



THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

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MNH/AHW
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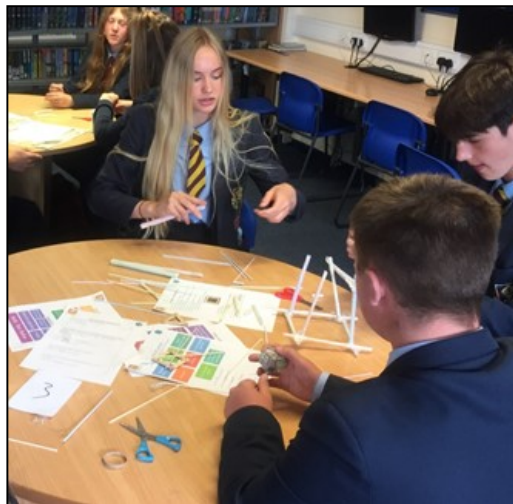
Dear Parents and carers,

We would normally write to you with a bumper edition of Term Times to update you with everything that has been happening this term. With the recent demands on school of managing the impact of recent increased COVID cases on both students and staff, it hasn't been possible to collate this volume of information.

Our test and trace system will end on Thursday 22nd July at 1pm so until that time please notify us of any cases by emailing head@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk

As you will know by now, in the last couple of weeks we have received an Ofsted Section 8 Monitoring inspection on Wednesday the 8th of July, which was very positive, this then led the Ofsted inspectors to re-visit us for a full Section 5 inspection, which was completed on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday the 14th July. We will look forward to sharing the inspection report with you when it is released, with such short time now until we break up for the summer, we are anticipating that this will be in September.

As we approached the end of the school year, we planned for a range of enrichment activities to develop team building activities for students and also importantly to have some fun. We felt that this was really important after the impact of the pandemic this year on students.



Always Faithful with Christ

In addition, our year 10 students recently worked with NMITE, the New Model Institute of Technology and Engineering on a project based on forces and engineering to encourage students to think about why everyday structures are designed for their function. Initial work was focused on familiarising students with how 3D geometrical structures spread the load of a supported object. Students then applied what they had learnt to a challenge to build a model bridge to support a maximum load using spaghetti, with the prize going to the team whose bridge supported 3kg. In follow up lessons, students explored potential career paths in Engineering with NMITE by achieving a Master of Engineering degree (MEng) which has many benefits compared to traditional universities including; lower yearly fees, no exams and a shorter length of degree. Bishops are looking forward to working with NMITE again.

In Maths, I recently had the pleasure of awarding certificates to students who made great progress in the UK Junior Maths Challenge. These included Gold certificates, maths flashes and a maths 'pi' tie for David Johnson and Beatrice Judge.

In Languages, Bishops was the top school in the German Fantasy Football with Grace Griffiths and her team selection – Well done Grace! Some of the year 10 students in Languages also took part in a Sweet Marketing event recently, where teams from the 3 different languages competed to produce a marketing campaign for Jelly Babies, aiming for the German, French or Spanish markets.

After such another busy and unpredictable year, students and staff have overcome the barriers that COVID has presented and made great progress despite the many challenges we have been presented with and remained remarkably positive.

Thank you for your understanding and patience with all the guidelines we have had to follow in school this year. Our usual policies and procedures will apply until the end of term, despite the expected change to rules on the 19th because our term ends on the 20th it will be simpler to keep with the current regulations on the last day of term. This information assumes that the government will reach stage four of the road map and that there will not be further updates to the guidance. At this time the information I am able to share with you is as follows.

On our return in September, we are planning to ensure that students return safely and that COVID transmission is minimal. From September there will be no requirement to keep children in their year group bubbles. Students have stated a preference for keeping their year group toilets and a distinct area for their year group at both breaks, there will though be communal zones, for example the table tennis tables, so that all students have access to these. We will also be installing more covered spaces over the Summer holiday so that students have access to more dry areas outside to eat and socialise.

Face coverings will no longer be required in school. However, anybody who chooses to wear a face covering at any point, may do so. We will continue to use hand sanitiser on entry to classrooms.

Schools will no longer be required to undertake contact tracing; this will now become the responsibility of the NHS. Students and staff will only be required to self-isolate if they individually test positive for COVID; there will no longer be a requirement to send groups of student's home, only single positive case cases. Any individual who is contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive case, will be advised to take a PCR test. If that test is negative, they can return to school immediately as long as they do not have symptoms. The result of the PCR test will override any results provided by lateral flow tests. As before, nobody should enter the school site if they have COVID symptoms. A positive lateral flow test at home means you get a PCR test to check it. Please see the attached link from the Department of Education explaining these changes:

<https://www.irisreach.cloud/schoolemails/162643101046298731317903/DFEGuidanceforparentsJuly2021.docx.docx>

Asymptomatic testing will remain key to the government's strategy. Students are not expected to twice weekly test over the Summer holiday, although if you wish to, these can be obtained from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> However, we will ask students to complete an 'at home test' before returning to the school site in September. We are returning all students to school on Monday 6th September. Once back at school in September, staff and students will be expected to continue testing twice weekly using the 'at home' test kits as we have been doing now. It is essential that you test before returning to our site in September and kits will be issued to facilitate this.

Once again, the government have asked us to set up a mass testing facility to carry out LFD tests for every student on their return to the site in September. This will be over 2000 tests as all pupils with consent will be tested twice, within 3 to 5 days, on their return.

As part of our return to school we have been asked to COVID test all students with consent on site again. Students should be brought to school for their test on the following dates and times. Students will enter the site and go through the blue side gates to the sports hall. They will only be on site for a short amount of time for the test and then will leave the site. Please do not park on the school site. If the test is positive we will let you know and your child will need to obtain a PCR test. Students will be tested again during the first week of school.

Year 7 will be tested on site as part of the Summer school on Thursday morning 2nd September.

Year 8 should arrive at the following times on Thursday 2nd September ALW 9.30am
ARW 10.30am, CLW 11.30am, CRW 12.30pm, LLW 1.30pm, LRW 2.30pm, SLW
3.00pm and SRW 3.30pm

Year 9 should arrive at the following times on Friday 3rd September

ALV 8.00am, ARV 8.30am, CLV 9.00am, CRV 09. 30am, LLV 10am, LRV 10.30am, SLV 11.00am and SRV 11.30am

Year 10 should arrive at the following times on Friday 3rd September

ALU 12pm, ARU 12.30pm, CLU 1pm, CRU 1.30pm, LLU 2pm, LRU 2.30pm, SLU 3pm and SRU 3.30pm

Year 11 students will be tested on their return to school on Monday 6th September.

All students will receive their second test during the first week of school.

We ask that you LFT students at home so that we can get them into lessons as quickly as possible alongside our testing procedure. The new LFD tests we will receive are slightly different and require students to swab the nose twice rather than the back of the mouth. Consent for COVID testing undertaken on site is by the SIMS App. Your current preference still stands, but if you need to edit this you can do so at any time using the App.

Please can I remind all students travelling on school transport that they are advised to continue wearing masks.

I hope that everyone can have a well-earned rest over the summer break to prepare for a fresh start in September.

Yours sincerely



Martin Henton
Headteacher