



Parent Newsletter

8th October 2026



As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding week, I have been reflecting on just how much our students have experienced, achieved and contributed to our school community. There is a real sense of momentum across the school and it is wonderful to see our students embracing opportunities both inside and beyond the classroom. Our Virtue of the Week has been Kindness. It is a simple word but one that carries enormous importance. Kindness is evident in the small moments that can easily go unnoticed: helping someone who is struggling, welcoming a new face, encouraging a teammate, listening carefully or simply taking the time to notice someone else. These moments shape the culture of our school and I have been particularly pleased to see our students demonstrating kindness towards one another this week.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all the parents and carers who attended our Parent Information Evenings. Your engagement and partnership matter enormously. When school and home work together, our young people benefit and I am grateful for the time you give to supporting your children and strengthening our wider school community.

It has been another week filled with exciting opportunities beyond the classroom. Our Year 11 Geography students have been out on their field trip, putting their classroom learning into practice and developing the skills that are so important to their studies. Our Year 12 and 13 Politics students had the opportunity to visit Parliament, providing them with a valuable insight into the workings of our democracy. Meanwhile, 20 of our DT students visited the Knit & Stitch Show at Alexandra Palace, an excellent opportunity to explore creativity and design in a real-world setting. Sport has also been a significant part of the week, with football fixtures for Years 7, 9 and 11. I am always proud to see our students representing the school, demonstrating teamwork and resilience. These experiences are about far more than the result. They are opportunities to learn how to work with others, respond to challenges and represent our community with pride.

We also held the second of our Year 6 Maths Tuition sessions this week. It has been fantastic to see our guest pupils engaging so positively with these sessions as they continue to build confidence and strengthen their mathematical understanding.

Looking ahead to next week, Tuesday is our Target Setting Day. Please ensure that you have booked your timeslot if you have not already done so. These conversations are an important opportunity to reflect on progress, celebrate successes and identify the next steps that will help each of our students achieve their very best.

Finally, as we continue to mark Black History Month, I am delighted to see our students engaging with the stories, achievements and contributions of Black people throughout history and in contemporary society. This is an important opportunity not simply to learn about the past but to broaden perspectives and celebrate the richness and diversity of our community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. There is much to be proud of in our school and I look forward to another week of learning, aspiration and opportunity.

***Mrs Henderson,
Headteacher***

Trips and Rewards

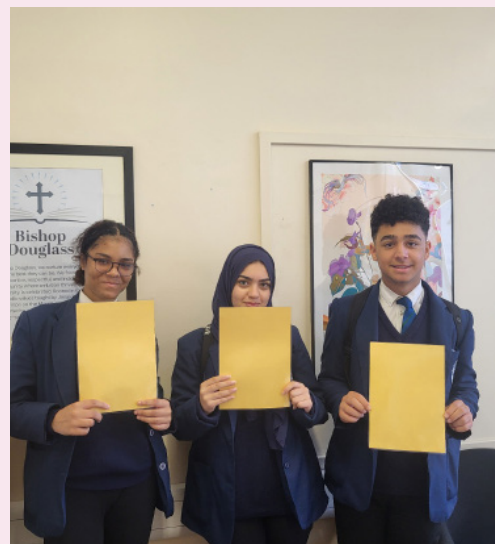
Headteachers Award

Throughout the year we distribute headteacher awards to students who stand out as demonstrating the beatitudes of Bishop Douglass School.

Catherine and Aya in 11C – for an excellent attitude in history, enjoyment in class and contribution to discussions as well as some excellent grades.

Ibrahim in 10C – for a fantastic start to his GCSE history course, showing enthusiasm and curiosity in class and contributing to excellent discussions on medieval and renaissance medicine.

A huge well done to these students!



Year 12 and 13 Visit the Palace of Westminster

Our Year 12 and 13 students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit the Palace of Westminster, taking a tour around the heart of British politics and gaining a fascinating insight into the history and workings of Parliament.

During the visit, students explored the iconic surroundings of Westminster and took part in an engaging workshop designed to deepen their understanding of politics, democracy and the role of Parliament. They also had the opportunity to hear from members of the team working with our local MP, who shared their experiences of working in the political sector and provided an insight into the variety of career opportunities available.

The visit was an excellent opportunity for our students to connect what they learn in the classroom with the real-world workings of British politics. It also encouraged them to think about their own future pathways and the many different ways they could contribute to public life and their communities.



Other News and Updates

Black History Month Celebrations

The history department are running their annual competition! There is a competition exhibition the week after half-term in the hall and then winners are awarded a prize in assembly.



THIS YEAR'S THEME IS LITERATURE

Bishop Douglass School

BLACK HISTORY MONTH Contest 2026

STUART HALL, SOCIOLOGIST

Fantastic history books as prizes for the best ones!

IGNATIUS SANCHO, POET, PLAYWRITE, MUSICIAN

MALORIE BLACKMAN, AUTHOR

What shall I do?

Produce your own artwork or writing connected to a work of black literature. This could be the design to the cover or a book, a piece of writing you do about an episode of black history or your own creative idea.

HAND IT IN THE WEEK AFTER HALF-TERM

If you are in Years 7, 8 or 9 you will be given homework time to have a go at this contest; anyone can enter!

WINNERS FROM EACH YEAR GROUP ANNOUNCED IN ASSEMBLY OR FORM-TIME

For more information, speak to a history teacher

PTA Meeting

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our PTA Coffee Morning. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers come together, enjoy a chat, and help strengthen our school community. Your support and involvement make a real difference to our school.

To stay up to date with school news, events, celebrations, and important reminders, please follow us on our social media pages:

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/BDSchoolFinchley>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bdfinchley/>

Mindful Parking

There have been complaints from local residents of parents blocking St Thomas More Way, Helen Close and Benedict Way.

To avoid congestion on Hamilton Road and Brackenbury Road, it would be best for parents to drop children off away from the school, such as East End Road or Ossulton Way.

Please be mindful of residents.

Other News and Updates

Please see additional attachment for Instrumental lesson timetable for the week beginning October 12th.

TOP 10 BD MERIT EARNERS THIS WEEK ARE:

Jasmine C - 11 pts
Niqon F - 7 pts
Romeo L - 7 pts
Peter J - 6 pts
Marven K - 6 pts
Laurence K - 6 pts
Mahdi A - 5 pts
Avin G - 5 pts
Junaid I - 5 pts
Hakim K - 5 pts

Keep up the superb effort!

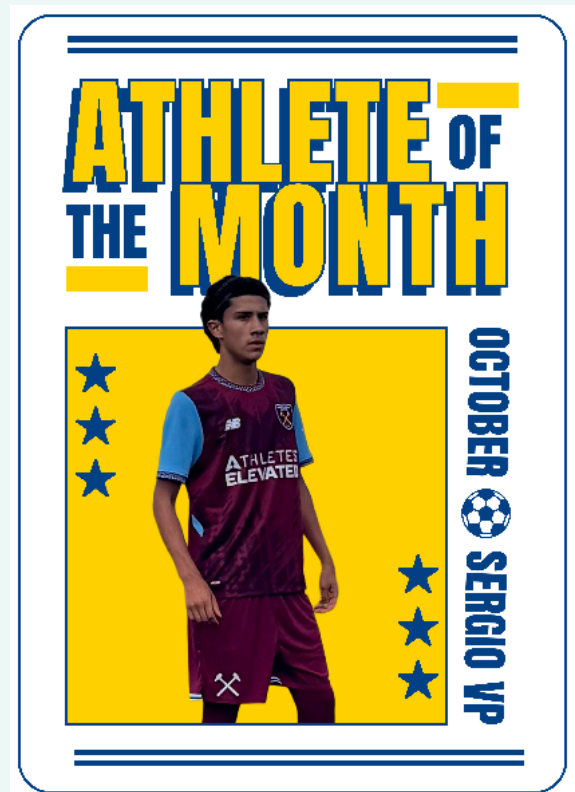
Club of the Week: ...

This week's 'club of the week' goes to...
TABLE TENNIS



Every Mon and Wed safter school! See you there!

Athlete of the Month



If you have a child that participates in a sporting activity and competes outside of school, please email school admin and inform Madam Green. Madam Green is always looking to celebrate student achievement! This week we are celebrating Sergio!

Drop Everything and Read will be on the 16th of October during module 3.

Aladdin Auditions are starting on the 12th of October - please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for more info.



The Weekly Focus

Good Manners Focus

Focus of the week: Being Prepared

Why it matters:

- Helps you to succeed
Having the right equipment and being ready to learn means that you can make the most of every lesson.
- Reduce Stress and Distractions
Being prepared means that you can get started straight away instead of worrying about what you have forgotten and trying to catch up.

Challenge: Ready to Learn-

Arrive to every lesson and lineup on time and with everything that you need. At the beginning of the day ask yourself if you have the correct equipment. Aim for a full week without forgetting anything!

Virtue of the Week

Virtue of the week: Kindness

This Gospel reminds us that we are stewards of what God has entrusted to us. This links closely to the Catholic value of kindness because being a good steward means caring for others and helping them to flourish. Here, at Bishop Douglass, kindness can be shown through small, everyday actions: listening to a student, offering encouragement, being patient when someone is struggling, or noticing when a colleague needs support. These actions help create a community where everyone feels valued and respected. The Gospel challenges us to ask: How can I use what God has entrusted to me to make a positive difference to someone else today?

Prayer: Lord Jesus,
Thank you for the gifts and responsibilities you have entrusted to us. Help us to be faithful stewards of our school community, caring for every young person placed in our hands. Give us patience when challenges arise, wisdom in the decisions we make, and kindness in the way we speak and act. May our words and actions help others to grow, flourish and recognise their God-given gifts.
May we remember that all we have is a gift from you and use those gifts generously in the service of others.
Amen

PSHE Focus of the Week

PSHE Theme of the week: RSE

RSE is the theme up until half-term for all year groups. Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is an important part of PSHE because it helps young people understand healthy relationships, respect, consent and personal boundaries.

By teaching these topics in a safe and supportive environment, schools can help young people develop positive relationships, protect their wellbeing and prepare for adult life.

Thinking Question:

What makes a relationship healthy, respectful and safe?

Word of the Day

Monday: Triumphant

Having achieved great victory or success, or feeling very happy and proud because of such an achievement.

Tuesday: Unperturbed

Not worried about something, especially when this is slightly surprising.

Wednesday: Delirious

Unable to think or speak clearly because of a fever or mental confusion.

Thursday: Homage

A great tribute to someone or something to show honour or respect.

Friday: Obscure

Not known to many people. Or to prevent something from being seen or heard.



Club Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Early Risers Indoor Football 07.15 – 8.00am (Mr. O'Brien)	Early Risers Indoor Football 07.15 – 8.00am (Mr. O'Brien)		Early Risers Indoor Football 07.15 – 8.00am (Mr. O'Brien)	Early Risers Indoor Football 07.15 – 8.00am (Mr. O'Brien)
Lunch	Maths Club Mr Manley A2.1	Maths Club Mr Manley A2.1	Maths Club Mr Manley A2.1	Maths Club Mr Manley A2.1	
	Well-Being Room Ms Motisi T0.12	Well-Being Room Ms Motisi T0.12	Well-Being Room Ms Motisi T0.12	Well-Being Room Ms Motisi T0.12	Well-Being Room Ms Motisi T0.12
	Moment for Jesus Mr Laroza D0.2	Moment for Jesus Mr Laroza D0.2	Moment for Jesus Mr Laroza D0.2	Moment for Jesus Mr Laroza D0.2	Moment for Jesus Mr Laroza D0.2
	Dodgeball Y7 Only	Solo Singing Club Ms Halberstam E0.6	Art Club Ms Santos T1.3	Philosophy Film Club Sixth form led D0.2	KS5 Multisports Y12 and 13 ONLY
	Geography Society Ms Ellenby B1.4	Fitness Suite Use Ms Green	Fitness Suite Use Ms Green	Book Club Ms Rusznyak D0.1	Fitness Suite Use Fitness Suite
	Anime Club Mr Asaro A.12	Computing Club Ms Sandhu C2.1	EAL Homework Club Ms McBean D0.5	KS3 Drama Club Ms Holland E0.4	F1 Club Mr Sawhney S0.9
	Persian Language Club Ms Hashemifakhr S0.2	Spanish Cinema Ms Navarette A3.3	Volleyball Sports Hall	Ukelele Club Ms Haswell E0.6	Pokemon Club Mr Bile C2.2
PM	KS5 Film Club Sixth form led D0.7	Badminton and Pickle Ball Sports Hall	Law Society Mr Harris B1.3	UNO Club Ms Hopwood C2.2	History Society Mr Harris B1.3
	STEM/Medicine Club Mr Marsden S0.9	Science Club S0.3	Chess Club Mr Laverty S0.3	KS3/4 GIRLS ONLY Multisports Ms Green Fitness Suite	Music Production Club Ms Halberstam E0.6
				GIRLS ONLY Cricket Club Ms Afzal Sports Hall	The Forum KS3 ONLY Sixth form led E0.5
					STEM/Medicine Club Y12 and 13 ONLY Mr Marsden S0.9
PM	KS3 Evening Study 3.15 – 5.45pm Library	KS3 Evening Study 3.15 – 5.45pm Library	KS3 Evening Study 3.15 – 5.45pm Library	KS3 Evening Study 3.15 – 5.45pm Library	
	Table Tennis Club Mr Osman Covered Area	KS3 Boys Football Field	Musical Theatre Club Ms Holland E0.4	Choir Ms Morrison E0.6	Chess Club Mr Croasdale & Mr Carter S0.3
	KS3 Mixed Basketball Mr Bile Sports Hall	Rock and Pop Band Club Ms Halberstam E0.4	KS3 Girls Netball Netball Courts	Cooking Club Ms Ringe T0.1	
	KS3 Girls Football Ms Green Field		Mixed Cricket Club Mr Harris Sports Hall	Chess Coaching 3:15 - 5pm Mr Garfield Mr Carter S0.3	
			Table Tennis Club Mr Osman Covered Area	Debate Mate Ms Ellenby B1.4	
				KS4 Boys Football Week B Only Field	
				KS4 Multisports Week B Only	
				KS4 Mixed Basketball Week B Only Mr Bile	

AUDITIONS

for our next production of

Aladdin



Auditions will be in the
Drama Room (E04)



After school from
3.15pm - 5.15pm



Monday 12th and
Wednesday 14th of October



Pick up an audition pack from
the Performing Arts Office
on the E corridor

Be part of
the magic!

