



We received 130 amazing entries of beautiful art and wonderful writing for this whole school project. I have

received letters written to NHS workers, grandparents, friends, future and past selves; poems ranging from ballads of conflict to limericks of hopeful humour; stories that inspire optimism, provide insight into the challenges faced by students and staff alike and explore the range of emotions that have been felt; narratives from the perspective of the virus itself, of earth and of government officials have given thought-provoking insights into the diverse viewpoints of the impact that this period has had on us all.

The editing and uploading process has begun. This is a long and careful procedure to ensure that all words and images are captured as effectively as possible. Having the opportunity to re-read them again has been a delight, a source of comfort and provided insight into the vast range of personal journeys and experiences that students and staff at Bishops' have been through.

The book will be available to buy in September and I hope that you will also enjoy reading about the thoughts, feelings and memories of our community and that they will provide you with the same sense of gratitude and admiration that I have felt in collating them.

Here is a sneak preview of one of the poems from a Year 11 student that reflects not only the level of talent but of the resilience and compassion that Bishops' students embody.

.....

I Have Hope by Emily Kitchin

It's probably not what you expected to hear.
It's certainly not what I expected to say.

But I have hope.

On my daily walk I see smiles. Smiles enjoying the sun, appreciating the day that before we all took for granted. I see laughter. People talking and joking from across the road, finding the silver lining in the soap opera of their lives. I see friends. Friends still managing to support one another when it is hardest to do so.

This gives me hope.

Sometimes when we celebrate our individuality we forget what unites us, we forget what connects us. How can we remember? By letting ourselves be reminded.

Sometimes when life moves so fast we can forget who came before us, and who we have had to leave behind. How can we remember? By letting ourselves be reminded.

Sometimes the dark can make us forget the light that shines in all of us.

How can we remember?

By letting ourselves be reminded.

I remember.

I have hope.

.....



From the Headteacher

Dear parents, students and friends, At the end of an amazing year the pictures, events and successes of the Bishops' community brings many smiles and also the occasional lump to the throat. School is always so busy, with everyone focused on learning, growing and appreciating life in all it's fullness. The stillness of April and May gave a point of reflection and appreciation of God working through each other. In December I wrote I am pleased to be able to share with you the news that Bishops' Blue Coat has been judged very favourably by our recent Ofsted visitors, with the highest grade being awarded to the Personal Development section: Outstanding. The Inspectors comment in their report –

“Staff across the school have high expectations of pupils. They expect every pupil to try their best. Pupils take pride in their work. They are polite and courteous. Pupils behave well during lessons and around the school”. Within three months the school community would need all of these skills and routines to make the BEST of learning from home. It is impossible to review such a year in one document but the selection here still amazes and gives tremendous hope for the future. With best wishes, Ian Wilson.

Year 7 are being the change they want to see!

During this period of home learning, Year 7 have been busy working on their Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award. This requires them to spend some time volunteering in a variety of settings. Personal projects, school projects and community projects have all been undertaken. As a team, the RE department have been overwhelmed at just how much our Year 7s have invested in this Award! Here are some of our highlights:

Leo Maxwell has been helping the school make a 360-degree virtual tour. This is perfect for new students starting next year who have been unable to attend the school for usual transition days because of Covid-19. Leo has also been raising money for a diabetes charity and is so far smashing his target and raised over £100!

Hannah Ryall-Harvey has been making face masks. Seth Challinor made cakes and gave them out to friends. Evan Bartlett made messages of hope on the streets where he lives. Niamh Shapland was completing a 5k Run for Heroes. Finlay Etherington has been busy helping around the house and garden and making yummy cheesecakes and walked 5k to raise £170 for Chester Zoo! Thomas Wressell completed a 5km skating challenge as well as painting fences and more. Sophie Heyes has been gardening for a neighbour who is a key worker.

These are just a snapshot of the many activities that Year 7 have immersed themselves in. They really are putting faith and hope into action and being the change they want to see. Well done, Year 7!



Tweet all about it!

Here are just a few of our favourite tweets from the last few months. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook for regular updates.



Bishops' High School
@BishopsHigh

Sisters Katie (Y7) and Chloe (Y9) made this amazing tribute to key workers #KeyWorkers #ThankYou 🙏

Bishops6thForm
@Bishops6thForm

Been blown away by lots of lockdown artwork from the talented @Bishops6thForm Year 12's but this piece has blew my mind. Absolutely incredible, Charlotte! Well done. 🌟 #BESTofBishops



Bishops' High School
@BishopsHigh

Lilly (Y8) and her brother William have been taking care of their neighbour and her cats as she is unwell. Lilly and William have been cooking, doing dishes, reading to her through her window and helping out with shopping. What a wonderful thing to do! #Proud #BESTofBishops



From the Chaplain

I have thought often about Psalm 46:10 over the last few months. I have written about it, used it in my reflections, even shared it with others.

Covid-19 has provided an unplanned moment of stillness that has left so many plans incomplete. As I write I am thinking of the communions that didn't happen, the prayer space week cancelled, the charity days that never were, the reflection days that were parked and the big primary ethos event postponed. There are moments when I look at these events, at the hours already invested, at the thought and effort seemingly for nothing and I think, "what is it all about?".

Yet in the stillness I am also able to recall the wonderful things that God has done in and through our students over this truncated year. The cathedral carol service, worshipping God in a place where prayer has been central for hundreds of years, Bishops' students showing their immense talents. The combined choirs' event at Bishops' with 4 primary schools and our own students, blowing the audience away with their wonderful singing and enthusiasm. Our students taking a lead role in The Children's Society Christingle service. Producing a piece of drama that had an incredible response from those present, people laughing, smiling and still stopping and thinking at the same time.

***"Be Still and know
that I am God"***
Psalm 46:10

In school we also had our autumn term prayer space week with students taking part in interactive prayer activities. As always, we enjoyed the many visitors who joined us from local churches and Christian organisations to lead assemblies. We were also very pleased to welcome the Archdeacon for Chester - The Venerable Dr Michael Gilbertson who visited the school.

Two new initiatives were brought to life this year as well. The first was the new monthly student led church service which saw students lead the singing and prayers and guests come and preach. The second was the 'Clergy Cuppa' where local clergy were invited to join us for tea, biscuits and prayer, joining our students to learn what life is really like here at Bishops' and to hear what to pray for.

It is incredible to think on what God has done, and that is before we even get to the many things that our students have been up to during lockdown. I am not talking of the homework submissions, although that work is amazing! I am talking about the acts of kindness and generosity I have seen where students have more than gone the extra mile, where they have stood with their communities (metaphorically), where they have shared joy.

When I am still, I do see where God is at work and it is wonderful. I believe God is at work in and through our school community. It is my hope and prayer that when we come out of this crisis, we will continue to take time to be still. In that stillness we will see God at work, and in seeing God at work we will be encouraged to keep on being a community driven by love, generosity and joy.



From the Chair of Governors

As we near the end of a most unusual school year it is heartening to see us moving gradually towards our 'new normal'. The safety of everyone will remain the top priority, and Governors are considering the guidance as it emerges to ensure that we can work with school staff to make the best arrangements for Bishops' in the months to come.

I am hugely proud of, and thankful for, the tireless work and commitment of our school staff during these unprecedented times and I am delighted that students have remained highly engaged in learning throughout. To those students leaving Bishops' at the end of this year, I send my very best wishes for the future. Looking forward to the next school year, we can reflect that the situation over the last few months has proven that the Bishops' community is strong and resilient, and it is one we can all be proud to be part of. I pray that you are all as safe as possible and send you my best wishes, David Walsh.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Bishops' Got Soul!

Bishops' very own Soul Academy group joined forces with local musical act Bransby Macdonald-Williams for a night of acoustic, soul and Motown songs at St Columba's Church Hall in aid of Chester Scouts. The charity event was to support thirty six local youngsters, who were fundraising to be able to attend the European Jamboree in Poland. Thanks to some generous local businesses, and an enthusiastic crowd, the event raised over £2000.

Soul Academy are the brainchild of Miss Bremner, our Head of Music. "Soul music has been my lifelong musical passion, and the film *The Commitments* has always been one of my favourites. So it has been brilliant to get the chance to set up the group." The band is a twelve piece, with students from year seven right up until the sixth form. "I'm so proud of them all. They gel so incredibly well together and have a real instinct and talent for the style. Leading vocalist Ellie is currently working towards her grade 8 in singing, and most of them have achieved graded exams and continue to develop their musical skills.



Duke of Edinburgh Award News

Our school assembly hall was packed in February with young people and their parents, and those from various local schools and youth organisations in the CWAC area, for the DofE Award Presentation evening. They came to receive their badges for completing their Bronze or Silver Awards. This is the fourth time we have hosted this event.

The program included musical performances from Evie Adams and Ellie Maton from Year 13. Roger Shutt, a local professional Golfer, gave an inspirational presentation about how playing and teaching golf has enhanced his life and led him on to greater challenges. He meaningfully conveyed how learning a new skill and putting yourself outside your comfort zone can lead to unexpected personal development and experiences. Karen Green MBE from Edsential, also celebrated the achievements of many of our students and local young people.

A delighted group of 15 of our Year 13s received their Silver Award badges. A further 4 students have completed it since the evening. Miss Foster and Ms Wheller presented the certificates during a sixth form assembly. Our students who have achieved the Bronze Award had already received their certificates. Congratulations to all of these students for successfully achieving Silver DofE.



Social Action Day Projects

Science Workshop

For our Social Action Day we went to a local Primary School and held a Science Workshop. This consisted of experiments, such as making Lava Lamps and Volcanos, as well as fun Science themed activities. The morning focused on skills such as teamwork, communication and resilience. As well as these skills, the planning that went into this also built up our skills in organisation and leadership. It was important for us to ensure that we directed the morning to the right age group, which required us to research age-appropriate activities and how to deliver it effectively. Throughout the morning, it was necessary to keep adapting to changes that we're thrown our way. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed what we had organised for them and even commented "will you come again?".



Year 7 Disco

This social action day project, linked to the fundraising element of the Uganda trip, which a group of Sixth Form students will be going to at the start of the summer holidays. Another purpose of the party was to bring the students of year 7 closer together, as they had only just completed their first term of high school, and many would still be fairly shy and not know who anyone was. It was also a congratulations to them for successfully completing their first term of high school, by having a party with their friends. In total, we had over 100 students on the night of the disco, raising £800 for the Uganda trip!



Grosvenor Manor Tea Party

Cake, singing and dancing! What else could you want from a day in a nursing home? When asked where we were going to go on our social action project, we knew we wanted to go to Grosvenor Manor. With a relationship established through volunteering, we felt we could really make an impact on the residents. After deliberating together, we chose to throw a war-time tea party that could involve the residents in a day of reminiscing, singing and celebrating their past.



In preparation for the project, we met with the events co-ordinator Lisa Forth to plan the various elements involved in the day. With a war-time singer booked and decorations planned. We took on the role of baking cakes and putting together outfits. On the day, we joined the residents for a morning of reflecting on their experiences in the war and spent time listening to their fascinating stories. Reflecting on the day, we hope that we made a positive difference to their day-to-day routine with a day of celebration and laughter.



Helping Out at Saughton Primary

For our social action day project, we went to Saughton CofE Primary School for the day. We were told by the head teacher that the school wanted new noticeboards which would represent each house within the school.

Throughout the day we worked with different classes so that each child could decorate a leaf with their name and a pattern of their choice. These leaves were the colour of each house, which were red, yellow, green and blue. The colour of the leaves represented the name of each house; Beech, Elm, Oak and Ash. We also cut out and stuck tree trunks to the notice boards so that we could stick the leaves to them.

The children seemed to have a lot of fun with this activity and were very enthusiastic, we also enjoyed doing this and felt that we had done something to help not only the students but the teachers as well.

RSPCA

During our social action day, we went to the RSPCA in Wallasey, where we spent the day cleaning the cat pens, looking after a variety of cats of different ages (some with disabilities) and talking with people looking to adopt. From this experience, we found it very exhilarating to make a difference in a community which we are passionate about and we spent most of our time looking after different disabled cats and have managed to keep a calm, friendly environment for them. From talking to some people about those cats, I feel we have helped the cats into finding a happy new home since cats with disabilities are often neglected and the thought of that made us very determined to make a difference in both the cat's and the adopter's lives.

Sponsored Walk

We participated in a sponsored walk along the Sandstone Trail in a circular route around Frodsham. Overall, we walked a grand total of 13.5 miles and climbed the equivalent of 68 floors. Along the route we met some people who supported our journey and helped us along the way.

Our Social Action project was to raise money and awareness for the Clatterbridge Cancer Charity. Whilst doing the walk, to help achieve this we wore Clatterbridge t-shirts and we took a donation bucket with us. In addition to this we set up a 'GoFundMe' page prior to the event. We hope that the money we raised will help in some way.



Huntington Under 5s

We spent the day at Huntington Under 5s pre-school to assist the helpers in looking after the children and giving each of them the extra attention they need for the day.

We:

- Washed up after lunch
- Sang with them
- Read to them
- Drew pictures and painted Christmas crafts with them
- Played outdoor games
- Built Lego houses with them

This had a good impact on the atmosphere during the day, as the adults were able to relax more, and the children had more people to play with. We had a great day getting to know the children and helpers and would love to go back and do it again sometime.

Litter Picking

On social action day two groups of students went litter picking in Westminster Park and Thackery Park and the surrounding area.

These parks are not cleaned regularly so become littered very quickly, which gives the wrong impression of the parks. Afterwards, the park looked completely different and how it should be all the time. During our time there, there were multiple elderly people, who were walking their dogs, who thanked us for the work we were doing so overall the experience was good, and we believe that we have helped the local community and the environment.

Charity Climb

We organised and took part in a sponsored climb to raise money for Cancer Research UK. This climb involved climbing the equivalent height of the largest standalone mountain – Kilimanjaro (5700m). All in all, we raised £1135, which was 150% of our original target of £750. This impacted the community positively because it helped to raise money and put it towards a positive cause.

Sponsored Bike Ride

We cycled from Chester to Anglesey, this was supposed to be 70 miles, but because of a closed route it ended up being 82 miles. We raised exactly £1447.50, for Cancer Research and Ambitious for Autism. This would've had a huge impact for people in need of an education, and for life changing treatments.



PPE Heroes

Our DT dept with the help of various members of staff made over 2000 PPE visors over the past few weeks. Which we were able to donate to various organisations. Here is a lovely letter we received from the Boughton Medical Group and a photo from the wonderful people at The British Pregnancy Advisory Service, wearing our masks.



Dr. Stephen Kaye
Dr. Annabel Jones
Dr. Paula Davis
Dr. Edward Henry
Dr. Iain Bailey
Dr. Harriet Williamson

Boughton Health Centre Hoole Lane Boughton Chester CH2 3DP
Tel: 01244 325421
www.boughtonhealthcentre.co.uk

Practice Manager: Rachel Kennouche

17th April 2020

Simon Hooker
Head of Design and Technology Engineering
The Bishop's Blue Coat
Church of England High School
Vaughans Lane
Great Boughton
CH3 5XF

Dear Simon,

We wanted to extend our thanks for your very kind donation of face-shields. It is highly appreciated by all staff at the practice. It is selfless acts of kindness like yours that will give us all a much greater chance of overcoming this pandemic.

We hope you and all the students/staff stay safe and well.

Best wishes.

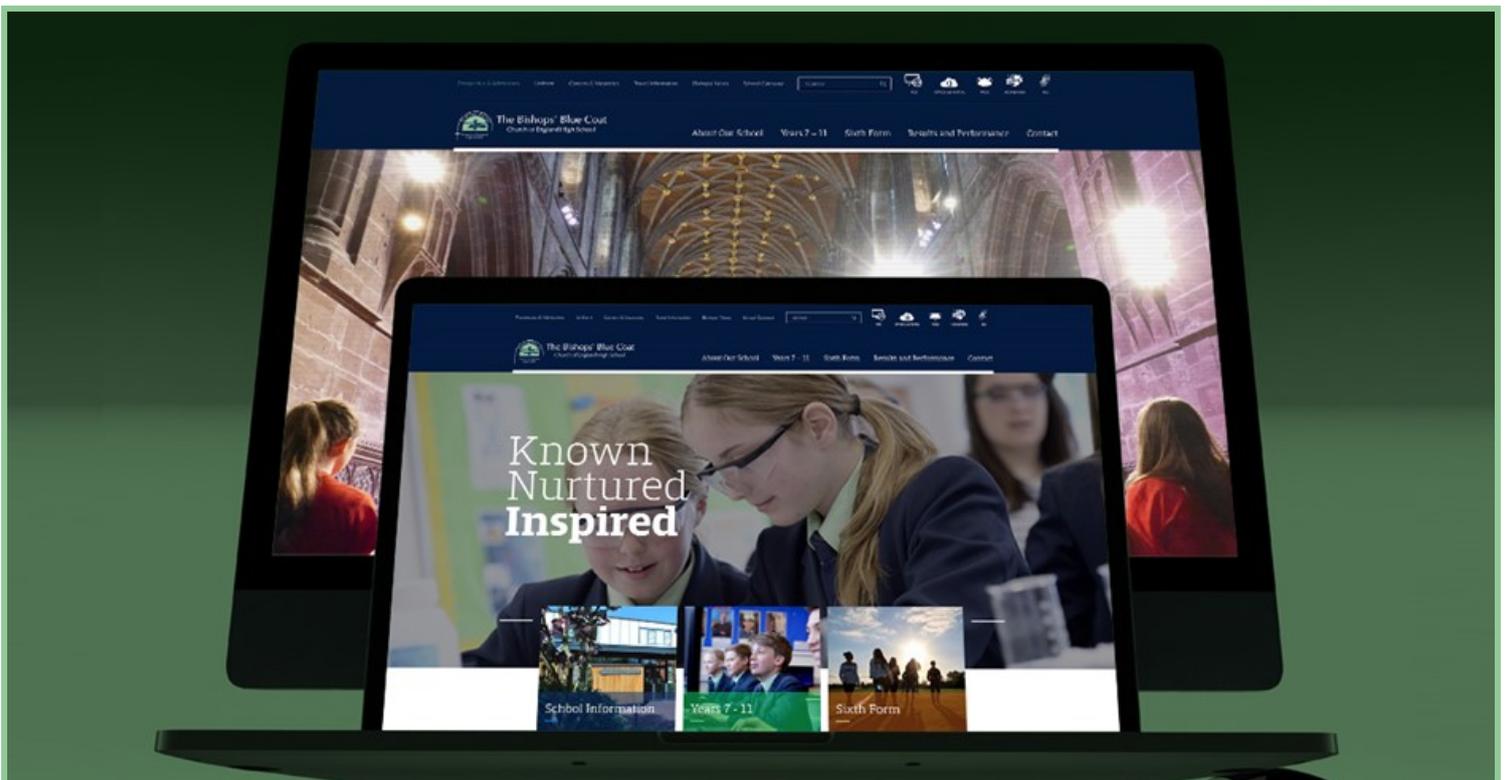
Yours faithfully,

Boughton Medical Group

Online Revamp

Over the last year we have been upgrading and changing our web-based systems, to be more user friendly, streamlined and cost effective. You may have already noticed that Frog (our parent and student portal) no longer exists and parents, carers and students now have their own dedicated log in area.

We hope you have liked the re-design of the website and finding it easy to navigate. We are regularly updating information, documents, policies and procedures. Which can all be found under the 'About Our School' tab. We'll keep you abreast of all our Bishops' news and you can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.





Class of Year 11 2020

It has been an extraordinary end to The Bishops' Year 11 class of 2020. It is such a shame that these students were denied the opportunity to prove their worth through the normal examination process. On the impromptu last day of term, way back in March, I was able to speak to the year group, collectively, for the last time. There was not a single student in that room who expressed any positivity about the removal of exams. This year group were ready, they were focused and doing the exams would have just proven what we already knew about them; that they would have done me, you and themselves proud. Make no mistake, success is earned, and these students have been working towards this for several years.



GCSE grades will be made available on the 20th August (as of printing). We aim to have plans in place for this day, under the guidance of the DfE, soon. Currently, yearbooks and hoodies will also be available on this day but, of course, this is subject to current restrictions.

I have always been so proud of this group and their attitude towards staff, their studies and each other. Our year group was the BEST of Bishops' and I knew, as did your teachers, that you were destined for GCSE success. I will miss our time together and look forward to seeing many of you over the next couple of years. I will always be interested in your achievements and would love to hear from you all in the future.



Good luck and best wishes. Mr Bowden and the Year 11 team!

Bishops' Goes Live

In December, 'Bishops' Goes Live' included many brilliant performers all across the school, working to raise money for two very worthwhile causes. We collected and counted the total and we were again blown away with all the support we received during the event. Thank you to everyone who helped and participated; it was an incredible outcome and collectively we managed to raise an incredible total of £1100 that has been split between Macmillan Cancer support and Watoto. A huge thanks to everyone who performed, donated and attended to help make the event as successful as it was!



Artsmark Gold Award

We are very excited to announce that we have been awarded the prestigious Artsmark Gold Award by Arts Council England. Recognising Bishops' commitment to develop and celebrate arts and cultural education. Every child should have the opportunity to create, compose, and perform, as well as to visit, experience, participate in and review extraordinary work.

"The Bishops' High School is to be commended for the commitment it has demonstrated in providing high quality arts and cultural opportunities for pupils. Building on the existing strong foundations, you have successfully ensured the Arts continue to be valued across the school and is embedded within the wider curriculum." - Artsmark 2019



STEM Projects

Thirteen students have taken part in a variety of STEM project since January and below are some examples.

My project is all about animal testing (vivisection) I first got interested in this topic in my RE lessons where my first thought was "how cruel". After that lesson I did some research into the topic and found that it is a shameful process that is, by law, required when a new product (medicine, cleaning, etc.) is brought out to the public. This project is the culmination of that research and an insight to what goes on behind the scenes of various industries.

Freddie Roberts

Our project is based on "The Benefits of Drama" and focuses in on many ideas in which you can turn drama into a profession, and eliminates any concerns you may have about continuing to study drama in school and in later life. Throughout this project, we've had to think about many factors which may come into play, such as ensuring that the information from the product was transferable to the presentation.

Emily Clarke

For the EPQ project in the sixth form, we got to do a presentation on any subject we wanted. Me and my partner Emily decided to do ours on drama. We did our own individual research for our project, and we had important lessons on note-taking, plagiarism, team-work and more! As the project developed, we learnt skills that we don't learn in lessons such as the session we had on what makes a

good presentation and how to present yourself when speaking to a large group. I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to take part in this experience and I will use the skills I've learnt throughout my Life.

Gregory Black

For our project, we did "Business go live" and completed it in several phases. We spent a while planning on the organization of it. To complete this, we split all the work given between us and then brought it together once that particular work was completed. When it came to actually doing our presentation, I did the first few sections and Ollie did the last few, and we then brought it all together.

Ryan and Oliver Davies

My project is called "Finding the Environmentally Friendly diet"; it is about how what you eat can impact the planet and the changes people can make to their diet to reduce their environmental footprint significantly. This subject was of particular interest to me, as I wanted to find out in greater detail how various food products damage the planet and what was the best solution. To reach my conclusions I had to look into a variety of topics, like the meat industry, veganism and sustainability, in order for the final project to be as accurate as possible. Along with research, I also developed presentation skills, looking at how to effectively portray data and statistics to make my project easy to view for an audience; and time management, for I had to research and then present my project before a given deadline.

Cole Brautigam

SPORTS REVIEW

District Cross Country

11 boys competed from Year 7 through to Year 10. Andrew Barrett came 13th in the junior's race so qualified for Cheshire County Championships, and Ellis Challinor came 10th in the Senior's race so qualified for then Cheshire County Championships



Uniform - Our new kits

Brand new PE kits were introduced with Year 7 students happy with the style and fit of the upgraded clothing. All will benefit from the technical easy dry fabric as items are replaced.

Boys football kits were all upgraded this year to navy blue, branded by Nike as modelled by the U14 football team.



Cheshire County Championships

Two of our students from Year 7 and 8 competed and qualified for the Cheshire County Championships. Well done Daisy Briscoe and Charlie Hagan!



Girls netball kits were upgraded this year to incorporate the distinctive Bishops' Blue Coat colours, as modelled by the U13 netball team.



Health & PE Investment Project

Parents of older students may remember the start of our PE project, thank you to everyone for their support especially local partners such as Boughton Belles Netball Club, parent contributions, school facilities and PE staff.

Over the last 3 years, facilities for all our students have improved paintwork, new lighting, doors and fire safety work, a visitors toilet, new flooring, new roof and in a separate project over 100 solar panels on the roof. Finally, £150,000 later the final item should be fitted this summer—sound boards to improve acoustics. Thank you again to the Bishops' community.

Thunder Struck

25 girls from years 7 to 9 took part in a netball coaching workshop led by Manchester Thunder player Ash Neal. Manchester Thunder are the reigning Netball Superleague Champions and it was fantastic for us to be able to invite Ash to Bishops'. Ash put the girls through their paces and gave them some handy hints and tips to help improve their game. Ash also gave the students a fantastic insight into what it takes to become a top level netballer.

Our girls really impressed her with their enthusiasm, effort and the skills they showed. The afternoon concluded with three girls being selected to win a signed Manchester Thunder netball. Well done to Bethany Feild (Y9), Belle Finnan (Y8) and Katelyn Lucas (Y7) who were selected as the players of the day.



District Indoor Athletics Championships

At this annual event held at Blacon High School our Year 7 boys were District Indoor Athletics Championships overall silver medallists. Ella Jones won the Year 7 girls speed bounce and Holly Wilkins won the Year 7 girls vertical jump.

Year 7 Basketball Champions

Squad 1: George Caley, Sami Berkia Nadif, Seth Challinor, Dillon Masterson, Charlie Day, Harley Mansell, Aaron Coates.

Bishops won every game in a round-robin tournament at Catholic High School, except for a draw vs Upton. We were crowned overall winners due to superior points difference after some amazing scoring, from in particular MVP Seth Challinor.



Football

U12, U14 and U15 teams all made it through to the District semi-finals. Sadly the trophy was not ours for the taking this year!

U16 team are still due to play their semi-final vs Bishops Heber.

Handball

Our U13s beat Tarpoley 4-3, away in the U14s District Handball play off to become District Representatives in the County competition. Sadly this was unable to be played.