



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



Headteacher's message

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

As a Catholic community, Lent is an incredibly powerful time. It is especially exciting to be in a Catholic school during this period. There is a genuine sense of excitement and purpose to all that we do. This term, we have focused on the values of attentiveness and eloquence. Watching our students be inspired to focus so keenly on ecological issues and the plight of our planet through their retreats has been very humbling; their impassioned speeches and active involvement in these retreats certainly displayed the virtue of eloquence for all to see and hear.

Elsewhere in school, the fervour shown by our young people in their fundraising activities has been matched only by the hard work and determination of our Year 11 and 13 students as they head towards their final examinations. I know that students have really appreciated the additional support they have received from all of their teachers during this busy time. In addition to the excitement of Lent, we were also visited by Ofsted in March for our monitoring visit. I am delighted to say that we continue to be a good school. We were particularly proud that they recognised our 'polite and well mannered' students as well as noting their enjoyment of school.

On behalf of all of the staff, students and governors of Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School, I would like to wish you a blessed and peaceful Easter.

Chris Billings

Epiphany

In January, although students returned to school after the Epiphany, the spirit of the feast was celebrated through our rewards assemblies for each year group.



Ash Wednesday

Our journey through Lent began with Ash Wednesday services for all year groups. The student-led acts of worship included scripture readings and prayers.



Our choir and four Year 7 soloists also supported with a moving rendition of: *There is a longing in our hearts*. Ashes were distributed by our Year 10 Chaplaincy team.

Penitential Services

All of our key stage 4 and 5 students took part in Penitential Services this term. They were prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and all were able to speak individually to a priest.

Easter Mysteries

Through drama, readings and song, the *Easter Mysteries* was presented to students. The moving Lenten Service continues to be a highlight of our school calendar.

Fundraising events

Our Chaplaincy team has co-ordinated Lenten fundraising activities for each year group. A wide range of activities was organised. On CAFOD Family Fast Day, students were encouraged by our Chaplaincy team to sacrifice a snack and contribute to a form-based collection. Totals are currently being counted.

Year 7	CAFOD
Year 8	Birmingham Children's Hospital
Year 9	Zoe's Place
Year 10	Medical Missionaries of Mary—Tanzania
Year 11	The Andrew Robinson Young People's Trust

Climate Change

Year 10 retreats, based on the Pope's encyclical *Laudato Si* about the impact of Climate Change, inspired several of our students to take positive action. Following the retreats, a small group has actively championed recycling across the whole school. The new Eco group presented their ideas to staff and has now installed recycling bags and boxes in all classrooms. They will be responsible for continuing to co-ordinate and promote the recycling of paper, plastic, crisp packets and pens. They have received extra training at St Chad's Cathedral to support their intentions.



Foodbank Vouchers

Bishop Ullathorne has now become an official Foodbank Voucher Distribution Centre. Staff are supporting by donating food and clothing every month.



Love letters

During Valentine's Day, love was shared across the whole school community in the form of heart-shaped balloons. All donations will contribute towards four of our students joining a pilgrimage to Lourdes. A fun quiz night also raised funds.

Spread the love this Valentines Day! Buy a balloon for £1 which will be delivered to whoever you choose on Thursday 14th February.



The love heart balloons will be available to buy from today in A block foyer.

All proceeds go to Lourdes.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Duke of Edinburgh

Thirty Year 10 students are currently working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

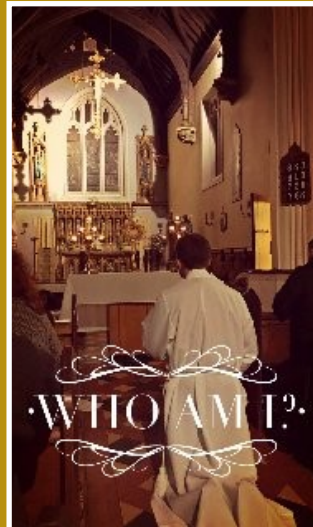
Expedition training started this term and will run each week in the run up to the first practice expedition in May. Students will be trained in map skills, compass work, camping craft, camp cooking and basic first aid. The final expedition is due to take place next term.

This venture has been supported with a grant from the Duke of Edinburgh Diamond #iwill Fund, which has enabled the school to buy some new tents.



Year 8 Retreat

Balancing prayer, reflection and activities such as mountain biking and climbing, some of our Year 8 students enjoyed a varied retreat this term. The three-day retreat at Alton Castle involved 50 students and was led by our lay Chaplain, **Lauren Stundon**.



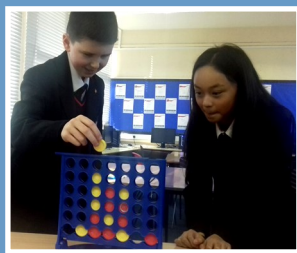
Mission@Home

Preparing home-cooked meals and providing care packages, some of our Year 10 students supported homeless and refugee families this term. Volunteering in Birmingham, as part of the Catholic Youth Service, they gave up a Saturday to help others.



Connect 4 Challenge

Ben Gilks (Year 7), **Kadie Hallinan** (Year 8) and **Francis Gathigi** (Year 9) were worthy winners of our Connect 4 Mathematics Challenge.



Francis said: "Connect 4 is a game of skill and reaction. It is about thinking ahead of your opponent even before they make their move. Every move has to be strategic. One little mistake could cost you the game. It is a good way to learn how to adapt to what your opponent does."

Art of the Matter

A visit to London's Victoria and Albert Museum provided our Art Textiles students with the opportunity to carry out some primary research for their examination project. Seeing art work and crafts first hand was incredibly beneficial.

Louisa Berridge (Year 11) said: "I really enjoyed looking around the gallery and seeing all of the beautiful pieces of art. My favourite part was the fashionwear area where we were able to see fashions from the 1900s. It really inspired me and has guided my wearable art project."

Aliyah Khan (Year 11) said: "We really appreciated the experience. We saw every single exhibition in the gallery and examined every piece of art work. We all took hundreds of photographs which we have used in our projects."



SEND Coffee Mornings

Cakes baked by our staff and students were enjoyed at our Coffee Mornings for parents and carers of our SEND students.



Delicious dishes

During three days of practical examinations, in conditions as tense as the MasterChef kitchens, our Year 11 Catering students produced some delicious and attractive dishes. With only three hours each to create two dishes, a variety of skills and techniques were tested. Part of their NEA controlled assessment, students followed a strict brief from the examination board.



Tunnock Challenge

The national Tunnock Tea Cake Challenge was met by our Year 10 Catering students. **Carla Yossa Tchangou** was our school winner. She impressed the judges with three strawberry slices dusted with cocoa powder.



Craft Club

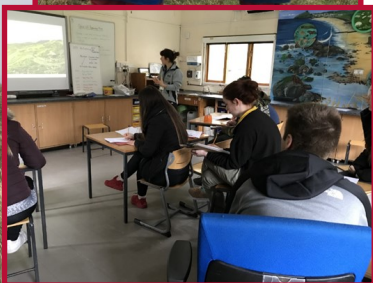
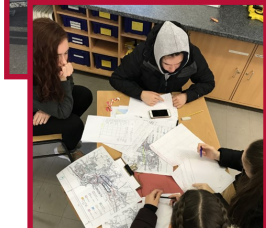
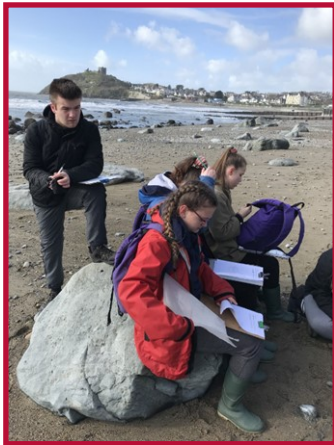
Our successful Craft Club will be starting again in the Summer term. Just before Christmas, students stitched and made decorative holly garlands. They also made hand-felted wreaths, hand-made cards and Christmas tree decorations.



High winds in Wales

Our Year 12 Geography students enjoyed a very productive field trip to Wales this term despite having to contend with torrential rain and high winds. Staying at the Plas Dol-y-Moch centre, they spent the first day at Criccieth beach and Castle exploring sea defences in less than helpful conditions. However, a peaceful Ash Wednesday service and some work in the laboratory set the second day off well. The final day of collecting data in hail and horizontal rain again took them out of their comfort zone. However, their meticulous planning and team work paid off.

Laurel McIntosh, Teacher of Geography, said: "The students worked incredibly hard in less than comfortable conditions. They were all tested during the trip but the group dynamic was encouraging."



Black run faced

One group of skiers on our annual ski trip was brave enough to take on the challenges of a black run by the end of the week and all showed great resilience to face their own obstacles. Over February half term, the weather in Saalbach, Austria, was warm and made conditions good for skiing. The Year 10 skiers of the week were:

Skier of the week—**Oaren Mullally**

Group 1—**Liam Timlin**

Group 2—**Oluwafemi Fowosire**

Group 3—**Orla John**



Hoods

The dress rehearsals for our school production of *Hoods* have been running smoothly and are bringing the plot of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* into the present. Watch this space in the next edition for further details.



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School
Presents

HOODS

"I say these streets aren't much but they're all we've got....."

March 27th & 28th
at 7pm
A Block Hall

Tickets: Adults £5 Child £3

Public speaking impresses

The First World War was the focus of a Public Speaking Competition run by our History department at the end of last term. Involving all Year 9 students, academic points of view were argued. Against very tough competition, the winning team comprised **Benjamin Cooper, Blake Murray, Riya Raval** and **Bartosz Zygowski**.

Jonathan Griffiths, Head of History, said: "All of the judges were impressed with the strength of research and the clarity of argument. It was a very difficult competition to judge."



Big Bang

A fantastic menu of activities was enjoyed by 100 Year 7 students who visited the Big Bang Fair at Birmingham's NEC this term.

Sneha Shah, Teacher of Science, said: "The Big Bang Fair is one of the most inspiring and oversubscribed events in the country. It aims to encourage and promote STEM subjects among young people. A showcase like this



is crucial in encouraging the next generation of scientists, engineers, mathematicians and technicians."

IntoUniversity launch

Two of our Year 10 students attended the official opening of a new out-of-school learning centre in the heart of Coventry. **Talitha Mitchell** and **Nyasha Muhwati** have been attending Academic Support sessions at the Charles Street centre since



November. Pictured with the Lord Mayor and Mayoress, they were confidently able to explain the benefits of the facility to a range of invited guests.

Talitha, who enjoys public speaking and would like to run as an Independent candidate in a future General Election, was also asked to speak in front of the audience.

She said: "The whole experience has been really helpful. My mentor, a Psychology student at the University of Warwick, has encouraged me to set professional and personal goals. The facility is also an excellent, quiet place in which to study outside school."

IntoUniversity is also delivering workshops in school this year to all year groups. These will focus on: approaches to home learning, learning techniques, university life, entrepreneurship and revision techniques.



Engineering residential

Eleven of our Year 9 students have just heard that their applications to attend a residential Engineering course at Coventry University in June have been successful. The students are: **Amaan Choudhury, John Conteh, Vivienne Egbuchulem, Anyhah Harrison, David Idemudia, Michelle Ncube, Loraine Nduka, Jesus Simao, Joseph Smith, Wendy Wainaina** and **Bartosz Zygowski**.

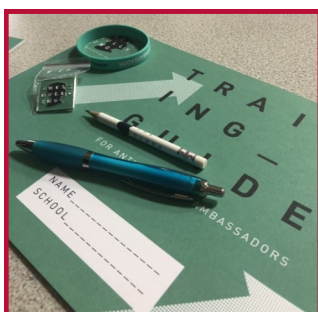
Bartosz said: "I am excited to be part of the university programme. I believe it is very important for students to get such opportunities to join programmes so that they find out more about unique jobs and learn new skills. Engineering is important right now and it will remain so in the future."

Looking to the future

Our Year 10 Information Evening provided parents with guidance about the different pathways available to students after leaving school. There was representation from our school Sixth Form, the Apprenticeship Service and local colleges.

Anti-bullying workshops

Students from nine different secondary schools attended Princess Diana Anti-bullying Workshops on our school site this term. Our prefects were on hand to meet and greet the visitors and ensure that the day ran incredibly smoothly.



Knife angel

All students were encouraged to pause this term to reflect on the magnificent installation outside Coventry Cathedral.



Positive Youth

The Positive Youth Foundation delivered a day's session to fifteen Year 9 and 10 students about youth violence.



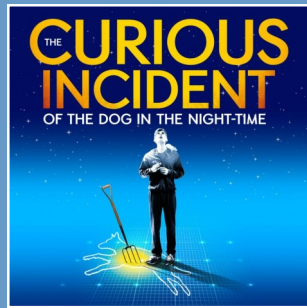
Working in partnership with West Midlands Police, the Crime Commissioner's Office and Street Doctors, they aimed to inform young people about the reality of youth violence and related matters. All students received a First Aid Certificate from the Street Doctors having been given the confidence to deliver life-saving first aid.

Safer Internet Day

All classes took part in a session during CPSHE this term on the theme of staying safe online. Students completed tasks based around consent in a digital world and examined their settings and data trail.

Curious Incident

Our GCSE Drama students were treated to a performance in London's West End in preparation for their final written assessment. The dramatic production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* was a great talking point.



Maggie Keane (Year 11) said: "It was brilliant. Being in such a grand theatre in London was an outstanding experience; the play itself was spectacularly well directed, produced and presented, showcasing the contemporary art of modern theatre. The plot was eye-opening and captivating due to dealing with several difficult, yet common, issues."

Niamh Evans (Year 11) said: "The visual elements within this play enabled me to experience theatre from a brand new perspective. The production itself brought new ideas to contemporary theatre which will influence generations to come. I immensely enjoyed my experience and would thoroughly encourage others to watch this play."



Study Sessions

A targeted group of Year 11 students has been attending study sessions after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for several weeks. These students attend their usual subject revision sessions after school and then they are provided with a hot meal before settling down to supervised revision. It is hoped that the experience of silent study will continue at home in the lead up to the external examination season.

Scholars stretched

Five of our Year 8 students have been accepted on to the Warwick Sutton Scholars programme. The two-year programme is designed to stretch and challenge students academically and inspire them to consider attending university in the future.

Student progression

Some of our Year 9 students have been involved in a mentoring programme delivered by the Student Progression Team from the University of Warwick. Following eight weeks of mentoring, students attended the campus to gain an even clearer view of university life. Students attending were:



were: **Ebenuella Agyemang, Noel Angafor, John Conteh, Kian Dalton, Georgina Day, Chloe-Louise Donnelly, Vivienne Egbuchulem, Olivia**



Green, Corey Jones, Ebony Kennedy, Alvin Kityo, Alexander Knight, Emerode Lukelo, Lisa Lutumba, Andrew McDonald and Amber Rashid.

Georgina Day, who would like to become a paramedic, said: "The tasks which we carried out were really engaging and linked well to future careers. We should be really proud of both of the universities in Coventry and make the most of the opportunities available for young people in our city."

Alvin Kityo said: "I really enjoyed putting myself in challenging situations and pushing myself. I like fixing things and being creative. I have widely differing ideas about my dreams for the future. Mechanical engineering or acting would be great jobs for me!"

Lisa Lutumba said: "I would like to be a model when I leave school. I previously felt insecure about being tall and skinny but now I know that I should use my talents and not be embarrassed about them. Programmes like this and our CPSHE lessons, really help with self-belief."

Reading development

Three of our Year 11 students have been supporting some of our younger students with their reading. On Friday mornings, they listen to reading and discuss comprehension. They have seen great progress since the start of the year. **Niamh Evans, Shannon Ryan** and **Aleksandra Stachura** have mostly supported Year 7 students during the weekly form time sessions.

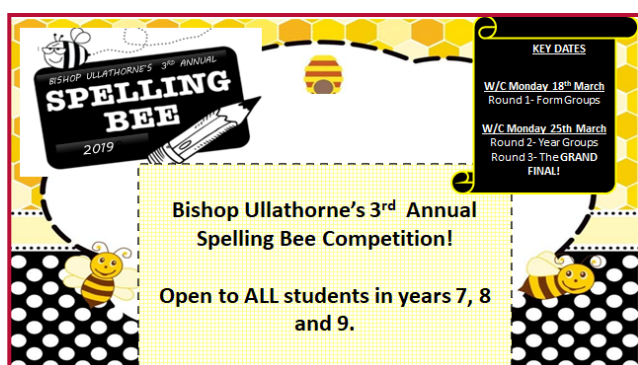
Shannon said: "Reading is an essential skill which should be accessible to everyone. That is why I give a little bit of my time to support the reading scheme. It is really encouraging to see the improvements made by younger students over time. I am really proud to think about how much my small intervention is aiding their education and hopefully their enjoyment of reading throughout their lives."

Shannon and **Aleksandra** also applied for Easter school places at Pembroke College, Cambridge. This is aimed at encouraging young women to continue their Science careers.

Shannon said: "It is really important to increase the number of female scientists and researchers. They can act as role models for future generations while reducing gender discrimination in job roles."

Spelling Bee

Our third Spelling Bee competition for key stage 3 students provided a fun and challenging extra-curricular learning event. The overall winner will be announced in the next issue.



BISHOP ULLATHORNE'S 3RD ANNUAL SPELLING BEE 2019

KEY DATES

W/C Monday 18th March
Round 1- Form Groups

W/C Monday 25th March
Round 2- Year Groups
Round 3- The GRAND FINAL!

Bishop Ullathorne's 3rd Annual Spelling Bee Competition!

Open to ALL students in years 7, 8 and 9.

More than words

Several of our key stage 3 students entered the BBC Radio 500 Words Competition this year. They are waiting to hear how they got on.

New Librarian

Our new Librarian and Independent Study Manager, **Melanie Caldicott**, joins us directly from Rugby Library and Information Centre. Previously, she was a full-time youth minister for five years and also has a long history of voluntary church youth work. She is already enjoying getting to know our students and supporting them with choices of reading material. Her long-term aim is to develop all students' love of reading for pleasure. With this in mind, she will be liaising with colleagues to create an exciting calendar of events. Class visits and inductions have already started and clubs, before, after and during school, are in the pipeline.



World Book Day

For World Book Day, students joined in with a wide range of creative activities. They decorated doors, made bunting and read extracts to celebrate their favourite titles.



Showcase stars

Our annual Showcase encapsulated some of the incredible, and wide-ranging, talents of our students. Acts representing all year groups dazzled with a wide selection of dancing, acting, singing and musicianship.

Narrowed down from 40 entrants, the final showcase of 14 acts had star quality. All performances were and polished as students had been rehearsing since November.

Judging the talent was an incredibly difficult decision and there was great discussion over placing students. Savannah Gallo, Michael Anstee, Rosie Gill and governor, Maureen Perry, provided precise feedback throughout the evening before struggling to agree on the overall winners.

Cerys Crowe (Year 11), with her incredibly powerful version of Chris Isaak's *Wicked Games*, mesmerised the audience. She was awarded first prize of £100. With such competition on stage, the judges selected two widely different dance acts to share second prize of £25 each. **Keisha Etchu Tambe** (Year 9) totally commanded the stage with her lyrical moves and her smile when her name was announced won everyone's hearts. **Palmer Kaddu's** (Year 8) fluidity on stage was equally captivating. **Ania Mokrani** (Year 12) scooped third prize and made a dramatic entrance in her floor-length red gown.

The final group collaboration of *Lean on Me* truly showed all voices off to their full capacity and demonstrated the community spirit which runs through the school. Other highlights of the evening were the Step by Step dance act, which kicked off proceedings with great energy; some fabulous solo singing performances from **Regina Macharia** (Year 8), **Elizabeth Macdonald** (Year 8), **Denzel Kira** (Year 8), **Diarmuid Gaffney** (Year 12) and **Vivienne Egbuchulem** (Year 9); our breathtaking Year 7 singing twins, **Tracey** and **Stacey William**; a flawless piano recital from **Sreoshi Ahmed** (Year 7) and an original dramatic performance from **Jessica Bull**, **Darcee Dutton** and **Oliwia Skotarek** (Year 8).

During the interval, a representative from the Cyrenians thanked staff and students at Bishop Ullathorne for their continued support.

Following the event, it was announced that a further £350 been raised for the charity. A cheque for this amount was presented during an assembly by the first prize winner, **Cerys**. Around £100 was also raised for a Motor Neurone Disease charity from a cake sale at the event.

Without the support of various other students and staff, the event would not be such an incredible success. **Harrison Ray** (Year 12) showed real flair for design through his eye-catching programme, poster and tickets. The bright red



background choice reflected the bold acts on stage. **Cameron Clay** (Year 11) coolly supported the host, **Carmen Cabrera Mix**, on stage.

Special thanks should also be extended to **Robbie Magrane**, **Mark Newell** and **Mark Garratt** for their technical support and to all of our other back stage helpers.



Irish Dancing

Six of our students presented their Irish Dancing skills to an audience of 300 people at Birmingham's International Convention Centre (ICC) last month. Having been asked to return to the Carers Awards for the second year running, they were able to enjoy the daunting experience. However, despite being part of a group of 15 dancers, there was nowhere to hide with a camera projecting their faces on to a large screen throughout the performance.

Sarah Beech, Orla John, Kelsey Lee and **Annie Sharman** (Year 10), **Grace Keane** (Year 8) and **Megan Beech** (Year 7) are members of the Mary McHugh School of Dance. They train in a large room above the Four Provinces every Tuesday and Thursday. Some of the girls have been dancing since primary school and for others it is a new hobby. **Hunette Gomez** and **Aimee Giles** (Year 10) did not perform at the ICC but they are also captivated by the magic of Irish Dancing and are members of the same dance school.

All of the dancers also give displays at funerals, birthdays, weddings and christenings. On St Patrick's Day, they were very much in demand, and some of the girls were asked to perform in seven different venues across Coventry. Previous highlights have been dancing for the Irish President at St Mary's Guildhall and at a wedding held in front of the glamorous backdrop of Coombe Abbey.

Kelsey said: "We learn new steps and dances all of the time. It really makes you think and is sometimes quite intense. There is a lovely mixture of people and ages at the school."

Annie added: "It is good socially and exhilarating when people applaud. I like being on the stage despite it being intimidating when you first step out."



Football focus

Five of our Year 8 boys, who play football together outside school, won the Bedworth Nursing Cup on St Patrick's Day. Playing at Bedworth Oval, in front of a huge crowd, was an amazing experience for the boys. The Coventry Sphinx players also have the final of the League Cup to play for in May and are hoping to pip Copsewood to first place in the



league. **Ewan Forrest, Dennis Djeukam Tchaha, Samuel Merry, Samuel Mulbah** and **Ryan Musewu** all featured in the game and **Samuel Mulbah** was awarded the man of the match shield. **Cohen Cosgrove**, our Year 8 school football captain, also plays for Sphinx in a different squad.

Our Year 10 football team captain, **Jack Hicks**, has been chosen to represent the West Midlands in competitive fixtures against other counties. He also manages to balance this by playing for two other local league teams. With Proline Coaching Academy, he trains at Finham Park 2 and Woodlands on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and plays matches in the Midlands Junior Premier League on Saturdays. This year, the team came fifth out of 60 teams. He also plays for Athletic United on Sundays and trains with them on Thursdays. His team has now won the league twice in a row.

Jack said: "It definitely keeps me busy. Football brings lots of opportunities. I love to play so will keep training hard to continue getting noticed."



Golfing gracefully

One of our sixth form students has taken over a prestigious role in the golfing world. **Grace Wilkinson** (Year 13) has been appointed Warwickshire Girls County Captain for 2019. Julia Burton, Warwickshire Ladies Captain, is seen presenting the Captain's Badge to Grace at the Robin Hood Golf Club in Solihull.



Last year, Grace led Warwickshire to victory in the South Midlands Golf Team Championship at Bicester Golf Club. Winning individually, with a score which resulted in her handicap being cut, would certainly have impressed the selectors.

She said: I am honoured and delighted to have been chosen for this incredibly significant role."

Currently studying A levels in Health and Social Care, Sociology and Business Studies, Grace hopes to become a primary school teacher. She has been awarded a place on a primary education degree course with QTS and is gaining experience of working in schools.

Wasps Rugby

Despite suffering an injury meaning that he had limited time to impress, one of our students has been selected to play for the Wasps Rugby Under 13s development squad.



Daniel Hogg (Year 8) has only been playing rugby for just over a season. However, after recovering from his second coccyx injury, he was determined to show what he could do. Following intense trials at his home club's ground, Old Coventrians, the Inside Centre was delighted with the news. **Daniel** said: "There are pretty small margins separating those who do and do not get in so this is extra special. It is a pleasure to be able to play at such a high level and excellent that we have Premiership Rugby in Coventry. I will gain training and development from experts and be able to carry on with a sport which I love. It is taking a while to sink in."

Finham Derby

The return leg of the Finham Derby was very competitive. We were able to retain the shield with an overall six wins.



Football		
Year	Score	Player of the match
Year 7	Drew 1-1	Devonn O'Sullivan
Year 8	Won 5-4	Reece Ellis
Year 9	Won 1-0	Beny Yembe
Year 10	Lost 0-1	Ellis McCallum
Year 11	Won 3-2	Archie Ascroft
Netball		
Year 7	Won 13-6	Lacey McMillan
Year 8	Won 6-4	Millie MacDonald
Year 9	Lost	Vivienne Egbuchulem
Year 10	Lost	Grace Brennan
Year 11	Won 7-3	Lucy Gee

Athletics

Our Year 7 and 8 Athletics teams competed in the Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull heats in Coventry (see table below).

Year	Team	Place
7 girls	Winnie Osaigbovo-Abdulai, Chloe Zengeya, Azaelle Ngakam, Sofia Monsanto, Jenny Jaison, Lacey McMillan, Tiana Le'Fevre	Third
7 boys	Quinn King, Afonso Mvula, Dylan Aphanou, Michel Nya-Njeimen, Sam Bradley-White, Takudzwa Chikosi	Third
8 girls	Joanna Finch, Leonna Osei Yeboah, Beth Pritchett, Grace McDonagh, Chelsey Bapaga, Samantha Mulbah, Millie Macdonald, Maria Cosgriff	Second
8 boys	Ryan Musewu, Oliver Blackwell, Cohen Cosgrove, Samuel Mulbah, Eloghosa Osaigbovo	First

The Year 8 boys then finished third in the Level 3 finals.



Football update

Our football teams are progressing brilliantly in three cup competitions.

In the Coventry Schools Cup, our Year 7 team has reached the semi finals following a 7-0 win over Cardinal Wiseman (man of the match **Oliver Kavangh Bowell**) and our Year 8 and 9 teams are through to the quarter finals and Year 11 are in the semi finals.

Our Year 11 team has recently reached the final of the West Midlands Schools Cup with our Year 7, 8 and 10 teams in the semi finals.

As man of the match, **Ben Carpenter**, helped our Year 10 and 11 team to progress to the quarter finals of the Coventry Telegraph Cup, winning on penalties.

Netball news

Our netballers have had a great season. Our excellent Year 11 team won the Coventry Schools A league this year, with wins over Blue Coat, Coundon Court and Cardinal Newman.



Our Year 7 team is currently undefeated in the Coventry Schools A league, with two matches to play and Year 8 and 9 teams are in the semi finals. Other recent games are highlighted below.

Year	School	Score	Player of the match
Year 7	Coundon Court	Won 8-5	Lacey McMillan
	Cardinal Newman	Won 9-0	Mia Ochieng
Year 8	Cardinal Newman	Won 11-9	Kacey Evans Nyasha Nyawera
Year 9	Finham Park 2	Won 10-0	Vivienne Egbuchulem
Year 10	Coundon Court	Won 14-5	Grace Brennan
	Cardinal Newman	Won 15-7	Grace Brennan

Girls' Football

Year 7 and Year 10 girls football teams entered the School Games event last term. Year 10 won their tournament, progressing through to the Level 3 event at John Henry Newman College in Birmingham.



First Dan

Grace McDonagh (Year 8) gained her Taekwondo black belt in November and is now at First Dan level and supporting younger children at her club. Inspired by the *Karate Kid* films when she was 8-years-old, she has trained roughly twice a week since then at the Wyken Croft Community Centre.



During the black belt grading, she demonstrated 10 sequences, or patterns, to a Seventh Dan. Each had to be performed well to gain the belt. From showing punches and blocks to gain her initial white belt, she is now able to carry out 360 degree spins and break two inches of wood with her bare feet. She has already won two gold medals in the British Championships last year and would love to enter the World Championships.

Grace is interested in becoming a physiotherapist when she leaves school and has researched the qualifications required.

She said: "All of the patterns involve power, control, balance and flexibility. Teaching the younger ones is really rewarding, especially when you see their progress. Punching wood can really hurt if you do not do it properly. I have seen the benefits of physiotherapy so would love to do that as a career."

Wasps Netball

Eleanor Bracey (Year 7) has been training with Henley Netball Club and Wasps coaches for almost a year. Training at Bablake School on Wednesdays from 6pm each week, she also plays in tournaments at the weekend at Birmingham University. She enjoys playing Centre and any defensive position.



The former Our Lady's, Princethorpe, student said: "I really like netball and love intercepting the ball. It makes me happy and helps you to make friends too."

Ethical dilemmas

Our A Level Philosophy and Ethics students left a conference this term eager to solve a range of ethical dilemmas. Held at Birmingham University, they attended lectures at the Music Hall Auditorium in the historic



Chancellor's Court. Along with 500 other A Level students from Catholic Schools across the Diocese, they were totally engaged by the guest speakers. The day covered specific course content as well as valuable revision advice and the wider importance of studying Philosophy and Ethics.

Visit to Gurdon Institute Cambridge

Our Year 12 Biology students who recently visited the Gurdon Institute in Cambridge have been invited to apply for work experience in the Summer at the prestigious centre. During the visit, students were able to meet researchers and look around the laboratories before completing some hands-on microscopy work to identify potentially cancerous cells.



Mental Health Conference

Our first mental health conference involved students from each form group across the school. Guest speakers and students led the presentations which focused on creating a mentally healthy school.



Successful applications

All of our students who applied for 2019 places at university have received interviews and offers and are in the process of making their firm and insurance choices. This year, one of our Year 13 students has secured an elite sports scholarship at Birmingham University where she will study Dentistry. Students have opted for universities in Scotland and as far afield as the USA.

The attraction of Higher Level Apprenticeships continues to give students great choice and all students have benefitted from the expertise of our careers' adviser, **Wendy Bellingham**.

Aspiring Professionals Day

All of our Year 12 students met and questioned professionals from a wide range of employment areas during our recent Aspiring Professionals Day. The students were able to gather useful information about career prospects. Four former students were among the visitors: Thomas Gordon, who is embarking on a teaching career; David Colby, who is studying a PhD in volcanology; Paul Mills, a Civil Servant who works in the Houses of Parliament and Pauline Macdonald, Headteacher at Saint Mary's and Saint Benedict's Primary School.



Volunteering

Our sixth form students continue to support staff and younger students in a variety of subject areas. Eager to extend their experiences, they have worked as ambassadors at The Big Bang Exhibition in Birmingham, enrolled as volunteers at the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire and helped in our partner primary schools.

Widening participation

A team of postgraduate students from Clare College, Cambridge, delivered a Question and Answer session to 60 of our students from Years 10, 11 and 12. Part of the university's Widening Access Tour, it is hoped that more of our students will apply to Oxford or Cambridge University.

Easy listening

Cast aside their old band name, some of our sixth form students are hoping to entertain audiences with their relaxed presence. Restyled as **Easy Company**, the group intends to leave their second hand image in the past despite already earning a strong local following. As *Second Hand Strings*, the boys played several gigs which have inspired them to move forward.

Drummer, **Ryan Ridley**, base guitarist, **Joshua Finch** and lead singer and guitarist, **Diarmuid Gaffney**, are joined on stage by former student and lead guitarist, **Brendan Ryan**. The four friends Year 12 friends began experimenting with music at St Thomas More Primary School.



Diarmuid has always been attracted to music and had piano lessons and some saxophone lessons when he was younger. He said: "Music draws you in and as a performer you can make it your own product. I prefer singing as it is the main thing which people notice. I would love to be involved in music as a career."



Ryan said: "I have always been interested in making noise by hitting things. I remember making sounds by hitting chocolate tins when I was in Year 4. The drummer has a much more important role than you would imagine. It can influence the mood and is the engine of any band. It is also a great position to be in on stage."



Joshua began his interest in music by playing the piano when he was around 7-years-old. However, when the magic wore off, he picked up a base guitar, taught himself some riffs and began to enjoy music again. He said: "I really enjoy playing as a hobby and if opportunities came to play professionally, I would jump at them."

Most closely linked to Indie Rock, the group has previously performed covers of bands including the Arctic Monkeys, Catfish and the



Bottlemen and lesser known artists. The band has already played in venues ranging from public houses with designated music venues to school halls and is currently networking to secure gigs in and around the local area. The quartet has raised a considerable amount of money for charity and with three original tracks ready to record, which it aims to release in the near future, the **Easy Company** boys are set to achieve great things.

Holiday dates

We close for the holidays on

Friday 12 April 2019 at 3.05pm

The new term starts on

Monday 29 April 2019 at 8.40am

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Dates for your diary

This year's GCSE and A level examinations start on Monday 13 May and timetables are now available on our website at:

<https://www.bishoppullathorne.co.uk/exams>

Selected students have been invited to attend revision sessions over the Easter holidays. A range of subjects will be covered. The minimum revision time for Year 11 students should be two hours per night.

Date	Subject	Time	Venue
Monday 15 April	Spanish English Maths	Various 10-2 10-2.30	Various B Block Room 33
Tuesday 16 April	Spanish English Y11 Science	Various 10-2 10-1	Various B Block Lab 1
Wednesday 17 April	History	10-2	Room 19
Thursday 18 April			
EASTER			
Tuesday 23 April			
Wednesday 24 April			
Thursday 25 April	RE	10-12.30	Room 10
Friday 26 April	RE Y13 Science	10-12.30 10-2	Room 10 Lab 4

Check out our new Facebook page:
[@BishopUllathorneSchool](#)



Term Dates

Summer Term 2019

- Bank Holiday: Monday 6 May 2019
 - Teacher Training Day: Friday 28 June 2019
- Monday 29 April to Friday 24 May 2019
Half term: Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2019
Monday 3 June to Friday 19 July 2019

2019 to 2020

Teacher Training Days are:

- Monday 2 September 2019
- Friday 4 October 2019
- Monday 29 June 2020

Autumn Term 2019

Year 7 students ONLY Tuesday 3 September 2019
Wednesday 4 September to Friday 18 October 2019
Half term: Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October 2019
Monday 28 October to Friday 20 December 2019

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6 January to Friday 21 February 2020
Half term: Monday 24 February to Friday 28 February 2020
Monday 2 March to Thursday 9 April 2020

Summer Term 2020

Monday 27 April to Friday 22 May 2020
Half term: Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2020
Monday 1 June to Friday 17 July 2020