

NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS – December 2018
(Issue 62)



December 2018

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Guardian

As the Autumn term draws to a close, the school continues to be a hive of activity with so many different things going on as we prepare for Christmas, be it our Christmas concert, church services, the Year 11 Christmas celebration, and much more, but without us losing any of the focus on teaching and learning that is central to what we do.

Within our Christian community we recognise and celebrate Advent as the time of preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus. Through a range of assemblies, students have shared the real meaning of Christmas and participated in a number of fundraising activities to help the less fortunate. As in previous years, we have had a Christmas Appeal and this year it has been to support The Brick in Wigan. The Brick Project is a small project that delivers big results for the community it serves. It offers services to people who are homeless, in poverty or facing debt crisis. As its name suggests, it provides a safe, solid building block for people in crisis to begin to construct a new life and become valuable members of society. Our students have given generously in the form of food, toiletries and unneeded clothing to support this appeal and we have a non-uniform day on the last day of the term to raise funds for the project.

As usual we have our traditional Christmas services in St Michael's and All Angels Church in Croston for our students, a chance to look beyond the many good things that we are fortunate to enjoy at this time of year and reflect on the real message of Christmas, the birth of our Saviour, Jesus, who was born for us, that we may have life. There are so many things to enjoy in the days to come, time with our families, presents, fine food, a time to rest and be re-energised, but also to remember so many people around the world, including young children who do not enjoy our blessings.

The staff and governors of the school recognise the outstanding character, work ethic and values of our students and they are the key element of our Christian community, providing us with our motivation and purpose. In September, we welcomed our new cohort of Year 7 students to Bishop Rawstorne and it is wonderful each year to welcome all these new arrivals, the students who are our future, but more so to see them settled and happy. Year 7 have taken the transition in their stride and can look forward to Christmas as a well-deserved break after all their hard work so far. So many new faces to get accustomed to, new routines, a whole new environment. For Year 11 the recent mock GCSE examinations and the handing out of mock results has provided affirmation to many that they are on the right track. For some there will be a period of reflection and realisation of the need to really engage in class and in homework for the remainder of Year 11. Looking ahead to August 2019, we hope as many of our students as possible will be celebrating the fruits of their hard work, but in the meantime, it is our responsibility to challenge everybody to constantly improve and achieve the best that they can. Integral to this is excellent attendance and we will continue to challenge year groups and individual students where appropriate to be in school as much as is possible. Right up to the end of the term, school has been going full steam ahead to progress all of our students.

The support of you, our parents, in all that we do is invaluable and cannot be overstated. Our staff is dedicated and committed to enhancing outcomes for all of our students and that works best in partnership with you. On behalf of the Governing Body and all of the staff here, I would like to wish you and your families a happy, restful and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Cowley
Headteacher

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Over the last term the Music department have held a solo and ensemble in which students from Year 7 – Year 11 performed. This was very well received by all the parents that attended and it was excellent to see such a wide variety of instruments on show.



As well as the solo and ensemble concert, we also represented the school at a Christmas concert in Hesketh Bank at Beaconsall Church in aid of the Friends of Beaconsall Church. This was again another opportunity for the students to enhance and showcase their performance skills.

The Christmas concert was held at school on Thursday 13 December. We were delighted to welcome Trinity & St Michael's to take part in the concert. They wrote their own song and also performed a song with the combined choirs of Bishop Rawstorne, and we heard from the Academy Choir, Upper School Choir, Band and Broodwind group. The talent that was on show throughout the evening was incredible and all students that took part performed so well.



Two students played the 'Last Post and Reveille' as part of the school's Remembrance service, and did a superb job. Not only did they perform in school, they provided this for

Croston village and also in Wrightington.

CHARITY

Bishbucks for Macmillan



Once again we held a very successful Bishbucks event supporting Macmillan Cancer Relief. Staff enjoyed hot drinks and cakes delivered to



their rooms whilst students purchased hot chocolate and sweet treats at break time. The Year 7 bakers had a great time on the Thursday evening making the cakes and their parents were invited in for an informal 'Meet Other Parents' on the Friday too. All in all a great event which raised over £3,000!

PENNY JARS

All students listened to an assembly earlier on in the term about the importance of pennies and how small amounts, when put with other small amounts, can mount up into larger amounts. All tutor groups now have a 'penny jar' in their tutor rooms and are being encouraged to put into it 1p, 2p and 5p pieces. So far we have raised over £200 – a great amount. The appeal finished on 14 December and students are being asked to nominate charities for this money to go to.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Well done to Years 7 and 8 who were challenged to do a sponsored event for Children in Need. Many students took part and did things such as cake bakes, sponsored bike rides, sponsored swim and sponsored readathons! It was fabulous to see children organising their own events and taking part in these. The total raised was £1,177!!!. A great amount for this very worthwhile charity.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2018

On 5 December we launched our annual Christmas appeal. Parents will have received letters about this and there is more information on the website and Facebook page. As last year we will be supporting The Brick – Wigan's homeless charity. Students can wear their own clothes and are asked for a donation of £1 **plus** a packet of food or toiletry item on the last day of term – 21 December.



From 10 December there will be a collection box in the school Foyer should you wish to donate more items, or just send these in on the last day of term. Please give what you can for this very worthwhile cause.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

On Friday 9 November, the school held its Remembrance Services at St Michael's Church. Students laid wreaths on behalf of each year group and the last post was played to remember those soldiers from the First World War as part of our commemoration of the centenary of the end of this war.



Lauren Dobson, Liam Hardman, Emily Bannister and Kim Harrison took part in the local community's Remembrance Service on Sunday 11 November. Lauren and Liam laid wreaths on behalf of the school, whilst Emily and Kim played the last post during the services.

This year's poppy knitting has again been successful, with the addition of purple poppies, as suggested by a Year 8 student, in aid of the war horses and other animals who gave their lives in the conflict. £75 was raised for the British Legion.

The Art department also collaborated with Year 6s on Open Evening, painting poppies which were displayed in the foyer during remembrance week.....a mini poppy wall.

Our current Year 8s were busy last Summer term creating bunting with paint and fabric to represent the Christian values of our school, and these are now proudly displayed in the main corridor down to the gym. This has received lots of positive feedback. The Christian values tree mural is also on this corridor, and every member of the school has autographed a leaf with the date they started at Bishops. This has been hugely popular as a testament to our school community. The tree will grow over the years as new names are added.



YEAR 11 – KRAKOW TRIP

In October, 44 students took part in an educational visit to Krakow, Poland. During the visit, students visited Auschwitz-Birkeneau concentration camp, had a tour of the Jewish Quarter and the area where the Jewish



Ghetto was situated during WWII, visited Oscar Schindler's factory, and met an Auschwitz survivor. The students were a credit to the school throughout the trip and took away some fantastic experiences and memories.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR WEBCAST – YEAR 9

In January, Year 9 will watch a webcast of a talk from a Holocaust survivor as part of the school's Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations.

GREEN POWER TRIP TO AINTREE

In September members of the STEM Club spent a day at Aintree racing the kit car. They achieved 3rd place overall and received their first trophy. Congratulations to the following who took part: Alban



McGuinness, Cameron Evans, Catrian Evans, Alicia Turner, Tariq Fenemore, Oscar Williams, David Spiby, Jake Dickinson, Adam Culshaw, Tom Gouldsbrough and Luke Falkingham

COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TRIP, BERLIN

In October, students from Computer Science and Engineering visited Berlin, Germany to investigate the application of each subject in an industrial setting. Students visited a number



of Computer Science museums to look at how users can interact with computer systems using more than just the mouse and keyboard. Students also went to Dresden to visit the Volkswagen E-Golf factory. Students had an all access tour of a Factory and were

able to see the application of Computer Science and Engineering through robotics and mass production. Finally, students also had a talk with



the UK Border Force on how they use technology to keep our borders safe from cybercrime, terrorism and organised crime. All the students were an absolute credit to Bishop Rawstorne throughout the trip.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Year 7 Student Council Elections were held on 16 October this year. The quality of applications received was very high. This meant the process of selection was not easy. The vote for the final four was very close too and all six students should be proud of their achievements.

The Student Council work hard behind the scenes preparing the business of the year. Student Council Surgeries are a useful way to find out what issues the students want to address. This gives an opportunity for students to meet with their representatives in person to discuss any issues. The findings are then passed to the Senior Leadership Team who look at each one and their responses are reported back to the students, thus creating a two-way communication between staff and students.

Community

The school has had a long standing connection to Croston Park Care Home. It has created an enjoyable relationship between the students and residents. At the moment, students are making Christmas cards for the residents of Croston Park. They are also organising a cake sale to raise money to purchase Christmas gifts.



As part of an initiative to assist in the transition to secondary school a group have been working with Mrs Anglim, (staff co-ordinator for Year 6 transition). The idea is for members to visit local primary schools to promote a positive attitude to moving to secondary school. Scripted scenarios have been planned to be acted out covering common areas of concern to new students. A booklet, aimed at easing any worries the students may have, has been produced for circulation at the visits, which will take place towards the end of the school year.

Mrs Armitage, Lead Teacher of Art, has kindly offered to paint the toilet doors with inspirational quotes and artwork in an initiative to support

wellbeing within the school. The Student Council were asked to research what quotes the students would want. They are presently holding a competition asking the student body to come up with the best quotes. The winning quotes will be used in the artwork and prizes will be awarded.

Fund Raising

Following requests for more places to eat, the Student Council came up with the idea to create an outside classroom area which doubles up as an area for use at break and lunch times. This was completed last Summer and was funded by the students.

Other initiatives to raise money to improve school life are being researched, in particular, a Murder Mystery Family Night and an Ultimate Dodgeball competition. Money raised for the dodgeball will be shared with the British Heart Foundation.

VIVIT LIVE AUTOPSY

On Wednesday 14 November four Year 10, triple Science students and Mrs Petts attended a live autopsy at West Lancashire College's new Medical School. The students spent a fascinating day learning about human anatomy from a pathologist and took part in several dissections.



SCIENCE CLUB

In Science Club this half-term, students have enjoyed learning about the science behind fireworks and making bath bombs. Using aseptic techniques to collect bacteria the students found Mr Cowley to have the cleanest hands of those tested! Well done Mr Cowley.



THANK YOU

The MFL faculty would like to say 'muchas gracias' to our former students Eloise Frost and Mark Power and Mr Bell, grandfather of one of our Year 11 students, for the excellent work they have done in helping our Year 10 and 11 students to prepare for their GCSE Spanish speaking assessments. We are extremely grateful to them all for their time and effort in helping students to develop their confidence, accuracy and fluency. Thank you!



Journey to the Stable Performances

The Year 7 and Year 8 students performed their version of the 'Journey to the Stable' at Eccleston St Mary's Church for our associate primary schools. They worked tirelessly to modernise the opening scene which was fantastic. Beautiful singing performances were showcased from Maddison Snowden and Libby Bennet in Year 7. The students represented the school exceptionally well and really brought to



life the story of Jesus' birth in an exciting and lively format. A truly heart-warming morning was had by all the students involved and really got us all into the Christmas spirit! Thanks to all those students involved for their enthusiasm, hard work and commitment.

PARENTS' EVENINGS DATES

- Year 11 - Thursday 17 January 2019
- Year 7 - Thursday 7 February 2019
- Year 9 - Thursday 7 March 2019
- Year 10 - Thursday 21 March 2019
- Year 8 - Thursday 2 May 2019

ATTENDANCE

It's been, overall, a good term for attendance, and I thank parents as always for your continued support on this very important issue. As a school we are as understanding as we are allowed to be with regards absences, but can I please reiterate that any medical appointment cards, prescription details (photographs etc....) can be used as evidence to support authorised time off. This can be communicated via email to cprior@bishopr.co.uk. I appreciate the support that many of you offer when time off is taken, and ask for as much communicated information as possible as we continue to monitor the attendance of our 936 students.



Have a great Christmas and a peaceful new year.

SAVE THE DATE!

On Thursday 28 February 2019 we will be hosting a human careers library. We will be looking for parents to volunteer to chat with students about their careers. If you think you could help, please put it in your diary; more details to follow soon.



Bishop Rawstorne School Direct

Bishop Rawstorne, as part of its teaching school remit, offers a School Direct Initial Teacher Training programme. This is an exciting and innovative approach to teacher training which allows ourselves, and schools within our cluster, to create a personalised teacher training programme that ensures current and cutting edge learning.

If any of you have friends, or family members, who are interested in a career in teaching, please ask them to email the School Direct lead, here at Bishop Rawstorne - Helen Winter hwinter@bishopr.co.uk.

TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2018 - 2019

AUTUMN TERM 2018

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 28 August 2018

School re-opens on

Wednesday 29 August 2018
Years 7 and 11 only

Thursday 30 August 2018
All Years

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Thursday 4 October 2018 (Open Evening)

Closure after school

Friday 19 October 2018

School re-opens on

Monday 5 November 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 21 December 2018 **at 1.15pm**

SPRING TERM 2019

School re-opens on

Monday 7 January 2019

Closure after school on

Friday 15 February 2019

School re-opens on

Monday 25 February 2019

Closure after school on

Friday 5 April 2019 **at 2.00pm**

SUMMER TERM 2019

School re-opens

Tuesday 23 April 2019

MAY DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 6 May 2019

Closure after school on

Friday 24 May 2019

School re-opens on

Monday 3 June 2019

Closure after school on

Friday 19 July 2019 **at 1.15pm**

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

MONDAY 22 JULY 2019

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

TUESDAY 23 JULY 2019

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

WEDNESDAY 24 JULY 2019

Please note that any leave of absence will only be granted in very special or exceptional circumstances. We strongly urge parents to avoid taking children out of school for holidays during term time. The Headteacher remains the final arbiter for any requests made

TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2019 - 2020

AUTUMN TERM 2019

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 2019

School re-opens on

Wednesday 28 August 2019

Years 7 and 11 only

Thursday 29 August 2019

All Years

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER 2019 (OPEN EVENING)

Closure after school

Friday 18 October 2019

School re-opens on

Monday 4 November 2019

Closure after school on

Friday 20 December 2019 **at 1.15pm**

SPRING TERM 2020

School re-opens on

Monday 6 January 2020

Closure after school on

Friday 14 February 2020

School re-opens on

Monday 24 February 2020

Closure after school on

Friday 3 April 2020 **at 2.00pm**

SUMMER TERM 2020

School re-opens

Monday 20 April 2020

MAY DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 4 May 2020

Closure after school on

Friday 22 May 2020

School re-opens on

Monday 1 June 2020

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2020

Closure after school on

Friday 17 July 2020 **at 1.15pm**

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

MONDAY 20 JULY 2020

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

TUESDAY 21 JULY 2020

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Peace

