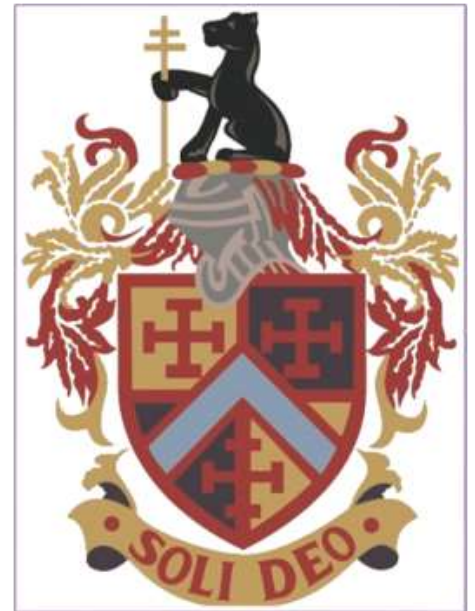




Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



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Message from our Headteacher

2024 has started brilliantly for our Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School community.

We have already seen great successes in public speaking, sports and mathematics. Thanks to the **students' dedication and commitment we have** also earned two awards this half term. We are very proud to be a distinction Eco School. We have also received an award for having some of the best attendance in the country – **and it's only February!**

The successes keep coming with some incredible offers for University for our Year 13 students, including two for Oxbridge, with hopefully more to come. I continue to be bowled over by our **children's commitment to search for excellence** in all that they do.

All of this wonderful news has helped to add a little light into a pretty dark and cold few weeks. We are all looking forward to the upcoming period of Lent which starts on Wednesday February 14 and the hope and sunlight this will bring. The Spring term this year is a very short one, however there is a lot to fit in. I hope everyone has a restful half term and we return on Tuesday February 20 ready for new challenges and opportunities.

God bless

Mr Billings, Headteacher

Prayer

Dear Lord,
As we enter this Solemn and Holy Season, we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us that we might prepare ourselves for these coming 40 days of Lent.
Help us to humble ourselves so that we can understand the magnificence of Your Love for us, as You humbled Yourself and have your Life on the Cross that we might receive the gift of Eternal Glory with you.
Amen

Additional Teacher Training Day:
Monday 19 February 2024

Good news

Library news

The Ullathorne Way reading links

Our Ullathorne Way reading links are continuing with a new recommended reading list each half term, for each of our six values. This half term the focus is on *Attentive*, with the competition entries submitted on the last day of the half term. Students were asked to create a profile for one of the characters, or one of the real people, in a book on the reading list.

Next half term, our focus shifts to *Eloquent* and students will be asked to create a bookmark for one of the books on their list.

Here are our winners from the Autumn term with their certificates and prizes. Beatrice in Year 7 was the winner of the book review for *Compassionate* and Tessa in Year 8 was the winner of the book cover design for *Faith-Filled and Prophetic*. Well done girls!



Library fundraising and donations



A group of student librarians took it upon themselves this term to raise funds for the library. They decided on a snack sale and designing posters. They enlisted the other student librarians to bring in items to sell, planned and ran the whole thing themselves.

They made more than £75 for the school library, thanks to generous donations of sweets, crisps and cakes. Miss K has already spent some of the money on buying excess stock from another library at an amazing price of 50p per book. This has boosted our fiction collection and has also replaced missing titles from a number of book series.

The library is very happy to accept donations of books from students, so if there's anything at home that isn't likely to be read again but is in reasonable condition and is suitable for a secondary school library, please do send it our way!



Library Book Club

The thriving library Book Club has been continuing with the shortlisted books for both the Warwickshire Secondary Book Awards and the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards, and the students were excited to begin placing votes for the CIBAs last week.

Some of the students who are reading the *Hooked on Books* category of the CIBAs, aimed at a transition age of Y5/6 up to Y7, will also be invited to participate in the Hooked on Books quiz on Thursday 7 March, where they can showcase their knowledge of the eight shortlisted titles. They will go up against teams from other Coventry Schools in a bid to be crowned champions!

Good news

Library news - continued

With the Carnegie longlist being announced in February, the time is right for anyone thinking of joining us to get signed up before the shadowing process begins for the national, and most prestigious, book award for Young Adult fiction, the Carnegie Medal. Book Club is held Tuesdays after school between 3.05pm and 3.50pm, in the library.

Scholastic Book Fair

The library is pleased to announce we are running a Scholastic Book Fair to tie in with World Book Day this year. The Fair will run for four days from Thursday 29 February to Tuesday 5 March. Look out for further information coming soon, but books can be purchased online and collected from the Fair, either by pre-ordering vouchers to be exchanged on the day, by purchasing via the online link or by your child choosing books via a wish list option once they have seen what's on offer at the Fair. The £1 World Book Day tokens will also be made available to students prior to the Fair, and can be used to purchase items.

Not only do Scholastic offer some excellent discounts, they also offer a rewards scheme where for every book purchased by students and parents, the school receives credit towards free books for the school library. So please do consider purchasing from the Fair this term.

National Reading Champions Quiz

After a rigorous trial process, a team of four students (plus one substitute) have been selected to participate in the National Reading Champions Quiz. Run by the National Literacy Trust, the quiz provides a fantastic opportunity for students to compete against other teams in a regional heat, with the top-scoring teams progressing to the national final in the Summer term. Congratulations to Mia, Cerys, Poppy and Beatrice (and Tessa), we will update you with how they got on after the quiz next term.



National Reading Champions Quiz



Funded by

ALCS

Good news

Library news - continued

£1 book tokens

As part of the World Book Day celebrations, National Book Tokens are once again offering every student in the UK one of their £1 book tokens. These can either be used to purchase one of the special £1 WBD titles, or for £1 off any book worth £2.99 or more. We will be accepting these at the Scholastic Book Fair at the beginning of March. Parents should just adjust the price they pay online to account for the £1 discount.

The tokens will be handed out towards the end of February, and students can exchange them at the Fair, or in bookshops and (some) supermarkets until Sunday 31 March. Please note, the tokens cannot be spent online with other retailers.



World Book Day Celebrations

The highlight of the year for a library, World Book Day falls on Thursday 7 March this year. Preparations are well underway for the big staff dress up, drop-everything and read sessions, and a host of competitions for students!



The main event of the day will be the *Treasure Hunt* where students work out the clues to a host of characters, and then try to spot the staff dressed up as those characters. Please note that this is not a student dress-up event, but there will be plenty of costumes on show by staff, from wizards to villains, and from animals to inanimate objects!

Besides the treasure hunt and various fun activities in the library on the day, there will be one competition, to be completed in tutor-time, to design a book token. This is a national competition, and we will choose an in-house winner as well as forwarding high-quality entries to the National Book Tokens company for entry into the full competition. The top national prize for this is £100 in book tokens!

Our design competition *Visualise a Book* also returns this year, with students asked to present a book in visual form. This could be a drawing, a painting, or a sculpture; you could pose a scene and photograph it or you could build it out of Lego. There are no rules, as long as it is inspired by a real book. The deadline for this will be Thursday 29 February, to give time for the winners to be chosen and presented with their book tokens which can then be spent at the Book Fair!

Good news

Senior Rotary Debate

On Friday 2 February a team from Bishop Ullathorne entered the Coventry Youth Speaks Debate competition held at President Kennedy School.

In a competition containing 7 teams from local schools, and won by the host team, our students performed extremely well and were highly commended by the judges.

Well done to Gracie-Mae Bunn, proposer on the motion that '*books and printed media are superior to technological media,*' along with Grace Murphy, chair and Agata Zygowska, opposer.



Sparx Maths

The top scorers for December and January are as follows:

Year 7: Obose Ehi-Aloja (16,538 points)

Year 8: Luka Miranda (6,294 points)

Year 9: Cerys Brennan (5,427 points)

Year 10: Kiala Evans (7,645 points)

Year 11: Dima Dawit (12,460 points)

Poetry

The following poem was written by one of our Year 8 students who moved here from overseas and started at Bishop Ullathorne at the beginning of Year 7.

The country that I don't know

My heart is scared

I can't speak

People make me scared to move

The people that I don't know

Two years have passed and I know a lot of things

I've got lots of friends

I know how to speak well

Forget the past let the future come

I love my new life

TT Rock Stars

The mathematics department are incredibly excited to announce that Bishop Ullathorne came first out of all secondary schools in the West Midlands in NSPCC Rocks - a times tables competition run by Times Tables Rock Stars for NSPCC Number Day.

NSPCC Rocks required children to correctly answer as many multiplication and division questions as possible, to give their class and school the best chance of winning.

The competition was fierce with 86,045,773 questions answered collectively by 277,450 students from more than 3,870 schools and 22,268 classes around the country!

Our school statistics were astonishing too. On average our top class, 10JB, answered 869 questions correctly per student, with the best performing student, Faith Djeukam in Year 8, answering an amazing 4,298 questions correctly in just 1 hour!

Good news

Green Flag winner

We are very proud to display our Eco Schools plaque that celebrates our Green Flag with Distinction from 2023. This compliments the Green Flag on display near the Gatehouse which we achieved in 2022.

We are currently working on our Environmental Review and Action Plan for 2024 to continue our work towards making our school environment and our world a better place for all creatures.



Knitting and Crochet club

Our Knitting and Crochet club meet every Friday first break. We would like to use our skills to support the Catholic Life of our school, and one of our plans involves knitting or crocheting lots of different poppies to create a display for our annual service for Remembrance Day.

Can you knit or crochet and would you like to help? There are lots of free patterns (both written and video) on the internet. Any shape or size poppy is welcomed, it just needs a black middle and red petals. Please either drop poppies off at the Gatehouse or bring them to Dr Jafri, Ms Ferrari or Miss Hully.



Great debates

Congratulations to Year 8 students Isaac Cunningham, Daisy Roche and Sofia Boddison who represented the school in the Coventry Rotary Public Speaking competition in January.

In front of a live audience and competing against other local schools, they debated the important topic, *There should be full equality between men and women in all sports.*

Chair: Isaac, Proposer: Daisy, Opposer: Sofia.

They all spoke so eloquently and the judges feedback was very complimentary. Well done Daisy, Isaac and Sofia. We are very proud of you.



Football

Boys' Coventry Schools' Cup: The Year 7, 8, 9 and 11 boys teams have all reached the Coventry Schools' Cup quarter finals.

West Midlands Schools' Cup: We have 5 teams still involved in the competitions. The Year 7 girls are in the semi finals and the Year 7 boys are in the quarter finals. The Year 9 boys have also reached quarter finals. The Year 9/10 girls team have reached the semi finals whilst the Year 10/11 girls team are in the quarter finals.

Good news

Public Speaking competition

A huge congratulations to Zuzanna, Sharon, Sofia and Evie in Year 12 who represented the school in the second round of the English-Speaking Union debate competition, at Solihull Sixth Form College. They were up against Kings High School, Warwick. Their debate: *Should prisoners be allowed to vote?* was eloquent and at times heated. The Warwick team were tough competitors, but the BU team was amazing and now move on to the third round. Well done.



Diversity

To support the new Year 9 and Year 10 Diversity Passport Bronze Award, Year 12 students from our Sixth Form diversity group gave a series of presentations to educate young students. Their presentations included microaggressions, systemic racism, colourism, stereotype threat and intersectionality. The Year 12 students did a fantastic job with their research and presentations while the younger students were a credit to their attentiveness and curiosity.



UK Chemistry Olympiad

Several of our Year 12 and 13 chemistry students took part in the leading chemistry competition for Sixth Form students across the British Isles

Designed to challenge and inspire, the UK Chemistry Olympiad (UKChO) is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field.

Our budding chemists developed critical problem-solving skills, learned to think more creatively and were able to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations. Their Chemistry Olympiad paper took place in January and, upon marking their papers, we wait with anticipation to see the awards they achieve. The top scoring students may even be invited to participate in round two at the University of Nottingham.

Mental Health week

This terms focus has been designed by our mental health ambassadors and is: Being attentive - self-care

Monday: Journaling: Students were asked to fill in their journal sheets at the start and end of the day.

Tuesday: Sleep Awareness: Students were encouraged to understand the importance of sleep and how it affects their mental health.

Wednesday: Water: Students are sometimes unsure of how much water to drink. Water will be on sale in A block foyer or available from the canteen to refill bottles.

Thursday: Breathing: Bringing attention to your breath and how important deep breathing is.

Friday: Movement: Movement around the school, students were encouraged to walk around school site during second break.

Year 7 Update

Ms Maxwell, Head of Year 7

Year 7 have started the Spring term with equally impressive conduct that they showed us last term. They continue to be sensitive, kind and caring students who look out for each other and strive to live out our Ullathorne Way values each day.

Whilst this has been a short half term, there have been two notable events – the awarding of the Bronze Character Passport and our first Rewards Assembly.

Bronze Character Passport: Congratulations go to the 127 Year 7 students who were awarded their Bronze Character Passport certificates at the very end of last term in either the first or second wave and received their certificates along with their Bishop Ullathorne Crest pin badges for the lapels of their blazers, which they rightly wear with pride! There were a few students who narrowly missed meeting the criteria and so we look forward to them completing it this term instead. For any students who have not yet started on the Bronze Award, this is still available.

For those that have achieved Bronze already, the Silver Character Passport now beckons! This was introduced in assembly initially and then the Form Tutors went through the requirements in more detail. To help them stay on track with this, students are given a reminder each week of what they should be completing within Tuesday's student bulletin plus a copy of the requirements are on Class Charts.

Rewards Assembly: In our first full week, students experienced their first Rewards assembly. This event coincides with Epiphany. In the same way that the Magi brought gifts for the baby Jesus, we offer our 'gifts' and award many of the students with certificates for their hard work that they displayed in the Autumn term. There are several different categories including Outstanding Effort and Progress in their lessons, Attendance, being a Student Ambassador and of course our Ullathorne Way values of Compassion, Faith-Filled and Prophetic, Attentive, Eloquent, Wise and Curious and Grateful. Whilst we currently focusing on being Attentive, all the values are at the heart of everything that we do. If your child was awarded a certificate or maybe more than one, I am sure they will have brought these home to show you. We are also very proud of what they have achieved in just their first term with us!



Year 7 key dates

27 February 2024

Retreat day

July 2024

End of year progress report

Year 7 Update - cont'd

Ms Maxwell, Head of Year 7

We continue to recognise the achievements of our Year 7 students weekly in assembly with the Form Tutor Champions. We always start our assemblies with this and it's such a positive way to start the week for us all, hearing about the wonderful things that the students have done. The winners for this half term are as listed here:

Form	Tutor Champions
7ED	Craig, Antonio, Mason, Emily F
7EM	Victoria O, Austin, Precious, Rosie
7IC	Feryelle, Kamsi, Brandon, Caitlin
7IK	Gracie, Ethan C, Jayden S, Sophia
7JR	Ethan A, Destin, Ruby, Orla
7KB	Matthew, Freddie, Harry, Aisha
7SS	Eloise, Sera, Thomas N, Eden

Additionally, our weekly inter-form competitions have continued apace for the best attending form and the form which has achieved the highest number of Ace points. A raffle will be drawn for both categories after half term. The form winners for this half term are as follows:

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

I wish all of our Year 7 students and their families a lovely half term break.



Year 7 key dates

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, another half-term is over and Spring is approaching.

It has been a very busy half-term again with lots of positive things happening such as the Character Passport, the Diversity Passport and our fabulous Rewards Assemblies. Well done to everyone who received an award!

We have also had lots of changes to setting in Year 8 which has proved very successful overall. The majority of our students have adapted very well to the change. It is important that we monitor setting and make changes where necessary throughout the academic year.

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

Many of our students have taken part in an IntoUniversity course both in and out of school. The leaders of these groups reported that the students were all active participants and showed lots of enthusiasm.

We also had a Year 8 Valentine's Disco which was a lovely way to end this half-term and let off a bit off steam through dancing.

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.

I wish all of you a very happy and peaceful half-term holiday.

God Bless.



Year 8 key dates

28 February 2024

Vaccinations

24 April 2024

Options assembly

21 June 2024

Retreat day

Year 9 key dates

14 March 2024

Options Evening

17 April 2024

Retreat day

9/10 May 2024

Vaccinations

10 May 2024

Soli House trip

13/14/15 May 2024

IntoUniversity workshops

26 June 2024

Medical mavericks



Year 10 and 11 Update

Miss Durkan, Head of Year 10 and 11

What a very short half term this has been, but as always so busy.

It was wonderful to see so many Year 11 parents/ carers attend our progress consultation evening with a brilliant 80% turn out. Hopefully this will ensure that Year 11 are on the right tracks moving forward and they can be as successful as possible in the Summer. In preparation for their next mock examinations which begin on 26 February, over 40 Year 11 students have used the after school sessions that have been put in place to help them in their silent revision. This motivation and dedication is brilliant to see and will help them towards achieving their best. Mrs Bellingham, Careers Adviser, has been exceptionally busy meeting our Year 11 students and nearly all will have now had the opportunity to speak with her to discuss their Post-16 plans. Mrs Bellingham gives our students brilliant independent advice which helps to steer them in the right direction. We are very grateful for her support.

Year 10 can be a tricky year. A time for maturing and accepting that the two year GCSE journey is not easy and comes with higher expectations in the quality and quantity of work required. Our Year 10 though, have for the most part, met these expectations head on and are striving to be the best they can be. Mrs Kilmurry and Miss Smith's shared Year 10 tutor group won the most achievement points between September and Christmas, but it is a close race so we look forward to seeing who will win in this Spring term!

Some Year 10 students had been struggling to get to their lessons on time, so with both Year groups we have challenged them this half term to be on time. I know that as parent/ carers you would share our concerns that deliberate lateness to class not only demonstrates a lack of respect to the class teacher but also negatively affects your child's learning and that of others when interruptions impact the start and/ or flow of a lesson. We are delighted to say that there has been a significant improvement which again reflects the maturity of so many who had previously not thought about the impact a few minutes can have. We will continue to monitor this for the rest of the year.

Thank you to Mrs Marston, Mrs Richardson and all our Year 10 and 11 tutors for their hard work and we do hope that you have a lovely break and thank you all for your continued support.

Year 10 key dates

23 February 2023

Soli House trip

18 April 2023

Parents' Evening

25 April 2023

IntoUniversity trip

2 July 2023

Employability skills workshop

Year 11 key dates

26 February 2023

Mock exams commence

9 April 2023

Art Textiles practical exams

16 April 2023

Art practical exams

23 April 2023

MfL speaking exams

3 May 2023

Leavers Mass

9 May 2023

Public exams commence

27 June 2023

Prom night

Sixth Form Update

Mrs Casey, Head of Sixth Form

The Spring term for our Sixth Form has brought an exciting and busy start to 2024. The new year began with the mock examinations and progress reports will be sent home after half term.

UCAS applications have all been submitted and students continue to receive superb offers from across the country, including Oxford and Cambridge. A presentation by the Warwick University Finance Team introduced the students to how Student Finance England will process the funding for their degrees and the loans available. Students will need to register with SFE in March 2024. Funding packs have been given to Year 13. Students were reminded to submit their applications early and advised on how to budget wisely.

Twenty-four Year 13 students attended the National Apprentice Show at the CBS Arena on in January.

Mrs Bellingham, our Careers Adviser, uses the fortnightly Sixth Form bulletin to highlight when apprenticeship applications are open.

The Realising Opportunities Programme, an innovative national programme which introduces talented students to **some of the country's leading research universities**, invited twelve Year 12 students to their launch event. Over the next year, they will attend a structured, interactive programme that will help them to develop their academic skills.

Two Year 12 students successfully secured a place on the "Get into Dentistry" conference on in January.

Year 12 Enrichment students are encouraged to use some of their study time to volunteer in the wider community. Some are already on placements in the Health and Social Care sector, primary schools and sports-related areas.

A group of Year 13 students have been attending a Self Defense class within the school delivered by the West Midlands Police. They have been taught invaluable practical skills, building confidence in how to defend themselves in different scenarios.

Our Sixth Form students give generously of their time, participating in a variety of activities, to help both staff and students. Mentoring younger students, supporting staff in subject areas, and the Learning Support team. They have also organised sporting activities during break time.

Year 12 key dates

Every morning

Bespoke VESPA A Level mindset with Form Tutors

26 February 2024

VIVA week

7 March 2024

Parents' Evening

8 March 2024

Birmingham University trip

19 March 2024

Meet with Industry event

7 May 2024

VIVA week

Year 13 key dates

Every morning

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

20 February 2024

VIVA week

7 March 2024

Parents' Evening

8-19 April 2024

Mock exams

8-10 May 2024

Art Textiles practical exam

9 May 2024

Public exams commence

24 May 2024

Leavers Mass

Careers Update

Mrs Bellingham, Careers Adviser

Key Stage 3

- Job of the Week has started for Year 7 and 8 students and they will be watching short video clips on a variety of exciting occupations and discussing them with their tutor.
- Mrs Bellingham is delivering a careers session to all Year 9 students. Students have learnt how to use careers research to help them with their options choices and future career ideas by taking the Buzz Quiz and exploring the school's careers guidance programme JED. All students received details on how to access JED at home as well as at school.
- Advance Notice: Mrs Bellingham will be available at the Year 9 Options evening in March.

Key Stage 4

- Individual careers guidance interviews are continuing with Year 11s. Students can also speak to Mrs Bellingham at break times without an appointment.
- Mrs Bellingham has delivered sessions on choosing A levels to students who have applied to join the Sixth Form. All students received an action plan to support their decision making process.
- An apprenticeship workshop will be taking place shortly to offer support and guidance to Year 11 students who are applying for apprenticeships.
- A regular 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.
- Year 12 and 13 students can book an appointment with Mrs Bellingham if they require careers advice and guidance.

Advanced notice

A Meet with Industry event is planned for 19 March for all Year 12 students. A visit to University of Warwick is planned for 15 March for Year 12 students.

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 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 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.