



December 2019

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our Christian community heads into the Christmas holidays enveloped not in the joy of the season as is usual at this time of year, but a deep sadness at the passing of Lauren Menzies from Year 9, who died away last week. It is hard to imagine the pain that is being felt by her family at this time as they try to deal with the dreadful loss of their lovely daughter and sister, taken from them all too soon. We will remember her as a bright, bubbly and hard-working student, who had a real strong talent for drama and dance. Her loss is particularly acute for her close friends, the students in her tutor group, in her year group, for the students of Year 7 who know Rafe, and all the staff who have taught Lauren over the past two years or so. Lauren's funeral will be on Christmas Eve 12.30 at Charnock Richard Crematorium and the family have said they do not want flowers or cards at the funeral, instead asking for donations to Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool if anyone wishes to do so: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/l-menzies06.

The strength of our Christian community comes to the fore at times like this and with the support of our Chaplains we had a series of assemblies for the different year groups in school, and Father Andrew led the staff in a short service of remembrance, thanks and prayer before the start of the school day after we had heard the terrible news. The Chaplains were in school all day to support our students and we also had counselling support from Blackburn Diocese. The level of respect and love for Lauren from so many students and staff in school was deeply moving. At times like this you remember not only the suffering that others have to endure, whether we know them or not, but also how a school and all of its community is built on relationships and the values that make those strong relationships possible, so that we are able to move forward with hope.

Psalm 46:1-3 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."

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 August, we welcomed our new cohort of Year 7 students to Bishop Rawstorne and it is wonderful each year to welcome all these new arrivals, whilst our Year 11s prepare for their GCSEs in May and June 2020. New beginnings and moving onto the next challenge remain integral within any school and are part of our blessed cycle, for which we are truly grateful.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP Cowley'.

Mr P Cowley
Headteacher

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

Healthy Eating Week 27 – 31 January 2020

In the New Year we are launching our healthy eating week in partnership with Mellors Catering Services. We are planning to hold the following events:-

Monday = Meat Free Monday

Tuesday = Smoothie Bike Event

Wednesday = Hydration Awareness

Thursday = Healthy Eating 5-a-day

Friday = Pop-up Vegan Kitchen



Good nutrition plays a vital role in maintaining good health. We understand that healthy eating is not always at the forefront of a student's mind so please help us to support your child by encouraging them to make healthier choices. Please encourage your child to take part and look out for the posters that will be displayed around school in the new year.

Drama Council – Journey to the Stable

It's been a busy term for the Drama Council, comprised of twenty students from Year 7-10, because they have been involved in Open Evening in October, planning and delivering workshops in E2 every Tuesday lunchtime, and writing, acting and directing in the nativity play, 'The Journey to the Stable' for some of our associate primary schools. Principal Director, Isobel Joyce (Year 10) has been instrumental in organising and supporting the Drama Council, along with the support of the Assistant Directors, Molly Furzeman, Hattie Derbyshire. In support roles within the council: Anna Spencer, Bradley Hodges, Cordellia Buckley, Freya Nicholls, who have made the Drama events both entertaining to be a part of, but they have also showcased the vast display of acting talent here at Bishop Rawstorne.

Upcoming Events – Drama Council

Tuesday lunchtime – E2 (Run by Cordellia Buckley and the Drama Council) Come along and enjoy Drama games, socialise and develop your skills in Drama – everyone welcome.



Year 9 Drama Visit to Winstanley College

On 12th December, Year 9 Drama students enjoyed a fun-packed day at Winstanley college where they had the opportunity to sample A Level courses in Drama, Performing Arts and Media/Film Studies. During the day, students participated in acting workshops, and watched the final A Level Performing Arts adaptation of 'The Addam's Family'. Everyone involved was a real credit to Bishops with their enthusiasm and positive approach to performance.

CYT – Alice in Wonderland

GCSE Drama students, Libby Smith-Hughes, Hayley Gaskell, Bradley Hodges and Lauren Menzies are all performing in Chorley Youth Theatre's production of 'Alice in Wonderland' in January (tickets available from the theatre). They have been rehearsing every Saturday to get ready to perform over two nights in January – one not to be missed!

Ex-Student, Joe Harrison to Walk the Cobblestones of Coronation Street!

After leaving us in the summer with exceptional GCSE result, ex-GCSE Drama student, Joe Harrison has been cast with a speaking role in Coronation Street. This is a phenomenal success for Joe, whom many of you will have seen on the television as the face of the Cadbury's Christmas advertisement. His scenes are due to air in February, with his debut episode on 6th February 2020. Keep a look out for him!

English Department

REMINDER

Year 10 students sitting early entry literature in May will be taking a 2-hour examination on 14 January. The paper will cover Blood



Brothers and question on the poetry anthology. We would be grateful if parents could remind their children to prepare for this exam as thoroughly as possible

Christmas Reading

Well done to all students for their hard work in reading during the autumn term. We encourage you to keep reading during the Christmas break, and to complete your reading card. Don't forget points are awarded for completion of your reading cards.



Young Writer's Poetry Competition: Through Their Eyes

Congratulations to all of the Year 7 students who were chosen to be published in this year's collection of poetry. The poems were written from a viewpoint of another person: a victim of bullying; a celebrity; a famous person from history; or a topical subject - global warming; equal pay; homelessness or war, for example. The students created thought-provoking, engaging and inspiring poems. Well done!



Don't forget to visit the Young Writer's website for free writing resources, including author fact packs, book reviews and creative activity packs: www.youngwriters.co.uk/activities

Mrs Regan/Mrs Lane

Author Visits:

Tom Palmer Years 7 and 8

Last month we welcomed Tom Palmer back for a second visit to the school. Both Year 7 and 8 were treated to an entertaining, exciting, and interactive presentation, including a general knowledge/reading quiz, and an amazing penalty shoot-out at the end. Many thanks to Mrs Dawson who was an enthusiastic goalie!

Upcoming Author Visits:

Jonathan Meres – 10 February 2020 for Year 7s

In the Spring term we are looking forward to the upcoming visit from comedy writer Johnathan Meres. The author writes the much-loved series, 'The Word of Norm', many of which are available to borrow from the school's library. He will be hosting a fast-paced session in the hall for the whole of Year 7, and will then be working with selected students on their story writing skills.

Alan Gibbons – 27 January 2020 for Year 9s

Finally, we are also looking forward with anticipation to Alan's return visit to us. He will be presenting a talk on his much-loved novels to the whole of Year 9, and will then host some workshops on creative writing with selected students – a much-needed skill for GCSE.

Library Recommended Reads for Years 7 & 8

Book Title	Author
The Armistice Runner and D-day Dog	Tom Palmer
The World of Norm	Jonathan Meres
End Game	Alan Gibbons
Noughts and Crosses	Malorie Blackman
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas	John Boyne
The Fault in our Stars	John Green
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time	Mark Haddon
Wonder	R J Palacio
The Book Thief	Marcus Zusak
Alex Rider	Anthony Horowitz (Series)
Gone	Michael Grant (Series)
The Hunger Games	Suzanne Collins (Series)
Skellig	David Almond
The Mortal Instruments	Cassandra Clare (Series)
The Maze Runner	James Dashner (Series)
Skulduggery Pleasant	Derek Landy (Series)
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness (Trilogy)
Holes	Louis Sachar
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen
The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge
The Book of Dust Trilogy	Philip Pullman

Student Council

The Students have worked hard behind the scenes preparing the business of the year. A number of issues have been resolved purely by the ability of students and staff to communicate easily with each other, creating open discussion.

One of the main aims of the Student Council this term has been to support our new intake of students in an effort to help them settle in. On 3 December, the Student Council, with staff support, hosted a quiz night. The event was very successful with a fun, relaxed atmosphere for the Year 7 students, their families, Council members and staff. The students were a credit to themselves and the school.

Members have also been involved in spreading awareness of the plight of many homeless people, by working with our chosen charity this year, Teardrops Hub in St Helens. On the build up to Christmas, a group of Council Elves are creating Christmas candy gifts to be sold in school.

It has been a pleasure over the past few weeks working with our young people on the Council and witnessing their ability to organise an event and demonstrate the development of the young adults that they are becoming.

Mrs C Thompson (Staff Co-ordinator)

Year 11 Krakow Trip

In October, 45 students took part in an educational visit to a very sunny Krakow in Poland. During the visit, students visited Auschwitz-Birkenau 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 an absolute credit to the school throughout the trip and took away some amazing memories and experiences.



Astronomy Club

A group of students from Years 7-11 have been participating in the astronomy club. The club involves many activities such as looking at the moon and planets; when the weather allows and a



more creative astronomy bases activity if the weather does not. Students are also given the opportunity to share their sightings with the group to help other to find celestial bodies in the night sky.

CHARITY

Mini Bus Appeal

We had a great response from students, staff, parents and friends and have raised almost £13,000 towards the new minibus. Thank you to all who supported, especially parents who passed on details of companies that helped us, students who did their own events to support us and many local groups whom also donated. We have a great new bus now which is ferrying students around the area on trips and sporting events!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We held our annual 'Bishbucks' event to coincide with the national Macmillan Coffee Morning. Staff had 'brews' and tasty treats delivered to their staff rooms whilst students enjoyed cakes and hot chocolate. We raised a fantastic £370 for this worthy cause.

Bahamas Appeal

We had a quick 'pop-up' appeal for the Bahamas after hurricane Dorian hit the Bahamas. It transpired that Miss Robinson had friends whose family had been greatly affected by this and so we appealed for supplies to send in a container to help needed families. We had a great response of tents, toiletries, non-perishable food items, nappies and many other items. We received word a couple of weeks ago that this container has now reached its destination and the supplies have been very gratefully received. Thank you to all who donated.



Rotary Shoebox Appeal

Staff, students and parents gave lots of support to this appeal again. The Rotary Club supplied us with the shoe boxes and we filled 74 of them with gifts for children, teenagers and families. The shoe boxes are now on their way to needy children and adults in Romania and Syria. Thanks to your generosity, they will have presents his Christmas time.



Non Uniform Day – October

Our first non-uniform day supported Breast Cancer Care and we sent £700 to this charity as we remember Mrs Ball who is currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer. We wish her well and a speedy recovery. We also supported Beau – the young cousin of one of our students. Beau was diagnosed with Polymicrogyria, Arthrogyrosis and a rare form of Spinal Muscular Atrophy. He requires therapy that is not available on the NHS and his parents are currently trying to raise £20,000 to fund this. We were pleased to be able to donate £1,000 to this worthy cause.

Cake Bake

Lydia Marchbank and friends raised over £200 to go towards the Beau fund. Lydia rallied support from her friends, family and teachers and held a cake bake on the last day of last term. Students enjoyed a huge variety of sweet treats with all proceeds going to the Beau appeal. Well done Lydia and friends!

Christmas Appeal 2019

Our Christmas appeal this year is supporting a very small local charity based in St Helens. Teardrops supports homeless people in the area as well as providing hot meals, showers and advice to people who are at risk of becoming homeless, they also provide Christmas hampers, supplying needy families with food and toy parcels for over the Christmas period.

We collected for the hampers and urged all students to bring in an item (or more) for the appeal. This could be tinned food, packet food, toiletries, a small new toy or new warm clothing – hats, scarves, gloves and socks. By collecting early we were able to deliver these items in time for distributing for Christmas.

We will also have our usual non-uniform day on the last day of term. As we are hoping all students will donate to the hamper appeal we will be setting the minimum charge for this at £1. Thank you in anticipation of your support for this and for more information, please contact Mrs Duckworth at school.

ECO Club

Eco Club have made 'fat balls' for the birds. These were made from lard and old scraps of bread, cakes and fruit. The balls will be hung from the trees around school and the bird boxes were very cleverly made by Mr Watkins our Technology Technician.



Teaching School

Want to become a Teacher? As a Teaching School, one of our many roles is to train outstanding future teachers. We are currently looking to recruit new trainees to our initial teacher training programme, known as 'Bishop Rawstone School Direct'. If any of your friends, or family members, are interested in a career in teaching, we would be more than happy to discuss our programme with them. Please feel free to contact Helen Winter (hwinter@bishopr.co.uk), our School Direct Lead, if you have any questions.

PARENTS' EVENINGS DATES

Year 11 - Thursday 16 January 2020

Year 7 - Thursday 6 February 2020

Year 9 - Thursday 5 March 2020

Year 10 – Thursday 19 March 2020

Year 8 - Thursday 6 May 2020

Late Buses

Can we please remind parents of the procedure for students should their school bus be late in a morning.

If a bus does not arrive on time, students should wait until 9.00am, return home, **inform parents** and telephone school to request an update. Students will then be advised how to proceed. Parents are asked to arrange for students to get to school if buses are not available.

Favourites of Croston Christmas Opening Times

The shop will be closed from Thursday 19 December 2019 and will re-open on Thursday 2 January 2020. Their out of hours email address is: sales@favouritesofcroston.co.uk and their out of hours telephone number is: 07980511314.



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 2pm**

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 2pm**

SUMMER TERM 2020

School re-opens

Monday 20 April 2020

MAY DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
(75th Anniversary of VE Day)

Friday 8 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 2pm**

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

MONDAY 20 JULY 2020

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

TUESDAY 21 JULY 2020

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 2020 - 2021

AUTUMN TERM 2020

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

MONDAY 24 AUGUST 2020

School re-opens on

Tuesday 25 August 2020
All Years

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)

MONDAY 31 AUGUST 2020

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER 2020 (OPEN EVENING)

Closure after school

Friday 16 October 2020

School re-opens on

Monday 2 November 2020

Closure after school on

Friday 18 December 2020 **at 2pm**

SPRING TERM 2021

School re-opens on

Monday 4 January 2021

Closure after school on

Friday 12 February 2021

School re-opens on

Monday 22 February 2021

Closure after school on

Friday 26 March 2021 **at 2pm**

SUMMER TERM 2021

School re-opens

Monday 12 April 2021

MAY DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 3 May 2021

Closure after school on

Friday 28 May 2021

School re-opens on

Monday 7 June 2021

Closure after school on

Thursday 15 July 2021 **at 2pm**

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

FRIDAY 16 JULY 2021

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

MONDAY 19 JULY 2021

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

TUESDAY 20 JULY 2021

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