



ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Kinwarton Road, Alcester, Warwickshire



Maths &
Computing



APPLIED
LEARNING

Telephone: (01789) 762888

Fax: (01789) 400192

E. Mail addresses:

Headteacher: head@st-benedicts.org

School Office: admin@st-benedicts.org

Finance Office: finance@st-benedicts.org

ICT Dept: ict@st-benedicts.org

Web site: www.st-benedicts.org

Headteacher:
Mr. T.P. Sara

Chair of Governors:
Mr N Pozzi

Deputy Headteacher:
Mr. J.M. Nallen

Assistant Headteachers:
Mrs. C. Wilks
Mrs. M. Deeks

Introduction

St Benedict's is an 11-16 voluntary-aided, co-educational Catholic high school serving a very wide catchment area which includes the Catholic parishes of Alcester, Bidford, Broadway, Chipping Campden, Evesham, Henley, Stratford, Studley, and all surrounding areas. The school was founded in 1963 and is blessed with a splendid eleven acre site close to the centre of the historic town of Alcester. There are approximately one hundred well-qualified full-time and part-time members of staff who, in keeping with the aims of the school, will help provide our pupils with a spiritual, academic and pastoral environment which will enhance their growth in Christ, encourage them to achieve their full potential and assist them to develop as caring human beings. St Benedict's pupils are encouraged to have respect for themselves, for others and for the world about them.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Benedict's seeks to develop the whole person. We are a Catholic School inspired in our mission by the vision of life that is found in the teaching of the Gospel, the Church, sacramental life and in Jesus Christ, who came that we 'may have life and have it to the full'.

In striving to fulfil this mission we reflect the spirit of our patron St. Benedict. In practice this means that we seek to:

1. Encourage, support and inspire young people and the wider school community in the journey of faith.
2. Create a well-ordered family community, a family of the Lord's service where everyone is valued and respected.
3. Develop the intellectual, creative, physical, spiritual and religious potential of every pupil and encourage involvement in extra curricular activities such as sport, music, drama and community service.
4. Work in partnership with parents, parishes, feeder schools, and the wider community in a spirit of mutual service for the benefit of all.
5. Prepare our young people for life beyond school and in particular develop personal integrity, moral values and a sense of justice so that they 'act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with God'.
(Micah 6:8)

ETHOS / PASTORAL CARE / PUPILS

The ethos and philosophy of St Benedict's originates in our faith in Christ. As a Catholic school we provide a religious education in accordance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church; the theory and practice of this ethos will be found to permeate life at school - in lessons, assemblies, tutor periods, prayer groups, Masses, retreats and the chaplaincy. All pupils are united in their Christian purpose and feel part of a caring, Christian family where a spirit of ecumenism pervades. St Benedict's is known as a family school and there is a genuine rapport between staff, pupils and parents.

Good work, self-respect and respect for others, genuine effort, honesty, good manners, initiative, self-esteem, success, charity, caring and other similar qualities are actively encouraged. Rules are kept to a minimum and are designed to promote the happiness, safety, progress, good conduct and smartness of our young people.

Prior to starting at St Benedict's pupils visit the school from their primary schools for an induction day. During this day they experience life at St Benedict's, familiarise themselves with the geography and organisation of the school and meet staff and pupils. In the evening of the same day there is a meeting for the new pupils and their parents led by staff to ensure that parents are fully aware of administrative matters.

During the summer term before starting at St Benedict's members of the staff Primary School Liaison Team visit the primary schools to meet new pupils and discuss St Benedict's issues with them. The staff also talk to the primary school teachers to ensure that the transition from one school to the next is as smooth and educationally beneficial as possible.

When starting Year 7 at St Benedict's each pupil is placed in a form which has a tutor who is responsible for the welfare of the pupils. The tutor's role is pastoral - a guide, who supports, leads, oversees and, if necessary, disciplines. Discipline at St Benedict's is firm but kind; praise, encouragement and caring engender responsiveness and responsibility. Our pupils' attitude is characterised by traditional politeness, helpfulness, warmth and thoughtfulness. If problems arise a referral system operates. In this referral system the form tutor is the first and most important source of help as well as being the point of contact for parents. The Head of Pastoral Care co-ordinates the pastoral system and parents are informed and consulted whenever needed. We believe in a triangle of communication between parents, pupils and teachers, where channels should always be open. To encourage good communication St Benedict's produces a calendar at the beginning of the Autumn Term and issues newsletters to friends of the school at regular intervals. Each pupil also has a diary that can be used for home/school communication on a daily basis. Our school website, www.st-benedicts.org, is a comprehensive and up to date source of information for parents and pupils.



DIOCESAN SCHOOLS COMMISSION

ADMISSION POLICY 2009

Name of school: St. Benedict's Catholic High School

The admissions process followed by the school is part of the Warwickshire Local Authority co-ordinated scheme. The Admissions Policy of St. Benedict's Catholic High School is as follows:

The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of catholic families. The school is conducted by the governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Jesus Christ.

The School's Pupil Admission Number for the school year beginning in September 2009 is 106.

If the number of applications exceeds the admission number, the governors will give priority to applications in accordance with the criteria listed below, provided that the governors are made aware of those applications before decisions on admissions are made. (see Note 1).

Under admission criteria 1-3 below, priority within each category or sub-category, will be given to those children who have a brother or sister (see Note 2) attending St Benedict's Catholic High School at the date of admission.

In general, the following criteria and notes apply to applicants for admission to Year 7. Applications for admission to Year 8 and subsequent years should be made to the school, and will be dealt with in accordance with the same principles as they relate to the year group in question.

Priority Area

The Catholic Parishes of Our Lady and St. Joseph's, Alcester; St. Joseph the Worker, Bidford on Avon; St. Saviour, Broadway; St. Mary and St. Egwin, Evesham; St. Gregory the Great, Stratford-upon-Avon; Our Lady and St. Benedict, Wootton Wawen; St. Mary's, Studley; St. Francis of Assisi, Kineton; St. Philip the Apostle, Ilmington; all as defined by the Archbishop of Birmingham on 22 December 1963, 13 April 1964, 18 March 1966, 5 July 1963, 22 March 1963 and 4 October 1983 respectively and the Catholic Parishes of St. Catherine's, Chipping Campden and Our Lady & St Kenelm, Stow on the Wold, as currently defined by the Bishop of Clifton.

Admission Criteria

1. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 3) who are in the care of a local authority (looked-after children) or provided with accommodation by them (eg. children with foster parents). [Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 or any statutory re-enactment thereof]

2. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 3) living within the priority area. Within this criterion priority will be given as follows:
 - (a) Children who at the time of application attend a designated Catholic Feeder School (see Note 4)
 - (b) Children who at the time of application attend another Catholic school (see Note 4)
 - (c) Other baptised Catholic children
3. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 3) living outside the priority area. Within this criterion priority will be given in the same order as 2 (a) - (c)
4. Non-Catholic children who are in the care of a local authority (looked-after children) or provided with accommodation by them (e.g. children with foster parents). [Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 or any statutory re-enactment thereof]
5. Other non-Catholic children Within this criterion priority will be given as follows:
 - (a) Siblings of children attending St. Benedict's Catholic High School at the date of admission
 - (b) Children who at the time of application attend a designated Catholic feeder school (see Note 4)
 - (c) Children who at the time of application attend another Catholic school
 - (d) Other children

OVER-SUBSCRIPTION WITHIN CRITERIA

If there is over-subscription under criteria 1-3 inclusive , the governors will give the highest priority (within each sub-section a - c) to children living farthest from an alternative Catholic secondary school (whether or not a preference for that particular school has been declared) measured by the shortest available walking route from the gate or end of the child's home property nearest the public highway to the main school entrance, applying the criteria used by the Local Authority for transport eligibility.

If there is over-subscription within Categories 4-5 inclusive , the governors will give highest priority to children living closest to St Benedict's Catholic High School determined by the shortest straight line distance measured from their home address (see Note 5 below) as set by Ordnance Survey to the centroid of the school measured by the Admissions Service.

In the unlikely event of having to take measurements involving two or more addresses in the same block of flats/apartments, the decision will be made by lot.

Note 1.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs that names the school will be admitted. This will reduce the number of places available to applicants.

Note 2.

The definition of a sibling/brother or sister comprises a brother or sister (including half-brother or half-sister, adopted, step-brother or step-sister), living at the same home address as the child applying for the place. The sibling must be attending St Benedict's Catholic High School at the date of admission.

Note 3.

Evidence of Catholic Baptism or Reception into the Catholic Church will be required, and should be attached to the common application form. The relevant definitions may be found in the appendix to this document. Applicants who face difficulties in producing written evidence of baptism should contact their parish priest.

Note 4.

The designated feeder schools for St. Benedict's Catholic High School are:

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Alcester
St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Stratford-upon-Avon
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Studley
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Henley in Arden
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Broadway
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Evesham
St. Catherine's Catholic Primary School, Chipping Campden

Note 5.

The home address of a pupil is where the child normally resides/sleeps when s/he attends school. Addresses involved in child minding arrangements (whether professional or with relatives/friends) are excluded. Documentary evidence may be required.

Where a child lives with two parents in separate addresses, the qualifying address will be that where the child sleeps the majority of the week. If the child spends exactly equal amounts of time in the two addresses, the parents themselves will need to nominate which address they wish to be the child's main address for school admission purposes.

If a school place is allocated on the basis of an address which is subsequently found to be different from the child's home address, that place is liable to be withdrawn.

Note 6.

Where the final place in a year group is given to one of twins (or triplets etc.), it will normally be the school's policy to admit the other twin, triplets etc. even where the effect is to exceed the Pupil Admission Number as a result. This practice is in accordance with the Local Authority policy on the admission of siblings.

Appeals

Parents who wish to appeal against a decision of the governors to refuse their child a place in the school may apply in writing to the Chair of Governors. Any such appeals will be heard by an independent appeals panel.

Repeat Applications

Unless significant and material changes in the circumstances of a parent's application for their child or the school itself have taken place, the governors will not consider a repeat application in the same academic year.

Late Applications

Applications for Year 7 before the commencement of the year should be made through the Local Authority's co-ordinated scheme. Applications for admission to any year group received after the closing date set (see 3(b) below) will only be considered together with applications received by the closing date under circumstances where

- (a) the family were unable to complete an application form before the closing date because they moved into the school's catchment area after application forms had been issued. Evidence of the move has to be provided by the date set by the Warwickshire Local Authority OR
- (b) the family were unable to comply with the admissions timetable because of special circumstances which prevented the application arriving on time. These circumstances must be given in writing and attached to the application form. No application received after 6 February 2009 will be considered in the first round of offers.

Where neither (a) nor (b) above applies, late applications will be added to the school's waiting list for the year in question (see "Waiting List" below).

Applications at other times should be made direct to the school for all other year groups.

If a vacancy exists i.e. the number on roll is less than the admission number appropriate to that year group, a place must be offered, except where the child has been permanently excluded, in which case the duty to comply with the application is removed for two years from the date of exclusion.

Offers made to casual applicants are normally made no longer than 5 school weeks before the child takes up the place.

Waiting List

A Waiting List is kept for any over-subscribed year group. The waiting list will be kept in admission criteria order. Any vacancies will be offered on the basis of the published admission criteria for the school.

The waiting list will be kept open until the end of the academic year for which the application was made. On the last day of the school year, the names of all children will be removed from the waiting list.

If any parents want their child's name to be added to the new waiting list, they must apply to the school in writing at the beginning of the new school year.

Fair Access

(a) Children in Care: Moves of care placement can occur outside the normal admissions round when many schools are full. To avoid delays necessitated by the local appeals procedure the Governors will consider the admission, without appeal, of children in public care or provided with accommodation by an authority, who are baptised Catholics living within the areas served by the catholic feeder schools, even though their admission limit has already been reached or exceeded.

(b) Previously Excluded Children and 'Pupils Causing Concern' are referred to Area Behaviour Management Panels so that consideration can be given to the possibility of a return to mainstream school. If the Area Behaviour Management Panel makes a recommendation, the school may offer places to pupils previously excluded from other schools, even where the year group in question is full.

The School will apply the Local Authority's Fair Access Protocol (attached).

Appendix: Definition of a Baptised Catholic

A “Baptised Catholic” is one who:

(a) has been baptised into full communion (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 837) with the Catholic Church by the Rites of Baptism of one of the various ritual churches in communion with the See of Rome (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1203). Written evidence of this baptism can be obtained by recourse to the baptismal registers of the church in which the baptism took place (see *Code of Canon Law*, 877 and 878); or

(b) has been validly baptised in a separated ecclesiastical community and subsequently received into full communion with the Catholic Church by the *Rite of Reception of Baptised Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church*. Written evidence of their baptism and reception into full communion with the Catholic Church can be obtained by recourse to the Register of Receptions, or in some cases, a sub-section of the baptismal register of the church in which the *Rite of Reception* took place (see *Rite of Christian Initiation*, 399).

A current and valid Certificate of Baptism or Reception must be produced as evidence.

PLEASE NOTE:

At the date of publication, this policy is in the hands of the Schools Adjudicator and may need to be amended to meet the adjudicator’s requirements.

Further information should be available from the school website (www.st-benedicts.org) or by contacting the school.

GOVERNORS
(for the 2008-2009 academic year)

Foundation Governors

Mr N Pozzi (Chair)

(2A Hathaway Lane, Shotton, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 9BL
01789 299762)

Mrs K Buckley
Mr B Catton
Rev Deacon P Griffiths
Mrs R Hargreave
Mrs J Leeman
Mr W McCarthy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

LEA Representatives

Mr M Gerrard
Mr A McDonnell

Headteacher

Mr T P Sara

Parent-Governors

Mr D Cropper
Mrs G Edwardes
Mrs B Halton (Vice-Chair)
Mrs E McKenzie

Teacher/Non-Teaching-Governors

Mr A Hendry
Mr T Sara
Mrs M Thomas

Associate

Clerk

Mr D Wallis (Coventry LEA, Government Support Services)

DAILY TIMETABLE

School begins at 8.50. Assembly is held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Morning			
	8.55 - 9.00	Registration	
	9.00 - 10.00	1 st Lesson	
	10.00 - 11.00	2 nd Lesson	
	11.00 - 11.20	Break	
	11.20 - 12.20	3 rd Lesson	
Afternoon			
12.20 - 1.10 (Monday, Wednesday & Friday)	Lunch (50 min)	12.20 - 1.25 (Tuesday, & Thursday)	Lunch (1 hr 5 min)
1.10 - 1.15	Registration	1.25 - 1.35	Registration and Tutor Time,
1.15-1.35	Assembly & Form Time		
1.35 - 2.35	4 th Lesson	1.35 - 2.35	4 th Lesson
2.35 - 3.35	5 th Lesson	2.35 - 3.35	5 th Lesson
3.35	End of School	3.35	End of School

All pupils have lunch at school, where a self-service restaurant operates using a card swipe system. Sandwiches may be brought and eaten in the school dining hall.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2008- 2009

Autumn Term:	Tuesday 2 September to Friday 19 December inclusive
Half Term:	Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October inclusive
Spring Term:	Tuesday 6 January to Friday 3 April inclusive
Half Term	Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February inclusive
Summer Term:	Monday 20 April to Friday 17 July inclusive
Half Term:	Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May inclusive
May Day Holiday:	Monday 4 May
Plus 3 other teacher training days	

SCHOOL UNIFORM - St Benedict's pupils wear school uniform, full details of which are set out below:

BOYS

Navy-blue or <u>plain dark</u> top coat	Black blazer with **school badge
White shirt	Black trousers
Medium grey V-necked long-sleeved pullover or black pullover in Year 11	Black shoes
Grey socks	
**School tie	

**Regulation summer shirt, worn without tie, at specific times of the year.

P.E. & Games

Royal blue football socks	Plain Black football shorts (no stripes)
**White Aertex shirt (with school crest)	*Training shoes
Towel	Football boots (compulsory)
Bag for sports clothing	**Black rugby jersey (compulsory)
**Plain Black tracksuit bottoms (Optional) (no stripes)	Shin pads (compulsory)
	Gum Shield
	**Baseball cap (optional) Dark Blue/Black
	Tennis Racquet

GIRLS

Navy-blue or plain dark top coat
White button-to-the neck blouse
Medium grey V-necked long-sleeved pullover (Years 7-10)
or black V pullover in Year 11 only (not cardigans)

Black shoes - low heels – no stilettos

**School tie

Satchel/briefcase - not bulky sports bag

NO jewellery (including pierced ears - sleepers)

NO make-up or nail polish

**Regulation summer shirt, worn without tie, at specific times of the year.

Black blazer with **school badge

Medium grey knee-length skirt (Years 7-10)

Black knee/to mid-calf-length skirt (Year 11 only)

White knee-length socks (Years 7-10)

Grey tights (Years 7-10) (available in school)

Black tights (Year 11 only)

White ankle socks (summer only)

P.E. & Games

*Plain black P.E. shorts (no stripes)**

Football boots (for hockey, football & rugby)

Hockey stick (optional)

Tennis racquet

P.E. bag

Sweatshirt with school logo (compulsory)

*Plain black tracksuit bottoms (no stripes) (compulsory)

*You can purchase these from school

**Blue Aertex shirt (with school crest)

Training shoes

White ankle socks

Towel

Royal blue hockey/football/rugby socks

Shin pads (compulsory)

Gum Shield

Baseball cap (Optional) Dark Blue/Black

Many of the items can be purchased from major stores.

** These items are only available from the school

ABSENCE

A telephone call is required on the first and subsequent days of absence, followed by a written explanation on return of the pupil to school.

Attendance statistics for 2007-2008 were as follows:

Number on roll: 553

Number of pupil sessions: 204880

Number of authorised absences: 14305

Number of pupils with at least one authorised absence: 537

Number of unauthorised absences: 665

Number of pupils with at least one unauthorised absence: 63

AUTHORISATION FOR HOLIDAYS

- There is no automatic right to absence for a family holiday. (Authorisation will depend on current attendance record.)
- Requests for leave of absence should be sent to the school no less than six weeks prior to the start of the holiday (forms can be obtained from the school office).
- Authorisation during SATs, GCSEs (including mock exams) and in the first term of any new school placement is not likely to be granted.
- Any requests for extended leave, ie more than 10 school days, will result in an interview with a senior member of staff to look at options for ensuring continuity of education.
- The relevant form **MUST** be completed by the parents/carers before requests will be considered.

TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL

Arrangements for transport to school for those pupils who are entitled to free or concessionary bus passes are made by the Warwickshire or Worcestershire education authorities and co-ordinated by the headteacher. Details are sent to pupils' homes in time for use on the first day at St Benedict's. With permission pupils may travel to school by bicycle. They are expected to maintain their bicycles in good condition and to a safe standard for riding. The Head of Pastoral Care should be informed of pupils using bicycles for this purpose.

ILLNESS OR ACCIDENT

If a child has an accident or is taken ill, parents are contacted so that the pupil may be taken home. No child will be sent home until the parent has been informed. If a child needs to receive hospital treatment he/she will be taken directly to hospital, by ambulance if parents/guardians cannot be contacted, where the parents may meet the teacher in charge. Telephone numbers for use in emergencies are essential. Pupils are not allowed to carry medicines around school. Tutors and/or office staff supervise the taking of medicines (only medicines issued by a GP, clearly marked, maybe given to pupils). Parents should inform the school of any allergies or long term medical conditions that their child suffers from.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Parents and guardians are requested to encourage their children who are pupils at this school to:

- (a) Conduct themselves in a manner which is considerate to their own safety and the safety of others.
- (b) Observe standards of dress consistent with safety and/or hygiene (this would preclude unsuitable footwear and other items considered dangerous). No ear-rings for PE (including sleepers).
- (c) Observe all the safety rules of the school and in particular the instructions staff give in an emergency.
- (d) Not wilfully misuse, neglect or interfere with equipment provided for their safety.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

As St Benedict's is a lively, effective school, with teachers who have high expectations and emphasise achievement, educational visits form an important part of the curriculum and are often re-inforced by extra-curricular activities. The continuation of such outings depends on parents making voluntary financial contributions. Should parents or pupils have concerns over monetary payments they should contact the headteacher.

ORGANISATION OF THE CURRICULUM

Aims. The ethos of St Benedict's is one of maximisation of potential, spiritually, academically, vocationally and socially. We know that by the end of their five years at the school, most pupils will have achieved their full potential and very often progressed beyond expectations. This gives them the confidence and ability to develop their achievements in further and higher education or in their chosen careers post 16.

K.S.3. St Benedict's provides a broad, balanced curriculum. In years 7, 8 and 9 all pupils follow national curriculum guidelines in English, maths, science, Spanish, history, I.T., geography, technology, art, music and P.E. and diocesan schemes for R.E in Year 9. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 are involved in a Curriculum Carousel which allows pupils in 7 week blocks to be taught additional curriculum areas i.e. French, dance, drama. Their rate of progress is monitored throughout this key stage aided by internal examinations taken for each year group with external SATs taken in Year 9 in maths, science and English. Core subjects are taught in ability groups by setting pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9, and groups are also made up of pupils of all ability levels. The development of French as a second language is at present under discussion.

K.S.4. All pupils are entered for G.C.S.E. examinations generally in the following subjects (English, English Literature, maths, double entry science, single entry science or single sciences physics, biology, chemistry, ICT, the DIDA ICT suite of qualifications, technology (food studies) or technology (Product Design), (Graphics/Food/Resistant Materials/Textiles) and R.E. The optional subjects are Spanish, French, geography, history, art, music, and drama. Italian, German and Dance may be studied as extra-curricular subjects. Prior to KS4 guidance is given to parents and pupils in our Curriculum Guidance booklet and several meetings are held for parents and pupils to help them make informed decisions about choices in KS4. We are willing and able to personalise the curriculum needs of our pupils, and where it suits, pupils can take less than six GCSEs or up to fourteen GCSEs or the equivalent.

In Key Stage 4 some pupils may benefit from a more vocational bias to their education and attend the South Warwickshire Initiative for Training scheme (SWIFT) on which they spend a day in work or college placements developing vocational skills and qualifications. At the moment up to 30% of our pupils benefit from this highly successful option.

Specialist College – Mathematics Computing and Applied Learning In 2004 the school was awarded Specialist College Status in Maths and Computing. This allows us as a school, with additional government funding, to develop skills and competences across the whole of the curriculum areas in relation to Maths and ICT. It also allows us to offer courses and skills with the local community, including AS level in Maths and ICT, work with our feeder schools, and CLAIT courses for the community.

We have successfully gained additional funding to develop Applied Learning as a second specialism. We are presently going through the feasibility of establishing a 6th Form in relation to Applied Learning Specialism. This will mean a range of additional courses will be on offer to our pupils and the community from 14-19 in the proposed new building. Much work and planning will take place before this comes to fruition by 2010 at the earliest.

Curriculum Developments

We will shortly be moving to the next phase of the Warwickshire ICT initiative of "We Learn" which will replace and extend our learning opportunities.

We have strong links with other schools and colleges and work and co-operate with them to provide a range of learning opportunities, both within the Alcester Cluster, the South Warwickshire Initiative for Training (SWIFT) and the Warwickshire Inclusion Network (WIN), the latter group is sponsored by the National College of School Leadership (NCSL). We are also promoting the provision of languages in our school. We have recently moved from French to Spanish as our first language – Spanish is presently perceived as a more global language. We are examining ways to provide two languages in

Key Stage 3 as well as the three languages we teach in Key Stage 4 – Spanish, French and Italian. We actively encourage all our pupils who have English as a second language to take their first language to GCSE level.

Teaching methods. A glance at the layout of classrooms shows the variety of teaching and learning styles used in the school. Teachers are encouraged to use a range of teaching techniques according to the needs of their pupils and resources are used so that teachers may develop the most suitable strategies to meet individual needs. Schemes of work are available in school. Please see Mr. Nallen (Deputy Headteacher) for further details.

Pupils' responsibility for their own learning. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. This may mean them using 'spell check' to improve their work or participation in music tuition, or sports practice. It may also involve working on the internet to research individual projects or interests.. The ethos of positive consideration and thoughtfulness is always present and pupils are given every opportunity to organise their lifestyles so that they may achieve and extend their individual potential. School diaries are an important part of this procedure. Pupils note their long-term goals and targets as well as their day-to-day plans and these are monitored by their form tutors and by you. Merit certificates and Curricular Achievement certificates are awarded to pupils who have reached significant levels of attainment. Responsibility for learning also means more than what is outlined above. St Benedict's aims to make pupils more autonomous learners, pupils who seek and enjoy learning develop an independence which they will take on to their next learning experience and even through life.

Work pattern. During a normal week there are 25 lessons of 1 hour. This includes in addition several acts of collective worship and three assemblies a week.

R.E. R.E. is (compulsory) a fundamental element of the curriculum from Years 7 -11. The curriculum is based upon schemes approved by the Archdiocese and reflects expectations of the Curriculum directory for Catholic Schools.

Sex Education Pupils follow a Personal Relationships Programme based on a scheme which accords both with Diocesan guidelines and reflects Roman Catholic teaching. Whilst it is appreciated that pupils must be knowledgeable about the physical aspects of sexual development emphasis is also placed upon their responsibilities morally, ethically, socially and spiritually. The policy statement on Sex Education is available from school. Please contact the Headteacher if you would like a copy. If, after due consultation, you feel that the policy statement on Sex Education is not appropriate to the needs of your child alternative arrangements may be made but a written request to the Headteacher is needed.

Special Needs. At St Benedict's Catholic High School, all children are special and are valued as individuals. Each one comes to the school with ability in different areas and is encouraged in an atmosphere of celebration and praise. All have an entitlement to every aspect of the school curriculum. If at any time during a child's years with us, special arrangements have to be made, we aim to meet those individual requirements in a variety of ways. For example, a learning difficulty is generally addressed by the form tutor/subject teachers within the mainstream group with the guidance from the S.E.N. Co-ordinator, Mrs Lloyd. When necessary, in-class support or advice is given from the special needs department. Withdrawal from lessons is used only when it is best for the individual and is kept to a minimum. The school also works closely with the Local Authority's advisory services. At all times, contact between the school and home is seen as essential and we aim to work together as a team for the good of the child. The school strives: to meet the needs of pupils who hold a Statement of Educational Needs; take account of local and national legislation; do our best to meet the requirements of pupils within the normal structure of the mainstream school setting. More detailed information about the role of the S.E.N. department is available upon request. One of our current disabled pupils is supported regularly by a dog provided from Dogs for the Disabled.

Homework. Homework is set according to a timetable. Both teachers and parents are encouraged to make comments (including celebratory ones) in the appropriate column in the school diary. Pupils in years 7 and 8 are expected to spend approximately one hour each evening doing homework. In year 9 one and a half hours' work is expected and in years 10 and 11 pupils should be studying for approximately two hours each evening and spending part of the weekend studying so that a weekly total of 15 hours' work should be achieved. Pupils are given detailed advice about the study skills needed when doing homework. We do ask for parental co-operation too in the form of:

encouragement and support;
signatures in school diaries (weekly);

monitoring of exercise books;
 testing;
 listening to oral work;
 helping with reading;
 sharing skills and knowledge;
 discussion;
 provision of a suitable working environment;
 contacting form tutors if there are any problems via diaries, telephone or letter.
 A "Homework Information and Guidance" sheet is given to pupils and parents.

Coursework. Coursework is still an important aspect of many G.C.S.E. courses and equivalent and pupils are encouraged to develop a responsible attitude towards this component of their work.

Examinations, Profiles and Consultation. Examinations take place in every year culminating in G.C.S.E.s at the end of Year 11. Parents receive two reports a year, an interim report and a more detailed profile. Target setting for pupils is an integral part of the learning process. Consultation with parents take place formally at least once a year but there is, however, an 'open door' policy within the school which means that you are welcome to discuss any problems or concerns at any time. We do ask that you ring for an appointment and suggest that you arrange to speak to your child's tutor. We hope that you would feel well-informed at all times and with this aim in mind we run 'Insight into Teaching' evenings each year to give you details of major changes within a rapidly developing curriculum and education service.

Inspection of Documents. All school policies are available from the school office.

Complaints. The first contact for parents, as always, is the form tutor. If further advice is needed senior staff, including the headteacher, are available. The Chairman of Governors and Warwickshire Local Authority may be consulted should it be considered necessary.

The Wider Curriculum. Pupils are able to take advantage of many social, cultural and educational opportunities offered by the school. We are now linked with a Hungarian School (Szent Imre Gimnazium School) and pupils are being encouraged to write to or visit the school. There are study visits to Marle Hall in North Wales; theatre trips to Stratford, Birmingham and Warwick take place; school plays and poetry recitals are an annual event; peripatetic music teachers offer lessons in school; there is an active and successful orchestra; a French department exchange visit to a school in Normandy takes place regularly; and there is sport both competitive and non-competitive throughout the year; we have also linked with St. Kizito Secondary School in Uganda.

Careers, Routes and destinations. All pupils follow courses in careers education and careers guidance is given by specially trained members of staff, Connexions, as well as by expert outsiders. All pupils have a week's work experience during Year 11. Some pupils go into full-time employment at the end of Year 11 but most continue their studies at Alcester Grammar School, Prince Henry's, Evesham, Stratford Girls Grammar School St. Augustine's, Redditch Sixth forms or at the South Warwickshire Colleges of Further Education. Routes and destinations for pupils in Year 11 2007-2008 were as follows:

Sixth Form 'A' Levels	College 'A' Levels B.Tec Other	Apprenticeship	Forces	No Destination/ Work Placement
60	41	2	0	2

SUBJECT	TIME Periods / Week		
	7	8	9
Art	1	1	1
English	3	3	3
Spanish	2	2	2
Geography	2	1	2
History	1	2	2
ICT	1	1	1
Mathematics	3	3	3
Music	1	1	1
PE	2	2	2
Citizenship	1	1	1
RE	2	2	2
Science	3	3	3
Technology	2	2	2
Curriculum Carousel (Year 7: Dance, Learning to Learn, Drama, Health & Fitness and PE Activity, ICT)(Year 8: Drama, Dance, Electronics, PE Activity, ICT)	1	1	-

SUBJECT	TIME Periods / Week	
	10	11
English	4	4
Mathematics	4	4
PE	1	1
Citizenship	1	1
RE	2	2
Science	5	5
Option A	2	2
Option B	2	2
Option C	2	2
Option D	2	2
or Option D1	or 1	or 1
Option D2	1	1

GCSE RESULTS 2001-2008

% 5 A* - C

Year	St Benedict's	National Averages %
2008	80.4	Unknown
2007	82.0	60.0
2006	88.0	58.0
2005	76.0	56.9
2004	88.0	53.4
2003	77.0	51.5
2002	65.7	49.9
2001	72.8	48.4

THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The House system was founded in 1968 to group young people together so that they may compete in a controlled, healthy and friendly atmosphere, thus promoting a sense of pride and belonging.

Pupils on being admitted to St Benedict's are placed at random into one of four Houses each named after saints. They are Becket, Fisher, More and Clitherow. The intake is divided into four tutor groups, 7B, 7C, 7F, and 7M.

Each House has members of staff designated Head of House and the Boys' and Girls' Captains and Vice-Captains are elected from the 11th and 10th years respectively.

House activities are many and varied giving everyone the opportunity to represent their House. A calendar of House events is compiled and published at the beginning of each year. Events are scheduled to take place at lunchtimes and on afternoons of certain feast days.

Each House meets regularly on a rota basis to worship together and deal with House business.

House colours are automatically awarded to individuals after they have represented their House on fifteen separate occasions. House colours take the form of a miniature House shield badge worn by the recipient on the blazer lapel.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At St Benedict's, extra-curricular activities play an essential part in the complete education of our pupils. All students are encouraged to participate in the wide range of opportunities available and response is traditionally very good. The activities contribute to the vitality and friendly determination to succeed evident in the school.

Departments within the school contribute in many ways to extra-curricular events, from retreats, study visits and field work to trips abroad. We also run a very healthy and popular Duke of Edinburgh Scheme for Bronze and Silver which encourages young people to use their talents, develop new skills and also help in the community. There are approximately 70 Bronze and 30 Silver taking part in this group. There is much sport, too. In P.E. lessons pupils take netball, hockey, football, rugby, cricket, athletics, basketball, rounders, and tennis but can also try badminton, fencing, golf, yoga, squash, dance, volleyball, gymnastics, trampolining, orienteering, jujitsu and table-tennis. From time to time, games are played to raise money for charity. In all games, the emphasis is on the pleasure of participating as well as the importance of winning. Those pupils who do gain local, regional or national success are acknowledged as worthy standard-bearers in a school where success is for every individual, although it is seen in different ways in all our pupils.

One example of pupils achieving excellent standards whilst simultaneously giving many people enormous pleasure is in our recent school plays: 'The Crucible,' 'Billy Liar', 'The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew' and 'Blue Remembered Hills'. In addition, various in-House competitions are staged, including poetry and music. Excerpts from the CJM Production 'Born for This' have been performed annually during Lent. St Benedict's also organises regular discos and activity days.

Our annual sponsored walk, around Alcester, is impressive both in terms of organisation and as a money-raiser. The Alcester walk is open to the whole school and we expect all pupils to participate. One other important fundraiser is the annual Christmas Raffle and Bingo.

A great deal of the success of the social side of life at St Benedict's is attributable to members of our Parent Teacher Association, the St Benedict's Association. Their considerable efforts enable us to offer a varied range of activities for everyone to enjoy. Recently parents, pupils, staff and friends of the school have enjoyed discos, race nights, 50/50 club, concerts, summer balls, barbeques and quizzes. To the members we are very grateful.