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BISHOPSHALT SCHOOL

"Above all else a place for learning"

15th December 2020

Ref: MCG/bier/Parent Commis

Dear Parents & Carers

I firstly want to thank you for the continued support and cooperation you have given the school throughout the first full term of the academic year, it has been exceptionally challenging but also truly rewarding.

As you are aware all of us at Bishopshalt have worked hard and done all that we can to limit the transmission of Covid-19 throughout our community. In order to do so, it has meant that we have had to keep students outside as much as possible, manage all movement within the school and expect the highest of standards from all throughout this term. Not having a purpose built school has meant that we do not have the indoor spaces that other schools may have and this has been a negative for us.

On a positive note, I have been very pleased with the curriculum that students are receiving, and also proud that Bishopshalt has continued making our students' education as 'normal' as possible.

Looking forward to the start of term, January 2021, our focus will be on the core value of 'Build Character'. All at Bishopshalt will drive to develop students to have the determination and dedication to succeed, and be able to overcome any challenge that comes their way.

Some other dates to note for the first half of the spring term are, **Year 9 Parents Evening on Tuesday 14th January, Year 9 Options Tuesday 4th February, as well as Year 11 Parents Evening Thursday 11th February.** Further information regarding the arrangement for these will be provided in due course.

In preparation for next term I remind you that school will reopen at the normal times on Monday 4th January and:

1. Entry and exit times will remain the same for the foreseeable future.
2. Uniform standards are exceptionally important. Students should always be dressed in the full school uniform, and Girls should wear appropriate knee length tailored straight skirt, the stretchy Lycra short skirts are not acceptable. Hooded jumpers must not be worn under Blazers. Breaches in uniform expectations will result in same day detentions.
3. On PE/Dance days students are expected to wear the school PE Kit, and not 'branded' clothing. All uniform expectations are available on the website, as with uniform, breaches will result in same day detentions.
4. Black/Blue or surgical face masks must worn to and from school as well as in all communal areas of the school.
5. Mobile phones should not be used on the school site unless the student has been authorised to do so by a member of staff.
6. Fizzy drinks or energy drinks are not to be brought onto the school site.
7. All Students should dress appropriately for the weather, wear a coat and bring an umbrella to school.
8. The North and South Gate areas are not drop off points for those students who arrive by car. Please use either Coney Green Car Park or Colham Road, you should not stop on the keep clear zones by the school.



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Headteacher: Mr L McGillicuddy

If there are any amendments or changes to the arrangements for the start of term, we will notify you before students are due to return.

This year we have seen the use of Mobile Phones, and their impact on young people has been exacerbated. We ask you as parents to think carefully about how your child uses their mobile phone. Students should not be going to bed with their phones, and there should be a 'cut off' time for your children using them. Parents should limit use, and regularly check the content and messaging within phones and take all necessary precautions to keep your children safe online and know what they are doing.

I can report that we have not had any confirmed further positive Covid-19 cases at Bishopshalt since I last wrote to you. As you will be aware, London has been moved into Tier 3, and we must all remain vigilant and follow all precautions.

I ask that if any symptoms present themselves in your child, or if they come into contact with someone who has tested positive, that they must follow the government guidance and isolate for ten days. You must ensure that you notify the school and that your child must not return to school until the isolation period is over or upon receipt of a negative test result.

As you are aware the Progress Review Meetings take place on Thursday 17th December 4:30 to 7:00pm and Friday 18th December 8:30am – 12:00pm. Please can I remind you that if you have not yet made your appointments it is vitally important that you do so by the end of Wednesday 16th December, this can be done via <https://bishopshalt.schoolcloud.co.uk>

We have been delighted with the progress our students have been making this year in terms of their effort, attainment and core values and we want to recognise their hard work and commitment as such, we are keen to use the aforementioned Progress Meetings to talk about this.

Staff have also been selecting our top students based on their attainment in each academic subject and students will be rewarded with the prestigious enamel award in that subject. We also have a number of student nominations to receive our core value badge of Love Learning and Show Kindness from our drop down days and these will be announced on our final assembly of the year. We also will provide the students with an update of the overall house point system and reward those students who have earned the most amount of house points for their form - they really are true Bishopshalters.

May we just remind you that students are not required to attend school on Friday to enable the staff to undertake the Progress Review appointments. I do hope you have very informative discussions with your child's Form tutor during these.

Finally, there will be a Staff Training Inset on the last day of the spring half Term, **Friday 12th February** and students will not be attending school on this day.

For those that celebrate it I wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and the peace of the season to all.

Thank you once again for your support and cooperation,

Yours sincerely



L McGillicuddy (Mr)
Headteacher