



Always Faithful with Christ

BHBS Term Times



Autumn Term 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Autumn term has been very busy with a variety of successful events, including a packed careers evening shared with St Mary's High School, our Year 7 form tutor evening, and a student-led pantomime production. It has been a pleasure to see students engage in enrichment activities such as the Jamie's Farm visits, and trips to the local cinema and Warhammer shop in the city centre.

A major highlight of the term was our phenomenally successful SIAMS inspection in November. I am delighted to inform you that an extremely positive report has been published and shared with the school and wider community. This external validation is a testament to the hard work of our staff and students, and the support offered to the school by the community.

Our Open Events for prospective families were well attended and drew incredibly positive feedback. It is encouraging to see that initial requests for Year 7 places in September 2026 show a significant increase in the number of parents naming Bishop's as their first choice school for September 2026. Additionally, our October census recorded a significant increase in student numbers compared to previous years, another indication of the hard work of staff at the school and the support they offer all students.

We have welcomed a delightful cohort of Year 7 students who have settled in well. In our recent transition survey, 98% of parents reported being satisfied with their child's transition to secondary school, and 100% agreed that communication regarding the process was clear. Furthermore, over 95% of parents feel their child is happy and engaged in their lessons. I will be sending a survey to all parents and carers in the New Year, it will ask you to provide feedback to us on many different areas of school life so that this can be used to plan further developments across the school.

Students have participated in many sporting events over the Autumn term across a variety of disciplines. This term, over 80 fixtures have been completed in rugby, netball, football, basketball, athletics, badminton, and cross country.

Some standout sporting successes include:

- The U13 and U16 girls' football teams reaching the 4th round of the ESFA competition—the furthest any team (boys or girls) has reached since we entered this competition.
- Year 11 boys' rugby reaching the county cup final.
- 9 students qualifying to represent the district at the County Cross Country.
- Our 'Here Girls Can' champions having an article published in *Physical Education Matters* magazine.

Academically, our Year 11 students have been given extensive support to aid their revision for mock exams, this included an information evening for parents. The first round of mocks progressed well and provided detailed feedback for all, a second round will take place in March to ensure students are fully prepared for examinations in the summer.

As a school and community, we came together to celebrate student success at our Sports Awards Evening in September and our Year 11 Presentation Evening in December. It was a privilege to welcome back ex-student Sam Bishop as our guest speaker to celebrate our Year 11 students' achievements.

Regarding our staff, we would like to thank those who are leaving Bishop's at the end of this term for their dedicated service: Miss Price, Pastoral Mentor for SEN, and Miss Starling, who has been teaching in English. We wish them both the very best for the future.

We are also excited that new staff are joining the school in the New Year to support our students. We look forward to welcoming Ms Pember as a Learning Support Assistant and Mrs Brooker as our new Senior Science Technician.

Please note that included in this edition of Term Times are the new term dates for the academic year 2026-27 at Bishop's. These will be available from the school website soon, but you may wish to take note of them now.

Our annual carol service at Hereford Cathedral earlier this week was superb, and it was delightful to see Bishop's students perform with students from St Paul's and Hampton Dene Primary Schools. Well done to all involved.

It has been a busy, yet successful term at Bishop's. Staff and students alike are looking forward to a well-earned Christmas break.

I wish you all a relaxing Christmas and happy New Year.

Mr T Williams

Uniform Expectations

General Uniform

- **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.
- **Jumper** - Jumper – Navy blue
 - A navy blue v neck jumper may be worn under a blazer, the jumper must **not** have buttons or emblems of any type.
 - Jumpers are **an optional** item and are not a replacement for the blazer.
- **Tie** – only one shirt button should be seen **below the tie**. This creates a consistent and appropriate length.
- **Shoes** - Black (no colour visible on the outside including the sole), smart, safe and sensible (with a heel **not** exceeding 2 inches).
 - Shoes should be polishable
 - Trainers and canvas shoes **are not** allowed.
 - There should be no sports brands identified on the outside of the shoe.
 - Boots are not acceptable.
- **Shirt** - Pale blue
 - Tucked in all the way round on the waist
 - Top buttons are to be **used at all** times, so please make sure that the neck size is appropriate.
 - The shirt can be long or short sleeved in length.
 - No brands or logos are permitted
 - Shirts are not permitted to be button down collar

Uniform Expectations

- **Skirt** - Regulation tartan school skirt

*All skirts have a minimum length of 20", in exceptional circumstances **only** the **school will** authorise and sell, an 18" skirt – alternatives are **not** acceptable

*Skirts must not be rolled up.

*The bottom (hem) of the skirt must be as close to the top of the knee as possible.

*Adjustments to the length of the skirt **are not** permitted

- **Trousers** - Black straight cut.

*Casual or drainpipe style trousers **are not** acceptable this includes jeans, cords, and denims

- **Socks** - black socks (ankle or knee length).

***No coloured** patterns and motif/logos visible when shoes are worn.

*Tights must be plain black and they must have no rips or holes.

*Plain black socks **may be worn underneath** the tights.

- **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 are **not permitted** to be worn on the school site.
- Tailored unisex shorts are also available from the school shop which have the school initials.
- **No other** designs are acceptable.

Exams and Uniform

Full school uniform is expected in all school exams. Failure to attend appropriately attired could result in not being able to complete the exam

Uniform Expectations

Hair

Hair should be neat, tidy and of natural colour and in a non-extreme style.

The school reserves the right to judge what is considered natural or extreme.

There should be no evidence of colouring of any kind

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 on the top of the head. Patterns or lines are not acceptable in the hair or eyebrows.

If you are in any doubt please contact the school before any new style is introduced.

Any student wishing to wear headwear for religious reasons must ensure that it is navy. No other colours are acceptable.

Jewellery

One small pair of gold or silver stud earrings can be worn in the lower lobe of either ear, but no more than one earring in an ear.

*Hoops style earrings are not acceptable

*Studs must not have patterns, colours or designs

Rings, bracelets and necklaces are not allowed.

Facial or body piercings are not allowed.

*Any other forms of jewellery must not be worn.

Only badges and flashes provided by the school can be worn on the blazer, with the exception of poppies for Remembrance.

Uniform Expectations

Make-Up and Cosmetics

Staff should not be able to see the use of make-up. If make-up can be seen it means it is not discreet enough for our school environment.

Nails should be natural in colour with no nail varnish.

False nails or acrylics are not allowed, there are no exceptions to this.

False eyelashes/extensions/eye liner are not allowed.

Should a student arrive at school incorrectly dressed every effort will be made to solve the issue, failure to accept the support may result in normal school sanctions being applied.

The School's decision on all queries is final.



Term Dates 2025/26

Spring Term 2026

Term Starts: Monday 5th January 2026
Half Term: Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026
Term Ends: Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Term Starts; Monday 13th April 2026
Bank Holiday; Monday 4th May 2026
Half Term: Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026
Term Ends: Friday 17th July 2026
Inset Day: Monday 20th July 2026 (school closed)

Term Dates 2026/27

Autumn Term 2026

Term Starts:	Thursday 3 rd September 2026
Inset Days:	Tuesday 1 st September 2026 (school closed) Wednesday 2 nd September 2026 (school closed) Friday 23 rd October 2026 (school closed)
Half Term:	Monday 26 th October 2026 – Friday 30 th October 2026
Inset Day:	Monday 7 th December 2026 (school closed)
Term Ends:	Friday 18 th December 2026

Spring Term 2027

Term Starts:	Monday 4 th January 2027
Half Term:	Monday 15 th February 2027 – Friday 19 th February 2027
Term Ends:	Thursday 25 th March 2027

Summer Term 2027

Term Starts;	Thursday 8 th April 2027
Bank Holiday;	Monday 3 rd May 2027
Half Term:	Monday 31 st May 2027 – Friday 4 th June 2027
Term Ends:	Friday 16 th July 2027
Inset Day:	Monday 19 th July 2027 (school closed)

School Houses

Ashley House

A Warm Welcome from the Head of House Mrs Collingbourne

Hello Ashley House!

What a fantastic term it's been. From achievements on the sports field and stage, to acts of kindness and community leadership, you've shown what it really means to live our school values. We're so proud of every single one of you—so let's take a look at what makes Ashley House shine!

Meet Ashley – Our House Mascot!

Every great house needs a great mascot... and we have Ashley the Donkey! This lovable superstar lives at the Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary, and each year one form is crowned "Form of the Year" and takes on the special role of caring for Ashley. This year's winners: ARY! They've already started planning some fun adventures and updates for the house.

Want to see Ashley any time you like?
Check out his live webcam!

Ashley's Adventures

<https://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/webcams/shelter-4>

Here are some snapshots of the fun our beloved donkey has been up to this term:



School Houses

Ashley House

Student Achievements

Ashley House is bursting with talented, hardworking, and inspiring students. Whether it's sports, performing arts, community work, or personal achievements, this term has shown just how incredible our house really is. Here are just a few highlights-

Sporting Superstars

Rowan M

Set a national record and became National Rowing Champion in the coxed quad. What an incredible achievement!

Olivia H

Competed at the Welsh National Swimming Championships, reaching the final in the 200m breaststroke. She also completed a Learn to Row programme and even won her first regatta as a cox!

Community Champions

Sabrina C

Now Co-Chair at Hereford Council! She's organising a young-people-led Arts & Crafts Christmas Fair to raise money for charity.

Juno B

Earned the Chief Scouts Gold Award, the highest Scout award for under-14s—amazing dedication!

School Houses

Ashley House

Student Achievements Continued

Performing Arts Stars

Alex E

Successfully auditioned for the Courtyard Youth Theatre and shone on stage as Branderham in *Wuthering Heights*. A powerful performance from start to finish!

Hlieb L

Took part in his first Mixed Martial Arts Fight Night and won by TKO in Round 3! He represented Ukraine in a global competition—what a proud moment.

If you would like to share your child's amazing successes, please send any information- including photo if possible, to my email-

ncollingbourne@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk

I will include them in our next newsletter and celebrate in staff briefings and assemblies- with permission of course.

Our Incredible Alumni

It's always inspiring to see where former Ashley House students end up. Here are two wonderful success stories from our amazing alumni:

Ronnie H

Signed a professional football contract for Aston Villa and joined the Under-21 squad after impressing national-level coaches. A huge step in his sporting career!

Isaac S

Now an orchestral pianist with the National Youth Orchestra, placing him in the top 10% of young musicians in the UK. A phenomenal achievement!

School Houses

Ashley House

Charity of the Year

Every year, our forms nominate a charity, and the entire house votes for the one we'll support. This year we had a very passionate presentation from Seren W (ARB), who shared her personal connection to her form's chosen charity: Young at Heart

A small but powerful charity supporting families of children with serious heart conditions. They provide emotional support, organise events, and work closely with Birmingham Children's Hospital to help families when they need it most.

Seren's bravery and honesty helped secure the vote—and we are proud to dedicate our fundraising efforts to such an important cause.

Look out for events coming soon... our charity committee is already busy planning!

As we come to the end of a busy and brilliant term, everyone in Ashley House would like to wish you a very happy Christmas. Your hard work, creativity and kindness have made this an unforgettable term, and we hope the holidays bring you rest, joy and time with the people you love. To finish, here is our beautiful Ashley House Christmas tree — decorated by our talented students using ornaments they made themselves, complete with our much-loved mascot proudly watching over us from the top.



School Houses

Cheshire House

Cheshire have enjoyed a particularly successful first term, with multiple students achieving their gold certificates for achievements in school. However, outside of school our students continue to shine.

In Year 7 Douglas in CLB, plays football for several teams. Left wing is his favourite position.

He plays for Pegasus MJPL. In the picture you will see that he is holding a trophy as he won player of the match for his first game this season.

However, he also plays for Bartestree grass roots team and attends extra training at Adriano's Soccer School. Additionally, he played at Latham Park in Newtown, and when their goalkeeper could not make the match, Douglas stepped in to support the team.



Sticking with football we have Sofia in CRB she plays football for several clubs, including Hereford County and in the Junior Premier League (JPL) for the Valkyries. She also plays in a grassroots team called Lads Club Jets.

Over the half term she took part in a Futsal tournament for Hereford in Derby playing top teams and academies including Aston Villa. I have attached a photograph of this (black sleeves/shorts) and a screenshot of Herefordshire FA Facebook page.

The photographs show Sofia with her Lads Club JPL team who competed against Derby Academy in a very tense but entertaining game of football, securing a well-deserved draw.



School Houses

Cheshire House



Still with the football theme in Year 7, in CLB this time, we have Frankie & Flo. Two very talented football players, having played since the age of 4! They currently play in two teams. Ross girls U14 in the junior premiership league and Pegasus boys U13, their local team in Hereford. Recently they took part in a tournament held at Wolves football ground and they won!

Frankie and Flo also volunteered over half term at Sprees equestrian in Bartestree, Herefordshire. They worked three full days. Mucking out, feeding, grooming & anything that needed doing!

It was open to the public so the girls would answer any questions, show the animals and lead rein the ponies for children's rides. They were reported as being very professional, polite and capable of any task given to them.

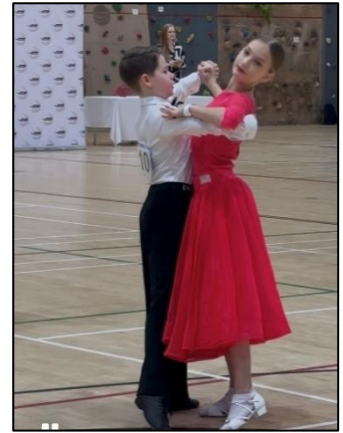


Not satisfied with the football and horse riding they together with two friends came up with the idea of holding a cake sale at home to raise £170.00 for Birmingham Children's hospital, because to them it helped their friend at school "Reggie" get better.

School Houses

Cheshire House

Koen in CLB clearly has both a talent and a passion for performing, in particular dance. On the 2nd November Koen entered his last ballroom competition of the season. He placed 5th with his partner in the under 12 ballroom competition and made it to the 'A' group semifinal for Latin.



In contrast to Koen we have Lake, who recently had an amateur boxing bout at Whitecross School. We are extremely proud of him as he has seemed quite relaxed in the ring. Due to his age it's more of a skills bout so there isn't a win or lose such. However, the venue was extremely busy, and he showed a lot of confidence.



School Houses

Cheshire House



In Year 8 Jasper CLA, went away over the summer with scouts for a week. A pilgrimage for scouts to visit Brownsea Island, the 1st every scout camp location from 1907. The picture you see is of him taken with the statue of Robert Baden-Powell, who formed and lead that first camp.

Isobel (CRA) recently started to compete in trampolining. In only her second ever trampoline competition she achieved 1st place, an incredible achievement for someone who has only been trampolining for 4 months. She has clearly worked extremely hard in perfecting her routine and deserves her success.



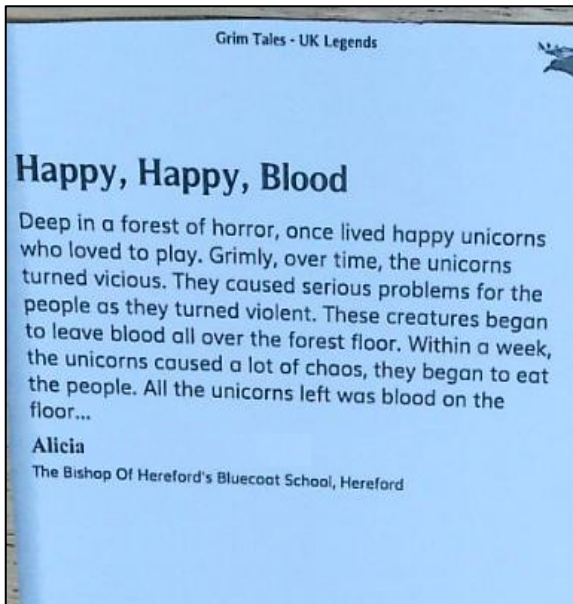
The sporting achievements continue with Year 9 and especially Poppy in CLZ.

Poppy was one of the 15 athletes from Hereford County Athletics club who took part in the Midlands Counties and Derby Runner Cross Country Championships in Wolverhampton. Each athlete ran 3k of a tough cross-country course, finishing in 3rd place overall.

School Houses

Cheshire House

Etienne CRY took part in the spinathon along with her team to fundraise a cool £1000 between them. This was to help fund the trip to Portugal for the invite only Cheer and Dance event.



Lissy CLY is now a published author as an extract of her writing was published recently in Grim Tales – UK Legends. She is also working on further short stories in the hope that more of her work will be published in future.

Seb also in CLY was very busy over the summer as he ran 62 miles in July to raise money for Cancer research UK. His Just Giving page demonstrates he raised £272 for charity.



School Houses

Cheshire House

Tilly CLY has become a public speaker. On Wednesday 24th September Tilly attended a conference held by Unique, the rare chromosome disorder charity. As well as helping with the day, handing out badges and ticking of attendees, Tilly was brave enough to talk to everyone who attended, including genetic specialists about life with a rare chromosome disorder and the daily challenges she faces.



School Houses



Livingstone House

This has been a really busy term with lots going on already this year. We have had a visit from Mrs Wynter, from the Hereford Food Bank, who told us all about their work and the difference that donations make. Many thanks to all those who kindly donated goods.

We had our annual Autumn Fayre and raised over £1500 for our school charities. The Livingstone Charity for this year is Cancer Research UK; a very worthy cause and all donations throughout the year will go to this cause.

We recently had our House Communion and were very grateful to Rev. Wayne for coming to lead our worship.

Some KS3 students and prefects have also attended the Year 7 and 8 discos. I think the prefects enjoyed the dancing more than the KS3 students, to be honest.

We have said au revoir to Mrs Hatt, who has gone on maternity leave. We are very pleased to hear of her son's safe delivery and look forward to meeting him when she pops in for a visit. In Mrs Hatt's place we welcome Mrs Jessop who is temporarily looking after LLY.

Celebrations

We have been able to celebrate the out of school successes of the following students:

- Noah – rowing x 2
- Harry – football x 2
- Joe – volunteering
- Lolah – volunteering
- Ravi – Rugby x 2
- Lily – Hammer, shot putt and discuss
- Reuben – Red card to racism event
- Chin – church volunteering
- Harry – Cricket coaching
- Lexi – Kick boxing
- Leo – football captain
- Max – Cancer Research press up challenge
- Lavenia – meeting the President of the Republic of Fiji
- Fin – Karate medals
- Arthur – Rugby
- Jack – Football

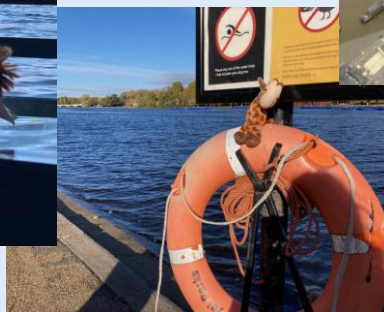
School Houses

Livingstone House

And finally ...

Our resident mascot, Livingstone the Giraffe had a lovely time in London over half term.

Livingstone in London



School Houses

Shaftesbury Celebrations

Oscar H - SLA

Oscar went to Holland with Hereford Lions Club, and his team won the tournament over there. He also won the local Sue Parry tournament for the 4th year in a row playing in the under 13s group.

He has recently signed a new 2-year contract with Cheltenham town.



Charlie A - SLB

Charlie was managers player of the year for his football team - Lads Club last season.

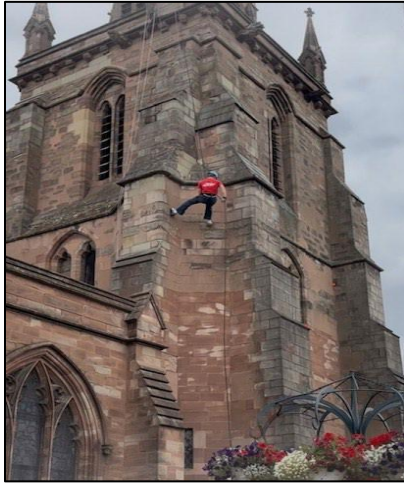
Theo W - SRB

Theo became captain of his football team 'Bartestree Bulls'.



School Houses

Noah T - SRX featuring Will R - SLX



Noah completed his abseil for the Firefighters charity and raised £290. Thanks to everyone who sponsored him!

He also climbed Snowdon with Will R. It was really wet, and they were soaked through, but they made it to the summit!

Noah also completed the 4-day Inca trail in the Andes to Machu Picchu, passing through Dead Woman's Pass at 4,125m. He wild camped for 3 nights, and after 26 miles of hiking up and down some tough terrain and through the rainforest, he finally reached the famous Inca site of Machu Picchu.



School Houses

Chloe S - SLZ

Chloe took part in the Hereford County Championships. She came away with a silver medal in discus and a gold medal in javelin. She got a javelin PB of 28.44 metres so a great way to finish the season for her!



Edith S - SLB

Edith competed at the county championships in Worcester coming away with 4th overall. She got 2nd place on vault, 4th place on beam, 4th in bars and finished 4th overall in her age category.

Ruan H - SLY

Ruan was awarded his Chief Scout Gold award, the highest award available to Scouts before they move up to Explorer Scouts.

Ruan has been selected to represent Hereford and Worcester at the World Scout Jamboree in Poland, in 2027, as part of a team of 36 Explorer Scouts from the region.



Hannah B - SLB

Hannah helped with bag packing to help raise money for the U10s Girls Belmont football team. In total Hannah helped raise over £500.

Jack T - SLB

Well done to Jack for hitting his first 180 in darts. Jack has recently been playing Darts alongside his Dad, and he has found this has helped him grow in confidence.



School Houses

Grace L – SLZ

Grace competed in the Reorg Fall Open (BJJ). Reorg is a charity set up to help military veterans and emergency responders. Grace also met Mark Ormrod who is a triple amputee and ex-marine, he also competed and is a true inspiration of never giving up.

This was a new category for Grace as she was recently awarded her grey belt, and she had some tough matches. Again, she won all her fights by submission, winning gold again.



Grace entered her first official 5K cross country race on Sunday 31st August, running as part of the Hereford Athletics Club.

She managed a time of 21.25 and came 2nd female and 3rd overall. Grace also took part in the Hereford County Athletics Championship. She ran the 200m coming 1st with a PB of 28.7.



School Houses

Marnie A – SLB

Marnie competed in the Notts Open in the Copper (11/12 years) competition, she finished; Floor- 1st, Beam- 1st, Bars- 1st, Vault- 3rd.

She also competed in the West Midlands Apparatus Teams gymnastics competition in Perry Barr, near Birmingham, representing Halo Sparks Gymnastics Club.

Marnie performed her new floor routine in competition for the first time, as part of a team of 4, and they won!

Marnie also took part in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Championships. In the Copper level age 11/12 she came third overall, achieving 1st on beam, 3rd on floor, 4th on vault and 5th on bars.



Over half term in the West Midlands Copper 11-12 she finished 7th out of 44 gymnasts. She competed her floor and bars routine as part of a team competition, helping Halo Sparks to first place in the West Midlands Teams competition.

School Houses

Phoebe B – SLB

Phoebe participated in the regional team competition and her team came third overall; she was joint 3rd for the floor. She competed at the County Championships and achieved 1st place on the floor which was brilliant.



Finlay H – SRB

Fin took part in a 5-day music camp with Encore Music's Livewire provision over half-term. He took part in writing and performing covers and original music, culminating in a professional live performance at The Railway Club.



School Houses

Sonny M - SLB

Sonny recently signed for Shrewsbury Town FC.



Joseph R - SRA

Joseph completed a 15 mile canoe trip on the River Wye. He also helped at a craft fair in the community at Lyde Court. He started at 07.30am and didn't finish until 5pm.



Joseph recently enjoyed a tour of the labs at Hereford County Hospital to learn about the work of Biomedical Scientists. This followed on from winning top honours in the Biomedical Science Day poster competition.



Maths & Computing

Maths and Computing

It's been a long, busy, and highly productive term! A special mention must go to Year 11 and Year 9. Year 11 have just completed their GCSE mock exams — three papers in Maths and two in Computing — and our Creative iMedia students are nearing completion of their NEA, which counts for 70% of their final GCSE grade. We're excited to help them push on towards success in the real exams, which are now only 12 school weeks away!

Year 9 have also made a fantastic start. In Maths, they have begun their GCSE course this term, and their teachers are hugely impressed with how confidently they have stepped up and embraced the challenge. In Computing, Year 9 have been getting a taste of the Creative iMedia course, which they'll be able to choose next year. This has included learning introductory graphic design skills and producing some wonderfully tempting doughnut posters.



Maths & Computing

Sparx Maths

As we reach the end of our first full term with the whole school using Sparx Maths for homework, I thought it would be a good moment to share some statistics and reflections.

Let's start with some big numbers... So far this year, Bishop's students have correctly answered **613,247 questions** on Sparx. That adds up to **9,324 hours** of personalised home learning!

Every week, the entire school is set one hour of homework. We cannot overstate how impressed we are with the vast majority of students who complete it on time, every week, and to such a high standard. We know this consistent effort will pay off as students see their confidence grow and their results improve. We are also incredibly grateful for the support families provide in helping students stay on track — thank you.

As AI tools become more common, it's understandable that students might turn to them for help with homework. It's important that they learn how to use AI effectively, but ultimately they will sit their exams without it, so the real learning has to come from them. Used properly, AI can genuinely support learning — but used the wrong way, it can cause more problems than it solves. Students can use AI to support their Sparx homework, but only in ways that strengthen understanding rather than replace it. AI can remind them how a method works, offer simple practice questions, or clarify mistakes after they've had a go themselves. What it shouldn't do is complete the Sparx tasks for them. We can often tell when students have relied on AI for answers, because their classwork doesn't match their homework and Sparx begins setting work that's far too difficult. This ends up wasting their time, as they spend longer struggling with topics they were not ready for. Using AI as a learning tool, not a shortcut, keeps Sparx accurate and their progress meaningful.

By continuing to approach Sparx homework with effort and persistence, students will build genuine understanding, confidence, and skills that will serve them well in their exams and beyond. We are also very grateful to parents and carers for their ongoing support in helping students stay on track and achieve their best.

Design & Technology

Design & Technology Textiles Club Update

The Design and Technology Textiles Club has had a fantastic start to the year, with record numbers of students attending each week. It has been brilliant to see so many students eager to develop their creativity, practise new techniques, and work together on exciting hands-on projects.

Our first completed project was the **patchwork bowl**, which gave students the opportunity to experiment with fabric combinations, colour choices, and basic sewing skills. Students learnt how to measure and cut accurately, use templates effectively, and stitch pieces together to create a sturdy and decorative final product. The sense of achievement when the bowls were completed was clear to see, and many students proudly took their designs home.

We are now well underway with our second project: an **ongoing teddy bear creation**. This task builds on the skills students have already developed, while introducing new techniques such as pattern cutting, pinning and tacking, sewing curved seams, and safely using equipment to add features and details. Students are learning the importance of precision, patience, and resilience as they bring their teddy bears to life.

The enthusiasm and progress shown this term has been outstanding, and we look forward to sharing more fantastic textile creations soon.

We thank Mrs Shaw for organising this club and Mrs Woodcock for her kind donations.

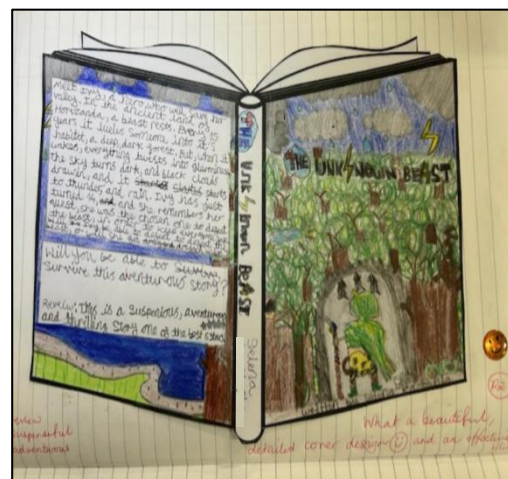


English

Year 7 English: Storytelling Overview

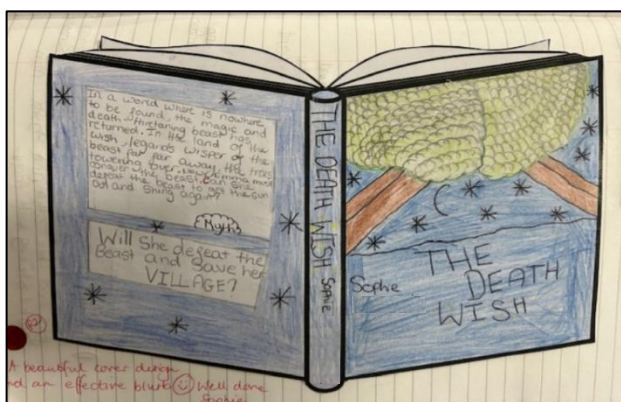
This term, Year 7 students have been immersed in the vibrant world of storytelling, exploring how myths and legends have shaped cultures for thousands of years. The unit has prompted students to think like storytellers: What makes a hero memorable? How do writers build suspense? Why have mythical creatures fascinated audiences across the world? Through these guiding questions, students have developed a deeper understanding of how stories are constructed and why they endure.

One of the highlights of the term has been students crafting their own original myths. Drawing inspiration from traditional tales, they created heroic journeys, moral lessons, and imaginative settings that transported their readers into new worlds. Perhaps the most exciting element for many was inventing their own monsters. Students used vivid imagery—carefully chosen adjectives, powerful verbs, and sensory description—to bring these creatures to life on the page. Classrooms were buzzing with creativity as students shared ideas, sketched their monsters, and experimented with language to make their writing more dramatic and engaging.



Throughout the term, students have demonstrated impressive enthusiasm. Teachers have remarked on how eager students have been to discuss stories, ask questions, and offer their interpretations. Many have shown real pride in developing their analysis and understanding of texts. This engagement has led to excellent progress in descriptive writing, planning and structuring narratives, and considering the effect of language choices on a reader.

Overall, this storytelling unit has been an exciting journey for Year 7. They have not only learned how stories of many genres are built but have also discovered the joy of creating stories of their own. We look forward to seeing where their creativity takes them next.



English

Year 8 English

Year 8 have all been studying 'A Christmas Carol' this term. 8b4 were very interested in Marley's ghost. In the photograph below, they have been making their own chains to reflect their lives so far.



English Open Evening

We had a great time at Open Evening earlier in the term. Our amazing volunteers answered so many questions and were great at getting our prospective students involved.



English



Making Scrooge's chains for 'A Christmas Carol'



Making blackout poetry



Creating Shakespearean insults.



Making spells for the Witches from 'Macbeth'.

Pupils 2 Parliament

Our young Parliamentarians have been back making their voices heard this term!

We have debated the following:

New ways to test medicines (New guidance about doing good experiments to find out whether new medicines are ready)



Making New Towns that are good to live in

(Making proposals to the House of Lords Built Environment Committee, on designing new towns that will encourage community).

We are grateful, as ever, to the incomparable Dr Roger Morgan who gives us this terrific opportunity. We are also suitably proud of our certificate for our contributions this year.



Science

STEM club have had a busy start to the year. We have been taking a leading role in Open Evening and starting an exciting journey through various Science subjects. These range from the aerodynamics of balloons and how to make slime to growing crystals and a glimpse of igneous and sedimentary geology. By the time this article is published, the students would have completed their rat dissections and moved on to more exciting Science. The photographs show the students examining sedimentary rocks and looking for fossils.



A huge congratulations to Joseph R. His winning entry on 'What does a Biomedical Scientist do in the Hospital Laboratory?' will now be made into posters and displayed in both Worcester and Hereford hospitals. As part of his prize Joseph has a great visit to Hereford hospital during half term as shown in the picture.

We will keep you informed of future competitions and share any student successes with you.

Humanities

Year 8 Geography

Following a unit of work on 'Population and Migration', which included some virtual fieldwork on Barton street in Gloucester, the students explored the impacts of migration on a locality. Students were asked to take a photograph that shows the impact that migration has on Hereford. Examples could include:

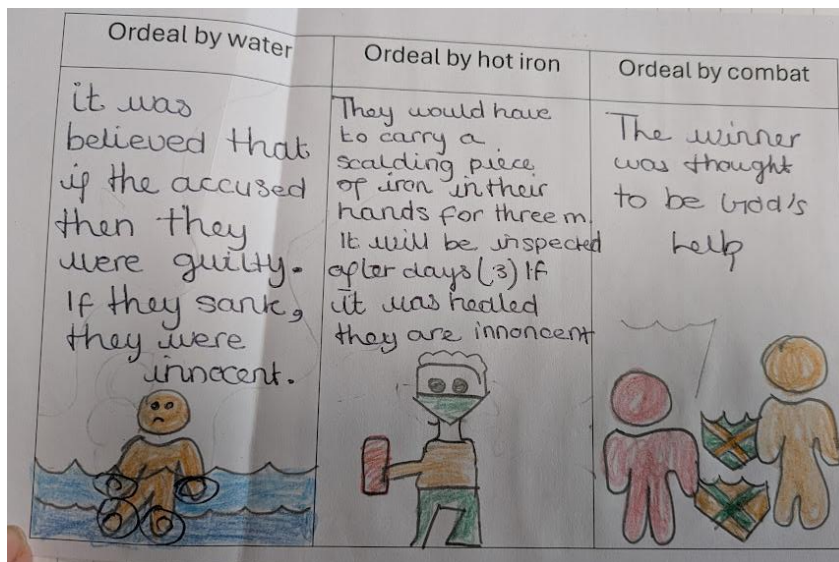
- The International Shop or Polski Sklep
- Shops that sell food from around the world, such as the international aisle in a Supermarket.
- A Turkish barber shop
- An Indian or Chinese take-away
- Signs that are bilingual



Humanities

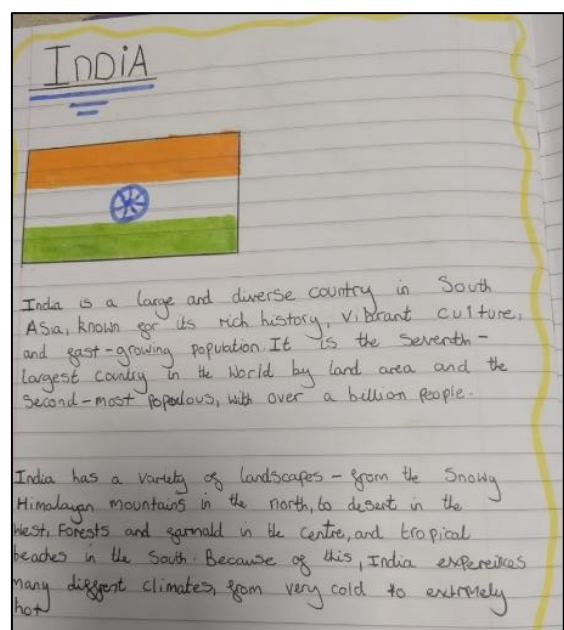
In History in Year 7 we have been studying life in Medieval England. The humanities team have been really impressed with the enthusiasm and hard work from year 7 since joining Bishops in September.

We have gone onto discover how law and order was different compared to today; and learnt about different 'ordeals' or tests to see if you were innocent or guilty. We all agreed we are very lucky not to have these systems anymore!



Year 8 History

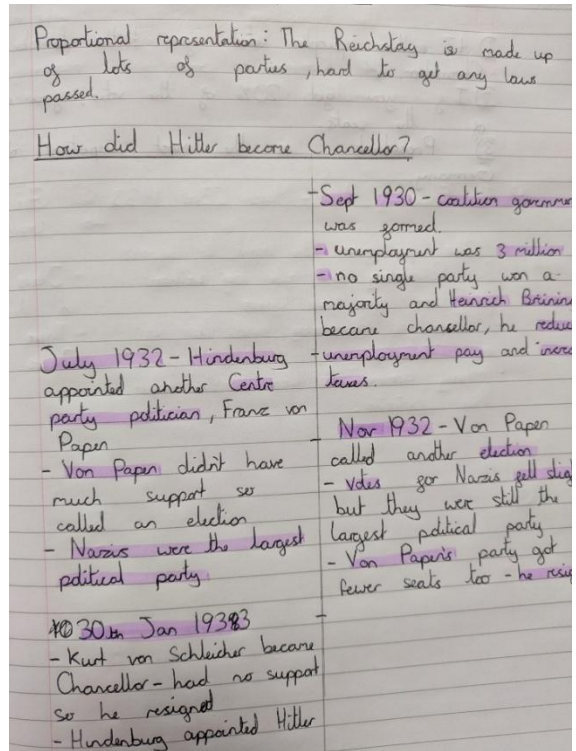
Year 8 Historians have been investigating the History of India. The students have discovered the rich History and Geography of the country as this student has demonstrated here.



Humanities

Year 9 students have begun their GCSE unit of study of Germany 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship. As part of this study students have debated the key question- why did Adolf Hitler come to power?

This student clearly presented their ideas in their books



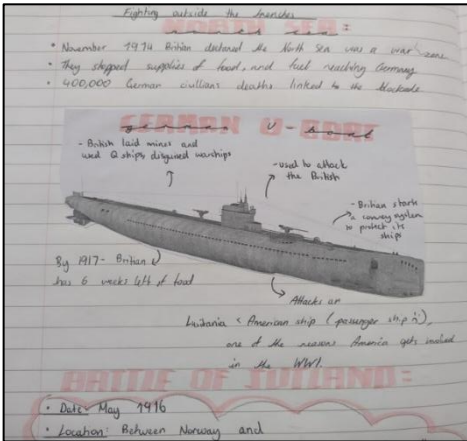
Interested in World War One History?



Humanities

Year 10 History

In Year 10, our GCSE Historians have been studying their unit of study Conflict and Tension: First World War 1894-1918. As part of this study, we have been investigating examples of warfare outside of the Western Front, as seen by the work this student has displayed on the War at Sea.



This student has labelled the loss of lives from various countries around the world - helping us understand the global impact of the conflict



AQA

GCSE

Both our Year 11 Historians and Geographers have been busy preparing for their mock exams this term. Many of our students were participating in revision before their mocks both online on teams and in after school sessions. We believe these sessions have been really useful and helped students meet their target grades, these will continue in the new year.

Physical Education



National Gold and a New Course Record for Coxed Quad

Two of our students delivered an exceptional performance at the British National Rowing Championships in Nottingham, achieving a result that will be remembered for years to come.

Competing against 24 strong crews from renowned schools and clubs across the country, the coxed quad—stroked by Rowan (ARY) and expertly guided by James (CLY) as coxswain—rose to the challenge with confidence and composure.

After a full day of racing in excellent conditions, the crew progressed smoothly through the time trials and then asserted their dominance in the semi-final. In the final, they delivered a truly outstanding race: not only securing Gold, but also breaking the course record in the process.

This remarkable achievement places the crew level with China for the U14 world record, an extraordinary milestone that highlights their speed, teamwork, and dedication. We are incredibly proud of Rowan, James, and the full crew for their hard work, spirit, and excellence on the water. Their success is an inspiration to the rowing community, and we look forward to seeing what they achieve next.

Physical Education



BHBS students become published authors in Physical Education Matters

We are unbelievably proud to celebrate the outstanding achievement of six of our students —Jess (LLX), Lilly (SLX), Evie (SRA), Phoebe (ALX), Iris (CLX) and Lois (CLX)— whose joint article has been published in the national journal 'Physical Education Matters.

Their article, co-written as part of their role as Girls' Champions, shares their experiences of taking part in the Here Girls Can programme. This initiative aims to empower girls across Herefordshire to become more confident, active and engaged in physical activity. The girls' reflections offer a powerful insight into the challenges many young people face when participating in PE, and they describe how inclusive, supportive environments can make a lasting difference.

In the published piece, they speak thoughtfully about:

- Training they received to become Girls' Champions
- The empathy and leadership skills they developed
- How they worked to make younger people feel safe, welcomed and encouraged
- The importance of girl-centered spaces where participants feel free from judgement
- The lasting impact of the festival on themselves, their peers and their school community



Physical Education

Their words demonstrate maturity, compassion and a genuine commitment to helping others feel confident in sport and physical activity.

By sharing their experiences in a national publication, they have become inspiring role models not only within our school, but across the wider PE community.

This is an exceptional accomplishment, and we are immensely proud of Jess, Lilly, Evie, Phoebe, Iris and Lois for representing the school with such thoughtfulness and enthusiasm. Their voices are helping to shape a more inclusive future for girls in sport.



Congratulations to our newly published authors!

Link to the article: <https://strideactive.org/app/uploads/2025/11/PEM-AUT25-P64-67.pdf>

Creative Arts

Year 7 Art

We have started the year with a range of new and exciting KS3 projects in the Art department. Throughout this year we are focusing on the Formal Elements of Art with Year 7 and exploring identity with Year 8 and Year 9. Lessons have included looking at careers within the Arts and exploring opportunities that are available to them post 16. All of our KS3 themes explore real life contexts from links to Black History Month in October, to discussions about the impact of Prince William's Earth Shot Prize, and what the Arts and Artists have done to support our planet.



Year 8 Art

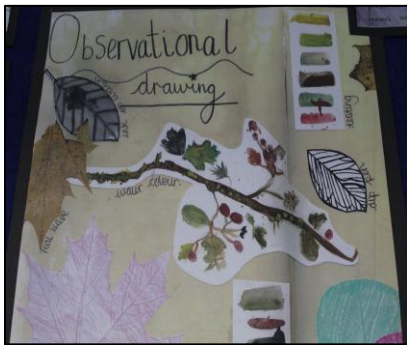
The focus for our Year 8 curriculum is Identity. After a very exciting and action packed start to the project, influenced by the artist Jackson Pollock, October allowed us to celebrate Black History Month by exploring the work of Jean Michael Basquiat. We looked into his use of symbolism to tell stories of himself and his heritage, which inspired the students into creating self-portraits using expressive marks, shapes and symbols that represent who they are as individuals.



Creative Arts

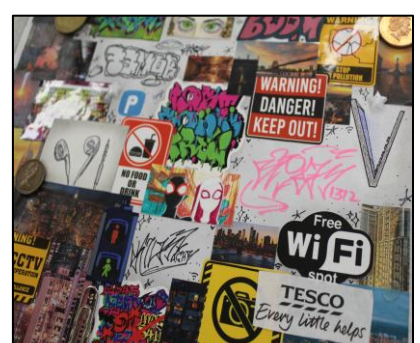
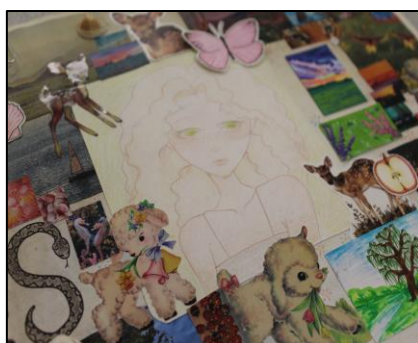
Year 9

We have taken a journey through time with Year 9, right back to 1800s and started the year exploring the Arts and Crafts movement, which began with Williams Morris' rebellion against the Industrial Revolution. With a focus on Careers, the students have been exploring the idea of print making, what this looked like then, and how this career choice looks in the modern day. We have had some beautiful examples of artist research, dry point etchings, mono printings and resist inking. Next up we will be looking at the career of an illustrator, one we know the students will be very excited to explore!



Year 10

Year 10 are well on their way with their NEA Coursework. The sketchbooks are showing huge amounts of talent and hard work in only a few weeks. We are currently undertaking a Masterclass session on print making, with workshops happening in Lino, Mono and Dry point Printing, all inspired, created and influenced by their chosen Artist for their project. We have had some beautiful work to celebrate already!

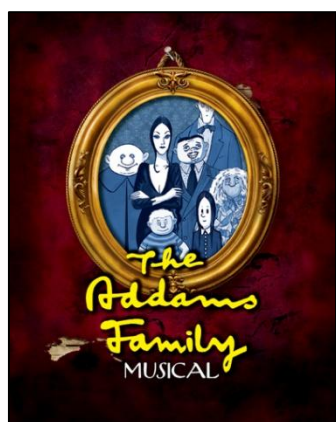


Creative Arts

Performing Arts/Drama

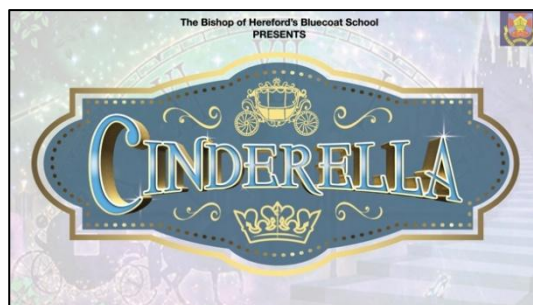
There has been a successful launch of our new Level 2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts. The Year 10s are studying scripted performances with their first public performance taking place as part of the Carol Service, more of which later.

On the Year 11 GCSE Drama course our two classes delivered their devising pieces to guests. Students have to create a performance from a limited range of stimuli, which then has to be developed in the style of particular dramatic practitioners. As ever, the themes were challenging but demonstrated our students knowledge of the challenges of being a young person in today's modern world.



Rehearsals for the Addam's Family continue apace. This modern musical, filled with dark humour, explorations of family dynamics and the odd scare here or there will take place from the 25-28th February 2026 in the Main Hall. Tickets will be available from January on the school website.

Music and Drama collaborated for our annual pantomime, this year being 'Cinderella'. It is so much fun developing this performance over enrichment week and then scaling up to a full public event. Our cast, crew and band certainly rose to the occasion, with the two Ugly Sisters ruining their chances of a lift to school from an unsuspecting parent, when their puppies Pipi and Tinkle couldn't contain their excitement.



The Autumn Term always closes with our show piece event for the year, our Carol Service in Hereford Cathedral. This year we continued to collaborate with Hampton Dene and St Paul's Primary School, as well as Bishop's Music Department alumni to demonstrate our school's commitment to life in all it's fullness. Our traditional format of five lessons and carols, with performances from our senior ensembles, choirs and performing arts classes raised over two thousand pounds for St Michael's Hospice. The Creative Arts team would like to take the opportunity to thank all the students involved and all their families for the support and commitment to making this event such a success.

Languages

What's been happening in Languages this term?

Well, our Year 8 students have been talking about festivals and special events. This had included them doing some brilliant research about events which take place regularly in the French-speaking world.

Did you know there is a Lemon Festival? It takes place in Menton, France and there is a great website, where you can see what happens.



Quite a few students wrote about Le Carnaval de Nice



Or the Winter Festival (which dates back a long way) which happens to be in Canada each year.

We also had some excellent research and historical facts about the French Revolution, as students found out about Bastille Day and its origins. There were also other festivals or national days from Francophone countries round the world, and information about how Christmas or Eid are celebrated.

Languages

In Year 7, we have moved onto our module about school, so we are talking about the subjects we like and those we are not so keen on! Students are learning to express their opinions about school, uniform, rules and homework in French! Here are some examples of what has been written recently, including a practice task for the assessment the year group all did recently. Thanks to Albert, Lily, Eva, Mia Ben and Pippa for letting us share their work.

1) J'adore la géographie ~~ca est~~ car c'est intéressant.
2) Je déteste l'éducation religieuse.
a) J'aime beaucoup les sciences car c'est fascinant.

C'est moi!
Je suis amusante et bavarde.
J'adore les animés.
Je suis douze ans.
Je déteste septembre.
non je n'ai pas de frères ou de sœurs.

1 C L'éducation religieuse est à neuf heures.
2 E La technologie est à dix heures et vingt-cinq.
3 D Le français est à onze heures et vingt-cinq.
4 B L'histoire est à treize heures et moins cinq.
5 A L'informatique est à quatorze heures et vingt.

Languages

Here are some examples of what has been written recently, including a practice task for the assessment the year group all did recently continued:

Bonjour, Je m'appelle Albert. J'ai onze ans et mon anniversaire est le quatre février. Dans ma famille, il y a ma soeur, ma mere et ma pere. J'adore ma famille parce que eils j'adore moi. Je n'aime pas d'animal. J'aime le rugby parce que j'ai fort et petit. Je n'aime pas le college parce que ^{c'est} ennuyé et etudier mais j'adore mes amis. Mon pere est petit mais fort. Il adore mes mere. ILS un amour. Ma famille j'aime pays de Galles. Ma famille j'habite a Hereford dans Angleterre dans petit maison. Ma soeur j'aime aux boules et iels chambre. C'est violet et rose et vert. ~~Au revoir~~ J'adore le cinema parce que c'est tres amusant. Au revoir!

je deteste les maths ~~je deteste~~
j'aime ~~je deteste~~ pas l'anglais. ~~je deteste~~ j'aime
ma matiere preferée c'est le dessin

Ma matiere preferée c'est le dessin. J'adore le dessin parce que le prof est creatif. J'aime l'EPS parce car c'est amusant. Mais je deteste la geo car c'est difficile.

Languages

Year 9 are currently on a module about their future, using the future tense and talking about what plans they might have, to live life in all its fullness. Here are some of the phrases we have been using, from some Year 9s in Mrs Greenwood's class. The last one is very specific!

Je vais aller à l'université et je vais habiter en Italie.

Je vais faire un apprentissage.

Je vais visiter Paris.

Je vais avoir deux chiens et habiter dans une grande maison.

Je vais étudier la géographie, l'histoire et l'EPS.

Je vais acheter une Porsche noire 911 GT



The languages team wish all of our students and their families a happy and restful Christmas, especially our Year 11 students who have been taking their mock exams and still have the speaking assessment to do when we come back in January. We hope that St Nicholas came with some goodies on the 6th December and that you are looking forwards to Christmas and a few gifts, whether you open these on the evening of the 24th or on the 25th. All whilst awaiting the arrival of the Three Kings in January!

Languages

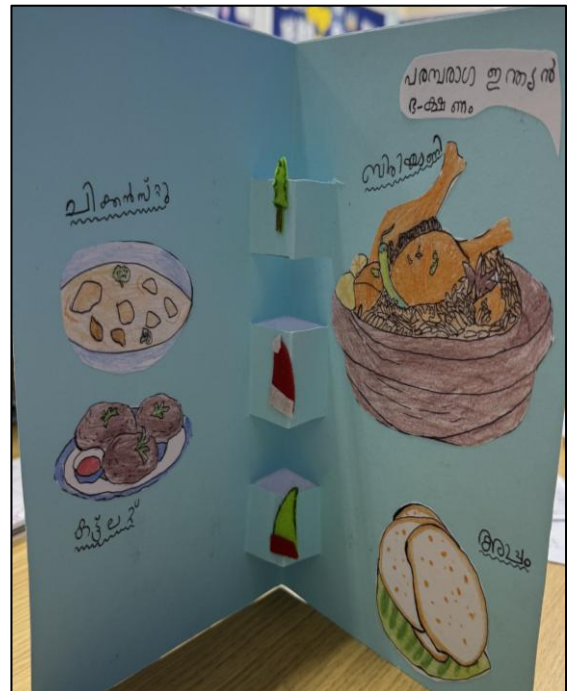
2025 Christmas Card Competition Results

1st place (Spanish) – Isabella



Languages

2nd place (Malayalam) – Nathan



3rd place (German) – Amelie



Frohe Weihnachten!

Krampus ist eine tradition in Ländern wie Deutschland, Österreich und Ungarn. Es sind gehörnte, ziegenartige monster, die straßen heimsuchen. Man glaubt, sie würden die Kinder der besuchten Städte stehlen und essen. Häufiger verzehrt werden in Deutschland jedoch Lebensmittel wie Fleisch und Brezeln.

Auf Wiedersehen!

Languages

Work out the order that the reindeer (les rennes) line up to pull the sleigh (le traîneau).
Having the names on small pieces of paper might help!

1. Comète sera derrière Rudolph, Furie et Cupidon.
2. Éclair sera derrière Cupidon mais devant Tonnerre, Fringant et Danseur.
3. Cupidon sera devant Comète, Éclair et Fringant.
4. Tonnerre sera derrière Fringant, Tornade et Furie.
5. Rudolph sera derrière Furie mais devant Tonnerre, Danseur et Tornade.
6. Fringant sera devant Danseur et Comète.
7. Danseur sera derrière Tonnerre, Rudolph et Éclair.
8. Furie sera devant Cupidon, Tonnerre, et Éclair.
9. Tornade sera derrière Furie mais devant Fringant, Danseur et Éclair.
10. Tonnerre sera derrière Comète et Cupidon.
11. Cupidon sera devant Rudolph et Danseur.
12. Fringant sera derrière Rudolph, Furie et Tornade.



Dasher



Danseur



PRINCE



Vixen



Comet



Cupid



Donner



Blitzen

Rudolph



French words you will need, which you might not know:

derrière = behind
devant = in front of

sera = will be

Religious Studies and Skills for Life



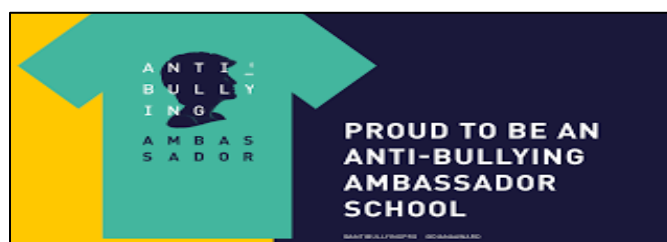
Anti Bullying Ambassador Training- OUR STUDENTS ARE TRAINED UP TO TACKLE BULLYING.

On 26th November, 11 students took part in a one-day anti-bullying training session run by The Diana Award. We drove to a school in Gloucester. Young people, aged 11-15, worked together and acquired vital skills to enable them to change the attitudes and behaviours of bullying in their school by building their skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and off.

The Diana Award's free Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme which is available to schools across the UK, sees trainers working with students and other young people to change the attitude surrounding bullying. The programme has a strong peer-to-peer focus, with trainers giving young people the skills and confidence to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to tackle bullying in their schools long after the training has finished. The Diana Award's anti-bullying work is recognised as world-class thanks to this sustainable approach.

The training looked at bullying in different situations including face-to-face and online. At the end of the day, students made an action plan of how to approach bullying issues that may arise in their schools and committed to their roles as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

It was a thoroughly rewarding day where students could collaborate on an issue that must be challenged. The students are working hard in our school to change attitudes and raise awareness. They should feel very proud of the work they have achieved so far. They are currently working towards the Wellbeing badge.



Religious Studies and Skills for Life



Year 11 Skills for Life Drop Down Day – Preparing for the Next Steps

On 3rd November 2025, our Year 11 students took part in a valuable Skills for Life Drop Down Day, designed to support their personal development and prepare them for life beyond school. The day formed part of our wider PSHE and Careers education programme and focused on equipping students with the knowledge, confidence and practical skills they need for adulthood.

Throughout the day, students rotated through a range of important sessions. One key focus was First Aid and Hands-Only CPR, where students learned how to respond safely in an emergency using the DRABC process and practised life-saving chest compressions – skills that could one day save a life.

Another highly important session was "Lumps and Bumps", which helped students understand testicular and breast cancer, recognise signs and symptoms, learn how to carry out self-checks, and understand what to do if they spot a concern. Students were encouraged to see early detection as a vital part of looking after their long-term health.

Students also took part in a Sexual Health and Wellbeing session delivered with up-to-date local support information. This included guidance on contraception, healthy relationships, and where to seek confidential advice and support if needed.

A further highlight of the day was the Post-16 and Post-18 Pathways session, which explored the wide range of routes available after Year 11 and beyond, including A-levels, BTECs, T-levels, apprenticeships, employment and university. Students heard real-life success stories and were encouraged to reflect on their own future aspirations and "roadmaps to success".

Religious Studies and Skills for Life



The day also included sessions on careers and finance, helping students to begin understanding budgeting, future employment choices, and financial responsibility as they move closer to adulthood.

The Skills for Life Drop Down Day reflects our commitment to educating the whole child—academically, socially, emotionally and practically—so that every student leaves us with the confidence and skills they need for their next chapter.

We are incredibly proud of the maturity, engagement and respect shown by Year 11 throughout the day.

Religious Studies and Skills for Life



Year 10 Road Safety Workshop – *Your Impact*

In October, our Year 10 students took part in the powerful **Your Impact** road safety initiative – a free, multi-agency programme delivered across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The scheme is designed to reduce deaths and serious injuries among young road users and is aimed specifically at students who regularly use the roads as **pedestrians, cyclists, passengers**, and those who will soon become **young drivers**.



What is *Your Impact*?

Your Impact equips young people with the **knowledge, confidence and decision-making skills** needed to stay safe on the roads. A key focus of the programme is helping students become **responsible passengers**, who feel empowered to recognise and challenge unsafe behaviour in others. This foundation supports them in becoming **safer, more responsible drivers in the future**.

What did students experience?

During the two-hour workshop, students took part in **four interactive sessions**, exploring the real-life consequences of choices made on the road. These included:

- The importance of **seatbelts and speed limits**
- The dangers of **distractions and impairment**
- How unsafe decisions dramatically increase the risk of collisions
- How these dangers can be **avoided both now and in the future**

Students also participated in an **Active Travel workshop**, focusing on staying safe as **cyclists, e-scooter users and pedestrians**.

Religious Studies and Skills for Life



One session involved a highly immersive **Virtual Reality road traffic collision reconstruction**, placing students in the front seat of a vehicle and guiding them through the full experience of a serious crash and emergency response. This was a particularly impactful part of the day.

Throughout the workshops, students also heard **real testimonies from bereaved families and friends**, helping them to understand not only the immediate danger of poor choices, but also the long-lasting emotional impact on loved ones.

Student Impact

The message throughout the event was clear: **positive choices save lives.**

Students left with a stronger understanding of how their actions as passengers and road users can protect both themselves and others.

We are incredibly grateful to the **Your Impact team** for delivering such a meaningful and memorable experience for our students. Road safety education is vital, and this programme has provided our young people with lessons that could one day save lives.



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 collection.



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 or park on raised kerbs 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.