



# Welcome to Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, girls and boys.

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.

A school is far more than just a set of buildings – it is 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 working day visits 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 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 support this through our four-point strategic plan for improvement, which promotes -

**Excellent teaching** that inspires and stimulates our pupils, and always has high expectations of them

**Academic success** achieved through careful support and monitoring

**Personal development** that values happiness and mutual respect and prepares young people for the challenges ahead

**Strong leadership** that promotes high standards of behaviour and ensures that we maximise everyone's contribution to the 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 one of these girls who is brave enough to stand up tonight and tell you how she feels about being a Bishop's girl...



## Year 7 Girls' speeches

Good evening everyone - and welcome to Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School.

My name is **Serena** - and as soon as I found out that I had been accepted into Bishop's - I was so ecstatic! I was going to be attending a school that has **outstanding** Ofsted scores, polite girls - and an **amazing** education.

I soon discovered that I was the **only** pupil from my primary school that would be attending Bishop's - which actually made me a little scared about making new friends. When I attended the transition day - the only thought occupying my mind, was:

"I'M GOING TO BE SITTING BY **MYSELF** AT LUNCH!"

When we all walked into our first trial lesson during **transition** day, I looked around the room at everyone while thinking –

"some of these girls are going to be in my **real** class in September!"

When we all sat down, I found myself sitting alone. But not for long - as another girl had noticed, and came to join me. We bonded and made plans to sit together at lunch too!

The school's teachers are fantastic:

- they take everyone's ideas,
- they make you feel good when you've learnt something new
- and Miss Parkin - the Head of Year 7 - made me feel like I wasn't alone at school.

In P.E, the teachers let **everyone** try out for the netball team, and there are a **multitude** of other sports, including:

- rounders
- trampolining in Year 9
- table tennis
- badminton
- gymnastics
- and **many** more.

On my **first** day, - I was **so** nervous - but that feeling disappears **very** quickly.

My number one tip is to follow 3xPs:

- be **Prepared** before every lesson
- be **Punctual**
- and **Pay** attention
- All while having fun.

I hope **all** current Year Sixes enjoy their first day, and I hope you enjoy the rest of the tour.

Have a wonderful evening! ...And thank you for listening.

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 some 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 and building robots.

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 into the mountains of Nepal.





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.

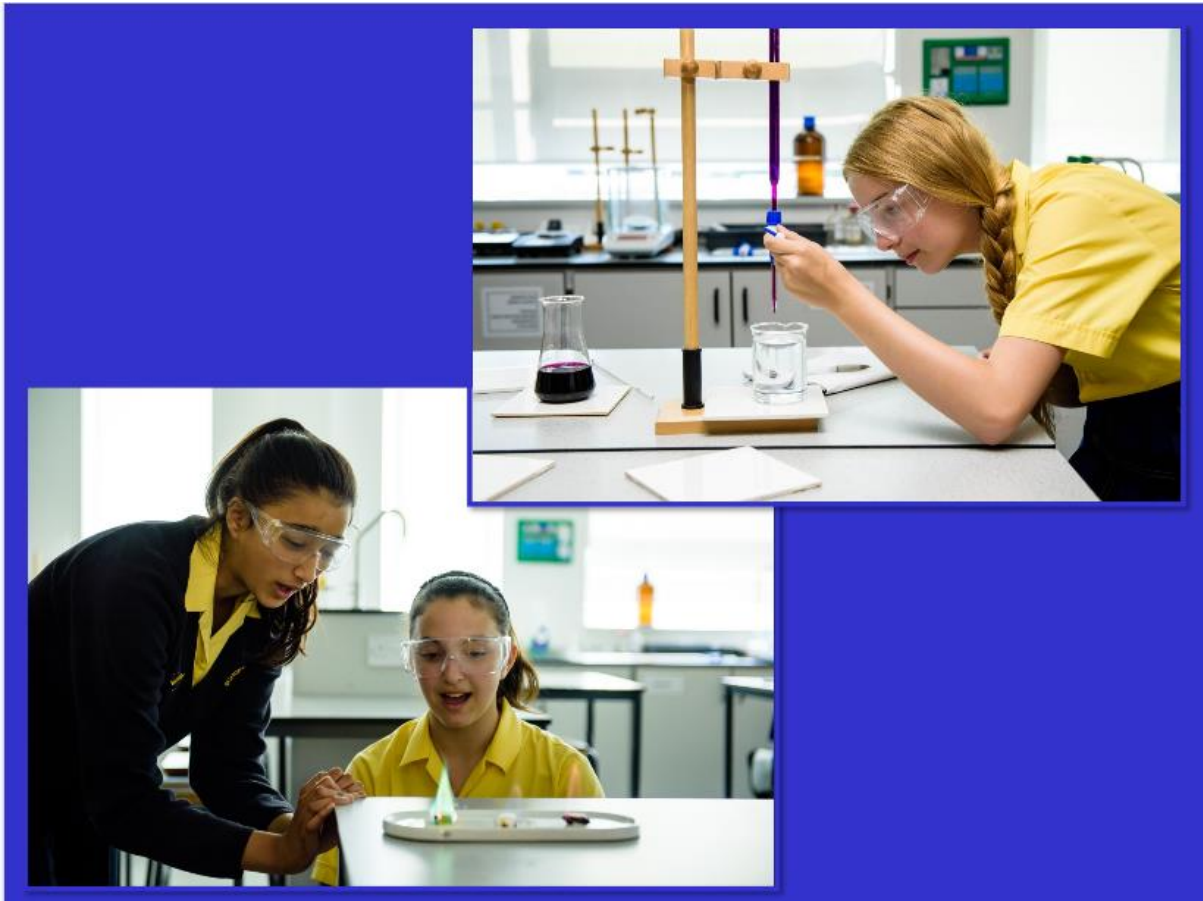
It is important that, as parents and carers of the girls, you also subscribe to our policies and support us in setting and maintaining these high standards. We advise you to read our behaviour code and agree with it before you choose us. Conflicting messages confuse young people – we have to work together. 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, i.e. 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.

## OFSTED 2016

- Effectiveness of Leadership & Management

- Quality of teaching, learning & assessment

- Personal development, behaviour & welfare

- Outcomes for pupils

- 16-19 study programmes

- OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

Our most recent Ofsted inspection was over three 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 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.





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 2019



**80% achieving 5+ grade 4s  
including English and Maths**

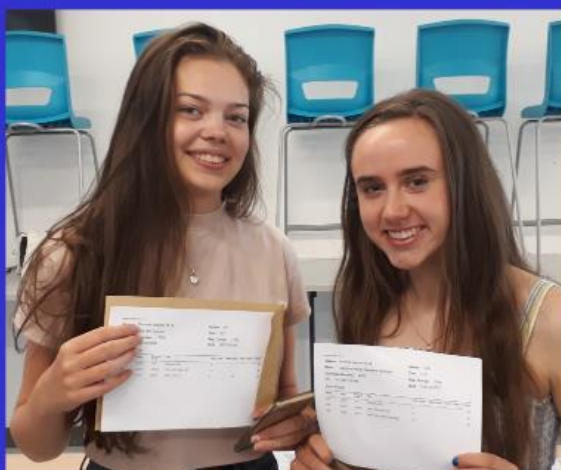
**62.9% EBACC**

**33% 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 80% of girls gained 5 or more subjects at grade 4 or above, INCLUDING English and Maths. We also maintained a high proportion of the total grades at 7-9.

The progress measure currently used to compare schools nationally is called Progress 8 and records the progress students have made since Year 6. 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 score for 2018 was 0.42, which places us towards the top end – we expect this year's score to be around 0.45, which shows that even more progress has been made.



# A LEVEL 2019

**99.46% pass rate**

**52.72% 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 attainment. 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 co-operate 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. 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 is a friendship problem, a missing PE kit or problems with individual subjects.





Our 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, 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 2019



**Amy**



**Zoe**



**Poppy**

We should now like to invite one of our Head Girls to speak to you about her 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 you are about to hear one speak to you tonight. Each girl was chosen by her peers to represent the school and I think you will see why when you hear her.

## Head Girls' speeches

### Amy

Hi everyone, my name is **Amy** and I am one of the Head Girls here at Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School. 7 years ago I was sitting exactly where you are today.....

Actually that's not true, I was in the

old school building but I was in the same position and needless to say, I was so, so scared and nervous about going to secondary school.

Please don't be! I can honestly say that there is nothing to worry about! I really hope you come to Bishop's because it is honestly an amazing school with new and fantastic facilities but if you don't then I'm sure that wherever you end up will be the right place for you.

I loved primary school so much and I didn't want to grow up, I still don't but who does! I have always been a very shy person, from ever since I was tiny and if someone had said to me 7 years ago that I would be one of the Head Girls and doing a speech on open evening I probably would have laughed because honestly, it was my worst nightmare.

But here I stand today in front of all of you doing just that and I think that shows how much I have grown as a person and I think it's because of Bishop's and all of the opportunities that it presents and the school as a whole.

So the opportunities! There are so many opportunities for everyone whatever your hobbies and interests are. Throughout my time at Bishop's I have taken, part in so many, in particular the sports competitions and clubs. There are so many sports clubs here at Bishop's including; netball, football, athletics, rounders, gymnastics, hockey, cricket, dance, basketball, tennis, table tennis, badminton, rugby and the list goes on.

You can also compete in these sports. I always competed in netball, athletics and rounders and we even did a swimming gala as well! The school never really took part in swimming competitions but a few years ago myself and two of my friends asked if there was any chance we could be entered into a school swimming gala. And soon enough we were competing for the school in swimming and I think that shows how much the school listens to its pupils and I think that is so important and an amazing trait that Bishop's has.

There are not only sports clubs, there are drama clubs and performances, music clubs, humanities based clubs, board games clubs, science based clubs, art clubs and honestly so many more! All of the clubs are great opportunities to meet people that may not be in your form or classes and to also attend with your friends.

There are also so many trips and a wide range of them as well. There are trips where you can go abroad such as Paris, Barcelona and Iceland and also great days out to Legoland and Paradise Wildlife Park. As you go up the school, there are also lots of other opportunities. These include the Duke of Edinburgh's award, Young Enterprise, Sports Leaders, Science Fair, World Challenge and again, many more. All of these are great ways for you to prove to yourself that you can do things that you did not think you could.

At Bishop's we have a house system. There are 5 houses named after inspirational women; Rosalind Franklin, Jane Austen, Mary Seacole, Lily Parr and Zaha Hadid. It is an amazing chance to meet people from different years and it is very funny to see how competitive the members of staff can get... believe me.

At Bishop's we have such an amazing community. We have such a supportive environment here at Bishop's, all the members of staff are incredible and they can never do enough for you. Don't get me wrong, they make you work, I can assure you of that and Bishop's gets amazing results but the members of staff will give you constant support.

I am now in my last year at Bishop's and I am not going to lie to you, I am honestly quite sad to leave. I have had such an amazing time over the last 6 years and I am going to miss everything about it. I am going to miss seeing my friends every day and constantly meeting new people and getting to know them. I am also going to miss the routine!

Even though it is going to be sad to leave, the school has opened my eyes up to so many pathways for my future that I am excited to explore. I have found that I love science, especially biology and how it can have such a big impact on so many people and therefore I am looking at applying for apprenticeships and university courses in the biological field.

So thank you so much for listening. If you have any questions about anything or something specific that I spoke about please feel free to come and find myself or any member of staff or pupil at the end and we'll be happy to help. Thank you so much and I hope you have an amazing evening.



## Zoe

Good evening everyone and welcome to Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School. My name is **Zoe** and I am one of the three Head Girls here at Bishop's. Tonight I am here to give you an insight into the life of Bishop's; one that is full of opportunities, amazing memories and being a part of a supportive community. I am currently in the sixth form studying for my A levels in Theatre Studies, History and Sociology. As you progress through secondary school, you will find your favourite subjects and passions and Bishop's provides you with all of the support you need to develop these interests. Whether that be joining a club or offering a week of work experience in your dream job. I want to become a teacher and you could say it is because throughout my time here at Bishop's, the teachers have been amazing; they encourage and motivate me to achieve my best. And that has inspired me to want to do the same.

Being part of a strong, welcoming and supportive community is what has allowed me to thrive here at Bishop's. The journey has been a rollercoaster, with some downs but so many incredible highs that I still remember and think about today. From friendships that I made in Year 7 and still cherish, to school trips that have left me speechless - for example, exploring the magnificent sites of Iceland to sitting in the front row on the tallest rollercoaster in Europe, which really did leave me speechless.

You are all here today with one question - Is this the best school for me, or is this the best school for my daughter? I am in a similar predicament myself, because I am searching for the University I want to go to. When I think about what I want in a university, I think friendly, good atmosphere, supportive staff and students, very pretty campus and good exam results. In addition, I realised that making my choice is so hard, because I am coming from a secondary school that ticks all of these boxes and more. Coming to Bishop's means that you will be throwing yourself into a community of students who are energetic, keen to learn and will go out of their way to help one another. We have so many clubs that you can attend, for example; football, choir, brain camp, debate, funky faces, Rolling Stones club for any keen fans and my personal favourite, yoga and meditation. That is only naming a few! All aspects of school life are of vital importance here at Bishop's and we encourage everyone to get stuck in, because when you see the progress you make it's so rewarding.

When I first started here at Bishop's in 2013, about 7 years ago, I was sat exactly where you are now, metaphorically speaking because we were in the

old build, but you will all have this amazing building, with all of the resources you could possibly need at your fingertips. Anyway, I was so shy and scared about making new friends. And never in a million years and I'm not just saying that as a cliché, could I have imagined standing up as Head Girl in seven years' time, delivering a speech about all of the amazing things Bishop's has allowed me to achieve.

Here at Bishop's our core values of ambition, trust, teamwork, respect, kindness and honesty are at the heart of the school. Everyone is brought together in houses, which are named after inspiring women throughout history. I am a proud Seacolian, despite our house coming last for 2 years running. I know one day we will rightfully win our spot at the top! We have inter-house competitions, where the houses compete against each other, in events such as; drama competitions, gymnastics, and arts festival innovation design competitions. When the events are on, the air is full of house spirit, people wear their house colour with pride and we cheer each other on. Even the staff get involved which is always fun to see, especially on sports day when the whole school anxiously waits in silence for the staff relay to start.

If you do decide to come to Bishop's, fingers crossed, you will be making the best decision. Thank you for listening, and I hope you enjoy the rest of your evening.

## **Poppy**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, my name is **Poppy** and I am one of Bishop's' Head Girls, here to tell you a bit about my experience at Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School. I am sure I am not alone in saying that starting Year 7 was rather scary, and I do not doubt that many of you may be feeling a little nervous about your choices right now. When I joined Bishop's, I had just moved house after having lived in Scotland for the last 9 years of my life. I only knew which school I would be attending about five days before actually starting, so to clarify, I had never once set foot in this school and had no idea what to expect.

A day before I was due to start, my dad drove me past the school so that I knew what to expect a bit more, but being the often over-eager dad he is, he stopped outside and took me to the office on the off chance that I might be able to get a bit more information. Luckily, the staff in the office were very kind and offered to take me on a short tour of the school.

I was amazed. The thing that stood out most to me was the art department. There were so many different pieces all over the walls and I had never seen so much creativity - it was incredibly impressive. After seeing all the displays around school preparing me for what I was going to start learning, my excitement levels were high. I was ready to get involved with everything there was for me to do, and in my first two years at Bishop's, I am pretty sure I was attending an enrichment club every night possible. I was even excited for my first piece of homework (which was from my humanities lesson by the way).

What I am trying to get across is that starting Year 7 can be scary, no one's here to tell you otherwise, but it is also incredibly exciting. Especially here at Bishop's where there are many opportunities for you to participate in over the course of your time here.

Some of my personal favourite enrichment activities were the school band, drama club and brain camp, although there are many more that cater to every girl's interests. In previous years, teachers and students have run book clubs, film clubs, *French* film clubs, a Latin club and of course, the many different sports clubs and teams.

Of course there is also Bishop's' outstanding academic achievements. Every pupil is given the opportunity to thrive in whatever they choose to do, whether that is sciences, humanities, arts or any other subject you are interested in.

Although the feature that will always stand out to me about Bishop's is the real sense of community you get from just stepping foot in this school. Everyone wants each other to succeed and do the best they can, but as well as that, we all look out for each other. There is an overwhelming amount of support and kindness at this school, which you will experience all the way through your years at Bishop's. From the teachers who go out of their way on a daily basis to make sure you achieve your full potential, to the students who are all incredibly friendly and welcoming to everyone, as I am sure you will come to realise tonight, everyone at this school genuinely cares about one another.

I remember Dr Venz saying during the first week of Year 7 a phrase that has stuck with me since then and has been repeated many times and I'd like to



share it with you today as I feel it really encompasses everything Bishop's stands for. 'Once a Bishop's girl, always a Bishop's girl.'

Both current students and previous students will all tell you that choosing Bishop's is more than just choosing a school, it's choosing to be part of a wonderful community of strong minded and intelligent women, who all look out for one another.

Our school Alumni Association is a testament to this. Girls that have since left Bishop's are proud of their school and many of them frequently return to help at events, such as the annual Alumna Day, where old pupils come back to give careers advice to current students.

Your journey at Bishop's will not end when you leave school though. For me, I hope for my journey to lead me to the film and TV industry eventually, a path that I did not even consider before joining Bishop's. Without this school, I would have never found my love for drama and may have still been unsure about where I want to go, but I am now confident in myself and my decisions, a trait that is instilled in you right from Year 7 at Bishop's.

By coming here, you are entering a diverse community of people from all different backgrounds with all kinds of different interests.

I've made friends for life here and I'm sure if you choose Bishop's, you will too. Thank you.

**Download a QR reader App - free on all devices**



**Free WiFi tonight:  
'BYOD-Guest'  
Password: BHGS**

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

**Link to our  
Prospectus and  
Faculty Information**

We hope you have 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.

If you would like a guide to show you around this evening, please go down to the canteen area on the ground floor and we will find you one - our girls are keen to show their school, so please ask them questions and let them know if there is anywhere in particular that you would like to visit.

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.



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 2020. Leave them with us at 11 - here you see some current Year 7s - and fast forward five years to last year's Prom...





## Class of 2019

...we will 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