



We are delighted to bring you the Christmas edition of our school newsletter – produced at the end of every term, updating you on everything that has been going on around school.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss anything further, please let us know at office@bishopr.co.uk. Also, if there is anything you would like to see that is not already featured please let us know.

“A Christian community that delights in seeking wisdom and knowledge, building relationships and character based upon the Word of God, enabling us all to flourish bravely and faithfully”

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

For many years, Bishop Rawstorne has had a room upstairs in the 'A' block (where the office is) called the 'Upper Room' that was used as our chapel and quiet space. It was way too small, had a beam inside that nearly everyone banged their head on and it could not accommodate more than seven or eight people without feeling uncomfortable. As a church school we thought we could do better and wanted to make a space big enough for whole tutor groups to be able to come into. We have now converted what was once the staffroom into a beautiful space that functions both as a chapel and meeting room as well as being a very pleasant place for our trainees to do their planning in. We have managed to hold worship for every tutor group and these have taken place as mini-worship sessions before school as well as longer services during afternoon tutor. The room in its own small way is helping our students to feel a sense of belonging at school. This has come about by instilling in them the start of what I am hopeful will become a sense of tradition, with all the students who come here feeling that it is a special place for them to be themselves and feel welcomed. It really doesn't matter if students have faith, are on a journey towards faith or have none, the act of being together and sharing in a quiet moment of reflection and ceremony is good for everyone's wellbeing. We have been lighting the advent wreath as a reminder – and I had to be reminded in church a couple of Sundays ago by David Picken, the Archdeacon of Lancaster, that Advent is not a season but a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. It is easy to forget this as Advent gets swallowed up by the start of the Christmas period in the autumn as companies get into full on marketing mode to sell their latest products to us. There is a great children's book that you might know called 'Marvin Wanted More!' Spoiler alert for those who haven't read it. Marvin is a sheep with an insatiable appetite who loses control and ends up eating the entire Earth before throwing it up after realising he has swallowed everything that was precious to him. This is a great metaphor for our inability to control our own yearnings, which often leads to us overconsuming, harming ourselves by dulling our taste buds for those sweet moments that no longer exist due to them becoming the norm.

A lot of us yearn for a return to days past, when we had a traditional advent followed by a defined season of goodwill, where less was more and things seemed all the sweeter for being harder to come by. It would also go some way to lessening our impact on the planet! I think one of the great jobs of the coming decades is going to be re-educating ourselves and our children to greatly reduce our footprint on the planet and as an initial foray into this area, Mr Clare has set up a new eco club whose first podcast I have just had the pleasure of listening to. If we have some budding eco-warriors who are desperate to get their message out there, please talk to Mr Clare and he will see how he can help you to do so.

Whilst at church, David went on to remind us that Advent is also a time of preparation for the second coming of Christ as we are reminded during eucharist – 'to judge the living and the dead'. This is really important to Christians as we are reminded through our faith, as CS Lewis put it in the last of the Narnia books called *The Last Battle* – "All their life in this world and all their adventures had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever: in which every chapter is better than the one before." This is particularly poignant this year, as we have very recently lost one of our greatest supporters, Roy Websdell who was a governor at Bishop Rawstorne for many years. Roy was everything that we would aspire to be ourselves; dignified, kind, courageous, loyal and full of humour and compassion. Although we will miss him, we rejoice in the fact that his faith has saved him, and that he will now be able to join his loved ones in heaven for eternity. Roy was firm in his belief, as are all Christians, that Jesus' coming is not a quaint fairy story that makes nice cards and decorations, but is in fact true. God's promise is simple: 'He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live'. God bless Roy, may your soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Roy would be the first to say – 'enough about me lad, tell me about school' so I will give a brief

summary of some of the events that have been taking place recently. We have just had our Awards Evening for last year's Year 11 with ex-student and recently retired professional rugby player Josh Jones handing out the awards, our current Year 11 had a 'decompression day' after they got their mock results, creating pieces of art as a way of putting the challenges ahead of them into perspective and by giving them some headspace in which to do so. Yesterday we had Year 10 watching a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' in preparation for their English Literature GCSE in the summer, we had Year 7 coffee morning for parents and our students battled it out in an after school inter-tutor quiz. We still have the staff quiz to look forward to next week, as well as the Year 7 and Year 8 disco, the Year 11 Christmas meal and our Christmas services for all year groups.

We continue apace with record numbers of B badges being awarded to students for various endeavours that they have undertaken both in and out of school and we have given out a large number of Headteachers awards for those students with multiple B badges. It is life affirming to see the level of engagement our students have in a wide array of interests and challenges that they set themselves. This makes me certain that our children have all the traits necessary to enable our community to continue to flourish well into the future. It is vitally important that our students feel a part of school and to that end a large number of our staff have been busy supporting students in joining school clubs, enrolling on the Duke of Edinburgh award and supporting local charities. Please encourage your children to immerse themselves in as many of the opportunities available to them as they can whilst they are here, it really does help them to feel like they belong.

If you are able to, we would ask at this time that you pray for all of those in our community who are going through a hard time. In particular we would ask that you pray for Mr Kennedy-Sutton as he continues to recover from his illness and we thank the emergency services and hospital staff for their swift and decisive action whilst treating him.

Best wishes for a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Best wishes,



WORSHIP

Our Christian Community continues to grow with lots of new initiatives. Over this half term, we have reflected on our spirituality as individuals and as a Christian community.

Earlier this term, Phillip North, Bishop of Blackburn, came into school to take whole school collective worship in the sports hall, to celebrate our Founder's Day. He delivered an inspiring message about our school motto of Bravely and Faithfully. The Bishop also dedicated our new chapel in a small service – since that dedication, each tutor group has had morning worship in a new peaceful space designed to enhance and develop spiritual reflection.



We have taken time to consider themes such as Harvest in late October, and more recently stewardship and responsibility towards the natural world. Towards this end of this half term we began to look towards Christmas through our focus on advent and the message of hope that this prepares us for.



During November school supported the Village Remembrance festival, and we also held our own small act of Remembrance at the war memorial.



On top of this, the charity group have been in charge of the two Christmas Tree festivals – Leyland St James and St Michaels in Croston – students have been decorating trees, highlighting all the charity work we do in November!



Fr. Mark Soady from the parish of Rufford has been leading student and staff communions in the lead up to Christmas and the worship team and music department have been busy with Christmas services for our students this week. As well as this, we have been working with the local care home, Croston Park, and Trinity St Michaels to help them in the celebration of Christmas.

Have a happy and holy Christmas

Mr P Ascroft

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Chorley Schools'

Cross Country

In September, 32 students from Year 7 all the way up to Year 11 travelled to Albany to compete in the Chorley Schools Cross Country. The six races that take place are the qualifying races for the Lancashire Schools' Cross Country that takes place later in the year.

Our runners were fantastic on a cold, wet evening. The Year 7s ran first with Elsa Thomson (2nd) and Nat Pendlebury (3rd) being the highest placed runners in the girls' and boys' races respectively. The Year 7 girls' team finished in a credible 2nd place whilst the boys' were 3rd.



The junior races came next which is a combination of Year 8 & Year 9 runners. The junior girls' team were crowned as joint Chorley champions with Isabel Goodman storming home as the winner and training partner, Maisie Geary, coming in close behind in 3rd. Liv Smallshaw (8th) and Yasmin Elliott (10th) made up the winning team. The junior boys' team came in as 4th overall.



The inter boys' and girls' races concluded the evening with the inter boys winning the team event and the inter girls finishing 2nd.

Highlights of the races saw Myles Fraser and Isobel Dyson both winning their races to be crowned as individual champions. Adam Link, Matthew Link and Sam Christie made up the rest of the victorious inter boys' team champions. Huge congratulations go to all runners!



CHEER LEADERSHIP

In November our very own Mrs Holden organised & delivered the UKCA Leadership Award to students from Parklands, Holy Cross, Albany & of course Bishops.

The students had a superb time & we are incredibly thankful to Mrs Holden for providing our students with this opportunity - well done!

From all of the PE staff - we wish you a peaceful & restful half term!



BISHOP RAWSTORNE SPORTING STARS!

It has been absolutely phenomenal to hear all about our sporting stars and their achievements outside of school this term. The following students have been selected for various district and county honours and we are very proud of them all and wish them the very best of luck for the upcoming season. Please do let us know how your child gets on.

Chorley District Footballers - Girls

Emma Tattersall, Yasmin Elliott, Chloe Nickson, Martha Kidd, Elsie Kidd, Charlotte Hitchen & Anna Berry.



Chorley District Footballers - Boys

Harry Wilson and Harry Keogh

Lancashire U14 Boys Hockey

Jack Coupe



Lancashire U15 Netball

Bea Pendlebury



Lancashire U18 Girls' Cricket and Thunder Cricket Emerging Players' Programme

Katie Poole



British Triathlon Grand Final at Mallory Park

Maisie Geary - 8th in her age group and the country
Elsa Thomson - 42nd in her age group and the country



Stage 4 of the national Swim England Talent Pathway

Josh Keogh

St Helens Saints Basketball regional U14 team

Matthew McClennan and Zach Whittle



British Schools' National Orienteering Championships

Huw Christie - 14th in the country
Sam Christie - 11th in the country



Leyland Barracudas' team that swam in the micro league swimmers' National final - part of the team that came 6th in the country!

Pollyanna Hodgson, Seren Haynes and Henry Hodgkinson

Selection for North West Under 17 Boys' Epee Team in the Winton Cup

Arthur Bennett



Lancashire U15 Hockey Squad

Emily Hadfield



Gymnastics

On Friday 8 December, after 6 weeks of training at Gymnastics club, the following students Anna Parker, Isabelle Myers, Sophia Hayes, Lily Bamford, Molly Jones, Kaitlyn Kavanagh, Florence Smith, Penny Ashcroft and Isla Sharrock represented school in the Chorley Schools' Gymnastics competition.

The girls had to compete by completing a floor routine and then two vaults within their ability category; this ranged from the beginner Beth Tweedle, intermediate Max Whitlock and advanced Rebecca Downie categories. The gymnastic skills ranged from tumbles, leaps, jumps and balances on the floor and on the vault from squat through, handspring to half on half off.

All students have worked hard attending the after-school club to practice the required elements of the competition and then compete in front of other students and judges, resulting in Bishop Rawstorne winning a total of 5 medals out of the 9 available, a fantastic achievement!

The following students won medals and the winners have been nominated for a Bishops Ambassador Badge:

- Lily Bamford YR7 - Bronze medal, Beth Tweedle competition
- Kaitlyn Kavanagh YR8 - Silver medal, Beth Tweedle competition
- Isabelle Myers YR7- Gold medal, Max Whitlock competition
- Isla Sharrock YR 9 - Gold medal, Rebecca Downie competition

Boys' Football Update

On 15 November, the Year 8 football team travelled to Westway to play in the Chorley Schools' football final against Holy Cross. Despite their positivity, they lost, but well done on making the final!



On 29 November, our Year 11 football team headed to Westway to compete in the Chorley Schools' Cup Finals against St Michael's. They were up against an excellent team and sadly lost but did an excellent job at making the final - well done boys!



Year 10 Boys' Chorley Champs!

On a cold Tuesday night in Chorley the Year 10's played St Michael's in the Chorley Cup. From the start our team dominated possession and soon went 1-0 up. By half time, goals from Charlie, Mario and Dylan gave us a 4-1 lead. However, St Micheal's started the second half well until a tense last 10 minutes. With great saves from Zaki in net, we came out victors, finishing 4-3. This is a great achievement for the boys and shows how far they have come since we started in Year 7.



Thank you!

Thank you to all the parents and guardians for your continued support throughout the season!

Girls' Football

The last half term has been busy for the girls' football teams with all age groups competing in Lancashire Cup fixtures or the Chorley Schools' Football competition.

In the Lancashire Cup, our Year 7 team beat St Wilfrid's 5 - 3 on a very wet and windy evening in Blackburn. The girls started really well and scored after 30 seconds before taking a 3-0 lead into half time. St Wilfrid's fought back well in the second half but the girls scored another 2 goals in the second half to progress into the next round of the competition.



Our U16 team played against Ripley St Thomas with a depleted squad for numerous reasons and ended up playing the game with only 10 players. The team defended resolutely throughout the game and after drawing 0-0, won the fixture on penalties to book their place in the next round.

Unfortunately, our U14 girls' team have been knocked out of the competition after losing to Parkland's.

In the Chorley Schools' competition, both Year 7 and Year 9 won their triangular tournaments and as a result are through to the finals of the competition. The date for these finals are to be confirmed. Congratulations to both of these age groups and good luck in the final!



Netball

This term has seen a lot of netball taking place. This culminated in the Year 10 and 11 teams competing in the Chorley Schools' tournament at Holy Cross in November.

The Year 10 team came third after strong victories against Parkland's and Albany, a loss against Holy Cross and a really close competitive game against St Michael's, where the girls just missed out.



The Year 11 team gained the silver medal after beating St Michael's B team and Parkland's, a close defeat to St Michael's A team and a loss against Holy Cross.



We would like to thank the Year 11 girls for representing school in the netball team for the last five years and committing their time to the PE department - well done ladies!

Badminton Update

On a cold, dark night in December, the U16 boys' badminton team travelled to Holy Cross to compete in the first of the Chorley Schools' competitions. They were absolutely outstanding and won the competition, becoming Chorley champions. The team consisted of Charlie Stangroom, Zach Berry, Oliver Winnard and Sam Boucher. Congratulations boys and well done!



The KS4 girls' team had their badminton competition at Bishops on Tuesday 12 and played very well to get the silver medal. The team consisted of Emily Hadfield, Annabelle Hill, Bea Pendlebury and Anna Berry.

The KS3 boys' team played at Bishops on Wednesday 13th and they won the bronze medal. The team consisted of Tom Hadfield, Dan Ireland, Rafa Leach and Alfie Molyneux.

Leo Wilson is completing his leadership course and umpired throughout the night.

INTERHOUSE COMPETITIONS

Over the course of the Christmas term a lot of interhouse competitions have taken place. The PE department are incredibly grateful for all tutors for organising teams and supporting the students. The winners of the following competitions are below...

Netball

Year 11 - 11X Winners
Year 10 - 10H Winners



Football

Year 11 - 11M Winners
Year 8 - 8X Winners



In November, all classes in Years 7, 8 & 9 and some Year 10 classes took part in an Interhouse week. All tutor groups participated in bench ball and sports hall athletics with all scores being added together to create both year group winners and an overall winner. The results are below...huge congratulations to X on being crowned the overall winners of the interhouse week!

Year 7

6th - 44 points - M
5th - 49 points - A
=3rd - 50 points - B & C
2nd - 51 points - H
1st - 75 points - X

Year 8

6th - 39 points - C
5th 44 points - B
4th - 49 points - M
3rd - 54 points - X
2nd - 65 points - H
1st - 78 points - A

Year 9

6th - 44 points - A
5th - 45 points - H
4th - 50 points - M
=2nd - 54 points - B & C
1st - 62 points - X

Year 10

6th - 8 points - H
5th - 12 points - C
=3rd - 15 points - A & X
2nd - 16 points - M
1st - 18 points - B

Overall

6th - 155 points - C
5th 159 points - M
4th - 166 points - B
3rd - 169 points - H
2nd - 186 points - A
1st - 206 points - X

Chorley Schools' Sports Year 9 Leadership Academy

On Friday 22 September, 14 of our Year 9 students travelled to Westway Sports' Hub to take part in the Chorley School Sports' Partnership Leadership Academy. During the three and a half hour session, they learnt all about the process of becoming a sports' leader and what opportunities they can take part in to lead younger students in the borough of Chorley. They also took part in a number of team building and communication skills' activities with students from other schools in Chorley to practise what they were learning. Over the course of the next academic year, there are lots of events for these students to get involved with and we look forward to supporting them Good luck on your leadership journey!

Girls - Lucia Zoldan, Judy Winnard, Eve Robinson, Yasmin Elliott, Maisie Geary, Isabel Goodman, Chloe Nickson

Boys - Henry Ball, Tom Hadfield, Brad Fairman, Dan Ireland, Oliver Sim, Leo Wilson, Alfie Molyneux

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND FUNDRAISING

Bishop Rawstone continues to support our local community and fundraise for charities which are close to our heart. Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising activities this term!

Bake a Cake for MacMillan

On Friday 29 September we held our first big fundraiser of the year which was a cake baking competition for students and staff, raising funds for MacMillan Cancer Support. This was part of Macmillan's Coffee Morning which runs annually raising funds to help everyone with cancer to live life as fully as they can. Bakers could bake a cake, tray-bake or small cakes and biscuits, and even bake a European Day of Languages themed cake for a special prize. Competition was fierce and Year 7 in particular made some great cakes!

Our Charity Minions' group had the tough 'job' of judging and awarding prizes before the cakes went on sale at breaktime. They were priced at 50p or £1 and sold like 'hot cakes'!

Thank you to everyone who baked and bought a cake - it was a fantastic effort which raised over £470 for a wonderful cause.



Walking for the BHF

Harris in Year 7 walked 125 miles in September and raised over £1,000 for the British Heart Foundation. He was supported by his tutor group at the start of the month who walked laps of the 3G pitch one afternoon registration.



October Non Uniform Day

The first non-uniform day of the year was on Friday 13 October - supporting the charity who took our preloved PE kit. It will help fund their next container going to their facilities in Rwanda. £2 per student went to FOMO (Friends of the Mulanje Orphans). This is a small local charity to whom we sent our preloved PE kit. They will be sending it to their base in Rwanda for use in schools' and sports' clubs there and we raised over £1667!



PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

In a bid to help with the rising cost of living and to try and reduce the impact of our uniform on the planet, we launched our pop up shop last year, enabling parents and carers to purchase clean, good quality uniform at reduced prices via the school.

The Pre-Loved Uniform Shop in September 2023 raised another £186, taking the total so far to £786. The Charity Minions have agreed to fund a reading carousel for learning support, using a chunk of this money.

Please hold onto your clean, good quality uniform and look out for further appeals next term!

Christmas Tree Festival

This November, the Academy supported the Christmas Tree Festivals held at two of the local churches in the community to help raise vital funds.

Our Charity Minions' group decorated the tree themselves and hand-painted all the baubles, showcasing all of the charities that we have supported at Bishop Rawstone in recent years and we think they did a fantastic job!

On Friday 17 November, we went to St James Church in Leyland to assemble our tree, rescuing and releasing a bird trapped in the church in the process!

On Friday 24 November they were back at St Michael's and All Angels in Croston.



The Garden Gang

A group of like minded and enthusiastic teachers are hoping to transform the garden at the back of school into a growing and peaceful environment for all students and staff to enjoy. This is a huge task and will take many months (even years) to complete. We are hoping to create an area with raised vegetable and flower beds that the whole Croston community can be part of and in which students can relax and have some peace and quiet. The area is very overgrown and our first job is to clear and 'pave or tarmac' it and fence it off. If you can help, or if you have the ability to help pave the area or put up a fence please contact Mrs Duckworth!



Year 7 & 8 Disco

On the 19 December the student voice team held the Year 7 and 8 Christmas disco. It was a great atmosphere and good opportunity for students to let their hair down and enjoy themselves. The members of the student voice team did a fantastic job from selling tickets and creating a festive playlist raising £163.05 for Shelter by selling refreshments and glow sticks.



December Non Uniform Day

Once again our students and staff rose to the occasion and donated over £950 in cash and a mini bus load of food for the non uniform day on Friday 15 December. The Charity Minions and lots of staff were on hand to help with the collection which was very hectic. The Charity Minions, (assisted by Mrs Hornby and Mrs Murphy), took the donated food to Leyland Food Bank who were very grateful for our donations. We were even treated to a 'brew' and lovely home made fudge in their community cafe.



VISITS AND TRIPS

Germany/Belgium Trip

In the last week of term in July, an incredible 147 Year 9 and 10 students, ably led by 15 dedicated members of staff, headed off for six days in Germany with a short stopover in Belgium. We have never taken as many students on an overseas trip before and we could have doubled that figure such was the level of demand. The challenges of Covid certainly whetted our students' appetite for a trip overseas with their friends. The party was based at the Jugendherberge Köln-Riehl in the western city of Cologne in the Rheinland region of Germany and from there headed off each day for a range of exciting and interesting activities. We visited the Nurbürgring motor racing circuit and did some shopping and sight-seeing in Cologne, before a day spent in Boppard and Koblenz, two towns directly on the Rhein river, the highlight of which was a boat trip from Boppard to Koblenz, taking in the beautiful scenery on a lovely sunny day. As usual the highlight of the trip was a day spent at the Phantasialand Theme Park in Brühl, where the students had a fantastic day sampling the many rides available. We left Germany on July 13th and headed through Belgium, visiting a number of war cemeteries en route, before attending a memorial service honouring the war dead at the Menin Gate in Ypres on the Thursday evening. After an overnight stay in Ypres, we made our way back to Dover via Calais on July 14th and then onwards back to Croston. The students had a great time and were wonderful ambassadors for the school.

Year 7 Paris Trip

Also in the last week of term, 42 Year 7 students went on a fabulous 4 day trip to France, visiting Armori Park, St Malo, Paris and Disneyland Paris.

Year 11 Krakow Trip

In October, 45 of our History GCSE students took part in the trip to Krakow, Poland. The trip included a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, as well as visits to the Schindler Factory Museum and Jewish Museum. We were also fortunate enough to meet Anna, who survived the horrors of the Holocaust. The students also enjoyed the experience of seeing the sights of Krakow, including Wawel castle, the vibrant shopping areas and even time for some bowling. The students were a credit to the school and had a fantastic experience whilst taking away lots of wonderful memories from the trip. Thanks to the staff who supported the trip – Mr Hornby, Mr Cowley, Mrs Walton, Mrs Winter and Mrs Prior.



Greenpower Aintree 23

Greenpower Aintree 23 went very well. The sun shone which it doesn't normally and the students had a great time. The Rawstone Rocket came 4th in the first race in our category and 6th in the second race. The students also analysed what made the cars ahead of us more competitive and will work to incorporate similar developments into our car along with our own recent improvements.



Remembrance Day commemorations

To commemorate Armistice Day on the 11th November, a number of our History students accompanied Mr Cowley, Mr Duckworth and Mr Hornby to the Croston War Memorial to take part in a remembrance service to honour those who fought and died in all wars since WWI and pay respects to those who died from Croston. The Last Post was played by Ella-Grace Card in Year 10, and the students represented the school superbly.

Senior Prefect Trip to the Christmas Markets

In the afternoon of 12 December the Senior Prefects went to Manchester Christmas Markets to say thank you for all they have done for the school this year.

Journey to the Stable Performance

Every Wednesday lunchtime, the KS3 Drama club meet in E2 where they play drama games, make new friends and build skills in Drama which has helped to shape a wonderfully festive performance at church.

On Tuesday 5 December, a group of young KS3 actors performed a lively performance of 'The Journey to the Stable' for primary schools at Eccleston St Mary's Church. After weeks of rehearsals, the students retold the story of Jesus' birth and the Christmas Story using a theatre-in-education format for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 students

Students involved were: Joshua Laithwaite 7C, Lucie Chapman 7C, Emily Oprea 7B, Isla Shaw 7M, Ruby Crighton 7M, Eva Billsborough 7X, Sophia Hayes 7X, Freddie Dunlop 7M, Anaya Jennings 7M, Emily Bayman 7M, Molly Jones 7H, Lucy Graham 7M, Sophie Whaite 7C, Isabel Leadbetter 7M and Rocco Whittle 7A. Well done, Year 7 Drama Club!



Year 10 The English Challenge 2023

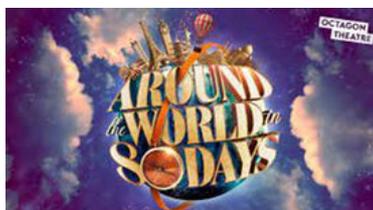
On Tuesday 12 December, Mrs Smith-Hughes accompanied the following students to Runshaw College to compete in the English Challenge competition with a number of other schools from across the county. The students involved in the competition were: Danielle Pendlebury, Dylan Wilson, Luca Brewer and Jenna Harding.

They all represented Bishop Rawstone so professionally in the competition and it was a fabulous opportunity for our students to showcase their English skills and Literacy in a competitive and supportive competition. Well done!



Year 9 Theatre Trip to The Bolton Octagon to watch 'Around the World in 80 Days.'

On Wednesday 20 December, Mrs Smith-Hughes and a number of other staff accompanied the Year 9 to see the award-winning production of 'Around the World in 80 Days' at The Bolton Octagon. The production was phenomenal and the students thoroughly enjoyed their morning out at the theatre. Thank you to all the staff involved in supporting the Drama department this term; without you, none of the trips would be possible!



FUTURE TRIPS

- Year 8 Bolton Octagon Theatre Trip to watch 'Animal Farm' - February 2024.
- Year 9 Animal Farm Theatre Trip - February 2024
- GCSE Food Technology & Nutrition students trip to Lancashire Farm Educational Centre - April 2024
- Year 10 Sorrento Geography Trip (residential) - April 2024
- Year 9 and Year 10 Cleveleys Beach Geography Trip - June 2024
- Germany/Belgium (residential) - July 2024
- Year 7 French Trip (residential) - July 2024

More trips are in the planning stages and further details will be provided nearer to the time.

AUTUMN ROUND UP

European Day of Languages

In 2001 the Council of Europe chose 26 September to be the European Day of Languages. The aim of the day is to celebrate the many languages and cultures around the world. Here at school it gives us the opportunity to discover the similarities and differences between our country and others. Year 7 spent the morning participating in a range of activities within the MFL department. These included learning about Switzerland (a country with a diverse range of languages), looking at foreign words which we use in English (and playing a few rounds of Blooket!), creating posters about why we learn Languages, and watching a short tv programme in German. Our most able linguists in Year 11 were invited to visit Runshaw College for the morning and we are very grateful to the Head of German, Mr Paul Wyton, for welcoming us and providing an enjoyable and challenging programme. Whole school worship focussed on the importance of learning Languages as a means to foster tolerance, empathy and understanding and encourage us to be global citizens, for example by learning a small amount of a new language before we visit a new country. Why not have a go on a free app such as Duolingo? Let us know how it goes!



Duolingo - Language Lessons
Learn Spanish, French, German
Duolingo
It's in Education
★★★★☆ 4.2 - 4.5 (2024) Ratings
Free - Offers In-App Purchases

Music Band Concert

On Thursday 5 October the music department held their first concert of the academic year. In total 80 students across all year groups took part and there were over 320 attendees, making it one of the biggest audiences since covid restrictions were lifted! Throughout the evening visitors were treated to a mixture of classical, pop and soul music from our soul band, vocal groups, solo performers and ensemble groups, and we were blown away by the talent from all the students who performed. We would like to congratulate all the students involved and we would also like to thank everyone who attended for their continued support. We look forward to holding more concerts throughout this academic year and growing our department even further.



PSHE and Citizenship

We have had a number of external speakers and agencies supporting our PSHE topics this term – further details of these can be found in our PSHE & Wellbeing Newsletters available on our website.



Celebrating World Mental Health Day



On Tuesday 10 October the whole of the school got involved in activities for World Mental Health Day – a global initiative celebrated annually to recognise the significance of our mental health.

Students were encouraged to create a Reverse Bucket List – to write down everything that they have achieved, no matter how big or small, the idea being to create a sense of gratitude for our accomplishments and experiences. Throughout the day students were given the opportunity to add to their list. Along with a moment of mindfulness before their next lesson, which included trying out Sophrology breathing activities, they took part in a mental health quiz. This was designed to provide students and staff with the opportunity to talk about mental health, how we need to look after it, and how important it is to get help if you are struggling.

Staff also got involved by wearing green ribbons badges to show their support and taking part in a cake anagram quiz – things got competitive between departments with Geography getting their answers in first and Maths achieving the Growth Mindset Award!

All in all it was a great day with lots of participation and positive feedback from both students and staff and most importantly, providing us all with the opportunity to think more about our mental health.

Faraday STEM Challenge

On Thursday 12 October, a selection of Year 8 students took part in a fantastic inter school STEM competition called the Faraday challenge. This was hosted at Bishop Rawstorne by STEMFirst on behalf of the institute of engineering and Technology and three other local schools were also invited to take part in the competition. Our students worked on a brief and created a working prototype including electric components before presenting their final idea to the judges. All the students involved worked brilliantly in their teams showing creativity and resilience and were excellent ambassadors for the school!



Year 10 Manacto Theatre Visit 'A Christmas Carol'

On Thursday 14 December Manchester-based theatre company came to Bishop Rawstorne to perform 'A Christmas Carol' for the Year 10 in preparation for their GCSE exams in the Summer. The students were fabulous and asked a plethora of great questions to help them to fully prepare for the rigour of the GCSE English Literature Exam. As usual, the Year 10 were amazing and enjoyed getting involved in the discussions and workshops following the production.



Year 11 Christmas Meal

On 20 December our Year 11 students were taken out for lunch at the The Highfield in Croston followed by a disco to allow them to wind down after a very busy term.

Parents Forum

Gathering feedback from parents about how we do things is very important to us, and in November we ran our first parent forum of the school year - the subject was Reporting and SIMS with Mr Wood.

Our next forum will take place on 12 March, the subject for this is Enrichment with Miss Huyton, our Extra-Curricular Co-ordinator.

Further details on what was discussed at our forums and how to get involved can be found on our website: www.bishopr.co.uk/parents/parent-forums.

Year 7 Coffee Morning

On Thursday 14 December we welcomed over 50 year 7 parents in to school for a Fairtrade coffee morning.

There was the opportunity to see students work give the school feedback and listen to a presentation on school reports and parents evening. We also made over £50 for Fairtrade, and thanks to the charity minions for doing all the serving and catering!



EXAM UPDATE

In November our Year 11 students sat their mock examinations in the hall and gym, providing them with the opportunity to experience what it will be like to sit formal exams once the GCSEs start in May 2024. Most importantly it has given them a real awareness of how to plan for revision, manage their time effectively and measure their own progress.

Results were given out on Tuesday 12 December giving all of our Year 11s a clear picture of where they are doing well right now as well as any areas for improvement.

Following receipt of their results they had a different day making willow lanterns and then some neurological art.



Maths Advent Challenge

The Maths department set the whole school an advent challenge in December – using the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and with any mathematical operation, can we create all of the values from 1-100?

Prizes were awarded to the individual student and tutor group which fills the most squares.

Our favourite solution was from tutor group 11H:

$$\sqrt{(5^3+4^3+3^3+2^3+1)}$$

Or $1^{\wedge}(2^{\wedge}(3^{\wedge}(4^{\wedge}5)))$ from 7A

The winning tutor groups were:

11H with 30 completed values

7M with 19 completed values

8B with 13 completed values.

The individual winners were:

Harvey Lawson from 11H with the most creative solution, and Joey Lucas in 11A who completed the final square.

Merry Christmas from the Math's Team! 🎄🧑‍🎓❄️

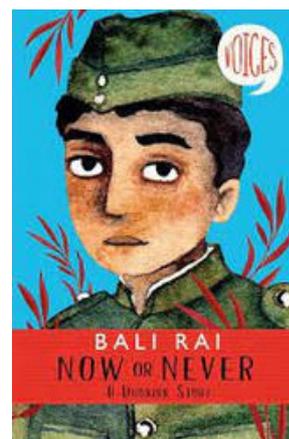
The Punctuation Show Live!

Following the phenomenal success of 'The Punctuation Show Live!' earlier this year, we were happy to welcome back this humorous and memorable show in the autumn term. Year 7 and Year 11 were lucky to experience a one hour live performance in the hall, which not only entertained them, but was also a fantastic revision of key literacy skills... even Year 11 enjoyed a punctuation sing along – great to see them getting involved and recapping the skills they will need in the summer exams! In addition to this, Year 8 will also experience a 30 minute live stream of this wonderful performance in the last week of term.



Year 7 Transition and World Book Day: Bali Rai visiting school

Year 7 have had an amazing start to English at Bishops, and so many of the pupils were excited to share their thoughts on the book gifted to them on taster day: the fantastic 'Now or Never' by Bali Rai. Some even reviewed the book as part of their first reading challenge. Watch this space, because we are lucky to be welcoming Bali Rai to school in March to celebrate World Book Day, when he will present to the students in the hall. Students might even be able to get their own copy of 'Now or Never' signed by the author himself!



EVENTS NEXT TERM

- Year 7 yoga and well-being event on Monday 29 January.
- Year 8 Bolton Octagon Theatre Trip to watch 'Animal Farm' on Thursday 22 February. Leaving school at 11.30am and returning to school by 4.30pm.
- Monday 11 March 9-11am (Hall) 'Romeo and Juliet' Year 10 Performance by Manacto.
- Thursday 14 March 9-11am (Hall) 'Macbeth' Year 10 Performance by Manacto.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

After a busy Autumn term I would like to thank all students who have attended and supported the extra-curricular and enrichment activities that have been offered. Thanks also to the staff who have given students the opportunity to develop their interests and different skills and to parents for their support with the pick-up after the usual school hours.

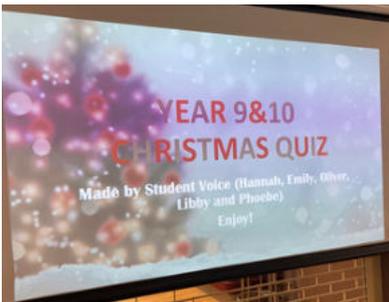
There has been a wide variety of enrichment activities offered across subject areas; I would encourage all students and parents to check the website where they can find an up-to-date timetable of sporting and non-sporting extra-curricular activities: The website link for this is: <https://bishopr.co.uk/parents/extracurricular>.

The development of inter-house competition within school continues, this term there has been football, netball, bench-ball and sports-hall athletics, photography and a Christmas quiz for Year 9 and 10. The Christmas quiz was a success with a big thank you for the support of Student Voice who organised and hosted the quiz, we are already looking forward to the Easter quiz for Year 7 and 8 and pancake race events in the Spring term!

Congratulations to all students who have participated and to all tutor group winners.

There have been plenty of other activities that curriculum areas have offered such as enrichment including a theatre visit to watch 'Around the World in 80 Days' with all students in Year 9, the Music department hosting a music concert which was very well supported and 61 students going to see Shrek The Musical on Thursday 14 December. The Technology department have hosted the Faraday STEM challenge, organised by the Institute of Engineering and Technology were STEM ambassadors and the organisers worked with some of our Year 8 students.

Miss Huyton
Extracurricular Coordinator



German Christmas Club

A group of Year 7 students has enjoyed attending German Christmas club on Tuesday lunchtimes this half term. They learned more about German Christmas traditions and sang plenty of Christmas songs!

Thank you to Mrs Farrimond and Mrs Dawson for organising the club. Year 7, look out for German Blooket Club in the new year. Frohe Weihnachten!



NEW GEOGRAPHY PODCAST - GEOG ON!

We are excited to announce the launch of a new club dedicated to creating a geography podcast titled Geo On. This innovative initiative is spearheaded by our enthusiastic Year 10 students, who have already made a remarkable start by securing an exclusive interview with Sacha Dench, the renowned United Nations Ambassador for Migratory Species and CEO of Conservation Without Borders. The Year 10 students, driven by their passion for geography and storytelling, have meticulously planned, emailed, and phoned to land this exceptional guest speaker. Sacha Dench's extensive experience in conservation and her first hand encounters with migratory species make her an ideal candidate to share her insights with our audience.



CHRISTMAS READING



Stocking Fillers

KS3 Reading

We Wish you a Merry Christmas and other Festive Poems – Chris Riddell

- The Silent Stars go by – Sally Nicholls
- Impossible Creatures – Katherine Rundell
- The Chestnut Roaster – Eve McDonnell
- The Door of no Return – Kwame Alexander
- The Den – Keith Gray
- Just like Everyone Else – Sarah Hagger-Holt



KS4 Reading

- Almost Midnight – Rainbow Rowell
- Love in Wonderland – Abida Bello
- Suddenly a Murder – Laura Munoz
- Catch your Death – Ravenna Geron
- Heartstopper Volume 5 – Alice Oseman
- Sisters of Sword and Shadow – Laura Bates
- All that's left to say – Emery Lord



SCHOOL BASED INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING

Bishop Rawstone and its partner schools in the Red Rose Alliance have been delivering teacher training for over 20 years.

If you are interested in a career in teacher training or know of somebody who is considering a career change then why not contact us for a chat and to talk through the possibilities.

Contact us at school through office@bishopr.co.uk.

B for Bishops Awards This Term

Congratulations to all these students who received a 'B' for Bishops Badge this term:

AMBASSADOR BADGE

Year 7

Alana Halliwell
Amelie Tate
Anna Parker
Ava Young
Ben Cross
Ella Walsh
Ellie Haslam
Emily Oprea
Eva Billsborough
Evie Saunders
Grace Riley-Orr
Harris Townley
Isabel Leadbetter
Isla Wood
Jack Bashora-Guyo
Joseph English
Joshua Laithwaite
Kate Howard
Laurie Whiteside
Lily Bamford
Lucie Chapman
Lucy Graham
Lucy Ross
Maisy Taylor
Mia Ebdon
Miaotong Li
Millie Blunt.
Molly Jones
Molly Wright
Nancy Ellison
Ollie Taylor
Poppy Boag
Rafe Malcome
Robbie Greenwood
Rosa Gregory
Ruby Crighton
Sophia Hayes
Sophie Whaite

Thomas Robinson
Xander Bird

Year 8

Eleanor Mapple
Emma Tattersall
Freya McEvoy
Gemma Fazakerley
Isabelle Mort
Kaitlyn Kavanagh
Martha Kidd
Matilda Carey
Matilda Thompson
Meadow McNeilly
Sadie Gallagher

Year 9

Amelie Matthews
Bea Smith
Beth Otterburn
Brad Fairman
Florence Chaplin
Harry Cheyne
Imogen Leach
Lucy Robinson
Martha Thomas
Oscar Newby
Scarlett Shaw
Tom Dalton

Year 10

April Young
Sam Boucher
Scarlett Dean

Year 11

Evan Taylor
Seth Joyce
Trinity Whitfield-Walsh
Zach Berry

SPORTS BADGE

Year 7

Elsa Thomson
Rory Poole
Seren Haynes

Year 8

Martha Kidd
Matthew Mclellan
Oliver Golding
Pollyanna Hodgson
Zach Whittle

Year 9

Jack Coupe
Jamie Weetman
Maisie Dodd
Martha Thomas
Ruby Martland

Year 10

Charlie Boardman
Robyn Proudley

Year 11

Lewis Cuming
Rhys Simms

ARTS

Year 7

Thomas Robinson

CHARITY BADGE

Year 7

Anaya Jennings
Emily Oprea
Harris Kirby
Isabel Leadbetter
Lily Bamford
Luke Gabbett
Mikey Hulbert
Nathan Sefton

Year 8

Aime Sephton
Camilla Morton
Isabelle Kellett
Joy Owen
Max Boshoff

Year 9

Lucia Zoldan
Olivia Jeffery

Year 10

Bea Pendlebury
Florence Hulbert

Year 11

Alex Sephton
Alexander Collinson

George Rowe
Matthew Dewhurst

COMMUNITY BADGE

Year 7

Ruby Crighton

Year 8

Eleanor Mapple
Emma Tattersall
Oliver Owens-Crook

Year 9

Daisy Astle
Edward Nye
Matthew Cleasby

Year 10

Demi Rourke
Emily Hadfield
Evangeline Tierny

Year 11

Bea Crean

ENTERPRISE BADGE

Year 8

Alexander Kirk
Amani Kirby
Eleanor Mapple
Emma Tattersall
Harry Watkinson
Henry Hodgkinson
Lucas Summers
Martha Kidd
Max Boshoff
Oliver Oettinger
Oliver Owens-Crook
Olivia Smallshaw
Rosie Counce
Rosie Furzeman
Stephanie Parr
Tabatha Girling
Thea Lucas
Tyler Summers

Year 11

James Smith

NOTICEBOARD

KEY TERM DATES

School re-opens - Monday 8 January 2024 ALL YEARS

School closes at 3pm - Friday 9 February 2024

School re-opens - Monday 19 February 2024

School closes at 2pm - Friday 22 March 2024

For more dates visit our website.

HELP AND SUPPORT

Some links for information and support can be found in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Support and Advice section on our website, or scan the QR code for a direct link:

SUPPORT OUR LIBRARY

We have an excellent, well-stocked, and up-to-date library here at Bishops. Students can borrow books for 2 weeks, or renew them if they need to keep the book a bit longer to finish it. For further information please contact the school.

SELF-CARE OVER CHRISTMAS

For many children in the UK, the school break can be a hard time for their mental health. Don't forget to try the following suggestions:

1. Connect with friends or family
2. Stay active
3. Get Outside
4. Art
5. Get Cooking



HAVE A LOVELY CHRISTMAS BREAK FROM ALL OF US AT BISHOP RAWSTORNE!