



**Celebrating community** Since my last newsletter I had the pleasure of welcoming Year 11 parents/carers to school to celebrate our students' efforts and resilience with their GCSE examinations. The event was one of pride and celebration. Miss Sadler head of Year 11 said, *'Together, we have overcome such challenges, celebrated countless victories, and supported one another through highs and lows. We have seen your academic progress flourish, your talents shine, and it is without a doubt you have made a difference in our school community. Your collective spirit, dedication, and passion have set an exceptional example for future year groups to follow.'*

In the same week we welcomed our new Year 7 students and their parents to the Bishops' family. In both events and as I write this newsletter, it's clear that Bishops' is an exciting place to be.



## Nurturing excellence in teaching and learning

Students have also been making good progress in other year groups as they are embarking on their end of Year examinations.

### Year 10 GCSE exams

Well done to a group of our Year 10 students who alongside their RS exam recently completed their GCSE exams, in their first languages. Well done for all your hard work and motivation! We look forward to hearing all about your GCSE language grades in August!

### A Level exams

Congratulations to our year 13 students who have completed their A level exams (bar our Further Mathematicians who have their final exam on Monday 27<sup>th</sup>!). We have been so impressed by their work ethic during this exam period, really demonstrating the sixth form mindset of hard work, dedication, focus, sacrifice, and resilience. We look forward to celebrating their results in August. Mr Owen will be sharing further details about results day before the end of term.

### Inspiring growth

At Bishops', we place a strong emphasis on individual care, nurture and support and believe that this enables us to be effective in preparing and supporting our students to succeed at Bishops' and beyond. We are always looking for opportunities to further maximise your child's success. From September 2023 we will be introducing some changes to our curriculum design to support ambition and progress across a seven-year journey. This will have an impact on tutor groups in Year 10 and Year 11 groups (current Year 9 and Year 10) with smaller tutor groups. Changes will also affect Year 9 and Year 10 groups (current Year 8 and Year 9) for setting of foundation subjects. We will also be reviewing setting across Year 7 – 11 for core subjects. More cohort specific information will be shared with parents/carers and students via assemblies and communication home from 10<sup>th</sup> July for Year 7 – 9 and Year 10 from 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

## Wisdom knowledge and skills

### Chester Schools Together: Stretch and Challenge Conference at Chester University

Selected students in Year 7 had the opportunity to attend the Stretch and Challenge conference at Chester Uni in partnership with Chester Schools Together. The day was a fantastic opportunity for our curious students to improve their thinking skills across three sessions unique sessions:

1. An Introduction to Quantum Mechanics
2. Guided Community of Inquiry – Celery Munchers vs Steak Stokers. Is Diet a free choice?
3. Justice Truth and Beauty

The day culminated in a live debate: The house believes that *Freewill is an illusion*. Students got the opportunity to discuss and work alongside students from Chester Catholic High, Blacon, Queen's Park High School and The King's school. Chester Schools Together have exciting plans for next academic year with plenty more varied opportunities for our students.





## Making a difference through sports leadership

Big thanks to our amazing Sixth Form Sports Leaders who helped out at the recent Chester Primary Schools Rounders Tournament held at Bishops'. It was a hot day with 22 primary schools competing!



After their PPE exams, year 12 got the chance to let off some steam by competing in an interform rounders competition themselves. Congratulations to 12B who won!



Our Year 7 Rounders team have also been busy coming 2<sup>nd</sup> to The Queens School.



## Warm Weather and Water Balloons

As we have continued to enjoy this warm weather (and long may it last) we have unfortunately had to confiscate several water pistols and issue consequences for students throwing water balloons. Whilst we appreciate students need to cool off, this behaviour is not appropriate, causing a litter issue, slip hazards and causing other students to get wet which has an impact on their learning. Please can you ensure that if you see or hear of your child taking a water pistol or water balloons to school that you discuss this with them and ensure they are kept at home. Students should continue to wear sunscreen and bring in water bottles to remain hydrated throughout the school day. Ties should be worn as normal as the heat wave has subsided, but blazers can remain in bags. If there are weather warnings in place, risk assessments may lead to adjustments being made and I will communicate this to you were necessary.

## Uniform

Our uniform policy remains unchanged for next academic year and can be found here: <https://bishopschester.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Uniform-Policy-Approved-April-2022.pdf>

A reminder for all Year 9 parents and carers, your child will be required to wear an upper school tie, when they return to school in September. School ties can be purchased through Monkhouse: <https://www.monkhouse.com/bishops-high-ks4-clip-on-tie-nago>



## Strike Days

It has been announced that the National Education Union for Teachers (NEU) has planned strikes for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July. I am currently undertaking a risk assessment to look our provision for students across these two days. I will email parents on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June with details of our opening on both days.



## Wizard of Oz

Excitement is building for our school show 'The Wizard of Oz'. The evening performances will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> of July at 7pm.

Come and see this classic tale brought to life by the talented students at the Bishops' Blue Coat CE High School.

Tickets will be available from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June, and we would love all members of our school community to attend.

Tickets will sell quickly so book early to avoid disappointment.

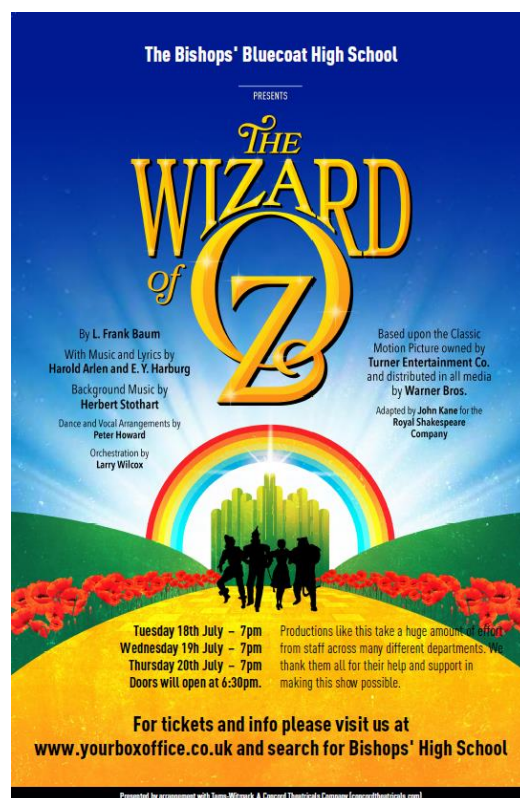
**Tickets are available from this direct link:**

<https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/bishops-blue-coat-c-of-e-high-school/953-wizard-of-oz>

**Or from**

[www.Yourboxoffice.co.uk](http://www.Yourboxoffice.co.uk)

and look up 'Bishops' or 'Wizard of Oz'.



## Bishops' Parent Prayer Group 29<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm

Apologies, in the last Headteacher's update the wrong date was printed. The date for the next meeting is **29<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm** not 29<sup>th</sup> July.

The Bishops' Parent Prayer Group meet in Chester once every half term. This is an opportunity to meet with other parents and to pray for all things Bishops' related.

If you would like more information, please contact Tracey Guthrie [tracey.guthrie58@gmail.com](mailto:tracey.guthrie58@gmail.com)

## World Refugee Week at Bishops`

Building on the momentum of our hugely successful Culture Week in May, our Diversity Group organised a range of events and activities to raise awareness about and celebrate World Refugee Day on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The theme of WRD this year was Compassion, and our WRD fair included interactive stalls and presentations aimed at encouraging deep, compassionate reflection about the refugee experience. A number of our students at Bishops` have personal experience of seeking asylum in the UK as a result of being displaced by war, and to see these students



participating in our event and helping to educate others was extremely powerful. Through activities such as this, the Diversity Group is helping to promote a highly inclusive environment at Bishops', one in which all of our young people, irrespective of their background, can feel fully involved and included, experiencing the '*fullness of life*' that is promised by Jesus in John 10: 10. We are very proud of this compassionate group of leaders and the important work that they are doing to bring our vision alive within our school community.



## Rewarding Our Student Leaders

The many students who have stepped up as leaders this term were rewarded with ice-creams in the sunshine of last week. These students included those who have served the school so fantastically as members of the Executive Student Council and the Diversity Group. Many of our students who speak English as an Additional Language and who helped to run our recent Culture Week and World Refugee Day events were also included for helping to promote an inclusive and caring environment. Our Headteacher, Miss Cairns, congratulated and praised these student leaders for their commitment to our vision and for their outstanding contribution to the inclusive Christian ethos and culture of Bishops'. The work they have done this term to create a positive and loving environment in which everyone can flourish has been exceptional.







## Hello from our New Deputy Head

Mr Adrian Carr will be joining our leadership team in September, alongside myself, Mrs Robbins (Deputy Headteacher), Mr Owen (Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form), Miss Burton and Dr Kay (Assistant Headteachers) and Mrs Beasley (Business Manager). He has written a short paragraph to introduce himself to you. In his introduction you will also notice that his dog Paddy will also be joining Bishops' as our first therapy dog. To support Paddy being welcomed to our school community, it is important that we are aware of any students who have severe allergies to dogs or who have phobias that relate to dogs. If you think this applies to your child, please email [ahowell@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:ahowell@bishopschester.co.uk)

### Dear parents and caregivers,

My name is Mr Adrian Carr and I am excited to be starting at Bishops' in September 2023 as a new Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for Dignity & Respect.

While interviewing for the role in May, I was really impressed by the school's vision of *Known, Nurtured, Inspired*. I could see and feel this in action throughout the school.

I am currently one of the Assistant Headteachers at Blacon High School and in my work there over the last 16 years I've led in areas of behaviour, pastoral care, SEND and safeguarding. I feel strongly that my experiences have given me the skills and wisdom to help make a positive contribution to the community of Bishops.

I'm originally from Warrington and attended Cardinal Newman Catholic High School. I went on to university in Huddersfield to study Politics with Contemporary History and then to Birmingham University to complete a History PGCE.

I've worked in various schools in the northwest, in Birmingham and even spent two exciting years teaching in New Zealand. All of these experiences have been culturally diverse and have left me with a strong belief that social mobility is aided by education.

I'm married and we have three children who all attend local schools; we also have Cockapoo called Paddy who will be coming with me to Bishops' to be the new therapy dog.

My life outside of school involves a pretty busy family schedule of football and netball for the kids! In my own time I'm never happier than when I am somewhere like Snowdonia climbing or walking or at the beach (trying to surf!).

As Deputy Headteacher I look forward to becoming a member of the school community and to playing my part in the continuing development of personal, academic, and spiritual flourishing of all students and staff.

**Adrian Carr**

I can't quite believe that there will only be two more of my newsletters before the end of this academic year. The remaining four weeks of term promise to include lots of enriching experiences including trips and visits, personal development days, sports day, sports fixtures, and the wonderful Wizard of Oz production. Tickets for the show can be purchased here: <https://yourboxoffice.co.uk/bishops-blue-coat-c-of-e-high-school/953-wizard-of-oz>

Thank you for the entries for the Creative Challenge so far – there is still time to submit, deadline is July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Details about the competition are attached with this newsletter.

Many thanks

**Helen Cairns**  
**Headteacher**