

25<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are very much looking forward to another visit from Bishop Philip, the Bishop of Blackburn next week to mark the beginning of the season of Lent. This has always been an exciting time for students as we plan our Lenten Charity weeks and raise a lot of money for the charities chosen by each of the houses. Each year we try to do even better than the one before as we try to make a difference through our acts of giving.

Balshaw's has close ties with Bishop Philip who regularly comes to lead our acts of worship and has joined us on trips to London to Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. Next week we are excited that we are going to invite all of our students in years 7, 8 and 9 to be part of a special act of worship in which Bishop Philip and Fr Paul Robinson, Vice Chair of Governors and vicar of St Ambrose will teach our young people about the holy sacrament of communion.

During this act of worship all of our young people will be invited to take communion if they wish to. If they do not wish to do this they can come up and simply receive a blessing. For students who do not wish to have communion or a blessing they will just nod and return to their seats.

It will be a wonderful way for us to mark the start of Lent and begin to think about the forthcoming celebration of Easter as we look at the symbolism of bread and wine to Christians and take part in an invitational event that will be relevant to all our students.

Kind regards

Mr Steven Haycocks



**HEADTEACHER**  
**BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL**