, St Patrick's in Malawi. They experienced Scottish culture by visiting Loch Lomond, Edinburgh Castle and the Scottish Parliament.

The Partnership Service to mark the end of their visit was truly uplifting and testament to our enduring mutual appreciation and friendship



Christmas Parcels

Thanks to all who donated items for the Christmas parcels which have been posted to St Patrick's.

Each boy receives a pair of socks, pen, pencil, toothbrush, candy cane, Christmas card and a letter from a St Benedict's pupil.

The boys are so grateful to the donors and look forward every year to receiving their parcel. For many of the boys it is the only Christmas present they receive.



Malawi Visit



Congratulations to Emily Adams, Marley Biernacki, Chantelle Duffy, Olive Kilpatrick, Erin McFadden, Fallon McIlhinney, Lilian McLeod and Ben Sheridan who have been selected to visit St Patrick's in June 2026 with Miss McFadden and Fr. Michael. They are already very excited to experience Malawian life and culture first-hand.

"With the Partnership being relaunched last year I feel it is important and beneficial to St Benedict's to support and nurture the young people with these visits."

Chantelle



"I would like to get to know the boys better and experience how they live their daily lives and how different it is to ours."

Emily

"I believe the pupils going to Malawi will return with a sense of empathy and appreciation which will spread through the whole school."

Fallon



"I want to show the boys our Scottish culture and give them an insight into Scottish life."

Ben



Sleep Ambassadors

Sleep Ambassadors - University of Glasgow

This term, we were thrilled to welcome Catriona Ewart, a PhD student from the University of Glasgow, who shared her expertise on adolescent sleep. Her fascinating research explores how to promote healthy sleep habits among young people and develop strategies that truly make a difference.

Catriona delivered an inspiring training session on Adolescent Sleep Health to a group of enthusiastic S6 volunteers. These pupils are now our very own Sleep Ambassadors, ready to bring their knowledge and energy to S1 and S2 SE lessons in the new year! The session reminded us all just how vital sleep is for success, wellbeing, and thriving at school.



A huge thank you to Catriona for her time and passion, and to our amazing S6 pupils for stepping up to lead this exciting initiative!



This year, we were delighted to introduce our **Success for All** programme, a six-week intervention delivered by the local charity, Renfrewshire Buddies.



Throughout the programme, our young people have taken part in a range of activities designed to promote teamwork, build self-confidence, and develop essential life skills. They even had the chance to achieve an SVQ Dynamic Youth Award!

The initiative has been an outstanding success, with participants gaining so much from the experience. Here's a glimpse of what's been happening...

Fundraising

Our S3 cohort did a fantastic job organising a staff coffee morning and raffle, raising an impressive £158.63 for the St Vincent de Paul charity. Well done to everyone involved!



Crafting

S1 and S2 Lunchtime Craft Club was a great success.



Conservation

Partnering with Eadha Enterprises, S1 pupils worked very hard to plant 200 native trees at beautiful Wraes Wood.



Raising Money for the Toy Bank

Our girls also held a fantastic cake sale raising £85.43 to go towards a local toy bank drive in time for Christmas!





Snow Ball 2025

Our senior pupils had a wonderful time celebrating at this year's Snow Ball! The evening sparkled with joy, laughter, and festive cheer. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this magical event possible - your hard work and creativity truly brought the season to life!



Our St Benedict's community has once again demonstrated incredible generosity, donating over £100 and more than 70 bags to this year's **Glasgow Times' Bank.On.Us** appeal.



This outstanding effort continues our proud tradition of supporting local foodbanks at Christmas and reflects the spirit of kindness and solidarity that defines our school. A heartfelt thank you to every pupil, family, and staff member who helped make a real difference to those most in need this festive season.



Christmas Concert

What a joyful evening! Our Christmas Concert filled the Street with music, laughter, and the true spirit of the season. From carols sung with heart to performances that sparkled with talent, our pupils and staff created a night to remember. Thank you to everyone who joined us!





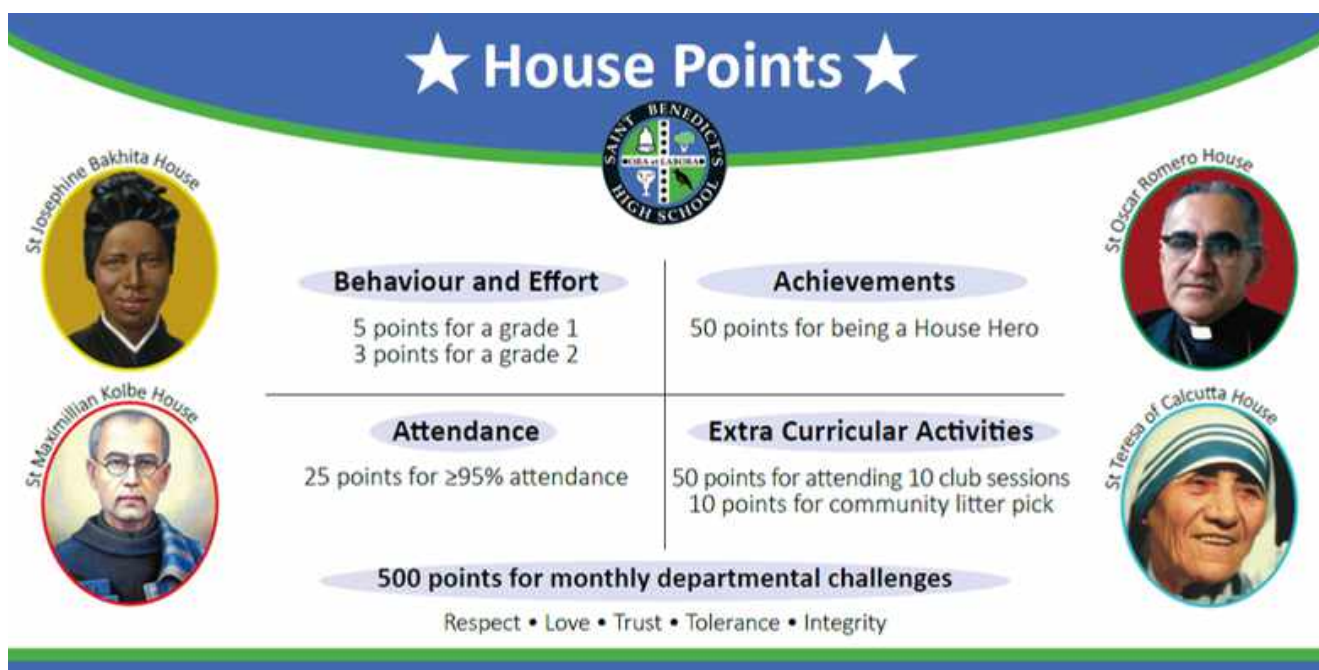
Strictly Come Dancing

Our Sixth Year pupils brought glitz and glamour to St Benedict's with their very own Strictly Come Dancing charity event! Compared by our very own Zach and Connor, pupils and staff took to the dance floor, dazzling the audience with incredible routines as they competed for the coveted Glitter Ball trophy. A huge well done to all our brave dancers and organisers for creating such a fun-filled evening in support of a great cause with over £600 raised! Congratulations to our winners, Tilly and Amy!



Our House System is now well established, encouraging young people to participate in and take on a variety of leadership roles.

Pupils and staff can achieve house points as detailed below.



Month	Subject/Faculty
September	Maths
October	Social Subjects
November	Modern Languages
December	Art and Music
January	Computing/Business/Admin
February	Home Economics
March	Science
April	Technical
May	English
June	P.E./R.E.

Each faculty will have a month where they will run an event within their department and award points to pupils at their end of the month departmental meeting.



News from St. Maximilian Kolbe's House

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

Dear pupils, families and colleagues, as we come to the close of another busy term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've shared and to extend my warmest Christmas wishes.

This time of year, gives us a chance to pause, reconnect, and celebrate the small acts of kindness that make our school community so special.



House Captains

Well done to our Junior and Senior House Captains for volunteering themselves for such an important role within the school this year. Representing our house group as House Captain is a fantastic leadership opportunity and we thank you all for your contributions this term!

Senior House Captains



Orla
Durkin



Chibuzo
Nwokeabia

Junior House Captains



India
Rai



Ciaran
Jones

Celebrating Attendance!

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

S1 - Abigail Crawford, Lena Czekanska, Daniel Docherty,
Abraham Etinosa, Parker Stevenson and Ruby Whyte

S2 - Deborah Afolayan, Treasure Akande, Rosie Costello,
Shannon Kidd and Maksym Pleskov

S3 - Daniel Durkin, Corey Jamieson, India Rai and Hayden Mackay

S4 - Harry Mackay and Emmanuel Okungbowa

S5 - Matthew Broadhurst and Sean Doherty

S6 - David Ferris, Mia Kidd, Jamie McGrogan, Ryan McKay
and Ava McNish



HOUSE HEROES

Joseph McEnroe
and
Cara Archibald



Our House Heroes have been chosen for exemplifying the school values - well done!

WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

S1 - Eva Flanagan

Thank you for the music! Well done to Eva Flanagan who performed at the St Fillan's Fair Trade coffee morning.



S1 - David Savage

In September this year, David represented Celtic at an International Tournament in Tilburg, in the Netherlands. We are so proud of David and his dedication to his sport and the way he conducts himself in his football with his peers and coaches. Amazing, David!!

S2 - Freya Copland Harper

Well done to Freya and her younger brother Ruairidh who were this year's poster people for Paisley Halloween Festival. Currently in Mill magazine and will be advertised on billboards and places in and around Renfrewshire. Star quality!

Freya also took part in a selection weekend and successfully gained one of only fifty places for all of the West of Scotland Region of Scouts to go on a trip to Peru in July 2027 to carry out three projects!



S2 - Farrah Lindsay

Farrah travelled to Belfast to compete in the Emerald Isle Highland Dancing Championships and won her first championship title there. Congratulations, Farrah!

S5 - Bruce Edgar

Well done to Bruce who designed and built a shed for his family's back ground. Great work!



S1 - Alliah Niro

Alliah has been selected to represent the Scotland National Team (SportCheer Scotland) in the Youth Pom division. She will compete against other countries from around the world, such as Japan, Mexico and Greece. She will compete at the ESPN wide world of sport in Orlando, Florida in April 2026.

Good Luck, Alliah!



S1 - Lorelai-Alice Bird

Well done to Lorelai who auditioned for a local drama club and got a part in the Christmas Show. Well done!



S2 - Daniel Ribeiro

Professor Chang Ung
Taekwondo Championships
Flying High Kick - gold medal
Sparring - silver medal



S3 - Hayden Mackay and S4 - Harry Mackay

Congratulations to Hayden and Harry who play in the Renfrewshire Schools Concert Band. They won gold at the Scottish Concert Band Festival. Next, they will move into the final which will take place in Perth in March. Well done!

Both boys also participated in Renfrewshire Christmas Concert in December, held in Paisley Abbey. Harry played piano and Hayden played the cornet in the jazz band performance and then later in the evening Harry played percussion and Hayden again on cornet for the concert band performance. Fantastic musical skills for the boys!

Going for Gold

St Maximilian Kolbe House Group has won the House Group Award for two years in a row and this year we are going for a hat-trick! Pupils gain house group points for excellent tracking, extra-curricular clubs and any outstanding achievements out with school.



Pupils should be reminded to alert me to any achievements so I can ensure to congratulate and award appropriate house points!

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

As we head into the Christmas break, I hope you all find time to rest and recharge. Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. Wishing all our young people and their families a lovely start to the year!



Warm wishes,

Mrs Glen





News from St. Teresa's House

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

Dear pupils, families and colleagues,

I am honoured to write to you all to share some of the wonderful achievements of young people. I have been delighted with the progress made by so many of our pupils this term, many overcoming personal barriers and achieving personal challenges and targets. Our S1s have settled in well and are shaping up to be a cracking year group also!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas and thank all pupils for their hard work and parents and carers for your ongoing support.

Thanks,

Mrs Doyle



House Captains - A big thank you!

Well done to our Junior and Senior House Captains for volunteering themselves for such an important role within the school this year. Representing our house group as House Captain is a fantastic leadership opportunity and we thank you all for your contributions this year!



Senior Captains:

Ethan Hart and Leona Bos



Junior Captains:

Olivia Regan and Lewis Crawford

Celebrating Attendance!

**Well done to the following pupils
with a fantastic 100% attendance this term:**

Aidan BaracsKay

Jeshof Jenith

Joseph Smith

Nieve Brown

Lucas Leckie

Nathan Spencer

Duncan Fraser Lennie

Thanatip Meesat

Jakub Swistak

Faizaan Iqbal

Jamie Robinson Ferguson

HOUSE HEROES

A special congratulations to our amazing S1 House Heroes – Annalise Wood, Lucy Shannon, and Chisom Ononye! Each of you has made an outstanding start to the year. Your dedication and consistent hard work have not gone unnoticed – well done!



WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

The following pupils have been recognised for their outstanding achievements outwith school, showcasing incredible talent, dedication, and success in their respective fields:



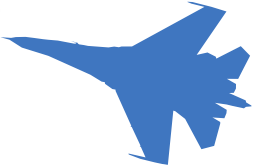
Nieve Brown

Passing her theory driving test 1st time!



Niamh Evans

Contribution to Kilbarchan Athletics



Jeshof Jenith

Participation of 2175 Rolls-Royce Squadron RAF Air Cadets training



Olivia Regan

Scholarship with BATD for tap and passing all her dancing exams with distinction.



Isla Evans

Contribution and commitment to Linwood Rangers and Solid Rock!

Caoimhe Elliot

Contribution to Scottish Ballet and showing great resilience to overcome personal challenges.



Katie Moynihan

Our ongoing Irish Dancing Champion!



Lucas O'Donnell

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award



Thomas Colquhoun

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award

**LET'S
CELEBRATE**

Please share your wider achievements to allow us to recognise and celebrate in your success!

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

Dear pupils, families and colleagues,

As we reach the end of another wonderfully busy term, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the journey we've shared and to send you all my warmest Christmas wishes.

This special time of year invites us to slow down, reconnect, and appreciate the small acts of kindness that make our school community shine so brightly.

House Captains

A heartfelt well done to our Junior and Senior House Captains for stepping forward to take on such an important role within the school this year.

Representing your house is a fantastic leadership opportunity, and we are truly grateful for the enthusiasm, commitment and festive spirit you have brought to the role this term

Congratulations to this year's House Captains for St. Oscar Romero House!



Senior Captains:

Anna Campbell and Zach Adams



Junior Captains:

Leon McCaffrey
and Mia Warner

WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

The following pupils have been recognised for their outstanding achievements outwith school, showcasing incredible talent, dedication, and success in their respective fields:

NEWS

Catherine Morier

Catherine continues to support Johnstone Burgh, leading interviews with the manager, working in the tuck shop and being the face of the club merchandise. She has also been awarded for her volunteering hours.

Arturo Davies

When a P2 child missed their stop on the bus home, Arturo calmed and comforted them before walking them all the way back to their house to make sure they got home safely.

Joey Larkin

Joey has completed and received his certificate for 50 hours of volunteering with Johnstone Burgh Football Club, helping on match days, Tuesday night games and grub nights. He has shown great dedication and responsibility in his role.

Jessica Walters

Jessica has recently won Coaches' Player of the Year for her Under-14s football team, St Conval's. She has also been selected to join the pathway to Scotland Women's Rugby out of 200 applicants. Jessica has just been selected to play rugby for Scotland. Amazing Jessica, well done!

Keira Hutchison

In her first ever competition in modern stage and song and dance, Keira placed 1st and 2nd. She also won overall in Highland at a recent competition in Edinburgh.

Maksym Barbakar

Maksym continues to box, having started in Ukraine and continuing in Scotland. He has been playing football for a year and really enjoys it, taking part in tournaments.

Lacey Stone

Lacey goes to the gym at the Hub in Johnstone and loves attending Army Cadets.


Patrick Burns

Patrick has achieved the 100-hour Saltire Award for volunteering.




Mariya Javed


Mariya has been chosen as a finalist in the BBC Scotland Make a Difference Awards (Young Hero) for her positive community impact and exceptional charity work. She recently received a "Highly Commended" award in the Young Hero category at the BBC Radio Scotland Make a Difference Awards for her continued charity work that benefits her community.



Mariya, along with **Brodie McLean** (S6) and **David Ferris** (S6), represented St Benedict's and the Renfrewshire Schools Symphonic Wind Band at the Scottish Concert Band regional finals on 30/11/25. They won a Gold Plus Award and will represent the school and county at the national finals in Perth in March 2026.



Noah McSkimming



Noah is playing the lead role of Emmett Forrest in Legally Blonde with Johnstone Phoenix and also appears with Jack Kelly in Newsies at the Pace Fest.

Skyla Niro

Skyla has been selected to represent the Scotland National Team (SportCheer Scotland) in the Youth Pom division. She will compete against teams from around the world, including Japan, Mexico and Greece, and will take part in the ESPN Wide World of Sports event in Orlando, Florida in April 2026.



Sophie Hamilton

Sophie has been playing football for a few years and has signed for Athena Glasgow Girls Academy.

Monty Anderson

Monty swims with North Ayrshire Swim Team. At his last two meets, he has smashed his PBs in all strokes, including major time drops in his 100m IM, 50m Fly, 100m Breaststroke and 50m Backstroke. A super achievement!




Rosie Kane

Rosie has progressed into the Kilbarchan Pipe Band's 4B competition band and has participated in her first two competitions and achieved her yellow belt in Taekwondo.



Zoe Bell

Zoe won overall winner in the Intermediate category of Highland Dancing at the Renfrewshire Annual Competition



Celebrating Attendance!

Well done to the pupils below who have achieved 100% Attendance. This has been remarkable considering the high level of flu cases reported.

100% Attendance:

Katie McKay
Brandon Michael
Oghomwen Osifo
Steven Doherty
Iyobossa Osifo
Shea Roulston

Testimony Taiwo
Josh Mooney
Trinity Rhappoozzoh
Amber Moodey
Mirren Shaw
Olive Kilpatrick

Alex Kerr
Frank H.
Craig Campbell
Abbie Anderson
Ebony Brogan

HOUSE HEROES

Joey Larkin
and
Catherine Morier



St Oscar Romero young people have been outstanding and are determined to win this year and based on their fabulous achievements inside and outside of school I can't see why they don't deserve it.

Pupils gain house group points for excellent tracking, extra-curricular clubs and any outstanding achievements outwith school. Pupils should be reminded to alert me to any achievements so I can ensure to congratulate and award appropriate house points!

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas!

Mrs Monica McLaughlin





News from St. Josephine Bakhita's House

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

Well done to all in St Josephine Bakhita House for your outstanding efforts this year. We successfully celebrated our House Assembly before Christmas 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! To all pupils, parents and partners Merry Christmas!



Mrs Kearns.

Meet the **Senior House Captains** for Bakhita, Cerys and Oliver. Cerys and Oliver have supported the pupils in 1.4 in their transition to high school. Oliver is planning to study Economics and Cerys hopes to go on and study Creative Writing.

Kristian and Jorgie have been appointed as our **Junior House Captains** and will proudly help lead St Josephine Bakhita House, supporting and motivating their fellow pupils.



Senior House Captains
Cerys and Oliver



Junior House Captains
Kristian and Jorgie

Great Attendance 95% and over

- 1.4** Zak, Jamie, Niamh, Lucy, Kayla, Sophie, Casey, Samuel, Bailey, Grayson, Ellie, Connor and Isla
- 2.4** Craig, Ian, Emma, Nathan, Tyler, Harley, Hayley, Wisdom, Chinemerem, Lynette and Christabelle
- 3.4** Olivia, Tommy, Rory, Zoe, Matthew, Eason, Thomas, Faith, Charlotte, Erik and Kristian
- 4.4** Ben, Chantelle, Matthew, Monica, Bethany, Cara, Erin, William, Skye, Aadesh and Leia
- 4.5** Charlie, Alexander, Maisie, Eilidh, Alyssa, Jude, Connor, Ambila, Kiara and Hajarat
- 5.4** Zoe, Lily, Ethan, Aimee, Leon, Julia and Grace
- 6.4** Dannii, Brodie, Megan, James, Grace, Josh, Aaron, Piotr and Michelle

HOUSE HERO - SUCCESS AGBONTAEN

Success has participated in a number of events aimed at empowering young women and improving the community. Success will also take the lead in organising our culture celebration day next session.



WIDER ACHIEVEMENT

Zoe Hillman Excelling in dancing

Harley Conlan, Keelan Sloan and Jaydon Wilkie Excelling at 'Clash Royal'

Nakai Kabinara Singing in her church's adult choir

Emma Savage Excelling in gymnastics

Leah Donohoe Acing the left split in dancing

Iain Richardson Key player in S2 boys' football team

Hayley Moorefoot-Billington School Library volunteer

Charlotte Gorrie Excelling in gymnastic competition

Daisy McChesney Working hard to improve Spanish

Matthew Houston Playing a full 6-minute song on guitar

Shaun Ramsay Helping with house redecorating

Tommy Bowman Competing in boxing

Eason Gao Giving an informative presentation in Geography

Jorgie Allison Gained distinction for 4th time in a row in Lamda Acting Exams

Oliver Stan Volunteer coach at Thorn Athletic Football Club every Saturday

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

Zoe Keenan Excelling in dancing

Kenzie Mylrea Represents Scotland & UK at Judo events

Zoe McIntyre Volunteering award

Robyn Gray Volunteering award

Angelica Opalka Volunteering award

Ashleigh Parker Volunteering award

Success Agbontaen Community work



Employability

As ever, our first term of 25-26 has been full to the brim of experiences allowing our young people to dip their toes in to the world of work.

DWF

For our seventh year running, twenty-two students from our S4 cohort were selected to take part in the 5star programme at DWF law firm in Glasgow. They completed three masterclasses which enabled them to write their own CV and application for a post as an admin assistant in a law firm. To this end, they had to attend a “mock” interview panel and we await the results of who has made the cut for some real-life work experience next year.



Career Ready

Building on last year's incredible success, we are delighted to welcome our second cohort of S5 students into the Career Ready Mentorship and Internship Programme. Our six young people have already taken part in a series of exciting events, including Masterclass One at the prestigious City Chambers in Glasgow, the official launch at Celtic Park's Kerrydale Suite—where they met their mentors for the first time—and a triangulation event in school, giving parents and guardians the chance to connect with mentors. Looking ahead to 2026, we are thrilled to be working in partnership with leading organisations such as Altrad Babcock, Renfrewshire Council, City Gate Construction, and Klascare.

STEM

Our double scientists in S3 visited an incredible STEM event at West College Scotland in Clydebank. This gave them a first-class insight into the world of work. Our very own Eilidh even managed to bag herself a £25 Amazon card as the winner of a competition!



SCQF Ambassadors

This session kicked off our plight to become Silver Ambassador status within SCQF framework. We have a phenomenally high level of interest from young people in all year groups who are informing each other, staff and parents about different routes and pathways through and after school.

Watch this space for the results!



Braveheart

Our fourth year of holding Braveheart Challenge, sponsored by the Malcolm Group, for all the entire S3 cohort. We had lot of competitive young people in roles within their teams to win the business challenge. We will continue to Malcolm's heritage centre in the new year to complete the second half of this project in the style of mini careers fair and a mock interview process.



Business Shadowing

Through our strong connections with the Braveheart Challenge and CEO Clare McDonald, we were delighted to introduce inter-authority business shadowing opportunities for our students. Four of our S6 pupils and two from S3 were selected to travel to Kemnay Academy in Aberdeenshire, where they shadowed experienced business advisors and gained valuable insights into the skills required for this career path. It was an incredible experience, and our students truly flourished.



Careers Fair

Our annual Careers Event saw seventeen different organisations participate in leading the way forward for all our S4- S6 students. A great example of connections and employment pathways in our community, and a fantastic way for our young people to use their metaskills in order to find out more information about potential future pathways.

S4 Attainment Seminar

We invited three of our former pupils into the school to talk to the S4 cohort about life after school. All three students have had very different pathways since leaving and shared their experiences of the different routes – university, modern apprenticeships and graduate apprenticeships- that led them to their final destination.



Our first year Career Ready students also took this opportunity to relay to S4 students their experiences of their internship and mentorship through the Career Ready programme and how much confidence this instilled in them.

Daniel Okungbowa

After school I went straight into university, at Glasgow Caledonian University, where I did my undergraduate in International Business with Languages. I graduated in 2023 and did some little jobs here and there before finding my current full-time job.

I am now a Sales Account Manager for a tech company, Dell Technologies. I use so many skills at my job so I will just list a few: time management, customer service and oral communication. At work I speak with customers and IT resellers daily so it is important for me to be able to speak clearly and make sure that I'm understood. I also need to manage my time effectively as I have many business accounts that I deal with and sometimes many customers can have issues or requests at the same time, which can be nerve-wracking!



THEN



NOW

Lara McGarry

I got an unconditional for UWS to for BA Hons Commercial Music. When I left school, I was hoping to be a music teacher.

I started UWS in September 2019, it was amazing and was great to work with so many talented to musicians. I got lots of great opportunities during my time at UWS and I was lucky enough to carry out numerous music workshops in local primary schools. This is what sparked my interest in primary teaching.

After my four years at uni, I got my honours degree and applied for a post-graduate degree in primary teaching. I got an unconditional offer and started this in August 2023.

I graduated in June 2024 and started my probation year in St Fillan's Primary in August 2024.

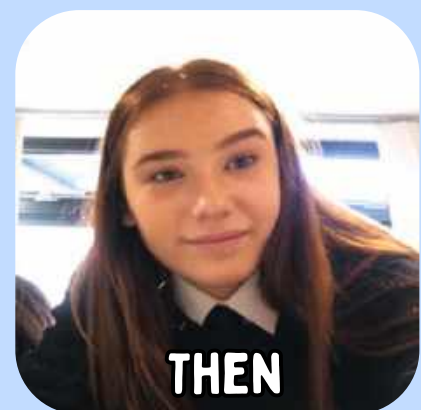
I am now back in St Benedict's working in the Support for Learning Department as the primary specialist. Communication and problem-solving skills are a huge part of my job, and I need to use them daily.



Skye

After I left school, I went to the University of Glasgow to study Spanish. I did a year abroad in my third year of university and taught English in Spain. I graduated in 2024.

I am currently working as a restaurant manager in order to save up some money before moving back to Spain next year. The most important skill I've used is communication - my time at university taught me to how to convey ideas clearly, speak with professionalism and work with all kinds of people - skills I use every day as a manager.



Car Valeting

This initiative continues to go from strength to strength. Our current S4 pupils—last year's car valeting apprentices—are now training and mentoring our S3 Employability cohort, helping them develop the attention to detail that this work demands.

We've welcomed an impressive range of visitors, including the Lord Provost, the Head of Children's Services, TV personality Grado, the Education Manager for DYW, and the Facilities Manager for Soft FM, to name just a few.

Our staff have been fully on board, offering incredible support and encouragement to our young people throughout the year.

We're proud to finish the year with a first-ever all-female valeting team, led and trained by Lily Anne (S3).



Before we break for Christmas, we're thrilled to celebrate the prestigious awards St Benedict's has achieved this year. Our staff and pupils have proudly won four of the top national annual awards:

Car Valeter of the Year 2025 - Jack Loughlin (S4)

Ambassador of the Year 2025 - Joshua O'Neill (S5)

Top performer out of 7,000 participants - Ronan McBrearty (S4)

Leading DYW School Across All Scottish Schools - St Benedict's

These are truly remarkable achievements—well done to everyone involved!



A Huge Thank You to Our Wonderful Young People!

We are delighted to share the fantastic progress made in our Nurture Room this term.

A massive thank you to all the amazing young people who dedicated their time, creativity, and kindness to help design and decorate the space.

Your hard work has transformed the room into a warm, welcoming environment where everyone can feel safe, supported, and valued. We are incredibly proud of the teamwork and talent you've shown!



Attainment Wednesday

We are delighted to share that Attainment Wednesday has been a fantastic success for our pupils. Each week, young people have been making excellent use of this dedicated time to focus on their learning, complete tasks, and work towards achieving their full potential.

Staff have been so impressed by the commitment, effort, and positive attitude shown by those attending. It has been inspiring to see pupils taking ownership of their progress and making real gains in their confidence and attainment.

We would like to encourage all eligible pupils to visit the Support for Learning Department during Attainment Wednesday.



Welcoming a New Member to Our Team!

We are delighted to introduce our Primary Support Specialist, Miss McGarry!

She provides both universal and targeted support for our S1 and S2 pupils. Her role is central in helping us create a positive, inclusive environment where all young people can achieve their full potential.

Miss McGarry will be hosting small, targeted support lessons in the Learning Zone within Support for Learning. These sessions will provide focused, tailored support for pupils who benefit from additional guidance in their learning.



Through structured activities and personalised strategies, Miss McGarry will help young people build confidence, strengthen their skills, and make steady progress in a calm and supportive environment.

Ben the Elf!

Ben joins us as our cheerful festive helper, spreading positivity, encouragement, and a little bit of Christmas magic throughout the school.

Keep an eye out for Ben as he pops up in different areas, including our newly decorated Nurture Room and Learning Zone bringing smiles and helping us celebrate kindness and community spirit!



St Benedict's Achieves Vision Schools for Scotland Level 1 Award

We are thrilled to announce that St Benedict's has been recognised with the prestigious Vision Schools for Scotland Level 1 Award!

This significant achievement highlights our school's commitment to developing and delivering high-quality Holocaust education across the curriculum.

The Vision Schools program, in partnership with the Holocaust Educational Trust, acknowledges schools that embed the principles of responsible citizenship and work to identify and tackle discrimination within society!



This award is a testament to the hard work of our staff with special mention to Mrs Cardle who has gone above and beyond with her commitment to Holocaust education in our school. We all look forward to continuing this vital work!

SUPPORTING HOLOCAUST EDUCATION
VISION SCHOOLS SCOTLAND

St Benedict's High School, Level 1, 2025-2028

Digital Learning - Online Study Resources

Below is a reminder of online study resources which can be used to support your children in their learning and exam preparation. Most students are aware of the wide range of fantastic online resources available to them and are already making use of these as they prepare for their upcoming Prelims in January and for the final SQA exams in May.



E-Sgoil

E-Sgoil offers online supported study.

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



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/user-start/?next=/>



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/>



ClickView

A valuable resource for exam and prelim preparation which is accessible through pupil Glow accounts.

BBC Bitesize

Has a range of study resources across subjects at both National Five and Higher Level.

Bitesize for National 5: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z6gw2hv>

Bitesize for Higher: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zkdqxn timer>



Raising Attainment Seminars for S4 and S5

The annual Raising Attainment Seminar for S4 took place in early November and this week for S5. The morning began with Depute Head, Anna Cairn, delivering an inspiring motivational presentation in which she shared her own experiences of school, work, and university. Students greatly appreciated her input and feedback highlighted that they were inspired to focus on their studies and her presentation allowed them to see the benefits of being resilient and always aspiring to overcome any setbacks in life.



As in previous years students attended a range of workshops designed to teach and support the skills required to achieve their potential in the forthcoming exams. In addition, they enjoyed a variety of sessions which focussed on highlighting well-being strategies to help them to cope with the inevitable stress and pressure they will face during exam time.

We know how important it is to assist our young people in building their confidence, resilience and belief in their own abilities and feedback on the workshops, including study skills, team building and dual coding, highlighted that they were all very positively received.



**EMBRACE
CHALLENGES!**

This session, three St Benedict's students from previous years returned to share details with our S4s of their own journeys since leaving school and offered practical advice on possible pathways, including university and college diplomas. Two current students, Logan Russell and Ava Flanagan, spoke about their own experiences as part of the Career Ready Programme where they worked a full week paid internship in Filshill and Asda, Barrhead.

They told students about the skills they gained as a result of these placements including communication skills and a strong work ethic. Both thoroughly enjoyed their placements and inspired our current S4 to consider engaging with the programme themselves. Ava even managed to secure a part time job too! All presenters were very well received, and it was a pleasure to hear of their successes and see the confidence they have gained as a result of their experiences.



Our S5 students finished their Seminar morning with their choice of Next Step workshops which delivered information and advice on possible routes for the future. Students hoping to move on to university attended a presentation by Clare Glen, PT Pastoral Care, who 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. Our SDS Advisor, Audrey McNab and Matthew Scarff our Home Link, offered detail on exploring different pathways to various careers, highlighting the resources available for support.

Students also learned about the different routes into employment. Students reported that this was a particularly useful part of the day as it allowed them to gain a clearer understanding of where their learning can take them in future.

Senior Phase Mentor Programme

Our Senior Phase Mentor Programme began in November 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.



An extended mentoring programme is also supported by Audrey McNab, our SDS Advisor and Matthew Scarff, our Home Link. They focus on a group of S4 and 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.



BGE Homework Club

Our BGE Homework Club (S1-S3) takes place every Thursday at lunchtime in the PE classroom. This is run by Miss McCahill who works along with 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 ICT.



Satchel:One

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

Any pupils experiencing difficulties with Satchel:One should see Mr McGeough.

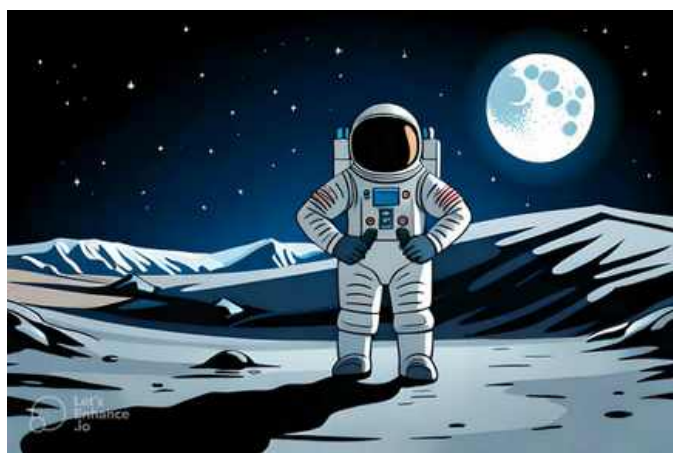
IDL Software

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 25-26 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



Primary 6 and 7 Transition Programme

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

Paired Reading

Our S1-S6 Paired Reading Programme has been a fantastic success so far this term, bringing together senior and junior pupils to foster a love of reading. S6 mentors have worked closely with S1 pupils to support and encourage their reading development through weekly sessions. The initiative has focused on improving reading fluency, tackling challenging vocabulary, and helping with the pronunciation of difficult words. Not only have S1 pupils gained confidence and skill in their reading, but many have also discovered a renewed enthusiasm for reading for pleasure.



Pupils and staff recently took part in a QR code treasure hunt as part of International Literacy Day 2025. This involved hunting around the school for 12 hidden QR codes to unlock a literacy quiz question, with the fastest and correct submissions taking winning chocolate prizes and house points! Staff also had the opportunity to showcase their favourite childhood books and favourite words to promote reading with our young people.

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 out 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.

[illegible]

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.



The Vancouver Diaries



Monday 16th June, 2025

The squad arrived at Glasgow Airport for 11am and checked in for their flights. After a leisurely stroll around the terminal, it was time to board the first flight: Glasgow to Keflavik, Iceland. The flight was on time and a very smooth journey over the sea. Upon arrival in Iceland, we quickly freshened up and grabbed some snacks before then boarding our onward flight to Vancouver.

Despite being on the furthest away side of Canada, the flight passed quickly and, after a few quick checks at border control, we picked up our bags and made our way outside to our coach which took us to our hotel.

We stayed at the Hotel YWCA - a social enterprise hotel in Vancouver where all profits made from stays are re-invested back into the local community with an emphasis on supporting young women and girls.

After unpacking and settling in, we took to the streets to explore all that Vancouver Downtown had to offer! Some went to the legendary Japadog, others went to Pizza Pizza; most ... went to McDonald's. But if you think that means that we spent the entire trip doing things we were already familiar with - think again!



Tuesday 17th June, 2025

The day started with breakfast prior to a two-hour walking tour around Gastown, where we learned the history of the city, its founders, and got to see the infamous steam clock. We then toured the city, and took a walk up to the impressive rooftop garden of Vancouver library.



After that, we took our specially commissioned Aquabuses over to Granville Island, where our speedboat tours of the bay awaited us. We were incredibly fortunate to be able to see a pod of orca whales up close after they had made their way into the bay. And that was only one small part of the incredible speedboat journey we all took. While we waited our turn for the boats, we took part in a scavenger hunt that the teachers had prepared for us.

Later on, we went for pizza, before then heading to Queen Elizabeth Park – the tallest non-mountainous viewing point in the city. From there, we could spy Grouse Mountain, where we would be going the next day. The winners of the scavenger hunt were announced, prizes were given, and we made our way back to the hotel satisfied that the first full day had been a very successful one.



Wednesday 18th June, 2025

We woke up, had breakfast, then boarded our bus that would take us around for the day. Our driver, Norm, was a total legend – more on that later.

Firstly, we made our way to the Lynn Canyon Park, where we walked over the famous suspension bridge, before making our way down to the 10-metre pool area. This was absolutely gorgeous – clear, blue-green waters, small pockets of waterfalls, and the opportunity to climb trees and skim rocks and stones.

Everyone loved it. Then, Mr McKee had the bright idea to take us to the Twin Falls – forgetting not only that it happened to be down approximately



200 steps, but that we'd all have to walk back up those steps in order to get back to the bus. Never mind – it was just another part of the experience to treasure and remember forever.

Speaking of memorable experiences, the next part of the day was really exciting. We drove to Grouse Mountain and ascended up through the clouds on a massive red cable car that was reserved for our exclusive use. The panoramic views were out of this world and the experience of going through clouds was unforgettable. Once at the top, we filled the day with a variety of exciting ventures. We started with the lumberjack show, before then going on to amuse ourselves with visiting the bear enclosure, going ziplining across the skies and taking part in the ropes course. We rounded it off with a birds of prey show. The day was so much fun – even for those who spent most of it going up and down the chairlift – and everybody said that they couldn't believe we had spent eight hours there by the time it came to leave.



Speaking of leaving time – that's where Norm really rose to the challenge. He plugged us into the sound system on the bus and let us conduct karaoke the entire way back to the hotel. What a guy!

Later that evening, we had dinner, then headed back to the hotel to sit up on their own roof terrace to take in the skyline views of the city and watch the light show on the side of the BC Place Stadium which was directly across the road from the hotel.

Thursday 19th June, 2025

This was another busy day and we moved around a lot – no need for a gym visit when in Vancouver!

The morning started with breakfast, followed by a walk to the Dr. Sun Yat Sen Chinese Garden. We learned all about the design of a traditional Chinese garden and even got to try painting some of the traditional characters.



After that, we made our way to Canada Place for the FlyOver Canada experience. We were strapped into what looked like a rollercoaster and immersed in two separate 'flyovers' where it genuinely looked and felt like we were flying over the country. It was incredible and we didn't want to get off at the end.

After that, we had to rush to get to the aquarium where we had been booked in for 2pm - but we didn't get out of Flyover until 1.15pm! Against all odds, we made it to the aquarium and spent a good few hours looking at all manner of marine life - including the legendary Vancouver Aquarium otters!

After the aquarium, we went straight into our 'Dark Secrets of Stanley Park Tour' where our group was split in two and taken round all of the most scandalous sites in the world-famous park. We even got to spend some valuable time on the Stanley Park seawall - a 10km winding path that goes around the entire perimeter of the park and connects the mainland to the ocean.

Thanks so much I had a great time with my group! What a thoughtful and engaged group of young people - you are doing something right at your school!

I will send over a photo or two when I'm back at my desk. And have an excellent rest of your time in Vancouver!



Friday 20th June, 2025

Breakfast followed by a bus ride way up the Sea to Sky Highway. This road has some of the most beautiful views in British Columbia, and we were shocked to hear that it only got made into a dual carriageway in preparation for the 2010 Olympics. We also drove by the sites where some of our favourite films had been filmed on location – Happy Gilmore being one of them.



Mrs Kean kept us thoroughly entertained by using the bus microphone as a podcast broadcast – after all, the geography of the place was amazing and needed to be commented on.

We spent some time at Shannon Falls, before heading up the Sea to Sky Gondola. The vision of the beautiful sea behind us and the mountain above as we headed up the cable car was yet another vision to behold. However, we got to the top and realised there was even more – a suspension bridge that went across the sky!

We also went on a panoramic trail that led us to a lookout like no other – it was so impressive that Miss Lauder and Mrs Colligan decided to act like it had been created just for us and pose as though they were conducting a cutting of the ribbon ceremony.



We headed back to the hotel a bit earlier than planned to get some rest but allow other folk to go shopping – something which Mr Canning got very excited about. Then, to round our last evening off, we headed to the Shipyards Night Market, where we went around food stalls, craft stalls, got our faces painted and then, at the end of the night, had a good old party at the live music tent.

Saturday 21st June, 2025

It was time to say goodbye but, before we did, we had to squeeze one last thing in – a journey to the top of the Vancouver Lookout. This allowed us to say goodbye to the city from above, as well as recap everything we had done and all the places we had seen in our short – but incredibly sweet – time in the city.



While up above, we spotted the recently re-instated VANCOUVER sign down below, so we took a detour to visit it, take a group pic of our last day (just like we'd done on the first day), and then head to the airport. We didn't realise we would all get a keyring made of these two photographs made and given to us at the end of the trip, as well as some souvenirs that the teachers had bought us when we weren't looking.

As you can see, the Vancouver trip was a jam-packed experience of culture, entertainment and exploration. Having read all of this, the next question has to be: WHEN ARE WE GOING BACK? Watch this space ...

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



SQA SUPPORTED STUDY

Supported Study is running again Monday and Wednesday after school. The Art Department is also available at 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

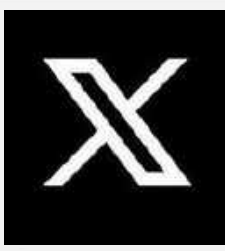
Art Club continues after the Christmas break. Pupils can get involved with some interesting pieces of work as well as have the opportunity to enter competitions. Pupils should bring their lunch and come to Mr Macintyre's room on Wednesdays.



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

S1 had the opportunity to 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 Card 2025.

Well done Alfie in 1J on your design, your submission is beautiful!



@StBenedictsArt



If you haven't already, you can follow the Art Department on X **@StBenedictsArt**
This is where we share some of the amazing work by our talented pupils.



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.



Health and Food Technology

All pupils have been working hard throughout the year developing their knowledge and understanding, and their cooking skills in the HFT Department.

S1 pupils practised their 'claw' and 'bridge' positions in September with excellent knife safety shown by our young people.



Barista Course

The HFT Department are running the Barista Course for senior pupils again this year. Pupils are learning Barista skills and have been making coffees for staff and helping out at parent's evenings and various events.

Clubs

The Health and Wellbeing lunchtime club runs Wednesdays (S1/2) and Thursdays (S3/4) in the HFT Department for pupils to develop social and emotional wellbeing, and Tuesdays after school is the S3 club developing skills ahead of the Young Chef competition.





European Day of Languages

This year, we celebrated European Day of Languages with a whole-school breakfast with all varieties of European-influenced delicacies being offered to our learners completely free of charge. Modern Languages classes immersed themselves in the spirit of the day with many bespoke tasks, while classes across the school participated in a variety of lesson starters in a variety of different European languages.

Mentors in Violence Prevention

Many of our senior students have signed up to function as Mentors in Violence Prevention. As part of the project, they have been partnered with 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.



Vancouver, 2025

A huge thank-you to everyone whose contributions allowed our incredible Vancouver trip to run without a hitch in June, 2025. The rest of this year's newsletter input functions as a diary from the pupil's perspective, just so you can all share in the fun they had. If you haven't already, you can also watch some video reels on the trip Instagram page - @sbhsvancouver25



Mathematics and Numeracy

Maths Week Scotland - 22 September - 28 September 2025

Maths Week Scotland is a celebration of the importance of maths in our everyday lives.

Codebreaking

Our S1 pupils were fortunate to enjoy a presentation from John Devlin from the University of Strathclyde on the Mathematics behind codebreaking. They learned how this helped to shorten World War II.



Flight School

Some S3 pupils this year got the opportunity to visit the Glasgow Science Centre and attend 'Flight School' where they put themselves in a pilot's shoes and flew a plane on a real life simulator. It was an amazing experience for all pupils.



Escape Room

Congratulations to some of our talented S1 pupils who managed escape from our Maths Week themed escape room.



Planning a Concert

An exciting Numeracy event took place in November where some of our pupils were fortunate enough to be visited by M&G from 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.



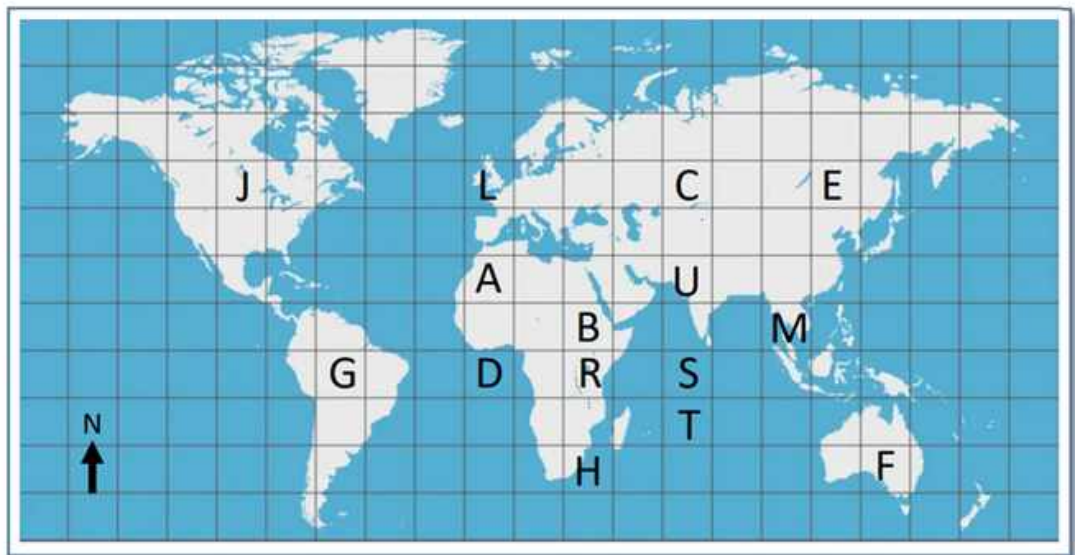
Numeracy Hunt

Some of our superstars also got the opportunity to visit the Riverside Museum to partake in the annual 'Numeracy Hunt'.



A Festive Puzzle

Here is map of some locations that Santa and his reindeer have to visit to deliver presents:



Santa starts from one of the letters and moves to a new location after each move.

He travels:

- 4 squares West
- 2 squares South
- 4 squares East
- 2 squares South

Which letters did Santa and his reindeer visit?

Sports Development

The Sports Development pupils (with support from Mairi Graham at Active Schools) have been leading sports sessions during placements at associated primary schools and working with S1 in PE lessons.

Pupils have participated in a variety of workshops including Scottish Handball to gain coaching qualifications



Pupils have also generously been volunteering to help out at various extra-curricular clubs, school events and community events to gain valuable leadership experience.

London Dance Trip

In September Mrs Scott took a Dance trip to London.

The trip included going to see Mama Mia, Pineapple Dance Studios and various tourist attractions.



Football

This year we have five football teams who are competing in the Renfrewshire League and Cups. Mr Carr is the Football Representative for the school.

Staff taking teams include:

Mr Scarff - S1
Mr Carr - S2/3
Mr Watson - S4
Mrs Banks - Seniors
Miss McCahill - Girls



Extra-curricular

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



The timetable of clubs is below. Clubs are free for kids to attend.

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	STAFF	LOCATION
Monday	After school	Gymnastics and trampolining	Mrs Scott and Mrs Banks	Small Gym
	Lunchtime	Brazilian JiuJitsu/grappling	Mr McGeady	Small gym
	Lunchtime	S5 Football Club	Mr. McPhee	Games Hall
Tuesday	After School	Netball	Mrs Banks	Games hall
	Lunchtime	Dance	Mrs Scott and seniors	Small Gym
	Lunch time	Badminton	Miss McCahill	Games Hall
Wednesday	Lunchtime	S1 Football Club	Mr Taylor	Games hall
	After school	Girls Football	Miss McCahill	Games Hall/Outside
Thursday	After school	Basketball	Mr McGeady	Games hall
	Lunch time	Pickleball	Mr Carr	Games Hall
Friday	Lunchtime	Volleyball	Mr Millar	Games Hall

S1/2 Core PE

S1/2 Core PE block plans for the year are below. This is for pupils and parents to know when lessons will be indoor or outdoors. Please bring suitable clothing for adverse weather if outdoors such as jogging bottoms, jackets/jumpers, gloves, towels etc.



BLOCK DATES

1 18TH AUG - 12TH SEP 4 WEEKS

2 15TH SEP - 10TH OCT 4 WEEKS

FITNESS TEST 21ST OCT - 24TH OCT 1 WEEK

3 27TH OCT - 28TH NOV 5 WEEKS

4 1ST DEC - 19TH DEC 3 WEEKS (SOCIAL DANCE)

5 6TH JAN - 16TH JAN 2 WEEKS (X COUNTRY)*

6 19TH JAN - 13TH FEB 4 WEEKS

7 19TH FEB - 20TH MAR 4.5 WEEKS

FITNESS TEST 23RD MAR - 27TH MAR 1 WEEK

8 30TH MAR - 3RD APR 1 WEEK (CHOICE BLOCK)**

9 20TH APR - 29TH MAY 6 WEEKS (ATHLETICS)***

10 1ST JUN - 30TH JUNE 4 WEEKS (SUMMER GAMES)

	1.1 B	1.2 G	1.3 CE	1.4 G	1.5 B
1	BADMINTON	AESTHETICS & DANCE	RUGBY/FOOTBALL	BADMINTON	RUGBY
2	FOOTBALL	RUGBY/FOOTBALL	AESTHETICS	RUGBY/FOOTBALL	FITNESS & ORIENTEERING (FS/O)
3	RUGBY	BADMINTON	FITNESS & ORIENTEERING (FS/O)	FITNESS & ORIENTEERING (FS/O)	BADMINTON
4	SOCIAL DANCE	SOCIAL DANCE	SOCIAL DANCE	SOCIAL DANCE	SOCIAL DANCE
5	CROSS COUNTRY	CROSS COUNTRY	CROSS COUNTRY	CROSS COUNTRY	CROSS COUNTRY
6	AESTHETICS	FITNESS & ORIENTEERING (FS/O)	NETBALL	AESTHETICS & DANCE	FOOTBALL
7	FITNESS & ORIENTEERING (FS/O)	NETBALL (SG)	BADMINTON	NETBALL GH/C	AESTHETICS
8	CHOICE	CHOICE	CHOICE	CHOICE	CHOICE
9	ATHLETICS	ATHLETICS	ATHLETICS	ATHLETICS	ATHLETICS
10	SUMMER GAMES	SUMMER GAMES	SUMMER GAMES	SUMMER GAMES	SUMMER GAMES

	2.3 B	2.5 CE	2.4 G	2.2 G	2.1 B
1	FOOTBALL	FITNESS (FS/O)	AESTHETICS & DANCE	RUGBY/FOOTBALL	FOOTBALL
2	VOLLEYBALL (GH)*	AESTHETICS & DANCE	VOLLEYBALL (GH)*	VOLLEYBALL (GH)*	VOLLEYBALL (GH)*
3	RUGBY	VOLLEYBALL (SG)	FITNESS (FS/O)	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 (FS/O)	AESTHETICS
7	BASKETBALL (GH)*	RUGBY/FOOTBALL	BASKETBALL (GH)*	BASKETBALL (GH)*	BASKETBALL (GH)*
8	CHOICE	CHOICE	CHOICE	CHOICE	CHOICE
9	ATHLETICS	ATHLETICS	ATHLETICS	ATHLETICS	ATHLETICS
10	SUMMER GAMES	SUMMER GAMES	SUMMER GAMES	SUMMER GAMES	SUMMER GAMES

Renfrewshire School of Sport Education

RSSE is a 22-week programme that offers 5th and 6th Year pupils the opportunity to attend workshops to gain coaching qualifications to enable them to become young leaders within the Active Schools programme. This opportunity is offered via high school PE departments in partnership with the schools Active Schools Coordinator.

Congratulations to the St Benedicts' RSSE pupils who graduated in the summer and have gained valuable coaching and leadership experience, working closely with Active Schools.





Religious Education and Chaplaincy

This term, the Religious Education Department has continued to place faith, values, and service at the centre of school life. From exploring Gospel themes in the classroom to leading initiatives that promote compassion and hope, our pupils have shown incredible commitment to living out our Catholic ethos. We are proud to share some of the highlights that reflect their learning, creativity, and acts of kindness throughout the term.

Welcome First Year!

Our S1 pupils have settled into life at St Benedict's wonderfully. They've embraced the opportunities to grow in faith and understanding, including visits to the school Oratory where they learned about Holy Mass. In class, they've explored the meaning of prayer and discovered the beauty of the liturgical seasons, helping them appreciate the rhythm of the Church year. It's been a joy to see their enthusiasm and curiosity shine through as they begin their journey in Religious Education.



Vocations Week

Our pupils embraced Vocations Week with enthusiasm, reflecting on the many ways we are called to serve God and others. Highlights included attending the Vocations Mass at St Mirin's Cathedral, a beautiful opportunity to join with the wider diocesan community in prayer.

Our Sixth Year pupils also took part in the Vocations Conference, engaging in inspiring discussions about how faith shapes future paths. In school, pupils explored the meaning of vocation through creative activities and prayer, reminding us that every calling is rooted in love and hope.



Inaugural Mass

Our cluster community gathered for the Inaugural Term Mass—a truly special occasion to celebrate the gift of Catholic education. Together, we gave thanks for our shared faith, recognised the dedication of our school leaders, and prayed for guidance and blessings in the year ahead. It was a beautiful moment of unity and hope for all who attended.



Sharing Christmas Joy with St Patrick's, Malawi

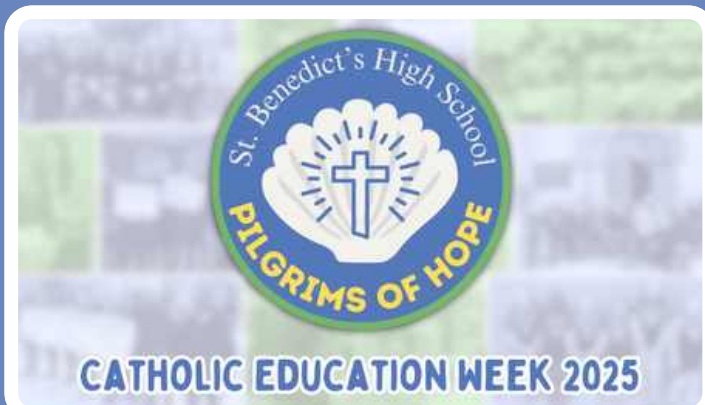
This Advent, every Religious Education class played a special part in spreading festive cheer with our partner school, St Patrick's, in Malawi. Pupils wrote and decorated letters to accompany the Christmas parcels, sending messages of friendship.

Pupils and their families were incredibly generous, as they brought in a wonderful variety of items to fill the parcels—turning this project into a real expression of love and solidarity.



Catholic Education Week – Pilgrims of Hope

This year's Catholic Education Week focused on the Jubilee Year theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Our pupils reflected on what it means to journey in faith, exploring how hope sustains us through life's challenges. In class, they reflected upon what it is to hope, and how faith in the Resurrection gives us strength and purpose. Through discussion and prayer, pupils discovered that being a pilgrim of hope means trusting in God's promise and sharing that hope with others in our school and community.



Catholic Education Week Prayer Breakfast

Pupils, staff, local clergy and their parishioners came together for our Prayer Breakfast to celebrate Catholic Education Week and renew our support for one another.



PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
You call us to go and make disciples of all nations.
Bless our schools, that they may be places where faith is nurtured,
wisdom is shared, and hearts are opened to Your love.
Strengthen us to be witnesses of Your truth,
so that through our words and actions,
Your light may reach every corner of the world.
Amen.



The Pope Benedict XVI Caritas Award

The Caritas Award is a special recognition for young people in their final year of school who show their faith through service. It was inspired by Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the UK in 2010, and the word caritas means "love" or "charity."



To achieve the award, pupils need to:

- Learn about their faith: spend time deepening their understanding of Catholic teaching.
- Live out their faith: show love and service in action by helping others.
- Complete service hours: carry out at least 20 hours of service in their faith community (like parish activities) and 20 hours in their school community.

It's open to everyone, and it's a way for pupils to grow spiritually while making a real difference in the lives of others.

The St Benedict's Caritas pupils have been exceptionally busy, pouring their energy into acts of service both in school and in the wider community. From supporting parish life to lending a hand in school initiatives, they've shown dedication, kindness, and faith in action. Their hard work is a shining example of living out the Gospel through love and service.



Attending Diocesan Events

Caritas pupils exploring their faith
at the Paisley Diocesan Vocations Conference



Our Inaugural Term Mass

A special occasion to celebrate the gift of Catholic education, recognise our school leaders and pray for the year ahead. S6 pupils received their Caritas badges.

Walk of Hope September 2025

The Caritas Team joined the Walk of Hope in memory of David McKendrick, former Head Teacher of St. Cuthbert's.



St. Fillan's Fête

Our amazing Caritas Team were thanked for their valuable support at the St Fillan's Fête on Sunday 14th September.



"Their enthusiasm and generosity of time helped make the day a joyful and memorable occasion for everyone."

Monsignor Andrew McFadden, Parish Priest of St. Fillan's



Fairtrade Coffee Morning

14th November - Caritas pupils supporting the Fairtrade Coffee Morning at St. Fillan's.



Prayer Breakfast Catholic Education Week

Caritas students came together with staff, clergy and local parishioners for our prayer breakfast to celebrate Catholic Education Week

St. Andrew's Night Ceilidh - 22nd November

Our Caritas Team worked hard to support the St Andrew's Family Ceilidh. It was a great success and a truly enjoyable parish family night together. We are delighted to share that the event raised £1,500.



St. Margaret's SVDP meeting at St. Vincent's Hospice

Three of our Caritas students (Katie, Eve and Grace) were warmly welcomed by St Vincent's Hospice and the St Margaret's SVDP group. They were given a tour and then met to discuss how they could establish meaningful links with our school community through fundraising, volunteering, and giving up our time to support their work.



Light Up A Life 2025

Over Advent, our Caritas Team have been inviting staff and pupils to sponsor a light on the tree in memory of a loved one, or to honour a special person or occasion. Gathered donations will be given to St. Vincent's Hospice.



At the Christmas service, our Chaplain Fr Michael, will lead prayers for those named on the tree.



Christmas Parcels

Our Caritas Team will be helping to prepare Christmas parcels and deliver them to elderly and housebound members of the parish community.

CARITAS PRAYER

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

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

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

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.

UWS AH Chemistry

St. Benedict's Science Department led the way in Renfrewshire to pioneer a partnership with UWS for Renfrewshire schools.

This initiative meant all Advanced Higher chemists in Renfrewshire had access to first-class facilities, expert support, and opportunities to strengthen their scientific skills.



Enhanced Primary Transition Visits

Our Enhanced Transition Programme continued again this year, with Primary 6 and 7 pupils from our five cluster schools taking part in the Mars Rover challenge.



Turbine Taskforce Trip

A group of S2 pupils participated in a project at NMIS where they repurposed three-blade wind turbines by brainstorming, designing, and prototyping new uses inspired by real examples like playgrounds and bike shelters. With support from NMIS engineers, they considered engineering and community aspects and presented their concept. The pupils were a credit to St. Benedict's.



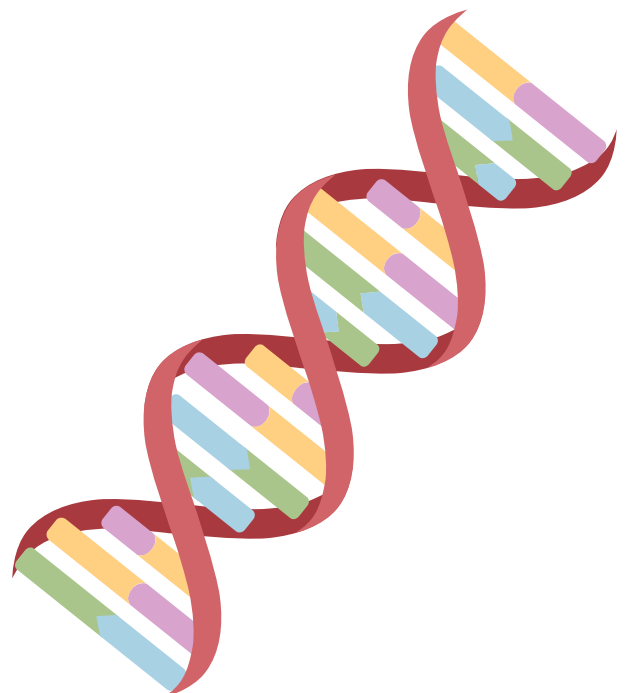
*"I just wanted to reiterate again how impressed we all were with how engaged, creative, and hard working the pupils of St. Benedict's were."
NMIS Design Lead – Kirsty Pinnell*

Higher Biology PCR Trip

The Higher biology students had the chance to attend a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) workshop hosted at the University of Glasgow.

The workshop enabled pupils to gain practical experience in performing various techniques to analyse DNA.

St Benedict's pupils also discussed the ethical implications of DNA sequencing, met undergraduates studying biology at the university, and attended career talks from different areas of biotechnology.

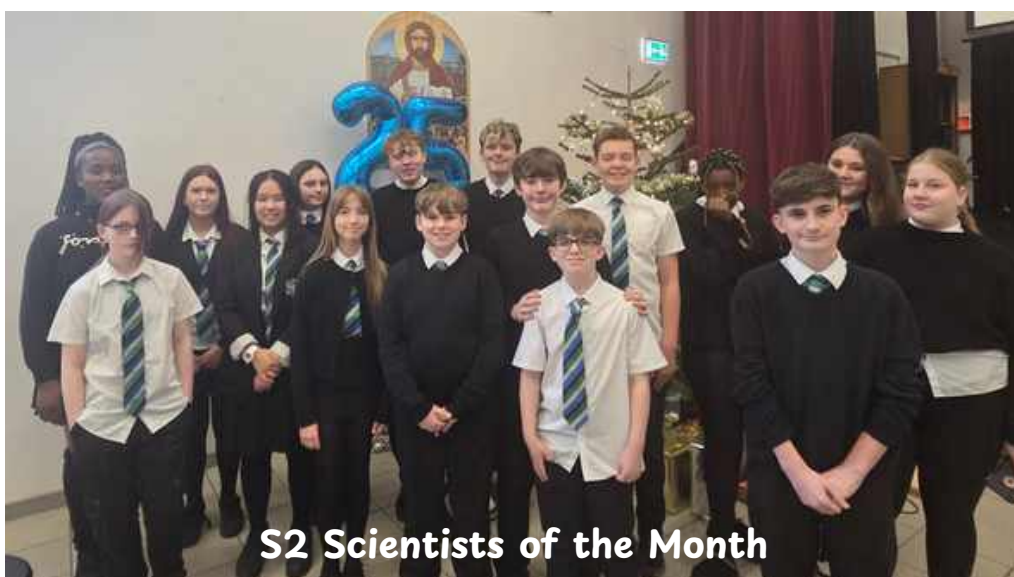
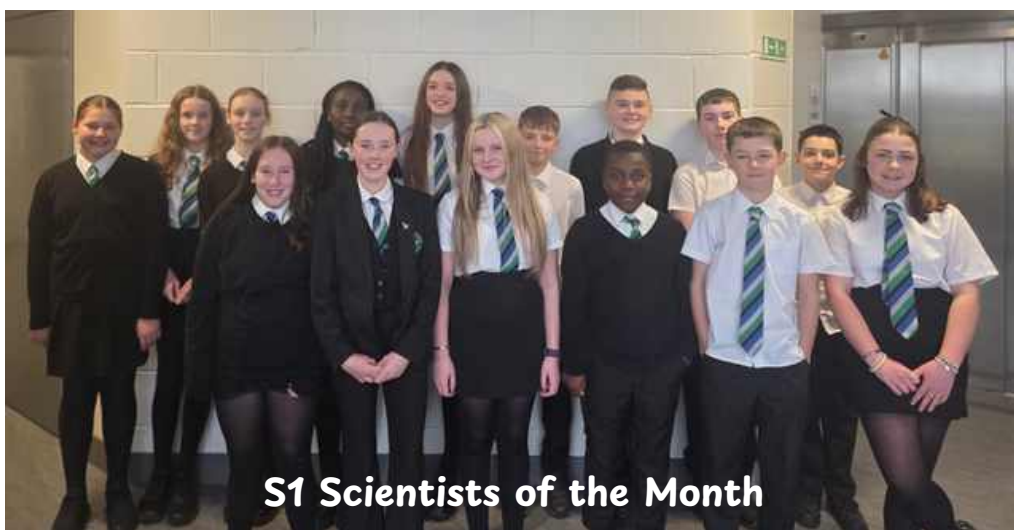


S1/S2 Scientists of the Month

Each month, our “Scientist of the Month” award recognises students in S1 and S2 who shine in curiosity, critical thinking, and scientific exploration. These young innovators go above and beyond in experiments, projects, and classroom discussions—always asking questions and finding creative ways to discover answers.



Here are our “Scientists of the Month” so far this year:



These curious minds have shown exceptional creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills in science class. From experimenting with new ideas to asking the big “what if” questions, they’ve truly embodied the spirit of discovery. We’re so proud to celebrate their achievements and can’t wait to see where their curiosity takes them next!

STEM Careers Showcase

Our S3 scientists had an excellent afternoon attending STEM West 2025 and hearing from a huge range of higher education institutions and employers. With 50+ exhibits to try out new skills and discuss potential career options, the pupils involved were surprised and inspired by the wide range of pathways and opportunities available to them through STEM.



Young STEM Leaders Awards

Congratulations to our Young STEM Leader pupils who completed their Level 5 Award.



Our current S6 Young STEM Leaders (Level 6) Rising to the Challenge



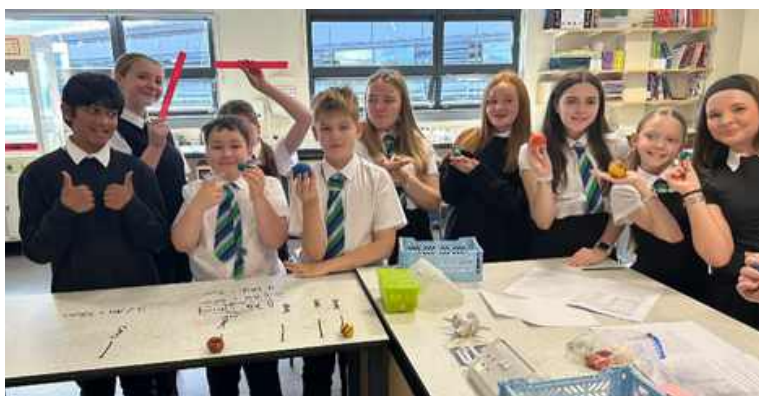
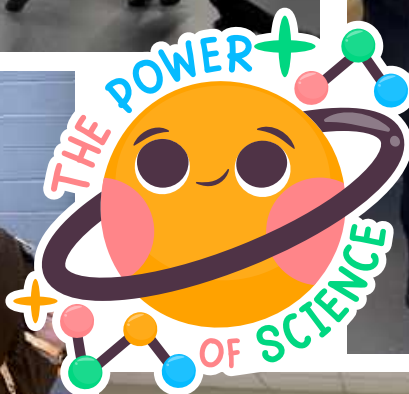
Our S6 pupils are now making excellent progress toward their YSLP Level 6 Award, fully embracing the theme of **Challenges in STEM**. They have shown real commitment and creativity by organising a variety of STEM clubs and community events that inspire younger learners and strengthen our school's STEM culture.

A major focus has been supporting P7 transition. Through interactive STEM sessions and early relationship-building, our S6 leaders are helping incoming pupils feel confident and excited about secondary STEM learning.

They have also been coaching younger pupils in maths and numeracy, offering guidance that builds essential skills and widens access to STEM across the school.



STEM Club/Science Classrooms



It has been a very busy year so far in Social Subjects. We are, as always, committed to excellent learning and teaching across all our Social Subjects! These critical disciplines of History, Geography, Modern Studies, Politics and Travel and Tourism do more than just relay facts; they are fundamental to expanding the horizons of our pupils.



September - Arran Outdoor Education Trip

We stayed at Arran Outdoor Education Centre in Lochranza for two nights, the expert instructors guided our Higher and National 5 pupils through practical fieldwork techniques to collect real-world data and deepened their understanding of rivers, glaciation and coasts.



Pupil thoroughly enjoyed the geographical work but also took part in canoeing and archery!

Please follow us @socsubsstbens for more pictures of the trip!

October - New York and Washington DC Trip

In October Mrs O'Neill lead a group of daring explorers to New York and Washington DC. They visited many of New York's most popular attractions before heading to the capital city.

A great trip was had by all. Many thanks to Mrs O'Neill's planning and preparation to make this trip truly one to remember!



November - Global Youth Summit

Our S3 Geographers attended the Global Youth Summit in support of COP30.

Their first workshop was run by BNP Paribas, looking at Sustainable Banking. They had to make finance-based decisions looking at risk and reward linked to the environment. The second challenge of the day was set by Nestle. The pupils worked together to come up with a new sustainable product for them along with a TikTok storyboard. Our group focused on locally sourced berries for their juice called Berry Fusion.

Amazing effort from showcasing their commitment to being global citizens. Pupil also pupils got to take part in a careers fayre and talk to different companies about future career opportunities.



Coming Up

Our Dynamic Earth trip will be in Jan 2026. Our budding Geographers can experience an earthquake, iceberg and flight simulator!

Miss Urquhart is organising a trip to Switzerland for June 2026 with Diverse School Travel. The itinerary includes a 2000m high cable car, a train journey through caverns and a boat on an underground lake! We will also visit Zermatt to view the Matterhorn. We can't wait!

Our **Jewellery Design** class is making fantastic progress at the bench! Students are developing confidence and precision in their craftsmanship, mastering essential techniques and bringing their creative ideas to life. Their dedication and growing skill set are truly impressive.

Design Task 3

BRIEF

An independent jewellery shop in Glasgow is looking to launch a new festive range of jewellery. A design for a pendant has been produced for you to manufacture to the following specification.

SPECIFICATION

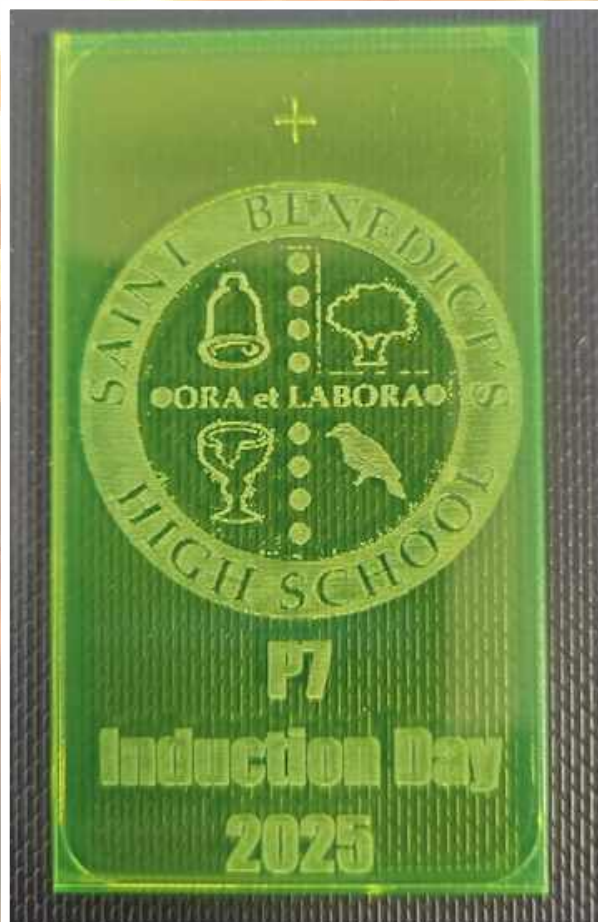
You must:

- Use the working drawings provided.
- Create your model using brass.
- Work within a tolerance of $\pm 0.5\text{mm}$.
- Drill a hole in the correct position to allow for one of your jump rings to be attached.
- File and deburr your work piece.
- Clean and polish your pendant to a commercial standard.




Congratulations to our S2 pupils for their fantastic achievement in designing and manufacturing their own bird feeders! This project showcased their creativity, problem-solving skills, and hands-on craftsmanship. We're so proud of the effort and ingenuity they demonstrated—well done to everyone involved!"







Dates for Your Diary

Event	Status	Date
Start of term	Schools open	Tuesday 6 January 2026
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Monday 16 February 2026
Mid-term holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 17 February 2026
In-service day	School open for teachers and staff only	Wednesday 18 February 2026
Second half of term	Schools open	Thursday 19 February 2026
Easter holidays	Schools closed	Friday 3 April 2026
Easter holidays	Schools closed	Monday 6 April 2026
Easter holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 7 April 2026
Easter holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 8 April 2026
Easter holidays	Schools closed	Thursday 9 April 2026
Easter holidays	Schools closed	Friday 10 April 2026
Easter holidays	Schools closed	Monday 13 April 2026
Easter holidays	Schools closed	Tuesday 14 April 2026
Easter holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 15 April 2026
Easter holidays	Schools closed	Thursday 16 April 2026
Easter holidays	Schools closed	Friday 17 April 2026
Start of term	Schools open	Monday 20 April 2026
May Day	Schools closed	Monday 4 May 2026
Normal school day	Schools open	Tuesday 5 May 2026
In-service day	Schools open for teachers and staff only	Thursday 7 May 2026
Normal school day	Schools open	Friday 8 May 2026
Local holiday	Schools closed	Monday 25 May 2026
Normal school day	Schools open	Tuesday 26 May 2026
Summer holidays	Schools closed	Wednesday 1 July 2026

Further term and holiday dates can be found here:
<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/11856/School-term-dates-and-holidays>