



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 Website: www.bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk

BHGS is a company limited by guarantee Company number: 07831507 Charity number: EW01517



7th May 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is important that you are aware of the updated Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) guidance on the regulations for students' use of AI in assessments, coursework and NEAs. While AI might present many exciting opportunities for the future, it is in its early stages and the landscape is changing rapidly. JCQ have issued guidance so that students can be clear about the implications for them if they should misuse AI tools.

Misuse of AI means that a student has used AI to generate content and present that, or a paraphrasing of it, as their own.

Students often mistake AI as 'an assistant' and may believe that the content generated is in some way 'better' than their own words. In reality AI gathers information from the internet and will include fiction, made up facts, fake references, fake quotes and misinformation. It can sound sophisticated. The content and/or rewording of it is computer generated and therefore not the work of the student.

We are concerned that some students may feel that using AI generated content in essays or NEAs and coursework somehow improves their work, whereas in reality the student is de-skilling themselves. This means that by relying on the use of AI to 'assist' in developmental tasks such as practice questions or essays, the student will not be building the skills and gaining the experience they need to develop in order to answer highly challenging questions under exam conditions at the end of their course. This would mean that while they might not always be 'caught out' by the teacher, as AI tools are increasingly sophisticated, they are actually ruining their chances of being able to succeed in the exam and gain the grade they are capable of.

JCQ guidance is clear that the misuse of AI in assessed work of any kind, including coursework and NEAs, is considered cheating. Exam boards use software to detect content likely to have been generated through the use of AI, and if this is found to be the case a zero mark will be recorded. Their message is 'Don't risk it'. Please see the attached guidance for students, which has been published by JCQ. Pupils have had an assembly about these issues and I will be visiting classes to discuss this with students when NEAs and coursework is taking place. Posters in teaching rooms will also remind pupils of these requirements.

I would be grateful if you would discuss this with your child to make sure they understand the importance of developing their skills in the longer term, and the penalties for misuse of AI.

Best wishes

Mrs Langston
Assistant Headteacher - Assessment and Pupil Progress

"Pupils flourish and support each other to succeed"

