



The Bishops' Blue Coat  
Church of England High School

# HALF TERM UPDATE

September 2021

## Welcome to our Autumn Term

newsletter. The sunshine may have given way to darker mornings but it is wonderful that the new term is finally underway. It is also wonderful to be working together again, meeting year 7 parents last week and yr 10 this week. I'm sure all concerned welcome a little more normality. As we embark on the start of a new academic year, let us pray that this year is one of new beginnings, new adventures and new opportunities. The chance to start afresh, in the knowledge that God continually makes us new. Every moment of every day brings a fresh beginning, a time not to look back but to look forward to all the good that is to come.

**Ian Wilson**

*Headteacher*



Keep up to date by following us on

Facebook : @BishopsChester

Twitter: @BishopsHigh

Instagram: @bishopschester

## Join Us

Our Open Evening this year has proved very popular and is fully booked! If you are currently going through the admissions process for your Year 6 child, visit our website to experience our virtual tour and watch our subject heads talk about Bishops'. We will be hosting our annual Open Mornings next July so there will be another opportunity for Year 5 to visit us!

[bishopschester.co.uk/apply/y7-information/](https://bishopschester.co.uk/apply/y7-information/)



## Term Dates

2021/2022	LAST DAY IN SCHOOL	DATE OF RE-OPENING
Half Term	Fri 22 Oct	Mon 1 Nov
Christmas Break	Fri 17 Dec	Tues 4 Jan

## Key Dates

21 Oct	Y11 Parents Evening
4 Nov	Y13 Parents Evening
26/29 Nov	INSET Days
6 Dec	Carol Service

**Known Nurtured Inspired**

[bishopschester.co.uk](https://bishopschester.co.uk)  
[school@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:school@bishopschester.co.uk)

## Word from the Chair

**Heading into the new school year** always brings feelings of optimism and excitement, this year even more than most. As we move on from the greatest challenges of the last eighteen months we have a lot to look forward to here at Bishops'.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new students and their families. The Bishops' community is caring and inspiring, and we look forward to getting to know you and supporting you to flourish and succeed throughout your years with us.

Work on our new building continues apace, and it will be great to be able to make full use of the new facilities as they are completed in the coming months. The Governing Board is very grateful to our staff who have kept plans on track to support the sustainable growth of the school and develop our site despite the additional pressures of the pandemic.

At the start of this term the Governing Board welcomed three new governors who bring a range of valuable skills and experience. The Board's role of overseeing and supporting the school includes a wide range of work, such as setting our vision and strategy, making certain that we deliver an outstanding education for all our students, ensuring money is well spent, and making sure that our Christian ethos runs through everything we do. As we move into this new school year the Board will continue to focus on these priorities and planning for Bishops' future.

Finally I want to highlight that Bishops' students have achieved excellent GCSE and A-Level results this summer. Our students rose to the challenge in very difficult circumstances and they should be extremely proud of themselves. Our thanks go to the teaching staff for the huge amount of work that was put into delivering Centre Assessed Grades.

With best wishes for the year to come.

**David Walsh**

*Chair of Governors*



## Reading and Literacy

**It has been a great start to the year** with the 10-Before-10 email inbox getting filled up with responses from students who have been reading over the summer and are earning their BEST points in a bid to read 10 books before the end of Y10. Alexander E in Y8 has enjoyed 'Skulduggery Pleasant' by D. Landy and Charlie D in Y9 enjoyed reading 'Harry Potter and The Cursed Child' by J.K. Rowling on the beach during his holidays. We look forward to receiving more responses. Please see Satchel for the list of recommended books and tasks to complete to earn your rewards.

Y7 classes have been choosing their free Bookbuzz books and what a selection they had to choose from this year! We can't wait to receive them in a few weeks and start hearing about the new worlds and new characters they will meet.

Our 'Once Upon Online' half termly Teams read-alongs have been a huge success with Mr. Thomas and Mr. Coffey enthralled students with their readings of some short stories by Ray Bradbury, embracing the dystopian and horror genres and capturing our imaginations.

The library will be returning to normal this year and KS3 classes are enjoying their fortnightly reading lessons in there, exploring some of our new class reads including 'The Book Thief' by M. Zusak and our much loved favourite 'Auslander' by P. Doweswell. As the term progresses we are looking forward to opening the library to all students again and seeing the return of Harry Potter Evening, National Poetry Day readings, author visits and World Book Day celebrations.

**Mrs Bates**

*Subject Lead, English / Associate Assistant Headteacher*

## Educake

**English and Science will be using Educake** for their homework in years 7-11 this year. Login details and classes are currently being set up and information will be sent out to parents shortly.



## Results Celebrations

**GCSE students at Bishops' are once again smiling!** Parents and staff are also full of smiles as this remarkable group look to the future with hard won and well-deserved results. Resilience, determination and strength epitomise this cohort. This has been the most difficult of academic years yet the doors to post-16 study at our Sixth form or further training or college courses are wide open.

Miss French, Head of Year 11 said, **"I could not be prouder of the achievements of our Year 11 students. The tenacity they have shown whilst rising to the academic challenges of their GCSE journeys shows what successful people they are and will continue to be. They have made themselves, their families and their school very proud, I am so excited for the futures that lay ahead for them."**

The school is well known for great results and a strong focus on support and mutual respect. "Welcomed, encouraged and cared for, students achieve beyond their expectation and in excess of national averages" SIAMs (Church School Inspection). Headteacher, Ian Wilson, recognised the unique partnership between parents, students and staff **"In a year like no other, Bishops' students have once again shown their resilience, stamina and talent. These entirely justified results reflect how hard students have worked, they should be immensely proud of what they have achieved. They are an absolute credit to themselves, their families and our school."**



## Exams 2022

**Exams are planned to go** ahead as normal in 2022 (the old normal, not the new normal) and exam regulations have been updated. Please can parents, carers and students undertaking exams check our website for information, particularly the section under results and performance where you will find important information regarding exams, assessments and a link to up-to-date regulations





## Pulse

As we start the new year we welcome everyone to come along to the Christian Union, which will be run by Mr Metcalfe and Su Ogunyemi, who is the youth worker at St. Luke's in Chester. We have the vision that the prayer space is the heartbeat of the school and is front and centre to all we do here at Bishops'. With that in mind, the Christian Union will be named 'Pulse' so as to affirm our commitment to the spiritual renewal of students.


Pulse will be open to all year groups on a Wednesday lunch time in the Prayer Space and will see students being involved in the collective worship of the school. It will be a chance for those with and without faith to come and seek answers to questions they may have about Christianity, asking big questions and taking part in good discussions. as they discover more about themselves and each other. A union for them, run by them.

## Lateral Flow Tests

All secondary school age students should continue to test twice weekly at home. By continuing Lateral Flow Tests, it will be easier to spot asymptomatic spread amongst students. A positive lateral flow should always be followed up with a PCR test and the person testing should isolate until the results are back.

**NHS**

Test and Trace



COUNTERARGUMENT READ  
FUN KNOWLEDGE RESEARCH  
DEFEND STAND JUSTICE FUTURE STRENGTH  
PREFERENCE BELIEFS SPEECH  
**DEBATE CLUB**  
ENJOY SPEAK ARGUE LEARN  
CRITICAL THINKING TEAM GROW CHALLENGE  
CONFIDENCE THOUGHT  
LEADER HUMAN RIGHTS

Every lunchtime in C129  
from 12:35pm

## Can anyone be a maths genius?

How many times have you heard someone say "I can't do maths"? Chances are you've said it yourself. According to the charity National Numeracy, around four in five adults in the UK have a low level of numeracy and 17 million adults in England are at roughly the same level as that expected of children in primary school.

Negative attitudes around maths are common but experts say they can actually be a lot more damaging than we realise. When a parent says to their child, "I was never any good at maths", it can encourage their children to feel the same. Throwaway comments about maths can normalise negative attitudes.

While numeracy covers skills such as adding and multiplying, maths is about problem solving. If you got into work on time today, if you made a tea round for the office or if you're deciding what to buy for lunch – that all takes lateral thinking. In other words: maths. The subject may have a bad press, but in fact we all use it all the time – and with a little work we can improve our skills.

To find out more and to learn top tips for becoming better at maths visit: [bbc.co.uk/teach/can anyone be a maths genius/z7vjgw](https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/can-anyone-be-a-maths-genius/z7vjgw)



## From the Chaplain

**There is something very exciting about something new.** I have had the privilege of unwrapping the new chairs for the prayer space. While I really enjoyed popping the bubble wrap and imagining the size of cardboard castle I could build with the packaging, the real joy in the process was the thought of the new. The new furniture is bright and colourful, and it speaks of possibility and hope. This change has had such a dramatic impact on the prayer space. It was a good space before, but it has been made better; it has been made new.

As we start our academic year together it is so exciting to see the new possibilities, a new start for us all after the limitations of the previous terms, new students most obviously in year 7 with their shining new shoes and crisp new uniforms, a new building emerging before our eyes, new opportunities to grow and develop, new chairs in the prayer space

As I see all that is new around me, I am reminded of the words in Lamentations

***The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.***

**Lamentations 3:22-23**

These words remind me that even though the last two years have been hugely disrupted God's love and care for us as individuals and as a school community has remained constant. His love is new every morning. As we start this new year, I will be using the new things around me to remind me that God's steadfast love is new every day. Maybe they new might remind you of the same.

**Rev. Paul North**  
School Chaplain



## Voiceworks

**Starts Thursday 16th September  
Lunchtime**

Mr Lee is launching a new choir this year 'Voiceworks' it is for everybody who wants to join. The choir will be performing a range of material from pop/rock to musical theatre, and later this term there will be an opportunity to sing at this year's Carol Service at Chester Cathedral, which will be a really special occasion.

Rehearsals will be every Thursday lunchtime and students can sign-up at C10 or speak to Mr Lee.



## Bishops' Orchestra

If your child plays any of the following instruments, they are very welcome to join orchestra.

*Violin, Viola, Cello or Double Bass*

*All brass instruments (e.g. trumpet, trombone, euphonium)*

*All woodwind instruments (e.g. flute, clarinet, saxophone)*

Rehearsals are every Wednesday lunchtime in C9 from 12.45. It may be useful for students to bring a packed lunch on this day so they can eat with the rest of the group before playing.

Our first performance will be at our Christmas Service at Chester Cathedral on Monday 6th December.

If you have any queries, please contact Miss Bremner at [cbremner@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:cbremner@bishopschester.co.uk)



# HARmony Camp

This summer we were fortunate to be able to run a summer holiday camp for our new Year 7's. Everybody involved in the week from current students, new year 7's and staff had a brilliant time and demonstrated the camps values of honesty, awareness and responsibility. The week offered the opportunity to make friends, gain confidence and prepare for the next step to secondary school.

The week was organised and led by our Heroes, students in year 8, 9 and 10, who after undergoing training with Humanutopia planned and organised activities and events for our camp attendee's. We want to say a huge well done to our Heroes who gave up their time in the holidays to be part fo such a special week.

## Parental Thanks and feedback:

*"I would just like to say thank you so much for an amazing week. My son loved every minute and it has eased some of the new school nerves."*

*"What a brilliant week... my son loved it and was really happy throughout meeting new friends and trying out new activities."*

*"A big thank you for the time and organisation that's gone into this last week. They had a great time, had fun and made friends."*

*"My daughter is very excited to be joining the school "for real" in September. Thank you to the Heroes who have done a great job in making her feel secure and welcome."*

*"After a crazy year with so many changes and restrictions, we couldn't have asked for a better transition process and feel confident at the start of our High School journey."*



## Teacher Feedback in purple Students' responses in green



- Make sure you respond to the **feedback**
- Return to any questions your teacher asks – and **respond**
- Go back to your 'green pen' work to see the improvements you've made

## Why is reading good for me?

We live in an age where we can spend hours bingeing on TV box sets or surfing social media. But despite these distractions, reading remains a popular pastime. There's still a huge market for novels, with bestsellers like Paula Hawkins' thriller *The Girl on the Train* able to sell around half a million copies in a year in the UK alone. We know that reading is good for us as it improves our literacy, but what other benefits does it offer?

### Hidden health benefits

Studies show that it can increase our emotional intelligence as we understand a range of perspectives and motivations. There is some evidence that mental stimulation is one of the factors that can delay the onset of dementia and reading is among the activities that can help to keep the brain active. It is far from a passive pastime. When we read we create mental simulations of the activities, sights and sounds of scenes in a story, blending these with our own memories and experiences, all of which stimulates the neural pathways.

As well as this, research suggests that reading for 30 minutes a week increases health and wellbeing. Reading for pleasure has been found to improve our confidence and self-esteem, providing the grounding we need to pursue our goals and make life decisions. It can also aid our sleep and reduce feelings of loneliness. To the onlooker, reading can appear to be a solitary and passive activity. But the simple act of picking up a book can do us a world of good

To find out more about the other benefits reading has to offer visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/why-is-reading-good-for-me/zmbtwtwy>

## Update on the 'The Huddle'

Work will begin in October on our new catering space to be named 'The Huddle' - a space to bring students together located next to our sports facilities. There are some national delays with materials but our contractors have come together to identify a planned opening after half term!

In the meantime, the temporary Snack Shack is up and running and the menu is being updated and improved for the allocated year group. The "snack shack" has new equipment and a new supplier brings a wider range of food and we're looking ahead to next half-term when we have our new catering space!



## Hegarty Maths

This year we have invested in a new maths homework system which students can already access through Satchel One. HegartyMaths is an amazing website which gives video support for every question your child attempts, the make sure that homework can be completed independently. To access Hegarty Maths can be completed on any device with an internet connection.

Logging in is easy – simply choose the school name, then use their name and date of birth to log-in. If they struggle to log-in please let their maths teacher know. Parents and carers can get involved by watching the videos with your child to see what methods they should be using, and you can also view all of their past scores to see which areas they are struggling on.

Hegarty Maths Parent Guide: [Parent/Carer Hegarty Maths Guide](#)



## Sixth Form News

**The class of 2021** who picked up their results this August had real cause for celebration this year after receiving some absolutely fantastic A Level and Level 3 results. This year's results demonstrated just how well students were prepared for further education, employment or training.



This year, the school's top attaining student was Johanna Sealey who attained A\*'s in Literature, History, Psychology and Criminology who will begin her studies in Philosophy and Theology at the University of Oxford this month. Some of the many other students who attained straight A's or better included Holly Gibson, who gained straight A\*s Mathematics, History and Psychology and will be reading Psychology at the University of Leeds in September. Samuel Crossan who gained A\*'s in both Product Design and Mathematics as well as an A in Chemistry and will study Chemical Engineering at The University of Leeds as well as Head Boy Rafael Wood and Sebastian Lews-Jones amassed a stunning 3 A\* and 3 A grades between them and will both explore travel and volunteering opportunities next year ahead of applying to university in 2022.

Head of Sixth Form Stephen Moffatt said: **"I am so extremely proud of this year group who despite all the challenges faced have secured a truly outstanding set of outcomes. They thoroughly deserve their success following two years of extremely hard work and commitment, as well as the relentless positivity and resilience they have shown. Whilst we are clearly delighted with their academic achievements we are just as proud of the individuals they have become"**.



The current cohort of Year 13 students are working hard in advance of their upcoming UCAS assessments and alongside their personal tutors are drafting their personal statements to support their aspirations for next year whether that be an undergraduate course at university, degree level apprenticeship or alternative route into employment.



Our new Year 12 students have made a fantastic start to life at The Bishops' Sixth Form. After their enrolment into their chosen A Level and Level 3 courses they were put through their paces by the British Army as part of their induction day. The students had to work together in order to solve a range of problem solving and team building activities aimed at getting them out of their comfort zones and demonstrating some of the qualities needed to thrive as a Sixth Form student. The day included a range of other fun activities which culminated with a delicious BBQ served by the school catering team and Rev. North's nearly pub quiz and prize giving ceremony. Head of Sixth Form Stephen Moffatt said "it is always such a privilege supporting students in their transition from Year 11 to Sixth Form. The positive manner they have approached their first few weeks with has been great to see and they are already shaping up to be a brilliant cohort, indeed".

There are still a small number of places available for late applications to join Year 12. Any such enquiries can be sent to our Sixth Form administrator Miss Youdale ([syoudale@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:syoudale@bishopschester.co.uk)) who will be happy to discuss your enrolment further.



# Sixth Form Leadership Team

## HEAD BOY—Jamie Blunt

Hi, my name is Jamie and, honestly, I'm quite surprised to be writing to you now as head boy at Bishops'. I am studying Maths, Further Maths and Physics at A level and I'm hoping to go on to study Maths at university. After that? I have no clue what I am going to do! I love sports: I played football for Newton Athletic until this year and I play tennis for Hoole LTC. I also enjoy music: I play the piano and the guitar. Fun fact: aged five I spoke fluent Chinese (all forgotten now)! Aside from all this I enjoy hanging out with my friends, supporting Liverpool Football Club and always coming second in our fantasy football league! Despite what you've read about me so far, I'm a very approachable person: you can talk to me and I'll be happy to listen and help out if I can.

## HEAD GIRL—Emma Edwards

I'm a keen rock climber, pianist and fitness enthusiast, and I absolutely love travelling, both with family and friends. I have a Saturday afternoon job as a waitress in a gastro pub. I'm studying French, Chemistry and English Literature at A-Level and, after Sixth Form, I have set my sights on a place at university, reading French with Spanish for beginners. Choosing the right university isn't easy, but I will attend open days at Lancaster, York and Manchester... and check out the local shopping before I make my decision. I'm currently learning to drive in my mum's car however, I don't appear to have been granted access to dad's car yet! Next year, I am considering taking a gap year, with a distinct possibility of working in France for a few months and inter-railing around Europe. I feel truly honoured to be representing the school community in my current role and am always eager to hear your thoughts and ideas on how to develop our school further. Recently, I listened carefully to the well-being needs of lots of Sixth Form students and then thoroughly enjoyed helping to run a fancy-dress inter-form sports competition. We had pirates vs Disney vs a tribute to the 80s, not to mention the superheroes, it was a great laugh!



## Attendance

If your child is unwell or has a medical appointment, please contact our attendance team on 01244 313806 or email [attendance@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:attendance@bishopschester.co.uk)

As of the 16th September individuals who are double vaccinated and those under the age 18 are not required to self-isolate following close contact with a confirmed case. They will just need to arrange a PCR test unless they have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 90 days.

Please can all PCR test results be emailed to [testresult@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:testresult@bishopschester.co.uk)

### When to get a PCR Test:

Regardless of age or vaccination status, anyone who develops any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms must arrange to complete a PCR test as soon as possible:

- **New continuous cough**
- **Fever (temperature of 37.8 or higher)**
- **Loss of or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**

A PCR test can be arranged via [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk) or by contacting NHS 119 via telephone.

Please contact school to inform us if your child has Covid-19 symptoms and you are awaiting a Covid-19 test.



## RSE & Health Education

At Bishops', we believe that promoting the health and well-being of our students and, crucially, equipping them with the knowledge and awareness to make informed, safe and positive choices, forms an essential part of their overall education. We achieve these goals holistically through many subjects and elements of school life, but also specifically cover Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education through what we call our Personal Development Curriculum. In Years 7 - 9, this includes timetabled 'Lessons 4 Life' lessons (L4L), and in Years 10 - 13 we use collapsed curriculum days for further age-appropriate RSE and health education. Ultimately, our vision for Bishops' students is that they will flourish and 'live life in all its fullness', making a positive difference in the world through their wise actions and a sense of responsibility. RSE and health education at Bishops' plays a really important part in fulfilling this school vision.

In line with the statutory national programme for RSE and health education, our programme covers a wide range of areas in age-appropriate ways, including:

- **healthy relationships and positive choices**
- **physical fitness and mental well-being**
- **pornography and media distortions of sexuality**
- **teenage pregnancy and parenthood**

Our programme is taught by a committed team of L4L teachers although many of the RSE elements are also delivered by trained specialists from the organisation 'Chester Schools Christian Work'. We find that using this team from CSCW really helps our young people to engage seriously, sensibly and maturely with the often very serious and delicate elements of the programme.

If you have any questions about RSE and health education at Bishops', please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Daniels, our lead teacher for L4L ([sdaniels@bishopschester.com](mailto:sdaniels@bishopschester.com)).



## Pastoral Support Team

Mrs L Evans, who works with Year 10 and 11 and is one of the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Mrs J Bryant works with Year 9, Miss A Pollen, who has joined the team this academic year and will be supporting Year 8 and Mrs J Evans who works with Year 7, supports transition and deals with admissions. We are very much part of the wider pastoral team of year leaders and form tutors.

We are committed and passionate about our pastoral role which is a very interesting and varied one. We are primarily involved in supporting students and their families and our work covers the following but is not an exhaustive list.

- Support the Pastoral Team with attendance, welfare and behaviour issues relating to assigned cases
- Support students with their emotional wellbeing and mental health
- Support families through the TAF process
- Bespoke support and 1-1 mentoring of students
- Deal with issues such as bullying and friendships
- Be an advocate for the student at meetings with outside agencies
- Liaise with parents, staff and outside agencies such as Education Welfare, CAMHS and Children's Social Care
- Deal with safeguarding issues

The team are all trained in a variety of fields including safeguarding, mental health first aid and emotional literacy support.

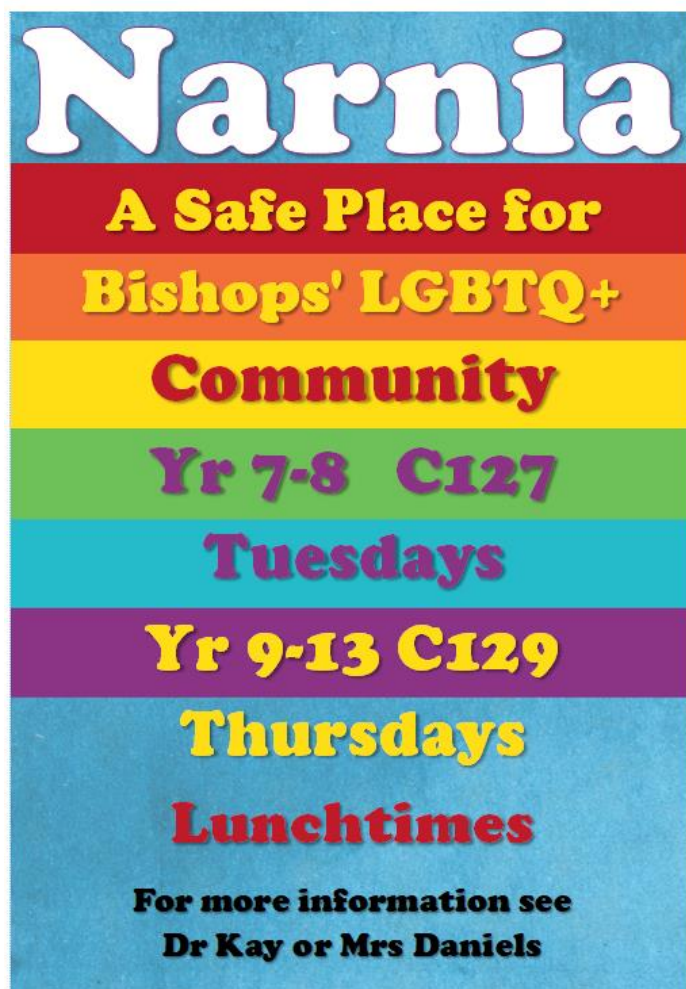
## Year 6 Open Evening

**September 21st from 5:45pm**

This event is now sold out and with over 1000+ tickets booked we are really excited to meet some new faces. If you have missed out on booking a place you can still see use our Virtual Tour, watch our school video and listen to all our subject teachers about what makes Bishops' so great.

Click here to visit:

[bishopschester.co.uk/apply/y7-information/](https://bishopschester.co.uk/apply/y7-information/)



**Narnia**  
**A Safe Place for**  
**Bishops' LGBTQ+**  
**Community**  
**Yr 7-8 C127**  
**Tuesdays**  
**Yr 9-13 C129**  
**Thursdays**  
**Lunchtimes**  
**For more information see**  
**Dr Kay or Mrs Daniels**



Mrs J Evans



Miss A Pollen



Mrs J Bryant



Mrs L Evans



## PE Lunchtime Clubs Timetable












Day	Week	Activity	Staff
Monday	A	Year 7 Indoor Football 	Mr Mitchell
	B	Year 9 Indoor Football 	
Tuesday	A & B	Years 7-11 Badminton 	Miss Foster
Wednesday	A	Year 11 Indoor Football 	Mr Mitchell
	B	6th Form Indoor Football 	
Thursday	A & B	Year 7-11 Basketball 	Miss O'Brien
Friday	A	Year 8 Indoor Football 	Mr Lucas
	B	Year 10 Indoor Football 	



## Bishops Extra Curricular PE Timetable



DAY	Activity / Venue / (Staff)		
Monday	Basketball 	Year 8 Football Team Training 	Year 7 & 8 Girls Football Training 
	Sports Hall (Mr Mitchell)	Field (Mr Lucas)	Field (Miss Foster / Mr Mitchell)
Tuesday	Year 7-10 Netball Open Training 	STAFF MEETINGS	
Wednesday	Sports Hall (Miss O'Brien)		
	Netball Fixtures 	Football Fixtures 	
Thursday	Year 7 & 8 Netball Team Training 	Year 7 Football Team Training 	
Friday	Sports Hall (Miss O'Brien / Miss Foster)		
	Year 9 Football Team Training 	Field (Mr Mitchell)	