



BISHOP'S HATFIELD GIRLS' SCHOOL
OPEN EVENING 2018
HEADTEACHERS' PRESENTATION



**Welcome to
Bishop's
Hatfield
Girls'
School**

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and girls.

We are very pleased to welcome you to Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School and hope that your visit will help you in making the difficult decision about which school you would prefer for your daughter's education for the next seven years. May we ask please that you turn your mobile phones to silent so as to ensure there is no disturbance during this session.

You visit us at a very exciting time in our development – our new school building, apart from some landscaping in the field area is now complete and we are enjoying the space and light it offers for learning. We have also embarked on the exciting journey of Co-Headship with myself and Mr Wood sharing the leadership of this school completely – between us we have accumulated 29 years of service to Bishop's, have embraced many changes throughout that time and look forward to strengthening everything we stand for further.

A school is far more than just a set of buildings – it's a community with shared values that aims for the best for all its members and I hope you will see this for yourselves as you look around the building. There will be open mornings next week which you can book onto where you will see quality teaching and purposeful learning.



“Pupils’ personal development is a jewel in the crown of this school.”

So, why are we here? Well, you are about to make one of the most critical decisions for your daughters and we are here to help you make that decision. We believe very strongly that education is about the enrichment of the minds of young people - this is its moral purpose – we believe that education provides the foundation for children to thrive as adults and for this reason, the quote (click) that gives us the most joy from our last Ofsted inspection is, “Pupils’ personal development is a jewel in the crown of this school”. You will notice identity quilts and bunting around the school - each girl has a square or pennant in which to express her personality and by displaying them we celebrate each girl’s individuality whilst acknowledging her part in our school community.

Achieving our potential and enjoying the journey...

- **Excellent teaching**
- **Academic success**
- **Personal development**
- **Strong leadership**



Our school vision is simple, we aim for all our girls to achieve their potential and enjoy the journey. We do this through our strategic plan for improvement which promotes -

Excellent teaching

- by enthusiastic and inspirational staff
- in stimulating and creative lessons
- with high expectations for ALL

Academic success

- with outstanding exam results
- by rigorous tracking of progress
- in a supportive learning environment

Personal development

- valuing happiness and mutual respect
- in extensive extra-curricular activities
- which prepares young people for the challenges ahead

Strong leadership

- promoting high standards of behaviour
- ensuring efficient and effective use of resources
- engaging the whole school community and beyond



All this is underpinned by our school's core values which we believe create a rounded individual who can take their place in society confidently and make a real difference to all our futures.

And the greatest of these values is kindness – given the ever-changing nature of society and the challenges your daughters will face as adults, we sincerely hope that they learn the value of kindness – it will ensure that they are respected and trusted and will reap its own rewards.



Our Year 7s have settled into Bishop's very quickly and we would now like to introduce you to two of these girls who are brave enough to stand up tonight and tell you how they feel about being Bishop's girls...

At 6.15 : Thea and Ruby

At 7.00 : Seyram and Tabitha

At 7.45 : Isha and Gerty

So, as you've heard, a school is not just about buildings and teachers; there would be no school without pupils and for them, it's not just about what they can get out of education but also about what they are prepared to put into a school by becoming involved in activities. At Bishop's we do not believe in an education which focuses solely on academic success without developing the whole person – a set of examination results does not qualify anyone for higher education or employment if they do not also have a range of interests which develop the personality.



We extended our enrichment opportunities three years ago by creating more time at the end of each school day to enable girls to get involved in things that interest them, from the usual sport, drama and music activities to film clubs, knitting and designing computer apps! We now have most girls, including the Sixth Form, signed up to at least one activity which we believe is a huge success, and they get a house point every time they attend! The Duke of Edinburgh award is included as part of enrichment for girls as they move up into the older years and as Sixth Formers, girls have the chance to take part in World Challenge. In the bottom left photograph, you see an intrepid band of Sixth Formers facing a gruelling trek across the wilds of Swaziland.

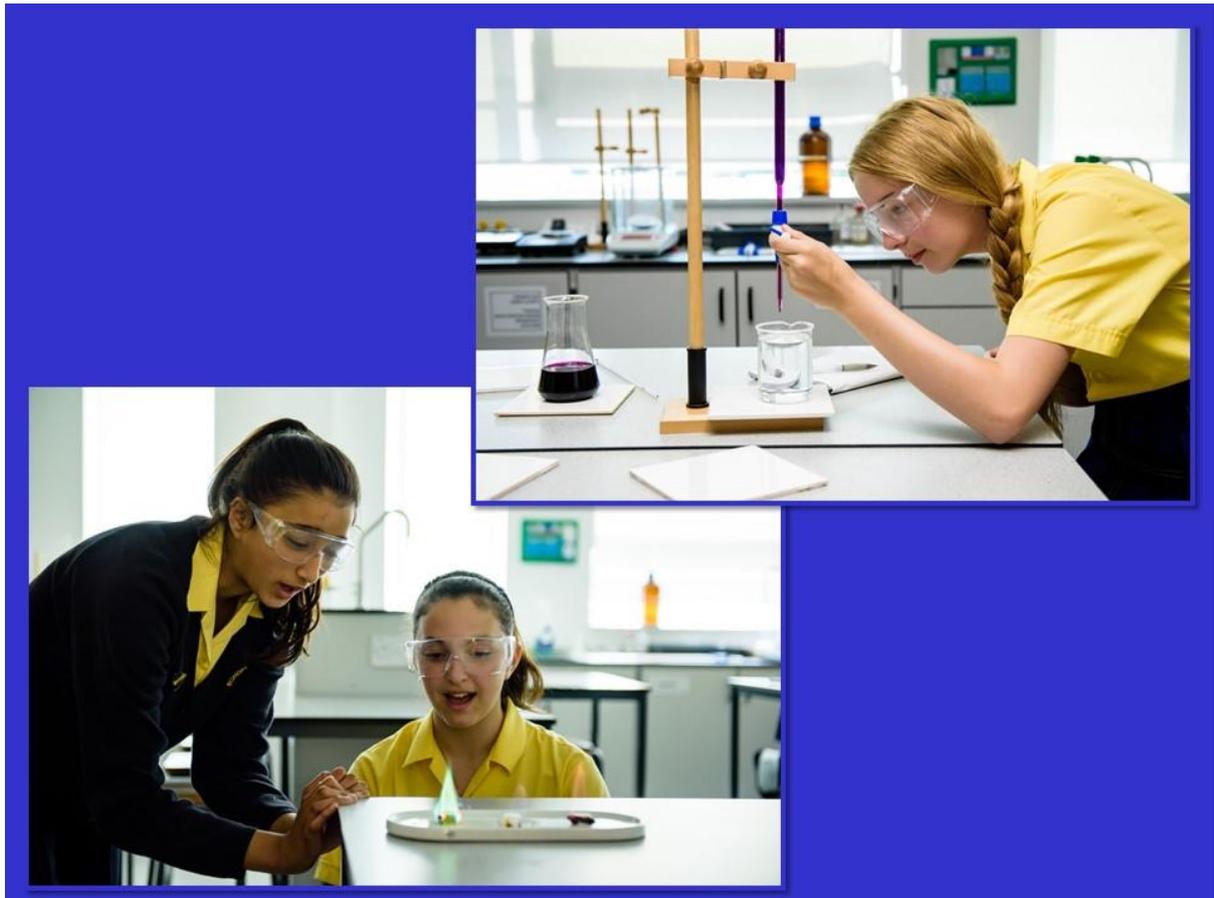


So, Bishop's is not an exam factory turning out robots who regurgitate information, we nurture girls who can think for themselves. We set high standards here based on mutual respect and are aware of how important our partnership with parents is in maintaining those high standards.

It is important that, as parents and carers of the girls, you also subscribe to our policies and support us in setting and maintaining these high standards. I advise you to read our behaviour code and agree with it. Conflicting messages confuse young people – we have to work together. Please make sure that you can support our aims so that we can make this the right school for your daughter. We commit to high standards and have high expectations. If you cannot support our aims and our rules, then this may not be the right school for you.



Each year group contains girls of every ability and of varied backgrounds and this has become one of the school's strengths and attractions. Girls come from a wide area, including Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City, Welwyn itself, Potters Bar, Knebworth and some of the outlying villages. The fact that you are here tonight indicates that you are interested in single sex education for your daughters and it is worth noting that research indicates that girls do achieve better across the full range of subjects in all girls' schools.



More significantly, research indicates that girls educated in a single sex environment are more likely to aim for non-stereotypical higher education and employment, ie. Science and Maths based. We have established very strong links with local science and technology companies and girls are able to visit these to see for themselves the range of careers open to them; one of our Year 11 leavers last year was successful in being offered a science apprenticeship at one of these companies – Eisai Pharmaceuticals in the Hatfield Business Park.

OFSTED 2016

- **Effectiveness of Leadership & Management**
- **Quality of teaching, learning & assessment**
- **Personal development, behaviour & welfare**
- **Outcomes for pupils**
- **16-19 study programmes**
- **OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS**

OUTSTANDING!

Our most recent Ofsted inspection was over two years ago, in February 2016! This was our sixth inspection, following five very successful ones and Inspectors were particularly interested in whether high standards had been maintained and further improved. There are five categories against which schools are judged (click) which leads to an overall judgement. We were ready and keen to show what an outstanding school we believe we are – and they agreed with our own self-evaluation, giving us the top score of Outstanding in EVERY category (click).

You will have 4 choices to make on your application form and even if Bishop's is not listed under your parish priority area, it is worth considering putting us down as places do become available due to people moving out of the area – if we're not on your list, you reduce the chance of ever getting a place here through continuing interest.



So, why choose Bishop's for your daughters?

First, the quality of learning – we know this is exceptional and the fact that our GCSE results are always above national averages supports this.

We focus on ensuring that whatever a girl's ability level, she has work that will challenge her but which is within her range. Progress is well monitored and any under achievement quickly identified. We make no apology for running a traditionally academic curriculum; the majority of our girls are of slightly above average ability when joining us and this type of curriculum enables them to make good progress in their learning

GCSE 2018

**70.09% achieving
5+ grade 4s
inc English and Maths**

52.14% EBACC

28% of all grades at 7-9



The result of this is that while the ability profile of the school reflects that of a genuine comprehensive school, the pupils' results are invariably well above national averages. The table of examination results enclosed in your pack shows you this.

At GCSE level this year, over 70% of girls gained 5 or more subjects at grade 4 or above, INCLUDING English and Maths and in a year when results were expected to be turbulent because of the new grading and much harder specification in all subjects studied here. We also maintained a high proportion of the total grades at 7-9. Of specific importance is the Ebacc score which measures the % of pupils who achieve a minimum of a GCSE grade 4 in the following 6 subjects – English, Maths, 2 Sciences, a Language and either History or Geography. We do not insist on our girls taking a language or History or Geography at GCSE but many choose to and we are overjoyed at the fact that over 50% of last year's Year 11 achieved the Ebacc. To put this outstanding score into perspective, the national figure in 2017 (we don't have the 2018 final validated figure yet) was 21.1% so we are achieving more than double that.

The important things to note in any performance data for a school is the degree of "value-added" that a school provides, in other words, how much progress does a student make from their starting point. In the government's unvalidated performance tables for 2018, we excelled in the progress measures. The progress measure currently used is called Progress 8 and records the progress students have made since Year 6. More emphasis is placed on academic subjects and English and Maths are double counted in this measure, stressing how important these subjects are. It is expected that schools will score somewhere between -1 and 1, with a negative score signifying that students did not make expected progress and a positive score showing that they made more than expected progress. A score of 0 means that students made expected progress. If a school scores below -0.5, it gives cause for concern and if it scores above 0.5, it means that exceptional progress is being made. Our provisional score for 2018 is 0.39 which places us towards the top end (similar to last year which shows consistency) – we await some re-marks which may raise these results.



A LEVEL 2018

99% pass rate

50.27% of all grades at A*-B

At GCE A-level this year, the pass rate was 99% so that again all students who had applied were able to proceed to university. Over 50% of the grades were A*-B even though many of the girls had entered the school with only average attainments. The inserts in the prospectus give you more detail regarding the range of degree courses and universities that girls progress onto.



A second reason to choose Bishop's, the care:

We receive frequent thanks from parents about the care lavished on their daughters whether this is just day-to-day safety, encouragement to achieve the best, mopping up tears after an upset or caring for someone taken ill during the day. We have done everything possible to ensure your daughter's physical safety on the school site and on trips and we have robust systems in place to tackle any occurrence of bullying which is rare.

Relationships between pupils are also good, both inside and outside the classroom. The girls cooperate with each other and collaborate on a wide variety of activities, for example, celebrating cultural diversity and internationalism. The work that older students do with younger ones is particularly strong and valuable. Most Sixth Form students act as Form Prefects and work with forms to help them with such things as charity events and assemblies as well as providing important personal support for girls who are experiencing problems. We believe that it is important for girls to regard Bishop's Hatfield as their school, in which their voices are heard. If a problem arises, and with nearly 900 adolescent girls on one site, these do happen, then we have clear systems in place for dealing with them, whether it's a friendship problem, a missing PE kit or problems with individual subjects.



Our new House system aims to give the girls a sense of belonging whilst encouraging healthy competition and they are rising to the challenges remarkably. The girls had a say in the names of the houses and chose women who have made a significant contribution to society across a range of disciplines, from the novels of Jane Austen to the scientific genius of Rosalind Franklin, the creativity of Zaha Hadid to the sporting prowess of Lily Parr and the humanity of Mary Seacole. All excellent role models that give the girls something to aspire to.



A final reason to choose Bishop's is our ethos of high expectation, whether working individually, or here, as you can see, developing team skills to complete a project.

Here at Bishop's, we all, staff, pupils and parents have high expectations of each other. This has to be a co-operative relationship, each person depends on the other and the success of your daughters is determined by the effort made by all parties involved.



These range from academic success, and achievement in sport,



the arts, and all the extra-curricular activities that take place through to the expectations of how we behave towards each other.



The school values honesty and integrity and having consideration for others. We try to develop these qualities at every opportunity and show our trust in many ways. One of these for example, is our 'open school' policy whereby girls can stay in their form rooms before school, during break and lunch times without supervision because they behave responsibly. Every girl has a secure locker in her form room to keep her belongings. Most subjects issue text books that the girls are entrusted to take care of both in school and at home for homework.

Our Head Girl Team 2018



Lucy



Isabelle



Alarna

We should like now to invite our Head Girls to speak to you about their personal experiences of Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School. Members of the Sixth Form elect their own candidates for posts of responsibility, they interview them and then appoint Senior Prefects and Head Girls to represent the school. This year, there are three Head Girls who work together as a team and two have been able to attend tonight to speak to you. They were chosen by their peers to represent the school and I think you will see why when you hear them.

Download a QR reader App - free on all devices



**Scan the codes
on the posters as
you move around
the school**

**Links to our
prospectus and
Faculty Information**

We hope you have had a useful evening and will be able to visit us next week to view the school in action and to meet pupils and staff. Appointments can be made by calling the school office.

We do understand how difficult it is to make a decision about secondary education, having both experienced it ourselves with our own families. When choosing a school, it is vital that you choose one where your daughter feels she will be happy and safe – seven years is a long time if you feel unhappy every day.

I would ask that as you leave you try to keep an eye on your guide - if you do get separated then please return downstairs and we will find you another one. Please exit by the doors to the side or at the back of the Hall. You will notice as you move around the school that we have QR code posters pinned up. These provide a link to the school prospectus and to information about each faculty. In the interests of the environment and a desire to embrace the technological age we are not publishing a hard copy of our prospectus. If you are not sure how QR codes work, then you can find the same information by visiting our website - or can I suggest asking one of the many tech-savvy young people who are here this evening.



Finally, we should like to thank you all for coming and in particular your daughters for listening so patiently. We look forward to seeing many of you when visiting your primary schools and then here in September 2019. Leave them with us at 11 (here you see the current 7 Austen) and fast forward five years to last year's Prom...



Class of 2018

...we'll give you the finished article!

We hope you enjoy the rest of your visit.

BHGS Co-Headteachers:

Ms T Nickson BEd (Hons), MA, NPQH, FCCT

Mr A Wood BA (Oxon), PGCE, MBA, NPQH