



Bishop Douglass Catholic School

An Academy School in the Cardinal Hume Academies Trust

Headteacher: Mr Martin Tissot, MA, MBA, NPQH

9th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Yesterday evening, we were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of our Queen, our Monarch Elizabeth II who died aged 96. We are very lucky to live in a democracy where people's views are heard and the role of the monarch as Head of State in our British constitution is something which has developed over one thousand years of history. Queen Elizabeth has stood as a symbol of national identity, unity and pride and many of us are experiencing a deep mourning for the loss of a kind and hardworking Christian woman who dedicated her life to the service of our nation. The Queen exemplified steadfast loyalty, service and humility and has been a reference point, helping us to make sense of who we are through the passing of decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society. We pray for the repose of her soul; we give thanks for her long and extraordinary reign and we offer our prayers too for King Charles III as he leads us into a new era.

I hope you were able to enjoy a break this summer after the disruption of the last few of years. We were very pleased at the success of our exams and would like to congratulate the class of 2022 at Bishop Douglass, who have achieved excellent A Level and GCSE results after what has been a very difficult 3 years for the pupils, with 9-5 grades for GCSE across a wide range of subjects, as well as many grade 4-9 grades in English and Maths. An impressive 75% of pupils achieved 4-9 in English, while 78% of pupils achieved 4-9 in Maths. Sixth students received positive results across the board, with 44% achieving A*-B and Distinction/Distinction* at BTEC. There were some stand out subjects awarded A*/A grades, including; Maths, Chemistry, Art, and History also posting impressive results. Following impressive results of A* Maths, A* Chemistry and A* History and the A* EPQ Sebastian Burrows-Davila is looking forward to attending Cambridge University in September.

Please find attached our latest report from Ofsted. We were disappointed not to be rated as outstanding but given the government's stated aim to reduce the number of outstanding schools, we were not surprised. It is gratifying that many of the school's strengths have been acknowledged and we welcome the identification of areas for further improvement which we are already addressing with vigour.

We are very much aware that with the cost of living crisis these are very difficult times for some of our families. A reminder that if your child arrives before 8:20am they can receive a free breakfast. From Monday, if your child stays in school to study for Evening Prep they will be given a free hot meal at 5:30pm. We do have some second hand uniform items if you need any help with this and we will also gratefully receive any items your child no longer needs. If you are dropping off or picking up your child, we ask that you drop them off or pick them up from East End Road, to avoid congestion on Hamilton Road.

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Please sign your child's journal over the weekend on pages 10 and 53 and refer to your child's Journal regarding our school uniform rules as a reminder so that we can ensure our whole community are clear regarding our expectations in this respect. Uniform here is very good and it is imperative that this continues and that the new term and this academic year get off to the best possible start. In order for this to happen, it is crucial that you support your child to ensure that they are in school on time, meeting the uniform regulations and maintain a positive attitude to learning. All of the staff here at school continue to do everything possible to support your child's learning. We do not want to get side-tracked from our main focus, by having to deal with avoidable issues such as uniform infringements or students not adhering to our very clear rules. Thank you in advance for your support and co-operation in maintaining our high standards.

It is imperative that students attend every day, as expected, so that their progress is not interrupted. Staff at school know that every lesson counts and we do our best to convey this message to both students and parents. Please support us in our endeavours by making routine medical appointments either after school or in the holidays. You already know that holidays should not be booked during term time, as they cannot be authorised and could lead to fixed penalty notices being issued. Again, I look forward to you as parents and carers to support us in our efforts to ensure our high attendance and punctuality levels here at Bishop Douglass continue, as this is essential to each child reaching their full potential and becoming the best they can be. If you feel your child would benefit from tuition please email us at: schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk for the attention of the Deputy Headteacher Mr Bent and we will try our best to arrange this.

Please do lookout for our parent newsletter starting next Friday and our website and Twitter regularly for updates, information and key reminders. We very much value your feedback. Let us know if you have any queries or concerns, so we have the opportunity to resolve these quickly. As we start this new term, I would like to thank you in advance for your continued support. Wishing you all the best for a happy, holy and healthy new academic year, working in partnership with all here at Bishop Douglass.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Henderson
Head of School

