

The Bishops' Blue Coat Church of England High School

Known Nurtured Inspired

Headteacher: Ian Wilson BA PGCE MA NPQH



Dear Parent/Carer,

13th May 2021

I hope you are all well and with a little over two weeks left in May, time is flying along for Year 10. In the New Testament, the Bible uses two main Greek words when speaking about “time”. The first is *chronos*, from which we get the word *chronological*, referring to “the passage of time”. This is time that we can measure. The second word is *Kairos*, meaning time in the sense of a right time for something to happen, an “opportunity” or a “favourable occasion”.

The Prime Minister announced earlier this week the first easing of Coronavirus measures for schools. This marks the end of a difficult passage of time where restrictions for schools became ever tighter, making educating and caring for our young people ever more difficult. However, schools are now permitted from the 17th May to relax the wearing of face coverings. At Bishops’ the wearing of face coverings from Monday will become optional in school but is still required for public transport. I feel the optional approach will support our school community to overcome any anxiety and be ready for the weeks and changes to come.

This half term is a busy one for year 10 and their RS teachers with evidence and assessments being gathered. A guide to the processes this summer has been updated for [students](#) and colleagues are working carefully through the requirements. Students are also completing progress checks across the range of subjects examined next year and the students have been a credit to you in their focus, attention and resilience.

Please can I also share that this week two national campaigns coincide, and both make reference to the future. More information on mental health awareness is available by [visiting the Mental Health Foundation website](#). For [Christian Aid Week](#), parishes across the country are asking for your support to work with some of the world’s most vulnerable communities who are fighting the climate crisis.



Now returning to evidence and assessment for RS this summer: Religious Studies will be sharing with students the overview of the evidence which is going to be used as the basis of the teacher assessed grade. When we explain, ask for signatures and compile the paperwork we will build into our processes consideration of the students who may not have been able to access some of those assessments through no fault of their own. As a further safeguard, if you believe there are mitigating circumstances which we are not aware of, that have affected your **child's ability to access Religious Studies**, please [follow this link to further information and how to tell us](#). The deadline for informing us is **19th May '21**.

Whilst the link explains the process in detail, to summarise, JCQ outline mitigating circumstances as:

"event[s] outside of the student's control [which] may have affected their performance in assessments which will be used to determine a grade ... Special consideration cannot be applied due to lost teaching and learning. This can be addressed through the flexibility of the range of evidence centres may use to determine students' grades. Students should only be assessed on the content of the specification covered.

Centres must be satisfied that the issue or event has had, or is reasonably likely to have had, a material effect on a student's ability to demonstrate his or her normal level of attainment in an assessment." (JCQ Guidance, determination of grades for A/AS Levels and GCSEs for Summer 2021)

I know there will be further messages this year as regulations and processes in school change. The New Testament Greek - Kairos, meaning time in the sense of a right time for something to happen, an "opportunity" or a "favourable occasion" is a good one for mid-May 2021 and I would like to thank you for all the support you have provided to our school community in recent months. Perhaps as a parent we don't hear [words of thanks](#) from our teens too often... younger children are better at saying this but the older ones think it too! With best wishes,



Mr I Wilson
Headteacher

The Bishops' school prayer

Heavenly Father,

The source of all knowledge and truth,
We thank you for our school community,
For friendship and the ability to learn.

Please guide us in our study and leisure.

Teach us to value each other and to be sensitive to
each other's needs.

Watch over us as we grow in wisdom
And enable us to forgive as we are forgiven.

Support us through good times and bad, and help us
to serve you in out service to others.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.