



## THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr T Williams

21<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are nearly at the end of a busy first autumn term, one that has been full of various events and activities. As always it has been a pleasure hearing about the success of many of our students, your children, in our weekly staff briefing.

### **Attendance to school**

Many schools in the local area are working hard with the local authority to improve children's school attendance levels. Some guidance and support information linked to school attendance is available on the following webpages - [School attendance and absences information for parents and carers – Herefordshire Council](#). As a school we expect students to attend school every day, our ambition for every child is 100% attendance, we consider good attendance to be above 96%. You will be aware that we communicate regularly with you with regards to your child's attendance, some of our new messages will include summaries of how many subject specific lessons may have been missed this academic year if attendance is below our expectation, they may also share targets on how improvements in attendance levels can move a child out of a category of concern. The table below summarises how attendance levels that are below expectation accumulate over the course of an academic year and secondary school placement. Good attendance to school helps students make excellent progress, ensures they have access to extracurricular activities and provides opportunities for peer socialisation.

	Impact over 1 school year	Impact over 5 school years
100% Attendance	0 days missed	0 days missed
95% Attendance	9 days of absence 1 Week and 4 Days of learning lost	¼ year learning lost
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of learning lost	½ year learning lost
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of learning lost	¾ year learning lost
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of learning lost	1 year learning lost
75% Attendance	47 Days of Absence 9 weeks and 1 day of learning lost	1 ¼ years learning lost

Our school attendance policy is available on our school website:

<https://tinyurl.com/yrr2fjef>

If you have any questions, queries or concerns with regards to school attendance please do contact the school for support.

*Always Faithful with Christ*

### **School clubs and events**

This term has seen many students participate in extracurricular clubs, tournaments and events such as the Your Impact day for Year 10. Students have relished the opportunity to represent the school during fixtures and art events. It has also been pleasing for staff to see so many of our Year 11 students attending revision sessions after school each day in preparation for their mock examinations scheduled for mid – late November.

A huge thanks must go to the students, many prefects, that promoted the school during our open evening and open mornings. Many guests took time after their visits to contact us and praise the students, your children, that showed them around the school's facilities and explain the opportunities on offer at Bishop's.

Charity events over the course of the term, such as the Year 7 Disco and Autumn Fayre, have been well supported and the donations made by the community for our Food Bank contribution on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October were fabulous. It has been a privilege to join students to present donations to numerous charities such as St Michaels Hospice, Air Ambulance and Cancer research over the past weeks.

### **Access to the school site**

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for continuing to support the school by refraining from driving onto the school site and thus ensuring it is safe at the start and end of the day; and for sharing key safety messages for students that cycle to and from school. Some community members have requested sharing of a plea message for drivers to avoid 'bumping' up kerbs in cars onto pavements near our school site and St Paul's Primary, it does narrow the pavement access for students and community members in the local area.

### **Student engagement in lessons**

Over the course of the term, it has been pleasing to see our students so focused and engaged in their lessons across the school. This positive atmosphere is significantly enhanced when students come prepared with the correct books and equipment. This simple act of preparation makes a substantial difference, enabling a seamless start to learning and allowing our teachers to move straight into productive, uninterrupted teaching. This engagement and preparedness are key indicators of the excellent learning culture we are fostering together.

### **Year 7 Student Transition - Parents & Carers Survey**

Similar to last year, we have generated a survey for the parents and carers of our new Year 7 students, the link was shared in a separate correspondence sent last week. We would be grateful if Year 7 parents and carers could complete this survey so that we can evaluate and adapt our support for students transitioning to Bishop's over the summer and into September 2026.

To conclude I would just like to share a few reminders regarding events and key dates over the coming weeks.

- **End of term – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October** – school closes for the half term break for students at the end of the day – 15:20.
- Inset Day – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – school closed to students for the day due to staff training.
- Start of term – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – start of term - school re-opens for students at 08:30 for a 08:45 start.

I hope you and your family have a restful half term break.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr T Williams  
Headteacher