

January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Baptism and Confirmation Course**

Since commencing the position of College Chaplain in September 2024 several pupils have expressed an interest in exploring Baptism and Confirmation within the Church of England and so I am writing to the whole school to ask if any pupils would like to be involved in this opportunity.

It is necessary before being confirmed to attend confirmation preparation classes, covering how we discern the presence of God through prayer, worship and the Bible, life and death of Jesus, how-to live-in faith, what it means to be Baptised, to confirm our faith and take Holy Communion. There will be a booklet that candidates are expected to work through as well as attend a residential weekend in **March**.

If your son/daughter wishes to, after the course, they can be confirmed at a special service held on **Thursday 1**<sup>st</sup> **May 2025 at 5.30pm-6.30pm** with reception afterwards.

If your son/daughter would like to become confirmed into the Christian faith and attend the Confirmation Course I will need your consent and will seek your church leader's encouragement and support, if appropriate. It is, however, not a requirement to already belong to or go to church.

If your son/daughter would like to take part, please complete **this form** by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Every Blessing,
Pastor (Dr.) Kenny Adeshugba
College Chaplain
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A Church of England academy governed, led and managed by the United Learning Trust in partnership with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education.

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Bacon's College



## What is Baptism?

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

## What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a sacrament, ritual or rite of passage practised by several Christian denominations. The word means strengthening or deepening one's relationship with God.

It enables a baptised person to confirm the promises made on their behalf at baptism. It is also a sign of full membership to the Christian community.

In Christian confirmation, a baptised person believes that he or she is receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. A bishop usually conducts the service.

In the Anglican Church, the sacrament of confirmation is conferred through the laying of hands. The roots of the practice of confirmation are found in the Acts of the Apostles:

'Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.'

Acts 8:14-17

## **Preparing for Baptism and Confirmation**

If you want to be confirmed but you have not been baptised yet, we will hold baptism on the same day before confirmation, which allows you to be baptised and confirmed on the same day.

Confirmation candidates attend a series of special classes to learn about the sacrament, their faith and Christian responsibilities.

Confirmation preparation helps candidates to have a proper understanding of how to live as a follower of Christ.





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