



HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY LETTER

Spring 2

MEET THE TEACHER

Name: Mrs Stebbing-Johnson

What subject do you teach?

I teach Art at KS3 and KS4, and I also have a Year 10 tutor group.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I was working freelance in the art industry, collaborating with artists and galleries to facilitate and install exhibitions. At the same time, I worked part-time as an art technician in a school. I realized I enjoyed talking (and debating) about art with students more than working with artists. I've always loved running craft workshops and skill-sharing sessions with friends and in my old studio group, so teaching felt like a natural step.

What's a fun fact about you that students might not know?

I have pet chickens! They're often rehomed from commercial farms and live out their retirement in my back garden. My current flock includes Shirley, Herb, Lynn, and Linda. I also created a collaborative sculpture that was displayed along the Great North Run route, and I even have a photo of Mo Farah running past it.

Favourite book?

I'll admit I'm a bit of a cheat and usually listen to audiobooks rather than read! I enjoy speculative fiction, and one of my favourite books is *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood. I also really enjoyed *The Hunger Games* series by Suzanne Collins.

What's your favourite way to spend a weekend?

My favourite way to spend a weekend is with friends and family, whether it's going for a walk, enjoying a nice meal, heading to the cinema or going to see an exhibition. And of course, gardening with my chickens!

FAITH FOCUS



"Behold, the Lamb of God"
- John 1:29

In Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist points others towards Jesus with the simple words, "Behold, the Lamb of God." His example reminds us to pause and recognise where God is at work in the ordinary goodness of our lives. In moments of kindness, encouragement, fresh starts, and the determination of our young people as they grow and learn.

YEAR 7 PARENTS' EVENING

Thank you to all the families who attended our Year 7 Parents' Evening. It was a pleasure to welcome you into school and share the progress your children have made during their first term with us.

Your support, partnership, and engagement play a vital role in helping our pupils grow in confidence, and achieve their best. We truly appreciate the time you took to meet with teachers, and we look forward to continuing to work together throughout the year.



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Bishop Chadwick
Catholic Education Trust



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ENRICHMENT SPOTLIGHT: ENGLISH

SPELLING BEE

This term, KS3 pupils have been attending Friday sessions to prepare for the first round of the BCCET Spelling Bee.

The competition promotes a love of literacy and helps pupils develop ambitious vocabulary beyond the curriculum by learning challenging spellings and definitions.

Pupils compete across three trust-wide rounds before the annual winner is crowned.

To prepare, sessions include spelling quizzes, crosswords, conundrums and games of Boggle. It's a great opportunity for pupils who enjoy English or want to build their vocabulary while meeting new people.

UKRAINE PARTNERSHIP

Our Ukraine Partnership Project takes place every Wednesday lunchtime in E6.

Pupils have created origami sunflowers, written letters, shared videos about their favourite books and watched messages from our partner school. It has become a positive, welcoming environment where new friendships have formed.



DEBATE CLUB

Our Debate Club continues to grow on Wednesday Week A lunchtimes!

We have a keen group of pupils who enjoy developing their speaking and reasoning skills through lively, well-structured discussions.

Debate Club is open to all pupils who would like to build their confidence, explore topical issues and take part in purposeful discussion. New members are very welcome.

PUZZLE CLUB

Puzzle Club runs every Thursday lunchtime in E6 for all year groups. Pupils can enjoy word games such as Boggle, Scrabble and Hangman, or sit quietly with jigsaw puzzles. It's a calm, friendly space where pupils from different years can socialise and develop their problem-solving skills.



Over the past week, I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting lessons and seeing firsthand the excellent work our pupils are producing across the school. Their enthusiasm, focus, and pride in their learning have been evident in every classroom I entered.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have settled quickly back into their prelim preparation; demonstrating real maturity and determination. I have also been particularly impressed with our KS5 pupils who have already begun some of their external exams. Their attitude, composure, and work ethic have been exemplary, and we are incredibly proud of the way they are approaching this important stage in their education.

Thank you for working in partnership with us to ensure every pupil can achieve their best. I look forward to sharing more of their successes with you as the term progresses.

Mrs Lennox 16/01/2026



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