



THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

Hampton Dene Road, Tupsley, Hereford HR1 1UU

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Headteacher: Mr Martin Henton

MNH/AHW
21st June 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we were not able to hold a Year 11 Leavers Prom this year, we were able to celebrate with our Year 11 students with a leavers party on the Friday 28th May. I am pleased to say that this was a great success, with both students and staff having a great time to conclude their five years at Bishops.

With the relaxed Covid restrictions we currently have, I am writing to you with our plans for this half term and some future planning, looking ahead to September.

We are planning to run as many events as possible this term within the Covid guidelines. Where necessary, this may involve some alternative approaches.

We are busy planning to run sports day this year, which will enable students to compete in Houses. To maintain year group bubbles, students will complete in their year groups as an alternative to a whole school event as we have done in previous years.

We are planning to change induction day for year 6 students given the new government guidance. In addition, we are also planning a summer school during the summer break to support this important transition for new students. We are pleased to be organising the summer school event with 'All Stars Activities', which is a local company run by Matt Ashcroft a Bishop's alumni.

As outdoor spaces have become more important at both morning and lunch breaks during our experience of the pandemic, we are significantly investing in building permanent dedicated cover structures in our outside spaces. We are planning for a covered space for each year group, this has been welcomed by students through the student council. Installation of the covered spaces will start in the summer break and completed in the autumn term. I would like to thank our PSFA for contributing £3000 towards this work. We have also invested in outdoor tennis tables for students to use at breaks following a recent fund- raising project by our PSFA.

Always Faithful with Christ

Looking ahead to September, we will be keeping aspects of the organisation of the school day that we have implemented as a result of Covid pandemic. These will include:

- Morning registration will continue to be completed in lesson one. This has reduced the movement around school first thing in the morning and made for a prompter start to learning at the beginning of the day.
- Morning and afternoon breaks will continue as split breaks so that we have fewer students out at any one time. Students have benefitted from this by having more space to themselves at breaks and reducing the queuing for food in the school cafeterias.
- The year group bubble model will continue to be organised at the beginning of the day before students start lessons and at breaks. This is something that students have asked to keep through the student council.
- Maintaining the cleaning provision during the school day to minimise further risk of Covid transmission.

In addition, we have also been working with students through the student council and staff to review how the school day can be further adapted to support and improve learning. The changes will not affect the amount of learning time in lessons that students have as this is statutory and set by the Department for Education (DfE), the review has been focused on how the day is structured.

The changes that have resulted from the review include:

- Reducing the length of lunchtime to twenty-five minutes. Many students feel that the current length of lunchtime is too long, this is particularly felt at times of inclement weather. The first break is increasing in length by five minutes.
- The time from shortening the later break and form time, will reduce the time when we finish school at the end of the day from 3.20pm to 3.00pm.

Shortening the afternoon break will not affect our extra-curricular provision. Some curriculum teams will still run clubs before school and during one of the two breaks during the day. Extra-curricular provision after school will still continue, with the added benefit for sport in the winter months of being able to utilise more hours of daylight. The student council also strongly felt that an earlier finish would have improved safety benefits when walking or cycling home in the winter months. The earlier finish to the day will also reduce the traffic congestion on Hampton Dene Road when St. Paul's and Hampton Dene Primary Schools finish.

If you have any views or comments on the points raised in this letter, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please send them to head@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin Henton." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Martin Henton
Headteacher