



Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to our Newsletter for Term 2, 2023.

As Term 2 draws to a close at Bishopstrow College, we can all look back on another period of hard work, fun, achievement and preparation. The hard work is reflected in the rapidly-improving English level of so many of our students - Juniors, Middles and Seniors.



For most, it has been a second term to build on what was learnt before Christmas and a continued opportunity to develop as both language learners and British boarding school pupils. For those who were new to the College this term, it has been impressive to see how quickly and well they have settled in and embraced new challenges.

The fun part has been emphasised on a daily basis through classroom learning, afternoon sports, off-timetable days, evening activities and weekend excursions, the most recent of which saw our students enjoy an afternoon in the historic and beautiful city of Bath. As for achievements, not only have so many been regularly recognised in our weekly awards assemblies but this term, we were also praised for the academic progress, performance and personal development of our students by a team of five independent schools inspectors who spent three days at the College in January. The inspectors were impressed by our students' highly positive attitudes, their eagerness to learn and their willingness to participate. They also recognised their resilience, independence and maturity. Together with the excellent support which my staff colleagues were judged to be providing, along with the College's full compliance in every inspection category, we can continue to be confident that Bishopstrow students are making excellent progress and that their preparation for their next boarding school destination is well and truly on course.

On, then, to Term 3 with the College due to welcome even greater numbers of new students and looking forward to the re-opening of our fourth boarding house, Mandalay. There is indeed much to be excited about and to look forward to as one term draws to a close and the next draws nearer!

Best regards,

Intermediate Maths Challenge

At the beginning of February, 12 students completed the Intermediate Maths Challenge online paper organised by the UK Maths Trust. The papers are designed to stimulate mathematical problem solving, encourage learners to think outside-the-box and apply mathematical skills learnt in lessons to sophisticated conundrums. Over 200,000 students from across the UK sat the Challenge and we were delighted by our students' results. Two of our students came in the top 6% and received a Gold Award. A further four students were in the next 13% nationally and were awarded a Silver Award and two more students were in the next 21% and received a Bronze Award.

A huge 'well done' to everyone who took part in the competition - it was great to see so many exceptional performances. The students are a credit to the College and showed determination and a positive attitude. The competition is an excellent way to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

Special mention to our two Middle College students who took part in the challenge aimed at older students: Hiro achieved a Bronze Award and Shane achieved a Silver Award.

Yi Fang achieved the best in school score and has qualified for the Pink Kangaroo. The Kangaroo rounds are international invitation-only rounds for the very best young mathematicians. Well done to all involved!

ISI Focused Compliance and Education Quality Inspection

We are delighted to share further details of the recent inspection conducted by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI).

ISI conducted a Focused Compliance and Educational Quality Inspection of Bishopstrow College in January 2023. The College was compliant, with all minimum standards being Met.

With regard to Educational Quality, Pupils' Academic and Other Achievements were found to be Good with references made to excellence in academic progress and staff support. Amongst other conclusions, our pupils were noted as having highly positive attitudes, an eagerness to learn and a real willingness to participate.

As for our Pupils' Personal Development, this was also judged to be Good with the inspectors' findings highlighting that our pupils are resilient, independent, socially aware and mature. Their health and well-being were found to benefit hugely from their daily sports and activities and, overall, they were judged as being well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Arts and Crafts - Children's Mental Health Week

The colouring challenge that formed part of Children's Mental Health Week (6-12 February) provided a brilliant and mindful way to bring the mental health and well-being of all our young people into sharp focus. There was a superb response with over 30 entries, all of fantastic quality! Judging became a 'whole college' exercise with teaching and boarding staff involved and voting for the overall winners. Stars were awarded for all entries.





Sports Update - Inter-house Competition

The highly competitive Inter-house competition is in full flow with the 4 houses - Blake, Newton, Nightingale, Pankhurst - battling it out for the house trophy. This term, the houses have competed against each other in basketball, hockey, handball, dodgeball, badminton, netball and football as well as in fitness challenges and other crazy challenges, including cream cracker eating, time trials, target throwing and endurance tests! All activities have been played in good spirits, with each and every event hotly anticipated!

Trips and Excursions

We have enjoyed a busy schedule of weekend trips and excursions throughout the term. Highlights have included the Roman Baths in the city of Bath, a World Heritage Site, rock climbing in Bournemouth, the historic naval dockyards in Portsmouth - where we visited The Mary Rose - Henry VIII's favourite ship - ice skating and bowling in Swindon and caving in the nearby Cheddar Gorge.



Extra-curricular Highlights - Gardening, Drama and Sport

The extra-curricular programme at Bishopstrow includes a mix of sports, arts and crafts, drama, word games, board games and many other creative and fun opportunities.

This term, the students have been developing their gardening skills! We have prepared some plant pots using recycled tin cans from the kitchen, made bird scarers using fabric from clothing that was destined for landfill and have also planted some cauliflower seeds.

Later this year, the Bishopstrow allotment will be bursting with life, with many exciting projects planned, with seeds to plant, grow and enjoy. We will be mainly focussing on edible produce and adding lots of colour. Exciting times ahead!

As well as gardening, there has been 'improv' drama where students used hits to make up short plays, playing charades, producing some very funny results.

Sport is ever popular and provides an outlet to run off any extra energy. The opportunity to try new games and learn new skills is a priority as well as a platform to hone competitiveness and teamwork. This term, the students have been involved in handball, basketball, table tennis, fitness circuits and golf.



Availability for Terms 3 and 4, 2023

We still have limited availability for Terms 3 and 4, including the 5-week Academic Summer Programme. Term 3 commences on Monday 27 March 2023. For further details, please contact Amanda Neill, Registrar at enquiries@bishopstrow.com



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