



# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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22nd July 2022

## July 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

The sweltering heat of earlier this week has highlighted for me how quickly things can change. Only a few months ago it was suggested to me that the school was too cold because of our doors and windows being kept open! We seem to have coped admirably not only with the ups and downs of the British climate but with the many other challenges that have come our way this year. I want to congratulate everyone in the school community for rising to these challenges and continuing to show the desire and ambition to achieve their potential. The last week or so has also illustrated our ability to enjoy the journey along the way with Sports Day, the House Celebration and the Jubilee Fair all bringing the school together in a spirit of collective fun. After a disrupted two years it has been lovely to return to some sort of normality with events like these as well as the Year 11 and 13 Proms and Expressive Arts Showcase taking place.

I am sure you will want to join me in thanking all the staff at the school for their tireless work in supporting, encouraging and building the confidence of our pupils over the last year. I am incredibly lucky to have such a dedicated and caring group of staff.

### **Start of Autumn Term**

Please note the following arrangements for the start of the AutumnTerm.

Thursday 1st September	Staff Inset Day - no school for pupils
Friday 2nd September	Year 7 Induction Day 1 - 8.35 am - 2.30 pm No school for all other year groups
Monday 5th September	Year 7 Induction Day 2 - 8.35 am - 2.00 pm Sixth Form Induction Day: 8.35 am - 12.15 pm (Year 13) / 1.15 pm (Year 12) No school for Years 8-11.

**"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016**



Tuesday 6th September	Normal school day for all pupils: 8.35 am - 3.00 pm
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## Attendance

I would like to emphasise that **permission** must be sought from the school for any leave of absence, eg. Dance exams, representing the county at a sports event, family weddings etc. I cannot stress enough that continuity of education is crucial in determining your child's success and any interruption to their education can create gaps which are often difficult to fill. At the bottom of this newsletter are next year's term dates and I urge you to note these carefully when booking holidays. Whilst we understand that in some cases (and I assure you that each case is considered individually) it is necessary to take a pupil out of school for a family event, we continue to disapprove of holidays taken in term time. I appreciate that many families have had holidays disrupted due to the pandemic but the Department for Education has made it clear that attendance should be a key priority for all and that holidays should not be authorised. Time lost from the learning environment cannot be made up and returning after a holiday absence, even if only for a few days, can cause disruption to a pupil who discovers their class has moved on in a particular topic or subject area.

To put the attendance situation in context, any pupil whose attendance drops to 90% will have missed 19 days of school in one year, that is, 114 lessons! This can make a **significant** difference to their progress both academically and socially.

We do understand that some medical practitioners make this difficult, but all appointments with dentists / orthodontists / optometrists / doctors should be made outside school hours or during the holidays, whenever possible. We would also encourage a return to school after appointments made during the day.

## House Competition

This year has been the closest competition yet for the House Cup. I am very pleased to congratulate House Franklin on winning this year and hope that they enjoyed their celebration afternoon on Wednesday. It is great to see a new name on the honours board. The final 'league table' this year is:

1st	Franklin
2nd	Seacole
3rd	Hadid
4th	Parr
5th	Austen

I would also like to say a special well done to the following pupils who achieved the highest number of House Points in their year group this year. A very impressive achievement!

Year 7	Babara Idowu - 7Au
Year 8	Polly Chambers - 8Pa
Year 9	Libby Porter - 9Au
Year 10	Marinela Covaci - 10Au
Year 11	Charlotte Gould - 11Fr
Year 12	Megan Dott - 12Fr
Year 13	Millie Sanders - 13Fr

## Uniform

Please ensure that you have checked all the information rules on our website (see the *Uniform* page under *Parents*) <https://bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk/school-uniform-2/> before making any new purchases for next year. Note that branded socks with logos on are not permitted. Also, a number of trainer style fabric shoes have appeared which are not acceptable as school shoes. We ask you to ensure that nail varnish/extensions have been removed before the start of the new academic year and if you are allowing your child 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 for Years 7-11. We have made some minor changes to our expectations regarding wearing Headscarves/Hijabs and regarding hair which we hope will provide greater clarity for everyone.

Students infringing any of the uniform rules/Sixth Form dress code, will be sent home to change so please do avoid the inconvenience of this. Nose studs or piercings above the lobe appear to have become particularly popular recently but they are not allowed in school apart from for 6th formers and pupils will be asked to remove them. 'Clear' studs are not permitted. The fact that the hole will close up is not an excuse for wearing them but a reason for not getting the piercing done in the first place.

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 our Nearly New supply in school. All donations are welcome.

## Communication with the school

I would like to thank those parents/carers who have taken the time to send messages of thanks to the school and to our staff - it really is greatly appreciated and gives everyone a morale boost at the end of a long year. 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 for most of the summer. Emails will be checked intermittently but it is unlikely that we will be able to provide parents/carers with a response until September as staff will be on a well-deserved holiday.

### **Retirements and Leavers (and welcome backs)**

It has been lovely to welcome back several staff from maternity leave in the last few weeks. Mrs Jackson, Mrs Redpath and Mrs Neal have recently returned, joining Ms Terry and Mrs Johns who came back earlier this year. Unfortunately that does mean we must say goodbye to some staff who have been working with us on a short-term basis this year. Our thanks therefore go to Ms Stanciu, Mr Brown and Mr Wilson for this. I would also like to thank Dr Baker, Miss Greig, Dr Burgess and Miss Pascall who have been with us for a relatively short period of time but who have nevertheless made a very significant contribution to the school and to our pupils. We wish them the very best in their next steps.

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Broderick, Mrs Rooney, Mme Hallauer and Mr Lowrie who are all moving to work 'up north' (though in the latter cases only to Stevenage and Bedfordshire schools!) and to Mr Goodall who is going rather further afield, starting in India. They will all be greatly missed and we wish them well. Mrs Dudley is also relocating, in this case to Nottinghamshire. She has performed a range of roles during her time at the school, first as a Head of Year and more recently as Head of the Mathematics and Computing Faculty. Her leadership and support for both pupils and staff over her 19 years at the school have been hugely appreciated and we wish her the very best too.

It won't surprise you to read that Mr Dudley is also relocating to Nottinghamshire. He has worked at Bishop's for over 20 years and in his role as Deputy Head has given invaluable support to pupils, parents and staff. I can honestly say that I cannot think of a colleague more committed to the wellbeing and welfare of all and I know that you will want to join me in thanking him for all he has done for Bishop's. The Staff Panto won't be the same without him either! Mr Pandya is also leaving us to join a school nearer to home in West London. Previously as Subject Leader for History, Key Stage 4 Coordinator and most recently as Assistant Headteacher he has always put our pupils first and worked in their best interests and I know how much his commitment has inspired and motivated them over the years.

We have two staff retiring this year who deserve a special thank you. Mrs Cardell leaves us after over 20 years at Bishop's. She joined the school having decided on a career change into teaching and has told me that her only regret is that she did not do this sooner. Mrs Cardell has taught in both the Science and Health Faculties, taken on a number of leadership roles and instigated numerous outreach opportunities over her time with us, all of which have benefited our pupils hugely. Miss Punchard is retiring after 28 years at Bishop's. Anyone who attended the Expressive Arts Showcase earlier this month will have seen yet another example of how she has inspired and

motivated our pupils to create and perform music during her time with us. The development of our school choir in recent years, leading to performances at St Albans Cathedral and the Barbican, have been a great highlight for me. I am very pleased to say that she has agreed to maintain her work with the choir next year. We wish a long and happy retirement to them both.

I am pleased to say that we have a full teaching staff ready for September and have been able to recruit exceptional and highly qualified new teachers to join the Bishop's team. I know that our pupils will give them a warm welcome next year and I will write to you with some introductions when we return in September.

Please look out for the school news bulletin which is a lovely way to review all the wonderful things that have been going on over the last term. Wishing you and your families a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Wood  
Headteacher

## **BHGS TERM DATES 2022-23**

### **AUTUMN TERM 2022**

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Thursday 1st September 2022 – Monday 19th December 2022

**Thursday 1st September: INSET Day 1**

Friday 2nd September: Year 7 induction only

Monday 5th September: Year 7 and Year 12/13 Induction only

Tuesday 6th September: All students in school & 6th form Teaching begins

**Monday 10th October: INSET Day 2**

**Friday 21st October: INSET Day 3 (disaggregated)\***

**Friday 25th November: Occasional Day**

**Monday 19th December: INSET Day 4(disaggregated)\***

**Half Term:** Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October 2022

### **SPRING TERM 2023**

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Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – Friday 31st March 2023

**Half Term:** Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February 2023

### **SUMMER TERM 2023**

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Monday 17th April 2023 – Friday 21st July 2023

**Monday 1st May: Bank Holiday**

**Tuesday 27th June: INSET Day**

**Half term:** Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

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