



St Benedict's Newsletter



Issue No 7

Date Friday 14 December 2018

ST BENEDICT'S – THE SUNDAY TIMES TOP COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

St Benedict's in Alcester has been ranked the Top Comprehensive School in the West Midlands for the second year running in the recently published Sunday Times Parent Power Report. The influential league tables combine GCSE and Sixth Form performance and reflect the superb results achieved by their students this year.

The school's International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme results also placed the school in the top 5 non-selective state schools in the country and were further accentuated in the accompanying editorial;

"The top-ranked non-selective state school in the region is St Benedict's RC High School, in Alcester. Ranked 18th in the region, it offers the IB and BTecs in the Sixth Form. IB outcomes are outstanding, with a 33-point average for students and on a par with many independent schools"

Headteacher David Hughes responded that "I was delighted to see that once again, the school received a special mention in the Sunday Times Parent Power. The Sixth Form continues to go from strength to strength and it is now firmly placed as one of the leading IB providers in the country. We are very proud of our students and staff and the excellent results are a testament to their hard work and dedication." 11 December 2018



LIBRARIAN AWARD Year 10 student Ethan Holliday was given a 'stamp of approval' this week when he received the 'Warwickshire Student Librarian of the Year Award 2019'. The honour, in recognition of his hard work in our school library and personal development as a team leader, was presented on Monday at a small reception attended by the county's School Library Service, his able team of Student Librarians (pictured) and all the staff associated with St Benedict's library.

The award left Ethan feeling very happy knowing all the hard work has paid off. "The judges were looking for someone who takes the role seriously, can motivate, come up with good activity ideas and is always helpful. I've learnt a lot of skills volunteering and it gives you a real sense of pride."

Librarian, Tina O'Toole, nominated Ethan because he exceeded the qualities listed in the criteria. "He had to produce a large quantity of work and evidence for his application. Ethan is enthusiastic, an excellent role model and promotes the services of the library on a daily basis. It is well deserved and reflects well on the dedication and hard work of all of the Student Librarians and what an excellent team they are."

USEFUL CONTACTS

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PYRAMID PILLOWS This term, Year 9 students on the Technology carousel, have been challenged to create their own pyramid pillow based on the theme of “nature”. The pyramid will support a book, computer tablet, smart phone etc. and also features some useful pockets for storage of small items. students had the opportunity to experiment with four different decorative techniques including: Tie and dye, spray dye, block printing and stencilling.



Once students had passed their all-important driving test on the sewing machine, they successfully sewed their decorated triangles together to create the dramatic 3-D shapes. Miss Dale has been very impressed with Year 9’s creativity this term and is amazed by the professional finish that the students have achieved. Pictures - pyramids by Lauren Robinson (sea creatures) and Max Delany (cacti)



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE ARTS AMBASSADORS TEAM - Thank you to everyone that supported our Festive Fringe last Friday. The atmosphere in the hall was heart-warming.

We will be asking for your feedback and suggestions for what to do with the funds raised in early 2019. #stbensfestivefringe

ATTENDANCE Students who have achieved attendance of 98% or more will be receiving certificates during their assemblies next week. This is a new initiative and we hope that students will respond positively. Attendance will be looked at on a term by term basis, therefore our return to school in January will be the perfect opportunity for a fresh start. Your continued support is very much appreciated.



#ADA100 - On this day 100 years ago, the first women voted, for the first time. This week, our BTEC dance group, have been putting the final touches to their production, based on the Suffrage movement. This thought provoking piece was developed using research from the Alcester History Society; the dancers spent time with Janet Hollington; who kindly shared images and stories of her Grandmother Ada Burdett. The piece will be performed in early 2019, as part of the group’s final assessment and will be dedicated to the memory of

Ada Burdett, an Alcester Lady with a wonderful family.

LIBRARY NEWS All of this week in the library we have had the Great Grinch Hunt. This has been very popular and we have received lots of entries. All correct entries will be entered in to the prize draw and a winner will be pulled out of the hat early next week. On Tuesday 18 we are holding the Kahoot Christmas Quiz. This is a ticketed event and all of the tickets have now been allocated.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 21 December

End of Term (half day)

Monday 7 January

INSET Day (students not in School)

Tuesday 8 January

Term Begins