



BHBS Term Times



Autumn 1 2023

Always Faithful with Christ

The Autumn term has been a very busy and eventful term with a variety of successful events. Year 7 students have made a very positive start to their secondary education at Bishops and along with all students, look immaculate in the new school uniform and PE kit. We have received many complimentary messages from families about how smart they look and what an improvement the changes have made.

On Thursday 24th November, we held our Presentation & Prize giving evening for Year U, which Rev Sarah Brown/The Dean of the Cathedral supported us with as the guest speaker. It was wonderful to see Year U together for the last time and celebrate the successes in their GCSE exams.

Following voting from students and staff this term, I am delighted to announce that Jasmine and Ben are our Head Prefects for 2023-24.

There have been many events this term, with a very high attendance from families to support students, these include; our Autumn Concert, Carol Service at Hereford Cathedral, Autumn Fayre and Careers evening. A high number of students have also excelled in a variety of performances, both in and out of school, notably; Francesca competed in the English Championships gymnastics, Chelsey raised money for Children in need, Reuben competed in a national final trampoline competition, Noah for county swimming, Olivia for raising money for Hereford Garrison and Sabrina for being elected to the Hereford Youth Council. In addition there are many more students who have had successes this term and taken part in performances at the Courtyard and sporting events for their local teams and we are immensely proud of all that our students achieve both in and out of school.

We were really pleased to welcome St Paul's Primary School to Bishops last week to present their Nativity play for their parents and carers. They also presented some rehearsal performances to other year groups which were lovely to see. The quality of their performance and singing was amazing and we look forward to seeing as many of them as possible join us in the near future.

We welcomed Chris Wright, the Director of Education for Woodard this term. After a tour of the school to visit lessons and our Christian Union, he reported back that he was hugely impressed with the behaviour and warm welcome he received by

students and the exceptionally high quality of learning in lessons. This has also been reported by our School Improvement Partner, Nicky Walters when she has undertaken visits to curriculum teams to observe lessons and talk to students.

After, what is always the longest term in the school year, it is really important to use the time over the Christmas break to rest and reflect on what we have achieved.

I wish everyone a very Happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Mr Henton
(Headteacher)



It is with heavy hearts that we come together to bid farewell to a cherished member of our school family, Eman Tawfik, who recently passed away after a brave and enduring battle with illness. Eman was an integral part of our community for an incredible 15 years, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of students, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Eman was not merely a support staff member; she was the warm embrace that welcomed each student into the comforting arms of the Bishop's family. Her dedication and unwavering commitment to our school community were evident in the countless lives she touched and the positive influence she had on the school's ethos.

Through her years of service, Eman became synonymous with compassion, kindness, and a genuine concern for the well-being of others. Her presence was a source of comfort for those who sought solace and guidance, and her infectious spirit resonated throughout the hallways, creating an environment that felt like a second home for many.

In remembering Eman, our hearts go out to her children, who as ex-students are cherished members of our extended family. During this challenging time, we stand together, offering our heartfelt support, love, and strength to Eman's children as they navigate the profound loss of their extraordinary mother.

Eman's impact extends well beyond the boundaries of our school, leaving an indelible mark on those she encountered through her enduring kindness and compassion. As we honour her memory, let us carry forward the valuable lessons she shared through her actions — the significance of kindness, resilience, and the enduring strength of a compassionate community. In our collective reflections, we pay homage to a remarkable individual whose influence will continue to shape the fabric of our school's culture and the lives she touched.

Thanks to the hard work of the students a donation of £2,000 is being made to Breast Cancer Research and The Weir Nursing Home.



Uniform Expectations

General Uniform

Blazer badge: Gold and blue on maroon background

Blazer: Navy blue-plain. Sleeves should not be rolled up.

Pullover V-necked navy blue pullover, may be worn under a blazer, pullovers with motifs should not be worn, and the pullover should not have buttons or emblems of any type.

Tie: Navy with a maroon and gold stripe (or for Y11 maroon and gold striped). The knot should be pulled up to the top of the collar and must be kept smart and tidy. It is acceptable to use a clip on tie.

Shoes: Black (no colour visible on the outside including the sole), smart, safe and sensible (with a heel not exceeding 2 inches). Trainers and canvas shoes should not be worn – shoes should be polishable. There should be no sports brands identified on the outside of the shoe. Boots are not acceptable.

Hair

Hair should be neat and tidy and not be of an extreme fashion in style and colour. If colour is applied to hair, then it should conform to natural hair colours and should be one colour. Students with long hair should tie it back during particular lessons for safety reasons. All beards should be trimmed and neat in appearance. Hair will be cut no shorter than a grade four.

Jewellery

Only one small pair of gold or silver earrings of the stud kind can be worn in the lower lobe of either ear. This means that rings, bracelets, necklaces and any other facial piercings are not allowed. This includes piercings on any other part of the ear, nose, lip, tongue or eyebrow. There should be no visible use of make-up. Nails should be natural in colour with no nail varnish. False nails or acrylics are not allowed, there are no exceptions to this. Only badges provided by the school can be worn with the exception of poppies for remembrance.

Uniform Expectations

Girls

Skirt/Trousers: Regulation tartan knee length 20" skirt, or navy trousers conforming to school design – any alternatives are not acceptable (regulation school skirts are available from the school shop). Skirts should not be rolled up. The bottom of the skirt should be as close to the top of the knee as possible.

Blouse: Pale blue, worn tucked in at the waist. The top button should be done up, so please make sure that the neck size is appropriate.

Socks: Dark socks (ankle or knee length) or tights. No coloured patterns visible when shoes are worn and no trainer socks.

Boys

Trousers: Black or dark grey (smart, not casual – not jeans, cords, denims)

Shirt: Pale blue, worn tucked in at the waist. The top button should be done up, so please make sure that the neck size is appropriate.

Socks: Dark socks. No coloured patterns visible when shoes are worn.

Warm coats and scarves can be worn outside at break and lunch but should not be worn inside the buildings.

Hoodies cannot be worn on the school site.

Tailored unisex shorts are also available which have the school logo. No other designs will be acceptable.

Term Dates 2023/24

Autumn Term 2023

INSET Days Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th September 2023, Friday 27th October 2023 and Friday 22nd December 2023

Term Starts: Wednesday 6th September 2023

Half Term: Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November 2023

End of Term: Thursday 21st December 2023

Spring Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8th January 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February 2024

End of Term: Friday 22nd March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8th April 2024

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May 2024

End of Term: Friday 19th July 2024

INSET Day: Monday 22nd July 2024

Technology

BHBS Design and Technology Department Excels in Innovations and Opportunities

In an era where creativity and problem-solving skills are highly valued, the design and technology department at BHBS has emerged as a leading example of nurturing young minds and fostering innovation. With a plethora of exciting achievements and opportunities, this department continues to inspire and empower its students like never before.

One recent accomplishment that stands out is the recognition bestowed upon the department for its environmental initiatives. Recognising its commitment to sustainability, the school was awarded with a variety of trees, from the Woodland Trust to plant, **not only highlights the department's dedication to nurturing a greener future** but also serves as a reminder to students of the importance of caring for the environment.

In addition to environmental efforts, the department has successfully organised a food trip to a local college for Year 11 students. This eye-opening experience will not expose them to culinary techniques and practices but also encouraged them to explore potential career paths in the food industry. The trip will provide invaluable insights and inspiration for these aspiring young cooks, further enhancing their passion for the subject.

Taking the spirit of innovation to a whole new level, the design and technology department secured funding to establish a computer game creation club for its students. This initiative aims to tap into the creative potential of gaming while also fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The funding received has allowed the department to invest in state-of-the-art technology and software, providing students with an immersive experience in game development.

Furthermore, thanks to the support of the school, the design and technology department has been able to upgrade its workshop machinery. The availability of modern equipment not only enhances the practical learning experience but also enables students to work with precision and efficiency. This investment in machinery reflects the commitment of the school to providing students with the tools and resources necessary to excel in the field.

Technology

The success and achievements of the design and technology department at BHBS are a testament to the ingenuity and dedication of both its teachers and students. By combining theoretical knowledge with hands-on experiences, the department ensures that students are well-prepared for future careers and equipped with the skills necessary to adapt to a rapidly evolving world. As the academic year progresses, the design and technology department at BHBS continues to foster a vibrant, innovative, and inclusive learning environment. With each achievement and opportunity, students are encouraged to think outside the box, take risks, and embrace their creative instincts, ultimately shaping them into well-rounded individuals ready to tackle any challenge that comes their way.

Maths & Computing

Maths Picnic

This half-term, six of our students from Year 9 went to Lucton School to take part in the Maths Picnic – a team competition against other outstanding Mathematicians. They split into 2 teams of 3, and they put in a great performance, all having a really good morning! (Seen below)



As well as using their mathematical skills and understanding, our students had to work as a team – they did this very well.

All 6 students – Sam, Alfie, Gabriella, Judi, David and Natalie – were awarded a Maths tie as a reward for their excellent performance, as seen below:



Next term we hope to be taking a group of Year 10 students to the Maths Feast.

English

November was a busy time for the library as we held a fantastic book fair. Scholastic sent us a wide variety of books to sell for a week. In return for selling these amazing books (and some equally lovely stationery) we managed to earn £178.15 in commission.

With the money raised we have been able to invest in a variety of new books for each ARP section, boosting the already brilliant range available to our students.

The Fair was a great success, and we look forward to hosting another the event next year.

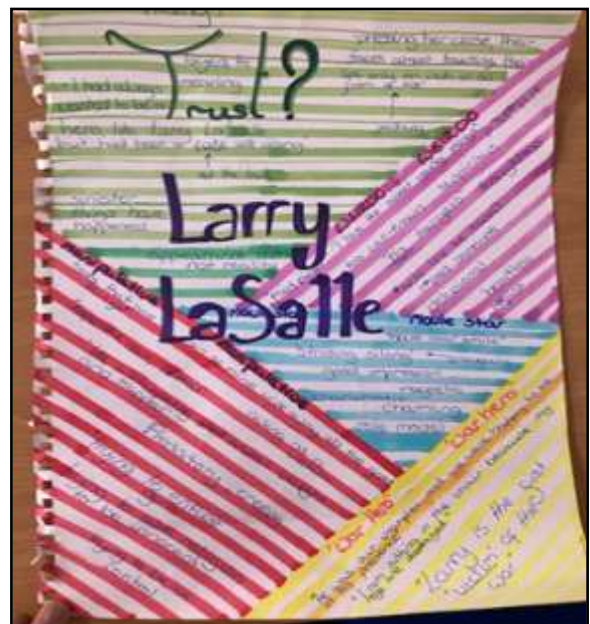
Thank you to everyone who attended our fair, and a big shout out to all the Student Librarians for their help.



English

Year 9 English

This term, Year 9 students have been reading either 'Heroes' by Robert Cormier or 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck. 'Heroes' work has included creating character mind maps and debating what makes a 'hero' or a 'villain.'



English

'Of Mice and Men' work has included researching this point in American history, writing in role and putting key characters on trial to judge who is most responsible for the events at the climax of the novel.



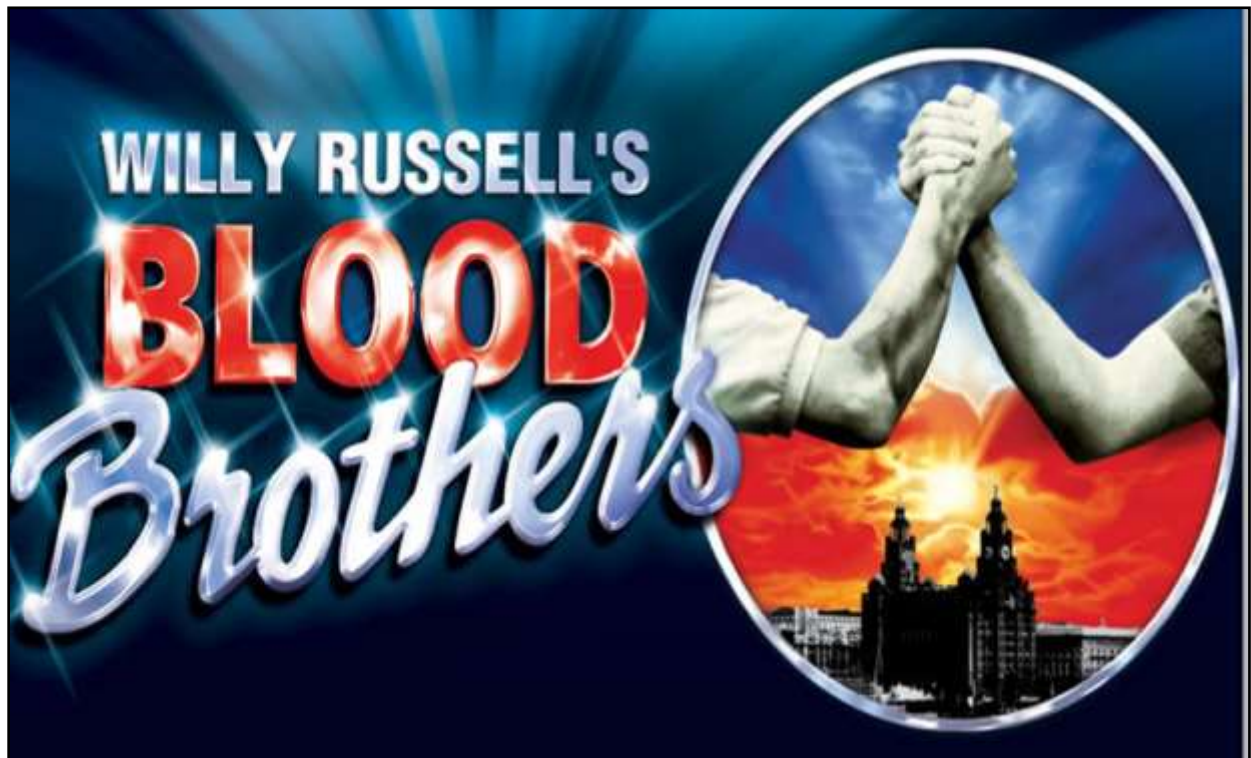
Here, Year 9 are working on an audio adaptation of a key scene to create their own version of 'Of Mice and Men' with music and sound effects.



English

'Blood Brothers'

On Wednesday January 24th 2024, we are taking Year 10 to watch the matinee performance of Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers' at Malvern Theatre. Having such a terrific production so close to home is a great opportunity for students to see the play in the flesh. It is on from Tuesday 23rd- Saturday 27th January and we encourage anyone who can take advantage of this to book seats now!



English

Pupils 2 Parliament

Dr Roger Morgan recently visited school once again to chair another Pupils 2 Parliament debate. This time students from Years 7-10 debated the issue of Advocacy (adults speaking on behalf of children). We had a terrific debate and our views have once again been communicated with Parliament and may well change laws going forward! To be involved in our next debate in the new year, please see Mr Merrick.

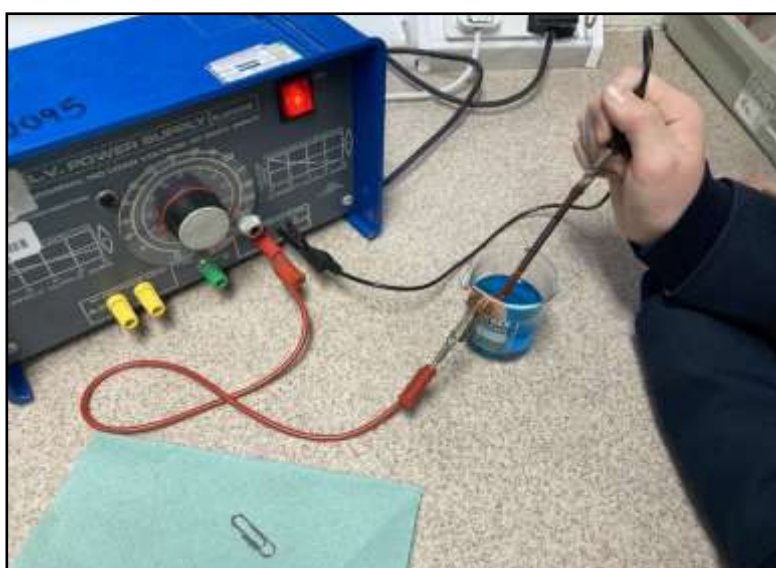


Science

Science club continues to remain popular amongst the students, with a steady attendance each week. The students have been completing a range of activities and are looking forward to the rest of the year.

We have made slime for Halloween, learnt how to send and receive messages in Morse code (using sound and light), made some homemade glue out of milk and tested sports drinks for reducing sugars.

The photographs show the students copper-plating using electrolysis. Looking ahead to the future, we will have sessions based around stars and the night's sky and several dissections.



HUMANITIES

Hereford History Trail

After having to run our town trail virtually we were finally able to do the Historical Hereford Town Trail in person. We were looking at how Hereford changed from the Saxon city to the Norman city in order to answer the question 'To what extent did the Normans impact on the city of Hereford'.

The trail is really interesting with tales of the Norman Baron Walter de Lacy who, whilst admiring his work, fell off the newly built St Peters church! It visits the traces of the Saxon city wall, the cathedral and the remains of the castle.



Picture shows Hereford Castle built by the Normans.

If you would like to learn more about this we have videos available on You Tube

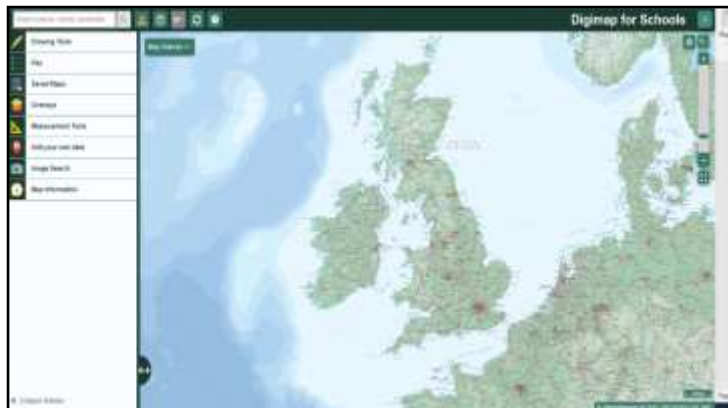
<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDryGPZu-SKwLxu4NxYiwsllbvr bq4zPl>



HUMANITIES

Digimap for Schools

All students have access to '**Digimap for Schools**', which provides UK Ordnance Survey and world street level mapping. We encourage students to use it for school and leisure purposes. The password is available from the Humanities staff. <https://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/>



Year 9 Pathways

If you are thinking about taking GCSE Geography or History and want to find out more please watch our YOU TUBE videos in which Mr Banks and Mr Atkinson have tried to answer some common questions asked.

GCSE Geography

<https://youtu.be/YkBaA6AkDME>

GCSE History

<https://youtu.be/CdSkHvtgbfE>

Year 8 Virtual Fieldwork

As part of our population and migration programme of study we explore the impact that migration has on a locality. Using Google street view we explore land use and classify it as impacted by migration.

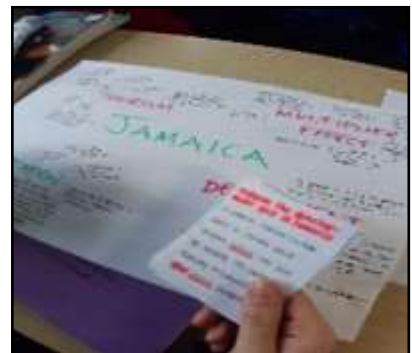


For homework students then have to take a picture showing the impact of migration in Hereford, which are displayed on our Instagram account @bishopshums.

HUMANITIES

Year 11 Reflective Revision

Year 11 have demonstrated some excellent examples of Reflective Revision as they prepare for their mock examinations. More detail and further examples can be seen on our Instagram @bishopshums



Physical Education

An update on our sporting awards. Here is a brief overview of what can be achieved and how to go about applying for them.

Flash: Regular attendance at a school club. A Flash will be awarded for effort, commitment and behaviour by the member of staff who runs the club.

½ colours tie: A half colours tie will be awarded for district/county/regional representation.

Full colours tie: A full colours tie will be awarded for national representation.

To evidence an award for a tie, can students please forward a letter from their coach or information from social media posts, rankings or photographs to sportsawards@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk.

Deadlines for sports tie submissions are as follows:

- o Thursday 21st December 2023
- o Friday 22nd March 2024
- o Friday 19th July 2024

The PE department reserve the right to withdraw sporting awards through ill-discipline and lack of commitment either on a temporary or permanent basis. All sporting colours are awarded at the discretion of the PE Department.

Physical Education

Spotlight on future stars

Kiah (SRX) competed in County Championships for tennis playing in Malvern where she secured the following titles: U16 County Champ, U14 County Champ and Player of the Year . Kiah displayed some fantastic sportswoman like behaviour during her Iron Kids event. There was a girl that was struggling to complete, Kiah took her hand and supported her over the finish line.

During her recent Whitecross club championship she achieved the following titles after a very hot day: Ladies club champ, Doubles Club Champ, Player of the Year Club Champ.

Liv (ARY) competed in the Welsh summer open swimming competition this August. She was thrilled to have qualified and came away with a long course personal best and thoroughly enjoyed the experience competing alongside the best swimmers in Wales.

She also took part in the Evesham biathlon, her first attempt at a multi sports event, and came away with personal bests in both disciplines -running and swimming .

Olivia was then lucky enough to attend Mel Marshall MBEs residential summer swim clinic at Repton school in Derby. Mel Marshall is a former Olympian as well as being Adam Peaty's GB coach. Olivia had a fantastic time and worked incredibly hard over the 5 days, which was designed to represent an Olympic village. She put in 2 sessions in the pool every day, as well as land training, yoga, nutrition seminars and many other activities. She met Welsh 200m fly Olympian Alys Thomas and was coached by Grant Turner.



Creative Arts

We welcome a new member of staff to the team this term. Joining us from John Masefield High School in Ledbury, Mrs Amy Goodall has become our full time Drama teacher. With a specialism in Dance, she has fully integrated herself in the creative life at Bishops, taking two GCSE Drama classes, delivering our ambitious programme of lessons for year 8&9 and also teaching Art to year 7s. Mrs Goodall is also setting lots of the scenes for our upcoming musical- more of which later.

The two focal points of the extra-curricular year have been our Autumn Concert and the Carol Service. Being the largest and busiest music department in the county we are able to deliver a wide range of musical ensembles and projects for our students to participate in. Highlights of the Autumn Concert included Camron's performance of his own GCSE composition, Isaac's solo piano piece as he prepares for his grade VIII and the show choir, 70 students strong, under the direction of Mrs Collingbourne.

We are also blessed to be able to perform at Hereford Cathedral for the annual Carol Service. It is a privilege to take two coach loads of eager students to play in this historic venue and have the opportunity to celebrate the school's Christian ethos with a large congregation. Each year the department adds to its repertoire of massed items- this year saw the debut of God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen alongside The First Noel from last year, as well as readings by students in the familiar lessons and carols format.

The spring term will be no less busy as we prepare for our next musical. 2024's musical production will be We Will Rock You. We've been rehearsing twice a week ready to stage this futuristic juke box musical telling the tale of how Galileo Figaro and Scaramouche rescue the world from an adenoid world of programmed music. Tickets will shortly be available via the school's website. Be sure to join us in the Spring Term (28th Feb-2nd March) for what will be a fantastic evening.



Creative Arts

As we share Christmas Greetings from the art department, we find ourselves in the middle of the year 11 Art mock exam, 90 students, four days and four rooms. Like Christmas, it comes around every year and whatever you do you're never quite ready. We have the frozen turkey which won't fit in the oven (vegetarian alternatives are available), the unwanted gift with no chance of sending it back and every now and then, a cluster of shining stars. Oh, the joys of the nurturing the next generation of Damien Hirsts (and just to clarify, this is not another turkey or shark reference)!

But while the students and teachers are ready for the break, we can look back with a sense of pride on a term well done. The year 7s have settled so well and really stepped-up in what, for many, has been their first dedicated art lessons with a specialist teacher. From peppers to shells, pencils to ink they are laying a solid foundation to build on. Year 8s and 9s continue to develop confidently, engaging with the work of the contemporary artist Jon Burgerman and film maker Tim Burton. Who knows, in Christmas future we might be looking forward to watching repeats of a film from one of our own Bishop's students. So, as we look to the new year, we will do so creatively with smiles drawn on our faces ready for whatever challenges come our way.



Welcome to the Languages Department at Bishop's!



The Languages team are devoting time over this year to prepare for the new GCSE specifications. French, German and Spanish GCSEs are being changed. This is an initiative launched by Ofqual, so all of the exam boards have been preparing new content and questions, plus the resources we will need to deliver the courses.

The new GCSE will first be taken in 2026. This means that our current year 9 students would sit the new format of exam at the end of year 11.

The main idea behind the whole rewrite is to ensure that the amount of content which students need to learn before the exams in year 11 is manageable and that the examinations are accessible to all students. This means that students are not unreasonably expected to know things about a Spanish city which they might never have heard of, or they are not tested on a topic which they might have no experience of, such as a skiing holiday, for example, or what it is like to watch an international event such as The Olympics.

We will most definitely still teach students about culture - the different parts of the world where the language is spoken, what celebrations take place in those countries, how Christmas is celebrated etc etc. But the testing itself in the GCSE examination is on the language which they have been taught and which we all know can come up in exams. Any words outside the word list will be glossed (students will be told what they mean) and any references to places (la Seine), for example, will be explained (the river in Paris).

In terms of the exams themselves, there are a few changes. Students will still do exams in the 4 skills - speaking, listening, reading and writing. All of the instructions on the papers will now be in English (at the moment, some questions are written in French or Spanish, so you have to work out what it is you have to do before you actually do it). This new approach will make things much clearer for students - as the task is in English, it will be clear what they need to do. In addition, another new feature of our exam board is that the listening passages will be played to students 3 times, to give them more time to listen and work out what is being said before they answer the questions. Students will be tested on their knowledge of phonics - do they know how the spellings of the words correspond to the sound (known as SSC -

Languages

sound-spelling correspondence)? This is important, as we can't say a French or Spanish word as if it was written in English. Students are taught what sound is represented by letters or sequences of letters, so that they are able to decode new words when they see them.

As we move forward, we will have new resources and the ActiveLearn platform will be amended for KS4 to be ActiveHub, a more interactive and mobile-friendly resource. This is an exciting time for Languages and the team are busy understanding the new content and ensuring that all of our current KS3 students become familiar with the new question types and that they are learning the core vocabulary from the new specifications.

Languages

Mon Noël à Bordeaux

Christmas is upon us and preparations for the celebration are already starting. Getting the tree and decorating it in all its splendour with garlands, baubles, glitter and a star at its top. Letters to Father Christmas have been sent... and we wait impatiently for the big day.

In our family, we are very lucky as we celebrate two Christmases, the French one on the 24th of December and the British one the following day.

The French Christmas dinner differs depending on the region you are from. In Bordeaux and the South-west, being located by the Atlantic coast, we celebrate Christmas with a huge shellfish platter. This is delicious. We often start our family dinner on the evening of 24th with oysters, followed by some foie gras with melba toasts. We then continue with our shellfish platter followed by some cheese. The whole family is sitting together around the table enjoying not only the food but also each other's company in this celebration. Around 11pm, it is time to get ready to go to church for the midnight service. Back home, sitting around the fire, we warm ourselves up and enjoy our bûche de Noël. Children go to bed while the parents start to pack the presents and put them around the tree for the next day....At least I do not need to cook. I send my husband to the fishmonger and the bakery to get everything we need... Nevertheless, what a long day and evening!

On Christmas Day, my children unfortunately are so excited that they wake up too early! They run towards the chimney to check whether Father Christmas had his drink and his mince pie and whether Rudolph has eaten his carrot. They then swiftly look towards the tree ...

In the meantime, I, once again, go in the kitchen to prepare our British Christmas but no turkey in sight. We usually have a beef Wellington with all the trimmings, pigs in blankets, vegetables and roasted potatoes. This is often followed by moving to the lounge and waiting for the King's speech at 3pm. In the afternoon, we go for a walk along the beach.

Madame Campbell

Languages

Mrs Metcalfe's Year 7 French class has begun a traditional letter exchange with a "classe de sixième" in a school in France. The school is situated in a small town called Pont d'Ain, not far from Lyon.

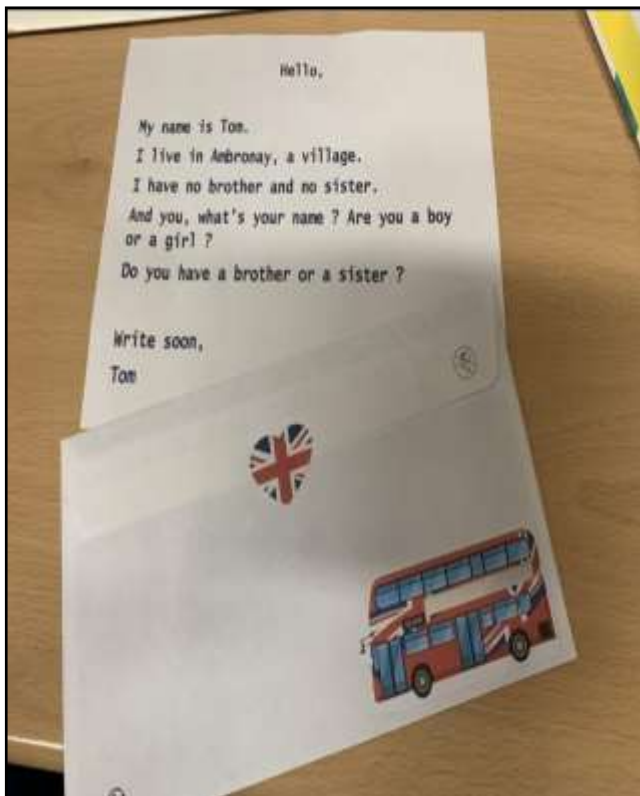
7 Fr Ve students were excited to open their first big envelope of letters a few weeks ago and have been busy writing replies.

The letters are being sent, and received, teacher to teacher and then distributed in class.

For our first letter exchange, Bishop's students have written in French and the French students have written in English.

In the new year we will perhaps write in English to see what our French correspondents can understand, and they will write back to us in French.

It has been great to see how motivating this "real life" contact has been for students and, although the snail mail method of communication is not as instant as email, judging by students' reactions, there is definitely still something special about receiving a hand-written letter.



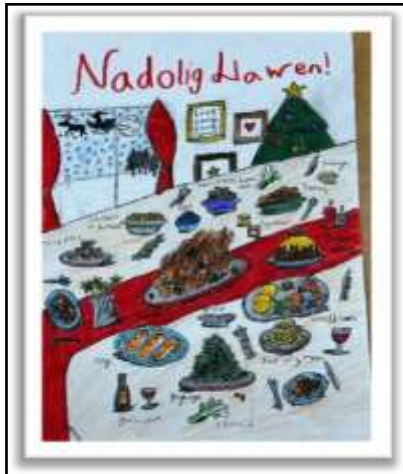
Languages

Languages Christmas Card Competition

This half term, the Languages team invited students to design a Christmas card in any Foreign Language of their choice under the theme of 'Traditional Christmas food from another country'.

We were overwhelmed by the number of fantastic entries received and we have awarded house points, prizes and certificates to all of them for the time and effort spent.

We received entries in 15 different languages: French, Spanish, German, Italian, Welsh, Bulgarian, Portuguese, Ukrainian, Macedonian, Slovak, Norwegian, Swedish, Czech, Russian and Fijian.



The overall winner for the best card went to Isabella in Year 7, for her fabulous card in Welsh depicting a very festive Christmas table.

We also had winners in different categories, and many other prizes.



Winner of the Top
Craft category
Liv in Year 8



Winner of the Top
Artwork category
Sofia in Year 8



Winner of the Best
Cultural Content
category
Dariya in Year 7



Winner of the Cards
Which Made Us
Smile category
Elsa in Year 8

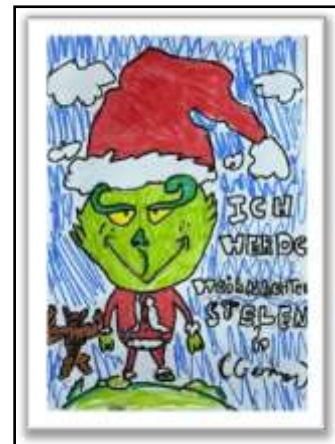
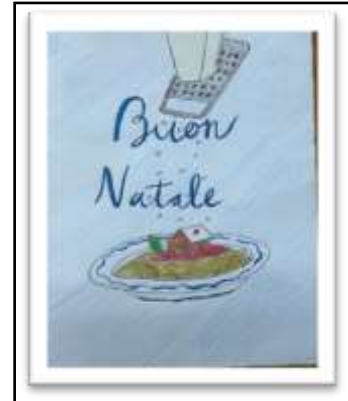
Languages

Here is a selection of some of the other cards. We would like to give a massive thank you to all of the students who took part.

Merci

Gracias

Danke



Religious Studies



GCSE Religious Studies Trip to Hereford Cathedral

Students in Year 10 enjoyed a visit to Hereford Cathedral this term. The visit included workshops in the Cathedral focusing on Pilgrimage, where they learnt about key historical figures such as St Ethelbert who was famously killed by King Offa, this was then linked to pilgrimage and why Hereford is significant in this story. Students also participated in a workshop on the seven Sacraments, in this, students were able to view the Norman font where baptisms still happen today, they were also able to walk through the cathedral and had the opportunity to take part in a Communion, they were able to take a wafer and see first-hand how a Communion is prepared. These workshops directly linked to their GCSE content for Paper 1 Christian practices. Students all left with questions and talking about the significance of pilgrimage and the sacraments on Christians. Students felt that the afternoon was a great experience and were very grateful for how well it deepened their knowledge of Christian practices for their GCSE. We are very grateful to the team at the Cathedral who put a fantastic afternoon of sessions together for the students, as it was very educational and interesting for all to enjoy.



Religious Studies



Mock Trial

We have also started Magistrate Mock Trial with years 8 and 9. Students are given the opportunity to act as real lawyers, witnesses, magistrates and ushers as well as reporters and artists in the trial. Students will prepare a case and then compete against other schools in Hereford and Worcester in March.

This is a wonderful enriching experience for our young people. We are very grateful for the support we get from people who work in the justice system. This experience is educational, inspiring, and interesting in every aspect. It is great fun to compete with other schools but is also incredibly valuable as an insight into careers linked to law. Students enjoy the way it incorporates drama, debating and performance skills.

We look forward to competing in the first round in March 2024.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

As part of the Skills for life programme students are taught how to spot the signs of bullying and what action they can take. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have been planning how they will deliver some key information through Year 7 and 8 Skills for life lessons to promote inclusivity and raise awareness about being upstanders. They have also supported students at the school throughout Anti-Bullying week helping our community to remember the job we can all do in spotting bullying and being an upstander. We are also very proud of Nia who is on the National Board of Anti Bullying advisors. She recently published an article about the work we do.



Religious Studies



by Saffiyah Choudry and The Diana Award Special Report Issue 908 FirstNews 10 – 16 November 2023

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



This year, Anti-Bullying Week takes place between 13 and 17 November. The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Programme raises awareness of bullying and provides support for schools and young people.

Nia is a 14-year-old Anti-Bullying Ambassador and is currently on The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Youth Board. The Diana Award honours young people who aim to improve the lives of others, and was named after the late Princess of Wales.

First News caught up with Nia to learn more about her work towards anti-bullying.



Q When did you first become interested in tackling bullying and promoting awareness?
I became interested after I heard about the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors in my school. I had just recently been bullied and thought it would be interesting to see what I could do. I joined the programme, and at first, I was shy and never wanted to talk in front of or to others, but the others really helped me feel like myself again. This inspired me to do the same with others, to help them in any way I could.

Q What do you do as an Anti-Bullying Ambassador?
I've organised events and lessons for my school. Some of my favourites are Diversity Day and Year 6 Induction Day. Diversity Day is a wear-what-you-like day at my school, fundraising for a different charity each year. Our anti-bullying group organises this day, and all assemblies and messages to go with it. Year 6 Induction Day is when we host a 45 to 60-minute lesson on transitioning from primary to high school and how to cope. The lesson includes how to identify and report bullying behaviour. Our "escape room"-style sessions always get great feedback and engagement with students, which is why it's one of my favourites to take part in.

Q What motivated you to apply to be on The Diana Award's Youth Board?
My own experiences with bullying and a desire to help others. To me, it was one of those opportunities that you knew you probably wouldn't get but that you'd regret for ages if you didn't try. It was the best way to get my voice out there, to help other people and to tell them it was going to be okay.
Being on the youth board can help me reduce bullying behaviour by gaining experience that I can use in my own school and the surrounding area. On my own, I think I can do a fair amount of good, but with others helping and supporting me, it's easier to think of ideas and execute

them. In the youth board, I've formed great relationships with like-minded people who inspire me to keep trying to help others.

Q Can you share any experiences that have inspired you to continue your work in bullying prevention?
A friend confided in me and allowed me to give them advice that ultimately helped them resolve the situation. It showed me that with the right support system, people can stop and deal with bullying behaviour without it permanently damaging their mental health.

Q What are some effective strategies to create a safe and inclusive school environment?
I think an effective strategy is to talk to students more and shut down all behaviour that could harm another student, even indirectly. In my experience, some teachers let students say or do things that could harm a student as long as the affected student doesn't say anything. By educating both teachers and students, we can empower young people to speak up when they notice bullying behaviour and help teachers identify the roots of a problem before it evolves into something worse.
I plan to reach and support as many young people as possible by continuing to spread a message of support and inclusivity in any way I can through school PowerPoint



lessons, the Youth Board, or, in person, delivering a session to peers. It's important to keep reminding others that they are valued because you never know who that message may reach.

Q What advice would you give to other young people who want to make a difference in their communities?
Find someone willing to help, talk to adults who could help you spread the message and keep doing what you're doing. It doesn't matter if you can't do the biggest thing; what matters is the intention, as even the little things can make the biggest difference.

Q What advice would you give to those who are suffering from bullying?
If you're suffering, talk to someone. But if you don't want to talk, you could spend time enjoying the little things that make you happy. From personal experience, I can tell you that finding something new that makes you happy can pave the way to new and exciting things. These things can help you find the courage to talk to someone or open up about what happened.

For teacher notes, lesson resources and more on Anti-Bullying Week, visit firstnews.co.uk/beatbullying





Sickness



Sickness Bugs

It is our school policy that in order to prevent the spread of sickness bugs, students should remain at home until they have been clear of ALL symptoms for 48 hours.

School Shop

To place an order with the school shop please click [here](#) or email schoolshop@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk. We will contact you directly to arrange



Should your son or daughter require a lift key for medical reasons, we require a letter confirming the reason why and a £10 deposit which will be refunded when the key is returned.

We have been asked by local residents to ensure parents/carers do not park across driveways when dropping off or collecting students.



We respectfully request that parents/carers refrain from driving on the school site at the start (8.15am - 9.00am) and end of the school day (2.45pm - 3.20pm). Too many vehicles on site causes congestion and increases the chance of an accident, with so many students either entering or leaving the buildings.