



As we come to the end of Term 2, nature reminds us about the seasons of change. Warmer weather, lighter nights, flowers blooming and trees blossoming offer reminders of the season of spring and the promise that Easter brings. If we see change as a naturally occurring event - much like the change of seasons - then we can embrace change as a gift and an invitation to improve and enhance. Education provides opportunities to make positive and tangible changes to the outcomes of young people. As the new Headteacher at Bishops' I look forward to building on the strong foundation of our ethos to further create opportunities that enrich and enable the lives of all in our school community.

A little bit about myself



Eleven years ago, I was welcomed into the Bishops' family as a Head of Religious Education and as so many visitors to our school comment, felt something tangibly different about the school's ethos and how this inspires aspiration and ambition for all. I was excited to be 'home'. I am proud to live in Chester and serve a school community of which I am a part. At weekends I can be found cheering on my son's football team, reading a good book with a coffee, attending worship at St Lukes, or having a wander around our wonderful city. My education and upbringing are rooted in Chester. I attended St Theresa's Primary School in Blacon, and my faith

education continued at The Catholic High School Chester. I moved on to the University of Manchester where I studied Philosophy and Politics and then continued into a PGCE in Religious Education and Citizenship at Edgehill University, before starting my teaching career in a community school in Buckinghamshire. At Bishops' I have been fortunate to work in many varied roles, alongside staff who are passionate in their shared collective mission to know, nurture and inspire all to be the best version of themselves. As Headteacher I offer my continued service to the personal, academic, and spiritual flourishing of all and to developing our values of dignity and respect, hope and aspiration and knowledge, wisdom, and skills.

My priorities as Headteacher include:

- Knowing our students, our community, our context and our Christian vision and values.
- Nurturing excellence in teaching and learning so that every student makes good progress, enabling them to take advantage of a rich set of opportunities.
- Inspiring growth through an ambitious seven-year academic, personal and spiritual curriculum so that all our students make a positive difference at Bishops' and beyond.

In the first of my Headteacher's updates it's great to be able to share with you how our students have flourished this term.

All students at key stage 3 have received reports on their progress in their efforts and achievements. Inspired by GCSE courses, our Year 9 students have embarked on the next steps in their seven-year journey completing their options choices. Our examination groups have shown commitment to their personal ambition and drive to achieve success with so many students accepting support in lessons

and beyond, attending support sessions, using high quality targeted resources materials to prepare for public examinations. We have been impressed at how these groups have embraced opportunities to perform their very best in practice conditions and are responding to feedback. Feedback from employers in recent mock interviews stated that Year 11 discussions on their mock interview day this week were some of the best ever experienced. The confident communication from our students was also a highlight of our 6th form Open Evening, where 6th form students acted as passionate ambassadors for level 3 study. As such we have record numbers applying for 2023/24.

Bishops' is an exciting place to be. This term has seen a revised and emerging extra-curricular offer, World Book Day, CCF camp, field work, Wizard of Oz workshops, and Scalextric events. Our *personal development day* focused on a wide variety of issues, including wellbeing and social action, financial awareness and careers education and relationships and self in the modern world.



Our Year 8 pre-assemble students have successfully been put through to the ESU Shakespeare competition in May, and sporting teams have been triumphant in Chester and District cups. With our Year 7 netball team receiving silver in their latest tournament, our Year 10 football team winning the final and our 6th form football team narrowly missing a trophy. I encourage parents and carers to keep in touch with the @BishopsHigh for news of sporting fixtures so you can come along and support these at home or away. Mr Mitchell has asked that I draw parents' attention to expectations in PE to support messaging shared in PE lessons this week. [PE Kit Reminder Term 3.pdf](#)

Over the past week Year Leaders in year 7 – 11 have been rewarding students for their personal successes in Year Leader Rewards brunches. This was a useful opportunity to ask students questions about the value and variety of rewards. In our Social Action Day today I have been particularly encouraged by the efforts of Year 8 form groups, for their innovative ideas in making £5 grow. I am proud to announce that the totals for today have reached £1901.56.

I am looking forward to leading worship with all year groups during the first week back to share my vision for a flourishing school with them, to honour their continued efforts with BESt and to share plans for summer term lunchtime arrangements.

Key Dates for Summer Term

- **Monday 17th April** – School restarts
- **Monday 1st May** – Bank Holiday
- **Friday 5th May** – INSET Day
- **Monday 8th May** – Bank Holiday (King's Coronation)
- **Friday 26th May** – Last day of school before half term
- **Monday 5th June** – School resumes
- **Friday 23rd June** – INSET Day
- **Friday 21st July** – Last day of school before summer break

You may have been aware of recent news that there may be a period of further strike action taken by the National Education Union in Term 3 to further their campaigns <https://neu.org.uk/campaigns>. The proposed dates are 27th April and 2nd May. I will keep parents updated on the progress of this action and will examine arrangements to ensure the safety of both students and staff during any planned strike days.

Term 3 Headteacher's updates will share more about my vision for a flourishing school. Like you, I want the best for your child, and by working in partnership I hope together we can better enrich your child's journey at Bishops', nurturing a shared ambition for them to flourish and ***"live life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)***

Kind regards,



Helen Cairns
Headteacher