



Bishop Douglass Catholic School Parent Newsletter

In Pursuit of Excellence

14th February 2018

INTRODUCTION

Welcome back to everyone after what we hope has been a restful and enjoyable holiday.

Congratulations to our Year 11 and 6th Form students for their excellent examination results.

We welcomed our new Year 7 pupils to the school on Wednesday last week and they are settling in very well. Thank you to Year 7 parents who attended our Mass of Welcome.

Please note that Intervention for Years 10 and 11 starts next week, Monday 17th September. Sixth form intervention and evening study started this week. Saturday intervention also starts this week. Have a wonderful weekend.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK...

A New Start: Always learning

Those who want to get ahead in life keep looking forward to the future. They also reflect on the past, consult, plan, and evaluate their methods, taking nothing for granted. This should be our attitude as we start again. We know that our lives are serious. We do not take anything for granted. Serious folk ask: What is God's will and plan for me, today, in my state of life? Where am I going? Am I following the right path my God wants me to follow? Do I identify with God? Do I make myself free from the things that keep me from following God's plan for me? Do I follow him also when the cost is high? Opportunities are available to us as we return for a new school year, reflect on what hopes and fears we have as we move forward together.

NOTICE OF EARLY CLOSURE

Please note that the school will be closing at 1.30 on Wednesday 26th September in order to prepare for the Open Evening the following evening.

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

Mock exams in English and Maths for Year 11 start next week. Please can you ensure that your child has all equipment necessary .

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 17th September: Photography Day - years 7, 9, 11 & 6th Form
Wednesday 19th September: Year 7 Parent Information Evening 4.30pm
21st & 22nd September: Duke of Edinburgh expedition
Wednesday 26th September: school closes at 1.30pm
Thursday 27th September: Open Morning tours and Open Evening
Monday 1st-Friday 5th October: Rome trip
Wednesday 17th October: Parent Forum 7pm
Friday 19th October: INSET day

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (BDPTA)

Welcome to Bishop Douglass Parent Teacher Association.

Most schools have a thriving PTA that supports the school by fundraising work, encouraging closer links between home and school and helping students to broaden their horizons. I am writing to you as a PTA Coordinator to invite you to join this enjoyable and rewarding initiative.

This academic year we aim to organise fundraising activities for the school. The plan being to use money raised to fund a new minibus. To achieve this, we need your support! I would encourage parents/carers who are interested to come to a meeting on **Tuesday 25th September at 5pm** in the classroom **A2.1**. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

If you are reading this and are still not sure if you want to commit, come anyway as this is a great way to meet people and become involved in the life of the school. Who knows—you may actually enjoy it!

Everyone is welcome. I hope to see you there.

Madam A Wejknis—BD PTA

BEIJING TRIP 2019

Following the success of the 2017 Beijing trip, Bishop Douglass together with St Thomas More School, St George's School and Salvatorian College will be taking part in an arts and culture visit to Beijing, China.

The trip will be for 7 days departing in October 2019.

If you are interested in this trip, please have your child collect a letter from Student Services.



A LEVEL & GCSE RESULTS

BD A-Level results this year were the best ever, especially satisfying as this was the first year of the newer more stringent requirements. Nearly 55% of students received an A*-B and 99% of the year are going on to university, with 33% attending Russell Group universities.

GCSE results continued this success with BD likely to have achieved its best ever progress score. Senior staff have praised the students (and teachers) for their hard work and commitment to the schedule of after school classes, Saturday and holiday interventions.

Well done to all!

BISHOP DOUGLASS LIBRARY

The Library houses more than 4,000 books, both fiction and non-fiction. The books are organised into KS3, 4 and 5 areas as well as general fiction and Classic Novels sections, so that pupils can easily find what they want. Non-fiction books cover a wide area of subjects and are suggested by departments to help with classwork and coursework.

Pupils are encouraged to visit the Library to borrow and read books regularly. They are allowed to borrow up to 2 books at a time for a period of 2 weeks. Books can be renewed, if required. Pupils must have a reading book with them at all times for **Drop Everything and Read**.

There are constantly changing displays highlighting specific genres or authors. Library prizes are given every term for the most prolific borrowers, as well as various competitions throughout the year.

The Library is a congenial place of work but also a place where pupils can relax and enjoy their reading. It is open to all pupils for silent study, printing and borrowing books at the following times:

8.00 – 8.50 am Before the start of the school day.

11.10 – 11.30 am Break time.

1.30 – 2.10 pm Lunch time.

3.10 – 5.45 pm Evening study.

Printing costs 5p per side of A4 for black and white and 10p per side for colour.



WORDS OF THE WEEK

Monday – Decadent - Adjective - Decadent *n.* A person who is luxuriously self-indulgent. (adj.) Characterized by or reflecting a state of decay or cultural decline, as in being self-indulgent or morally corrupt:

- His father frittered away millions on a decadent lifestyle.
- The chocolate cake with chocolate icing was a decadent indulgence.

Tuesday – Tempestuous – Adjective - Tumultuous; stormy:

- The brothers had a **tempestuous** relationship but it managed to bring out both the worst and best in them!
- After two days of scorching heat and **tempestuous** seas we thankfully arrived at port.

Wednesday – Dogmatic – Adjective—Expressing rigid opinions; prone to expressing strongly held beliefs and opinions; asserting opinions in a doctrinaire or arrogant manner; opinionated:

- The politician gave a **dogmatic** speech at the beginning of her term; clearly, she was not going to change her mind.

Thursday – Antiquated - Adjective - Very old; aged; too old to be fashionable, suitable, or useful; outmoded, obsolete:

- The committee thought the marketing strategy was too **antiquated** to appeal to the younger market.
- None of the students could operate the **antiquated** telephone without instruction, so used were they to mobile phones.

Friday – Formative – Adjective - Of or relating to formation, growth, or development: the *formative* stages of a child:

- During my **formative** years and on into my young adult years, I was repeatedly exposed to books

SUPERVISED EVENING STUDY

This takes place from 3.10 – 5.45 pm every Monday-Thursday. Pupils can use the Library at this time for doing homework or reading. Pupils are expected to work in silence. At 5.45 pm, a meal is provided, free of charge, for all pupils attending the Evening Study session. After this, the pupils are dismissed for home.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND STUDY SUPPORT

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 8.00-8.45am	Homework Support A1.1 Independent Study Library Breakfast Club Hall – <i>free breakfast before 8.20am</i> Sage Club	Homework Support A1.1 Independent Study Library Breakfast Club Hall – <i>free breakfast before 8.20am</i>	Homework Support A1.1 Independent Study Library Breakfast Club Hall – <i>free breakfast before 8.20am</i>	Homework Support A1.1 Independent Study Library Breakfast Club Hall – <i>free breakfast before 8.20am</i>	Homework Support A1.1 Independent Study Library Breakfast Club Hall – <i>free breakfast before 8.20am</i>
Lunchtime 1.30-2pm	Homework Support A1.1 Independent Study Library	Homework Support A1.1 Independent Study Library	Homework Support A1.1 Independent Study Library	Homework Support A1.1 Independent Study Library	Homework Support A1.1 Independent Study Library
After School 3.10-6pm	Support A1.1 (To 4:10) Evening Study Library *Hot meal served at 5.45pm	Homework Support A1.1 (To 4:10) Evening Study Library *Hot meal served at 5.45pm	Homework Support A1.1 (To 4:10) Evening Study Library *Hot meal served at 5.45pm	Homework Support A1.1 (To 4:10) Evening Study Library *Hot meal served at 5.45pm	Homework Support A1.1 (To 4:10)

Fixtures:

Monday 17th September: **Year 7** boys football v St Andrews @ St Andrews (Mr Hart)

Wednesday 19th September: **Year 8** football v St Andrews @ St Andrews (Mr O'Brien);

Wednesday 19th September: **Year 9** football v St Andrews @ BD (Mr Asaro)

After School clubs and activities will be in this newsletter weekly, starting from next week. Pupils can check the notice-board (to the left of the library door) for daily activities.