



The Bishop David Brown School

*Enabling all to excel*

## Principal's Newsletter

23rd January 2026

Dear BDB Families,

I was again very impressed with the way that students at BDB embraced the PSHE day on Wednesday. I thought I would take this opportunity to respond to some frequently asked questions. One of these is "Why do we do PSHE Days?"

All schools must teach PSHE as an essential aspect of the National Curriculum. At BDB we go beyond these expectations, teaching PSHE through a mixture of form time, assemblies and 'drop down days' when the timetable is suspended. The days are carefully mapped across each year group and also across the school to make sure that topics are delivered and re-visited in age-appropriate ways. For example, content on 'healthy lifestyles' would be tailored to include relevant choices, risky behaviours and discussion points that would be quite different for Year 7 and Year 11 pupils. Difficult topics are handled sensitively, and we make the most of external speakers and experts to support understanding of the wider world beyond school.

Another FAQ is "Why don't we tell students ahead of time when the days will be?". This strategy is to promote the highest levels of attendance and engagement with the highly-valued PSHE content. Whilst we recognise that some students find it difficult to adjust to changes and in general we keep adjustments to routine to a minimum, coping with change is an inevitable aspect of life.

I hope that your child has been able to tell you about some of the topics they considered during PSHE day. You could ask them to show you the booklet they completed during the day to jog their memory if necessary!

With very best wishes for the weekend,  
Ms C Venter

## World Religions Day

The recent World Religions Day whole school assembly encouraged students to reflect on understanding, respect and shared humanity. It highlighted that while there are six major world religions and many variations within each, they are often grounded in common values such as kindness, compassion, justice and respect for others. The assembly reminded students that learning about different beliefs helps build empathy and strengthens our school community.

A key message was shared through the parable The Blind Man and the Elephant, a story found in several religious traditions including Hinduism and Buddhism. In the story, each person touches a different part of the elephant and comes to a different conclusion about what it is. Only by listening to one another do they gain a fuller understanding. This illustrated the importance of combining perspectives and being open to experiences different from our own - vital for everyday life at BDB and beyond!

