



Bishopstrow College - Term 4 Newsletter

A few words from our Principal Mr Stuart Nicholson

Looking back...

Whilst there is no doubt that the coronavirus has turned most normal routines upside down, we have been able to retain a remarkable level of continuity for students at Bishopstrow College. As we prepare for a return to the physical premises on campus at the end of September, it is interesting to look back on the remarkable different six months that we have just experienced. At our very last meeting on campus in March, we promised the students who were there that we would be continuing everything we possibly could about Bishopstrow in the online world. We promised assemblies, the same teachers, that they'd be able to talk to their teachers and their friends, and that we would even find a way of continuing with the sports, games and exercise that we also regard as an integral part of the education here.



Six months later, all of these things have happened. It has been such a great joy to see our students continuing to engage both with their teachers and their fellow students, and clearly to enjoy so much the opportunities to learn, and to enjoy learning.

Looking forward...

Gazing into the crystal ball, there remains a lot of uncertainty about how coronavirus will affect the long-term for many aspects of normal life, but in the short-term everyone at Bishopstrow is now well prepared for managing the requirements of social distancing, careful hygiene, and everything that contributes to the "new normal" for schools. Much of this preparation we have been making since before lockdown took place at the end of March, as we were initially looking at what needed to be done to keep students safe when it looked like everyone would be locked into the College rather than locked out of it!

What was clear then remains a huge advantage to us now, which is that Bishopstrow is a full boarding school without any day students at all. This means that we can provide a very Covid-secure setting for all our students, with the minimum chance of transmission of the virus into the school.

We are taking the most careful approach to quarantine, to support both quarantined and non-quarantined students, with risk profiling, testing, and a rigorous approach to hygiene, so that we can do our very best to reduce the likelihood of coronavirus disturbing the educational routines that support Bishopstrow students so well.

We have taken advice from the national and local health authorities, and I have taken advantage of having personal contacts in virology laboratories in Cambridge to seek their advice and make sure that the things that we are doing are the most sensible and practical steps that can be taken.

Inevitably parents are going to be nervous because there is uncertainty around quarantine regulations, but what seems clear is that there are very few places that are going to be Covid-secure as a full boarding school in the UK that is taking careful measures to take advantage of its 100% boarding status. Bishopstrow is doing just that, and parents can be fully confident that in choosing Bishopstrow they are making as good a choice for their children's health and welfare as they are for their educational welfare.

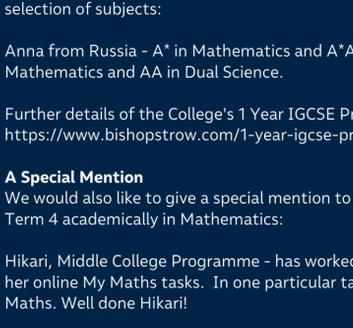
Exam Success

This year, our students have been rewarded with the best grades in the College's history, despite facing the most unusual situation for external examinations that we have ever known!

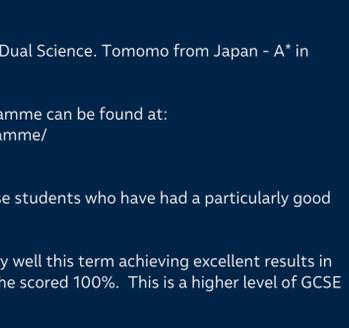
Across the country we suspect there was an initial sense of relief and elation when students discovered that they were not going to have to sit examinations for IGCSE, or A Level and other qualifications this summer.

The work that has taken place behind the scenes by everyone who taught examination candidates this year has been enormous. Every year teachers are required to forecast students' grades, but this year the process of checking, moderating and justifying these decisions assumed a far higher significance. We are hugely grateful to the teachers for doing such a thorough job and we have no doubt that the students will also want to express the same appreciation to their teachers.

All of the Bishopstrow students who take the IGCSE examinations complete the two-year course in just one year, and they are studying in their second language. It is always a huge achievement to pass any IGCSE examination in such circumstances.



This year, not only was every examination completed successfully, but we had a significant proportion of results that were not just passing grades, but the very top grades. What a tremendous success for both our students and our teachers!



Our 2020 results are:

A* - C Grades	-	100%
A* - A Grades	-	45%

We would like to give special congratulations to some of our top performing students in a selection of subjects:

Anna from Russia - A* in Mathematics and A*A* in Dual Science. Tomomo from Japan - A* in Mathematics and AA in Dual Science.

Further details of the College's 1 Year IGCSE Programme can be found at: <https://www.bishopstrow.com/1-year-igcse-programme/>

A Special Mention

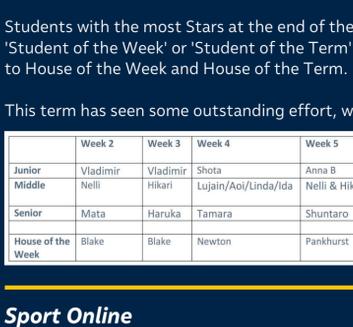
We would also like to give a special mention to these students who have had a particularly good Term 4 academically in Mathematics:

Hikari, Middle College Programme - has worked very well this term achieving excellent results in her online My Maths tasks. In one particular task she scored 100%. This is a higher level of GCSE Maths. Well done Hikari!

Hadeel and Lujain are both students in M2 Maths. They are always enthusiastic and cheerful about their Maths work. Their work ethic and commitment to doing well in their studies was a great example to other students; congratulations!

Term 4 Graduation

We held our final Graduation Ceremony of the 2019/20 academic year online last week, celebrating the wonderful success of all that our students have achieved. We were particularly disappointed that we were unable to say goodbye in person, but we wanted to show our appreciation of all that they have achieved during Term 4. Thank you for all your support and we hope that we will have the opportunity to welcome students back to Bishopstrow next summer to share in the success of the next academic year.



Despite being online, Bishopstrow has still been able to give students support both academically and pastorally, either in relation to returning to school in their own country or being fully prepared for their next school in the UK.

Term 4 Awards

We were delighted to be able to congratulate the follow students on their achievements by giving out the following awards during Graduation. These students really have excelled in their subjects despite having participated throughout the term online. Congratulations to all.

Primary Maths	Magahiro
Primary Subjects	Tagg
Middle Maths	Hadeel
Senior Maths	Aseel
Middle Science	Kaori
Senior Science	Canon
Middle Humanities	Qianyi
Senior History	Mata
Business Studies	Reo
Global Perspectives	Gleb
Middle English	Lujan
Senior English	Lisa
The Engagement Award	Kaori
The Perseverance Award	Canon
The Assembly Award	Hadeel
Junior Sport	Shota
Middle Sport	Lujan
Senior Sport	Mata

Students of the Week

Every week Mr Lewis, Director of Studies, has been holding a Friday Assembly, during which he announces Student of the Week and House of the Week.



Our reward (Stars) system is based around the College's 5 core virtues, with Stars awarded to students each day to promote good behaviour in all aspects of College life, or in this case, Bishopstrow Online:

- POLITE Being respectful to all staff and other students
- HARD WORKING Trying their best during lessons, homework and activities
- ORGANISED Being punctual and ready to start lessons, with all materials needed for the day
- TEAM PLAYER Working with other students
- KIND Looking after and supporting others

Students with the most Stars at the end of the week and the end of the term are awarded 'Student of the Week' or 'Student of the Term'. All the Stars awarded each week, which leads to House of the Week and House of the Term.

This term has seen some outstanding effort, with congratulations to the following:

	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Largest number
Junior	Vladimir	Shota	Anna B	Shota	Shota	Taiga	Masahiro	Vladimir	Shota
Middle	Nelli	Hikari	Lujain/Aoi/Linda/Ida	Nelli & Hikari	Odean	Lujain/Hadeel	Kaori	Kaori	Kaori
Senior	Mata	Haruka	Tamara	Shuntaro	Canon	Canon/Aseel	Aseel	Anna/Gleb & Kei	Canon
House of the Week	Blake	Blake	Newton	Pankhurst	Newton	Blake	Blake	Blake	Newton

Sport Online

In Term 4, the online sports programme at Bishopstrow focused on five major sports: Rounders, Athletics, Tennis, Cricket and Hockey. These are normally offered as practical activities at Bishopstrow College in the knowledge that they are traditional sports that students will pursue when moving on to their destination school.



Throughout the term the students were introduced to the major sports via a collection of video clips which explained the basic principles, rules and techniques of each sport. They were then required to submit answers to written questions about each particular sport.

Interestingly, some students conveyed to tutorial staff, through their exercise diaries, that they had been inspired to play more sport with their friends after watching the video clips during their PSHE lessons.

The staff then set quiz competitions throughout the term for students to test their knowledge of the sports they had learnt and Stars were awarded to those students who made the best contributions.

In addition to these sports, students were encouraged to exercise every day and complete a Weekly Exercise Diary, for discussion with their tutors.

We are aware that our returning students in September are all looking forward to engaging in real sporting activity, as indeed are our sports staff!

Pastoral Support Online

PSHE classes have taken place each teaching day. During these lessons, students were encouraged to watch the daily assembly and to make notes for their assembly diaries for completion each week. Once the assembly had been watched, they did the sports tasks for the week. In the later part of the PSHE lesson, the students were expected to complete outstanding homework assignments.

The assembly themes for the term were:

- 5 Virtues
- Internet Safety
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Relationships and Bullying
- Human Rights

These were discussed with students, guided by the Tutor and followed up by each student's individual tutor.

The PSHE tutor monitored the students' diaries during the PSHE classes and this was reinforced during the students' tutorials. Feedback from subject teachers, PSHE tutors and personal tutors regarding student levels of engagement in class, their commitment to homework assignments, attendance and punctuality and general well-being, were discussed on a daily basis at the end of each academic day. Personal Tutorials proved to be invaluable in allowing students the opportunity to talk freely about any anxieties they had.

Global Warming Project

This term students were asked to design and develop a campaign to warn people of the possible effects of Global Warming. During two lessons students were focused on the causes and consequences of Global Warming as part of the human aspect of Geography.

Destination Schools 2019/20

Throughout the academic year, students secured places at over 70 boarding schools in the UK, with all students gaining entry to their first choice 'destination school'. Bishopstrow's independence enables us to support our students with examination preparation and interview techniques for any mainstream boarding school and we are delighted with the success of our students here. Please click on the link <https://www.bishopstrow.com/leaver-destinations/> for a full list of destination schools.

Bishopstrow Online in 2020/21

Our students have enjoyed some of the best online provision in the world in their face-to-face online classes over the last six months. We are delighted of course that students will be returning to the UK to join us on campus for Term 1, but we are nevertheless going to continue with the provision of Bishopstrow Online throughout the coming academic year (Terms 1-3).

Students joining us virtually will be able to meet with students who are on campus and studying in our 'physical' classrooms. They will also be able to meet with students who are temporarily quarantined, as they will be working online from their bedrooms at Bishopstrow for the 14-day quarantine period, rather than from the classrooms.

Not surprisingly, we have all learned new skills during lockdown and we are going to carry forward some of those new skills and do some things differently on campus next term. We are going to take advantage of some of the possibilities offered by Microsoft Teams and continue using some of the technology that has become a routine part of our virtual classrooms, in the physical classroom.

For more information please click on the link <https://www.bishopstrow.com/bishopstrow-online/>

Place Availability

We are still accepting applications for Term 1 (commencing 21 September 2020) and beyond across all age groups. We have spent many weeks preparing for re-opening and are thrilled to be able to welcome students from around the world.

Many students join Bishopstrow College prior to enrolling in a mainstream British boarding school to enable them to prepare for entry to their chosen destination school. Our programmes have English language at their core, but are also complemented by a varied programme of other core academic subjects, creative arts, sports, social programmes and excursions to ensure that students have a stimulating and rewarding experience with us.

Please contact us on enquiries@bishopstrow.com for any admissions queries you may have.

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