

The Bishop's Stortford High School

Parental Bulletin



Wednesday, 3rd November 2021

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Whole School

We're very grateful to all those students who have continued to carry out home Covid tests, especially the important one prior to their return after the half-term break. We have a relatively small number of students self-isolating at present, but the case rate is particularly high in the local area, so we must continue to be vigilant and keep testing twice a week if we are to minimise the impact of the pandemic on our whole community.

We must continue to keep the school buildings and classrooms well ventilated, so as we head into the colder months, students are advised to make sure they are suitably dressed to cope with the cooler environment. We are utilising CO2 monitors to ensure we have suitable airflow in all rooms, which should mean we don't have windows open unnecessarily wide, but it would still be sensible for students to wear a vest or appropriate v-necked jumper as part of their school uniform, to help keep them warm.

Mr Reeve
Headteacher

School closure on Friday 26th November 2021

As part of the planned Platinum Jubilee celebrations, there have been some changes to the official dates for bank holidays in the summer term. Rather than having a bank holiday on Monday during the May half-term, Thursday 2nd June and Friday 3rd June 2022 will both be public holidays. As these days both fall outside of term time, the Department for Education have asked schools to reduce their academic year by one day. Therefore, **The Bishop's Stortford High School will be closed to students and staff on Friday 26th November 2021.**

Coronavirus - Asymptomatic Home Testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within schools. All students have been given home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing kits and we encourage them to take a home LFD twice weekly before school on Monday (or Sunday evening) and Thursday (or Wednesday evening).

The current guidelines suggest that this advice will be in place for the foreseeable future, dependent on the circumstances prevalent at the time.

Students who have contracted COVID-19 do not need to undertake Lateral Flow tests for 90 days. However, if they do get COVID-19 symptoms, you should immediately book a PCR test.

Coronavirus - When to book a PCR test

Anyone with a positive LFD test result and/or who is displaying symptoms of Covid19 will need to:

- self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance](#)
- [book a further test](#) (a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test) to confirm the result

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Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within the 2 days following the positive LFD result, and is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test and students can return to school as long as they don't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Please complete the following form [Covid19 Reporting](#) online if your son/daughter has tested positive. Although the school is not currently responsible for track and trace, the Local Authority are still tracking cases in schools and are asking for this information. If you do not have the PCR test result when you are completing the form, please complete the [PCR Update form](#) when you receive the test result.

Positive result - If a student has a positive result from a PCR test, they should self-isolate immediately and continue to isolate for at least 10 days. NHS Test and Trace should contact you or your son/daughter and advise on the isolation period. Close contacts and everyone in the household or support bubble will also be advised to book a PCR test.

If your son/daughter is isolating but well enough, please ask them to check Satchel1/Show My Homework for work that will be set by their teachers. You do not need to update absence reporting unless your son/daughter is not fit to return at the end of their isolation period

If your son/daughter receives a positive PCR result, please **DO NOT take any LFD or PCR tests for 90 days** as this may return a false positive resulting in a further mandatory period of isolation.

Negative result - Where a student has a negative result from a PCR test, it means the test did not find coronavirus (COVID-19) and they can return to school.

From Monday 16th August, people who are double jabbed or aged under 18 are no longer legally required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. If a student is advised to obtain a PCR test as a close contact, they do not need to isolate whilst waiting for the results **unless they are showing symptoms**.

For any queries or absences regarding Covid-19, please email covid19@tbshs.org.

Free School Meals

Did you know that Hertfordshire County Council could save you over £450 every year? Your child could get a free school meal, worth over £450 per child per year if you receive any of the following:

Your child can get a free school meal if you receive any of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than £16,190 a year)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- **Universal Credit** (with annual earned income of no more than £7,400 after tax and not including any benefits you get).

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Apply today if you receive any of these benefits. It takes **5 mins** and in most cases we can tell you straightaway if your child can get free meals at school.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/free-school-meals/free-schoolmeals.aspx#year3>

Have your National Insurance number or Home Office number to hand when you apply. If your child is eligible for free school meals, they'll remain eligible until March 2023, or until they finish their current phase of schooling (primary or secondary), if that's after the end of March 2023.

Don't miss out, apply now!

The benefits of applying online include:

- It's quick and easy to do – most online applications take about five minutes to complete. Please make sure you have your national insurance number to hand.
- It can be done whenever it suits you, with no need for face-to-face or telephone contact
- In most cases, you won't have to provide paper proof of benefit
- You won't have to reapply for free school meals every year
- Your child will get their free school meals without delay
- You can apply for other benefits that you may qualify for at the same time

If you do not have access to the internet at home, you can obtain access and support at any of the following locations:

- Public Libraries
- UK Online Centres
- TBSHS – Please call Reception for assistance

For more information or assistance with your application Visit www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals Or Call the customer service centre on 0300 123 4048 (8am-8pm Monday to Friday, 9am- 4pm Saturday).

School Catering

Meal Prices and Menus: The price of a standard 2-course meal is £2.75, menus are available on the TBSHS website. The school currently offers break and lunch options.

The school has an upper limit of £6 on the amount of money that can be spent in one day. This will mean that your child cannot buy excessive amounts of food that may be being passed on to others. If you would like this amount changed, please call the school or email finance@tbshs.org to amend the amount up or down.

As I am sure that you are aware, there are a number of logistical issues affecting availability and deliveries, as a result, menus may change at short notice.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the school will not be able to accept cash payments for any reason and the cash loader in school will not be active. If you are unable to utilise ParentPay, please ensure that you contact

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the finance department (finance@tbshs.org Tel: 01279 869521). Your assistance in keeping the school cash free is appreciated.

Please ensure that your child always has sufficient funds on their accounts for lunch as overdrafts will not be available. Any parent/guardian in financial difficulty should contact the school.

Breakfast Service

The breakfast service is now available. The menu will offer bacon rolls, cheese baps, cereals, yoghurts, fresh fruit and cold drinks.

Publishing Houses and Supporting the School

If any parent has a connection with any Educational books Publishing Houses please contact rachel.engel@tbshs.org as many organisations offer additional discounts to schools where parents work in the company. Similarly, if parents are connected to other organisations where the school can take an advantage of a discount, please contact me.

The School appreciates all offers of sponsorship and support from parents, if you feel you can help support the TBSHS in any way, please contact rachel.engel@tbshs.org and I will pass the information to the relevant members of staff. Offers of support for assistance to help us improve the marketing the School, sixth form or fundraising would be appreciated.

Admissions 2023/24

The Bishop's Stortford High School is consulting on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2023/24 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

The proposed changes are:

1. To amend the definition and explanation for home address, to bring in line with the definition Hertfordshire County Council are consulting on for the academic year 2023/2024.

The consultation period runs from 1 November – 12 December 2021. Please send your comments regarding the proposals to the school direct at audra.williams@tbshs.org or post to Mrs A Williams, Admissions Officer, The Bishop's Stortford High School, London Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 3LU.

Hertfordshire County Council is also running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the school year 2023/24 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

HCC's proposed changes are:

1. To amend the definition and explanation for home address, where two applications are received for the same child
2. To amend the oversubscription criteria for Pirton Primary School

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The consultation period runs until 12 December 2021. Please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions2023 for more information and to respond online.

Sixth Form

Year 13 UCAS Applications Update

The vast majority of our students' applications were sent off on Friday 22nd October and the Sixth Form Management Team thank the tutor team that have supported students throughout this process. Already there had been conditional offers of places to over 30% of all the different course choices submitted. Some students have even received offers from all their choices and they are reminded that they do not need to take any action at this stage. In fact, we would strongly advise that they do not - Firm and Insurance choices will not have to be made until **9th June 2022** so there is plenty of time to focus on A level work, the mock exams in January and other assessments to inform their final choices.

For those students whose application was **not** PAY/SUBMITTED before half term for whatever reason, it is now down to them to drive the final processing to ensure it is sent before the end of term as we will not be checking and chasing them. They will need to liaise with me and their tutor to indicate when it is ready to be sent off to UCAS. **Mrs F Price**

Careers Forum – Wednesday 20th October

A big thank you to Mrs Jonas & all who helped at this fantastic event; it was a huge success and hopefully all who attended came away with much food for thought. **Mr R Stark.**

Sixth Form Open Evening – Wednesday 10th November – Arrangements for Sixth Form Helpers

Further to previous items about Sixth Form Open Evening, a reminder that all students are expected to keep the evening free to help promote the school. Currently it is planned that our Sixth Form Open Evening will be held in school. Our staff are now actively recruiting students to participate in the evening. Full details here: [helper's letter](#) **Mr R Stark**

Year 12 Consultation Evening – Thursday 25th November – SAVE THE DATE

Early warning that Year 12 Consultation Evening will be held this year between 4.30 and 7.30pm on Thursday 25th November. All students are expected to attend and an invitation letter will be sent out to students and parents next week. This will be your first opportunity to discuss their progress directly with staff and to check how they are adapting to A-level work. **Mr R Stark**

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Year 11

Year 11 Invitation to Sixth Form Open Evening – Wednesday 10th November 5.30 to 8.30pm

I am delighted to invite all members of our Year 11 and their parents/carers to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 10th November. Full information is in the invitation letter distributed to students and parents last week. We look forward to welcoming you all on the night when our online application system will also go live. **Mr R Stark**

Year 11 extra-curricular clubs and revision clinics:

An updated list of the current Year 11 extra-curricular clubs and revision clinics can now be found on our school website, under the Year 11 section, or accessed via SOCS using the following link:

<https://www.tbshs.org/extracurricular.aspx?SubCatID=226> **Mr Sadler**

Year 10

Years 10-13 Careers Forum

Sincere thanks to all the students in Years 10-13 who attended our biennial Careers Forum before the half-term break. We were lucky enough to secure a fantastic range of employers (almost 50) plus a great selection of universities and colleges. Feedback from the career stands has been incredibly positive with many remarking on the maturity and good manners of TBSHS students which was wonderful to read – thank you students! Please can parents/carers encourage those students who attended to complete the feedback form on the back of the brochure? Many thanks. **C Jonas**

Year 7

School Show Announcement

For those of you with children taking part in the whole school show they will need a colourful T-Shirt (preferably with no logo) and a pair of jeans for their costume. The play takes place in the 1970's so feel free to go all out if you like. Black or Blue jeans is fine.

They should bring in their costume in on the **Monday 15th November** as they will have a rehearsal on this date period 1. They will also need to bring them the evening they are performing.

Due to open evening on the Wednesday 10th of November there will be **no rehearsal** for year 7 they may leave at 1.15pm with the rest of the students.

Thank you for your support. **Mrs Bart-Williams**



Events

TBSHS
**Candlelit
Supper**

Dinner & Dance
Friday December 3rd 2021
Tickets £35

Ticket includes a Glass of Fizz on Arrival,
3 Course Meal, Coffee & Mints

The School Hall

Bar Opens 7.15pm Dinner Served 8pm
Carriages Midnight

To book a table (max 12 people)
please use link below

<https://app.etickets.to/buy/?e=18942>

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*** Tickets Now Available *** Disco Inferno – Whole School Production

Dust off your glitter ball, dig out your flares and resurrect your platforms. *The Bishop's Stortford High School Drama & Music Departments* are delighted and proud to present this year's whole school production, **Disco Inferno**, which takes place on 17, 18th and 19th November. This musical extravaganza is the story of an ambitious singer and his desire to make it in the music industry – all brought to life with an explosion of hit songs. The drama, singing and dancing will be accompanied by our very own pit band playing the songs that defined a generation.

Doors open 6.30pm. Performance at 7pm. Interval Bar. Tickets are now available to book online: £11 for adults, £9 for concessions. Please [click here](#).

Christmas Concert – Advance Notice

The annual Christmas Concert will take place on Thursday 2nd December at 7pm with interval bar. For those new to the school, it's a wonderful evening full of sparkle, festive music and Christmas spirit. Ticket information nearer the time but please make a note of this hugely popular event.

Sports

Support the PSA when shopping at Amazon

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when customers shop through the URL smile.amazon.co.uk, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisations selected by customers.

Just use your normal Amazon login details to log into the smile.amazon.co.uk website and enter the full PSA name "THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS SPORTS ASSOCIATION" or our Charity Commission Registration Number "1144671".

All you just need to remember then is that to support the PSA that you just need to go through the smile.amazon.co.uk portal each time you shop with Amazon.

Illness or Injury re: Participation in P.E. and Games lessons

Please can you refer to and follow the procedures described below in the event of your child not being able to participate in PE or Games due to illness or injury.

1. Please provide your child with a signed and dated hard copy note (hand written or word processed) that they can keep in their blazer pocket to show to the member of staff. This note should explain the reason for non-participation and have an approximate timescale of absence. This is due to it not always being practical for PE staff to always be checking emails or due to receiving them several days before the lesson.
2. Please ensure your child still brings their PE kit, ideally with one of the TBSHS warm up tops or ¼ zip tops to stay warm and dry. This is for a number of reasons;

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- A) Depending on the severity of the issue they may still be able to access the curriculum in an adapted format (such as a non-contact or non-running format).
- B) If the severity is such that no adapted physical involvement can occur they can still take part as an umpire, referee, time-keeper, scorer or coach.
- C) We also have the option for students to continue rehab in the gym by doing cycling, stretching or exercises from their physio.
- D) The only exception to this is if the student has a broken limb or an injury where changing would be inhibited due to the severity of the injury.

It is a legal requirement for your child to participate in physical activity in school and we are careful with managing overuse, however there seems to be an increasing number of students who not doing PE because they're 'saving themselves for a big game on Sunday'. We get very few injuries in PE lessons and therefore students should be participating in some capacity in all lessons.

Kind regards

Peter Harris

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Careers, Opportunities & Competitions

There are many more opportunities for Years 12 & 13 in the 6th Form Bulletin - issued every 2 weeks by Mrs Price.



Please note, students can find the careers section of the parent bulletin in the 'Others' area of the Q Pool File

[Click here for this week's Careers News](#)

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Fundraising

Wear It Green Day on Friday



(Poster above designed by Adrian Atanassov, Year 10)

Friday at TBSHS is Interact [Wear It Green Day](#).

If you can, [please wear ONE item of green with your uniform](#). Shoes and trousers must remain the same [but you could wear green socks, a green tie, a green shirt or a green jumper with your school blazer](#). We know this requires creativity and character but this is part of the challenge! Ask your family for any items they may have. No trainers please.

E-mail simon.etheridge@tbshs.org if you have any questions.

As global citizens, on Friday we are raising money for an environmental project in another country. We are one world. Any donations of either 50 pence or £1 to "The World Land Trust", whether you wear green on the day or not, would be very much appreciated. Year 8 student Fin Macfie researched and shared this charity with the school. Your money will support the expansion of the Laguna Grande reserve, a 1,668-acre nature reserve in Caribbean Guatemala, to protect an equivalent area in Guatemala to our school

Led at TBSHS by Senior Management, Ms. Winterburn and the Geography Department, we encourage you to think about how you individually can help the environment this week and beyond, at this vital time for our shared planet. The time is now.

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#COP26 #OnePlanet



Poppies are now available



At "first break" in the playground this week, Interact students will be continuing to give you the opportunity to make a donation for a poppy. The price is 50 pence or £1 (whatever you can afford). Monies go to our local Royal British Legion. We have a limited number of metal pins and wrist bands available at a higher price. Thank you to all those who donated yesterday as we began our appeal at TBSHS in a very promising manner. Good to see poppies with your uniform.

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The beautiful poppy grew amidst the service, suffering and sacrifice on Flanders Fields in Belgium and in Northern France in the First World War.

Shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, Belgium, in the First World War, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian doctor, was moved by the sight of these poppies. This inspiration led him to write the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. It would inspire The Poppy Appeal, first started 100 years ago.

The poppy is a beautiful symbol of hope, inspiration, colour, positivity, resilience and respect. It remembers those that have suffered and sacrificed, and those who still suffer and sacrifice.

The poppy remembers those that have served and continue to serve. Service personnel and the emergency services have been, and continue to be, vital in the pandemic. Vitally too, the poppy also remembers the victims of terrorism.

In Christianity, the 2nd November is All Souls Day. This day remembers those who have passed away and whose inspiration, light, love and legacy is always with us.



Food Bank

23 boxes of Items you donated have now been collected. Thank you so much for your generosity.



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Citizenship

Thank you to Mr. Huw Edwards



Our guest in Sixth Form Citizenship on Tuesday 2nd November was be Huw Edwards who spoke to students Period 5 on the zoom platform live from COP26 in Glasgow.

Mr. Edwards gave some very informative insights into COP and talked about the importance of discussion, debate, questioning, integrity, loving the work you do and doing good things you enjoy in life. Mr. Edwards articulated our five school values of commitment, aspiration, respect, integrity and community.

Mr. Edwards was a wonderful role model and was very complimentary about the school.

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PTFA



Shop & Give

Powered by TheGivingMachine

TheGivingMachine makes donating to TBSHS PTFA easy when shopping online.

What better way to help your child's school than to donate while you shop.

It's easy. Just one extra click on your mouse and it doesn't even cost you a penny! Become a giving hero by clicking the link below and adding your details to create an account. Save as a favourite, then each time you start to shop click on it and it will take you straight through to the shopping page.

Please **[CLICK HERE](#)**

Many thanks for all your support.

TBSHS PTFA.

**EXCLUSIVE TBSHS
PROTECTIVE FACE MASKS**



AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE NOW

£5

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO PAY:

Via ParentPay - Students can collect mask from school reception.

Or, students can purchase masks from school reception (*Exact money only please, no change given*)

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**TBSHS Golf Umbrella
Only £22**
(You'll need one at Jobbers Wood!)