Bishop Justus Church of England School

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6th November 2026

Love, belonging and celebrating our community

Dear families,

I hope you and your children enjoyed a restful half-term. It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to Bishop Justus for the start of a new term.

Since our return, attendance has continued to be very pleasing. We are tracking close to the national average, while attendance for pupils with additional needs is in the highest third nationally. This reflects the work of our SEND team in creating an environment where pupils feel supported, alongside the efforts of our attendance team in working with families to ensure children are in school. As winter approaches, deciding whether your child is well enough to attend can sometimes be difficult. The NHS has produced helpful guidance for families on managing common health conditions, which I encourage you to consult.

Next Tuesday, we will celebrate **Saint Justus Day**, gathering as one school community in the main hall. We are delighted to welcome **Frederick Afrifa**, an award-winning motivational speaker and former national gold-medal sprinter, whose story of resilience and self-belief will inspire us. This follows our sixth form's lively celebration of Black History Month before half-term, with a lunchtime event celebrating Black African and Caribbean food, music and culture. The event was well attended by students and staff.

This week saw the start of Year 11 mock examinations. Students have made a positive start, with strong attendance and a determination to do well. Our sixth form students have also undertaken their GCSE English and Maths resits, once again representing themselves well.

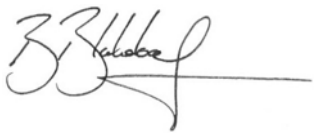
In our worship this half-term, we will be exploring what it means to be God's children. We want students to understand that they are loved and to reflect on how this should shape the way they treat others. This connects closely to our virtue of **Love: We respect. We forgive. We treat people well.**

As we approach Christmas, we will be putting those values into action by supporting **Bromley Brighter Beginnings**, a local charity helping families experiencing financial hardship. We will be collecting essential items, including baby equipment, clothing, toiletries, beds and household necessities, helping to give every child the best possible start in life. The deadline for contributions is **Wednesday 9 December**. I hope families will support this important opportunity to show care for others. More details to follow.

Finally, congratulations to **Dr Santamaria** on graduating as a Doctor of Education. Her commitment to lifelong learning is an example to us all and particularly relevant as we prepare to introduce the V-Level in Education to our sixth form from September 2027.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,



Mr B Blakelock

Headteacher