

# NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010



Dom Augustine Stickland OSB  
Monk of Douai Abbey  
1920 - 2010

## *Fr Augustine Stickland*

We are sorry to announce the death of our former chaplain, Father Augustine Stickland. Father Augustine served St Benedict's for over five years and was a popular yet very humble man, able to reach out and support his school family.  
**R.I.P.**

## *ParentMail*

You should by now be aware that we are going to use a service called ParentMail®, to improve the efficiency of our communication with parents. We will continue to use our website, but ParentMail® is working successfully in over 2500 schools and we know that in the long term we will be able to substantially reduce our costs and the environmental impact of our current methods of communication.

Communication will be via text for urgent messages and via email for letters and other messages needing longer consideration and we look forward to working together with you on this new system.

## *Viewing Data on the Portal*

As part of the government agenda on Parental Engagement we have made a start with providing data which can be viewed on-line. Eventually, you should be able to view information on attendance, behaviour, any special needs, and targets and progress. Thank you to all parents and carers of pupils in 7C and Year 8 who responded to our recent pilot surveys. Your responses have helped us to improve the data displayed and enabled us to address your concerns. It is only possible for each parent to view their own personal data and the data of their own children and this is why individual passwords are issued. Please keep checking as we plan to add more information in the future.

## *Maths Department*

The Intermediate Maths Challenge took place in February and we entered pupils from years 9 and 10. Twenty-one pupils did well enough to receive certificates but particular mention goes to Dan O'Neill, in Year 10, who went forward to the kangaroo stage of the challenge and to Jordan Jones, in Year 9, who was asked to take part in the Olympiad. Congratulations to Jordan who gained a Certificate of Merit. We are very proud of him.

Year 11 reached for the stars – A\* that is – when twenty-one of them attended a one day Mathematics conference at Arden House Conference Centre in Henley. They spent the day working with students from other schools on the more challenging topics from the GCSE syllabus. An enjoyable and educational day was had by all and we hope that the A\* grades will be a little easier for them to achieve as a result.

### ***Black Country Museum Trip***

Year 7 had a very successful visit to the Black Country Museum to experience life in a town at the turn of the nineteenth century. Our guides were very informative and made the day very interesting; we even went "into the thick" and experienced one of Lord Dudley's mines. Old fashioned sweets and buns made the day!



### ***Youth Speaks Contest 2010***

St Benedict's hosted this contest on 10 February 2010, as we were the previous year's winners. We had two Year 11 teams: ***Emily Stone, Olivia Cropper and Alex Smith; Rachel Hendry, Ross Milner and Harriet Sanders.*** Although St Benedict's did not retain the trophy this year, both teams were extremely articulate and expressed some thought-provoking views.

### ***E-Safety***

Our updated E-Safety Policy is now available on the St Benedict's website. Please also note that if you missed the information last time, Cyber Sentinel software is still available for you to use to monitor internet use at home. More information can be found in the letters section for September 2009, which is on the school website. Our privacy notice, which explains how we deal with your personal information, can be found in the September letters section.

### ***Year 11 Welcome English Examiner***

On 4 March Year 11 welcomed Mr Steve Carney, a senior examiner with the AQA exam board. During the day Mr Carney worked to reinforce key techniques which will support pupils in Paper I of their English GCSE. Overall, Mr Carney's input and good humour was very warmly received and we look forward to welcoming him to conduct a similar task next year.

### ***Mi padre no me entiende***

In February our students studying Spanish in Years 9, 10 and 11 enjoyed a performance of 'Mi padre no me entiende' (My Father doesn't understand me) by the Onatti Theatre Group.

The play was very entertaining and performed completely in Spanish by native speakers. It told the story of Pilar, a 15 year old girl who wishes for a cooler, more trendy, Dad. Pupils were surprised at how much of the dialogue they were able to follow and they even managed to get most of the jokes!



**Connexions**  
**Year 11 leavers**

Don't forget that even after you have left St Benedict's you can still get help over the summer with finalising your plans for next year. Once term has finished you are welcome to come into our Stratford office for help and advice. Please contact us for an appointment at

Connexions  
Tyler House  
Tyler Street  
Stratford-Upon-Avon  
CV37 6TY

01789 296362

Sarah Gerrard will be available at certain times throughout the summer and will be in school on GCSE results day. You can contact her directly on 07740 401943 or at [sarah.gerrard@cswp.org.uk](mailto:sarah.gerrard@cswp.org.uk)

Outside office hours you can also contact Connexions Direct on 080 800 13219

EMA packs can be found in a box in the Connexions room – don't miss out if your household income is less than £30,810. With rising transport costs to colleges next year it could make all the difference!

**Year 10**

Starting to think about life after Year 11? For information on all post 16 courses available to you at all schools and colleges in Coventry and Warwickshire please see the local area prospectus

[www.route14-19.co.uk](http://www.route14-19.co.uk)

Sarah will be meeting you later this term in citizenship to look at this and other sources of information in more detail

**Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip to The Lake District**

Plans are well under way for this trip which takes place from 28 June to 30 June. Can we please remind parents that the final payment for the trip should be made by 28 May. There is a copy of the initial letter on the website for those who need to check it. Final trip details will be sent out in early June.

**Lenten Charity Mile – Friday 19 March**

It was great to see about 200 runners out on the field participating in this event. Many ran one mile – though others completed as many as seven. We raised the fantastic sum of about £1900. (Last year we raised £1200.) This money has been sent to:



- Sport Relief
- The CAFOD work being carried out in Haiti
- The Medical Missionaries of Mary in Uganda to help feed children

- A project in Cusco Peru which is helping to improve the lives of children who live in a shanty town.

Well done and thank you to all runners and their sponsors.

### ***Instrumental Exams***

The music department are very proud of all the following students who passed their instrumental exams recently:

Molly Sheridan	Grade 5 keyboard	Merit
Robert Girling	Grade 3 piano	Distinction
Lucy Dunscombe	Grade 1 keyboard	Distinction
Maddie Rhodes	Grade 1 piano	Merit
Chris Owen	Grade 1 piano	Merit
Emily Bayliss	Grade 3 singing	Merit
Francesca Bille	Grade 1 clarinet	Pass
Olivia Boswell	Grade 4 clarinet	Pass
Sarah Boucher	Grade 2 trumpet	Pass
Katrina Catton	Grade 4 violin	Pass
Chloe Field	Grade 3 clarinet	Merit
Holly Gorton	Grade 2 singing	Merit
Jodie Gouveia	Grade 4 singing	Pass
Anna Griffiths	Grade 2 saxophone	Pass
Laurence Icke	Grade 3 saxophone	Pass
David Jones	Grade 4 trumpet	Pass
Anastasia Marsh	Grade 5 singing	Pass
Phoebe Matthews	Grade 3 clarinet	Pass
George Rankin	Grade 1 clarinet	Merit
Sophie Rankin	Grade 3 singing	Pass
James Sanders	Grade 4 clarinet	Pass
Jordan Terry	Grade 3 saxophone	Merit
Amy Yeates	Grade 2 singing	Pass

Well done to all!

### **Bennie's Got Talent**

A great time was had by all in February at the 'Bennie's Got Talent' show. The evening showed off the wonderful range of talent at St. Benedict's including stand-up comedy, dancing, singing, and bands. I would like to thank all the people who worked behind the scenes to make the evening possible. Without all the hard work done by those willing to give up their own time, wonderful evenings such as this would not be possible.

Congratulations to all who had the courage to take part in the evening, but in particular to the Bennie's Got Talent Champion of 2010 – Andy Whitlow, who amazed us all with his musical talent and showmanship. Well done!

## Inter-House Music Competition



This year the competition will take place at 7.00 pm in the main hall on Tuesday 6 July. Pupils prior to this evening will audition to reach the finals to represent their House. Pupils may enter with solos or as an ensemble and four different acts from each house will reach the final. Of course, there will be the tradition that is the House Singing which always manages to raise the roof. There are no tickets for this evening, all are welcome and seats are on a first come first served basis.

If your child plays an instrument or sings please encourage them to enter the competition, it's a great experience.

### *Year 7 Maths & ICT trip to Twycross Zoo*

Over the past few weeks, Year 7 pupils have been learning about how to collect data in ICT. They spent some time looking at secondary research and how they could use the Internet more effectively, including combining search criteria to narrow down the results and thinking about how accurate and reliable the information found was. They then moved on to primary research and looked at questionnaire design.

On Wednesday 5 May they went to Twycross Zoo to carry out their primary research. They collected lots of information about the animals and learnt first hand some of the advantages and disadvantages of collecting your own data!

Year 7 are now going to use their data to create their own database of animals in ICT and are going to study data analysis in maths.

### *Year 7 Twycross Zoo Art Photography Competition*

After a great day at the zoo Year 7 have taken a range of interesting photographs of the animals. These will now be judged and the most creative chosen for prizes. All entries will receive certificates which can go into their Record of Achievement. Well done year 7.

### **SWIFT SUCCESS!**

#### **Student of the Year**

Students from across Warwickshire access vocational courses at college as part of the SWIFT (South Warwickshire Initiative for Training) programme. We have fifty-six students from Years 10 and 11 out of school one day a week studying for vocational qualifications. Each year the college tutors select a student in each vocational area who they feel has put in the greatest effort and achieved the most. We were thrilled to receive six awards this year, more than any other school in Warwickshire!

#### **Student of the Year**

**Edward Gaynor** – Hospitality & Catering at Stratford College

**Daryl Owen** – Engineering Young Apprenticeship at Rugby College

**Leo Mahon** – Land Based Studies at Moreton Morrell

#### **Most Improved Student:**

**Christopher Bond** - Engineering Young Apprenticeship at Rugby College

**Katie Meadows** – Hair & Beauty at Leamington  
**Samantha Preece** – Animal Care at Moreton Morrell

In addition to his award for ‘Student of the Year’ in his subject, we were delighted to learn that **Edward Gaynor** had been awarded ‘Overall Student of the Year’ at Stratford College! Well done Ed!

### **Performing Arts**

Our Year 11 Performing Arts students spent a week recently at Stratford College making preparations for their final assessment. As always, the performance was outstanding. The students: **Lucie Watson, Beth Gourlay, Tristan Mulleady and Joe Levermore** performed two matinees and two evening shows of the abridged version of ‘Canterbury Tales’ to packed houses – in some cases playing different characters in each performance. Well done to all - it was brilliant.

### **Hair & Beauty**

Two of our Year 11 Hair & Beauty SWIFT students, **Katie Meadows and Jaydeen Cullum**, were selected to represent Warwickshire College at the regional finals in Lincoln of the Association of Hairdressers and Therapists National Student Championships. Katie came third and subsequently represented the Midlands at the national finals in Blackpool. This was a tremendous achievement – well done.

### **Xtend**

We have a record number of Year 10 students on the after-school Xtend courses this year. They are studying towards a GCSE or equivalent in a year, which is a massive commitment of time and effort – we look forward to the results in the summer!

### **Warwick University**

We have been invited to take ten Year 9 pupils to Warwick University at the end of May to take part in activities which give them an insight into higher education. They will be given an overview of university life by current undergraduates, complete a campus challenge, visit an academic department and participate in group exercises.

### **Careers Fair**

All Year 9 pupils attended the now well-established interactive careers event at the Ricoh Arena in March called ‘Skills West Midlands’. They had hands-on experience of various careers ranging from the army to hairdressing to accountancy. Colleges, universities and professional organisations were also represented giving information and advice on career opportunities.

### **Career Taster Events**

Police – **Josh Buzzard and Tom Powlett** were selected to attend a two day workshop with the Police at their headquarters in Leek Wootten, which gave him an insight into many areas of police work.

### **Police**

15 students from Years 9, 10 and 11 joined Alcester High School students to hear an informative talk from the West Midlands Police Force about careers within the police, including the lengthy and rigorous application procedure.

### **Navy**

In January the Royal Navy Careers team gave an interesting presentation at Alcester High School, on the many careers in the Royal Navy; they detailed various Navy roles from the Royal Marines to the

numerous careers on board ship to the front line soldiers. It was an eye-opening event for eight of our pupils on the Navy's career opportunities.

### **Work Experience**

Our Year 11 spent a week on work experience in October in a multitude of differing placements. All students took part and returned to school enthused by what they had learned. This was followed by all students attending a mock interview with people from the business community, the services and other agencies to help them prepare for their futures after St Benedict's. We received a letter from the Royal Air Force after these interviews praising our students for the way they conducted themselves. They were a credit to the school. Well done Year 11.

### **Textiles**

The GCSE Textiles group were invited to 'Our Lady's Primary School' to show the pupils in Year 6 the beautiful practical work they had made for their GCSE coursework. The staff and pupils talked to our students and found out how they made the items. Later this term some Year 6 pupils are visiting St Benedict's for some interactive technology sessions led by our pupils!!!

### ***Dynamic Innovative Designs from the Design Technology Department***

The Year 11 Product Design Group has been invited to put forward their G.C.S.E. coursework designs for The Rotary Club Design and Innovation Award 2010. A member of the Rotary Club will shortly be visiting the department to choose what they think is the most original and innovative design. This product will then be entered for the local heats of the competition with the winner representing the region in the national final. All the amazing, innovative and original products are now on display in the Design Technology Department.

Also on display in school is the fabulous selection of items designed and made by the Year 11 Textile group. The colourful and superbly crafted range of products definitely reflects the amount of time and effort put in by this very talented group of individuals.

The amazing variety of mouth watering dishes made by the Year 11 Food and Nutrition group during the time spent on their G.C.S.E course work, could have earned any one of them entry into Master Chef. However, photographic evidence only exists, as all the dishes have been eaten!!!!

### ***Design Technology Department Long Service***

The department recently said goodbye to Mr Bernard Pumfrey who has been working with us for nineteen years, as both a teacher, and more recently as one of the department's technicians. His cheery disposition, superb craft skills and font of all knowledge will be greatly missed, by staff and students alike. We wish him well for the future.

### ***Student Leadership Event - March 2010***

Five Year 9 pupils are buzzing with ideas after attending a Student Leadership Event in Redditch on 15 March. The event, organised by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust raised awareness of the approaching 2012 Games in London to pupils from all across the West Midlands.

Our pupils were encouraged to brainstorm, debate, and promote the values of the Olympic Games back at school. The highlight of the day was meeting Paralympic Gold Medalist, Graham Edmunds. His

determination to overcome injuries in both his legs saw the relay swimmer achieve Gold in Athens 2004 and again in Beijing 2008.

### ***Hungarian Exchange 2010***

We had a great response to the Hungarian Exchange from Year 9 and now have the twelve students who will travel to Hungary and stay with host families. The exchange will take place in October next academic year, before which students will get to know their exchange student via e-mail and find out the programme of activities that the Hungarian teachers will be organising. We are busy booking flights and transport and looking forward to the visit.

### ***St Benedict's Sixth Form***

Construction of our purpose-built Sixth Form Centre began on schedule at the end of April. It is estimated that the project should be completed by the end of May 2011, which will give us the summer to furnish it in preparation for our first Sixth Form students in September 2011. The construction company, Leadbitter, are working closely with the school and the community to ensure the build runs smoothly and with as minimal disruption as possible.

We will be keeping a photographic diary of each phase as it progresses, so you will be able to see each stage of the construction on the school website.

A meeting was held for parents of Years 9 and 10 in April, up-dating them on various aspects of our Sixth Form. In school, also, we are advising students of the new opportunities available to them at St Benedict's from September 2011 onwards.

### ***Uganda***

In October 2009 seventeen pupils spent a week visiting St Kizito School in Kampala, our link school of ten years, experiencing Uganda's diverse culture and country. Following on from this visit, we were delighted to welcome a small group from St Kizito School, headed by John Mpoza (Headteacher), back to St Benedict's in May.

Our longstanding link with Uganda is thriving. Over the years the contact we have with St Kizito has impacted greatly on both schools, pupils and staff. It is a privilege for us to have the opportunity to experience first hand, life in a Ugandan school, and John Mpoza always returns to Uganda enthused with ideas he has picked up from our teaching here at St Benedict's.

### ***Year 10 Abstract Impressions***

The year 10 GCSE art group have produced collaborative abstract paintings which are created for specific sites around the school. This stunning work, painted on MDF and then varnished, is in the process of being displayed, mainly on sheltered external walls around the school. This project enabled these young artists to develop their acrylic painting skills whilst working together in groups of threes, and their team work was excellent. We hope you enjoy the work and look after it. Year 10 should be proud of their achievement.

## *Year 10 Recording Alcester's Architecture*

The Year 10 GCSE art group have spent a number of lessons in Alcester recording its wealth of architecture. The photographs and sketches they have made are now being utilised in the classroom as part of their current project.

### *Representation*

**Jack Lambert**            Warwickshire Cricket Trials  
**Becky Burgess**        Warwickshire Cricket Trials (selected)  
**Oliver Edkins**         Finished first in a recent national rowing event

### *Athletics*

#### Combined Events

Warwickshire selection

**Alex Grant**  
**Josh Buzzard**  
**Adriano Richie**

#### Golf

**Jack Atherton**        }        Continuing to perform  
**Harry Francis**        }        very well outside  
**George Morris**        }        of school

#### Fencing

**Anita Mason** came third in the UK Championships.

#### Warwickshire Schools, Athletics Association

The following pupils performed well in the Combined Events Championships:

<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
<b>Amelia Coulson</b> <b>Alice Burn</b> <b>Chloe Connor</b>	<b>Chris Cooke</b> <b>Alex Grant</b> <b>Josh Buzzard</b>

#### South Warwickshire Athletics Trials

The following pupils took part at Stratford High School:

<u>Junior Boys</u>		<u>Junior Girls</u>	
<b>Luke Fancini</b>	<b>High Jump/Long Jump</b>	<b>Amelia Coulson</b>	<b>Long Jump 200m</b>
<b>Alex Grant</b>		<b>Millie Meadows</b>	<b>Shot Putt 100m</b>
<b>Joe Denham</b>		<b>Alice Burn</b>	
<b>Chris Cooke</b>		<b>Chloe Connor</b>	<b>High Jump 300m/800m</b>

<b><u>Inter Boys</u></b>	<b><u>Inter Girls</u></b>
<b>Josh Buzzard</b>	<b>Isobel Lee</b>
<b>Callum Rennie</b>	<b>Anna O'Leary</b>
<b>Adriano Richie</b>	<b>Annabelle Ford</b>
<b>Callum Shiels</b>	<b>Isobel Burn</b>
	<b>Fenn O'Meally</b>
	<b>Becky Pozzi</b>

### ***Leadership***

A great many Year 9 and Year 10 pupils have led festivals and clubs recently, including coaching at Our Lady's Catholic Primary School.

***Feeder Schools' Tournament*** was very successful, involving nearly 250 primary school pupils.

***House Matches:*** Tennis and rounders matches have taken place recently.

### ***Duke of Edinburgh***

- Thirty-four Year 10 pupils went to Shropshire and the Black Mountains for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. The expeditions were very successful.
- Nine/ten pupils will be embarking on a canoeing expedition in July and September 2010
- Approximately sixty pupils have enrolled for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

### ***Year 10 Rounders***

Year 10 played Alcester High School, Studley High School and Stratford High School in the first round. They went into the semi-finals and played Stratford Grammar School for Girls. It was a close game – joint winners. Excellent fielding. Well done!

### ***Alcester Police Football Tournament***

U 14 and U16 both won the Alcester Police Football Tournament. Very well done to all the pupils who took part.

### ***News from the PTA***

The PTA have tried some new events in the past year, as well as having to cancel a few because of lack of support/interest, however, we would like to report back to you our successes.

The Christmas Market was a great success and was sponsored by the HSBC. This raised £2300. Bingo Night raised £137.34 and The Race Night £670. We have recently just held our quiz which was great fun, but awaiting confirmation of the figures.

We are holding a family BBQ again this year on the 9 July, following the St Benedict's Feast Day school sponsored walk. Please try to come along and offer your support. Last year was a fantastic family day and raised approx £1000. Lastly, please keep a look out for our Summer Raffle Tickets due out early July. An i-Pod is the main prize.

So, to re-cap, £3000 is being held in an account towards a new mini-bus. We are also funding furnishing/landscaping, at the entrance to the school. Year 11 received a crucifix at their Leavers' Mass from the PTA. A new surround sound system has also been supplied for the school hall. Remainder is being held for the Language Suite.



*Enjoy the Summer*

