Bishop Justus Church of England School

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13th November 2026

**Love, belonging and celebrating our community**

Dear families,

Coming together, recognition and looking to the future

Dear families,

I hope you have had a good week.

What a wonderful day we had celebrating Saint Justus Day on Tuesday. For the first time, we brought our entire school community together in the main hall over the first two periods. Children, young people and adults were all in one place, sharing a special moment in the life of our school. As I said in my speech, school is about being part of something bigger than ourselves. It is about belonging to a community.

We were delighted to be joined by Mrs Griffiths, Chief Executive of Aquinas, Mr Rosewell, Education Director, Mrs Rose, Chair of our Advisory Council, and Mr Town, who is retiring from the Council. Our guest speaker, Frederick Afrifa, shared an inspiring message about resilience, determination and the power of self-belief. His personal story was both relatable and aspirational, challenging our students to recognise their own potential and think about their own greatness.

A highlight of the morning was recognising the achievements and contributions of our students. We presented our Virtue Awards, Headteacher's Awards for each year group and a range of special awards recognising academic excellence, personal achievement, commitment to our school and wider community, and the contribution of those who often work quietly behind the scenes. Every award went to a thoroughly deserving recipient, and I hope their families are as proud of them as we are.

Gathering together matters. It gives us the opportunity to recognise how far we have come, celebrate the contributions of others and remind ourselves of what we can achieve together. Our motto, Success through Faith, Love and Learning, is more than a set of words. It describes the community we want to build and the people we want to become.

Looking ahead, I was also pleased to announce that, as part of our celebrations for International Women's Day in March 2027, we will be organising a Young Women's Leadership Conference at Bishop Justus. We want to bring our young women together to hear from inspiring female leaders, share ideas and develop their confidence and ambition. We would particularly welcome support from female family members and women in our wider community who might be willing to share their experiences of leadership and help inspire the next generation. More details will follow.

Finally, on Wednesday, the whole school observed the two-minute silence to remember those who have given their lives in wars and conflicts. Eleven o'clock marked the moment the First World War ended and provided another important opportunity for us to pause, reflect and come together.

Thank you, as always, for being part of our community.

Warm regards,



Mr B Blakelock

Headteacher