



Welcome to Term 3 from our Principal



With our Term 2 Awards and Graduation Ceremony at our local church of St Aldhelm's still fresh in our minds, we moved quickly and excitedly into the start of Term 3 at the end of March. Last term had also been my very first at Bishopstrow and one in which I came to realise very quickly how well our unique College helps its students to thrive in a community of shared aims and virtues. In fact, those **Five Bishopstrow Virtues** of being **Kind, Polite, Helpful, Organised and a Team Player** were celebrated in our Awards Ceremony and then highlighted again to all of our returning students at the

beginning of this new term.

However, above all this term it has been a great pleasure to welcome many new students to the College and to help them begin an academic and personal journey which I know they will enjoy and which they will eventually feel has been the best preparation possible for their next boarding school. We have so much to look forward to this term both in and outside of the classroom. Daily Prep, weekly tests and summer exams will continue to remind us of the hard work and dedication required to prepare for the next challenge beyond Bishopstrow, whilst our new programme of weekend activities, our Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and our end of Term 3 Graduation will ensure that we enjoy life, grow our Bishopstrow friendships and celebrate each other's achievements whenever we get the opportunity. I wish everyone at the College a very happy and successful term!

Mario Di Clemente
Principal

End of Term 2 Awards Ceremony

At the end of Term 2, we again celebrated the myriad of achievements of our students with an End of Term Awards Ceremony, kindly hosted by St Aldhelm's Church in the village of Bishopstrow. Awards were presented for progress and achievement in boarding, sports, English and core academic subjects. Nightingale House secured the House of the Term Award. Congratulations to all our winners!



Term 3 Academic Highlights

Many students are coming to the end of their time at Bishopstrow this term. This therefore provides an excellent opportunity to look back at the progress they have made. There have been huge improvements in their confidence to interact and communicate; and tremendous progress in English, subject knowledge and in understanding of expectations in learning and behaviour. Whilst most students have by this point already completed their application process to their destination schools, there are still some students who are going through the decision process. They will be completing entrance exams, conducting interviews and completing school tours – supported by teachers and College staff at each step.

A select group of Seniors students are preparing to sit their IGCSE exams in May and June. This of course means a great deal of hard work in class with lots of additional revision. It also means that teachers are providing additional support to ensure their students get the best results possible.

We also have a number of new students joining us – just like we do every term at Bishopstrow. So, for these students, it's a case of commencing their pathway to their next school by making new friends, getting to grips with the College's conventions and school life in the UK. Fortunately, because bespoke support is the norm at Bishopstrow, no matter when students arrive, the level of support is the same and we can quickly help new arrivals become familiar and settled.

Approaching the mid-point of this term, we will soon be running the first "Off Timetable Day" of Term 3. This is a day of academic activity away from the usual syllabus, which enables students to have a bit of a break – albeit at school! This half-term, the Off Timetable Day is a Maths-themed day, with activities including an "Escape Room" and a project to create a biscuit and packaging.

Sports Update





Our sports programme provides plenty of opportunities for students to hone their skills and to be introduced to new sports.

The range of talents is an incredible feature of the students at Bishopstrow! Whatever the sport - familiar or brand new - students grasp the challenge with both hands and make fantastic progress.

This term has seen three new units of sport. First up was **net games**, focussing on **volleyball** and **tennis** - with varying degrees of experience throughout the student body - culminating in a fiercely competitive and high performing inter-house event where honours were shared between our four houses - Blake, Newton, Nightingale and Pankhurst. Next was **striking and fielding**, with the introduction of **cricket** and **rounders**, both staples of British school life, but slightly less familiar to our students. None the less, they quickly picked up the skills needed and were playing some brilliant stuff. Last, but by no means least was **athletics**, in preparation for the final part of our inter-house competition, Sports Day, the final event of our sports calendar this term and a time for everyone to give it one last shot to bring their house glory.

Activities Programme - Baking



Our Activities Programme provides a fantastic opportunity for students to do some thinking 'outside-the box'! Extra-curricular activities provide the opportunity for students to enjoy 'enrichment' outside their academic classes and to use or learn different skills. We like to try and provide a platform for students to express their creative side and are blessed to have a group of students whose imagination is limitless!

In Baking Club, which occurs weekly, they not only make something delicious to eat, but have the opportunity to learn a new life skill and, as is the case with everything we do at Bishopstrow, a chance to learn some new English vocabulary and expressions.

The students have been working hard mixing, chopping, baking and whisking and have produced some culinary masterpieces, notably bread dough (turned into pizzas), muffins, jam tarts (made from freshly made pastry), cookies and loaf cakes.





Activities Programme - Games Club

Games Club is one of the more low-key activities at the College, providing an opportunity for students to sit down and enjoy a variety of traditional board games and quizzes,

A particular favourite this term has been the discovery of Cluedo by a group of budding detectives amongst the student body! Meanwhile, Dobble, a game of matching symbols and quick reactions, is always top of the list, whilst Monopoly, the classic property development game is always a firm favourite. Students have also been creative in developing their own board games - question-based, safari quests, wizard themes to name a few - with a whole mix of fantastic ideas shared amongst the group.

In short, Games Club provides students with the opportunity to be put their competitive gaming skills to the test and to be creative, whilst having some fun and on many occasions, plenty of laughs!

Schedule of Weekend Trips for Term 3



We have an exciting schedule of weekend trips and excursions lined up for Term 3. Students have already enjoyed a trip to Southampton Football Club to watch the Premier League game against Chelsea FC (Southampton lost 6-0) and a visit to Bath, including the Roman Baths and Royal Crescent. Looking ahead, we are scheduled to visit Thorpe Park, go ice skating in Swindon and visit Poole Harbour for a boat trip plus time on the beach. At the end of Term 3, we will enjoy the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations (details below).

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



This year, Her Majesty the Queen will celebrate her Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years on the throne. Official celebrations will take place over an extended Bank Holiday weekend, from Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June, with an extra Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June.

As part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, people are invited to share friendship, food and fun with neighbours. A 'Big Jubilee Lunch' can take the form of a street party, tea and cake or a garden barbecue.

As part of our celebrations, we will be hosting 'The Big Lunch' with local residents of Bishopstrow village on the afternoon of Sunday 5 June.

The Queen celebrated her 96th birthday on Thursday 21 April, with Buckingham Palace releasing the above image to mark this special occasion.

Alsama Institute Update



Finally, you may recall that at the start of the global pandemic in March 2020, when we moved our provision online, we welcomed three Syrian refugee students to Bishopstrow Online. Hadeel, Lujain and Aseel had fled the Syrian Civil War with their families, travelling to Beirut, Lebanon and 'settling' in the Shatila refugee camp. With limited access to schools in Beirut, a number of volunteers established the Alsama Institute to provide a basic education to the refugee children in Shatila. Hadeel, Lujain and Aseel enrolled with Bishopstrow on a pro bono basis, having spent some time at Alsama Institute.

After a year studying online with Bishopstrow and having made real progress with their English, Hadeel and Aseel were able to secure entry to Brummana High School - a prestigious British international school in Lebanon - to study IGCSEs over two years. Hadeel will follow a similar path in September 2022. Whilst at Brummana, the girls have had to pursue their own fundraising to support the cost of their education.

After Brummana, we would like to offer the opportunity for Hadeel, Lujain and Aseel to study A Levels at Padworth College, Bishopstrow's 'sister school' in the UK. We have already publicised our partnership with Alsama Institute as being the key charitable initiative at both Bishopstrow and Padworth and are working with Alsama to try and raise the funds required to cover some of the cost of the girls' sixth form education at Padworth. If you would like to learn

more about this worthy initiative or support our fundraising efforts, please get in touch with Mark Jeynes, Director at markj@bishopstrow.com



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