



**Bacon's College**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

# Year 11 Newsletter

**Week 22 2024-2025**

**Courage**

**Compassion**

**Respect**

**Faith**

**Integrity**

Bacon's College ensures that every student is well educated, cared for and exhorted to achieve the academic and personal excellence that will lead to university or skilled work and to a fulfilled life.

*'I came to give life, life in all its fullness'*

John 10:10

## **A week in the life of KS4**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Lessons are now fully underway after a very intense PPE period. Students showed great resilience through these challenges weeks. We are all very excited to see the results which come from these examinations. The mock exams are a valuable opportunity for students to experience the pressure and expectations of their upcoming GCSEs in a controlled environment. Whether the results are what students had hoped for or not, the mocks serve as a learning experience. They provide an important insight into areas of strength as well as subjects or skills that may need further focus.

Results will be given out to students on parents evening, which is Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March, We encourage you to support your child during this time by discussing the results together. It's important to approach this conversation with a mindset of constructive reflection rather than focusing solely on grades. This is a chance to help your child set clear goals, work on areas for improvement, and develop effective revision strategies.

As we move into the next phase of their GCSE preparation, please remind your child that consistency and perseverance are key. The remaining months before the final exams can make a significant difference, and we are committed to helping each student maximize their potential. We also want to acknowledge how hard the students have worked and the support that you, as parents, have given them during this period. Your encouragement and guidance are invaluable in helping them stay focused and motivated. Looking ahead, please make sure your child is prioritising a balanced approach to their revision, taking regular breaks, and managing their time effectively. We will continue to offer support through our revision sessions and additional resources.

Just before February half term, 30 year 11 students went to Iceland. You may have read about it in the whole school newsletter last week, but I wanted to share the great experiences year 11 had! Well done to all that went, you represented the school fantastically!

From February 13th-16th 40 of Bacons pupils and staff travelled to Iceland. Iceland, known as the Land of Fire and Ice, is a country of extreme natural contrasts, shaped by volcanoes, glaciers, geysers, and tectonic activity. It sits on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the North American and Eurasian plates are slowly pulling apart, creating volcanic landscapes and geothermal wonders. The country is home to over 130 volcanoes, with some, like Eyjafjallajökull, gaining worldwide attention for massive eruptions. Usually around this

time, the temperature is a chilly -4 - 0 degrees Celsius. We were lucky to catch Iceland at an unusual high with max temperatures ranging from 5-6 degrees Celsius.

Following the very early start at school, we made landfall in Iceland at around 10.30am. We headed straight to a relaxing few hours in the Blue Lagoon. Tucked away in Iceland's otherworldly lava fields, the Blue Lagoon isn't just a pretty puddle: it's a steaming, mineral-rich geothermal masterpiece that looks like something out of a sci-fi movie. Its surreal blue colour isn't magic (or Photoshop); it's all thanks to silica, which reflects sunlight in a way that gives the water its iconic glow. The lagoon's water is 70% ocean water and 30% freshwater, brewed 2,000 meters underground, where searing heat and intense pressure mix ocean water and freshwater in a bubbling cauldron of geothermal goodness. Before making its grand entrance at the surface, this 240°C superheated cocktail picks up a mix of silica, algae, and minerals, turning it into a natural spa treatment. By the time it reaches the lagoon, it's cooled to a delightful 38°C, perfect for a relaxing soak! The students all enjoyed a relaxing time, which included a swim up bar, free silicon face masks and several different types of steam rooms! On the first evening we had time to venture into the capital city, Reykjavík. Reykjavik is not only the capital city of Iceland, but also in fact the only city in Iceland! With a population of only around 140,000, it is of complete contrast with London! Students enjoyed free time, visiting local shops and cuisines (also some not so local, aka dominos).



On day two, we went on the South Shore Tour. First stop, Skogafoss waterfall. Skógafoss, one of Iceland's most breathtaking waterfalls, stands 60 meters tall and 25 meters wide, making it one of the largest in the country. Fed by the Skógá River, its powerful cascade crashes down from ancient sea cliffs, remnants of Iceland's post-glacial coastline. Over thousands of years, the coastline has receded, leaving Skógafoss stranded inland, surrounded by rugged cliffs that were once oceanfront. Students enjoyed being able to get up close and personal, including getting soaked by the mist! Next stop was the black sand beach, Reynisfjara. Its striking colour comes from volcanic basalt, formed when lava from past eruptions cooled rapidly upon contact with water. Over time, the relentless force and destructive waves of the North Atlantic Ocean has broken this basalt into fine black sand, shaping the coastline into its current form. The beach is also home to columnar basalt formations. These hexagonal rock columns form when lava cools and contracts in a process known as columnar jointing. The weather here took a turn for the worse, with dangerous gusts, causing huge waves. Students still got to appreciate the beauty of this beach and the huge sneaker waves that were formed, however, from a safe distance! The next stop was a visit to

Sólheimajökull Glacier. Previously, the weather had been too dangerous to drive up and access the glacier, but we were lucky enough to reach it this time! Sólheimajökull, a striking outlet glacier, is located near Vík in southern Iceland. Stretching approximately 8 km long and 2 km wide, it descends from the larger ice cap that covers Katla, one of Iceland's most active volcanoes. Most students made the trip down to the toe of the glacier and were able to touch and see the sheer size of this wonder up close! Some students also enjoyed taking a drink from the fresh glacial melt water! The day was rounded off by a trip to Seljalandsfoss Waterfall. Seljalandsfoss Waterfall is a beautiful 62 meter high waterfall with a small cave behind the plunge pool, completely unique in its nature as you can walk 360 degrees behind the waterfall! Due to the unseasonably high temperatures, this path was open! It was truly an unforgettable experience.



Day three was the Golden Circle Tour. The day started with a 9am tour around Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Plant. Here, students learned about Geothermal energy and carbon capture and storage. Students learnt about groundbreaking developments into carbon capture and storage, Carbfix, turning CO<sub>2</sub> in to stone! Carbfix is a pioneering carbon capture and storage technology developed in Iceland to combat climate change. Operating at the Hellisheiði Geothermal Power Plant, Carbfix transforms CO<sub>2</sub> into solid rock, preventing it from entering the atmosphere and contributing to global warming. The process mimics natural mineralization but accelerates it significantly. First, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the geothermal plant are captured, dissolved in water, and injected deep into basaltic rock formations found beneath Iceland. Basalt, rich in calcium, magnesium, and iron, reacts with the CO<sub>2</sub>-infused water, triggering a chemical reaction that converts the gas into stable carbonate minerals. This transformation occurs in just two years, compared to the thousands of years it would take naturally. Students enjoyed seeing what they have been learning about in the classroom in this fascinating tour! Next stop, Kerid Crater. Kerid Crater, located in southwest Iceland, is a stunning example of a volcanic crater lake formed around 3,000 years ago. Unlike typical explosion craters, Kerid is believed to be a caldera—a volcanic cone that collapsed inward after a magma chamber emptied. The crater is approximately 55 meters deep, 170 meters wide, and 270 meters across, with steep, red volcanic slopes rich in iron deposits. Over time, rainfall and groundwater filled the basin, creating the vibrant blue lake at its base. Students enjoyed a stroll around the crater, with some making the walk down to the vibrant blue lake! Next, we visited Gullfoss Waterfall. The name Gullfoss means "Golden Falls," and it's known for its powerful cascade. Gullfoss is fed by the Hvita River and plunges into a dramatic canyon, creating two distinct drops that total around 105 feet (32 meters) in height. The next stop was the iconic Geysers! Iceland is one of the most geothermally active places on Earth, making it home to some of the world's most famous geysers. A geyser is a rare geothermal feature that periodically erupts, sending a jet of hot water and steam into the air. The most famous Icelandic geysers include Strokkur and Geysir, after which all geysers are named. Iceland's most active geysers erupt

approximately every 5–10 minutes, reaching heights of 15–20 meters. The final stop of the day was a walk between the North American and Eurasian plate. Iceland is located along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which divides the country between two tectonic plates. As a result, Iceland's western portion lies on the North American plate while the eastern part lies on the Eurasian plate, technically placing Iceland on both continents. This was a perfect way to end an action-packed day! Enjoying the sun set over the beautiful landscape. For the final night, students enjoyed a visit to a local ice cream shop.



Kind Regards,

Miss Hickman

Head of year 11

### Shout outs

Divine V, Romarion S, Jamelia F and Eric O "for excellent engagement during the lesson today. All three were very forthcoming with answers." Dr Patel

Harry W "hard work in a GCSE PE theory lesson" Mr Pyke

Abdulahi A-S "Asked a question about children being born with tails (during a lesson on inherited disorders) and was tasked with researching the answer and presenting it to the class this week." Ms Coles-Williams

Edison Z "excellent engagement during 'space' unit and had clearly done some pre-reading." Mr Wilson

Darasimi A –“Excellent engagement and completing all work to a high standard.” Mr Wilson

Jennifer Le , Nicole CW and Joshua I “massive improvements from PPE1-PPE2” Ms Burgess

Joshua I “excellent effort in RS and really improved extended writing” Mr Wilson

Joshua F “much better effort in PPEs.” Ms Newton

Soraya T “excellent detailed answers in PPEs showing extensive revision.” Ms Newton

Liticia T “fantastic answers in her Cold War PPE” Ms Newton

Fatim K, Lily S, Bobby B, Alysha AG, Nerija S, Adam S, Teja G and Lucas BR “Good focus after the March PPEs in Science and being active and engaging well in lessons.” Ms Coker

Muska “her light shines brightly” Ms Keir

11XY-MA1 “Brilliant overall focus after the PPEs, continue to work as hard as ever!” Ms Parry

May J, Kavya S, Edison Z “Amazing paper 2 scores, well done!” Ms Parry

Emon C “insightful comments and consistent effort in English.” Ms Eastman

Hayron S “for following through paper1 after mocks in geography” Mr Marzano

Oral B, Harry B, Yegetyat C, Jackie K and Jayda G “Improved engagement and achievement” Ms Small

Celina M, Lexie P, Gabriel M “Consistent hard work and determination” Ms Small

Evie-Mia B, Reem D, Ayomide F and Pedro M “Consistent strong work ethic in Geography” Ms Hickman

May J and Isaiah A “Strong levels of engagement in Geography” Ms Hickman



## Homework

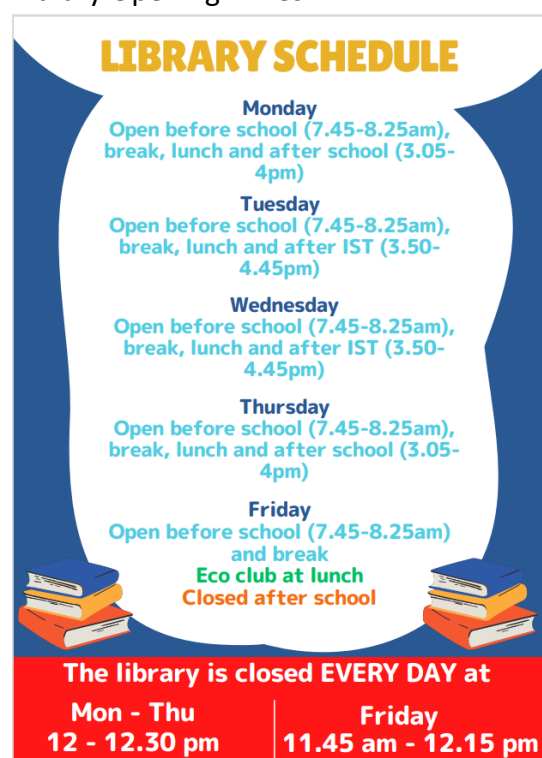
Homework is key to ensuring your child is revising regularly and stretching their learning further.

### *Homework Club*

Homework Club is available to all students during the Library's opening hours listed below. We encourage students to attend Homework Club or speak with their teachers if they have any questions before their homework deadlines. Heads of Year will be monitoring students' homework completion rates. If a student receives 10 or more homework detentions within a half term, they will be expected to attend Compulsory Homework Club to ensure they receive the support needed to complete their assignments.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child stay on top of their homework.

### \* Library Opening Times



**LIBRARY SCHEDULE**

**Monday**  
Open before school (7.45-8.25am),  
break, lunch and after school (3.05-4pm)

**Tuesday**  
Open before school (7.45-8.25am),  
break, lunch and after IST (3.50-4.45pm)

**Wednesday**  
Open before school (7.45-8.25am),  
break, lunch and after IST (3.50-4.45pm)

**Thursday**  
Open before school (7.45-8.25am),  
break, lunch and after school (3.05-4pm)

**Friday**  
Open before school (7.45-8.25am)  
and break  
**Eco club at lunch**  
**Closed after school**

**The library is closed EVERY DAY at**

<b>Mon - Thu</b> <b>12 - 12.30 pm</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>11.45 am - 12.15 pm</b>
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## Attendance



The graphic above highlights some key statistics linked to attendance.

We know that students who are in school perform better and learn more.

Please support us as we aim for the best possible attendance for every single student at Bacon's College.

We saw a huge jump up in attendance for the PPE weeks, with year 11 topping the school attendance with an average of 97%!! This is what we are aiming for consistently throughout the year. Well done to 11A who have the highest attendance this year with 97%

11A- 97%

11O- 94%

11I- 94%

11L- 93.5%

11C- 93.5%

11S- 92.5%

11N- 90%

## Pupil charter

The start of the new academic year sees the launch of the Bacon's Pupil Charter for all year groups. Having been designed with student and staff input, the Charter sets out a core offer of opportunities for Bacon's students throughout their school career. The Charter focusses on developing the personal excellence of our students through opportunities that take place outside of the classroom and works in partnership with an ambitious enrichment offer. The Charter is linked to our well-established rewards system and students will achieve positive points for meeting

Charter points. A full link to the Charter can be found on the College website here and an updated offer of enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities will soon also be available to view here. The points for the Year 11 Charter are set out below.

**Bacon's Pupil Charter 11**  
 Courage • Respect • Compassion • Faith • Integrity

Pre-Year Project	Terms 2 & 3	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +10pts Complete Summer Project 'Revision Timetable'		
<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Terms 2 &amp; 3</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> +5pts Share my views with the School Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +5pts Attend Careers Interview and Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> +5pts Complete College Career reflection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +5pts Attend 6th Form Open Evening	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +5pts Deliver a formal presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> +5pts Hear from speaker <b>COMING SOON</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +5pts Attend Year 11 Information Evening	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +5pts Attend Parents Evening	<input type="checkbox"/> +5pts Apply to Sixth Form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +5pts Term 1 Completion Bonus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> +10pts Meet Prom Entry Requirements	
<b>Ongoing</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> +5pts All 1s for attitudinal grades <input type="checkbox"/> +5pts Meet all homework deadlines	

### Forthcoming events

- Year 11 parents evening- 27<sup>th</sup> March