



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



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Message from our Headteacher

The New Year is always a wonderful time to stop and reflect on what is important in life. After the celebrations of Christmas, it was a joy to see our young people return to us. They remind us of our responsibilities and the power young people have for making positive change. Even if the weather was a little grey this month, our students have brought great light. Whether this was through their witness of our Ullathorne values or through their testimony in our diversity conference and chaplaincy work, our children continue to be a credit to you and our whole school community.

As January marks the start of the liturgical calendar, we enter into what the Church calls, 'ordinary time'. However, as you will see from this month's newsletter, this month has certainly not been ordinary. Maybe 'habit-forming' would be a better way to think of this time of year. This month, we have seen a real resurgence in enrichment activities and sporting activities. After the austerity of the pandemic, it has been great to see so many of our young people forming the habit of getting involved with the wealth of opportunities available in our school community. I am sure that you will be as inspired by the amazing achievements of our community in this newsletter as I have been.



God bless

Mr Billings, Headteacher



Heavenly Father, thank You for making all things new!

As another new year begins, help us live each day for You.

May we continually have a new song in our heart to sing to You, no matter what comes our way.

We trust in You because we know that Your mercies are new every morning, and nothing ahead of us will take us by surprise.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord

Amen

Bishop Ullathorne, pray for us.

Good news

Diversity conference

In December, students from all year groups took part in two diversity conferences at Bishop Ullathorne. They were joined by students from Cardinal Newman. Students discussed issues which affect students and people from minority backgrounds while also affirming the pride one can feel in their diverse identities. All of the students conducted themselves with thoughtful eloquence and engaged in productive conversation. Special thanks to Peace Ejimkonye and Carlotta Ekua Antwi Nuamah for planning and leading the conference aimed at Key Stage 3 students.



Othello lectures

Mrs Jeremiah and Mrs Kirkman took 35 of our Year 12 and 13 students to a lecture on Othello at the University of Warwick in December. The lecture was presented by Dr Ursula Clayton and the topic was: Othello – considerations of the tragic form and representations of women.

The lecture was held on the main campus and gave our students the opportunity to taste university life and experience a lecture by a university Professor. They gained further knowledge and insight into the play which will help them with their studies. Our students were also forthcoming in answering questions from Dr Clayton in a succinct and eloquent manner.

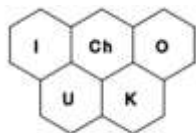
Staff also thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It brought back fond memories of previous university days and being lectured to rather than leading. We hope to take more opportunities like this one in the future.

Good news

54th International Chemistry Olympiad

In January, several of our Year 12 students participated in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad. This first challenge for students was designed to test their chemical knowledge through a written test with real-world chemistry problems. Designed to challenge and inspire, the UK Chemistry Olympiad is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the chemistry field.

They developed their critical problem-solving skills, learned to think more creatively and got a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations. They could even find themselves representing the UK at the prestigious International Chemistry Olympiad.



Drama trip

Our GCSE Drama students were treated to a live theatre performance in London's West End in preparation for their examination in May. The dramatic and terrifying production of *The Woman in Black* had the students on the edge of their seats throughout. Our students said:

"The play was amazing and really frightening. I can't believe how much I screamed and jumped!"

"The play was excellent and as it was a two-hander where the actors used multi-roles to play nine different characters, we learnt so much about characterisation. This will give us plenty to write about in the exam."

The next trip will be to see *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* so watch this space for more details!



Several Sixth Form students have planned, prepared and conducted practical work for our Key Stage 3 STEM Club.



Bartosz Zygowski outlines the STEM Club activities from the Autumn term.

'Every week in STEM Club, we have performed a whole assortment of experiments that have ranged from fire based to egg related. We have ensured that all three sciences are represented so that students are able to experience a wide range of activities: for Physics, students were able to perform an egg drop and create non-Newtonian fluid; for Chemistry, they had the opportunity to perform a distillation of pure ethanol as well as set fire to methane bubbles; and finally, for Biology, students extracted strawberry DNA and looked at rare specimens under a light microscope! It is no surprise then that according to the students, "STEM Club is the best club at Bishop Ullathorne!"'



Good news

Retirement

In September we held a very special retirement Mass and celebration for Bridget Baker, Carol Watton and Sarah Bannigan. This had been postponed from the Summer term and was a wonderful celebration of all of their hard work and dedication.



Ullathorne pride

Through assemblies last term, Lauren, our Lay Chaplain, introduced the Pride of Ullathorne awards. Students reflected on stories from the bible where people gave all they had, selflessly and humbly for the benefit of others. Students nominated their peers to receive a Pride of Ullathorne award for their own selfless and humble acts. This will continue throughout the year.



Drama Club

Drama Club restarted this term. The club is run by Lucy Metcalf, a drama graduate from De Montfort University, on a Friday at second break. Students are starting work on a production of Jekyll and Hyde with the intention of performing before the year is out. Students interested in joining should see Miss Nordone for more information.

Good news

CPSHE

'Smashed' presented a virtual play and workshop for our Year 7 and 8 students on alcohol misuse.

Street doctors is supporting the Year 8 healthy lifestyles unit of study.

Mrs Bellingham is working with our Year 9 students as they begin the journey towards their options.

The School Leadership Council is continuing to work in school. The focus will be on the COP26 action over the Spring term.

Mathematics challenge

Hegarty champions for most learning hours during January were:

Year 7 - Geshen Matondo

Year 8 - Ray Quaye

Year 9 - Yan Yan Cheung

Year 10 - Martin Abe

Year 11 - Josue Mushagalusa

Gold award

Jenny Jaison in Year 10 was awarded the Chief Scout Gold Award. This is the highest award a Scout can earn. To complete it, you need to complete all nine of the Challenge Awards, plus six activity badges. We are very proud of her.



Baking Club

Two groups in Year 7 participated in our Christmas Baking Club. Students made crinkle cookies, chocolate truffles and mince pies. Fun was had by all!



Reconciliation Services

During Advent, Fr. Jimmy, Fr. Sebastian and Fr. Des came in to school to hear confessions. Students were prepared with a Reconciliation Service by their Chaplaincy team. We would like to sincerely thank the priests for giving us their time.



Good news

Chaplaincy

Our student Chaplaincy representatives and team members have already been hard at work this academic year leading collective worship and organising reconciliation and charity events. We really appreciate their hard work and how they share their faith. As we look towards Lent, they will complete their planning to help support the Lenten journeys of their fellow students.



Charity

Last term, compassion and generosity shone through as our students showed their kindness and love to charities throughout Coventry. They collected toiletries for Sista Sista on their retreat. The whole school joined the Holy Cross appeals to collect items for Carriers of Hope. Over 400 Advent calendars were donated to Coventry Comfort Carers. Our Sixth Form students were incredibly busy volunteering at a food bank and spending time at a social supermarket to support a Christmas party for its service users. Students also collected items for the Coventry Food Bank Christmas Hamper Appeal and Coppers for Christmas, as part of the Holy Cross Advent Appeal.



Good news

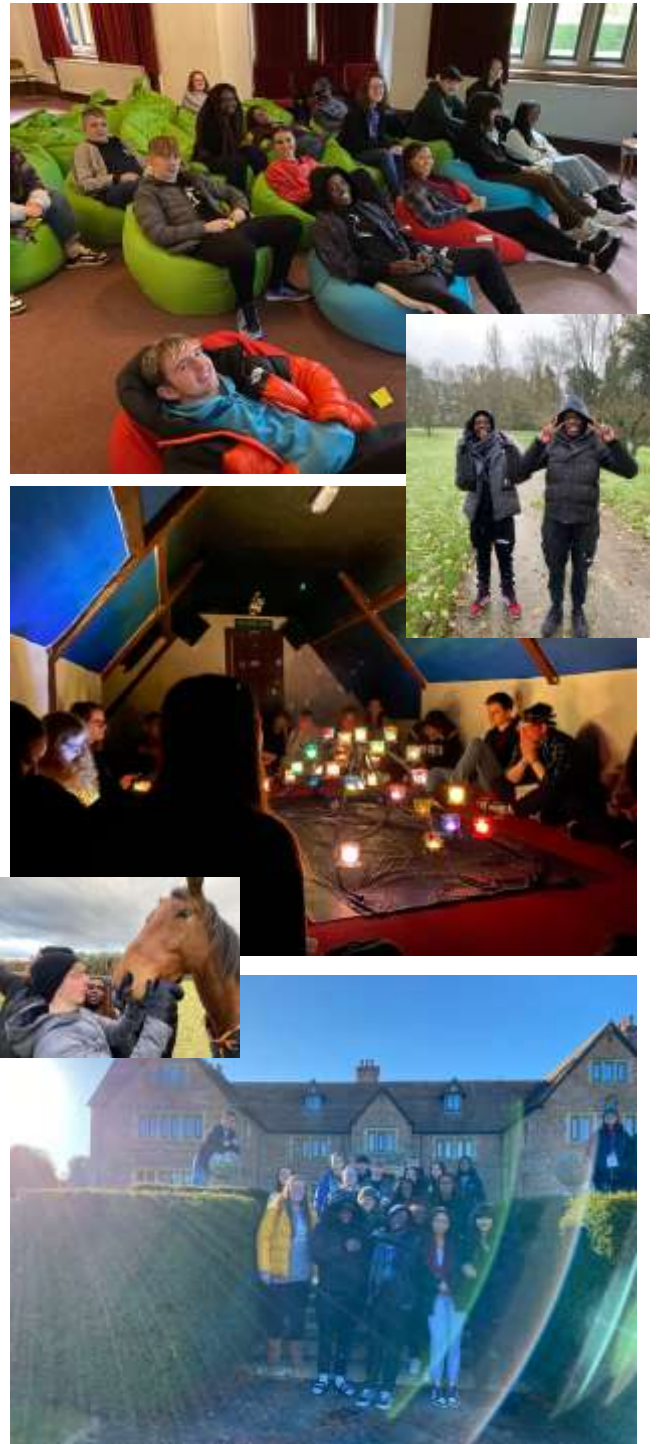
Residential

Students in Year 8 were treated to a fantastic experience on a trip away with the Andrew Robinson Young People's Trust. Students joined a five-day residential over October half term and three very lucky children were also able to join the Christmas residential, thanks to the incredible work of the trust. Twelve of our Year 7 students will be joining a 5-day residential over February half term. We cannot thank the Andrew Robinson Young People's Trust enough for the opportunities it offers our students.



Retreat

The last weekend in November saw a group of our Year 12 students head to St. Cassian's Centre in Kintbury for a residential retreat. The students were a real credit and appreciated the time they had to reflect on their faith and relationship with God...as well as enjoying the great outdoors and snow!



Good news

PE: Girls' netball

Year 7: Won 27-0 vs Coundon Court – Player of the match was Nancy Stanton for her outstanding all-round performance (C). Excellent defending by Amarachi Justin (GD) and shooting from Ava Harrison, Maisie Abercrombie and Stefanie Pagliacci. Well done girls, a great team performance!

Won 11-3 vs Westwood Academy (friendly match) – Debut matches for Fearne Parham, Eirinn Langford and Elise Lourenco. Congratulations to the team on your victory!

Our Year 7 Netball team is currently undefeated in the Coventry Schools A league with wins against Finham Park (7-2) and Coundon Court (27-0). Matches still to be played this term are against Cardinal Newman, President Kennedy and Sidney Stringer. After a brilliant start to the league, the girls believe they have the potential to win their first secondary schools tournament!

Year 8: Our Year 8 Netball team is currently undefeated in the Coventry schools A league with wins against Finham Park (6-4) and Cardinal Wiseman (14-3). Matches still to be played this term are against Cardinal Newman, President Kennedy and Whitley Academy. After a promising start, the girls are hoping to win the league this year!

Year 9: Our Year 9 team is continuing their success from Year 8. They consistently play high quality netball, which is why they are yet to be beaten. Already this season, the team has won against Coundon, Finham Park and Westwood Academy. There are three games to play but there is great confidence in continued success and winning the league this year.

Year 10: Our Year 10 girls started the league on a high with a fantastic win against Finham Park early on in the season. Unfortunately they took a defeat against Coundon Court in October. However, this may be rectified in the last two games of the league.

Year 11: After an outstanding win against Finham Park (16-11) in the Finham Derby, our Year 11 Netball team is hoping to continue this success with victories over Cardinal Newman, President Kennedy and Whitley Academy this term in the Coventry Schools A league.

PE: Boys' football

Sadly our Year 9 boys' football team's run in the English Schools Cup came to an end after losing in Round 6 on penalties to Nunnery High School in Worcester. The boys came agonisingly close to progressing into the next round but the last kick of the game made the score 2-2 and sent the game into extra time. They eventually lost 7-6 on penalty kicks. Understandably, the boys were upset but their strong bond as a team pulled them through.



To be in the top 32 teams in the country is no mean feat. We are all so proud of what they have done in this competition and the way in which they have represented the school. They have been the perfect ambassadors. They are still left in two other competitions so hopefully they will be able to win some silverware this year.

Year 7 Update

Ms Maxwell, Head of Year 7

What a positive and impressive start to the Spring term Year 7 have had! We have had two important events so far - our Rewards assembly and the Character Passport assembly.

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

This month we had our Character Passport assembly, led by Miss Isabella, in which the students were rewarded. School is not just about learning facts; it is important that students have the opportunity to develop their whole self and by working on the Character Passport it helps each student to recognise the gifts of God within them and to foster the development of their true selves. Our congratulations go to the huge number of students who have achieved this and are now proud owners of the Bronze star badge on the lapel of their blazers.

If any student has not completed their Bronze yet, they can still do this so there is time! Students who have achieved Bronze will now embark on working towards the Silver Award so we look forward to supporting them to achieve this over the coming term.

Now that Covid restrictions are lifting, I would like to raise the importance of participating in clubs. There are so many emotional and social benefits of attending a club on a regular basis. These include developing friendships with others with similar interests and boosting well-being by doing something that enjoyable. We expect our students to join at least one club; this can be at lunchtime or after school. There is a wide variety for them to choose from.



Year 7 key dates

6 July 2022

Retreat



Year 8 and 9 Update

Mrs Jeremiah, Head of Year 8 and 9

Hello everyone and a Happy New Year to you all.

Sadly we had to return to virtual assemblies and further restrictions this month so we were unable to celebrate our awards as we would like. A massive WELL DONE to all of those students who achieved a certificate and a reward. Unfortunately we cannot award every student therefore many other students received a letter of praise from me to acknowledge their hard work and commitment to our school.

Thankfully, we are now slowly returning to normality again so hopefully our next awards will be in person.

There will be a Form Tutor awards assembly at the end of this half term to celebrate student achievements this half term and then we will have another awards assembly straight after Easter break.

We have also watched two more fabulous form assemblies online with more to come in March.

8CB and 9AA both delivered powerful assemblies based on Holocaust Memorial Day. The students led and prepared the assemblies themselves.

Students have been very good at following the Covid guidelines still in place and respecting our high standards and Ullathorne Way values overall. We do ask that all of our students follow the uniform code particularly with footwear and makeup.

We have had some great sporting achievements from our football and netball teams so well done to everyone involved in those teams.

We are so very proud of our Year 9 boys' football team which was pipped at the post with penalties.

The team took it very well and knows that it was brilliant and will continue to be so.

Finally, well done to 9SD and 8TF for winning Form Attendance this week. Both forms will have a Friday treat decided by the form and their Tutors.



Year 8 key dates

15 March 2022

Retreat

Year 9 key dates

16 February 2022

Retreat

24 March 2022

Options Evening



Year 10 key dates

w/b 13 June 2022

End of Year examinations
commence

Year 11 key dates

w/b 31 January 2022

Mock examinations commence

3 March 2022

Revision Parents' Evening

w/b 14 March 2022

Core mock examinations
commence

w/b 16 May 2022

GCSE examinations commence

11 & 12 July 2022

Sixth Form induction

Year 10 and 11 Update

Miss Durkan, Head of Year 10 and 11

It has been a busy start to 2022, after the initial LFT checking, both year groups have had lots of work to focus on.

We started the term with our rewards assemblies, and although they were online due to Covid restrictions, it was wonderful to celebrate the efforts and progress of so many brilliant young people. During the two assemblies, students demonstrated great respect and pride in their peers as they were recognised by subject teachers and form tutors. A huge well done to all students who received certificates for their efforts over the Autumn term. Celebrating success in not over yet. We will continue to celebrate our Pride of Ullathorne students with Lauren, our Lay Chaplain, and also our Tutor Champions. It is always so uplifting to praise our young people for all of the good that they do.

After receiving their mock examinations results in December, Year 11 students returned with new energy. They are currently focusing on English and Mathematics assessments and will then be preparing for their core examinations in March. They have been approaching this work with great determination and making the most of the after school sessions which are on offer. Brilliant Career Bite Sessions, organised by Mrs Bellingham, have also inspired our Year 11 students. These included visits by the police and the MGTS apprenticeship service. The future is looking very bright for this amazing year group.

Year 10 students also returned to school with enthusiasm; they are demonstrating their commitment to learning and aiming high. It is time for them to begin thinking about their end of year examinations and, in the coming weeks, form tutors will talk to them about revision skills and tools. We have also been blessed with a number of new students joining our cohort in the Autumn term; it is always lovely to see how quickly they settle into school life at Bishop Ullathorne and become part of the family. We hope that they continue to be happy and know that they will make a positive mark on the year group.



We are very lucky with both year groups; our Year 10 and 11 students are very personable. With such talent, as they grow older and become more aware of the world around them, we will continue to encourage them to always strive to be the best version of themselves. We hope that 2022 will be a time for them to continue to push themselves and be inspired by those around them to be their very best.

Wishing you all a wonderful 2022 and health and happiness in the year ahead.

Sixth Form Update

Mrs Casey, Head of Sixth Form

Well done to Year 12 and 13 for their approach to preparing well for their mock examinations. Progress Reports showing the mock results will be sent home in February 2022.

As the UCAS application date closes, Year 13 students have received excellent offers and are motivated to achieve their goal and secure the best grades possible.

Mrs Bellingham, our Careers Adviser, organised two excellent workshops for students who are aiming to gain apprenticeships and they are aware of the meticulous preparation needed to ensure a successful outcome.

The Year 12 students who have been accepted on to the HE+ Cambridge University programme began their first seminar online at the start of the Spring term.

Additionally, Year 12 students will focus on their enrichment opportunities and develop their independent learning this term. Students should complete:

- i. a FutureLearn course
- ii. a Gresham lecture
- iii. and listen to a TED Talk.

Year 12 students should also be proactive in finding work experience in areas that will support their future pathway. Bespoke booklets for enrichment and work experience can be found on the Sixth Form area of our website.

<https://www.bishopullathorne.co.uk/sixthform>

As ever, the VESPA A Level Mindset Programme, is at the heart of all that we do to support our students to achieve their very best.

Year 12 key dates

Every morning

Form Time with Form Tutors for a bespoke VESPA A Level Mindset programme

Fortnightly

Enrichment and work experience opportunities emailed to students

17 February 2022

Parents' Evening

25 March 2022

Trip to Birmingham University
Mock examinations commence

w/b 6 June 2022

End of Year examinations
commence

Year 13 key dates

Every morning

Form Time students are looking at health, well-being and independent living, along with VESPA strategies

Fortnightly

Enrichment and work experience opportunities emailed to students

17 February 2022

Parents' Evening

w/b 28 March 2022

Mock examinations commence

w/b 23 May 2022

A Level examinations commence



Careers Update

Mrs Bellingham, Careers Adviser

Key Stage 3

- Job of the Week has been launched to Year 7 and 8 students and they will be watching short video clips on a variety of exciting occupations and discussing them with their Form Tutor.
- Careers sessions have commenced with Year 9 students. Students are learning how to use careers research to help them with their options choices and future career ideas.



Key Stage 4

- Individual careers guidance interviews are continuing with Year 11 students. Students have had at least one interview with Mrs Bellingham by the end of January.
- All Year 11 students took part in employability skills workshops during the Autumn term. Sessions on Compiling a CV, Completing job/college applications and Interview skill techniques were delivered by Form Tutors during CPSHE.
- All students will receive an Action Plan to support their career decisions with advice about how to move forward.
- An apprenticeship workshop will be taking place before half term to offer support and guidance to those Year 11 students who are applying for apprenticeships.
- Career Bite sessions are returning with invited speakers delivering short presentations to Year 11 students during registration time. Planned sessions this month include Police, Sport, and Engineering.
- 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

- All Year 12 and 13 students are emailed a careers newsletter every two weeks highlighting live and virtual work experience opportunities, higher and degree apprenticeship events and invitations to career talks.
- Year 13 students seeking apprenticeships attended an interactive session delivered by the Apprenticeship Service last month.
- Year 12 and 13 students can book an appointment with Mrs Bellingham if they require careers advice and guidance.

[There are resources for all year groups on the Careers section of our website.](#)



Term dates 2021-2022

Tuesday 4 January to Friday 18 February 2022

Half Term

Monday 28 February to Friday 8 April 2022

Summer

Monday 25 April to Friday 27 May 2022

Half Term

Monday 6 June to Thursday 21 July 2021

Term dates 2022-2023

Autumn

Tuesday 6 September to Friday 21 October 2022

Half Term

Monday 31 October to Friday 16 December 2022

Spring

Tuesday 3 January to Friday 17 February 2023

Half Term

Monday 27 February to Friday 31 March 2023

Summer

Monday 17 April to Friday 26 May 2023

Half Term

Monday 5 June to Friday 21 July 2023

Uniform

Blazer and jumper:

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

Shirt:

White, worn with the school clip-on tie.

Trousers:

Tailored black, not skinny or tight fitting.

Skirt:

Tartan knee length.

Shoes:

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

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

Teacher Training Days 2021/2022

Monday 21 March 2022

Friday 24 June 2022

Teacher Training Days 2022/2023

Monday 5 September 2022

Friday 30 September 2022

Friday 23 June 2023

Whole school events

9 June 2022

Showcase performance

15 July 2022

Sports Day

21 July 2022

Last day of term, 12.30pm finish

Year 7 and 8 Carousel

Carousel subjects change on the following dates:

14 March 2022

23 May 2022

Entrance and Exit

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