



Parent Newsletter

16th October 2026



What an inspiring and uplifting week it has been at Bishop Douglass! There has been so much to celebrate, from the strength of our school community and the commitment of our students to the many opportunities they have had to learn, grow and shine.

On Monday, we had the special opportunity to celebrate St Carlo Acutis Day in a dedicated assembly. St Carlo's life offers a powerful example to our young people of how faith, compassion and an everyday commitment to doing good can make a lasting difference. As part of our celebration, students were presented with a medal, providing a meaningful reminder of the values he embodied and the example he continues to set for us all. It promises to be a special moment in our school calendar and an opportunity to reflect on how each of us can make a positive difference in the lives of others.

A big thank you to all the parents who attended our Target Setting Day on Tuesday. Your time, encouragement and commitment to your child's progress are invaluable. These conversations are an important opportunity to celebrate achievements, reflect on next steps and work together to ensure every student is supported and challenged to fulfil their potential. When we share high aspirations and a common purpose, we give our young people the confidence to aim high and the support they need to succeed.

Thank you, too, all the parents and visitors who joined us for our Curriculum Showcase on Thursday. It was a genuine pleasure to welcome so many of you into our classrooms and see you engaging so enthusiastically with our students and staff. Sharing our school dinner together was a particular highlight, bringing a wonderful sense of warmth, connection and community. These moments remind us that education is at its very best when school and home work in partnership. A reminder that the deadline for applications to join Year 7 in September 2027 is 31 October. Families must complete both the school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and the online application form through the borough in which they live. If you have any questions about the process, please do get in touch; we will be very happy to help.

Our school virtue this week has been Empathy, a value that sits at the heart of the community we strive to build. We have been encouraging students to look beyond their own experiences, listen carefully to others and consider how their words and actions make people feel. Alongside this, our Good Manners focus has been on using please and thank you. These may seem like small gestures, but they speak volumes about the respect we have for one another. Whether holding a door open, offering a kind word or taking the time to listen, it is often the simplest acts of kindness that leave the greatest impression. I am proud of the way our students continue to bring these values to life. There is also plenty of excitement in the air as we held our Aladdin auditions! It is always wonderful to see students stepping beyond their comfort zones, discovering new talents and embracing the opportunity to perform. Whether they are hoping to take centre stage or contribute behind the scenes, taking part in a production builds confidence, resilience, creativity and teamwork. I look forward to seeing the enthusiasm and talent our students bring to this year's production.

We were also delighted that our Year 7 students had the opportunity to meet author Clare Pollard. Encounters with writers can be truly inspiring, bringing stories to life and helping young people see reading and writing in new and exciting ways. Opportunities like these nurture curiosity, broaden horizons and remind our students that their own voices, ideas and stories matter. I would also like to congratulate our Oxbridge and Medical applicants, who have already submitted their applications. We are immensely proud of the ambition, dedication and hard work that have brought you to this stage. We wish you every success as you take this exciting next step, and hope you recognise how much you have already achieved.

Finally, a reminder that our Parent Forum takes place on Wednesday 21 October. This is a valuable opportunity to share your views, raise questions and work collaboratively with us to continue improving the school experience for our young people. The partnership between school and home matters enormously, and we are always keen to listen, learn and strengthen that relationship. If you would like to attend, please email schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk. We would be delighted to welcome you. As I reflect on the week, I am reminded that what makes our school special is not simply what our students achieve, but who they are becoming: thoughtful, compassionate, ambitious and confident young people who are ready to make a difference. Thank you for the part you play in making this possible and for your continued trust and support.

Wishing all our families a restful and enjoyable weekend.

**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.

Mateus Bonoto - 7O - for making a great start to KS3 science in both effort and attainment.

Clarice Lopes - 9O - for continuously putting maximum effort into her science work both in class and in her homework.

Beulah Grace Raja - 10A - excelling in all disciplines of triple science and extolling the virtues of a Bishop Douglass student.

Ezekiel - Y13 - for helping to make such a difference and being an excellent guide to students in the lower school.



Knit and Stitch

Lasz week, the art club were treated to a trip to the Knit and Stitch Show today, at Alexandra Palace!

The students really enjoyed looking at all the amazing artwork created by both professionals and students. They especially enjoyed the fashion show and were very happy and excited throughout the day.

It was a great experience for everyone involved and the students got to speak with the creatives running stalls and even treated themselves to a few trinkets.

The group have said that they definitely recommend to anyone who enjoys being creative!



Trips and Rewards

Y9 Football Fixture

Some good news for Year 9's this week! After a slow start to their football match and finding themselves 3-0 down, the boys managed to rally up the courage to win 4-3! (Scoring 4 goals in one half!)

Goals from O'Shay (2), David and Leonel who helped to spearhead their team to victory!

Special mention for Kiearn for his impromptu appearance at school keeper and making a last minute save to keep the 3pts! We are hoping that this winning streak continues!

Well done to all of those who participated and additionally to those who gave up their time to come and support - no doubt this had a big impact on their success.



Artistic Expressions in R.E

After studying the Covenant of Sinai, 10 Commandment and Artistic Expressions of Moses, our Yr8 class was given a task to create their own artistic expression and I'm glad to say they have delivered well!

Also, a great shoutout to 7C who rehearsed and went up the stage as a form and sang a hymn in front of the whole year group, it takes courage and confidence to do!



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

PA Consulting Trip

Some of the Y8 girls enjoyed an exciting and hands on careers insight day at PA Consulting in Victoria last Friday. They learnt about the role of a consultant and heard from inspiring female role models working in a range of careers, including engineering and technology.

Students took on the role of consultants, designing their own communities with a £100 million budget and testing their ideas using a Sphero robot. They also put their problem solving and code breaking skills to the test in a fun workshop, with three girls winning fantastic Amazon prizes!



Other News and Updates

Please see additional attachment for Instrumental lesson timetable for the week beginning October 19th.

TOP 10 BD MERIT EARNERS THIS WEEK ARE:

Victoria C - 8 pts
Anna H - 6 pts
Marina M - 6 pts
Joshua M - 6 pts
Hermaline N - 6 pts
Radhwan A - 5 pts
Mohamed A - 5 pts
Jasmine C - 5 pts
Rafael DM - 5 pts
Nabel D - 5 pts

Keep up the superb effort!

Club of the Week: ...

This week's 'club of the week' goes to...
LAW SOCIETY



Every Wednesday in B1.3 with Mr.Harris! See you there.

Book of the Month



Jake and the other finalists in a writing competition have been invited to a stately house for a tour during which they hear the stories of seven ghosts who haunt the halls. With each tale that Jake hears, he begins to feel more uneasy. All is not as it seems and soon Jake will discover that something is very, very wrong...

Drop Everything and Read will be on the 23rd of October during module 5.

Please see the IT competition at the end of the presentation - it is a girls only competition taking place on Thursday in C2.2!



The Weekly Focus

Good Manners Focus

Focus of the week: Using Please and Thank You

Why it matters:

- Shows appreciation and Kindness
Using 'please' and 'thank you' shows that you value other people's time, effort and help.
- Creates a positive atmosphere
Small expressions of politeness can make everyday interactions more pleasant with encouraging others to treat people with the same courtesy.

Challenge: The power of politeness-
Make a conscious effort to use 'please' when making requests and 'thank you' when someone helps. Look for opportunities to show appreciations to teachers, support staff, classmates and others throughout the school day.

Virtue of the Week

Virtue of the week: Kindness

The Gospel reminds us that God's invitation is extended to everyone. This challenges us to look beyond ourselves and recognise that others may have different experiences, struggles and needs. In our Catholic school community, empathy means taking the time to understand how others may be feeling and making sure that nobody feels excluded or forgotten. Like the invitation to the wedding feast, we are called to create a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued and given the opportunity to belong.

Prayer: Lord Jesus,
Dear God, Teach us to recognise people's gifts and nurture them, to understand their problems and share them, to acknowledge their successes and applaud them, to appreciate their efforts and affirm them. As you encourage us, so may we encourage others. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. 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: Ingratiating

Ingratiating behaviour is intended to make people like you.

Tuesday: Swill

To cause liquid to flow around or over something, often in order to clean it. Or, kitchen scraps to feed pigs.

Wednesday: Tarpaulin

A large piece of heavy waterproof cloth used as a covering.

Thursday: Dabble

To take part in an activity without real commitment.

Friday: Congregation

A group of people who have come together in a religious building for worship and prayer.



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	



The computing department are launching a competition for **girls only!**

- When: Thursday 22nd October 2026
- Where: C2.2
- Who: Girls of all year groups welcome!
- What: C2.2 will be set up for you to **code your own game character** using the *girls who code girls* website. Beginner friendly and easy to do. All participants will get special certificates to take home, and the winner will get a small prize. Snacks and music provided – room will be open from 3:15-4:15!