

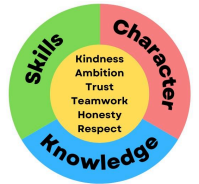


# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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18th July 2025

## Summer Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Whilst I am able to look back on the last academic year with a great deal of pride, I also feel a sense of sadness. Mrs Short and her family remain very much in our thoughts here at school and whilst the passage of time can ease the feelings of grief, we cannot help but think about the loss of such a precious colleague, friend, wife and mother. I know that many of our families have also experienced the loss of loved ones over the last year, as have a number of our staff, and I want to take this opportunity to send my best wishes to you all. School life inevitably has its ups and downs, emotional pressures and stresses. Difficult personal circumstances can make these things even harder to manage. It has given me great comfort in recent months to be regularly reminded of the deep kindness, care and empathy that is evident right across our school community and which goes such a long way to help us all to navigate our way through difficult times.

As ever, the end of the Summer Term has been a busy time for pupils and staff, with Sports Day, the Sports Awards Evening and the Expressive Arts Showcase all giving us a reminder of the fantastic opportunities that our pupils are able to take advantage of. The enrichment offer here at Bishop's continues to really set us apart and I want to thank all the staff involved for enabling these things to happen. It has been lovely to see so many pupils participating and so obviously getting huge enjoyment from these opportunities.

### House Competition

Once again, competition for the House Cup has been intense. I am very pleased to congratulate House Austen who ended with a fairly convincing victory this year and I hope that they enjoyed their afternoon celebration, even if they were a little dampened by the weather. The final standings this year are:

Austen	31345 House Points
Franklin	26019 House Points

*"Pupils flourish and support each other to succeed"*



Hadid	26790 House Points
Parr	27267 House Points
Seacole	23413 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.

Year 7	Catherine Moody 7Au
Year 8	Mia Ottewell 8Pa
Year 9	Millie Latimer-Nagar 9Au
Year 10	Blessing Adjei 10Au
Year 11	Aleshia Gray 11Au
Year 12	Penelope Dunn 12Pa
Year 13	Alice Hoxha 13Pa

I was delighted this year to invite those pupils who won the most House Points for their House to join me for afternoon tea and cake earlier this week. It was great to hear about all their achievements over the year - I don't think I've had a more dedicated and interesting group of people in my office all year! They were:

Austen	Millie Latimer-Nagar 9Au
Franklin	Anne Odunuga 9Fr
Hadid	Gracie De La Fuente 7Ha
Parr	Mia Ottewell 8Pa
Seacole	Victoria Sagbay 9S

### **Mobile phones/social media**

I want to say a special well done to all the pupils and staff who took part in our mobile phone 'detox' last week. As you know, children's access to smartphones and to social media apps has been very much in the news lately and I am aware of schools locally and nationally that are looking to implement greater smartphone restrictions on all of their pupils. This is something we will continue to review as a school and we are keen to hear the views of parents as well as pupils. Evidence of the potentially harmful impact of smartphone/social media seems to be growing and growing and I know that many parents are moving towards only providing their child with an old fashioned 'brick' style mobile phone that allows them to keep in contact without opening up the risks associated with access to the internet and social media.

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 carefully. 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.

It is worth reminding you that we already have a ban on phones during the school day. Pupils are allowed to bring a phone to school but it must be switched off and placed in their locker in the morning and then retrieved at the end of the school day. Any pupil found with a phone (on or off) during the school day will have it confiscated for two school days.

## **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. Sixth Form students should check this page [Sixth Form Dress Code](#) .

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 this and all things.

**School shoes** must be **plain black, with no colours or logos**. Canvas or 'Converse-style' shoes are not permitted in school. **We would also like to remind parents/carers that 'croc' style footwear is not acceptable footwear for school**. Please note in particular that branded socks with logos e.g those with a Nike 'swoosh' are not permitted. 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**.

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. We wrote to you earlier this year about a recent fashion for pupils to draw on their hands or legs. This is **not** permitted and detentions will be issued if pupils do this.

Students infringing any of the above uniform rules/Sixth Form dress code, may well be sent home to change so please do avoid the inconvenience of this.

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.

### **School equipment**

Can you help your child get organised for the start of the year in September by making sure that they have a pencil case with all the necessary equipment. We have published what they need on the 'Uniform and Equipment' section of our website. The checklist below should hopefully help you to source what your child needs.

#### **All subjects**

Black or blue writing pen  
(KS4 pupils should mainly work in black pen)  
Green pen  
HB Pencil  
Eraser  
Ruler (clear 15cm or 30cm)  
Glue stick  
Highlighter pens/pencils - various colours

#### **Maths & Science**

Protractor - 180° (semi-circle) or 360° (full circle) - also useful for Graphics  
Compasses  
CASIO FX-83GTCW Scientific calculator

#### **Optional extras**

Whiteboard pen  
Overlay strip

### **Attendance Update**

At Bishop's we continue to encourage all our pupils to attend school as much as possible to ensure that they can take full advantage of the many opportunities that the school provides for the personal development of pupils, as well as to ensure that our young people achieve their academic potential. The Department for Education recently updated the statutory requirements regarding morning and afternoon attendance marks. Please note that if a pupil arrives after 9.10 a.m. without a valid reason for lateness then they are marked as U- unauthorised lateness, which is the same as an unauthorised absence being recorded for the whole morning. Please could you also ensure that when you contact the school to report your child's absence that you provide a clear explanation for the absence. One word explanations such as 'unwell' make it difficult for the attendance team to code absences appropriately within DFE guidelines.

In addition there has been an update to the non-attendance Fixed Penalty system as part of the DfE's push to improve school attendance. The rules in relation to the granting of a leave of absence for a pupil e.g. family holidays during term-time have been tightened and I should remind you that we are not able to authorise absences to go on holiday.

### **Free School Meals**

We know that many families have suffered financial difficulties in recent times and encourage them to check their eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM). You can do this here [Free school meals](#). The funding is allocated to a pupil's Wisepay lunch account and so they simply use their thumb to pay for lunch, alongside everyone else. Even if this is only required for a short period of time it is still worth applying as this will trigger Pupil Premium funding to the school which can be used to subsidise things like school trips and visits, books and equipment and uniform. Please contact the school if you need help with an application.

### **Retirements and Leavers**

We are saying goodbye to several staff this term. Although Mr Haack, Miss Walliker, Mr Kul, Mr Chan and Miss Paine have only been with us for a short period of time I want to thank them for their contributions to Bishop's - they are all moving on to new roles and we wish them all well. Miss Mather is relocating 'up north' and Miss Rajdev is moving to a new post nearer to her home. They joined the school at the same time three years ago and I want to wish them the very best in their new jobs and thank them for all their hard work.

I want to give a special mention to Mrs Wilde who is leaving us having worked at the school for thirteen years. Mrs Wilde joined us as one of our first non-teaching Heads of Year, taking responsibility for Year 7. She was instrumental in laying the foundations for the system we have now, with five non-teaching Heads of Year. She later moved across to working in our Learning Support Faculty, utilising her many years of experience as a primary school teacher to support very many pupils to gain confidence and make progress. Mrs Wilde also set up our Young Carers programme and was again key in establishing what has become a benchmark for success, gaining national recognition through the Young Carers Award. I have persuaded Mrs Wilde on several occasions not to retire, but she has decided that she can no longer be persuaded and I want to thank her for the huge contribution she has made to the school over the years.

Recruitment and retention of school staff is a significant challenge nationally and especially in this area, 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 Autumn Term.

Monday 1st September	Staff Inset Day - <b>no school for pupils</b>
Tuesday 2nd September	Academy Day - <b>no school for pupils</b>
Wednesday 3rd September	<b>Year 7 Induction Day</b> - 8.35 am - 3.00 pm <b>6th Form Induction Day</b> - <b>Year 13:</b> 8.35 am - 12.20 (Senior Prefects 1.15pm) <b>Year 12:</b> 8.35 am - 2.30pm <b>No school for all other year groups</b>
Thursday 4th September	6th Form lessons start in all schools apart from OSA (start Monday 8th Sept). Year 7 Induction surgeries ( <b>for invited students only</b> ) <b>No school for all year groups apart from 6th Form</b>
Friday 5th September	<b>Normal school day for all pupils:</b> 8.35 am - 3.00 pm

### **Enrichment & Trips**

We have seen fantastic attendance at enrichment clubs this year. Thank you to all pupils who got involved and to the staff for running them! Looking ahead, we will be running an Enrichment Fair each day after school during the week of 8th September. This is a great chance for pupils to meet staff and current club members, find out more, and sign up. The full enrichment programme launches from 15th September (excluding Open Evening on the 18th). Full details will be shared and published on the website over the summer.

This year has seen a fantastic range of trips, thanks to the dedication of our staff, from cultural experiences to subject-specific visits, which have enriched learning beyond the classroom. Information about next year's trips and events, including approximate costs, will be shared with families in September.

### **Open Evening & Term Dates**

We will be holding our annual Open Evening for Year 6 pupils and parents on Thursday 18th September. Since this is early on in the term I thought I would give you advance warning that school will close at lunchtime on 18th September and that there will be a late start on Friday 19th September. I will confirm this at the start of next term.

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

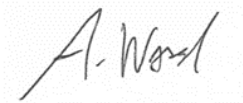
### **Communication with the school**

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.

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. I wish you and your families a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Wood', is placed over a light grey dotted rectangular background.

Mr Wood  
Headteacher

## **School Term and Holiday Dates 2025/2026**

### **AUTUMN TERM 2025**

***(Monday 1st September - Friday 19th December)***

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

*Monday 1st September - INSET Day to facilitate building move (no pupil attendance)*

*Tuesday 2nd September - Academy Day (no pupil attendance)*

*Wednesday 3rd September - Year 7 Induction & 6th Form Induction for Y12 & Y13 only*

*Thursday 4th September - Year 12 and 13 lessons start at all Consortium sites*

*Friday 5th September - Teaching for all years 7-13*

*INSET Day - Thursday 2nd October (no pupil attendance)*

*INSET Day - Friday 24th October (no pupil attendance - disaggregated for staff)*

*OCCASIONAL Day – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November (no pupil or staff attendance)*

### **SPRING TERM 2026**

***(Monday 5th January to Friday 27th March 2026)***

Half-Term: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20th February

### **SUMMER TERM 2026**

***(Monday 13th April to Tuesday 21st July 2026)***

Half-Term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29th May

*INSET Days – Wednesday 10th June (no pupil attendance)*

*Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st July (no pupil attendance - disaggregated for staff)*