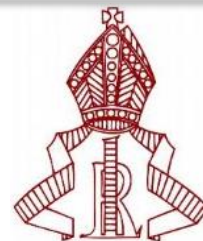


Bishop Luffa School

2025-2026 Issue 6

July 2026



Dear friends of Bishop Luffa School,

The end of a school year can be a bit like Groundhog Day - you do all of the same things all over again! However, each year group has its own personality, and each year we lose a group of individuals and their unique set of experiences. Our Year 13s started secondary school as normal, made it halfway through Year 7, and were then sent home. Covid gave them a completely disjointed Year 7 and 8. Add on to that the unstable world around them - there have been five Prime Ministers in that time and eight Education Secretaries, a new monarch, a new Pope and a new Archbishop of Canterbury - and you would imagine that they would be a flakey, directionless year group.

What we experienced were individuals with no sense of entitlement but a clear sense that you have to make your own opportunities in life. For whatever reason, we are all tested and how we meet those tests defines who we are. I have great hope for the future of our country because I have seen these children meet the challenges ahead of them with mental and spiritual courage. I hope, as you contemplate more political upheaval, that you will have faith that the next generation will make the hard decisions and leave the world better than they found it. We see it every year and I hope that you get a sense of it as you read our newsletter.

Have a good summer,

Austen Hindman.

Head Teacher

Cup Winners and Head Teacher Awards

The end of term was a big week for House competitions. The winners were:

The Sparx Cup for Maths went to Burrows House;

The Sports Cup, which combines all of the Interhouse competition, went to Ridgeway;

The Sports Day Trophy went to Burrows House;



And the big one..... the House Cup... went to

OTTER HOUSE!!

The Head Teacher Awards for the most House points in each year and House went to:

Andrewes – Ari Hayman

Burrows – Amelie Hoile

King – Rachel Cattermole

Otter & Year 7 – Felix Allman

Ridgeway – Lucy Matthews

Sherborne – Olivia Smith

Story – Dexter Coyne and Nathaniel Jolly

Wilson – Callum Walby

Year 8 – John Bax

Year 9 – James Loy

Year 10 – Hannah Griffiths



The Karen Goding Memorial Trophy for Contribution to Music & Drama went to Ben Webster (13Sherborne).

The Jen Sherlock Award which is awarded to the House with the most points received in the various writing competitions run by Ms Machado was won by Ridgeway House.

We had a new award this year – The Rachel Moriarty Classics Award. This award was created by the family of Michael and Rachel Moriarty, who lived in Chichester for 35 years and were great supporters of Bishop

Luffa School. Rachel was Chair of Governors for several years. They both studied Classics at Oxford and Rachel was a lifelong teacher of Latin, Greek and Theology, so this prize combines many things close to their hearts. In a fast-changing world, the fountain of the classics continues to refresh and delight and the family hope that the award will help it bring joy and insight to others as it has to Michael and Rachel. The award went to Hayley Martin (12Wilson).

Fruition 2026

Even though the sun wasn't shining as much as it normally is, we were delighted that so many students and their families attending Fruition 2026.

The evening was an opportunity for us all to celebrate the fruits of our creativity in the Arts over the year. It was a highly enjoyable and very busy evening. The Design and Technology Faculty also joined us again this year for the event, and the whole event was a vibrant celebration of our students' achievements in Arts and DT subjects. Displays included:

- An Art Exhibition presenting the work of GCSE and A Level Art students;
- Dance performances from exam groups and extra-curricular Dance clubs;
- Extracts from this years' House Drama Festival and performances from extra-curricular Drama clubs;
- A range of GCSE Media Studies and A Level Film/Media Studies projects;
- A screening of the winning Interhouse Short Film Competition entry;
- A wide variety of musical performances from exam groups and extra-curricular Music clubs;
- A Design and Technology exhibition of products created by students across all key stages;
- A demonstration of cooking techniques from the Food department;
- A display of the Green Power Team's car 'Mercury'



We would also like to thank the PFA for providing a BBQ and refreshments throughout the evening.

Jo Lawlor, Head of Arts Faculty

TeamGym Success

Congratulations to Eden Thwaites' (9Ridgeway) team, PSG Spice, were awarded a bronze medal for the TeamGym micro-British Championships at the end of June. Eden executed a tuck front, walkout, round off flick on the tumble track, a one and a half twist off the trampette, followed by a double front! Here is Eden receiving her medal.



Interhouse Summer Writing Competition

Our KS3 students were invited to take part in the Summer Writing Competition, by choosing one of the following topics:

“The Summer That Changed Everything” Write a short story about a summer where something unexpected reshaped a character’s future.

“Heatwave” Write a story set during an extreme summer heatwave - it can be realistic or dystopian.

“One Perfect Summer Day” Write a story or descriptive piece that captures a single perfect summer day - from sunrise to sunset. It could be peaceful, chaotic, funny, or bittersweet, but focus on vivid sensory detail (sounds, smells, heat, light).

We had a fantastic response and the winners were:

Year 7

1st place - Samuel Taplin (7Wilson)

2nd place - Lucy Matthews (7Ridgeway)

Joint 3rd place - Valentina Carvajal-Neal (7Ridgeway) and Henry Rizzo (7King)

Year 8

1st place - Isla Hayman (8Andrewes)

2nd place - Krystelle Fernandez Vasquez (8Ridgeway)

3rd place - Grace Bragaglia (8Otter)

Year 9

1st place - Tom Greenlees (9Burrows)

2nd place - Autumn-Rae Carter (9Story)

3rd place - Taylor Skidmore-Phillips (9Story)

Congratulations to everyone who took part.

Kerry Machado, Teacher of English

Year 13 celebrate in style as they prepare for their Next Chapter

Year students celebrated their final day of formal lessons in style before beginning their A-level examinations. Bathed in sunshine, students enjoyed a BBQ and a visit from an ice cream van as they marked the end of their time in the classroom together.

The celebrations also provided an opportunity to recognise the outstanding charitable efforts of the Sixth Form. We were delighted to welcome representatives from this year's three Sixth Form charities: Diana

Levantine, Chairperson and Co-Founder of The Sussex Snowdrop Trust; Mike Mansergh, Trustee of The Sanctuary in Chichester; and Rob Goldsmith, representing Grassroots Tanzania. Cheques were presented to each charity, representing a third of the record-breaking total raised through this year's Fashion Show and Charity Week.



Speaking afterwards, Mike Mansergh said: "I had the privilege of accepting a cheque for £6,100 – a hugely generous donation from the Sixth Form's charity fundraising this year, a record amount and the third year that Sanctuary has been one of three charities chosen by the students. Their support has been incredibly valuable as we help increasing numbers of families and individuals on their journey to independent lives in this country."

Headteacher Awards were presented by Mr Hindman to students who have made exceptional contributions to school life: School Captains Scarlett Guilfoyle and Rupert Reddington, Sixth Form Committee Chairperson Joel Blamire, and Henry Court.

Dasha Pedan and Veronika Zavarzina were awarded Bishop Luffa International Scholarships in recognition of the challenges they have overcome, their outstanding academic achievements, and to support them financially as they move on to the next stage of their education. Tegan Atkins, who will be studying Occupational Therapy, received a Reading Foundation Scholarship to help fund books at university, while Asha Christie-Verma was presented with the Sixth Form



Endeavour Award in recognition of her remarkable personal strength and growth throughout her Sixth Form journey.

The Sixth Form Committee also received gifts of thanks and a rousing round of applause in recognition of their leadership and commitment throughout the year, organising and supporting a wide range of Sixth Form and whole-school events.

The celebrations concluded with the ever-popular Yearbook Awards 2026, where students received humorous honours including 'Most Likely to Teach at Luffa', 'Most Likely to Live in the Library' and 'Worst at Parking'. Each winner was ceremonially knighted and presented with a bespoke certificate, ensuring the day ended with plenty of laughter.

We wish all of our Year 13 students every success on A-level Results Day and in the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. As such a supportive, resilient and accomplished year group, we know they will embrace the future with confidence and make us proud.

Jamie Saunders, Head of Sixth F orm



Festival of Flowers

As part of Chichester Cathedral's Festival of Flowers, students attending the History Battlefields trip to Belgium and France were invited to come and make a poppy as part of their journey of remembrance. Students worked with Mrs Satherley in the Art department to create over 200 paper poppies for Mrs Sheridan-Downes from 'Flower' on North Street. She used their work in her beautiful display in St George's Chapel.

Laurelly Thorpe, Team Leader of Art



Students have fun in Paris

On Friday 5th June, 44 Year 9 and 10 students and five members of staff caught the early ferry to France for the French department trip to Paris.



We arrived in Paris in time for lunch, before walking along the Seine to the Musée d'Orsay, home to the largest collection of Impressionist art in the world. After this, we took the scenic tour back to the coach, taking in The Louvre, the Jardins de Tuileries and Place de la Concorde, where there was a huge pop-up screen showing the Roland Garros tennis matches! We ate dinner in a restaurant in Montparnasse and then finished our evening on a boat trip down the Seine as the sun set, passing all of the well-known sights of the capital and ending with seeing the Eiffel Tour

light up at dusk. We awoke early on Saturday morning for a buffet breakfast before heading to a local

supermarket. Students enjoyed choosing their own lunch and headed back to the hotel with their arms full of baguettes and delicious French food to last them until lunchtime! We caught the shuttle bus to spend the whole day at Disney - excitement levels were high! We enjoyed a fun packed day and stayed to watch the fireworks together late in the evening. On Sunday, we drove to Nausicaá (French National Sealife Centre, the biggest in Europe!) in Boulogne before heading home.



It was a fantastic weekend and my thanks go to the staff who came on the trip and the students for making the weekend so much fun!

Kate Christie, Head of French / Head of Languages

Design & Technology Awards 2026

Congratulations to our outstanding Key Stage 3 students who have been recognised for their exceptional commitment and achievement in Design and Technology.

These awards celebrate students who consistently produce high-quality work, keep all classwork up to date, and demonstrate confidence and responsibility within the workshop environment. Recipients have shown a willingness to support their peers by sharing newly acquired D&T skills, acting as positive role models for others across the faculty.

Their classwork sets an excellent example, reflecting creativity, precision, and a genuine enthusiasm for learning. They approach design challenges with innovation, explore ideas beyond the obvious, and display the qualities of true problem solvers. It is a privilege to recognise these students and an honour to see such a strong future for design and innovation developing across Bishop Luffa’s Key Stage 3.

James Bonney, Head of Design & Technology

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Product Design	Callum Walby	John Bax	Ada Ridgewell
	Immy Younghusband	Harry Bonney	Lucy Green
	Ben Pamuk	Rory Parrett	Angus Williams
	Finley Turner	Quinn Macdonald	Max Hudson
		Oscar Stephens	Ada Coates
		Neha Sany	Ari Hayman
		Willa Tyrie	Toby Hunwicke
		Thomas Brackenbury	
		Ralph L'amie	

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Ollie Locke

William Franklin

Affyia Sinclair-Hillman

Martha Moore

Rufus Siemienieć

Evie Clarke

Ivy Revill

Charlie Duncan

Mylo Boarer

Isla Luckman

Design Textiles

Toby Swires-Hennessy

Nat Jolly

Olivia Smith

Isla Hayman

Alexa Bevan

Aven Delahunty

Rebekah Jolly

Amalie Christie

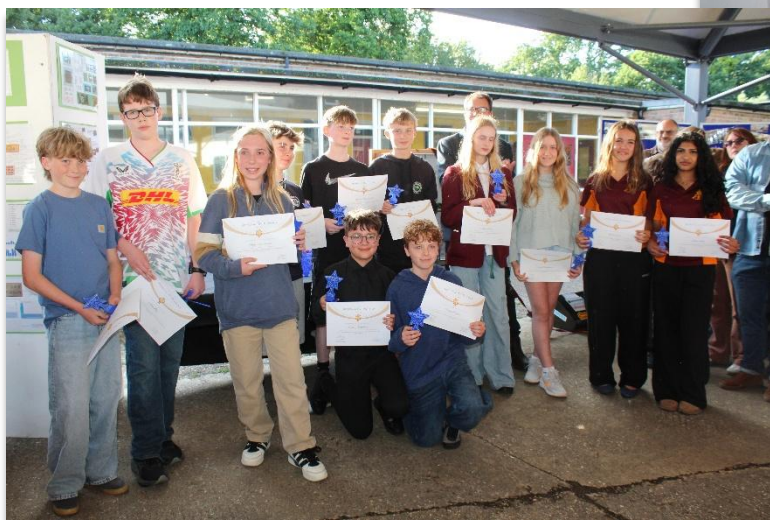
Effie Watson

Niamh Burton

Hannah Vosper

Mia Fletcher

Eva Fisher



Making Time for Prayer

A Maths classroom transformed.
A team of Sixth Formers take the lead.
A group of clergy in support.

Paint, post-its, stones, pins and world maps, a tray and labels.

25 class visits.

Invitations to staff and students.

A diverse range of prayer stations.

These are the ingredients that contributed to the 3rd June 2026 being a special day set aside for prayer at Bishop Luffa School.

We were privileged to have a team of Year 12 students provide a prayer room for our school. The day saw 25 classes visiting, with several staff finding the whole class wished to take part. A group from our clergy team kindly offered their expertise in support. Visitors to the prayer room moved around a



variety of 'prayer stations'. These each offered a different way or resource to prompt and enable prayer. For example, some put pins in a map selecting a country of the world that they wished to prayer for, others rolled individual toy cars through paint as they prayed for wisdom and guidance.

The day was initiated by members of our student Faith & Community Committee. They had asked for more opportunities for prayer. The prayer room was a response to this request. Thank you to all those involved in supporting and providing this opportunity.

Angela Smith, Assistant Head - Christian Distinctiveness

Year 13 Beat the Heat at their Leavers' Ball 2026!

On one of the hottest evenings of the year, our wonderful Year 13 students came together for one final celebration at the stunning Chichester Yacht Club – a fitting venue for such a special occasion. The Leavers' Ball marked the end of their school journey and the beginning of exciting new chapters.

Spirits were as high as the temperature as students arrived dressed in elegant gowns and



sharp suits, ready to make lasting memories with their classmates and teachers. Laughter, music, and the unmistakable buzz of celebration filled the air as everyone enjoyed a night of dining, dancing, sunsets and heartfelt goodbyes.



There was a bittersweet atmosphere as we said farewell to a year group that has been such a valued part of our school community. Their energy, kindness, and determination have left a lasting impression, and it has been a true honour to have taught and supported them throughout their time with us.

We will miss them dearly, but we are so proud of all they have achieved. As they await their A-level results this August, we wish every one of them the very best of luck. We know they will go on to do incredible things.

To the Class of 2026 – thank you for the memories. You will always be part of our school family.

Jamie Saunders, Head of Sixth Form

Faith in Action

On Sunday 28th June four of our students and their families joined many others in Chichester Cathedral to be presented with their Faith in Action, during the Evensong service by the Dean. For some time, Isla Hayman (8Andrewes), Hannah Vosper (9King), Millie Malcolm (8Ridgeway) and Sebby Forder (7Ridgeway) have been meeting to work on their awards. Faith in Action is not about getting an award because you believe, but rather celebrating and encouraging the acts of service and kindness that come out of our faith. Some of the activities take place within school (fundraising for the House charity, leading prayers or worship etc) and other elements come from their own church or community context (serving teas and coffees, playing a part in church activities or an act of service in the community).



This is coupled with ongoing reflections as to how faith prompts service, and service prompts deeper faith (i.e. how do we bless others, because we feel blessed?) Each student was invited to submit a final piece which the moderators offered high praise in their feedback. Congratulations to these four students who we hope will progress to the next level in the award and we will start again in September for anyone else who would like to consider taking part.

Fr Phillip Amey, School Chaplain & Angela Smith, Assistant Headteacher - Christian Distinctiveness

Bishop Luffa Musician Wins Prestigious National Award

Bishop Luffa performers have been awarded a wealth of trophies at a prestigious national music festival.

Under the leadership of Head of Music, Jane Bowen-Melfi, Bishop Luffa School's soloists, musicians and girls' chamber choir have not only won bronze, silver and gold trophies following their participation in the third UK Schools Music Festival 2026, but have also seen one musician garner a life-changing win.

Following a review of all Gold Awardees from both the live competition and video submissions, Year 12 student Izzy Deans has been awarded the Guildhall Young Artists Online Prize prize for her advanced trumpet, cornet and flugelhorn performance.

Mrs Bowen-Melfi said: "At the festival, Sophie Williams and Izzy Deans were awarded Gold for their solo performances. We are now thrilled that Izzy has been awarded this phenomenal prize for her musicality, expression and technique. She has won a significant amount for online tuition, to support her application to music college next year."



In addition, the school's Jazz Band, led by English teacher Steve Collins, was awarded Silver and the La Diva chamber choir has been awarded Bronze. Heads of Guildhall Young Artists Online Joshua Jones and Julie Beaman said: "We have been particularly impressed by the breadth of talent on display across the country. We felt Izzy captured us completely in her musicality, with a sense of joy in her performance."

The school's two chamber choirs – La Diva and Los Divos – regular perform at city events. Recent occasions include Evensong at Chichester Cathedral and a performance in The Assembly Rooms, Chichester.

On Friday 5th June, the choir was invited to sing at a Triangulation event for the Rotary Clubs of Speyer, Germany, and Faenza, Italy, hosted by the Mayor on behalf of the Rotary Club of Chichester. They sang Mozart's Ave Verum, Three Little Maids by Gilbert & Sullivan and other classical and rock pieces.

Mrs Bowen-Melfi said: "This was a wonderful experience for the choir. We were also very grateful to be awarded a scholarship by Town Crier Richard Plowman on behalf of the Rotary Club of Chichester. This

generous donation will make a significant difference to our choir tour to Normandy in Spring 2027. At the tour, La Diva and Los Divos will be singing with the local conservatoire, as well as at a chateau and the world-famous Basilica Ste Therese in Lisieux.”

Before the tour, the choir is already booked to sing at the Chichester Assembly Rooms on 30th September, in Chichester Cathedral on 8th December and at Pallant House Gallery on 10th December.



Dryvebox at Bishop Luffa School

We were lucky to be offered the opportunity to have the Dryvebox at the school for a day, where they bring in a PGA Professional who does some coaching with our students, as well as them experiencing technology in sport. The idea is to grow the game and it is fully funded through the Kate and Justin Rose foundation.



Students who expressed an interest were given 1 hour in groups of 10 during the day, as well as additional students during the breaktimes and after school.



We would like to thank Matt, Pedro and Alex who made this possible for our school. Over 70 students hit a ball in the simulator and they received lots of encouragement and tips on how to improve their game.

Andy Jackson, Assistant Headteacher

Summer Dance Showcase at The Showroom

At the end of June members from Dance Club performed as part of a Schools Summer Dance Showcase at the University of Chichester.

The students performed work that had been created at our weekly dance club. Students were given a valuable opportunity to represent the school and perform to a live audience alongside other schools in the area.



It was a fantastic experience for all students involved and despite a very warm walk back to school we all enjoyed the day very much!

Jo Lawlor, Head of Arts Faculty



Bishop Luffa remembers the Battle of Somme

The 1st July was the 110th anniversary of the 1st day of the Battle of the Somme. By the end of that day, approximately 20 000 British soldiers were dead, and 40 000 wounded. In many ways, along with Passchendaele, it became one of the defining memories of the Great War, casting a long shadow over many communities. As a School we have marked this anniversary in a number of ways. Connect resources in tutor time encouraged students to reflect on the events being remembered. Families were also invited to share their family links with the conflict (and thank you to the many who did), which has



been compiled into a book of remembrance that we will use each year, ensuring that the duty and sacrifice isn't forgotten. We were also able to bring together the students from many of those families, holding the details that were shared, a tangible link across the years (see photo).

There was also a display to mark the

anniversary (with thanks to Miss Sutton for organising). Finally, we started the day on July 1st with whistles rather than bells, to echo the whistles used on the 1st July 1916, with 2 of the whistles being from the First World War (kindly loaned by Mrs Budgen). As a tragic event in its own right, and a key element in the national consciousness, we played our own small part in ensuring that this anniversary is not forgotten.

Justin Barnett, Head of Humanities



Year 6 Transition Day 2026

There was a real buzz around school as we welcomed our new Year 6 students for Transition Day. From the moment they arrived, it was lovely to see so many smiles, questions and excited conversations as students began to get a feel for life at Luffa. During the day, they spent time with their new tutor groups, met key members of staff and began to learn what it means to belong to their House.

Students threw themselves into a brilliant range of sample lessons, including Design Technology, Music, PSHE, Geography, Languages and Art. Whether they were creating, performing, exploring new ideas or trying something completely different, they showed real enthusiasm, curiosity and a fantastic willingness to get involved.



Our House Buddies were superb throughout the day, helping students find their way around, answering questions and making sure everyone felt welcome. Heads of House and form tutors also played a huge part in helping students settle in — including, of course, making a very strong case for why their House is the best!

It was a really positive day, full of energy, encouragement and excitement for the journey ahead. We were so impressed by the way our new students embraced the experience, and we hope they went home feeling reassured, proud and excited about joining the Bishop Luffa family in September.

Neil Topley, Assistant Headteacher



Bishop Luffa Sailors at the 2026 National Schools Sailing Championships

Eight Bishop Luffa crews took to the water this month for the National Schools Sailing Championships, now in its 72nd year and the country's longest-running inter-school sailing events. Competing in the RS Feva fleet against a huge 82-boat entry from schools across the country, our sailors enjoyed two days of glorious sunshine and plenty of breeze, with the wind building further on the second day. Testing conditions for any sailor, let alone those racing in a big fleet for the very first time!



Leading the way for Bishop Luffa were Sam Machell (10Burrows) and Alice King (10Burrows), who sailed with impressive consistency across all six races to finish an excellent 13th overall, a superb result in such a competitive fleet. Ted Probee (10King) and Tom Mealing (10Otter) (39th) and Ari Hayman (9Andrewes) and Sienna Weller (9Andrewes) (41st) also posted strong results, with Naomi Chisnall (8King) and Isla Hayman (8Andrewes) close behind in 44th and Noah Chisnall (10King) and Henry Fraser (10King) in 46th. Well done too to Ollie

Fillery (8Andrewes) and Dylan Allen (8Andrewes), Hannah Johnston (7Story) and Emily Farnell (10Burrows), and Eliza Gardner (8Otter) and Willow Ward (8Story), who all battled hard across the two days. Simply getting round the course in a fleet of 82 boats, in fresh breeze, is an achievement in itself, and every one of our crews showed real determination and improvement over the event.

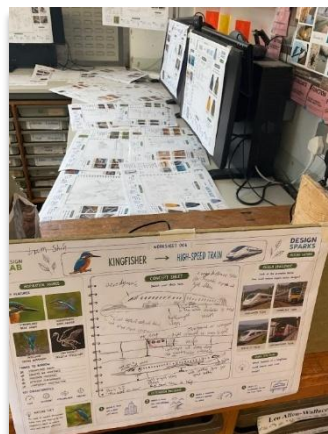
With eight boats entered, Bishop Luffa fielded one of the largest teams at the championships, a fantastic reflection of the enthusiasm for sailing in our school community. Congratulations to all our sailors, and thank you to the parents and staff who supported them. We look forward to seeing what this talented group achieves next season!

Helen Williams, Team Leader of Computer Science



Future Design & Technology GCSE Students Inspired by Biomimicry

Future Design & Technology GCSE students explored the importance of a well-rounded education and how studying Design & Technology develops valuable lifelong skills. Throughout the session, students discovered how a GCSE in Design & Technology supports creative thinking, problem-solving, innovation, and resilience—essential qualities for future careers, whether as employees, entrepreneurs, or educators.



To put these skills into practice, students were introduced to the fascinating concept of biomimicry—drawing inspiration from nature to solve design challenges. Their task encouraged them to observe how plants, animals, and natural systems overcome problems and use these ideas to inspire innovative product designs.

This engaging activity highlighted how Design & Technology combines creativity with practical problem-solving, preparing students to think critically, adapt to new challenges, and design solutions for the future.

James Bonney, Head of Design and Technology



Bishop Luffa receives West Sussex Democracy Award

Following on from the huge whole school engagement in voting and democracy this academic year, Bishop Luffa School was privileged to again receive recognition from West Sussex County Council. In July we were invited to join the awards ceremony at The Assembly Rooms in Chichester.



Lexi Carbarns (11King), our West Sussex Youth Cabinet member, received the award on behalf of our school. This award is given to celebrate “Youth Voice, Leadership and Political Literacy”.

We are very grateful to Mrs Smerdon-Corp for organising this opportunity for our students through our PSHE curriculum. Our thanks also go to Lexi, for continuing to represent the views of young people in our local area.

Angela Smith, Assistant Headteacher

Trust Joint Enterprise Project

The Textiles department ran a joint enterprise project that our recent Wellbeing Day. This is where the students from Fishbourne, Nyewood, Lavant, West Dean and Rumboldswyke primary schools each made a decorative textiles panel based on a project of 'mini beasts and nature'. The panels were then sent to us at Luffa for our students to collaborate together and construct the quilts. The quilts are all ready to be sent back to the primary schools for the children to enjoy.

Melissa Witherow, Team Leader of Textiles



Sixth Formers Explore their University Options

Year 12 students have been busy exploring their next steps this term, with many attending university open days across the country.

Alongside the many independent visits students have been making to universities of all kinds, the school also organised trips to open days at Oxford and Cambridge. A group of twelve students travelled to Oxford, where they explored the colleges, spoke with tutors and current students, and got a feel for life at the university. This was followed on Friday by a visit to Cambridge, where another group of twelve toured the historic colleges, sat in on taster lectures, and heard from admissions tutors and current undergraduates about courses and student life.

Wherever their interests lie, open days are a valuable part of our students' preparation for the future, helping them make informed choices about their applications and find the course and university that's right for them. We look forward to supporting them all as they begin their UCAS journeys in the coming months.



Jamie Saunders, Head of Sixth Form

An Update from the Gardening Club

We have had a fun and busy year in Gardening Club, working closely with the Eco reps to try out some sustainable gardening techniques. Having had a huge area cleared by one of our brilliant volunteers, Mrs Barr-Hamilton, we unearthed some pumpkins which had started to grow in the new compost area, so we have marked them off and hope to have some pumpkins when we return in September!

After preparing them with weed-suppressing recycled cardboard, the raised beds behind languages have had some successes (the sunflowers succumbed to the slugs!) with marjoram, gourds, verbena and cosmos growing happily. The Quiet Area has been an ongoing project and we have enjoyed seeing our daffodils, snowdrops and Busy Lizzies blooming. One of our brilliantly creative volunteers, Reverend Woodruff, has been leading us in some experiments, with homemade 'nettle tea' fertiliser made from the vast amount of stinging nettles we suddenly found ourselves with, and planting seeds in a variety of recycled items such as drainpipes and juice cartons! Fingers crossed for our carrots... Do join us in September as we continue to enjoy the outdoors on Tuesday lunchtimes. See Mrs McLoughlin in H5 for more details!



Breaking the Ice on the Hottest Day of the Year!

Our new Year 11 external applicants to Bishop Luffa Sixth Form recently got off to a fantastic start after their GCSE exams finished with a fun-filled team-building and icebreaker day led by 'WiseUp Team Building'.

On what was officially the hottest day of the year so far, students took part in a range of fun, energetic and sometimes challenging activities designed to get everyone working together and, most importantly, getting to know one another. There was plenty of laughter, teamwork and the chance to make lots of new friends before starting Sixth Form in September.



After a busy day of team challenges and icebreakers in the sunshine, everyone enjoyed a well-deserved BBQ lunch together.

With GCSE results day now on the horizon, our future Sixth Form students are hopefully ready to celebrate their achievements and make a strong start to life at Bishop Luffa Sixth Form this September. We can't wait to welcome them!

Jamie Saunders, Head of Sixth Form

Bishop Luffa students bring home medals from the English Schools Athletics Championships in Birmingham

Molly Smithers (12King) and Ben Stewart (11Andrewes) brought home Bishop Luffa's second and third medal in the school's history, following on from discus thrower Mr Cooke when he was competing in the junior boy' age group. The two medals gained at Birmingham were only the 5th and 6th Chichester Athletics Club have ever won and three of them have roots at Bishop Luffa. Representing the Sussex senior girls, Molly Smithers capped a fine year with a well-deserved bronze medal in the 3000m, a challenging distance in the heatwave.

Running with the leading pack, Molly decided not to follow a break by the leading two but consolidated her 3rd place to win bronze in a time of 9min 49.8sec, just three seconds behind silver at the finish but well in front of the 4th placed athlete.

Following her victory in the South of England Cross Country Championship in January, this represented a superb all-round season.



Bishop Luffa's second medallist came in the Intermediate boys' 1500m steeplechase, where Ben Stewart set a personal best of 4min 20sec in the final, having won his heat the day before.

It took a new championship record of 4min 11sec to get the better of Ben, whose bronze medal was the second for Bishop Luffa, one of the very few schools in the UK to gain more than one medal.

The third of the trio of Bishop Luffa athletes in action was 1500m runner Elodie Hill (11King), who made it through a very strong heat to finish a creditable 10th in the final with a new PB of 4.39.5.

Congratulations to Molly, Ben and Elodie and we look forward to seeing them compete in the cross-country season.

Tim Godfray, Team Leader of PE

Year 8 Project 'Festivities in the Hispanic World'

For our final Spanish module of the year, our Year 8 students explored the theme of "Festivities in the Hispanic World." Throughout the unit, they learned about the importance of family, food, music, and traditions across the Spanish-speaking world.

As part of their learning, students chose either a Hispanic festival or a Hispanic celebrity to research before creating a range of informative and creative presentations. We were especially impressed by Rosa Hamilton (8Otter), Isla Hayman (8Andrewes), Anabel Day (8Sherborne), Juniper Palmer-Bullock (8Sherborne), and Mollie Robson (8Sherborne), who went the extra mile by baking fantastic cakes inspired by La Tomatina and Día de los Muertos.



It was a wonderful way to round off the academic year, celebrating Hispanic culture together while showcasing the students' creativity, enthusiasm, and hard work.



Elizabeth López Gamero
Team Leader of Spanish & International School Coordinator

Tenerife Exchange 2026

This term, our Year 12 students had the incredible opportunity to spend a week in Tenerife, staying with welcoming host families. During their visit, they attended classes at Nuryana School and, as you can imagine, also enjoyed plenty of fun while creating unforgettable memories.

Throughout the week, the students explored the historic city of La Laguna, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, visited local markets and restaurants, discovered Santa Cruz, travelled to the spectacular Mount Teide volcano, and spent an exciting day at Siam Park, Europe's largest water park.

The trip was packed with unique experiences and provided a fantastic opportunity for students to immerse themselves in a different culture while developing their language, communication, and social skills. We are already looking forward to returning next year!



Team Tenerife – Alex Bravo and Elizabeth López Gamero

A Spectacular Sports Day 2026: Records Tumble and Spirits Soar!

What a truly magnificent day for our school community! Sports Day 2026 was a celebration of sporting success from throughout the year and House pride. The sun shone brightly on brown grassed track as students gave their absolute all, cheered on by a colourful and supportive crowd.



Record-Breaking Performances

A huge congratulations to Scarlett Mainwaring (7Sh) and Daniel Sherwell (8Ri), who both achieved the extraordinary feat of winning all three of their individual events. Scarlett dominated in the high jump, 800m, and hammer, while Daniel was unstoppable in the speed bounce, 300m, and long jump. Our multi event athletes were equally impressive. Alfred Ball (7Sh) and Isabella Lendrum (10Bu) showed versatility by winning all their events. Isabella set a new record with a score of 228 points, while Sylvie Pring (7Bu) also set a new benchmark with a fantastic 180 points.



The field and track events saw historic records fall. Reuben Shewan (10Wi) produced a moment of magic in the long jump, jumping 6.24m to break a record that had stood since 1981. Max Gayle (10Bu) had a day to remember, smashing the long standing 1500m record by 8 seconds and setting a new speed bounce record of 86. Marnie Powell (8Wi) threw a massive 38.82m to claim the vortex record, and Isaac Page (8Sh) equalled a high jump record that has been unbeaten since 2003 at 1.55m. These are outstanding

achievements in addition to the recent success on the track with Molly Smithers (12Ki), Ben Stewart (11An) and Elodie Hill (11Ki) at the English Schools Athletics Championships recently reported.

The Results

After a careful verification of all the results, we are thrilled to crown our champions. In the Year Group standings, Burrows emerged as the Year 7 victors, Sherborne for Year 8, King for Year 9, and Otter took the top spot for Year 10.

The prestigious Sports Day Cup was awarded to Burrows, followed closely by Ridgeway in 2nd and a tie for 3rd between Andrewes, King, and Sherborne.



In the overall School Games (including all interhouse events this year), Ridgeway claimed the overall title, with Burrows in 2nd and a tie for 3rd between Sherborne and Story. Well done to everyone for earning such vital points for your houses.

A Thank You

A day of this scale would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff - thank you for your tireless efforts in ensuring the day ran so smoothly. We also want to extend a special thanks to the PFA and King House for providing drinks, ice pops, snacks and a wonderful cream tea, which was enjoyed by all. Their fantastic fundraising efforts throughout the day have raised significant funds for charity, and school causes, perfectly capturing the generous spirit of our school community. Photos from Sports Day can be found on the school website <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/home/student-leadership/photo-gallery/sports-day-2026/>

Tim Godfray, Team Leader of PE

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 July and August:

- All students waiting for exam results and all those supporting them
- Year 6 students preparing to start secondary school
- Staff who are leaving and staff who are joining Bishop Luffa
- Our site team as they prepare the school for September

School Calendar

Tues 1st & Wed 2nd September

Thursday 3rd September

Friday 4th September

Tuesday 8th September

Thursday 10th September

Tuesday 15th September

Wednesday 16th September

Thursday 17th September

Wednesday 23rd September

Thursday 8th October

Tuesday 13th October

Thursday 22nd October

Monday 26th – Fri 30th October

INSET Days

Year 7 and Year 12 only in school

All students in school

School Photos taken by Yellow

Year 9 Parents' & Carers' Induction Evening

Year 12 Parents' & Carers' Induction Evening

Year 7 Parents' & Carers Induction / PFA Cheese & Wine Evening

Year 10 Parents' & Carers' Induction Evening

Year 13 Parents' & Carers' Induction Evening

Year 11 Parents' & Carers' Induction/Revision Evening

OPEN EVENING for prospective students, parents & carers

Performers' Platform – KS4 & KS5 Students

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Half Term

BOOKFEST YA



JUDGED BY YA AUTHOR



NICOLA
GARRARD

FIRST CHAPTER WRITING COMPETITION FOR 11-17 YEAR OLDS

PUT YOUR WRITING SKILLS TO THE TEST!

Send us the opening chapter of your novel - all genres welcome.

Judges will select the most compelling first chapters and winners will receive a book voucher at a special award ceremony.

- **FREE TO ENTER**
- **MAX 500 WORDS**
- **DEADLINE 31 JULY**

We also welcome adapted entries from SEND young people.

Scan the QR code to find out more on how to take part:

Remember to include your name, year group and the name of your secondary school (or give your parent/carer's contact email if you're homeschooled).



Chichester
City Council

