



I have had the pleasure of leading worship to students in our first full week back. My messages about a new school year and our shared purpose were not just inspired by faith, but also by football. A new year – a new season – ‘*Life in all its fullness*’, the ups and downs and highs and lows of school life are reflected in the journey of teams in the English Premier League. Individual talent, supported by collective team efforts, learning from expert coaches, refining skills through practice, inspired by success and encouraged by a sense of community and belonging are all there to see. Football at its best, as we saw in the summer with the women’s England football team, reflects all these things. It’s about ambition, hope and

belief. Flourishing and having ‘*life in all its fullness*’ is also about all these things. So, as we ‘kick off’ our new season together, I wanted to share a quote from Liverpool FC manager Jurgen Klopp: ‘*If you want special results, you have to feel special things and do special things together*’. I am excited by this new season, and I know that our school is a special place where people do indeed feel special things and achieve special results together.

“We treat everyone in our community with **dignity** and **respect** including ourselves.”

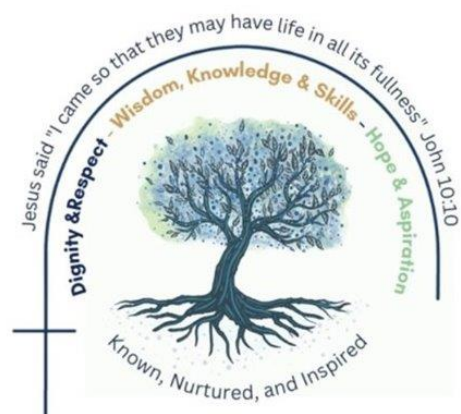
Mr Carr Deputy Headteacher has shared a few words...

And so a new year begins...

I would just like to say a big thank you to all the parents/carers who have supported and ensured that their child has returned to school ready to thrive and grow. The obvious indicators of this are things such as uniform and punctuality.

I have been struck by the very positive start that has been made and wish to encourage all to keep this up. Uniform promotes equality, fosters a sense of community and helps to prepare students for the future. Likewise, punctuality is important as it demonstrates respect for others, helps to reduce stress for the individual student and in the long-term increases’ employability.

The support of parents and carers is crucial in ensuring our uniform and punctuality policy is adhered to and it is greatly appreciated. I ask for your continued support and if there are any issues in the first instance, please contact your child’s form tutor to make them aware.



Respect Badge

We are thrilled to be awarded the **Anti-Bullying Ambassador Respect Badge by The Diana Award**. We received this message from The Diana Foundation.

Congratulations, we are awarding you the Respect Badge! This is a great achievement for your team and we hope you will all be very proud of your hard work. You really have gone above and beyond, and again we loved having you at our Respect Project showcase. Each and every one of you should be so proud of yourselves. Keep on fighting for the things that matter!

Your creativity and successful efforts to work with the whole school community to raise awareness during culture week. We loved how you incorporated so many different elements involving students with EAL, parents and carers too. The feedback from your school community you received was amazing!

Your respect for all cultures within your school and wanting to promote tackling racist bullying through your Christian faith and values creating Prayer+ slides.

Your approach raising awareness for underrepresented communities who often face racist bullying behaviour through Refugee week celebrations. We loved how the week involved lots of different activities and charities, a chance to learn something new. We hope this will continue to help reduce stigma and promote acceptance!











Toilets

Whilst overall they have been positively received, there have been some questions from students about our new toilets. I wanted to reiterate that toilets in S and D block remain single sex access. The multi access open plan toilets are a marked improvement in C block and W block, reducing crowding and ensuring the smooth flow of students throughout the spaces both during lunch time and recreational times. These toilets have floor to ceiling doors that offering both privacy and dignity.

“We value learning and opportunities to develop **wisdom, knowledge and skills.**”

In lessons this week Key Stage 3 students have been building their knowledge organisers. Knowledge organisers are supporting resources that will be used in lessons, as part of homework and for independent revision. Subject teachers will share strategies with students and how to maximise these resources. Students have been asked to collate their knowledge organisers in a folder provided by school. I encourage parents/carers to talk through these with your child and ensure that your child brings them to school to support learning.

	Self-assess	Learn keywords	Learn key facts/concepts	Test
Idea 1	Learning programme - use your learning programme in your exercise book to self-assess the knowledge. Use smiley faces or a RAG-rate colour system.  Start revising the knowledge you are least secure with.	Flash cards – write the keyword on one side and the definition on the other. You can now test your knowledge of keywords from the definitions or definitions from a keyword.  OR you could create two separate cards to match up keyword and definition.	 Mind map – write the topic in the centre of a page. For each part of the topic give a different section of the mind map (ideally using different colours for each section). Transform the knowledge into words and pictures and make connections between facts.	Self test – write your own mini quiz based in the knowledge organiser. Answer your own questions and then check and mark! 
Idea 2	 RAG-rate your knowledge on the knowledge organiser using three different colours (ideally red/amber/green). Start revising the information in red first as this knowledge is least secure.	Picture glossary – write the keyword and definition along with an illustration to help you visually remember the meaning. 	Labelled diagrams – bring a key concept to life with labels, applying the knowledge in the knowledge organiser. 	 Friends and family – ask those close to you to test you on the knowledge. If this is a friend in Year 7 this doubles up as their revision tool!

SPARX maths

We are excited to inform you that this year students from Year 7 – 11 will be using Sparx Maths to complete their weekly maths homework. Sparx provides a highly personalised weekly homework to students, tailored to their attainment level and working speed. This has already been and has positively trialled by year 8 and some year 10 student's last term. A letter detailing this new programme will be shared next week.

Career's Advice at Bishops'

We welcome our new career's advisor, Brian Lee, to Bishops'. He is available for appointments every Friday for all students from years 7-13. To book an appointment please email either your form tutor or Dr. Toczyski at ctoczyski@bishopschester.co.uk.

Find out more about what Mr Lee can do to support your child here:

[Introducing your career's advisor](#)



7 Before 7 Reading Challenge

The "7 Before 7" reading challenge was introduced to our new Year 7 students during their transition days to encourage students to read 7 books and complete tasks to demonstrate their understanding. Congratulations to Alfie Sunderland and Kyla Garnett who have already completed the challenge. Lots of BESt points on the way to you! We have copies of the books in the library for any Year 7 students who would still like to take part. Entries can be handed to Miss Hay in the library by Friday 20th October.

Student Leadership at Bishops'

At Bishops', we want to provide our students with a wide range of opportunities to grow and demonstrate their leadership skills and aptitudes. Opportunities to grow as leaders help our students to realise their God-given potential and become the *best version of themselves*. The application process for our student leadership groups has now been launched on Satchel so please take a look at this with your child and encourage them to think about applying. We are looking for enthusiastic, positive students from Year 7 right up to 13 who are committed to making a difference to be involved in one of the following groups:

- The Executive Student Council
- The Diversity Group
- The Social Action Group
- The Anti-Bullying Group
- The Ethos and Values Group

Extra-Curricular at Bishops'

We are proud to be able to offer a wide variety of enriching activities and extra-curricular clubs. We are finalising this year's extra-curricular timetable. We aim to release this towards the end of next week. Watch this space!

Football trials

A huge well done to our Year 7 students who took part in the football trials and especially to those who were selected for the team. With a record number of 80 students turning up for trials, I know some will be disappointed, but I encourage them to look out for further opportunities that arise not only from PE but in other areas of school life.



It is great to celebrate student successes and achievements. Please do continue to email these to your child's form tutor or direct to AHowell@bishopschester.co.uk so I can showcase them in future newsletters.

Alexander in Year 10 has been developing his skills in martial arts for about 7 years and has his brown/black stripe belt (the belt before black belt - there are three levels of brown belt to make getting the black belt tougher!). He recently entered a large online Kata competition and has won first place. Well done Alex on this awesome achievement.

Year 10 information evening

Information will have been shared with all parents and carers of Year 10 students, inviting them to our Year 10 Information evening. It's an informative session which will give you the information and tools to support your child as they start working towards their GCSE's, particularly as their first GCSE will be next summer

"We bring hope to others through service, kindness, forgiveness and love."

The **Chester Schools' Together Partnership** has been celebrated as The King's School Chester has been selected as a Finalist in the Independent School of the Year for **Outstanding Educational Partnerships category for working** with us, Upton High, Blacon High and The Catholic High. We are excited for a group of our Year 8 students to embark on a rowing programme as part of this partnership which aims to offer opportunities that not only benefit students but that bring young people closer together across the community of Chester.



I was so happy to see Bishops' students Adam Buttery and Max McLintock play the Huntington Fete on Saturday. They drew a great crowd with tracks from *Busted* to *The Beatles*. With hundreds of people enjoying the festival atmosphere, so many were impressed by the talent and the courage shown taking the front stage in such warm conditions. It is clear they are destined to play the centre stage at Glastonbury and summer festivals in the future.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

☒ Reflect on what it means to you to be known and loved by God.

☒ Take time to encourage someone and help them feel seen and known this week.

Feedback in form time

When out taking a walk one evening, I came across one of our wonderful students sharing his love of long boats whilst helping a holidaying family through the locks near Vicars Cross. The family were so grateful for his help and impressed by his knowledge of the canal and longboats. I was so proud to see one of our students represent our school in the local community. Without even knowing it, his kindness and community spirit had been shared not only with me,

but also on community posts on social media. I wanted to recognise him in my updates – well done Gabriel.

We aspire to be the best version of ourselves.

It was a pleasure to welcome staff and students back with a celebration of examination successes. The achievements of our Year 11s and Year 13s were superb and it has been wonderful to welcome so many of our Year 11s back to start life in our Sixth Form. I want to shine a light on our current Year 11s who have received some stunning Year 10 Religious Studies results with 25% getting a grade 7+. Nine Year 10 students also completed a GCSE in their first language with 70% of them achieving a grade 8 or 9. This is such a promising start to their final GCSE year. The best part of results days for me, wasn't just the awesome grades that students received, but listening to the excitement about the doors to destinations at Bishops' and beyond, and the collective pride of students, parents and staff.

And a final word from Paddy, who was eager to share his thoughts about joining Bishops'...

Woof woof, dear humans of Bishops'.

I wanted to give you all a big, slobbery shout-out and say hello! Mr first week here has been quite the adventure, and I've had a real "woof" of a time getting to know each and every one of you. I must admit, I was a bit nervous at first, but I'm slowly finding my way around this place, one paw at a time.

I've been sniffing out all the new scents and exploring the interesting nooks and crannies of this school. It's been a lot to take in, but I'm adjusting and starting to feel right at home.

I want to give a special bark out to some wonderful humans who've been so kind and welcoming to me. Charlotte, George and Maisie have made me feel safe and loved in my new school. I'm already wagging my tail in anticipation of spending the entire year with all of you.

I hope you humans have a "woofing" good weekend ahead. I'll be here, ready to bring some tail-wagging joy to our time together at Bishops'. Let's make it a year to remember!

Woof woof, Paddy



YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

Tues 26th Sept
5.45pm-8.30pm

Known Nurtured Inspired

To secure your place please book via our website
bishopschester.co.uk or scan the QR code

