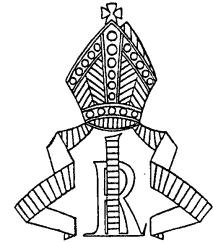


Bishop Luffa School

NEWSLETTER 1
SEPTEMBER 2011



Dear Parents

Welcome to all our pupils and parents - newcomers and old hands - to a new year at Bishop Luffa. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Parents Information Evenings over the next fortnight. These are designed to help us work more closely with you in support of your child – it is a reminder of our expectations and an outline of what is new as your child progresses through the school.

New staff

We welcome new staff to the school:

Teachers: Mrs Stephanie Burkinshaw, Teacher of English; Mr Neil Marshall, Teacher of Mathematics; Mr Rick West, Teacher of Economics; Miss Eleanor Dodd, Teacher of Art during Mrs Aspinall's maternity leave and Miss Charlotte Martin Teacher of Drama during Mrs Furnell's maternity leave.

Excellent Exam Results

A level results

Year 13 students achieved impressive results at A Level this year. 58% of all exams entered gained A*-B grades, with 84% gaining A*-C grades. The group of 138 Year 13 students – the largest in Bishop Luffa's history - achieved a 99.8% pass rate for all the exams entered. 7% of all the exams gained A*, and 29% gained A*-A grades.



Our Sixth Form continues to be hugely successful. There are many great individual achievements by students of all abilities. As a group, I am delighted by their impressive pass rate: they have supported each other and together risen to the challenge. We also have teachers who are skilled and committed to their students' success. The A* grade is designed to stretch and challenge the most academically gifted students, and I am delighted that 21 students gained at least one of these top grades.

AQA Baccalaureate

The 'AQABac' is an overarching award which combines a student's A-Levels with Critical Thinking, an Extended Project and wider enrichment activities. The Baccalaureate is designed to demonstrate that a student is not only an academic individual, but also a broader, well developed character, capable of working independently to a high level. It is good to see that three-quarters of the cohort gained Distinction or Merit this year.

GCSE results



Mr Colin Lankester summed up Year 11's GCSE results success this year: "A great year group who achieved great things!" 86% of pupils were awarded at least five A*-C grades, and 83% gained at least five GCSE grades A*-C including English and Maths. 40% of all entries were awarded A* or A grades.

It's good to see our young people celebrating: they deserve it. This was a strong year group academically. But it takes more than simple intelligence to do well: they have also demonstrated an enthusiasm and sense of fun, and a commitment to knuckle down and to work together. The high-fliers are rightly celebrated, but many of those who find lessons difficult have also come out with grades beyond their expectation. I am very pleased for them.

Our teachers and support staff deserve credit too. There is a strong and shared sense of commitment to our young people as they face not only academic challenges but also the task of developing into thoughtful and personable adults. And I appreciate parents' support for their children and the school.

Congratulations to the 23 Year 10 pupils who also took GCSE exams in RE with impressive results: 96% gained A or A*.

Please see www.bishopluffa.org.uk for full details of all the exam results.

Music Education Hubs



Music teachers from the West Sussex Music Service were in school today to perform a concert to a Year 7 audience. Pupils heard music showcasing strings, woodwind, brass and percussion. This was an opportunity to listen to professional musicians performing live and to be encouraged to learn a musical instrument at school.

Over the years, Bishop Luffa has been fortunate to have a successful and well-established music tuition scheme, giving our pupils opportunities to learn to play an instrument or have singing lessons. This has given pupils a lifelong skill which has been an important part of their wider school experience. Pupils found out about how to choose the right instrument to play, and what it takes to become a successful performer and musician. Music promotes high personal learning skills - dedication, organisation, creativity, emotional response as well as teamwork, individuality and self appraisal. Today will be the first step for this exciting musical journey.

Following recommendations of the recent Denby Report, the government plans to establish "Music Education Hubs" (MEHs) around the country. It is likely that there will be a MEH in West Sussex working with other partners to support music and music education locally. At

the forthcoming consultation I look forward to showcasing the school's ability to play a central part in this.

Mr Huw Thomas, Director of Music

Developments in school

It has been another very busy summer in school with a number of small building and refurbishment projects being completed. The strategic development of our Sixth Form means students return to an enlarged common room to complement their already extended library. Two Languages rooms have been re-fashioned in the Technology corridor.

The transformation of 'The Cage' in the centre of school is well underway. Year 8 pupils suggested the design during Exploration Day. The initial landscaping is complete, with seating, trees and lots of room for socialising and play. The coming months will see the area further developed, incorporating as much of the pupils' ideas as possible.

The school kitchen area has been refurbished inside and out and we hope to attract even more pupils as we launch the new 'Trinity' menu this term. A whole new range of exciting and nutritional meals will be on offer to pupils and students.

Mr Mark Nicholds - Business Manager

The Book Bag

Please would you ensure that all Library books borrowed from the School Library over the summer holidays are returned as soon as possible? We have added many new books to the Library and we would like to encourage all pupils to keep a library book in their bag at all times, to be ready to read whenever directed by their teacher. To take advantage of all the books available, it would be helpful if all overdue books were returned. Thank you.



Mrs M Bone, School Librarian

Academies Update

Following the Parents Information Evening last term about Academy status, the answers to the questions posed in writing at the Evening are available from Friday at the Academies Discussion section of the school website:

<http://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/blog/WebPages/AcademiesDiscussion.html>

French on-line contacts KS4 and KS5

We are fortunate to have contacts with a school in Briançon (in the French Alps, close to the Italian border), with students looking for English partners. The contact is made via e-mail or MSN, once or twice a week, dividing the time equally between French and English. This is an excellent opportunity, as it has clear benefits both culturally and linguistically for students. If you wish your son/daughter to have a partner, please ask him/her to see me in Room 4 for a letter giving additional details. I shall allocate students on a first-come, first-served basis.

Miss Jean Mugleston - Team Leader, French

Parentmail

The school is now using Parentmail to communicate electronically with parents by using email and texts. If you have not already registered for this service please contact the school office for a registration form.

Parentmail + Pay

From Monday 19 September the school will be able to accept payment for trips, books, equipment etc via the +Pay on- line payment system. A letter including an activation code will be sent to all parents on the 15 September. The code will have to be keyed into your Parentmail account to be able to use the electronic payment system. This initiative will enable parents to manage their school payments conveniently and efficiently all in one place.

International School Award



We are delighted to announce that we have received the fantastic news that the school has been awarded “International School Award”. The three-year award is made by the British Council to a school which has strong links with schools in other countries and where students are able to work with their counterparts abroad through projects and visits. We had Intermediate Level Award last year and are delighted to receive the full award this year.

Bishop Luffa has always had an impressive programme of visits abroad: French and German study visits; ski trips; sports trips to name but a few. We have now added to this list with visits to our friendship school in Bilbao (Spain) and this year more visits are planned. The opportunities for travel will continue to grow. As well as visits, many pupils have been involved in projects with other schools world-wide, and we continue to establish friendships with schools all over the world – these help to make our life at Bishop Luffa more varied, interesting and outward-looking.

Mrs Stella Richi-Basurto – International Schools Leader

Accommodation needed

The school have a female French Foreign Language Assistant joining us on 1 October 2011. She will need accommodation preferably close to the school for the month of October. If you have a room or know of any accommodation which might be suitable please email Mrs Brown, the Headteacher’s PA browne@bishopluffa.org.uk.

Mr Peter Pugh, Head of Languages

Dates for your diary

Included with this newsletter is the calendar of the year’s events. Important dates over the next fortnight are the Induction Evenings for each year group. Starting at 6.30pm in the Bartlett Hall and lasting around one hour, these evenings will brief you about what to expect this year in your child’s career – and remind you of some of the basics.

Year 9 – Thursday 8 September

Year 7 – Tuesday 13 September

Year 10 – Wednesday 14 September

Year 12 – Thursday 15 September

Year 8 – Tuesday 20 September

Year 11 – Wednesday 21 September

With best wishes for an inspiring, challenging and enjoyable year.

Yours sincerely

***Mr Nick Taunt
Headteacher***