Bishop Luffa School

2025-2026 Issue 4
March 2026

Dear friends of Bishop Luffa School,

This morning, we had the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire come to visit Lift-off, which is our new provision in Emsworth. He wanted to visit because he'd heard so much from local residents about what was going on there. He was very impressed with the facilities and the staff that he met, but most of all he was impressed with the articulate, confident children that showed him round.

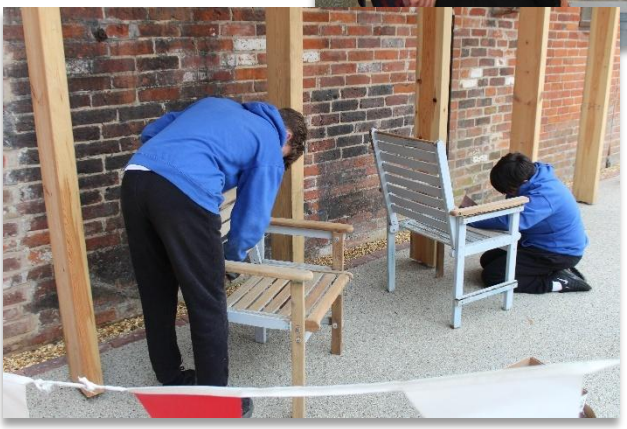
These students have not had good experiences of school and many of them had stopped attending altogether, before going to Lift-off. I couldn't believe how happy they seemed: when I arrived, they were playing basketball and when I left, they were cheerfully sanding down chairs that they are restoring. They had also baked us cakes and biscuits, which they served to adults that they had never met before as though they did this every day.

Easter is about new beginnings and I think that Lift-off shows what is possible, if we don't give up on people and have faith that things can change.

I hope that you enjoy reading our newsletter!

Best wishes,

Austen Hindman
Head Teacher.



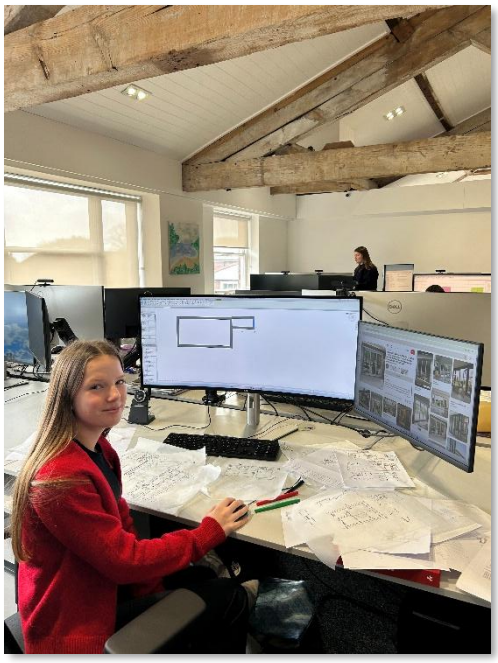
LAMDA News

With a new round of LAMDA due to start we would like to congratulate our most recent cohort who collectively earnt a total of 21 qualifications, 172 UCAS points, 10 Level 3 medal awards and 100% pass rate with 90% distinctions. Superb work!

Congratulations to James Williams (10Burrows), Phoebe Coton (9Wilson), Derin Cowley (9Story), Ethan Osborne (9Story), Eleanor Maxted (11Ridgeway), Rosa Hamilton (8Otter), Vika Kravets (10Wilson), Lucy Green (9Otter), Curtis Carey (10Wilson), Bea Turner (8Story), Rosie Reeve (8Otter), Rosie Turnbull (8Ridgeway), Grace Bragaglia (8Otter), Dylan Paige (8Wilson), Maddox Matthews (8Sherborne), Alice Pugh (8Sherborne), Lilia Stavreva (11Story), Molly Stanhope (9Wilson), Emily Farnell (10Burrows), Florence Cullen (10King) and Eva Jones (12Story).

Year 10 Experience the World of Work

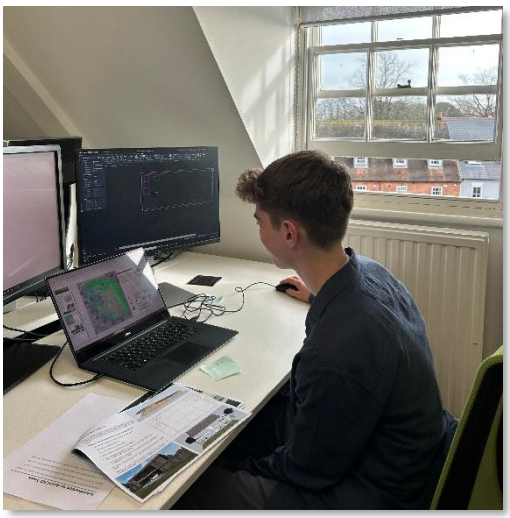
The week leading up to the February half term saw approximately 240 Year 10 students complete a highly successful week of work experience. A key part of careers education at Bishop Luffa, this programme gives students the opportunity to develop a wide range of essential skills and experience the realities of the workplace first-hand.



Students worked hard to secure their own placements, contacting employers directly and organising opportunities across a wide range of sectors. These included Alphapet Vets, Bailiffscourt Hotel, Bognor Motors, Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital, Brinsbury College, Chichester College, Chichester Community Development Trust, Collaborate Global, Global Technologies Racing, Goodwood, HNW Architects, Jam Café, Kamsons Pharmacy, NHS, Rolls Royce, Royal Navy, Summer Berry Company and many more. Several students chose to return to their old primary schools and nurseries to explore careers in education and childcare – a nostalgic and rewarding experience for both the students and their primary school teachers.

Leading up to the placements, students experienced a mixture of emotions: excitement, anticipation and understandably some nerves. During the week their confidence grew significantly. Students strengthened their communication skills and developed greater responsibility, independence, professionalism, teamwork and patience. They also gained valuable industry-specific knowledge and skills. These ranged from producing videos, designing houses and using CAD software, to assisting with animal care, serving customers, leading groups, changing tyres, planting trees, building computers, understanding cyber security risks and scheduling meetings.

Employers were impressed with the students' enthusiasm and maturity, describing them as having a 'consistently positive attitude', being 'a pleasure to host', 'polite and courteous', and 'a great addition to our team'. One employer commented that a student's 'attitude, ethics and personality illuminated my workplace', while another described their placement student as 'by far one of the most confident and capable students we have seen'. One client was so impressed with a student's architectural design work that he remarked he wanted "to take it home"— the employer said it was 'a true testament to the quality and clarity of the student's work'. Some students were offered further work experience, employment and encouragement to apply for future apprenticeships.

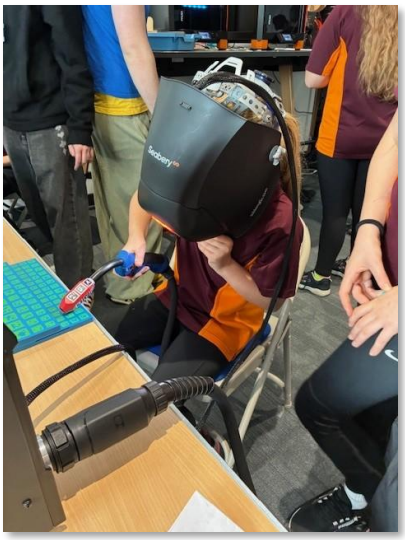


We are very proud of all the Year 10 students for making the most of their work experience and representing themselves and the school so positively. The excellent feedback about their work ethic and attitudes reinforces the importance of providing such real-world experience.

We are very grateful to everyone involved in supporting our work experience programme. Please get in touch with 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

Students have fun at STEM Fest



A group of our Year 7 students enjoyed an exciting visit to the STEM Fest at the brand-new STEM and Higher Education Centre at Chichester College. The event was run by Chichester College students, and it was great to see them sharing their enthusiasm for STEM with our younger visitors.

There were plenty of hands-on activities to try. Students tested their skills on a virtual welding simulator, took part in some very competitive maggot racing, and built creations for the fast-paced Rubbish Racers challenge. They also explored engineering using breadboards, experimented with Computer Aided Design (CAD), and investigated forensic science through fingerprinting.

Other highlights included the Wheels bike, eSports on the Nintendo Switch, and the fascinating SARnd Box, an augmented-reality sandbox that creates mountains and valleys as the sand is moved.

It was a fun and inspiring afternoon that gave our students a glimpse of the many possibilities within STEM. A big thank you to the staff and students at Chichester College for hosting such an engaging event.

Helen Williams, Team Leader of Computer Science

Sixth Formers visit Chichester Crown Court

On Thursday 5th March the Year 13 Law students went to the Chichester Crown Court. We were lucky enough to speak to a legal advisor, a jury officer, the County Sheriff and the resident Judge Dow.

The professionals spoke to us about what they do in their job and welcomed questions from us too. We watched a trial with a jury and some administrative hearings to do with sentencing and organising trial dates.

It was very interesting to see all the academic law come to life in the trial and in the Judge's explanations. What a super day!

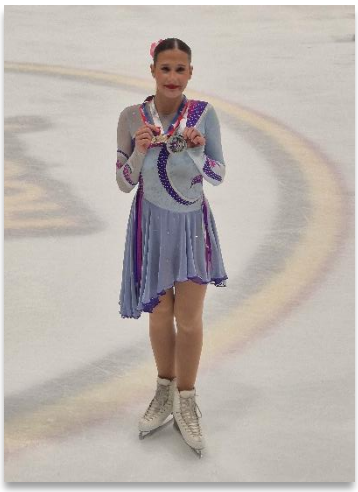
Fiona Langstone, Teacher of History & Law

Sports News

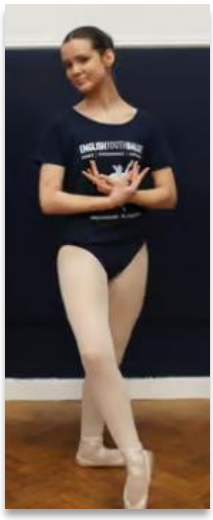
Congratulations to the following students who have been taking part in lots of events this half term:

Well done to Elsie Huxtable who swam at the Sussex County championships and did extremely well coming away with five Golds, two Silvers and a Bronze, along with two silvers and one bronze in the junior championships.

Congratulations to Gracie Huxtable who was selected to represent Sussex at the Regional Sports Hall Athletics Finals and Team Sussex u13 girls did amazing finishing 3rd place with a bronze medal.



Well done to Olive Coveney (9Ridgeway), for a fantastic ice-skating season with Solent Synchro ice skating club. She has finished the season with a variety of gold, silver and bronze medals, competing in competitions across the country. Her team have podium placed at every competition, a fantastic achievement. Olive has just returned from the British Championships where the team placed silver, with a team PB.



Bea Millard (10Burrows) is set to take centre stage when she joins the prestigious English Youth Ballet in its upcoming production of *Giselle*. After competing in highly selective auditions in January, Bea earned her place in the elite 83-strong cast. She will share the stage with internationally acclaimed professional dancers at the Fareham Live in April. We wish Bea all the best and look forward to hearing all about it.

Cyber Security Challenge Finals

Three students — Isabelle Nightingale (11Burrows), Kathy Nightingale (12Burrows), and Evie Castle (12King) — recently represented the school at the ACE-CSE Cyber Competition Finals held at the University of Surrey. Reaching the finals was an impressive achievement in itself: the twelve finalist teams were selected from 50 teams who successfully completed a series of fiendishly difficult cyber security challenges during the autumn term.

The day began with students meeting at the Alan Turing statue before attending a welcome talk and insight into the importance of cybersecurity in society. The main competition then took place in the Ada Lovelace Computer Lab, where teams tackled a range of cyber "Capture-the-Flag" style challenges testing their problem-solving, programming, and cybersecurity skills.

After lunch, students took part in an engaging AI workshop in the same lab, giving them the opportunity to explore how artificial intelligence is being applied within cybersecurity and computing more broadly. The day concluded with the awards ceremony and wrap-up.

Our team thoroughly enjoyed the experience and performed exceptionally well, receiving an Honourable Mention and finishing just 0.5 points behind the prize-winners — an outstanding result in such a highly competitive field. Well done to all three students for representing the school so brilliantly!

Helen Williams, Team Leader of Computer Science

Hampton Court A'Level History Study Day

On 4th March Year 12 students were privileged to participate in a study day at Hampton Court. The focus was Henry VIII and the Reformation. The keynote lecture (focused on Thomas Cromwell) was by Tracy Borman, who is Historic Royal Palaces' Chief Historian and renowned Tudor Historian.

It was a very full day, immersed in Tudor history. We were able to explore the palace through a guided tour, explore reformation related artefacts in The Tudor World and Wolsey Rooms Exhibition, speak to current history undergraduates at UCL and also had the opportunity to ask questions to Anne Boleyn and Thomas Cromwell!

We were also able to enjoy looking around the palace, gardens and maze at lunch. (The maze is not as easy as it looks as some of the group discovered!)

Students thoroughly enjoyed the day commenting: "*I ran out of paper writing notes during the keynote lecture*" "*Tracy Borman is excellent!*" "*It was a cool day!*" "*It was a really useful revision on Thomas Cromwell*"

Carolyn Syms-Evans, Teacher of History

Little Shop of Horrors

As a production team, we are incredibly proud of everything our students have achieved in *Little Shop of Horrors*. It has been a joy to watch this show grow from early rehearsals into a lively and characterful performance, full of energy, humour, and heart.

Working with two casts has been a real privilege, and both groups brought their own strengths and individuality to the principal roles. They were supported throughout by a committed and enthusiastic ensemble, whose teamwork and focus helped bring the world of Skid Row to life.

Audrey II is always a challenge, and we are so grateful to the students who took on the responsibility of puppeteering and voicing the plant. Their coordination, creativity, and confidence made it a real highlight of the show. We would also like to recognise the musicians, whose playing supported the cast so sensitively throughout, and helped give the production its distinctive style and atmosphere. The musical numbers were approached with great care and commitment by everyone involved.

Behind the scenes, the contributions of our technical and backstage teams have been invaluable. From set and props to lighting and sound, their hard work ensured that everything ran smoothly and created the world of the piece so effectively.

What has stood out most throughout this process has been the dedication, resilience, and positivity of all the students involved. They have supported one another, risen to challenges, and shown real generosity as performers and team members.

Thank you to every student, staff member, and supporter who played a part in making this production possible. It has been a pleasure to work with you all.

Photo credit: Ilai Servant

More photos from the show can be found on the school website: https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/home/student-leadership/photo-gallery/little-shop-of-horrors/

Nicky Furnell & Jo Lawlor

Art Students visit Charleston House

Year 9 students went on a trip to Charleston House to experience the beautiful home and work of The Bloomsbury Group. They enjoyed stepping back in time with this immersive experience, completed lots of sketching and gathered inspiration for their own work back in the classroom. A fantastic day for everyone, thank you to Miss Cahill for organising it so well.

Laurelly Thorpe, Team Leader of Art

Year 12 kickstarted their Art Project

Back in January Year 12 embarked on an exciting trip to London to kickstart their second project 'isms' where they have chosen an art movement or concept to explore and respond to in depth.

We went to The Saatchi Gallery to see some contemporary painting, sculpture and installations, and the National Gallery to see 'Radical Harmony' - Neo Impressionists, artists such as Surat who worked in the style known as pointilism, and also The Courthauld to see Wayne Theibaud's Pop Art style paintings of food, giving a feeling of Americana.

We can't wait to see the work they produce!

Laurelly Thorpe, Team Leader of Art

Bishop Luffa Runners lead the County to a 2nd place at the English Schools National Cross Country Final!

Six runners from Bishop Luffa, the highest proportion of runners from any school in Sussex, represented the county at the recent English Schools Cross Country National Final hosted in Liverpool.

Elodie Hill (11King) finished 13th! Only three places off getting a spot in the England cross country team. Incredible achievement!

Joe Stewart (10Andrewes), Isabella Lendrum (10Burrows), Molly Smithers (12King), Ben Stewart (11Andrewes) and Max Gayle (10Burrows), played important roles in helping Sussex finish 2nd out of the 20 counties. Well done to everyone who represented Bishop Luffa and the county!

These are incredible achievements and we are so proud of how exceptionally these runners have represented Bishop Luffa and Sussex.

Tim Godfray, Team Leader of PE
& Tim Brown, Assistant Head Teacher

Jess Breach receives the Freedom of the City

Three rugby teams went to the Festival Theatre today to see Jess Breach receive the Freedom of the City. Our students were the only children allowed to ask questions, and Jess gave them some very honest answers. They wanted to know how she dealt with the stress of big games, so she talked about preparation, breathing techniques and not putting too much pressure on yourself. She said that if you enjoy something then you will find the hard work easier.

Jess was inspiring to listen to and it was a very proud moment to see the whole audience get to their feet as she walked up to collect her prize.

Charity Week 2026: A Remarkable Student-Led Success

Charity Week 2026 was a resounding success, bringing together students, staff, and the wider school community in a shared effort to make a positive difference. Organised entirely by the dedicated members of the Sixth Form Committee, the week showcased the creativity, leadership, and generosity of our students.

Taking place from 16th–20th March, the week was packed with exciting activities, including both themed dress-up days and a variety of lunchtime events that kept energy and participation high throughout.

Each day had its own Sixth Form dress theme, encouraging all students to get involved:

- **Monday:** Pyjamas
- **Tuesday:** Western
- **Wednesday:** School Uniform
- **Thursday:** "When I was younger, I wanted to be a…"
- **Friday:** Whole School Fancy Dress

Alongside this, a different lunchtime event was held in the Bartlett Hall every day:

- **Monday:** Interhouse Staff Sumo Wrestling
- **Tuesday:** Man v Food
- **Wednesday:** Human Kahoot
- **Thursday:** Teacher v Teacher Rap Battle
-
- **Friday:** Battle of the Bands

These events created a fantastic atmosphere across the school, with students and staff enthusiastically taking part, whether competing, performing, or cheering each other on.

Thanks to these collective efforts, an impressive total of just over **£2,500** was raised. The funds will go towards supporting our three fantastic Sixth Form charities: The Sussex Snowdrop Trust, Grassroots Tanzania, and The Sanctuary Chichester. This achievement reflects not only the hard work of the Sixth Form Committee but also the kindness and generosity of everyone who contributed.

Charity Week is always a highlight of the school calendar, but this year was particularly special due to the level of student leadership involved. The Sixth Form Committee demonstrated excellent organisational skills, teamwork, and commitment throughout the planning and execution of the week.

A special recognition goes to the Year 13 student organisers: Joel Blamire, Ginny Yonge, Isla Dodson-Richi, Anna Stangroom, Eva Williams, Nathan Martin, Hannah Carr, and Isabelle Frere-Smith, whose dedication and leadership made the week such a success.

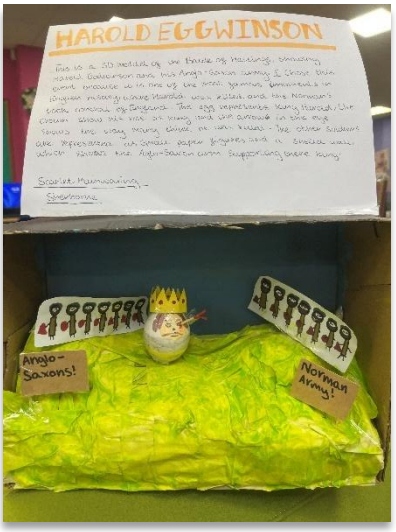
We would like to extend a huge thank you to all students, staff, and families who supported Charity Week 2026. Your contributions will make a meaningful difference, and we are incredibly proud of what has been achieved together.

Photos from the week can be found on the school website https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/home/student-leadership/photo-gallery/charity-week-2026/

We look forward to building on this success in future years!

Jamie Saunders, Head of Sixth Form

Historical Egg Competition



Our Key Stage 3 History students have had the opportunity again this term to take part in the Historical Egg Competition, making a historical scene out of eggs. Students in Year 7 were given the opportunity to research a person from History of their choice, giving them the opportunity to learn about something beyond the usual curriculum finding out more about someone of particular interest to them. It was also open to Years 8 & 9. The quality of entries this year has been outstanding, including a particularly gruesome scene depicting the execution of Marie Antoinette, made from a freshly boiled egg which was still slightly wobbly when brought into school! We also had a montage made from mini eggs of the Titanic as well as a Moon Landing, Lewes Hamilton, the death of Harold Godwinson and a recreation of Queen Elizabeth's Armada Portrait. Well done to everyone who went to the effort of taking part!

Louisa Fowles, Teacher of History

A Week to Remember in Passo Tonale

We were delighted to return to Passo Tonale for our ski trip this February half term. It was a brilliant week – great skiing, great company, and plenty of moments the students will remember for a long time.

We were lucky with the conditions, with fresh snow throughout the week. One day in particular stood out, when the snowfall meant even our most experienced skiers were spending as much time falling over in the powder as they were skiing - but in the best possible way. It was one of those days where everyone was laughing, helping each other up, and just enjoying being out there.

Across the week, it was great to see students grow in confidence and just get stuck in. For many, it was their first time skiing, and by the end of the week they were moving around the mountain with a real sense of independence. Others were pushing themselves a bit further and making the most of the conditions.

Away from the slopes, the week had a really nice feel to it. Evenings back at Hotel Mirella in Ponte di Legno were a chance to relax, chat, and enjoy being together - it genuinely felt like we were away together as a school community, just enjoying each other's company.

Trips like this are about more than just skiing. They give students the chance to try something new, spend time with their friends in a different setting, and grow in confidence without really realising it.

As one parent shared afterwards:

"Memorable, and such a great experience, which they will cherish always. The girls both had a truly amazing trip and were very sad to be leaving after such an enjoyable week."

And as one student put it simply:
"It was the best trip I've ever been on."

We are now open for responses for next year's trip. It is open to all abilities, including complete beginners. Each year the trip is oversubscribed, and places are allocated by year group, with a waiting list in operation. With Easter coming up and the deadline shortly afterwards, we would encourage families to register their interest as soon as possible if your child is considering it. Full details are available on Arbor.

Neil Topley, Assistant Headteacher

A Fantastic Celebration of Reading

The 2026 Literature Quiz was a fantastic celebration of reading, bringing together students for a day of literary competition and teamwork.

In preparation for the event, our teams read four fantastic books: *The Last Life of Lori Mills* by Max Boucherat, *Runaways* by E. L. Norry, *The Boy at the Window* by Lucy Strange and *Too Close to Home* by Aoife Walsh. Students were quizzed on these books as well as their general book knowledge across several rounds of questions.

All three teams performed brilliantly on the day, with our Year 7 team even securing a win in one of the rounds.

A highlight of the event was the opportunity for students to meet all four authors. They took part in an engaging panel discussion. Students heard about the writers' experiences, asked questions and gained insight into the creative process. The event included the opportunity to have their books personally signed by the authors. Overall, it was a memorable experience that celebrated students' efforts, enthusiasm and love of reading.

Veronica Shuttleworth, School Librarian

Forest School at Goodwood

Some of our students spend every other Friday up at the Forest School run by the Goodwood Estate.

They take part in forest school activities such as cooking, woodwork and crafts. They were lucky enough last week to meet some of the lambs recently born on the estate.

Spanish Postcard Competition

We wanted to create new Postcards for the Spanish department to send them home when our students do amazing work so we decided to launch a competition among students in Year 8 and Year 9. The result, an overwhelming number of entries and incredible talent. It was difficult to choose only three but, in the end, we made a decision. The winners are:

1st Prize: Grace Wallis (8King) 2nd Prize: Ellie Hine (9Sherborne) 3rd Prize: Rosa Hamilton (8Otter)

¡Felicidades! We cannot wait to start sending these cards to our families.

Writing Competitions

For the second year, the English Faculty are running an inter-house creative writing competition. Over the year, there will be competitions students can enter to win the overall Inter-House Creative Writing House Cup in the final assembly of the year! Even Year 6 got involved at Open Evening.

So far this year, students have entered the National Poetry Day Competition, Young Writers: I Have A Dream, Christmas Story Writing Competition and a Spring Writing Competition. Students can also enter external competitions and send Miss Machado a copy of it to win more House points!

The running total for House points so far are:

- Andrewes 16

- Burrows 6
- King 6
- Otter 7
- Ridgeway 25
- Sherborne 7
- Story 4
- Wilson 0

And our wonderful winners in the Spring Writing Competition are:

- Year 7 1st Place Sebby Forder (7Ridgeway)
- Year 7 2nd Place Joshua Horsnell (7Andrewes)
- Year 7 3rd Place Iris Elizabeth Austin (7King)
- Year 8 1st Place Krystelle Fernandez (8Ridgeway)
- Year 8 2nd Place Amber Huggins (8Ridgeway)
- Year 9 1st Place Autumn Rae Carter (9Story)
- Year 9 2nd Place James Loy (9Otter)

Congratulations to Ridgeway for holding a steady lead all year!

Kerry Machado, Teacher of English

Drama Club Invitation

Bishop Luffa KS3 Drama Club are delighted to invite you to a special evening performance of *And Then There Were None*, based on the classic novel by Agatha Christie.

This gripping stage adaptation has been reimagined by talented Year 9 student Ivy Revill, who also takes on the role of director, supported by Georgina Hitchin (9Burrows) and Adam Potgeiter (10King).

The performance will take place on **Wednesday 16th April at 6:00pm in the Bartlett Hall**.

Join us for an evening of suspense, mystery, and outstanding student creativity as our KS3 performers bring this iconic story to life.Tickets are priced at **£3.50**, with proceeds supporting the **Grassroots Trust** and contributing towards the Sixth Form trip to Tanzania. Tickets are available now via the **Arbor Shop**—we look forward to seeing you there!

PSHE Topics

The following topics will be covered during PSHE lessons during the first half of 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) The following subjects are being covered.

Year 7	Knife Crime Energy Drinks Puberty Self Esteem Sign Language	**Year 8**	Healthy Relationships Recap on puberty Equality Act and discrimination Racism Water Safety Sign Language
Year 9	STIs Introduction to contraception Self Esteem Grief Bullying Conspiracy Theories Sign Language	**Year 10**	Self-Harm Suicide FGM recap Pornography Unhealthy relationships Sextortion
Year 11	Sexual Health Online reputation Cosmetic and aesthetic procedures Festivals 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 April and May:

- Year 13s and Year 11s preparing for exams
- PFA organising the Prom
- Sixth Form committee organising the Leaver's Ball
- Leaver's Eucharists at the Cathedral

School Calendar

Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April	Start of the Summer Term.
Thursday 16th April	Drama Club's Production of *And Then There Were None* (6pm)
Thursday 16th April	PFA Uniform Shop open (2.00pm – 3.30pm)
Monday 20th April	PFA Meeting (6pm)
Wednesday 29th April	Evensong at Chichester Cathedral with Bishop Luffa Choir
Thursday 30th April	Year 7 & 8 School Disco
Wednesday 6th May	Year 13 & Year 11 Leavers' Eucharists at Chichester Cathedral
Tuesday 19th May	PFA Meeting (6pm)
Thursday 21st May	PFA Uniform Shop open (2.00pm – 3.30pm)
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May	HALF TERM
Thursday 4th June	Year 12 Parents' & Carers' Higher Education Meeting
Wednesday 10th June	Fruition
Monday 15th June	PFA Meeting (6pm)
Thursday 25th June	Year 13 Leavers' Ball
Friday 26th June	Year 11 Prom
Saturday 27th June	PFA Big Band & Cocktails Night
Tuesday 30th June	Year 7 into Year 8 Parents' & Carers' Induction Evening
Friday 3rd July	INSET DAY
Tuesday 7th July	House Drama / Enterprise Day
Wednesday 8th July	House Drama Finals
Thursday 9th July	Year 12 Parents' & Carers' Consultation Evening
Friday 10th July	Sports Day
Monday 13th – Friday 17th July	Year 12 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 14th July	PFA Meeting (6pm)