



Dear parent/carers

I hope you and your families have had a restful Easter break. The Easter message of hope and *walking together* were central to the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon. As we embark on Term 3, his message resonated with me, particularly in connection with students embarking on public examinations. I hope they are reminded of God's love at this time, and how they can draw strength from strong supportive relationships, and a knowledge that they are *walking and working together* with staff, parents, and each other.

Over the Easter period some students enjoyed trips abroad to the Amalfi Coast, Italy and Granada, Spain. Staff and students had a wonderful time experiencing different languages, culture, and cuisine. Our students were such positive ambassadors for Bishops' and it's been great to talk to hear how enriching these visits have been.



Many of our Year 11 students have also embraced opportunities to boost their grades by attending 'Easter school'. It was great to wander around school and see such commitment from those attending and the sense of pride in their efforts. I am grateful to staff who have supported these valuable learning experiences throughout the holiday period.

This term we welcome some new members of staff to our school community:



**Miss
Brickhill**

Geography



**Miss
Chase**

Cover
Support



**Mrs
Partington**

Receptionist



**Miss
Cunningham**

Cover
Supervisor

Goodbye Mrs Bryant

I also wanted to pay testament to the service of Mrs Bryant who has made the difficult decision to retire due to ill health. Mrs Bryant has served our school community for 13 years, as a receptionist, pastoral support officer and more recently as a School Governor on the Students Committee. We will miss Mrs Bryant's endless energy, infectious smile and compassionate approach to pastoral support and are thankful for her commitment to Bishops'.



Student Feedback and Lunch Time arrangements

Last term we gathered student voice on Term 2 changes to the school day. I have joined Celebration assemblies this week to share feedback and some changes summer lunchtime arrangements. From Monday 24th April students will be able to access the field, amphitheatre seating and the outdoor gym during lunchtime. They will also be able to play ball games in the tennis courts.

Welcome to our School Pastor team

Students will also have noticed our school pastor staff out and about during lunchtime. The school pastor project is a partnership with CSCW. Members of the team will be talking to students, engaging with them, and offering a calming presence. They will also continue to lead extra-curricular activities from the Prayer Space.



BEST updates - Uniform

Pride in our efforts is one of our expected standards. The beginning of term is a good opportunity to remind students about pride in uniform and being equipped and ready to learn. We expect our uniform to reflect the high personal standards that we hold as a school community. It is important for all students to have the right clothing and to wear it correctly. School shoes should be all black, polishable, plain, smart. Boots, trainer-style, fabric or fashion shoes are not permitted. The only permitted jewellery is a maximum of one plain, silver or gold stud earring to be worn on each earlobe only. SMART watches that act as electronic devices must never be worn. Hoodies/non-uniform items are also not permitted. Further guidance about our uniform can be found here: <https://bishopschester.co.uk/years-7-11/uniform/> . Tutors will be reinforcing these messages throughout form times next week.

Industrial action Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May

As you will be aware, teacher members in the National Education Union (NEU) have voted to take industrial action on **Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May**. As previously, we have examined arrangements to ensure the safety of both students and staff during the planned strike days. A large proportion of the teachers at Bishops' belong to this union and therefore we are seriously affected.

On Thursday 27th April school will be closed for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10, other than to students in those year groups who have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and/or a Social Worker. Students in Year 11, 12 and 13 are expected to attend school and continue their examination preparation in their timetabled lessons.

On Tuesday 2nd May school will be closed for Years 7,8 and 9 with similar arrangements to the previous strike days for students who have an EHCP and/or Social Worker. Students in Year 11,12 and 13 will be expected to attend school. As Year 10 students are undertaking their Religious Studies examinations this year, we are looking to provide a morning session for this year group. This will involve Year 10 students attending from 8.45am - until 12.05pm. Year 10 students attending will not follow their normal timetable. They will focus on Religious Studies exam preparations. To help explore staffing for this session, I would be grateful if parents of Year 10 would like their child to attend to complete the details in this form: [Expression of Interest – Year 10 Exam Support Morning](#)

Students attending school as normal will follow their usual timetables. If their teacher is not present to run a session on that day, they will be safely supervised and complete centrally set or electronic work to support their revision for upcoming examinations. Our aim is to teach the planned curriculum as closely as possible. Normal attendance procedures apply for students expected in school, please email attendance@bishopschester.co.uk if your child is unable to attend school.

Students not attending school on Strike days

For those students not in school, they should follow their school timetable in the following ways.

- Complete work provided in their Satchel One account; homework, revision etc.
- National extension work and wider interest topics are available on Oak Academy <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage>

Students who regularly receive Free School Meals will be receiving a voucher.

Eid Mubarak

Many Muslims across the world will mark the end of Ramadan today to celebrate Eid al-Fitr. Wishing all celebrating in our community, a wonderful and peaceful Eid.



Have a restful weekend,

Kind Regards,



Helen Cairns
Headteacher