



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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July 2023

Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to congratulate everyone in the school community for the many successes and achievements over the past year. The last few weeks have seen the culmination of many of these great achievements with Sports Day, the Expressive Arts Showcase, the PE Awards Evening, the House Celebration and our Summer Cultural Celebration among the many things that demonstrate how enthusiastic our pupils are - and how dedicated our staff are to giving them so many opportunities to participate and enjoy themselves.

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 hardworking team.

House Competition

Once again, competition for the House Cup has been intense. I am very pleased to congratulate House Franklin on winning (again) this year and hope that they enjoyed their celebration afternoon on Wednesday. The final standings this year are:

Austen	25351 House Points
Franklin	26626 House Points
Hadid	26329 House Points
Parr	23333 House Points
Seacole	23565 House Points

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 academic year. A very impressive achievement!

"Pupils flourish and support each other to succeed"



Year 7	Siena-Maria Musso-Hall 7Au
Year 8	Babra Idowu 8Au
Year 9	Erin Wilcock 9Pa
Year 10	Libby Porter 10Au
Year 11	Jessie Foster 11Au
Year 12	Esme Wallace 12Fr
Year 13	Jo North 13Fr

Uniform

As we look forward to starting the new year please ensure that you have checked all the uniform rules on our website (see the *Uniform* page under *Parents*) [School Uniform – Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School](#) before making any new purchases for September. Please note in particular that branded socks with logos e.g those with a Nike 'swoosh' are not permitted. As your daughter grows you may well need to purchase a new skirt for them in order that they comply with our expectations. We have noticed recently that a number of the pupils are wearing skirts that are well above the knee. This is not in keeping with our Uniform Policy. Our older pupils in particular need to appreciate that they act as role models for younger pupils at Bishop's and therefore need to set a high standard in relation to uniform.

School shoes must be **plain black, with no colours or logos**. Canvas or 'Converse-style' shoes are not permitted in school. Pupils who arrive at school without the correct footwear will be given a pair of school plimsolls to wear for the day. We also 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 - this includes clear studs.**

Please note that hair should be of a **natural colour** only. Pupils who do not conform to this will be sent home and asked to dye it back. Eyelash extensions are not permitted and must be removed before pupils come to school.

Students infringing any of the above uniform rules/Sixth Form dress code, will be sent home to change so please do avoid the inconvenience of this. In addition, 'Friendship' bracelets appear to have become popular of late but these are not allowed in school and will be confiscated until the end of half term. If they cannot be removed then pupils will be asked to cut them off. Another recent trend is to tie a knot with an elastic band or hairband at the back of the school jumper. This is **not permitted** and pupils will be told to untie it. This also damages the jumper so parents/carers are advised to speak to their children about this before the start of the Autumn term.

We would like to make all parents and carers aware that in the Autumn term the senior leadership will have a renewed focus on uniform standards. This is something that both the SLT

and the staff at the school feel very strongly about. Please be aware that pupils will be issued with sanctions if they do not adhere to uniform rules. Pupils will learn more about this in form time early on in September.

It would be greatly appreciated if parents/carers would consider donating old or outgrown uniform that is in reasonable condition to our Nearly New supply in school. All donations are welcome. You can also email the school if you would like to purchase any of our second hand stock.

Communication with the school

Thank you to those parents/carers who have taken the time to send end of year 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.

The School Office will be closed for most of the summer holiday period. 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.

Social Media

We have had a number of incidents recently where parents have been embarrassed to discover that their child has social media accounts that they were not aware of. Unfortunately, at times their child has either created or posted comments that parents have been horrified to read. As we go into a long summer break it is likely that the amount of screen time may increase for some pupils and I would strongly encourage parents/carers to monitor their child's accounts. TikTok in particular has been the source of some inappropriate messages and posts. I should also remind you that anyone involved in posting malicious content about staff or pupils may be sanctioned by the school and where necessary reported to the police. We would hope that our pupils show the expected level of responsibility when they see inappropriate content online by reporting it to the social media company and deleting messages and blocking senders. They may require some support from parents/carers about this and should remember that by not taking action to report or block such content they are themselves complicit in encouraging it. Your first port of call if you discover anything that concerns you should be to report it to the social media company themselves and then to the police on 101 if you think a crime has been committed.

Fortunately the vast majority of social media posts are positive and I would encourage you to visit the school's own social media pages which are a great example of how it can be used to spread kindness and happiness.

Retirements and Leavers (and welcome backs)

Some of you may already be aware that we have welcomed Mr Goodall back to the school after his journey around the world. He rejoins the Maths & Computing Faculty as joint Subject Leader for Computing with Mr Webster.

We are saying goodbye to several staff this term. Mr Chan has only been with us since Easter but has been a huge asset to the Maths Faculty. We wish him the very best in his new school and hope to work with him again in the future. Mrs Elliott Brown is leaving the Learning Support Faculty and Mrs Armsby is leaving our Admin team. We wish them all the very best for the future and thank them for their support for both pupils and staff. Miss Payne is leaving us from the English Faculty and I know that her classes have enjoyed her enthusiastic approach and commitment. Miss Esterhuizen is leaving the Health Department for a post nearer to her home in Essex. Many pupils have benefitted from the sports teams and clubs that she has run over the last two years and will want to thank her for this and also for being a great Head of House Hadid. Finally, Mrs Chapman is leaving us to relocate to Yorkshire with her family. As an Art teacher and as Head of the Expressive Arts Faculty she has had a huge impact and inspired hundreds of pupils to develop their creativity. It is always sad to say goodbye to staff but we wish them all the very best.

You will know that recruitment and retention of school staff is a significant challenge nationally but I am pleased to say that we have been able to recruit exceptional and highly qualified new staff to join the Bishop's team for September. I know that our pupils will give them a warm welcome next term and I will write to you with some introductions when we return.

Start of Autumn Term

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

Friday 1st September	Staff Inset Day - no school for pupils
Monday 4th September	Year 7 Induction Day - 8.35 am - 3.00 pm 6th Form inductions Day - Year 13: 8.35 am - 12.20 (Senior Prefects 1.15pm) Year 12: 8.35 am - 2.30pm No school for all other year groups
Tuesday 5th September	6th Form & Year 7 Induction surgeries (for invited students only) No school for all year groups
Wednesday 6th September	Normal school day for all pupils: 8.35 am - 3.00 pm

Enrichments clubs will start from Monday 11th September and the schedule for next term is being sent out with this newsletter.

Open Evening & Term Dates

We will be holding our annual Open Evening for Year 6 pupils and parents on Thursday 21st September. Since this is early on in the term I thought I would give you advance warning that school will close at lunchtime on 21st September and that there will be a late start on Friday 22nd September. I will confirm this at the start of next term.

Term dates for next year are at the bottom of this newsletter.

Please look out for the school news bulletin in your in-boxes/on social media 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 break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Wood', is displayed on a light gray, textured rectangular background.

Mr Wood

Headteacher

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2023-24

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 & Tuesday 5th September: 6th Form & Year 7 induction only (details TBC)

Wednesday 6th September: Teaching for all years starts

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

INSET Day 4 – Friday 16th February (no pupil attendance)

SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15th April to Tuesday 23rd July 2024

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

INSET Days 5 & 6 – Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd July (no pupil attendance – disaggregated for staff)