

The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School

Known Nurtured Inspired

Headteacher: Ian Wilson BA PGCE MA NPQH



23rd October 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

As we approach the end of the first half term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. Feedback from recent parent's evenings and the comments to individual staff are often - *Thank you for all the hard work that you teachers carry out & thank you for keeping our children safe in school at this strange time.* Colleagues appreciate this encouraging start to a unique academic year. With students and staff adapting to new routines, we are well placed to move forward through the Autumn, fully aware that challenges will continue to grow.

We have successfully limited the impact from COVID as a school, and that is thanks to our school community looking out for each other. There have been practical changes to keep bubbles separate and it is not possible for all years to use their usual spaces, chairs, and recreational areas for cleaning reasons. This half term we have purchased and used: 490 litres of hand sanitiser, 3000 disposable masks and 948 pairs of gloves for our cleaning team and first aiders. This term Bishops' has benefitted from additional cleaners, machinery, and disinfectants above the usual early morning/evening cleaning – 710 additional cleaning hours and counting – all aiming to keep our community safe.

Everyone's hard work has allowed education to continue and we hope to be well placed when students return on November 2nd. The national picture is constantly changing, parents and carers whose children live in Wales or in a Tier 3 area may be relieved to know that their children are still expected to attend. If your child is unwell and unable to attend school please email attendance@bishopschester.co.uk. If the absence is COVID related, please let our attendance team know. To find out more about cold, flu and COVID symptoms and what to do if you or someone in your household is positive click this link: <https://bishopschester.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Bishops-COVID-check-list.pdf>

Winter planning

This Sunday the clocks will go back an hour. As the days grow shorter please can I remind students to wear reflective items when travelling. We will continue to ventilate classrooms and are required to keep windows open to provide background ventilation and opened more fully during break and lunchtime. Students are asked wear layers underneath their shirts and blazers to remain warm.

School Transport

Thank you to all invited parents/carers who completed our survey on the S5 bus. 90% of parents who took part supported the idea of a seating plan with the majority opting for year groups to be allocated seats together. We will implement the findings from November 2nd and work with the local bus companies to identify a safe seating plan for the S5 route. These plans will separate year groups, and once again can I ask those travelling by car to pick up/drop off outside the school carpark unless collecting students who are disabled and require assistance.

Please be courteous. Drivers: do not block driveways, leave engines running or exceed 20mph. Students: follow Bishops' Expected Standards, respect members of the public by keeping to the 2-metre rule, wear a mask and continue to be an excellent example for the wider community.

Bubbles

As the weather begins to turn, students continue to access their indoor spaces during break and lunch time this includes their designated building. The carpeted, cleaned, electrically lit and separate marquees add to building space temporarily. As we have embedded safe school routines, we are able to offer a hot food option to Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 in a COVID secure way in November.

Examinations

All years have access to electronic work through Tassomai, MyMaths and Satchel 1 Apps. Some groups will be preparing for examinations in the term ahead. The Year 10 PPE (Pre Public Examination) for RS is scheduled for Thurs 26th and the Year 11 PPEs begin 1st December. The position the Government has taken is that certain exams will have content reduced a little and summer exams will be three weeks later than usual to allow additional study time. If you would like to read more please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/students-to-be-given-more-time-to-prepare-for-2021-exams>

Finally, please find attached information which I have been asked to circulate by Cheshire West Local Authority and I would like to commend the poem below – written by a year 7 Bishops' student this summer. I hope you stay safe and well over the half term break.

Yours Sincerely,



Ian Wilson
Headteacher

Hope,

This is a poem about what hope means to me,
It's like a ray of sunshine on a stormy sea,
Hope is like a beacon of light guiding you through a gloomy cave,
Hope is like having someone to lean on, something that will save.
Hope is something that will help you through the good times and the bad,
It can bring a smile onto your face even when you're down or sad,
Hope is having trust in something even when it doesn't appear,
And always having faith no matter what you fear.
You must never let hope escape from you,
If you have hope, let your real you shine through,
Remember, with hope you can believe,
Don't let anyone tell you that you can't achieve.