



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

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Dear Parents & Carers,

Bishop's #BEST - Building Educational Spaces for Tomorrow

I'm writing to tell you about some exciting developments we have underway under our new school improvement project, **Bishop's #BEST**. After a number of years of careful planning and preparation, the Governing Body has agreed to invest a substantial sum towards upgrading our facilities for the benefit of our current and future pupils.

New block

Our major #BEST development is to replace the existing portacabin (the Pupil Support Centre - PSC) with a larger sustainable modular building. This will add 4 classrooms to the space in addition to replacing the current PSC and pastoral hub. A planning application has been made and will soon be available to view on the Welwyn Hatfield planning portal REF: 6/2025/0191/MAJ. The planning team has already given us positive feedback on our pre-planning application.

Architect's illustration of the new block



Sixth Form zone

In addition to our new block, we propose to extend the Sixth Form area in the main building, creating a larger social and café space and relocating the sixth form study and office space to the same area. This will create an enhanced and attractive environment for our Sixth Formers.

"Pupils flourish and support each other to succeed"



Internal remodelling

The above projects will enable us to remodel some of our internal spaces to improve facilities for all pupils and staff. We are working to develop an additional large teaching space, appropriate for practical lessons such as Drama, and also to create a new, larger staff room better able to accommodate our growing staff body.

Broadband

In parallel with the above developments, we are also delighted to be upgrading our broadband line. Since we have moved to cloud-based technology, broadband traffic has increased and our current “pipeline” simply isn’t sufficient for school needs.

Catering

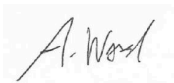
Our final development under Bishop’s #BEST relates to catering. After Easter we will be welcoming new caterers to take over our dining experience. We have reviewed a number of suppliers and are confident that the chosen company will transform the food offer with over 90% of the food being freshly prepared, minimising sale of processed items. The caterers will be rebranding our main service area and external pod, the Lunch Box. At the same time as the summer building works take place, the new caterers will install a new Sixth Form Café area with a high street style hot drink and snacks offer. This will be situated in the new Sixth Form zone.

We need your support!

We hope to have all these exciting new developments in place by the start of the new academic year in September 2025. As you can imagine, that is quite an undertaking for the school and we need all the help and support we can get. We have worked carefully over recent years to save sufficient funds to invest in the new facilities described above. However, our reserves are limited and in addition to the infrastructure work we will need to purchase all the furniture, accessories and equipment we will need for the new spaces. We know finances are tight for many of our families, but if each child at the school manages to raise just £25 over the next six months, that would put us close to our fundraising target of £25,000. We will be in touch again soon about how we plan to take this forward. In the meantime, if you are able to offer any support, such as employer £4£ matched fundraising, or ideas for how we can raise funds, then please contact the school office.

I am confident that these plans will greatly enhance the learning and working environment for all our community. We have now been in our school building for over 8 years and it still feels remarkably ‘new’. However, now is the moment to ensure that our buildings and facilities remain the best possible place for us all to achieve our potential and enjoy the journey.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A. Wood
Headteacher