



Bishop Justus Church of England School

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2nd October 2026

Courage, curiosity and discovering what is possible

Dear families,

I hope you have had a good week.

This week gave us a wonderful reminder of the importance of giving young people opportunities to discover what they are capable of. Thirteen of our girls took part in the **4th Annual Inspired Youth Conference 2026**, an event designed to motivate, inspire and empower young people to believe in their potential and make positive choices for their future.

I was lucky enough to be in the school foyer with some prospective parents when the students returned from The Warren with Ms Bull and Mrs McCarthy. They were literally buzzing with excitement after spending the afternoon with **Andre Dwayne** from Netflix's Supacell and MOBO award-winning artist **Still Shadey**. They had explored their strengths and talents, considered their future aspirations and opportunities, and heard how others had overcome challenges to achieve success. It was a fantastic moment and a reminder of the influence we have as adults to inspire the next generation.

This connects strongly to our virtue of **Courage: We try. We speak up. We do what is right**. Young people need opportunities to step beyond what is familiar, try something new and discover that they can achieve more than they might have imagined.

With this in mind, Mr Shergold and I met with our local Duke of Edinburgh representative this week to finalise our plans for the year. For the first time, we will have students participating at both **Bronze and Silver** levels. The Award is not a competition or about being first. It is about setting challenges, pushing personal boundaries and developing skills through volunteering, physical activity, skills development and expeditions. These experiences build character and resilience, while creating memories that can last a lifetime.

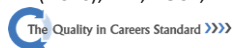
This year we are also introducing **Know Your City**, our cultural entitlement programme overseen by Ms Talbot. By treating London as an extended classroom, we want every student to experience its rich cultural, historical, artistic and professional opportunities. This term alone, our Year 7 students have been developing their teamwork at White Oaks and this morning are visiting Holy Trinity Church; Year 9 are visiting the Bayeux Tapestry at the British Museum; and our sixth form students are visiting the National Portrait Gallery.

Much of this work is made possible by the dedication, interests and passions of our staff. It is one of the things that makes being part of a community so important: **every child matters, and no one should miss out on opportunities that broaden their minds and enrich their experience.**

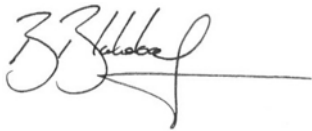
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Success through Faith, Love and Learning

Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock BA (Hons), MA, PGCE, NPQEL



Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Blakelock', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr B Blakelock

Headteacher