



Agents Newsletter



Update from Lorraine Atkins, Principal

The greatest pleasure of my role as Principal is to see students having fun whilst they are learning. The acquisition of any language is never an easy path and to enable students to use English in a variety of contexts is ideal. With this in mind, the senior students at Bishopstrow have embarked on a Wednesday evening carousel of creative subjects. Currently, they have been studying drama, music and art. The "three witches" are very much in evidence and we are looking forward to their performance at our Christmas dinner on December 6th. The Twelve Days of Christmas on the Ukuleles has been resounding out in the teaching building in readiness for celebrations in the final week of term. Meanwhile, the Art group have been making clocks to enable us to keep in time in the run up to our final week!

Relationships with Schools

Bishopstrow College is the only independent International Boarding School offering preparation-for-boarding programmes for international students. Given the College's independent status, we are a 'feeder school' to a wide range of mainstream prep and senior boarding schools. Indeed, in the 2016/17 academic year, students leaving Bishopstrow went on to continue their education at over 100 different boarding schools in the UK.

The College highly values its relationships with other schools in the UK and invests a considerable amount of time developing these relationships. For example, during this term, we have visited the following schools: Bredon School, DLD College, D'Overbroecks, King's College Taunton, Leweston, LVS Ascot, Papplewick, Sherfield School, Shrewsbury School, The Dragon School, The Oratory Prep School, Trinity School, Truro School and Uppingham. We have also hosted the following schools at Bishopstrow: Glenalmond College, Kilgraston, Knighton House School, St David's College and West Buckland School.

Further details, including a full list of those schools where a Teaching Partnership is in place can be found at: www.bishopstrow.com/partner-schools/

Minimum Length of Stay

The College's English language and academic pathway programmes (Lower, Middle and Upper College Programmes) are designed to enable international students to make rapid progress with their English and other core academic subjects, whilst also experiencing and getting familiar with life in a British boarding school, through daily sports, weekday clubs and activities and the weekend excursions. Small class sizes (maximum of 8 for English and 12 for other academic subjects), weekly assessments (on Saturday morning) and regular, in-depth progress reporting in the form of an Individual Learning Plan, all contribute towards an immersive learning environment. In order to benefit from this environment, we do require all students enrolling on these Programmes to stay for at least one term. Regrettably, shorter stays cannot be considered, with the exception of course of the College's 5 week Academic Summer Programme, which commences on Monday 18 June and Sunday 22 July in 2018.

If you have any students interested in enrolling for one term or longer, please note that there are a small number of places still available for Term 2, commencing Tuesday 2 January, 2018.

Photography Competition

During Week 7, all students took part in a day devoted to design and creativity. Senior students went on a field trip to a nearby place of historical interest, ancient Cley Hill near Longleat. Here they took photographs which were entered into a whole College competition. Congratulations go to Sunny (Qing Shao) for being voted the Winner! Middle College students made and decorated their own kites and took a trip to the Whitehorse of Westbury to fly them. There were some successes, but a lot of students learned a hard lesson about aerodynamics!



Sports Update

During the term, students have been involved in a varied sports programme that has seen them focus on traditional English sports. They have had the opportunity to display these skills at fixtures and training sessions against other schools.

At the start of term, we were very lucky to have a basketball session taken by Mr Mike Jeffers from Glenalmond College, one of our Partner Schools. The lesson focused on shooting skills and all students thoroughly enjoyed this experience.

Over the past few weeks, the senior girls have enjoyed competitive netball matches against Sherborne International College, securing one win and two draws. We have also played Sherborne's badminton team in a mixed doubles competition, and although we narrowly missed out on a win, the students thoroughly enjoyed the competitive experience.

Last week our Middle College students joined a hockey lesson at Kingdown School in Warminster, where they had the chance to learn new skills and to apply these skills into game situations playing against English students. This was an exciting opportunity, which we plan on offering again in Term 2.

This week, some students will be attending the National Badminton Competition at Longleat where they will play singles and doubles against 12 other schools. Also during this week, all students will have a week of Inter-house sport competitions, allowing them to compete against each other in their house teams.

Inter-House Singing Competition



Every student at Bishopstrow belongs to one of the four houses – Blake, Newton, Nightingale, Pankhurst. The vast majority of students at the College now have a house hoodie which they wear with pride. A strong sense of rivalry has built up through a range of inter-house events through the term, ranging from sport to team-building, to the stunning performances in small groups and whole house songs at the recent inter-house singing competition. The students' songs were memorised, acted out, accompanied by dance routines and conveyed with feeling. We can already imagine what confident contributors our students will be to similar events in their destination schools in the future.

New Boarding Accommodation

The College has recently purchased a property – 'Mandalay' - opposite the main campus, which is in the process of being converted to a new boarding house. When completed, this will accommodate a small number of senior students, who will benefit from their own space, kitchen area and garden, complete with the River Wylie flowing by!

Contact us

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