

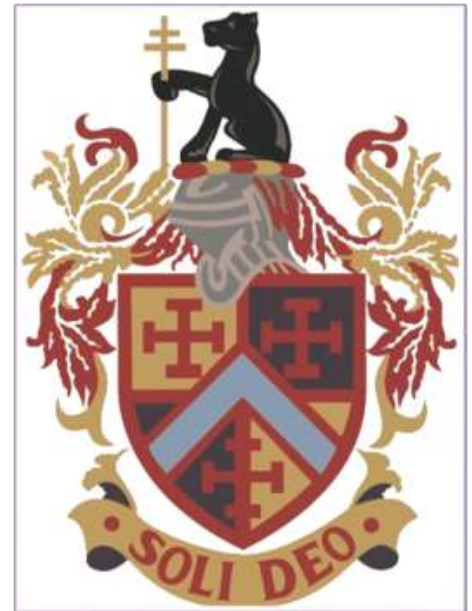
Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



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Part of the Holy
Cross Catholic
MAC



Message from our Headteacher

It is hard to comprehend how much change is on the way for Bishop Ullathorne in the next few years. As we started this academic year we were just in the early stages of discussing a potential new build. Now the plans are rapidly coming together and work is not long from starting. There is even talk of the new school being ready for 2026. Although, if experience has taught me anything, it is that this feels a little unlikely! Either way, students who are currently in Year 7 and 8 will definitely be finishing their time at Bishop Ullathorne in a different building to the one in which they started.

All this design work has taken place during the school's 70th anniversary year. In late June, we held our open morning for previous students and staff to visit the school. It was a wonderful event. I was privileged to talk to so many old 'Ullathornians' and be witness to their memories and recollections of the school.

The academic year has flown by and the numerous achievements and successes of our young people, both at home and abroad, are too many to list here. However, beyond the trophies, awards and medals that our students have earned, it is always their compassion and commitment that stands out for me. Time and again our students have shown that they are beacons of Christ's love in all that they do. This for me has been their greatest achievement.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish my successor, Mrs Boyle, the very best of luck in her role as Headteacher from September 2024. It has been the privilege of my life to be the Headteacher at Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School and I know that Mrs Boyle is going to take the school from strength to strength.

Exciting times lay ahead but for now may I take this opportunity to thank you for all your ongoing support and wish you a restful and happy Summer.

God bless

Mr Billings, Headteacher

Prayer

I pray that the holidays bring love, joy, and kindness to us all and that we show it to a world that is broken and hurting. Thank you for coming to earth and living among us until it was time for you to die and rise again for us. Thank you for taking away our sins and offering us the gift of salvation. Amen

Good news

70th Anniversary celebration

On Saturday 29 June, we celebrated our 70th Anniversary with an open morning for past students and staff. It was a wonderful occasion with Ullathornians from as far back as the original opening year of 1953 returning to visit the school. Over 200 past students visited the school. Present students and staff were regaled with stories of school experiences across the decades. Present students provided music and tours and the hall was turned into a gallery of images from



the school's past. As the current school buildings head towards their last two years of use, this was a wonderful way to commemorate the school as well as look forward to the next 70 years.



Catholic Social Teaching Conference

Bishop Ullathorne hosted our first Catholic Social Teaching Conference this month which involved over 200 children from all seven schools in our MAC.

First we heard from Sister Judith Russi, who spoke to us about the seven Catholic Social Teaching principles and how we can make a difference to our common home and all those who share it. Chaplaincy Reps continued to work with Sister Judith and created action plans to take back to their own schools.



Our Eco representatives heard from two guest speakers: Roger Harrabin, a journalist and former BBC Energy and Environment Analyst, who shared incredible videos and first hand stories about the impact he has seen on our planet and what we can do to help. Many of the actions are easy things we can do, such as eating less meat and driving less, to writing to our MP to voice our concerns. Our second guest speaker was Aliza Ayaz, an International climate activist and a youth advocate for environment at the House of Lords. They shared with us how we can use our voice to inspire others and make a difference.



Students were busy in the afternoon writing pledges and letters to our MPs, filming news reports and creating activist art inspired by our MAC Eco Code. Many students learnt more about the 17 Global Goals which were agreed by all world leaders to build a greener, fairer, better world by 2030.

After an inspiring day we are fired up and ready to go to bring about change!

Good news

Diversity Day

On Thursday 19 July we celebrated our Diversity Day. Students and staff looked incredible in their cultural clothes, national dress and many flags from all across the globe.

During break times we were treated to two events; the first a showing of the film 'Tracy' by Denzel in Year 13. Then our Diversity Concert had a wide range of performers who read poems, danced and sang songs from their culture. These included Crystal with her flamenco dance, Seana and Scarlett with Bollywood dancing and Chloe and Shani both demonstrating their eloquence when sharing poems they had written about diversity.

We began the afternoon with our Unity Walk around the perimeter of our field and then celebrated the end of term with inflatables, games and events organised by our sixth form leadership team. What a day!



Good news

Library news

The Carnegie Medals for Writing and Illustration

The Carnegie Medals are British literary awards that recognise one outstanding English-language book and one outstanding illustrated book published in the UK for children or young people every year. It is judged by a panel of experienced librarians and is awarded by CILIP, the Institute of Library Professionals, who describe it as "the UK's oldest and most prestigious book award for children's writing."



Bishop
Ullathorne
Catholic
School
Library



You may remember that we said to "look out for more news on Miss K's shortlisting commitments" in a previous newsletter. We are now free to announce publicly that Miss K, our school librarian, has been selected as one of the Carnegie Medal judges for the next two years. It is a voluntary but very prestigious role that will involve an awful lot of reading – an estimate of at least 300 books across the 2025 and 2026 award cycles!

As part of the new role, Miss K was able to attend the 2024 medal award ceremony in London, meeting Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho, and getting to have another chat with the already-mentioned Nathanael Lessore, who asked to send a video message to our students – hopefully some more news to come on that message in the Autumn term. Unfortunately, students were not able to attend in person, but we did hold a screening of the ceremony the following day, for both Book Club and the two Library Reading groups to watch as the winners were announced.



Prize Winners



As mentioned in our Spring newsletter, we had two winning quiz groups last term. We had a third-place team for the National Reading Champions Quiz and another third-place team at the Hooked on Books quiz on World Book Day. During this term, the prizes have arrived and been awarded to the students, so congratulations to them!



Book Donations

The library has an excellent stock of new books for students to borrow but there is still plenty of appetite for some of the slightly older titles. Books that are still really popular include comedy such as Tom Gates and David Walliams, favourite series like Harry Potter and Goosebumps, and of course the classics of Roald Dahl and Michael Morpurgo. Unfortunately, because of their enduring popularity, our copies do tend to get very worn and damaged – and sometimes lost as well. If over the Summer you are having a clear out, please consider the library for donations of any unwanted books that may be suitable. They don't have to be the latest titles (though we like those too!), just books in a reasonable condition to replace some of our tattered and missing favourites. Thank you!

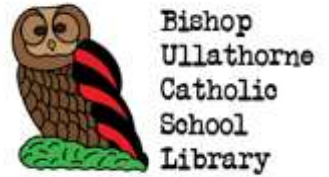
Good news

Library news

Library Book Club

The Library Book Club has gone on two trips this term: one to the Warwickshire Secondary Book Awards and one to the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards. At both ceremonies, students heard authors speak about their work, ask questions and meet the authors afterwards to have books and reading journals signed.

At the Warwickshire's, they met Carnegie longlisted authors Anthony McGowan and SF Said (who featured in our Year 7 live author event earlier this year), and Carnegie shortlisted author Nathanael Lessore, author of *Steady for This*, our extremely popular (and very funny) audiobook from World Book Day.



The Coventry Book Awards have five shortlists, all suitable for different ages, so the students met: children's author and illustrator, Steve Smallman, who drew some excellent 'eyebrows of doom' for us; the very funny middle-grade writer Ben Davis and Dan Smith, author of *The Wall Between Us*, set during the early days of the Berlin Wall.



Mock general election

Bishop Ullathorne undertook its own Mock General Election on Tuesday 4 July.

All students voted at our polling station over the course of the day. Then the final period of the day saw the count take place. 715 votes were cast across our 30 mini-constituencies (form groups). Year 9 student leadership members, Year 10 prefects and Year 12 students with an interest in politics successfully led the event. The verdict was unanimous with Labour winning 25 out of the 30 seats!



Good news

Duke of Edinburgh expeditions

This Summer has been an extraordinary one for our students, who have taken on the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) expeditions with enthusiasm and determination. A total of 48 students participated in the Bronze expedition, embarking on a memorable journey to Hatton. Despite the challenges that came their way, their spirits remained high and their teamwork was commendable.

The Silver practice expedition in April posed an even greater challenge as students navigated the picturesque areas of Meriden and Berkswell. The sweltering temperatures added an extra layer of difficulty, testing their endurance and resilience. Our students rose to the occasion, demonstrating remarkable perseverance and resourcefulness throughout the trek. They then completed the Silver qualifying expedition in July. This was the ultimate test of their skills and preparation, as they put into practice everything they learned during their training and practice sessions. They all excelled and made us proud.

We extend our congratulations to all students who participated in these expeditions. Their hard work, dedication and spirit of adventure are truly inspiring. They have until the end of August to finish uploading evidence. This is an essential step in completing the DofE journey, so documentation must be submitted on time.

We are thrilled to announce that enrolment for the DofE Bronze Award has officially opened for our Year 9 students. We are excited to see an unprecedented level of interest. For next year, a record-breaking 90 students have registered their interest in completing the award, making it our largest cohort to date. This enthusiastic response reflects the growing recognition of the value and opportunities that the DofE Award provides. We look forward to supporting each of these students on their journey towards personal growth, skill development and memorable adventures.

Miss Newell would like to extend her heartfelt gratitude to all of the staff members involved in the DofE scheme. Their dedication, hard work and unwavering support has been instrumental in making this programme a success. Without their commitment to guiding and mentoring our students, the DofE expeditions and activities could not run as smoothly and effectively as they do. Their efforts not only ensure the operational success of the programme but also profoundly impact the lives of our students, helping them develop crucial life skills and create lasting memories. Thank you for your invaluable contribution.



Good news

Language celebration

The MFL department held an assembly for most Year 9 classes to celebrate reaching the end of the Key Stage 3 languages course. Students were reminded of all the amazing opportunities that have been offered to them over the last three years, from trips abroad to visiting theatre companies and from competitions to guest speakers.

Students spent the previous weeks' lessons creating projects on French and Spanish speaking famous people and the winning projects received a prize.

This was also to test students' knowledge of French and Spanish speaking countries and certificates were awarded to each teaching group.



Severn Trent Water

All Year 9 students and our Eco representatives had a talk from Severn Trent about the *Science of Sewage*. We found out about what Severn Trent does to treat water so we get clean water in our homes every day. We also learned how we can each play our part to look after our sewers by finding out more about what can and can't be flushed and what we should always put in the bin. Thank you Sharran for her advice and gross pictures!



Geography

In June, all of our Year 10 Geographers visited Dovedale in the Peak District. The students investigated the impacts that tourism has been having on a natural environment. They worked hard in the classroom to identify eight tourist honeypot sites that they wanted to visit. We were blessed with dry weather and despite the National Trust's best efforts to guide us away from the places we wanted to go to, we achieved our objective. As we walked out of the beautiful Dovedale valley we were able to enjoy tasty, if expensive, ice creams.



Good news

PE

Football

Our Year 7 boys are West Midlands Schools County Champions after beating Our Lady and St Chads Catholic School 2-0 in the final. A near perfect performance in the first half was capped off with Ashish giving the boys a 1-0 lead at half time. Virtually straight from the kick off in the second half Destin scored to double their lead. The boys then saw out the game with lots of hard work and resilience to deserve their victory.



Throughout the competition the boys played some very attractive football and worked hard and supported each other. They scored 20 goals and only conceded one, which is a fantastic record. They have lots of potential to win more trophies over the coming seasons.

Congratulations to our **Year 9/10 girls'** football team which is West Midlands Schools U15 County Champions. They beat Haybridge High School 2-1 in a hard fought victory. A dominant first half should have seen the girls 2 or 3 goals up but went in 0-0 at half time. A fast start in the second half, with goals from Erin and Josie, gave the girls a 2-0 lead only for Haybridge to pull a goal back with 20 minutes to go. The girls worked hard in the heat giving 100% effort to finish the game and become deserved County Champions. This is the second time in three years that the girls have won this competition which is a fantastic achievement.



Our Year 11 boys sadly lost to Blue Coat on penalties in the Coventry School Cup. The boys were the better team for much of the game but were unable to convert the chances they created. Blue Coat led 1-0 until the final five minutes and the boys did not give up and kept pushing for the equaliser. They were rewarded with a penalty which Siem converted to take the game to penalties. Over the years, penalties have not been our strong point and sadly this came back to haunt us as Blue Coat became eventual winners.

The boys gave everything in the final and have done so over the past five years. They have reached two West Midlands Schools Cup Finals and reached the last 32 of the National Cup in Year 9 (again losing on penalties). They have shown a great togetherness as a team and have developed a strong bond with each other. They are a great bunch of lads and they have been great ambassadors for the school. Mr Cox and Mr Anstee have taken great pleasure in working with them over the years.



Good news

PE - continued

Athletics

Our Year 7 and 8 athletes have been competing in both the Coventry Schools Athletics Championships and the Super 6 competitions.

Coventry Schools Athletics Championships: A total of 18 pupils qualified for the Year 7 and 8 Championship finals. We were lucky enough to get Coventry champions in the following events:



Chloe Shakespeare: 1000m Destin Butoyi: 75m and Standing Triple Jump Chizaram Edeh: 150m

Other notable performances were:

Yr	Student	Event	Place
7	Catherine Brown	Hurdles	2 nd
7	Catherine Brown	High Jump	2 nd
7	Amara Griffin-Pitt	Long Jump	2 nd
7	Jesse Hayes	Long Jump	2 nd
7	Jesse Hayes	150m	3 rd
7	Chizaram Edeh	High Jump	2 nd
7	Ethan Ambler	High Jump	3 rd
7	Boys	4x100m relay	3 rd
8	Emmilienne Bichenze	Long Jump	2 nd



Super 6 Competition: Competing against secondary schools from all over the city, the teams competed in six events: 100m, 200m and 800m and field events of shot put, javelin and long jump. Each performance from the students gained points for a final total score. All of our students performed extremely well and gave 100% effort in the events. The final positions saw the girls finish 3rd of the nine schools taking part behind Grace Academy and Bablake. The boys were winners out of the nine schools that took part. The Year 8 girls finished 2nd behind Bablake.

Sports Leaders

A group of our Sports Leaders was asked to help out at the St James Place activity day. The girls displayed amazing Ullathorne Way values. They were extremely polite and encouraged and worked closely with the SEN students throughout the day.

The maturity displayed by the girls running each station, taking down the scores and giving a sound explanation of how the game worked at their station was truly outstanding.



Good news

Taekwon-Do Cup

Harvey Pearson (Year 7) attended the 5th annual Taekwon-Do Cup in Rotterdam, in April where he achieved an international Gold Medal in the Patterns competition.

He is now a British Open Champion by winning a Gold in Patterns and Special Technique plus a Silver in Sparring, when he competed in July. Well done Harvey, we are very proud of your achievements.



The Great Gatsby

In June, Mrs Kirkman and Mrs Evans Bent took Year 12 English Literature students to the University of Warwick for a lecture on *The Great Gatsby*, a text studied as part of their course – *Love through the Ages*. It was a gloriously sunny day and the students enjoyed experiencing time looking around the campus before heading into one of the lecture theatres, in the new Faculty of Arts building. The lecture was presented by Dr Michael Meeuwis and lasted for about 45 minutes. Lots of our students asked questions at the end of the lecture, showing them to be eloquent and grateful for the experience.

Mrs Kirkman said: "As always, our students were exemplary and fully immersed themselves in the University lecture experience. It was an interesting and thought provoking lecture, focusing on the character of Nick Carraway".

Ebuwa Egbe said: "Seeing the difference between a university lecture and a classroom environment was quite surprising." Evie Webb said: "I enjoyed this alternative approach to literature." Elena Almeida said: "I am very grateful for the lecture as it provided an insightful and unique point of view, which I found fascinating and helpful to my studies"



Worlds and Lives anthology

A group of Year 10 English students attended Warwick Arts Centre in May to watch a poetry performance of the *Worlds and Lives* anthology. Produced and performed by the Highly Sprung theatre group in collaboration with John Bernard, Coventry's Poet Laureate, the students viewed poetry in a unique manner.

Clothing Fayre

Following the success of our previous clothing fayre, we held another event in July where pre-loved clothes could be accessed for a small donation towards our Lourdes pilgrimage.

We will be holding a pre-loved uniform event during the Summer holiday, on Thursday 15 August between 10am and 1pm. All items will cost 50 pence to purchase. If any parents would like to donate uniform that they no longer need, it can be dropped off at our Gatehouse reception before Thursday 8 August. Please ring our main number to arrange delivery while we are closed for the Summer.

Good news

Beatboxing

Some of our Year 8 students had two sessions with international beatboxing star SK Shlomo. After being



wowed by performances from Shlo using their live loop station "the minibeast", students worked on learning and practising the different sounds of beatboxing before working in teams to prepare their performances.

Students put on a show for an audience of our Year 12 students where they demonstrated their new found skills. We were so impressed with how students worked creatively, encouraging and supporting each other throughout the session. Four students went on to perform with SK Shlomo on the second stage at Godiva Festival on Sunday 7 July! We are so grateful to SK Shlomo, Breathe Academy and Coventry Music for this opportunity.

UK Junior Mathematics Challenge

120 of our Year 7 and 8 students competed in the UK Junior Maths challenge this year.

Four students were awarded the Gold certificate, 20 were awarded Silver and a further 40 achieved Bronze.

Congratulations to all who took part and a special mention to Finley O'Reilly who was awarded a Certificate of Merit in the follow-on round.



Year 7 awards

We have continued to recognise the achievements of our Year 7 students in assembly with the Form Tutor Champions. The winners for this final half term are listed below.

Form	Tutor Champions
7ED	Seyitan, Craig, Salva and Sophie
7EM	Azeal, Chinma, Roman and Eva
7IC	Aditto, Franklyn, Ceide-Mae, Ethan and Chizaram
7IK	Jacob, Jack, Michaela and Emelia
7JR	Kivi, Praise, Felicity and Oliver
7KB	Freddie, Anabelle, Izzy, Aliza and Zuzanna
7SS	Emily, Jesse, Keon and Sera

Additionally, our weekly inter form competitions have continued for the best attending form and the form which has achieved the highest number of Ace points. The form winners for this term are:

	Attendance	Form Award
Week 1	7IC	7IK
Week 2	7EM	7SS
Week 3	7IC & 7JR	7SS
Week 4	7SS	7ED
Week 5	7EM	7ED
Week 6	7ED	7IC
Week 7	7KB	7JR
Week 8	7JR	7KB
Week 9	7IC	7IK
Week 10	7ED	7KB
Week 11	7KB	7EM
Week 12	7ED	7JR

The raffle was drawn in our Final Rewards Assembly and the Attendance draw winners were 7ED and the Form Award draw winners were 7IK!

Good news

Y11 Leavers Mass and prom

Joseph Ambercrombie won the Roman Mateuzak cup this year, as nominated by staff, for his outstanding Ullathorne Way values and contribution to the school.



Year 13 Leavers Mass and prom

We wish our Year 13 students good luck in their future studies and apprenticeships.



Year 7 Update



Ms Maxwell, Head of Year 7

It is hard to believe that Year 7 students have successfully completed their first year with us. If the students cast their minds back to their first day in September, they will realise just how much they have learned and progressed since then. They will probably not remember much, if anything, about when they started primary school so this was the biggest and most momentous change in their lives so far and they have negotiated that change very well. My thanks go to the Year 7 Tutors who have guided their tutees through this crucial year as well as the amazing support from Miss Greenway and Mrs Brown.

Three more forms have led us in assembly this term: 7EM, 7JR and 7ED. These covered topics from Mental Health, Sharing Good News and celebrating our uniqueness with the theme of Diversity, which leads well into our Diversity Day. Well done to all students (and tutors!) in delivering the information in such varied ways. Form assemblies take a lot of planning, practising and bravery in delivering and they all did superbly.

There have been a lot of sporting achievements this term in particular. A huge congratulations go to the boys' football team who became regional champions, winning The West Midlands Schools County Cup. Additionally, Chloe, Destin and Chizaram are Coventry Schools Athletics champions and Destin (football with Aston Villa) and Harvey (Taekwon-do) have been jet-setting around the world taking part in various competitions. Harvey is now a British Open Champion winning two Gold and two Silver medals. Congratulations to all of our sporting heroes!

More success has been in evidence beyond the sporting arena with the Character Passport. A huge congratulations go to the 41 students who have achieved a Gold award this term! They will be having a celebration event on the last day of term. Overall this year, 135 students have achieved Bronze, 65 Silver and 41 Gold! Well done to all of those who have achieved in this, they should be very proud of their achievements.

As the end of term approaches, we have been lucky enough to experience some special events. On Monday we had our final Rewards Assembly with a high number of individuals being rewarded with certificates for progress and effort in the different subject areas, for being ambassadors of our Ullathorne Way and for 100% Attendance.

Last week we had Sports Day, which was great fun. Well done to all of those who took part! This week we are also celebrating our Diversity Day on Thursday and weather-permitting we will be able to celebrate our outdoor End of Year Mass on Friday: this is always an incredibly special way to end the school year and of course this year it will be even more special as we bid a sad farewell to Mr Billings.

Miss Greenway and I will be welcoming the new Year 7 cohort in September but I know the current Year 7s will be in very safe hands for the next two years under the guidance of Mrs Jeremiah, Head of Years 8 and 9, Mr Anstee, Assistant Head of Years 8 & 9 and Mrs Howe, Pupil Support Manager.

Looking ahead to the next academic year, the majority of our tutors will continue with their form groups. Owing to staffing changes, sadly Mrs Revell will be leaving us and so 7JR will be taken on by Mrs Watson and will become 8AW. Likewise, Mr Haidiri who took on 7KB is also leaving us and so 7KB will be taken on by Dr Koutsou. As such, they will become 8GK and will move to Lab 5 for their form base.

I would like to thank parents for all of their support during such a critical year. We wish all our of parents and students a lovely Summer holiday and we look forward to seeing the year group again when they start their Year 8 journey in September!

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 a very busy half term again with the last of our fabulous Form assemblies. They have been very informative and entertaining this year.

It has been so interesting to hear about the different cultures and backgrounds of so many of our students and their views on crime, the environment and much more. We have also watched some fabulous Irish dancing and listened to lots of different music.

The students led and prepared the assemblies themselves.

We have had two very successful rewards afternoons, organised by Mr Anstee, for all of those students who have followed our Ullathorne values all year.

These involved time off timetable to enjoy fun activities with some treats also.

This Academic Year has also seen Year 8 and 9 go off on trips to Spain and France.

There have been trips to Alton Castle/ Soli House and various other venues also.

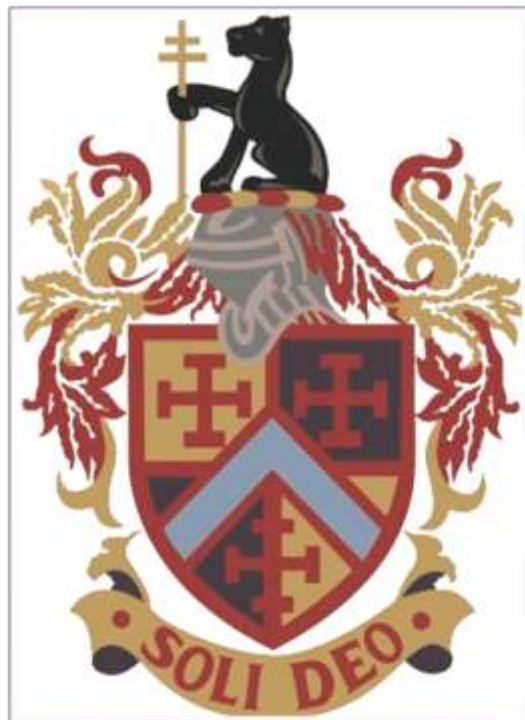
Students have completed the Character Passport and some Year 9 students have also completed a Diversity Passport to add to their extra-curricular files.

A massive WELL DONE to all of those students who achieved a certificate at our lovely awards assemblies. We are proud of you all. Unfortunately, we cannot award every student therefore many of our students will have an opportunity for recognition through a letter of praise from me to acknowledge their hard work and commitment to our school. That will be sent home at the end of term.

Finally, Good luck and Farewell to Year 9 as they transition into Year 10 and their GCSE years. I do hope that they continue to progress and mature to become the best people that they can be, following our Ullathorne Way values on a daily basis.

I wish you all a very peaceful and happy Summer holiday where I hope the sun will be shining and I thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

God Bless.



Year 8/9 key dates

4 September 2024

Return to school for the Autumn term



Year 10 and 11 Update

Miss Durkan, Head of Year 10 and 11

What a busy term for Year 10 and 11.

Year 11 had a beautiful celebration Mass led by Fr Peter. It was a wonderful way to prepare students for the stressful weeks ahead. Shirt signing also happened with many amazingly wonderful decorated shirts that will be a keepsake in the coming years. And then the examinations came and Year 11 were the first cohort to sit their examinations in the Sports Hall. Year 11 were a credit to their parents/ carers and approached their examinations with maturity and commitment. We hope that their results in August reflect their efforts. As a year group, they will be sorely missed.

Year 10 have also had a busy term; they too got to use the Sports Hall for their examinations and as Mr Murthy told them after they were over; the mocks may be over, but it is what they do with the experience that will be the real learning curve. Did they revise? Did they get lucky? Did they have the correct equipment? How should they approach Year 11? Hopefully these questions will ensure they start Year 11 in the right frame of mind in September.

Many of our Year 10s have completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh - with sore feet, hungry bellies and some tears along the way, they all managed to do it - we are so proud of them all. Forty Year 10s also went on the Ypres Trenches Trip, where they got to walk in WWI trenches that were occupied by Allied and German forces. Their behaviour was impeccable and the learning experience unforgettable. A huge well done to our Geography students who went to Dovedale to help them with their GCSE examinations.

As we look forward to the summer holiday, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Murthy who has been a super addition to our Key Stage 4 team this year. His thoughtful, reflective and inspiring nature will be missed so much. We wish him and his wife all the very best as they start their new life in Hong Kong.

I hope that both year groups have a restful Summer. I look forward to seeing Year 11 in B Block Hall on results day and I look forward to welcoming Year 10 back into Year 11.

Take care and God Bless.

Year 10 key dates

4 September 2024

Year 11 start date

Year 11 key dates

22 August 2024

GCSE results and Sixth Form enrolment: 9am B Block Hall

3 September 2024

Year 12 start date

Sixth Form Update

Mrs Casey, Head of Sixth Form

The Summer term has provided wonderful opportunities for our Sixth Form students to celebrate their hard work and commitment to the Bishop Ullathorne community.

Our Year 13 Leavers' Mass was very special and we appreciated meeting parents who were able to attend. The students sat their A Level examinations in an exemplary manner and were very supportive of each other. The Manor Hotel was an excellent venue for the Sixth Form prom where an enjoyable evening was had by all.

The focus for Year 12 students has inevitably included end of year examinations and their results show the progress made. Alongside their academic work they are developing important transferable skills to use in the work place.

Meeting employers on a morning organised by Mrs Bellingham, our Careers Adviser, gave students an individual interview to practise their communication skills using the STARR technique. It also was a chance to network with professionals who kindly shared their expertise.

Our UCAS and Personal Statement workshop has given students invaluable research resources to help in exploring post-18 pathways. Many students are using visits to University Open Days and work experience placements to consolidate their ideas. Likewise, some students have secured residential Summer School placements. We are so impressed with most students who have found their own enrichment opportunities including volunteering in care settings, primary schools, legal and finance environments and sport coaching activities.

During May half term, 21 students went to Lourdes on the Birmingham Diocesan Pilgrimage, where they were invaluable helpers caring for the sick.

Congratulations to Alexandra Abell for winning the English Tumbling Championship. She has now qualified to compete in the British Championships.

Our new Student Leadership Team has embraced working with staff and students. Their creativity in leading one of the sessions on Induction Day for Year 11 students joining our Sixth Form in September was a great success. They have already arranged a Pre-Loved Clothes Event, supported the running of the school mock general elections and contributed to the organisation of our Diversity Day and the School Walk.

We are very proud of all of our students who have given generously to running clubs, mentoring and actively working alongside staff to benefit younger students. A particular thank you to the Reading Mentors who have given an hour each week to work with Year 7 students, helping them to become more confident in literary skills.

I am sure that time will be spent over the Summer researching future pathways and writing their personal statement.

The Sixth Form team wishes you all a happy Summer holiday.



Year 12 key date

4 September 2024

Return to school into Year 13

Year 13 key date

15 August 2024

A Level results: 9am B Block Hall

Careers Update

Mrs Bellingham, Careers Adviser

Key Stage 3

- All Year 8 students took part in a live Virtual Careers Session covering apprenticeships, further education and higher education. They watched presentations and asked questions.
- All Year 9 students took part in a Careers in Healthcare day hosted by Medical Mavericks to find out more about Allied Health Professions and participate in educational and fun activities using medical equipment.

Key Stage 4

- Mrs Bellingham delivered a presentation on Options Post-16 to Year 10 students to inform them of career pathways available after Year 11 and explain entry requirements and how to apply. This session was supported by Warwickshire College which discussed the process for applying to college and also gave a presentation on T Levels.
- 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 recently took part in a speed interview workshop to help them to continue to develop their employability skills. They had a one-to-one 15 minute interview with invited visitors and received feedback on their performance. Students had to prepare for this session by learning how to use STAR (Situation, Task, Action, Result) technique to answer competency-based interview questions. All of the students who took part in the session benefitted from the experience and a big thank you to all of our visitors and parents that supported this successful event.
- Year 12 students are continuing to gain live work experience placements following our Meet with Industry and Mock Interview events.
- 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.

Advanced notice

GCSE results and A Level enrolment: Thursday 22 August, 9am B Block Hall.

A Level results: Thursday 15 August 2024, 9am B Block Hall.

Term dates 2024-2025

Autumn: Teacher Training Day: Monday 2 September 2024

Year 7 and 12 students start on Tuesday 3 September 2024

All other year groups return on Wednesday 4 September 2024 to Friday 25 October 2024

Half Term: Teacher Training Day: Friday 15 November 2025

Monday 4 November to Friday 20 December 2024

Spring: Teacher Training Day: Monday 6 January 2025

Tuesday 7 January to Friday 14 February 2025

Half Term

Monday 24 February to Friday 11 April 2025

Summer:

Monday 28 April to Friday 23 May 2025

Half Term: Teacher Training Day: Friday 27 June 2025

Monday 2 June to Friday 18 July 2025

Extra curricular activities

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

Monday				
Club	Where / Contact	What?	When?	Who?
Year 7 Greenhouse Want to help make our school a more sustainable place? Want to make a difference to our planet? Join our group of students working towards removing our Eco-School Green Flag.	Room 22 (A) Room 23 (B) Ms. Hulley and Mrs. Moly	1st Year 7	Everyday	
Year 8 Drama Club All are welcome if you have a love of performing and want to develop your communication, confidence and collaboration skills.	New Drama Studio Miss Mackney	1st Year 8	Week 4	
Mathsness Meditations Use a short mindfulness and guided meditation techniques to reduce stress and anxiety.	Room 21 Ms. Mackney	2nd Year 8	Everyday	
Year 9 Drama Club All are welcome if you have a love of performing and want to develop your communication, confidence and collaboration skills.	New Drama Studio Miss Mackney	1st Year 9	Week 7	
Homework Club Relaxed environment to complete your homework, with staff to help you out. There are more with the same format on other days.	The Library Miss Frangoulli	1:00 - 4:00pm	Everyday	

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.



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 with your request or by sending in a handwritten or typed note for your child to give to their Form Tutor. Whichever method is used, your request should include your child's name and Form Group, a copy of the appointment letter, if appropriate, with the day and time you are to collect your child and the person who will collect them.

Uniform

Blazer and jumper:

A plain black blazer with Bishop Ullathorne badge and a jumper with red v neck.

Shirt:

White, worn with the school clip-on tie.

Trousers:

Tailored black, not skinny or tight fitting.

Skirt:

Tartan knee length.

Shoes:

Smart, sensible and conventional, plain black outdoor shoes. NO TRAINERS.

If you have any spare uniform that is no longer needed, we would be grateful for donations to the school.

Entrance and exit

Students must enter our school site via Gate 2 and leave school via Gate 1 (the Gatehouse). No student should enter school via Gate 1 and no student should leave school via Gate 2. Staff will be on duty to help students to remember this system to ensure the safety of our students.

Mr Billings - Headteacher

Farewell Mr Billings

At the end of this term we say a sad farewell to Mr Billings our Headteacher. Mr Billings has been our Headteacher since 2017, he joined the Bishop Ullathorne community in 2015 as Deputy Headteacher

As a school community we are grateful for the time and dedication Mr Billings has shown to our school. He has been more than a headteacher, he has been the heartbeat of our school, guiding us with wisdom and kindness. His Catholic vision for our school has meant that our students have strived to fulfil the Ullathorne Way in all that they do. Mr Billings influence has touched every aspect of our school life. He has encouraged them to work hard, never give up and be the best version of themselves.

As we say good bye, we carry forward the lessons we have learnt from him. We will remember his unwavering belief in the potential of every student. We are deeply grateful to you Mr Billings. Thank you for your leadership, generosity and unshakeable commitment to our school. We wish you all the best in your new school, confident that wherever you go you will continue to make a difference.



May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand.