

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026

**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 Easter break, it has once again been a very busy and productive term for both our staff and students. We are looking forward to this opportunity for everyone to rest, relax and re-energise ahead of the summer term.

Work will, of course, continue for some of our students over the break. Our Year 11 students will be focusing on revision as they prepare for their summer GCSE examinations, while our Year 10 cohort will be getting ready for their mock examinations when we return. That said, we strongly encourage all students to enjoy their holiday; effective revision schedules should always include structured time for rest and activity.

Focus on Perseverance and Benevolence

As you know, we take great pride in our Character Education provision here at Bishop Young. This term, our PSHE focus has been on perseverance and benevolence. Students have reflected thoughtfully on their own experiences of overcoming challenges, whether learning a new skill, developing in sport, or tackling academic obstacles. These discussions have helped foster a supportive and reflective environment across the school. Our work on benevolence has explored the importance of kindness, generosity, and empathy. It has been wonderful to see students actively putting these values into practice, both within school and in the wider community. Many have shared how their acts of kindness have not only made a difference to others but have also enhanced their own sense of wellbeing. I am incredibly proud of the maturity and engagement our students have demonstrated.

Excelling Beyond the Classroom

Our students have also excelled beyond the classroom. We have had teams participate in the Cranmer Awards and the Poetry by Heart competition, and students represented the Academy at the Leeds Eco-Schools Conference at Leeds Civic Hall. Notably, one of our students had the honour of addressing the Minister for Climate, *Katie White MP*. Our Science department continues its important work in promoting girls in STEM, and we remain committed to developing socially responsible young people through our work as a NextGenLeaders School.

HEAD OF SCHOOL ADDRESS

We are particularly proud that our oracy work has been recognised at a national level. The Head of Ofsted recently namechecked Bishop Young Academy at the National Literacy Conference, identifying us as “agents for change” in recognition of our early adoption and continued championing of oracy in school. This is a significant achievement and reflects the dedication of our staff in developing students’ confidence, communication, and voice.

We are also proud to be the first school in Leeds to be awarded the Cultural Cohesion Quality Mark (CCQM), recognising our strong commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion. My sincere thanks go to Ms Clarke and Ms Flaherty for their leadership in this area, and to all staff and students who bring these values to life every day.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Comic Relief activities this term. It was a fun and memorable event, with students thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to throw custard pies at staff members—all in aid of a very worthy cause.

We are also delighted to welcome two new school governors to our community. We look forward to the expertise and support they will bring to the continued development of the school.

Looking ahead to next term, please note that from Monday 20th April students will have the option to wear either the full school uniform (jumper, shirt and tie) or the branded summer polo shirt. The polo shirt may be worn on its own or paired with a jumper if preferred, although this is not required.

School will close for the Easter break on Thursday 2nd April at 2:50pm. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 20th April at 8:20am.

Finally, I would like to thank you—our parents, carers, and families—for your continued support. It is greatly appreciated and makes a significant difference to our school community.

Wishing you all a safe, restful and enjoyable Easter break.

Ms E Kempthorne
Head of School



MESSAGE FROM MRS LACEY-COLE

I'm pleased to share that Abbey Grange Academy has now appointed its new Principal, Mrs Dawn Morgan. I'd like to offer her my congratulations as she steps into the role.

With this appointment in place, I will be returning to Bishop Young Academy imminently. I'm very much looking forward to being back with the school community and continuing the work we have been developing together. Bishop Young Academy has always been an important place for me, and I'm very excited to be returning.

Over the next half term, I will still spend some time at Abbey Grange to support Mrs Morgan's transition from Vice Principal to Principal, ensuring the handover is smooth and well supported. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to reconnecting with everyone shortly.

Mrs R Lacey-Cole
Principal



SILVER CCQM

We are pleased to announce that **Bishop Young Academy has been awarded the Silver Cultural Cohesion Quality Mark (CCQM)**. This is a significant achievement for our school, and we are delighted to be the first school in Leeds to receive this recognition.



Cultural Cohesion Quality Mark
Building harmonious relationships

We are delighted to be the first school in Leeds to receive this recognition.

The award reflects the strength of our ongoing commitment to equality, inclusion, and cultural cohesion across all aspects of school life. It recognises the work that takes place both within and beyond the classroom to ensure that every member of our community feels valued, respected, and supported.

This success is very much a collective effort. A huge thanks to all of our staff for their continued dedication and leadership in this area, and our students, who bring these values to life each day through their actions, attitudes, and contributions to our school community.

We are incredibly proud of this milestone and look forward to building on this success as we continue our journey. **Next stop, Gold!**

WEIGHTLIFTING COMPETITION

We are proud to share a significant milestone for Bishop Young Academy, as this term our students took part in their first ever weightlifting competition, hosted by the Grammar School at Leeds.

Our students represented the Academy exceptionally well throughout the event. Competitions such as this highlight the value of sport in providing opportunities for young people to challenge themselves, develop resilience, and build confidence, while also discovering activities they are passionate about.

Staff at the Grammar School at Leeds spoke highly of our students, praising their effort, determination, and exemplary conduct. Their politeness and respect throughout the day were particularly noted and are a true reflection of the values we seek to instil at Bishop Young Academy.



We are incredibly proud of all those who took part. This event marks an exciting beginning, and we look forward to seeing the continued development of weightlifting at the Academy in the future.

BIKEABILITY

This term, we have been delighted to welcome Cycle North to Bishop Young Academy, who have been working with our Year 7 students to deliver their Bikeability training.

Students began their sessions on our MUGA, where they developed confidence and practised essential cycling skills within a safe and supportive environment. As their confidence and competence grew, they progressed onto local roads, applying these skills in real-life contexts and further developing their awareness and responsibility as cyclists.



It has been a pleasure to see the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students throughout the programme, as well as the clear progress they have made in both skill and confidence.

We extend our sincere thanks to the team at **Cycle North** for delivering such a high-quality and engaging experience. We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part and embraced this opportunity so positively.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



Our Year 11 students had the opportunity to visit Leeds Playhouse to watch a live performance of *A Christmas Carol*.

This visit provided a valuable opportunity to support students in their preparation for the summer GCSE examinations, enabling them to experience the text brought to life on stage. Engaging with live theatre deepens understanding of character, themes, and context, and enriches students' appreciation of Charles Dickens' work.

Students represented the Academy exceptionally well and approached the experience with maturity and enthusiasm. It was a highly worthwhile visit and an excellent example of how enrichment opportunities can enhance learning beyond the classroom.

PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

We are immensely proud of our talented Performing Arts students who truly lit up our Performing Arts Showcase this term. The evening was a spectacular celebration of creativity, skill, and dedication, with every performance highlighting the incredible talent we have in our school.

Our GCSE Drama students delivered powerful and emotive performances, demonstrating not only their technical skills but also their confidence, commitment, and ability to bring characters to life. Alongside this, our fabulous musicians wowed everyone with their exceptional performances, showcasing a range of styles and pieces that reflected their hard work and passion for music.

The atmosphere was electric, and it was wonderful to see our students supporting each other and sharing their achievements with family, friends, and staff. Moments like these remind us why the Performing Arts are such an important part of school life, encouraging creativity, self-expression and teamwork.

It was an inspiring evening, a true celebration of talent, and the perfect way to finish off the half-term. We cannot wait to see what these brilliant students achieve next!



PRODUCTION PARK VISIT

Our Year 9 students recently enjoyed a visit to **Production Park in Wakefield**, where they experienced a full day exploring the world of the performing arts.

The trip provided an inspiring insight into the creative industries and offered students a valuable opportunity to consider choosing performing arts for their GCSE studies in Years 10 and 11. Activities and workshops encouraged them to develop confidence, teamwork, and creativity while experiencing firsthand the excitement and possibilities within the sector.



It was a fabulous day, and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and engagement shown by all our students. Experiences like this help them to make informed choices about their future pathways and discover passions that could shape their next stage of learning.



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/bishopyoung

Y9 CAREERS FAIR

As part of our recent Year 9 Careers Fair, students engaged in a series of interactive activities designed to explore the wide range of careers both within and beyond the school.

ACTIVITY 1:

Who Works at Bishop Young Academy?

Students worked in pairs to identify the many roles within a school and the skills, responsibilities, and qualifications each requires.

This activity encouraged students to appreciate the variety of roles that keep a school running successfully and understand how different skills and qualifications contribute to each position.



ACTIVITY 2:



Create a YouTube Video Advertising a Job

In a creative and engaging follow-up, students chose a school job to focus on and produced a short YouTube-style video, acting as presenters or influencers. Videos were designed to explain the chosen role, outline the responsibilities, and highlight which GCSE subjects are useful for that career. This task allowed students to apply their research creatively, linking classroom learning to real-world opportunities in a fun and memorable way.

The Careers Fair itself provided students with the chance to meet professionals from a wide range of industries, explore college courses, and consider future career pathways. Students were able to visit stands, ask questions, and engage directly with volunteers, helping them make informed choices about their post-16 options.

These activities not only supported students in understanding the connection between GCSEs and career opportunities, but also encouraged teamwork, creativity, and communication—skills that are essential in any workplace.

ASDA FUTURES PROGRAMME

We are honoured that Bishop Young Academy has been selected as one of the secondary schools in Leeds to participate in the Asda Futures programme.



Through this initiative, our students will work on a "concept to shelf" project, developing a range of products designed around the theme of this summer's World Cup, gaining insight into careers in retail, including merchandising, technology, and distribution.

The programme provides a hands-on opportunity to explore how ideas move from initial concept to the supermarket shelf, combining creativity with practical skills.

As part of the employability focus, students will visit Asda's head office and take part in mock assessments and presentations, helping them to develop confidence, teamwork, and professional skills that are highly relevant for future careers.

We are delighted to offer our students this exciting opportunity, which encourages innovation, broadens career horizons, and equips them with valuable skills for the future.

OUR NEWS

You can also keep up to date with all the amazing things that go on by following us on Instagram and Facebook.

[Click to view more news items on our website](#)

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www.facebook.com/bishopyoungce

CRANMER AWARDS

We are incredibly proud to celebrate Hazel's outstanding achievement in reaching the national finals of the prestigious *Cranmer Awards*.



The *Cranmer Awards* is a highly respected competition that challenges students to memorise and deliver passages from the Book of Common Prayer. Hazel was one of just 20 finalists nationwide and performed at the magnificent *Hampton Court Palace*, reciting scripture from memory in front of a large audience, including her very proud parents.



Hazel's performance earned her 4th place and high praise for her confidence, clarity, and exceptional public speaking skills. This is an incredible accomplishment and a wonderful demonstration of dedication, talent, and resilience.

Well done, Hazel! Your achievement is a true inspiration to the whole Bishop Young Academy community.

COMIC RELIEF

A huge well done to everyone who took part in our Pie in the Face fundraiser! After receiving the most votes, *Mr Lewis* bravely stepped up at break time and three lucky students made sure he ended up covered in cream!

Thanks to the generosity of our students and staff, **we raised an impressive £219.67 for Comic Relief.**

We are very grateful to everyone who donated and joined in the fun—your support made the event both successful and thoroughly enjoyable!



**£219
raised**

**COMIC
RELIEF**

WORLD BOOK DAY

This year, our World Book Day celebrations were filled with creativity, imagination, and a love of literature. As part of the festivities, our forms took part in a door-decorating competition inspired by the Year of Poetry. From famous poems to original verse-inspired designs, our corridors were transformed into a vibrant gallery celebrating poetry and creativity. Congratulations to Form 9GID, whose outstanding door design impressed everyone with its effort, imagination, and poetic flair.



Staff also joined in the fun, dressing as a range of literary characters and bringing stories and poems to life throughout the day.

We were also delighted to celebrate a very special addition to our reading resources. Thanks to the Leeds United Foundation, we received a generous donation of brand-new books for our school book vending machine. Students can now earn these books as rewards for excellent behaviour. This is a brilliant way to celebrate positive choices while encouraging a love of reading.

A small group of our students had the exciting opportunity to unbox the books in a special reveal, enjoying a first look at the fantastic new titles. We are incredibly grateful to the Leeds United Foundation for their generosity and support, helping us inspire readers and make a real difference to our school community.

What an inspiring and thought-provoking experience for our Eco Committee. Held at Leeds Civic Hall, four of our students represented Bishop Young Academy at this full-day conference, taking an active role in shaping discussions around sustainability and climate action.

Climate Change Poem

As part of the conference, the poem performed by Natalie highlighted the urgency of environmental action:

*That lump, coloured black like eternal void,
When burned, will cause Earth's suicide.
Toxins drift through the atmosphere,
While we hang on in worry, hate and fear.*

*They've warned us it's trashing we must halt,
And that we're the ones at fault.
While it's true some of us may listen,
Most leave the ocean without any glisten.*

*In the south, vanishes does every white castle,
Leaving helpless polar life in a colossal hassle,
No home to inhabit, nowhere to go,
It's mankind's doing, the records show.*

*And now we stand on a broken planet,
Our enemy—POLLUTION—we must ban it,
To keep our world away from its final bow,
We should come together and stop climate change—NOW.*



Our students made a real impact: Riley addressed the Minister for Climate, Nomusa asked a question on flood mitigation across Leeds, we hosted a workshop, and Natalie closed the conference with a poem written by Callum, which had been published the previous week. The team effort did not go unnoticed—our students were praised for being among the most engaged participants in the workshops.

[Click to view more photos from this event](#)

We were also delighted to welcome Councillor Katie Dyer to the Academy to meet our Eco Committee and learn more about their work. We are incredibly proud of the leadership, commitment, and creativity shown by our students in promoting environmental awareness and taking meaningful action in our community.



Are you a BYA Zero Hero?



We are delighted to celebrate our Zero Hero students with a special cinema trip. Students who have maintained no negative points on ClassCharts earned this reward, recognising their consistent effort, positive behaviour, and commitment to our school values.

It was wonderful to see our students enjoy this well-deserved treat, demonstrating that dedication and positive choices are recognised and celebrated at Bishop Young Academy.

We look forward to continuing to reward and encourage all students who strive to be their best every day.

TESCO STRONGER STARTS SCHEME - WINNERS!

We are absolutely thrilled to share that our school has won 1st place in the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme!!

This means we have secured the full £1,500 grant to purchase bikes for our students. These bikes will make a real difference to young people who need extra support getting to school, helping them arrive ready to learn, build independence, and stay active.

A huge thank you to everyone who popped a blue token in the box and helped spread the word. Your support has made this possible and truly shows how much our community cares about our students.

We couldn't have done it without you, what a fantastic achievement for our school!

The logo for the 'Stronger Starts' scheme. It features the words 'Stronger Starts' in a white, sans-serif font on a dark blue background. A small, realistic raspberry is positioned to the right of the word 'Starts'.

OUR FOOD UPDATE

We are excited to introduce an updated secondary school menu designed to better reflect how students enjoy eating today, while also supporting healthier choices and reducing food waste across our kitchens.



FRESH FLAVOURS, NEW TWISTS

Students may notice some familiar dishes are getting a fresh update. For example, we are saying "No More Kung Poa - Hello Bang Bang!", bringing bold new flavours inspired by street food trends while still delivering balanced meals.

BANGING IN THE BEANS

One of the key themes of the new menu is "Banging in the Beans", supported by the **Boosting Beans initiative** from Veg Power. As a country, we need to increase bean consumption by seven times to meet healthy and sustainable eating goals aligned with the EAT-Lancet recommendations. Beans are nutritious and better for the planet, so you will see more delicious bean-based dishes appearing across our menu.

NEW DISHES TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Crunchy French onion and leek mac and cheese
- Cajun chicken, tomato and sweetcorn
- pasta bake with house salad
- Nut-less Bakewell sponge



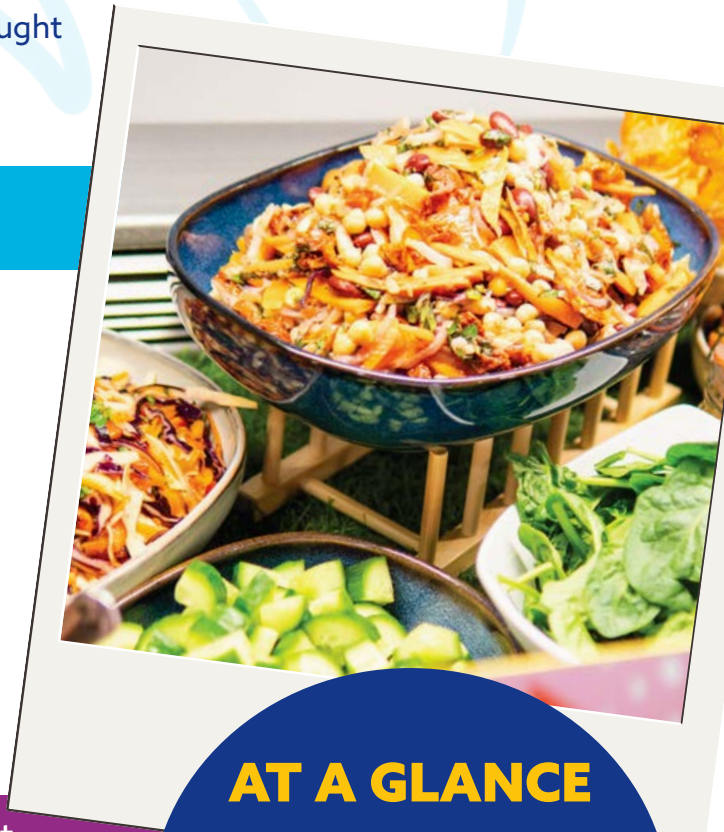
OUR FOOD UPDATE

STREETVIBES REFRESH



We are also delighted to launch two new concepts within our popular StreetVibes range: **Peri Good** and **Ramen Club**. These concepts reflect how students like to eat today with customisation at the centre.

Each concept offers two base options, three proteins and a wide selection of toppings, allowing students to build meals that suit their tastes. These vibrant, street-food inspired options are already proving that having it your way is key to getting students excited by the food offer in our restaurants. These concepts may not be in your restaurant just yet, but if they sound like a great fit for your school, let your chef know and they could be brought in at the next menu change.



REDUCING FOOD WASTE

Reducing waste is another important focus. **“Crust to Crumb Apple”** is a dish that transforms surplus bread from baguettes and bagels, combined with fresh apples, into something delicious while helping to minimise waste.

We are also introducing house gravy made from kitchen trimmings, ensuring that ingredients are used fully and flavour is never lost to the bin.

Our refreshed menu is all about serving great tasting food that students are excited to eat, while supporting health, sustainability and reduced waste. **We hope you enjoy it!**

AT A GLANCE

- More choice
- More bean-based dishes
- Less food waste
- New street vibes options

Visit our Catering Page to find out more!

SUPPORTING STUDENTS & FAMILIES AT BISHOP YOUNG ACADEMY

We were delighted to host the first of our Parent/Carer Attendance Workshops at the *Kentmere Community Centre* in Seacroft. It was wonderful to work together with families to discuss ways we can support and encourage strong school attendance for our students. Attendees shared ideas, asked questions, and explored strategies to ensure students get the most from their learning.



Earlier, we welcomed parents and carers to a SEND Coffee Morning, where the MindMate Team delivered a session on stress management. The workshop provided practical strategies to support young people as they navigated the challenges of choosing their GCSE options. Attendees also had the chance to join discussions, ask questions, and share experiences over refreshments.

Both events gave families valuable opportunities to engage with the school, learn how to support their children, and connect with one another. We look forward to offering more workshops in Gipton and Harehills in the coming weeks. For details about upcoming sessions, please contact Mr Kilkenny or Mrs Quinn.

SUMMER UNIFORM

As we approach the end of term, we would like to take this opportunity to remind families of our uniform expectations and to help you prepare for the return after Easter. The vast majority of our students arrive in school every day in the correct uniform, which they wear with pride—thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain these high standards.

Uniform is an important part of our school identity. It reinforces who we are as a community, helps students feel proud of their school, supports positive behaviour, and prepares students for life beyond school, where many will need to dress smartly for work.

From **Monday 20th April**, students will have the option to wear either the full school uniform (jumper, shirt, and tie) or the branded summer polo shirt.

The polo shirt may be worn on its own or paired with a jumper if preferred, although this is not required. Please note that this arrangement applies to the summer term only, and all other elements of the uniform policy remain in place.

We thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that our students continue to take pride in their appearance and represent Bishop Young Academy positively.



Visit our uniform page for more details
www.bishopyoungacademy.co.uk/parent-carers/uniform

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.

NEW PARENT GOVERNORS

Following our recent appeal for new school governors, we were delighted to receive more applications than there were vacancies. After a ballot, we are pleased to welcome **Mrs Foster** and **Mr Gbolahan** to the Bishop Young Academy governance team.

Both governors have already observed a meeting and met with our Co-Chair, Mrs Byford, and we look forward to their contributions in supporting and shaping the future of our school.

We are grateful to all who expressed interest in joining our governance team and are excited to work with Mrs Foster and Mr Gbolahan as they help us continue to provide the best opportunities for our students.



Find out more about our Local Governing Board
www.bishopyoungacademy.co.uk/about-us/governance

KEY DATES NEXT TERM

Thursday 2 nd April	School closes for Easter (normal time)
Monday 20 th April	School opens for Summer Half-Term 1 (8.20am)
Monday 20 th April	Year 10 mocks begin
Monday 4 th May	School closed for May Bank holiday
Tuesday 5 th May	Y11 summer GCSEs begin
Monday 18 th May	Y7 Trust Assessments begin
Friday 22 nd May	School closes for May Half-Term
Monday 1 st June	School open for summer Half-Term 2 (8.20am)
Monday 8 th June	Y9 Trust Assessments begin
Monday 22 nd June	Y8 Trust Assessments begin
Wednesday 1 st July	Y6 Transition Day
Friday 3 rd July	Great Oracy Exhibition
Wednesday 8 th July	Open Evening & Summer BBQ
Friday 17 th July	School closed to students for Summer holidays

Poetry SLAM



GO ALL IN!

Schools from across our Trust will gather for an epic spoken-word showdown on 9th June

The search is on for the most powerful poets and boldest rappers to take the stage.

How to get involved:

Email Mr Wheeldon.

Closing date for entries
Tuesday 5th May.

Performance finals
Friday 8th May.

4 students will be chosen to perform their poems in the Trust final.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PERFORMERS WHO CAN:

- Write original poems or raps
- Perform with energy, expression & confidence
- Captivate an audience
- Represent their school with pride

**ARE YOU READY
TO GO ALL IN?**



Bishop Young Academy

Bishops Way

Seacroft

Leeds

LS14 6NU

info@bishopyoungacademy.co.uk

0113 320 0582

