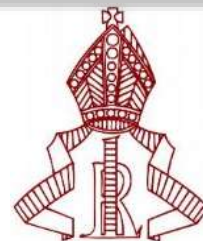


Bishop Luffa School

2024-2025 Issue 1

October 2024



Dear friends of Bishop Luffa School,

We have started our 61st year just as all the others have started - by hearing about the incredible things that our students did over the summer and welcoming a new group of Year 7s to the school. What was different is that we also welcomed a record number of students from other schools to our Sixth Form. These students are attracted by the high academic standards we have here, and in their turn, they help to maintain those standards, by providing an influx of intellectual competition to our existing students! But it is also an opportunity for young people who have grown up thinking of faith and spirituality as alien to their lives to see what it means in practice. I hope that they and all our students experience a fuller life as a consequence. This newsletter certainly suggests that it does!

Best wishes,

Austen Hindman
Head Teacher.

A'Level Success for Bishop Luffa Students

Six Bishop Luffa students managed something that every Olympic athlete attempts but few manage – to get the gold medal in every event that they enter. These six students scooped a remarkable 20 A* grades between them! Gwen Sargent and Max



Sydenham achieved 4 A*s each, whilst Manka Vecsei, Jess Jameson, Alice Pendry and Dougal Rattray each achieved 3 A* grades. Gwen, Max and Dougal are all now off to Bristol University, which is proving to be one of the most highly sought-after universities for Bishop Luffa students. Manka will be taking up a place at Jesus College, Cambridge; Alice will be reading Natural Sciences at Durham University and Jess will be applying to study Medicine in 2025.

Bucking Trends

Many Bishop Luffa students are bucking a national trend by studying for degrees in Arts subjects, including Spencer Dixon, who is studying Musical Theatre at Italia Conti and Caitlin Waldron and Olivia Baggott, who are studying Dance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire and Bath Spa respectively. Jamie Saunders, Bishop Luffa's Head of Sixth Form, was not surprised that students were continuing with subjects that are seeing their numbers drop nationally. "At Bishop Luffa we believe in encouraging our students to follow their passions. We have kept courses running that are in danger of dying out in school Sixth Forms, such as Music, Dance, DT, Latin and German. Our students can choose from a broad curriculum, with 32 different courses on offer. This helps them when they are interviewing for universities and higher-level apprenticeships, as the passion they have for their subject shines through."



IT Apprentices

While these students were in Year 12, the school suffered a ransomware attack. Two Bishop Luffa students, Max Holben and Theo Lane, helped the Police investigate the attack and went on to win Chief Constable's medals, one of the highest civilian awards. Max and Theo have now completed their A-levels and will be starting apprenticeships in IT in September. Helen Williams, Head of Computing, said 'when the attack happened, Max and Theo were able to put what they had learnt into practice. This showed them that a more practical approach to learning suited them. We are starting to see more students valuing the apprenticeship route to a degree.'



Everyone Matters

Head Teacher Austen Hindman was full of praise for students whose future plans involve caring for others. 'Our school motto is "always our best because everyone matters"'. It is a source of deep pride to see that Manka Vecsei, Lucy Campbell and Ellie Collison will be studying Medicine, while Cassie Bailey and Bea Wason are studying Nursing and Midwifery respectively. We also have Olivia Ebbutt and Alice Roberts leaving to study Veterinary Medicine. These impressive young people already know that helping others, although tough, can be ultimately more rewarding than focusing on yourself.'

Mr Hindman went on to praise the year group as a whole: 'These students have grown up with the pressure of social media, Covid lockdowns and the cost-of-living crisis. It is hard enough to be a teenager without these extra burdens. They have shown resilience and empathy in their time at school and have been a pleasure to teach. As well as studying, they also raised over £25k for our school charities and many visited Tanzania in Year 12, where they were helping to build beds for children who had only ever slept on mud-floors. I wonder how many adults had achieved so much by the same age, and all while being told that they are "snowflakes"! We hope that they remain inquisitive and have no doubt that they will leave the world a better place than they found it.'

Bishop Luffa Students Overcome Adversity to Secure Top Grades

From the PRU to Bishop Luffa Sixth Form: Wiktor Lis secured four 7s, three 8s and a grade 9 – despite being permanently excluded from primary school. On Wiktor's first day at Bishop Luffa, when his new friends asked which primary school he was from, he had to admit that it was the county's pupil referral unit. The chances of students who have been excluded at such a young age achieving any grades at GCSE are slim; very few go on to get top grades and study for A-levels.

Teaching Assistant Gil Horsfield had regular one-to-one sessions with Wiktor throughout his time at Bishop Luffa. Mr Horsfield said: 'it has been a pleasure to watch Wiktor grow-up and mature into an asset to our school and wider society. So many children don't get the chance: they are written-off at a young age and they start to believe that they can't change their lives. Wiktor was determined that he was going to be different.'

TOP GRADES FOR UKRAINE

When Dasha and Mariia began secondary school in 2019, life seemed very simple. They lived in Ukraine and hoped one day to go on to university. Dasha loved animals and wanted to be a vet, and Mariia enjoyed singing and hoped to study music. Five years later that dream is still alive, despite the adversity that they've suffered. Both students are celebrating an incredible set of GCSE results that means that they will now begin their A-levels at Bishop Luffa in September. They are not the only Ukrainian students at Bishop Luffa School who are celebrating. Veronika, Lidiia, Yehor and Andrii all joined the school from Ukraine in 2022 and all secured at least six GCSEs. Lidiia and Veronika even managed to gain the top grade of 9 in some of their subjects.



Susie Cooke, who oversees the school's work with students who are new to English, said: 'these students have left their homes and families and come to England as refugees. They have had to move from home to home in Britain and still live with the daily fear of bad news from Ukraine and an uncertain future here. To have managed this level of academic success, whilst taking exams in a foreign language, is a breath-taking achievement. It is humbling working with them.'

THE ARTS ARE FLOURISHING AT BISHOP LUFFA

Ben Webster and Myah Brent are looking forward to studying A-level Music at Bishop Luffa, having just secured grade 9 and 8 respectively at GCSE. Less than 5% of students in the country study Music GCSE, and the number of students going on to study A-levels in Music has dropped by nearly 50% since 2010.

The Head of Arts, Jo Lawlor, said: 'Arts students like Ben and Myah give so much to the school beyond the classroom. School should be full of students, acting, dancing and playing music – when else in your life are you going to do these things if you don't do them at school? It is important to us at Bishop Luffa that students like Ben and Myah should be given the opportunity to follow their passions.'

OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT

Hannah Carr did what very few students manage: she got a top grade in every subject she took!

Head Teacher Austen Hindman said: 'Getting top grades in every subject is a huge achievement. Many of us excel in one area, but the combination of talent and hard-work that Hannah has shown is incredible.'

'Hannah's quiet confidence sums up this year group. When Covid hit they were in Year 7. They were just building new friendships when school was shut down. They missed out on watching other students go through the rites of passage that we associate with school, like sitting exams or going to the Prom. To have come through that is an achievement in itself; to have done that and still managed to build solid friendships and secure incredible GCSE results is quite remarkable. They are an inspiring group of students.'



Year 7 have a great start at Bishop Luffa School

We were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students to Bishop Luffa School at the start of September. They spent their first day getting to know everyone in their tutor groups in form time and during all the activities they undertook. Positively YOU showed the students creative approaches to learning, combining Mind Mapping, the 'Story Technique' the 'Journey System' and multi-sensory learning. The afternoon was spent thinking creatively and participating as part of team to solve the problem of how to build the tallest tower using just marshmallows and spaghetti. There was some 'healthy' Interhouse competition too!



The Year 7 students were asked about the best part of their day and this is what they said....

- Ethan 7Ri – spaghetti towers
- Evie 7Wi – also spaghetti towers – her group won!
- Lewis 7Bu – free food!
- Noah 7Bu – brownies at lunch were amazing
- Eloise 7Bu – excited about tomorrow
- Woody 7Sh – doing actions with crazy Kim from Positively YOU
- Dylan 7Sh – everything!



We look forward to getting to know the students over the coming weeks.

**Neil Topley, Assistant Head Teacher
Attendance & Systems**

Our First Assembly of the Year

Once again, as is the tradition at Bishop Luffa School, we came together for our first assembly on the school field on a bright, sunny day.



The assembly started with the Prayer of St Richard read by Ms Sutton, our longest serving member of staff. Our school captains, Matilda Jeffers and Aaron Butters, then welcomed everyone to a new school year, and talked about our vision for all our students, to live 'life in all its fullness'.

Mr Hindman spoke to the students about how much he enjoys being the Head Teacher at Bishop Luffa School, and talked about our values 'always our best because everyone matters', saying:

"Lots of people focus on 'always our best', but any school will tell you that: 'do your best', 'give it your best'. The hard bit, the radical bit is that everyone matters. Do you believe it? Do you believe that everyone you meet today is just as important as you? Because if you do, you're going to act differently. You're going to look at other people and think: 'I want the best for you'.

"Think about someone who really annoys you. The anti-you! We've all got one! That person matters as much as you do. And if we're giving our best because everyone matters you need to help them to be their best. You need to be their biggest cheerleader. Even if they are in the wrong House! Fortunately, you don't have to do this on your own. There are former students living full lives, who cheer on everyone that they meet. They have created a legacy for you, a path for you to follow.



"There was a student here once, who stood on this same field, had lessons in the same classrooms, who was so successful in her job that she was made a Baroness and now sits in the House of Lords. Her name is Helena Morrissey and I have a photo of her in my office. You go to the same school as her: that's already on your CV. And Baroness Morrissey is cheering for you.

"There was a student here called Joel Ward, who loved football and played on this very grass that we're standing on. He went on to Captain Crystal Palace and is open about his love for God and the impact his faith has on his life. Joel Ward is cheering for you. There was another student called Jess Breach, who played rugby on this grass and has gone on to play rugby for England. Jess has played in a World Cup – can you imagine that? Jess is cheering for you. And there are people around you now living full lives and showing that everyone matters.

"You go to the same school as Veroniika, who came to us from Ukraine in Year 9, and would study here in the day and complete her work from her school in Ukraine in the evening. Veronika passed two sets of exams this summer: she passed her diploma from Ukraine and was one of our most successful GCSE students here. Veronika is cheering for you. You go to the same school as Indy Clark-Lyons, who achieved the highest mark in her event at a dance competition this summer. Indy is cheering for you. You go the same school as Alex Wilburn, who was awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship last year. Alex is cheering for you.



“You go to the same school as Charlotte Hatton, who won a National Physics competition at Oxford University. Charlotte is cheering for you. You go to the same school as Thomas Francis, who is ranked fourth in the whole country in mountain biking. Thomas is cheering for you. You go the same school as Bella Wright and Emmy Lamb, who won the ‘Best Ethical Thinker’ trophy at the Teen Tech awards. Bella and Emmy are cheering for you. You go to the same school as Libby Herbert, who is part of a gymnastics team that are British Champions. Libby is cheering for you. The list goes on and on.

“Learn from them. Grasp every opportunity. When you are tested, trust God and you will find a way through. Be a cheerleader for yourself and for other people and remember how proud we are of you. Never forget that all of us at Bishop Luffa School are cheering for you.”

Record LAMDA Results

In February we commenced working with 31 students across most year groups. We had a record 17 medal (highest) examinations taken including gold medal qualifications in public speaking, gold and silver qualifications in acting and a record number in bronze verse & prose. Students have accumulatively earned upward of 200 UCAS points with 13 out of 17 qualifications gaining distinctions and the remaining 4 achieving high merits. The students displayed incredibly high levels of commitment and character in achieving these results.

The remaining 14 students completed either a verse & prose or public speaking exam, earning a mix of 10 distinctions and 4 high merits. The group devising piece earned the Year 7 and 8’s involved a high distinction for their efforts, congratulations all!



Angela Watkins, LAMDA Teacher

Sporting News

Congratulations to the following students on their sporting achievements during the summer holidays and this half term.

Well done to Sam Machell (9Burrows) who competed in the French Nationals Coupe Internationale d'été 2024 in Biscarrosse during the summer holidays. 400 children competed overall and Sam was one of the 170 sailors in the Main Fleet racing in light and shifty wind conditions on the lake. Sam was the first GBR sailor in the Silver Fleet and 8th boat overall in the Silver Fleet.



Congratulations to Isabelle Fletcher (9Burrows) who took part in the Sussex Regional Gymnastics Championships competition (Copper) and came first in both her age category and joint first overall for all entrants across all age groups. This means that she has now qualified for the Sussex Gymnastics squad.

Well done to Alex Sydenham (12Andrewes) who has been selected for the British Youth Sailing Team in the 29er class. Alex's selection for the British Sailing Team recognises his potential to succeed at the highest level in Youth and Olympic sailing. Alex has been selected on the basis of performance at selection events and potential shown in and around training and competitions observed by selectors. As long as they continue to show the right behaviours, performances and progression within training and competition they will represent Great Britain at European and World Championships next summer.



Congratulations to Curtis Jacobs (7Sherborne) who achieved great results at his annual club championships with some amazing PB times, achieving PBs in all his races, coming away with seven gold and three silver medals.

Well done to former Bishop Luffa student, James Smith, who was in Ridgeway House, who has been selected to represent Cardiff Metropolitan University's men's rugby first team.

Recently three of our students, Noah Bulbeck (8Story), Lanz Magno (8Wilson) and Toby Hunwicke (8Sherborne), completed against 10 teams from five other schools in Boccia. The boys behaved impeccably and supported each other very well. They came 1st in their group round, and 6th overall, but very deservedly won the certificate for team work. Well done!



Year 8 visit Marwell Zoo

The whole of Year 8 visited Marwell Zoo at the start of this term. They had a fantastic talk from an enthusiastic zoo keeper, all about the adaptations of the big cat and its habitat. This tied in well with the current topic of Adaptations being taught. They got to ask questions and then touch real furs and skulls from the big cats. We then all spent time around the zoo visiting as many animals as possible in the time we had. This included getting to see the new arrival of a 3-week old baby giraffe – the students had to be really quiet when meeting this new arrival.

The weather was amazing this year (no pouring rain!) and we enjoyed lunch in the sun and ice creams. At the end of the visit some students visited the shop and many were tempted by soft toys of the amazing animals they had met. A great day out for all and a huge well done to Year 8 for their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour. As part of the day the students were encouraged to take photos to enter into our Photo Competition. The winners, who all received Amazon vouchers, were - overall winner: Lucy Green (8Otter) Runners Up: Sienna Stent (8Andrewes), Jack James (8Burrows) and Douglas Lapraik (8King)

Mrs J Tyler, KS3 Science Lead



Go Green Week 2024

Once again Go Green Week took place in September. The aim of the week was to create a meaningful, memorable and fun week on environmental issues to generate awareness and an opportunity to take action to make a difference. Everyone was encouraged to get involved!



Each day there was a recycled Art Workshop and other activities during the week included:

- A Year 7 Litter Pick competition
- The lunchbox challenge (encouraging everyone to bring in a packed lunch that was plastic and meat free)
- Recycling Day where students were asked to bring in old batteries, good quality clothes for our swap shop and good quality books for a library book swap
- Car Free Day encouraging everyone to come to school in a sustainable way – cycling, walking, taking the bus or train, and car sharing.
- Go Green Bake Sale
- 'Vinted' came to Bishop Luffa with a clothes swap shop

Go Green Week culminated in a Upcycle Dress Up Day when students and staff was encouraged to come to school in a recycled costume or wear something from the charity shop. We hope everyone had a fantastic week 'Going Green!'

Mrs A Congalton & Mrs M Wilburn – Eco School Leads

A Thought-Provoking trip to Ypres

On Friday 4th October, 50 students and five staff set off for the annual Year 9 History visit to the World War One Battlefields. After a trouble-free journey to Dover, we boarded our ferry to Dunkirk, with the complimentary meal being appreciated by many! Once in France we headed straight to the Passchendaele battlefields, scene of so many horrific events in 1917 in particular. A stop at Tyne Cot cemetery, where over 40 000 British and Commonwealth servicemen are remembered was an arresting sight, and we each had a small cross (thanks to Mr Bonney and Mr Burton in DT) to lay on a grave of our choosing. We also laid a wreath on behalf of the School, and had a short service of commemoration, with the wreath laid by Scarlett Baker (9Andrewes) and Ava McGarry-Knightley (9Ridgeway).



The contrast with our next stop, Langemark German cemetery was remarkable – from 'the glorious dead' to a much more sombre scene. A mass grave of 24000 soldiers made many students really stop and think.

After these sobering sights it was off to our centrally located accommodation in the picturesque town of Ypres. After an evening meal, and some time to relax, a group of students and staff attended the Menin Gate wreath laying ceremony, where another wreath was laid on our behalf, by Mrs Jones, Isaac Searle (9Burrows) and Isabelle Fletcher (9Burrows). There was then some free time in the hotel (thankfully with a games room and good wifi!) before lights-out.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny as we headed to Hill 62, a museum on the edge of Ypres. The preserved trenches were a very different experience to the manicured sites seen elsewhere, and gave more of a flavour of what the trenches were like (if this is possible), including mud and tunnels! From there we journeyed to the Somme, site of the infamous assaults of 1916. First stop was the Lochnagar Crater, which was created when >20,000 kgs of explosive were detonated on 1st July. From there it was off to the monumental



memorial at Thiepval, lined with the names of the missing - A powerful statement of commemoration. We finished of our tour of the Somme with a visit to the preserved trenches at Beaumont Hamel, where we walked through some of the events of 1916, and reflected on this site of Canadian commemoration. After so many sombre sites, it was back to the hotel, and then off into Ypres for chocolate shops, waffles, and ice cream as the students had some free time.

A prompt and smooth departure on the Sunday morning saw us drive to the now obligatory French hypermarket stop for some last-minute purchases, and then it was back to the ferry where we were greeted as "The school with the well-behaved pupils", and then it was tired group of students (and staff!) that arrived back at school. The students' behaviour was excellent. The trip was a chance to learn a lot about key events in our nation's history, and also just to be with friends on a trip abroad, a real learning experience in so many ways. My thanks must go to Mrs Grove, Ms Hurry, Mrs Jones and Mrs Syms-Evans, who accompanied the trip and helped make it such a success.

Mr J Barnett, Head of Humanities

Amazing Results in the Senior Maths Challenge

In October 35 Bishop Luffa students took part in the 2024 edition of the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. An annual tradition here in the Mathematics department, we offer the chance A'Level students to take part in the Challenge; it is a 90-minute feast of high-level problem solving and application of the skills the students learn during their A-level studies. Each year candidates begin with a stock of 25 points, and there are 25 questions



**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**

carrying identical marking tariffs: 4 points for a correct answer, 0 points for a blank, and the dreaded -1 point for a wrong answer, meaning that students can score as much as $25 + (25 \times 4) = 125$ points.

The Senior Maths Challenge attracts hundreds of thousands of students, and this year the turnout was 650,000 students from across the whole of the UK, so our 35 candidates were part of a huge sea of other bright, hungry mathematicians, all champing at the bit to demonstrate their brilliant mathematics skills by doing battle with the Challenge.

Incredibly, from our 35 candidates, we came away with 25 medals: 10 bronze, 10 silver, and 5 gold. Our medallists for 2024 are:

- Bronze: Theo Allport, Aaron Dunne, Isabelle Frere-Smith, Logan Morris, Anna Stangroom, Yehor Vysotskyi, Veronika Zavarzina, Nikita Barabash, Ayotola Beckley, Samuel McCallum
- Silver: Hannah Carr, Zuki Hall, Ethan Hill, Harrison Blackmore-Squires, Joshua Cusack, Charlotte Hatton, Lily Hine, Holly Mitchell, Matthew Ritchie, Zoe Smyth
- Gold: James Quail, Ella Stearne, Alex Wilburn, James Morrow, Grace Zheng

On top of this, all five of our gold medallists posted strong enough scores to be invited to the next phase of the competition – the Andrew Jobbings ‘Kangaroo’ – in November this year. Finally, and most incredibly of all, James Quail scored a remarkable 120 points from a possible 125, and has qualified for the first round of the British Mathematical Olympiad. The Olympiad is the highest-level mathematics competition in the UK, success at which leads to invitation to international-level events. A wonderfully successful year at the Senior Maths Challenge!

Mr D Clarke, Head of KS5 Maths and Mr M Healy, Acting Head of Maths

STEM Club News

During the last three weeks within STEM Club we have been exploring Marble Runs, Cardboard Boat Making and Geodesic Domes. Student involved have enjoyed the challenges.



This STEM Club is offering an opportunity to excite students about STEM subjects, as well as developing their practical, teamwork and leadership skills that will support their classroom learning.

Mr James Bonney, Head of Design & Technology

The Shape of Things

Year 12 students went on a fantastic trip to Ochre print studios in Guildford, where they experimented with dry point etching and screen printing. This is in response to their artist residency at Pallant House Gallery where they have been



investigating the work of an

artist of their choice from the exhibition. They have developed their own responses to the theme 'The Shape of Things' and the photos below are some examples of their brilliant work from the day.

More photos of Year 12's fantastic artwork can be found on the school website

<https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/sixth-form/student-leadership/photo-gallery/the-shape-of-things-year-12-art/>

Miss L Thorpe, Team Leader of Art

GreenPower International Finals

On Sunday 13th October the Bishop Luffa Green Power F24 Team rose early to compete in the Green Power International Finals at the famous Goodwood Motor Circuit. The morning began smoothly, with the team setting up their paddock like a well-oiled machine. Impressively, our car was used as an exemplar during the scrutineering process. After a quick fix of a loose wing mirror, the team headed out for practice laps, ensuring everything was in working order. In Race 1, the team set the car's gear ratio to 5.2:1, which helped extend the battery life—critical for the 1.5-hour endurance race. We finished in 17th place out of 46 entries in our category.

Between races, the team engineers made a minor adjustment to the ratio, setting it to 5:1 to improve speed without sacrificing battery duration. In Race 2, the car steadily moved up the field, climbing the grid to an impressive 11th position. Unfortunately, a red flag paused the race for 25 minutes, cutting short our momentum. Despite the setback, it was a fantastic day for the team, and we are already preparing for the next season.



Mr James Bonney, Bishop Luffa Green Power Team Coordinator

Learning about History with the Novium Museum

As part of their introduction to History at Bishop Luffa this year, Year 7 have been able to get hands on with History. With the help of a source box from the Novium Museum, students were able to learn about life in Roman Chichester, handling a range of artefacts relating to our local History. Students really enjoyed handling a range of original Roman items, including roof tiles, tesserae, mosaic fragments and even some rare wall plaster. This helped them to understand the advances that Roman conquest brought to our local area and the impact it had on the people living here. The replica items including an oil lamp, writing stylus and sheet of parchment all got them thinking about what school might have been like for their Roman predecessors. It was wonderful seeing the students being inquisitive as they handled the artefacts and tried to work out what they were and how they might have been used.



Coming next half term, Year 9 History students will be having a similar opportunity with a source box of objects relating to WWI and connecting with the people of Chichester, with Year 8 Historians having a source box on slavery in the Summer term which we hope they will all enjoy too.

Mrs L Fowles, Teacher of History

The Big Walk 2024

Your children did it! They made it to East Lavant and back and we had a number of passers-by who stopped us and said how well-behaved they were. We also had a number of passers-by who took one look at the number of children swarming towards them and ran away screaming! I think it was a real team effort from our staff, so I do want to publicly thank them for all they did on The Big Walk: I'm sure that many of them will have been thinking that this was a very silly idea at times during the day! I am also very grateful for our PFA, who were mobbed by sugar-deprived children when they arrived at the half-way point. The PFA calmly revived them with hot chocolate and other treats. We are lucky to have a community like this, and it's important that we don't take it for granted.





In assembly our Business Manager, Mr Nicholds, explained what we are raising money for. We are hoping to be able to buy a canopy that will go into the courtyard area, which will enable students to remain outside in all weathers. The PFA were raising money for this through-out last year and we are hoping that the Big Walk will put us over the edge. As Mr Nicholds told your children, 'every step takes us nearer to our goal'.

Austen Hindman, Head Teacher

Visitors welcomed to our Open Events

We were delighted to welcome lots of visitors to our main School and Sixth Form Open Evenings, as well as Year 6 parents, carers and pupils to lots of Open Mornings during October. We had a great time showcasing all the fantastic activities that happen at Bishop Luffa School. Students shared all the opportunities they have in their learning.



Four Men in a Boat

Recently we were lucky enough to be visited by Jon Wilburn and Steve Potter and their boat! They are part of a team who are about to row across the Atlantic, and the boat is the world's most sustainable rowing boat. We will be following their voyage and learning with them. If you would like to find out more about their endeavours, their website is www.lessonsfromaboat.com



News from the Drama Department

Bishop Luffa GCSE Drama students travelled to Brighton on Wednesday 16th October to see the *Dear Evan Hansen* TONY award winning musical at The Theatre Royal in Brighton. It was an amazing production, with exceptional performances and design, and with a powerful and important message. Olivia Willson (11Story) said "it was brilliantly moving with a nice comical aspect" and Ella Hatch (11Sherborne) added 'it made me cry!'



Bishop Luffa Year 8 and 9 Drama Club are once again participating in this year's Shakespeare School Festival with their interpretation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Sixth Former Elen Kirazyan (13Story). Recently they were treated to a practical workshop with professional Coram Shakespeare theatre practitioner Kat Merrick, which enabled them to dig deeper into the characters and explore how to take the piece from page to stage in the most effective way. This has helped us to get ready for our performances in November. On 12th November we are performing at Bishop Luffa at 7.30pm in the Bartlett Hall (tickets will be available on Arbor) and on 14th November we will be performing as part of the Festival at The New Theatre Royal Portsmouth (tickets can be bought on the theatre's website).

Mrs N Furnell, Team Leader of Drama

Year 7 have fun on the Isle of Wight

Our Year 7 students have had a fantastic time getting to know each other during their residential to the Isle of Wight. They stayed at the Westbrook Centre just outside Ryde and enjoyed all the fantastic facilities on offer, including the swimming pool, 5-a-side football, volleyball, a low-ropes course, and a games room which had giant chess, Jenga, table tennis, table football and pool. Activities during their stay included a visit to Wildheart Animal Sanctuary where they had a guide tour; laser quest at Headhunters; a theatre workshop; and bowling. During their stay at Westbrook they built shelters and were involved in mindfulness games. We hope they all had a great time.



An amazing FoodBank Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated to the FoodBank collection on the last day of term. We were overwhelmed by the response. The FoodBank will be collecting everything during half term and we will let you know how much it weighed – will it be the hoped-for tonne?



PSHE Topics

The following topics will be covered during PSHE lessons during the Autumn term (but may be subject to change).

If you have any concerns about the topics being discussed, please contact your child's Head of House or Mrs Smerdon-Corpc, Teacher in charge of PSHE (smerdon-corpc@bishopluffa.org.uk) The following subjects are being covered.



Year 7	Sleep and relaxation Finance education Gangs Staying safe online Alcohol Smoking Energy drinks	Year 8	Bullying Stress County Lines Substance abuse Cyberbullying Grooming
Year 9	Drug classification War on drugs Consent FGM Relationships Delaying sexual activity	Year 10	Employer rights and Pay Honour based violence Forced marriage Modern day slavery Knife crime
Year 11	Cancer Screen addiction Social media/Real Life CV writing/Personal statements/College applications		





This week's content
Week commencing 28th October

Video: A tool to help pupils set boundaries with friends by The Wellbeing Hub





<https://club.teentips.co.uk/home/parents/>

Prayers

The Parents' and Carers' Prayer and Support Group have suggested that we circulate a school prayer list, so that families can reflect the present concerns of the school in their prayers. We will aim to update the list every month.

Prayer List:

Every month:

- Students and their families
- All our staff
- Our Governors and Trustees
- Our Clergy Team and Youth Workers
- Our Worship team
- Our Parents & Friends Association
- Our Christian Union
- Our links to the wider church
- House and Sixth Form Charities

For November and December:

- Year 11s taking mock exams
- Year 13s applying to university
- The Poppy Appeal and Armistice commemorations
- Preparations for Advent

School Calendar

Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November

Monday 4th – Friday 8th November

Monday 4th – Wednesday 6th November

Friday 8th November

Monday 11th – Friday 15th November

Monday 11th November

Wednesday 13th November

Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th November

Wednesday 20th November

Thursday 21st November

Thursday 28th November

Wednesday 4th December

Friday 6th December

Monday 9th December

Wednesday 11th December

Thursday 12th December

Friday 13th December

Tuesday 17th – Thursday 19th December

Wednesday 18th December

Friday 20th December

Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January 2025

Monday 6th January 2025

Half Term

Year 11 Mock Exams

Year 12 Residential to France

Otter House Bake Sale for Macmillan

International Week

2.00pm – 3.30pm – PFA Uniform Shop Open

6.00pm – Parents' & Carers' Prayer Group

6.30pm – PFA Meeting

Sixth Form Fashion Show

Careers Fair

Year 10 Parents' & Carers' Virtual Consultation Evening

Year 11 Parents' & Carers' Virtual Consultation Evening

Carol Service at Chichester Cathedral

Ridgeway & Story House Charity Events

Reindeer Run and Elf Day

2.00pm – 3.30pm – PFA Uniform Shop Open

Wilson House Christmas Fair

Interhouse Art Competition Private View

Year 11 (2023-2024) Record of Achievement Evening

Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Day

Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Dinners

6.30pm – PFA Meeting

Last day of Autumn Term

Christmas Holidays

First day of Spring Term