



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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May Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 and Year 13

Year 11 and Year 13 pupils have now completed all their assessments that will be used to award their grades this summer. It has been a very unusual time with GCSE, A Level and BTEC exams cancelled and schools asked to collect evidence to support their decisions about grades this summer. Pupils and staff have been working incredibly hard to enable all our pupils to achieve their potential and to maximise the opportunities for them to demonstrate what they can do. I must congratulate both year groups on the way they have approached their work. They have risen to the challenges presented by all the changes this year incredibly well and I have been impressed with the attitude they have shown and their determination to succeed in the face of some very difficult circumstances. There is nothing more that they can do now but await the publication of results in the summer. For Year 11, we look forward to welcoming the majority back for the Sixth Form Induction Week in June and for their Sixth Form studies in September. For those who are moving on to new pastures we wish them every success. Our Year 13s have secured places at the usual exciting range of university and apprenticeship courses and I very much look forward to hearing about how they are getting on next year. Both year groups have been fantastic to work with and I hope that they will take with them many happy memories of their time at Bishop's, despite all the recent disruptions to their learning.

Uniform

It would be greatly appreciated if parents/carers (particularly those of pupils in Year 11) would consider donating old or outgrown uniform that is in reasonable condition to the Parents' Association for the Nearly New Uniform Sale in July. All donations are welcome and we would particularly like to create a supply of skirts. Please bring any items in a plastic bag to the school office, preferably laundered.

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



End of school day - return to 3.00 pm finish for all

With the departure of Year 11 and Year 13 it is no longer necessary for us to have a staggered finish at the end of the school day. Therefore all year groups will now finish at 3.00 pm. Year 9 and Year 10 pupils will no longer be permitted to carry coats, bags and phones with them to afternoon lessons. They will be able to return to their form room at the end of the school day to put away/collect what they need from their locker. I should take this opportunity to remind you that any pupil found with their phone during the school day (whether it is switched on or not) will have it confiscated for two school days, including over the weekend if a phone is confiscated on a Friday. This rule is well known and understood by the pupils and I would ask that parents/carers support us in applying this sanction. If a pupil needs to urgently contact home then they should go to Reception or speak to their Form Tutor or Head of Year.

I am disappointed to have to ask once again that you do not use the drop off zone to collect your child at the end of the school day. We pride ourselves on being a school where we show consideration for others but there have been several occasions recently where access in and out of the school has been blocked due to parents/carers waiting in this area. This prevents members of our school community with genuine medical needs from accessing the site and also causes dangerous conditions in the road immediately outside the school as cars bank up. There are many quiet spots just a minute's walk from the school where you can collect your child without causing inconvenience to others. However, please abide by local parking restrictions, especially in Oaklands Wood cul de sac.

Inset Days - 7th June and 28th June

A reminder that we are having an additional Inset Day on Monday 7th June when there will be no school for pupils. We are using this day to conduct the necessary standardisation exercises for awarding grades this summer, as required by the awarding bodies. This is in addition to the Inset Day on 28th June which remains in place and was already on the school calendar at the start of the year.

LF Tests and Masks

Your child should have received an additional home test kit this week. The Department for Education has asked that all pupils and staff continue to conduct tests twice weekly, including over the half term break. Please remember to also report your result both to the NHS and to the school using the Google Form on our website.

A reminder too that the home test kits should not be used if your child develops Covid symptoms. If they develop Covid symptoms then you should book a PCR test with the NHS and the whole household must isolate for 10 days or until a negative result is received. Please report a positive test result to the school immediately - do not just use the Google Form.

After half term we will continue to ask that pupils wear masks in corridors and communal areas indoors. Masks are no longer necessary in classrooms, but pupils and staff may choose to wear them. It may be necessary for teachers to ask pupils to lower or remove their mask in a lesson in order to ease communication. As previously mentioned, it appears that some pupils believe that if they wear a mask then they can 'get away with' having nose piercings. These are NOT permitted and nose studs will be removed and confiscated until the end of term. Only one single plain stud earring in each ear is permitted.

Celebration of the Arts

Today we will be supporting the Festival of School and College Arts. This is a national event, promoted by all the main teaching unions and the Cultural Learning Alliance. The festival is a chance to celebrate and enjoy creativity in all its forms. You can help us celebrate the creative achievements of BHGS pupils by uploading your child's art pieces on Twitter on Friday using these hashtags: #EduArtsFest #bhgs_expressive_arts @BHGSchool. Please visit our Twitter page to see some examples of what our pupils have been doing.

House Competition

The House competition continues apace and here are the current standings, which show that it is all to play for at the top of the table:

Austen	23777 House Points
Franklin	22590 House Points
Hadid	24918 House Points
Parr	24625 House Points
Seacole	25629 House Points

Special congratulations to the following pupils who have earned the most House Points in their year group this half term:

Year 7	Pritiga Juvanethan - 7Se - 90 House Points
Year 8	Penelope Dunn - 8Pa - 83 House Points
Year 9	Alba Aviles-Rouger - 9Se - 58 House Points
Year 10	Amélie Hobbs - 10Ha - 57 House Points
Year 11	Asna Kandeepan - 11Au - 21 House Points
Year 12	Amy Davis - 12Se - 27 House Points
Year 13	Molly Hoy - 13Ha - 10 House Points

The House Point totals will now be top secret until we announce the winning House on Tuesday 13th July. Pupils in the winning House will be rewarded with a special House celebration during the afternoon of Wednesday 14th July to celebrate their success. There will be more information about this after half term.

Year group trips

The Department for Education has confirmed that school trips and visits can now go ahead again. We are therefore organising year group trips at the end of term for years 7-10 and you should be receiving a letter regarding this today. We will obviously be guided by the latest advice regarding Covid restrictions. This will be a great way to end what has been a difficult year in many ways. I would like to thank our Heads of Year for putting the time and effort into making the necessary arrangements and would ask that you reply promptly to their communication so that we can get everything confirmed.

Parent/carer feedback

I feel very strongly that we should use our experiences over the past year to drive improvements, both within our school and in the wider educational system. Over the last 18 months each of our subject areas has been evaluating its curriculum, making adaptations and working to put in place a curriculum that meets the needs of all our pupils. We have also been speaking to pupils about what they would like to learn about. We obviously have to work within the constraints of the examination system in this country, but I am very interested to hear the views of parents/carers about what you consider to be the priorities for what pupils should learn at school. I have linked here a Google Form that I would very much appreciate you completing. It will give me an idea of what you consider to be important as we continue to adapt and develop. It should take only a few minutes to complete - there are no right or wrong answers! There is also the option to state whether you would be willing to participate in a focus group discussion of the points covered.

Please complete the survey here: <https://forms.gle/ArbENffi6rMxwjzVA>

Finally, I wish you and your families a restful break over half term. It looks like we are finally getting some good weather, which we all heartily deserve! Please email the school with any response to this newsletter or any subsequent query as your opinions and views are highly valued. I am not always able to respond personally to every piece of feedback but assure you that all points of view are noted and frequently acted upon. Please also continue to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, links to which can be found on our website.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher