

It feels almost at the moment that we are holding our breath, but as the term wears on the school continues to thrive and I see wonderful learning going on around the building. We are settling into new routines and patterns and although we miss our old 'normal' school routines we are incredibly proud of how students have adapted.

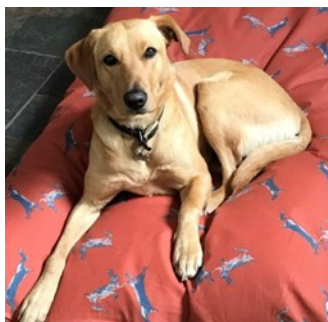
We are launching our 'Open' section on our website tomorrow and as I mentioned last week we will be in Bury market this Saturday, please do come and say hello if you are there. We hope that all of our families continue to keep well in the coming week.

Yours in Christ,

Imogen Senior

## Wellbeing Dog

We would like to introduce Rosie to you. Some students will have seen her about school; some students will have met Rosie. Rosie is St Benedict's wellbeing dog; she is a 2yr old Fox Red Labrador, owned by Ms Coogan. We have spent time ensuring that Rosie is ready for this role, taking advice and guidance from a charity that specialises in Animal Assisted Activities. To start with Rosie will work on a one to one basis with nominated students; she will not be out and about on the school site during busy student movement times. Signs are up when Rosie is on site and she has two offices that she resides in so if any student is nervous or allergic they have no need to meet Rosie. All students that work with Rosie have parental permission and are guided by Ms Coogan. Rosie is a quiet and friendly dog, she is very gentle and calm, thriving when her handlers are also quiet and calm. Research is continuing to show the huge benefits of young people working with Animal Assisted Activities, as a school we are always strive to go above and beyond to support student's wellbeing, if you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact [ecoogan@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:ecoogan@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)



## Journal of Science

Volume 4 of the Journal was always going to an annual edition to be published June/ July at the end of the academic year. At the beginning of 2020 the Editorial Board could not possibly have conceived how the year would progress. However, it is often at times like these that we find out the best in us, and students and staff worked during the period of the school closure to produce some of the best work the Journal has seen thus far. Particular credit must go to the contribution by the 6th Form scientists whose work was of such a professional standard that they were afforded their own 6th Form Chapter.

Mr Stafford, Head of Science, wrote the following foreword to this edition:

"As the Head of Science it gives me great joy to read this fantastic collection of papers and posters produced by our students, showing us that the passion for the study of the world around us is alive and well. It is a delight to have submissions ranging from those in year 7 and 8 who are in earlier stages of discovery, to those in the 6th form who are continuing along the scientific path at University. The range and scope of the articles produced was enormous, and this is just a fraction of the excellent work submitted."

The Journal is available online via the school's Facebook and Twitter accounts. You can also access it via the school's website.

## Computer Club

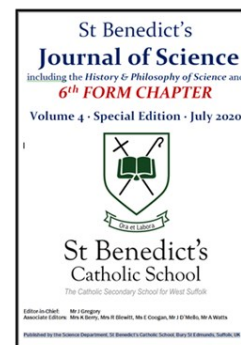
With the current timetable's shorter lunch break and social distancing restrictions it is not possible to run the usual computing lunch clubs at the moment. However there are lots of online computer science projects and competitions you can try out at home. Interested in a career in Cyber Security? Cyber

Discovery is an extracurricular programme for 13 to 18 year olds, developed by HM Government and the industry's top experts. It is a fun way for students to master technical skills and security concepts through a series of online challenges.

Register before 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 at [www.joincyberdiscovery.com](http://www.joincyberdiscovery.com)

Next time you have a Computer Science lesson, I'd love to hear how you are getting on with the challenges.

Are you under 13? Don't worry! Next week's newsletter will have some computer science activities for you to try at home. Mr Beaumont



## Ride and Stride 2020

Over the summer, it wasn't certain that this year's Suffolk Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride' would go ahead. However, thankfully the 39<sup>th</sup> event, first staged in 1973 was allowed to take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September and once again it turned out to be a beautiful day.



Mr Murphy and his two daughters, Molly (10) and Lucy (9) joined Hugh O'Neill (former head teacher) to represent the parish of St Edmund's. Having recovered from a cycling accident a couple of years ago Hugh bought a classic racing tricycle to aid his recovery and thought that using it in this year's event would add to the challenge.

We met at St Edmund's at 9am, where Father Michael, helped us set up a table in the porch so that visitors could register their visits and, after signing in ourselves, we set off. As in previous years we bagged the low lying fruits of St Mary's and St Edmundsbury Cathedral before setting off North to the Farnham's.

At St Martin's we were welcomed by a lovely man, who commented on our Irish sounding names, and after a brief chat, we saddled our bikes (and trike) to travel another mile to All Saints, where we met a lovely lady who was very pleased to see some younger rides participating in the 'Ride and Stride'.

From there, we, headed back to the Farnham roundabout before continuing northwards to St Mary's in West Stow and were greeted by a very jolly man who was a retired Maths teacher from Culford. After we had let on that we were also teachers, Hugh and him discovered that they knew quite a few retired teachers in common.

Although liquid refreshment and biscuits were in shorter supply than in previous years, Molly and Lucy really appreciated being offered a chocolate bar, to provide them with the energy to climb the hill to Risby, after a brief visit to the lovely church of St Catherine's in Flempton.

Hugh managed to put in a break on the 'Col de Risby' to claim the King of Mountains shirt, but kindly waited for the Murphys to catch-up at the crest of the hill to join him for his ceremonial ride in to the fine building of St Giles (where Hugh and Mr Gingell used to take History field trips to see the medieval wall, the 15<sup>th</sup> century font and one of the most intricately carved 15<sup>th</sup> century rood screens in East Anglia).

Upon our arrival we instantly recognised the friendly lady who was welcoming visitors to the church as Hugh helped her with her crossword two years ago. Unfortunately, this time she hadn't quite started it, so we were unable to test our general knowledge. However, she did have a fine collection of conkers from the churchyard and kindly let Molly and Lucy take their pick as a small memento of their visit and for some classic children's entertainment when they returned home.

At this point our paths diverged as the Murphys headed for home, enjoying the descent back into Bury St Edmunds along Mere Lane (clocking in 15 ½ miles in total, and Hugh headed off for another 20 miles visiting many more lovely village churches to the south of the A14. All in all, it was a very enjoyable cycle and for an excellent cause. Thank you ever so much to everyone who sponsored us either through the school or through the parish.

Mr Murphy

## Confirmation

Sacrament of Confirmation at St Edmund's Parish

If you are in Y9 and above, are parishioners of St Edmund's King and Martyr and wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Summer, please send an email to [confirmationatstedmunds@gmail.com](mailto:confirmationatstedmunds@gmail.com) by the end of October.

## Information from the Exams Office

Exam Dates for Summer 2021 will be posted on the school website in February 2021.

The awarding bodies have designated **Tuesday 29 June 2021** as a 'contingency day' for examinations.

The designation of a 'contingency day' within the common examination timetable is in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations in the United Kingdom. It is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for examinations.

I would like to remind students that you must remain available until Tuesday 29 June 2021 should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.

Debbie Aliaga Exams Officer

[daliaga@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:daliaga@st-benedicts.suffolk.sch.uk)

## Masks

Can you please ensure your child is sent to school with a mask, we currently have none available to purchase.

## Data Collection

Your child should have been sent home with a data collection sheet, can you please check, amend if necessary and return back to the school as a matter of urgency.