



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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End of Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another extraordinary year my main message in this newsletter is to express my thanks to the whole Bishop's community. The many examples of care and support for one another that I have witnessed over this time have been a wonderful demonstration of our shared values. As with any year, each of us will inevitably have had our ups and downs and this year has of course presented us all with a unique set of challenges. There will no doubt be more challenges ahead, but I am confident that by working together we can rise to them!

In particular I want to thank all the staff at school. They have been asked to undertake tasks that nobody could have envisaged just a few months ago, often at short notice and with limited guidance. They have carried all these out with incredible dedication, professionalism and self-sacrifice and shown an extraordinary commitment to our school and to the children who depend on them. I cannot thank them enough.

Start of Autumn Term

From the start of the new term many of the precautionary measures that we have had in place regarding Covid-19 will no longer be required. This follows the government's announcement of the move to Step 4 of the easing of restrictions in England. There are a few things that we will be keeping as we feel they continue to have benefits and I will be writing to you about these at the start of next term. In particular we would ask that pupils continue to bring a mask with them to school as there may be circumstances in which we will request that they wear them.

From 19th July schools are no longer responsible for tracing close contacts of positive Covid cases. If your child tests positive from 19th July onwards then you will need to report this to NHS Test and Trace and they will work with you regarding next steps. You do not need to report positive test results to the school unless it means that your child will be absent.

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



The Department for Education has instructed all schools to carry out Lateral Flow Covid tests on site of all pupils on their return to school in September. We have tried to minimise the disruption to the start of term as much as possible but have had to make some changes to the start of term as follows:

Date	Year Group Activity	Notes
Thursday 2nd September	LFD tests on site for all pupils: 8.45-9.15 am: Year 7 9-9.15 am: Year 8 & Year 9 9.15-9.30 am: Years 10 - 13 Pupils to leave school after taking their test	Years 7-11 should go straight to form rooms. Year 7 will be shown where to go on arrival. Pupils will leave for the day after taking their test. Parents/carers will be informed if a test is positive. School uniform should be worn and pupils should bring a pen and a mask (and a hand sanitiser if they have one).
Friday 3rd September	8.15am-2.30 pm: Year 7 Induction Day 1 8.30am-12.30pm: 6th Form Induction Years 8-11: No school	Year 7 will follow an induction programme for the day. School uniform should be worn 6th Form will follow an induction programme including confirmation of timetables
Monday 6th September	8.30am-2.00 pm Year 7 Induction Day 2 8.00am : Years 12 & 13 LFD tests for students with lessons off site 8.30am: rest of Years 12 & 13 LFD Tests (including those who do not have lessons on Monday am) 8.55am onwards: Years 12 & 13 to attend lessons Years 8-11: No school	Year 7 will follow an induction programme for the day. School uniform should be worn Years 12 & 13 will be allocated classrooms to carry out on site testing Any 6th Form student with lessons off site on Monday morning should attend for their test at Bishop's then go to the site of the off-site lesson. We will aim to provide transport where required. 6th Form pupils who do not have lessons Monday am can go home after their test.
Tuesday 7th September	8.35am: LFD tests for Years 8-11 followed by form registration. Remain in school for the rest of the day for normal lessons	All year groups remain in school for lessons after testing has been completed. School finishes at 3.00pm

	8.35am: Normal school for Year 7 and 6th Form	
Wednesday 8th September	Normal school day for all	

Although testing is voluntary we would request that all pupils attend to carry out these tests as they are part of the strategy for preventing the spread of infection and they will help to keep pupils and staff safe. We will be writing to you separately regarding how testing operates, with particular guidance for our new Year 7s. We know that many of them will not have carried out an LFD test before but can assure you that we will help all our new pupils with this. The rest of the school have been doing these tests for months now and they are very easy to do.

Please note the arrival and departure times for pupils on Thursday 2nd September. All pupils will be going home immediately after taking their test. In order to avoid congestion outside the school we will be **closing the gates into the school** so please make arrangements to meet your child elsewhere after they have completed their test. Lessons will start for 6th Form on Monday 6th September and for Years 7-11 on Tuesday 7th September; no work will be set on Google Classroom before these dates.

No pupil should attend school if they have Covid symptoms, are self-isolating or are completing a period of quarantine following travel abroad.

House Cup

After a tightly fought contest I am pleased to announce Seacole as the winners of the House Competition 2020-21. It is great to have a new house name on the winners board and well done to them.

Austen	28647 House Points
Franklin	26823 House Points
Hadid	29970 House Points
Parr	29110 House Points
Seacole	30449 House Points

Special congratulations go to the following pupils who achieved the highest number of House Points over the year.

Year 7	Pritiga Juvanethan - 7Se - 538 House Points
Year 8	Libby Porter - 8Au - 427 House Points

Year 9	Daisy Saunders - 9Fr - 314 House Points
Year 10	Amélie Hobbs - 10Ha - 345 House Points
Year 11	Immy Kerr - 11Pa - 210 House Points
Year 12	Amy Davis - 12Se - 103 House Points
Year 13	Ruby Keenan - 13Fr - 77 House Points

Uniform

Uniform should be worn in school from Thursday 2nd September. Please ensure that you have checked all the information rules on our website (see the *Uniform* page under *Parents*) before making any new purchases. We still have issues with girls wearing inappropriate socks instead of proper ankle socks which should have a clear cuff showing above shoes. Also, a number of trainer style fabric shoes have appeared which are not acceptable as school shoes. Please ensure that nail varnish/extensions have been removed before the start of the new academic year and if you are allowing your daughter to have any new piercings, these should be done now to give the six week healing period as any studs etc, apart from one stud in each lower ear lobe, must be removed before the start of term. Nose studs are not allowed in school. A reminder also that hair should be all one natural colour, including braids and extensions, with only a simple black, navy blue or white hairband/tie. Hair should not be shaved.

Students infringing any of the uniform rules/Sixth Form dress code, will be sent home to change.

It would be greatly appreciated if parents/carers (particularly those of girls in Year 11) would consider donating old or outgrown uniform that is in reasonable condition to our Nearly New supply in school. All donations are welcome.

Communication with the school

I have greatly appreciated the positive feedback from many parents/carers regarding our communications with you. I do try to balance keeping you up-to-date with developments against not overloading you with information! In case you have missed any communications, copies of all our letters home can be found on the school website - click on the updates at the top of the home page or go to Parents > Letters Home.

The School Office will be closed over the summer except for some key dates around the exams' results week. Emails will be checked intermittently but it may not always be able to provide parents/carers with a swift response as staff will be on holiday.

Retirements and Leavers

We are saying goodbye to a few staff this term, but some of them only temporarily as they start their maternity leave. We would like to wish Mrs Watkins a very happy retirement. She leaves us

after 20 years of dedicated service to the school and has made an invaluable contribution to the Mathematics and Computing Faculty during that time. Miss Oakman is leaving us to relocate to the West Country and we wish her the very best with her move. I know very many of our pupils have benefited not only from her teaching but from her time devoted to sports clubs and teams. Mrs Harris, our Design Technician, is starting a new post at the University of Hertfordshire and we are very grateful for the work she has done supporting Art and Graphics at the school. Thank you also to Mrs Mahmuti who has been teaching Science on a temporary contract this term and is starting a new post in Barnet.

Very best wishes go to Mrs Jackson, Mrs Whitney, Mrs Neal and Mrs Redpath, all of whom will start their maternity leaves soon. Good luck to you all and we look forward to hearing news of your new arrivals.

We are fully staffed for September and have been able to recruit highly qualified new staff to join the Bishop's team. I know that our pupils will give them a warm welcome next year.

The support and encouragement from parents/carers over the year has been a great boost to our staff, so thank you for your kind messages - they are always well received. I hope that you and your families enjoy a good break over the holidays - I think we can safely say that we all deserve one!

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher