



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

We are writing to update you on a number of matters relating to Year 12.

Year 12 Remote Learning

The response to remote learning by Year 12 has generally been excellent. Students are engaging and making every effort to complete the learning and tasks set. Please encourage your daughter/son to continue with this and keep up the communication with their teachers. Personal tutors have been staying in contact with their tutees and offering support and guidance in these difficult times. If you have any concerns regarding remote learning please contact Mrs James at ejames@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk or on 07923 426542

Year 12 Exams

It has been decided that Year 12 exams will not go ahead in the format originally planned as it is still unclear when school will be reopened, or what the circumstances of re-opening might be. However, some form of assessment will need to take place to assess progress and understanding. We are planning for these assessments to take place during the originally scheduled Year 12 exam week (Wednesday 17 June to Tuesday 23 June). If we have not returned to school by then, these exams will be in the form of assessment tasks set online via Google Classroom for each subject. It is expected that the task will cover work completed this year and will be of an appropriate level for the courses studied. This assessment will obviously not be completed under supervised exam conditions and it should take students approximately two and a half hours to complete. Teachers will communicate with their classes how these will be organised nearer the time. If we have returned to school then these assessments will take place during lesson time under teacher supervision. To minimise disruption to the school they will not take place in the Sports Hall.

Year 12 students need to be aware that these assessments will not be used to determine UCAS grades but may contribute towards them. UCAS predictions are based on analysis of all the work students have completed over the course of the academic year and teachers will take a wide range of evidence into account when making these predictions.

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



Post-18 Planning

In order to support the students in their planning for next year with regard to choices post-18 we have placed three slideshows on the Sixth Form Hub to assist with research including one on university research, one on apprenticeships and one on gap year options.

University applications

With regard to applications to university the UCAS search tool for courses starting 2021 opens on 5 May and can be found at <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate>. UCAS applications for 2021 open on Tuesday 19 May and Mrs James will be posting instructions on the Sixth Form Hub for the students to apply online. We would encourage your daughter/son to research thoroughly. It is unlikely that the normal open day opportunities will be available and universities have provided virtual open days and tours to help students narrow down choices. Looking forward, we have also had an indication that universities may run 'offer holder' days too.

We are providing some specific support to the Year 12 students who are considering applying for a highly competitive university course next year (e.g. Medicine, Veterinary Science, Oxbridge). We have invited all Year 12 students who are considering applying for one of these classes to join our "Competitive Course" google classroom. We are going to run a few on-line workshops later this term to help our students begin their preparations, as the application process for these courses tends to be slightly different and more complex. We also are inviting former students studying these courses to these workshops to share their experiences. The first workshop is on the 15 May for medicine/veterinary applications; and the first Oxbridge workshop is on the 22 May.

Year 12 Work Experience

Unfortunately we have had to take the decision to cancel Year 12 work experience week. With many business employees working from home or furloughed, and with social distancing measures possibly remaining in place for longer, it is not possible for employers to commit the time and support that they would want to be able to offer the students. If we are back in school by then we also feel that students would want and benefit from contact with their classmates and teachers. The week beginning 13 July will therefore be a school based week for all students. If you would like to make arrangements for work experience in perhaps October or February half term please do so, but please note this would be independent and outside of the monitoring of the school. Some organisations are offering 'virtual' work experience and we are posting details of these on the 6th Form Hub.

Enrichment

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the Welwyn Hatfield Careers Conference that was scheduled to take place on Monday 29 June. We are however posting online courses and other opportunities that students can participate in to enhance their cv/personal statement. In addition students can sign up for FutureLearn courses to widen their learning experiences which can be

accessed on this website: <https://www.futurelearn.com>. All students have a log in to Unifrog and this can be an excellent course of information and links to wider opportunities for each subject.

Head Girl and Senior Prefect Applications

Ordinarily at this time of year we would be running the selection process for positions of responsibility in Year 13. We are planning to post the initial application form on the Google Classroom and ask those students who are interested in applying to make their application by the 29 May. We would then anticipate running interviews either on our return to school or virtually depending on how the lockdown proceeds.

Thank you once again for all the hard work that parents, carers and students are doing. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the teaching staff who are working hard to ensure that Year 12 keep up as best they can under the circumstances. Please do contact subject staff directly if you have any specific subject-related questions.

Wishing everyone the best of health.

Yours,

Mr A Wood
Co-Headteacher

Ms T Nickson
Co-Headteacher

Mrs E James
Head of 6th Form