



Bishopstrow College – March 2018 Newsletter

Update from Lorraine Atkins, Principal



This term has been marked by many memorable events, including the impact of several days of snow from 'The Beast from the East' and 'Storm Emma'. The delight for many of the students who saw and played in snow for the first time was infectious. The snow has now melted and we are seeing the first glimpses of Spring. As we watch the flowers come into bud, it is easy to see the analogy with the progression of our students. Their confidence is growing and their English is truly beginning to flourish. As we approach the end of Term 2, we are delighted that the students have many offers from destination schools and their future pathway is set. The greatest pleasure at Bishopstrow is supporting students to achieve their potential and allowing them to realise that they can aim high and succeed.

Update on Teaching Partnerships

We continue to establish Teaching Partnerships with other boarding schools in the UK and now have over 80 such Partnerships in place. Over the past three months, Teaching Partnerships have been confirmed by UKVI with Bedford School, Bryanston, Culford School, Harrogate Ladies College and St Michael's School in South Wales. St Michael's School in South Wales commented as follows:

St Michael's School in South Wales are delighted to confirm that UKVI have authorised Bishopstrow College as a partner school which in the future, allows applicants to come into the UK under one visa. Working closely with Bishopstrow College, Sue Griffin, Director of Admissions at St Mikes is encouraging students with weaker levels of English to join Bishopstrow for intensive study options. For example, whilst in Korea recently, Sue met with a family along with Mr Yoo, who offers guardianship services in South Wales. Juhyeok subsequently joined Bishopstrow in January 2018 and hopes in September to progress to Year 10 at St Michael's School.

Separately, Tingting who lives in Newcastle, has been in correspondence with Sue for several months and they finally met up just before the New Year. Tingting's cousin - Xiantian is also hoping to join Bishopstrow in June for an intensive preparation programme. Tingting told Sue that she is so happy to have been introduced to the team at Bishopstrow as everyone has been so helpful in giving her educational advice and support. Tingting is now confident that her cousin will have the best chance to ensure his language levels will meet the demands of UK education.

Sue is very happy to have this partnership in place as it will help those students who are eager to join St Michael's School, but prior to academic study, need to improve their level of English. Furthermore the two schools will work closely together to ensure the student understands the study route they are following and support them on every step of that journey.

Excursions, Trips and Clubs



This term we have travelled far and wide on our whole school Sunday outings from a guided tour of the Globe Theatre in London to an exciting zip wire experience over the beach in Bournemouth. We have also concentrated our efforts on developing a programme of optional outings on Saturday afternoons in response to requests from the students, whom we consult on a regular basis.

Swimming has been a popular choice as

has den building by the lake and for the older students, paintballing, trampolining, laser quest and visits to the cinema have all been part of the extremely varied programme.

Following our hugely successful inter-house singing event last term, this term the boarding team put together a six round quiz which challenged the students on topics as diverse as British culture, music and sport. The inter-house spirit was very much in evidence once again and the results were very close indeed with a nail-biting tie-breaker question deciding the first place, which went to Blake House this time.

Morning clubs have gone from strength to strength with the ever-popular Smoothie, Wake and Shake (Dance) and Table Tennis clubs being attended by the majority of our students. We have a staggering 25 clubs on offer in total, reflecting interests in the students as diverse as baking, chess and debating. The students are extremely busy and are always keen to try a new activity and particularly enjoy sharing the dish they have prepared with their house-mates on baking night!

We have really enjoyed using our activity sessions to celebrate culture this term. On Burns' Night, we ate haggis and had a visiting student from Downside School who led a workshop teaching our students to play the bagpipes, which they found quite challenging but fun. We made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and prepared decorations and lanterns with calligraphy writing for Chinese New Year. Many of our students will also be returning home for the break with beautifully prepared Mothering Sunday cards. It has been an action-packed term and we can't wait to get started on our preparations for our Easter themed week of activities at the start of Term 3!

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Update



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is available to all 14-24 year olds and is the world's leading youth achievement award. Bishopstrow launched the Duke of Edinburgh Award in 2016, with senior students enrolled on the Upper College and 1 Year IGCSE Programmes able to pursue the Bronze Award, whilst at Bishopstrow. We currently have 5 students actively involved with the Scheme.

We are delighted to announce that the College has recently been confirmed as a 'Licensed Organisation', with a number of the College's boarding staff recently having undergone training. As a new Directly Licensed DoE Centre (DLC), the College has been invited to attend a presentation at Buckingham Palace in May 2018 to celebrate and receive our DLC license certificate, as part of a Gold Award presentation.

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: Bruton School for Girls, Cheltenham College, Culford School, Kensington Park School, Marlborough College, Marymount International School, Prior Park School, St Edward's School Cheltenham, Sevenoaks School, Sidcot School and The Leys School. We have also hosted the following schools at Bishopstrow: Ashville College, Beeston Hall School and Bournemouth Collegiate 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/

FAM Trips

Earlier this month and as the snow melted away, we welcomed more than 30 agents from 16 countries to the College as part of two separate FAM Trips. In addition to enjoying a sumptuous dinner, agents participated in various morning clubs and joined a number of classes. They were also taken on a tour of the campus by current students and the opportunity to put questions to three current students, who talked about their experience at Bishopstrow. It was lovely to welcome so many agents to the College!



Sports Update

During this term, students have again been involved in a varied sports programme focused on traditional English sports, with opportunities to display their skills at fixtures and training sessions against other schools.

The Senior girls played several netball matches against Sherborne International, coming away with numerous wins, whilst displaying fantastic sportsmanship. More recently, they played Dauntsey's School, which is a new fixture for the College, performing very well.

This term, the Senior boys had the opportunity to play badminton against Sherborne International and football against a local secondary school. They very much enjoyed being able to demonstrate their skills in a competitive situation and represented the College exceptionally well.

The Middle College students recently visited Downside School for a tag-rugby training session hosted by Downside's Head of Rugby. They had the chance to learn new skills and put these into a game situation. The students certainly enjoyed this great opportunity and are looking forward to doing this again next term.

This term, we have also introduced some new sports and again included some live fixtures as part of the weekend schedule. Earlier this term, 16 students participated in their first Taekwondo session. They all thoroughly enjoyed learning about martial arts and being taught a range of techniques. Meanwhile, the Senior boys enjoyed watching a very close game of professional rugby between Bath Rugby and Sale Sharks, whilst the Middle boys had the opportunity to attend a Premier League football match, with Southampton hosting Liverpool.

The students have worked hard in developing their techniques in all sports this term and we very much looking forward to helping them make further progress in Term 3.

Contact us

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