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## BISHOPSHALT SCHOOL

*"Above all else a place for learning"*

May 2020

Ref:MCG/ber/Changes to the School Day

Dear Parents & Carers

As you are aware at the end of the Autumn term, I wrote to you to consult with you regarding the proposed changes to the school day. I was pleased that many parents contacted me to support the changes and for those that had concerns, I would like to reassure you that we will not be removing any subjects from the curriculum, we will continue with the broad and balanced offer that we currently have in place. Ultimately, we would like to ensure that our students have the maximum contact time with their teachers.

Please see below as a reminder:

### **Proposed Changes to the School Day**

I am writing to inform you of some proposed changes to the structure of the school day here at Bishopshalt. From September 2020 we are proposing that:

- The school will start each day at 8.30am and finish at 3.30pm. This extra time, as well as slight adjustments to the internal timetable will provide just over 27 hours of curriculum time a week compared to the current provision of 25 hours.
- To ensure balance is provided to the overall academic year, Bishopshalt will have a two week half term during October.

Should the changes be approved, they will come into force from the start of the academic year in September 2020.

I believe that these changes will be beneficial to the school community, and will have a positive effect on your child's education. School is preparation for life, and I want to ensure that we provide the right springboard for all of our students to compete on a global scale. This will be achieved through:

- lengthening the school day by 20 minutes, and slightly altering the school day. We will be able to provide students with 2 hours more a week of curriculum time.
- rebalancing the curriculum to ensure that there is sufficient curriculum time given to subjects to cover the depth of knowledge required, whilst also maintaining the breadth of offer and distinctive Bishopshalt ethos.
- providing more curriculum time to all Examination groups, especially Year 12 students.
- introducing 3 additional 'Drop Down' days with the focus of Wider Education.
- expanding the extra-curricular offer at Bishopshalt.
- moving to a one week timetable.
- lengthening break and shortening lunch. Hot meals to be available at both times.

*Continued over.....*



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Headteacher: Mr L McGillicuddy

To facilitate the increase in curriculum time, and provide a balance to both students and staff, this consultation also proposes to extend the October half term break to two weeks. This will provide the following additional benefits;

- To reduce the very long Autumn/Winter term.
- To ensure that, given the varied holiday times of various boroughs, parents and teachers are able to spend the holiday with their children.
- To give parents the option to fly outside of 'holiday pricing' and therefore reduce unauthorised absence.

I am therefore informing you that from September 2020 we will be adopting these changes and as such the school will start each day at **8.30am** and finish at **3.30pm**. Students will be required to be on the school site by 8:25am at the latest and in their Form Room at 8:30am ready for the start of the day.

I am aware that some parents have already contacted the school as they are pleased to be able to advantage of the two week half term in October and wished to know the proposed dates. A full Parents' Calendar will be published before the end of this academic year, however at this stage we can advise you that the term dates for next academic year will be as follows:

<b>Autumn Term</b>		<b>Spring Term</b>		<b>Summer Term</b>	
Training Day	01/09/2020	Start of Term	04/01/2021	Start of Term	19/04/2021
Start of Term Y7 & 12	02/09/2020	Training Day	TBC	Training Day	30/04/2021
Start of Term	03/09/2020				
Half Term	19/10 to 30/10/2020	Half Term	15/02 to 19/02/2021	Half Term	31/05 to 04/06/2021
End of Term	18/12/2020	End of Term	01/04/2021	End of Term	16/07/2021

As you will all recognise due to the ongoing national situation with COVID-19, at this moment in time we cannot confirm that all of our students will be returning to school in the normal way in September. However, I can assure you that it is our aim to continue to work towards this goal, with the safety of our staff and students' paramount at all times. I will of course continue to update you all as frequently as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank you and all of our students for the support that you have shown the school during these unprecedented times,

Yours sincerely,



**L McGillicuddy (Mr)**  
Headteacher