

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025

**Bishop
Young**
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ACADEMY



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In Partnership to
Educate, Nurture & Empower

01

HEAD OF SCHOOL ADDRESS

As we approach the end of term, it's hard to believe how far away September now seems. The past few months have been full and demanding, and I know our whole school community is ready for a well-deserved break. The arrival of the festive season brings a welcome brightness, lifting our spirits during these darker winter days.

This moment offers a chance to pause and look back with genuine appreciation for everything we have accomplished together.

Across our Trust, Teaching & Learning remains our core focus. Oracy continues to be a cornerstone of this work, and we are delighted to be recognised across the city for our strong and ever-growing oracy practice. Our new Year 7 students took part in an Oracy Day earlier this term—an event filled with fabulous fun that introduced them to the key concepts of confident speaking, active listening, and purposeful communication. We look forward to seeing their skills flourish as they progress through the Academy.

Effective policies remain vital to a school's success, creating consistency in the classroom and ensuring that all students benefit from the same high standards. Our improvement journey continues at pace, with our Class of 2025 receiving our best outcomes to date, making Bishop Young one of the top-performing schools in the local area. We were delighted to celebrate their achievements at their Graduation Service in December, and we wish them every success in their future endeavours. Our current Year 11 students have just completed their first set of mock exams, demonstrating impeccable conduct throughout.

Although school attendance continues to be a challenge nationwide, we have seen encouraging improvements this year, and I want to thank you for the support that has helped make this possible. We know there is still further progress to be made, and we are committed to finding creative and engaging ways to celebrate both consistent attendance and individual improvement. Throughout the year, we will introduce a range of incentives designed to motivate students to attend regularly, and we hope these opportunities will inspire even greater success.

HEAD OF SCHOOL ADDRESS

We also continue to value our strong partnership with Leeds United Football Club. Their Positive Choices days have been a fantastic opportunity for our students, promoting aspiration, wellbeing, and responsible decision-making. In addition, the reward tickets gifted to our students for LUFC matches have been very well received. Let's hope Leeds United start winning a few more matches in the New Year!

Another highlight of the term was our Year 8 Christmas Service at St Richard's. It was a beautiful occasion that brought students together in celebration. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all involved, particularly Mrs Shaw, for ensuring that the BYA musicians were in such fine fettle and for providing the music for the BYA Community Christmas Dinner, which proved to be as popular as ever. We were also delighted to welcome Bishop Arun into school this term to conduct our annual Welcome Service for our new Year 7 students. Later that morning, some of our students were fortunate enough to take part in a question-and-answer session with him. It is clear that we have some very deep thinkers in school! We are blessed that Bishop Arun continues to take such a keen interest in our Academy, and we hope to see him again very soon.

I would like to congratulate all of our Academy's sporting teams for their many victories over the course of the term—well done! To all those students who have taken part in extra-curricular activities, from Art Club to Table Tennis Club, your enthusiasm is truly inspiring. One of the highlights of the term has been seeing so many students embrace these opportunities with energy and passion. I'd like to offer my heartfelt thanks and sincere gratitude to the staff and governors of Bishop Young Academy. Their unwavering commitment to our students has made my first half-term as Interim Head of School both rewarding and memorable. I also wish to offer our collective thanks — on behalf of staff, governors, and students—to all parents and carers for their steadfast support.

As we move into the holiday season, my hope is that every household enjoys a time of peace, joy and togetherness. May the break bring safety, good health and renewed strength to us all.

Merry Christmas and Season's
Greetings to everyone.

Ms E Kempthorne
Head of School



Y7 ORACY DAY

This term, Bishop Young Academy was delighted to host Year 7 Oracy Day, an event designed to introduce our newest students to the school's oracy framework and the strategies that support confident, articulate communication.

Throughout the day, students explored a range of texts and topics, using structured talk to deepen their understanding and practise key oracy skills. From forming justified opinions in Period 1 to participating in collaborative Harkness discussions later in the day, students developed their ability to speak clearly, listen actively, and engage thoughtfully with others.

The event concluded with students using the Traverse strategy to reflect on their progress and self-assess their strengths across all four oracy strands: Physical, Linguistic, Cognitive, and Social/Emotional.

Year 7 Oracy Day was a great success, giving students a strong foundation for confident communication and meaningful discussion—skills they will continue to develop throughout their Bishop Young journey.



Y7 WELCOME SERVICE

We were delighted to be joined by Bishop Arun of Kirkstall who delivered our annual service welcoming our new Year 7 students into the Bishop Young Family. The theme of the service was community, linked to our Christian value of Koinonia.



"Koinonia - meaning fellowship, the bond that unites Christians as individuals and groups with each other and with Jesus Christ"

At Bishop Young, we are a safe and welcoming family, who are stronger together. "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." 1 Corinthians 12:12

KS4 TEMPLE NEWSAM TRIP

This term, our KS4 History students took part in an engaging trip to Temple Newsam, a historic estate close to home. The visit was designed to enhance students' knowledge of the history of our local area as part of their GCSE module, History Around Us.

At Temple Newsam, students explored the grand Tudor-Jacobean mansion and its beautiful grounds, gaining a deeper understanding of the lives of the people who lived and worked there over the centuries. The trip brought the local history curriculum to life, allowing pupils to connect their classroom studies with real historical sites and artefacts.

Through guided tours and interactive activities, students developed key skills in historical inquiry and critical thinking, while deepening their appreciation of the rich heritage that surrounds them.

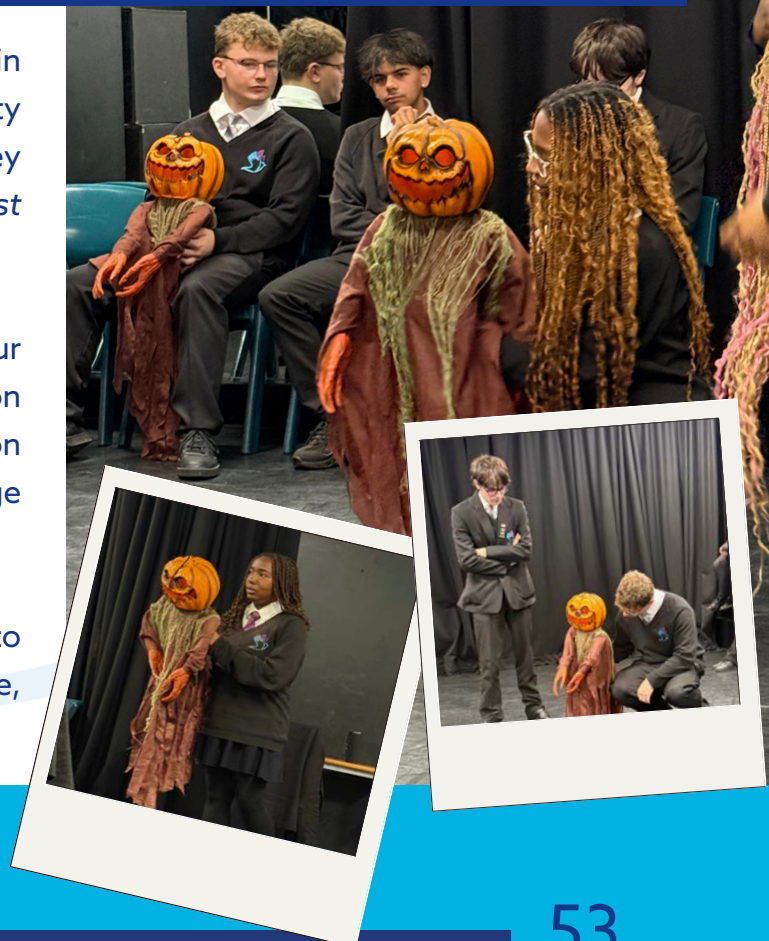
The History Department is proud of the enthusiasm and curiosity shown by all students and looks forward to more opportunities to explore history both inside and outside the classroom.

THEATRE TRIP

Earlier this term, a group of our students took part in an exciting theatre experience at the Leeds City Varieties Music Hall. On Monday 13th October, they attended a performance of *Shock Horror: A Ghost Story* by Thunder Road Productions.

Following the trip, students also took part in a 2-hour drama workshop during school hours. This hands-on session allowed pupils to explore the production further, develop their drama skills, and engage creatively with the themes of the performance.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience live theatre and enhance their confidence, creativity, and appreciation of the performing arts.



AIM HIGHER WORKSHOP

Bishop Young Academy has launched a new initiative, the Scholar's Programme, designed to provide opportunities for high-achieving students to develop their skills and deepen their enjoyment of English. Students were invited to join the programme in recognition of their exceptional ability and effort in the subject.

As part of this initiative, students recently attended an A.I.M. (Achieve, Inspire, Master) High Writing Day at Lawnswood School, led by poet and hip-hop artist Rob Bradley. The day offered students a chance to challenge themselves, refine their writing, and explore creative techniques in Rob's unique and energetic style.

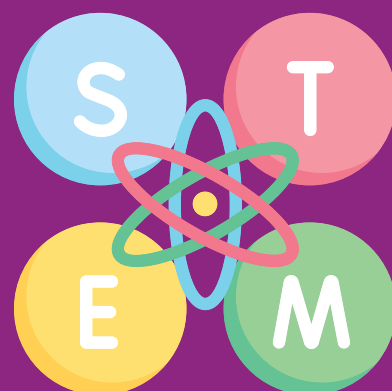
The Scholar's Programme has already proven to be an exciting way to inspire students and celebrate their talents in English, and we look forward to offering more enriching experiences in the future.

GIRLS IN STEM

Bishop Young Academy is proud to continue its Girls in STEM programme, encouraging female students to explore opportunities and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Dr Idim for her hard work and dedication in ensuring that our students are fully aware of the wide range of opportunities available to them in STEM. Her commitment has inspired and supported many young women to develop their skills, confidence, and aspirations in these fields.

The programme remains a key part of our mission to promote equality, curiosity, and excellence in STEM education for all students.



LUFC PARTNERSHIP

Bishop Young Academy is proud to continue its growing partnership with the Leeds United Foundation, a collaboration that is providing exciting new opportunities for some of our most vulnerable students. Through this partnership, pupils have been able to access a range of enriching experiences designed to build confidence, develop life skills, and broaden their horizons.



As part of the programme, students have enjoyed exclusive visits to Elland Road, where they explored the iconic stadium and learned more about the club's history and values. They also took part in a memorable trip to Harewood House, engaging in activities that helped develop teamwork, resilience, and leadership.

A particular highlight of this term was a special visit from Leeds United legend Lucas Radebe, who delivered an inspiring assembly as part of our Black History Month celebrations. His message of perseverance, ambition, and community resonated strongly with students and staff alike.



Our partnership with the Leeds United Foundation continues to make a positive impact across our school community, offering unique experiences that support wellbeing, personal development, and aspiration and we were thrilled to have been awarded the LUFC Education in Excellence Award. The prestigious accolade was presented by Eddie Gray at a glittering awards evening at Elland Road, recognising our commitment to outstanding education and student achievement.

We look forward to further opportunities in the months ahead.



CAREERS

This term has been an exciting and valuable time for our KS4 students as they engaged in a range of careers-focused activities designed to prepare them for life beyond Bishop Young Academy.

YEAR 11 CAREERS FAIR CAROUSEL

Year 11 students took part in a Careers Fair Carousel, receiving presentations from a wide variety of post-16 providers. Colleges and sixth forms were joined by both national and local businesses, giving students a broad insight into the opportunities available to them when they leave BYA. The event helped pupils make informed decisions about their next steps and understand the diverse pathways open to them.



YEAR 11 AHEAD PARTNERSHIP & WALKER MORRIS HYBRID WORK EXPERIENCE



Fifteen Year 11 students also had the opportunity to take part in a Hybrid Work Experience Programme delivered by the Ahead Partnership and Walker Morris, a prestigious law firm in Leeds. The week involved sessions both at the Walker Morris offices and at BYA, where students learned about contracts, ethics and debate, intellectual property, and interview preparation. The programme concluded with a formal interview at Walker Morris, followed by a celebration recognising the students' hard work and achievements.

YEAR 10 AHEAD PARTNERSHIP & WALKER MORRIS PRACTICE INTERVIEWS

Meanwhile, Year 10 students benefitted from a full day of practice interviews led by Walker Morris staff. Every student took part in a mock interview and received personalised feedback on their performance. They then attended workshops focusing on interview techniques, body language, and effective responses to common questions. The day finished with a second interview, giving students the chance to apply their new skills immediately and reflect on their progress.



PE ROUND UP

LDM X BYA PARTNERSHIP

We are very excited to announce our official partnership with Let's Do More (LDM) Basketball Club! This partnership will bring a wealth of opportunities for our students, with LDM supporting all things basketball—from after-school and team sessions to delivering curriculum PE lessons with a focus on basketball skills.



In addition, LDM will run community sessions, providing pupils with the chance to attend after-school basketball sessions and access a clear pathway into club basketball. We look forward to seeing our students develop their skills and passion for the sport through this exciting partnership.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORT

It has been a busy and successful term for our extra-curricular programme. All of our year groups have proudly represented the Academy in a range of sports, including football, netball, and indoor athletics. Our students have performed with resilience, determination, and pride, making it a pleasure for staff to provide these opportunities.

We are thrilled to continue offering these activities into next year, ensuring that as many pupils as possible can enjoy the benefits of sport, teamwork, and healthy competition.

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

CASH FOR KIDS

We are thrilled to share the fantastic success of our recent Sports Challenge in support of Cash for Kids. Thanks to everyone who contributed, we raised over £3,000!

Our students and staff got involved in a range of fundraising initiatives, including a student car wash and a bag pack at Tesco, demonstrating incredible enthusiasm, teamwork, and community spirit.

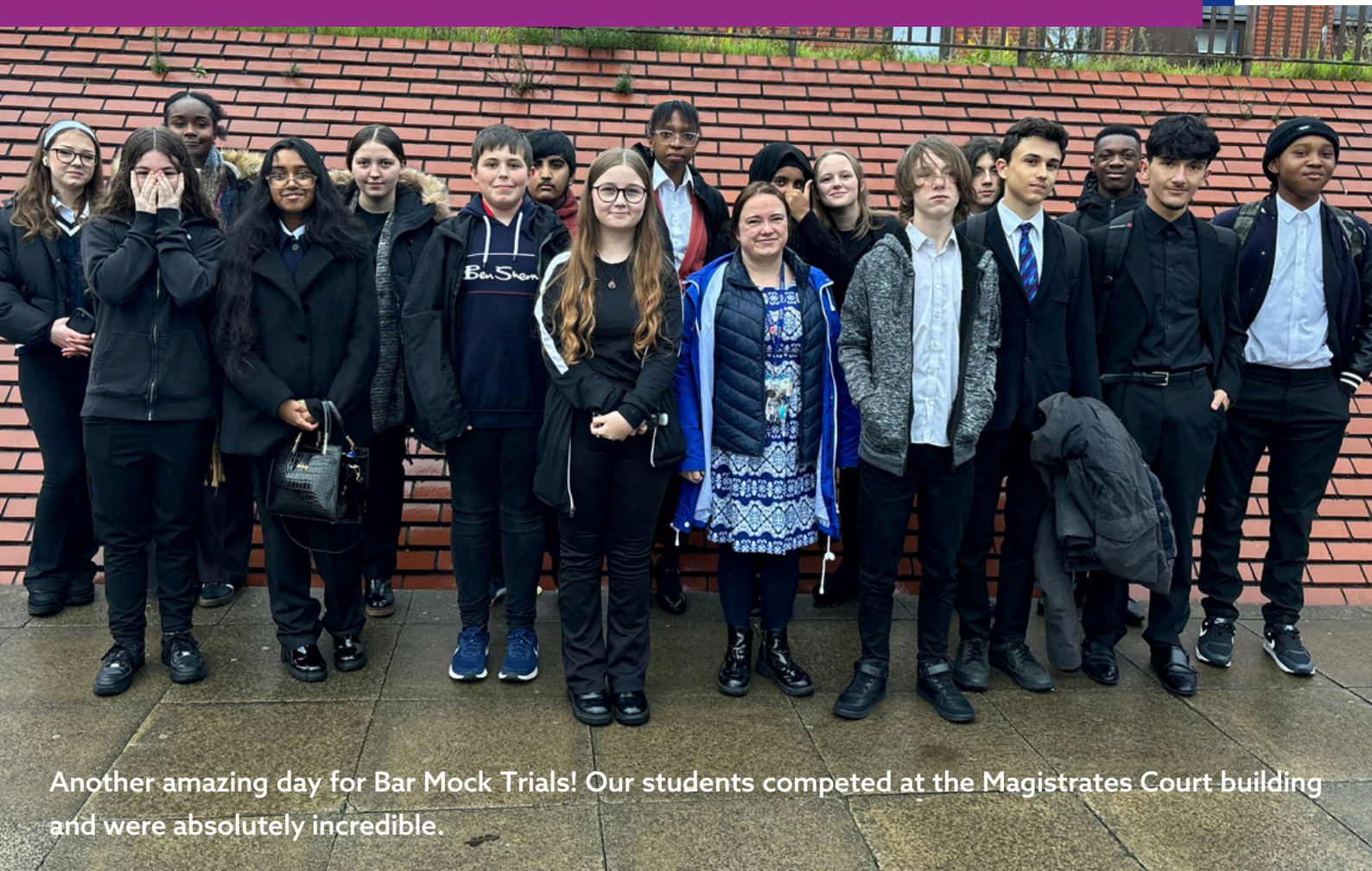
The Cash for Kids Sports Challenge is a fundraising competition designed to support grassroots sports groups. The funds raised help initiatives that encourage the participation of disadvantaged or disabled children and young people in sports, giving them opportunities to enjoy the benefits of physical activity, teamwork, and competition.

A huge thank you to all students, staff, and families who supported this event. Your efforts have made a real difference in helping children and young people access sport and build confidence through participation.

£3,000
raised



BAR MOCK TRIALS



Another amazing day for Bar Mock Trials! Our students competed at the Magistrates Court building and were absolutely incredible.

The competition was tough this year, with many strong entries from other schools, yet our students remained confident in their roles—even when nerves were running high! Each participant was exceptionally well-prepared, knowing their cases and characters inside out.

It was fantastic to see the impact of their oracy education in action, with confident speaking, active listening, and persuasive communication on full display. The dedication, teamwork, and professionalism shown by our students made us incredibly proud.

A special thank you to Miss Corbett for all her hard work in arranging our entry to the Bar Mock Trials and for her dedication in preparing our students for the day. Her guidance and support were instrumental in ensuring the students were confident, well-prepared, and ready to shine.

Well done to all who took part—you represented BYA brilliantly!



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

To mark Remembrance Day this year, Bishop Young Academy held a whole-school service on Tuesday 11th November. At 11am, the entire school gathered in the Sports Hall to observe a period of silence and pay their respects to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



Students from the Cadet Force, along with others, laid memorial wreaths that had been designed and created during Form Time. A selection of readings was delivered in honour of our Armed Forces, making the service a meaningful and reflective occasion for all.



The service provided an important opportunity for students and staff to come together, remember those who have served, and reflect on the sacrifices made for our country.

BYA MEETS THE TRAITORS

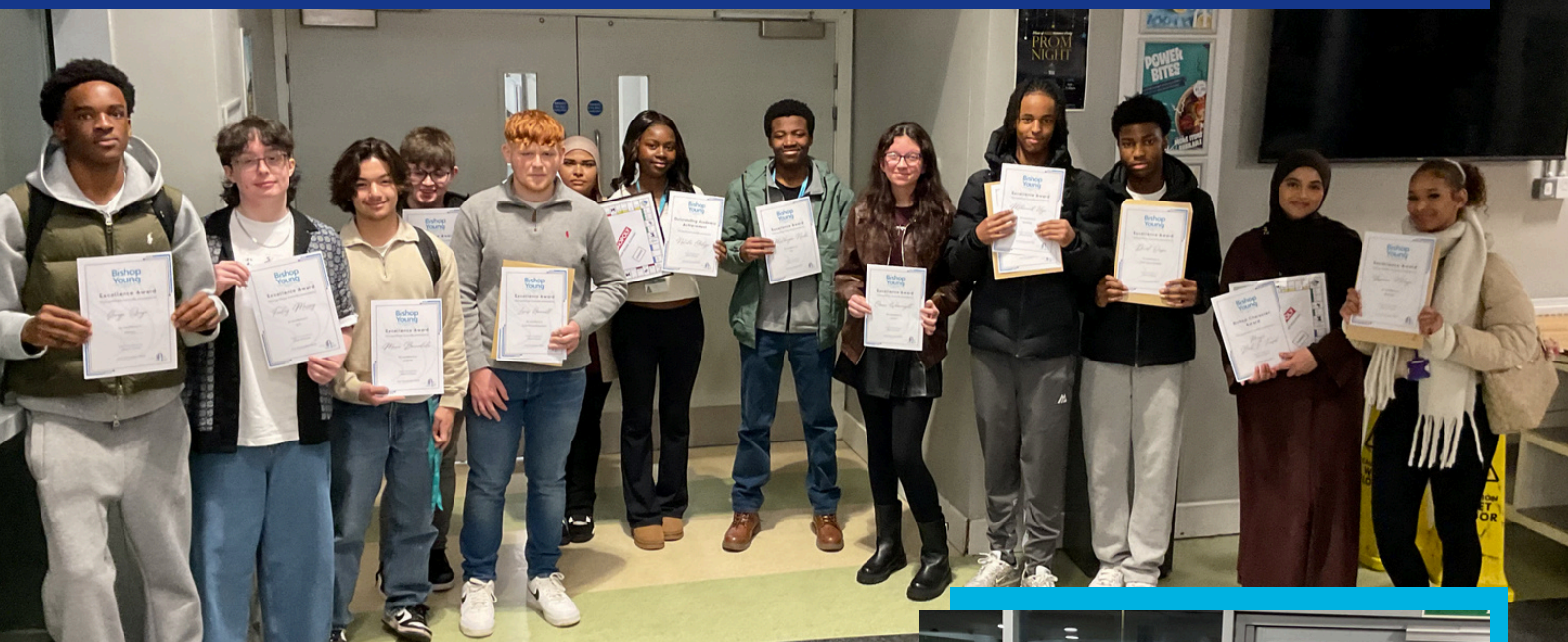
This term we had the pleasure of welcoming Andrew Jenkins, finalist on BBC's The Traitors and a true symbol of resilience and transformation. At just 21, Andrew's life changed forever after a devastating car accident- doctors said he might never walk, talk, or recognise his loved ones again. But Andrew defied all odds.



He shared his incredible story with all our year groups, inspiring our young people to overcome adversity, embrace failure and believe in their limitless potential.



CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION



We were delighted to welcome the Class of 2025 back to Bishop Young Academy for their Year 11 Graduation Evening. The celebration was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on students' achievements, enjoy tea and cake, and present prizes and GCSE certificates.

A special congratulations go to Pariza and Natalie, who were awarded the Bishop Young Student of the Year Award. A truly well-deserved recognition of their hard work, dedication and character.



It was fantastic to see so many familiar faces back in school, and we would like to wish every single one of our graduates the very best in all of their future endeavours.

CULTURE WEEK



Bishop Young Academy was delighted to host our annual Cultural Diversity Week - a vibrant celebration of the sounds, sights, movements, and tastes that make our school community so wonderfully diverse. Throughout the week, students engaged in a rich programme of activities designed to promote understanding, unity, and pride in the many cultures represented within our school.



A highlight for many was the Beads and Braids Workshop, where students learned about the cultural significance of traditional hairstyles and beadwork, and even had the opportunity to create their own designs. Lunchtimes were brought to life with live music and dance performances.

Each form group also took part in a Flag Project, receiving flags to decorate collectively during Form Time. These flags reflected pupils' countries of origin, included meaningful words in a variety of languages, and featured cultural symbols representing heritage, identity, and unity. The completed flags formed a powerful display of connection and shared values.

The week culminated in our Cultural Dress Day, when students and staff were encouraged to wear traditional attire from their cultural backgrounds. Throughout the day, pupils shared stories, experiences, and histories, creating an atmosphere of learning and appreciation. It was a meaningful and enlightening celebration that strengthened our understanding of one another.

Across every activity, the values of Koinonia, family, and oneness were at the heart of the week. Cultural Diversity Week not only celebrated who we are individually but also reminded us of the strength we have when we come together as one Bishop Young community.



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.

BYA CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT ST RICHARD'S



Students at Bishop Young Academy were invited to lead a special Christmas service at **St Richard's Church on 12th December 2025.**



The BYA choir and band performed festive Christmas carols, while the Christmas story was read by student leaders. All Year 8 students were invited to attend the service and enjoy this festive celebration. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to share their talents, celebrate the season, and bring the school community together

KEY DATES NEXT TERM

Thursday 18 th December	School closes for Christmas holidays
Friday 19 th December	INSET Day (school closed to students)
Monday 5 th January	School open to all students
Monday 12 th January	Y11 Parents Evening
Tuesday 2 nd February	Y9 DTP, Meningitis and MMR vaccinations
Friday 13 th February	School closes for February Half-Term
Monday 23 rd February	School open to all students
Thursday 26 th February	Y8 Parents Evening
w/c Monday 2 nd March	Y11 Mock Exams
Wednesday 25 th March	Y9 Options and Parents Evening
Thursday 2 nd April	School closes for Easter holidays



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**Bishop
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