



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



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Message from our Headteacher

It seems incredible to think that we are at the end of our first half term already. It has been a very busy first eight weeks and this has certainly made the time fly!

We returned in September to our best GCSE and A Level results for six years. Once again placing us one of the top performing schools in the City. A place we have been every year for as far back as I can remember. We also welcomed our new Year 7 cohort, who have proven to be an absolute delight and a great credit to their families and primary schools.

So much of this first half term has been spent focusing on compassion, one of our Ullathorne Way values. This is highlighted in the pages of this half term's newsletter. From the incredible clothes swap event, which cast a spotlight on fast fashion and the need for sustainability, to our recent chocolate pocket initiative, this half term has been all about thinking of others.

As we move towards Christmas, the school will be ringing out with carols and Advent readings, signifying our faith. However, before then we have a week's break to look forward to. I wish you a happy and rest-filled half term and look forward to seeing all of our wonderful children back with us on Monday 6 November.

God bless

Mr Billings, Headteacher

Prayer

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The best way to celebrate this month is, of course, to pray the Rosary.



Good news

Creative writing

Our Holy Cross MAC launched a creative writing competition over the Summer holiday for Year 6 students entering into Year 7 in September 2023. Our Year 7 student Catherine Brown, previously from St Thomas More, was one of the winners with the following essay:

My Favourite Thing about the Summer

Opening the curtain of my chintzy bedroom a beaming smile crossed my face. No longer was I glaring over our well cared for garden at home in Coventry - instead my eyes were looking beyond the hedges that lay in front of my grandma's house towards the great Mount Nephin...

Here in the footwell of the great mountain is where I love to spend my summer. But what is the allure of this place?

Spending time with my cousins outside, getting to know nature to its finest and late-night visits are just a few of the things that make this place a favourite of mine during the summer holidays.

Here in the birthplace of my Great Grandparents, my cousins and I spend hours upon end playing many different games in the surrounding fields and creating many memories. Our favourite game is called Scotch which is when one person has a ball, and they have to aim to hit another person (with the ball), but the other person is not able to move their feet. It is a complicated game, but we all enjoyed it until I cut my knee due to a collision!

When I'm in Ireland I enjoy going to the beach. This summer I climbed up the sand dunes to catch my first glimpse of the sea. As soon as I touched the sand I called for my brother, and we began making sandcastles-while my family set up our 'base'. Gradually my cousins started to arrive and help build the sandcastles. When everyone had arrived, we proceeded to change then headed straight down to the water. Soon enough we spotted many different

animals but when it came to the jellyfish most of us screamed! We were at the beach for a whole day and during that time we had a picnic, went swimming and bodyboarding and of course built more sandcastles. Before the sun set, we all had a large game of cricket to end off the day!

Late night visits in Ireland really do mean late. Whereas in England you could classify late as 9pm but in Ireland late is more like 11pm! Only then does it get dark and exciting to play outside where our laughs and screams seem to be enveloped by the expanse of countryside. Inside there is the chatter and laughter of adults who seem oblivious to the mischief outside – children, cousins, friends, dogs running around the outhouses and scaring each other. running around the houses and scaring each other! Often on these nights we would gaze up to the sky and would marvel at the millions of stars that are clearly visible! This was something that the city would never have.

These are only a few of the many reasons for why spending time in Ireland is my favourite thing to do during summer...I'm so grateful that my ancestors chose to settle in the footwell of Mount Nephin.



Good news

European day of languages

To celebrate European Day of Languages in September, our MFL department organised a quiz for all tutor groups to complete during form time.

Year 7 students also had the opportunity to complete a treasure hunt at break time. They had to find the answers to various questions which were hidden around the playground. Several students managed to complete the hunt and a good time was had by all who took part!



Key Stage 3 Languages celebration

At the end of the Summer term, our MFL department organised a celebration event for students in Year 9 to mark the end (for some) of three years of language learning.

The department ran a Spanish-speaking country project and poetry competition.

The winners were celebrated in a special assembly. The assembly highlighted the opportunities students had received through their study of languages and celebrated everyone's achievements. All students received a certificate and the assembly concluded with a game of bingo which went down very well!

Some students had their work displayed, while others read out their poems.



Good news

Spotlight on SEND

SEMH – Social Emotional Mental Health, a need which creates barriers for some children and young people to access their learning or find enjoyment within school. Yet, with the right understanding and working collaboratively at home and school, children can break down these barriers and build on their emotional resilience which supports their academic achievement.

Social and Emotional skills are important life skills that help children and young people develop their resilience and manage their thoughts, feelings and behaviours. With these skills, young people can negotiate their way through challenging situations as well as building positive relationships with their peers and adults. However, some children will have many difficulties in managing their SEMH which is where our Learning Support Unit will step in and offer support.

Within our Learning Support Unit we have a key focus on understanding the social and emotional needs of our students and ensuring that we are offering many layers of support. This can include a multitude of interventions ranging from 1:1 mentoring, group sessions and the ability to offer external support if required. Our students enjoy their dedicated interventions which will adapt as they continue through the process of developing emotional resilience. So how can you support your child at home?

We understand how challenging it can be at home when your child is struggling to engage with learning or to access the support needed to build their emotional wellbeing. Therefore, we have a dedicated team of Pastoral Support Managers, an Education Welfare Officer and a Student Mentor who can offer support and refer to services when needed. Positive communication between school and home helps our young people to develop and grow through their challenges.

The first step is to shine a light on the challenges and teach appropriate strategies to manage emotions. There are many strategies that support SEMH, yet it is not a one size fits all. Consistency is vital to enable our young people to establish what is right for them and as their trusted adults adapt the strategies as they develop and grow.

Journaling has many benefits, some of these are:

- Identify and Track long/short term goals and personal development, supporting a vision of future self
- Improve self-awareness
- Process emotions and thoughts, supporting a development in growth mindset.



Creative Activities can have a calming and positive effect on children with SEMH. Having a space to explore their creativity allows a process of opening their thoughts and emotions. This can be done with simple steps such as colouring, drawing, painting, knitting or crochet. It is important to ensure your child knows that whatever they create is right for them, there is no right answer when it comes to their own creativity.

Talking Therapies and the power of feeling heard and understood can have the most helpful impact on your child's emotional resilience. We understand this is difficult with hectic busy lives but setting aside 10/15 minutes to talk with your child and listen can support a positive relationship and meet their needs to develop their emotional wellbeing.

Good news

Art Textiles

In October, Year 13 Art Textiles students went to London to visit two exhibitions that will help them with their Personal Investigation projects.



In the morning they headed to the Design Museum to see *REBEL: 30 Years of London Fashion*. This exhibition showcased the forefront of fashion over the last 30 years. The students focused on the techniques and styles of fashion that they saw. From Sam Smith's suit which they wore at the Brits through to recycled fashion of the future, the students took inspiration from what they saw.

In the afternoon, the group moved over to the Victoria and Albert Museum where they were treated to the interactive *DIVA exhibition*. DIVA celebrated the power and creativity of iconic performers, exploring and redefining the role of 'diva' and how this has been subverted or embraced over time across opera, stage, popular music, and film. The students were submerged into a musical interactive display. From Judy Garland to Adele to Lizzo, there were outfits that had been seen at the MET Gala and beyond.

The students enjoyed both exhibitions saying: "I liked the Rebel exhibitions, it has given me some really good ideas for my final piece."



Another saying: "I loved DIVA, listening to the music playing by the pop stars whilst looking at their work was brilliant!"

Clothes swap

In October, we ran our first clothes swap event organised by Miss Dodd. She said: "Thank you all SO VERY MUCH for your kindness and generosity when donating items for our charity clothes event and attending it too. The night was a success and many of the donated clothes were taken. Wardrobes have been topped up with some fresh, new looks all while helping to reduce our impact on the planet! It was a fantastic event which showed off how truly amazing our school community is and how talented our students are which was shown through the band playing, the cookies which were sold and the setting up of the event from our wonderful volunteers and the general running of stalls. I hope all family and friends of students who attended the night enjoyed it as I know our staff and students certainly did!"



Canteen

Our lunch providers Academy Caterers have informed us they are increasing their prices slightly from Monday 6 November 2023. The new tariffs can be found on our website.

They are also introducing a new external catering POD which will be located on the Year 10 playground for Year 10 and 11 students to access during first break. Students will be able to buy a selection of hot snacks as well as baguettes and drinks.

Good news

Good characters

September saw us launch our Bronze Character Passport for Year 7 and 8, an important way for students to be active members of our Christian community and foster the development of their true selves. The Character Passport encourages students to search for excellence with attendance, ACE points, the Reading Award and a menu of tasks which students get to choose from, enabling all students to select their own route to success. Students have a 'help sheet' on Class Charts which provides more information and examples about what they need to do. The deadline for Bronze is Monday 27 November 2023. If students need more time to complete Bronze, they can be working on both Silver and Bronze and submit both on Tuesday 9 April 2024.

Name:												
Tutor group:	Tutor room:											
												
Date launched: Monday 18 September 2023												
Deadline: Tuesday 28 November 2023												
ACE Points Total	Attendance	Reading Award										
Tasks in this Booklet		Super Curriculum										
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0	0	0	0	0								
0	0	0	0	0								
This is to certify that the requirements for the Bronze award have been met.												
Signed by: Form Tutor:		Date:										
With God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26												



A busy but wonderful event was our Freshers Fayre, an opportunity for Year 7 to find out about the clubs and activities we offer and be able to sign up. We offer an extensive range and encourage all students to participate in a club. From netball to chess, STEM to

choir, it has been wonderful to see so many students attend and enjoy throughout October. Students can see an up to date list of our available activities on the display board near the foyer and many clubs are open to all year groups. It is never too late for new students to join!

Year 9 and 10 students then started their Bronze Diversity Passport in November, which will encourage students to acknowledge and celebrate our diverse school community and world we live in. Students again have a menu of tasks to complete and we look forward to seeing what our students will create when they complete their passports in January.

Name:		
Tutor group:	Tutor room:	
		
ACE Points Total	Attendance	Reading Award
Booklet Task 1	Booklet Task 2	Booklet Task 3
This is to certify that the requirements for the Bronze award have been met.		
Signed by: Form Tutor:		Date:
"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34 OR "Live in harmony with one another."		

Super Curriculum Year 7	Art Textiles	
Thoughtful and Grateful		
<p>Make books as a means to express your faith and beliefs by creating them using the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Faithbook Challenge: Testimonies, Prayers, and Inspiration for Lenten New Creation Week by Sue Rowson • Inspirative Handbooks: Developing Faithful 90s, 2000s, and 2010s by Helen Webb <p>A great opportunity to give your imagination a boost, showing your faith in the most creative way. Your efforts will be shared in the 'Eucharist' - The Faithbook Challenge at always the second - Friday about what you would do if you were given the entire Church!</p>		
Attentive and Compassionate		
<p>Children are a great way of learning and understanding our faith. Create a poster for the 'Eucharist' of all things that you find in the Bible. https://www.bible.com/bible/26/1CORINTHIANS/13</p> <p>Use the material and provide feedback on the techniques you can see in learning to be a Christian artist - what are they often used for? How are they made?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Day • Mark Making • Applique 		
Wise & Content and Faith-filled & Prophetic		
<p>As artists, designers, we have a responsibility to think about the impact of all we have in our surroundings. Produce the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One research page about ONE area of sustainability in fashion. • Produce a page of patterns and/or fabric samples linked to your chosen area of sustainability. • Produce fabric design samples for your chosen linked to sustainability, include aspects of your research and any fabric samples. <p>Build up your knowledge of contemporary and non-contemporary artists to help you in your Art Textiles work. It is not always about making big galleries, often creative galleries are like some smaller exhibitions or craft galleries including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market and gallery - Coventry • Mural Gallery - Coventry • Mural - Birmingham • Text - Birmingham <p>Write up report of the work you have seen and why you like it.</p>		
Read	Art	Students List
Watch	Art	Creative/Research
Listen	Art	Art

We have also launched our Super Curriculum for Year 7, 8, 12 and 13, a selection of tasks designed by each subject area to developing students' interests further and deepening understanding. Year 9, 10 and 11 will go live throughout the year and these can be found on our school website in the Curriculum area.

As we move further through the school year we look forward to celebrating the gifts and talents that our students show through the Character Passport, Diversity Passport, Super Curriculum and clubs and activities.

Good news

Sporting achievements

Cross Country

Congratulations to all students who competed in the first cross country race at Finham Park today! A special mention to Chloe S (5th), Chinma (7th), Emelia T (11th), Emma R (15th), Catherine B (18th) & Daniel V (8th) in Year 7. Savannah F (8th) & Elizabeth P (9th) in Year 9 and Joseph A (11th) in Year 11 for their top 20 finishes!

Year 9 Netball tournament

We won this competition last year, so were looking to hold onto our title again this season. After three wins and a draw (6-6 vs Bablake) in the group stage, we faced King Henry in the semi-final with a victory! The final saw us play Bablake for a second time and it was an even game until the final few minutes where unfortunately we lost 5-3 so finished runners up.

A huge congratulations to the team who displayed fantastic skill during the match! Players of the tournament: Nancy S & Amarachi J.

Also our Year 9A team played their first league match against Blue Coat and won 25-0. Well done. Players of the match were Alannah (GK) for her defensive duties and Ava (GS) for her incredible shooting.



No hands

In September we introduced a 'no hands' expectation in school. All students have been told about this expectation and have been encouraged to respect the space of others.

There are many reasons for this, but perhaps the most important is that in a survey our students completed before the summer highlighted that to ensure that all members of our school community feel safe, we introduced the no hands expectation. This means that students should not break into the personal space of another student or lay hands on another student.

It is important to understand that the expectation does not stop a friend from comforting a friend if they are upset and need consoling, it does intend to make our students think about their need to be touching peers in a way that can cause incidents of poor behaviour. As we start the next half term it is our hope that this new level of respect for one another becomes embedded in our school culture and our corridors and canteen can become places where all feel that they are safe. We would like to extend a huge thank you to our students for their maturity so far and look forward to the new half term.

Good news

Year 7 champions

Each week we celebrate our Tutor Champion in which one member of each form is celebrated for something special. The winners are revealed in assembly each Monday and a certificate sent home in the post.

Our Year 7 winners for this half term are:

Form	Tutor Champions
7ED	Ethan D, Sebastian, Shauna R-C, Lydia, Victoria M, Lucas
7EM	Ermosele, Mercy, Thomas K, Joshua R, Catherine W, Aaron, Bella
7IC	Jayden, Isimenmen, Ivan, Emma R, Daniel T, Aleksander, Chloe S
7IK	Sulayman, Jonathan, Mairead, Jayden S, Harry Y, Beatrice, Emelia T
7JR	Bhairav, Molly, Felicity, Ava-Jade, Anthony, Ted, Layla
7KB	Izzy, Moses, Néave, Rebecca, Anabelle, Daniel V, Thomas C
7SS	Nelly, Oliver A, Catherine B, Jesse, Adrian, Evie P, Wadik, Eujhan

Additionally, we have inter-form competitions for the best attending form and the form that has achieved the highest number of Ace points. The results for this first half term are as follows:

Week	Attendance Award	Form Award
1	7IK & 7KB	7ED
2	7ED, 7IC & 7KB	7SS
3	7EM	7ED
4	7EM & 7KB	7SS
5	7KB	7ED
6	7IK	7IC
7	7SS	7EM

The winning form names go into a raffle for both categories and after half term we will do raffle draws to see which the winning form group is. The lucky winning forms will receive a sweet treat!

Year 10 work experience

In September, Year 10 and 11 students were offered an opportunity to experience Pre-med Projects. Students attended 5 online sessions with real doctors to 'dig' deeper in medicine and give insight into what it is really like.

Felicia Bittaj

Attending the Pre-med Projects is a wonderful chance for me to be given an insight into what doing medicine could be like. By taking part in the weekly sessions we have learnt about work experience and many things that are involved with medicine. In these sessions we have learnt about how to look after a patient and help them and we have also looked at basic anatomy and also looking at medical scans. The doctors that run these sessions help teach us about real life scenarios and how we figure out what is causing them to be unwell and also how we can

Good news

then decide the course of treatment for the patient.

They also help us by telling us what they studied at A-level which were needed for them to be able to go to Medical school and what their experience was like and also tell us tips to help our learning. They were very understanding and kind with us and helped answer any questions we wanted to know. In short, I felt that the doctors were wonderful at helping us figure out if medicine could be for us and that taking part in these sessions they actively helped us understand about medicine. It was a very enlightening experience.

Yui Yu

In these weekly sessions, I have learned about what work experience means and more medical knowledge. It has been really inspiring as I have talked with doctors and I am very grateful that they have taken time out of their day to teach us. I have learnt a lot about how to treat patients, what doctors do when they see a patient and about the anatomy of our body. One of the things I have learnt is that it is very important to ask a patient about their medical history as that would affect what doctors do. The patient's medical history and their family's history would affect their genes, therefore the patient's diagnosis and treatment. The doctors in the session were very patient with us even though we were such a large group. They would offer a Q&A session after every lesson, and not only answer medical related questions but would also give us studying tips. They also shared some of their own stories and would encourage us. Overall, I think these sessions are very inspiring and helpful to me. It has taught me lots of medical knowledge and how to care for a patient.

Year 13 Summer work experience

Holly Ridley

My work experience at Askews Legal LLP Law Firm in Coventry gave me an insight into the different services that they offer. I shadowed a solicitor who, as part of the Family law team, specialises in Divorce and Civil Partnership Dissolution. She explained that through the processes, the main aim is to find a fair financial settlement and suitable arrangements for children involved. During my time there I learnt the internal processes of divorce as well as an understanding of other elements to family law. I found my work experience with Askews to be extremely beneficial for me as I was able to gain an insight into the workings of a Law firm.

Annie Brown

My work experience was at the Marks and Spencer headquarters in London, where I shadowed a fashion buyer in men's footwear. I was able to get an insight into the working day of fashion-related jobs as I attended various meetings with the Head Buyer and Head of Design for the whole of M&S. I also had a zoom call with the Head Marketer. This helped guide me to find my career interest.

I also volunteered at the RSPCA charity shop on Earlsdon High Street, where I learned the behind-the-scenes experience of retail and the importance waste has on our environment.

Good news

Year 13 Summer work experience - continued

Luke Smith

I undertook 75 hours of work experience at Coopers Estate Agents, where I learned skills of conversing with clients, analytical skills, computing skills, and working in a professional environment.

I also completed two FutureLearn courses: Introduction to Studying Law and; Inside the U.K. Supreme Court.

As well as these, I visited Coventry Magistrates Court in September, where I observed a case on the production of a cannabis farm in Warwick.

Millie MacDonald

I organised a law work experience placement in criminal defence law with the firm Wallace McNally. I visited Coventry Magistrates Court with the barristers to attend hearings and I wrote letters to defendants about updates on their cases. It gave me a really good insight into the profession I want to go into.

Tomasz Cwiek

My work experience at Rolls Royce in Ansty cemented my passion for engineering and it helped confirm aerospace engineering as my course options for University. It gave me an insight into how the aviation industry works and revealed the true precision and attention to detail in manufacturing aeroplane parts.

Oliver Peters

I went to Rolls Royce in Ansty and got to work on the shop floor with industry professionals learning how they carry out quality control and how they put products together. I gained increased knowledge of engineering and what the industry has to offer from people who have had first-hand experience.

Max Parham

Work experience at Rolls Royce. It was interesting to see the practical side of engineering to get the feel of what it really looks like. To have the opportunity to learn from people with over 20 years experience was so useful.

Dylan Cohene

Work experience at Rolls Royce. It was interesting to see how Rolls Royce prioritise safety and the precision and the checking process that is involved in this industry.

Vitalis Bechinze

I got to experience different business areas through the PwC Virtual Insight Programme, such as Auditing, Consulting, Tax, Technology and Operations to find out what it means to be an expert in that area. I also took part in a variety of skills sessions which built on my personal and professional skills, preparing me for future applications and for the workplace.

Good news

Duke of Edinburgh timetable

Year 10 Bronze students	
31 October 2023	Students must be logged on to eDofE and have registered their Volunteering, Skill and Physical sections
31 December 2023	Students must have most evidenced completed and uploaded to eDofE
January and February 2024	Start online training for expedition
14 March 2024	All evidence must be uploaded to eDofE in order to be put forward for the expedition
22 March 2024	Students start face to face expedition training
12 June to 15 June	Bronze expedition
31 August 2024	Deadline to complete Award

Year 12 Silver students	
November 2023	Enrolment Open
22 December 2023	Students must be logged on to eDofE and have registered their Volunteering, Skill and Physical sections
January 2024	Start online training for expedition
February and March 2024	Students start face to face expedition training
26 to 28 April 2024	Silver practice expedition
1 June 2024	All evidence must be uploaded to eDofE in order to be put forward for the final expedition
4 to 7 July 2024	Silver expedition
30 September 2024	Deadline to complete Award

Year 13 Silver students	
31 December 2023	Students must have all evidenced completed and uploaded to eDofE
December and January 2024	Start online training for expedition
February and March 2024	Students start face to face expedition training
26 to 28 April 2024	Silver practice expedition
4 to 7 July 2024	Silver expedition
31 August 2024	Deadline to complete Award

Year 7 Update

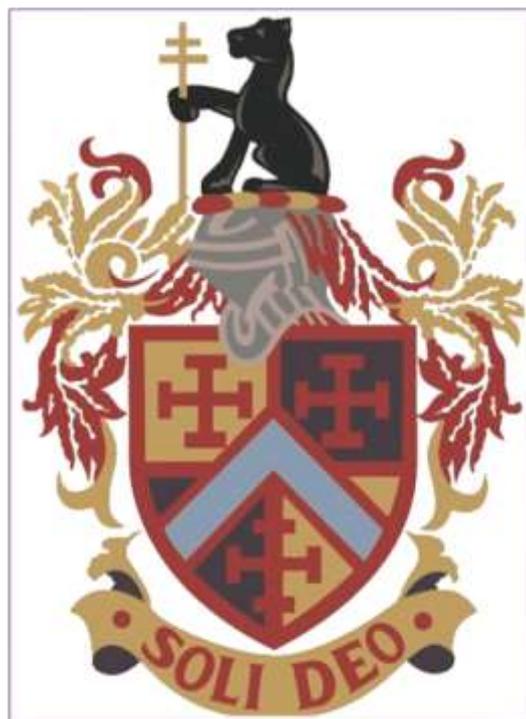
Ms Maxwell, Head of Year 7

Congratulations go to our impressive Year 7 students! What a wonderful family group of students they have shown themselves to be, right from day one! They have proven that they are kind, caring, supportive and honest and they are keen to impress! They have embraced our School Mission Prayer and our Ullathorne Way Values so well and live out these values each day in all that they do and say. In particular they have impressed not only the Year 7 Pastoral staff, who guide and support them on a daily basis, but also all the teaching staff as well.

The 'step up' from primary school to secondary school can never be underestimated; secondary school requires far greater independence, which in turn brings more responsibility and the need for self-organisation and self-regulation. Travelling to school independently, reading a timetable and navigating their way around the school site to six different classrooms a day (whilst remembering not to leave behind their belongings!), meeting lots of new teachers for subjects old and new, meeting a plethora of peers and making new friends, this is a lot to ask but they have done it so quickly and easily! They have made the transition look seamless but we know it takes a lot so our congratulations go to everyone for their efforts.

The students recently attended our hugely popular 'Freshers' Fair' and were able to see what a large variety of clubs we offer our students. There was something for everyone to choose from a wide variety of clubs like roller skate fitness, ceramics, chess and Warhammer Clubs, to name but a few, which run both in school time and after school so there is something to suit everyone.

The Character Passport was also launched several weeks ago. This term students are aiming to achieve Bronze. This requires them to fulfil several criteria for Attendance, Achievement via Ace points, the Reading Award (this is directed by their English teacher), three tasks of their choice from the Super Curriculum, and some selected tasks from the booklet itself. The programme allows students to choose many of the tasks so that they can choose what the most appropriate path for them to take, whilst still fulfilling the necessary requirements. The deadline for submission for Bronze is 27 November.



Year 7 key dates

6 November 2023

Carousel subject change

7 November 2023

Science workshops

23 November 2023

Parents' Evening

30 November 2023

Showcase

8 December 2023

Flu vaccinations

15 January 2024

Carousel subject change

26 January 2024

IntoUniversity workshop

February 2024

Progress report

27 February 2024

Retreat day

July 2024

End of year progress report

Year 7 Update - continued

Ms Maxwell, Head of Year 7

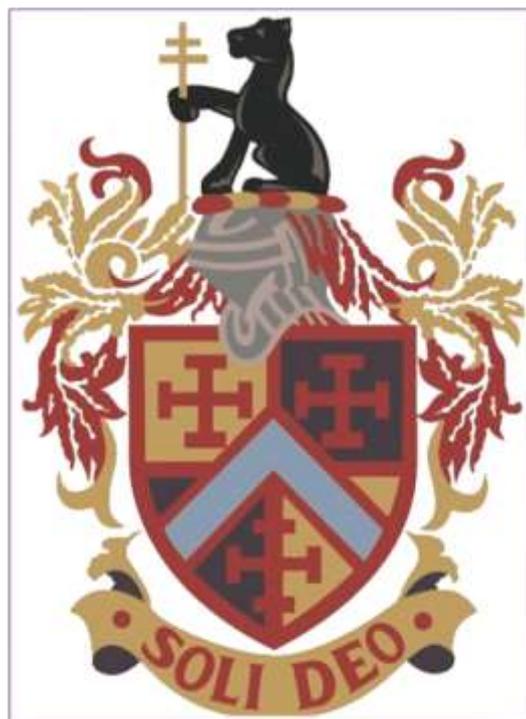
Several of the Year 7s have volunteered to help with recent school events; despite having only just arrived, many chose to tour prospective new students and parents at our Open Evening in September and some chose to help out more recently at the Clothes Swap event. These volunteering roles count towards completion of the Character Passport too!

In CPSHE recently, students had an enjoyable session with some staff visitors on Careers called "What's My Line?" The students discovered through careful questioning, that schools are not just staffed by teachers and that there are a lot of other people who do a lot of different jobs within a school setting. The visitors were in awe of how well the Year 7s engaged with this and the range and depth of their questioning!

Since the end of September, each Form Group has been taking it in turns to celebrate Mass together with Father Simon or Father Peter in our school Chapel. So far, 7ED, 7EM, 7IC and 7IK have led, and the other three Form groups will celebrate theirs after half term. Each Form is responsible for delivering the readings, responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation and writing and delivering their own Bidding Prayers. I have been privileged to be able to attend all of these Masses this half term and have been so impressed with the way that they have volunteered to take part, read and celebrate Mass together so reverently with their Form Tutor.

An important reminder that our Year 7 Parents' Evening will be taking place on Thursday 23 November 2023 from 4.30 to 6.30pm. This is an annual event so please make sure that you put this date in your calendars and make every effort to attend.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Year 7 Tutors who have done a remarkable job at settling their Tutees into school life, along with support from Miss Greenway and Mrs Brown, during this very important first half term. We would also like to thank you as parents for all of the support which you have given to your children during this time with us. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and we wish you and your families a lovely half term.



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Year 8 and 9 Update

Mrs Jeremiah, Head of Year 8 and 9

It has been a very busy half term again with lots of positive things happening such as the Character Passport, Tutor Champions and sporting events.

We have also had our very successful and popular mentoring sessions that run each week for both Year 8 and 9.

We are very excited about the Year 9 trip to Spain during half term. I went last year and I know what a fabulous time the students will have. Thank you to Mrs Cabrera and the languages department for organising this.

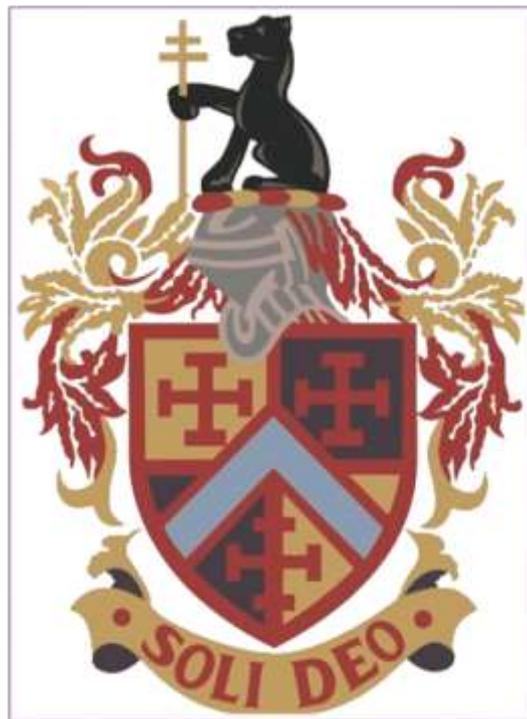
A massive well done to all of our students who have achieved a certificate for achieving over 25 Ace points or who have received an email or postcard home. We are very proud of you all.

We look forward to starting our Form Group assemblies next term which will run throughout the academic year. This is a great opportunity for all of our students to organise and participate in an assembly to share with the rest of the year group. It also covers one of their Character Passport targets.

We also look forward to preparing our students for Advent when we return.

I wish all of you a very happy half-term holiday and enjoy the Halloween celebrations followed by the Feast of all Saints and Souls.

God Bless.



Year 8 key dates

6 November 2023

Carousel subject change

30 November 2023

Showcase

7 December 2023

Parents' Evening

8 December 2023

Flu vaccinations

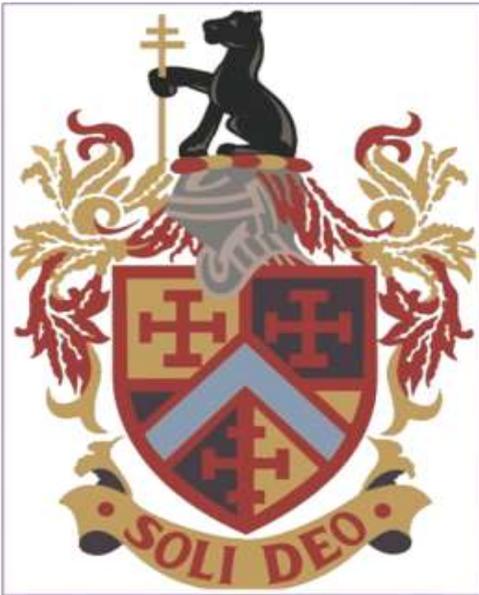
Year 9 key dates

30 November 2023

Showcase

8 December 2023

Flu vaccinations



Year 10 and 11 Update

Miss Durkan, Head of Year 10 and 11

"I am not a product of my circumstances. I am a product of my decisions."

The quote from Covey above has been key to our Key Stage 4 assemblies this year. It is important that our Year 10 and 11 students, recognise that they are responsible for the decisions that they make; they are responsible for completing homework, to arrive to class on time, to ensure that classwork is completed and that they are behaving in the corridors. In ensuring that the right decisions are being made – learning, attitude and behaviour becomes successful across the board.

Year 10 key dates

16 November 2023

Art Textiles trip

21 November 2023

Retreat day

30 November 2023

Showcase

8 December 2023

Flu vaccinations

It has been wonderful to meet our Year 10s this term and we are so pleased with how they have settled into their GCSE subjects. The next two years will require commitment to learning and hard work if each of them is to achieve their full potential; as such it was delightful to see so many Year 10 parents at our Information Evening at the start of September; working together; student, home and school we can assure as much success as possible. As suggested at the Information Evening in September, it is now time for our Year 10 to begin consolidating this term's learning; 8 weeks, a whole 125 hours of Year 10 content. Year 10 should be looking to complete 30 minutes of independent revision to begin this consolidation; if they can get into this habit now, they will find the next two years and more importantly the knowledge that they are required to remember for their examinations will be much easier.

Year 11 key dates

13 November 2023

MfL mock speaking exams

16 November 2023

Y11 into 12 Information launch

27 November 2023

Mock exams commence

8 December 2023

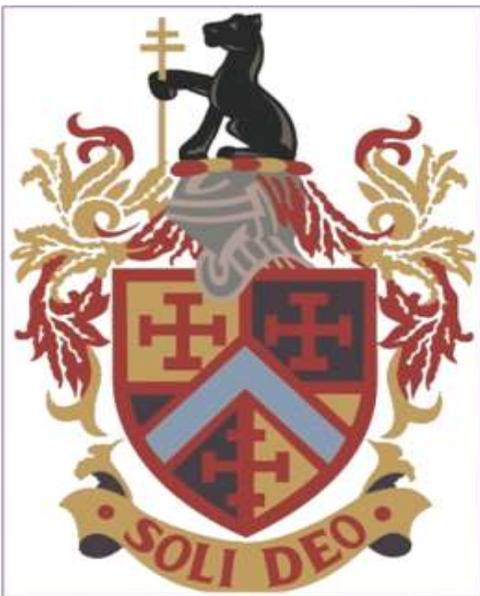
Flu vaccinations

18 December 2023

IntroUniversity workshop

Year 10 enjoyed a day at the Cathedral where Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Bernard and then had inspirational talks led by Katie Mobed, a sports psychology and Alex Danson, Olympic Gold winning hockey player. The message from Alex was particularly resonate for our Year 10 students – keep going, it will be tough, you will get things wrong, but keep on going.

I am particularly proud of Felicia and Yui who have embarked upon the Premed Work Experience, which you can read about in this newsletter – well done girls!



Year 10 and 11 Update

Miss Durkan, Head of Year 10 and 11

Year 11 have made a great start to their final year and just with the Year 10 Information Evening, it was brilliant to deliver our Examination Preparation Evening to over 130 parents in October. The honest conversations were brilliant to hear and Year 11 should see changes in relation to the concerns and worries they raised in the week after half term.

Year 11 have just four weeks until their mock examinations and therefore on top of attending afterschool revision sessions they should be partaking in independent revision of their own at home. I am looking forward to seeing our students celebrate their results in a mock results day in the last week of next half term.

Year 11 are now thinking about what happens once the summer examinations are over and as such, we have had some brilliant Career Bite Sessions (which will continue into the Spring term) and Warwickshire College have also led an assembly to let students know of the options available beyond A level studies. This is important to ensure that each of our Year 11 has the best information and independent guidance from Mrs Bellingham (our careers adviser) to support them in their post-16 decisions.

This week we have had our year group and individual photographs which will appear in the 2024 Yearbook and information regarding the yearbook, prom and hoodie have been shared with parents/ carers.

This September we welcomed Mr Murthy into our Key Stage 4 team as Assistant Head of Year. Mr Murthy is a brilliant addition to our team and I am grateful his hard work and the passion he has demonstrated in wanting the very best for our students.

As always, I want to say a big thank our students, parents/ carers, tutors and pastoral team for their efforts this half term and I look forward to returning in November to help guide our young people to recognise that 'they are the product of their decisions'.

Year 10 key dates

16 November 2023

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Year 11 key dates

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18 December 2023

IntroUniversity workshop

Sixth Form Update

Mrs Casey, Head of Sixth Form

It has been a busy half term for our Sixth Form students.

Year 12 have completed their initial induction assessments and have settled in well to Post 16 study. They have had an assembly on Enrichment opportunities and are in the process of organising suitable work experience to support entry to their future pathways. Booklets to support sourcing enrichment can be found on the school website in the Sixth Form area. They have also been emailed to all students. The "Good News Summer Work Experience" shows some of the examples that students have recently participated in.

A number of Year 12 are currently being supported to make applications for a range of wider participation programmes; such as the HE+ Programme with Cambridge University, along with the Pathways to Law and Banking.

Our Sixth Form are proving to be real ambassadors within our school community, many are using some of their private study supporting in various curriculum areas across the school. Some are working with the SEND department whilst others are working on our Reading Programme with Year 7 students. Others are helping with sporting activities at break times.

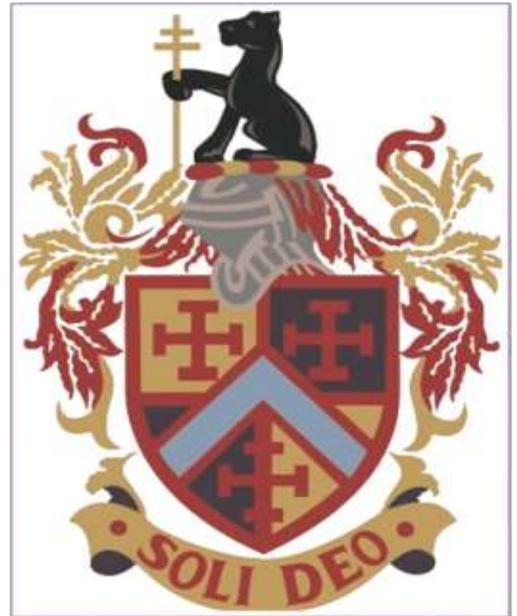
Year 13 are currently working hard finalising their personal statements and making their university choices. Early applications for Medicine, Veterinary and Oxbridge have now been submitted to UCAS. Students have sat Oxbridge tests and will have the opportunity for mock interviews after half term.

The UCAS presentation for parents and students is available to view via the link on the school website.

Following the letter to all Year 12 and 13 parents in September, a reminder that the Year 12 and 13 Parent Guides are available on the school website in the Post 16 area.

Our new Sixth Form dress code is also on the website.

This year we have launched a fortnightly Sixth Form Bulletin which details many useful enrichment and work experience opportunities from Mrs Bellingham, our Careers Adviser.



Year 12 key dates

Every morning

Bespoke VESPA A Level mindset with Form Tutors

6 November 2023

VIVA week

7 November 2023

Science workshop

15-26 January 2024

Mock exams

Year 13 key dates

Every morning

During Form Time, health, well-being and independent living along with preparation for UCAS and apprenticeship applications

2 November 2023

VIVA week

22 November 2023

National Apprenticeship info

15-26 January 2024

Mock exams

Careers Update

Mrs Bellingham, Careers Adviser

Key Stage 3

- Year 7 students have been playing the What's my Line (Guess my Job) game with non-teaching staff as a way of introducing them to staff and importantly, learn about the variety of jobs people do.
- Year 7 will be introduced to JED (Job Explorer Database) our careers guidance programme which will help raise aspirations by showing many jobs they can aspire to, and where those jobs can lead.

Key Stage 4

- Careers guidance interviews are commencing with Year 11s.
- Students will receive an Action Plan to support their career decisions with advice how to move forward.
- Warwickshire College delivered a presentation to all Year 11 students in assembly.
- The Apprenticeship Service will be delivering a presentation to all Year 11 in December.
- Career Bite sessions are returning with invited speakers delivering short presentations to KS4 students during registration time.
- College open evenings have commenced for Year 11 students and it is important that students considering this pathway should visit the colleges they are interested in as soon as possible.
- Every 2 weeks a careers update is included in the school bulletin highlighting college and employer open events, apprenticeship opportunities and workshops.

Key Stage 5

- All year 12 and 13 students are emailed a careers update through the sixth form newsletter every two weeks highlighting live and virtual work experience opportunities, higher and degree apprenticeship events and invitations to career talks.
- The Apprenticeship Service will be delivering a workshop to Year 13 students on Degree Apprenticeships in November and will follow this up with a session on Employer Mock Assessments.

Website information

The latest issue of Careermag for parents is on our website in the Careers Section. Get lots of tips for post-16 and 18 options, UCAS application key dates, talking careers with your children and more!

Term dates 2023-2024

Autumn

Teacher training day: Friday 17 November 2023

Monday 6 November to Friday 22 December 2023
students finish school at 12.30pm on the last day

Spring

Monday 8 January to Friday 9 February 2024

Half Term

Monday 19 February to Friday 22 March 2024

Summer

Monday 8 April to Friday 24 May 2024

Half Term

Teacher training day: Friday 28 June 2024

Monday 3 June to Friday 19 July 2024
students finish school at 12.30pm on the last day

Carousel date changes

Changes in subjects for Year 7 and 8 students are on the following dates:

Monday 6 November 2023

Monday 15 January 2024

Monday 11 March 2024

Monday 20 May 2024

Extra curricular activities

Our range of break time and after school clubs can be found on our website under the student section.

Medical appointments

If your child has a dentist or hospital appointment that you are unable to arrange outside of school hours, please inform the school at least 24 hours prior to the appointment. This can be done either by emailing admin@bishopullathorne.co.uk with your request or by sending in a handwritten or typed note for your child to give to their Form Tutor. Whichever method is used, your request should include your child's name and form group, a copy of the appointment letter, if appropriate, with the day and time you are to collect your child and the person who will collect them.

Mobile phones

Bishop Ullathorne operates a no mobile phone policy. This is to ensure the safety of our young people and to ensure our staff can teach and support the children without distraction. As a reminder, if a mobile phone is seen or heard in school, it will be confiscated for 24 hours.



If a student needs to call home, they should speak to their pastoral staff who will be able to support them.

Uniform

Blazer and jumper:

A plain black blazer with Bishop Ullathorne badge and a jumper with red v neck.

Shirt:

White, worn with the school clip-on tie.

Trousers:

Tailored black, not skinny or tight fitting.

Skirt:

Tartan knee length.

Shoes:

Smart, sensible and conventional, plain black outdoor shoes. NO TRAINERS.

If you have any spare uniform that is no longer needed, we would be grateful for donations to the school.

Entrance and exit

Students must enter our school site via Gate 2 (the gate by the Drama Studio) and leave school via Gate 1 (the Gatehouse). No student should enter school via Gate 1 and no student should leave school via Gate 2. Staff will be on duty to help students to remember this system to ensure the safety of our students.