



Bishop Justus Church of England School

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9th October 2026

Wisdom, learning and getting better together

Dear families,

I hope you have had a good week.

Last week, I wrote about the significant expansion of our enrichment offer and our commitment to ensuring that every student has opportunities to discover new interests, develop their talents and experience the wider world. This week, I want to reflect on another important part of school improvement: being willing to learn from others.

Over the last week, we welcomed an external expert to work with our science team on the development of curriculum and teaching practice. We have seen encouraging improvements in our Triple Science results, and our staff are keen to build on this further. We have also welcomed external expertise to support the development of PSHE and Citizenship and our wider approach to personal development. This helps ensure that our work is informed by the latest guidance and that enrichment is not something separate but contributes to the character development of every student.

I am sometimes asked how our Trust supports Bishop Justus. The last few weeks provide some good examples. Last week, I met with Trust leaders to discuss the summer examination results and our plans for this academic year. We also reflected on the work we have been doing with our subject leaders and the lessons we learned from last year. This week, we had a helpful conversation with the Trust Safeguarding Lead about the steps we are taking to safeguard every child and strengthen our work with families. Next week, I will meet with other Trust headteachers to share ideas and good practice.

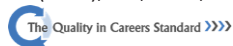
All of this reflects our virtue of Wisdom: We think. We choose well. We learn. Being a learning organisation means being prepared to listen, reflect honestly on what we do and make changes when we know something can be better. This applies to our students, our staff and our leadership. Being part of a school means that we are all learners, and I am particularly impressed by my colleagues' enthusiasm to develop their practice and keep getting better.

Regular readers will also know that we have been working with other schools to improve attendance and behaviour. As a result, next week we will trial a new one-way system to support calm, orderly transitions between lessons and reinforce our high expectations. We will review this with students after half-term, and I would also welcome feedback from families.

I have been pleased to hear from parents that clearer expectations around presentation, covering exercise books and establishing strong routines are being welcomed. Thank you for supporting us in making these expectations part of everyday school life.

Success through Faith, Love and Learning

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



We are committed to **getting better, together.**

Warm regards,

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

Mr B Blakelock

Headteacher