



## Principal's Welcome

It is a delight to be welcoming students back to college this term with the expectation that we will soon have all our students with us in person, enjoying classes with us here at Bishopstrow, rather than online.

Over the 18 months of the pandemic, we have been greatly encouraged by all the appreciative and enthusiastic feedback we have had from students and parents about the quality of our online provision. Although we hope we will need to use virtual teaching much less now that the UK population is almost fully vaccinated, it is nevertheless reassuring that we have everything in place to do this extremely well if the need should arise.

We have learned some useful lessons during Covid, besides those that relate to online teaching. We have seen how much students have appreciated more traditional activities that require them to interact much more with their friends and give them increased opportunities to practise English skills.

Educationally, we have seen how much students' confidence increases as they get used to having conversations when on a walk with staff and their friends, as opposed to spending time shopping or playing computer games. Our activities programme became more active, required greater levels of participation, and turned out to have substantial benefits, with students being healthier, fitter and happier. Although we will be able to enjoy returning to have some of our traditional trips, such as to Stonehenge, the Longleat Safari Park, and the historic harbours and ships of Bristol, we plan also to retain the more active and healthier activities that we rediscovered during the pandemic.

All of this means that Bishopstrow students this year will be enjoying an even better package of educational opportunities, learning even faster than ever how to thrive in the UK, and with an even wider array of experiences that will enable them to discover sports, activities and interests that might inspire them for a lifetime.

In that spirit, all of us at Bishopstrow seek to enthuse and educate our students, and guide



them to follow the Bishopstrow College Five Virtues to be kind, polite, organised and hard-working, team-players.

I wish everyone a very happy and successful new academic year.

Stuart Nicholson

## New Teaching Partnerships

We are delighted to confirm that over the past few months, we have established new Teaching Partnerships with four leading boarding schools: Ashford College, Brockhurst & Marlston House Schools, Bryanston Knighton House and Embley. As a result, we now have Teaching Partnerships in place with more than 100 boarding schools in the UK.

Under these Teaching Partnerships, students with a confirmed offer of a place at a partner school can attend a pre-session programme at Bishopstrow College, where the partner school issues the CAS and Child Student visa, covering the programme at Bishopstrow. In some cases, the pre-session programme is embedded within the overall admissions and enrolment process at the partner school.

Further details can be found at: <https://www.bishopstrow.com/partner-schools/>

## Covid-19 Update

Whilst some of the restrictions relating to the global pandemic remain in place, we very much hope that we will be able to operate as close to normal as possible over the course of Term 1 and for the remainder of the academic year. Nonetheless, we continue to remain vigilant and will adapt our day-to-day routines, as appropriate.

As you are aware, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been authorised for use in persons aged 12 years and over in the UK. Last month, The Department of Health and Social Care confirmed that all young people aged 16 to 17 in England are to be offered a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, whilst this week, the UK Government confirmed that one dose of the vaccine will be offered to all children aged 12 to 15 years.

We would prefer all students aged 12+ years at the College to be vaccinated and would envisage that they should be able to receive the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine over the course of Term 1. To this end, we recently wrote to parents of all students to seek their permission for their child to be vaccinated in the UK.

Further details of some of the arrangements in place at the College in relation to Covid-19 can be found on our website: <https://www.bishopstrow.com/covid-19-update/>



## Destination Schools Update

We are delighted to confirm the destination schools of those students enrolled at the College in 2020/21, who progressed on to a mainstream boarding school in the UK after completing their studies at the College. Congratulations to all our leavers!

### Prep Schools

Aysgarth School  
Brambletye School  
Hall School Wimbledon  
Handcross Park School  
Millfield Prep School  
Packwood Haugh School  
Sandroyd School  
Sunninghill Prep School  
The Dragon School

### Senior Schools

Abbey College Cambridge  
Ashford School  
Bedford School  
Bishops's Stortford School  
Blundell's  
Bournemouth Collegiate School  
Bromsgrove School  
Clayesmore  
Concord College  
D'Overbroeck's College  
Ellesmere College  
Godolphin  
Harrogate Ladies' College  
King William's College  
King's Ely School

Lancing College  
Monkton Combe School  
Padworth College  
Queen Ethelburga's College  
Reddam House School  
Rendcomb College  
Repton School  
Rochester Independent College  
Sidcot School  
Taunton School  
The Leys School  
Uppingham  
Worth School

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## Students Celebrate IGCSE Exam Success

Last month, we were delighted to share details of a terrific set of IGCSE results for those students enrolled on the 1 Year IGCSE Programme. Overall, 69% of the grades awarded were A\* or A grades, with 85% of grades awarded being A\*-B grades. These were the best results achieved by students at the College, who should be congratulated on their successes, which were achieved against the challenging background of the global pandemic.

A special mention to Canon and Keima, both from Japan, who each secured three A\* grades and three A grades.

We wish all of the students enrolled on the 1 Year IGCSE Programme last year every success as they now embark on their sixth form education at mainstream boarding schools across the UK.

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## Term 1 Weekend Extracurricular Programme

Outside the classroom, we have a busy schedule of weekend trips and activities scheduled, including trips to:

- Farley Hungerford Castle: Situated in the beautiful valley of the River Frome, just 9 miles from Bath, Farley Hungerford Castle is an English Heritage Site. The Castle was started in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and was occupied for 300 years by the remarkable Hungerford family.
- Longleat Safari Park.
- Nunney Castle: A picturesque moated medieval castle, Nunney Castle in Somerset dates from the 1370s.
- Guy Fawkes (Bonfire Night) Celebrations with Bishopstrow Village.
- Stonehenge.
- Clifton Suspension Bridge (Bristol).
- The Women's FA Cup Final at Wembley.

These trips will be complemented by a range of on-campus activities, including House Singing, Recycled Fashion Show and a number of Christmas events.

## New Bishopstrow Prospectus and Website



We have recently updated Bishopstrow's prospectus and with the gradual return to face-to-face meetings, we look forward to sharing copies of the new prospectus with you in the near future.

We are also in the process of updating the Bishopstrow website and look forward to sharing this with you later this term.



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