



# BHBS Term Times



## Winter 2024

*Always Faithful with Christ*

The Autumn term has been very busy with a variety of successful events including a packed careers evening in October, a pantomime production led by students who developed the production during enrichment week in June, a Jamie's Farm residential and several day trips. Our open events for prospective students, parents and carers were well attended and received very positive feedback.

New members of the Bishop's community, staff and students, have made a very positive start to their time at the school. Our new Year 7 students now know their way around the school and have fully immersed themselves in lessons and the vast number of extracurricular events on offer.

Students have participated in many sporting events over the Autumn term, including a sports tour to Barcelona for 45 students. The Year 10 boys' rugby team have been crowned county champions; Year 11 boys are plate winners. Three girl football teams reached the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the English Schools Football Association competition, boys football teams have made good progress in their ESFA leagues as well. Girls across years 7-10 attended the Here Girls Can festival as participants and champions. Students also represented Bishop's at the local Inclusive Olympics and Bowling event. At the time of writing nearly 80 fixtures have been completed already this academic year. Every Friday during our briefing I have the pleasure and privilege of sharing the successes of our talented students with all staff, it is a highlight of our week.

Autumn term highlights include the students' pantomime, Sports Awards Evening, two Year 7 & 8 discos, an Autumn Fayre which raised a huge amount of money for charity and collection points for donations to our local food bank. Our new school improvement partner has visited us three times this term, each time she has fed back how polite and well-presented students are, plus how focused they are in lessons.

Our presentation evening for Year V was held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, our guest speaker, the Mayor of Hereford, joined our Chair of Governors, Mr Morris, and Head Prefects in leading the celebration of individual and year group achievements.

Over the term we have continued our work to improve the school site and facilities for students. Our new school wide catering providers, Innovate, are getting ready to launch an exciting new offer in a re-branded and updated Deli and Conservatory in January. Recently we were informed that we have been successful with our planning application to knock down and redevelop the Woodard Fitness Block at the back of the Sports Hall. We aim for work to start on the new development late in the summer term.

I would like to thank all the parents and carers who took time to provide feedback in the surveys we shared earlier in the term. Well-deserved praise and celebrations have been shared with staff and governors, plus action plans developed where you have indicated that we could improve aspects of our practice. The student School Council has met several times this term, I had the pleasure of joining them for the first meeting of the term and welcomed representatives into a Senior Leadership Team meeting a few weeks ago. The feedback from the students was well considered and expertly presented. It has provided some important things for us to reflect upon and consider so that we can enhance student life at school and learning further.

It has been a busy, yet enjoyable, term for all and we look forward to more student achievement and success in the New Year.

I wish you all a relaxing Christmas and New Year.

Mr Williams  
Headteacher



# Uniform Expectations

Blazer:	Blazers are compulsory and should be worn at all times in the building unless a member of staff gives permission for them to be removed.
Tie:	Students should wear the school's navy with a maroon and gold stripe tie, Bishop's reward tie, or Bishop's prefect tie. The knot should be pulled up to the top of the collar and must be kept smart and tidy.
Sweater:	Sweaters are an optional item which must be navy and V-neck in design.
Shirt:	Pale blue, worn tucked in at the waist. The top button should be done up, so please ensure that the neck size is appropriate. The shirt can be long or short sleeved in length.
Skirt:	Regulation tartan school skirt, all skirts have a minimum length of 20", in exceptional circumstances, the school will authorise and sell an 18" skirt – 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.
Trousers:	Black or dark grey straight cut (smart, not casual, no drainpipe style – not jeans, cords, denims)
Socks:	Black socks (ankle or knee length) or tights. No coloured patterns visible when shoes are worn.

Warm coats should be worn to and from school. They can be worn in the building but must be removed when entering a classroom and placed over the chair. Hoodies can not be worn on the school site.

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

# Term Dates 2024/25

## Spring Term 2025

Term Starts; Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Half Term: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

End of Term: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025

## Summer Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Half Term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

End of Term: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

INSET Day: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025

# Maths & Computing

## Staff Update

We started this academic year with two new members of staff.

A warm Bishop's welcome to Mr Bridgewater (Maths) and Mr Carpenter (Computing).

Also, a big thank you to Mr Hawthorne, a temporary teacher of Maths this term.

## Year 11 After School Revision Sessions

Well done to all the year 11 students who attended the pre-mock after school revision sessions. They were organised by topic and involved a plentiful supply of past exam questions.

The feedback from the students was very positive.

Another set of after school Maths revision for year 11 students will start soon, more information to follow in the New Year.

## Maths drop-in after school

Don't forget that there is a weekly after-school Maths help club, open to all year groups. Just come along to Room 23 after school on any Monday, where you will find a Maths teacher ready to help with any homework or classwork queries.

## Statistical Analysis

Years 7, 8 and 9 have been completing units of work on Statistics.

Some students collected data using their own online survey:



They then used a wide variety of diagrams to represent the data. See which ones you would recognise:

Comparative bar chart, composite bar chart, histogram, pie chart, stem and leaf diagram, scatter graph.

# Maths & Computing

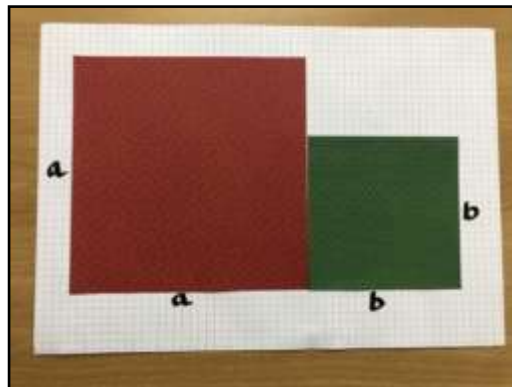
## Puzzling Polygons

Thank you to our wonderful assistants for this year's Open Evening, Amelia L, Will G and Millie H.

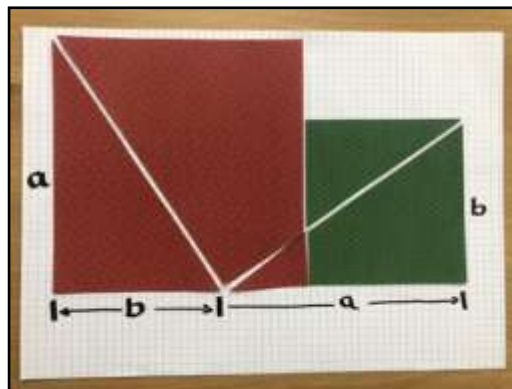
They provided hints and encouragement as the visitors attempted to solve some polygon puzzles.

These were based on dissections used by German mathematician David Hilbert. Little did they know they were very close to demonstrating Pythagoras Theorem. Here it is for you to try at home.

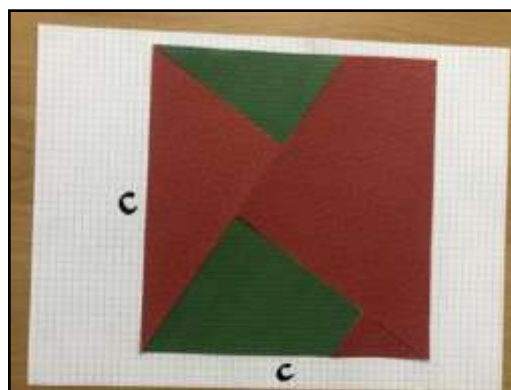
Start with two different sized squares:



Cut as shown:



Combine to make one larger square:



# Maths & Computing

## Computing

This term, our Year 9 students have been diving into the exciting world of Python programming! They have been learning the fundamentals of coding and exploring how to create shapes and designs using the Turtle module. From drawing intricate patterns to solving puzzles through code, students have embraced the challenges of debugging and logical thinking with enthusiasm. The combination of creativity and problem-solving has made each lesson both fun and rewarding. Coding encourages persistence and innovation, and our budding programmers are already showcasing impressive skills. We are proud of their progress and can't wait to see what they will create next!

### Task 6 – Using more commands

Try out the **new** commands in your book in a **new** program.

Name your script *turtleZoo.py*

1. Name your turtle
2. Change the pen colour
3. Change it's shape
4. Add some movement commands
5. Get it to say something
6. Add an additional turtle with a different name
7. Get it to move and talk



```
import turtle

tina = turtle.Turtle()
tina.shape('turtle')
tina.color('green')

tina.left(90)
tina.forward(100)
tina.write("I'm Tina!")
tina.forward(20)
tina.right(90)

tommy = turtle.Turtle()
tommy.shape('turtle')
tommy.color('red')

tommy.right(90)
tommy.forward(100)
tommy.write("I'm Tommy!")
tommy.forward(20)
tommy.left(90)
```



LJAF: What have we learnt so far?

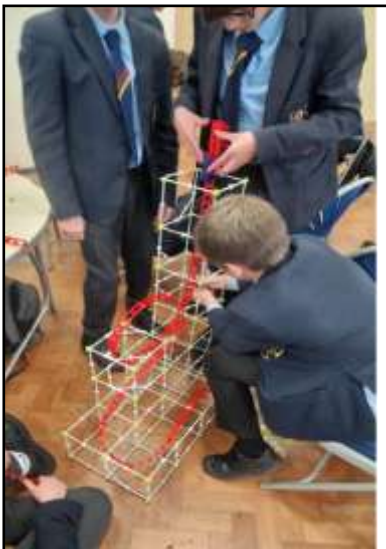
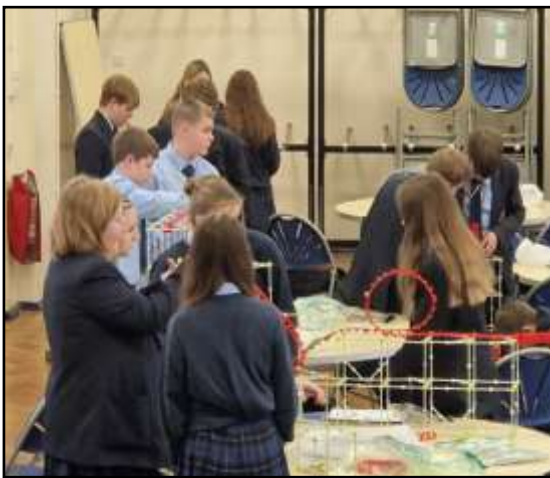
Keywords: library, Turtle, object, pixel, variable, shape(), color()

```
18 # Draw the patte
19 for i in range(3
20     color = colo
21     pen.pencolor
22     pen.forward(
23     pen.left(59)
24     hue += 1 / n
25
26 # Hide the turtl
27 pen.hideturtle()
28 screen.mainloop(
29
```

# Design & Technology

This half term our Year 9 students have worked with the Engineering Development Trust (EDT), the largest Educational STEM outreach charity. They work with young people all over the country to boost their knowledge and engagement within STEM, to provide Industrial Cadet accreditation, boost confidence and encourage students to focus their future in STEM areas.

The Year 9 students had a fun morning of learning about forces and stresses, whilst design, building and testing their own roller coasters.





# English

## Year 7 English

This term in English, Year 7 began by studying The Island Project.

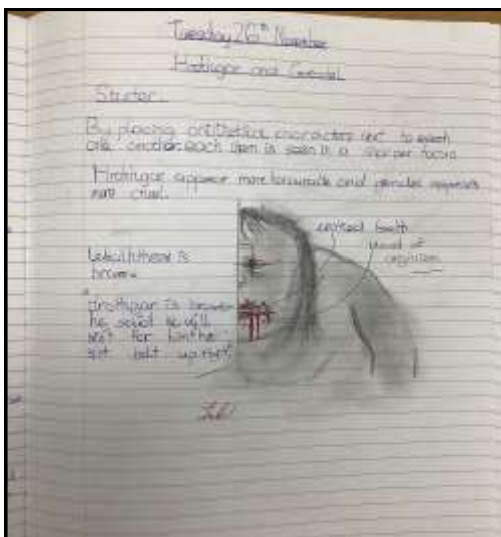
As part of this, they designed their own deserted islands, created their own flora and fauna, and planned practical, realistic emergency shelters. They imagined how it might feel to be stuck on an island, and examined texts that showed characters suffering a similar fate, including *Robinson Crusoe* and *Heart of Darkness*.



After half term, Year 7 moved on to study *Beowulf*, one of the oldest surviving texts in Old English, because Old English is so different from the language we speak today, we've been reading Bill Bye's translation.

Students have learnt about Viking and Anglo Saxon invasions, and how these affected our culture and language. They have also had a go at reading and speaking Old English – not an easy feat!

We've been exploring Nye's language choices, and how the Danes viewed heroism and monstrosity.



# English

Year 8 English

This term, we have been studying the Charles Dickens novella, 'A Christmas Carol.'

We have immersed ourselves in Scrooge's story and what the Spirits taught him. Work has included talking and writing about our own Christmas memories and how we would like to be remembered. We have also created our own version of Marley's chains, as well as designing our own versions of the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet-to-Come. We hope to create a Victorian Christmas in our last lesson of 2024!

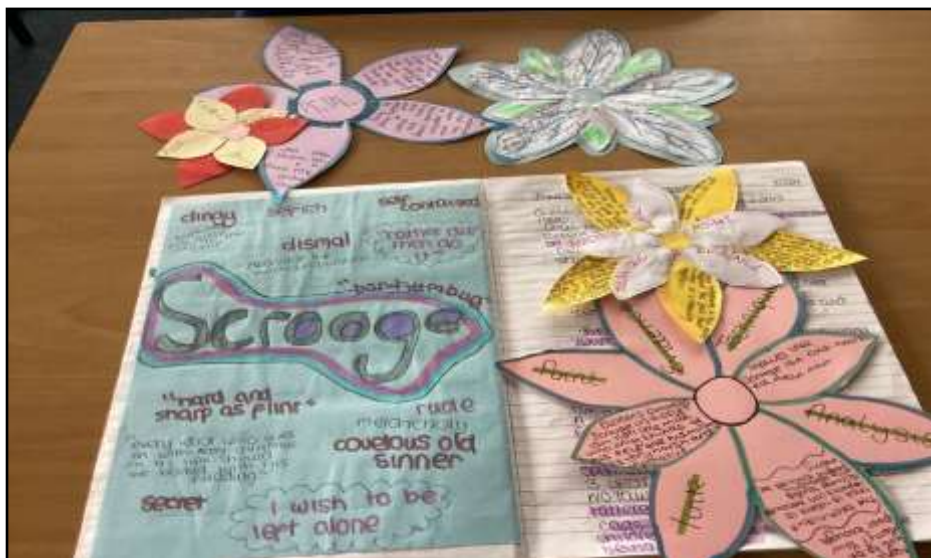


What Year 8 have said about English this year:

"What I love about English: the books we read, the dual coding we do, the fun we have."

"I really like the ARP hours because I love reading and it gives me proper reading time which I don't always have at home."

"I like group work, debating issues and trying different types of writing."



# English

## Pupils 2 Parliament

Another busy term for our young Parliamentarians! In October, we had a live debate on the future of human rights. Here are some of those who debated, reading the report that went to Parliament in November.



We have also just undertaken an online debate on Artificial Intelligence!

What some of our students said about Pupils 2 Parliament:

“I really like having my views heard by Parliamentary committees”

“It’s great to be involved in making decisions and even changing laws!”



To be involved in the next one, please see Mr Merrick.

# English

## Open Evening in English

Open Evening was a great success in October! We had many weird and wonderful activities for future Bishop's students to have a go at. They were ably supported by our terrific volunteers!



Masks for 'Romeo and Juliet' (Year 8)



Creating Marley's chains for "A Christmas Carol" (Year 8)



Building a shelter for The Island Project (Year 7)

One prospective student said: "I can't wait to come to English lessons at Bishop's! Making a spell like in 'Macbeth' was great fun!"

What our helpers said: "I liked seeing people exploring what the English department at Bishop's offers. I liked helping people with the activities and having a go myself!"

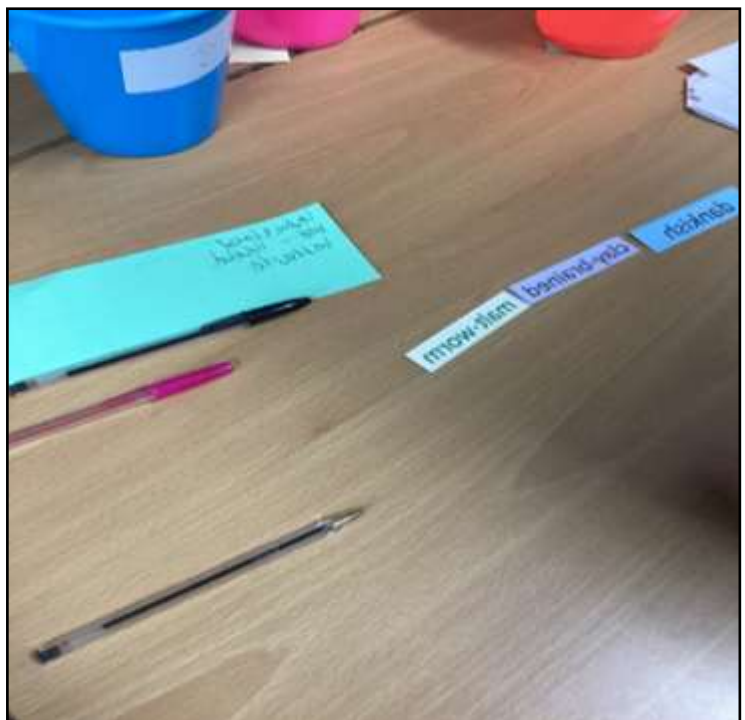
"I enjoyed helping in Open Evening with the English department. We had so many activities and all the young people found something to do, whether it was blackout poetry, creating spells or writing descriptions."

# English

Making spells for the witches from 'Macbeth' (GCSE), blackout poetry...



...and 21<sup>st</sup> century Shakespearean insults!



# Science

## STEM club

Science club has now re-branded as STEM club. There will be extra focus this year on the technology, engineering and maths aspects.

Our students did a phenomenal job at open evening on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. They ran all the activities for the potential new students next year. It was especially pleasing to see the older students training up the newer students and starting to take a leading role in the evening.

In addition to our usual suite of experiments for open evening, we have spent a bit of time focussed on extracting DNA from various things and making slime for Halloween. We are taking advantage of the dark evenings and having a look at the technology we use for exploring space.

By the time this article is published, the students will have completed a spectacular engineering challenge, and will be looking forward to their Christmas treat. Looking further ahead into the new calendar year, we are hoping to include some other members of staff with various Scientific backgrounds to deliver a range of sessions on different subjects.

The photographs show the students making a mess, otherwise known as slime, for Halloween.



# Science

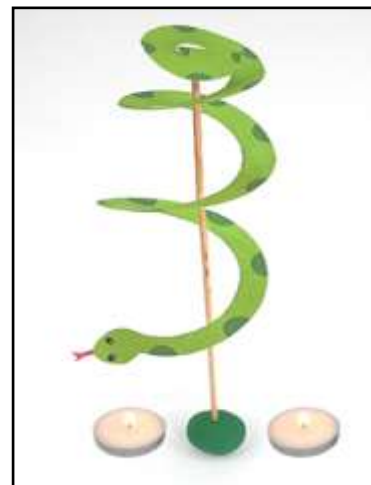
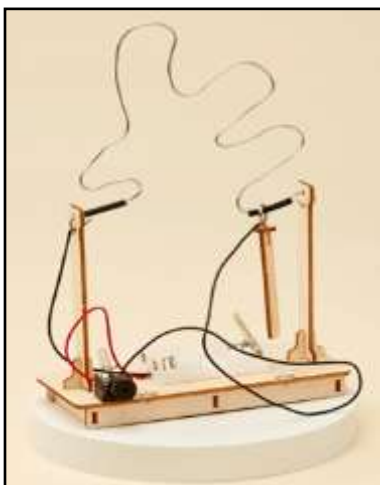
Mordiford Primary School

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October, Mordiford Primary School were treated to 4 sessions of amazing Science.

In a practical way, the year 6 pupils learnt how the human eye works, optical illusions and how different lenses affect rays of light. Year 5 were very keen to learn how to light candles safely and how to make a spiral spin without touching it. Year 4 had a go at making a homemade steady hand game, which linked to their electricity topic. Year 3 were very excited to make light mazes out of lego bricks and mirrors.



Overall, the pupils enjoyed their Science lessons and were wowed by the magic of Science.



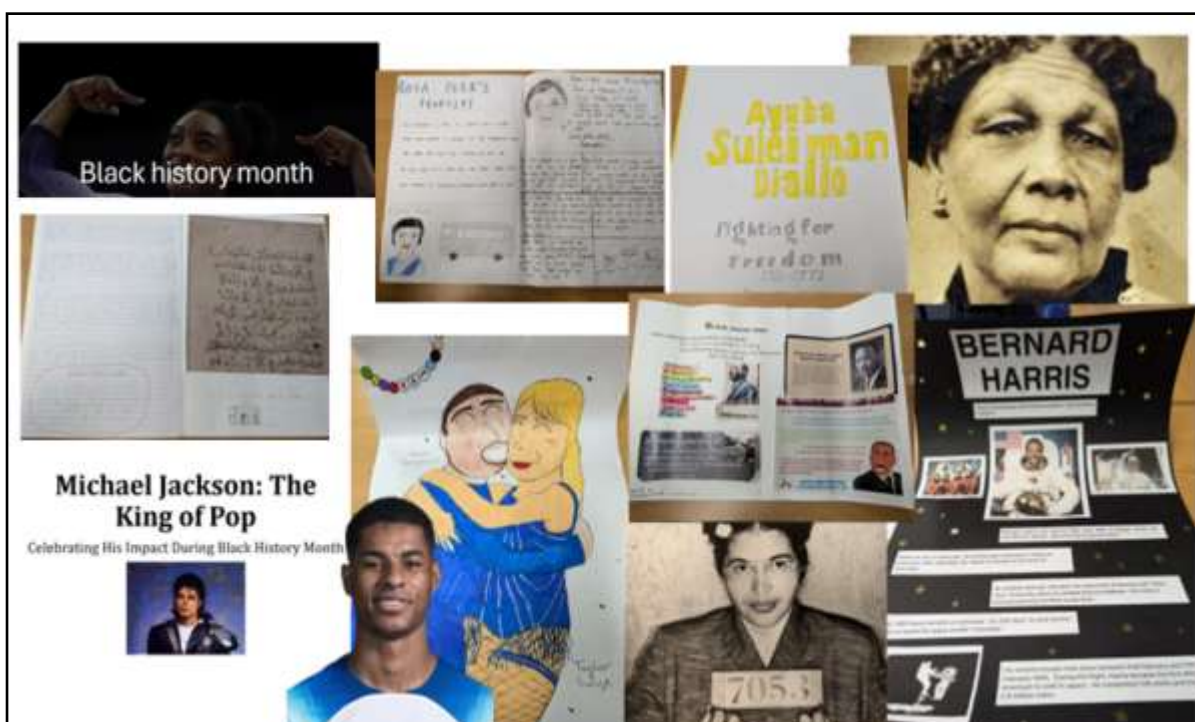
# Humanities

This term in Humanities we have been focusing on Black History.



Within our lessons students have learnt about amazing stories such as Walter Tull, professional footballer for Tottenham Hotspur and first Black officer in the British Army who died in World War One during the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

All students had the opportunity to enter a competition in which they could research an individual who they believe has a remarkable story. Mrs Hill was blown away by the entries and every piece of work was unique, well researched and presented. Here are the entries below.





# Physical Education

## Sports awards evening

One of the highlights of the sporting calendar took place at the start of this academic year. Many of our most talented students were invited to the annual Sports awards evening. We celebrated the outstanding achievements of our student-athletes, staff and coaches. We gathered not only to honour the results of hard work and dedication but also to reflect on the values that sports instil in us — teamwork, resilience, and discipline to name a few. Congratulations to all our winners.

## Sports tour to Spain

During October half term students from year 9 and 10 travelled to Spain to play football and netball. Although the weather tried its best to dampen our tour we still had a fantastic experience. We witnessed the sights of Barcelona on a walking tour, including a visit to the 1992 Barcelona Olympic park. Students had fun on the beach and a thrill filled day at a theme park. We had some tough games within both the netball and football tournaments, but the students enjoyed the coaching sessions in the build-up. In the evenings we sang our hearts out in karaoke, and danced the night away at our 'glow up' disco, who would have thought things would have got so competitive during the boys Vs girls quiz night?!

'It was the experience of a lifetime that students have memories of that can only be made once but are kept forever' Ava B, CLX



# Creative Arts

This academic year has got off to a flying start in Creative Arts.

After a very successful Enrichment Week we decided to replace the Autumn Concert with the pantomime prepared in the summer. Never keen on standing still, we decided to include all of our music ensembles as well, so Jack and the Beanstalk was even bigger and sillier than last time. Highlights included unrehearsed costume failure for the wonderful dame, Josh H, and the panto cow expertly winding up the audience participant in the milking scene. Whilst pantomime is an informal form of theatre it takes a lot of discipline and mental capacity to be spontaneous, our cast, crew and band did a wonderful job. This year's enrichment week will be Cinderella, from the same script writer and we promise to make it even better next time.

We are very lucky to have many talented students at Bishop's and the Creative Arts team would like to thank some of our regular performers who are quietly raising the profile of the department in school. For instance, David J and Diya F who have been playing piano in assembly as forms enter. Diya also played superbly at our

Open Evening. Grace G sang at our Presentation Evening, developing her operatic voice under the guidance of Mrs Collingbourne.

Our team of peripatetic Music Tutors remains large and we can offer tuition in a wide range of instruments. We'd like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Becky Griffiths who is leaving our team after many years of excellence in clarinet teaching. She has had many successes and we could always rely on her to prepare her students for GCSE and exams at the highest level. She will be replaced by Sarah Rees who is a superb player and will take over the Clarinet Ensemble as well.

Also new to the team this term is our guitar tutor Luke Strong, who has doubled the number of students learning this instrument. We have also re-instated the guitar army who rehearse after school on Mondays.

If your child is interested in any form of instrumental tuition please contact [hsutton@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:hsutton@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk) for further information.

The Carol Service this year has been an enormous success. Taking place at the ancient and magnificent Hereford Cathedral, our usual choirs and ensembles were supplemented by over 20 ex-students and staff, as well as choirs from St Paul's and Hampton Dene primaries. The event attracted a congregation of over 400 people, whose donations raised well over £1000 for Macmillan Cancer Research. Our Art Department contributed with a superb piece of cover art by Eva B, a year 10 art student. The team would like to thank the Governors in supporting us prepare this event every year.

# Languages



Christmas greetings from the Languages Team at Bishops. We have been working hard this term, with year 8 French students talking about holidays and now 'celebration days'. These include Christmas but we have also looked at other days which are celebrated in French-speaking countries which we might not celebrate. Before the holidays, most students will talk about food which we eat on special occasions and compare how we celebrate Christmas here compared to in France or other Francophone countries. I am writing this on 6<sup>th</sup> December, St Nicholas' day, when the good children in Europe put out a shoe, clog or sock/stocking, in the hope of a small, sweet reward for their behaviour.

Our year 10 students are making excellent progress with the new GCSE specification and our year 11s have recently sat their mock speaking exams - a chance to show off their language skills but also quite a nerve-racking experience for some students, so well done to all of them.

In year 9 French, we are looking at future plans and talking about what route they might be planning to take in the future, focusing these students on talking about the opportunities they have ahead of them.

Year 7 students have made an excellent start to their language-learning journey at Bishops, with topics covered including introducing ourselves and talking about our families, our likes and dislikes and then, more recently, work on school - talking about lessons and their opinions and then school uniform. They were mostly unimpressed to learn that French students usually don't have school uniform!



# Languages

Languagenut, our new online learning/practice platform, ran a competition over 2 weeks recently. This was for the champion in the country, and in each school, in terms of points gained on the platform. There were even a couple of double point days. As we are new to the platform, our students are not scoring amongst the highest in the country but we were pleased with the engagement, especially from year 7 students. Languagenut allows us to set listening tasks, vocabulary games and speaking tasks, where students can test their pronunciation and also send us spoken answers in the language they are practising.

Rowan in year 10 was our top point winner in school, with Adiya in year 8 2<sup>nd</sup> and Ade in year 7 3<sup>rd</sup>. All of our top 10 students will get a certificate and a prize before Christmas. Well done to all of the students who have engaged with Languagenut and are using it to help their vocabulary learning. Students can work on the platform, even if a specific task has not been set for homework. It is a great practice tool.



# Languages

## Christmas Card Competition

Here are some examples of entries to this year's Christmas card competition. We were delighted with the standard of the entries and the care taken to use other languages and cultural information. The winners will be receiving certificates and prizes.



# Religious Studies and Skills for Life



## About Face

Students in Year 7 welcomed in the About Face Theatre company. The workshop was an interactive 'forum theatre' experience where the students were given the chance to step into the scenario presented to find solutions, whilst still gaining valuable insights into the issues, law and impact around Hate Crime. A huge thankyou to the About Face team for their wonderful workshop. Our students gained a great deal from the experience.



## Mock Trial

We have also started a 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 2025.

# Religious Studies and Skills for Life



## Your Impact

The 'Your Impact' team came in to work with our Year 10 students. Your Impact is a free multi-agency road safety scheme aimed at reducing death and serious injury amongst young road users in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The scheme is aimed at Year 10 students who are road users, as car passengers, pedestrians, cyclists, and may soon become young drivers. The workshops help students see how the positive choices you make, as a passenger, road user and future driver, can keep themselves and others safer on the roads.



# Religious Studies and Skills for Life



## Anti Bullying

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 planned 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. In addition to this they have been sharing a “thought for the week” every week linked to student well being. The team was recently recognised for their efforts by achieving the Inclusion badge. To achieve this badge the team were tasked with creating campaigns that champion diversity and inclusion or promote equal rights for any of the nine protected characteristics. A fabulous effort by all involved. 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.







## **THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL**

Hampton Dene Road, Tupsley, Hereford HR1 1UU

Tel: 01432 347501

Enquiries: [head@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:head@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr T Williams

Dear Parent Carer

Re: End of KS3 reward trip

We are keen to provide an extra reward for Year 9 students that have managed to maintain a high attendance and also have excellent conduct in lessons. This follows on from the success of a similar trip for Year 9 last year.

Our intention is that any student who has an attendance above 95% and no detentions will get a free place on a trip to the West Midlands Safari Park on Wednesday 7th May 2025. Our students had a fabulous time last year, because we were one of the few schools at the park, so there were no long queues to see the animals or go on the rides.

We will use attendance and behaviour data collected between the 6th January 2025 and the 4th April 2025, so every student has the opportunity to go. Students who already have excellent attendance and no sanctions will also be able to go if they can maintain this. These students will have a greater chance of having an attendance above 95%, because they will not be disadvantaged if they have a short spell of illness in the Spring term.

There are many reasons why a student is unable to attend school, but we are hopeful that this approach will help increase our attendance to pre-covid levels. You will probably be aware that there has been a significant drop in attendance across the UK, since the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021. Attainment and wellbeing drops significantly if attendance falls below 95%, which is why we have set the bar quite high.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know about the opportunity, so that you can share the information with your child. Our pastoral team will also speak to students about the initiative. We will contact you at a later date to let you know if your child has been successful. There will be some students that will not meet the criteria and lessons will still run as normal for these students on the day of the trip.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Pete Gibbins  
Deputy Headteacher

Jonathan Nicholas  
Assistant Headteacher

## School Shop

To place an order with the school shop please click [here](#) or email [schoolshop@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk](mailto: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.