

July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to you at the end of a successful year at The Bishop of Winchester Academy. There has been much to celebrate throughout the year including the extremely successful production of Matilda Jr, a successful Ofsted visit and the introduction of 'Base Camp' to support our students in aspiring to reach their goals.

It was wonderful that we were able to return to Kings Park for our annual Sports Day in June for a day of competition, participation and fun. Students took part in a variety of athletics events, including all the traditional track and field events, in order to win points for their mentor group and year group to find out who was the ultimate winner. Many students broke academy records in their events and received Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates for their outstanding achievements. Well done to Year 7 who had the most points from each year group, and to 9.6 who achieved the highest individual mentor points.

We now eagerly await the results of our Year 11 and 6th Form students. I am confident that many of our students will achieve exceptionally well and live up to our school mantra of 'High Expectations - No Excuses'.

There is a considerable amount of information that I need to share with you as we prepare for the next academic year. Some of this information is for all students and some is for specific year groups. Please take time to read this letter carefully to ensure you are fully briefed on key notices that affect your child.

I am pleased to share with you that we are fully staffed and have made some excellent additions to our teaching team.

### Chaplain

It is a pleasure to advise you that Rev Jenny Nightingale will be joining the academy in September to take up the role of Chaplain. She will be working with the pastoral team, providing support and guidance to all members of the academy community.

### Parents Evenings

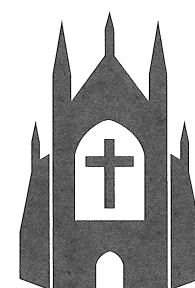
I am delighted that we were able to hold the recent Year 10 Parents' Evening onsite and teachers, parents and students were able to meet face to face to discuss students' progress and how we can all work together to support them in achieving their goals and aspirations.

From September all Parents Evenings' will be held onsite and we look forward to meeting you all over the course of the year.

### Student Council

Our Student Council has been busy this year and have been instrumental in discussing school wide issues and providing feedback to the Leadership Team.

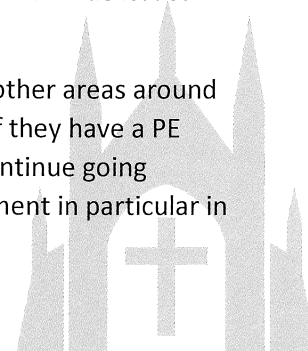
Through their work the academy has installed additional bench seating in the Nave and other areas around the school. They provided feedback that students would like to wear their PE kit home if they have a PE lesson at the end of the day. This was trialled after Easter and was successful and will continue going forward. They have also challenged the academy to reduce their impact on the environment in particular in the Hungry Bishop.



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## Ofsted

We were delighted that Ofsted recognised many of the academy's qualities in our inspection report when they visited the academy in February including our ambitious curriculum and the impressive range of extra-curricular activities. We will continue to further strengthen our provision so that our students will go on to live life in all its fullness.

## 6th Form

Our 6th Form continues to go from strength to strength. Our Year 13 students have been exemplary role models throughout the year. There have been many successful university offers with many students securing an offer from a Russell Group University (the best universities in the country) and one for a place at Cambridge.

## Grammar Stream

It was a pleasure to see our Grammar Stream students in Years 8 and 9 take part in our annual Grammar Stream Project Fairs. Students in year 9 have spent time researching how we could improve the academy's ecological impact in small groups. They have developed their collaboration and empathy skills, and presented their findings confidently, both on stage and on their group stands.

Year 8 students had chosen individual topics of interest to research. Each student produced a presentation and a written report on their chosen topic, ranging from the impact of advancements in AI to the scouting movement. The students developed their oracy skills, and honed their awareness and independence LApps.

## The Hungry Bishop

There are a number of changes that will be happening within the "Hungry Bishop" (our canteen here at TBOWA) come September 2023. We are raising these now so that everyone is ready and prepared come the new year.

### Plates and Takeaway Containers

Having listened to student feedback, including the excellent presentations from our Student Council and Grammar Stream students in terms of the environmental impact of our school about how we can reduce our waste, and having now come out of the back of Covid, from September the option of a take-away tray and plastic cutlery will not be available. All food that requires a plate will be served on ceramic plates with metal cutlery, and is to be eaten within the canteen. Any food which does not require this will be served as it is currently (eg toast on napkins).

### Free School Meals (FSM)

There has been some blurring of the lines over the years as to whether FSM credit can be used at breaktime as well as lunchtime, and for what food stuffs. The FSM is provided by the government so that children who are entitled to it can have one meal; therefore, in order to simplify the process for all parties, students entitled to FSM can choose to eat at either break or lunch time and select from the following:

Break	Lunch
Main Offering [eg Bacon Roll and Beans, Egg Roll and Beans, Cheese and Ham Toastie etc]	Main Meal of the Day Vegetarian Alternative Selected Sandwiches Pasta and Rice Pots

### **Food prices**

The cost of the main meal offering in the canteen has remained constant for a number of years now, but with rising food costs we find ourselves with no alternative but to review the prices charged in the canteen. We appreciate that times are tough at the moment, but the rapid increase in food costs not only has an impact on all our personal food shopping costs, but also on the school food bill, which we need to manage carefully.

Consequently, from September the main meal will be £2.50. Other prices will also need to increase, but the majority of the increases will be kept to a maximum of 20p.

### **Uniform and Equipment**

School uniform plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within the academy and these factors contribute to students' wellbeing, removing the additional pressures of deciding what to wear and added stress of meeting the expectations of their peers.

You can find full details of our uniform and equipment requirements on our website (<https://www.tbowa.org/parents/uniform-and-equipment>). Please take time to review these and ensure that your child has all the correct uniform and equipment ready for when they return in September.

### **Attendance**

Well done to the 27 students who achieved 100% attendance this academic year. Huge congratulations to the 3 students have achieved 100% attendance throughout their time at the academy.

Attendance is a key indicator of success at GCSE and A level - the better your attendance the better your final results.

### **Medical Conditions**

If your child has any medical conditions that require medication new forms and medication should be provided to the academy when your child returns in September. Forms can be found on the academy website or available from reception.

### **Exit Cards & Toilet Passes**

If your child has been issued with an exit card during this academic year, they will be reassessed at the beginning of the next academic year by their Head of Year/Wellbeing Team and, if appropriate, will be issued with a new card.

Students who have been issued with a toilet pass for a life-long medical condition will be issued with a new card on receipt of medical forms (available on the website) and confirmation from a medical practitioner.

If your child has a temporary medical condition and is in need of a toilet pass, please complete the medical forms on the website and provide written confirmation from a medical practitioner.

### **10:10 Programme**

Our after-school enrichment programme, called the 10:10 programme in line with John 10:10 'I came to give life - life in all its fullness' was recognised in our latest Ofsted report as providing an 'impressive range of extra-curricular opportunities' that 'pupils enjoy taking part in'.

In the 10:10 programme, activities will be divided into three categories: Academic, Sports and Creative. Through attending these sessions your son/daughter can further develop their academic, physical, creative and social skills. Most of the activities are free of charge but a few have a small charge to cover costs.

A full timetable of enrichment activities will be shared in September and your son/daughter will get the chance to choose their enrichment activities then. If they secure a place in their chosen activity, they are expected to attend all the sessions for that whole term.

Occasionally, it may be necessary for some activities to be cancelled at short notice, due to weather conditions or staff absence. Details will be published on the website should this occur.

The 10:10 programme starts on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Make sure your son/daughter signs up via SchoolCloud so that they can live life to the full!

### **Term Dates**

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September we will welcome our new Year 7 students at 8.25am and students in Year 11 and 6<sup>th</sup> Form will return to the academy at 9.10am.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September students in all year groups should arrive at the academy at 8.25am.

Details of all the term dates and inset days for next academic year are on our website.

### **And Finally...**

I am very proud of all of our students at Bishop. It is a real pleasure to witness your children maturing into well rounded individuals who adhere to their school motto, 'Sapere Aude' - have the courage to be wise. Students making the right choices will discover they are successful, not only at school, but in later life too. The culture we have established at Bishop is one of relentlessly 'High Expectations, No Excuses'. Students know I expect the best of them in all they do. Those students who do adhere to having high expectations and offer no excuses will undoubtedly progress to live out the school's mission and 'know life in all it's fullness' John 10:10.

The Bishop of Winchester Academy continues to go from strength to strength. The new strategies that we are introducing will build on this. I am absolutely determined that we will offer your child a first-class education that challenges them, provides them with excellent qualifications and prepares them well for their future - whatever that future might be. The relationship between home and school is vital in ensuring your child's success. I am proud of the strong relationship that the school has with parents. Thank you for your continued support.

I wish you a very relaxing summer break and I hope that you will have lots of quality time with family and friends.

Best wishes

Paul Mc