



Bishopstrow College Newsletter 15th Anniversary Special - July 2021

Bishopstrow College 2006-2021: Celebrating 15 Years of Excellence

Welcome to this special 15th anniversary newsletter, in which we celebrate the College's 15th birthday!

Established in 2006 by Ian and Fran Henson (both now retired), Bishopstrow welcomed its first students in July 2006. 40 students enrolled in July, August, September and October 2006, making up the College's first cohort. Some spent as little as two weeks at the College, whilst others enrolled for up to a year. More than 10 different nationalities were represented included Azerbaijan, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan and Turkey. Many of these students had enrolled at Bishopstrow to prepare for onward progression to boarding schools in the UK, including Abingdon, Aldenham School, Bloxham School, Bromsgrove School, Gordonstoun, Leighton Park School, Papplewick, Sunningdale School and Windlesham School; others were already enrolled at a boarding school and attended Bishopstrow for a short period during their school holidays.

Since opening in July 2006, Bishopstrow College has welcomed over 2,000 students from more than 40 countries, with students progressing to more than 150 leading prep and senior schools in the UK and schools in other key 'destination markets', including Canada, Germany, Switzerland and the US. During this period, the College has worked with more than 200 education agents globally and established Teaching Partnerships with more than 100 boarding schools in the UK.

In this newsletter, we share perspectives from a number of agents who placed students at Bishopstrow during the College's first academic years 2005/06 and then 2006/07. We also include some perspectives on Bishopstrow today from our current Principal, Stuart Nicholson. Finally, we are delighted to share details of the 'Bishopstrow 15 Scholarship', which is open to all students enrolling in Term 1 2021, our 15th anniversary year.

We hope that you enjoy reading these memories from the Bishopstrow archives. We are both very much looking forward to further developing our relationships with our partners in the UK and around the world over the next 15 years!

With best wishes.

Mark Jaynes and Charlie Freer
Directors



Perspectives from Agents from 2006

We would like to thank the following agents who have supported the College since it was established in 2006 and who have kindly shared the following perspectives from Bishopstrow's early days.

Kazuko Watanabe - Watanabe Office (Japan)

It is such a nice news that you are celebrating your 15th anniversary and you are going through much trouble of delving into the history of your College. This brings back a favourable memory. You have certainly done a good job investigating.

We have always been looking for good preparation courses in UK for our students as we think it is necessary to give them a good start to studying in the UK. In our 42 years, there were quite a few 'schools' that offered such preparation programmes who we have worked with. Most of them were small language schools set up for children.

Due to the increased number of students we dealt with, we were short of places to place students, when I heard from Fran Henson - out of the blue - that she was setting up an international school specialized in preparation for entry to boarding schools. I had known Fran for many years before that as a very respectable Headmistress at Godstowe where some of our students studied. We were saddened to hear of her departure from Godstowe, but a few years later she brought us the exciting news. I seem to remember that Fran asked me if we could join her new 'venture'. Straight away, we were more than happy to support her and almost immediately we moved 3 little prep school children to her college from the language school where they were studying. Itsumi remembers that they were crying and did not want to leave the language school, but soon after their arrival at Bishopstrow, they became much happier and started to enjoy their new 'home'.

Fran obviously knew about the needs of young children from her long experience at prep schools - good discipline backed up by tender care. This was the start of our relationship with Bishopstrow. Since then, we have referred a majority of our new students to the College.

What makes your College so special is because it is the first place where students experience life in the UK. Looking at our past and current students, they are grouped by the time they were together at your College.

After Bishopstrow, as you know, our students go to various different boarding schools, but their friendship continues for a long time. Wherever they are or whatever they are doing now, they can share the special time and fond memories that they spent together. I appreciate your hard work given to the students as they are coming to you direct from other cultures. Boarding schools should be grateful that the primary work is done at Bishopstrow! For most of our students, the transition to boarding schools is very smooth.

Angela Cleary - The Royal Thai Embassy (Thailand)

It is lovely to receive your email and the update on Bishopstrow College! The 15th anniversary is certainly a milestone to celebrate and I love the logo!

We have been recommending Bishopstrow to our Thai families since it was established by Fran and Ian Henson, 15 years ago and we have not been disappointed. In particular we have been very impressed by its warm, family ethos which is so important in making students feel welcome and valued as individuals.

The standard of teaching is excellent; whether focusing on English language or introducing students to the UK academic curriculum and team sports.

All these new experiences are presented to the students in a gentle and supportive manner, which encourages self-confidence and prepares them for the next step of their journey; whether it is returning home with more proficient language skills or providing a solid foundation for entering their new UK school.

Fran and Ian Henson's vision and legacy are in safe hands. Bishopstrow has thrived and developed over the years with the addition of new facilities and imaginative courses.

We wish it well and look forward to another 15 years of success!



All these new experiences are presented to the students in a gentle and supportive manner, which encourages self-confidence and prepares them for the next step of their journey; whether it is returning home with more proficient language skills or providing a solid foundation for entering their new UK school.

Fran and Ian Henson's vision and legacy are in safe hands. Bishopstrow has thrived and developed over the years with the addition of new facilities and imaginative courses.

We wish it well and look forward to another 15 years of success!



Barbara Glasmacher - Barbara Glasmacher Internationale Schulberatungs GmbH (Germany)

When I first met Fran at one of the first BBSW workshops, I was confident that her concept of founding a special, niche college for international students was bound for success. A manageable number of younger pupils with a rudimentary knowledge of English would be in safe, caring hands before moving on to their choice of mainstream British boarding school or indeed returning to their school in Germany.

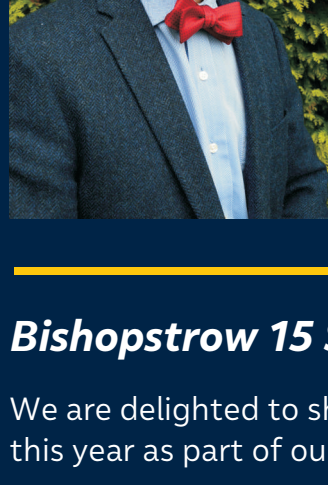
Fran was the kind of British teacher of whom most of our clients dream: well groomed, passionate, with the loving personality usually only encountered in movies (Dead Poets Society) and Enid Blyton novels (Mallory Towers), seemingly more popular in Germany than in the UK!

One of the first pupils I entrusted into Fran's care was the grandson of an old friend of mine: Christopher S. whose progress and success in the German grammar school system was hampered by his dyslexia. Chris had a great time at Bishopstrow, found many international friends and then continued his schooling at Rendcomb College. Later, he finished his school career with A Levels at Earlscliffe, before moving to Vienna to study Business Administration. Last time I heard from Chris, he was seeking my advice about a start-up he was planning with some friends: how to improve the design and quality of the uniforms offered in British boarding schools. One thing is certain, Chris had his own fair choice of school uniforms during his time in England, starting with Bishopstrow some 15 years ago ...

We also placed an Italian lad with little English at Bishopstrow for six months before he proceeded to another school to complete his IB. I wouldn't be surprised if he's now helping run his father's hotel or his mother's brewery!



Perspectives from Stuart Nicholson, Principal



Stuart Nicholson joined Bishopstrow as Principal in 2019. Stuart has recently recorded a few words on video, to share his perspectives on how Bishopstrow today continues to offer leading preparation-for-boarding programmes. True to the aims of our founders, Ian and Fran Henson, these programmes help international students prepare for entry to leading boarding schools in the UK.

To watch the video, please click on this link:

<https://youtu.be/IDL-8syLrMI>

Bishopstrow 15 Scholarship

We are delighted to share details of the 'Bishopstrow 15 Scholarship', which was launched earlier this year as part of our 15th anniversary celebrations!

The Bishopstrow 15 Scholarship is a 15% scholarship award for students enrolling in Term 1 2021. The scholarship award represents a 15% discount to the College's fees and will be applied during the duration of a student's enrolment at the College, for students enrolling in Term 1 2021. Applicants are required to attend an admissions interview with a member of our academic team.

For further details, please contact Betty Dagistan at betty.dagistan@ifedu.com