

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025

**Bishop
Young**
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ACADEMY



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In Partnership to
Educate, Nurture & Empower

01

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

As we reach the end of another exciting and fulfilling school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many successes, milestones, and unforgettable memories we've shared as a school community.

One of our proudest achievements this year was being awarded School of Sanctuary status. This recognition reflects our ongoing commitment to making our school a welcoming, inclusive, and compassionate space for all. It's a testament to the values we hold dear—kindness, respect, and unity.

We are also delighted to let you know that we have been as a Voice 21 Centre of Oracy Excellence. This is in recognition of our continued commitment to developing confident, articulate, and thoughtful communicators across the academy.

Our students have continued to shine across a range of opportunities. We were thrilled to take a group to Wimbledon to experience world-class tennis and be inspired by the excellence and determination of professional athletes. In line with our commitment to equality and opportunity, several of our students also took part in Girls in STEM initiatives, empowering young women to explore exciting careers in science, technology, engineering, and maths. These experiences are laying the foundations for futures full of promise and ambition.

We were also incredibly proud of the Great Oracy Exhibition, where students showcased their creativity, critical thinking, and community spirit. It was a celebration of learning at its finest and a powerful reminder of what our students can achieve when given the chance to explore and express. The arts have flourished this year too. Our production of *The Lion King* was nothing short of extraordinary. The performances, staging, and sheer talent on display were breathtaking, and I want to congratulate everyone involved. It was a true celebration of the creativity and collaboration that define our school.

Continued on next page

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Our Student Council has once again made a real difference—driving changes that matter to students, Their leadership and sense of responsibility have been impressive and inspiring.

As we look ahead, I must emphasise that school attendance remains a key priority. We know that good attendance is closely linked to student success and wellbeing. Next year, this will be a major focus of our work, and we will continue to work in close partnership with families to support every student to attend, engage, and thrive.

To our Year 11 students, we send you off with immense pride. You've grown, matured, and risen to every challenge. As you take your next steps—whether in further education, apprenticeships, or work—remember that you carry the values and spirit of this school with you. We wish you all the very best for the future.

To our parents and carers—thank you for your continued support. To our dedicated staff—thank you for your commitment and care. And to our wonderful students—you are what makes this school so special. You've worked hard, supported each other, and brought joy to every corner of school life.

Have a restful, safe, and happy summer break. We look forward to welcoming you all back in September, ready for another year of learning, growth, and achievement.

Ms R Lacey-Cole
Principal



SOCIAL MEDIA

Do you follow us on social media? You can keep up to date with all the amazing things that go on by following us on Instagram and Facebook.



@[bishopyoungacad/](https://www.instagram.com/bishopyoungacad/)



www.facebook.com/bishopyoungce

SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY

We are incredibly proud to announce that BYA has officially been awarded School of Sanctuary status—a powerful recognition of our ongoing commitment to being a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all students, staff, and families.

A School of Sanctuary is a place that fosters a culture of compassion, understanding, and belonging. At BYA, these values are not just words on a wall—they are at the heart of everything we do. Whether it's through curriculum, assemblies, staff training, student-led initiatives, or our pastoral support systems, we are intentional in creating a community where every individual feels seen, heard, and respected.

This award reflects the collective effort of our entire school community. Students have played a vital role—promoting inclusion through their kindness, activism, and leadership. Our staff have engaged in meaningful training and reflection, embedding sanctuary principles across the school day. Families and external partners have also been instrumental in supporting our journey.

The process of becoming a School of Sanctuary has helped us to reflect, learn, and grow. We've hosted awareness events, welcomed guest speakers with lived experience, and engaged in national conversations about inclusion, migration, and human rights.

But the journey doesn't stop here. Being a School of Sanctuary means continuing to evolve, listen, and lead with empathy. As we move forward, we remain committed to nurturing a school environment where everyone—no matter their background or story—can thrive and feel at home.

We are honoured to receive this recognition and excited to continue building a school that truly lives up to its values.

GLOBAL LEARNING AWARDS



**LEEDS
GLOBAL
LEARNING
AWARDS**

We are incredibly proud to announce that a group of our students have been awarded "Highly Commended" at the Leeds Global Learning Awards 2025 for their outstanding commitment to antiracism and intercultural dialogue.

The Leeds Global Learning Awards celebrate the inspiring work of educators and young people across the city who are tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges. This year's ceremony took place at the Leeds Civic Hall and recognised contributions aligned with global learning, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, climate education, school-community partnerships, and the promotion of intercultural understanding.

Our students were commended for their thoughtful and passionate engagement in projects that promote equality, challenge racism, and celebrate the rich diversity of cultures within our school and wider community. Their work reflects a deep commitment to making the world a fairer and more inclusive place – and we couldn't be prouder of what they've achieved.

GREAT ORACY EXHIBITION

We are delighted to share that BYA has once again been reaccredited as a Voice 21 Centre of Oracy Excellence—a recognition of our continued commitment to developing confident, articulate, and thoughtful communicators across the academy.

This was never more evident than during our whole-school 'Great Oracy Exhibition'—a full day off-timetable where students immersed themselves in creative and collaborative oracy-based activities. The energy across the school was electric as every year group took on exciting challenges that showcased their speaking, listening, and presentation skills.

Here's a snapshot of the incredible work from the day:

Year 7 - "Whodunnit?"

Students became detectives for the day, piecing together clues and building persuasive arguments to present their case. With careful questioning and collaborative discussion, they demonstrated impressive critical thinking and teamwork.

Year 9 - Dragon's Den: Multi-Sport Shoe Pitch

Year 9 took on an entrepreneurial challenge: to design a shoe suitable for multiple sports to help reduce the cost of PE equipment for families. They pitched their ideas to a panel, showcasing creativity, market research, and persuasive speaking worthy of the real Dragon's Den.

Year 8 - Climate Change Newsreel

In teams, students created newsreels investigating how human actions contribute to climate change and environmental damage. They delivered powerful reports using facts, persuasive language, and visual storytelling to inspire awareness and action.

Year 10 - Careers Day

Year 10 participated in a series of workshops designed to prepare them for the world beyond school. Sessions including the university application process and a "Life at University" talk.

The day gave students valuable tools, boosted their confidence, and sparked motivation for the choices and opportunities that lie ahead.

The whole day was a celebration of student voice, expression, and confidence. At BYA, we believe that oracy is not an 'add-on', but a vital skill for life, and we are proud to be recognised nationally for the work we continue to do. Well done to all staff and students who took part and made the Great Oracy Exhibition such a huge success!

GREAT ORACY EXHIBITION



SPEAKERS TRUST

On Wednesday 9th July, our Y10 student entry for this years edition of the Speaker's Trust delivered a rousing speech to a packed audience at the Carriage Works Theatre in Leeds. Although she didn't win on the night, Fatima displayed courage and confidence to perform alongside 15 other finalists and received amazing positive feedback from the hosts.



YEAR 11 AND PROM

As we say goodbye to our amazing Year 11 students, we do so with immense pride in all they have achieved during their time at BYA. This cohort has shown resilience, determination, and maturity beyond their years, and we know they will go on to do incredible things.

To mark the end of their journey with us, students celebrated in style at their Year 11 Prom—a night filled with joy, dancing, laughter, and unforgettable memories. It was a beautiful occasion, and the perfect way to reflect on the friendships, growth, and shared experiences of the past five years.

A huge congratulations to George and Nokutenda, who were crowned this year's Prom King and Queen—a recognition of their warmth, positivity, and the respect they've earned from their peers.

We wish all of Year 11 the very best in their next steps, whether it's sixth form, college, apprenticeships, or beyond.

Remember: once a part of BYA, always a part of BYA.



STUDENT COUNCIL

At BYA, student voice is not just encouraged, it's empowered. This year, our Student Council has been at the heart of some meaningful changes across the academy, showing that when young people speak up, their voices truly can make a difference.

One of the most significant achievements this year was the successful proposal for changes to the school uniform policy. After gathering feedback from students across all year groups, the council presented a well-researched, thoughtful proposal that balanced student comfort with school standards. Their professionalism and clear communication impressed both staff and leadership.

The Student Council also had the opportunity to present their ideas directly to the Governing Body. The presentation was so well received that governors have now invited the Student Council to work more closely with them going forward, recognising the value of having student perspectives at the heart of decision-making.

This is a fantastic step forward for student leadership at BYA and a shining example of what can be achieved through respectful dialogue, collaboration, and a commitment to improvement. We're incredibly proud of our Student Council members for their passion, maturity, and determination to help shape the future of our school.

PERFORMING ARTS SHINE: A SEASON OF SPECTACULAR SUCCESS

It has been a truly unforgettable term for the Performing Arts Department, packed with inspiring performances, exceptional opportunities, and moments of real magic.

Our school production of *The Lion King* was a roaring success, with students transforming the stage into the heart of the Serengeti through stunning costumes, powerful vocals, and moving performances. The cast and crew worked tirelessly, and their professionalism, energy, and teamwork earned them a well-deserved standing ovation.

Adding to the excitement, a group of students had the unforgettable opportunity to sing at Leeds Arena as part of the Leeds Youth Music Concert. Performing in front of thousands, they showcased not only their musical talent but also their dedication and confidence on one of the city's biggest stages.

Our gifted musicians also took part in improvisation workshops at Leeds Conservatoire, where they impressed everyone by becoming the only students to step up and lead a session – a remarkable achievement. That same evening, they performed live at The Wardrobe, one of Leeds' most iconic music venues, earning praise for their creativity and stage presence.

We were also fortunate to host the Leeds Symphony Orchestra in school, giving students a unique and inspiring experience of live orchestral music.

Crowning this incredible year, we are proud to announce that the school has been awarded Artforms Music Champion School Status 2025, recognising our commitment to high-quality music education and student opportunity. This is a huge honour and a testament to the dedication of both our students and staff.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who has supported the performing arts this year. From school stages to city venues, our young performers continue to rise, inspire, and make us all proud.



WIMBLEDON

What an opportunity! Earlier this term, 10 lucky students had the incredible chance to attend the world-famous Wimbledon Championships as part of a school trip focused on sport, aspiration, and enrichment. As well as experiencing the thrill of live tennis at one of the most prestigious sporting events in the world, students also enjoyed an overnight stay in London, making the trip even more memorable.

From soaking in the atmosphere on the iconic grass courts to seeing world-class athletes in action, it was a truly inspiring experience for all involved.

The trip not only gave students a taste of top-level sport, but also encouraged discussions around discipline, dedication, and the power of perseverance—values we celebrate every day at BYA.

A huge thank you to the staff who made the visit possible and to the students, who represented the school brilliantly throughout.



SPORTS DAY

Congratulations to all our students for their enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and incredible energy during this year's Sports Day! It was a thoroughly enjoyable day filled with fantastic performances, team spirit, and plenty of sunshine.

From sprint races to long jump, relay events to javelin, students gave it their all and showed true determination and support for one another. The cheers from the sidelines and the friendly competition created an atmosphere to remember.

A special thank you goes to our brilliant PE department for organising and running the day so smoothly, as always. Their hard work behind the scenes ensured everything went off without a hitch.

One of the highlights of the day was undoubtedly the staff vs. student events, which brought plenty of laughs and a great sense of fun for everyone watching and taking part!

Well done once again to all participants — and thank you to everyone who made the day such a success. We're already looking forward to next year!

CULTURE & DIVERSITY WEEK

We were excited to host our Cultural Diversity Week from Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June. During the week we came together to celebrate the colourful sounds, sights, movements, and tastes of our diverse school community through this week-long selection of activities.

All our students, teachers and support staff were invited to share their stories and cultural origins, through food, quizzes, dance and band performances followed by a day of cultural dress. It truly was a celebration of the best of what our multicultural school community looks like.

The dance and band performances took place on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime with various students performing songs linked to their heritages. Throughout the week students also decorated t-shirts and classroom doors which represented countries all around the world.

The week culminated on Cultural Dress Day. Students and staff wore their cultural dress and identified which part of the country or world they originated from. It was a very successful and informative day as the whole school learned about their school community's heritage.



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS

Y8 Geography Trip to Malham Cove

In May, our Year 8 geography students embarked on an exciting fieldwork trip to the stunning Malham Cove. The visit offered a hands-on opportunity to explore the area's unique geology. Students were fascinated to learn that the iconic limestone formations were created millions of years ago when the region was submerged under the sea.

The sunny weather made the experience even more enjoyable. In small groups, students completed field sketches, examined the limestone pavement, and visited the exit point of the river. For 70% of the students, it was their first time seeing Malham Cove – an unforgettable experience. The winding coach journey through the Yorkshire Dales added to the adventure. This trip helped students develop their physical geography knowledge and fieldwork skills, and it was clear they are flourishing as young geographers.

Y10 GCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELD WORK

Year 10 students took part in two valuable days of fieldwork as part of their GCSE Geography studies.

On the first day, students explored different areas of Leeds to investigate changes in environmental quality. They conducted traffic counts, environmental quality surveys, decibel readings, and field sketches. Through their data, students clearly identified a trend – as we moved closer to the city centre, environmental quality declined.

The second day of fieldwork focused on ecosystems at Arthur's Rein. Students used quadrats to measure species diversity, ground coverage, and human impact. They also assessed potential risks involved in fieldwork, an important component of their exam preparation. All the collected data was later analysed in class, giving students valuable insights into urban and ecological geography.



MATHS CITY EVENT



A group of 23 enthusiastic Year 8 students recently visited MathsCity, located in Leeds City Centre, for a unique and engaging learning experience.

The visit was designed to help students discover the exciting world of mathematics beyond the classroom. Through a variety of hands-on, interactive exhibitions, students explored mathematical concepts in a real-world context—bringing numbers, patterns, and puzzles to life.



From giant bubble geometry to 3D shapes and logic challenges, the activities encouraged curiosity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. The experience helped students make meaningful connections between what they learn in school and how mathematics is used in everyday life.

This immersive trip not only deepened students' appreciation for the subject but also sparked new enthusiasm for learning. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the creative and playful side of mathematics!

GIRLS IN STEM

This term, the Science Department has proudly launched a Girls in STEM event series, spearheaded by Dr. Idim, with the goal of empowering young female students to pursue their interests in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The initiative includes a variety of activities designed to inspire confidence, build skills, and showcase real-world applications of STEM. From hands-on experiments and workshops, each session has provided a platform for students to explore STEM in exciting and meaningful ways.

Dr. Idim's passion for inclusion and innovation has created a welcoming space where girls can ask questions, solve problems collaboratively, and imagine themselves in future STEM careers. The events have also helped challenge stereotypes and broaden students' understanding of what a scientist, engineer, or mathematician can look like.

Early feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many students reporting a newfound enthusiasm for science and a clearer sense of the career paths open to them.

As Dr. Idim puts it, *"STEM is for everyone. We want our girls to see that they belong in these spaces—and that they have the potential to lead in them."* This inspiring series continues to grow and promises to make a lasting impact on our students' futures.

CAREERS ROUND UP

This term has been packed with exciting careers events, visits, and partnerships—helping students explore future pathways, develop key employability skills, and gain valuable real-world experience.

We continue to enjoy a strong partnership with Walker Morris, whose ongoing support has been instrumental in providing students with insights into the legal sector and professional working environments. Their workshops and mentoring sessions have sparked real interest and ambition among our students.

We are honoured to continue our partnership with IntoUniversity, the national charity dedicated to supporting young people—especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds—as they explore pathways into higher education and beyond. IntoUniversity has been active in Leeds for over ten years, delivering academic support, mentoring, aspiration-raising FOCUS programmes, campus visits, and employability workshops. We were also proud to be part of the Thomas Trust Transition Programme, with students taking part in site visits and workshops to support their next steps after school.

The Year 11 Careers Fair brought together a wide range of employers, colleges, and training providers under one roof. Students had the chance to ask questions, gather information, and explore different post-16 and post-18 options—all in one place.

One of the highlights of our year included Year 10 visiting Waite Construction, where students saw a live construction site in action and learned about careers in engineering, trades, and project management.

Meanwhile, our Year 9 students have had a packed programme of their own. A special Interview Day with the Rotary Club gave them a taste of the world of work, with professionals volunteering their time to help students prepare for real-life interviews. This was followed by Work Experience Days with Equalax, where students learned about workplace expectations and career routes in a range of industries.

We are proud of the way our students have embraced these opportunities—with curiosity, confidence, and a willingness to learn. A huge thank you to all our partners, staff, and volunteers who continue to support our careers programme and help us prepare students for bright futures.

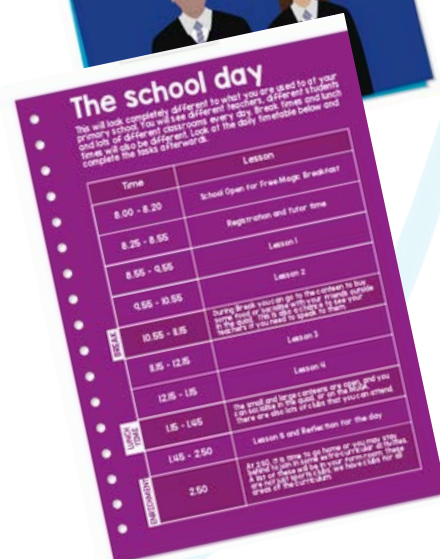
TRANSITION

Transition to High School is an important step in a child's education. We work hard at Bishop Young Academy to make this process successful we hope that your child enjoyed their Transition Day with us in July and much as we enjoyed having them in the academy.

In preparation for your child joining us, we have spent much of the summer term visiting primary schools and meeting the children as well as gathering knowledge from their Year 6 teachers. All of this helps us to build a picture of your child that will mean that we can more effectively support them as they start their high school journey. This experience will be different for every child, but we will work with all of our families to ensure that all students are able to flourish and be the best that they can be.

As you may be aware there are a number of **free Summer Camps taking place during the holidays, one of which is open to our new students**. This will be running during the week of the 28th July to 1st August and will be a fantastic opportunity for your child to meet their new classmates and to familiarise themselves with school. In turn this will ensure a brilliant start to term as they will be confident in their surroundings and with their new friends. If you have not already registered and would like your child to attend, please do contact us before the end of term.

Parents and carers will get to meet key staff as well as their young person's form tutor at a Meet the Teachers event on the 2nd September 2025. You will have the opportunity to find out more about the academy and ask any questions you have.



Visit our transition webpage for more key information
www.bishopyoungacademy.co.uk/transition/welcome

REMINDERS

ABSENCES

Absences should be reported on each day of absence, by 8am; please use the following to report a student absence:

- Dial 0113 320 0437 and leave the name of your child, both their forename and surname, their form group and the reason for their absence.
- Email Mrs Monkhouse, Attendance & Family Liaison Officer:
dmonkhouse@bishopyoungacademy.co.uk

CLASS CHARTS

Did you know? The school posts key messages, homework, and behaviour information on the Class Charts app, available to students, parents and carers. It's important our families and students check this daily to stay informed and ensure they can plan for what is upcoming. Any issues? Please contact your Form Tutor.

Download the App on Android and Apple or visit the Class Charts Website.

UNIFORM

Thank you to students, parents and carers that champion our uniform policy and keep our cohort looking sharp. As a reminder to all those at Bishop Young, all students, are required to wear the approved Academy dress.

Should you want to double-check our uniform policies, you can find all the information you need [here on our website](#).

We expect high standards of work and behaviour from our students and believe that these go hand-in-hand with our high standards of dress and appearance.

We encourage parents and carers to contact us if you are struggling financially with uniform and need our support. You can contact your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year to access this.

HELLOS AND GOODBYES

THANK YOU

At the end of this term, we are saying goodbye and best wishes for the future to:

Olga Bracewell, Trish Thomson, Liz Smith, Cameron Bevan, Jake Thomas, Libby Ashworth, Josh Kerrigan, Humaam Qureshi, James Ternent, Holly Prue and Christiana Okekunbi

HELLO

In September, we're delighted to welcome the following staff to our team:

Molly Broadbelt
George Pool

KEY DATES NEXT TERM

Monday 1 st September	Staff Training (School closed)
Tuesday 2 nd September	Academy open for Year 7 only
Wednesday 3 rd September	Academy open to all students
Thursday 9 th October	Bishop Arun Y7 Welcome Service
Friday 11 th October	Year 11 Careers Fair
Tuesday 14 th October	School Photographs
Tuesday 21 st October	All Years Flu Vaccination
Friday 24 th October	Academy Closes for October Half-Term
Monday 3 rd November	Academy opens to all students
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Service
Thursday 13 th November	Year 7 Parents Evening
Monday 17 th November	Year 11 Mocks begin
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper Day & Community Christmas Dinner
Friday 19 th December	Training Day (Academy closed to all students)
Monday 5 th January 2026	Academy open to all students



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**Bishop
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