



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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December 2022

December 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can think of no better way to start this newsletter than by sharing with you this message from the Hatfield Food Bank

Please pass on our thanks to everyone in the school who donated food and provisions. The donations really do make a big difference to local people in crisis.

Through our Reverse Advent Calendar campaign we donated 522.92 kilos of food and provisions! Watching the Form Charity Reps gather the boxes and boxes of donations in our Dining Hall really was a sight to behold and gave me yet another reminder of the generosity of spirit that runs through our school community. One of the Character strands of our Bishop's 360 is having 'regard for ourselves and others' and the Reverse Advent Calendar is a wonderful example of something I see daily at our school: pupils and staff showing kindness towards one another. This week we have also been raising money for Herts Young Homeless, which seems particularly timely during this week of freezing weather.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from using the Hatfield Food Bank please visit their website here [Visiting a foodbank](#) or call them on 07504 627359. You can also get in touch with Herts Young Homeless here [Herts Young Homeless](#). There is a helpful web page run by the Council that offers advice for managing the cost of living, which we know is challenging for many of our families currently: [Here for you this winter](#)

Ofsted Inspection

The final outcome of the inspection that took place on December 6th-7th will not be published until late January at the earliest. What I can feed back is how impressed the Inspection Team was with our pupils' behaviour and attitudes and how articulate they were in talking about their school and their learning. Thank you so much to those of you who completed the Parent Survey. Your comments are confidential and only seen by the Lead Inspector but she was able to share a few examples with me that were truly heartwarming and a great boost at the end of a stressful few days! Most importantly, I want to thank all the staff at the school for creating such a positive place to work and learn. I do not need an Ofsted Inspector to tell me this, but I hope that the final report reflects their immense dedication and commitment.

The Inspection came just as the DfE released key data about our school from last year's exam results. This shows that Bishop's performed in the top 20% of schools nationally for both progress and attainment across all key measures and pupil groups. Further analysis from the Fischer Family Trust (which analyses results from every school in the country) shows that on the key Progress 8 measure, Bishop's is in the top 10 schools in Hertfordshire (including selective schools) and the top 5% of schools in England. To achieve these

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



results whilst also placing such emphasis on the personal development of our pupils makes me very proud indeed!

Start of Spring term

The Spring Term starts on Tuesday 3rd January and we will have a normal school day for all. Some local schools do not start until later that week and 6th Form pupils should check which lessons are running if they have classes off site.

Enrichment - Spring term

I am pleased to say that we will continue with our enrichment programme next term. Please see the full schedule on our website. We strongly encourage all our pupils to join at least one activity or club each week. This is a great way to learn new skills, relax and meet new people so please speak to your child about which activities they could get involved with. You can see the Enrichment Schedule for next term on our website and here: [Bishop's Enrichment Spring 2023](#). You can see that there really is something for everyone!

House Competition

Here are the latest scores as we reach the end of the first term. House Austen has taken an early lead but there is a long way to go!

Austen	9925 House Points
Franklin	9269 House Points
Hadid	9301 House Points
Parr	9190 House Points
Seacole	8586 House Points

A special well done to the following pupils who have the highest number of points in their year group:

Year 7	Siena-Maria Musso-Hall 7Au
Year 8	Babara Idowu 8Au
Year 9	Polly Chambers 9Pa
Year 10	Libby Porter 10Au
Year 11	Marinela Covaci 11Au
Year 12	Esme Wallace 12Fr
Year 13	Harriet Tilsley 13Ha

Bad weather conditions

It is difficult to predict what will happen with our variable weather and we have been checking our communication systems to ensure that should there be any need for any further school closure over the winter, then processes are in place. My apologies to those parents who did not receive our first text message on Monday morning about our snow closure. This was a glitch in our system which we have now rectified so everyone should be getting messages in a timely fashion from now on. We will use our text messaging system to inform parents of any closure and also post information on the website and social media. Anything more detailed will be emailed by letter so please do check emails regularly.

I always do all I can to keep the school open in bad weather and to not interrupt teaching and learning if at all possible. I also understand concerns that parents and staff have regarding dangerous road conditions and will consider all the advice available before deciding whether to close the school or not. A significant degree of communication (including with all local schools) takes place behind the scenes and in the very early hours of the morning before any decision is made. However, sometimes decisions have to be made at short notice and, though inconvenient, this cannot be avoided. Where possible, work will be posted online using Google Classroom when a school closure takes place.

Free School Meals

I would encourage every parent and carer who thinks that their child might be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) to contact HCC to find out. There are significant advantages to receiving FSM in that once on the list, pupils may receive assistance in paying for school trips, qualify for a bursary to help towards their Sixth Form studies and then meet the criteria for a grant towards university education. Pupils receiving FSM may select any two menu items regardless of price, for instance a main meal and a dessert or fruit pot. All meals are processed using the thumb scanner which ensures that confidentiality is maintained. Further information can be found on [Free school meals | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Uniform

So that we can have a very positive start to the school year and focus immediately on teaching and learning, we would appreciate you taking the time to ensure that your child:

- has the full, correct school uniform with the skirt at the correct length
- has proper school shoes as laid out in the uniform guidelines
- has removed all nail varnish, gel nails, 'enhanced' eyelashes, coloured hair extensions etc that they will have enjoyed wearing over the holidays but which are not suitable for school
- is not wearing make-up
- complies with the rules regarding jewellery, that is only wearing a wrist watch and one pair of small gold or silver stud earrings, one on each ear lobe – no other piercings or jewellery are allowed
- nose studs are not permitted and the fact that the hole will 'close up' if a nose stud is removed is not an excuse
- **NO** smart watches are allowed

A reminder that any pupil with jewellery or items that are not permitted will have them confiscated until the end of term. Occasionally we have pupils asking to be allowed to wear items that have a special personal significance but this is even more of a reason not to wear them to school where they can get lost or damaged.

With your co-operation and support, this should all lead to a smooth start to the year; we are sure that you don't want a call from the school on the first day asking you to collect your child because they are breaking these basic rules.

Goodbyes

We are saying goodbye to three members of staff this term; Miss Burnham, Ms Miller and Mrs Johns. Miss Burnham has only been with us for a short period of time but I know that our pupils have enjoyed her PE lessons and benefited from her running teams and clubs after school. Ms Miller has worked with a number of our pupils to mentor them and support them at school and I know that they will want to thank her for her caring and compassionate approach. Mrs Johns started at Bishop's on our Schools Direct training programme in 2017 and rapidly demonstrated her enthusiasm and commitment to the school. Not only is she an excellent class and form teacher but she has also shown great leadership as Head of House Hadid and played a key role in developing our house system over recent years. We wish both of them the very best in the next stages of their careers.

Interested in Teaching?

Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School is a member of the Alban Federation partnership that works in the area to provide teacher training. Each year the Federation trains a large number of adults, either straight from University or as career changers, and places them in a host school for the year to enable them to complete their training and gain Qualified Teacher Status. All applications are submitted through UCAS (the University Admission System) and the application window is now open for courses starting in September 2023. Courses are available in both Primary and Secondary programmes, with salaries or bursaries available for suitably qualified candidates in some subjects.

If you (or someone you know) are interested in becoming a teacher and would like general advice or specific guidance as to how to apply, do visit their website here <https://albanfederation.com/> or please feel free to contact the Alban Federation team via email at afgtpenquiries@sandringham.herts.sch.uk or by phone on 01727 799560 Ext217.

Please send any comments or queries you may have regarding anything in this newsletter via our **admin@** email. I am not always able to respond to each individual comment, but can assure that I do always take the time to consider the points made and take action where appropriate.

Thank you once again for the messages of support and encouragement we receive. They are always welcome and it is lovely for staff to be appreciated, especially at the end of a long term! I wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and New Year with your families and look forward to an even more enjoyable and successful 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood
Headteacher



Heather Allen 7Se, Christmas Card design winner 2022