BISHOP DOUGLASS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

An Academy School in the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust

Parent Newsletter

22nd October 2026



As we approach the half-term break, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support throughout this busy and productive first half of the term. Our students have achieved so much already, and I am incredibly proud of their effort, resilience and enthusiasm for learning. As we head into the break, I hope all our students and families take time to rest, recharge and enjoy time together. Below are a few reminders to help ensure a smooth and positive return to school after the holiday.

Monitoring Social Media and Reducing Screen Time: Further to Ms Dutton Assistant Heateacher Behaviour's communication, the half-term holiday can be a great opportunity for students to relax, but it's also a time when screen time can easily increase. I encourage you to help your child find a healthy balance, perhaps by spending time outdoors, reading, or enjoying family activities together. Managing social media use helps protect wellbeing, focus, and sleep, ensuring students come back refreshed and ready to learn.

Behaviour and Uniform Standards: Our school community thrives on respect, responsibility, and pride. Please take a moment over the break to remind your child of our behaviour policy and uniform expectations, both outlined in the school journal. Returning in the correct uniform and with a positive attitude sets the tone for a strong and successful half-term ahead.

Attendance and Punctuality: Every school day counts. Consistent attendance and punctuality are vital for academic progress and confidence. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child returns promptly after the break, ready to engage fully and make the most of every learning opportunity.

Finally, as a Catholic community, we continue to hold Pope Leo in our thoughts and prayers following his recent health issues. We pray that God grants him strength, comfort and renewed health, and we remember all those within our own school community who may be experiencing illness or difficulty at this time.

Thank you once again for all that you do to support your child and our school.

I wish you and your family a restful, enjoyable half-term, and we look forward to welcoming our students back on Tuesday 3rd November (please remember that Monday 2nd is an INSET day).

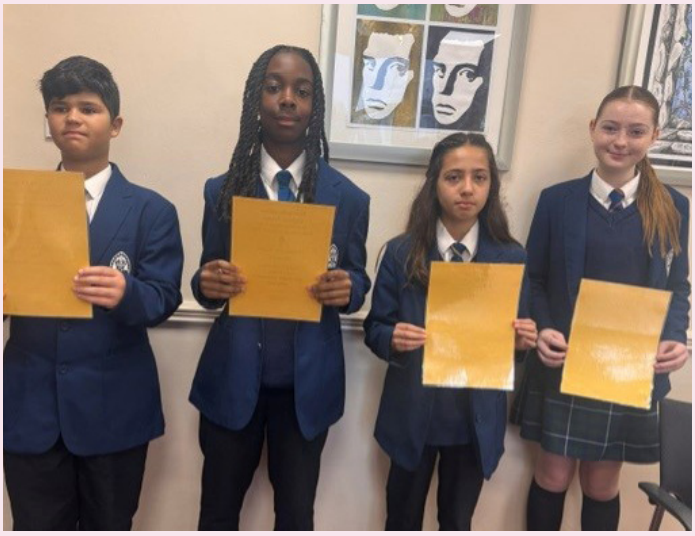
Mrs Henderson,
Headteacher

Learning in Action

Headteachers Award

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

Hidar 7M- For being so ambitious within his lessons always completing extension work.
Amy Breen 9M- For ambition, coming to geography club and being so passionate.
Farhana Edris 8A- For beautiful geographical diagrams that clearly explain complex processes.
Taylor Chickontwe 10F- For an excellent start to his GCSE Geography.



Phyiscal Bond Modelling

Students explored the bonding in benzene by physically modelling the molecule, helping them visualise how the p orbitals on each carbon atom overlap to form a delocalised π system. Building the model provided a hands-on way to understand how the six π electrons are shared across the ring, rather than being confined to individual double bonds, bringing this abstract concept to life.



Year 6 Maths Tuition

This half term we welcomed local year 6 primary school children into a maths tuition session led by some of the Maths department teachers. Students were invited to a Geometry masterclass where they practiced key skills in preparation for their SATs tests in two separate sessions.

A huge thank you to some of our amazing top team and other enthusiastic sixth formers who made the event a success!



Learning in Action

Artistic Expressions in R.E

Year 11 Geographers have been out and about in Highgate and Archway collecting primary data to determine the differences between quality of life in each place. They had to conduct a number of questionnaires, environmental quality surveys, field sketches and building classifications, as well as note down observational differences, and compare house prices. They are now analysing, presenting and evaluating their data back in school to complete their investigations. Year 11 conducted themselves brilliantly and we received a number of nice compliments about their manners, which is always fantastic!

Well done Year 11 Geographers!





Black History Month Celebrations



Keats House with Year 13

The year 13 English A-level class went out on a trip to explore Keats House in Hampstead. They had an informative time and truly immersed themselves in the time period.



Other News and Updates

Please see additional attachment for Instrumental lesson timetable for the week beginning November 2nd.

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...
MUSICAL THEATRE CLUB



After school every Wednesday in E0.4! We can't wait to start preparing for our school production.

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 infomation at the end of the newsletter from BELS. They are hosting Q&A parent carer sessions throughout the year that you can sign up to below.

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: Diligence
This week's Gospel reminds us of the school value of diligence because it encourages us to take our responsibilities seriously and act with honesty, commitment and integrity.At Bishop Douglass School, we demonstrate diligence by putting effort into our work, being reliable, fulfilling our responsibilities and using our God-given talents to the best of our ability. Whether supporting our students, working collaboratively with colleagues or going the extra mile, we can reflect our faith through our dedication and actions.

Prayer: God our Father,
Thank You for the gifts, talents and opportunities You have given us. Help us to remember the words of Jesus: to give back to God what belongs to God, by living our lives with faith, love and purpose. Guide us to fulfil our responsibilities with honesty and commitment, and to treat everyone we meet with kindness, empathy and respect. May we use our gifts to support those around us, make a positive difference in our school community and recognise the dignity of every person. As we go about our daily lives, help us to put our faith into action through our words, choices and deeds. May we continue to grow together as a Catholic community, supporting one another and striving to be the best that we can be.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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: Sleuth
Someone whose job is to discover information about crimes and find out who is responsible for them.

Tuesday: Semblance
A situation or condition that is similar to what is wanted or expected, but is not exactly hoped for.

Wednesday: Commend
To formally praise someone or something.

Thursday: Dilettante
An amateur or someone who dabbles in a subject in a way that is superficial.

Friday: Befuddled
Confused.

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

Parent Carer Q&A session schedule

Save the dates for Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) **half-termly, online question and answer sessions.** This series of sessions has been co-produced with the Barnet Parent Carer Forum.

You will have the opportunity to submit questions in advance and take part in discussion during each session. Please note that sessions will focus on general processes and updates rather than individual circumstances.

Each session will be offered both during the day and in the evening. Further information, including joining details, will be shared before each event.

Please note that the schedule may be subject to change. If any changes are required, we will communicate updates as soon as possible.

Session 1

WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER	12.00 - 1.00PM & 5.30 - 6.30PM	Introduction to the SEND and AP reforms

Microsoft Teams meeting, **no sign-up required**

Joining link:
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/381735964632979?p=JjL46aCUZTTyCwfklA
Meeting ID: 381 735 964 632 979 4
Passcode: W27eY2nB

Scan the QR code below or click here to submit a question in advance

Parent Carer Q&A session schedule

2026

TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER	5.30 - 6.30pm	Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)
WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER	12.00 - 1.00pm	Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)

2027

TUESDAY 19th JANUARY	12.00 - 1.00PM & 6.00 - 7.00PM	Barnet Therapies Offer
TUESDAY 2nd MARCH	12.00 - 1.00PM & 5.30 - 6.30PM	Inclusion Bases in schools and settings

Parent Carer Q&A session schedule

2027

WEDNESDAY 14th APRIL	12.00 - 1.00PM & 5.30 - 6.30PM	SEND Early Years
MONDAY 14th JUNE	12.30 - 1.30PM & 5.30 - 6.30PM	Barnet Autism support offer

Stay up to date with this series of events, other SEND friendly opportunities and the chance to share your voice by joining the **Barnet Parent Carer Forum:** www.barnetpcf.org.uk

Barnet Parent Carer Forum

Keep an eye out for events and latest news on the **Barnet Local Offer:** www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk