BISHOP DOUGLASS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

An Academy School in the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust

Parent Newsletter

6th November 2026



I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and refreshing half-term break. It has been a real pleasure to welcome our students back this week and see the school once again filled with their energy, enthusiasm and sense of purpose. There is much to look forward to in the weeks ahead and it has been particularly encouraging to see how positively our students have returned to the challenges and opportunities of the new half-term.

I would like to begin by recognising the exceptional commitment shown by our Year 11 pupils over the holiday, alongside our Sixth Form students, particularly those preparing for this week's GCSE Maths and English examinations. Choosing to dedicate time during a well-earned break to their studies speaks volumes about their determination, maturity and ambition. We are immensely proud of the effort they continue to demonstrate and wish them every success. They have given themselves the strongest possible foundation from which to achieve their aspirations.

Applications are now open for Year 11 students wishing to join our hugely successful Sixth Form. At Bishop Douglass, we are exceptionally proud of the academic opportunities, outstanding teaching and supportive environment we offer our post-16 learners. Our A level progress score places us among the top 10% of schools nationally for academic progress, a testament to the expertise and dedication of our staff and, above all, the ambition, resilience and hard work of our students. We would be delighted to welcome prospective students and their families to discover what makes our Sixth Form such a special place to continue their education. Applications can be made via our school website, or families can contact 6thform@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk to arrange a school tour.

Beyond the classroom, this week has been a wonderful reminder of the importance of friendship, belonging and shared experiences in school life. Our enrichment activities brought students together through fancy dress, games competitions, five-a-side football and a movie night, culminating in our spectacular fireworks display. Seeing students enjoying themselves, making memories and sharing laughter over hot chocolate was a lovely reflection of the warmth and spirit of our school community. These moments matter: they help create the connections and memories that make school such an important part of young people's lives.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all the parents who supported our fundraising efforts for the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party. Your generosity and willingness to contribute to this event are greatly appreciated. It is particularly important that we continue to look beyond our school gates and nurture our relationships with the wider community. Your support helps us do just that, ensuring that our students understand the value of kindness, service and making a positive difference to the lives of others.

As always, I am grateful for the continued partnership and support of our families. The strength of a school community lies in the relationships we build and the shared belief we have in what our young people can achieve. Thank you for playing such an important part in that journey.

I wish you and your families a very restful and enjoyable weekend.

Mrs Henderson,
Headteacher

Learning in Action

Media Studies Trip to Sky Studios

Our Y11 Media Studies students enjoyed an exciting visit to Sky Studios Elstree, gaining a fascinating insight into the film and television industry. Students attended a careers talk delivered by a Sky professional, discovering the wide variety of opportunities within the industry. They explored sound stages and film props, watched exclusive trailers in a cinema room and even had the opportunity to produce their own short film! They were issued different roles such as a sound engineer, camera operator, director, actor etc. They created a pitch and produced in a mini-studio. It was a fantastic experience that brought classroom learning to life, inspired creativity and encouraged students to consider future careers in the media industry. The students really enjoyed and valued their experience saying they 'actually have ideas about pursuing a career at Sky in the future' and asking 'when can we go back?'.







Coding Competition

At the end of last term the IT department ran a coding competition for girls who are interested in STEM subjects. The session developed coding skills and gave students the opportunity to socialise with girls in different year groups. Well done to all who participated. The attached image shows the joint winners!







Learning in Action

Medical Seminars for Sixth Form

We are incredibly proud of a group of our year 12 students who took initiative and went to a self-
arranged seminar a few weeks ago. Below is an account from Navaeh 12B who attended the event. Well done everyone!

"On 13 October 2026, I attended the Dr Ouch seminar at the QEII along with Baran, Shanar, Winta, Frederica and Cindy, which was a very informative and enjoyable experience. The seminar gave us the opportunity to learn more about medicine, take part in activities, and gain a better
understanding of what working in healthcare can be like. One of the most valuable aspects of the seminar was that it gave us an insight into the different specialties within medicine. Hearing about the experiences and roles involved helped me think more carefully about which area of medicine I may want to pursue in the future. It was especially useful to see how different specialties require different skills and approaches to patient care. Overall, the seminar was a great experience and helped me develop my knowledge of medicine while giving me a clearer idea of the specialty I might want to go into in the future."





Foodbank Collection







At the very end of last term students were asked to donate to our annual harvest food bank collection. The students who were selected to help deliver the schools contributions were given a small tour and spoke to one of the members of staff at the foodbank about what these contributions would mean to people.

Thank you to all of the families who donated to this cause in some way and to the students who gave up their time to deliver them.

Other News and Updates

Please see additional attachment for Instrumental lesson timetable for the week

TOP 10 BD MERIT EARNERS THIS WEEK ARE:

Victoria C - 8pts
Kattleyah F - 8pts
Donnelly H - 8pts
Splendid L - 8pts
Miriam P - 8pts
Melika A - 7pts
Junaid I - 7pts
Andrew M - 7pts
Kriti P - 7pts
Kiarash R - 7pts

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.

Barnet Light and Flight Festival



Drop Everything and Read will be on the 9th of November during module 3.

Please see information on our website the information for Ofsted Local Area SEND

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: Ambition
Jesus teaches us that ambition means striving to become the very best version of ourselves, both physically and spiritually. We can demonstrate this by setting ourselves high standards, standing up for what is right, supporting those in need and persevering through challenges. We are encouraged to measure success by the positive difference we make in the lives of others. Let us be ambitious in our learning, our character and our commitment to living out Gospel values every day.

Prayer: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is error, the truth; where there is doubt, the faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

PSHE Focus of the Week

PSHE Theme of the week: Mental Health

Mental Health is the theme up until half-term for all year groups. Mental health is an important part of PSHE because it helps young people understand their emotions, recognise the importance of looking after their wellbeing and develop positive coping strategies.

By teaching these topics in a safe and supportive environment, schools can help young people develop resilience, build self-awareness, manage challenges and feel confident seeking support when they need it.

Thinking Question:
What can we do to look after our mental health and support others with theirs?

Word of the Day

Tuesday: Plunder
To steal by force. especially during a war, riot, or period of conflict.
Wednesday: Repertoire
All the things someone can do, all the methods that someone can use.
Thursday: Chicanery
Clever, dishonest talk or behaviour that is used to decieve people.
Friday: Burgeoning
Developing quickly.

A reminder that journals should include all words of the day during the week. Remember to use the word of the day in a sentence to earn BD merits.

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