St Benedict's Catholic High School
1971

NEWSLETTER

Letter from Headteacher Mr Morrison



As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a very positive and productive start to the academic year. There is much to celebrate across our school community, and I am delighted with the progress we are making in strengthening our routines, raising expectations, and creating the conditions in which every student can flourish.

As a Catholic Benedictine school, our identity is rooted in our motto: **"Through Love of Christ, Delight in Virtue."** These words provide more than a statement of belief; they offer a guiding principle for how we learn, how we behave and how we treat one another. Our Benedictine tradition calls us to develop not only academically successful young people, but also individuals of faith, integrity, compassion, and character. Every day presents an opportunity to put these values into practice through our choices, our relationships, and our commitment to the common good.

One of the most successful developments this term has been the introduction of **morning line-ups at the beginning of the school day.** This has helped establish a calm, purposeful and orderly start, setting the right tone for the day ahead.

Coming together in this way reinforces our sense of community and shared purpose, reminding us that we each have a responsibility to contribute positively to school life. It provides an opportunity to reflect on our expectations and prepare ourselves for the learning and challenges ahead. I would like to thank staff for their consistent support and students for the increasingly positive way in which they have responded. I would also like to thank our parent community for their support in getting our students into school on time.

We have also seen improvements in **punctuality to school and to lessons throughout the day.** Being punctual is about more than simply arriving on time; it demonstrates respect for others, personal responsibility, and a commitment to making the most of every learning opportunity.

Every lesson matters, and arriving promptly allows learning to begin without unnecessary interruption. These expectations are an important part of developing the self-discipline and consideration for others that sit at the heart of our Benedictine tradition. By taking responsibility for our actions and respecting the time and learning of others, we demonstrate how our values can be lived out in practical, everyday ways. We will continue to build on this progress, with the support of parents and carers.

Letter from Mr Morrison - continued

This half term has involved a wealth of activities. We have hosted a clubs and societies showcase; a Year 11 information evening; the Brightside connect launch for the Sixth Form; the Royal Institute STEM Roadshow; Year 9, 11 and Sixth Form Careers fair; Year 7 history fieldwork trip to Carlisle; Sixth Form trip to the National Apprenticeship in Newcastle; the Year 7 **Race to the Line** engineering event.



We hosted our annual Year 6 Open evening and we welcomed 748 guests which was our highest number ever in recent years.

We pride ourselves at St Benedicts with our commitment to sport. Our students have been actively involved in numerous tournaments and sporting fixtures over the last eight weeks and have been incredibly successful.

This half term break we will witness positive developments in our learning environment. The **redeployment of the library** will enable us to make more effective use of our facilities and ensure that our spaces continue to meet the needs of our students. This reflects our responsibility to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us, using them thoughtfully for the benefit of the whole school community.

Similarly, the introduction of an **expanded Sixth Form study room** represents an important investment in our older students. It provides enhanced opportunities for independent study, examination preparation and the development of the resilience and self-discipline required for future success.

We want our Sixth Form students to be role models within the school, demonstrating maturity, perseverance, and a genuine commitment to learning. We hope that this improved provision will help them to flourish academically while preparing them to make a positive contribution to the wider world.

As we look ahead, we must remember that high standards and our Benedictine values go hand in hand. We expect our students to work hard, attend punctually, behave respectfully, care for their surroundings and show kindness and consideration to others. These expectations are not separate from our Catholic identity; they are an expression of it. To delight in virtue is to recognise the value of doing what is right, not simply because it is expected of us, but because it reflects the people we aspire to become. Through our daily actions, we can strengthen our community and ensure that everyone feels a sense of belonging, dignity, and purpose.

None of this progress would be possible without the collective efforts of our staff, students, parents, and carers. I would like to thank our staff for their dedication, our students for their many positive contributions and our families for their continued partnership and support. Together, we have an important role in creating a school community in which faith, learning and personal growth go hand in hand.

As we enter the half-term break, I hope that everyone enjoys a restful and well-deserved opportunity to recharge. We look forward to welcoming students back for the next half term, ready to build on the strong foundations we have established and to continue striving for excellence in all that we do.

May we continue to be guided by our motto, “Through Love of Christ, Delight in Virtue,” allowing it to shape our actions, strengthen our community and inspire us to be the very best that we can be.

I wish all our students, staff, and families a peaceful and enjoyable half-term break.



Annual Careers Fair Inspires Students

Students explore future opportunities at our Careers Fair

We were delighted to host our annual Careers Fair for students in Years 9, 11 and Sixth Form, providing them with valuable insight into the wide range of opportunities available beyond school.
The event welcomed a diverse group of organisations, including universities, colleges and further education providers, alongside employers from the nuclear industry, the tourism sector and travel industry and many more. Their support helped create an engaging and informative experience, enabling students to explore potential career pathways and make informed decisions about their futures.

Mrs Kelso, Careers Lead at St Benedict's said:

"Our Careers Fair is a powerful tool for student aspiration. By engaging with industry professionals, pupils become informed decision-makers, gaining the awareness needed to make confident choices about their futures. By coming into school these professionals reach everyone and we really appreciate the time they give to make the impact they do."

Feedback from attending employers was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising our students for their excellent engagement, exemplary conduct and open-minded approach when discussing future career options.

Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners were one of the local businesses who attended, they commented:

"Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners really enjoyed attending the careers fair at St Benedict's School, where we had some great conversations with engaged students, not just about future career pathways and paid employment but also volunteering opportunities."

"It was also a great opportunity to discuss the qualities we look for in applicants beyond formal qualifications, highlighting the importance of transferable skills, enthusiasm and a willingness to learn."

Karen and the team from Hays Travel Whitehaven also attended, she said:

"It was a fantastic opportunity to share all the exciting details about our apprenticeship scheme and chat with the students about what a career in travel can look like. From helping people plan their dream holidays to discovering exciting opportunities within the travel industry, we loved sharing just how rewarding a career in travel can be."

"A big thank you to St Benedict's school for having us. We hope we've inspired some future travel experts along the way!"

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the organisations and individuals who generously gave their time to support the event. Their contribution made this valuable experience possible and helped inspire the next generation as they begin planning their future careers.









Celebrating Our Student of the Week Winners

It has been lovely to see our **Student of the Week** winners being celebrated this half term.

Mr Morrison has enjoyed meeting the students and finding out about the great work they have been producing.

What a fabulous start to the school year they have all made - well done everyone!

You can see the full gallery of photos on our website at:

www.st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk/latest-news









Student Shout Outs

We have celebrating some out of school achievements this term too



Noah signing for Wigan Warrors



Lexie attending National Youth Theatre over the summer



Livvy & Mia both signed for Barrow Rangers



Year 7 thrive in their first term

Our Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their life here at St Benedict's.

We have been very proud to award many students with their **BRONZE** badges for achieving over 500 achievement points already this term!

This is a fabulous achievement!











Year 6 Open Evening

We welcomed families in September to visit our school

Last month, we were delighted to welcome prospective students and their families to our Year 6 Open Evening.

Visitors had the opportunity to explore our school, meet staff and students, and discover the wide range of academic, extracurricular and pastoral opportunities available.

It was wonderful to see so many families engaging with departments, taking part in activities and getting a taste of life at our school.

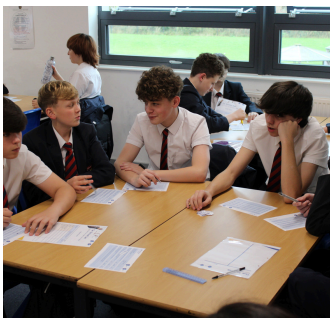
Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a success. We look forward to welcoming our future Year 7 students in September.

DEADLINE FOR APPLYING FOR SECONDARY PLACE 31ST OCTOBER
via CUMBERLAND COUNCIL WEBSITE

Highlights of events & activities this term







Upcoming Events

Some key dates for next half term

DATE	EVENT
November 3rd 2026	Year 11 & Sixth Form Group Photos
November 6th 2026	Sixth Form All Saints Feast
November 10th 2026	A Level Fieldwork - Manchester
November 11th 2026	McMenon's Girls Engineering Day
w/c 23rd November	Year 11 & Year 13 Grade Indicators (Mock Exams)