



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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

Woods Avenue, Hatfield, Herts AL10 8NL T: 01707 275331

Email: admin@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk Website: www.bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk

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15th January 2021

Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Consultation Evening

Re-scheduled Date: Wednesday 27th January, 4.30-7.30 pm

Dear Parents/Carers,

First of all, I can only apologise for the failure of last night's Consultation Evening. We have received the following message from SchoolCloud:

SchoolCloud provides parents' evening software to over 5,000 schools, and experienced an outage on 14th January affecting the parents & teachers accessing video calls at that time. An update to the system in December caused a web page to perform slowly and this ultimately took the system offline. This wasn't up to the high standard of service that schools expect of us, nor that we expect of ourselves. We have already made changes, and continue to take further steps to ensure that you can continue to enjoy this new format of parents' evenings.

We feel that it is important to re-schedule this evening as soon as possible as we know what an important and challenging time this is for our Year 11s and want to support them and you as much as we can. The new date for the Consultation Evening is **Wednesday 27th January, 4.30-7.30 pm**. SchoolCloud will move all of your appointments automatically onto this new date so **you do not need to re-book**. You should receive an email from them confirming this. If you need to cancel an appointment then you can do so on SchoolCloud and you can also request a new time, if one is available. If you are unable to make this new date then please do cancel your appointment times as this will free up staff for other parent requests.

Year 11 interviews for post-16 choices will continue as scheduled from Monday 18th January. All pupils should have received a letter home and also an email contact from the member of staff who is conducting the interview. Pupils should check their school email account for the Zoom details if they have not done this already. We have moved the deadline for applications to Bishop's Sixth Form to Friday 29th January. This gives pupils and parents time to discuss any options questions with teachers at the Consultation Evening before the application form is submitted. We would therefore ask that pupils do not complete the online application form before Thursday 27th January. Instead they should prepare for the interview by completing the draft paper application which was posted with the interview letter.

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, who were equally frustrated last night. I know that many of them had made special arrangements in order to be able to attend the evening and this is particularly the case for those with young children of their own at a time where childcare is hard to find. The fact that they are willing to give up another evening to help our pupils demonstrates once again their dedication to them and to the school. I know that they are as committed as ever to supporting Year 11 through the coming months and what we hope will be future years as they progress into our 6th Form. Things can feel very unsettling at the moment, but I know that teachers are already planning exciting opportunities for our 6th formers next year.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to 'seeing' you on 27th January.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher