



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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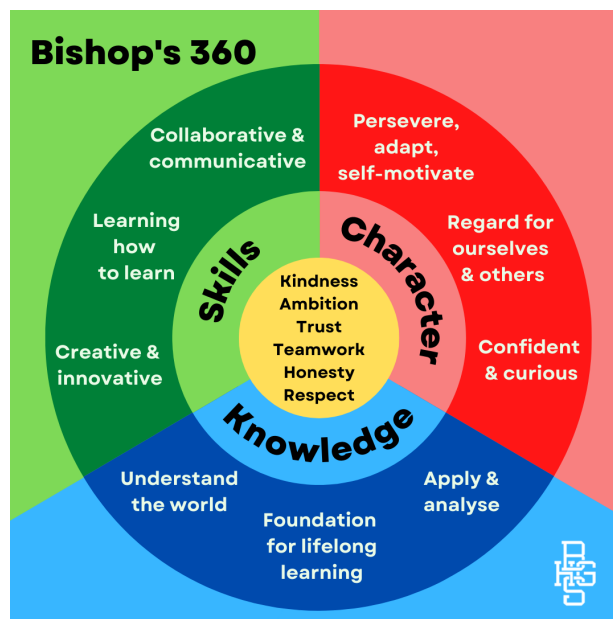
20th October 2022

Newsletter October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the October half term break I would like to congratulate the whole school community on an incredibly successful start to the year. Congratulations especially to our new Year 7s (who are not so new now) for the way they have settled into secondary school. I have had fantastic feedback from their form tutors and teachers. I would also like to congratulate our new staff. Starting a new job is always challenging but they have quickly become an integral part of our school. The mutual support and encouragement that Bishop's is known for has very much been in evidence. During our recent Open Evening and Open Day tours it was a real pleasure to hear from our visitors how welcoming, friendly and positive the school is and what great role models their guides were.

I hope that you are all now becoming familiar with the Bishop's 360 which displays our vision for how we want our pupils to develop during their time here. I see the 360 in action every day as I walk around school, both in and out of the classroom, and I would encourage you to discuss and reinforce it with your child(ren) at home.



"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



Department for Education Key Stage 4 data

Today the Department for Education is publishing KS4 performance data for all schools. This data should of course be treated with caution as we have had several years of disruption to schools and 'unusual' exam systems. I am very pleased to be able to share with you that on the key headline measure (Progress 8) Bishop's achieved its highest ever score of **+0.8**. This means that, across all subjects, Bishop's students achieved results almost a grade higher than might be expected based on their prior attainment. We are yet to confirm the exact comparison but a score this high would puts us in the top 15% of schools in England with less than 200 schools in the country achieving a score this high. I have said many times that we are not an 'exam factory' but it is very gratifying to see that we continue to combine our emphasis on the personal development of our pupils (as is clear in the Bishop's 360) with excellent academic outcomes.

Trips, visits, activities and clubs

We have been celebrating Black History Month both in and out of lessons, culminating this week in a lunchtime exhibition, organised by the Equality and Diversity Committee. It has been wonderful to see pupils taking part in this and a range of other extra-curricular visits and activities. So far this term Year 8 have enjoyed an author visit and been to Kew Gardens whilst Year 11 enjoyed a performance of An Inspector Calls and visit to the Old Operating Theatre and Science Museum. Groups of 6th formers have also visited Hampton Court Palace and the Houses of Parliament. The whole school enjoyed a range of Biology Week activities, from maggot racing to a CSI workshop for Year 10. I am also very much looking forward to the Year 7 choir extravaganza this afternoon! Look out for the full update of half term activities on our website.

Our enrichment clubs continue to be the envy of many schools. So far this term over 500 pupils in years 7-11 have attended at least one enrichment club which is absolutely amazing. If your child is not already benefiting from these incredible opportunities, please do encourage them to get involved.

I would also like to especially congratulate Lily McKiernan in Year 10 who won the Genetics Society's 'Hap-pea Birthday Mendel' competition for her wonderful picture of Gregor Mendel. Lily won £100 for herself and £500 for the school to purchase science equipment. You can see her entry on their website here: <https://genetics.org.uk/hap-pea-birthday-mendel-winner/> - well done Lily!

Reading and Literacy at Bishop's

We have an extremely well stocked Library at Bishop's and our Librarians regularly organise events and competitions for our pupils to get involved with. Dr Bune is our Literacy Coordinator and she has done lots of excellent work promoting literacy across the curriculum. As part of our commitment to literacy in the school we do expect pupils to always have a reading book with them. Not only does this give them the chance to enjoy their reading at every opportunity but it can also lead to interesting conversations between them and their peers and teachers about the

books they are reading. Please encourage your child to take a book out of our Library or make sure that they bring one in from home.

House points

This years' House Competition is already looking like it will be hotly contested. The latest scores as of this week are:

Austen	3922 House Points
Franklin	3647 House Points
Hadid	3462 House Points
Parr	3078 House Points
Seacole	3367 House Points

Special congratulations to the following pupils who are the top House Point leaders so far in their years:

Year 7	Sienna-Maria Musso-Hall - 7Au
Year 8	Gabriella Kehagias - 8Au
Year 9	Polly Chambers - 9Pa
Year 10	Libby Porter - 10Au
Year 11	Jesse Foster - 11Au
Year 12	Emma Slater - 12Au
Year 13	Libby Manning - 13Au

Pupils are now able to win House Points for upholding the school's values so there are even more opportunities to boost their House scores!

Drop-off zone at the end of the day

We continue to reserve the drop-off zone at the end of the school day for those with specific medical needs. This has made for a much safer environment inside the school gates. Unfortunately we still have a number of parents parking inconsiderately (and sometimes dangerously) on the road outside school and blocking access both to Bishop's and to our neighbouring schools. We do not have the staffing capacity to 'police' the roads around school and attempting to do so would take staff away from their duties. Can I therefore ask, once again, that you make alternative arrangements to meet your child away from the school. Thank you to those parents/carers who have already made the sensible (and kind) decision to wait in one of the local car parks or roads (they often get away sooner than those in the drop off zone as they avoid the congestion on Woods Avenue).

Uniform & jewellery

Pupils are not allowed to roll their skirts up and they will be asked to roll them down. If a pupil repeatedly does this then they will be sanctioned appropriately.

I must also remind parents/carers of our rules regarding jewellery. Only one single plain stud earring is permitted in each earlobe and nose studs are not permitted. Please do not allow your child to get piercings that do not comply with our policy, which is well publicised and known to all upon application to the school. We know that piercing holes may close up if studs are not worn, and this is a reason not to get them done in the first place. Occasionally pupils ask for permission to wear 'clear' or see-through studs during the day, but even these are visible and as such are not permitted. Jewellery that does not comply with our policy will be confiscated until the end of term. It is very frustrating for our staff to have to remind parents/carers of this with regard to individual pupils.

Similarly, we have clear rules regarding hair. Hair should be of natural colours only, including braids and extensions. No hair decorations other than a simple black, navy blue or white hairband, clip or tie. Beads should be natural hair colour or clear and only worn at the end of the hair. No extremes of hair style including cut or design are permitted. Hair must be tied back for practical subjects and wrapped if necessary.

Pupils should not wear makeup including nail varnish and false eyelashes/extensions.

Again, it is incredibly frustrating to have to send pupils home or make calls to explain this to parents/carers when our expectations have always been very clear.

Finally, a reminder that there is **no school for all year groups this Friday 21st October** and work will not be set on this day. I have published below the confirmed term dates for the rest of this academic year and the draft dates for 2023-24 which should allow parents/carers to plan for next year. There are some dates for 2023-24 that are still to be confirmed but the start and end dates for each term and the dates for half terms are not likely to change.

I hope that you are able to enjoy the extra day's break over half term and would certainly encourage our pupils and staff to take the opportunity to have a well-deserved rest.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher

BHGS term dates 2022-23

Autumn Term 2022

Thursday 1st September 2022 – Monday 19th December 2022

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

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

Spring Term 2023

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – Friday 31st March 2023

Tuesday 3rd January	Term starts for all years
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Half Term: Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February 2023

Summer Term 2023

Tuesday 17th April 2023 – Friday 21st July 2023

Monday 17 th April	Term starts
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 27 th 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.

Other dates:

Secondary transfer day (Year 6 into 7): Thursday 13th July 2023

BHGS term dates 2023-24 (Draft)

AUTUMN TERM 2023

Friday 1st September to Wednesday 20th December 2023

Half-Term: Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October

INSET Day 1 – Friday 1st September (no pupil attendance)

Monday 4th September - 6th Form induction only (proposed)

Tuesday 5th September - Year 7 induction only (proposed)

Year 7-13 teaching starts Weds 6th September

INSET Day 2 – Monday 9th October (no pupil attendance)

INSET Day 3 – Friday 20th October (no pupil attendance - disaggregated for staff)

OCCASIONAL Day – Friday 24th November (no pupil or staff attendance)

SPRING TERM 2024

Thursday 4th January to Thursday 28th March 2024

Half-Term: Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February

SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15th April to Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Half-Term: Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May

INSET Days 4 & 5 – Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July (no pupil attendance - disaggregated for staff)