

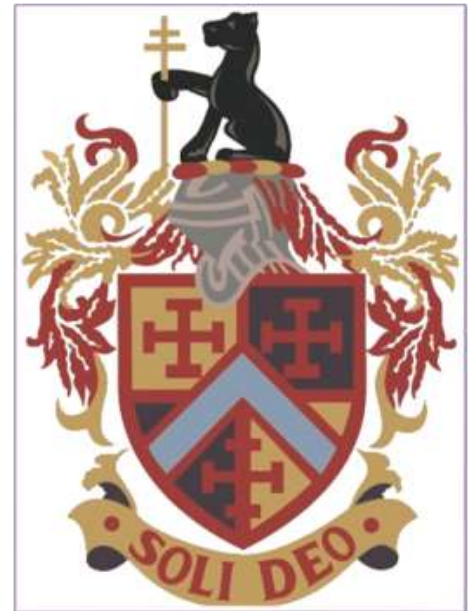
# Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



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Part of the Holy  
Cross Catholic  
MAC



## Message from our Headteacher

The Spring term is such an important one for our whole school community as routines are embedded and final content is covered for Summer examinations. It has also been an incredibly busy term with an incredible amount of exciting events taking place.

We held our first Feast Day in March to celebrate the life of our patron Bishop William Ullathorne. This is an event which we hope will grow and grow in future years. We have also begun preparations for our upcoming 70th anniversary next year. We will be contacting families in the next few months to gather your reflections and thoughts on our wonderful school community so that they can be included in the events planned from September.

The Spring term is also special because it contains our journey through Lent. The children are always so creative in their fundraising efforts and it has been exciting to see the array of competitions, sales and sponsored events that have taken place to raise money for our charities. What was also most humbling was that the children raised more than £1000 in a matter of days when they heard about the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. This encapsulates the compassion, attentiveness and gratitude of our wonderful school community.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 17 April.

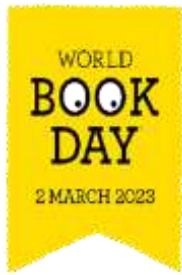
Mr Billings, Headteacher

Almighty Father, who sent  
your only Son Jesus Christ to  
save us from our sin, show me  
how I can honour you and  
bring glory to your name, by  
walking in the way of Jesus.  
Give me grace and mercy as  
I try and fail, guidance when  
I'm not sure which way to go,  
and wisdom to trust you in all  
things.



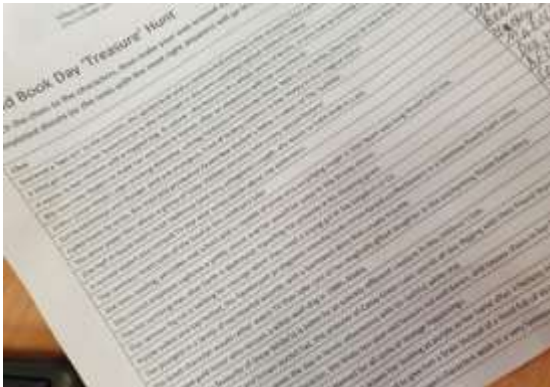
# Good news

## World Book Day



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 2 March with an array of book-based activities, lessons and competitions, as well as a huge staff dress-up. Over 50 members of teaching and support staff dressed up as their favourite book character for the day - teaching lessons, supervising students and even hosting meetings!

We had the whole Design and Technology department as various edible components from The Hungry Caterpillar; we had staff teaching inside in rather toasty outdoor survival gear and one in an outrageously warm dressing gown; we had more Roald Dahl characters than we knew what to do with; we had modern heroes and WWII evacuees, animals and inanimate objects; we had two Victorian detectives and a grey-robed wizard; we had a good complement of Harry Potter characters; and we even had some of the Senior Leadership Team as Dorothy and her three friends from The Wizard of Oz!



The students had a fantastic day, working out the 'Treasure Hunt' sheet, matching clues such as "Never named in the book or film, she is one of many children on a very special night-time trip to see Santa", to a list of characters, in this case 'Girl (Polar Express)' and then dashing around school to find the staff member dressed in that outfit (Miss K in pyjamas with a golden train ticket).



Students and staff were also able to vote for their favourite staff costume with Mrs Salter coming in first for her formidable Mrs Trunchbull, Ms Hurley second, almost unrecognisable as Mrs Twit, and Mr Billings and Mrs Boyle joint-third (and the students' favourites) as The Cowardly Lion and the Scarecrow.





# Good news

## World Book Day - continued

The final entries also attended our big *Visualise a Book* competition. The standard was extremely high and we finally chose four winners, all from Year 7. Four additional students, Kacper Halas, Troy Gakuo, Crystal Van Den Boomen Ramos and Elizabeth Power received sweets and a 'Highly Commended' certificate for their entries, and Mrs Davis took the Staff and Community prize for her Fantastic Mr Fox creation, designed to match her outfit on the day.



Sofia won first prize for her computer-aided designs inspired by the Folk of the Air books by Holly Black; Vishy Navuluri came second for building the whole of Hogwarts (including the Whomping Willow and the Quidditch stadium) in a cardboard box; and Freddie Graham and Alicja came joint third, Freddie for his fantasy-inspired map and Alicja Wegrzyniak for her detailed painting.



There were three other competitions taking place in the library throughout the day (a *Cryptic Book Mystery*, a *Who Created Who* matching activity and a *Book Bonanza Quiz*). We again had huge numbers of entries, from Year 7 up to Year 11, so everyone was keen to give something a go! Can you work out this first clue (left) from the *Cryptic Book Mystery*? Ashmiya Sibbu Year 7 won the author-character matching activity, with a little help from her Year 12 mentor Angelle Agyemang; Cerys Brennan Year 8 solved the most clues in the *Cryptic Book Mystery* and Grace Murphy Year 10 showed off her extensive reading habit by winning the *Book Bonanza Quiz*.

# Good news

## World Book Day - continued

As well as the activities at break times, students also completed book-related activities during their English lessons and had the opportunity to design their own book token during tutor time. These creations will be forwarded to the National Book Tokens company for entry into their national competition to design an actual book token to be sold in shops. The winner of this competition wins £100 in books for themselves and £250 for their school library! We will also choose an in-house winner as well, just in case no one goes on to win the national prize. Entries are still coming in for this, but so far the standard is very high.



We also set aside some time for actual reading on World Book Day, and all Key Stage 3 students were able to listen to an audiobook for the first ten minutes of every lesson. This book, *Something I Said* by Ben Bailey Smith, AKA Doc Brown, was available on the World Book Day website for students to continue listening, along with a range of other titles, until the end of March.

As part of the World Book Day celebrations, all students should have received their £1 digital book token via Class Charts and have been able to buy any of the titles mentioned on the back of the token for FREE. OR they may have used them to receive £1 off any book worth £2.99 or more. Let us know if anyone entered the competition advertised on the token – the prize was a family trip to Germany, including a visit to the How to Train Your Dragon theme park. Retailers will normally continue to allow purchases of the £1 books until stocks run out, so go and grab yours if you haven't already!

Thanks to all involved in making the day a success. We can only hope the students had as much fun as the staff did!





# Good news

## Plastic clever school

We have achieved Plastic Clever School Level 1 and 2.

For this, Year 7 completed a litter pick and Year 9 students worked on the audit to analyse what plastic we use across our school community. After analysing the results, we wrote our clear action plan. Grace Marren in Year 9 suggested that Lent is a time for fasting, praying and giving, so we can give to our environment and school community by launching our new recycling schemes which include:

1. Recycling bags in each classroom. Plastic water/soft drinks bottles were one of our highest used items. These can be placed in the bags, as well as paper, aluminium drinks cans and tin foil. This will make a really big difference to the waste we create. To encourage students to use the bag we decided on a form competition. Each form group will have their bags weighed by prefects. Across Lent, the form that collects the most recycling will win a prize.
2. Broken pen recycling. Our audit showed that we use lots of pens and whiteboard pens by students and staff and at the moment we bin them when they are empty or broken. We have found out that Ryman shops (in Coventry and Leamington) have a pen recycling scheme run by Terracycle, so we can collect them in classrooms and then ask staff to take them to the shops.
3. Crisp packet recycling. As many local supermarkets now offer soft plastic recycling, we should do our bit to reduce how much we are sending to landfill. We decided that the best location for this collection would be the canteen.

We are excited to make a real difference through this season of Lent and beyond.



## Catenians competition

Bartosz Zygowski and Harry Davies recently performed at the annual Cetenians public speaking competition. Held at Newman University, it was a prestigious event involving Catholic schools from across the Midlands. Bartosz argued that *"The right to life should have limits"* and Harry discussed whether *"The love of money is the root of all evil."*

They performed extremely well, engaging the audience and speaking confidently throughout. The judges' feedback to both was extremely complimentary.



# Good news

## Football student of the week



Ben Flavell in Year 10 was awarded under 15s schoolboy of the week last month by Birmingham City Football Club Academy. Ben has played for the club for 8 years and trains 4 times a week. The club supports him with school educational responsibilities as well as progressing his football skills. Well done Ben.



## Charity fundraising

There have been wonderful and wide ranging events taking place around school from all Form Groups for our Lenten charities. Here are some examples:

Mrs Cabrera Mix's Year 11 form group sold chilli to both staff and students.

Mr Anstee's form group had a brilliant game of bingo and well done to the callers!



What this space in the next edition to find out the final total raised and which charities we will be donating to.

In addition to these events, as mentioned by Mr Billings, we also donated £1070.50 for the Turkey and Syria appeal.

## STEM club

During March, students have learnt about making bath bombs using safe and non hazardous chemicals with some very fragrant smells. We also celebrated *British Science Week*. To celebrate this, we made some very technically challenging gliders using specialist materials provided by our Design and Technology department.

We delivered the STEM careers presentation to our club members highlighting and showcasing the different pathways and career choices in STEM subjects and our very enthusiastic team of Sixth Formers will continue to organise and enthuse younger members of the school community in the coming months.



If you are in Key Stage 3 and would like to join our STEM Club, a fun and hands on practical way to see how science works in real life, please see Mrs Shah or Mr Kerrigan. The club runs every Wednesday in Lab 3 from 3.05pm to 4pm.



# Good news

## Duke of Edinburgh young leaders

During the winter months, two of our Year 12 students embarked on a set of training evenings with the Duke of Edinburgh Young Leaders Scheme. Maria Cosgriff and Regina Crame worked alongside other young people from around the country to become Young Leaders and support the Duke of Edinburgh scheme within the school.



Miss Newell, our Duke of Edinburgh Manager, praised the girls for their hard work and **commitment. She said: "Maria and Regina have been a delight to work with. They have given up several evenings to fully engage with the Young Leader training and will now support me in promoting the award within school. They have grown in confidence and demonstrated great leadership skills over the last few months. They helped out at options evening and will soon be going into assemblies to launch the award scheme with our Year 9 students"**.

## Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver award

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students have recently started their online expedition training. Bronze award students are learning new skills preparing them for their night away under canvas. They have been learning how to read maps, basic signs and symbols. They have even been watching some online First Aid tutorials. After Easter, students will embark on some face-to-face training and start planning their routes for their expedition in the Summer. Our Silver award students are now enrolled, our biggest cohort yet with 28 young people all wanting to complete their award. Many of whom have already completed the Bronze award with us in Year 10. The students are completing their three sections: skill, volunteering and physical ability. They will be starting their expedition training in the Summer term before they compete their expeditions later in the year.

**Miss Newell said: "It is such a pleasure to see our young people engaged in the programme and wanting to expand their horizons."**

## Schools networking

In an ongoing bid to encourage schools in Coventry join the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, four of our students Yan Yan Cheung (10), Aupurbo Rahman (10), Melania Amba-Wills (9), and Ekaitz Amin Ibieta (9) presented speeches in the Houses of Parliament. The students presented on an ongoing project titled: **"Colonialism as seen in the Coventry Telegraph"** about how different events from the UK's colonial history were reported in the Coventry Telegraph. The students used the opportunity to also explore their own identities and understand more about how colonialism has shaped their history and lives. **The students' eloquence, wisdom and curiosity were a credit to our school.**



The event was organised by Professor Shahnaz Akhter from the University of Warwick in conjunction with Taiwo Owatemi, the MP for North Coventry. In attendance and complimentary of our students' efforts were: Ms Owatemi, Councillor Dr Kindy Sandhu from Coventry City Council, Ann Beatty the UNESCO ASPnet National Coordinator, and James Bridge the CEO of UNESCO UK. Our students were joined by students from Blue Coat, Eden Girls, Lyng Hall and Westwood Academy.



# Good news

## Boys football

Year 7: The Year 7 boys are still in the Coventry Schools Cup and will play Caludon Castle in the next round after Easter.

Year 8: The Year 8 boys have moved into the semi-final of the West Midlands Schools cup after defeating Summerhill School 4-2 in the quarter final. They are waiting to find out who their opponents will be in a game that will be played after Easter.

They are also still in the Coventry Schools Cup and will play Coundon Court. If they are successful they will play Ernsford Grange in the semi-final.

Year 11: The Year 11 boys beat Princethorpe College 6-0 in the quarter final of the Telegraph cup and will now face either Kenilworth School or Cardinal Newman in the semi final in April. The final will be held on Tuesday 2 May at the CBS Arena. They are also still in the Coventry Schools Cup and will play Coundon Court in the semi-final.

## Girls football

Year 7/8: The girls are into the semi-final of the West Midlands Schools Cup and will play Q3 Academy after Easter.

Year 8/9: Defending their title, the girls beat St Michaels High School 11-0 in the quarterfinals of the West Midlands Schools Cup. They now face Sandwell Academy in the semi-final in April.

Year 10/11: In torrential rain and a hail storm the girls overcame a tough challenge from Phoenix Collegiate to win their semi-final tie 7-2 in the West Midlands Schools Cup. They will face Summerhill School in the final to whom they lost last year, so the girls will be looking to turn the tables and become County Champions

## Art Textiles

Work from two of our Year 12 Art Textiles students is on display in the Coventry Open 2023 at the Herbert Art Gallery. Sydney Mosley and Maya Swales both have an individual piece and a joint piece entered into the show. Sydney's individual piece, "Floral hand embroidered dress" and Maya's individual piece, "Lavenders Grow", and their joint fashion garment, "Structural Changes" will be shown in the gallery until the end of May.

For the first time this year, the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum is hosting a Young Person's Coventry Open, offering young artists an opportunity to exhibit their work in a professional gallery setting.

Miss Newell, Art Textiles teacher, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for our students. It has given the girls the chance to experience a really special occasion alongside other budding artists. We are so proud of them for entering the show and embracing this opportunity."

Maya said: "I really enjoyed the private viewing and seeing my work on display in the exhibition alongside other artists."

Sydney said "I believe that this a great opportunity and chance to learn, explore and develop ideas for my future creations."

The works in the exhibition were selected by a panel of young people from Escape Arts Youth. During the exhibition visitors are invited to fill out a YOU CHOOSE! voting form for their favourite work on display. Please go and have a look at our students work and cast your vote.





# Good news

## Diversity conference

Bishop Ullathorne was happy to host a diversity conference with the help of visiting students from Cardinal Newman Catholic School. The conference was organised by Miss Hondo and was run with the help of some brilliant, insightful activists in Years 9 and 11.



Year 7 and 8 students were invited to the library to discuss how to conduct difficult conversations about race and racism while being eloquent in

their words, compassionate to the experiences of others, and attentive to their needs. The students were truly faith filled and prophetic in their tolerance and willingness to engage with some difficult, thought-provoking issues. They were wise and curious in how they were willing to learn from the experiences of others.

After good discussion, the conference was concluded by a wonderful presentation about diversity in young adult literature by Miss Kerslake, our librarian. Her explanation of how books can serve as mirrors and windows really opened the minds and hearts of our students. We are grateful for her hard work as well as the hard work of all of our students in our Holy Cross family.



## Super mathematicians

Sparxmaths XP points top of each year group for February & March are as follows:

Year 7: Faith Djeukam (42,899 points)

Year 8: Yafiet Tesfagabr (33,247 points)

Year 9: Jack Littlewood (8731 points)

Year 10: Michael Oyedele (8,573 points)

## Connect Four competition

Key Stage 3 students have been developing their planning and strategical thinking by competing in an inter-class connect four competition.

Each class in Years 7, 8 and 9 formed a league, with students playing games against their classmates and the undefeated player being crowned class champion.

In the year group finals our class champions competed to become the Connect Four Champion of the year.

All class champions listed below:

| Year 8                             | Year 9                            |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Cerys Brennan                      | Keaton Dutton                     |
| Eva Coen                           | Kian Keith                        |
| Kian Hallinan                      | Erin Naylor                       |
| Finlay Jenkins<br>overall champion | Ashley Ncube                      |
| Andrew Kintu                       | Filip Opliela<br>overall champion |
| Sandile Pilime                     | Joel Saffa                        |
| Benjamin Steele                    | Sean Teasdale-Yerou               |
| Daniel Tutty                       |                                   |



# Good news

## Year 7 Form Tutor Champions

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 listed below:

| Form | Tutor Champions              |
|------|------------------------------|
| 7BV  | William, Ayo,                |
| 7JC  | Neveah, Susanna, Louie,      |
| 7JM  | Ahana, Faith L, Alexander W, |
| 7RO  | Jacob B, Chloe, Chris,       |
| 7RW  | Laryea, Nathaniel A, Lydia,  |
| 7SDU | Erin, Guy,                   |
| 7TG  | Evian, Joanna, Emmanuel O,   |

## Year 7 attendance

Our weekly Year 7 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:

|        | Attendance | Form Award |
|--------|------------|------------|
| Week 1 | 7JM        | 7TG        |
| Week 2 | 7JC        | 7RW        |
| Week 3 | 7JM        | 7RO        |
| Week 4 | 7RO        | 7RW        |
| Week 5 | 7JC        | 7RO        |

Well done to Year 7 for participating in so many activities this half term.

## Drama club

Many Year 7 drama students are working on their extra-curricular project with Miss Moloney. The talented group of actors and musicians are creating their own version of *Tales of Trickery* by playwright by Kim Alan Wheatley. It contains two beautiful, comic folktales from Indonesia. The *Widow and the Wealthy Neighbour* has a single actor who portrays a poor widow, a bumbling servant and a miserly neighbour in a comic tale of greed. *The Buffalo and the Bell* is a fun story that contains three notorious cheats against a simple-minded farmer, his water buffalo and a magic bell.



Some of the actors are also helping in the technical side of the production. They have been making of puppets and props with Miss Hully and Mr Morris. Thank you all.

The performance of *Tales of Trickery* will take place on Tuesday 27 June at 7pm in the Drama Studio. More information nearer the time.



# Good news

## Warwickshire School Book Awards

This month our Library Book Club members were rewarded for all of their hard work over the last six months when they attended the awards ceremony for the Warwickshire Schools Book Award. This award is run by the Warwickshire Schools Library Service, with books being supplied by the independent bookshop, Warwick Books.

One of the benefits of being on the border of two counties means that while the school is officially subscribed to the Coventry SLS, we are able to utilise the Warwickshire SLS as well. We have just finished the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards with the Coventry SLS, and will hopefully be attending the awards ceremony for this in the Summer, but the Warwickshire's always come first in the calendar, making a lovely end to the Spring term.

Our Book Club, along with many other groups from across Warwickshire, have spent the last few months reading the six shortlisted books. Last week, they voted for their favourite and then were able to attend the awards ceremony on the day to hear the authors speak, and to watch the winner receive their award. Normally the WSLS are able to organise at least two of the six authors to attend, but this year they were able to arrange for all six to 'attend' – two in person, two by live link, and two by creating videos to be shared with us!

Each of the authors spoke about their book, and about their writing in general, and it was fascinating to hear all of the different perspectives; from Keith Gray's surprising revelation that it was a job as a giant teddy bear mascot for a seaside resort that funded him through writing his first (published) book; to Darren Simpson explaining that his writing of *Memory Thieves* was actually a cathartic way of dealing with his own emotions about an upsetting incident; to Phil Earle sharing with us the real government booklet that recommended the euthanizing of your pets at the beginning of the Second World War. Jennifer Killick shared with us her writing process (she creates a detailed map of her settings first), William Sutcliffe shared his inspiration for his climate change novel (Greta Thunberg of course) and Robin Scott Elliott introduced us to the unusual room-mates in his writing space (his daughter's rabbit and guinea pig – he likes the rabbit best because he doesn't talk back!).





# Good news

## Book Awards continued

Students had previously submitted questions to the WSLs for the authors, and our Book Club had two specific questions read out, asked by Dawid and Rose, as well as contributing to several general questions for the authors.

Students were also able to submit entries to any of three competitions as part of the award, where they could either draw something from or about the book, create a written piece such as a follow-on or an alternate ending, or write a blog about the awards process itself. We are very proud to announce that two of the six winners were from Bishop Ullathorne, with Grace winning with her beautifully heart-breaking animation of disappearing pets, inspired by the tragic events of *While the Storm Rages*, and Dawid winning with his alternate, hard-hitting ending to *The Climbers*. Both students received a certificate and a bag full of goodies - including a copy of Robin Scott Elliott's latest book!

After Jennifer Killick was announced as the winner for her creepy high-school thriller, *Dread Wood*, the students were able to meet the two authors in attendance. They had their books or their reading journals signed, chatted with the writers, and even took selfies!



As a group, we were lucky to be able to take photos with both of the authors, and the students really enjoyed speaking with them - and picking up freebies such as postcards and bookmarks. In all, it was well-deserved reward for such hard working students who have dedicated their own time to an extracurricular club.

*Book Club runs every Tuesday after school, from 3.05pm to 3.50pm, and is a wonderful space to discuss ideas, read a range of challenging and inspirational novels and participate in awards processes and national competitions. We are just about to begin shadowing the prestigious Carnegie Medal awards, so it is an ideal time to join our group. Students, please pop in to the library (or parents can email) for more information.*

# Good news

## Ullathorne Day

Our Feast Day Mass was celebrated earlier this month to remember Bishop William Ullathorne (1806-1899). Students reflected on ten habits for holiness:

1. Be Prayerful
2. Be Inspirational
3. Be Reflective
4. Be Ambitious
5. Be True to Yourself
6. Be Humble
7. Be Generous
8. Be Courageous
9. Be Patient
10. Be Joyful

We pray that William's lively imagination and adventurous spirit may be alive in us. Just as he decided unreservedly to devote his life to the service God, may we also without fear trust in God's plan for our lives. Ullathorne had such strength of character. As patron of our school, let us use his example as we grow in the Ullathorne Way. May we always stand up for the most vulnerable, do all we can to defend those in need and boldly share our faith, leading others to Christ.



## Year 7 retreat

In March, Year 7 students had their first Retreat Day on the theme of Vocation. This special day was wonderfully organised by our Lay Chaplain, Lauren. We started the day all together in the hall finding out the meaning of Vocation. Thereafter, there was a variety of activities led by our Year 7 Form Tutors on different themes entitled:

In the silence of the heart | Making a difference | Stop the Bus | When I grow up

Additionally, there were two very contrasting and informative talks led by two external speakers, both of whom had kindly given up their time to come and speak to us about their vocations:

Meet Director of Cyber Operations – Scott Thorpe | Meet a Seminarian - Tenny Anthony

Both of these talks were very enlightening and the questions that were put to both speakers at the end showed their connection and engagement with the content of their work.

At the end of the day we came together again to celebrate Mass, led by Father Simon. We are sure that the students came home to tell you about this special day. We would like to extend thanks to Lauren for organising this special day for us all.

# Good news

## Sixth Form

Congratulations to Josiah Joseph who has qualified as a Lifeguard and will be working part time at the Alan Higgs Centre. We are also delighted that Luke Smith and Denzel Kira contributed to the wider community with performances at the Albany Theatre. Annie Brown also performed with the Celtica Irish Dance School on St Patrick's Day for our local care homes.

Our Year 12 psychologists have displayed their new found knowledge entering the North Eastern University London Essay Competition. There were over 5000 submissions. The students explored the question: "How could psychology explain atrocious acts towards humans such as during war times?" Well done to Luke Smith, awarded Highly Commended, and Paige Foley, Grace Lewis, Yaye Bah and Fortune Ehuike who have been invited to London, for reaching the finals.

## Ski trip

51 students enjoyed a fantastic week of skiing over February half term. Under mostly sunny skies, the students were challenged to develop their skiing skills whether total beginners or ski experts. As the week progressed, all students rose to the challenge and were able to ski down different slopes in the resort. This included a difficult day when the snow conditions were very poor and visibility was not good. All students showed tremendous resilience and came through that difficult day to eventually enjoy a fun Friday where all were skiing with confidence and enjoying the scenery that Saalbach had to offer. It was a great week enjoyed by all.





# Year 7 Update

Ms Maxwell, Head of Year 7

It has been a short half term but we have managed to fit in a lot of exciting events! During this season of Lent there have been a plethora of special Lenten activities, charity fundraising ideas and initiatives and exciting competitions to enter.

Each form group discussed and decided upon the way they wished to raise money for Lent. Their chosen activities are detailed below:

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 7BV  | Raffle  |
| 7JC  | Giving up treats and donating the money saved |
| 7JM  | Sweet / cookie sale and penalty shoot-out     |
| 7RO  | Tombola                                       |
| 7RW  | Cake sale                                     |
| 7SDU | Bingo   |
| 7TG  | Sponsored running and tuck shop               |

The students have had the opportunity to work for their Silver Character Passport this term. Those who hadn't quite met the Bronze requirements last term have worked on Silver as well and those who hadn't started Bronze last term have also been able to complete Bronze this term. We are looking forward to seeing how many students have managed to reach Silver and/or Bronze!

Part of the requirements for the Silver award is to enter a competition and there have been many to choose from, from our school-wide inter-form recycling weigh-ins and our 'Ullathorne's Talent Show', for which students could audition. Additionally, thanks to Miss Kerslake, our Librarian, the staff dressed up on World Book Day and students took part in a cryptic quiz to work out who was dressed as who. They also designed a book token for a national competition.

We have been privileged to have our assemblies led by three more of our tutor groups this half term, all embracing our current calendar period of Lent. 7TG began by leading us in the important theme of Charity, focusing on how we can be charitable in our treatment of others, not just in raising monetary support to help others. Last week, 7RO led us with the theme of Identity and Belonging and this week 7BV led us with an assembly on Autism Awareness. Well done all three form groups for their lovely assemblies. The final two form groups will lead us in their assemblies in the Summer term.

As previously mentioned, the whole school recognised our first ever Ullathorne Day with special prayers and Year 7 were selected to celebrate Mass together in William Ullathorne's honour, led by Father Simon and Father Peter.

I wish all of our Year 7 students and their families a peaceful, holy Easter.



## Year 7 key dates

12 June 2023

End of year examinations  
commence

# Year 8 and 9 Update

Mrs Jeremiah, Head of Year 8 and 9

Hello everyone and well done for getting through this very busy half term.

It has been very busy. We watched two fabulous form assemblies where our students showed us just how skilled and talented they truly are. The students led and prepared the assemblies themselves. One was on Diversity and we were delighted to hear about China, Sri Lanka, Spain, Africa and Ireland.

We have had some great sporting achievements from our football and netball teams. Well done to everyone involved in those teams. We are so very proud of you all.

All of our students have raised lots of money for the Lenten charities giving up their free time along with their Form Tutors to help those in need. We have been treated to: cake sales, raffles, Easter Egg hunts, guess the sweets in the jar, wet sponge throwing, basketball knock out and so much more. Well done to everyone involved.

It was also really good to see so many of our Year 9 parents at the Options Evening in March. Thank you for all the positive comments about our hard working staff and our excellent school.

We have had the launch of the Year 8 trip to France in July. More information will be coming next term and our current Year 8 student have also been able to sign up for a trip to Spain In Year 9. We are very excited about both of these trips.

A massive WELL DONE to all of those students who achieved a certificate or Form Tutor Champion Award this term. Unfortunately, we cannot award every student therefore many of our students will have an opportunity for recognition in our Awards Assembly after Easter and through a termly letter of praise from me to acknowledge their hard work and commitment to our school.

I wish you all a very peaceful and happy Easter holiday and I thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

God Bless.



## Year 8 key dates

12 June 2023

End of year exams commence

23 June 2023

Retreat day

## Year 9 key dates

6 June 2023

Vaccinations

12 June 2023

End of year exams commence

## Year 10 key dates

26 June 2023

End of year exams commence

## Year 11 key dates

12 May 2023

Leavers' Mass

15 May 2023

GCSE exams commence

29 June 2023

Prom

# Year 10 and 11 Update

Miss Durkan, Head of Year 10 and 11

What an incredibly fast half term this has been and a huge congratulations to both year groups for keeping focused and working well.

Year 11 students are making great strides in achieving their **very best in next term's GCSE examinations**. They have completed their final set of mock examinations and are now on the final stretch before the 'real' examinations begin. Of course, before the examinations begin in May, students will be completing practical examinations in PE, Art, Catering, Art Textiles and Drama. We wish them every success. Our Product

Design students have completed their NEA and our Health and Social Care students will have their folder work completed too. It really is a very busy time for them all.

The end of the year is very close for Year 11, so please remember that all payments for prom, hoodies and yearbooks must be made by the end of April. We also extend a warm welcome to all parents and carers to our Leavers' Mass on Friday 12 May. You will receive a formal invitation to this event in due course.

So many in Year 11 students have been working with enthusiasm. We hope that over the Easter break they have the opportunity to recharge their batteries and return in April ready for the last push to success.

Year 10 students continue to work with effort. Their end of year examinations are approaching and we hope that after Easter they will be focusing on their revision to ensure their success in the Summer term and so that we get started in September full of momentum. They are a wonderful year group and it has been lovely to see them grow in confidence and belief over the past year.

It was also lovely to go on retreat with thirty Year 10 students to the Briars. This was a beautiful opportunity for our young people to explore their faith and grow closer to God. We are very grateful to Lauren for organising this lovely experience.

I would like to finish with saying how proud I am of our Key Stage 4 efforts to raise money for our Lenten Charities, from Chilli lunches, and Easter Egg Hunts, to sponsored silences and tombola, we have raised over £300 to date and still counting. A massive thank you and well done to all who have contributed and to our tutors for facilitating the events.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Easter.

### Public examination reminder:

*The public examination season will commence on Monday 15 May 2023 for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. All students have been issued with their Statement of Entry confirming what qualifications they have been entered for and shortly after the Easter break they will receive their timetables with room and seat allocations.*

*With this in mind, we would like to remind students of the importance of full attendance during the examination period. All examinations start at 9am and 1pm and students must be in school and ready to go in to the examination room at least 10 minutes before these times. Coming to examinations late causes unnecessary anxiety and means that students miss vital instructions and information regarding the examination they are sitting.*

*All students will need to bring their own equipment to every examination. This should include a black biro (not gel pens), pencils, ruler, geometry set (not in a tin) and a calculator (without the lid). This equipment should be in a clear, non-coloured, pencil case.*

*Water bottles must be see through, without any colour or patterns, and contain water only.*

*Mobile phones and wrist watches of any description are not allowed in the examination room.*



# Sixth Form Update

Mrs Casey, Head of Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form students have completed an action packed Spring term, with students completing mock examinations to support their progress and importantly for Year 13 to consolidate their revision programme. It was wonderful to meet so many families at Parents Evening before half term and share the support given to the students.

UCAS applications have resulted in excellent offers and presently Year 13 are considering their Firm and Insurance choice. Following the talk from the University of Warwick on Finance, Student Finance England have opened the funding applications for 2023. Students are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Likewise some universities have released their accommodation availability and so students can now consider their preferred living arrangements. Year 13 students who have made Apprenticeship applications have participated in interviews and are also receiving excellent placements.

Year 12 students have been encouraged to explore enrichment opportunities which will develop their wider employability skills and independent learning. They have participated in the *Meet with Industry* day where they were able to meet professionals from many sectors and discover their career pathways.

As part of the Year 12 Induction, students visited De Montfort University and this term they all participated in a day visit to the University of Warwick, meeting with student ambassadors to gain an insight of the academic environment of a Russell Group university.

The HE+ group attended a launch lecture at President Kennedy School given by a Cambridge post graduate student. Likewise the students on the Realising Opportunities Programme attended a conference at the University of Warwick. Further opportunities are on the horizon with students applying for Sutton Trust Summer Schools.

Part-time work is an invaluable way for Sixth Form students to develop their employability and organisational skills. A reminder though that research findings illustrate that the total of hours should be no more than 10, as any more than this, reduces A Level grades.

The Sixth Form Team wish you all a happy and holy Easter.



## Year 12 key dates

### Every morning

Bespoke VESPA A Level mindset with Form Tutors

**5 June 2023**

End of Year exams commence

## Year 13 key dates

### Every morning

With Form tutors health and well-being, independent living along with UCAS and apprenticeship applications

**15 May 2023**

Public examinations commence



# Careers Update

Mrs Bellingham, Careers Adviser

## Key Stage 3

- Mrs Bellingham is available to offer advice and guidance to Year 9 students on option choices.
- *Skills in the workplace* sessions for this term focused on apprenticeships. All subject staff delivered presentations to students explaining about apprenticeships and how their subjects can link to this career pathway.

## Key Stage 4

- Mrs Bellingham has started to follow up all Year 11 students to ensure they have offers for Sixth Form or FE College. Any student applying for apprenticeships will be offered ongoing help and support and encouraged to have a back-up plan as well.
- Mrs Bellingham delivered an apprenticeship workshop for students in Year 11 who have indicated an interest in this pathway.
- Career Bite sessions are continuing with the police booked to attend after the Easter break. Thank you to all our parents who have **volunteered to support the school's career programme**.
- Every two weeks a careers update is included in the school bulletin highlighting college and employer open events, apprenticeship opportunities and workshops.

## Key Stage 5

- Year 12 students attended a Meet with Industry event in school which was very successfully supported by professionals from a wide variety of sectors, which included alumni and parent volunteers. Thank you to all our guests who contributed to this event, our students benefitted enormously from the conversations and advice.
- Year 12 students visited the University of Warwick as part of the Sixth Form Higher Education programme. They took part in presentations in the lecture hall and toured the campus with student ambassadors. Thank you to the University of Warwick staff for hosting us.
- All year 12 and 13 students are emailed a careers 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.

## 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! Check out the 2023 entry UCAS presentation for parents on our website.

# Term dates 2022-2023

## Summer

Monday 17 April to Friday 26 May 2023

## Half Term

Monday 5 June to Friday 21 July 2023—students finish school at 12.30pm on the last day

## Extra curricular activities

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



## 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. Many thanks for your continued support with this matter.



## 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.

## Teacher Training Days 2022/2023

Friday 30 June 2023

## Whole school events

8 June 2023

Showcase performances

## Year 7 and 8 Carousel

The following dates are when the carousel subjects change:  
22 May 2023

## 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@bishoppullathorne.co.uk](mailto:admin@bishoppullathorne.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 is to collect.

## 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.