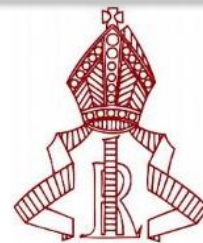


Bishop Luffa School

2025-2026 Issue 2

December 2025



Dear friends of Bishop Luffa School,

Thank you for your support throughout 2025. Knowing that there is a community championing what we do and praying for us, allows us to confidently encourage our students to live the full life that Jesus' has promised. This newsletter shows so many examples of this being lived out.

We said goodbye to three longstanding Governors this term. Between them they had served the school for over 60 years - an incredible number of hours given up to meetings, and long (often dull) reports to read. I would like to thank Margaret Lumley, Ian Creswick and Brian Dempster for their dedication to Bishop Luffa School and its staff and students.

At Christmas we think about the light that the darkness can't destroy. We hope that reading about our students and all they've achieved will bring light into your lives!

Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas.

Austen Hindman
Head Teacher.



Visit from a Great Britain Beauty Queen

In October we were incredibly lucky to have a visit from one of Great Britain Beauty Queens Miss Anya Hudson. Anya is the current Miss Universe Beauty 2025; she came to visit the school to present to our students from years 9-12 about the Body confidence and her journey from an anxious body conscious teenager to a bus driving beauty Queen.

Anya spoke to students about the mental health issues including her issues with her body image and self-confidence and her struggle with mental health throughout her teenage years. She also spoke about the grief caused by the recent loss of her dad to Motor Neurone Disease (NMD) which has spurred her on to live life to its fullness. This includes recently becoming involved in the pageant world of run ways and beauty queens. Through her journey in the pageant world, she had had the opportunity to do lots of charity work including raising awareness and funds for NMD as well as supporting local charities.



'You don't have to be a size 6 or 0 to be a beauty queen' - Anya, age 24

As a woman who works in an often-male dominated industry as a bus driver she like to promote women achieving their goals and is proud to be Bucking the trend as a curvy size 14 model in the beauty queen world.

Anya has most recently competed for Great Britain in the Miss Beauty universe internationals in Peru, and managed to win 2 new sashes – Miss Smile (for the best smile) and Top Model for charity work, kindness and camaraderie throughout the competition. Bishop Luffa wishes her Congratulations on her achievements.

Shona Charge, Head of Story House

A Visit from the Bank of England

Year 13 Economists were recently fortunate to have a visiting speaker from the Bank of England. As part of their outreach programme the Bank is keen for staff to visit schools, and we were able to welcome Charlie Evans to the School. Charlie is a graduate apprentice, so as well as explaining the role of the Bank, including such complexities as Quantitative Easing, he was able to explain his career path up to this stage. Charlie then took questions from the students, and staff, helping to dig a little deeper into the exact function of the Bank and its role in the economy. Such visits help illustrate the real-life role of Economics, and the impact it can have on not just the economy, but by association, people's lives.



Justin Barnett, Head of Humanities

Year 9 reflect on the First World War

Year 9 students have been able to enhance their studies of WWI this half term with a source box of original and replica WWI artefacts from the Novium Museum used in all lessons. Some were also able to learn through film with a cinema trip. One of the students on the trip writes as follows:

A small group of us had the opportunity to visit the New Park Cinema after school at the beginning of December with Mrs Fowles and Mrs Shuttleworth to see The Choral. Set during WWI in a Yorkshire village, the film was about a choir learning to sing and having to adapt as more and more of the members of the choir left to fight in the war. The new choir master had lived in Germany and initially the people in the Yorkshire village didn't like him because they assumed he was a German sympathiser.



*The film reinforced what we have been learning about with WWI and how the war affected soldiers' emotionally and physically as well as their families and friends back at home. It showed in a really clever and poignant way the sorts of injuries soldiers had and it helped me to understand the broader impact of war. I really enjoyed the film and how we were able to learn more about the war and what life was like on the Home Front whilst also being entertained. It was great being able to watch a film in a small and cosy cinema and we all really enjoyed it. - **Emily Atkins, Year 9***

Law Workshops

In November we hosted a Talk-the-Talk workshop for our Law students to elevate their public speaking skills - a crucial skill to have in any industry but even more so in Law. Here is what the students had to say about it:

"I loved it, it was super fun and helped me with improving my confidence in public speaking skills by teaching ways to prevent yourself using fuller words." –

Alasdair Sturrock

"Improved my confidence when speaking, even in a short amount of time." –

Matthew Hewett

"I found it helpful working and presenting with/to people who I would not normally work with." – **Wilf Brixey**

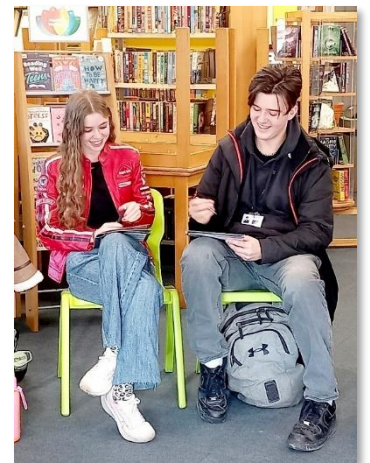
"I found it very useful where I learnt to present in front of people. Instead of saying 'Um...Ah...' these words. I can pause and take a deep breathe. These skills are useful for me as I can use these in interviews." – **Elisa Chau**

Chau

"It was a beneficial experience; everyone had a chance to express their thoughts and improve their confidence." – **Jeasmine Idris**

"It was extremely beneficial, I am now much more conscious of the way in which I talk in front of others, the process is now much less daunting and I can do so with more confidence and clarity." – **Tom Lowe**

What a super day!



Fiona Langstone, Teacher of Law

Art Students take up Pallant House Residency

Year 12 students have started work on their Pallant House residency, visiting the gallery's fantastic exhibition 'Seeing Each Other' which focuses on artists portraying other artists.

They have been sketching and engaging with works which they will respond to later in their project. We can't wait to see the work they produce.

Laurelly Thorpe, Team Leader of Art



Gymastique Magique – Take Us to the Magic!

In October, Isla-Rose Evans (7Story) had the incredible opportunity to represent her club Chichester Gymnastics Academy at Gymnastique Magique, a Disney - themed international gymnastics competition. This spectacular event combined gymnastics, dance, and performance in a truly magical Disney setting. Participants showcased routines inspired by Disney music and films, with vibrant costumes and creative choreography that brought the magic to life.

As part of the event, gymnasts also had the chance to take part in a Magical Pre-Parade through Disneyland Paris - a once-in-a-lifetime experience performing alongside dancers and gymnasts from around the world - a truly unforgettable experience!



"I'm so grateful that I got to go to Disneyland and do gymnastics there — it was the biggest performance I've ever done! It was an amazing opportunity to represent Chichester Gymnastics Academy and to perform in front of so many people. I had so much fun, and all the rides and everything in the park were incredible. It was such a magical experience that I'll never forget!" – Isla-Rose Evans

Year 10 Art Students inspired in London

What a way to start the half term! Year 10 art students had a fantastic time on their trip to London visiting Picasso Theatre at Tate Modern and Cecil Beaton at The National Portrait gallery. They studied artworks in detail, sketching and making notes to gather inspiration for their identity project. We were very lucky to meet the artist Ben Wilson, also known as 'Chewing Gum Man' who was painting artworks on millennium bridge and spoke to us about what he does.

<https://benwilsonchewinggumman.com/>



It was wonderful to see students engaging with artworks without technology and playing card games on the coach. Well done on a successful trip Year 10. We can't wait to see the work you produce!

**Laurelly Thorpe,
Team Leader – Art**



Shoe Box Appeal 2025

Firstly thank you to everyone who kindly contributed to our 2025 Shoebox Project. On Saturday 1st November, the boxes went on the first step of their journey - to a warehouse in Bournemouth where the shipment is being consolidated ready for transportation to the recipient countries. Here are a few photos just showing the van load, unload and a couple of snaps of the warehouse. This warehouse will be virtually full of Rotary Shoeboxes by now and the shipment process by truck to our recipient countries will begin this week. Thank you all once again.



James Vann, Head of Ridgeway House

Bishop Luffa falls silent to honour the fallen

In what has become an annual moment of solemn commemoration, the whole School came together on the 11th November for a formal service of remembrance, this time on the Humanities Playground. As well as readings by Mr Hindman and our School Captains, Scarlett Guilfoyle and Rupert Reddington, there were also prayers from Father Phill, and the Kohima Epitaph from Mr Bonney (both ex-forces). We observed the two minutes silence at 11am, which was marked by the Last Post and Reveille, superbly played by Year 12 student Izzy Deans. A guard of honour made up of students who serve in uniformed organisations then accompanied the wreath laying party, as wreathes were laid by Mr Bonney and School Captains.



Mr Hindman closed the service by blowing a whistle used in the trenches of the First World War. Behaviour was excellent, as Bishop Luffa continued to work hard to ensure that the suffering of war, and the sacrifices made for our freedoms, are not forgotten.

My thanks must go to all of those involved in ensuring that the service ran so smoothly.



Justin Barnett, Head of Humanities

Computer Science in Action

In November our A-Level Computer Science students visited London for an action-packed day exploring cutting-edge technology and research with Computer Science in Action. They attended inspiring talks from industry leaders and academics, including Sue Black OBE on AI, Caleb Oniwinde on cloud computing, and Dr Tishtrya Mehta on natural language processing. The students also participated in interactive sessions that allowed them to apply computer science concepts in real-world scenarios. The day left them motivated, excited, and talking enthusiastically about the possibilities for their future in technology.



Helen Williams, Team Leader of Computer Science

Year 8 delve into the past!

Over four days, all of Year 8 were able to visit the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth as part of their History studies. Year 8 investigate the Tudors, so a visit to see the remains of Henry VIII's flagship, especially when it is on our doorstep, is too good an opportunity to miss. As well as seeing the ship itself, students were able to see some of the many artefacts lifted from the Solent as part of the recovery process. They were fascinated, for example, by some of the gory surgical equipment, and the remains of the ship's dog. This gave them an insight into life onboard a Tudor warship, and therefore the life of some ordinary people, whom history has often tended to overlook. They also found out about why the ship sank, and how it was raised (which myself and some of the older teachers were able to recall from the early 1980s!), which included a '4d' film with associated glasses!

As well as a tour of the museum, students also undertook a workshop, including on the horrors of Tudor medicine (which also relates well to part of our current GCSE course). The students were well behaved, and days like this



emphasise that there are many different ways that we can learn about the past, including the history of our local area.

My thanks must go to the numerous staff who accompanied the visit, and hence made it possible, and to students for their level of interest and enthusiasm.

Justin Barnett, Head of Humanities

Acing Mace!

In November a group of students from our thriving debate club took part in the first round of the prestigious ESU Mace debate competition. Our team competing on the day were Joel Blamire (13Wilson), Ella Blamire (10Ridgeway), and Ben Webster (13Sherborne) who were up against local rivals St Philip Howard.

Each heat features up to three debates. Motions and positions are provided in advance to give teams a chance to prepare and research their argument. The position and order for the teams and others in the heats are randomly assigned to ensure fairness. The order can be adjusted by the competition lead on the night if necessary, and in fact on this occasion this did happen, and our team suddenly found themselves going first. Our team put up a very strong opposition argument to the motion "This house would ban short-haul domestic flights where transport alternatives exist" and received brilliant feedback from the judges.

The team were excited to find out that they had done enough to progress to the second round which should be held in January. We will receive a new motion to debate for or against and we will have a new trio to take part with the support of the rest of the team. We have put ourselves forward to host which would be a fantastic opportunity for the whole school to celebrate our dedicated debate team.

Katie Pegram, Second in Charge of English - KS3 Lead

England vs Argentina – Quilter Nations Series 2025

In November Mr Buck and Mr Gibbons took 14 lucky students to watch England's last game of the 2025 Quilter Nations Series against a highly ranked Argentinian team at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham. Students enjoyed reliable travel, a trip to the stadium shop, tasty food and an enrolling game. The game finished on a knife's edge with Argentina failing to capitalise with an attacking lineout 5m from England's line, resulting in England's victory 27-23.

A huge thank you to Mr Buck and Mr Gibbons for leading the trip. Please keep an eye out for more trips coming up next year.

Tom Blewitt, Teacher of PE



Bar Mock Trial – A Joy to Witness

In November our Sixth Form team, comprising Millie Anas (12Wilson), Becca Challis (12Wilson), Amaya Misson-Williams (12Wilson), Isla Donaldson (13Andrewes), Jeasmine Idris (13Andrewes), Thomas Lowe (13Andrewes), Olivia Cogger (13Sherborne), Poppy-May Pallett (13Sherborne), Joel Blamire (13Wilson), Sarayu Katikaneni (12Andrewes), Amelia Gheraty-Bellingham (12Burrows), Isaac Siddle (12King), Matthew Murphy (12Burrows), Ben Parsons-Cork (12Otter) and Oscar Goldsmith (12Burrows) went to the Southampton Crown Court to participate in the Bar Mock Competition and competed with six other schools.



We had two cases – one that involved drugs possession with intent to supply and the other, possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence. The barristers and witnesses were electric in their delivery, while the usher and clerk acted with both authority and conviction. The whole team were well prepared and did an excellent job in each role they had--it was a joy to witness! We were not placed in this round but are very much looking forward to next year--well done everybody!

Fiona Langstone, Teacher of Law

Year 13 RE Conference

On the 10th December 2025, we had our annual Year 13 RE Conference. We had the pleasure of welcoming Pastor Chris Fry, from Hope Church, Chichester, to facilitate the discussion that focused on the big question of: ***"Do we have a purpose in life?"***

We started the day with some pastries- thanks to Jane and the team for having these ready for us. Students then examined different arguments, through a range of different lenses: biological, philosophical, spiritual, and religious lenses. There was the opportunity to explore ideas from Freud, Nietzsche, Ghandi, C.S. Lewis, Rosseau, and more. Students had time to prepare presentations to determine whether we have a purpose in life, and their responses were brilliant.



It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm from students, and the innovative ways they shared their arguments, using film, PowerPoint, and even a rap!

Many thanks to all Year 13 students for their participation- it was a joy to watch your presentations. Special thanks to Year 12 Theology students, who came along and gave feedback on the presentations. We are already looking forward to the Year 12 conference in the Spring term!

Claire Duke, Head of RE

Chickens Upgrade!

Chicken Club has had another great term with over 20 additional members joining our lunch time sessions and more students benefiting from our daily morning 'Calm Chicken' intervention. The hens have been having a well-deserved rest from laying and are all looking really happy and healthy after their autumnal moult.

After our various fundraising efforts last year, including 'Chicken Week', we have had exciting updates this term with the hens getting some upgrades! Their outside run is now covered with netting to keep them as safe as possible from Avian Influenza and they have more 'henrichment' activities in their inside run to keep them 'hentertained'.



We also now have a water supply fitted to the brick outbuilding (which was renovated last year after our first round of fundraising) so we can wash hands there and clean, wash and fill drinkers. We will soon have fed drinkers installed by the Christmas holidays which will mean no more lugging watering cans and fiddling with upside down drinkers!



Our next stage of our project will be to get an electricity supply in the outbuilding so we can have heating for warming and drying the wellies and overalls, as well as lights so we can see what we are doing and make the outbuilding a more usable space! More fundraising activities to follow in 2026 to help us continue to flourish!

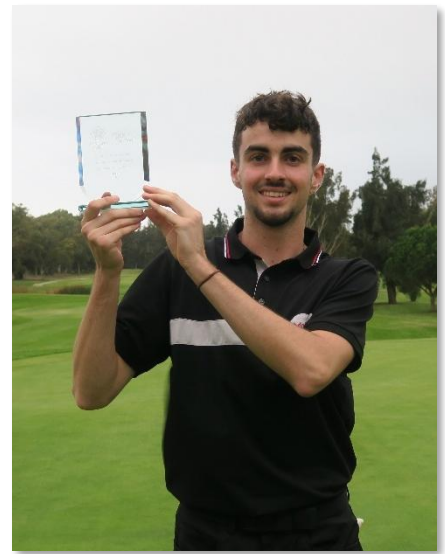
Finally thank you to the staff and students who help look after the hens as well as the large team of volunteer families who help at weekends and holidays.

Louisa Fowles, Teacher of History

Sports News

Congratulations to the following students for their sporting achievements this half term:

Huge congratulations to Oliver Harrison (11Otter) who won the second edition of the Race to Woodhall Spa Overseas Grand Final in November, becoming champion at Penina Hotel & Golf Resort in Portugal. Oliver, playing off a handicap of 13, shot a stellar 71 points across his two rounds of golf on the Sir Henry Cotton Championship Course to lift the title as he finished six shots clear of the field. The full report can be found on the [England Golf](#) website.



Well done to Millie Malcolm (8Ridgeway) and Grace Bragaglia (8Otter) who completed the Junior Great South Run. This was Millie's third time, running it in aid of her church. Millie raised over £300 and beat last years' time.

Congratulations to Sam Machell (9Burrows) who has been selected for The British Sailing Transition Talent Academy in the 29er boat.

Well done to Jack Challen (9Ridgeway) who has won a range of awards due to his outstanding performances this cricket season: *Arundel Cricket Club Youth Awards*: U13 All-rounder, U14s Batting Award, U14s Bowling award; *Arundel Cricket Club Men's Awards*: 3rd team Batting Award for Most Runs, 3rd team Player of the Year, Club Young Player of the Year; *Sussex Cricket League Award*: Division 12 top run scorer with 412 runs.



Congratulations to Amelia Harper (7Story) who gained her Black Belt grading in November. It has taken Amelia six years to get to 1st Dan, albeit she couldn't train for a year due to Covid restrictions, a remarkable achievement for someone so young.

Well done to Alex Burford-Pugh (7Burrows) who won four Gold medals across all four strokes in his recent swimming gala.

Congratulations to former student Charlie Gran, who has been shortlisted for SportsAid's 2025 One-To-Watch Award. Charlie has established himself as one to watch for the future in the Olympic-class 49er, and achieved an outstanding 7th at the U23 World Championships at just 18.



Olive Coveney (9Ridgeway) returned from Scotland as a gold medal winner of the Trophy d'Escosse 2025! Her team placed 1st in their category after a fabulous performance. The Trophy d'Escosse is a major synchronised ice-skating competition held annually, featuring teams across the UK. Olive skates as part of the Solent Synchro Skating Club of Great Britain. Their next challenge will be the British Championships in February.

Oscar Stephen (8Story) returned from the 74th Trofeo Ciutat de Palma Optimist Regatta sailing competition where he came 273rd out of 346 sailors. The competition was fierce with current and previous World, European/Continental and National Champions all fighting it out from countries as far as Brazil, Peru, Singapore, Uruguay, India, USA and Norway to name a few. There were high winds (gusting 35 knots) and big seas (2m seas), meaning qualification favoured those who were tall and heavy. Oscar qualified in Emerald Fleet (which he was eventually first overall in). This then led into the finals. Oscar took away a lot of learning from the event and it was a great opportunity for him to race against the World's best.

Elf-tastic Story House raises £785

In the lead up to Christmas, Story House were full of the spirit of goodwill and were keen to get involved in several charity-based adventures. This began with members of the House and supported by other students and staff in the school dressing up as elves and making a donation in the form of money, food bank donations or prayers. Some chose to exchange an item of school uniform for a red or green alternative, others wore an elf hat, there were also who went "full-on elf." Special Mention to the innovative design of Arlo Minnett (8Story) who came as elf on the shelf! (giggle) In the weeks leading up to Elf Day we also raffled off Elfie. Congratulations to Mrs Knight who won.





My little elves also took their charity endeavours out into the community and were welcomed at Homelands Nursing home where our Christmas Choir sang to the residents, most of whom have dementia. All the students enjoyed themselves as did the residents and carers.

Choir Singers: Autumn-Rae Carter, Fern Carter, Evie Clark, Lily Davison, Hannah Griffiths, Scarlet Hackett, Amelia Harper, Rebekah Jolly, Daisy Kirk, Jessica McGovern, Annabelle Ruff, Emily Scott, Ella Slade, Oluchi Ahiwe.

Lastly during the last week of term, we held cake and donut sales all week as a final push before Christmas, raising a final total of £785.00! A massive thank you to everyone who dressed up donated, sang and baked and brought cakes to support our events. Merry Christmas from Story House.

Shona Charge, Head of Story House

Year 12 learn about Family Law

On Friday 19 December Mr Cooke from Edward Cooke Family Solicitors came to speak to the Year 12 Law class about being a family lawyer, surrogacy law and Mediation.

His contribution on various committees and associations reporting to government on a child-focussed approach to mediation in particular, is ground breaking and much needed in Family Law. He has offices in Chichester, Brighton and Farnham so he talked to us not only about the law aspect but the business aspects too.



We very much enjoyed the talk, we asked lots of questions and learnt a lot about the pathways to becoming a solicitor and what steps can be taken to succeed at the interview stage. A huge thank you to Mr Cooke from the Law class for coming in to see us and inspire us to consider these areas of Law as a career.

Fiona Langstone, Teacher of Law

PSHE Topics

The following topics will be covered during PSHE lessons during the first half of the Spring term (but may be subject to change). If you have any concerns about the topics being discussed, please contact your child's Head of House or Mrs Smerdon-Corp, Teacher in charge of PSHE (smerdon-corpc@bishopluffa.org.uk) The following subjects are being covered.

Year 7	Bullying Alcohol Smoking/Vaping Knife Crime Puberty	Year 8	County Lines Online Grooming Relationships Puberty
Year 9	Consent FGM Relationships Delaying Sex Sexual Harrassment	Year 10	Work Experience Gambling Knife Crime FGM Sextortion
Year 11	Relationships STIs Contraception Drink Spiking First Aid		

Prayers

The Parents' and Carers' Prayer and Support Group have suggested that we circulate a school prayer list, so that families can reflect the present concerns of the school in their prayers. We will aim to update the list every month.

Prayer List:

Every month:

- Students and their families
- All our staff
- Our Governors and Trustees
- Our Clergy Team and Youth Workers
- Our Worship Team
- Our Parents & Friends Association
- Our Christian Union
- Our links to the wider church
- House and Sixth Form Charities

During December & January:

- Ukrainian students
- Year 10s and 13s preparing for exams
- Preparations for the school plan
- Year 10s organising work experience
- Year 13s planning their future.

School Calendar

Friday 19th December

Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January 2026

Monday 5th January 2026

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Tuesday 13th January

Thursday 15th January

Thursday 15th January

Thursday 22nd January

Thursday 29th January

Thursday 5th February

Monday 9th February

Thursday 12th February

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February

Last Day of Autumn Term

Christmas Break

INSET Day (school closed)

Students return to school after Christmas break

PFA Meeting

PFA Uniform Shop open 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Year 9 Options Evening for parents and carers

Sixth Form Winter Ball

Year 9 Parents' & Carers' Virtual Consultation Evening

Year 7 Parents' & Carers' Virtual Consultation Evening

PFA Meeting

Year 13 Parents' & Carers' Consultation Evening

HALF TERM