Bishop Douglass Catholic School Parent Newsletter

1st May 2026

Introduction

It has been a week rich in learning, opportunity and community here at school. It is a joy to share some of these moments with you. Our Year 10 geographers embraced their fieldwork with enthusiasm, bringing their classroom studies to life through real-world experience. On Friday, pupils also took part in engaging cooking workshops, developing both practical skills and an appreciation for creativity and nourishment.

We are grateful to our Year 8 parents who joined us for Parents' Evening on Wednesday; your partnership in your children's education is deeply valued, and we hope the conversations were both affirming and helpful. As we now enter the summer examination season, we keep our young people especially in our thoughts and prayers. Art GCSE examinations and Modern Foreign Languages speaking assessments are already underway, marking an important milestone in their academic journey.

At this time, the virtues of discipline, perseverance and balance are especially important. Home study should now be firmly established, supported by the revision sessions and interventions we continue to provide in school. We also gently remind families of the importance of rest; a good night's sleep is not only restorative but plays a vital role in effective learning and performance.

This promises to be a busy and purposeful term, and we are sincerely grateful to those parents supporting children in examination years for your encouragement and care. Over the Bank Holiday weekend, we hope you are able to enjoy time together as a family. As we prepare to return on Tuesday, may we ask that you take a moment to ensure your child is equipped and ready for the days ahead.

Wishing you and your families a peaceful and restful weekend.

Mrs Henderson, Headteacher

Attendance

A reminder that if your child is unwell, late or has a medical appointment, please call 020 8444 5211 and PRESS OPTION 1 and leave a message.

Alternatively you can email our attendance team via:

attendance@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk

Safeguarding

Our school safeguarding team is MS Price, our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Henderson our Headteacher. Our Child protection Officers are, Miss Lowdell, Mr Onwumere, Mrs Wilkhu and our Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead is Ms Motisi.
You can contact them via:
schooladmin@bishopdouglass.abrnet.sch.uk

Announcements....

Good Manners

Congratulations to our Top BD Merit Achievers!

Announcements...

Free School Meals

Please be aware that the price of Free School Meals will be increasing to £2.96 from the 1st of May 2026 for a Main Course and Dessert. The school will be increasing the allowance, so for those Parents/Carers with students recieving Free School Meals, please do not worry, your students meals will be paid for.

Your child might be able to receive Free School Meals if you get any of the following.

Income Support
Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance
Universal Credit
Child Tax Credit
Working Tax Credit Run-On
Support under Part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you believe your child should be receiving Free School Meals, please ask your child to collect a form from Student Services. or email - schooladmin@bishopdouglass.barnet.sch.uk

Headteachers Award

The following student Marco in 7A, Ciara in 8C and Joshua in 11W were awarded the Headteachers Award for excellent achievement in French. They all received a certificate and a box of chocolates.

Career of the Week

Human Resources

Qualifications for a Career in Human Resources (UK):
To pursue a career in Human Resources in the UK, you'll typically need:
At least 5 GCSEs (grades 9-4/A*-C), including English and Maths.
A degree in Human Resources, Business, or a related field (typically 3 years).
Relevant certifications, such as the CIPD (Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development), to enhance career progression.
Strong communication, organisational, and problem-solving skills.
Experience in administration, customer service, or recruitment to demonstrate an understanding of the field.
Pathways to a Career in Human Resources:
University Route: Complete a degree in Human Resources, Business Management, or a related subject.
CIPD Qualifications: Gain CIPD certifications at different levels (Level 3 for entry-level roles, Level 5 for mid-career, and Level 7 for senior HR roles).
Graduate Scheme: Many large companies offer graduate schemes in HR, which provide practical experience and training.
On-the-job Experience: Many HR professionals begin with administrative roles and progress to management positions with experience.
What Can I Do Now?
Study Business or Humanities-based GCSEs and A levels, with a focus on English and Maths.
Seek work experience in office administration, customer service, or recruitment.
Research HR qualifications, such as CIPD, and explore opportunities for further study or apprenticeships.

Starting salary: £24,000
Expected salary: Up to £40,000

More information
Speak to Ms Temel

This week...

WORD OF THE DAY

Monday
Vapid - (Adjective) – Offering nothing stimulating or challenging.

Tuesday
Atrophy - (Verb) – (of body tissue or an organ) waste away, especially as a result of the degeneration of cells, or become vestigial during evolution. Or metaphorically, to describe something weakening or declining over time.

Wednesday
Expletive - (Noun) – An oath or a word that is considered offensive.

Thursday
Berserk - (Adjective) – Out of control with anger or excitement.

Friday
Feasible - (Adjective) – able to be made, done, or achieved.

Virtue of the Week: Humility

Jesus reminds us of his kindness the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep by name, cares for them, and leads them safely. This prompts us that kindness is about truly noticing and valuing others, not just being polite.
The sheep follow because they trust his voice, showing that kindness builds trust rather than fear. When Jesus says he came so we may have life to the full, it highlights that kindness wants the best for others.

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, you give us hope even when all seems lost. We pray that we have faith in your presence with us even when times are difficult. Help us to look for the blessings in disguise and recognise you in the world around us, in the kindness of others, the smiles of strangers, the love of our family and friends and the beauty of nature. Help us to remember that you are still risen and there is always hope. Amen.

Upcoming Events

4th May
Bank Holiday - School closed

7th May
GCSE Exams Begin

8th May
Year 13 - Celebration Mass

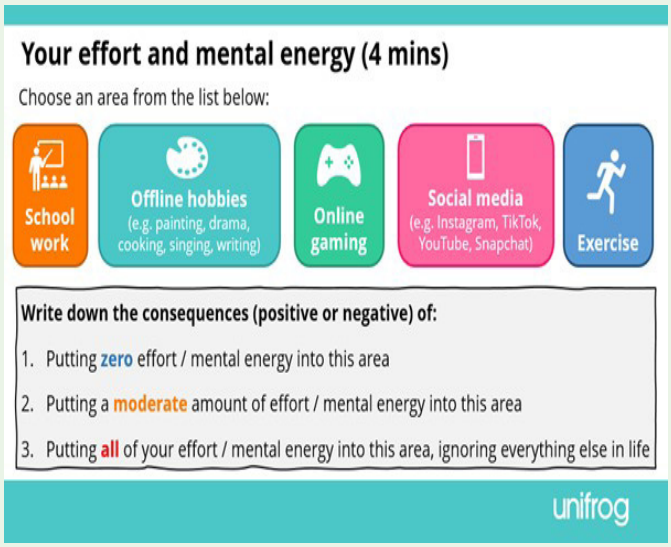
11th May
As/A Level Exams begin

12th May
Year 7 Parents' Evening

25th - 29th May
Half-Term - School closed to all pupils

9th June
Coding Workshop - Year 7

PSHE theme: Healthy Lifestyles, achieving balance



Clubs & Societies

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Early Risers Club Indoor Football	Early Risers Club Indoor Football		Early Risers Club Indoor Football	Early Risers Club Indoor Football
Lunch	Maths Club (A2.1) Well-Being All Years (T0.12) A Moment for Jesus (D0.2) Persian Language Club (S0.2) Minecraft Club (C2.2) Geography Society Club (B1.4) Book Club (6th Form Led D0.7) Year 11 Sports Sports Hall Fitness Club (Fitness Suite)	Maths Club (A2.1) Well-Being All Years (T0.12) A Moment for Jesus (D0.2) Spanish Cinema Club (A3.3) KS3 Reading Club (E0.4) Uno Club (B1.3) Anime Club (A1.2) Film Club (KS4-5) (D0.5) Art Club (T1.3) Year 10 Sports Fitness Club (Fitness Suite)	Maths Club (A2.1) Well-Being All Years (T0.12) A Moment for Jesus (D0.2) Band Club (E0.1) KS3 Drama Club (E0.4) Chess Club (S0.4) Girls only Cricket (Sports Hall) Girls only Fitness (Fitness Suite) Girls only Sports	Maths Club (A2.1) Well-Being All Years (T0.12) Christian Union (D0.2) Spanish Cinema Club (A3.1) Women's Society (D0.7) Live Lounge (E0.6) Year 7 - 9 Sports Fitness Club (Fitness Suite)	Well-Being All Years (T0.12) History Society (B1.3) Fitness Club (Fitness Suite) Year 7 Sports Band Club (E0.6) A Moment for Jesus (D0.2) Computing Club (D0 F1 Club (S0.9) Magistrates Club (D0.5)
PM	KS3 Evening Sudy - 3:15 - 5:45 pm (Library) Table Tennis Club (Dance Studio) Boys & Girls Basketball (Year 7 - 9) Trampoline Club Year 7-9 Dance Studio)	KS3 Evening Sudy - (Library) Table Tennis Club (Dance Studio) Girls Football (Years 7-9) BDYC - Youth Club (E0.5) Debate Mate (E0.4)	KS3 Evening Sudy (Library) Table Tennis Club (Dance Studio) Mixed Cricket Club (Sports Hall)	Gospel Choir (E0.6) KS3 Evening Sudy - (Library) Chess Coaching (S0.3) Cooking Club (T0.11) Girls Social Sports Sports Hall Table Tennis Club (Dance Studio)	Chess Club (All Years S0.3) Table Tennis Club (Dance Studio)

Club Announcements.....

Club of the week goes to Gospel Choir.
Thank you to Madam Morrison for running this wonderful club.