



The Bishop David Brown School

Enabling all to excel

Principal's Newsletter

13th February 2026

Dear BDB Families,

We have made it to half-term! It has been a busy and rewarding 6 weeks during which most of the school have had assessments. The purpose of these is to monitor pupils' understanding of the curriculum and for teachers to then provide both support, and stretch and challenge. Year 11 students must find a balance over the break between revision and protecting their wellbeing ahead of their exams in the first week back.

During the holiday week ahead, best wishes if you are marking important religious and cultural events such as celebrations to mark the Lunar New Year, the year of the Fire Horse. Christians start Lent after Shrove Tuesday, and our Muslim community will be beginning the holy month of Ramadan. We will be trialling making prayer room facilities available at second break - please click on the link below for more information.

With very best wishes for the half term,
Ms C Venter

Student Mobile Phones: Yondr Pouches

Following the government's recent announcement that all schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default, many of you may be wondering how this will be implemented at BDB. We will be introducing Yondr pouches after the May half-term.

These are secure, lockable pouches in which students place their mobile phones at the start of the school day. Students keep their pouch with them and can unlock it at the end of the day, meaning they are able to use their phones on the journey to and from school, while having a protected break from mobile phone use during the school day.

This approach supports students' wellbeing by reducing screen time, social pressures and distractions during the school day, while still allowing appropriate access to phones outside of school hours.

Please note that current Year 11 students will not be involved in this rollout.

Further information will be shared with parents and carers over the coming months, including how the system will work in practice and how we will support students as it is introduced.



National Apprenticeship Week

This week marked National Apprenticeship Week, and Year 9 students were introduced to apprenticeships as an exciting future pathway during a recent assembly. They learned how apprenticeships combine paid employment with training and qualifications, allowing young people to develop valuable skills while earning a salary.

The assembly also showcased the wide range of apprenticeship opportunities available across different sectors, including business, engineering, digital and cyber security, finance, customer service, and the Civil Service. Students were given guidance on where to search for apprenticeships and how the application process works.

Overall, the session encouraged students to start thinking early about their options after Year 11 and highlighted that there are many successful routes beyond traditional college or university pathways.

Last week, our careers newsletter was sent to parents, highlighting a range of opportunities available throughout the week.

If you have any questions regarding apprenticeships, please contact Anastasia Christofidis at achristofidis@bdb-unity.co.uk

**National
Apprenticeship
Week #NAW2026**

[Prayer Room Information - CLICK HERE](#)