



Bishop Justus Church of England School

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11th September 2026

Taking pride, building habits, and shaping character

Dear families,

I hope you have had a good week.

I have been very proud of our pupils during their first full week back at school. As we walk around the school each day, we have seen pupils responding positively to our higher expectations, particularly in the presentation of their work and the care they are taking with their exercise books.

Titles and dates are being written carefully, handwriting is improving and rulers are being used as expected. **These details matter.** Exercise books are a reflection of the curriculum: they hold the important knowledge students need to know and show the journey they have taken through their learning, including the challenges they have overcome. Without a well-kept book, it is harder to value, remember and revise what has been taught.

Being ready to learn means having the correct exercise book and equipment for every lesson. These are simple habits, but they build the organisation, care and attention to detail that will serve pupils well throughout their education and into adult life.

I was also pleased to see so many pupils and families joining our staff for the Year 7 and Year 11 information evenings this week. I know for parents these evenings can feel a little like a return to their own schooldays however **being present matters.** Turning up sends a **powerful message** to children and young people that the adults in their lives value their education. We want to work closely with families, and we encourage you to come into school whenever there is an opportunity.

Krishna, our Year 13 Head Boy, spoke about his journey through the school from Year 7. He described how his education has prepared him not only **academically** for post-16 study, but also **spiritually** and **socially**. His reflections were a wonderful reminder of the importance of a values-led education in shaping character alongside qualifications.

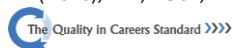
Later this term, Mrs Hamill will be writing to pupils and families about applications for our **Virtue Prefects**. This is an exciting opportunity for pupils to develop as young leaders and to live out, promote and strengthen each of our six virtues across the school. This focus on **character and the whole child** is one of the things that makes a Church of England education distinctive, and it is something that drives our hardworking staff very single day.

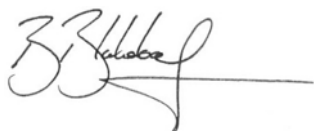
Finally, I am pleased that attendance remains **above the national average** for our first full week back. Thank you for your continued support in making sure your child comes to school each day and for helping us reinforce the message that **education matters.**

Warm regards,

Success through Faith, Love and Learning

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



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

Mr B Blakelock
Headteacher