

# Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



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Part of the Holy  
Cross Catholic  
MAC



## Message from our Headteacher

The first half term of a new year is always an incredibly busy time as we welcome back our school community and welcome our new Year 7 children into the school family. All this activity makes the weeks fly by and it is incredible that we are already at half term.

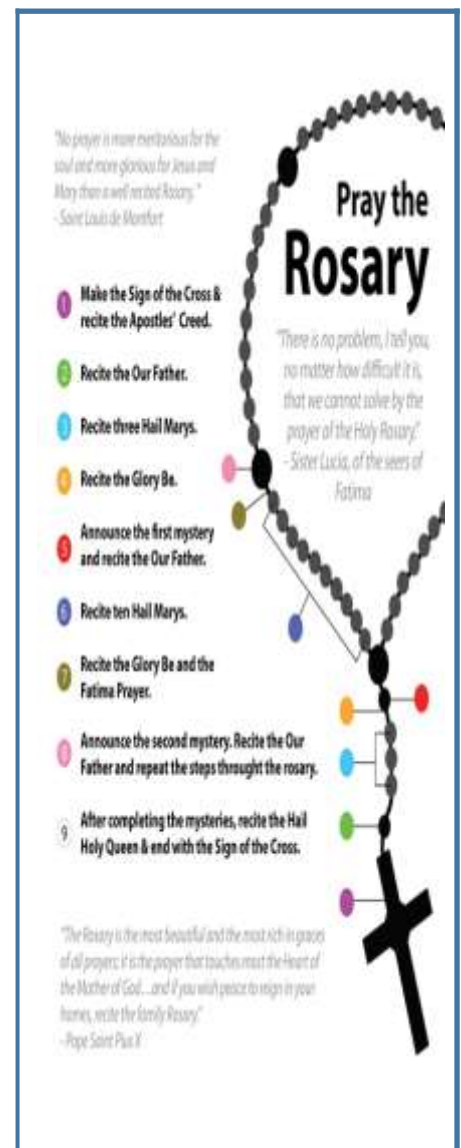
There has been much to celebrate this half term with incredible sporting achievements and our Eco School Green Flag status. One of the most exciting things has been the opening of our new music suite. Featuring a new music classroom, band room and practice rooms. It is a wonderful addition to our arts provision in school. I know the students have really appreciated this new facility.

After half term, our new changing rooms will also open and the building work will commence on our new sports hall. By this time next year, we will have all new sports and arts facilities across the school. This is part of our ongoing commitment to a vibrant and broad curriculum.

Next half term promises to be just as exciting, so in preparation I wish you all a happy and relaxing half term.

God bless

Mr Billings  
Headteacher



# Good news

## Library

Further to our post in the last newsletter about the winning logo for the library design competition, this month the four top entries were awarded with their certificates and prizes.



Natalia (2nd), Maame and Edie (Runners Up) and Joseph (Winner)

## Author event

One lucky Year 7 class has attended a very special online event with author and TV



personality Tom Read Wilson and illustrator Ian Morris, talking about their new book, Every Word Tells a Story. Tom took students on a tour of the funniest, strangest and silliest stories behind the words we all use today from the book, and Ian was sketching out characters for the students to follow along with their own drawings, and taking their suggestions on what to add to the picture next.

The remaining Year 7 classes will have the opportunity to watch the recorded event next term, and orders can be placed for signed book-plated copies which will be delivered before Christmas, maybe as a gift! All students and parents are able to order a copy (or copies). Orders can be placed with Miss Kerslake in the library, at a cost of £10 (which includes delivery to school), and must be received by Friday 18 November.

## Book Club

The library is also looking for students with a love of reading to join our Book Club on Tuesdays after school, 3.05 to 3.50pm, in the library.



What do you need?

- A love of reading but the flexibility to try different genres and styles.
- The ability to read sometimes complex books in a fairly short amount of time.
- The maturity to deal with some difficult topics and themes.
- To keep a reading journal and be able to share your opinions with others.

What will you gain?

- The chance to read a wide range of literature.
- Skills of reviewing, summarising and discussing.
- Interaction with students from other year groups.
- The opportunity to participate in local and national book award schemes, with the possibility of trips and author visits.

Register your interest with Miss Kerslake in the library, then turn up at our first session on Tuesday 1 November!

## Student librarians

We are looking for students interested in giving up a break-time to help in the library.

What kind of skills do you need?

- Reliability
- A love of reading.

What skills will you gain?

- Organisation
- Teamwork
- Broad knowledge of literature.

And it looks really good on your CV!

Open to Years 7, 8 and 9. Application forms can be collected from the library.

Forms to be returned to Miss Kerslake in the library by Monday 31 October 2022.



# Good news

## Denzel Kira

Denzel Kira in Year 12 worked on a spoken word film with the MAC project at Coventry Boys and Girls Club <https://youtu.be/98BBQ224NYk> He performed his piece at our local Belgrade Theatre, the Godiva Festival and as part of the Commonwealth Games at the Assembly Festival Gardens during the Coventry City of Culture performances. We are so proud of you and your work Denzel. Well done!



## Harry Davies

Last month Harry Davies, School Captain, who is studying A Level Politics, History and English Literature attended the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool as a constituency delegate.

Harry said: "I had an amazing time voting on issues and even got the chance to make a speech on the conference floor in front of the Shadow Education Secretary. By far the highlight was meeting many Shadow Cabinet members like Ed Miliband, Angela Rayner and Keir Starmer."



## Going for Gold

Previous student Niamh Cosgrove, who completed her A Levels in 2021 before heading off to university to study Sport and Exercise Science achieved double gold in the Karate Championships at the Commonwealth Games this year. Well done Niamh. Keep up the fantastic achievements.



# Good news

## PE

Year 9 netball tournament at Bablake School  
Both teams enjoyed victories against Blue Coat at the tournament hosted at Bablake. Team A finished third in their group and team B finished second. Team A player of the tournament was Josie Ward and Team B player of the tournament was Rere Lawrence. Well done girls!

First cross country at Finham Park School  
Lyinoluwa Lawal in Year 8 came second winning the silver medal. Congratulations Lyinoluwa!

Our girls team consisted of:  
Grace C (Year 7) - 8th,  
Maisie A (Year 8) - 14th,  
Livia C (Year 7) - 16th  
Elizabeth P (Year 8) - 39th. Well done girls!



## Peace Day

Students in Year 10 were thrilled to have their picture displayed in the United Nations General Assembly! Students from Bishop Ullathorne were featured in a presentation during a Peace Day presentation which focused on youth activism in anti-racism. Ambassadors from all over the world were shown a picture of our students watching the conference online.



# Good news

## Chaplaincy

Our chaplaincy teams from each year group have now been appointed and are ready to serve their forms and our community. In September, our representatives attended the chaplaincy commissioning Mass at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham. This was the first of many for a busy year ahead.



# Good news

## Forest School

Forest School is underway; students have completed 4 weeks of their 5 week course. Our Forest School course is led by the rangers from Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve and students learned about the world around them and try out a range of new skills. They began by studying the lifestyle, habitats and survival mechanisms of invertebrates, such as: hedgehogs, bats and foxes. In week 2, they moved on to consider birds and learned about identification, nest construction and camouflage. Students ended this session by making bird feeders to put up in the school grounds or take home for their gardens. In the weeks that followed students have enjoyed a full and varied programme of activities including den building, bark rubbing and making campfires. Through Forest School students learn about the world around them whilst embodying our Ullathorne Way values and demonstrating their ability to be compassionate, attentive, wise and curious.



## Science

This term, our Science Department nominated students who they believe have the aptitude to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics at A Level to attend the Future of Science Society.



Students met with current Sixth Form science students in order to discover what choice of A Level subjects they opted for, their future pathways and what they believed the requirements were for studying the A level Science subjects.



The first meeting was an overwhelming success. Our Year 11 and Sixth Form students will continue to meet on a weekly basis. If any other Year 11 student wishes to find out more, please see Mrs Clinton-Lees for more information.

# Good news

## Eco-Schools Green Flag

Students at Bishop Ullathorne have earned an international accreditation this academic year, recognising their amazing work in making our school more environmentally friendly and raising eco-awareness in fellow students.

Eco-Schools is an international education programme that prompts young people to explore sustainability and climate change and take action.

Students collaborated with staff to conduct an environmental review, assessing how eco-friendly our school is. They reviewed

### **everything from the school's recycling**

practices, to energy usage, to how environmental themes are covered in classrooms. Building on their findings, the pupils and Ms Hurley planned a year of activities that would raise their green credentials.

The group chose to connect their work to 3 Eco-Schools topics: Biodiversity, School Grounds and Transport.

As part of their environmental mission, students completed a wide range of activities, such as: completing surveys, writing letters, creating infographics, planting and nurturing trees and spending time outdoors as part of our Forest School programme. All students worked incredibly hard from the generation of ideas and gathering momentum to seeing each little project through to completion. Students across all year groups and staff pulled together to consider our impact on the environment and the steps we can take to lessen our burden on our school environment. Many of the ideas proposed last year are already being implemented and it looks to be an exciting year ahead for our Eco Team. Forest School is already underway as mentioned earlier, and students have participated in the preparation and planting of our wildflower meadows.

At Bishop Ullathorne, we have loved watching students take the initiative in caring for the natural world around them. Achieving Eco School Status with Distinction is so deserved by each and every member of the team and could not have been achieved without the input and dedication of our whole school community.

Eco-Schools England Manager, Adam Flint, said: "Earning an Eco-Schools Green Flag Award takes passion, commitment and a desire to make a difference. Pupils should be proud of their great work. They're an inspiration and it makes us feel heartened and positive about the future of our planet."

To learn more about Eco-Schools head to [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)



# Good news

## Languages

Our Modern Foreign Languages department celebrated European Day of Languages in September with two competitions.

We held an interform quiz where tutor groups had to decipher different languages from across the world. On the whole, tutor groups were very skilled at this! The winning tutor groups were 7JM, 9TF and 11ED.

We also held a competition for students to design an amazing piece of work to represent a country of their choice. We had some lovely entries representing countries from across the globe. The winning entries were awarded to Sofia Boddison (7RO) who made a model of the Eiffel Tower and Alicja Wegrzyniak (7JM) who made a fact file about Poland. Well done to everyone who took part.



## Super mathematicians

Sparxmaths XP points top of each year group are as follows:

Year 8: Cerys Brennan (8640 points)  
Year 9: Angelina Leung (11124 points)  
Year 10: Joel Robin (5175 points)  
Year 11: Emmanuel Oum Ndebi (2835 points)

## Year 7 tutor champions

Each week we celebrate our Tutor Champion in which one member of each form is recognised for something special. The winners are revealed in assembly each Monday and a certificate sent home in the post.

Our Year 7 winners for this half term are:

Form	Tutor Champions
7BV	Otis, Kacper, Leslie, Troy
7JC	Tessa, Alexander B, Livia, Alex R
7JM	Melody, Archie, Don, Alexander
7RO	Joshua, Teresa, Lottie, Megan
7RW	Archie, Freddie, Nardos, Teemu
7SDU	Eyobed, Justin, Siyena, McKenzie
7TG	Emmilienne, Kitty, Keegan, Evian

Additionally, we have interform competitions for the best attending form and the form that has achieved the highest number of achievement points. The results so far are as follows:

	Attendance	Form Award
Week 1	7JC	7JM
Week 2	7JC	7TG
Week 3	7TG	7BV
Week 4	7JC	7BV
Week 5	7RO	7BV
Week 6	7JM	7SDU

The winning form names go into a raffle for both categories and after half term we will do raffle draws to see which the winning form group is. The lucky winning forms will receive a sweet treat!



# Year 7 Update

Ms Maxwell, Head of Year 7

Congratulations go to our Year 7 students! What an impressive start they have made! Each year I am struck by just the how well the new Year 7 cohort take on the 'step up' from primary school to secondary school. The difference between primary and secondary school routines and expectations is huge. Secondary school requires far greater independence, which in turn brings more responsibility and the need for self-organisation and self-regulation. Travelling to school independently, reading a timetable and navigating their way around our site to six different classrooms a day (whilst remembering not to leave behind their belongings!), whilst meeting lots of new teachers, staff and peers and making new friends- this is a lot to ask but they have done it so quickly and easily!

This year I have been especially struck with how incredibly kind, friendly and supportive many of the students are of each other. They have been living out our Ullathorne Way values in all that they say and do. This half term we have been focussing on being Faith-filled and Prophetic in particular.

The students recently attended our 'Freshers' Fair' and were able to see what a large variety of clubs we offer our students. There was something for everyone from a wide variety of sports clubs, dance, colouring, knitting, chess, Rubik's cube, Mindfulness and Bible club to name but a few!

To cap off a very successful first half term, we were able to celebrate our Year 7 Welcome Mass, organised by Lauren our Lay Chaplain and led by Father Simon. All the Year 7 Tutors and Pastoral staff, along with Mr Billings and Mrs Boyle were in attendance. All the staff were so proud of the Year 7s. This was the perfect way to celebrate our first half term as our Year 7 Community.

Just a reminder that our Year 7 Parents' Evening will be taking place on Thursday 24 November from 4.30 to 6.30pm. This is an annual event, so please make sure that you put this date in your calendars and make every effort to attend.

We would like to thank you as parents for all of the support which you have given to your children during this first term with us. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and we wish you and your families a happy half term. Well done, Year 7!



## Year 7 key dates

24 November 2022

Parents' evening

6 December 2022

Christmas dinner

12 June 2023

End of year exams commence

# Year 8 and 9 Update

Mrs Jeremiah, Head of Year 8 and 9

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

It has been very full with two fabulous Form assemblies and massive sporting achievements in Football, Gaelic football and Netball.

We watched two fabulous form assemblies this term where our students showed us just how skilled and talented they truly are. The students led and prepared the assemblies themselves.

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 you all.

Year 8 have started to settle in to our Year 8 groups and we know that they will continue to flourish and follow our Ullathorne Way values fully.

It was really good to see so many of our Year 8 parents at the parents' evening in October. Thank you for all the positive comments about our hard working staff and our excellent school.

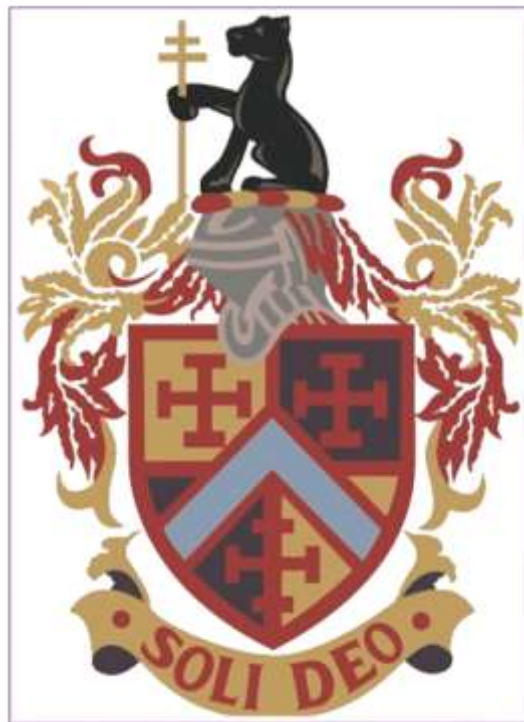
We have had the launch of the Year 8 trip to France next July and the present Year 8 have also been able to sign up for a trip to Spain in Year 9.

This year's Spanish trip for Year 9 is heading off before half term. We hope everyone has a lovely time and returns to us safe and well.

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

I wish you all a very peaceful and happy half-term holiday and I thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

God Bless.



## Year 8 key dates

27 March 2023

Vaccinations

26 April 2023

Options assembly

12 June 2023

End of year exams commence

23 June 2023

Retreat day

## Year 9 key dates

15 February 2023

Retreat day

9 March 2023

Parents evening

23 March 2023

Options evening

28 March 2023

Vaccinations

6 June 2023

Vaccinations

12 June 2023

End of year exams commence

## Year 10 key dates

10 November 2022

Parents' Evening

22 November 2022

Retreat

10 March 2023

Residential Retreat

26 June 2023

End of year exams commence

## Year 11 key dates

1 November 2022

School photographs

17 November 2022

Sixth Form information evening

21 November 2022

Mock exams commence

12 December 2022

Sixth Form transition

16 December 2022

Sixth Form application  
deadline

12 January 2023

Parents' Evening

27 February 2023

Mock exams commence

2 March 2023

Revision support evening

15 May 2023

GCSE exams commence

29 June 2023

Prom



# Year 10 and 11 Update

Miss Durkan, Head of Year 10 and 11

What a brilliant start to the term! Our Year 10 have settled very well into their GCSE studies and have shown great maturity in their learning. We have shared some fantastic assemblies and it has been lovely to speak with them about **their learning journey so far**. **Year 10 Parents' Evening will be on Thursday 10 November**, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Our Year 11 have made a great start to their final GCSE year, and it was heart-warming to see so many parent/ carers and Year 11 at our Examination Preparation Evening. There is a real sense of expectation and determination in the year group and fingers crossed, they will make good headway in their November mocks. Year 11 also celebrated a wonderful Retreat day; this was an opportunity for them to take stock and build on their faith and spirituality. The final part of the day saw our Year 11 being told that they are 'fearfully and wonderfully made'. It is our hope that they begin to believe this fully and can have the confidence to be active Christians in our community and in the wider world.

It has been a great pleasure to write nearly 200 postcards to students across both year groups to congratulate them on their 'great start' to the year and I look forward to working with them to support them in their journey ahead.

As ever, a great deal of gratitude goes out to our Form Tutors and to Mrs Marston and Mrs Richardson, our PSMs, all of whom work so hard to support our students and ensure everyday runs smoothly.

Over the course of Key Stage 4, both year groups will be invited to attend our Career Bit Sessions which are brilliant opportunities to engage with people from industry and beyond about the world of work. These sessions started for Year 11 before half term and will begin for Year 10 after Christmas. From meeting paramedics, pilots, engineers and entrepreneurs these sessions really do inspire our young people. In addition to this, Year 11 have also had a fantastic assembly delivered by Nav from the Apprenticeship Service highlighting the many and varied ways that apprenticeships can be accessed and the careers they cover. It is so important that our young people understand all of the possibilities that are available, and Mrs Bellingham really does ensure that this happens.

# Sixth Form Update

Mrs Casey, Head of Sixth Form

All of our Sixth Form attended the MAC Feast Day Mass at Coventry Cathedral where they also took part in a number of workshops on Peace and Reconciliation. We were very proud of our Year 13 leadership team who volunteered to welcome and guide the primary school students throughout the day.

Our virtual Sixth Form Open Evening took place on Thursday 15 September 2022 for all Year 12 and 13 parents. The information from the evening is available on our school website.

A reminder to parents and carers to take some time to look over parent guides available on our school website in the sixth form tab on the welcome page.

Year 12 have completed their initial induction assessments and have settled in well to Post-16 studies. They had an assembly on enrichment opportunities and are in the process of organising suitable work experience to support entry to their future pathways. Booklets to support sourcing enrichment can be found on our school website in the sixth form area.

Year 13: The 2023 UCAS presentation is available to view and the link is on our school website.

Year 13: Early applications for Medicine, Veterinary and Oxbridge have now been submitted to UCAS.

Year 12: Students are currently being supported to make applications for a range of wider participation programmes.

Year 12: A group of students have been selected to take part in a peer mentoring programme to support Year 11 students in the run up to their next mock examinations.



## Year 12 key dates

24 November 2022

Kintbury retreat

9 January 2023

Mock examinations commence

16 February 2023

Parents' Evening

27 March 2023

Dol-y-Moch trip

5 June 2023

End of Year exams commence

## Year 13 key dates

24 November 2022

Kintbury retreat

9 January 2023

Mock examinations commence

16 February 2023

Parents' Evening

DRESS CODE

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THE A LEVEL  
MINDSET

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ENRICHMENT  
& WORK  
EXPERIENCE

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HIGHER  
EDUCATION

[Read More >](#)

16-19  
BURSARY

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# Careers Update

Mrs Bellingham, Careers Adviser

## Key Stage 3

- Year 7 students have been playing the What's my Line (Guess my Job) game with non-teaching staff as a way of introducing them to staff and importantly, learn about the variety of jobs people do.
- Year 7 will be introduced to JED (Job Explorer Database) our careers guidance programme which will help raise aspirations by showing many jobs they can aspire to, and where those jobs can lead.

## Key Stage 4

- Individual careers guidance interviews have commenced with Year 11s.
- All students will receive an Action Plan to support their career decisions with advice how to move forward.
- The Apprenticeship Service delivered a presentation to all Year 11 students in assembly.
- Career Bite sessions are returning with invited speakers delivering short presentations to KS4 students during registration time. This terms theme will be apprenticeship opportunities with local employers.
- College open evenings have commenced for Year 11 students and it is important that students considering this pathway should visit the colleges they are interested in as soon as possible.
- Every 2 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 have had the opportunity to attend the National Apprenticeship show at the Coventry Building Society Arena on 8 November 2022.
- The Apprenticeship Service will be delivering a workshop to Year 13 students on Degree Apprenticeships in November and will follow this up with a session on Employer Mock Assessments.

## Website information

The latest issue of CareerMag for parents is on our website in the Careers Section. Get lots of tips for post 16 and 18 options, UCAS application key dates, talking careers with your children and more! Check out the 2023 entry UCAS presentation for parents on our website.

# Term dates 2022-2023

## Autumn

Wednesday 7 September to Friday 21 October 2022

## Half Term

Monday 31 October to Friday 16 December 2022—students finish school at 12.30pm on the last day

## 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—students finish school at 12.30pm on the last day

## Teacher Training Days 2022/2023

Monday 5 September 2022

Tuesday 6 September 2022

Friday 30 September 2022

Friday 30 June 2023

## Whole school events

### 1 December 2022

School show

### 8 December 2022

Advent Services

### 15 December 2022

Carol Service

### 6 March 2023

National Careers Week

### 31 March 2023

Lenten Services

### 8 June 2023

Showcase performances

## SEN Coffee mornings

The following dates are for parents with students who have additional needs—invitation only.

Friday 18 October 2022

Tuesday 9 May 2023

Organised by our SENDCo, parents can meet with our support team to assist their children and chat with other parents.

## 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.

## Year 7 and 8 Carousel

The following dates are when the carousel subjects change:

14 November 2022

23 January 2023

20 March 2023

22 May 2023

## 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.