

Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



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Part of the Holy
Cross Catholic
MAC



Message from our Headteacher

At the start of this term I spoke to all students about searching for excellence. In our mission statement we aim to: *"search for excellence and foster the development of our true self."*

I challenged our school community to make this our mantra for the year. Although we are only a third of the way through, there is so much evidence in this newsletter to suggest that our community has embraced this challenge. We have seen some wonderful sporting achievements both home and abroad. In addition, the successes in national debate competitions and the wonderful offers coming in for universities and apprenticeships are testament to our young people's resilience and commitment.

Last week, students led us in a reverent and moving Advent service. Beautiful readings and our choir helped us all to pause, reflect and mentally prepare for the season. Although we start the liturgical year in the dark it is wondrous to realise that the light and love of Christ are about to be born. Sharing this moment with our children was a real privilege.

It has been a very long term but the good will, humour and hard work of our whole school community has made the weeks fly by. I am sure everyone is ready for a rest over the Christmas period. I wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

God bless.

Mr Billings, Headteacher

Prayer

God, our dayspring and our dawn,
We turn to you when we fear the dark
And all around us weep.
We pray you greet us with your shining light
That we may spread your warm embrace
And kindle the hope of Christmas
In all whose lives remain in shadow.
Come and be our strength
O Lord, our hope and our salvation. Amen.

Additional Teacher Training
Day:

Monday 19 February 2024



Good news

Library news

The Ullathorne Way Reading Links

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have created reading lists to go with each of our six Ullathorne Way values: Compassionate; Attentive; Faith-Filled and Prophetic; Eloquent; Wise and Curious; and Grateful.

We ran a competition based on the reading list for Compassionate during the last half term and the winner of the best book review was Beatrice in Year 7, for her write up of *The Nearest Far away Place* by Hayley Long; **a tragic yet hopeful story of boy's search for a place for his younger brother to belong, after their parents are killed in a car crash.**

This term we have focused on Faith-Filled and Prophetic, looking at things such as 'living a virtuous life' in Year 9, and 'remembering the sacrifice of others' in Year 10. There has also been a competition to go along with this, and the best front cover design will be picked just before we break up for Christmas – look out for the winner in our next newsletter in the Spring!



Bishop
Ullathorne
Catholic
School
Library



Book Club

The Library Book Club has more than tripled in size this year, with an influx of enthusiastic Year 7s joining our more experienced students in reading and analysing a range of titles.

Miss K, the librarian, has been involved in shortlisting for both the Warwickshire Secondary Book Awards and the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards, and the members of Book Club have been enjoying discussing the books on both lists. They are very much looking forward to the awards ceremonies next year.



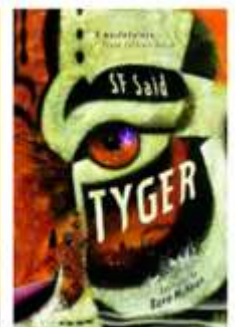
Look out for more news on Miss K's book shortlisting commitments next year – she has big news to share!

Virtual Author Event

Year 7 students have recently attended a virtual screening event with award-winning author S. F. Said. This was part of the *Book Trust Represents* series, showcasing authors from minority backgrounds.

Said spoke about the reading that has inspired him, and about the writing (and drafting) process, as well as the resilience and determination required after rejection. He talked about his first published book, *Varjak Paw*, which won the gold medal at the Smarties Book Prize and he also read an extract from his latest book, *Tyger*, which has been nominated for the very prestigious Carnegie Medal.

Both of these titles are on the recommended reading list for Year 7, and contain wonderful themes and values, as well as beautiful illustrations. Many students have taken the chance to purchase a discounted copy of one of these titles from our supplier, Warwick Books, and should be receiving these before the holidays.



Good news

Year 7 champions

This half term we have been focusing on the Ullathorne Way value of being Faith-filled and Prophetic and it has been notable that the winners of our weekly Tutor Champions are doing so for showing Compassion alongside our other Ullathorne Way values. Congratulations go to all of these winning students, who are listed below.

Our Year 7 winners for this half term are:

Form	Tutor Champions
7ED	Salva, Mia, Poppy, Eric, Evie, Sophie, William & Rory
7EM	Sena, Jeslin, Travis, Harvey, Oscar, Vienna & Austin
7IC	Chloe, Zach, Eva, James, Hugh, Rafael & Sienna
7IK	Ethan, Joanne, Leo, Hannah, Falen, Harry & Sophia
7JR	Oliver, Fremah, Obose, Kaleab, Aimaan, James & Amie
7KB	Michael, Dare, Zuzanna, Renita, Daniel, Ashish, Divine & Renita
7SS	Erin, Lennon, Anu, Fredric, Meghani, Alice & Godwin

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

Additionally, our weekly inter-form competitions have continued apace for the best attending form and the form that has achieved the highest number of Ace points. The raffle will be drawn for both categories when we come back in January. The results for this half term are above.

Year 7 Character passport

During this second half term, the students have been working hard to complete the Bronze Award of the Character Passport. This was launched by Miss Hully in October. This involves students meeting certain criteria to show that they have contributed in some way to the wider school community and that they are enriching their own school experience. To do this they also need to show that they have gained the required number of Ace points and have attended school regularly, meeting the average Year 7 attendance of 97% as well as having met certain criteria of their choosing and Super Curriculum requirements. A huge congratulations goes to over two-thirds of the year group currently, who have already attained Bronze and have received their badges and certificates.

If anyone has not quite met all the requirements at this stage, they can still embark on their Silver award next term whilst working on the any missing area(s) for the Bronze level. Then, as long as they meet all the Bronze level requirements by the end of next term, then they can potentially achieve both the Bronze and Silver Awards together at this point. If anyone has not started on the Character Passport at all yet and would now like to do so, they can also start the Bronze Award in the Spring term.

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		
1.	2.	3.	1.	2.	3.
This is to certify that the requirements for the Bronze award have been met.					
Signed by Form Tutor:				Date:	

Good news

Clubs and activities

The Autumn term has seen our busy clubs and activities programme go live, with activities to suit all interests. This is what some of our students have said about just a few of the clubs we offer:

Warhammer Club: "We paint and build miniatures and battle with them. I enjoy it because you get to meet people from different year groups who are interested in the same thing as you and the painting is fun."

Knitting and Crochet Club: "I love crochet club and have made new friends there. It's really helpful that the Year 8 students are teaching us. I'm looking forward to crocheting poppies for our Remembrance day display next year"

Band: "I like being able to play music with other people - we all have our own parts and I like hearing all the parts come together."

Football: "I like being part of a team and wearing the Ullathorne logo. We all enjoy taking part in fixtures like the West Midlands Cup and English Schools FA Cup and being able to show our skills. "

And you will see other articles highlighting our wide ranging opportunities for all year groups.

Baking Club

Year 7 students enjoyed Christmas Baking Club. They made Christmas crinkle cookies, truffles and stained glass window biscuits. Good fun was had by all.



STEM Club

STEM Club is thriving and buzzing with huge attendance from Year 7s and some older keen Science enthusiasts from Year 8 and 9 too.

The club is led and managed by our very able Sixth Formers who have planned and run fun-filled STEM activities like making slime, salt crystals, flame tests, rainbows, a model of solar system and lots more.

We are looking forward to making our Christmas trees using colourful solutions of chemicals in the final week before our festive holidays.

STEM club returns from Wednesday 17 January for the Spring term in Lab 3.

If you are in Year 7 and would like to join this club, please contact Mrs Shah.



Good news

Art workshop

Year 9 Art students had the opportunity to take part in an art workshop with Jeanette Barnes from '*We Explore Drawing*', an award-winning artist educator offering a range of creative workshops designed to have lasting impact on students' work.

The students developed ideas based on buildings and cityscapes in a range of materials. Jeanette talked about her experience as an artist and how she travelled the world for inspiration.

The students were responsive and worked hard to achieve some amazing results.



Drama club

Both Year 7 and 8 Drama Clubs are buzzing!

Students are working on selecting their favourite musical theatre numbers. The 4 Cs in Drama are very much being demonstrated here: collaboration, confidence, communication and concentration.

Year 10 Drama students are also giving up their break times to assist in helping Key Stage 3 students develop their love of the Performing Arts. Well done everyone.

Art Textiles Club

Our Year 7 Art Textiles Club has finished its Christmas makes. With the help of Grace and Megan in Year 13 they have created their own stitched image. A huge thank you to Grace and Megan for all their help over the last two years.



Christmas disco

A huge thank you to our Year 12 students who ran the Year 7 Christmas disco. A great time was had by all. All proceeds will go towards the Lourdes fundraising appeal.



Good news

Fish heroes

Bishop Ullathorne was one of 250 schools nationwide which received a free 8kg delivery of rope-grown mussels from Offshore Shellfish. Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition students learned how to check, prepare and cook the mussels and then taste them! It was a great experience as many students had not tasted mussels before. #FishHeroes



Carol Service

Students from all year groups performed in our Annual Carol Service organised by Lauren, our Lay Chaplain, and Mr Dallman. The students sung and played beautifully and led the congregation in a number of carols which were sung with great gusto by all. As well as congregational carols, the service consisted of a number of songs performed by the choir, including a composition written especially for the evening, reflecting the theme of *'The Gift'*.



A special well done to the Year 7s singing in the choir for whom it marked the end of their first term, demonstrating the Ullathorne Way in an exemplary manner, particular the values of eloquence and gratitude.



Good news

Sporting achievements

Year 7 Values Dodgeball

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 Values Dodgeball team (Fremah Bentley, Evie Haydon, Lydia Sharma, Victoria Mamengi, Elliot Deudon-Dannatt, Jayden Smith, Thomas Curtis and Joseph Chilvers) on qualifying for the Level 3 County Finals in Solihull. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, respect and honesty while enjoying some competitive dodgeball against Meadow Park, Caludon Castle and Cardinal Wiseman at the AT7 Centre. Well done team!



Finham Derby - Year 10 Netball

Our Year 10 Netball team was missing one of their key players (Caitlin N - GA) but that didn't stop them playing some fantastic netball and securing a comfortable 19-5 victory over Finham Park. With no subs, each player rose to the challenge and played a full game, some playing in positions they were not familiar with. Congratulations Zikorah, Rere, Chelsea, Oceane, Bridget, Erin N and Gloria! Players of the match were Zikorah and Rere. Well done girls!



Year 10 Netball - Bishop Ullathorne vs Cardinal Wiseman

We won 14-2 and player of the match Caitlin N (GA)! Well done girls, a great performance against a physical opposition. That is now 5/5 wins so far this season for our Year 10 team. Congratulations!



Finham Derby - Year 9 Netball

This month, our Year 9 Netball team came up against a very strong Finham Park team which played some excellent netball and unfortunately on the day, we were not at our best... in sport, that happens and we lost 14-18. This team is not used to being on the other end of results and so won't have been easy to take for this team. But we are always very proud of every student for their efforts and we will push on and move forwards back to our usual high standards!



Year 9(A) Netball - Bishop Ullathorne vs Cardinal Newman

We won 27-1 (player of the match was Ava). Well done girls. This was some of the highest quality netball games played this year. Let's keep up the great work!

Year 9(A) Netball - Coventry/ Warwickshire/ Solihull triangular tournament

Our Year 9(A) Netball team qualified for the triangular tournament at Kings High School, Warwick in November where they competed against Bablake, Tudor Grange, Solihull, Rugby and Kings High schools. The standard was extremely high and the girls worked so hard, playing some outstanding netball, particularly against Bablake (9-9 draw) and Tudor Grange (7-7 draw). The students should be very proud of their achievements. Well done Alannah, Esther, Ava, Eva, Fearne, Elise, Maisie and Nancy. Congratulations to Fearne (WD) and Nancy (GK) for their players of the tournament!



Good news

Sporting achievements - continued

Year 9(B) Netball

We played against Ernesford Grange and won 12-2 (player of the match, Fearne) then against West Coventry Academy and won 10-4 (player of the match, Elise). Well done girls. Two great results for the first league games of the season!

Year 9(B) Netball - Bishop Ullathorne vs Stoke Park

We won 4-0 (player of the match, Elise).

Congratulations girls, a very strong defensive performance.



After school sporting events

Due to a change in our safeguarding procedures, parents and carers who visit the school to watch students take part in our sporting fixtures will now only be allowed on school site after 4pm. This is to ensure that we keep our children safe.



Year 12 higher education

The HE+ programme, offered in conjunction with the University of Cambridge, aims to inspire students to apply to competitive universities such as Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities. This year, 22 of our Year 12 students have managed to secure a place for a year and access their outreach activities.



Great debate



Congratulations to our Year 12 students Sharon Osamor, Sofia Monsanto, Zuzannah Rataj and Evie Webb on an extremely strong performance in the English Speaking Union Mace Debate competition in November.

They were successful in breaking through to the next

round of the competition.

Mace, founded in 1957, is the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England and Wales. The girls competed alongside students from Kings High, Warwick, King Henry VIII and Bromsgrove schools.



Good news

Public Speaking competition

This term, Bishop Ullathorne entered two teams into the ESU Public Speaking competition's regional heats where they competed with teams from Solihull School and Ninestiles School, Birmingham. Gracie Mae Bunn's (Team A) speech was titled: *'Printed books and newspapers have outlived their usefulness.'* While Team B's speaker, Tom Burch, argued that: *'Nationalism causes destruction to international relations.'*

Team A: Grace Murphy (Chair), Gracie Mae Bunn (speaker), Aupurbo Rahman (questioner), Agata Zygowska (reserve).



Team B: Will Groves (Chair), Tom Burch (Speaker), Santiago Cohene (questioner) James Millar (reserve).



Both teams performed extremely well with Team A progressing to the Regional finals in February! Team B will have the opportunity to compete again next year so fingers crossed that they can take that next step.

Houses of Parliament

In November, Mrs Penson and Mr Griffiths took a group of Sixth Formers and Year 10s to visit the Houses of Parliament on a Parliamentary Tour, conducted by a very knowledgeable and interesting guide. They started at Westminster Hall where the Queen lay in state before her funeral, and also the place where Charles I was tried and sentenced to death. From there they entered the House of Commons Chamber, where the first MPs met to debate, and then went onto the House of Lords Chamber. Once the tour was finished they left the Houses of Parliament and did a self guided tour of the main landmark buildings in London. These included Number 10 Downing Street, Nelson's Column, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey.

Everyone had a very enjoyable day and our students were great ambassadors of our school.



Good news

Biology

At the start of November, our Year 12 Biology students visited the School of Life Sciences at the University of Warwick.

The visit was to support and extend their Biology curriculum and consisted of an electron microscope session where students used an expensive electron microscope to look at cell components and bacteriophages. In another session, they used the confocal microscopy facility to see how luminescence allows us to see our cells at work. In the third activity students looked at microscopic slides under the light microscope. They looked at sections of oesophagus, intestine, stomach, liver, kidney and skin.



Chemistry

Our Year 12 and 13 Chemistry students were invited to meet Dr Peter Hoare, STEM Outreach Officer from Newcastle University.

As part of his "*Spectroscopy in a Suitcase*" lecture, Dr Hoare brought portable desk-top machines to measure infrared spectra and talked the students through spectral analysis. Students were able to handle and see specialised equipment not available to schools or Sixth Forms. They also interpreted real chemical IR spectra as a way of analysing the functional groups present in different organic compounds.

Dr Hoare is also an AQA examination officer and was able to give invaluable advice on examination techniques linked to these chemical analysis topics.

Student comments included:

"It was fun trying to work out functional groups of different molecules and being able to smell them and know their uses."

"As a Year 13 student, it was nice to see content we learnt in Year 12 brought to life. It was fascinating and interesting"

"Actually getting to use an IR spectroscopy machine was fun to use and helpful getting some examination tips on reading the graphs."

We look forward to welcoming Dr Hoare back in the future.



Year 7 Update

Ms Maxwell, Head of Year 7

Year 7 should be very proud of themselves having completed their first term with us. The students have navigated this transition period seamlessly; this is no easy feat as there are so many new routines to learn and challenges to overcome. All the students have done so well and are now fully immersed in our secondary school routines. Well done to them all!

This half term, the weekly Form Masses have continued with Father Simon or Father Peter in our school Chapel. The final three forms, 7JR, 7SS and 7KB, each celebrated Mass with the students themselves being responsible for delivering the readings, responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation and writing and delivering their own Bidding Prayers. It was a privilege to be able to attend all but one of these Masses and I was incredibly impressed with the way that they all participated so reverently with their Form Tutor.

Following on from this, the Form groups will now have the opportunity to lead one assembly during the year. This month, 7IK bravely led the way by going first! They presented a wonderful Advent assembly based around the meaning of 'Stille Nacht' (Silent Night) and its historical context. It was wonderfully delivered and all students took part and delivered their section confidently and clearly. Well done to all of the students for doing this so well and thank you to Mr Kerrigan for leading them with this.

Each Form Group has a set theme to deliver but how they choose to present their assembly is up to them as the students prepare and lead using their own material. We look forward to the other Form Groups leading theirs as the year progresses.

As Christmas fast approaches, we have had some lovely festive events to celebrate. During the last week of term, Year 7 enjoyed their delicious complimentary Christmas meal provided by the MAC and then we came together to celebrate our school Christmas Carol Service; as always this proved a highlight as this is always a special event.

The Year 7 Tutors and Pastoral Team and I would like to thank you as parents for all of the support which you have given to your children during this first term with us. We are incredibly proud of them and their achievements and we wish you and your families a holy and peaceful festive break. Well done, Year 7. We look forward to seeing you again in January.

God Bless.



Year 7 key dates

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 8 and 9 Update

Mrs Jeremiah, Head of Year 8 and 9

Hello everyone and well done for getting through this very busy Advent journey.

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

We have also had our very successful and popular weekly mentoring sessions for both Year 8 and 9 students.

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

We have watched some fabulous Form Group assemblies this half term on the importance of Advent. 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 our Rewards Assemblies when we return in January.

A massive well done to Lily Mae-Bolger for getting through to the World Championships for Irish Dancing and Jan Kesler for becoming the under 14s British Champion in Taekwondo! We are very proud of you both.

We held a rewards afternoon for all students who had achieved 100% attendance and no late marks this term. 105 students watched the Christmas film *Home Alone* and they were treated to popcorn and a drink. Well done and keep up the good work.

I wish all of you a very happy and peaceful Christmas holiday.

God Bless.



Year 8 key dates

25 January 2024

IntoUniversity workshop

8 February 2024

IntoUniversity workshop

9 February 2024

University of Warwick trip

28 February 2024

Year 9 key dates

25 January 2024

IntoUniversity workshop

8 February 2024

Parents' Evening

14 March 2024





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."

We are still using this quote from the beginning of the year to shape our thinking and actions in Key Stage 4. It has of course been a very busy term for learning new content in Year 10 and using our knowledge in Year 11. Lots of students are demonstrating fantastic hard work and effort; being the role models that the lower school need - this is something we are very proud of and grateful for.

Year 10 key dates

26 January 2023

IntroUniversity workshop

23 February 2023

Soli House trip

Year 10 students are well established now and most are making good progress in class. When we start our new term in January, it is important for them to remember that they will need to begin simple revision - perhaps starting with 30 minutes an evening to consolidate their learning from the Autumn term. This will help to ensure that they are ready for their end of year assessments in June.

Year 11 key dates

15 January 2023

Catering practical exams

18 January 2023

Revision Information Evening

29 January 2023

English mocks

31 January 2023

National Apprenticeship info

1 February 2023

Parents' Evening

26 February 2023

Mock exams commence

Year 11 students have completed their mock examinations and have had the experience of 'opening the envelope'. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to feel what it will be like in August - it is also a valuable chance to take stock and recognise how much work is still to be done. A huge well done to those students who have given their best and achieved their deserved grades - your hard work has paid off - continue on this path to ensure your success. For those students who were left a little deflated, my advice would be to use a question that we use within our Sixth Form - think of a student who is doing more than you, what are they doing to ensure their success and what can you do to emulate that? This should help you to think about revision, time given over to learning and your overall ambition and aspiration.

A huge thank you to all students across both year groups who contributed to our Christmas Advent Appeal - your generosity will have made a real difference this year to so many across our city and is a reminder of the message we receive in Matthew (25:40): *"And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'* Thank you so much.

As we draw closer into the season of Christmas, we wish each and every one of you a wonderful, peaceful and happy Christmas and we look forward to working with you all in 2024.

Sixth Form Update

Mrs Casey, Head of Sixth Form

Our Year 12 and 13 students have worked hard throughout this term putting the VESPA principles they have learnt into practice.

Most students in Year 13 wishing to make an application to UCAS have now done so and are receiving multiple offers and appointments to interviews. We are very proud of all of them.

Students in Year 13 looking to make an apprenticeship application have taken part in an interactive Higher and Degree apprentice workshop delivered by the National Apprenticeship Service followed by an assessment day workshop to fully prepare them for the application process. They will be visiting the National Apprenticeship Show at the CBS Arena in January.

Year 12 students are actively engaging in a variety of enrichment opportunities including leading on the Year 7 reading strategy, supporting in Year 10 and 11 lessons, supporting SEND students in the Learning Support Unit and during break times on the Year 7, 8 and 9 playgrounds. They are also leading the running of our extra-curricular clubs including STEM Club, Ceramics Club, Gaelic Football, Netball, Crochet Club and Debate Club to name a few.

Many Sixth Form students have signed up to access Coventry University Lanchester Library as a study space after school and during weekends – if you wish your child to be signed up to the scheme, please ask them to see a member of the Sixth Form team.

Year 12 and 13 mock examinations begin on Monday 15 January 2024. Please ensure that some revision is taking place over the Christmas break so the examination series is a true **reflection of our students' capabilities.**

Our Sixth Form leadership team organised a fantastic Christmas party for our elderly parishioners. It was a joyous afternoon and everyone had a lot of festive fun.

West Midlands Fire Service delivered an informative and thought-provoking session to our Year 12 and 13 students called *Every Choice Counts* - advising our students to make positive choices as road users. The feedback from students was really positive.

The Sixth Form team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Year 12 key dates

Every morning

Bespoke VESPA A Level mindset with Form Tutors

15-26 January 2024

Mock exams

26 February 2024

VIVA week

7 March 2024

Parents' Evening

8 March 2024

Birmingham University trip

19 March 2024

Meet with Industry event

Year 13 key dates

Every morning

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

15-26 January 2024

Mock exams

30 January 2024

University of Warwick finance

19 February 2024

VIVA week

7 March 2024

Parents' Evening

8-19 April 2024

Mock exams

Careers Update

Mrs Bellingham, Careers Adviser

Key Stage 3

- All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 experienced a *Skills in the Workplace* week where teachers highlighted careers for a lesson to enable students to see how employability skills are linked to curriculum subjects.

Key Stage 4

- Individual careers guidance interviews are in progress with Year 11.
- College open evenings have been promoted to Year 11 students and it is important that students considering this pathway should visit the colleges they are interested in as soon as possible. The next open events are:
 - [Warwickshire College Leamington site, Tuesday 16 January 5.30pm to 8pm](#)
 - [Trident site for Engineering and Motor Vehicle, Thursday 18 January 5.30pm to 8pm](#)
 - [Coventry College, Tuesday 23 January 5pm to 7pm](#)
 - [Rugby site, Tuesday 23 January 5.30pm to 8pm](#)
- The National Apprenticeship Service delivered a presentation on Apprenticeships to Year 11 in assembly.
- Year 11 students have completed 4 weeks of workshops on employability skills including CVs, applications, interviews and a virtual work experience session.
- Every two weeks a careers update is included in the school bulletin highlighting college and employer open events, apprenticeship opportunities and workshops.
- Year 11 have received information about joining the Sixth Form and will receive advice and guidance on A level subjects during group sessions in January.

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 delivered a workshop to Year 13 students on Degree Apprenticeships and students took part in an assessment workshop where they had to work together to complete a task, deliver a presentation and receive feedback to help with interview preparation.

Advanced notice

Year 13 students interested in applying for apprenticeships will have the opportunity to attend the National Apprenticeship Careers Event at the CBS Arena on 31 January.

Term dates 2023-2024

Spring

Monday 8 January to Friday 9 February 2024

Half Term

Teacher Training Day: Monday 19 February 2024

Tuesday 20 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 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.