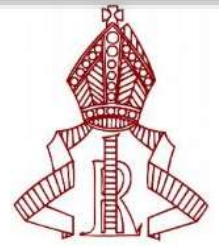


# Bishop Luffa School

2024-2025 Issue 4

April 2025



Dear friends of Bishop Luffa School,

We started this term in darkness and are now bathed in sunshine! Back in the dark days of January we asked each other who we listen to in our lives and what values they have. Our students suggested some very interesting people, and we have learnt a lot about who our children really listen to. This has led to a debate about social media and the impact it has on us, which we are going to carry on next term. Hopefully we will be able to agree some changes at school that will help us all to live healthier lives.

It is exactly three years since our first Ukrainian students joined us. Sadly, the news this term has been unsettling for Ukrainians, so this week we had an assembly where we recommitted ourselves to our Ukrainian friends. We promised that we would continue to stand with them, whatever is happening in the world.

Unusually, we break up in the middle of Lent, with Easter Sunday still weeks away. In our reflections on Lent we have used this verse from Luke to focus our minds: 'when they became fully awake, they saw his glory'. Too many people spend their lives half asleep – I hope that knowing that someone loves us so much that they were willing to die for us wakes us all up this Easter.

God bless,

Austen Hindman.  
Head Teacher.



## This Lent...

...let your door stand open to receive Christ,  
Unlock your soul to Him,  
Offer Him a welcome in your mind  
And then you will see the riches of simplicity,  
The treasures of peace,  
And the joy of grace.  
**Amen.**

*Saint Ambrose.*



## Charity Week 2025

A big thank you to everyone who supported Charity Week 2025. The lunchtime events were such fun and it was great to see so many students and staff embracing the spirit of the Fancy Dress Day with such enthusiasm and creativity!

Congratulations to Sofia Casali, Tilly Groves and Katelyn Hagel (our Sixth Form Committee Charity Reps) who put the whole week together. Photos from the events can be found on the school website <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/home/student-leadership/photo-gallery/charity-week-2025/>

We haven't got a total yet but will let you know as soon as we do! With the money raised from Fashion Show too, we are hoping to get close to our 20K target (a new record) for our three Sixth Form charities: *Grassroots*, *Sussex Snowdrop Trust* and *The Sanctuary*, Chichester.

**Jamie Saunders – Head of Sixth Form**





## Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to the following students on their achievements in activities outside of school this half term:

Well done to Elsie Huxtable (8Ridgeway) who took a huge medal haul in the recent Sussex Long Course Championships. Elsie achieved six Golds (200m Individual Medley, 100m breast, 200m breast, 50m free, 50m fly) and two Silvers (100m free and 200m free). Elsie was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place Junior (under 16) County Champion for her 200m Individual Medley, along with 3<sup>rd</sup> place for her 50m, 100m and 300m breaststroke.



Oscar Stephens (7Story) recently took part in the IOCA UK Spring Championships 2025 in Torbay and made a video of his adventures which you can view by [clicking on this link](#).

Oscar had a really good weekend and he has now been selected to take part in Selections, to be able to gain a place to possibly attend the French Nationals, Garda Country Cup (Italy), European Championships (in Turkey) or the World Championships (in Slovenia) representing GBR. This is a massive achievement in itself and something that everyone is immensely proud of. We look forward to sharing Oscar's news from the Selections in due course.

## Otter House Roses 2025

Bishop Luffa was teeming with love and joy in the week before half term, with the sale of roses for the Otter House charity event to raise money for *Macmillan Cancer Support*.

Thank you to everyone who bought a rose (or three) or donated to this amazing charity. We matched our total of £450 from last year – this is in addition to the £240 raised from the Coffee Morning in November.



A huge thank you to 11Otter and the wonderful Mrs Smerdon-Corp who did a phenomenal job behind the scenes so that the roses could be delivered to the correct people – no mean feat to get hundreds of roses delivered around the school in one tutor time.

**Jas Stone, Head of Otter House**



## Year 10 enjoy the World of Work

**A**s part of their career journey, approximately 240 Year 10 students recently returned from their work experience placements and the results have been overwhelmingly positive.

A valuable part of the students' careers education throughout their time at Bishop Luffa, this experience has not only given them a glimpse into the world of work, but also allowed them to develop a wide range of essential skills that will benefit them in both their future studies and careers.

Students developed communication skills, time management, teamwork, problem solving, professionalism and most notably confidence, becoming more comfortable in their abilities and interactions with others. Employers commented on how keen students were to get involved and their willingness to learn, commenting: 'very attentive', 'brilliant at taking instructions', 'amazed me with his questions', 'extremely helpful', 'an excellent team player', 'polite, punctual', 'a credit to the school', 'we want to keep him!'.

Students successfully organised work placements with a whole range of employers including: Airbus, Barnardo's Retail Store, Brinsbury College, Chichester College, Collaborate Global, Crimsham Farm, Goodwood, Heirlooms, Hills Plants, Jam Café, John Lewis, Mary Rose Museum, Novium Architects, Portsmouth University, Rolls Royce, Royal Navy, SGN and many more.

Many students returned to their old primary schools and nurseries to find out more about working in education and childcare. Some of the highlights identified by students during their placements included: designing a house, developing social skills, applying physics to real world problems, observing vet operations, welding, designing posters, web design, teaching English and Maths, building bikes, creating a massive display, bricklaying, and how to health check snakes!

We are very proud of all the Year 10 students for making the most of their work experience. The positive feedback about their work ethic and attitudes reinforces the importance of providing such real-world experience.



### *Reflections from Hari (10Sherborne):*

I just wanted to share my incredible experience during my work placement at Kamson Pharmacy. It was truly an eye-opening and rewarding journey that gave me valuable insights into the industry that helped me grow personally and professionally. I highly recommend applying for opportunities like this. It's a great way to build confidence and gain valuable insight on what work is like.

### *Reflections from Evie (10Sherborne):*

For my work experience, I worked for a company called Invyte. Invyte is a boutique event agency specialising in end-to-end event management, guest registration, venue finding and event technology. My mum's company Liberty Global uses Invyte to help with some of their larger business's opportunities. My first couple of days were spent in the office going through a specific company event. My job was to find hotels nearby at sustainable prices and also find them a uniform to wear for the event. I enjoyed this, but unfortunately, I spent around four hours trying to find a good hotel. My favourite part of this experience was going out into the field, which was London. We looked over London at different venues and luxury boats. We analysed them, made a PowerPoint slide and then headed to Liberty Global office building where I had to present the information that we found out about various venues and to a high valued boss. I chose this particular placement because this is the type of job that I will be doing in the future. The skills that I have learned from this job is how to manage money, bargain, analyse venues and to not be afraid during meetings. I would recommend this placement to other students if this is the profession that they would like to go forward with it is phenomenal and one of the best experiences I've ever done.



We are very grateful to everyone involved in supporting our work experience programme. Please get in touch with me at [hoppa@bishopluffa.org.uk](mailto:hoppa@bishopluffa.org.uk) if you work for a company who may be able to offer a work experience opportunity in the future.

**Angie Hopp – Careers Coordinator**

## **Coding Competition Winners**

**C**ongratulations to Jackson Harding (7Sherborne) and Alvin Bineesh (9Wilson) for their fantastic achievement in the national Halloween Coding Competition, run by [DressCode](https://www.dresscode.org.uk/) in Scotland! Their impressive [Scratch](https://scratch.mit.edu/) games each earned them the top prize—Tobbie the Self-Guiding AI Robot. Well done to both students for showcasing their creativity and coding skills!

**Helen Williams, Team Leader of Computer Science**





## Film & Media London Residential

During the February half term break, our Sixth Form Film Studies and Media Studies students got a taste of the capital, and the culture and creativity on offer on our doorstep.

After a train journey into Waterloo, our first stop was the Tate Modern where - amongst the expected famous works of art - innovative short films and diverse multimedia projects gave our Year 12 learners inspiration ahead of their forthcoming coursework units. Following a meander around Covent Garden, we watched the award-winning musical adaptation of *Back to the Future* with its astonishing staging effects and deft adaptation of Bob Gale and Robert Zemeckis's timeless screenplay (handy for our Year 13 Film students as we are currently studying the shift from New American Cinema to the high concept blockbusters of the 1980s).

After a stroll past Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace to London's original Hard Rock Café for dinner, our first day concluded with screenings at the British Film Institute. Each student decided which one of the three films on offer they wanted to watch; these included *Memoir of a Snail*, a Burtonesque Australian animation which is up for Best Animated Film at this year's Oscars, and *I'm Still Here*, the critically acclaimed story of a family's life in 70's Rio under the Brazilian military dictatorship. Each student was enthralled by their choice, and some were visibly moved and deeply affected when we gathered in the lobby afterwards to discuss our picks.



The following day we set off for what was possibly the highlight of the trip: *Vogue: Inventing the Runway*, an audio-visual experience at The Lightroom, a huge immersive space in which moving image is projected on all four walls and the floor. We lined up in a "backstage area" where some of our students indulged at the make-up stations. Then, after getting comfy on one of the Lightroom's many seating areas, the history of Vogue magazine (a product our Year 13 Media students are studying) was told through a collision of images and footage which enveloped the entire space. It was a truly unique experience, topped

off by some of our students getting to meet and talk to the staff member who created the entire installation. After lunch at Canopy Market near Granary Square, we finished our residential with a visit to Madam Tussauds, where selfies with film, media and cultural icons were the order of the day.

We also took in the newer Marvel and Star Wars exhibits, a reminder of the sustained legacy marketing and cross-promotion methods deployed by Disney, all conglomerates and companies that we investigate in Year 12 Media Studies.

After two days and over 35,000 steps we were done! The students left with a fresh awareness of the myriad ways to enter the film, media and cultural industries and the huge impact the sector has on their lives and futures. My thanks to Mrs Jones for accompanying us and to all the students who embarked on the trip.

**Gareth Evans – Team Leader Film Studies and Media Studies**

## A Fun Filled Ski Trip

**T**his year's ski trip to Passo Tonale was an unforgettable experience, packed with adventure, laughter, and some of the best food we've ever had on a school trip! From the slopes to the hotels, every aspect of the trip exceeded expectations—especially the amazing food that kept everyone fuelled for the adventure!

Passo Tonale provided the perfect mix of slopes for all abilities. Whether it was beginners mastering their first turns or experienced skiers taking on the legendary black runs, everyone made fantastic progress. We were blessed with great instructors, who were patient and encouraging, making sure every student had the best experience.

Our stay at Hotel Mirella in nearby Ponte di Legno provided the perfect place to relax after long days on the slopes. The staff were incredibly welcoming, always ensuring we had everything we needed for a great stay. The hotel's warm and inviting atmosphere made it feel like a home away from home.

We're thrilled to announce that next year's ski trip to Passo Tonale and Hotel Mirella is already launched!



After such an incredible time this year, we're excited to return for another week of skiing, great food, and unforgettable memories. Trip details are available on Arbor.

To finish, we will leave you with the thoughts of Lucia, Anna, Florence and Mary, about this year's trip...

*'The food and hospitality was lovely, the staff that came on the ski trip were really helpful and the ski resort and ski instructors made the trip amazing. It was a fantastic experience and we would definitely recommend the trip.'*

More photos from the trip can be found at <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/home/student-leadership/photo-gallery/ski-trip-february-2025/>

**Neil Topley – Assistant Head Teacher**

## Year 7 Castle Project

As part of their History studies this term, Year 7 had the opportunity to produce a castle project. This year, students were able to choose from Motte and Bailey, Stone Keep and Concentric Castles to show development and change over time. The quality of the work was outstanding and varied. Students put their talents to excellent use producing a wide range of castles using a variety of methods, ranging from beautiful paintings, fantastic models and delicious and detailed cakes.



Technology was preferred by some students whilst others chose Lego or trusty paper mâché, loo-rolls and cereal boxes. It was a wonderful showcase of the current Year 7s skills and knowledge and many of the projects are on display at the top of the H Block stairs, thanks to the hard work of Miss Sutton. More photos can be found on the school website <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/home/student-leadership/photo-gallery/year-7-history-homework-castles/>

**Louisa Fowles – Teacher of History**

## English Schools' Cross Country Cup National Finals

Bishop Luffa School's Cross Country team earned a prestigious 6th place finish at the English Schools Cross Country Cup National Final in Leeds on Saturday 1st March, competing against some of the toughest opponents from across the nation. This impressive result was made possible thanks to the generous sponsorship of Barfoots Foods, whose support allowed the team to cover vital expenses such as running vests, entry fees, accommodation and travel costs.

The National Final, held at the Leeds course, brought together the best school cross country athletes from all over England for a fierce and highly competitive race. Despite facing off against schools with strong cross-country traditions, Bishop Luffa's runners demonstrated incredible grit and determination, securing a spot among the nation's top 10 teams.

The race was challenging in both its terrain and conditions, but every athlete contributed to the team's outstanding performance, which saw them finish in 6th place overall—an achievement made even more remarkable by the caliber of the competition. Ben Stewart (10Andrewes) 18th, Max Gayle (9Burrows) 19th, Joe Stewart (9Andrewes) 49th, Zac Robst (10Wilson) 56th, Freddie Gay (9Ridgeway) 100th, Reuben Shewan (9Wilson) 133rd.





Barfoots Foods, a local business committed to supporting young athletes within the community, provided essential funding for the team, including new running vests, covering entry fees and supporting accommodation expenses to ensure the athletes could focus on their performance without the added pressure of logistical costs. This sponsorship was vital in allowing the team to compete at such a high level. This video shows some of the highlights from the event - [ESSA Cross Country Final 2025 video](#)

**Tim Godfray – Team Leader of PE**

## STEMFest 2025 – Inspiring the Next Generation

Recently twenty of our enthusiastic Year 7 and 8 students attended STEMFest at Chichester College, where they explored the exciting world of science, technology, engineering, and maths. From 3D air drawing and virtual reality, to F1 race challenges and hologram experiences, our students had a fantastic time engaging with cutting-edge technology. The event was a great opportunity to spark curiosity and inspire future innovators!

**Helen Williams – Team Leader of Computer Science**



## Politics students attend PolEcon Conference

**O**n Monday 10th March, 16 A'Level Politics students attended the Polecon Conference at Methodist Central Hall, London. Attendance was strong as the speakers included Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, Richard Tice, Emily Thornberry, Daisy Cooper, Sian Berry, Lord 'Alf' Dubs and Alastair Campbell.

Each spoke passionately about their political background, the reasons for their ideas and then (very bravely) took questions from the students.



*"America is our ally, not a friend." Jacob Rees-Mogg*

Many of the speakers were insightful with their answers and greatly helped our students understand the ideologies behind the people.

*"Scottish independence is close." Peter Wishart, SNP*

Overall students felt it had been an....

'...amazing opportunity to hear party ideas directly from politicians and was great to (almost) hear direct answers to questions about their voting patterns" and...

"interesting to hear from people with different ideas, never thought I 'd agree with Rees-Mogg."



If you would like to know more about A Level Politics at Bishop Luffa School, speak with Mr Luff.

**Matt Luff – Teacher of Politics**

## Talk the Talk with the Debate Club

**B**ishop Luffa students recently took part in a Debate Day Workshop at Seaford College. There were three teams – one from Seaford College, one from St Philip Howard and our team.



*Talk the Talk, Confident Communication for Life* was a confident communication workshop geared towards secondary school students – with a focus on 'group talk' – those real situations in life where we find ourselves in meetings or group discussions. Within this workshop each student spoke, in front of their peers and in groups on a minimum of three occasions, while revising core components around visual, verbal and vocal communication. In addition, these sessions provided students with the skills needed for group talk, and gave practical opportunities to explore and develop these skills.

The workshop was geared towards Debating competitions, with a broader goal of developing a series of events across the academic year through inter-school relationships for our debate teams.

Ari Hayman in 8Andrewes who attended had these thoughts on the day "the trip to Seaford College was really enjoyable. Talk the Talk was an amazing workshop, and it really helped me grow my confidence with public speaking and speaking in Debate Club. It taught me how to be more confident; from posture to tone of voice, I learned so much and had lots of fun."

Ivy Revill (8Andrewes) was on the team(s) who won in two of the games during the event – Well done Ivy! The other students who attended were Isla Hayman (7Andrewes), Grace Bragaglia (7Otter), Anna Rattray (7Ridgeway), Ayla Tran (7Ridgeway), Eesa Salah (8Wilson), Eva Callaghan (9Andrewes), Amy Marshall (9Otter), Ella Blamire (9Ridgeway), Samuel Pegg (12Story) and Joel Blamire (12Wilson).

**Fiona Langstone – Teacher of Law**

## Interhouse Art Competition

**A** huge congratulations to all students who took part in our Interhouse Art competition. We had over 150 students submit work for the competition on the theme of 'Perspectives'. The whole school was given the opportunity to vote for their favourite piece in three different categories, KS3, GCSE and A-level. The work was incredibly impressive with a huge breadth of subjects and media used in different ways. You can see more of the work submitted on the art department Instagram page @bishop\_luffa\_art Over 1400 votes were made, well done to the winning artists who are celebrated by their peers. Photos from the competition can be found at <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/home/student-leadership/photo-gallery/interhouse-art-competition-2025/>

### KS3

1st Ellie Fletcher (9Andrewes)  
2nd Izzy Harris (9Sherborne)  
Amelie Christie (8Ridgeway)



### GCSE

1st Harry Newman (11King)  
2nd Tom Peregrin (11Andrewes)  
3rd Karina Kurovska (11Ridgeway)



### A-Level

Daisy Paget (13Sherborne)  
Ella Harley (13Andrewes)  
Judith Purchase (13Wilson)

House standings for the competition are as follows and are based on the total number of votes for students work in each House:

1st King with 264 votes

2nd Wilson with 230 votes

3rd Andrewes with 212 votes

4th Sherborne with 170 votes

5th Ridgeway with 158 votes

6th Story with 147 votes

7th Otter with 141 votes

8th Burrows with 99 votes.

**Laurelly Thorpe – Team Leader of Art**



## Students have fun at the Six Nations

**O**n Sunday 9th March 14 students travelled to the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, in the hope of seeing England win against a strong Italian opposition.

The stadium was packed with over 81,000 supporters hoping to see some tries, tackles and tantalising rugby. The game did not disappoint with both teams scoring early and playing expansive rugby in the sunshine. However, as the game progressed England took a foothold and did not look backwards. The final score was 47-24 to England who go into the final week of the competition with a chance of lifting the trophy.



The students represented the school immaculately and enjoyed an incredible view of the game from some fabulous seats. Finally, a special thank you to Mr Hill for co-leading the trip and giving up his time to offer this opportunity to the students.

**Tom Blewitt – Teacher of PE**

## LAMDA at Luffa

**T**he most recent cohort of students taking LAMDA examinations at Bishop Luffa School have achieved a 100% pass rate, with 90% of students achieving a distinction, and all students achieving a London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) qualification. Students taking the higher grades have been awarded medals and a combined total of 126 UCAS points.

There was amazing work from:

Matilda De Bathe (11Andrewes) - Gold Medal, Grade 8 (Public Speaking)

Niall Cook (11Story) - Gold Medal, Grade 8 (Acting)

Orla Jones (9Story) - Silver Medal, Grade 7 (Acting)

Bea Barton (9Burrows) - Silver Medal, Grade 7 (Acting)

Richard Popovich (10Story) - Bronze Medal, Grade 6 (Public Speaking)

Molly Stanhope (8Wilson) - Bronze Medal, Grade 6 (Verse & Prose)

Megan Siddle (9King) - Bronze Medal, Grade 6 (Verse & Prose)



Congratulations to all students who took an exam, a truly brilliant effort all round.

A few students also went on to compete in the Chichester Festival for Music, Dance and Speech at Oakwood School. Awards for 'Prose Speaking' went to Florence Cullen (9King) 1st place, Emily Farnell (9Burrows) 2nd place, and Megan Siddle (9King) and Matilda Brown (8Andrewes) joint 3rd place. A special

mention must also go to Lucia Clark (7Wilson) and Jacob Isaacs (7Burrows) for a wonderful performance of their dramatic duologue.



Congratulations to Alex Solly (11Ridgeway) who took 1st place for his Shakespeare solo, winning the Audrey Bryant Challenge Cup. Alex is also the recipient of the Hilda Jackman Memorial Trophy for 'Best performance in the Speech & Drama section' for the 70th anniversary Chichester Festival for Music, Dance & Speech. Alex was presented his trophy at the Gala Concert held in the Minerva Theatre, Chichester Festival Theatre on Sunday 16th March.

A new round of LAMDA has recently started, with exams being taken in July. Good luck to all our new students.

**Angela Watkins & Luke Osborne – LAMDA Tutors**

## **A Weekend of National Success for Bishop Luffa Athletes**

**F**ederick Cullen (7King) represented Bishop Luffa at the British Schools National Trampoline final in Derby. Frederick came into the Final having qualified out of the County and Regional round, and finishing first in last year's competition within Britain. Frederick was competing in the Year 7-9 elite competition. Whilst he was the youngest in this age category he finished in 8th place overall with a score of 79.5. This is an incredible achievement for Frederick and Bishop Luffa and we look forward



to see his progress in the coming years in this competition. Thank you to Chichester Chiropractic Health who kindly sponsored Frederick to enable him to compete in this Final. See Frederick's success [here](#)

Elodie Hill (10King), Isabella Lendrum (9Burrows), Joe Stewart (9Andrewes), Max Gayle (9Burrows) and Ben Stewart (10Andrewes) represented Sussex at the English Schools Cross Country Championships National Final at Ardingly. This was a proud day for Bishop Luffa as we were the most represented school within the Sussex team. Isabella (79th) was a part of the junior girls' team who came 3rd, Elodie (41st) was a part of the intermediate girls' team who came 3rd, Max Gayle (35th) and Joe Stewart (45th) were a part of the junior boys' team who came 2nd, and a recovering Ben Stewart (142nd) was a part of the intermediate boys' team who came 10th out of all the 48 counties in England. This was an outstanding achievement by all of the five Bishop Luffa students, this was a fiercely contested race and the runners have had to qualify out of previous rounds to get to this stage. This has been an amazing end to what has been an outstanding cross-country season for the Bishop Luffa runners. See the cross-country runners' success [here](#)

**Tim Godfray – Team Leader of PE**

## Year 7 & 8 and their Spanish Friends

**W**e did it again! We hosted 135 students and 15 teachers from Spain! Our partner school from Tenerife paid us a visit and spent the day with us in the school. They brought their whole Year 7 cohort so we decided to mix them with our lovely Year 7 group. We have 370 students together involved in languages activities, playing games in the field and having lunch in the canteen.

The weather was fantastic so we learnt how to play "pañuelo" a traditional Spanish game to help students to develop their receptive and coordination skills. Our members of the International Team played an important role making sure that everything ran smoothly and keeping everyone happy. Well done! We have been doing this for four years now, so this is now a Bishop Luffa tradition! We would like to thank everyone who helped during the day. A special thank you goes to the staff from the canteen and site management team whose amazing contribution made this day possible.



We then had some fun with Year 8 with a Spanish Day at Hampton Court. With our lovely Spanish friends visiting we thought this was a great opportunity to spend the day together. We decided to go to Hampton Court with them, so that we could show them around and talk to them about English culture and heritage. Our students had a lovely time making new friends and practising their Spanish. This term we will start writing our pen

pals letters to them so we get to know them better. We cannot wait to go to Tenerife next year and learning about their school and culture. Some great photos from both days can be found on the school website <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/home/student-leadership/photo-gallery/spanish-visitors-2025/>

**Elizabeth López Gamero – Team Leader of Spanish & International School Coordinator**

## Grassroots

**W**e recently had the privilege of hosting a visit from Grassroots' directors Sharon and Hugo Anson. It was a packed day! All of Year 8 and half of Year 9, plus Year 13, had the opportunity to question and reflect further on the partnership we have with the Grassroots charity. We continue to be grateful for the opportunities this gives us to learn and respond to issues of justice.

**Angela Smith - Assistant Head Teacher, Spiritual Direction**





## A Sense of Place

**O**n a foggy day in March the Year 10 art students went on a trip to Bognor beach to take part in an art workshop and explore the theme for their new art project 'A Sense of Place'. They embraced working in an experimental way, using their surroundings to explore mark making and experiment with abstract ideas. They all worked enthusiastically on this cold day and will use a lot of what they drew and collected to develop their ideas back in the classroom. Well done Year 10!

**Laurelly Thorpe – Team Leader of Art**



## Fashion & Textiles Students Shine at London's Stitch Festival

**O**n 22nd March Year 12 Fashion & Textiles students from Bishop Luffa had an unforgettable experience at The Stitch Festival held at the Business Design Centre, London. The highlight of the day was meeting a Strictly Come Dancing director of costume design, Gerald Schwanzer, gaining first-hand insight into the dazzling world of performance wear. Students also took to the catwalk, showcasing their confidence as they walked in a stunning £20,000 couture dress.



The trip provided a fantastic opportunity for students to enhance their practical skills by participating in a Textiles Skills Centre workshop, where they experimented with innovative techniques and industry trends. Photos can be found at <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/sixth-form/news-2/fashion-and-textiles-students-shine-at-londons-stitch-festival/> A truly inspiring and educational day for all, leaving students motivated for their future in fashion and design!

**Amanda Bonney - Teacher of Textiles**

## Bugsy Malone – An Absolute Triumph

This year's school production of *Bugsy Malone* was an absolute triumph, showcasing the immense talent, creativity, and enthusiasm of our students. Set in a whimsical 1920s-inspired world of gangsters and showgirls, the entire cast and crew delivered an unforgettable performance that left the audience buzzing with excitement.

From the moment the show opened, it was clear that the energy was electric. The audience were a part of the play, all seated in Fat Sam's Grand Slam with the actors mingling among them. The costumes and props beautifully captured the feel of the era, with vibrant colours, sleek props, and a charmingly retro aesthetic, bringing the world of *Bugsy Malone* to life in full swing. The standout performances came from the leads, each bringing something unique to their roles, full of heart and humour. The iconic musical numbers, such as "*Fat Sam's Grand Slam*" and "*You Give a Little Love*," were delivered with energy and passion, showcasing the vocal talents of the cast. It was a true joy to watch the students sing, dance, and embody their characters so fully.



But it wasn't just the leads who shone; the ensemble cast was equally impressive. From the hilarious antics of the gangsters to the zany antics of the showgirls, every cast member shone, making sure that there was never a dull moment. The choreography was lively and well-rehearsed, with some moments of slapstick comedy that had the audience in stitches. The live music was astonishingly good with musicians from across all year groups. The clever use of the "splurge guns"—the squirt guns that create the slapstick "splurge" effect—was a favourite, adding a fun and light-hearted element that had

everyone laughing along with the action. The whole production was a perfect blend of musical comedy, action, and heart.

A huge round of applause must go to the production team, and all the behind-the-scenes crew. The level of dedication and hard work was evident in every scene, from the smooth scene transitions to the impeccable lighting and sound design that ensured the performance ran seamlessly.

*Bugsy Malone* wasn't just a musical—it was a celebration of creativity, teamwork, and the incredible talent within our school. It was a show full of laughter, joy, and fantastic





performances, and it's clear that this production will be remembered for years to come. Thank you to Ilai Servant (11Sherborne) for all the fantastic photography taken during the rehearsals and the show and these can be found on the school website <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/home/student-leadership/photo-gallery/bugsy-malone-2025/>

Congratulations to everyone involved in making this show a roaring success!

**Nicky Furnell – Team Leader of Drama**

## Literacy Quizzes

**T**his term, 20 of our students took part in two exciting reading competitions that showcased both their literary knowledge and their incredible teamwork.

Three teams of four represented our school at the Chichester Literacy Quiz, where students competed against other schools and were quizzed on a range of books, authors, and general knowledge. Each student took responsibility for specific titles and authors, demonstrating preparation and collaboration.



Not stopping there, two more teams of four (with one alternate) competed in the National Reading Champions Quiz, an online nationwide event designed to celebrate and challenge students' general book knowledge on a national stage. Both teams won awards for Most Enthusiastic—or, as the presenter Mr Dilly put it, the award for “bringing happiness to the world.”

All 20 students have shown commitment, determination, and team spirit in preparing for these quizzes. I am proud not only of their achievements, but of their conduct on the day and the way they embody the values of our school. I want to say a huge well done to all of our participating students. You made us proud!

**Veronica Shuttleworth – School Librarian**

## Ben to the Rescue...

**B**en Welch (9Story) regularly serves at his local church. Recently their vicar was unwell and the Bishop of Chichester stepped in and conducted the mass and Ben had the privilege of serving alongside him.





## Eid Celebrations

**T**utor Time on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April saw a special celebration: 10 Ridgeway hosted a party to celebrate Eid, led by Mr Godfray, Ghalia Tomeh (11Burrows) and Sahar Al Kadri (10Ridgeway). The party featured Eid music, flags and bunting. There were traditional pastries and cakes served on Eid plates, as well as a short film about the meaning of Ramadan and Eid.



Fifteen of our students have been observing Ramadan, which culminated with the sighting of the moon and Eid ul-Fitr on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. They were all invited to join 10 Ridgeway's Eid party and bring some of their friends. Everyone enjoyed the chance to try a selection of delicious Eid treats, very kindly baked by Sahar and Ghalia and their mums. Our special thanks go to Mr Godfray and all who helped make this possible. Eid Mubarak!

**Susie Cooke – EAL Coordinator**

## News from the Christian Union



**R**ecently, the Christian Union held a worship evening. It was a great time of games, worship and a talk. We had 13 young people come along and meet together to focus on Jesus. A local worship leader, Calvin, gave up his time to come and lead worship. Also, one of our clergy members, Dan, came and spoke about spiritual strength.

The Christian Union continues to grow as we meet regularly every week. We have some big events planned including a weekend away coming up in May. It is inspiring as leaders to see people come and worship God through the Christian Union.

**Tom Vosper (11King) and Jess Smith (11Burrows)**

## Interhouse Dance Finals 2025

**T**his year's Interhouse Dance Finals took place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. The competition saw a large number of students enter dances into the heats and, due to stiff competition, the top four from each Year group performed in front of a panel of external judges; Rachael Boarer (founder of RnB Dance Company), alongside Bishop Luffa alumni Lucy Keeping (studying Dance at the University of Chichester) and Rebekah Leggatt (studying Teaching Musical Theatre at the University of Chichester). The audience also had the ability to vote as the fourth judge and the collated results including scores from the heats are below.

This year the House cup for the most participants across all Year groups were **Burrows House!** Mr Hindman also had the pleasure of announcing the overall Interhouse Dance winners for 2025 - **Burrows House!** The competition event had a great atmosphere with friends, family and staff rallying behind the dancers.

#### *Year Group Winners – Finalists*

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	KS4
1 <sup>st</sup> – Wilson 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Ridgeway & Sherborne ( <i>joint</i> ) 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Andrewes	1 <sup>st</sup> – King 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Sherborne 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Ridgeway 4 <sup>th</sup> – Burrows	1 <sup>st</sup> – Burrows 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Wilson 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Sherborne 4 <sup>th</sup> – Otter	1 <sup>st</sup> – Burrows

#### *Overall standings*

	Andrewes	Burrows	King	Otter	Ridgeway	Sherborne	Story	Wilson
Final Totals	9	29	14	5	13	21	3	18
Position	6th	1st	4th	7th	5th	2nd	8th	3rd

Thanks to all who came to support the event, it was a spectacular showcase of talent and demonstrated the passion and dedication the students have at Bishop Luffa for dance and a great way to end the term on a high. It is evident a lot of hard work has gone into the rehearsals and there was some very technical choreography and the standard was extremely high this year. There are some really talented performers at the school and it was such an enjoyable evening. Well done to all those involved!

**Jo Lawlor – Head of Arts Faculty and Team Leader for Dance**



## Worship Leaders

Our Worship Leaders have had a fantastic time this term delivering worship assemblies to our Academy Primary schools and more.

They have put together some wonderful presentations on Lent, Psalm Sunday and Easter whilst teaching the children a new Easter song. It is wonderful to see so many Worship Leaders becoming mentors, inspiring younger children, grow in confidence and use so many skill sets. We also have many new Year 7s that have joined the Worship team. Lots of new friendships and lots of fun!



Clare Lancaster – Worship Coordinator

## Bishop Luffa Sixth Form's Stellar Performance of *Brain Play*

On Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, the stage of Chichester Festival Theatre's intimate Minerva Theatre was alive with energy, emotion, and thought-provoking performances as Bishop Luffa Sixth Form took part in the National Theatre Connections Festival, performing *Brain Play* directed by sixth former Hugo Sheppard. The students' captivating rendition of the play highlighted both the talent within the school and the power of youth theatre in addressing complex, relevant themes.

*Brain Play* explores relationships and our understanding of self, a topic that resonates strongly with young audiences. The play's unconventional structure, with its rapid shifts in time and perspective, demanded precision and sensitivity from the cast—and Bishop Luffa's performers did not disappoint.



The ensemble cast delivered their lines with clarity and confidence, each actor fully embodying their character. The chemistry between them was palpable, creating an authentic sense of camaraderie and conflict that made the story's emotional stakes feel real. The characters' internal struggles were portrayed with nuance, and the cast's ability to transition between moments of humour, vulnerability, and tension demonstrated a maturity beyond their years.

One of the standout features of Bishop Luffa's production was their creative use of the space. The Minerva Theatre's intimate setting was used to full effect, with the actors engaging directly with the audience at times, making the performance feel immersive and immediate. The lighting and sound design worked hand-in-hand to enhance the atmosphere, with the technical elements adding to the play's sense of disorientation and technological overwhelm.



Director Hugo Sheppard expertly guided the cast, ensuring that the pacing never faltered and that the more abstract aspects of the play were communicated effectively. The careful attention to detail in the direction and design helped elevate the production from a student performance to something truly engaging and professionally executed.

Overall, Bishop Luffa Sixth Form's entry in the National Theatre Connections Festival was a triumph. The students' passion, dedication, and impressive performances made this an unforgettable evening of theatre. Their exploration of modern-day issues with such maturity and depth bodes well for their future in the world of theatre and beyond.

**Nicky Furnell – Team Leader of Drama**

## PSHE Topics

The following topics will be covered during PSHE lessons during the Summer 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](mailto:smerdon-corpc@bishopluffa.org.uk)) The following subjects are being covered.

<b>Year 7</b>	Identity Multicultural Britain Stereotypes Learning Behaviours	<b>Year 8</b>	Equality Act Ableism Racism
<b>Year 9</b>	Self Esteem Sex Education Bullying	<b>Year 10</b>	FGM Online Safety Unhealthy Relationships Pornography
<b>Year 11</b>	Staying Safe online Staying safe in the real world		

<https://club.teentips.co.uk/home/parents/>



## PFA Raffle

There is still time to purchase some tickets for the PFA Raffle, with the opportunity to win some fantastic prizes. Tickets can be purchased through Arbor for £1 per ticket with the money raised going towards the Prom taking place in June. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April.



## 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

#### *For April & May*

- Our school community, as we discuss the impact of social media.
- All those preparing for exams in Years 11, 12 and 13.
- Students who are making decisions about their futures.
- All those preparing for House Drama and Fruition.

## School Calendar

Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day of Spring Term
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April – Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	First Day of Summer Term
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	PFA Meeting (6.30pm)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 7 & 8 Disco (7.00pm – 9.00pm)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 9 Eucharist
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 13 & Year 11 Leavers' Eucharists at Chichester Cathedral
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	PFA Meeting (6.30pm)
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Bishop Luffa's Annual Cricket Match against MCC
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 10 Reports issued
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term

Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 12 Parents' & Carers' Higher Education Meeting
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Fruition
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 7 Reports issued
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	PFA Meeting (6.30pm)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 7 Eucharist
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	House Drama / Enterprise Day
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	House Drama Finals
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 8 Reports issued
	Year 11 Prom
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Parents' & Carers' Induction Evening
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 7 into Year 8 Parents' & Carers' Induction Evening
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 Induction Day
	Year 10 Taster Day at Chichester College
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>INSET DAY</b>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 12 Parents' & Carers' Consultation Evening
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
	Year 12 Reports issued
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 12 Work Experience Week
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	PFA Meeting (6.30pm)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 9 Reports issued
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Last Day of Term
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Start of the Summer Holidays