

The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School

Known Nurtured Inspired

Headteacher: Ian Wilson BA PGCE MA NPQH



30th November 2020

Dear parent/carer,

As we enter December, Year 11 have shown a tremendous attitude and ability to keep their eyes on the prize of next July. Any national feelings of frustration, unfairness and impatience over the last term will now be turning to expectancy and quiet confidence – practice examinations give the opportunity to show what can be achieved. These last few weeks of 2020 will be a time of waiting; for results, for vaccine news and knowing that the end is in sight: an Advent time.

Cheshire West:

At the end of the English national lockdown, Bishops' will be in a tier 2 area where the Local Authority is keen for the whole community to play their part and stop the spread of the virus. At the time of writing, Cheshire West's COVID-19 infection rate is the highest in the Cheshire and Merseyside area. We can all play our part by following these simple measures.

- Wash your hands frequently
- Wear a face covering
- Make space by keeping a two-metre distance from others
- Get a test if you have COVID-19 symptoms by calling 119 or visiting [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus).

Stay safe when travelling to and from school:

<https://vimeo.com/user22784367/review/468528349/13e09038bc>

Face coverings on school and public transport:

<https://vimeo.com/user22784367/review/470550476/e0f6c54c3e>

Examinations:

In welcoming back Year 11 students, with all the uncertainty and change in the world, we must take advantage of the things we can control. Help your child come prepared, with a pen and any other equipment they have been advised they will need (a calculator for Maths and science is needed for the majority of papers). Students must not bring a mobile phone or smart watch into the exam room. This is an excellent opportunity to get used to the exams process and please read the attached national regulations. Above all, be calm and help your child be focussed.

Art students are completing a practical project in lesson and PPE time to be completed by the Christmas holidays. The equipment needed is in school and to catch-up from the last two weeks there will be further Art time in the last week of term.

Charitable donations received:

Good news – Bishops' has received two donations in the last week. The trustees of Chester Blue Coat CofE Educational Foundation, who are the trustees of Bishops' (and Hoole CE Primary & Chester Blue Coat Primary) have donated £2000 to each school. This will be used for IT equipment. The proprietor of HANDiBAC has donated a number of face coverings and ant-viral cleaning products – such support from our community is a great morale boost any further knowledge/support in the field of Infra-red heating would be gratefully received.

Sixth Form:

Congratulations to our newly elected leadership team. In wider Sixth Form news, three students have been selected for interview at the University of Cambridge with University of Oxford applicants waiting to hear their dates. Interview preparations continue with our members of staff who attended Oxbridge.



What to do if...testing and results

Thankfully a further two weeks without any cases has passed and on Tuesday all our year groups will be at school. Our web page for Covid-19 contains a "What to do if..." page (which is also attached). Learning from recent events, I would like to highlight the second-row request to parents involved in national testing and research programmes.

If you are administering a test to your child, please wait for the test result before returning the tested child to school. Email attendance@bishopschester.co.uk with the information that you are waiting for a test result. I certainly understand that vaccine development and accurate regional decision-making needs volunteers and trials but hope that the need to contact trace in school will be limited.

Friday 11th December:

On the 11th, Bishops' will be marking Save the Children's national Christmas Jumper day. Years 7-11 are invited to support this worthy cause, helping children to get the shelter, food and medicine during the most difficult of years. With a donation of £2, non-uniform items in Christmas colours of red, green and gold may be worn. In this era of "fast fashion" please do not buy extra clothing but wear the theme!

Comfort
and Joy



Advent is traditionally a four-week period before Christmas, but this year we've already been in Advent for nine months – because Advent is when you believe in a reality you can't yet see. Created by the National Church of England, this year's Christmas campaign, called '[Comfort and Joy](#)' aims to bring some festive cheer to people and churches everywhere. In Advent and for Year 11, the future is always bigger than the past!

With best wishes,

Ian Wilson

Headteacher