



THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr T Williams

24th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see all our students back in school for a few weeks following a well-deserved Christmas break. Students have settled back into school routines, and it has been pleasing to see them fully focused on their learning in lessons.

Although the event feels to have taken place quite some time ago, I wanted to share how much I enjoyed our Christmas Carol Concert at the Cathedral back in December. A wonderful venue in which many students were able to share their gifts and talents.

Already this term colleagues have shared with me and the rest of the staff at school the wide range of extra-curricular clubs, fixtures and events students have participated in. Please do encourage your child to look at the extra-curricular schedule for this term on the school website so that they can fully participate in the wide range of activities on offer.

Whilst making contact I would like to share a few updates and reminders for the weeks ahead:

- New catering across the school

A new company, Innovate, took over our catering provision across the school site on the 6th of January. Both the Conservatory and Deli have a fresh new look, the conservatory a new layout. Students and staff alike have been impressed with the quality and range of food available from Innovate. Further investment in the catering facilities and a close working relationship with Innovate will ensure students have ongoing access to high quality food and snacks during the day. Please do contact us if you have any questions or queries linked to the new service.

- Year 9 Options

Mr. Collingbourne and colleagues led a supportive and informative options evening earlier this week. It is important that students access all the information available in the options booklet, on the school website and in their lessons from teachers so that they make informed decisions over the coming weeks. If you or your child has any questions about the process, please do contact us.

Always Faithful with Christ

- Matilda school production

A reminder that our school production of 'Matilda Jr. - The Musical' is scheduled to take place each evening from Wednesday 5th - Saturday 8th Feb 2025. Tickets are available via the link on the school website, also shared below. We look forward to seeing many of you in the audience enjoying the performance.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-bishop-of-herefords-bluecoat-school>

- Year 11 revision, mock and exam preparation

Year 11 students are now in their final full term at Bishop's, they are working hard finishing the last few topics of each course, their NEA, and are preparing hard for a final round of mocks prior to the summer GCSE exam window.

Please look out for some particularly important communication from Mrs. Bunston and Ms. Loban linked to revision, mocks and final examinations.

- Lost property

From this term a new process will be in place across the school for lost property items. I am afraid our site restrictions mean we are unable to hold onto lost property items indefinitely. Any items found across the site, which cannot be easily identified and returned to their owner (clearly marked with a name), will be securely stored until the end of the half term. Items that have not been claimed by their owner via the main school reception or student services will be sorted and recycled or passed to a local charity.

- Charity 'Wear what you like day'

We will be holding a charity non uniform 'wear what you like day' on Friday 14th February. Students will need to donate to participate, and funds raised will go to House Charities. Although we are encouraging students to wear what they like, clothing must still be appropriate for a school setting. Students must also remember to bring any items that are usually in their blazers, such as locker keys. A reminder regarding expectations and how students can donate to participate will be shared nearer the time.

- February Half Term

The spring half term break is from Monday 17th to Friday 21st February. Students return to school on Monday 24th February.

- School council message: traffic near and on the school site

At a recent school council meeting students raised safety concerns regarding the traffic outside of the school at the start and end of the day, plus the number of vehicles coming into the school site and through the bus drop-off and staff car park area. We are a busy school site and the local

roads surrounding Bishop's, and our primary neighbours get very congested. Where possible please drop off and collect students a short distance, 3 or 4 minute walk, away from the main entrance to the school. This will help ensure that the school site, entrance, and surrounding roads are safer for our students and local community.

Finally, a thank you for your ongoing support helping to ensure our students arrive punctually, have good attendance and demonstrate excellent behaviour. These factors ensure students learn well and make good progress.

I look forward to seeing you at a school event soon.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T Williams', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Mr T Williams
Headteacher