



THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

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MNH/AHW
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Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to you with an update on how the first week back at school has gone. Students have come back to school full of energy and enthusiasm and made a very positive start back. Last week we were able to welcome our new Year 7 students to a summer school that was organised by 'Allstar Activities'. This was an opportunity for students to meet their new forms and make new friendships through team building activities. We had a really high attendance and a lot of fun. Students are looking really smart and have been organised this week, we will be setting the bar high with standards to maintain our expectations which I explained in a whole school assembly on Monday.

We were recently informed by Hereford Sixth Form College of the amazing success of two of our past students in their A-Levels; Angus Martin, who achieved four A* grades and will be going to UCL to study Maths and Economics and Beth Scrivens, who achieved five A* grades and will be going to Oxford University to study Earth Sciences.

There are a few staffing changes to update you with this week, following her marriage over the summer break, Miss Grainger in the Technology Department will now use her married surname of Mrs Hatt, and Miss Pritchard in the Humanities Department who got married earlier in the summer term, will use her married surname of Mrs J Williams.

Mrs Dumbrell, has changed her role to be the new Pastoral Mentor for Year 7, and Mrs Powell who is new to the school, will become a Cover Supervisor. Ms Poole has changed her role and will now be a teacher in the Languages Department. Following some internal staffing changes last year, we have merged the Music, Art and Drama Departments into a new Creative Arts Curriculum Team of which Mr Sutton is the Head and Mr Haylock the second in charge. Mrs L Williams from Student Services has changed her role and will now coordinate our new role for Careers and Marketing provision.

Over the summer break, the school was really busy with lots of refurbishment taking place which included the complete refurbishment of all the classrooms in the English Department, which is now looking amazing. The Main Hall roof has been re-surfaced and a new covered area has been installed outside the Art Department for students to socialise and eat at break times. We have invested substantially in

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improving our outdoor spaces and during the autumn half term we will be putting up another two covered spaces for student use.

I have some sad news that I need to share with you, over the summer break Mr O'Byrne our Chair of Governors passed away. This followed a long battle with illness over the last year during which Mr Morris has supported the Governing Body as the Acting Chair of Governors. Mr O'Byrne had been the Chair of Governors since the beginning of 2018 and was very committed and passionate in his support of the school. He made a substantial and lasting positive impact on the school which we will benefit from into the future. I am sure that your thoughts and prayer are with Mr O'Byrne's family at this difficult time.

Both last week and this week, we have been busy Lateral Flow testing students as they return which has gone really well. I would like to encourage you to continue with this at home twice weekly so that we can minimise the transmission of COVID. We will continue to monitor any changes in guidance from the government and update you as soon as we know anything. Further test kits will be sent home next week as soon as they are received in school.

As the COVID restrictions have relaxed in schools, although we are keeping year group zones around the school at the request of students, bubbles are now no longer in place. Subsequently, students will now be able to come into the school building from 8.15am in the morning.

To celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, there is to be an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3rd June, as this falls in the summer half term 2022, schools have been given an extra day's holiday. Herefordshire Local Authority have agreed that for all schools in Herefordshire that this will be the last day of the school year 2021-22. This has been agreed as Friday 22 July 2022, meaning that the summer term will end on Thursday 21 July 2022.

I have attached a letter from the Acting Director of Public Health for Herefordshire with an update on Lateral Flow Testing, getting vaccinated and what to do in the instance of a positive test, please read through this letter. I would like to emphasise that we are no longer required to carry out test and trace or self-isolate students who are first contacts or staff that have been double vaccinated. This is now done through the NHS test and trace.

Thank you for supporting students in such a great start to the new school year.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Henton
(Headteacher)