



# 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](mailto:admin@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk) Website: [www.bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk)

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## Newsletter May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy half term I thought I would update you on a few matters.

### Year 11 and Year 13

GCSE, A Level and BTEC exams have started and all the students involved are to be congratulated on how well they have coped so far. After two years of exams being cancelled, these students might have some justification in feeling a little hard done by in having to sit their papers, but I have been incredibly impressed with their attitude and approach. Whatever the outcomes in these exams, we are very proud of their achievements and of the way they have risen to the challenges they have faced over recent years.

For those who are moving on to new pastures next year 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. Our Induction Week for Sixth Form runs from Friday 24th June to Friday 1st July and we are looking forward to welcoming a very large proportion of Year 11 (as well as a number of new arrivals from other schools) into the 6th Form next year.

### 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***



## School Day 2022-23

After consultation with staff we have decided to make a minor amendment to our school day starting in September. The new timings will be as follows:

8.00 am	Library opens. Homework club starts.
*8.35 a.m.	Warning bell
*8.40 a.m.	Registration followed by Assembly/Tutorial Time.
*9.00 a.m.	Period 1 begins.
9:50 a.m.	Period 2 begins.
*10.40 - 11.00 a.m.	Break.
*10.55 a.m.	Warning bell.
*11.00 a.m.	Period 3 begins.
11.50 a.m.	Period 4 begins.
*12:40 p.m.	End of morning school.
12.40 pm – *12.50pm – 1 <sup>st</sup> lunch queue	
12.50 pm - 2 <sup>nd</sup> lunch queue	
*1.15 p.m.	Warning bell.
*1.20 p.m.	Period 5 begins.
2.10 p.m.	Period 6 begins
*3.00 p.m.	End of lessons.
All pupils should return to their Form Rooms to collect what they need to go home. Those staying for enrichment activities, detention etc. must take all their books from the Form Room first and <b>not return there afterwards.</b>	
3:00 – *3.50 p.m. Enrichment Activities (except Tuesdays). Homework Club (daily). Pupils must leave their form rooms by 3.15 pm.	
4.00 pm	Library closes.
<b>Please note:</b> pupils who have to wait for buses or lifts from parents should come to the Dining Hall or wait outside. The Library is also open until 4.00 p.m. where homework can be completed and there is a Homework Club in Room 113 until 3.50 pm.	
*a bell will sound at these times	

You will see from the above that the main change is a slightly later start with pupils asked to be in school by 8.35 am with morning registration starting at 8.40 am. A number of our staff have childcare responsibilities in the mornings and the slightly later start time will ease the pressure on those who need to drop off children before coming to school. We did not want to finish school any later as this would affect our extensive after school enrichment provision so lunchtime will be 5

minutes shorter. Forty minutes is ample time to eat lunch and our canteen can easily cater for everyone within this time. Please see the end of this newsletter for confirmation of our term dates for 2022-23.

### Masks

As you know, face coverings are no longer required in school unless there is a specific reason for them to be worn. We have a small number of pupils who continue to want to wear masks and this can at times present a barrier to learning and to social communication. It is likely that from next September we will be asking all pupils to remove masks at school unless they have a medical reason for wearing them and so would ask parents/carers to secure this evidence from a medical practitioner by the start of the year if they wish their child to continue to wear a mask in school.

### Trips and visits

I feel incredibly lucky to have so many staff who are willing to organise and run trips and extra-curricular activities for our pupils. There can be few schools that offer such a wide range of opportunities - you only have to visit the School News pages of our website to get a flavour of this. Organising these often takes up a great deal of staff time, both in the planning and in the supervision of activities. All this has to take place in addition to all their other duties and in many schools this has meant that very few trips happen. It has therefore been disappointing to receive communication from some parents complaining about trip arrangements because they either do not suit their child or because their child was not fortunate to be successful in a trip ballot, where this has been necessary. I would urge parents/carers to please pause and consider whether such communication is really necessary, and whether it might put staff off organising trips at all in future (which would be a great loss to our pupils). We go to great lengths to ensure that we are fair to all and my staff always do their best to meet everybody's needs, though this is simply not possible in all circumstances.

### Drop-off zone after school

This is yet another plea to NOT use the drop-off zone to collect your child at the end of the school day. We continue to have problems with access in and out of school being blocked. 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 back 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.

### Platinum Jubilee

I am sure that many of you will be taking advantage of the extra bank holiday next week and fingers crossed that we get some good weather. As a school we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum

Jubilee with a Jubilee Fair at school on Thursday 21st July. This will take place during the school day and we will be giving the pupils more information about this after half term.

### House Competition

The House competition is intensifying as the end of term approaches. The winning House will not only earn their place on the Honours Board but all pupils in the winning House will enjoy a special celebration in the last week of term. The House Point totals will now be top secret until we announce the winning House. Here are the current scores:

Austen	Franklin	Hadid	Parr	Seacole
22404	23397	22255	21607	23460

Finally, I wish you and your families a restful break over half term. 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 and I am sure you will want to join me in thanking all of our staff here for their continued hard work and dedication to our pupils.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood  
Headteacher

## **BHGS term dates 2022-23**

### **Autumn Term 2022**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	INSET day
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Year 12/13 interviews (select students only)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Term starts for Year 7 and Year 12/13 (at home site) only
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	All students begin school & 6 <sup>th</sup> form teaching begins
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Open Evening
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct	INSET day
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	INSET day (disaggregated for staff)
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Occasional Day
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	INSET Day (disaggregated for staff)

**Half Term:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### **Spring Term 2023**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Term starts for all years
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**Half Term:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### **Summer Term 2023**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Term starts
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	INSET Day

**Half term:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

\* *Disaggregated* means that teaching staff are not expected in school on that day and no lessons will run.

### **Other dates:**

Secondary transfer day (Year 6 into 7): Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023