

NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS – December 2016  
(Issue 57)



December 2016

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we enter Christmas week, there is already a palpable sense of excitement around the school as the students look forward to finishing for the holidays and then enjoying the special days that await them, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and then the New Year period. Our students work hard each and every day and heavy demands are made to ensure they are challenged and able to realise their full potential. Now though is a time to stop, relax, have some fun and leave Bishop Rawstorne behind us until the New Year. For us all, next year will be a year of new challenges as we strive to improve and progress. This is especially the case for our Year 11s who have recently completed their mock GCSE examinations and now have a good awareness of where they are doing well and the areas in which they need to make more progress if they are to get the set of GCSE results they are hoping for.

In this time of Advent as we prepare for Christmas and the many good things that lie ahead for us, we will be having our annual Emmaus Appeal, Emmaus being a charity that offers a home and meaningful work to formerly homeless people. Year after year I have been blown away by the generosity of our students and parents as we collect food and sundry items that will be delivered to Emmaus in Preston by our students. Along with all the wonderful items donated for the Operation Christmas Child shoe-box collection, the kindness represented by these gifts are hugely appreciated by their recipients and really can make a difference. We recently enjoyed our Christmas concert that was held in the school hall on 15 December and as well as a truly wonderful performance of music and song from our own students, we were joined by a student choir from Trinity and St. Michael's who sang quite beautifully. The mood continues in this, the final week of the term, as we look forward to a busy programme of events, our Christmas services for the students, our Christmas carol concert, the Year 7 panto and so much more.

Bishop Rawstorne is staffed not just by the teachers, but a large team of dedicated and committed support staff who are integral to the day-to-day life of the school. Without them, we would not enjoy the success that has long been a part of the school. At the end of December we say goodbye to our Teaching School Administrator, Nicky Dimmer, who has been with us since May 2010 and is moving on to a new role elsewhere. Nicky has done a sterling job behind the scenes and we wish her well for the future. In Science we welcome Angela Aspey as a new Science Technician and we wish her well for the future with us.

I would like to wish all of our students, staff, parents and governors a happy and restful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2017

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Cowley'.

Mr P Cowley  
Headteacher

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Music department put on another successful solo and ensemble concert in November. There were 17 performers in the concert ranging from Year 7 – Year 10. We saw not only some fine vocal performances but instrumental as well, including the flute, violin and cornet. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their musical talent in the form of a solo performance to an informal audience.



The GCSE students were fortunate enough to go and see a fabulous production of 'Sister Act' the Musical in Liverpool as part of their course. It is an invaluable experience for them to see live music in preparation for their exams. This half term

also saw our first visit to an opera following on from two successful visits to the ballet in the last 2 years. This, again, is so valuable for the students to experience a variety of different live music events during their study of GCSE Music.



The annual Christmas concert was a huge success, and I am sure if you attended it, you were amazed by all the talent shown in all the groups that participated. It was a particular highlight to have the students from Trinity and St Michaels take part and sing with our choir. I hope that you went away feeling that little bit more Christmassy!



Alice Hayes and Lucy Thomas performed so well at the Christmas services both in school and at Croston Church. To hear them sing so well just added to the service and I am sure you will agree they are a real talent.



The students that performed this year in the foyer have again added to the Christmas spirit around school. A variety of different performances have been heard, again ranging from Year 7 – Year 11. We are so lucky to have such talent at our disposal and I thank them all for all their efforts.

Looking ahead to the future for the Music department, we have the Upper School Choir performing in the Music for Youth Festival on Saturday 4 March 2017, our annual performance at the Guildhall in Preston on Saturday 25 March 2017 and our end of year concert on Wednesday 10 May 2017.

### Author Visits

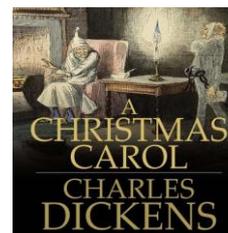
November was a particularly busy month in the English department. As part of our continued drive to sustain a love of reading, we were delighted to be visited by the current multi award-winning Children's Laureate Chris Riddell. This was an exciting opportunity for Year 7 students to meet a renowned published author. The Children's Laureate is the most high

profile position in children's books and Chris Riddell is acclaimed as both a writer and an illustrator. We were joined by pupils from many of our local primaries who were entertained by his drawings and witticisms.

Not to be out-done, Year 8 met critically acclaimed local author Joseph Delaney who joined us for a presentation and a book signing session. Some of Joseph Delaney's books have had the full Hollywood treatment and been turned into a film, 'The Seventh Son'. His works are hugely popular with our students with his 'Spooks' series being a particular favourite.

### Manacto Performance

The famous Charles Dickens novella 'A Christmas Carol' is a set text for GCSE English Literature. To help students with the plot, themes and quotations, the Manchester-based drama company Manacto performed an hour long adaptation to Year 10 and 11 with a half hour question and answer session afterwards. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive as they found it both helpful and entertaining. There was certainly nothing Scrooge-like about the warm applause Manacto received from our students!



### DRAMA

#### Journey to the Stable Performance – St Mary's Church, Eccleston

On Monday 12 December, fifteen of our young people performed, 'Journey to the Stable' for our associate primary schools at St. Mary's Church in Eccleston. Under the watchful and supportive eyes of Jake Ashton from Year 10, Miss Finlay (English), Mrs Smith-Hughes and Ben Green, the students adapted a performance of the nativity story for Year 5 pupils in the local area. On the day, and throughout the preparations for the event, our students really impressed the primary schools with their joyful, fun-filled and religious take on the nativity story and really set everyone in the mood for Christmas. The students involved in the performance were: Rosie Samuels, Grace Hayes, Sam Horrocks, Aimee Wilson, Tilly Abrams, Ella Falkingham, Madison Oettinger, Lydia Teasdale, Zak Crane, Bradley Hodges, Lucy Blackburn, Emma Rimmer, Erin Littlefair, Caitlin Perry and Jake Ashton.

A fantastic event with all involved exploring the true Christian message of Christmas!

### Year 11 Drama Moderation Performance Work

In their preparation for the final moderation in March, Year 11 Drama are devising a performance entitled 'Being British'. Having studied physical theatre practise this term, the students continue to enjoy researching physical theatre practitioners such as DV8 and The National Theatre London workshops to support their study of different styles of performance. Combining their creativity with a knowledge of social history and physical theatre performance styles; the Year 11 Drama class have been researching what they constitute as being British. Working collaboratively, Mrs Smith-Hughes is writing the script alongside Ethan Cawthorn, Alice Hayes and Jessica Jackson which is proving to be fun, productive and exciting to watch as the Year 11 use their scripts to devise the work written by their peers.

Practically, the piece explores the timeline of British history including; The Victorians, WW2, the 60s, the 80s, The Death of Diana, The Royal Family, TOWIE and culminating in a truly British street party.

A really exciting time in the Drama department!

### Year 10 Drama – Practical Pieces

It's a busy time in the Drama department as Year 10 are about to embark upon their first practical assessment in GCSE Drama which has focused on the theme of 'Relationships.' This term, we have studied the set text 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell and the Year 10 Drama students have been devising group pieces which combine physical theatre and verbatim theatre practices based on their views about relationships. Verbatim theatre is a form of documentary theatre which is based on the spoken words of real people. This has resulted in the Year 10 students having great fun using masks and ensemble performance styles to represent the complexities and realism of relationships by combining recorded and printed texts from Antigone, the traditional Christian marriage vows and Genesis 1 in their devised acting pieces.



### Annie After Show Party

Following the phenomenal success of the school production of 'Annie', Mr Cowley and the SLT have kindly agreed to pay for the cast and crew to have an after show party and this will take place in the New Year. Mrs Smith-Hughes will send out a letter in January with the date and venue.

### Mentors Making a Difference .... Again!

As part of Bretherton Endowed Primary school's 'Friendship Week', the Year 10 mentors were invited to visit the school and work with Year 4 and 5 pupils. The mentors trained the youngsters to be peer mediators and help as playground buddies, resolving minor conflicts and helping to repair friendships. Staff at Bretherton were highly complementary about the mature attitude of the

mentors as they acted out role-plays, led discussions and generally 'taught' the class for the afternoon. This was a great opportunity for the Year 10 students to share their experience and work with younger children in a mentoring capacity. The mentors had worked hard, preparing for the visit, and as always they represented themselves and Bishops superbly.

### Year 9 Trip to IWM Manchester

Year 9 took part in a trip to the Imperial War Museum in Manchester, where they were able to understand more about the First World War, which they have been studying in History. Some students were fortunate enough to meet David Teacher MBE, a veteran of the D-Day landings. Students were able to ask David questions and listen to his inspirational stories.



### Year 9 Holocaust Survivor Webcast

In January, all Year 9 students will take part in a live webcast with a Holocaust survivor as part of our Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations. More details on this will follow at a later date.

### Remembrance Day Commemorations

The whole school came together in worship on 11 November to commemorate Armistice Day, which included Alice Hayes (Year 11) and Kimberley Harrison (Year 8) playing the last post superbly. Head Girl and Head Boy, Eloise Frost and Ashley Powell, took part in the Croston service on Remembrance Sunday, where Eloise read in church and a wreath was laid on behalf of the school. Alice Hayes also represented the school by playing the Last Post at Croston as well as Ellie Double (Y11) playing the Last Post at the service in Wrightington.



### Astronomy Club

A group of students from Years 7-11 have been participating in the Astronomy Club. The club has involved many activities such as looking at the moon and planets such as Venus during the winter months. Students have also been given the opportunity to share their sightings with the group and have produced various astronomy related items, such as a pin wheel galaxy wind mill and a galactic mobile. The club runs Wednesdays after school 3.30pm -5.00pm.



### CREST Club Bronze Award

Students in KS3 Science have been participating in the CREST award. This award is accredited by the British Science Association, and involves students designing and investigating their very own scientific research. Some examples include: making bath bombs and candles to creating jelly sweets. All students that have completed a CREST Bronze award will be receiving certificates, which are a great addition to their record of achievement. The club runs on Tuesdays afterschool 3.30pm – 4.30pm.



### CREST Club Silver Award

Some students have taken the challenge of completing the CREST Silver Award. This is a fantastic achievement and will be a welcome addition to their record of achievement.

### Science Club Tuesday Lunch-Times Starting After Christmas

Open to all students who have a passion for science. The Science Club is designed to be fun but it also helps to develop students' practical skills to help to aid the transition to the new GCSE, which will be more practically based. If you are interested, please see Mr Tye or Mr Willis.



### Bishop Rawstone Christmas Lecture

This year Bishop Rawstone Science department organised a Christmas lecture and invited local primary and secondary school to share the experience. The lecture was on "Something about nothing" delivered by Dr Matt Pritchard ([www.sciencemagicshows.co.uk](http://www.sciencemagicshows.co.uk)). 'Nothing' is notoriously hard to grasp. However, thanks to Dr Matt Pritchard the empty gaps were explained and we were enriched with almost everything there is to know about 'nothing'. From Annihilation through to Zero. A comedy show uniquely fusing magic, multimedia and mathematics that explores the history, maths, science and philosophy behind 'nothing'. The show featured the following concepts: counting systems, zero, negative numbers, vacuums, creation & annihilation, the Big Bang, black holes, particle physics, CERN and the Large Hadron Collider. Thanks to all the schools that attended.

### Up coming events:

**Salters Chemistry festival - June**

**Physics Olympics - June**

**Year 7 trip to Jodrell Bank - July**

**Space Day - July**

### A Festive Numeracy Puzzle

If you add up all the gifts you receive in the song 'Twelve Days of Christmas' how many would you have? Remember that on the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me a 'partridge in a pear tree' but they also sent me one on the second, third, and in fact all twelve days of Christmas. Calculate the answer and check the solution on page 5. Can you spot the pattern?



### Lancashire Schools Cup Football

In the boys' competitions unfortunately the U12, U14, U15, U16 squads have been defeated and are now out of this competition but still have league games to look forward to against local schools as well as the Chorley Schools Cup. The U13 squad have enjoyed greater success in this competition and after beating Bowland 4-1 will now play either Ormskirk or Our Lady Queen of Peace in the next round.



In the girls' competition the U12 squad have reached the quarter finals after beating Holy Cross and Haslingden 3-1. The U12s will now play Ripley St Thomas or Fisher More in the quarter finals. The U14s unfortunately lost in a close game against Blessed Trinity after coming through the previous two rounds defeating Lathom and Whitworth. Finally after a fantastic performance away at Ripley St Thomas our U16s girls squad are through to the next round and will play St Augustines at home.

It has been a fantastic effort by all our football teams this season and with plenty more games to go there is still a lot to play for.

Football training will start again in the New Year and students of all abilities are welcome to attend training which takes place on a Tuesday after school for the boys and on a Thursday after school for the girls.

Further information in relation to school fixtures and results can be found by following the PE department on Twitter @BR\_PEdept.

### CHARITY

#### Operation Christmas Child

Once again the generosity of students and parents was amazing in the donations received for this appeal. Many thanks to everyone who supported us and to the 'band of helpers' from Year 7 and 8 who gave up many lunchtimes to assist with wrapping boxes, collecting gifts and filling the boxes.

We managed to send 109 boxes this year which is brilliant!

#### Bishbucks for the Homeless

On Friday 16 December we held one of our popular Bishbucks events, organised by Courtney Kirkham and friends. With hot chocolate and coffee and cakes were on sale at break time. The money raised goes to support a charity for homeless people in Chorley.

## Raffle at Annie the Musical

Many thanks to all who supported the raffle at Annie. The total raised was £350 which the cast and crew decided would be donated to MIND – the mental health charity.



## Spring Ball

The Spring Ball in April raised £4,500 – many thanks to all who helped and supported. A big thanks goes to all people and companies who donated some excellent raffle and auction prizes. It was a fabulous night! Substantial donations have been made to the following Croston based groups, all of whom were badly affected by the floods on Boxing Day, 2015.



Croston Pre-School  
Croston Community centre  
Croston Scouts

In addition a donation was given to school to support literacy across all years. This will be supporting the setting up and running of 'Bishops Bookies' a reading group which is available to all students.



## ECO Club

At the end of September Eco Club made Apple Chutney using apples from the school garden as well as the apples from Mrs Loveday's garden at home. This will be ready for just before we break up for Christmas and the Eco Club will be delivering a jar of chutney to each tutor group so everyone can have a taste. This is great way of using seasonal fruit which has a long shelf life

## Recipe for Chutney

### Ingredients

- 225g onions, chopped
- 900g apples, cored and chopped
- 110g sultanas, raisins or chopped dates
- 45g ginger
- 15g salt
- 340g granulated sugar
- 425ml malt vinegar



### Method

1. Put all the ingredients into a preserving pan. Slowly bring to the boil until the sugar has dissolved.
2. Simmer for 1½-2 hours, stirring from time to time to stop the chutney sticking to the pan.
3. When it is very thick and you can draw a wooden spoon across the base of the pan so that it leaves a channel behind it that does not immediately fill with liquid, the chutney is ready.
4. Turn into sterilised jars, seal and cool.
5. Store in a cool, dark cupboard for two to three months before eating

## STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

Well done to Jacob Kidd (10A) who in August 2016 joined other runners who were supporting 'Ben 401' (who was running 401 marathons up and down the country in 401 days raising awareness about bullying and money for two anti-bullying charities). The idea was for runners to join in a marathon and run as much or as little as they were able. Jacob joined in the Preston marathon and set off at 10am and his parents waited patiently to pick him up. Finally, Jacob was met with a huge round of applause, after running 24.2 miles, which was an amazing achievement, as he was the youngest runner involved at that time, and received a huge round of applause.



Congratulations to our Year 11 student, Dominic Lewis, who in October was awarded 'Young Achiever of the Year 2015-2016', of the Chorley Sports awards



## SAFETY

### OnLine Safety

This year we held an online safety evening for our parents. All the information from this evening can be found on our website in the parents' section. You will also find a monthly newsletter dedicated to online safety and privacy and security checklists for Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. These are extremely useful and full of information parents will find useful and informative. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Palmer at school.

### Parking

You may have noticed our new yellow 'A' frames to promote safer parking. Please don't park on the yellow zig-zags, it restricts a driver's vision when entering and exiting Bishop's Way.



We would appreciate your help in keeping the road up to school free at busy periods of the day by dropping off students in the area at the bottom of the drive.

We encourage student pick up after extra-curricular school clubs/events to be made in the school yard or parking bays, especially in hours of darkness.

We ask this as we attempt to keep students as safe as possible.

Thank you to everyone who supports us with this.

### **Dinner Money**

Could we please ask that students do not bring the new £5 notes in to school to place on to their lunch money accounts. Unfortunately, the machines do not accept the new notes and as lots of trips etc are now paid for on-line, we are struggling to change these for students. Please ensure that students use coins instead of a new £5 note.



### **Favourites Shop**

Please note Favourites will be closed from:  
Monday 19 December 2016 to Monday 2 January 2017.  
Re-opens on Tuesday 3 January 2017

### **SAVE THE DATES**

#### **The Ol' School Disco**

A 3 hour dance-a-thon raising money for Cancer Research. More details in the New Year.

#### **Year 11 Prom (Provisional Date)**

The Prom is provisionally booked for Thursday 29 June 2017. Whilst we don't envisage this changing we cannot confirm until all the exam dates are confirmed. As soon as we know this we will let Year 11 know.

#### **A Festive Numeracy Puzzle- Solution**

12 partridges in a pear tree, 22 turtle doves, 30 French hens, 36 calling birds, 40 golden rings, 42 geese a-laying, 42 swans a-swimming, 40 maids-a-milking, 36 ladies dancing, 30 lords a-leaping and 22 pipers piping. Altogether, that's **352** gifts.

#### **Christmas Holidays**

School closes on Friday 23 December 2016 at 1.15pm and reopens on Monday 9 January 2017.



### **School Direct – Are you thinking of becoming a teacher?**

Bishop Rawstone C of E Academy is an outstanding Teaching School that has made a significant contribution to training 'teachers of tomorrow' over a number of years. We are at the cutting edge of leading practice and, having recently become a multiple Teaching School with Penwortham Girls' High School, promise to continue to offer an innovative and exciting approach to teacher training.

With an established and ever growing (initial teacher training) partnership of carefully selected schools that include Penwortham Girls' High School, Balshaw's Church of England High School, Lostock Hall Academy, Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School and Byrchall High School, our trainee teachers are guaranteed support and guidance from experienced practitioners. Moreover, our personalised programme means that we are able to offer you a wide range of opportunities and school based experiences that will help ensure employability, retention in the profession and accelerated advancement. We have a proven track record of training high calibre trainee teachers who have gone on to follow highly successful careers.

If a career in teaching is one of your long terms goals, or if you know anyone who is thinking of becoming a teacher, then we would love to hear from you.

For further information on the Bishop Rawstone School Direct Programme, please contact Helen Winter (Director of Teaching School) at [hwinter@bishopr.co.uk](mailto:hwinter@bishopr.co.uk) or see our website for further information [www.bishoprts.co.uk](http://www.bishoprts.co.uk)

**Term and Holiday Dates**  
**2016 – 2017**

**AUTUMN TERM 2016**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**FRIDAY 2 September 2016**

School re-opens on

Monday 5 September 2016  
**Years 7 and 11 only**

Tuesday 6 September 2016  
**All Years**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Wednesday 28 September 2016 (Open Evening)**

Closure after school

Friday 28 October 2016

School re-opens on

Monday 7 November 2016

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Monday 28 November 2016**

Closure after school on

Friday 23 December 2016 **at 1.15pm**

**SPRING TERM 2017**

School re-opens on

Monday 9 January 2017

Closure after school on

Friday 10 February 2017

School re-opens on

Monday 20 February 2017

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**FRIDAY 17 MARCH 2017**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**MONDAY 20 MARCH 2017**

Closure after school on

Friday 7 April 2017 **at 2.00pm**

**SUMMER TERM 2017**

School re-opens

Monday 24 April 2017

**MAY DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

Monday 1 May 2017

Closure after school on

Friday 26 May 2017

School re-opens on

Monday 5 June 2017

Closure after school on

Friday 21 July 2017 **at 1.15pm**

*Please note that any leave of absence will only be granted in very special or exceptional circumstances. We strongly urge parents to avoid taking children out of school for holidays during term time. The Headteacher remains the final arbiter for any requests made.*

**Term and Holiday Dates**  
**2017 – 2018**

**AUTUMN TERM 2017**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

School re-opens on

**FRIDAY 1 September 2017**

Monday 4 September 2017

**Years 7 and 11 only**

Tuesday 5 September 2017

**All Years**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Wednesday 27 September 2017 (Open Evening 1)**

Closure after school

Friday 27 October 2017

School re-opens on

Monday 6 November 2017

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Monday 27 November 2017**

Closure after school on

Friday 22 December 2017 **at 2.00pm**

**SPRING TERM 2018**

School re-opens on

Monday 8 January 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 9 February 2018

School re-opens on

Monday 19 February 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 23 March 2018 **at 2.00pm**

**SUMMER TERM 2018**

School re-opens

Monday 9 April 2018

**MAY DAY HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

Monday 7 May 2018

Closure after school on

Friday 25 May 2018

School re-opens on

Monday 4 June 2018

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**FRIDAY 29 JUNE 2018**

**STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**MONDAY 2 JULY 2018**

Closure after school on

Friday 20 July 2018 **at 1.15pm**

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