



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



Headteacher's message

The Spring term has always been a favourite of mine as so much of our mission as a Catholic school is exemplified in these twelve weeks. The sheer volume of charity events taking place reminds me of our promise to be an active Christian community. This period of Lent asks us to spend some time thinking of those around us who are less fortunate; this term's cake sales, charity football matches and even arm wrestling competitions really highlight our promise.

Elsewhere in school, we have been searching for excellence in our academic studies. Our current Year 11 and 13 students have been working incredibly hard to prepare themselves for their upcoming examinations. I know that you will appreciate, as much as I do, the amount of dedication shown by our staff as they spend time with our young people to support them in developing their true selves.

Reading through this term's newsletter, it is incredible to be reminded of the exciting opportunities we have had as a school this Spring. None of these would be possible without our students' enthusiasm and resilience as well as the wonderful support which they receive from home. So, as we approach one of the holiest periods of our calendar, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and blessed Easter.

Chris Billings

Students return to school on Monday 16 April 2018 at 8.40am

Reading challenge

A group of keen readers in Year 7 were presented with certificates in assembly this term to celebrate their literary achievements. The first 24 students to complete the initial stage in our new Reading Challenge had all amazingly met the nine reading-related challenges in less than two months. The Bronze Reading Award tasks involve reading a recipe, poems and instructions for a game. Parents are asked to verify what had been read.

All of our 24 Bronze Reading Award winners were then entered into a prize draw to receive a book token. Four lucky students were selected at random. These students have now moved on to tackle the Silver Reading Award, which is even more challenging. It requires students to deliver a short presentation in their English class about what they have read and apply their reading to real life.

The second group of bronze readers was presented with certificates this month. It is hoped that all Year 7 students will complete the bronze challenges and some will even be devouring books for the prestigious Gold Reading Award.

Joanna Finch said: "Books allow you to leave everyone and discover new characters and places. Everyone should read. Reading lets your imagination be free. It also helps you to express yourself."

Fabian Jalowiecki said: "It takes you into crazy worlds full of detailed events and settings. My favourite writer produces amazing books. They make an impact on your life and there are jokes and puns there too. If boys are not reading, they are missing out on the beauty of books."

Elizabeth MacDonald said: "My three younger brothers are triplets. My sister and I love reading to them. However, I also like to take myself away from everyone and read. Some books make you laugh and some make you cry. I want to live my life to the full so that I have stories to tell others."

Niamh Walsh said: "Reading opens up a little world that you can step in to. It motivates you to do the right thing at the right time. My grandad inspired me to read. Whenever we saw him, he would give us the gift of a book, rather than sweets. It is important to find something which you like and challenge yourself to read it."

Audible success

Romantic, horrific and sometimes tragic plotlines have been on the tips of everyone's tongues this term. The success of our '... is reading' laminated signs on every classroom door and near each work space has been audible. Since January, adults in school have read and shared over **100** books, with some staff reading up to **four** books in that time. David Walliams, Jojo Moyes and Jo Nesbo continue to be popular choices. The Book People are also now back in school on a monthly basis. A percentage of sales is donated by the company to school for us to spend on books and replenish stocks.

Linda Ferrar, School Administrator, said: "Books open doors to a world of opportunities. There's a real buzz around school at the moment."



Library refurbishment

Our school library is currently undergoing a complete transformation. Painted, carpeted and with new seating, lighting and displays, the area will be completely refurbished. The intention is to provide a welcoming location for study which also supports a genuine love of reading. Opening the doors after Easter, our new librarian will encourage classes to make use of the space for curriculum based research, launch a range of competitions and enable all students to access engaging reading material.

Christopher Billings, Headteacher, said: "It is crucial that our library is at the core of our school. The thorough refurbishment will ensure that it reflects our whole school ethos of searching for excellence and fostering the development of our true self."

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day this year, our key stage 3 students explored how writers present empowering messages through poetry before attempting to write their own influential poems. They also looked at oral storytelling and focused on how to use intonation and gesture to convey meaning. Presenting their favourite stories, using a range of props, provided entertaining results!

Students were also encouraged to take part in a Short and Tweet competition. **Alexandra Pinte**a (Year 8) was the winner. Using a poem for stimulus, she wrote: "It started with a goodbye, ended with a hello."

Books buzzing

Two Year 7 classes have caught the reading bug. Both classes have been challenged to read and engage with as many books as possible from a list selected by contemporary critics. So far, students in 7A and 7X have read nearly 200 books between them. **Anima Rahman**, **Byron Wilson** and **Nieel Parmar** (7X) have read six books each. From 7A, **Darcy Mills** and **Noah Agakiza** have also read six books each while **Vitalis Bechinze** and **Angela Mathimannarajah** have read an incredible 11 and 13 books, respectively. Part of the Book Buzz initiative, each book is highly acclaimed.

Simon Ward, Teacher of English, said: "The students have gained a great deal of pleasure from opening up a brand new book. My group has been openly recommending books to each other and enjoying the discovery of new worlds. The sense of joy as they immerse themselves in the plot is almost tangible. There is nothing better."

Spelling Bee

Our annual spelling competition, for key stage 3 students, has been launched this month. It tests students on the spelling of a mix of common and complex vocabulary through several rounds. The final will culminate in a pressurised test of spelling in front of an audience in the hall.

Last year's winner, **Maggie Keane**, now in Year 10, said: "I was surprised to win and glad that I was encouraged to take part."

Art of the matter

All staff were invited to a private viewing of our students' GCSE and A level portfolio work this term. Several staff chose some of the original artwork to display on their office and classroom walls.



Reach for the stars

This month, some of our most able Year 10 students were selected to attend a city-wide conference at the Welcome Centre in Coventry. Involving a range of workshops and short lectures, the conference was intended to challenge our students to think about how they like to learn and how they could be most successful. Some students were able to enjoy a fencing session while others explored mindfulness techniques and were reminded of the benefits of analogue learning.

Denise Durkan, Key Stage Leader, said: "Year 10 is an impressive year group. If there were more places available, we could have filled them all with high calibre students. The conference provided an excellent insight into the opportunities available to our young people if they aim high."

Adrian Alagaraj said: "The trip was interesting and fun. I learned a lot from the practical workshops and I would love to go again."

Ciaran Cosgrove said: "The trip was interesting and it gave me an idea of what university is like and which universities I should go to."

Tracey Essel said: "I had a very memorable experience and I learned a lot about the different ways in which you can focus on creating the best future for yourself."

Eliza Gough said: "The trip was very beneficial for me as it gave me a great insight into what I may do in the future. It was also enjoyable to take part in fencing which enabled me to talk to new people too."

Maggie Keane said: "What I liked about the opportunity we were luckily given was the fact that they did not just talk about university as if it was the only option after finishing secondary school. I also thought that the day was really well put together as we always had something to think about and were constantly active learners."

Sophia Kayani said: "I really liked the fact that they kept complimenting us and making us feel intelligent. It made me feel really motivated to do better. I also enjoyed the workshops."

Isabella Monsanto said: "I enjoyed learning about selection processes for jobs and universities and how to increase the likelihood of being taken into these paths via online courses."

Oluwatobi Oke said: "It was an interesting trip that helped me learn more about university and what will influence me into picking what I want to study."

Sean Richards said: "I learned that everyone is intelligent in their own way so you should use your intelligence to do something good."

Shannon Ryan said: "I enjoyed talking to the Careers' Advisers and learning about online courses which will help me with my future education."

Ashvir Sandhu said: "I am glad that I had this opportunity to explore the different options available to me after school. I particularly enjoyed the science experiences and the fact that we were advised to do something which we would enjoy."



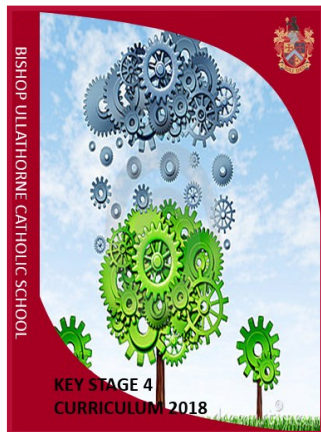
Careers and options

Our Year 9 and 10 students and their parents or carers have attended two separate evening events aimed at making informed decisions about their futures. Year 9 students were invited to consider their options for study at key stage 4 and Year 10 students were given expert advice about what is available after GCSE level.

At the Year 9 evening, subject leaders were on hand to answer questions about the content of their courses at key stage 4. Following an introduction about the selection process, parents were free to browse the stalls and collect information.

Our Year 10 Careers' Evening, organised by our Careers' Adviser, **Wendy Bellingham**, provided information about colleges, apprenticeships and our own school sixth form. Jane Horrocks, Careers' Adviser for Coventry College, spoke about college entry levels and grade requirements for courses. She also advised about the pros and cons of this pathway. An ambassador from the National Apprenticeship Service provided similar information about apprenticeships and **Patricia Casey**, Head of Sixth Form, gave an alternative perspective.

During the speeches, information was provided about last year's students and their destinations. Our Careers' Adviser also gave clear information about how and when she is able to support students with impartial guidance at school.



Boys' revision sessions

Our successful revision sessions for invited Year 11 boys have continued. The third round is currently being held. The quiet study periods after school have provided a focused time and place for revision without any distractions. Over a period of two weeks, the boys stay at school until 7pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Before each two-hour session, they are given food. During the study periods, the boys are encouraged to work independently using a range of revision techniques.

Cian Mulchinock, Year 11, said: "The sessions are excellent. If I was at home, I may be distracted to do other things. It is very focused and calm. I am grateful to the teachers for giving up their time to supervise."

Parental involvement

Following election as staff governor, **Laura Darlston**, our Data Manager, aims to develop closer links within the school community. She is keen to set up a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to strengthen the school community and organise fundraising events for the school. Anyone who is interested, should email Laura directly on: PTA@bishopullathorne.co.uk

Website facelift

Our website has undergone a dramatic facelift in recent months. All widely distributed letters are now uploaded to view at a later date and the website should also be easier to navigate. We are obviously very keen to hear thoughts and suggestions. If you have any comments, please email them to: admin@bishopullathorne.co.uk

Staff workout

Our staff may have been looking more sprightly recently. Since the start of the Autumn term, some staff have been squeezing into their lycra and attempting keep fit moves to music. Every Friday, after school, they work through a range of activities from yoga to high impact training. Under the watchful eye of **Marie Clinton-Lees**, Teacher of Science, so far there have been no injuries and everyone is feeling a lot healthier.

On your bike

One of our Year 8 students was definitely 'on her bike' after winning an attendance competition for the end of last term. In each year group, every student who attended every day for the ten days leading up to the Christmas holidays was entered into a prize draw. One of these year group winners was then chosen at random. **Vittoria Launchbury** was the lucky winner. Her fabulous prize was a state of the art bike.



Musical youth

Our students continue to excel in a range of musical disciplines. Recent results can be seen below.

Lucy Crilly	Grade 5	Flute	Pass
Diarmuid Gaffney	Grade 4	Theory	Merit
Niamh Hatfield	Grade 2	Theory	Distinction
Yen Ngoc Luong	Grade 1	Theory	Distinction
Macy McNamara	Grade 1	Theory	Merit
Aisleen Nelan	Grade 2	Flute	Distinction

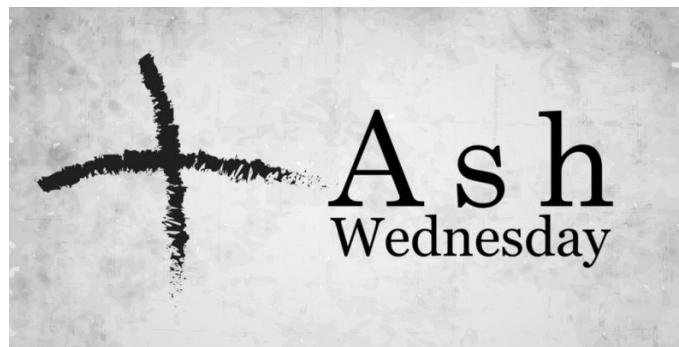
Philosophy conference

A level students attended a lecture with Dr Peter Vardy to deepen their understanding of philosophical ideas and to further support their learning in the classroom.



Special services

Six separate Ash Wednesday services were led by our School Chaplain, Father Stephen, with the help of Deacon Paul from All Soul's parish. Our chaplaincy team, Eucharistic ministers and a small group choir also supported. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was also offered to all of our key stage 4 students during Lent. Students were prepared in their RE lessons to receive the sacrament.



During Holy Week, all of our students took part in services. Our Drama, Music and RE departments worked together to produce the services. Each one enabled all of our students to reflect and come to a deeper understanding of the cross as a way to salvation.

Charity collections

Members of our chaplaincy team launched this year's Lenten charity appeal during a morning staff briefing. They also supplied resources to form tutors to use during the six-week focus on prayer and almsgiving. Since then, all form groups have been busy arranging events, sales and competitions to raise money for the Father Hudson's charity and CAFOD. The Art department has produced a money monitor display which provides a comparison.



Resilient skiers

Nearly 50 students travelled to Saalbach in Austria for the annual ski trip. After a long journey, the students were pleased to attend Mass at the local church. Despite an early wake-up call the next morning, an excellent week's skiing was had by all. From day one, the progress which each student made was outstanding and all groups were progressing on to blue runs by the second day. By the end of the week, all of the students were competent at the basic skills and some had even tried a black run.

The skiers experienced a range of weather conditions from a minus 10 degrees whiteout to sunny, less cold days. In the evenings, the group went to a ski show in Kaprun, tried ice skating, bowled (staff were the overall champions), had a quiz and went to a local restaurant for pizza.

All staff on the trip were impressed by the resilience and perseverance shown by our students during a very challenging week.

Skiers of the week (chosen by instructors):

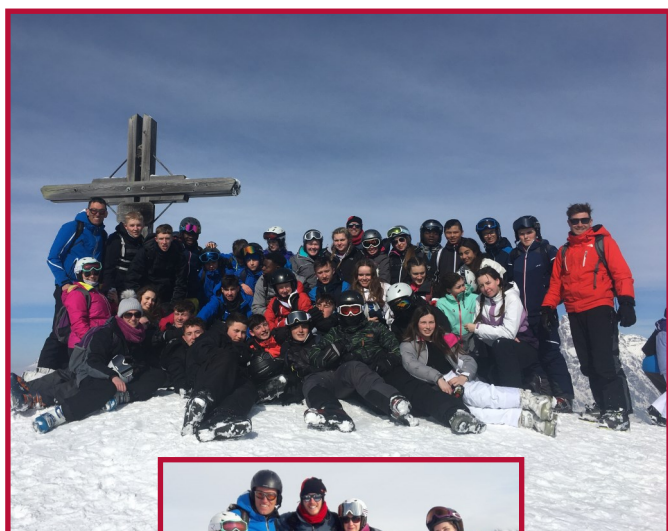
Group 1 – **Bethan Rowley** (Year 13)

Group 2 – **Oliwia Kosma** (Year 11)

Group 3 – **Cameron Clay** (Year 10)

Group 4 – **William Monnington** (Year 11)

Skier of the week (chosen by staff): **Cian Mulchinock** (Year 11)



Plastic not fantastic

As part of city, country and global initiatives to cut down on plastic usage, our Student Leadership Council is developing a number of strategies. These are:

- Cutting back on plastics in the canteen
- Providing plastic recycling facilities in the canteen and at strategic points around school
- Encouraging the use of reusable water bottles
- Using eco champions to collect plastic-based rubbish.



Making pals

Members of our PALS Club made cards and planted flowers in pots for Mothers' Day. Irises and mini daffodils made beautiful gifts alongside the cards which thanked mums for their kindness. Further activities this term will be based on the Winter Olympics and Para Olympics and preparations for Easter.



Engineering the future

Energy conservation and electric circuits were the focus of two workshops delivered by Engineers without Borders this term. Some of our Year 9 students found out what it was like to be an engineer and the different career pathways available to them in the future. They also built and tested model cars and looked at how engineers solve problems using scientific methods.



Impressive interviews

Ten of our sixth form students visited Oscott College in Sutton Coldfield to participate in an international conference organised by the Catholic church to gather the views of young people.

This responds to Pope Francis' call for all Churches across the world to reflect on their engagement with young people. He has requested that young people from the Church, other faiths and people of no faith get involved and share their perception and experience of the Church.

Wayne Zengeya and **Joseph Waters** were so impressive in their video interviews that our students will be involved in further discussions on our school site about their experience of faith.

Tim Lee-Mohan, Teacher of RE, said: "This is an exciting time for the Church and the contributions that our students made will be part of a document sent directly to the Pope. Our students were fantastic ambassadors for our school. As you would expect, they contributed well to the discussions, got to know students from other schools and engaged with the speakers during their breaks."

Robotics club

Students from our Lego Robotics Club worked effectively as a team to impress the judges in a Midlands-wide competition at Warwick Trident College this term.

Winning the Robot Design Challenge elements of the overall competition, they overcame a variety of obstacles. In the teamwork challenge, judges commented that our students collaborated highly effectively. Under timed conditions, they completed a team activity which involved building a solution to a new task using Lego. Despite initial problems with the robots, they worked well together as engineers to complete the tasks robotically by measuring distances and angles and translating this to computer code.

Students had previously built a robot out of Lego and programmed it to complete tasks based on the theme of Royal Air Force Humanitarian Aid. On the day, the robot was able to complete a speed test, assemble parts for an aeroplane and collect food parcels without any human intervention. The team also delivered a PowerPoint presentation to visiting judges about how robots could be useful in the future and how they worked together to solve

problems. **Aniela Kesler** (Year 7) was singled out for praise for her professional presentation.

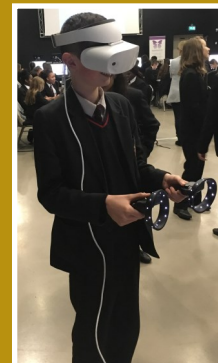
James Bean, Teacher of Science, said: "I am very proud of our students' achievements. They overcame difficulties efficiently and collaboratively and their approach to tasks was very professional."



Power to the people

Sixty of our Year 8 students spent a day at Coventry University this month exploring how technology could enhance our lives.

In unison with DELL, the university's Powering Transformation Day encouraged students to take a fresh look at the role of technology in society. Students worked in groups to create and present an idea about how to improve a social issue in our world today. Ideas ranged from supporting teenage depression, helping people with disabilities and online security. They also had a tour of the campus and sampled some of the latest DELL technology.



The winning team designed a robotic arm to support people who had lost limbs. **Andrew Clifton, Harry Davies, Georgina Day, Alvin Kityo, Filip Krause and Mia-Jane Hallinan** will now be entered into the regional final.

Eileen Jeremiah, Key Stage Leader, said: "I was very proud of our students. Their focus was exceptional throughout the day and their presentations were of a very high standard."

Celebrating gifts

At the start of term, following the feast of the Epiphany, special assemblies were held to celebrate our gifts and reward our students across the school for effort and progress.



Warwick Sutton Scholars

Five of our Year 8 students have been selected to take part in a prestigious two-year programme to stretch and challenge able students. Organised by the University of Warwick, in collaboration with the Sutton Trust, it also aims to inspire students to consider university education in the future. The first year focuses on building curiosity and developing skills to succeed at school and university. In the following year, students will concentrate on core academic skills, including writing, independent research, critical thinking and public speaking. A three-day residential in the Easter holidays will then complement the entire course. Our successful applicants are: **Vivienne Egbuchulem, Alvin Kityo, Alexander Knight, Lorraine Nduka and Bartosz Zygowski.**



**SUTTON
SCHOLARS**



Big bang exhibition

Over 150 of our key stage 3 students visited over 200 stands at this year's Big Bang Exhibition in Birmingham. With engineering, scientific and technological activities to try, the event aimed to engage the next generation of experts in each field. They had the opportunity to get involved with a mechanical chocolate factory, observe a crash scene and explore dangerous equations.

Sneha Shah, Teacher of Science, said: "A showcase like this is crucial.

Our students were able to discover careers which they had not even heard of previously. They met people with exciting jobs and were able to ask them some challenging questions."



Let's dance

Some of our key stage 3 and 4 students are currently training with a professional theatre company in preparation for the curtain raiser to their performance at Coventry's Albany Theatre. The following students will be training over several weeks: **Solomom Agyeman, Charlyn Akame, Sarah Beech, Elizabeth Courtois, Vivienne Egbuchulem, Keisha Etchu Tambe, Leah Evans, Roisin Gaffney, Millie Hackett, Agnes Kuku-Ogunfeibo, Emerode Lukelo, Lisa Lutumba, Paulina Panka and Harrison Olanrewaju.**



Music retreat

A Christian rock band led a musical retreat for all key stage 3 students as part of their *Higher Tour*. The spiritual and exciting musical experience focused on the importance of identity and students were encouraged to recognise their own worth in God's eyes as well as listen to some amazing music.



Staying safe

Our students have been exploring how to keep safe during CPSHE lessons this term. Firstly, they re-visited how to stay safe online as part of Safer Internet Day. Then, during national eating disorders week, they worked in their form groups to discuss how to support people with potential eating disorders. Sessions ended with our school prayer which reminds students that we are all a link in a chain and should be helping each other, where possible.



Printing progress

Our Art Club is still well attended. This term, students have focused on a range of printing techniques. They have produced their own mono prints, relief prints and are now working on their personal collage pieces. All students are making excellent progress and developing their own artistic styles.

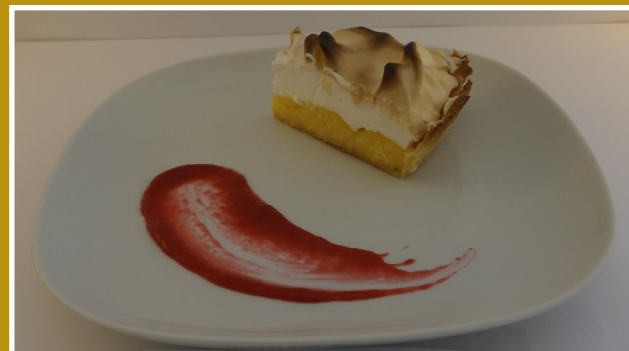
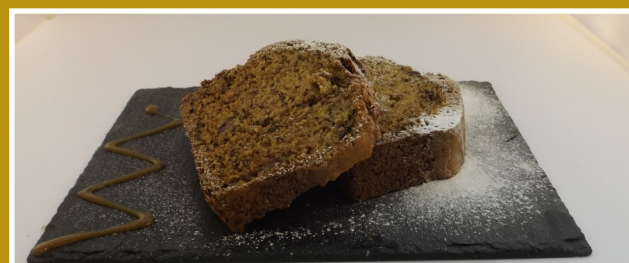


Budding chefs

Our Year 11 students completed their practical examination in Food this term. Planning, trialling and making a selection of dishes in a three-hour examination, some students were able to de-bone chicken, fillet fish and even make their own pasta.



Sarah Newell, Teacher of Technology, said: "I was extremely proud of the skills which our students demonstrated under pressure. We have some budding Jamie Olivers and Tom Kerridges on our hands!"



Coventry Schools' Cup football

Our Year 7 students have progressed to the quarter finals of the cup. In the last round, they beat Sidney Stringer 4v2 with a strong team performance.

Goals from **Cohen Cosgrove** (2), **Henock Omokoko** and **Reece Ellis** and a man of the match performance from **Samuel Merry** saw the team home. The boys now face Grace Academy in the quarter finals. If they can reproduce some of their earlier performances, the team has a good chance of at least reaching the semi-finals. **Ryan Musewu** has been strong in defence all season.

Our Year 8 boys have already made it through to the semi-finals after an outstanding win against Caludon Castle. They started nervously but gradually took control of the game to take a 2v0 lead. However, with 10 minutes to go, Caludon scored two goals in quick succession. The team showed great resolve and **Temitayo Oke** scored the winner with two minutes to go. The team held on for a 3v2 victory and Temi was named man of the match. **Noel Angafor** has been a revelation in defence this season. The boys have every chance of making it to their first ever final this year.

Our Year 9 football team has really come in to their own this year: maturing as individuals as well as a team. With new additions to the squad, there are high hopes of winning some silverware. **Yuel Tesfagabr** has been a great addition and put in some great performances. As a result of this improved performance, our Year 9s have made the semi-finals of the cup. Wins over Finham Park, Blue Coat and Cardinal Wiseman have been achieved through their tireless work rate.

Unfortunately, our Year 10 team has been knocked out of the cup by a strong Barrs Hill team. The game was played on a very heavy pitch which did not suit the passing style of our boys. Missing two important penalties, they were unable to match the opposition's direct style of play.

After last year's success, our Year 11 team is looking to continue their winning ways in the Coventry Schools' Cup and the Coventry Telegraph Cup.

The team has already overcome President Kennedy to reach the semi-final of the Coventry Schools' Cup and beat Myton School, on the road to the Ricoh, in the quarter final of the Coventry Telegraph Cup.

Mackauley Mortimer has shown real class in a deep centre back position.

Netball news

Our Year 7 team has really taken the league by storm this year. With three games to play, the team is second in the A league.

Part of our successful Year 8 team, **Vivienne Egbuchulem**, is making quite a habit of being selected as player of the match. Following a 6v3 victory over West Coventry Academy, she scooped the accolade again. With two games left to play, against Sidney Stringer and Stoke Park, the team is currently first in the A League.

Playing some of their best netball of the season, our Year 10 team also beat West Coventry Academy. Despite the loss of our goalkeeper, **Ella Wilding**, through injury, the team won 14v5. Player of the match, **Lucy Gee**, ensured that the team finished the season in style.

Indoor rowing

Our Year 8 girls' team won the West Coventry schools' indoor rowing competition last month. This means that they now qualify for the Coventry and Warwickshire School Games in April where they will be representing West Coventry. The team consists of: **Ebbie Agyemang**, **Vivienne Egbuchulem**, **Temi Lawal** and **Chelsea Orisa**. **Chelsea Orisa** also won best individual rower.

Year 7 on top form

Boys played table tennis and girls competed in badminton matches in this term's Year 7 form competitions. 7LM were the table tennis winners as they won 3 out of 4 of their games in the final.

Matthew Ryan was player of the tournament. He was undefeated throughout the whole competition and won his finals by strong margins. 7RO beat 7RW in a close badminton final. Player of the final was **Hayley May** from 7RO who won both of her matches (7v1 and 7v2). Details of the Summer term Year 7 form competitions will be announced soon.

Indoor athletics

At the recent indoor athletics championships at the Xcel Centre, our Year 7 teams were particularly strong.

Our girls came second and boys won. The boys will now progress to the county finals, as a result.

Year 7 girls		
1 st	Westwood	140pts
2 nd	Bishop Ullathorne	139pts
3 rd	WCA	121 pts
4 th	Finham Park	106 pts
5 th	Sidney Stringer	93 pts

Year 7 boys		
1 st	Bishop Ullathorne	144 pts
2 nd	Westwood	126pts
3 rd	Finham Park	116 pts
4 th	Sidney Stringer	108 pts
5 th	WCA	103 pts



The boys' team (pictured left to right) is: **Ryan Musewu, Cohen Cosgrove, Ewan Forrest, Byron Wilson, Oliver Blackwell** and **Dylan Cohene**.

The girls' team (pictured left to right) is: **Joanna Finch, Maria Cosgriff, Regina Crame, Kacey Evans** and **Chelsey Bapaga**.



Our Year 8 boys and girls were also successful. Both won their indoor athletics competitions and will now represent West Coventry at the Coventry and Warwickshire schools' finals.



Fit for a princess

Two students were fortunate to meet the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge this term. **Urjosshi Ahmed** (Year 13),

as lead chorister at Coventry Cathedral, sang at the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation Service. She was

joined by **Vitalis Bechinze** (Year 7). The Duchess of Cambridge spoke to Vitalis and asked him if he enjoyed singing and what his favourite song is.

Without hesitation, he replied with his favourite. He said: "She was really nice and young. You could tell from her accent that she was royalty. It was a real honour to perform for her."

Vitalis in Latin means strong and worthy. Originally from the Cameroon, he is proud of his heritage and strives to live up to his name. He has four siblings and enjoys singing in the choir with one of his brothers. He has been singing since Year 3 and has aspirations to be a senior chorister like Urjosshi.



In the field

Our Year 12 Geography students recently visited several locations in Wales for their fieldwork. At Plas Dol-y-Moch, the students spent three very cold days collecting data about sand dunes, coastal defences and regeneration. An adventurous couple of hours riding mountain bikes on the centre's track was another highlight. The students found the trip to be very inspirational and are looking forward to writing up their non-examined assessments.



The next fieldwork will be carried out closer to home. Students will take the train to the centre of Birmingham where they will assess the regeneration which has taken place there. Visits to the Bullring, Brindley Place, the Mailbox and the new Birmingham Library are planned.



Laurel McIntosh, Teacher of Geography, said: "The students were brilliant and kept their spirits high, despite the damp weather, by drinking plenty of hot chocolate while writing up their findings."

University experience

Birmingham University was visited by our Year 12 students as part of their research into degree study at a Russell Group university. Some have also visited Coventry and Cambridge universities for the HE+ Programme and are embarking on an independent research project.

Medical volunteers

Voluntary work at the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire has been secured by some of our Year 12 students. They are gaining experience of the clinical environment and meeting patients. Two aspiring medical students also benefitted from attending a three-day medical conference which was hosted by the hospital.

Successful applications

One of our students has received an offer to study Biological Science at Oxford. All other students who have applied for 2018 places at university have successfully received interviews and offers and are in the process of making their firm and insurance choices. Our recent tradition of successful medical applications continues this year for one of our Year 13 students who is heading to St Andrews University.



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

Enrichment opportunities

Some of our students are fortunate to meet the criteria to be considered for bespoke residential experiences of higher education. Four students have been accepted on the Realising Opportunities Programme at the University of Warwick and another student has started a new programme called Pathways to Finance and Business.

Year 12 students have been encouraged to give time to support others in the community and can be seen using their leadership skills to help in our partner primary schools as well as in our own school. Others have been working for charities and local care homes. Presently, students who have applied for a place on a university summer school are waiting for confirmation. Most students have now secured excellent work experience placements for the week beginning Monday 9 July.

Psychological boost

Our Year 13 Psychology students attended an intensive grade booster workshop in Birmingham this month. Designed to refine and sharpen key examination techniques for the three A Level papers, all of the students felt that it had built their confidence.

Let's get quizzical

This month, brainy members of staff pitted their wits against the best that Coventry has to offer in order to raise money for three of our Year 12 students to visit Lourdes.

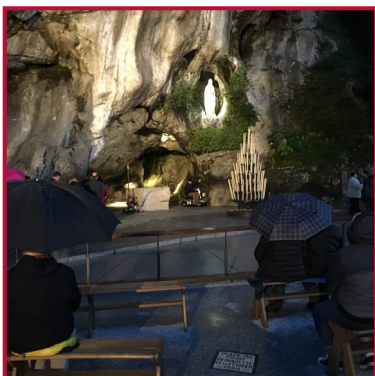
Jackie Dines, Head of Science, and her specially selected team were the outright winners. Questions tested knowledge on a wide range of topics including school, fire and television theme tunes. With nine teams of around seven members each, the evening was a great success and over £300 was raised.

The three girls will travel by plane to Lourdes at the start of May half term to support older people during their pilgrimage. They will be taking people to Mass and devoting their time to keeping pilgrims company.

Ciara Erne said: "As Catholics, it is good to do something practical to serve our faith. Lourdes is a special place where people go to re-new their faith and where miracles have happened."

Lucy Crilly added: "I was fortunate enough to be absorbed in the magic of Lourdes in Year 10. This will be a slightly different experience although I will always remember the amazing atmosphere when a range of communities come together."

Aoife Gilmore said: "I am looking forward to sharing the experience with others. I will be doing something which will make my own grandparents very proud. My sacrifices to help older people are something which I am sure that they would appreciate."



Using talents

Throughout the year, **Imogen Jones** (Year 13), and a team of supporters, has raised a substantial amount of money to enable her to travel to South America in the Summer. The cake sales have enabled her to participate in a programme to work with disadvantaged young people in Argentina.

Yasmin Javadian (Year 12) has represented Great Britain in the Under 21s Judo team. She has travelled to Denmark and Portugal this term to compete in the junior European Cup. Her training involves great dedication and the ability to manage her A Level studies at the same time.

Ben Brewster (Year 12) has played a number of matches for the U18s County Tennis team.

Imogen Forrest (Year 12) has qualified to compete in the World Irish Dancing competition over the Easter holiday.

Professional conversations

All of our Year 12 students had the opportunity, this term, to meet professionals from a wide range of employment areas.



With prepared questions, the students were able to gather first-hand, useful information about career prospects in their selected areas.

Two former students were among the visitors who were able to explain pathways in a range of professions, including: law, finance, cyber security, engineering, psychology, teaching and the health service.



Holiday dates

We close for the holidays on

Thursday 29 March 2018 at 3.05pm

The new term starts on

Monday 16 April 2018 at 8.40am

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Dates for your diary

Final countdown

This year's GCSE and A level examination timetables are now available on our website at <https://www.bishoppullathorne.co.uk/exams>

Selected students have been invited to revision sessions over the Easter holidays. A range of subjects will be covered, including English, Spanish, History, Mathematics and RE. In addition, the minimum revision time for Year 11 students should be two hours per night.

Date	Subject	Time	Venue
Monday 2 April	BANK HOLIDAY		
Tuesday 3 April	Maths	10 to 2.30	Various
Wednesday 4 April	Maths	10 to 2.30	Various
Thursday 5 April	English	10 to 2	B Block Hall
Friday 6 April	English	10 to 2	B Block Hall
WEEKEND			
Monday 9 April	ICT	10 to 3	Room 47
Tuesday 10 April	History	10 to 12	Room 19
Wednesday 11 April			
Thursday 12 April	RE Spanish	10 to 2 9.30 to 2.30	Rooms 10 and 53 Room 43
Friday 13 April	Spanish	9.30 to 2.30	Rooms 42 and 44



Term dates 2018 to 2019

Teacher Training Days are:

- Monday 3 September 2018
- Friday 30 November 2018
- Friday 28 June 2019

Autumn term 2018

Tuesday 4 September to Friday 19 October

Half term

Monday 22 October to Friday 26 October

Autumn term (continued)

Monday 29 October to Thursday 20 December

Spring term 2019

Monday 7 January to Friday 15 February

Half term

Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February

Spring term (continued)

Monday 25 February to Friday 12 April

Summer term 2019

(Monday 6 May 2019 is May Day Bank Holiday)

Monday 29 April to Friday 24 May

Half term

Monday 27 May 2019 to Friday 31 May 2019

Summer term (continued)

Monday 3 June to Friday 19 July

