

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am happy to report to parents that we have enjoyed another successful term at 'The Bishop'. There have been many activities that we want to celebrate including the Careers Day at The BIC, and our leading role in the installation of the new Bishop of Winchester, Bishop Phillip, at Winchester Cathedral.

As ever there are a large numbers of students who remain after the school day to participate in a huge range of extra-curricular activities as part of our '10.10 Programme'. Details of next term's offer are available on the website. Without doubt the standout event of the term has been the tremendous success of the annual school show - this year 'Sister Act'. As you would expect this annual celebration of Bishop talent was a sell-out and was met with rapturous applause each evening. I was overwhelmed with plaudits from proud parents and grandparents. Particular thanks should go to Ms Faramus, Miss Pelling, Mr Short and Mrs White who ensured students and their families and friends had an experience to remember.

This week it has been a real pleasure to take part in our end of term Eucharist services. This is an important part of sharing with students the distinctly Christian ethos that is such an important part of the church calendar. Students from other faiths and of no faith also attend these services as part of their own spiritual journey by taking time to pause and reflect on their own purpose amidst the busyness of modern life. Those students who were participating in Ramadan have attended their own prayer space. We are truly blessed to have our own School Chaplain, Reverend Jenny Nightingale who has been part of The Bishop of Winchester Academy over many years and supports all students in developing a deeper understanding of their own spirituality and place in the Universe.

Our attention now turns to supporting our Year 11 and Year 13 students through their final exams. There are additional lessons planned over the Easter and May half term holidays, in addition to the 'Lesson Zero' - starting at 8.00am in the morning and period 6 lessons at the end of the academy day. I am hugely grateful to staff for giving this additional time. These sessions are very popular with students and our experience has taught us that the students who do attend these sessions regularly really do see an improvement in their final examination results. We wish all our students and staff huge success as they embark on the final part of their journey at Bishop. And then we all have the Prom and end of year celebrations to look forward to.

Next term will see all of Year 10 and Year 12 students have personalised meetings with the Principal and one of the Vice-Principals to discuss their plans for the future and how the academy can best support them as they commence their final year of studies. These meetings are very important in giving every student the opportunity to have a constructive conversation about their ambitions and how these might be realised. At the other end of the academy we will be holding the individual welcome meetings with parents of students who will begin Year 7 in September. I know from many of you that these meetings have always been really helpful in reassuring parents about the next stage of their child's education through secondary school, the teenage years and all the opportunities and challenges that these years bring to young people.

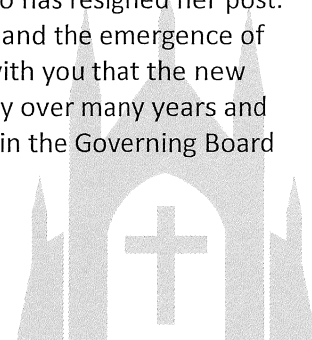
### Governors Update

I would like to record my thanks to Michelle Jacques our most recent Chair of Governors who has resigned her post. During her time as Chair Michelle steered the school through a successful Ofsted inspection and the emergence of the academy from the restrictions that were part of the lockdowns. I am pleased to share with you that the new Chair of Governors is Reverend David Thompson. David has been a supporter of the academy over many years and has more recently been serving as Vice Chair. We will be looking for a parent governor to join the Governing Board and I will share further details of the process after the Easter Break.



**Sapere Aude**

Mallard Road  
Bournemouth  
Dorset BH8 9PW  
T : 01202 512697  
E : office@tbowa.org  
W : www.tbowa.org



## **Buildings programme**

Planning permission has now been submitted for the building of an additional six classrooms on the site. If all goes to plan these new classrooms should be available to use by October 2024. At present the plans are to create curriculum areas dedicated to the teaching of Religious Studies and Modern Foreign Languages.

## **Confirmation of changes to school week-**

From September the academy has responded to the government expectations that all students have a minimum of a 32.5 hour taught week by proceeding with the plans shared earlier this term. From September the school day will finish at 3.30pm on Monday to Thursday and will finish at 1.00pm on Friday. This will be reviewed after a year.

## **Road Safety**

Please can I remind parents and carers to park responsibly when collecting and dropping off students outside school.

Waiting parents are respectfully asked to observe parking regulations, (including not parking on the pavement, zig zag lines, yellow lines or obstructing local residents' driveways), as these are in place to ensure student safety and the safety of the local community and other road users.

May I take this opportunity to wish all families a happy, holy and restful easter break. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Best wishes,



Paul McKeown  
**Principal**