

**Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy
A National Teaching School**

**NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS – April 2015
(Issue 53)**

March 2015

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Guardian

As the Easter term approaches, I am writing to keep you up to date with the busy and sometimes hectic life of the school and some changes we have made ahead of the next academic year.

Not surprisingly our Year 11s are fully focussed upon their impending GCSEs and the latest tracking report indicates that the year group is well-positioned to achieve excellent results in the forthcoming examinations. There is, of course, much work still to be done both from the students and the teaching staff and the tracking report will have given much encouragement to many whilst highlighting for others the areas in which they may need to have additional focus. In the first week after the Easter holidays, all of our Year 11 students will have an interview with a Senior Leader in school to discuss progress and identify any areas that need additional support. We wish all of our Year 11s the very best of luck and know they will achieve the results their hard-work has deserved.

Since our last newsletter a group of Year 11 History students visited Poland in February, during which time they visited the site of the concentration camp at Auschwitz. The PE department once again ran a highly successful ski-trip to the French Alps and at the end of term, the Music and Drama departments ran a trip to London for students from Years 9 and 10. The common thread in these trips and all the many others we run is the way in which our students conduct themselves so well and maturely, as outstanding ambassadors for Bishop Rawstorne and a credit to you as parents. Enrichment and extra-curricular activities are at the heart of Bishop Rawstorne, something that is not the case throughout the country, and we are proud to be able to support our students as they showcase their talents. Never before have we been able to give out so many B for Bishops badges for commitment and service to the school and this recognises achievement in and out of school in areas as diverse as fencing, swimming, ice hockey, Remembrance Day participation and representing the school at the recent Runshaw College-based Oxbridge Bound event. It is impossible to highlight every success story here, but in the newsletter itself you will be able to read about the many achievements of our wonderful students.

We have taken the opportunity this year to restructure the Upper and Lower school team and have appointed Mr Duckworth as the SLG lead with five 'Heads of Year' below him. This is a move back to a more traditional structure which we believe is more suitable for our school and ensures all year groups are adequately covered, both pastorally and academically. The new system provides strategic leadership to the five Heads of Year, gives clear ownership and accountability for each year group and of course allows us to open career pathways to develop our own staff. For you as parents this provides a clearer point of contact at school. Miss Palmer and Mr Sixsmith have been appointed as Heads of Year and Mr Davies will replace Miss Palmer as Lead Teacher of Music. In addition to this we have made a number of new appointments for September with the arrival of a new Lead Teacher for Geography to replace Mrs Dickinson who will be leaving us in the summer, a new teacher of Modern Foreign Languages, an NQT, and a teacher of Humanities, who are all external appointments. Internally Mr Hornby has been appointed Lead Teacher of History. Mrs Loveday has been redeployed away from the Technology, Art and Computing Faculty to become our Special Events Co-ordinator and she will oversee aspects of our school life such as the summer fair, the prom, charitable initiatives, non-uniform days and so on. At present no additional changes are envisaged unless any existing staff head off for pastures new.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and that it gives you a good flavour of our Christian community and the opportunities that we are able to provide to develop our students each and every day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support in our endeavours and to wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter break.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Cowley, Headteacher

Social Media

The safety of our children is always on our minds and the increasing dangers that are presented by the use of the internet, social media, and related smartphone apps are a growing concern to us as a school, especially when children spend more time inside using computers, laptops, tablets, and smart phones to go on the internet.



We would like to reassure you that we take every precaution throughout the day to ensure that students are not able to access social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, ooVoo, Instagram etc. but we cannot enforce such restrictions beyond the school gates. These sites, and others like them, were designed with teenagers and adults in mind and are usually restricted by age to children who are at least 13 years-old. Naturally, some of our students do not yet have the degree of maturity and judgement to use these sites appropriately and as a result, we have been faced with issues that have spilled over into the school day.

Recently, there have been a number of alarming incidents across the region where strangers have attempted to contact a number young people, outside of school, in an attempt to strike up a relationship online, possibly with the intention of meeting up. Clearly, we report any suspicious behaviour immediately to the police but we have little jurisdiction when it comes to policing a student's use of the internet outside of school. Our best advice for parents about how best to keep your child safe online at home is to speak to your child directly, make your expectations clear with regards to their use of the internet and be involved with their virtual life just as you are with other daily activities. Make sure you have access to any sites your child frequents and can see all the published content. Above all, we urge you to become extra vigilant with regards to the apps and sites that your child is accessing, talk to them about the safety of knowing just who they are talking to and please do not hesitate to get in touch with the police or CEOP (Child Exploitation Online Protection Agency) if you suspect anything untoward is happening with regards to their activity online. If you require further information on e-safety, please refer to our website, <http://www.bishopr.co.uk/parents/esafety>.

We realise that we live in an age where there will always be social networking, so at the end of the day it is more about the behaviour than the tool but if we work together to ensure that our children are equipped with the right emotional and educational compass to know how to behave online, hopefully the dangers that they could be exposed to through social networking will disappear. As always, we appreciate and value your support as we work together to keep our children safe online.

Email Accounts

It's come to our attention that some students are using their school email



accounts for Facebook. We would strongly urge you to register a personal email address with your Facebook account, not only is it an inappropriate use of school email facilities, but due to the email and internet filtering, if any messages/notifications contain inappropriate language etc. It will be seen and logged on the network in school.

If you don't already have a personal email account, I'd recommend Gmail or Outlook both of which are free and reliable.

Parental Liaison

Recently we held a liaison session for some invited Year 10 parents. The event was a relatively informal meeting, with refreshments and a quick tour of the school during the first lesson of the day. Mr Duckworth and myself gave brief presentations before parents discussed school experiences and completed a short questionnaire. The event highlighted the need for us to develop communication channels with our students and particularly with parents, in order for us to support each other, whilst aiming to give our students the best educational experience we can. Feedback from the event was positive, so we hope to be able to offer similar meetings again in the near future. I would like to thank all those parents, who kindly left valuable feedback during recent Parents' Evenings. In the meantime, if you have any issues or feedback that you would like to discuss, please contact me by telephone or email mwilliams@bishopr.co.uk. Martin Williams



The Student Council have been involved in a number of activities over the academic year. The members are all involved in student run task groups which meet regularly to organise activities and discuss issues and arrange charity fundraising for our three chosen charities. The Philippines Appeal Rosemere Cancer Foundation and PEAS (charity to help African schools). We have dealt with requests from tutors regarding in-house matters from the addition of mirrors in the toilets to discussing everyday matters with the Senior Leadership.

Over the Christmas period students assisted at the Croston Christmas Fair, our Head Boy Joe Skinley and Head Girl Kate Murphy were asked to speak and assist with the turning on of the Croston Christmas Lights and the activity Group made Christmas cards for the residents of Croston Park Care Home. On 16 December task group leaders, Joe Skinley and Leon Hewitt, together with Mrs Thompson, visited Croston Park to deliver the residents' Christmas cards, which were gratefully received.

In January the Student Council submitted an application for the 'Speaker's School Council Awards, for their work with Croston Park Care Home. The award, judged by the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt Hon John Bercow MP, considers projects carried out by School Councils which have in some way made a difference. The School's project was judged as 'Highly Commended' and although we had not won the top award, we should be very proud of this achievement. In addition to the certificate, the school can also use the official logo of the awards on our website which again is an achievement.

Astronomy Club

A group of students from Year 7-10 have been participating in the Astronomy Club. The club has participated in 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 others to find celestial bodies in the night sky. Although this club has finished for this year due to sun light hours, it will return next year!



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, chocolate and fizzy drinks. Upon completion, students will be awarded with the Bronze CREST Award which will be a great addition to their record of achievement.



CREST Club Silver Award

Three students have taken the challenge of completing the CREST silver award. The students are researching and developing different bridge designs to test which one is the best.

STEM Club

STEM club has been designed to enrich and enhance students' thoughts on the areas of Science Technology Engineering and Maths. Each Tuesday lunch time students are given a STEM challenge. Students have to work together in groups to complete the challenge, and the overall winner each term will take home the STEM trophy.

The trophy was won last term by Alex Harrison(9A) and the next winner will be announced the week after Easter. Challenges this year have included: code breaking, creating gold coins, underwater volcanoes, making a marble run, periscopes and many more. STEM Club is still running on Tuesday lunch times and is open to new



Members all of the time, if you are Interested please see Mr Tye or Miss Morris.



All I want for Christmas is a Robotic Telescope

Just before Christmas the Science department organised a stand-alone Christmas lecture. The activity involved several local schools as well as students from Bishop Rawstorne. Activities included various quizzes; where students from different schools had to work together which helped to break the ice. This was then followed by a lecture about space and new technological development in space exploration (presented by Liverpool University). At the end of the evening prizes were given to winning teams. It was a great experience for both students and staff.



Upcoming events in Science

Salters Chemistry Festival: A competition open to Year 9 students. Trials will take part in the Science faculty and a chosen team will compete at Manchester University against other schools in the region.

Science and Technology Challenge Day

A competition that Bishop Rawstorne won last year returns this time at Cardinal Newman College on Wednesday 24 June. The challenge is open to Year 10 students and the day involves various problem solving tasks, such as bridge building, forensics and many more.

Year 7 trip to Blackpool Zoo

All of Year 7 visit the zoo, designed to bring into context the work that they have been studying in Science i.e. adaptations, habitats etc. Letters for this event have been issued.

Space Day (July)

Year 7 will be off time-table to spend the day in Science learning about space. The day includes various activities including guest speaker Dennis Ashton (author of stars and planets), and a step inside the amazing indoor planetarium and much more. Information will be issued next term.

Mathematics Games Club

The Mathematics department began running a 'Games Club' on Friday lunchtimes last November which has gone from strength to strength. With classic games such as Monopoly, Risk, Guess Who, Othello and Mastermind, the students who attend get to sit back and relax whilst challenging their friends to one of our many games. Numbers



have steadily risen over the weeks, with over 20 students now regularly arriving to take part.



Point rewards and certificates of attendance will be given out prior to the Easter break, as it has to be said that the students' enthusiasm during the club and co-operation in setting up and tidying away have been first rate.



We hope to welcome more students to 'Games Club' over the forthcoming weeks. The only concern we have is for how long the current room will be big enough...."

Eco Club have been working on producing posters and images that can be placed around the school to remind all of us of the importance of recycling our rubbish correctly.



All tutor groups have recently signed up to an Eco Club Contract to demonstrate our commitment to saving energy, recycling, reusing materials where possible as well as not dropping litter around school. We all have a responsibility to care for our environment; at home if you can make one small change and remember to switch off electrical items and not leave them **'on standby'** it will help reduce our carbon footprint.

Eco Club does Cooking

Eco club had a lesson in using 'old' and leftover vegetables on Friday 13 March, when with Mrs Gaskell, Mrs Loveday and Mrs Twinn, they made some delicious vegetable soup. They also had a go at bread making to provide themselves with a tasty meal. They even took the soup home in washed out milk cartons to help them reuse and recycle.



Year 11 visit to Krakow, Poland

During the February half-term, 41 Year 11 students accompanied by Mr Marsden, Mr Bushell, Miss Speakman and Mrs Thompson visited Krakow in Poland for 3 days. Before the Second World War, there were around 70,000 Jewish people living in the city. Today, following the destruction of the Holocaust, the figure is around 200. After arriving in Krakow, the students were given a guided tour of the city. This included the Kasmierz district, where much of the former Jewish community lived, the Royal Castle and Cathedral area, and the city's historic market square. On the second day, students visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. This was the largest Nazi Concentration and Death Camp and it is estimated that over a million people were murdered there, the majority of them Jewish. Students were taken around the site, viewing the barracks where prisoners were kept and the location of the gas chambers and crematoria. The following day, students visited the Galicia Museum which explores the history of Jewish culture in the region as well as the Holocaust. Later that day, students visited the Schindler Factory Museum, made famous by the movie 'Schindler's List'. As well as telling the story of Oskar Schindler, the museum also informed students about many



different aspects of life in Krakow during the German occupation. On the final day, students visited the Rynek Underground museum in the market square, which provided a fascinating insight into everyday life in Krakow in the medieval period.

The visit was an immensely valuable and moving experience for all students and staff involved.

Sophie Scholl Holocaust Memorial Competition

Each year Runshaw College runs a competition for Holocaust Memorial Day where students have to produce a piece of work to commemorate the Holocaust. The following students have achieved a commendation - Charlie Stevenson, Chloe Skinner, Holie Dockney, Tara Rushton, Flossie Jones.

Highly commended were Megan Metcalfe, James Smith, Megan Caunce, Immy Mould, Ana Kettle, Ellie Cameron, Sophie Gornall.

Runshaw College said 'there were some exceptional entries, all the more impressive because of the huge number of entries we received in total from partner high schools.'

The students were treated to tea and cakes at Runshaw on 16 March where the top prize winners will be announced.

Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition

Year 9 students Lucy Devine, Leah Hamer and Rachael Thompson have got through two rounds of the Rotary Youth Speaks Public Speaking Competition beating off some tough competition at the initial heats and district finals. They are now off to Cheshire for the regionals finals where there will be delivering their speech on 'Social Media – from a teenager's perspective'. We wish the girls the very best of luck!

Foreign Language Spelling Bee 2015

On Wednesday 18 March, four students from Year 7 travelled to Manchester Metropolitan University to take part in the regional competition of the Foreign Language Spelling Bee.

The competition involves the students learning 150 words in either French or German and then spelling them out correctly in the target language. Unfortunately, as the competition was so fierce, they didn't make it through to the national final, but Adam Halliwell, Lucy Ball, Sophia Danby and Emma McNulty represented the school in an exemplary manner. Also, well done to all Year 7 students who have taken part in this competition.



Pancake Day for Mind – the Mental Health Charity

Catering and Food Technology students provided all students and staff with tasty pancakes just before half-term to mark the start of Lent. Toppings included chocolate toffee and the traditional sugar and lemon. Over 250 were sold raising a fantastic £185.00 for Mind, the Mental Health Charity.



Bishbucks for Comic Relief

A Bishbucks Coffee event was organised to support Comic Relief. Mrs Loveday and Mr Twinn ably assisted by Mrs Prescott, Mrs Blackburn and Mrs Hunt ran a masterclass to make cupcakes to sell for this event, attended by 20 students from Years 7 to 10.



On Friday 13 March over 200 cakes were sold to students and staff were treated to hot coffee and strawberry and white chocolate cupcakes delivered to them at Break. The whole event was a huge success with approximately £450 being raised, this will be double to £900 by the Government's 'Double you school money!' initiative.



What next? Focus on the future!

On Wednesday 18th March we welcomed over 50 professionals in to school to take part in a human careers library event. Students from Years 8, 9, & 10 spent time thinking about and discussing their future career. A wide range of career paths were represented by the visitors and included local colleges and further education providers. The day was a huge success and enjoyed greatly by the students.



Sporting Achievements

Girls Football

This term has seen more success for girls' football. The Year 10 and 11 teams have reached the final of the Lancashire Cup for the second year in a row, after beating St Wilfrid's of Blackburn 4-1 in the semi-final. This is a tremendous achievement for the girls to reach the final of such a prestigious tournament and is a fitting way for the Year 11 girls to finish their time at school after 5 successful years for the year group. The final will be held on Friday 24 April at Squires Gate in Blackpool. We wish them well and all support is welcome on the day.



The Year 7 girls' team also reached the Lancashire Cup finals day where they faced Haslingden, Clitheroe Royal Grammar School and Ripley St Thomas. This again is a great achievement for the girls after just a few months of playing together. Unfortunately, they were out-played in the final which was held at St Bede's High School, Blackburn on Friday 20 March

Year 10 Football

The Year 10 football squad have had an excellent season especially in cup competitions and should be congratulated on their fantastic achievement of reaching the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup. Unfortunately the team fell short on the day in this semi final but had more luck against Parklands beating them 6-4 to earn a place in the Chorley Schools Cup Final, unfortunately on this occasion no trophy was brought home but the team played well and represented the school as good sportsmen.



Senior Basketball

After being drawn in a very tough group in the Lancashire Schools Basketball tournament the senior boys basketball squad were unfortunate not to get out of the group stages but played each game in an excellent spirit. The boys should be proud of their achievements during their time at Bishops and some of the basketball they played was excellent and a pleasure to watch.



Year 10 Referees

The primary school cluster football competition was recently organised by Mr Brindle from Bretherton Endowed Primary School and held at Bishop Rawstorne. Students from Year 10 volunteered to help out at the tournament by refereeing which was greatly appreciated by both staff at Bishops and Mr Brindle. After the event it was commented by Mr Brindle how well these students had refereed the games showing compassion to children competing and especially those who hadn't played football before. Many thanks to these students for giving of their time freely to benefit others.



Past Students

After completing his A Levels at Runshaw College, Christopher Gallagher, applied and gained acceptance to Oxford Aviation College in September 2013 initially to complete his Ground School Training (no walk in the park by any stretch). Having passed his Ground School in April 2014 he then went to have his flying experience in Arizona, USA, after which he returned to Oxford to resume his studies. Christopher always knew what he wanted to do from being a small boy and is grateful of the level of education provided by Bishop Rawstorne staff.

Last November Ben Williams once again represented Wales in the Victory Shield. The match was broadcasted on Sky Sports. Wales were playing

against Northern Ireland and needed at least a draw to win the competition. They won 2-0 and it was the first time since 1948/49 that Wales had won this annual competition.

PLEA



The successful football season is coming to an end with two girls football teams in the Lancashire Cup Finals and three boys football teams in the Chorley Cup Finals, we would respectfully like to send out a plea to any parents or businesses who may be able to support the PE Department, as we look to replace our seven kits. If you think that you may be able to sponsor a set of new shirts

and would be happy to discuss the matter further, please contact Martin Williams by telephone 01772 600349 or email mwilliams@bishopr.co.uk

End of Year Concert and Final Farewell

Please join us for the final concert of the year on Wednesday 6 May. This is our chance to celebrate the talent we have at Bishop Rawstorne but also say thank you to our Year 11 students for their commitment to the department.

Tickets are available from Miss Palmer at £3 each.

Recognition

At the back of the newsletter you will find two letters from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Education and David Laws, Minister of State for Schools. These letters are a fulsome recognition of the achievements here at Bishop Rawstorne and how we as a community of students, staff and parents work together constantly to enhance outcomes for all.

REMINDERS

Updated Contacts

Please ensure that school is provided with any changes to your data. Addresses, work phone numbers and mobile phone numbers etc. are updated so that we are able to make contact should an issue occur in school.

Absence

Parents **must** inform the school office of their child's absence by 9.30am on **each** day that their child will not be present in school. A letter should be sent on return to school. Letters are also requested for hospital and dental appointments.

Seatbelts on school buses

Could we please ask parents to remind all students who travel to and from school on a bus that they must wear their seatbelts at all times.



Medication

Should it be necessary for a student to bring medication into school they must hand it into the main office immediately upon arrival. It is the student's responsibility to call at the office at the appropriate time to take the medication. We also ask that parents supply instructions of the times at which the medication is to be taken. Under no circumstances must a student carry medication around with them whilst in school.



Mobile Phones



Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in students' bags at all times whilst in school.

Term and Holiday Dates 2015 – 2016

AUTUMN TERM 2015

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2015

School re-opens on

Monday 7 September 2015
Years 7 and 11 only

Tuesday 8 September 2015
All Years

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 30 September 2015 (Open Evening 1)

Closure after school

Friday 23 October 2015

School re-opens on

Monday 2 November 2015

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday 27 November 2015

Closure after school on

Friday 18 December 2015 **at 2.00pm**

SPRING TERM 2016

School re-opens on

Monday 4 January 2016

Closure after school on

Friday 12 February 2016p

School re-opens on

Monday 22 February 2016

EASTER BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

FRIDAY 25 MARCH 2016 (GOOD FRIDAY)

EASTER BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

MONDAY 28 MARCH 2016 (EASTER MONDAY)

Closure after school on

Friday 8 April 2016 **at 2.00pm**

SUMMER TERM 2016

School re-opens

Monday 25 April 2016

May Day Holiday – school closed

Monday 2 May 2016

Closure after school on

Friday 27 May 2016

School re-opens on

Monday 6 June 2016

Closure after school on

Friday 22 July 2016 at 1.15pm

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday 25 July 2016

STAFF INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 26 July 2016

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.