



Sapere Aude

TBOWA News

Pentecost 2025

Message from the Principal

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Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continued support for over what has been another successful year at The Bishop. I would like to publicly acknowledge the tremendous work of all the staff at the academy, who go the extra mile at the academy to support your children to helping them become the best that they can be, and living life to the full.



A highlight of this year was the recent activities week and sports day. Students enjoyed a wide range of activities that included rock climbing, visits to a local water park, orienteering, adventures in the New Forest, culminating in a charitable fundraising walk to support a charity nominated by the students, Julia's House - a well-known local hospice. Throughout the week, students conducted themselves, at all times, with great maturity and made a full contribution towards ensuring everyone involved had a wonderful time. It was particularly pleasing to chat with so many parents who attended the sports day - always a great family event at The Bishop. We also enjoyed a farewell to our Year 11 cohort, with the annual prom at AFC Bournemouth. Our students looked stunning as they posed on the red carpet for their photographs with their friends. I know that many of you follow the academy on our Instagram account, where there are many updates of events at the academy.

As ever, I value parental feedback and welcome suggestions about how we can improve any aspect of life at the Academy. Please do not hesitate in sharing your views with me, either in person, or at the various events we hold throughout the academic year. It is the home-school partnership that is at the heart of our success, working together to support young people in achieving everything that they deserve.

I wish you and your families a happy and safe summer break.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Paul McKeown
Principal

Sapere Aude

Chaplain's Message

Prayer at the Academy

Prayer is one of those activities that takes place quietly in the background and you may never realise it happens. Apart from the Academy Prayer, mentor worship and Acts of Collective Worship, the Academy has a parent's prayer group who meet at 9am on the first Friday of the month in the chapel. We have been praying for all the activities, staff and students in school. We pray for healing, protection, safety, wisdom, patience and much much more. The invitation is open to all parents who are available at that time of day. If you would like to join us in the new academic year, we meet on Friday 5th Sept at 9am. We meet at reception, and pray in the chapel.

In addition to our parent's prayer group, staff also have the opportunity to meet for prayer at 7:30am. We enjoy a moment of peacefulness praying for the day ahead.

Christian Union

Another joy has been the growth of our Christian Union which has been the result of a very successful Youth Alpha course. We've celebrated the baptism of members and the growth of maturity in their faith and friendship as we meet each week on Wednesdays after school. Again, we will continue next year and pray for continued growth and greater participation in worship within the Academy.

Summer

Over the summer some of you will be attending the many Christian events that take place. I shall be at Whiston House myself and Taize. Please take this opportunity for rest and refreshment whether at home, on retreat or holidaying elsewhere. Have a great summer!

God bless
Rev Jenny



Year 7

As we wrap up a busy and exciting final term, it's a great time to reflect on Year 7's journey—an incredible first chapter of secondary school, filled with new experiences, friendships, and fun.

Students embraced 10:10 clubs, where they explored new hobbies, developed creative skills, and relaxed with friends. These sessions brought balance to the school day and sparked new passions.

A highlight of the term was Activities Week, packed with fun and variety. It began with Sports Day, where students gave their all in every event, cheering each other on with enthusiasm and showing brilliant team spirit. The sponsored walk for Julia's House was another proud moment, with Year 7 showing real dedication to a cause close to our hearts.

Throughout the week, students enjoyed a mix of creative and hands-on activities. Inflatable games brought energy and laughter, while clay modelling, sewing, and photography sessions encouraged artistic expression. Maths and Science offered exciting challenges like Pirate Maths and the egg-drop, blending learning and fun. Other departments joined in with drumming, Spanish games, and mini engineering projects.

Off-site trips added a sense of adventure, with visits to Go Ape, the Tank Museum, and Marwell Zoo—giving students a chance to explore and create lasting memories with friends.

Looking ahead to Year 8, there's so much to be excited about. Year 7 has been a time of growth, discovery, and unforgettable moments. We're incredibly proud of how students embraced every opportunity.

Thank you, Year 7, for your energy, positivity, and hard work. Enjoy a well-earned summer break—we can't wait to see what you'll do next!



Year 8, Mr White

Year 8

As the Academy year comes to a close, it's a great time to reflect and celebrate the many achievements of Year 8. It's hard to believe we've now completed two full years at Bishop together. Watching the growth and development of this year group has been a real pleasure.

This year has been action-packed with plenty of highlights. This term alone, students have engaged in careers advice sessions, taken part in the lively 'Egg Heads' event run by the English department, and participated in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Sports Day at Kings Park brought fantastic energy and team spirit, while Activities Week offered a fun and varied end to the term.

We've also seen some incredible commitment to school life through the House Point system, with 190 Bronze, 136 Silver, and 99 Gold Certificates awarded. These achievements reflect the hard work, enthusiasm, and determination of our students to reach—and exceed—their potential.

As we head into summer, I hope all students enjoy a well-earned break. Rest and recharge are important after such a busy year, and I look forward to welcoming the year group back as Year 9 in September—an exciting time as students begin to consider their GCSE options and take further steps toward their futures.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Your encouragement and involvement make a huge difference.

Year 9

As we come to the end of a fantastic term, it's a great time to celebrate the many achievements of our incredible Year 9 students. It has been a real pleasure getting to know the year group since becoming their Head of Year in September 2024.

This academic year marked an important milestone as students made their Key Stage 4 option choices. They approached this with great maturity and thoughtfulness, carefully considering their future pathways. I'm excited to see them begin their GCSE journey in September as the Class of 2027.

One of the most impressive achievements this year was Year 9 raising the most money across the school for Julia's House—a brilliant reflection of their compassion and community spirit. Activities Week was another highlight, especially the 'Bishop 100' trip to Dorset Adventure Park. It was a day full of laughter, teamwork, and muddy fun, creating memories the students won't forget.

A huge thank you to the 16 students who supported our Year 6 transition days. Their kindness and leadership shone through as they guided Primary students around the Academy and helped ease their nerves with friendly advice and support.

Well done, Year 9, for all your hard work, kindness, and enthusiasm this year. You've achieved so much and made a real impact across the school.

Enjoy a well-earned, fun, and restful summer break—I look forward to seeing you all in September, ready to take on the exciting challenges of Year 10!



Year 10, Mr Tiley

Year 10

As we reach the end of the academic year, it's a great moment to reflect on the progress Year 10 has made. Students will have noticed the increased demands on their time, organisation, and resilience compared to their Key Stage 3 experience.

I'm incredibly proud of the effort shown throughout the year, especially during the mock exam periods. It was clear that students took lessons from the October mocks and applied themselves more fully for the February series, showing growth in both revision habits and self-awareness. I'm confident this dedication will continue as we enter Year 11. Attendance at 10:10 sessions will be essential next year to ensure students achieve the best possible outcomes.

A special mention goes to mentor group 10-6 and Mr Kearsley for their outstanding fundraising for Julia's House—raising the most of any group across the academy. A fantastic achievement!

We ended the year on a high with many students earning a place on the Bishop 100 rewards trip to the New Forest. It was a brilliant day of teamwork and adventure, with students paddling eight-person rafts down the Beaulieu River. The challenge to switch boats mid-river—and even paddle standing up—made for a lot of fun and laughter.

Well done to all of Year 10 for your hard work, determination, and sense of humour. It's been a challenging year, but you've shown great resilience and a real desire to succeed.

Enjoy a well-deserved summer break—I look forward to continuing our journey together in Year 11!

Year 11

As Head of Year 11, I couldn't be prouder of what this incredible year group has achieved. After months of hard work, dedication, and resilience, our students have completed their GCSE exams—a major milestone and a true testament to their focus and determination.

From their first days in secondary school to these final moments, Year 11 have shown maturity, perseverance, and a strong sense of community. During the exam period, the atmosphere was calm and focused, and I'm confident their efforts will be rewarded when results are released in August.

The Year 11 Leavers' Assembly was a particularly emotional moment for both students and staff. It gave us time to reflect, celebrate, and look back on shared memories. There was laughter, a few tears, and heartfelt messages—a fitting tribute to the journey we've taken together. This group is more than just a year group; they are a community that has left a lasting mark on our Academy.

To top it all off, the Year 11 Prom was a magical evening full of celebration, style, and joy. It was wonderful to see everyone dressed up, dancing, and enjoying one final evening together. The energy and togetherness made it a truly memorable night.

To my fantastic Year 11s—thank you. It has been a privilege to be part of your journey. I wish you all the very best as you take your next steps. Your future is full of opportunity, and I have no doubt you'll go on to achieve great things.

Sixth Form, Mrs Whalen

This term, we said a fond farewell to our Year 13 students. We wish them every success as they begin the next exciting chapter of their lives and look forward to celebrating their achievements on A-Level results day. Their dedication and contributions to Sixth Form life will be greatly missed.

A huge thank you also goes to our Year 12 students for their hard work and positivity throughout the year. We're excited to see them step into leadership roles as we welcome our new Year 12 cohort in September.

From the students: This term has been full of enriching experiences designed to support our future goals and expand our understanding of higher education and career pathways. We started with a visit to Southampton University, where we toured the campus, explored facilities like the sports centre and library, and heard from current students about university life. It gave us valuable insight into what lies ahead and the choices available.

We also attended the UCAS fair at Bournemouth University, where we had the opportunity to speak directly with representatives from a wide range of universities. This helped many of us feel more confident in our career plans and even opened our eyes to options we hadn't previously considered.

To round things off, we enjoyed a fantastic trip to Weymouth, where we took part in team-building activities such as rock climbing and archery, followed by time exploring the town and relaxing at the beach. It was a great way to bond as a year group and try new experiences.

These trips have not only helped us prepare for our future but also created memories we'll carry with us. Here's to an exciting year ahead!



Sixth Form

Careers

Careers education is a vital part of our students' journey at Bishop, helping them prepare for the world of work from the very start. Throughout the year, all year groups have taken part in employer assemblies, giving them insight into the wide range of careers available.

Students in Years 7–9 have had opportunities to build key career skills through events such as the Speakout Challenge, BIMA Digital Day, and the Options and Choices presentation. These activities aim to develop confidence, communication, and an understanding of future pathways.

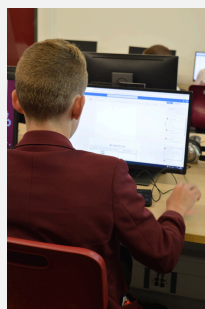
For Year 10, it has been a particularly busy and important year. Students attended the Careers and Apprenticeship Show, meeting with local colleges and employers to explore post-16 options. In June, every Year 10 student successfully completed a one-week work experience placement—an impressive achievement, especially as each student sourced their own placement in a career area of interest.

Workplaces ranged from local schools and pharmacies to businesses and organisations further afield—including one unique placement on the Isle of Man. The process began at the start of the academic year, with students identifying and contacting employers independently. This valuable experience not only gave students insight into working life but also helped many secure offers for future employment or apprenticeships, either during school holidays or after Year 11.

It's been fantastic to hear the success stories shared back at school. For many students, the experience confirmed their career interests and opened doors for the future. Congratulations to all Year 10 students on completing their placements, and a huge thank you to the employers who generously offered their time and support.



Computing, Mr Pethick



Year 7 have been learning about data representation — exploring how text, numbers, images, and sound can all be represented using binary. They've particularly enjoyed hands-on activities such as creating pixel art and decoding secret messages.

Year 8 students have been introduced to Python programming, learning how to use variables, selection, and iteration to build interactive programs. Their enthusiasm has been matched by some very impressive problem-solving.

Year 9 have been working on data science, interpreting real-world datasets and visualising their findings. Highlights include student-led investigations into climate data and sporting statistics — combining computational thinking with curiosity.

Year 11 students approached their final exams with maturity, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements in August.

Outside of lessons, our Sixth Form Computer Science Ambassadors have continued to be a real asset to the department, offering mentoring, running 10.10 sessions, and supporting our outreach to younger students. Special thanks to Razvan and Andrei, who recently delivered a great Year 11 taster session.

As we look ahead to next year, we're excited to build on this momentum and continue embedding the Teach Computing curriculum across all year groups.

It has been a wonderful year for students within Expressive Arts. Students across all year groups have created some outstanding work across Art, Food, Music and Drama – well done for your creativity and passion.

Performing Arts

In the final week of term, we held auditions for our 2026 production of “High School Musical” which follows on from the success of Six this year. We are delighted with the sheer amount of talent within the Academy and can’t wait to see our cast shine in March 2026. Students are still able to sign up for an ensemble role from September – look out for rehearsal dates!



Hospitality and Catering

In June, our Year 10 food students had the exciting opportunity to visit the Hospitality and Catering department at Bournemouth & Poole College. The trip offered a valuable insight into the world of professional catering, with students taking part in hands-on workshops in the college’s state-of-the-art training kitchens. They learned new skills from industry experts, explored potential career paths, and gained a real sense of what studying hospitality and catering at further education level involves. It was an inspiring and engaging experience that sparked lots of enthusiasm and ambition among our budding chefs and hospitality professionals.



Geography

Geography is the study of the world around us—how it works, how it changes, and how we interact with it. In many ways, we are all Geographers. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is carefully sequenced to help students understand their place in the world, the impact they have on it, and the impact it has on them.

Throughout Key Stage 3, students explore a range of geographical issues that influence daily life. The aim is to help them make informed decisions about how they live. For example, the growing effects of climate change—such as longer, hotter summers—highlight the importance of understanding the world and adapting our behaviours accordingly.

At Key Stage 4, Geography lessons deepen this understanding by focusing on global physical and human issues. GCSE students are encouraged to develop curiosity about the world and consider Geography's real-world relevance.

On 2nd July, our Year 10 Geographers visited Hengistbury Head, a site of natural beauty under threat from coastal erosion. As part of their GCSE fieldwork, students investigated how hard engineering has helped protect this valuable landscape. They spent the day measuring beach profiles and assessing environmental quality before enjoying a well-earned ice cream at the Hungary Hiker café. Lessons since the visit have focused on data analysis and writing up findings—forming half of the required fieldwork, with the second trip planned for Year 11. As the academic year ends, it's a great time to reflect on what students have learned in Geography and how it shapes their view of the world.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and restful summer break.

Mr Wheeler

It has been an excellent year within the History department. Students across all year groups have worked hard and produced some fantastic work, supporting them to reach mastery. Students have developed their knowledge and interest throughout the year as well as honing their skills – well done to all.

It has been a real privilege to support the students in developing a rich knowledge base, as well as the skills needed to succeed in History. Some highlights of the year were the Bovington Tank Trip that occurred during Activities Week. Students were able to apply what they had learnt and develop their understanding and interest in upcoming areas of study. As Year 9 finish their Key Stage 3 studies, they have been working on a project this term which draws on the skills and knowledge that they have refined since year 7.



It has been a real joy to see the students, create their own titles, complete their own research and present on the impact of themes over time. Year 10 have started their Year 11 course of study with real focus, and we look forward to continuing to support the cohort in ensuring they are able to flourish at GCSE and show, through the examinations, all they have worked on.

A huge congratulations, to our Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts, who completed their terminal exams this year and we hope that the hard work will have paid dividends when it comes to results day.

History

As another year draws to a close, it's a great time to celebrate the fantastic progress made in Spanish and our students' commitment to living life to the full.

Since we introduced the Languagenut platform for homework three years ago, students have collectively learned over 2.5 million vocabulary, grammar, verb, and phonics items—an incredible achievement! Regular homework builds confidence between lessons, and we'd like to recognise the outstanding consistency shown by many students, including:

Year 7 – Kate, Jessica, Amelia and Geovanna, Oscar, Rocco

Year 8 – Reuben, Lucas, Thomas and Flynn, Ivan

Year 9 – Christina and Tilly, Keleisha & Leah, Sienna and Verity, Lorelai, Vaidagya

Year 10 – Amy, Chloe, Abigail, Zachary, Caleb, Flavius, Holly, David and Christian

We're excited to welcome many of our current Year 9 students into GCSE Spanish next year. The End of Year Assessments showed real talent—well done to Gigalhiwa, Lily, Alfie, Christina, Eloise, Brajan, Jonah, Reggie, and Harry for excellent performances. Congratulations to Abella (Year 9) for winning first prize in the University of Lancaster's 'Modern Languages Schools Essay Prize'!

During Activities Week, students enjoyed 'Juegos en España': Year 7 played Spanish Pictionary, Year 8 enjoyed Parchís and La Oca, Year 9 explored Spanish playing cards and competed in 'Burro', and Year 10 tackled a cultural quiz.

We also had 23 students sit Home Language GCSEs in Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Polish, Portuguese, and Turkish—best of luck to them, and to our Year 10 and 11 Spanish GCSE candidates.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish you a wonderful summer!



This year, students have spent their Maths lessons exploring our 7 big ideas in depth. They have covered a range of topics relating to; Numerical Fluency, Proportional Reasoning, Shape and Position, Thinking Algebraically, Mathematical Modelling, Probability Theory and Statistical Analysis. There has also been a focus this year on improving student's calculator confidence. Students have enjoyed discovering the different modes on their Scientific Calculators and building their confidence in Maths. We look forward to continuing to develop their calculator tool kit next year. Please see below for the highlights of the year in Maths.

War Maths

In November, the Maths department ran their annual War Maths event. Students spent time learning about code breaking, aviation and rationing. One student said, 'War Maths was a fun day where most of the Maths teachers dressed up as soldiers and we had to decipher codes like we were in the war'. Another student commented 'I think that War Maths is a great way to learning about the world wars and how mathematicians had to work hard to decode all the codes that the German army were using. Even though it was hard at first, I really liked it!'

Pi Day

Students celebrated Pi Day in March (3.14) with assemblies on the importance of pi in real life and pi themed lessons throughout the day. Students enjoyed taking part in the interactive quiz to see how much they knew about pi and practicing using pairs of compasses to construct labyrinths, crop circles and paths of pursuit.

Maths Challenge

Students in Y9, 10 and 11 competed against students across the country in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge earlier this year. This gave students the opportunity to practice their problem solving and mathematical reasoning skills. Well done to all students for taking part! A special mention to Ali, Max, William, Alfie, Gideon, Ed, Jessica, Sandra, Pietro, Joseph, Szymon, Neda, Amy, Megan, Adam, Andrei and Mia for achieving the silver award and Ricardo, Rudra and Theo for achieving the gold award. Ricardo and Rudra went on to compete at the next level of the challenge in which Ricardo managed to achieve a gold award which is fantastic!

Sparx

This year students in Y7 – 10 have been using Sparx to support them with their studies in Maths. Since September, students have answered 1,919,251 questions correctly and spent 17,464 hours completing personalised practice on Sparx. Additionally, 370 students have improved their times tables this year.

The following students are our top performers and have earned the most XP points in Sparx Maths for their year group over the last year:

Kate (Y7)

Afonso (Y8)

Leah (Y9)

Shaun (Y10)

We are so proud of you – well done!

Students return after the summer holiday on:

04.09.25:

Year 7 at 8:25 am, Year 11 at 9:30 am, Year 12 at 11:15 am Year 13???

05.09.25:

All year groups at 8:25 am

Sixth form open evening: 09.10.25, 17:30-19:30 pm.

October half term: week starting Monday 27.10.25

February half term: week starting Monday 16.02.26

May half term: week starting Monday 25.05.26

INSETs (teacher-only) days 2025 - 2026

02.09.25

03.09.25

03.11.25

28.11.25

05.01.26

23.02.26

13.04.26

29.06.26

20.07.26

21.07.26

Final day of school for 2025 - 2026: Friday 17.07.26

Work experience

Year 10, week commencing 18.05.26

Year 12, week commencing 06.07.26