



Parent Newsletter

11th September 2026



A Welcome Back

We are delighted to welcome you back to the Autumn Term. While the summer break may now feel like a distant memory, we hope it provided you with a chance to relax, recharge and spend valuable time with loved ones.

We are also incredibly proud to share the outstanding achievements of our Year 11 and Sixth Form students. Their examination results this summer were exceptional, securing Bishop Douglass' place as one of the top-performing schools nationally. Congratulations to all involved, these successes are a testament to the dedication of our students, staff and families working together.

A particularly warm welcome to our new Year 7 families who are joining the Bishop Douglass community for the first time. September is always an exciting and energising time as we begin a new academic year, full of opportunity, ambition and promise. It has been an absolute pleasure to see how quickly our new Year 7 students have settled in. They are already proving to be a delightful addition to our school family. The Year 7 Welcome Mass, was a truly special occasion, a time to come together as a community and celebrate the beginning of their journey with us. It was a joy to meet so many parents and family members, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who joined us, especially those who contributed to the service and to Father Peter from St Mary's parish for celebrating the Mass for us.

It has been wonderful to see the school full of life again. Students have returned with impressive enthusiasm and a readiness to learn, and we are proud of the mature and positive attitude they have shown so far. Your children are a credit to you and we thank you for your continued support in helping them thrive. Our commitment to academic excellence continued with our "Up the Ante" programme. Our Year 13 students have already launched into their final year with ambition and focus. The Year 11 "Up the Ante" meeting set the tone for a successful year ahead. Thank you to all those parents who attended.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host our Open Evening on Wednesday, 16th September. This is a fantastic opportunity for prospective families to experience first-hand what makes Bishop Douglass such a special place to learn and grow. Our students are the heart of our school and we are grateful to those who will be showcasing our community on the night. We have included an invitation for you to share with friends, family, and neighbours, we would love to welcome them too.

As always, we ask parents to check and sign their child's journal over the weekend. Your involvement makes a significant difference. With your support, we will continue to nurture happy, confident and well-rounded individuals, prepared to meet the challenges of the future with resilience and purpose.

Together, we can and will continue to make a lasting difference. We are excited for the year ahead and all the opportunities it will bring for our young people and our wider school community. We wish Bon Voyage to all the students and staff going on the Rome trip next week. We look forward to hearing all about it.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable weekend.

***Mrs Henderson,
Headteacher***



The Weekly Focus

Good Manners Focus

Focus of the week: **Respectful Language**

Why it matters:

- Builds Positive Relationships
Using respectful words and an appropriate tone helps you to communicate effectively and makes others feel valued.
- Prevents Conflict
Thinking carefully about what you say can avoid misunderstandings, arguments and unnecessary upset.

Challenge: "Think before you speak."

This week, pay attention to the words and tone that you use with other students and staff.

Before you speak, ask yourself: "is it kind?"

Virtue of the Week

Virtue of the week: **Empathy**

This week's Gospel reminds us of the importance of empathy. Jesus encourages us to listen to others, understand their perspective and approach difficult conversations with kindness and compassion. In our school community, empathy means taking the time to consider how others may be feeling and responding with patience, understanding and respect.

Prayer: Dear Lord,

Thank you for bringing us together as one school community. Help us grow in both resilience and kindness. Teach us to care for each other, to stand up for what's right and to be brave to show empathy. May we learn to forgive quickly and speak words that lift others up. Let our friendships be strong, our hearts open, and our actions reflect your love, Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

PSHE Focus of the Week

PSHE Theme of the week: **Diversity, Prejudice and Stereotypes**

Prejudice is an unfair opinion about someone because of their background. Stereotypes are general beliefs about groups that may not be true. Diversity means accepting and respecting people from different backgrounds.

This is important because it helps create a fair, respectful and inclusive society where everyone feels valued.

Thinking Question:

What are the benefits of living in an inclusive society?

Word of the Day

Monday: Douse

To make something or someone wet by throwing a lot of liquid over them.

Tuesday: Blatant

Very obvious and intentional, when it is a bad thing.

Wednesday: Inundate

To give someone so much work or so many things that they cannot deal with it at all.

Thursday: Cornerstone

The fundamental assumption from which something begun. Or, the first stone placed in a building.

Friday: Prevaricate

To avoid telling the truth or saying exactly what you think.

A reminder that these should be written down in the journal in the space provided this week.

Learning in Action

Drop Everything and Read

Our Drop Everything and Read programme will continue this year, with DEAR rotating across different days and modules throughout each half term. This program allows students to focus on the development of their literacy at different points throughout the week.

Years 7-9 are expected to have their own reading book and use DEAR as an opportunity to read for pleasure. The books should be age appropriate. For Years 10-13, teachers will provide students with academic reading material that will support wider reading, subject knowledge and engagement with more challenging texts that are linked to their schemes of work.

Through DEAR, students will be encouraged to develop positive reading habits, broaden their knowledge and build confidence in engaging with a range of increasingly challenging texts.



Sweet Science Learning

Year 8 students explored the structure of DNA in Science by creating their own DNA models using sweets. Students used different sweets to represent the components of DNA and carefully constructed the distinctive double-helix structure. The practical activity helped students develop their understanding of how DNA is organised and how the different bases pair together. It was a fun and engaging way for students to apply their scientific knowledge and bring this important topic to life.



Other News and Updates

Please see additional attachment for Instrumental lesson timetable for the week beginning September 14th.

TOP 10 BD MERIT EARNERS THIS WEEK ARE:

Jasmine C - 14 pts
Poppy D - 12 pts
Adaugo - 11 pts
Manuka A - 10 pts
Malak A - 10 pts
Dilan A - 10 pts
Ciara D - 10 pts
Mason R - 10 pts
Rashon S-M - 10 pts
Gabriele A - 9 pts

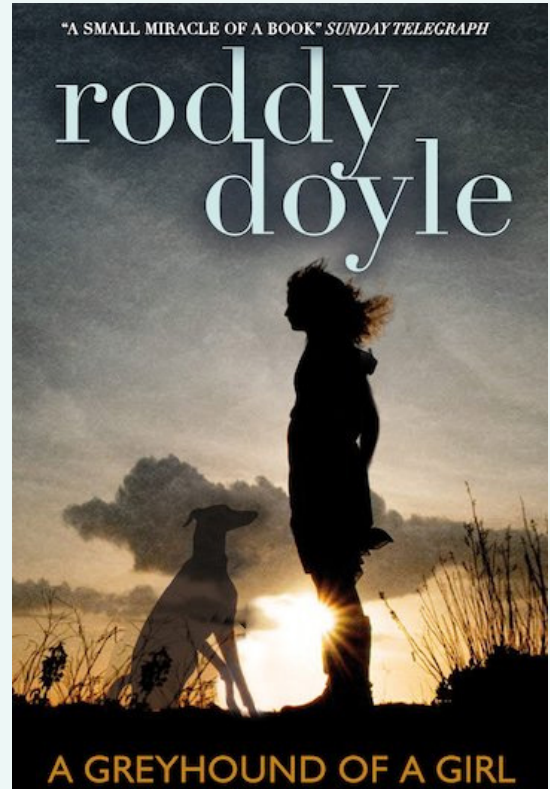
Keep up the superb effort!

Bishop Douglass has recieved a thank you from CAFOD for raising the sum of:

£497.38

to help people build a brigher future through CAFODs projects around the world.

Book of the Month:



Two-year-old Mary's beloved grandmother is near the end of her life. Letting go is hard—until Granny's longdead mammy appears. Her ghost has returned to help her dying daughter say goodbye to the ones she loves, but first they will embark on a road trip to the past.

Our Open Evening will be taking place on Wednesday the 16th of September. A reminder for all student helpers to ensure they have returned their reply slips with parental permisson!



Clubs

	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
	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
PM	STEM/Medicine Club Mr Marsden S0.9	Science Club S0.3	Chess Club Mr Lavery 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
	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	