



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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BHGS is a company limited by guarantee Company number: 07831507 Charity number: EW01517



December 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

The end of the Autumn Term is rapidly approaching and a number of festivities are planned to get us all ready for Christmas. We have our Christmas Concert on Monday 9th December, our Christmas Market at lunchtime on Friday 13th December, Year 7 pupils attending our annual Christmas Service at St Etheldreda's Church on the afternoon of Monday 16th December and our Prize and Certificate Evening on Thursday 19th December. Girls have also been entering into the "giving" spirit of Christmas by filling and decorating their reverse advent calendars for the local Food Bank. These have now been delivered to the Food Bank whose organisers were very appreciative of the girls' efforts; the contents of the boxes will bring much cheer to those most needy at this time of year.

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

Christmas Market

As mentioned above, Years 7 and 8 are busy organising their stalls for the popular Christmas Market which will take place on Friday 13th 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 1.45pm.

Emails received from a member of the public

We frequently receive communications from members of our local community praising our girls and thought we'd like to share a couple sent to us this week as they link so well with our school values that we promote at all times:

"I am writing to compliment the behaviour of two of your young ladies, last week I ran to get the bus at the stop opposite your school and two of your pupils who were both already waiting stepped back and each offered to let me and another lady go before them."

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



Great manners and an impressive show of respect, just thought I would share the impression they left on me, good ambassadors for your school, so thank you."

And then one after our school choir sang at the concert for Willow at St Alban's Abbey on 3rd December:

"Last night I did my regular gig hosting and conducting the Willow Foundation Carol Concert in the Cathedral with the Founders of the charity Bob (ex Arsenal and Scotland goalkeeper) and Megs Wilson co-hosting. As usual the Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School Choir sang a couple of numbers. Delightful and well behaved young ladies who sang beautifully. Great ambassadors for the School."

We have been supporting the Willow Foundation for a number of years as it is a local charity, set up by Bob and Megs Wilson after the death of their daughter Anna (an ex-Bishop's girl) to give 16-40 year olds suffering from life-threatening conditions a chance to have a special day making memories. We are currently selling raffle tickets for the Willow Christmas raffle; these can be purchased for £5 each via Wisepay until 12th December 2019. The raffle will be drawn during the Christmas Market on 13th December and the winner will be notified to come and collect their prize which is a Regency Luxury Hamper full of tasty treats just in time for Christmas!

End of Autumn Term

This term finishes on Friday 20th 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 top of or apply Christmas decorations to their school uniform, eg a string of tinsel as a scarf, on this day for which they pay £2 split equally between the Save the Children charity and our savings for audio-visual equipment to support your daughters' learning. 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 6th January 2020 is the first day of term and learning will start as normal. We expect all girls in school by 8.30am. We would ask for your support in ensuring that your daughter starts the term with the correct uniform and complies with our rules concerning make-up and hair. Girls who do not comply will be sent home on the first day of term.

Please check the updated School Term and Holiday Dates below.

House Points

During the last week of the Autumn Term, Form Tutors will be spending time with the girls reflecting on their behaviour, attainment and achievements for the academic year so far. As a part of this reflection, pupils will be filling in how many positive and negative House Points they have received and setting themselves targets for next term. This can be found on page 13 of your daughter's planner. As a part of this reflection, parents/carers are encouraged to read these and also add a

comment in support. This will hopefully give your daughter an opportunity to share with you her achievements this academic year thus far.

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!

The key measure remains Progress 8 which determines how much progress a pupil has made since Year 6. Our 2019 figure is currently **0.44** which is classified as Above Average and shows that we have improved for the third year in a row. This also places Bishop's in the highest 20% of schools nationally.

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 and in the very early hours of the morning 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.

Parent Governor Appointment

Welcome to our two new Parent Governors, Mrs Roya Garwood and Mrs Pooja Tripathi who have now attended their first Governors' Meeting.

Car Parking and the Drop-off Zone

Please be aware of the following for the safety of pupils:

- No parking or waiting is permitted in the drop-off zone – the double yellow lines apply as on the public highway; parents/carers should not arrive early and wait as this is not a parking area – you will be asked to move on

- When picking up at 3pm, you should wait on the road or in one of the nearby car parks; please do NOT block local residents' driveways
- When picking up after 3.30pm the gate and barrier will be open so parents may park and wait for pupils in the staff car park. Please do not wait in the drop off zone or on the double yellow lines as access is needed for coaches.

Enrichment timetable for the Spring Term

Please discuss all the opportunities available through Enrichment with your daughter and encourage her to get involved - the evenings will start to get lighter from January!

Enrichment Timetable - Spring 2020

After school	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Music	BHGS Choir Pop Music Performance Club	---	Year 7 Band	Year 11 GCSE Composition	Bishop's Singers
Sport	KS4 Trampoline/ Gymnastics Vaulting Club (Sports Hall) Just Dance (Dance Studio) Table Tennis Year 7 Netball	---	Gymnastics (Sports Hall)	Years 8 & 9 Netball Basketball (Sports Hall)	Dance Club (Dance Studio) Dodgeball Football
Other	French Cinéma Club (Rm 117) Save The World (Rm 026) Creative Writing Club (Rm 121) E-Magazine Club (Library) D of E Silver (Rm 023) Lego Robotics (Rm 201) KS4 Creatives (Rm 112) Russian Club (Rm 116)	Dotty Club for Ys 11 -13 (Rm 223)	Bishop's Budding Creatives (Rm 008) Funky Faces (Rm 009) The Club That Shall Not Be Named (Rm 125) Drama Club (Drama Studio) Young Enterprise (Rm 026) Knitting Club (PSC)	Science Club (Rm 215) Green Club (meet in Dining Hall) Maths Team Challenge (Rm 222) Doodle Club (Rm 123) Nerd Shack (Rm 201) Tabletopia (Rm 224) History Detectives (Rm 029) Movie Stars (Rm 121) Discover Japan (Rm 119) German Kino-Klub (Rm 114) History Film Club (Rm 028)	BTS Club (Hall) Driving Theory Club (Rm 113) D of E Bronze (Rm 215) KS4 & 5 Debate Club (Rm 021)

Attendance at all Enrichment clubs will be rewarded by a silver token and a House Point for your House!

Lunchtime Enrichment Timetable Spring 2020

Lunch Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sport			Handball (Sports Hall)		Badminton (Sports Hall) Satellite Club (Dance Studio)
Other		Rummiklub (Rm 025)	Games Club (Library) OWLS (Rm 205) Buddy Club (PSC)	Y7 Chatterbooks (Library) Young Carers Drop In (Rm 223)	

Attendance at all Enrichment clubs will be rewarded by a silver token and a House Point for your House!

Interested in Teaching?

Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School is a member of the Alban Federation partnership that works in the area to provide teacher training. Each year the Federation trains a large number of adults (55 trainees are currently following the programme in 2019/20), either straight from University or as career changers, and places them in a host school for the year to enable them to complete their training and gain Qualified Teacher Status. All applications are submitted through UCAS (the University Admission System) and the application window is now open for courses starting in September 2020. Courses are available in both Primary and Secondary programmes, with salaries or bursaries available for suitably qualified candidates in many subjects.

If you are interested in becoming a teacher and would like general advice or specific guidance as to how to apply, please feel free to contact the Alban Federation team via email via afgtpenquiries@sandringham.herts.sch.uk or by phone on 01727 799560 Ext217.

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 new decade in 2020.

Yours sincerely

Ms T Nickson & Mr A Wood
Co-Headteachers



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)

**NB - Early May Bank Holiday will be Friday 8th May 2020
to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day**

UPDATED SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2020-2021

AUTUMN TERM 2020

Tuesday 1st September to Friday 18th December 2020

Half-Term: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October

INSET Day 1 – Tuesday 1st September (no pupil attendance)

INSET Day 2 – Wednesday 2nd September (no pupil attendance)

INSET DAY 3 - Friday 9th October (no pupil attendance)

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

SPRING TERM 2021

Monday 4th January to Friday 26th March 2021

Half-Term: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February

SUMMER TERM 2021

Monday 12th April to Monday 19th July 2021

Half-Term: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

INSET Day 4 – Monday 21st or 28th June - to be confirmed (no pupil attendance)

INSET Day 5 – Monday 19th July (no pupil attendance)