



End of Term Graduation

On a gloriously sunny June afternoon at the end of Term 3, the College celebrated the success of those students who had completed their programme of study at Bishopstrow. College staff and students were joined by a small number of agents and parents, together with our guest speaker, James Murphy O'Connor, Headmaster of Prior Park College. James also leads the Prior Park Schools' group which includes Prior Park Prep School in Wiltshire, The Paragon Junior School in Bath, and Prior Park School, Gibraltar which opens in 2016.

Whilst the success of all students was celebrated, particular attention was made to the 30 students graduating from the College. Most of the leavers will be continuing their studies at a leading boarding school in the UK, including Bedford School, Bradfield College, Cheltenham College, Dauntsey's School, The Dragon School, Godolphin School, Millfield, Queen Anne's School Caversham, Queen Ethelburga's College and Repton School.

Earlier in the day, students had competed in their Houses – Blake, Newton, Nightingale and Pankhurst - across a number of sports as part of the Term 3 Sports Day. Competition was intense, with Newton eventually coming out on top.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

We are pleased to announce that we will be launching The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for Senior Boys and Girls, effective September 2015. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a youth awards programme founded in the UK in 1956 by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The programme has since expanded to 140 other countries.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award programmes take between one to four years to complete, and must be completed by the participant's 25th birthday. There are around 300,000 participants annually.

The programmes are at three progressive levels which, if successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. With assistance from adult Leaders, participants select and set objectives in each of the following areas:

- Volunteering: undertaking service to individuals or the community.
- Physical: improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- Skills: developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
- Expedition: planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.

To achieve an award, the participant must work on each section for a minimum period of time, and must be monitored and assessed by someone with knowledge of the chosen activities. Each progressive level demands more time and commitment from participants: Bronze 3–6 months; Silver: 6–9 months; Gold: 12–18 months. Participants are required to show regular activity and commitment to the award for the duration of their DofE programme, which is usually at least one hour per week.

Given that most students are at Bishopstrow for no more than a year, the College will focus on the Volunteering, Physical and Skills areas of the Bronze Award. Lorraine Atkins, the College's incoming Principal, will lead the programme, which will be voluntary and incorporated within the weekend activities programme at the College.

Students score outstanding success in Cambridge English Language Assessment exams

Many congratulations to our students, who achieved 100% pass rate in the latest round of Cambridge English Language Assessment exams. In the first-stage Key English Test (KET), 22% of students gained a Distinction, with a further 67% awarded a Merit. At the next level up, 17% of students taking the Preliminary English Test (PET) passed with Distinction, while 50% received a Merit. Finally, in the First Certificate in English (FCE) exam, 40% of students achieved a B Grade, with the remaining students scoring a C Grade.

Everyone worked extremely hard for these exams, which are internationally recognised qualifications and a vital part of our students' preparation for their destination schools.

We're sure you will join us in congratulating them on their outstanding success.

Term 4 News

Term 4 kicked off on June 22, with 30 new students joining those students already enrolled at the College. We will again be formally saying goodbye (and good luck) to those leaving the College at the end of this term, with the End of Term Awards Ceremony scheduled for Wednesday 26 August – all welcome!

Contact us

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