

Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



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Part of the Holy
Cross Catholic
MAC



Message from our Headteacher

The year has ended with incredibly exciting news. As you may have heard, we have been announced as part of the Department for Education's new school building programme. Our school has great heritage but is old and very tired. To be able to continue the Ullathorne Way in new, state of the art facilities is a wonderful opportunity.

Bishop Ullathorne is an extremely blessed school with dedicated staff who have planned, supported and delivered a wealth of experiences and enrichment opportunities this term, alongside their teaching. You will see so much of this dedication in the pages of this newsletter, including photos from our Spanish trip, debate club and our most recent school production of Willy Wonka. Each opportunity allows our children to step that bit closer to the person God is calling them to be. It is a privilege to work in a school with so many wonderful experiences.

As we move through Advent this year we take a moment to reflect on the peace, hope and joy that this season brings. I am lucky to see this every day on the faces of our young people as they embrace every opportunity. I finish this year extremely grateful for the hard work of our incredible staff, the resilience and determination of our young people and the support of all of the families in our community.

I wish you a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing every one safe and well in the New Year.

God bless

Mr Billings,
Headteacher

Nativity prayer: St Augustine

Let the just rejoice, for their justifier is born. Let the sick and infirm rejoice, for their saviour is born. Let the captives rejoice, for their Redeemer is born. Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born. Let free men rejoice, for their Liberator is born. Let All Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born.

O loving God, we ask you to look after our vulnerable sisters and brothers this Christmas and surround them with love and kindness at this time.

May we do our best to never take all the good things in our life for granted.

May we share the joy of the coming of Christ, the Word becoming flesh and the light of the world with others.

Good news

Healthy mental health

To support World Mental Health Day in October, we held virtual 'Bake Off' and 'Craft' competitions. We have been delighted with the number of entries from our students who embraced the yellow theme - here is just a selection of their creations!



Christmas card competition

Our annual Christmas card competition, run by our MFL department, was open to Year 7 and 8 students and they received lots of wonderful seasonal entries.

Due to the quality of the submissions, the judging panel had a difficult decision awarding the students below with a chocolate selection box for their winning designs.



Christmas dinners for all

Provided by our Holy Cross Academy, all of our students have been able to access a festive feast during the last two weeks of term.



Learning Support Unit

'The Hut' is the affectionate name for our Learning Support Unit. Situated in its own building next to the Year 7 playground, it is an



essential part of our pastoral system as well as giving valuable support with learning. Our Learning Support team is based there for mentoring, teaching and providing a 'safe space'. We are fortunate to have some specialist teachers who visit on a regular basis. They are from the Complex Communications team, the Social, Emotional, Mental Health and Learning team as well as Educational Psychology. Interventions for GCSE study, Key Stage 3 literacy and maths are also

supported, as well as Dyslexia and Autism support is also provided, alongside mentoring for emotional well-being. Breaktimes are an opportunity to eat and socialise in a smaller environment and there are opportunities to play and create. We are proud of the care and support that we provide in our 'hut'!

Students say: 'It is a nice atmosphere and everyone is friendly.' 'It is warm and peaceful.' 'It's a quiet place to work and the teachers are nice and helpful.'



Plastic clever schools

Pope Francis has said:

"everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be

protectors of God's gifts!" We have a group of dedicated Year 8 and 9 students working towards becoming a Plastic Clever School and helping to reduce our impact on the environment.



Good news

Cindarella

In early September, Alessia Campanella (Year 7), along with lots of children from across the region, auditioned to be part of the junior chorus for the Albany Theatre's pantomime production of Cinderella.



Following her successful audition, Alessia will be dancing, singing and supporting the main cast in the show. The junior chorus is split into two teams, which means that she will perform on five days, from late December into early January. She is currently rehearsing twice a week with the production team, which will increase as the opening night approaches.

Geography field trip

In November, our Year 12 and 13 geographers took a trip to the Alydwyth Theatre in central London. They attended a conference to explore tectonic hazards with subject specialists from across the country. The students showed exemplary behaviour throughout the day and were enthused by the information provided to them, finding it very useful. Students had the opportunity to hear from the likes of Professor Fiona Tweed, Professor David Petley and Dr Jessica Redfern.



Community party

In December, we were delighted to welcome guests to our Christmas Community Party which was hosted by our Sixth Form students. We had a wonderful afternoon of quizzes, bingo entertainment and carols. It was great to see so many familiar faces. We look forward to seeing them all again very soon.



Good news

Spanish performance

Students who study Spanish in Years 9, 10 and 11 watched a play which was performed in our school in December. Onatti Theatre Company delivers live plays to complement students' studies.

The students thoroughly enjoyed it and were a credit to our school. Our GCSE Spanish classes were sat at the front and were very interactive with the actors. The actors commended our students and said that they were brilliant. Thank you to our MfL department for organising this event and for preparing the students in lessons with key language to make the most of this experience.



Trip to Spain

On the Thursday before half term, 46 students went to Spain. They flew from Birmingham airport into Barcelona for five days. La Sagrada Familia, Port Aventura Theme park, La Catedral del Mar were visited and they took in the sights of the second largest city in the country. In the evenings, the students enjoyed food and entertainment in the Calypso hotel in Salou. A great time was had by all. The students learned a lot about the culture of Spain and had the opportunity to practise their Spanish language skills. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their interpersonal skills and demonstrate our Ullathorne Way values.



Good news

Debate Club

Each Monday, students from different year groups meet in Mrs Hallam's classroom for a lively and interesting debate. Students enjoy practising their skills of public speaking, listening and persuasive argument. Sometimes a debate question is proposed by Mrs Hallam but increasingly students propose their own.

Here are a few recent examples of our debate topics:

How should we remember the discovery of America - led by Santiago Cohene and Tom Burch (Year 9).

Which book is best to read as a teenager - led by Grace Murphy (Year 10).

Communism is always a bad thing - led by Elizabeth Power (Year 8).

The only pets worth having are cats and dogs - led by Alex Redwood (Year 7).

A Christmas Carol

This month, a number of our Year 8, 9 and 10 students watched A Christmas Carol at the Albany Theatre. It was a perfect trip out leading up to Christmas.

Hopefully, it will also help with their understanding of the novel as a whole when they study Dickens again in GCSE English.



ESU competition

This term Bishop Ullathorne entered two teams into the ESU Public Speaking competition's regional heats where they competed with teams from other Coventry schools. Both teams performed extremely well and were successful in progressing to the regional finals in February. Team A's speaker, Evie Webb, presented a speech titled: '*Film has lost originality*'. While Team B's speaker, Sharon Osamor, argued that: '*Artistic expression should not be censored*'.

They really were a credit to our school showing such eloquence and gratitude towards the other participants throughout. We wish them well for the next stage of the competition.

Team A: Harry Davies (Coach), Phoebe Montemayor, Henry Davenport, Lily May Palmer, Sofia Montesanto, Sharon Osamor.



Team B: Bartosz Zygowski (Coach), Cate Stewart Winters, Zuzana Rataj, Evie Rodgers, Evie Webb.



Good news

National Apprenticeship show

Students in Year 13 attended the National Apprenticeship show at the Coventry Building Society Arena in November. Here they share their experiences:

"The show was an insightful experience that helped me gain a deeper grasp on the world of apprenticeships. Real companies and experienced professionals working and offering these positions, gave me many opportunities to network and explore paths I had not yet been exposed to." Joseph Duffy.

"The apprenticeship show was helpful as we were able to navigate through different companies. I was able to sign up with a website that helps inform you of relevant websites. I also discovered that there are apprenticeships that we could take with the BBC and in forestry as well!" Vivenne Egbuchelem.

"The show has given me clearer expectations about what is involved in an apprenticeship scheme. One of the companies I spoke to has contacted me already asking me to submit my CV." Jindjot Singh.

"Prior to this event, I had very little idea about where I wished to be in life and what career path to choose. However, this show offered me new opportunities which has helped develop my choice in future endeavours. I would highly recommend this to students who do not want to go down the classical university route." Joseph Smith.

"This was a good opportunity to meet people from different companies and explore my options." George Evans

THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SHOW WEST MIDLANDS
COVENTRY BUILDING SOCIETY ARENA

Science

STEM club runs every Wednesday after school. More than twenty students have taken part in a range of exciting and hands-on practical challenges and investigations in all three areas of Science.

The club is run by our very capable and enthusiastic sixth form students who also benefit by sharing their interest and enthusiasm for all things Science.

Highlights from the first term included flame tests, making magnetic slime, making sugar crystals and the ever popular, "how far can you drop an egg without it smashing" challenge

If you are in Year 7 or 8 and wish to join this exciting after school club, please see Mrs Shah or Mr Kerrigan to collect a letter.



Super mathematicians

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

Year 7: Ebubechukwu Sam Onubogu (13,543 points)

Year 8: Cerys Brennan (15,606 points)

Year 9: Angelina Leung (15,742 points)

Year 10: Joel Robin (13,688 points)

Year 11: Alexander Quayle (12,639 points)

Good news

Year 12 Art

Art

Our Artists have produced some phenomenal work this term. In their images, students have been working on 'Identity' and how ideas are portrayed through imagination. Anime styles and animation concepts have been communicated in their own imaginative artwork. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments this term and long may this continue in the Spring term.



Photography

Our Photographers have been embarking on a project during the latter half of the term on 'Senses'. Using inspiration from current photographers, they were asked to visualise in a photograph what the following would look like: 'Taste', 'Touch', 'Smell', 'Hear' and 'Sight'. They then took a series of shoots, exploring these themes with amazing results. We are incredibly proud of how much they have achieved in a small space of time and we are confident that their positive energy will continue into the next phase of their photography adventure in the Spring term.



Graphics

Our Graphic Design students have been working on the challenge of designing their own typography using traditional materials in digital fonts. The typographical typefaces created have been used to illustrate one word in a poster. Other design processes on show have included album design covers and editorial poster designs. The concepts on display, the effort and expertise of skills in using Adobe Creative Cloud packages, such as Photoshop Illustrator, have been exemplary and testament to the students. We are extremely excited to see these skills develop.



Music

The new music department rooms have been completed with musical activities going swimmingly. Students have spent this term taking full advantage of the new rooms, working extremely hard to prepare the music for our school production and our Carol Service.

Congratulations to Joseph Dore who received a distinction in his recent Grade 7 violin exam. We eagerly await news of other recent music examinations which other students have taken this term.

Our school choir rehearses on a Thursday during second break in the music department. Song Writing Club for selected students in Years 9 to 11 takes place on Thursdays after school. For more information, please speak to Mr Dallman.

We are looking forward to an even more musical Spring term!

Good news

PE updates

Boys football

Year 7: Currently the boys are still in the West Midlands Schools Cup and The Coventry Schools Cup. Their next game will be against Tipton when we return after Christmas.

Year 8: Their next game will be against Windsor High School in the West Midlands Cup after Christmas.

Year 9: Unfortunately, the boys were knocked out in the early stages of both the English Schools Cup and the West Midlands Schools Cup by two very good teams. Their Coventry Schools campaign will start after Christmas.

Year 10: Sadly the boys were not able to **emulate last year's excellent performances** in the English Schools Cup and West Midlands Schools Cup. They were narrowly beaten in both competitions but still have the Coventry Schools Cup to look forward to. Some boys will also be playing in the U16 Telegraph Cup after Christmas.

Year 11: Defeats in both the English Schools cup and West Midlands Schools Cup leave the boys to compete in the Coventry Schools Cup and the Telegraph Cup after Christmas.

Girls Football

U13 Year 7/8: The girls still remain in the West Midlands Schools Cup and have a tough game against Sandwell Academy to look forward to.

U14 Year 8/9: The girls are still in both the national and county cups and have reached an impressive 5th round in the English Schools Cup. They have a very difficult game in the next round away at Thomas Telford.

U15 Year 9/10: Sadly the girls were knocked out of the English Schools Cup in a closely fought game against Queen Elizabeth Grammar in Ashbourne.

U16 Year 10/11: Having played 1 game so far this year the girls have reached the semi finals of the West Midlands Schools Cup.

Year 7

This half term we have been focussing on the Ullathorne Way value of Compassion and it has been notable that the winners of our weekly Tutor Champions are doing so for showing Compassion alongside our other Ullathorne Way values. Congratulations go to all of the students, who are listed below.

Form	Tutor Champions
7BV	Kian, Ashmiya, Roman, Tiara, Daniel, Abbe, Luka, Oscar
7JC	Khayden, Shani, Reon, Rose, Janice, Ariel, Stanley, Finley
7JM	Charlie, Jude, Adino, Vishy, Victorina, Nikeal, Tymek, Maisie
7RO	Darryl, Noelani, Kayla, Sofia, Aman, Amelia, Isabelle, Teagan
7RW	Lily, Abigail, Remaz, Ava, Orla, Victor, Sofia, Elliot
7SDU	Malachy, Andre, Imogen, Nikola, Grayson, Rebecca, Nathaniel
7TG	Alessia, Dawoud, Ebube, Anaika, Eva M, Ranuki, Anaika, Annabelle

Additionally, our weekly inter form competitions have continued apace for the best attending form and the form which has achieved the highest number of Ace points. A raffle will be drawn for both categories when we come back in January. The results for this half term are as follows:

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

Year 7 Update

Ms Maxwell, Head of Year 7

Our Year 7 students should be very proud of themselves, having now completed their first term with us. The vast majority of students have navigated this transition period seamlessly; this is no easy feat as there are so many new routines to learn and challenges to overcome. All students have done very well and are now fully immersed in our secondary school routines.

Many students have been working hard to complete the Bronze Award of our Character Passport. This was launched by Mrs Boyle in October. This involves students meeting certain criteria to show that they have contributed in some way to the wider school community and that they are enriching their own school experience. To do this, they also need to show that they have gained the required number of ACE points and have attended school regularly, meeting the average Year 7 attendance of 97%. Those students who have met all of the criteria will receive their Bronze Award certificates at the start of next term and we hope that they will now embark upon the Silver Award. If anyone has not quite met all of the requirements at this stage, they can still embark on their Silver award next term whilst working on any missing area(s) for the Bronze level. Then, as long as they meet all of the Bronze level requirements by the end of next term, they can potentially achieve both the Bronze and Silver Awards together at the end of next term. If anyone has not started on the Character Passport at all yet and would now like to do so, they can also start the Bronze Award in the Spring term.

Huge congratulations go to the cast members of our recent school production of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. The play, performed for two nights, was most impressive and very enjoyable. Everyone knows that an essential part of this play are the Oompa Loompas and many Year 7s played this role brilliantly. What is even more impressive is that the Year 7 students were told about the play on their very first day in September. To have the courage to volunteer to take part in a school play when they have literally just arrived at their new school takes a lot of courage. They all played their parts brilliantly and some had other roles as well or were part of the band. Congratulations to everyone involved. We are very proud of you and we thank you for entertaining so many parents and staff who came to watch!

Last week, our Year 7 students enjoyed their delicious complimentary Christmas meal provided by the MAC and we enjoyed our school Christmas Carol Service on Thursday 15 December.

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 holy and peaceful festive break. Well done, Year 7. God bless.



Year 7 key dates

12 June 2023

End of year examinations
commence

Year 8 and 9 Update

Mrs Jeremiah, Head of Year 8 and 9

Hello everyone and a very happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas to you all.

We have reached the end of our Advent journey in school but it still continues next week with our focus on love, peace, hope and joy.

It has been a very busy half term with massive sporting achievements in football, trampolining and netball.

We watched a fabulous form assembly this term by 8EE on the importance of Advent, where our students showed us just how skilled and talented they truly are. The students led and prepared the assembly themselves.

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.

Many of our students in Year 8 and 9 took part in the school production of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. They were brilliant! If you did not see it, you missed a treat.

A further well done to 8SC for consistently winning the Attendance Cup.

A massive WELL DONE to all of those students who achieved a letter of praise or Tutor Champion Award this term. We are proud of you all. Unfortunately we can not award every student. Therefore many of our students will have an opportunity for recognition in our Awards Assembly after Christmas and the celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany.

I wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas 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 March 2023

Residential Retreat

26 June 2023

End of year exams commence

Year 11 key dates

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

As we make it towards the end of the term, I can say with full sincerity that I am incredibly proud of our Key Stage 4 students.

Year 11 students have had a very busy half term. They approached their mock examinations with brilliant maturity; they were fully focused and their behaviour in the hall and gym was exemplary. They are currently in the process of getting their results back and I know that for many of them, they are thrilled that their hard work is paying off. This coming term will fly by for them. It is important that they remain focused and aim to be their best in all classes to ensure their deserved success.

Year 10 students are now a full term into their GCSE studies; again, they have demonstrated their determination to succeed and I look forward to seeing their progress data after Christmas. It will be great to get to know them a little better and have open and honest conversations about the best way for them to move forward in their learning.

Both year groups have been brilliant in our sporting teams, with success in netball, football and many other sports that go on outside school. It is brilliant to see this success, but more importantly to watch our Ullathorne Way values in action - our teams really do support one another and I know that our PE department is very proud of all they have achieved. In a similar way, Miss Newell speaks very highly of our Year 10 and 11 Duke of Edinburgh students, who are showing great commitment to the course. Well done to all who have signed up. It truly is a great opportunity and a highly valued certificate.

Our Ullathorne Way value this half term has been 'COMPASSION' - I must express my thanks to all students (and parents/ carers) who have contributed to our Foodbank appeal this Christmas. It fills my heart with happiness to see such compassion and love for our fellow brothers and sisters in Coventry who are struggling at this time.

I wish you all the very happiest and holiest of Christmases and look forward to seeing you all in January.



Sixth Form Update

Mrs Casey, Head of Sixth Form

Our Year 12 and 13 students have worked hard throughout this term putting the VESPA principles they have learnt into practice.

Most students in Year 13 wishing to make an application to UCAS have now done so and are receiving multiple offers and appointments to interviews. We are very proud of all of them.

Students in Year 13 looking to make an apprenticeship application next year have visited the Coventry Building Society Arena where they had the opportunity to network with industry professionals. They have also taken part in an interactive Higher and Degree apprentice workshop followed by an assessment day centre workshop to fully prepare them for the application process.

Year 12 students are actively engaging in a variety of enrichment opportunities including leading on the Year 7 reading strategy, supporting in Year 10 and 11 lessons and supporting some SEND students in the Learning Support Centre. They are also leading the running in school clubs including STEM club, Ceramics club, Gaelic football, Netball and Crochet club to name a few.

Many Year 12 and 13 students have signed up to access Coventry University Lanchester Library as a study space after school and during weekends. If you wish your child to be signed up to the scheme, please ask them to see a member of the Sixth Form team.

Mock examinations begin the week commencing Monday 9 January 2023. Please ensure that some revision is taking place over the Christmas break so the examination series is a true reflection of our student's capabilities.

The Sixth Form team would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.



Year 12 key dates

Every morning

Bespoke VESPA A Level mindset with Form Tutors

9 January 2023

Mock examinations commence

16 February 2023

Parents' Evening

5 June 2023

End of Year exams commence

Year 13 key dates

Every morning

With Form tutors health and well-being, independent living along with UCAS and apprenticeship applications

9 January 2023

Mock examinations commence

16 February 2023

Parents' Evening

DRESS CODE

[Read More >](#)

THE A LEVEL MINDSET

[Read More >](#)

ENRICHMENT & WORK EXPERIENCE

[Read More >](#)

HIGHER EDUCATION

[Read More >](#)

16-19 BURSARY

[Read More >](#)

Careers Update

Mrs Bellingham, Careers Adviser

Key Stage 3

- All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 experienced a *Skills in the Workplace* week where teachers highlighted careers for a lesson to enable students to see how employability skills are linked to curriculum subjects.

Key Stage 4

- Individual careers guidance interviews are in progress with Year 11s.
- Career Bite sessions were delivered by Future Pro on Sport and Midland Group Training Service (MGTS) on their Engineering Apprenticeship pathway. Both were very well attended. More sessions are planned for next term.
- College open evenings have been promoted to Year 11 students and it is important that students considering this pathway should visit the colleges they are interested in as soon as possible.
- Students have been informed that Coventry College are offering taster sessions to Year 11s after school so they can try out courses they are interested in – see the college website for details and booking form.
- Every two weeks a careers update is included in the school bulletin highlighting college and employer open events, apprenticeship opportunities and workshops.
- Year 11 have received information about joining the Sixth Form and will receive advice and guidance on A level subjects during their careers interview.

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.
- A group of Year 13 students attended the National Apprenticeship show at the Coventry Building Society Arena on 8 November accompanied by Mrs Bellingham to network and research Degree/ Higher Apprenticeship opportunities.
- The Apprenticeship Service delivered a workshop to Year 13 students on Degree Apprenticeships and the students took part in an assessment workshop where they had to work together to complete a task and receive feedback to help with interview preparation.

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

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

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. Many thanks for your continued support with this matter.



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:

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.