



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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December 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

We write this after listening to our fantastic choir perform at St Alban's Cathedral as part of the Willow Concert; this is the fourth year they have been invited there and it has given the whole school community such pride to see the choir grow in confidence and numbers! This is just one example of what we mean when we say that at Bishop's we place great emphasis on developing the whole person; it is these enrichment activities that nurture the girls' personal growth, whether it is through music, sport, drama, debate, caring for our environment or charity work, it all counts towards creating our vibrant community. Please keep supporting and encouraging your daughter to get involved in as much enrichment as possible, even as the afternoons get darker.

Please be sure to note relevant information in this newsletter carefully, especially term dates as they don't always match with the Herts ones or other local schools.

End of Autumn Term

This term finishes on Friday 21st December at 12.30pm. Girls will have end of term assemblies and tutor time on this day as well as being entertained with a Staff Panto; as part of our fundraising initiatives, girls can also wear Christmas jumpers on this day for which they pay £2 split equally between the Save the Children charity and our savings for a school minibus. Hot snacks will be available at break but there will be no meal service at lunchtime. Girls in receipt of free school meals will be able to use their allocation at break. We ask that all girls have left the school site by 1pm at the latest.

Start of Spring Term

Monday 7th January 2019 is the first day of term and learning will start as normal. We expect all girls in school by 8.30am. Please check the updated School Term and Holiday Dates below.

Department for Education's statistics acknowledge BHGS achievement

Each year the Department for Education produces performance tables alongside progress reports which focus on the achievement of the previous year's Year 11 pupils in their GCSEs and determines the degree to which they are achieving compared to national averages in different categories. Data shows that we continue to achieve above national averages. This is particularly commendable because the statistics include all state-funded schools and academies, some of which have full or partial selection according to ability – Bishop's only selects according to gender!

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



Secondary schools with published KS4 results

The key measure remains Progress 8 which determines how much progress a pupil has made since Year 6. Our 2018 figure is currently **0.39** which is classified as Above Average and continues to show improvement year on year.

Bad Weather Conditions

It is becoming increasingly difficult to predict what will happen with our variable weather but we have been checking our communication systems to ensure that should there be any need for school closure over the winter, then processes are in place. We will continue to use our text messaging system to inform parents of any closure and also post information on the website and Facebook.

We would like to clarify where we stand in terms of decisions made to close the school. Essentially, we will do all we can to keep the school open and not interrupt your daughter's education if at all possible; we do understand that for many parents, losing a day's pay to stay at home to care for your daughter can have a real impact and many adults are expected to make their way to work somehow in such extreme conditions. We also understand concerns that parents have regarding dangerous road conditions and we will consider all the advice available before deciding whether to close the school or not. A significant degree of communication (including with all local schools) takes place behind the scenes before any decision is made. Meanwhile, we suggest that you ensure your daughter has appropriate outdoor clothing and shoes for bad weather; the mornings have started to get colder and there is frost on the ground, however, some girls are still arriving in school with very flimsy footwear and no coat.

Girls' behaviour in public

We know that the vast majority of our girls are a shining example of how to behave both in and outside school. However, we have been notified of a small minority whose behaviour in public (eg in local shops, on buses and whilst waiting at bus stops) leaves a lot to be desired. We have been informed of loud, boisterous behaviour which some old people find threatening, inconsiderate behaviour on buses, eg grabbing seats with no respect for others who might have a greater need and the use of extremely offensive language. Where we have been able to identify girls concerned, sanctions have been applied but we would appreciate your support in reinforcing what we believe to be right standards for how young people should behave - showing respect to others, especially the elderly and being aware of how language can cause offence and distress.

Christmas Market

Years 7 and 8 are busy organising their stalls for the popular Christmas Market which will take place on Friday 14th December. At this, they will be selling Christmas gifts for the family such as homemade crafts and biscuits as well as providing games and activities. We hope that all pupils will bring loose change into school that day to make purchases and to enjoy the Christmas activities on offer. Parents of Years 7 and 8 pupils are invited to attend the Market to join in the fun between 12.45 and 2pm. All funds raised will go towards a school minibus and we are pleased that we have very nearly reached our target.

Website

If you haven't found time to check out our new website yet, please try to over the Christmas break; it is very different and has almost daily updates of news items showing what the girls have been accomplishing.

Please send any comments or queries you may have regarding anything in this newsletter **via email**.

We wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and New Year with your family and look forward to a successful 2019.

Yours sincerely

Ms T Nickson & Mr A Wood
Co-Headteachers

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SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2018-2019

AUTUMN TERM 2018

Monday 3rd September to Friday 21st December 2018

Half-Term: Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November

INSET Day 1 – Monday 3rd September (no pupil attendance)

INSET Day 2 – Friday 5th October (no pupil attendance)

OCCASIONAL Day – Friday 30th November (no pupil attendance)

SPRING TERM 2019

Monday 7th January to Friday 5th April 2019

Half-Term: Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February

SUMMER TERM 2019

Tuesday 23rd April to Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Half-Term: Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May

INSET Day 3 – Monday 22nd July (no pupil attendance)

INSET Day 4 – Tuesday 23rd July (no pupil attendance)

INSET Day 5 – Wednesday 24th July (no pupil attendance)

PROVISIONAL SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2019-2020

AUTUMN TERM 2019

Monday 2nd September to Friday 20th December 2019

Half-Term: Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November

INSET Day 1 – Monday 2nd September (no pupil attendance)

INSET Day 2 – Friday 4th October (no pupil attendance)

OCCASIONAL Day – Friday 29th November (no pupil attendance)

SPRING TERM 2020

Monday 6th January to Friday 3rd April 2020

Half-Term: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February

INSET Day 3 – Friday 14th February (no pupil attendance)

SUMMER TERM 2020

Monday 20th April to Tuesday 21st July 2020

Half-Term: Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May

INSET Day 4 – Monday 20th July (no pupil attendance)

INSET Day 5 – Tuesday 21st July (no pupil attendance)