

Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



Leasowes Avenue, Coventry, CV3 6BH

www.bishopullathorne.co.uk

024 7641 4515

Message from our Headteacher

As we reach the close of another busy and successful term, I am pleased to share with you some highlights and reflections from our school community. It has been a period marked by dedication, achievement, and a strong sense of togetherness.

Our students have worked incredibly hard preparing for their assessments and examinations, demonstrating resilience and commitment that make us all very proud. Their efforts extend beyond the classroom as well. Throughout this term, we have celebrated outstanding success on the sports field and in debating competitions, achievements which you will read about in detail within the newsletter. These accomplishments are a testament to the talent and determination of our young people, as well as the support and guidance provided by our staff.

I would also like to acknowledge the generous spirit our students have shown during our Lenten collections and charity initiatives. There have been some truly wonderful events aimed at raising funds for those in need, reflecting the compassion and community values we hold dear. It has been heartening to see our students take an active role in these efforts, embodying the kindness and empathy that we strive to nurture.

This season of Lent has also provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection within our community. Our penitential services, thoughtfully led by tutor group chaplaincy representatives, offered moments for reconciliation and renewal. The beautiful Lenten services, conducted by our students, created a space for spiritual growth and contemplation, enriching the experience for all involved.

Looking ahead to the Easter season, I wish to extend my heartfelt wishes to you and your families for a happy and holy Easter holiday. May this season bring you peace, joy, and renewed purpose. Upon our return, our Year 11 and Year 13 students will be facing their crucial exams. I am confident that the entire school community will continue to offer them unwavering support and encouragement. Their hard work and dedication throughout the year will undoubtedly serve them well in these important assessments.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. It is through our shared commitment that we can create the best possible environment for our students to thrive. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new term, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Mrs Boyle, Headteacher



Part of the Holy
Cross Catholic
MAC



Prayer

Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your
world, your people, your Lent.
May this time be one of outward
focus;

seeking you in those we often
ignore.

Help us live a Lent focused on
freedom, generosity, and
encounter.

Give us hearts hungry to serve
you

and those who need what we
have to give.

Amen



Catholic Life

Penitential Services

We welcomed Fr. Simon, Fr. Reggie, Fr. Alex, Fr. Paul and Canon Tom into school to support us with our Penitential services and Confessions for Year 7 and 8. A huge thank you to them for giving their time to our school community so generously.



Lenten Services

In the last week of term we held our Lenten services. It was a prayerful time which allowed us to reflect on the cross and what the sacrifice Jesus gave for us means. Thank you to our readers, musicians and singers.

Lent is a time in which... the Church invites us to place the mystery of God back in the centre of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith."

Pope Leo



Good news

Library news

Quiz Success

We are delighted to announce that our team of four selected students (Bea, Aditto, Poppy and Mia, plus reserve team-member Princess-Tessy) came third in the regional heat of the National Reading Champions Quiz! The team narrowly missed out, coming in just two points shy of progressing to the national final. They did brilliantly well, and have come away with a £10 book token each. Credit should also be given to the team of four Book Club students (Bea, Poppy, Philip A and Thomas R, plus reserve team member Zuzy), who took part in the *Hooked on Books* Quiz, as part of the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards. The team did not rank in the top three this year, but did come in as the highest-scoring secondary, so have still walked away with some book goodies as a prize!



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day this term with another fantastic range of events!

The big event of the day was of course the staff dress-up, with over fifty staff donning costume and props for the day. We had inflatable dinosaurs *and* koalas; we had almost the *entire* population of the Hundred-Acre Wood; there were *two* separate cowboys, and double-appearances of Little Red Riding Hood and Katniss from The Hunger Games; there were toy lions, tigers, rabbits and dragons, as well as dogs galore; Mrs Boyle braved a face-full of green paint as Princess Fiona from Shrek; and we even had Saint Peter himself!



Good news

There were some spectacular outfits, and despite a strong showing from the inflatables (Mrs Smith and Mrs Newell), Miss Davis took the best costume vote for her sour-faced Dickensian spinster, Miss Havisham – complete with dead-flower bouquet and mouldy wedding food!

The students had a brilliant time matching the clues in the Character Hunt, and investigating all corners of the school to find the relevant staff members. A cheeky group of Year 7 students (Matilda, Bana, Yosan, Philip, Isabella, Princess, Janice, Favour, Flourish and Adele) decided to join up and beat the opposition by exploring different areas of school each, to end up with the most right matches! They have all received a certificate and a free book.



As well as the character hunt, we had further opportunities to get involved in the fun. The winner of the Design-a-Book-Token competition was Hannah J, for this simple but beautiful checked design, and Changwa won our big competition 'Visualise a Book' for his computer-designed book cover of this entirely imagined tiger story.

We also had three other activities on the day, with Oliver R winning the Cryptic Quiz, Bea winning the Book Bonanza Quiz and Zuzy winning the author-character match.



Good news

Library Book Club

Our thriving Book Club is currently coming to the end of the Warwickshire Secondary

Book Awards, with the students travelling to the ceremony at The Bridge House Theatre in

Warwick this week to see the winners

announced, and to meet some of the shortlisted authors. Look out for the write-up in our next newsletter!



With the Carnegie shortlist also being announced recently, the time is right for anyone thinking of joining us to get signed up for the shadowing process for the national, and most prestigious, book award for Young Adult fiction, the Carnegie Medal. Miss K will be guiding the students in 'shadowing' her and the other Carnegie judges in reading and discussing the titles, and voting for their favourites.

Book Club is held Tuesdays after school, 3.05-3.50pm, in the library and students should see Miss K for further details.

Warwickshire Secondary Book Awards Ceremony

Book Club have had a brilliant trip to the Warwickshire Secondary Book Awards ceremony, at The Bridge House Theatre in Warwick. They got to hear all six shortlisted authors talk about their books (two online and four in person), as well as take part in a Q&A session. Adele in Year 7 also won the drawing competition, coming away with a bag full of book-related goodies.

After the ceremony, the students had the chance to meet the authors, have their reading journals signed, purchase copies of the books for the authors to dedicate to them personally, and even have photographs and selfies. It was a brilliant day, and the students did us proud!



Good news

Goodbye and Thank You!!!!

At the end of February we said Farewell to Mrs S Sandhu who has been a cleaner at our school for over Thirty years. Mrs Sandhu was always smiling and has been an amazing ambassador for our school. We thank her for all her hard work and dedication and wish her a very happy retirement.



Public Speaking



Well done to our Public Speaking Team from year 9 who represented Bishop Ullathorne school in the Regional Final at King Edwards school in

Edgbaston. Mia, Poppy and Catherine represented the school with pride and parents who watched said that they were outstanding in their delivery and they worked brilliantly as a team.

The girls did not progress through to The National Final on this occasion and they were beaten by an excellent team from Solihull school but to get to the Regional Final has been a fantastic achievement. Well done to the girls.

The girls also won this year's award for Best Team in the annual Coventry Rotary Intermediate Public Speaking competition Youth Speaks in the Semi Finals. Their delivery was confident and compelling and we congratulate Mia on claiming the award for Best Speaker on the evening.



Good news

West Midlands MACE Debate Champions

And Then There Were 12 ! Bishop Ullathorne School Mace Debate Team are the West Midlands Champions and have earned a place in the prestigious National Final. What a journey it's been! From 375 schools back in November, our Year 12 girls Mace Debate team has battled through the Rounds to the Nation's top 12!



Congratulations to our outstanding Year 12 girls, Erin Naylor, Josie Ward, Bridget Ward and Niamh Duggan, on their superb performance in the West Midlands Regional Championship of the English-Speaking Union Mace Debate competition, held at The University of Law in Birmingham. They again represented the school with confidence, clarity and distinction and they were the only state school in attendance against Haberdashers Adams Grammar School, King Edward's School, Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, King Edward VI Camp Hill for Boys, King's High School

The girls will now compete against the Champions from each of the 12 UK regions in the National Final in London on 7 May.

The Schools' Mace, founded in 1957, is the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England and Wales.



Key Stage 3 Update

- A select group of Year 9 students attended the Young People in Print Show at Birmingham NEC to explore careers in the print industry.
- Students from Year 7 to Year 9 joined HSBC Virtual Work Experience sessions.
- Delivered a successful Year 7 "What's My Line?" careers workshop, where invited professionals inspired students about their career journeys.
- Year 7 students completed the Future Skills Questionnaire to help shape our careers programme.
- Year 7 to year 9 students took part in into university workshops to explore choices and build employability skills
- All Year 9 students attended an informative assembly hosted by Coventry College, where they received valuable insights into T Levels.
- Year 8 students visited the University of Warwick, organised by into university, where they had the opportunity to explore university life and learn more about the study of Sociology. The trip gave them valuable insight into higher education and what academic study at university involves.
- We celebrated Green Careers Week and Creative Careers Week during form time, giving students the opportunity to explore a wide range of career pathways linked to sustainability and the creative industries.
- All Year 9 students attended an informative assembly hosted by Coventry College. The session covered various pathways available after GCSEs, including apprenticeships, college courses, and A-levels, helping students make informed decisions about their future.
- Year 9 students also participated in a careers CPSHE session, where they explored their options and received an introduction to JED (Job Explorer Database), a valuable tool for career planning.
- During form time, all Year 7 and 8 students took part in "Job of the Week" sessions. These sessions provided an opportunity to learn about different careers and consider potential future job roles.
- Students in Years 7, 8, and 9 participated in sessions focused on skills in the workplace. They explored various subject areas and learned about apprenticeships, gaining a better understanding of the skills required in different industries.
- A selected group of Year 9 students took part in the Step into the NHS Day online event, where they explored a wide range of healthcare careers and learned about the different pathways into the NHS.



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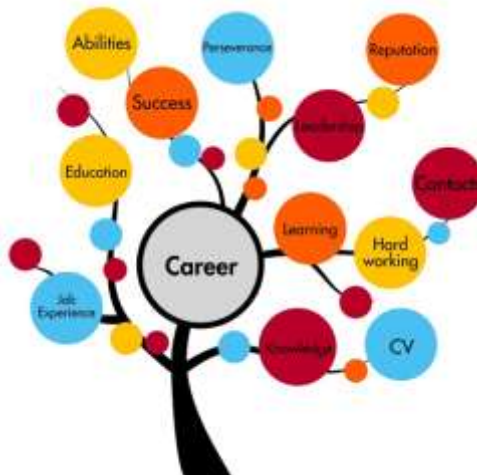
- All Year 11 students attended an informative assembly hosted by Coventry College, where they received valuable insights into apprenticeships, T Levels, and the various college pathways available to them.
- Students from Year 10 to Year 11 joined HSBC Virtual Work Experience sessions.
- Some students engaged in Virgin Media O2 and EDT Virtual Work Experience during October half term.
- Every Year 11 student has participated in an interview session with a career adviser, either one-on-one or in a group setting. These sessions are designed to help students explore their career options and receive personalised guidance.
- Students in year 10 and 11 took part in university workshops to explore choices and build employability skills.
- A select group of Year 10 students attended a business focus trip organised by Into University, in partnership with Forvis Mazars. The trip provided students with an opportunity to learn about the business world and gain insights into various career paths.
- Year 11 students took part in an engaging assembly led by National Grid, where they explored the wide range of apprenticeship opportunities available to them after school. The session offered valuable insights into career pathways, training routes, and the skills needed for roles within the energy sector.
- Year 10 students took part in a virtual RAF Careers Engagement Midlands session, where they learned about the wide range of career pathways available within the Royal Air Force.
- During the February Half Term, students took part in the Coventry Routes into STEM programme with EDT. Our students represented the school brilliantly and gained valuable insight into STEM pathways and careers.
- Ms. Kalu has begun following up with all Year 11 students to ensure they have offers for sixth form or college.
- Students applying for apprenticeships will receive ongoing help and support and are encouraged to have a backup plan to ensure their future success.
- Our whole-school Careers Newsletter is now live and has been shared with parents, providing updates on recent activities, upcoming opportunities, and guidance to support students with their next steps.



Key Stage 5 Update

- Year 12 students attended a highly successful *Meet with Industry* event at school. This event was supported by professionals from a wide variety of sectors, including alumni and parent volunteers. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our guests who contributed to this event. Our students benefited enormously from the conversations and advice, gaining valuable insights into various career paths.
- Year 13 students attended the Apprenticeship Show at the CBS Arena. This event provided them with the opportunity to explore a range of apprenticeship options and connect with potential employers.
- Students in years 12 and 13 joined HSBC Virtual Work Experience sessions.
- Year 13 students participated in an informative talk on student finance, delivered by Warwick University. The session covered essential information about funding higher education, helping students make informed financial decisions for their future studies.
- Sixth Form students recently took part in a UCL research study exploring how mood and emotions change during adolescence and young adulthood, and the factors that influence these developments.
- Selected Year 12 students had the opportunity to visit Cambridge University as part of the HE+ program. This trip allowed them to experience university life and engage with current students and faculty members.
- Year 13 students took part in an apprenticeship workshop delivered by Chamber Training, where they explored the wide range of apprenticeship pathways available after Sixth Form and gained valuable guidance on applications and career routes.
- As part of the Sixth Form Higher Education programme, Year 12 students visited the University of Warwick. They participated in workshops in the lecture hall and toured the campus with student ambassadors. We extend our gratitude to the University of Warwick staff for hosting us and providing an enriching experience for our students.
- Some of our Year 13 students took part in a mock interview session with a representative from National Grid, giving them the chance to develop their interview skills and receive valuable, personalised feedback.
- All Year 12 and 13 students receive a monthly careers newsletter via email. This newsletter highlights live and virtual work experience opportunities, higher and degree apprenticeship events, and invitations to career talks, keeping students informed about the latest career-related events and opportunities.
- Year 12 and 13 students can book an appointment with Ms. Kalu if they require careers advice and guidance. Ms. Kalu is available to support students in making informed decisions about their academic and career paths.

All students have access to one-on-one career sessions with Ms. Kalu.



Good news

Amazing Talent

Congratulations to William Groves Y12 who is currently studying A Level Music attends Coventry Music SoundLab, a centre for creative music. Recently Will performed at the inaugural Heart of England Music Hub Festival where he performed some original songs he had written for his band.



Rock for Mary's Meals

A huge thank you! To the Music Department and Student Rock Bands for the evening of Rock. Students were fantastic and there was enough money raised on the night to feed 12 children for the year. Thank you to everyone who supported this great event.



Good news

Young Voices Shaping Cohesion

Six of our Student Council attended the Young Voices Shaping Cohesions Conference in March. The students took time to understand what an upstander is along with Community and Cohesion. The group took time to develop a project on Community Cohesion putting all they have learnt into practice and informing our school community.



Behaviour Reminder

- We arrive to school in the correct uniform with our blazers on
- We switch off our phones and remove headphones as soon as we arrive at school
- We move on the whistle before school and at break times
- We walk on the left in corridors – this will sometimes mean single file
- We use quiet voices in the corridors
- We respect others personal space by not touching them
- When we are dismissed from class we walk to the next lesson with purpose – we do not stand in corridors or stairwells
- We arrive to class on time and with the correct equipment
- We use the playground for social space
- We use the toilets respectfully they are not a social space
- We use our manners – 'thank you' 'please', we hold doors open
- We remember that we are all responsible for our own choices, decisions and behaviours
- We remember that we are a family and this school is our home.

Good news

Guest Author

Year 9 students had the privilege of welcoming Imran Ahmad into school for a powerful, thought-provoking day of storytelling and writing.

Imran delivered a lively narrative performance for the entire year group, sharing 'life lessons' around emotional intelligence, resilience and our shared humanity. He reminded students to avoid assumptions, keep perspective, and believe in the power of effort, hope and change. The message connected beautifully with our current Orwell Youth Prize unit, where Year 9 are exploring and writing about 'Truth'.

Imran led three smaller workshops, guiding students through creative writing inspired by real experiences. He encouraged students to revisit a moment that mattered, capture their inner voice, and write with honesty and detail. It was an unforgettable opportunity for our students to reflect, write and grow. We're incredibly proud of the pieces they produced: brave, powerful and deeply authentic writing, as they shared honest, enlightening and sometimes raw 'Truth'.



Shoutout UK

We welcomed Charlton from Shoutout UK to speak to our Year 7 - 12 students.

First he helped us recognise the risks of social media and the most common forms of extremism. Then he gave us examples of how extremist groups use online platforms to influence and radicalise individuals. We learnt about what to watch out for. Finally he gave us some practical strategies that we can do to improve our own media literacy and protect ourselves online. We are so grateful to Charlton and Shoutout UK for the information and advice they



Good news

Trial Blazers

Our Art Textile Trailblazers completed their final sewing bee challenge "Artful Dolls". They were challenged to design, make and dress a doll out of scraps of fabric. The completely sustainable product was made within two hours and show cases the 6 weeks of hard work they have put into the sessions. A huge congratulations to Evie and Emily for all their commitment. They will get to celebrate at their presentation event in April.



A Level Geography Trip

Our Year 12 Geography students have had a great Geography Trip collecting data. They have been on Harlech dunes looking at the health of the ecosystem and learning about the Welsh management of this amazing ecosystem. Conditions were challenging with horizontal driving rain but the students were brilliant.



Eco Reps!

Uniform Loan - do you have any donations?

As part of our commitment to supporting all students, we run a Uniform Loan which provides clean, good-quality uniform items to students who may have forgotten them that morning. As a loan system, students then swap back at the end of the day so that items are available for students the following day.

If you have any of our school uniform that is no longer needed at home—including blazers, ties, skirts or trousers—we would be very grateful for donations no matter how small. Donated items should be clean and in good condition please. By donating, you are also helping to promote sustainability and our Eco Green Flag values by re-using uniform.



Thank you, as always, for your continued support and generosity. If any local businesses would be willing to sponsor items for our School Uniform Loan we would be delighted to hear from you at bu-admin@hccmac.co.uk

Devices must be **switched off** and **put away out of sight** as soon as you **get to the school gate**. This means in **your bag** or **zipped in your blazer inside pocket**.



No phones can be used in the canteen in the morning!

They must only be turned back on again **once you have left the school gates**. Any device **seen** on school site will be handed in to staff **without argument**. It will be confiscated:

- until 3.30pm on the first occasion
- for 24 hours on the second occasion
- for 24 hours and your parents must collect it on the third and future occasions.

If you never use your phone on school site, it will never be confiscated.



SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

Join the fun and support our eco fundraising! Buy a packet of sunflower seeds for £2 available on ParentPay or cash in school.



Prizes will be available for the following categories:

1. **Sky High:** Whose sunflower can stretch the tallest toward the sky?
2. **Spectacular Snaps:** the most beautiful sunflower photo
3. **Mega Multiplier:** the sunflower with the most heads on one stem
4. **Teeniest, Tiniest, Toughest:** celebrating the smallest but mightiest

Grow them any way you like – pots, the ground, start in a green house... or a combination of the above! The only rule is you can only enter the seeds provided. Send queries and photos to bu-sunflowers@hccmac.co.uk

Wilder Schools Project Update: our students have decided on many ways to add more biodiversity to our Peace Prayer Garden and Wild Area. As part of our commitment to sustainability, we will reuse materials wherever possible to reduce our carbon footprint. Do you have any of these items you could donate to us?



- items that you aren't using any more - buckets, bird feeders, gardening equipment, bird boxes, etc.
- logs, old bricks, broken terracotta pots
- perennial plants

If you, your workplace, or your business can support our project through donations/sponsorship, please email bu-admin@hccmac.co.uk

Wilder Schools Project

We have continued to work with the wonderful Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to create richer habitats and outdoor learning spaces across our site. Since our last newsletter, we have:

- created wildflower seed bombs which have planted around our bug houses to become 'pollinator borders'
- planted daffodils which are brightening the grass by The Hut
- filled our three bug houses made from reused pallets with sticks, bamboo canes, bricks, old terracotta pots
- dug spaces for our mini ponds in buckets
- made 5 hedgehog houses and 11 bird boxes which are positioned around our site
- planted a range of perennial plants and edibles including herbs and strawberries in our new pallet planters made by our D&T Technician
- planted sweet pea seeds and sunflower seeds to be on display in the summer months.

We have a number of thank yous to share:

- to Jenn and Sam from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust for their advice and help on our school site
- to Trevor, Peter and Laura from the Coventry Urban Rangers for helping us with the bird boxes and hedgehog houses
- to Barn Close Nurseries in Warwick for their support and advice with our perennial plants
- to Russells Garden Centre in Baginton for their donation of seeds
- and to all of our Bishop Ullathorne community who donated items to help keep our carbon footprint low as possible.



If you or your business can help us continue our work through donations or sponsorship please contact

bu-admin@hccmac.co.uk We look forward to updating you as our project grows further!

Water Week!

Across the Holy Cross MAC we have been celebrating water with a chance to remember that caring for creation is part of our faith, be grateful for clean water and learn how to protect this gift from God. Jesus used water as a symbol of life, hope and renewal. Every day we use water without thinking. But around the world, millions walk long distances daily just to collect it. **Our Drops of Gratitude activity invited all students to share what they are grateful for.**

Water Saving Tips!

Small everyday changes can make a big difference to our planet - and your water bill! Here are some water saving tips from the Eco Reps to help our community reduce water use at home.



In the Bathroom

- **Shorter showers** save lots of water.
- **Dual-flush toilets** use much less water per flush.
- **Check for leaks.** A leaky toilet can waste up to *400 litres a day!* Many water suppliers will fix this free of charge.

In the Kitchen

- **Run dishwashers only when full** and use the eco setting.
- **Use a washing-up bowl** rather than a running tap to reduce water waste by up to half.
- **Do full loads of laundry**, using the most efficient setting available.

In the Garden

- **Don't water the lawn**—it naturally recovers when it rains.
- **Water early morning or evening** using a watering can, not a hose or sprinkler.
- **Install a water butt** to collect rainwater for free garden watering.

Food & Fashion Choices

- **Eating less meat** and choosing local, seasonal foods helps reduce the large amount of water used in food production.

Buy second hand clothing when possible—cotton growing and dyeing use huge amounts of water. Producing **one pair of jeans and a T shirt** uses over **13,000 litres** of water!



Good news

Sports-hall Athletics

Congratulations to our Year 7 Sports Hall Athletics teams who competed at the Xcel centre against other West Coventry schools. Our boys won which means they now qualify for the Level 3 County Finals next month and our girls placed 2nd.



Congratulations to our Year 8 Sports Hall Athletics teams who competed at the Xcel centre against 5 other West Coventry schools. Both our boys and girls teams won which means they now qualify for the Level 3 County Finals!



Netball

Congratulations to our Year 7 Netball team on their victory against West Coventry Academy today and a special well done to Millie for her player of the match! Unfortunately our Year 9 team narrowly missed out in a close 11-8 defeat to a strong opposition, but showed some great phases of play so have lots to be very proud of. Well done Catherine for her player of the match performance!



Good news

Year 8 Netball

Congratulations to our Year 8 Netball team for reaching the semi-finals of the Coventry Schools Tournament at Finham Park! Miss Gill's players go to Lizzie (for her outstanding defensive work) & Keisha (for her consistent, all-round good performance throughout every game). Miss Lawton's player goes to Evie for her great interceptions, work-rate and shooting!



Year 8 and 9 Netball

Congratulations to our Years 8 & 9 Netball teams on their wins against Caludon Castle! Year 8 won 9-5 (Aicha player of the match) and Year 9 won 13-4 (Chinma player of the match).



Year 10 Netball



Congratulations to our Year 10 Netball team on **WINNING** the Coventry Schools Tournament at Cardinal Newman! The girls worked so hard for victories over Cardinal Newman, Bluecoat and Coundon Court, and Miss Gill's player of the tournament went to Emmilienne for her outstanding centre court work rate and accurate passing!



Good news

Year U14 Girls Football Champions!

Congratulations to the U14 Girls Football Team who have beaten St Joseph's School from Ipswich 4-1 in the Sisters n Sport Cup. Goals from Rebecca(2), Evie and an own goal see them progress into the quarter finals. A great team performance.



Year 9 Football Team

Congratulations to our Year 9 Football Team who move into the West Midlands Cup semi final with a 2-1 win over Wood Green. All the boys put in strong performances and goals from Ashish and David gave them the win. Well done boys.



Year 7 Football Team



Congratulations to our Year 7 football team who have reached the semi finals of the West Midlands Schools Cup. They dominated the game against

Windsor High winning 7-0. Goals from Dale(2), Jack T (2), Jack S, Daniel and Sam gave the boys a well deserved win. Well done.

U13 Football Team

Well done to our U13 Football team who have made it into the semi

finals of the West Midlands cup. A dominant display against St Michael's gave them a 6-0 win. Goals from Paddy, Nathan(2), Harry, Evie and Percy gave them the win. Well done we are very proud of you.



Good news

Ski Trip

Students and members of staff travelled to Saalbach in Austria for the school ski trip. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip and all made excellent progress over the 6 days of skiing. As well as the skiing and the fantastic weather, the students also a quiz, games night and skittles night. It was a fantastic week, the group were a pleasure to be with and they represented the school perfectly whilst they were away.



Bird Watch

We have entered our Birdwatch findings to the RSPB, collected by Eco Reps, 7EH and 8KW as part of a citizen science activity.

Wood pigeon -4	Black bird - 2	Carion Crow -10
Black headed gull - 23	Magpie -3	Robin - 3
Feral pigeon 1	Long tailed tit- 4	Woodpecker -1

Compared to last year, this shows more variety but less numbers of crows and gulls.

Our students said:

"We saw a lots of birds such as seagulls, crows etc. The seagulls were mostly on the field whilst the Robins were in the trees and bushes on the playground."

"I am surprised to learn how many diverse birds that are in our school habitat."

"During bird watch, I discovered a new species of birds that I didn't even know existed. I thought there will only be blackbirds and sea gulls, but I spotted many more birds than I thought I would. More-over, this helped us to learn more about our school's wildlife"



Supporting Mathematics at home

Are you keen to support your child's mathematical learning at home but unsure where to begin?

Try exploring the videos using the link below. There are a mix of tasks, puzzles, challenges and games; selected to support and enrich mathematics taught at school.

Many videos can be accessed by very young children, with a little bit of adult support, and all are relevant to pupils across the school age range. There's hardly ever a single right answer and there are many ways of working on tasks. The videos are designed to entice and to focus on working in the ways mathematicians do; such as exploring situations, looking for patterns and rules, asking questions and seeking answers, and trying out and testing ideas.

[Maths Teaching Resources](#)



Year 7 Update

Ms Maxwell, Head of Year 7

Year 7 started the new calendar year in successful fashion and after the Transition focus of last term, this term has focussed on encountering some 'first time' events, which continue and develop further as the students progress through the different school years.

Rewards Assembly: At the start of this term Year 7 students celebrated their first Rewards assembly. This event was linked to Epiphany; just as the Magi brought gifts for the baby Jesus, staff offer to students our 'gifts' of certificates for their hard work in the Autumn term. There are several different categories including progress in their lessons, Attendance, and of course Our Ullathorne Way values, which are the bedrock of everything that we stand for: Compassion, Faith-Filled and Prophetic, Attentive, Eloquent, Wise and Curious and Grateful. If your child was awarded a certificate, I am sure they brought these home to proudly show you. These Rewards Assemblies take place termly and so our next one will be held at the start of the Summer Term. Congratulations to those whose efforts were recognised this time.



Character Passport:

Our congratulations also went to over 80 students who were awarded their Bronze Character Passport. These students received their certificates along with their lovely Bishop Ullathorne Crest pin badges for the lapels of their blazers, which they now rightly wear with pride! There were a few students who narrowly missed meeting the criteria and so they have had the chance to complete it this term instead.

Shortly after the Bronze awards were given out, the Silver Character Passport was launched by our Form Tutors and so we are looking forward to seeing how many students have managed to reach Silver and/or Bronze after Easter!

Retreat:

We are blessed that each year group is able to experience annual Retreat days and Year 7's first ever Retreat day took place on Wednesday 21 January.

The retreats are opportunities for students to think about how we can make a difference in the world as well as thinking about their communities and role they play in them. The theme of the Year 7 retreat was 'Our World' and the students attended a variety of different sessions run by the Year 7 Form tutors, Douglas and our Lay Chaplain, Lauren, exploring what it means to be a humanitarian. Thank you to Lauren for organising this special day, to Father Simon for celebrating Mass with us and to the Year 7s for engaging with the day and the workshop sessions so well. 7VS proved to be the form who worked best on the day and they received a chocolate treat for their efforts!

Form Assemblies:

Each year, all of the form groups lead the year group in assembly by planning and delivering their own assemblies and we have been privileged to have our assemblies led by three of our tutor groups this term. 7TF bravely went first, delivering an assembly on the importance of words, 7SB followed by launching Lent, focussing on Charity, followed by 7EH on the theme of kindness towards others and launching a poetry by heart. Well done to all three form groups for their hard work in researching, preparing and delivering impactful assemblies for their peers. The remaining forms will be delivering their assemblies next term.



Lent:

As just mentioned, we have been remembering Christ's fasting in the wild by using the time to focus on others and raise money for Charity. Each form group has been asked to raise money for this- this can be in the form of donations, selling food items, particularly the blue lollipops or organising interform Dodgeball competitions. We look forward to seeing who will come out on top as the form who can raise the most money from their endeavours!

Weekly Achievements:

We continue to recognise the achievements of our Year 7 students weekly in assembly with the Form Tutor Champions. We always start our assemblies with this and it's such a positive way to start the week for us all, hearing about the wonderful things that the students have done. The winners for this half term are as listed below:

Form	Tutor Champions
7EH	Sienna, Michaael, Oliver, Joachim, Luna
7JB	Abigail, Krey, Desiree, Lauren, Anaiya, Alicja, Xavier
7RG	Ehimen, Kai, Dale, Divine, Noah
7SB	Hermon, Emmanuella, Jacob, Matilda, Demario, Rola
7TF	Connell, Thea, Ayo, Kendall, Princess, Alannah, Petros
7VS	Evie C, Harvey, Harry, Ilaria, Sidney, Emmanuel S, Stiofan
7WD	Esmae, Evaan, Izabely, Jack T, Daniel, Munachi

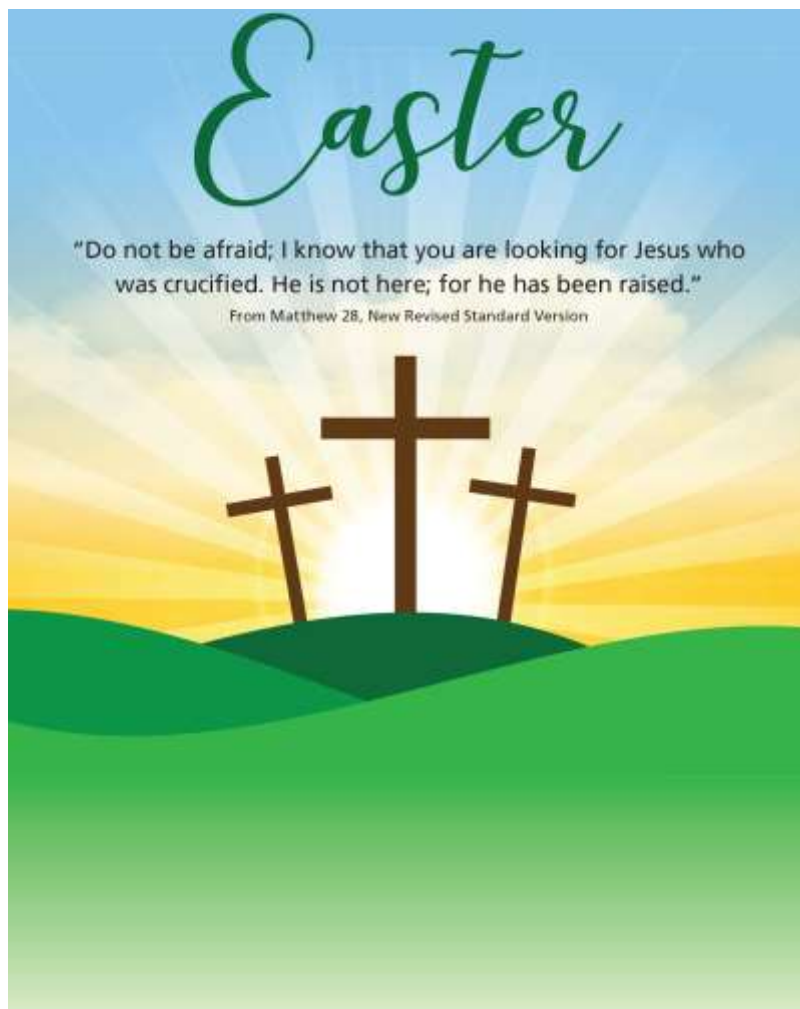
Additionally, our weekly inter form competitions have continued apace for the best attending form and the form which has achieved the highest number of Ace points. A raffle will be drawn for both categories after the Easter break. The form winners for this half term are as follows:

	Attendance	Form Award
Week 1	7SB, 7TF, 7VS	7WD
Week 2	7TF	7JB
Week 3	7EH, 7JB, 7SB	7VS
Week 4	7TF, 7VS	7RG
Week 5	7SB, 7VS	7JB
Week 6	7EH, 7VS	7RG

Week 1	7SB, 7TF	7RG
Week 2	7RG	7RG
Week 3	7SB	7RG
Week 4	7JB, 7VS	7TF

Congratulations go to 7TF for winning the half termly raffles in the Attendance category and to 7JB for winning the Form Award. As is custom on these occasions, both forms won a sweet treat for the form!

Well done to Year 7 for participating in so many activities this half term! I wish all of our Year 7 students and their families a peaceful, Holy Easter.



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 lots of positive things happening such as the Character Passport, Diversity Passport and Lenten collections. Well done to 8KW for their very successful sale of bracelets and lollipops.



We have also had our very successful and popular mentoring sessions that run each week for both Year 8 and 9.

A massive well done to all of our students who will be receiving a certificate in our Rewards Assembly after Easter and who have received a letter or postcard home. We are very proud of you all.

We truly appreciate the commitment that they show to our school. There will be a Rewards day in the summer term to look forward to.

We look forward to continuing with our form group Assemblies next term which will run throughout the Academic Year. We have had the pleasure of watching some very good form Assemblies so far this term with themes such as : Mother's day, Lenten Charities, Diversity, Eloquence to name but a few. Thank you all for that.

This is a great opportunity for all of our students to organise and participate in an Assembly to share with the rest of the Year group. It also covers one of their Character Passport targets.

Also a big shout out to our Football and Netball teams and the debate group in Year 9 who have done so well. We are proud of you all.

I wish all of you a very happy and peaceful Easter holidays and may God be with you all as you continue your Lenten journey at home.

God Bless.

Mrs Jeremiah



Year 10 and 11 Update

Miss Newell, Head of Year 10 and 11

What a fast half term this has been. It really has flown by, and I want to congratulate students in both year groups for keeping their focus and working so well.

Year 11 have made real progress as they prepare for next term's GCSEs. They've completed their final mock exams and are now on the last stretch before the real thing. Before the written exams begin in May, many will also complete practical assessments in PE, Art and Art Textiles. We wish them every success during this busy period.

Year 10 key dates

23 April Parents
Evening

30 April Year 10
retreat

1 June 2026

End of Year Exams
begin

A quick reminder that payments for prom, hoodies and yearbooks must be made by the end of April. Prom payments are through ParentPay and hoodies and yearbooks are direct to the company.

So many Year 11 students have shown real commitment this term. I hope they enjoy a well-earned rest over Easter but also keep some revision going, two hours a day adds up quickly and makes a huge difference with only five school weeks left before exams begin.

Year 10 continue to work with real effort as well. Their end-of-year exams are approaching, and after Easter we hope to see their revision stepping up. We've been reminding them that Year 11 effectively starts in June; by then they'll be less than a year away from finishing GCSEs, so getting ahead now puts them in a strong position.

Year 11 key dates

Friday 1 May

Celebration Mass

26 June 2026

Prom

Monday 4 May 2026

Public Exams Start

I'm incredibly proud of all our Key Stage 4 students for their work raising money for our Lenten charities. A huge thank you to everyone involved, and to our tutors for their support.

Thank you also to Mrs Marston and Mrs Richardson for their tireless work supporting KS4 wellbeing.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Easter.



Term dates 2025-2026

Summer

Monday 13 April to Friday 22 May 2026

Half Term

Monday 1 June to Friday 17 July 2026

Teacher Training Day: Friday 3 July 2026



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@bishopullathorne.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 (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.