



Bishop Justus Church of England School

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4th September 2026

High expectations, strong support and successful beginnings

Dear families,

A very warm welcome to all our students and families as we begin another academic year. It has been particularly important this week to see our children and young people return to school **safe, well and ready for the year ahead**. Thank you, from the outset, for the support you have given in making this happen. It has already made a difference, with punctuality notably strong and attendance beginning the year at over **95%**, which we expect to be **above the national average**. This sends an important message to our young people: school matters, and their education matters.

On the first day back, I spoke to all students about the year ahead. I shared a simple message: **High Expectations, High Support, High Outcomes**. We talked about taking pride in our community, making positive choices and making the most of every opportunity that school provides. Together, we are building a culture where **every student can thrive and achieve their very best**.

We have already made this tangible through our 'High Expectations'. This week, every student received covered exercise books with their name printed on the front and our expectations for written work on the back. It is a simple change, but it sends a clear message: **we take learning seriously and expect pupils to take pride in their work**.

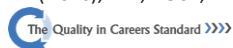
'High Support' was also evident before students even returned. Our dedicated staff team began the year with training focused on routines, expectations and support. Our permanent SENCO, Mrs Koca, spoke with real expertise about creating the conditions in which every student can succeed, and **staff committed to making inclusion the responsibility of every teacher**. Our strengthened SEND team brings considerable knowledge and experience, and Mrs Koca will write to families next week with more information about how we are developing our provision.

Finally, our 'High Outcomes' are reflected in the results achieved by our students this summer. Overall achievement has **improved significantly**, with the proportion achieving grades 4+ and 5+ in English and mathematics rising by **10%**. Several individual subjects also achieved above the national average. This is a significant step forward and shows that our focus on the strong basics last year is beginning to pay off. **Our intention is to build on these outcomes with our next set of results for Year 11 students and Sixth Form**.

As we look ahead, we will continue to raise the bar around expectations, support and outcomes. At the start of every assembly and collective worship, students begin by saying together: **"Success through Faith, Love and Learning."** We say these words because they truly mean something. They express our belief that every child can succeed academically, socially and spiritually with their God-given gifts, talents and potential.

Success through Faith, Love and Learning

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



Thank you for your partnership. We look forward to working with you throughout the year.

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