

**Bishop Rawstone Church of England Academy  
A National Teaching School**

**NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS – July 2013  
(Issue 50)**

July 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian

I cannot believe that we are coming to the end of the year already. As ever, it has been an interesting 12 months, and we have a lot to be proud of. I have lost count this year of the number of comments visitors have made about the standards of our students and the same can be said for feedback we have received when our students have represented us outside of school. This can only happen if we work as a team and I thank you parents for supporting us in our mission.

The Teaching School has really taken off this year and we have been supporting schools up and down the country. This has been a really good opportunity for our staff to develop and become even better teachers and you will see the positive impact of this in the coming years. Mr Davies continues to drive our school-to-school support through his deployment as a National Leader of Education, which has the added benefit of providing income which is invested back into our students through improved facilities. We are currently awaiting a decision from the council regarding our planning applications for our much anticipated £400,000 3G Pitch and our £1million pound English block replacement. The council have informed our surveyors that we should have a decision within the next two weeks for the English block and by the first week in August for the 3G pitch, so keep your fingers crossed for us!

We offer congratulations to three members of staff who got married this year: Mr Hornby got married at half-term in May, Miss Rothwell (now Mrs Ball) in April and Miss Redman (now Mrs Tidy) also in April. We pass on our best wishes for Miss Challinor's forthcoming wedding in the summer holidays when she will become Mrs Littlewood.

Mr Davies has previously told you of the ordination of Mrs Swindells as a Deacon to start her curacy, and I am pleased to announce that Reverend Swindells has just been ordained as priest. Reverend Swindells will continue as curate at Lostock Hall St James and Farington Moss St Paul's, but don't worry, she will still be teaching Religious Education at Bishop Rawstone.

We have a number of teaching staff departing at the end of the year. These are Mr Carr, Mr Hughes, Mrs Magdi, Mrs Smith, Miss Cunningham, Mr Smith and Mrs Gibek-Brand. I would like to thank them all for the contribution they have made and wish them well for the future. I don't usually pick out individuals for special praise, but it would be remiss of me not to mention Mr Carr, who is retiring after 34 years of service – a fantastic achievement!

We also say goodbye to two of our Teaching Assistants, Mr Smith and Mrs Martindale, and to Mrs Singleton, a member of our catering staff who has worked at the school for 21 years. Once again I would like to thank them for the contribution they have made to the school and wish them well for the future.

Although they are a hard act to follow we believe we have made some outstanding appointments this year and in September we will be welcoming:

Mr D Mason	Director of ITT
Mrs L Petts	Curriculum Leader of Science
Mrs A Holden	Second in Science
Miss C Davis	Second in English
Miss L Carr	English
Mr D Tye	Science
Mrs S Beesley	Science
Mrs C Grimes	Humanities
Mr S Jackson	Computing
Miss G Roughley	Temporary Teacher of Science
Mrs A Cropper	Cover Supervisor
Mrs R Fearn	Teaching Assistant
Mrs A Gallagher	Teaching Assistant
Mr A Platt	Teaching Assistant

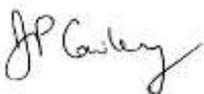
We continue to adapt as a school in response to the ever-changing landscape and we have the following new staff responsibilities:

Mr P Marsden	Senior Leader, Curriculum Development
Mrs K Parker	Senior Leader, Teaching School
Miss E Kearns	Senior Leader, Intervention
Mrs H Winter	Professional Mentor
Mr S Edwards	PSHE and Citizenship Co-ordinator
Miss C Challinor	KS2-KS3 Accelerated Learning Group Co-ordinator
Mrs M Meadows	KS2-KS3 Accelerated Learning Group Teacher

As I mentioned at the beginning of the letter, we have in my opinion the best group of students in the country and I feel privileged to be able to lead their education. We will continue to develop to ensure our students are given the very best opportunities possible and most importantly that they are given an outstanding Christian Education.

Thank you for the support you have given me and my staff this year. I wish you all a peaceful and hopefully sunny summer.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Cowley  
Headteacher

July 2013

Dear All

What a year this has been! We have had some fantastic achievements this year, not least our SIAS inspection, which rated the school outstanding in every area. This would not have been possible without the commitment of our students, the determination of our staff and the vision of Mr Cowley and our Senior Leadership Team. We have much to celebrate this year and also much to look forward to.

Although most of the week I am working elsewhere, whether I am in London, Carlisle, Warrington or Lancashire, I never tire of telling others about our school.

None of the achievements we have attained this year would have been possible without a three-way partnership between students, staff and parents and I thank you sincerely for your continuing support.

At present I am supporting seven other high schools and it is a privilege to do this work as a National Leader of Education. However, this would not be possible without the support of a number of staff at Bishops who I have appointed Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs) and without the leadership and drive of Mr Cowley. As Headteacher he continues to ensure that all our young people are given every opportunity and I want to thank him for his leadership.

I know Mr Cowley has written about staff departures and I would like to offer my own thanks for the contribution these individuals have made to the academy and wish them well for the future.

I particularly want to thank and acknowledge the service of Mr Carr. In the last five years we have been fortunate enough to have significant new builds and Mr Carr has been at the centre of the building programme. I wish him a long and successful retirement.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the next year.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Davies  
Executive Headteacher  
National Leader of Education

## Adventurous Geography Weekend



The Geography department took 62 students from Year 8 to the Lake District for an Adventurous Geography weekend. Whilst there the students scaled an obstacle course, used GPS devices to

find hidden objects, orienteered using compasses and maps to find their way around, constructed shelters and built and lit their own fires. The highlight of the weekend was a climb



up a fast flowing river, with the students working together as a team to negotiate the rapids before taking a plunge into the swirling waters. A fantastic time was had by all.

## Runshaw College 'Spelling Bee' Competition



On 10 June Oliver Dillon, Dan Clarke, Mina McQuhae and Christian Broad took part in the Runshaw College 'Spelling Bee'. After working extremely well under the pressure of quick fire spelling questions, they came second (missing out by only two points) and were gracious in defeat. All four were a credit to themselves and the school. Next year, we hope to build on our success with another fantastic team of young people.

## Lancashire Book of the Year 2013

This summer, a group of 30 Year 9 students were involved in shadowing the Lancashire Book of the Year competition. The students read and reviewed the top 10 shortlisted books in a mere 3 weeks and then voted for their top 3 novels. Not surprisingly, our students threw themselves wholeheartedly into the exciting process and some even managed to read the whole collection! Bishop's vote counted towards the final results and the winning books and authors were announced as follows:

Winner:	<b>'Torn'</b>	by David Massey
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>'Stealing Phoenix'</b>	by Joss Sterling
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>'Slated'</b>	by Teri Tery



On 21 June, 15 of our most avid readers were lucky enough to experience an author event at UCLAN, Preston. This involved a fun and inspirational question and answer session with a panel of charismatic authors who were passionate about writing and the power of reading. The panel included four of the top ten finalists Joss Sterling, C. J. Daugherty, Kathryn James and Teri Terry and a representative from David Massey's publishing company who gave the audience an insight into the publishing world! Finally, the students were thrilled to have the opportunity to meet and chat to the authors in person during a book signing session.

## Creative writing workshop with Author Daniel Blythe



On 11 June we had a visit from the author Daniel Blythe. Daniel has written several books, including the acclaimed Dr. Who novels, 'Autonomy' and 'The Dimension Riders'. His most recent novel, published by Chicken House

in 2012, is entitled 'Shadow Runners' and is a fast-paced and entertaining read. This fantasy novel offers plenty of action, interweaving magic with scientific elements and even some entertaining British slang, as a team of students attempt to uncover a village's secret past. The final battle scene will leave readers hungry for possible sequels! Daniel spent the whole day in school, during which time he delivered several interactive sessions to groups of students from Years 7-9. These included a warm, icebreaking introduction, an inspirational talk, a reading, a question and answer session and two fun creative writing workshops. To their delight, all our students were invited to meet Daniel in person during an open book signing session at lunchtime in the library. Students enjoyed chatting to Daniel, who was enthusiastic and informative, as well as entertaining in some of his answers. Students were able to purchase books on the day or bring their own and Daniel signed them all with a personal message.

## Young Enterprise



This year's Young Enterprise team have been raising money for Abbie's Fund, which raises money for the Neo-Natal unit at Royal Preston Hospital. They have held numerous events throughout the school year,

including a disco, tombola's and an evening of bingo. The year culminated in the Summer Ball, which was held on 17 May at Shaw Hill Golf and Country Club. The evening, which included a raffle, auction, singers and a set by Rock FM DJ Danny Bee, was a massive success. All the guests had a great time and a huge total of £3,000 was raised on the night. This is a fantastic amount of money, and a huge credit is due to all the Year 10 students who were involved not only in making the Summer Ball a success, but also in organising all the Young Enterprise events during the last school year. We would also like to pass on our thanks to all the parents, staff and local businesses who showed their support during these events.

## Student Council Success (by Mrs Magdy)

On behalf of Mrs Thompson and myself, may I take this opportunity to thank the Student Council for their continued commitment and support this academic year. From monthly lunchtime meetings to trips to County Hall, it has been a year of challenge, debate and innovation for the school. Always excellent in their demeanour, and impeccably punctual, the Council members have

been excellent ambassadors for their tutor groups. Moreover, the Council have been exceptionally welcoming to our various guest speakers, including representatives from Rosemere (the charity that the Council elected to support) and even members of the SLT. We would, of course, like to thank these people for giving up their time to participate in Council meetings. It has been an ever-changing year for the Student Council, with new initiatives for additional sporting facilities, as well as the school's jazziest water-fountain! Our Student Council have also helped to support local charity, Rosemere, and schools in Uganda by donating money to these very worth-while causes. The Council have also helped to raise awareness of the 'big chewing gum issue' around the school. With some ideas for the next academic year already in place, we can only hope that the Student Council of 2013/14 will flourish as successfully as their predecessors have done. A massive thank you to the Members of the Student Council (2012/13): Mark Power (7A), Jacob Watkinson (7B), Amy Blundell (7C), Abigail Brooks (7H), Imogen Mould (7M), Amelia Pose (7X), Francesca De Simone (8A), Flossie Dickinson (8B), Toby Anderson (8C), Eleanor Buckley (8H), Daniel Rojas-Rodriguez (8M), George Simmons (8X), Stefan Zak (9A), Alexander Kent (9B), James Ashton (9C), Victoria Wall (9H), Conrad Kearton (9M), Eleanor Reader (9X), Bethan Pollington (10A), Megan Sutton (10B), Daniel Brittle (10C), Megan Hesketh (10H), Roman Arroyo (10M), Lauren Thomas (10X), Matthew Kendle (11A), Jordan Fernie-Clarke (11B), Sebastian Jones (11C), Shelby Sharrock (11H), Conor Killilea (11M), Katie Adams (11X) Sarah Webster (Head Girl), Benjamin Pose (Head Boy), Megan Price (Deputy Head Girl), Thomas Chatwood (Deputy Head Boy)

### Year 9 Mentors



Many thanks to all the Year 9 students who applied to act as Mentors to our Year 7s in September. We had over 70 applications for 12 positions so it was a very difficult job trying to choose the successful candidates! Many of our older students remember the

impact our mentors made in helping them to settle at Bishops, and this year's mentors have already done a really fantastic job on the New Intake evenings and Taster Day. The following Year 9s have shown themselves to be confident, organised and wonderful ambassadors of our community: Joseph Carroll, Kirstie Clarke, Ben Clegg, Phillippa Gibson, Josh Johnnie, Olivia Liston-Smith, Tiegan Martin, Kate Paternoster, Cameron Perritt, Nathan Power, Eleanor Reader, Elliot Wood.

### The Big Lunch

Once again this year, Year 9 Food Technology students did themselves proud when they provided an excellent lunch for staff and Governors on the last day before half term. Students had spent the previous four weeks researching and trialling ideas for the lunch. The idea of Eden Project The Big Lunch is to bring communities together for fun and food, and it certainly did that! Over eighty staff and Governors attended and were served such delights as feta and black olive mini



quiche, pork and apple swirls and passion fruit meringues – there was even a chocolate fountain. There was no charge for the lunch (thanks to Mr Cowley), but donations were requested on the day and over £140.00 was donated to the Wigan-based charity, Joining Jacks. Well done to Year 9 Food Technology students for this splendid effort!

### Shoebboxes (an early plea!)



Mrs Loveday will once again be organising the Operation Christmas Child shoe box appeal in September and October. As you all get your new shoes, before returning to school in September, please save the shoe boxes and bring into school to get this appeal started. Thank you.

### Farewell to our Foreign Language Assistant

At the end of May we had to say 'auf Wiedersehen' to our German Language Assistant Samantha Thiel. Samantha was without doubt the best Language Assistant we have ever employed at Bishop Rawstorne, not only because of the huge impact she had in the Modern Languages Department, but also due to her cheerful, helpful and friendly persona around the school as a whole. Samantha will be greatly missed, but we hope to meet up with her in Köln during the Year 9 and 10 German trip this summer. Samantha was instrumental in helping our Year 10 and 11 German students prepare for their GCSE speaking assessments. Her German lunchtime club was enjoyed by a large number of Year 7 and 8 students and she set up both a Christmas parcel exchange and a video exchange with a school in Germany.

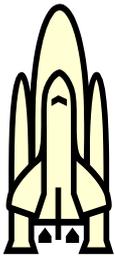


<http://www.ruhrnachrichten.de/lokales/werne/Ty-pisch-englische-Weihnachtsdekoration-und-Gebaeck;art942,1857981>

### GCSE Speaking

The MFL department would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Ed Jones for all of the time he has dedicated to help prepare our GCSE students for their French speaking assessments. We are always looking for parents who can speak one of our 3 foreign languages (French, German and Spanish) and who would be willing to give up some time during or after the school day to practise speaking skills with our GCSE students. If you feel that you would be able to help please contact Mrs Lawley or Mrs Broadley at school. Thank you.

## Space Day



Year 7 and the Science Department had a blast on Space Day. Space Day is an annual event in the Science Department calendar where the Year 7 timetable is collapsed and students spend the day studying the space section of the Science National Curriculum. Students received an inspirational talk by Dennis Ashton on 'Lightspeed Universe', travelled through the solar system and observed constellations in the dome with Richard Lake. Students had the rare experience of holding meteorite samples, moon rock samples and rock samples from mars, all loaned from NASA and participated in a competition against their classmates when building their own rockets. Great fun was had by all. The day was a massive success and an experience that the students will never forget.

## Primary Maths Challenge

Thursday 4 July saw the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Bishop Rawstone Primary Maths Challenge.

Eight teams took part, each consisting of 2 boys and 2 girls from Year 6. Many of our local primary schools were represented, including Appley Bridge All Saints, Bretherton Endowed, Eccleston Primary, Eccleston St Mary's, Richard Durnings, Tarleton Holy Trinity, Trinity & St Michael's and Parbold Douglas, who were last year's winners. Round 1, (Problem Solving) and Round 2 (Wait for a number) saw some high scores across the teams and some very innovative mathematic methods being used. The highly anticipated relay round showed the high standard of the teams this year, both in mind and sprinting ability. Never before have we had so many teams not only complete the challenge, but score so highly. Watch out you Year 5s it may be a little tougher next year!!!! Parbold Douglas retained the trophy, the first school to do so, holding off the challenge of Trinity & St. Michaels's with second. We look forward to next year and to what is going on that we might use as our inspiration for The Primary Maths Challenge 2014?



## Year 11 Prom

The class of 2013 bade a fond farewell to Bishop Rawstone at the annual Year 11 Prom in June. A glorious evening of summer sunshine provided the perfect backdrop as our Year 11s arrived in style, transported in



an eclectic mix of vehicles, dressed in their finest evening attire and ready to make the most of the final social event of their time here. With a fine buffet and a disco, a photographer to capture the moment and a magician to add to the magical occasion, a fine evening was had by all. Many thanks go to Mr Duckworth, whose hard work and intensive planning contributed hugely to the success of the evening and of course

to all the staff members who turned up to support him and the event.

## Trips

Once again, the school year has ended with overseas residential visits to France and Germany that will leave the students who went on them with lifelong happy memories. As a school we are committed to providing cultural opportunities for our students and in July 2013 we have been able to take 170 of them abroad to experience different language, food and environment. Both been able to take 170 of them abroad to experience different language, food and environment. Both trips are hugely popular and over-subscribed, and from the Rhein to the Seine good fun was had by all. None of this would be possible however, without the unstinting support of our staff, who give up their time freely to enrich the lives of our young people. Particular thanks go to Miss Huyton and Mrs Lawley for their organisation of these highly successful trips.



## Students Achievement

During the Easter holidays, Lauren Thomas in Year 10 received a distinction for her Grade 3 LAMDA (London Academy of Performing Arts) acting exam. Congratulations to Lauren on this major success.



Ellie Hilton (9H) represented Lancashire u14's in the **ESFA Inter-County Trophy** this year. They reached the final, playing Kent at Hillsborough, home of Sheffield Wednesday FC. Playing in very warm conditions Lancashire were victorious 2-1, with Ellie having a great game. Well done and good luck for next year.



## Past Students' Achievement

*We were delighted to learn that a past student, Jo Pilcher, has won a place on the Master course at the Royal College of Art, London. Jo scored 100% in her GCSE at Bishops. Well done and good luck!*



Jack Smith who left last year is now swimming for Millfield and finished 20<sup>th</sup> in the British Swimming Championships in the 200m Breastroke, just missing out on semi final berth.



## Sporting Achievements



**Golf** - Two of our young golfers have recently achieved great success. Mina McQuhae was runner up in the LSGA South West championship held at Leyland GC and James Holland won a tournament at Pleasington GC as part of the Lee Westwood Tour competition for juniors. Congratulations to them both!

**Athletics** – Congratulations to all Students who represented the school at District Sports. Well done to Issac Hayes, Elliot Jones, Emma Whittingham, Harrison Perritt and Arnold Baxendale, who performed exceptionally well in their individual events. It was an excellent team effort, which resulted in a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish overall.



Well done to our four Year 7 students who represented the academy in the Chorley School Tennis Tournament and successfully defeated St Michael's in the Final, going on to represent Chorley in the Summer games at Blackpool, where they achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place.



**Cricket** - A fantastic season which resulted in all four teams reaching the Chorley Schools finals at Charnock Richard. The Year 10 team finished off their Bishop Rawstorne cricketing careers with wins in their final and the 6-a-side.

**Tennis** - Well done to our four Year 7 students who represented the academy in the Chorley School Tennis Tournament and successfully defeated St Michael's in the Final so they then went on to represent Chorley in the Summer games at Blackpool where they achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place.



**Football** - Good luck to the following students who were selected for the Year 8 District Team trials: Michael Baxendale, Alex Dodd, Alex Weaver, James Dennis, Alex Brooks.



**Bike Ability** - Recently a group of Year 7 students participated in a scheme set up by Chorley SSP to improve students awareness when on their bikes. Congratulations to those who took part and were successful in completing the course. Many thanks to Mr Platt for organising this event.

## BMX Cycle Racing



Two of our Year 7s have made great progress this year, riding in BMX races against hundreds of others. Jacob Watkinson and Ben Squire have been competing hard in the sprint event made famous by Shanaze Reade. Jacob has ridden for seven and a half years, recently racing in six national series events, British Championships and trips to France and Belgium. Ben has competed in Manchester, Birmingham and Barnard Castle this year and is currently chasing the honour of becoming the One Plate Regional Champion at U/12s. Both lads have shown tremendous dedication to their sport and can regularly be seen racing around their home track in Preston. We wish them both well for the future.

## Primary School Cluster Competitions

Thank you also to the following students who helped out at the Cluster Athletics Competition: Issac Hayes, James Gibson, George Simmons, Ben Yates and Adam Yates. Not only do the PE staff greatly appreciate your help at these events, it is also much valued by Mr Brindle from Bretherton, who is responsible for the organisation of these events..

## Marathon Running



Mr Hosker is on target to reach his goal of running 10 marathons in one year. He has now completed five, and has raised over £1500 for Rosemere Cancer Foundation. The school council have also raised money for the charity through a non-uniform day in May. The charity funds cancer research, financial support for families affected by the illness, and the purchasing of specialist equipment within Lancashire and South Cumbria. Mr Hosker's final marathon will be at the end of October in Newcastle, and he can be sponsored on [justgiving.com/Rob-Hosker](http://justgiving.com/Rob-Hosker).

## Summer Fair

Once again, the school held its annual Summer Fair at the start of July and it proved to be a roaring success. Under beautiful clear blue skies, students and staff enjoyed a range of stalls and attractions and the atmosphere was very welcoming to a large number of visitors who attended. It was tremendous to see our students working so hard and creatively to come up with a whole array of fund-raising ideas, supported by



their tutors and ably led by Mr Hornby who organised the day. In total the sum of £3000 was raised, an amazing figure, and this money will go to the Student Council who will allocate the money in accordance with the wishes of the student cohort. Many thanks to Mr Hornby for his fantastic planning for the day, but particularly to all of our students who gave so generously of their time and money.

## REMINDERS

### New Student Attendance Policy

Following recent amendments to school attendance regulations, the school's Student Attendance Policy has changed. These amendments will come into force on 1 September 2013, the main amendment being that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The policy is on our website should you require further clarification.

### Cashless Dining System

Could students please ensure that they have some credit on their dining account before the end of term, to help alleviate queues on the first day back in September.



### Duplicate Reports

Please make any initial request for duplicate reports through your child's tutor.

### Updated Contacts

Please ensure that school is provided with any changes to your data. Addresses, work phone numbers and mobile phone numbers etc. are updated so that we are able to make contact should an issue occur in school.

### Absence

Parents **must** inform the school office of their child's absence by 9.30am on **each** day that their child will not be present in school. A letter should be sent on return to school. Letters are also requested for hospital and dental appointments.

### Seatbelts on school buses

Could we please ask parents to remind all students who travel to and from school on a bus that they must wear their seatbelts at all times.



### Medication

Should it be necessary for a student to bring medication into school they must hand it into the main office immediately upon arrival. It is the student's responsibility to call at the office at the appropriate time to take the medication. We also ask that parents supply instructions of the times at which the medication is to be taken. Under no circumstances must a student carry medication around with them whilst in school.



### Mobile Phones



Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in students' bags at all times whilst in school.

